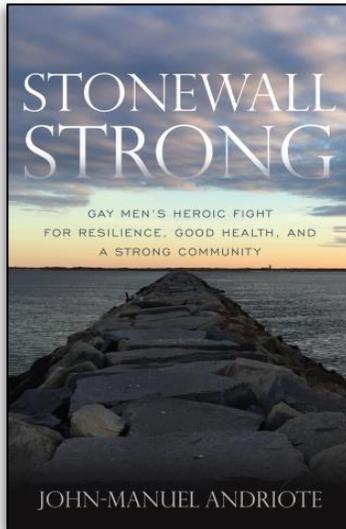


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Stonewall Strong

Gay Men's Heroic Fight for Resilience, Good Health, and a Strong Community

“*Stonewall Strong* is a tour de force.... [Andriote] skillfully educates the reader how the lessons learned from addressing the [AIDS] epidemic have laid the foundations for a stronger, more resilient community. The book is well-written, compelling, and highly informative.”

—**Kenneth Mayer, MD, Infectious Disease Attending and Director of HIV Prevention Research, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Medical Research Director, The Fenway Institute**

Longtime Washington, DC health journalist John-Manuel Andriote didn't expect to mark the 25th year of the HIV-AIDS epidemic in 2006 by coming out in *The Washington Post* about his own HIV diagnosis. For 20 years he had reported on the epidemic as an HIV-negative gay man, as AIDS killed many of his friends and roused gay Americans to action against a government that preferred to ignore their existence. Eight words from his doctor—"I have bad news on the HIV test"—turned Andriote's world upside down. Over time, he came to understand that his choice each day to take the powerful medication he needs to stay healthy, to stay alive, came from his own resilience. When and how had he become resilient? He searched his journals for answers in his own life story. The reporter then set out to learn more about resilience. *Stonewall Strong* is the result.

Drawing from leading-edge research and nearly 100 original interviews, the book makes it clear: most gay men are astonishingly resilient. Andriote writes with searing honesty about the choices and forces that brought him to his own before-and-after moment. He frames pivotal moments in recent history as manifestations of gay men's resilience, from the years of secrecy and subversion before the 1969 Stonewall riots; through the coming of age, heartbreak, and politically emboldening AIDS years; and pushing onward to legal marriage equality. Andriote gives us an inside look at family relationships that support resilient sons, the nation's largest organizations' efforts to build on the resilience of marginalized LGBTQ youth, drag houses, and community centers. We go inside the hearts of individuals and missions of groups to see a community that works, plays, and prays together. Finally, Andriote presents the inspiring stories of gay men who have moved beyond the traumas and stereotypes, claiming their resilience and right to good health, and working to build a community that will be "Stonewall Strong."

Andriote considers *Stonewall Strong* a "bookend" for his award-winning AIDS history. "*Victory Deferred* documented the impact of HIV-AIDS on individuals, government institutions, and the LGBT political movement for equality," he says. "*Stonewall Strong* celebrates what our personal and community history taught us about our own courage, resilience, and strength."

Rowman & Littlefield

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By John-Manuel Andriote

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