



Meeting the Needs of the LGBTQIA+ Community at Health Centers in the South

HRSA IEA Region 4 in Partnership with the Fenway Institute

March 30, 2022

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



Thank you for joining!

- Recording will be available at <u>www.lgbtqiahealtheducation.com</u> and emailed to all registrants
- All participants are muted
- If you are having technical issues, please request assistance thru the chat feature to National LGBTQIA+ Health Education Center
- Ask questions and share your thoughts using the Zoom chat or Q&A feature
- Please complete evaluation survey at end of webinar





Welcoming Remarks



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Region 4

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The Fenway Institute



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Meeting the Needs of the LGBTQIA+ Community at Health Centers in the South

The National LGBTQIA+ Health Education Center, The Fenway Institute
Boston, MA

Our Roots

Fenway Health

- Independent 501(c)(3) FQHC
- Founded 1971
- Mission: To enhance the wellbeing of the LGBTQIA+ community as well as people in our neighborhoods and beyond through access to the highest quality health care, education, research, and advocacy
- Integrated primary care model, including HIV and transgender health services

The Fenway Institute

Research, Education, Policy



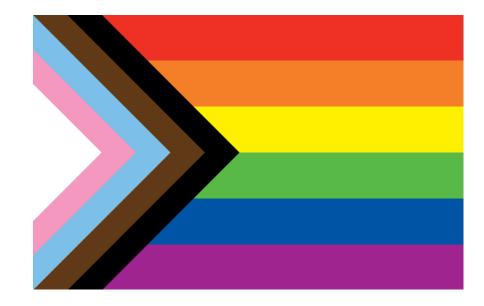
Objectives

- 1. Provide an overview of the national and regional health landscape of this community including basic terminology, current inequities, and disengagement from primary care
- 2. Increase participants' knowledge on HRSA National resources to improve the delivery of services and the importance of providing genderaffirming and inclusive care

LGBTQIA+ Terminology

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation are Not the Same

- All people have a gender identity and a sexual orientation
- Identities can change
- Terminology can vary based on factors such as culture, generational differences, geography, language, etc.



What's most important:

Respect

Empathy

Reflecting the terms someone uses to describe themselves

L,G,B,T,Q,I,A,+ Concepts



Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation: The Basics



Sex Assigned at Birth



Sex is often described in a very black and white or binary way, but the reality isn't actually that simple.

The Intersex Community

- Intersex is an umbrella term for differences in sex traits or reproductive anatomy. Intersex people are born with these differences or develop them in childhood. There are many possible differences in genitalia, hormones, internal anatomy, or chromosomes, compared to the usual two ways that human bodies develop.
- Some intersex traits are noticed at birth. Others don't show up until puberty or later in life. Intersex people often face shame—or are forced or coerced into changing their bodies, usually at a very young age. Most surgeries to change intersex traits happen in infancy.
 - Definition and information from InteractAdvocates.org

^{*} Sex traits can include chromosomes, hormones, internal and external genitalia, and secondary sex characteristics such as facial and body hair, voice pitch/frequency, pattern baldness, etc.



Gender



Gender Identity & Gender Expression

Gender identity

 One's inner sense of being a woman, man, nonbinary or beyond.

Gender expression

 How we express gender to those around us: clothing, names, pronouns, etc.

Gender Identity Terminology

Cisgender or Cis

 A person whose gender identity aligns with society's expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth.

Transgender, Trans, or Gender Diverse

 A person whose gender identity or gender expression does not align with society's expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth.

Transgender and Gender Diverse Identities

- Transgender woman, trans woman
- Transgender man, trans man
- Non-binary
 - Genderqueer person, gender fluid person
- Trans feminine, Trans masculine (inclusive of binary and non-binary identities)
- Gender identity is increasingly described as being on beyond a continuum, and more a universe of identities.

Terminology: Understanding "Transition" or "Affirmation"

- The process of undergoing changes to live in greater alignment with one's own gender identity and/or expression, rather than with society's expectations based on the sex assigned at birth. This process can vary widely across the community, but it can include:
 - Social affirmation
 - Legal/document changes
 - Medical affirmation (puberty suppression, gender-affirming hormone therapy)
 - Surgical affirmation
- Another term sometimes used is "gender confirmation"

Sexual Orientation

- Sexual orientation: how a person experiences their physical, emotional, and romantic attachments to others.
- There can be many layers to a person's sexual orientation, which can vary. These dimensions include:
 - Desire: refers to whether a person has attractions to other people and the genders of the people they may be attracted to.
 - Behavior: is whom someone may be engaging in sexual interactions with, and the nature of these sexual interactions.
 - Identity: refers to the range of labels and communities that a person may or may not affiliate with regarding their sexual orientation, including gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual, or many others.
- We should never make assumptions about someone's sexual orientation, and always reflect the terms they use to describe themselves.

Additional Terms to Know

Lesbian & Gay

 Predominantly attracted to the same gender as their own

Bisexual

 Attracted to people of all different genders

Straight

 Predominantly attracted to a gender different from their own

The 'Q,' 'A,' and the '+'

 Queer and/or Questioning Important to acknowledge historical stigma associated with the term queer Asexual: someone who has no or conditional sexual attraction to others Not Ally There are more identities beyond LGBTQIA who are also important members of this community

Inequalities, Stigma, and Discrimination

Minority Stress Framework

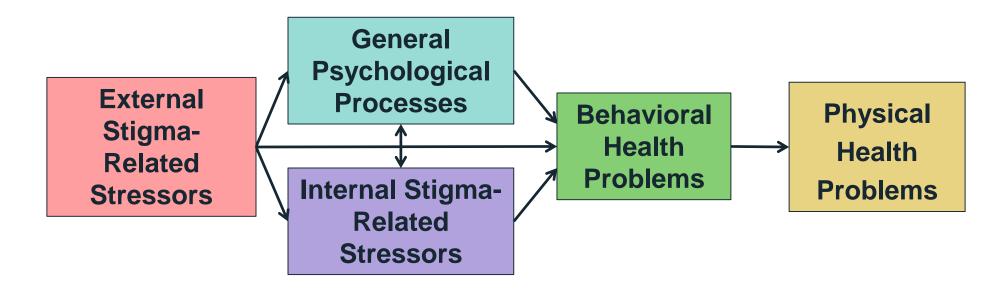


Fig. 1: Adapted from Introduction to the special issue on structural stigma and health

Types of Stigma

Structural

• Structural, or institutional discrimination includes the policies of private and governmental institutions that intentionally restrict the opportunities of certain people, as well as policies that unintentionally restrict these opportunities.

Interpersonal

 Interpersonal stigma is caused when stigma influences the actions or words of one person towards another. Similar to structural stigma, these actions can be intentional or implicit.

Internal

 Intrapersonal or internalized stigma is the result of institutional and/or interpersonal stigma.

Sexual Orientation Health Disparities

- Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual people are at a heightened risk of psychological distress, drinking, and smoking.¹
- Lesbian and bisexual women are at a heightened risk for multiple chronic conditions.²
- LGBTQIA+ communities have higher rates of:
 - Cigarette smoking³
 - Type 2 Diabetes⁴
 - PCOS⁵
 - Uninsured or under insured⁶
- 1. Gonzales G, Przedworski J, Henning-Smith J. Comparison of Health and Health Risk Factors Between Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Adults and Heterosexual Adults in the United States, *JAMA Internal Medicine*. 2016;176,(9): 1344-1351.
- 2. Fredriksen-Goldsen KI, Kim HJ, Shui C, Bryan AEB. Chronic Health Conditions and Key Health Indicators Among Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Older US Adults, 2013-2014. *Am J Public Health*. 2017;107(8):1332-1338.
- 3. American Lung Association. The LGBT Community: A Priority Population for Tobacco Control. Greenwood Village, CO: American Lung Association, Smokefree Communities Project. Available at: https://www.lung.org/getmedia/d843353c-2609-4554-9daf-f4b629c99503/lgbt-issue-brief-update.pdf.
- 4. Beach LB, Elasy TA, Gonzales G. Prevalence of Self-Reported Diabetes by Sexual Orientation: Results from the 2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. *LGBT Health*. 2018;5(2):121-130.
- 5. Agrawal R, Sharma S, Bekir J, Conway G, Bailey J, Balen AH, Prelevic G. Prevalence of polycystic ovaries and polycystic ovary syndrome in lesbian women compared with heterosexual women. *Fertil Steril*. 2004;82(5):1352-7.
- 6. Lambda Legal. When Health Care Isn't Caring: Lambda Legal's Survey of Discrimination Against LGBT People and People with HIV. New York: Lambda Legal, 2010.

LGBTQIA+ Health Disparities

- LGB youth (ages 10-24) are five times as likely to have attempted suicide than heterosexual youth.⁷
- 40% of LGBTQIA+ youth have seriously considered suicide in the past year (2020).
- LGBTQIA+ individuals face health disparities linked to societal stigma, discrimination, and denial of their civil and human rights. Discrimination against LGBTQIA+ persons has been linked to high rates of psychiatric disorders, substance abuse, and suicide.⁹
- Internalized homophobia, experiencing discrimination, and expectations of rejection, were associated with HIV risk behavior.

^{7.} US Center for Disease Control. Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Risk Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9-12: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2016.

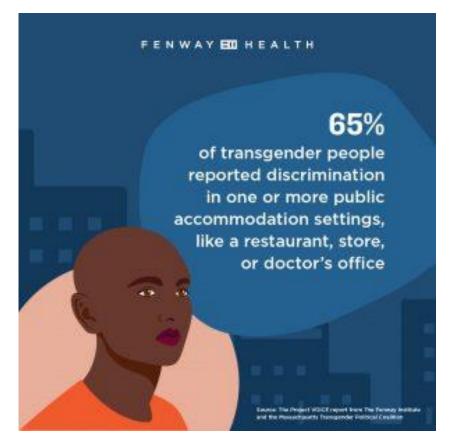
^{8.} The Trevor Project. 2020 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health. New York, New York: The Trevor Project, 2020.

^{9.} McLaughlin KA, Hatzenbuehler ML, Keyes KM. Responses to discrimination and psychiatric disorders among black, Hispanic, female, and lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals. *Am J Public Health*. 2010;100(8):1477-84.

^{10.} Hatzenbuehler ML, Nolen-Hoeksema S, Erickson SJ. Minority stress predictors of HIV risk behavior, substance use, and depressive symptoms: results from a prospective study of bereaved gay men. *Health Psychol*. 2008;27(4):455-462.

Anti-TGD Discrimination and Poverty

- The 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey found that:
 - 29% of transgender people live in poverty, compared to 14% in the U.S. population
 - Transgender people have a 15% unemployment rate (compared with 5% in the U.S. population)
 - 16% of transgender people report homeownership, compared to 63% of the U.S. population
 - Nearly 30% of transgender people experienced homelessness in their lifetime
 - 12% report past-year homelessness due to being transgender



14. James SE, Herman JL, Rankin S, Keisling M, Mottet L, Anafi M. The report of the 2015 US Transgender Survey. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality; 2016.

TGD Health Disparities

- The 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey found that:¹¹
 - 39% of respondents experienced serious psychological distress in the month prior, compared with only 5% of the U.S. population
 - 40% had lifetime suicide attempt (compared to 4.6% of US population)
 - 55% of those who sought coverage for gender-affirming surgery in the past year were denied, and 25% of those who sought coverage for hormones in the past year were denied
 - 29% of transgender people reported having to teach their health care providers about their basic health needs



11. James SE, Herman JL, Rankin S, Keisling M, Mottet L, Anafi M. The report of the 2015 US Transgender Survey. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality, 2016.

TGD Health Disparities

- The 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey found that:
 - 33% had at least one negative experience with a health care provider such as being verbally harassed or refused treatment because of gender identity
 - 23% of transgender people report not seeking needed health care in the past year due to fear of gender-related mistreatment
 - 33% did not go to a health care provider when needed because they could not afford it
- Enacted and anticipated stigma resulted in approximately a 40% increase in delaying needed urgent and preventive care in a sample of 2,578 trans masculine people¹³



12. James SE, Herman JL, Rankin S, Keisling M, Mottet L, Anafi M. The report of the 2015 US Transgender Survey. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality; 2016.

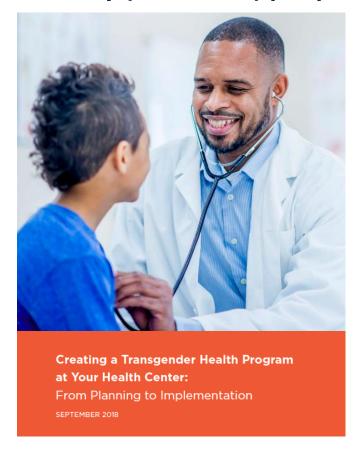
13. Reisner SL, Pardo ST, Gamarel KE, White Hughto JM, Pardee DJ, Keo-Meier CL. Substance use to cope with stigma in healthcare among U.S. female-to-male trans masculine adults. *LGBT Health*. 2015;2(4):324-332.

LGBTQIA+ Health Resources

LGBTQIA+ Education and Training

The National LGBTQIA+ Health Education Center offers educational programs, resources, and consultation to health care organizations with the goal of providing affirmative, high quality, cost-effective health care for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual, and all sexual and gender minority (LGBTQIA+) people.

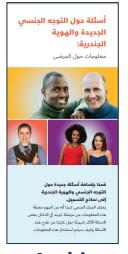
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Grand Rounds
- ECHO Programs
- Online Learning
 - Webinars and Learning Modules
 - CE, and HEI Credit
- Resources and Publications
- www.lgbtqiahealtheducation.org



Best Practice Guidelines and Issue Briefs



SOGI Patient Pamphlet Translations















Russian





Chinese







Vietnamese

Simplified

Collaborative Learning: Extension for Community Health Outcomes (ECHO)



Over 200 health centers have participated since TransECHO's inception in 2016.



Our Work in Region 4

- Approximately 15% of our webinar participants in 2020 came from Region 4.
- Nine health centers from Region 4 have participated in our TransECHO program.
- Collaborations with primary care associations in Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, etc.



COVID-19 Resources

- Behavioral Health Care for LGBTQIA+ Patients during COVID-19
 - Webinar Recording Available Online
 - The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound negative impact on the mental health of people in marginalized communities across the United States. Issues of isolation, anxiety, depression, thoughts of suicide or self-harm, all have seen a dramatic rise over the past year. For LGBTQIA+ communities, where many of these issues were already alarmingly high, the impact has been even more concerning. In this webinar, Dr. Alex Keuroghlian, MD, MPH, will address the ways mental health disparities effecting LGBTQIA+ people have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and discuss how providers might meet the needs of those within this community.

Sexual Health in the time of COVID-19

- Webinar Recording Available Online
- In this webinar, Dr. Ken Mayer discusses sexual health in the time of COVID-19. Participants learn how to counsel patients on the transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and how to protect themselves in the context of sexual health. Dr. Mayer will offer strategies for providers to help patients minimize risk of SARS-CoV-2 acquisition while affirming the desire for intimacy, and participants will learn how telehealth technology can be used to provide remote sexual health counseling and screening for STIs.

Upcoming Opportunities

- Health at the intersection of body image, identity, and development: LGBTQIA+ children and youth
 - Tuesday, April 19, 2022 4-5pm EST, 3-4pm CST, 1-2pm PST
 - This webinar will examine the relationship of body size vs. the overall health of the body for LGBTQIA+ youth and help health centers support patients in developing a healthy perception of their bodies. Participants will explore the relationship of childhood identity development to beauty and health standards and learn strategies for providing, or referring to affirming services for LGBTQIA+ youth, including patients experiencing body dysmorphia and/or dysphoria.

Upcoming Opportunities

New PrEP Guidelines

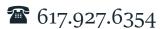
- Wednesday, April 20, 2022 12-1pm EST, 11-12pm CST, 9-10am PST
- In partnership with NEAETC, during this webinar
 Dr. Kevin Ard will provide updated guidance
 related to PrEP, informed by new PrEP guidelines
 and the FDA approval of injectable PrEP.
- Affirming HIV and STI prevention and treatment for LGBTQIA+ people who are experiencing incarceration
 - Wednesday, May 4, 2022 3-4pm EST, 2-3pm CST, 12-1pm PST
 - This case-based webinar will explore the unique considerations for health care providers at the intersection of HIV and STI prevention for LGBTQIA+ people experiencing incarceration. Participants will learn best practices for affirming services and referrals for patients who are currently incarcerated as well as those navigating re-entry.



THANK YOU!

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The Education Center is part of The Fenway Institute, the research, training, and health policy division of Fenway Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center, and one of the world's largest LGBTQIA+ focused health centers.



□ education@fenwayhealth.org

www.lgbtqiahealtheducation.org

<u>www.acponline.org/fenway</u>



Western North Carolina Community Health Services (WNCCHS) and the Campaign for Southern Equality (CSE)



Jennifer Abbott, MD
Founder
Trans Health Program
Western North Carolina Community
Health Services



Austin H. Johnson, PhD
Southern Equality Research and
Policy Center Director
Campaign for Southern Equality



Ivy Hill
Community Health Program
Director
Campaign for Southern Equality







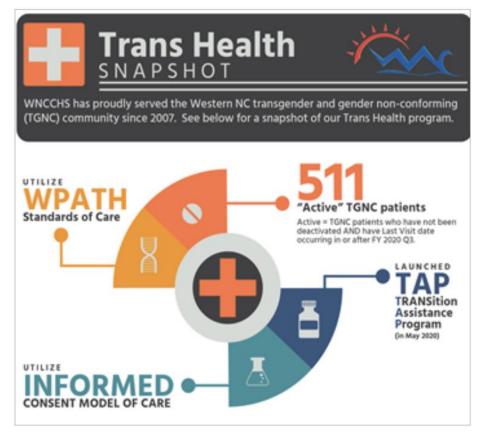


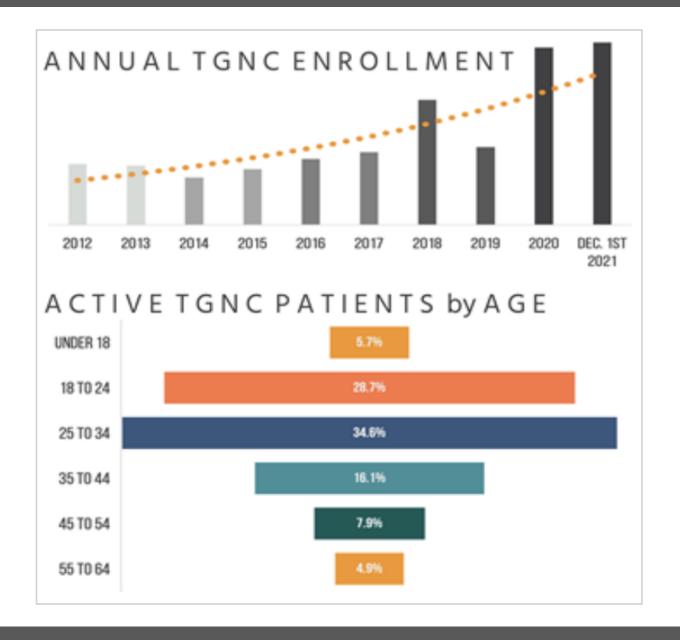
The Southern LGBTQ Health Initiative

- A program of the Campaign for Southern Equality and Western North Carolina Community Health Services
- Centering the communities we serve, from research to resources to clinical care

Western North Carolina Community Health Services







ACTIVE TGNC by RACE/ETHNICITY

RACE/ETHNICITY	WNCCHS TONC POPULATION	BUNCOMBE COUNTY
WHITE	81.2%	89.4%
BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE	4.8%	6.3%
ASIAN ALONE	1.3%	1.4%
AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE ALONE	0.4%	0.5%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN	0.4%	0.2%
MORE THAN ONE RACE	2.6%	2.2%
UNREPORTED	9.5%	
HISPANIC OR LATINX	8.2%	6.8%

Source: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/buncombecountynorthcarolina

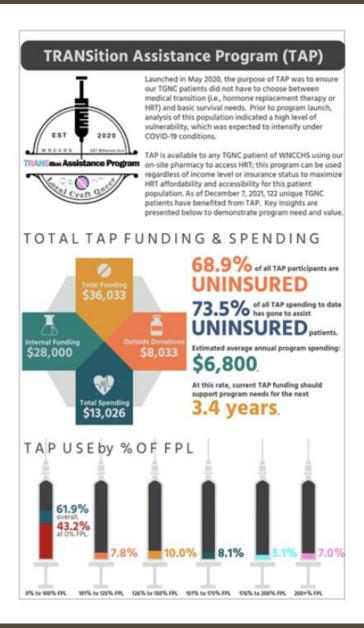
ACTIVE TGNC by INSURANCE STATUS



BCBS Other Commercial Medicaid Medicare Uninsured

ACTIVE TGNC by % OF FEDERAL







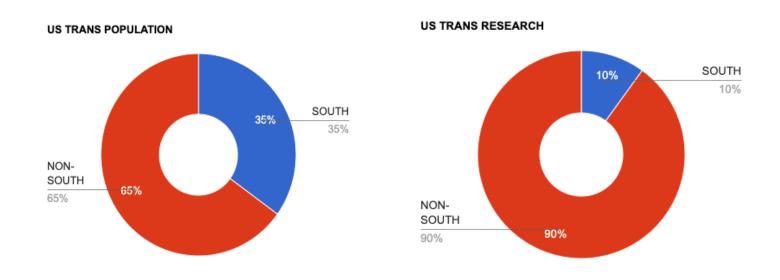
Video

Hear from WNCCHS patients in their own voices share about what they need from you as care providers.



Southern Equality Research

Around 35% of all trans people in the US live in the Southeast



Less than 10% of the social research on LGBTQ people centers this population

Our research focuses on trans and queer people in thirteen states across the region:

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Florida
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia
- West Virginia

A Community-Based, Mixed-Method Approach to Understanding Trans Health in the South

What is community-based research?

Community-Based Research is the practice of community and academic stakeholders cooperatively investigating social problems that affect the lived experiences and life chances of marginalized groups. The goals of CBR are centered on the compilation of data that will aid organizers, policymakers, and other stakeholders in addressing those social problems.

Mixed-Method Approach

Focus Group Interviews

In-Depth Personal Interviews

Participant Observation

Digital Surveys

Projects & Key Findings from Southern Equality Research

Southern Trans Health Focus Group Project included the voices of 48 trans and non-binary Southerners, and highlighted common barriers to care for trans people in the region:

- fear and mistrust of providers
- inconsistency in access to healthcare
- disrespect from providers
- mistreatment due to intersecting experiences of gender, race, class, and location

Southern LGBTQ Health Survey included the voices of 1,205 trans and non-binary Southerners and underlined the extent of a few of the challenges that trans southerners are facing.

- ~ 60% of trans & non-binary respondents report a fair or poor self-assessment of mental health
- ~ 25% of trans & non-binary respondents report delaying care due to their identity
- ~ 26% of trans & non-binary respondents report rarely or never feeling comfortable seeking care due to their identity
- ~ 55% of trans & non-binary respondents report experiencing suicidal ideation
- ~ 43% of trans & non-binary respondents report engaging in self-harming behaviors
- ~ 83% of trans & non-binary respondents report experiencing depression
- ~ 73% of trans & non-binary respondents report experiencing anxiety

Key Takeaways

Seek out trainings on trans health - WNC based FQHC's, and look-a-likes can get this for free through The Southern LGBTQ Health Initiative. Garbage in is garbage out make sure you're building
your interventions for these
barriers based on good data
and community-based
research.

Partner with local leaders in your community to build capacity and develop resources to better serve your LGBTQ community.

One champion at an organization can make a huge difference.

WNCCHS Contact information

Email

TransHealth@wncchs.org

Web page

https://www.wncchs.org/trans-health

https://www.thehive828.org/local-lgbtq-resources



We would love to hear from you! Please use the Q&A box to ask your questions.





Thank you for joining!











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www.HRSA.gov



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Connect with HRSA IEA Region 4



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