



Lesbian Health: What We Have and What We Need

Dr. Kara L. Malone, M.D., FACOG
Assistant Clinical Professor of OB/GYN at The Ohio State
University Wexner Medical Center

Disclosure

I have no relevant financial relationships. This presentation does not include discussion of off-label products.

Define Lesbian

■ *Why the Definition Matters*

National Health Interview Survey 2015

Self Identified as Gay/Lesbian- 1.6%

Self Identified as Bisexual- 0.8%

Self Identified as Straight- 97.6%

For female respondents, the response options are:

+ Lesbian or gay,

+ Straight, that is, not lesbian or gay,

+ Bisexual,

+ Something else

+ I don't know the answer.

Current State of Lesbian Health

■ *What We Have*

- Primary care for women tends to be organized around reproductive health needs
 - Public funding for women's health has centered on family planning and prenatal
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- Are there aspects of the health care system that act to reduce lesbian's access to services, thereby possibly increasing their risk of health problems?



Health Disparities in the Lesbian Community

What are they?

- Increased Rates of:
 - Obesity
 - Smoking
 - Alcohol and Drug Abuse
 - Mental Health Disorders
 - Cancer



Health Disparities in the Lesbian Community

Why do they matter?

Leading Causes of Death (LCOD) by Race/Ethnicity, All Females-United States, 2014*

Rank	All Races	Hispanic	White	Black	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander
1	Heart disease 22.3%	Cancer 22.6%	Heart disease 22.3%	Heart disease 23.2%	Cancer 17.4%	Cancer 27.3%
2	Cancer 21.6%	Heart disease 19.7%	Cancer 21.4%	Cancer 22.5%	Heart disease 16.8%	Heart disease 20.0%
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 6.0%	Stroke 6.0%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 6.5%	Stroke 6.2%	Unintentional injuries 8.1%	Stroke 8.1%
4	Stroke 6.0%	Diabetes 4.7%	Stroke 5.9%	Diabetes 4.6%	Chronic liver disease 5.7%	Alzheimer's disease 3.9%
5	Alzheimer's disease 5.0%	Unintentional injuries 4.5%	Alzheimer's disease 5.3%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 3.2%	Diabetes 5.4%	Diabetes 3.8%
6	Unintentional injuries 3.9%	Alzheimer's disease 4.3%	Unintentional injuries 4.0%	Alzheimer's disease 3.1%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 5.2%	Unintentional injuries 3.3%
7	Diabetes 2.7%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 3.1%	Diabetes 2.4%	Unintentional injuries 3.0%	Stroke 4.3%	Influenza & pneumonia 3.0%
8	Influenza & pneumonia 2.2%	Influenza & pneumonia 2.5%	Influenza & pneumonia 2.2%	Kidney disease 3.0%	Alzheimer's disease 2.7%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 2.6%
9	Kidney disease 1.8%	Chronic liver disease 2.3%	Kidney disease 1.7%	Septicemia 2.3%	Influenza & pneumonia 2.7%	Kidney disease 2.0%
10	Septicemia 1.6%	Kidney disease 2.0%	Septicemia 1.5%	Hypertension 1.9%	Kidney disease 2.1%	Hypertension 1.9%

First Steps...

■ *What We Need*

Better Data Collection (including in the EMR!)

- Section 4302 of the Affordable Care Act contains provisions to strengthen federal data collection efforts by requiring that all national federal data collection efforts collect information on race, ethnicity, sex, primary language, and disability status. The law also provides the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) the opportunity to collect additional demographic data to further improve our understanding of healthcare disparities. In the past, identifying disparities and effectively monitoring efforts to reduce them has been limited by a lack of specificity, uniformity, and quality in data collection and reporting procedures. Consistent methods for collecting and reporting health data will help us better understand the nature of health problems in the LGBT community.

Effective Models of Care Delivery

■ *What We Need*

- Patient Centered Medical Homes
- LGBT Affirming Medical Education and Health Care Organizations
 - What does this look like in practice?
 - Implementation of Curricular and Climate Change to Improve Health of LGBT, Gender Non Conforming, and DSD persons

Research and Data Collection

■ *What We Need*

- Less documentation of health disparities and more action to address them
- Long-term investment in improving lesbian health
- More inclusion and diversity in research and data collection
- Shift in how lesbian health is addressed within the broader context of Women's Health

Community Partnerships

■ *What We Need*

- Define the “community”
- Who are the stakeholders?
- What are the results of poor community engagement?
 - The best allies in improving the overall health of the lesbian population are LESBIANS.

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Questions or
Comments?



Thank You



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