The ACA and Advancing LGBTQ Health
LGBT Health Disparities

↑ Tobacco and other substance use

↑ Mental health concerns, such as depression and suicide attempts

↑ Certain cancers, such as breast cancer

↑ Experiences of bullying and violence

↑ HIV/AIDS

Source: The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People (Institute of Medicine, 2011), Healthy People 2020
Anti-LGBT discrimination
Racism
Poverty
Lack of insurance coverage
Homelessness
Lack of LGBT cultural competency

LGBT Health Disparities

Source: The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People (Institute of Medicine, 2011), Healthy People 2020
I was refused needed health care.

Health care professionals used harsh or abusive language.

Health care professionals refused to touch me or used excessive precautions.

Health care professionals were physically rough or abusive.

Source: Lambda Legal “When Health Care Isn’t Caring”
Key Health Findings: U.S. Trans Survey

U.S. Trans Survey (USTS) conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality in summer 2015 → over 6,400 respondents

Physical & Mental Health
- 8X serious psychological distress than U.S. population (39% versus 5%)
- 9X attempted suicide in lifetime than U.S. population (40% versus 4.6%)

Health Insurance and Health Care → in the past year:
- 25% had trans-related health insurance problem
- 23% didn’t seek health care for fear of being mistreated
- 33% didn’t seek health care because they could not afford it
- 33% had at least one trans-related negative experience with a health care provider

HIV
- 1.4% of all respondents were living with HIV → 5X higher than the U.S. population (0.3%)
  - Among Black trans women, the rate was 19%
  - Among American Indian trans women, the rate was 4.6%
  - Among trans Latinas, the rate was 4.4%
The ACA makes a difference for the LGBTQ community.

Rates of uninsurance for LGBTQ people making less than $45,000/yr:

- 2013 (before the ACA): 34%
- 2014: 26%
- 2017: 22%
- June 2020: 16%

Visit HealthCare.gov to get covered before the Dec. 15th deadline!
Uninsurance Among Low- and Middle-Income LGBT Adults, 2013 – 2017

- Gay: 34% (2013), 27% (2014), 6% (2017)
Section 1557 of the ACA

42 U.S.C. § 18116 – Applies existing federal civil rights laws to health care

ACAv

Section 1557

Civil Rights Act

Race, color, national origin

Rehabilitation Act

Disability

Age Discrimination Act

Age

42 U.S.C. § 18116 – Applies existing federal civil rights laws to health care

Title IX

Sex

HIV/AIDS status

LGBTQ people
Section 1557: Who Is Protected?

Section 1557 prohibits discrimination based on gender identity and sex stereotyping, including:

- LGB people
- Transgender people
- Gender nonconforming people
- Non-binary people
- Intersex people
Section 1557: What Does It Mean? (Insurance)

Marketplace plans and Medicaid coverage cannot:

• Have **transgender exclusions** that deny all services related to transition

• **Deny coverage** solely because an enrollee is transgender

• Limit access to **“sex-specific” services** (e.g., hysterectomy, prostate exam, etc.) based on sex assigned at birth, gender identity, or recorded gender

BUT there is no **affirmative requirement** to cover any particular procedure or treatment so DETAILS MATTER!
Section 1557: What Does It Mean? (Providers)

Health care facilities and providers cannot:

- Refuse to treat or harass an LGBTQ person because of how they look, act, or have a relationship with.
- Persistently and intentionally refuse to use a trans person’s correct name and pronoun.
- Assign an LGBTQ person to a room or other facility based on sex assigned at birth or recorded gender.

To learn more about your rights, visit: out2enroll.org/category/faqs/discrimination/
LGBTQ People Come From Every Community

- Use “safe space” or rainbow stickers and posters
- Don’t make assumptions – remember that LGBTQ people are diverse
- Be aware of language – use gender-neutral language and appropriate names and pronouns
What Can Libraries Do?

- Participate in LGBTQ-friendly events, like LGBTQ Pride festivals (we can help!): [gaypridecalendar.com/calendar](http://gaypridecalendar.com/calendar)

- Partner with:
  - LGBTQ community centers: [lgbtcenters.org/Centers/find-a-center.aspx](http://lgbtcenters.org/Centers/find-a-center.aspx)
  - LGBTQ affirming churches: [mccchurch.org/overview/ourchurches/find-a-church](http://mccchurch.org/overview/ourchurches/find-a-church)
  - PFLAG chapters: [pflag.org/find-a-chapter](http://pflag.org/find-a-chapter)
  - Transgender organizations: [transadvocacynetwork.org/member](http://transadvocacynetwork.org/member)
  - Mpowerment programs: [mpowerment.org/mpowerment-locations](http://mpowerment.org/mpowerment-locations)

- Place ads or secure earned media in LGBTQ media outlets (we can help!)

- Share LGBTQ affirming materials on your social media platforms: [out2enroll.org/campaigns](http://out2enroll.org/campaigns)

- Take our training to be listed as LGBTQ-friendly in our Connector: [out2enroll.org/assister-training](http://out2enroll.org/assister-training)
GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT OPEN ENROLLMENT?

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

- Deadline: December 15th
- Deadline: December 15th
- Deadline: December 15th

WHAT HASN'T CHANGED?

- Healthcare.gov is open for business
- You may qualify for a discount on insurance
- You're still protected from discrimination

Check out your health insurance options at [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov)
Key Dates

- **June**: Pride Month
- **Oct. 11**: National Coming Out Day
- **Oct. 19**: Spirit Day
- **Nov. 18**: LGBTQ Enrollment Day of Action
- **Nov. 20**: Transgender Day of Remembrance
- **Dec. 1**: World AIDS Day
Resources

• Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: healthaffairs.org/blog/2016/06/06/lgbt-protections-in-affordable-care-act-section-1557

• Transgender Health Care on HealthCare.Gov: healthcare.gov/transgender-health-care


Thank you!

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