

LBT Women's Health Inequalities – LBT Women's Health Week 2019

The experience of LGBTQ women is:

25.2% Lesbian, 16.5% bisexual, 34% Queer cis women and 42.2% trans women were verbally harassed in the last year because of being, or people thinking they were, LGBT.¹

38.2% of LGBTQ people thought the police were Not very or Not at all Helpful in dealing with incidents of homo/bi/trans-phobia reported to them.¹

8.1% Lesbian, 5.9% bisexual, 12.1% Queer cis women and 15.4% trans women experienced inappropriate questions or curiosity because of their sexual orientation when accessing healthcare in the last year.¹

50.5% cis women and 53.5% trans women found accessing MH services Not easy or Not at all easy in the last year.¹

24% of trans women felt their specific needs in relation to their gender identity were ignored or not taken into account when accessing healthcare in the last year.¹

6% of LBQ cis women and 14.6% of LBQ trans women felt their specific needs in relation to their sexual orientation were ignored or not taken into account when accessing healthcare in the last year.¹

In the North West 37% of lesbian and bisexual women had at some point been told that lesbian and bisexual women did not require a cervical screening test.²

80% of trans people have experienced emotional, sexual, or physical abuse from a partner or ex-partner³

And as a result:

Lesbian (26.9%), Bisexual (8.6%), Queer (15.4%) cis women discussed or disclosed sexual orientation with healthcare staff all or most of the time.¹

LGBTQ people are less satisfied with their life nowadays than the general population, scoring it 6.5 out of 10; trans women scored 5.5. compared with 7.7 for the general UK population.^{1,4}

Gay/Lesbian (66%), Bisexual (80%) & Queer (86%) people avoid being open about their sexual orientation for fear of a negative reaction.¹

45.5% of LGBTQ people (60.2% of trans women) avoid being open about their sexual orientation at sports clubs or other fitness/leisure facilities.¹

Lesbian and bisexual women report more binge drinking at 29% compared to 12% in the general population of women.⁵

18.5% of lesbian and 19% of bisexual women drink more than 7 alcoholic drinks a week compared to 12% of heterosexual women.⁶

31% lesbian & 22% bisexual women smoke, compared to 17% heterosexual women.⁷

Less than half of lesbian and bisexual women have ever been screened for sexually transmitted infections, and half those who have been screened had an STI. Many LB women don't access testing as they don't think they're at risk.⁸

Lesbian and bisexual women are up to 10 times less likely to have had a cervical screening test in the past three years than heterosexual women⁹

15% of lesbian and bisexual women over 25 have never had a smear test compared to 7% of women in general.⁹

56% of LGBT women were not active enough to maintain good health, compared to 45% of women in the general population.¹⁰

Which leads to:

In the last year, 5% of lesbians had attempted suicide. This increases to 7% of bisexual women, 7% of BME and 10% of disabled lesbian/bisexual women.⁸

11% of trans people had thought about suicide in the last year and 33% had attempted suicide more than once in their lifetime, 3% attempting suicide more than 10 times.¹¹

The teen pregnancy rate is higher for lesbian and bisexual women than for heterosexuals, with adolescent bisexual women being twice as likely as heterosexual adolescent women to become pregnant.¹²

International evidence suggests that lesbian and bisexual women are 27% more likely to develop diabetes.¹³

Self-reported prevalence of arthritis or long term joint problems is highest among bisexual women (24%), followed by lesbians (21%), while heterosexual women have a prevalence of 19%. Lesbians (14%) and bisexual women (15%) have higher incidence of long term back problems than heterosexual women (11%).¹⁴

Meta-analysis of international data in five high income countries, including the US, suggests that trans women in particular may be at significantly higher risk of HIV.¹⁵

19.2% of lesbian women and 30.5% of bisexual women reported an eating disorder.⁸ 5% trans respondents had received an ED diagnosis, while 19% believed they had one without diagnosis.¹¹

Lesbian (25%) and bisexual women (32%) are more likely to describe themselves as having 'fair' or 'poor' health than heterosexual women (21%).¹⁶

Lesbians are 1.38 times, and bisexual women 2.23 times, as likely as heterosexual women to be anxious or depressed.¹⁷

Prevalence of all cancers is higher in lesbians (4.4%) and bisexual women (4.2%) than heterosexual women (3.6%).¹⁸

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