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

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.
- 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


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Service Projects

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