



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

QORRN is a community project dedicated to helping LGBTQ+ individuals in rural areas access the resources they need.

OVERVIEW

Throughout 2023, QORRN built upon our local efforts with a bigger-than-ever DeKalb County Pride event, by continuing to host online resource networks so rural Queers can find the services they need, and by collaborating on state and national projects.

HIGHLIGHTS

NATIONAL REALM STUDY

- In June, QORRN founder Frankie DiCiaccio joined the Community Advisory Board (CAB) for the **REALM (Rural Engagement and Approaches for LGBTQ+ Mental health) Study**, jointly run by **Emory University** and **Johns Hopkins University**.
- "REALM is a 15-month cohort study aimed at characterizing determinants of depression, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts among a diverse group of sexual and gender minority (SGM) adults living in rural and small metropolitan areas of the United States. The study will use its findings to explore technology-based intervention strategies for improving mental health among high-risk SGM groups" (prismhealth.emory.edu).
- As a CAB member, Frankie reviews materials and attends quarterly meetings with university clinical research teams as well as other folks from across the country who work in the rural Queer sphere. CAB members lend insights around **study language, community engagement strategy, and logistics**. Frankie's contributions are directly informed by their work with QORRN, particularly on our 2021 LGBTQ+ Community Survey.
- The REALM Study is expected to launch nationwide in 2024. More to come!



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

- In September, QORRN was contacted by the Illinois Department of Public Health for assistance in updating its I-CARE system's online terminology regarding gender and sexuality. We reviewed the current language and met with a representative of the CDC Foundation and public health administrators to discuss updates.



DEKALB PRIDE

- 2023 was the largest DeKalb Pride event yet! About 100 vendors joined for our Pride Fest & March in downtown DeKalb and an estimated 1,000 people attended!
- We also hosted numerous other Pride week events, including **two free films** at the Egyptian Theatre with post-show discussions moderated by Frankie.

