2014
APA PUBLIC INTEREST
Applying Psychological Science, Benefiting Society
Fulfilling APA’s commitment to apply the science and practice of psychology to the fundamental problems of human welfare and social justice and the promotion of equitable and just treatment of all segments of society through education, training, and public policy.

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The 1960s was a time of upheaval, activism, and change. Student protests of the Vietnam War were ongoing, and civil rights demonstrations were taking place throughout the South. In his State of the Union Address on January 8, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared the War on Poverty. On July 2, 1964, he signed the historic Civil Rights Act. Today we are again experiencing upheaval in our society. Then and now, we have work to do, and psychology has an important role to play.

In 2014 we marked the 50th anniversaries of the War on Poverty and the Civil Rights Act. As I wrote in my January column in the Monitor on Psychology, nearly 15% of Americans continue to live below the poverty line, including 20% of all children. As part of its year-long commemoration of the War on Poverty, the Office on SES developed a PI blog series on poverty and inequality.

In July I had the privilege of addressing the Arkansas Psychological Association as part of its commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act. One of the highlights of this conference and of my life personally was meeting Terrence Roberts, PhD, a psychologist and member of the Little Rock Nine. As I said in my remarks, discrimination and inequality still exist, and schools are still segregated, more now in the North-

These pages highlight Public Interest efforts in 2014:

- Ending Health Disparities
- Improving Health & Mental Health
- Ending Discrimination & Advancing Equality
- Fighting Poverty
- Preventing Violence in the U.S. & Around the Globe
- Helping Families Thrive
- Advocating on Behalf of Psychology & the Underserved
- Equipping Psychologists to Lead & Serve

This is APA’s mission as well, and this important work will take all of us. Join us!
east than in the South. In August, in Ferguson, MO, a White police officer shot and killed Michael Brown, an unarmed Black teen. In the Public Interest blog, we are exploring “Race, Racism and Law Enforcement in Communities of Color: A Call to Action.”

Psychologists have been and continue to be engaged in research to better understand the impact of income inequality and poverty on the individual and society and how to alleviate it, and to better understand how to reduce racism, including attitude change. Jennifer Eberhardt, PhD, Phillip Atiba Goff, PhD, and Tom Tyler, PhD, for example, conduct research and work with police departments on implicit bias and its impact on decisions made by police. Lorraine Greene, PhD, Ellen Scrivner, PhD, and others work to improve police–community relations. Much has been achieved—much remains to be done.

Gwendolyn Puryear Keita, PhD
Executive Director
Public Interest Directorate
Boys and men from health priority populations (e.g., low socioeconomic status, racial/ethnic minority communities) have some of the worst health outcomes in the country.

In 2014 APA’s Health Disparities Initiative (HDI) and its Working Group on Health Disparities in Boys and Men cosponsored a seminar on “Health Disparities in Boys and Men: Influence of Masculinity on Health Disparities and Equity” in collaboration with the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Aging.

APA and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Finding Answers initiative cohosted a Twitter chat on mental health disparities in boys and men, health disparities in boys and men, innovative interventions to improve minority health, and the state of mental health disparities in depression care.

During the APA convention, members of the HDI Working Group on Health Disparities in Boys and Men met with members of Congress to encourage support for funding on policies to advance research and improve access to mental health services.

HDI is developing an app—SmokeScreen—for health care professionals working with clients from health priority populations; the app will feature 15 population profiles, prevalence rates, health consequences, and risk factors of smoking for each population, clinical considerations for smoking cessation, clinical screening best practices, evidence-based prevention and intervention treatments, and resources for practitioners and clients.

HDI has been awarded $24,000 from the Smoking Cessation Leadership Center for the Health Equity Ambassadors Program to support Ambassador-initiated smoking cessation dissemination activities in their organizations or communities.
The Office on AIDS, with the Education Development Center, the American Psychiatric Association, and the National Association of Social Workers, is developing a new professional development program to supersede HOPE (HIV Office for Psychology Education). Funded from 1991 to 2014 by SAMHSA’s Center for Mental Health Services, HOPE trained more than 600 volunteer trainers to deliver interactive workshops for mental health providers, who in turn provided training in their communities to more than 36,500 mental health professionals.

The APA Safe and Supportive Schools Project offered the “Respect Workshop: Preventing Health Risks and Promoting Healthy Outcomes Among LGBTQ Youth,” training 43 Rhode Island school professionals, in collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Education, and 21 District of Columbia school professionals, in partnership with APA’s HOPE Program and the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education.

The Recovery to Practice (RTP) initiative launched a 15-module curriculum to integrate recovery-based principles with psychological practice.

The Office on Aging worked with the CEO of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging to provide education and guidance to providers of services for the aging on the mental and behavioral health needs of older adults.

Commemorating World AIDS Day in December, the Office on AIDS displayed a section of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in the APA headquarters building, including a panel in remembrance of Allan Pinka, PhD, who was instrumental in the formation of the Association of Lesbian and Gay Psychologists, which later became Division 44, the Society for the Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues.

Also for World AIDS Day, the Office on AIDS sponsored a presentation by Perry Halkitis, PhD, MS, MPH, on “Aging With HIV/AIDS: Challenges and Successes of a Lifetime Defined by the Epidemic” at the APA headquarters building.
About the HOPE program:

“HOPE was a breath of fresh air, a spark of inspiration, and a deeply meaningful opportunity for me both personally and professionally. I am grateful to John, Chris, David and the myriad of trainers who took their charge to heart and did great work. The HOPE program has held us in the same way I think we aspire to hold our clients or patients—with dignity, respect, challenge, and unwavering sincere support.”

—Tony Miles, PhD

“I feel privileged to have been a part of the HOPE program. It has affected me personally as well as professionally to receive this training and to be at least a small advocate for this vulnerable population.”

—Tony Cellucci, PhD, ABPP

“[The Office on AIDS] has done an incredible job forwarding the understanding of HIV/AIDS for the last two decades.”

—Angela Londoño-McConnell, PhD

“The impact of the HOPE program is immeasurable and I suspect will continue for decades.”

—Jeannie D. DiClementi, PsyD

“The HOPE program has benefited professionals and people immeasurably. I regret the loss of the program but prefer to remember our successes and our impact, not to mention the dedicated HOPE staff and the good men and women doing HIV/AIDS work in the trenches whom I have met over the years.”

—Armand R. Cerbone, PhD, ABPP

“I’ve been involved with HOPE since the late 80s and can say definitively that this program and its opportunities and network have enhanced my career as a psychologist. The work is not done; we need to continue in this area, especially with those impacted by HIV for 2+ decades. These individuals have a whole set of unique concerns medically, neuropsychologically, cognitively, and emotionally that we are just beginning to address.”

—Gregory Sarlo, PsyD

The Work, Stress, and Health Office released the Call for Proposals in April for the 11th international conference on work, stress, and health, cosponsored by the Public Interest Directorate, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Society for Occupational Health Psychology, to be held May 6–9, 2015, in Atlanta, GA.
Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs (OEMA) hosted Terrence James Roberts, PhD, a psychologist and one of the Little Rock Nine, as keynote speaker for the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs’ 22nd Annual Invitational Breakfast during the APA convention. Dr. Roberts was awarded an APA Presidential Citation by APA President Nadine Kaslow, PhD.

OEMA disbursed CEMRRAT Implementation Grants funds to 10 projects and four partnership development initiatives selected by the CEMRRAT2 Task Force.

OEMA coordinated the selection of three 2014 awardees of OEMA’s Promoting Psychological Research and Training on Health Disparities Issues (ProDIGs) grants to early career faculty at minority-serving institutions.

Terrence Roberts, PhD, one of the original Little Rock Nine, receives an award from the Arkansas Psychological Association in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, with Patricia Griffen, PhD (left), 2014 President, Arkansas Psychological Association, and Gwendolyn Puryear Keita, PhD, Executive Director, APA Public Interest Directorate.
With the Office on AIDS, OEMA selected 12 protégés for the 2014 class of the Cyber Mentors program, which provides mentorship and training to early career scholars, particularly social scientists of color, who conduct HIV and health disparities research in communities hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic.

In September, SAMHSA awarded the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) a $2.1 million grant over 4 years to support the Services for Transition Age Youth (STAY) fellowship, which will fund up to 48 students in terminal master’s programs in psychology whose training prepares them to provide mental health services to ethnic minority transition-age youth and their families.

One postdoctoral and 13 predoctoral psychology applicants were selected as new fellows for MFP’s Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Fellowship.

MFP hosted its 12th annual Psychology Summer Institute in Washington, DC, in July. Forty predoctoral, postdoctoral, and early career participants received professional mentoring on their projects, career development training, and assistance with grant writing and publishing, and they networked with established ethnic minority psychologists and program officials from federal agencies and foundations.

In response to the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO, in August, PI worked with Nadine Kaslow, PhD, Norman Anderson, PhD, and Public and Member Communications to develop an op-ed highlighting psychologists’ work on race and law enforcement, published by the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on September 5. Public Interest also launched a blog series offering multidisciplinary perspectives on race, racism, and law enforcement in communities of color.
In February, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office released Russian translations, timed for the Sochi Winter Olympics, of *Answers to Your Questions for a Better Understanding of Sexual Orientation & Homosexuality* and *Answers to Your Questions About Transgender People, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression*. Translations in Arabic, Chinese, French, and Swahili are in development.

The Women’s Programs Office, with the Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP) and the Center for Workforce Studies, worked with 2014 CWP Visiting Scholar Ruth Fassinger, PhD, to update the report on the changing gender composition of psychology.

“As a minority, I felt the Psychology Summer Institute truly was a space for me. I was primarily looking for more support for grants because I felt so clueless despite attending numerous workshops and reading RFPs. The information I obtained was empowering and extended beyond generic messages I’ve gotten so far. . . . The Psychology Summer Institute felt like a life preserver.”

—Alisia Tran

*From left:* Tom Tyler, PhD, Lorraine W. Greene, PhD, ABPP, Ellen Scrivner, PhD, ABPP, and APA CEO Norman B. Anderson, PhD, at APA’s November 12, 2014, congressional briefing on community–law enforcement relations.
The Office on SES conducted a year-long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty, including:

• A blog series on poverty and inequality at the Public Interest blog, Psychology Benefits Society.

• APA convention programming on “Disentangling Race, Ethnicity, and SES.”

• With the Committee on Women in Psychology, a screening of the HBO documentary Paycheck to Paycheck: The Life and Times of Katrina Gilbert during the convention.

• The commissioning of an annotated bibliography, Examining the Complexities Between Health Disparities and Poverty.

• With the Violence Prevention Office, a webinar on “Understanding and Overcoming Influences of Poverty on Children and Families” on World Poverty Day, with a record-breaking 1,100 registrants.

• With the Children, Youth, and Families Office, “Resilience Booster: Parent Tip Tool.”

Nearly 15% of Americans continue to live below the poverty line, including 20% of all children.
APA cosponsored with the American Bar Association a conference on “Confronting Family and Community Violence: The Intersection of Law and Psychology” on May 1–3, 2014, in Washington, DC, attended by almost 400 lawyers, government officials, psychologists, and other mental health workers. Sessions addressed the exposure of children, youth, and families to violence in and around the home, community, and society; provided professional education and training; explored coordinated approaches to addressing violence across disciplines; and strengthened understanding of related practice principles, guidelines, and standards. The Children, Youth, and Families Office worked with the Office of General Counsel to develop the theme and session topics and identify speakers. PI staff coordinated marketing efforts and managed registration and related logistics.

The ACT Program is now in more than 115 communities in the United States, training professionals to teach violence prevention to parents and caregivers in child care centers, mental health clinics, hospitals, shelters, prisons, Head Start centers, and high schools.

DID YOU KNOW?

The ACT Program is now in more than 115 communities in the U.S., training professionals to teach violence prevention to parents and caregivers in child care centers, mental health clinics, hospitals, shelters, prisons, Head Start centers, and high schools.
The Violence Prevention Office (VPO) is partnering with District of Columbia Public Schools’ Early Learning Division as part of a bullying prevention initiative to train family coordinators at early childhood centers to conduct the ACT Program with parents at the centers.

VPO has memoranda of agreement with universities and organizations in Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, Japan, Greece, and Turkey to implement the ACT Program and is developing agreements in Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Ecuador. Director Julia da Silva is also in discussions with the World Health Organization’s Violence and Injury Prevention team, with the goal of creating collaborations to encourage the ACT Program in their parenting programs.

In October, da Silva presented at the Brazilian Psychological Society annual meeting on “Corporal Punishment and Discipline Alternatives” to a packed auditorium and conducted a two-day regional workshop to prepare 21 ACT facilitators (mostly psychologists) to conduct the program in their cities.

In February, APA’s Council of Representatives adopted the Resolution on Firearm Violence Research and Prevention.


WPO, with CWP member Julie Williams, PsyD, released a brochure for women with disabilities who have experienced intimate partner violence.

“I attended and participated in the APA/ABA Conference on Confronting Family and Community Violence. It was attended by almost 400 lawyers, government officials, psychologists, and other mental health workers. It was a spectacular success. Participants were unanimous in singing its praises.”

—2013 APA President Donald N. Bersoff, PhD, JD, ABPP
APA participated in the Speak Up for Kids Campaign, which battles the stigma and misinformation that can prevent kids and families from seeking needed mental health care.

For the third consecutive year, the Children, Youth, and Families Office (CYFO) coordinated APA’s participation in the Speak Up for Kids Campaign, which battles the stigma and misinformation that can prevent kids and families from seeking needed mental health care. Cathy M. Mavrolas, PhD, represented APA at the Chicago event, “Mind the Gap: Integrating Physical & Mental Health Care.” The Childmind Institute streamed each event alongside resources for parents. CYFO also invited child-focused psychologists to contribute their expertise with short topical video clips for children and caregivers. APA’s Executive Management Group participated in a related #ISpeakUp selfie social media campaign.

Alan E. Kazdin, PhD (Yale Parenting Center director) and Lauren G. Fasig Caldwell, JD, PhD (CYFO director) authored a post on the Public Interest blog on “What Every Parent Should Know About Timeouts,” which attracted over 32,000 views in the first few days of its release.

On behalf of WPO, CYFO Director Fasig Caldwell presented testimony to the Mexican Congress on the Report of the APA Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls. The presentation was part of the Congressional Forum, “Sexualización de las niñas y adolescentes: amenaza real para su desarrollo.” The forum was sponsored by the Commission on the Rights of Children, in collaboration with AXIOS-Misión Mujer A.C. and APA. Dr. Fasig Caldwell also traveled to Guadalajara to speak with the AXIOS program and members of the Department of Education about working with at-risk teens and parental engagement with adolescents.

DID YOU KNOW?
More than 15 million American children have a psychiatric or learning disorder, and less than half of them get help. #ISpeakUp
The PI Government Relations Office (PI-GRO) made significant progress in areas of public policy critical to psychology while facing considerable legislative gridlock:

• Advocated successfully for the passage of child care and welfare legislation; for continued funding for a previously eliminated poverty research program; and for legislation to end sex trafficking of foster youth, ultimately signed into law as part of a larger anti-trafficking bill. Provided advocacy trainings and set up Capitol Hill meetings for nearly 200 psychologists and psychology graduate students.

• Held a congressional briefing on cutting-edge psychological research on dementia prevention, in collaboration with APA’s Committee on Aging and Science Government Relations Office.

• Renewed partnerships with early childhood coalitions and successfully advocated with key national coalitions to reauthorize the main child care law to reflect the last 20 years of research on the topic.

• Supported efforts to reduce discrimination toward ethnic and racial minorities in policing: submitted congressional testimony and held a congressional briefing with Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) on using psychology to address strained relations between communities of color and law enforcement and the militarization of police.

• Ensured increased training of ethnic minority and culturally competent psychologists through successfully advocating for expansion of the Minority Fellowship Program.
• Secured the participation of APA member and mental health innovator Arthur C. Evans Jr., PhD, at a major congressional hearing on improving the U.S. mental health system.

• Trained APA public interest leadership engaged in HIV/AIDS prevention, research, and treatment on federal advocacy and coordinated Capitol Hill and federal agency meetings with key policymakers.

• Secured the participation of key APA psychologists in a congressional hearing as well as a congressional briefing on the needs of parents with disabilities and treatment guidelines for all individuals with disabilities.

• With coalition partners, continued to advocate for the passage of legislation in the House to protect LGBT workers’ employment rights. APA submitted comments to improve NIH research and improve digital health’s capability to improve LGBT health.

From left: Acting U.S. Surgeon General Rear Admiral Boris Lushniak, MD, David A. Brent, MD, Christine Moutier, MD, and Joel A. Dvoskin, PhD, at the September 18, 2014, U.S. House of Representatives hearing on suicide.

Norman B. Anderson, PhD (APA CEO) (center, front), and APA Executive Management Group #ISpeakUp “selfie” as part of the 2014 Speak Up for Kids Campaign.
PI-GRO disseminated findings from APA’s efforts on preventing gun violence by initiating ongoing collaboration with multiple congressional offices on the formulation of sound violence prevention policy … and supporting the introduction of a bill to fund federal firearm injury prevention research.
The Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology held its seventh annual program in August, with 46 mid-career women psychologists from academic, academic medicine, clinical, and clinical consulting settings. LIWP now has more than 200 alumnae.

The Office on Aging distributed professional education products to all state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations and psychology licensing boards, including *Resources for Psychological Practice With Older Adults and Their Caregivers* and *Psychology and Aging: Resources for an Ever-Growing Population’s Needs*.

APA endorsed the Multidisciplinary Competencies in the Care of Older Adults at the Completion of the Entry-Level Health Professional Degree.

The Office on Aging offered the “Speed Mentoring Workshop: Building Research Careers in Geropsychology and Neuropsychology” for graduate students, fellows, early career psychologists, and junior investigators.

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**The Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology—Seven years strong with more than 200 alumnae**

“I feel so privileged to have had the chance to meet and get to know so many of you and to be part of this extraordinary group of women going forward. Meeting all of you was inspiring, refreshing, transformative.”

—Laura R. Stroud, PhD

“Truly, this was a life-changing experience.”

—Robin Henderson, PsyD
I became a public interest psychologist in part because I came of age in the ‘60s—a time of student activism, the Vietnam War, the civil rights movement, the War on Poverty, and *The Feminine Mystique*. Everyone wanted to change things, and we thought we could.

As I began to study older people and aging and saw a population that was aging rapidly, I heard members of Congress arguing for misguided policies on the basis of a relative or neighbor. This was a conversion experience for me. Serving in leadership positions in Division 20, APA more generally, the Gerontological Society of America, and other organizations, I realized it was critical to convert our data into informed law and policy.

My work in an interdisciplinary environment at the University of Michigan led me to recognize and appreciate the roles of other disciplines and the unique contributions psychology makes to well-being, quality of life, organizational and community functioning, improving society, developing policy, and creating useful laws. As chair of APA’s Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest, I worked with BAPPI to increase recognition of psychology’s contributions to society while influencing, supporting, and enhancing psychology’s role in the public interest.