

# City of Hamilton LGBTQ Advisory Committee

## Why We Count: The LGBTQ Community & the Role of Public Health



Presentation to City of  
Hamilton Board of Health  
June 2013



Hamilton

Why We Count: LGBTQ Needs and Public Health's

Why are we here today?

Response

- 30% of suicides are LGBTQ
- 43% of trans-identified people attempt suicide
- 26% of LGBTQ youth are told to leave home
- LGBTQ youth are more likely to become homeless



Hamilton Health Sciences: Homophobic Bullying [www.hhsc.ca](http://www.hhsc.ca)



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Why We Count: LGBTQ Needs and Public Health's  
Response

Why we are less resilient:

- Don't often have strong connections to family & community support
- Lack of a sense of belonging , sense of identity, good self-esteem
- Broken links to cultural, spiritual & religious connections and beliefs
- Lack support through ongoing medical and mental health care relationships
- No easy access to a variety of clinical interventions and support for help seeking



(Ontario Hospital Association).



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Why We Count: LGBTQ Needs and Public  
Health's Response

What Public Health is mandated to do:

- Be a skilled, innovative & respectful organization
- Participate in social development
- Ensure that we have a healthy community



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## Why We Count: LGBTQ Needs and Public Health's Response

Public Health has a mandate which promotes healthy living for all Hamiltonians such as:

- sexual health programs
- immunization & dental programs
- homeless youth and adult programs
- post secondary support for youth
- Affordable housing, shelter & food banks



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## Why We Count: LGBTQ Needs and Public Health's Response

“ At the heart of our action plan is a commitment to ensure that patients receive timely access to the most appropriate care in the most appropriate place. It's about getting the greatest value for patients from the system, allowing evidence to inform how our scarce health care dollars are best invested and ensuring seniors receive the care they need as close to home as possible.”

Ontario Action Plan  
Care, Right Time, Right Place



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## Why We Count: LGBTQ Needs and Public Health's Response

What are we asking for today?

(a) That the Public Health Services Department give consideration to the feedback provided to the Suicide Prevention Council in their work in the mental health and suicide prevention fields;

(b) That the City of Hamilton LGBTQ Advisory Committee request that public health nurses and public health staff working with community members take positive space training.



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Health's Response

Thanks for your time!  
Questions or Comments?



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