



IRB# 22078

**Title:** Strong, Thriving and Resilient Men Study (STAR-M)

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***\*Please allow 1 business day for us to return calls, texts, and emails. If you are in crisis, call 911 OR reach out to a 24/7 hotline on the resource sheet provided at the end of this survey. You can also get a copy of the resource sheet at our website (above).***

## Consent Form

This form tells you more about the research project so that you can decide if you want to be a part of it.

### **Fast Facts About This Research Project:**

The purpose of this research project is to understand experiences among young adult LGBTQIA2S+ men, including trans men and transmasculine people.

- We want to use what we find from this research study to improve health and wellness among LGBTQIA2S+ men ages 18 to 30 in the U.S.
- If you choose to participate, we will ask you to take 5 surveys, each one lasting about 45 minutes. We will ask you to take them over the course of 2 years, about 6 months apart. You can take the survey in any location you choose as long as it is safe and private.
- You will receive \$50 to \$70 for each survey that you complete. Additionally, you will receive \$100 for completing all 5 surveys. You can earn up to \$400 in total compensation for your participation.
- De-identified data and findings will be shared at the end of the study so that other people can learn from you and other LGBTQIA2S+ men. You can also receive a copy of the findings at the end of the research study if you would like.
- You can ask questions about the study at any time by calling, texting, or emailing us (contact information at the top of this form). We can also help you get resources for topics related to the study if you would like.



**Why are you being asked to be in this research project?**

Researchers, including LGBTQIA2S+ scholars, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Mississippi State University, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee are interested in understanding experiences among young adult LGBTQIA2S+ (gay, bisexual, etc.) men, including trans men and transmasculine people. Your participation is essential to achieving this goal, so we hope that you will take part in our online survey study.

**What are you asking me to do for this research project?**

If you choose to participate, you will be asked to complete an initial online survey that will take about 45 minutes. You will also be asked to take four additional surveys (each about 45 minutes) every six months over a two-year period. Once you start the survey, you will have about 48 hours to complete it.

The surveys will include questions about your attitudes (about yourself and other people), behaviors (including unwanted sexual experiences, alcohol use, etc.), and experiences (including experiences of discrimination). We will also ask about your strengths and strengths of the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

It is important that you are in a safe and private location when you do the survey. In between surveys, we will check in with you via phone, email, and/or social media to see how you are doing, check if any of your contact information has changed, and to remind you of your upcoming survey. We will also see if you need help accessing resources during these check-ins.

You should also know that we will be checking each survey response to identify fraudulent responses. Fraudulent responses are responses from individuals who pretend to meet eligibility criteria when they are, in fact, not eligible. There is a possibility we may need to meet with you via Zoom (online video call) to confirm that you meet eligibility criteria. This is to protect the integrity of our study and our LGBTQIA2S+ community. The Zoom screenings will be about 5 to 10 minutes. If you are selected for a Zoom screening, you are required to attend, or you will be withdrawn from the study and receive no money. If you are deemed to be a fraudulent responder at any point in the study, you will not receive the Visa Gift Card incentive and will be removed from the study. We also reserve the right to report individuals engaging in fraudulent behavior.

**Compensation Description:**

Your participation in this research study is voluntary. If you choose to participate, you will be compensated \$50 (Visa Gift Card) with \$5 increments for completing each survey about 6 months apart, as well as a \$100 completion bonus for doing all

five surveys. So, for the first survey you will get \$50, for the second survey you will get \$55, for the third survey you will get \$60, for the fourth survey you will get \$65, and for the fifth survey you will get \$70. You can get a total of \$400 for being in this research project, which will last for 2 years. You can skip questions that you do not wish to answer and still get the Visa Gift Card, but you must get to the end of the survey to get the payment amount. You will get \$50 to \$70 after each survey in the form of a Visa gift card sent to your email. Please allow up to four weeks after you complete each survey to get the Visa Gift Card although we will try to get it to you as soon as possible.

**Benefits:**

Although you may not directly benefit from participating in this study, we hope that this study will contribute to improving the lives of LGBTQIA2S+ men. Your participation is essential to achieving this goal. You may also find that you like being in this project because you will share your lived experiences and perspectives. You will also be contributing to helping others in the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

**Risks and/or Discomforts:**

You may find some of the questions to be of a personal nature, but you do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to answer. You are free to withdraw your consent to participate and may discontinue your participation in the study at any time without consequence. If you decide to stop participating, you may also decide that you wish to have your data from previous surveys destroyed/removed from the larger dataset. To do this, you need to notify the researchers. Please note that if you do this after initial data have been shared/published, it may not be possible.

Some of the questions in this survey ask about sexual behavior, including consensual and unwanted experiences, dating and relationship experiences, substance use, beliefs about gender, sexuality, sex, experiences of discrimination, and childhood abuse. Your responses are completely confidential, and we will never share what you said on the surveys with anyone else.

The questions in this study do not pose any direct risk. However, if you are experiencing any discomfort and/or wish to learn more about the topics on the survey, we encourage you to reach out to one of the agencies/organizations that we listed on the resource sheet you will be provided at the end of the survey. You will be able to reach out to the researchers to ask questions and get help accessing resources. Please keep in mind that if a participant contacts the research team (via email, phone call, text, or any other method of communication) and discloses that they intend to hurt themselves or someone else and/or that a child or elder is being abused, we will report this information to the appropriate authorities. So,

please do not contact the research team with such disclosures unless you would like immediate assistance with receiving help and understand that we are mandated reporters. National resources will be provided at the end of the survey and are available on our website at <https://go.unl.edu/starm>

### **Confidentiality and Data Sharing:**

The research records will be securely stored electronically through University-approved methods and will only be seen by the research team and/or those authorized to view, access, or use the records during and after the study is complete.

This study will involve the collection of private information (name, dates, etc.). Your survey answers could be used or distributed to another researcher for future research studies without additional informed consent from you. Identifiers (name, dates, etc.) will be removed prior to being distributed. This means that no one would ever know your name or contact information in association to your survey answers.

We will also publish findings from this study so that other researchers can learn from you and other LGBTQIA2S+ men. If you would like a copy of the results at the end of the study, we will send you a short report summarizing what we found; just indicate on the survey that you would like a copy of this report and how you would like to get it.

You should also know that we have a Certificate of Confidentiality from the Federal Government. This means that if someone came to us and asked for information about you or other people in the project, we could use this Certificate to refuse to give them information. This is to help us protect your privacy, but it does not prevent you or a member of your family from voluntarily releasing information about yourself or your involvement in this research. If you give your written consent to someone to receive research information, then we may not use the Certificate to withhold information.

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) at the University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL) is in charge of making sure that the research is being done in a way that is respectful and ethical. Sometimes the IRB might ask to look at what people tell us to make sure we are being respectful and ethical. If the IRB looks at what people tell us, they will not be allowed to tell other people what they see.

### **Opportunity to Ask Questions:**

You may ask any questions concerning this research and have those questions answered before agreeing to participate in or during the study. To do so, you may



contact the study team via email at [starm@unl.edu](mailto:starm@unl.edu). You can also call or text us at (224) 650-7728. Additionally, you may contact the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institutional Review Board at (402) 472-6965 to voice concerns about the research or if you have any questions about your rights as a research participant.

**Consent, Right to Receive a Copy:**

You can decide not to be in this research study, or you can withdraw at any time before, during, or after the research begins for any reason. Deciding not to be in this research study or deciding to withdraw will not affect your relationship with the investigator or the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. You will not lose any benefits to which you are entitled.

You are voluntarily making a decision whether or not to participate in this research study. Choosing “agree” at the bottom of the page and typing in your name certifies that you have decided to participate after having read and understood the information presented. You may print a copy of this consent form for your records at this website: <https://go.unl.edu/starm>. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please reach out to us at [starm@unl.edu](mailto:starm@unl.edu).

**Agreement:**

I have read the procedure described above. By choosing “Agree,” I voluntarily agree to participate in this survey study.

**Please type your name here:**

<<Agree>>

<<I do not agree, I do not wish to participate>>