East Carolina, Georgia Southern Examine Tobacco Policies, Alcohol Sponsorship at LGBT Pride Festivals

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Members of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities have higher rates of tobacco use and alcohol abuse than their non-LGBT counterparts. Both alcohol and tobacco use represent forms of substance use with substantial costs to the US economy, to population health, and to LGBT lives. Smoking and excessive alcohol consumption cause more than half a million premature deaths each year in the United States.

Corporate marketing can play a role in contributing to greater levels of smoking and alcohol use among LGBT populations. The researchers assessed tobacco policies and alcohol industry sponsorship at LGBT pride events in the 100 most populous cities in the U.S. They found that very few pride events have protections in place for secondhand smoke. Many have evidence of alcohol industry sponsorship. The limited number of protections from secondhand smoke were due to smoke- or tobacco-free park policies where the events were being held.

Using these data, the authors call on researchers, practitioners, and pride event organizers to enact policies that can reduce tobacco and alcohol use disparities. “We think these data show better engagement between state health departments and LGBT community organizations is needed,” said study co-author, Dr. Stacy Smallwood.

“Tobacco Policies and Alcohol Sponsorship at Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Festivals: Time for Intervention,” was recently published in the American Journal of Public Health. It assessed pride event policies about tobacco and alcohol at 100 pride events across the United States. It also provides recommendations for health policy and promotion efforts for LGBT communities.

Ms. Jasmine D. Spivey was the lead author and Dr. Joseph G. L. Lee, assistant professor at the College of Health and Human Performance, East Carolina University, was a co-author. Dr. Stacy W. Smallwood, assistant professor at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University was a co-author for the study.
Georgia Southern Conducts After-action Review of H1N1 Influenza Outbreak Response

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In early 2009, H1N1 influenza was identified within the human population. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officials responded with focused assessment, policy development, and assurances. The response was mobilized through efforts including procurement of adequate vaccine supply, local area span of control, materials acquisition, and facilities and resource identification.

Qualitative evaluation of the assurance functions specific to the system’s ability to assure safe and healthy conditions are reported. The methodology mirrors the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program used to assess system capability.

Findings demonstrate the effectiveness of community responsive disease prevention efforts in partnership with the public health systems mission to unify traditional public sector systems, for-profit systems, and local area systems was accomplished. As a result of this response pharmaceutical industries, healthcare providers, healthcare agencies, police/safety, colleges, and health and human service agencies were united.

Findings demonstrate the effectiveness of community response strategies utilizing feedback from system stakeholders. After-action review processes are critical in all-hazards preparedness. This analysis of local health district response to the H1N1 influenza outbreak informs future public health service delivery. Results provide a synthesis of local health department’s emergency response strategies, challenges encountered, and future-focused emergency response strategy implementation. A synthesis is provided as to policy and practice developments which have emerged over the past seven years with regard to lessons learned from the 2009-10 H1N1 influenza outbreak and response.


Dr. William A. Mase, assistant professor at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health was the lead author and Ms. Shamika Jones, alumni, was one of the co-authors.