

Over the course of 2016, the initiative to create a EUPHA section on Sexual and Gender Minority Health has progressed and was formalized into a formal section at the meeting of the governing board of the European Public Health Association. Work in 2016 mainly focused on further developing and clarifying the section's aim and vision. During the year, the first infrastructure for section members (currently 73 members) was laid out and the section initiators were appointed president and vice-president.

This report will describe the aims and current structure of the section, the 2016 activities, and the scheduled activities for 2017.

Section's aim

The aim of this section is to:

- Increase knowledge on sexual and gender minority populations differences in health and health care
- Promote monitoring of health disparities among LGBT populations
- Explore the underlying mechanisms and reasons for health disparities in this group
- Spread knowledge on sexual and gender minority populations differences in health and health care
- Promote the development of interventions that aim to tackle these differences

Further, the section aims at setting methodological standards for European countries to identify sexual and gender minority groups to promote exchange of information and provide a basis for comparative studies.

The section's priorities are to build a network of researchers in the field of sexual and gender minority health from a public health and behavioral science perspective. The section will give the opportunity for researchers and policy makers to discuss conceptual and methodological issues regarding differences in health and health care among sexual and gender minorities. The wide differences in LGBT acceptance and differences in institutional discrimination make cross-European studies particularly suitable for the exploration of the consequences of structural discrimination on health. The special section devoted to LGBT health aim to facilitate such cross-European research initiatives. Such initiatives could greatly increase our knowledge regarding how both individual level and structural level stigma can contribute to ill health.

In addition to these academic aims, the section aims at increasing political attention at national and European levels for consequences of disparities among this group on health and health care. The section and its members will work towards the development of strategies to influence national and European policy makers and politicians to increase their attention to disparities in health among sexual and gender minorities and health care differences.

The section will encourage research presentations at the annual EUPHA meeting and will organize yearly workshops on conceptual and methodological issues. Next to the activities at the annual meeting, national and international workshops and conferences will be stimulated.

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Section of Sexual and Gender Minority Health (Proposed)



Section's structure

President: Richard Bränström, PhD (richard.branstrom@ki.se)

Vice-president: Arjan van der Star, MSc (arjan.van.der.star@ki.se)

Registered section members: 73 (December 2016)

Section's activities in 2016

During this year's European Public Health Conference in Vienna 2016, 9-12 November, the section organized two workshops and a join the network meeting.

Friday 11 November 2016

Time / Location	Track	Organiser	Activity
Fri 11th 12:45-13:15 Hall N2		EUPHA (SGMH)	JTN6 - Sexual and gender minority health: Join the network <i>EUPHA Sections are theme-specific networks that organise workshops and projects together. EUPHA Pillars are concerned with general aspects of public health. All EUPHA Sections and Pillars are inviting you to Join the Network and attend their annual meeting. These meetings are open to all delegates. Get your lunch before or after the meeting and feel free to join the network.</i> <i>Agenda:</i> - Current issues and dilemmas in the sexual and gender minority health - Exploration of future cross-European (research) collaborations <i>(Code: JTN6)</i>
Fri 11th 16:40-17:40 Room 0.50	Mental health	EUPHA (SGMH), ÖGPH	7.I. - Workshop: Mental Health Disparities Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity across Europe <i>Chairperson(s): Richard Bränström - Sweden, Arjan Van Der Star - Sweden</i> The human rights situation among LGBTI individuals in Europe and its health consequences <i>Dennis van der Veur - Austria</i> Societal-level explanations for reductions in sexual orientation mental health disparities <i>Richard Bränström - Sweden</i> Suicide risk and sexual orientation – International and Austrian Evidence <i>Martin Plöderl - Austria</i> Sexual orientation disparities in mental health: the moderating and mediating role of sociodemographic and minority stress factors <i>Richard Bränström – Sweden</i> <i>(Code: 7.I.)</i>

Saturday 12 November 2016

Time / Location	Track	Organiser	Activity
Sat 12th 11:10-12:40	Health for All	EUPHA (SGMH) and	10.B. - Workshop: Factors influencing sexual orientation based disparities in physical health across Europe

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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Room L8	Austrian Public Health Institute	<p>Chairperson(s): Arjan Van Der Star - Sweden, Richard Bränström - Sweden</p> <p>Sexual orientation disparities in preventable disease: A fundamental cause perspective Richard Bränström - Sweden</p> <p>Sexual competence as an indicator of sexual health, results from SIALON II, a European multi-country bio-behavioral survey among men who have sex with men Karel Blondeel - Belgium</p> <p>Sexual risk behavior and risk perception among Swedish men who have sex with men in Berlin Kristina Ingemarsdotter Persson - Sweden</p> <p>Are patients ready for lesbian, gay and bisexual family physicians - A Croatian study Igor Grabovac - Austria</p> <p>Is work disability more common among same-sex than different-sex married people? Petter Tinghög - Sweden</p> <p>(Code: 10.B.)</p>
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Publications by section members on Sexual and Gender Minority Health

Bränström R. Minority stress factors as mediators of sexual orientation disparities in treatment for mental health diagnoses: a longitudinal population-based study. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*. 2016 Aug, in press.

Hatzenbuehler ML, Bränström R, Pachankis JE. Societal-level explanations for reductions in sexual orientation mental health disparities: Results from a ten-year, population-based study in Sweden. *Stigma and Health*. 2016 Jun;106(6):1109-15.

Bränström R, Hatzenbuehler ML, Pachankis JE, Link BG. Sexual orientation disparities in preventable disease: A fundamental cause perspective. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2016 Jun;106(6):1109-15.

Bränström R, van der Star A. More knowledge and research concerning the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals is needed. *European Journal of Public Health*. 2015 Sep 4. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26342132>

Bränström R, Hatzenbuehler ML, Pachankis JE. Sexual orientation disparities in physical health: Age and gender effects in a population-based study. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*. 2016 Feb;51(2):289-301.

van der Star, A. and Bränström R. Acceptance of sexual minorities and the mediating role of social capital on health and well-being among members of same-sex and opposite-sex couples across Europe. *BMC Public Health* 2015; 15:812.

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Section of Sexual and Gender Minority Health (Proposed)



Upcoming activities

For 2017, the section aims to further structure the section internally. Hence, the section will start with the first annual meeting and the section will intensify the communication with its members through the use of the newly installed mailman system. Also, the representation of the section within the EUPHA organization will be on the agenda for 2017. Furthermore, the section will further expand its presence at the annual European Public Health Conference by organizing workshops, panel discussions, and a “join the section”-event, and an open discussion on possible research collaborations. The section will work in a collaborative manner with the Public Health Agency of Sweden to organize joint presentations in the field of Sexual and Gender Minority Health during the 2017 conference in Stockholm, Sweden.