

# 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.

# Intervention and Methodology

- ▶ 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 projects 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

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