

Ryan J. Watson, PhD.

**Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT, US**

Watson's research focuses on vulnerable adolescents, with a focus on interpersonal relationships.

Biography

Watson researches how social support provides a foundation for achievement and healthy outcomes for vulnerable youth. His work advances the scholarship of health and well-being, interpersonal relationships, and sexual minority youth through mixed-method approaches. He has used both population-based and non-probability data sets from the U.S., Norway, and Canada to examine how social support -- friends, teachers, and parents -- may attenuate the impact of risk factors such as victimization, homophobia, and stigma.

Areas of Expertise

Social Support, LGBTQ Health, Sexual Health, HIV Prevention, Sexual/Gender Minority Youth and Young Adult Health, Family Acceptance and Rejection, LGBTQ teenagers, Homophobia

Event Appearances

To be or not to be religious: How religiosity is associated with sexual health among Black bisexual men
Society of Behavioral Medicine

How does the use of dating and hookup applications influence the sexual health choices of LGB people?
Society of Research on Adolescence

Does it stop at sexual gratification? Hookup motives of LGB late adolescents
Society of Research on Adolescence

LGBTQ-supportive community environments predict lower suicidality and emotional distress among sexual minority youth in Canada
Society of Research on Adolescence

Mental health issues among LGB school students in Canada
American Educational Research Association conference

Education

University of British Columbia
Post-Doctoral Fellow

University of Arizona
Ph.D. Family Studies and Human Development

University of Arizona
M.S. Family Studies and Human Development

UCLA
B.A. Psychology

Accomplishments

Partnership with Human Rights Campaign (HRC)

Watson and researchers at the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation conducted the largest study of LGBTQ teens. More than 12,000 respondents, ranging in age from 13 to 17, and drawn from all 50 states and Washington, D.C., participated in the online 2017 survey.

Full results: <https://assets2.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/2018-YouthReport-NoVid.pdf>

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