

LGBT-Inclusive Obstetrics and Nursing Support: The L.I.O.N.S. Project

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Background:

There is a significant lack of LGBT+ health training provided to healthcare professions while in school and even less training is available specific to LGBT+ obstetrics and nursing. Evidence shows that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and, especially, transgender patients are having to educate their providers on their health needs and care. This places the burden of receiving quality care on the patient, instead of the provider. This also places this community at risk of continuing health disparities, including poor birth outcomes.

Objectives:

- Educate providers
- Increase provider self-efficacy
- Facilitate behavior change

Methods:

The L.I.O.N.S. Project is a webinar designed to assist birthing and nursing professionals in providing inclusive support to their LGBT clients. The 3 main areas of the webinar include cultural-competency, healthcare research & delivery, and inclusive practices. A retrospective pre/post-test is completed at the conclusion of the webinar. A webinar evaluation is also completed at the conclusion of the webinar. A 2-month impact survey was sent out to all original participants.

Results:

63% of respondents to the pre/post survey stated that they had receive no training relating to LGBT+ patient care while in school. Yet, at the end of our training program, the reported level of high self-efficacy in working with T+ patients was 100%. Additionally, the impact survey shows that 84% of participants in the live webinar went on to make changes to their practice, as a direct result of this webinar. 52% reported that they plan to make changes in the future.

Conclusions:

Our data show that education can be a powerful tool of change. Through engaging with providers in a way that is empowering and increases self-efficacy, we are able to better facilitate behavior change among providers. Additional webinars should be created and evaluations distributed for those interested in more advanced training opportunities.