Executive Summary

We asked the local LGBTQ community about their experiences accessing health care.

74 participants in online questionnaire
17 participants in interviews

Is the LGBTQ community seeking preventative care?
Transgender men and gender non-conforming people are less likely to schedule preventative care.

Why is the LGBTQ community delaying or never seeking preventative care?

Lack of Cultural Sensitivity from Health Care Providers
- 83% of transgender men
- 67% of gender non-conforming people
- 17% of cisgender women

Uncertainty of Recommendations for Screening Guidelines
- 50% of transgender women
- 33% of transgender men
- 22% of gender non-conforming people
- 17% of cisgender women

Inability to Afford Cost of Services
- 50% of cisgender women
- 11% of gender non-conforming people
Executive Summary

What does this mean for breast health?

Only 60% LGBTQ people age 50-74 have received their recommended mammogram in the past two years. This compares with 76% of the general population in the Komen Puget Sound service area.

Many people in the LGBTQ community do not understand the risk factors for breast cancer.

7 out of 8 interviewees assigned male at birth received no information on breast health while they were growing up.

3 out of 10 interviewees assigned female at birth received no information on breast health while they were growing up.

The LGBTQ community needs more education on breast health, inclusive of all genders.

X No interviewees knew that self-examinations are no longer part of the screening guidelines. However, it is important to become familiar with the way your chest normally looks and feels, which may help individuals to see or feel changes in their chest.

X Only 1 out of the 17 interviewees was able to correctly articulate the guidelines for clinical breast exams.

X Only 3 out of the 7 interviewees who were assigned male at birth were able to provide an overview of guidelines for mammography.

✓ All 10 interviewees assigned female at birth had a general idea of the age and frequency guidelines for mammography.
Executive Summary

Many physicians receive no training on LGBTQ health or LGBTQ cultural sensitivity while they are in medical school.

Percentage of physicians who received zero hours of training on content in medical school.*

- No Transgender content: 76%
- No Lesbian content: 61%
- No Bisexual content: 78%

Even providers who are LGBTQ-friendly may not be as knowledgeable about LGBTQ health as they intend to be.

53% of the LGBTQ community always go to a provider who specializes in LGBTQ health or who is sensitive to LGBTQ identities.

Still, only 29% rated their provider as “excellent” in the provider’s ability to understand the patient’s gender identity and/or sexual orientation.

Percentage of the LGBTQ community who agrees or strongly agrees that health care providers in Washington need to undergo LGBTQ cultural sensitivity training.

98%