New Futures: Exchanging research knowledge about older LGBT communities

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Marmot (2008) Closing the Gap. WHO: Geneva

# Health / social policy for LGBT people

- Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality: Action Plan 2011;
- Preventing Suicide in England A cross-government outcomes strategy to save lives 2012;
- The route to success in End of Life Care achieving quality for LGBT people 2012;
- A Framework for Sexual Health Improvement in England
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Public Health Outcomes Framework Companion Document 2013.
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessments in Health & Social care
- Care Act 2014;
- Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2014.

# Understanding SDoH and LGBT people

- GB men over 50 most deeply affected by HIV/AIDS;
- Multiple losses and stigma;
- Creative users of social media;
- Some LGBT people have extensive social networks (e.g. Aronson)
- But they are two-and-a-half times as likely to live alone (LAT),
- Twice as likely to be single,
- Four-and-a-half times as likely to have no children to call upon in times of need
- Older GB men increased likelihood of psychological distress;
- Older LB women more likely to report poor/fair health, needing help with instrumental activities of daily living.

Gonzales, G. & Henning-Smith, C. (2014) Disparities in Health and Disability Among Older Adults in Same-Sex Cohabiting Relationships, *Journal of Aging Health* Sep 23. pii: 0898264314551332. [Epub ahead of print]





and protecting

### Large-scale research among LGBT populations



- 2014 English General Practice Patient survey
- 2010, 2011, 2013 Cancer Patient Experience Survey;
- 2010 National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles;
- 2008 Systematic review of mental disorder, suicide, and deliberate self harm in lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

### **Distinctive experiences of cancer care**

Doctors never talked in front of patient as if they were not there Always treated with respect and dignity by hospital staff

Never felt treated as a set of cancer symptoms rather than as a whole person

Patient was given information about support / self help groups for people with cancer

**DH Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2013** 

Hospítal staff always díd everything they could to control their pain

> Differences on 16 domains where LGB people reported less favourable treatment





Research on lesbian and bisexual women's experiences of breast cancer





#### Lesbian and bisexual women and breast cancer

ESRC knowledge exchange programme RES-192-22-0111







## **Steering group**



- 3 LB women with breast cancer
- Head of Policy and Research, Breast Cancer Care.
- User inclusion manager, Macmillan.
- Public relations officer, Cancer Research UK
- Clinical projects manager, Metro centre, London.
- Development worker, Kairos (centre for health/well being).
- Academic, UCL.
- Nurse specialist, London regional cancer network
- NHS South West, Equality and Diversity Lead

### **Epistemologies of LB women's lived experiences of breast cancer**



- What does it mean to have breast cancer when your partner is a woman? How do LB women feel about the prospect of losing their breast? Are partners more or less empathic? Do they display more or less supportive behaviours?
- Subtle and nuanced understandings of the complex interplay of their identities, experiences and values in their everyday lives and in their interactions with providers of services;
- Decisions not to undergo breast reconstruction: they encountered attitudes based on heteronormative constructions of femininity from surgeons providing care;

Improving the LGBT cancer care pathway: the model of 'engaged scholarship'





Policy briefing, *Lesbian and bisexual women with breast cancer*, produced by the charity; Key learning event with cancer professionals: case studies; Development of practice guidance: Supporting LGBT people with cancer.



Developing the organisational ethos: Equality and Diversity strategy, user audits of services, inclusive imagery and language, http://www.breastcancercare.org.uk/campaigningvolunteering/policy/breast-cancer-inequalities/lesbianbisexual-women-breast-cancer



Who? Two national cancer charities; two LGBT VCS; an Equality and Diversity Manager in the NHS; academics specialising in cancer; and cancer service users and carers.
What? contributing to the application for funding, developing research questions, designing the project, analysing the data and communicating the findings (process impacts).

🖉 Lesbian and bisexual women and breast cancer   Breast Cancer Care - Windows Internet Explorer	
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Home / Campaigning volunteering / Policy / Breast cancer inequalities / Lesbian and bisexual women and breast cancer

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	Policy	As not of our bootth in	sform booth incorrelition under a cubliched o cullar briefing				
	Breast cancer and inequalities		Spotlight campaign				
	Lesbian and bisexual women and breast cancer	breast cancer. Research has shown that they have poorer levels of patient experience (due in large part to discrimination), less specialist services available, and little data collected about them as a patient			_		
	Black and South Asian women and breast cancer	<ul> <li>group.</li> <li>We hope our briefing document will be useful to:</li> <li>policymakers concerned with ensuring health and social care is responsive to all, regardless of sexuality (or other differences)</li> </ul>					
	Older women and breast cancer						
	Consultation responses	<ul> <li>healthcare professio for their patients</li> </ul>	nals working to provide th	e best possible care			
	Policy reports		other groups providing se	ervices to women			
	/olunteering	affected by breast cancer, including those who are lesbian and bisexual			Improve care for patients with		
	Breast Cancer Voices	<ul> <li>LGBT community an in their communities.</li> </ul>	d voluntary groups conce	rned with health issues	secondary breast cancer		
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# Supporting LGBT people with cancer

- Equality and diversity audits
- Macmillan seminar for cancer professionals
- Practice guidance



Developing professional knowledge about breast cancer in lesbian and bisexual women



Knowledge exchange programme RES-192-22-0111





## **Taking research forward**

#### Processes

- Working with stakeholders;
- Involving service users;
- Strategy for impact and embedding findings in provision



#### Methods

- QualRes -developing theory
  - Queer Theory; Human Rights
  - Health Inequalities
- Mixed methods
- Developing sensitive tools
- Analysis of existing data sets.

## Topics And

- Quality Of Life;
- Perceptions of ageing;
- Care and Support needs
- Social connectedness;
- Personalisation and direct payments;
- Residential care and housing choices
- Celebrating Intergenerational Diversity Among LGBT People.

### challenges



- Intersectionality;
- Embedding equality;
- It's all over now!
- The numbers game
- Older Trans people

# Trans people's health and social care



- Health was identified by respondents as being the top area of concern for the transgender community, with nearly half of respondents (49%) selecting this as their priority
- GEO transgender survey 2011
- Training of staff, research, suicide collaboration with voluntary sector

# Recent research on health and social care in Trans communities



- Mental health
- Domestic abuse
- Older trans people and residential care homes
- Transphobic hate crime
- Developing good practice in assessments of need and risk

## Crossing borders: multidisciplinary LGBT research

February 24 2015 De Montfort University, Leicester

> Forthcoming conference All welcome

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GAY PRIDE

#### LGBT Friendly Services

#### New book:

#### LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANS HEALTH INEQUALITIES



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