Providing Culturally Competent Healthcare to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Population  
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**PURPOSE**

Health disparities exist in the LGBT community due in part to a long history of discriminatory attitudes among individuals and social groups.

The institute of Medicine (IOM) and Healthy People 2020 have highlighted these health disparities.

Gaining insight into various subgroups and demographic influences is essential in providing culturally competent patient care.

This project examined whether a cultural competency education program on LGBT healthcare concerns improved healthcare providers attitudes towards the LGBT individual.

**FINDINGS**

Cultural competence education improves healthcare providers’ attitudes toward the LGBT individual.

Creating opportunities to engage the LGBT individual in open dialogue and trusting provider/patient relationships promote continued access to healthcare services.

Educating healthcare providers about the specific needs of this population improves patient centered care.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR NURSING**

Evidence based cultural competence educational offerings should establish a unique understanding of the values, beliefs, attitudes and lifeways of diverse populations.

Further research is needed to evaluate whether the educational intervention is retained over a period of time.

Research should also be completed on the use of mandatory cultural competence training for healthcare providers and its influence on the health disparities of the LGBT population.

**SELECTED REFERENCES**


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