The Aging LGBTQ Population

Rutland Community Health Center

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Problem Identification and Description of Need

- Although being LGBTQ is more accepted than it was in previous times, there are still barriers that exist which keep some LGBTQ people from accessing quality healthcare. In the middle-age and older LGBTQ population, there are further issues that arise.

- Providers should be aware of some of these issues so that they can be addressed if necessary.
Public health cost and unique cost considerations

- In 2016, it was estimated that there are 2.7 million LGBTQ people living in the United States. It’s projected that this number will grow to 5.4 million in 2060 (Fredriksen-Goldsen et al. 2017).

- By addressing the unique health concerns of this population now, we can stop the issues from compounding exponentially.
Community Perspective

- Michael Dwyer and George Valley, a married gay couple that live in the Rutland community, were interviewed in order to obtain a patient perspective on interactions with healthcare professionals, and about their lives.

- Dr. Teddi Lovko, a family care physician who works out of Rutland Regional Community Health Center, was also interviewed about the patients that she sees in the clinic.

- The questions that the interviews were drawn from are on this projects entry on the Dana Library ScholarWorks website.
An educational module was created in order to discuss some of the unique barriers that older LGBTQ people face when accessing healthcare.

This module contains information about...

- LGBTQ terminology
- Historical context of these barriers
- An explanation of what barriers currently exist and why
- Information gleaned from the community interviews that were performed
- Possible ways in which a provider can help alleviate some of the barriers and facilitate beneficial rapport with their older LGBTQ patients
Results and Response

- The module itself can be found for this project's entry on Dana Library ScholarWorks.
- In addition, the module will be sent out to Rutland Regional Community Health Center.
- The response cannot be evaluated at this time as the module has just been created.
Evaluation of effectiveness and limitations

- The direct effectiveness of this module would be difficult to measure quantitatively, but could possibly be done with a post-module questionnaire which evaluates whether providers feel more equipped to have discussions with their older LGBTQ patients about the issues they face.

- A limitation of this project is that it is not interactive.
  - A future revision of the module could include some questions which further discuss the topics presented.
Recommendations for future interventions/projects

- The creation of community outreach groups for older LGBTQ people could provide a safe space for socialization and discussion of the topics that they feel are important.
- Other modules which focus on more specific issues could also be quite effective.
  - Some of these modules could be centered on older LGBTQ patient mental health or on facilitating open and comfortable rapport with older LGBTQ patients.
References


- The genderbread person image is not copyrighted, but can be found at http://itspronouncedmetrosexual.com/2015/03/the-genderbread-person-v3/#sthash.FeqIfj6t.dpbs