

¹University of Massachusetts Medical School, ²UMass Medical School Graduate School of Nursing, ³The Fenway Institute

LGBT Population

- LGBT refers to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. Often, the acronym can be expanded to LGBTQIA to include queer or questioning, intersex and asexual or ally.
- According to the 2011 Institute of Medicine Report: The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People, 2.8% of men and 1.4% of women labeled themselves as homosexual or bisexual and reported same sex desire.
- Approximately 4% of women and 7% of men reported having same sex partners at some point after puberty.
- For individuals ages 18-44:
 - Orientation:**
 - Men: 90.2% heterosexual, 2.3 homosexual, 1.8% bisexual, 3.9% something else, 1.8% did not report orientation
 - Women: 90.3% heterosexual, 1.3% homosexual, 2.8% bisexual, 3.8% something else, 1.8% did not report orientation
 - Behavior:**
 - 6.2% of men reported same sex oral or anal sexual behavior
 - 11.5% of women reported a sexual experience with other women
 - Attraction:**
 - 7.1% of men and 13.4% of women acknowledge some degree of same sex attraction

Issues affecting the LGBT Community

- Homelessness
 - Youth
 - Transgender
- Substance abuse
 - Tobacco Use
 - Alcohol Abuse
 - Illicit Drug Use
- Sexual Health
 - HIV/AIDS
 - STIs
 - Sex Work
- LGBT veterans issues
 - Sexual Trauma
- Health care disparity
 - Inadequate prevention
 - Access to care
 - Insurance disparities
- Discrimination, Social Stigma
- Mental Health
 - Suicidality
 - Depression
 - PTSD
- International Persecution
 - Asylum Seeking

Interprofessional Network

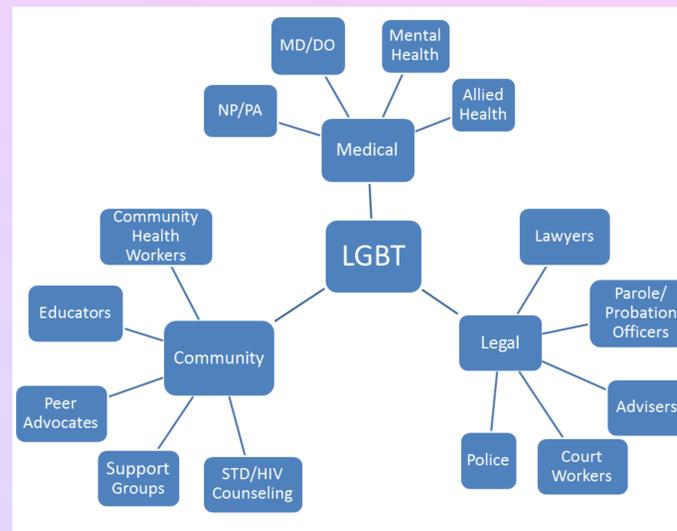


Figure 1. This schematic acknowledges the dialogue that exists among professionals within each professional sphere, and it highlights the relative lack of communication between the various spheres. For LGBT care to be more comprehensive, professionals caring for this community should aim to improve communication from one sphere to another and to integrate the services they provide.

Service Projects

For the LGBT clerkship, each student completed an individual service project at their respective service site. The projects included:

- Analysis of Patient Centered Medical Home and Meaningful Use Standards for tobacco use and depression screening documentation and implementation of ePRO patient survey initiative at Fenway Health in Boston, MA
- Development of curriculum materials to educate clinicians on appropriate disease prevention and health promotion for LGBT patients across age and gender spectrum
- LGBT Asylum Support Task Force fundraiser planning
- Draft proposal for an HIV/STD testing clinic run by Safe Homes
- Educational pamphlet on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV high-risk clients
- Interviews with VA Providers working with LGBT Veterans to identify needs specific to this population. Curriculum development for future study of LGBT Veteran Population.
- Aggregated demographic data about LGBT youth, which will be used to identify trends and inform grant proposals.

Lessons Learned

- LGBT individuals bear a disproportionately large burden of disease relative to the general population
- LGBT individuals have the same health care needs as the general population with several additional considerations specific to their relevant subpopulation.
- Interprofessional collaboration is needed for well-rounded care of LGBT patients. Issues affecting LGBT health include multiple areas that extend beyond the clinical care setting.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2013). *HIV among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/gender/msm/facts/index.html>

Institute of Medicine. (2011). *The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding*. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press.

Acknowledgements

This clerkship was made possible by the University of Massachusetts Medical School School of Medicine and Graduate School of Nursing and co-sponsored by MassAHEC. The students are grateful to Jeroan Allison and Heidi Holland for serving as a clerkship directors and would like to thank the following sites for welcoming our students: Fenway Health, The Fenway Institute, BAGLY, LGBT Asylum Support Task Force, AIDS Project Worcester, Safe Homes, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

