

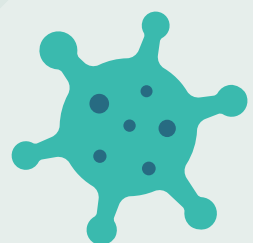
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Queer Youth and the Pandemic.



A zine exploring the unique challenges queer youth face during the pandemic, and the importance of community care then and now.



The Pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit us all hard. We endured (and continue to endure) quarantines and lockdowns, the loss of loved ones and the loss of communities, isolation and anxiety, and so much more.

For many people living with mental health struggles and disorders, **these conditions exacerbated symptoms.**



This unprecedented isolation hit young queer people hard.



Isolation from school based support systems



Isolation from community based groups services



Disruptions in receiving health services



Living in unsupportive homes

School closures further disrupted community-based supports.

reduced access to school based mental health services

reduced access to peer support systems

prolonged time in unsafe or unsupportive homes



These effects hit marginalized queer youth even harder.

“Asian and Pacific Islander LGBTQ youth in the USA may experience an increase in abuse and discrimination given the **uptick in anti-Asian rhetoric and hate crimes** in the past year.”

Higher levels of violence

Lower social services and support

“BIPOC and low socioeconomic status LGBTQ youth may also have diminished access to services due to barriers resulting from the combination of their sexual and gender identity, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.”



What can we learn from this?

Community care and mutual aid are more important than ever.

Those in power prove time and time again that their priority is to maintain their power at any cost.

We have, and will continue to **protect**, **uplift**, and **support** each other!

As queer folks, we are often far too used to not being taken care of by those in power.

Though we need more support, we learn time and time again that **we are our own communities**, and we keep each other safe.

We need to keep that spirit and fight for a world in which we can not only live but thrive.



Continuing community care today looks like...



Participating in mutual aid

Wearing a mask *even if* you are vaccinated

Connecting to community organizations

Ensuring accessibility in community spaces





Citations:

Ormiston, C. K., & Williams, F. (2022). LGBTQ youth mental health during COVID-19: unmet needs in public health and policy. *The Lancet*, 399(10324), 501-503.

