

Queer Health is the Ultimate Wealth

LGBTQ+ Texans Stand Up
for Health Equity for All



Community Leading the Way

The Strengthening Colors of Pride (SCoP) coalition, made up of LGBTQIA+ researchers, activists, and impacted community members, has set out to understand the lived experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other gender and sexual minority (LGBTQ+) people in the San Antonio, Texas Metro Area.



Community Leading the Way

Researchers knew that LGBTQ+ people in their community were struggling with access to care; that persistent barriers were impacting their community's overall health and wellness.

What researchers wanted to better understand were the community's actual lived experiences and needs.

The SCoP coalition launched a community survey and conducted focus groups with 700 LGBTQIA+ San Antonians and asked participants to share their experiences with physical, mental, sexual, & reproductive health, access to care, substance use, experiences with providers, barriers to care, community care & caregiving, and alternative care methods.



What Did This Research Reveal?

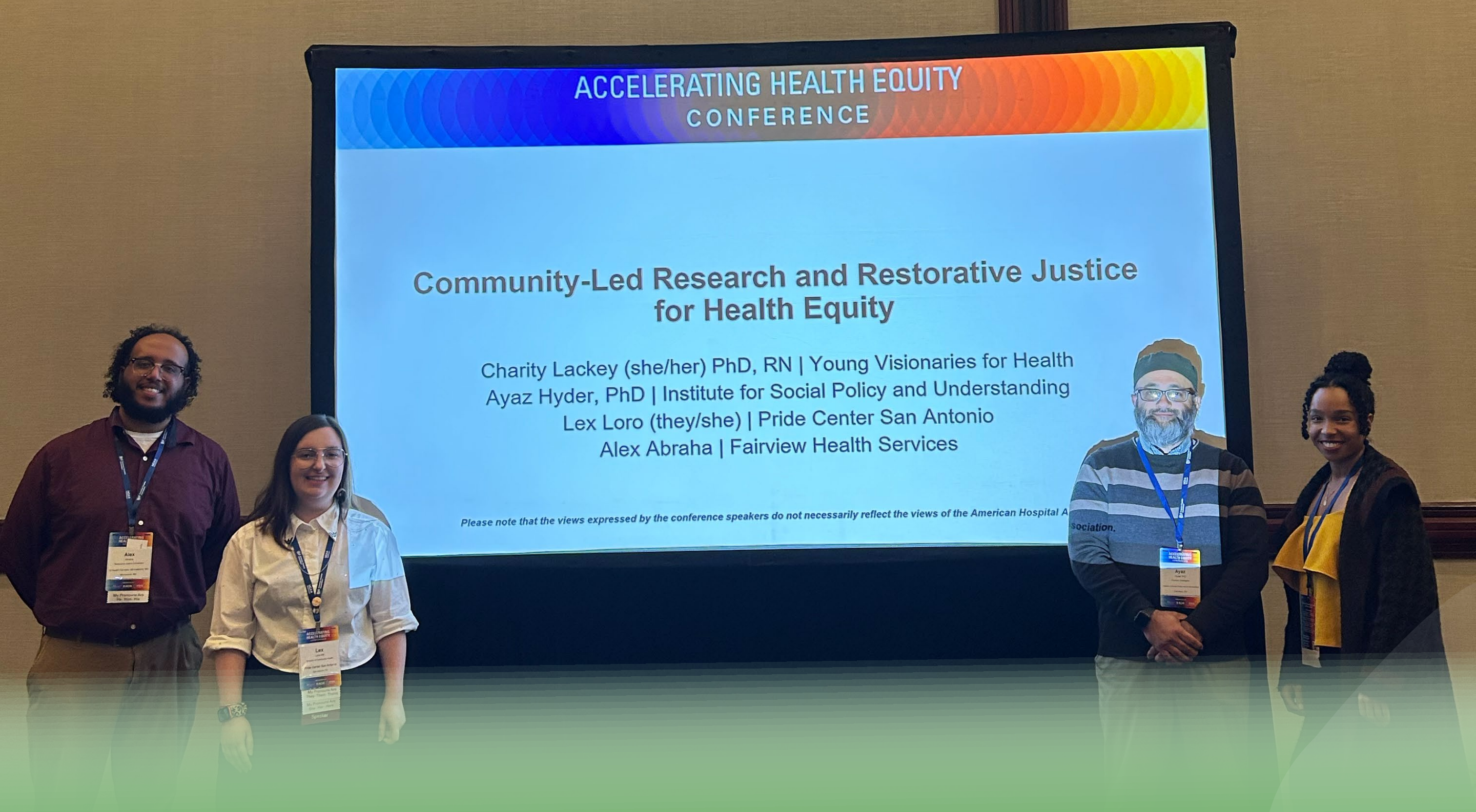
Survey findings paint a picture of the health inequity that LGBTQ+ San Antonians are fighting to overcome.

- Over 25% have experienced homelessness, far exceeding general population rates.
- 33% went without needed medical care in the past year due to access barriers.
- 25% of cisgender men who need PrEP for HIV prevention cannot access it due to cost.
- 50% of respondents report having someone close to them struggle with substance abuse in the past year, highlighting the community-wide impact of addiction.

Why Do These Findings Matter?

The research provides critical new knowledge by asking LGBTQ+ residents questions, many never before posed to them, revealing that **health inequities in San Antonio exceed national LGBTQ+ averages** and enabling the development of targeted local interventions to address these disparities.

Their research urgently calls on health care providers, administrators, and policymakers to immediately improve the quality, affordability, and accessibility of affirming health care services for LGBTQ+ San Antonians, whose needs have been unacceptably deprioritized for too long.



How the Research is Shaping the Future

The low-barrier, cost-free, culturally affirming mental health program at the Pride Center of San Antonio, a research partner and SCoP coalition member, has **grown as a result of this work and helped LGBTQ+ people access the care they need.**

The coalition has shared their findings with San Antonio's city council and the mayor's office to **advocate for increased funding for LGBTQ+ programming in the community.**

The team has brought the **health care needs of queer people to the table in more conversations and in places where queer and trans people are often overlooked.**

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Using the findings, researchers created training programs for clinicians across multiple specialties on improving LGBTQ patient care in both physical and behavioral health, with continuing education credits (CEUs) available.

The coalition has also shared their findings with local community partners who have used the data to apply for grants to fund life-saving programs.



A Call for LGBTQ+ Competency and Affirmation from their Care Providers



This research makes clear that when LGBTQ+ people are rejected by their families and unsupported by their communities, the consequences are devastating and measurable. Pride Center San Antonio stands ready to be part of the solution, but we cannot solve this alone.

We need our entire community—city leaders, funders, service providers, and neighbors—to step up with us and treat this as the emergency it is. Our LGBTQ+ community members need more than acceptance—they need San Antonio to invest in proven solutions: emergency housing, mental health programs, and trained providers who understand our community's unique challenges.”

*–Lex Loro, Former Interim Executive Director
of the Pride Center San Antonio*



Learn More

AcademyHealth supports community-led researchers producing evidence for community-driven solutions. Learn more about all Community Research for Health Equity grantees at:

www.academyhealth.org/CRHE