

The Attitude of Medical Practices Toward LGBT Older Adults Before and After Intervention

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Background

- Between 2-8% of the population aged 65 and older identify as LGBT¹
- Negative experiences at the hands of healthcare professionals are a primary barrier to care faced by older LGBT adults²
- Training healthcare professionals with the film, *Gen Silent*, is one way the knowledge gaps and biases of healthcare professionals have been addressed^{3,4}
- Utilizing the survey previously validated by Porter et al., our primary outcome was to measure significant changes in health professionals' knowledge, perceptions, and attitudes toward LGBTQ older adults after viewing *Gen Silent*⁵

Materials and Methods

- Participation was voluntary
- No incentive was offered to participate
- All answers were anonymous
- Pretest and posttest questions included: 16 Likert scale questions, 7 true/false responses, and 2 yes/no responses, job title, practice site, and previous LGBT training
- Pretest surveys were piloted by healthcare providers to ensure question clarity
- Data from pre- and posttests were analyzed for all participants who viewed the entirety of *Gen Silent* using a paired t-test

Results

- Four primary care practices participated in this study.

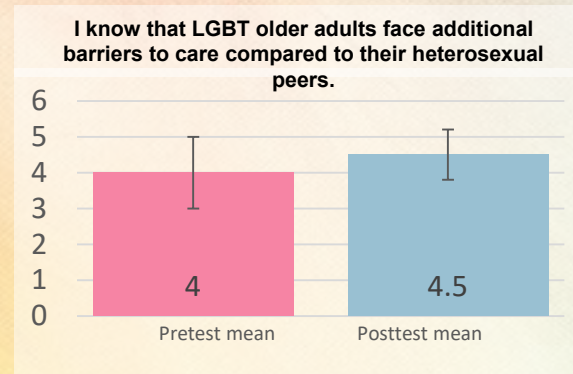
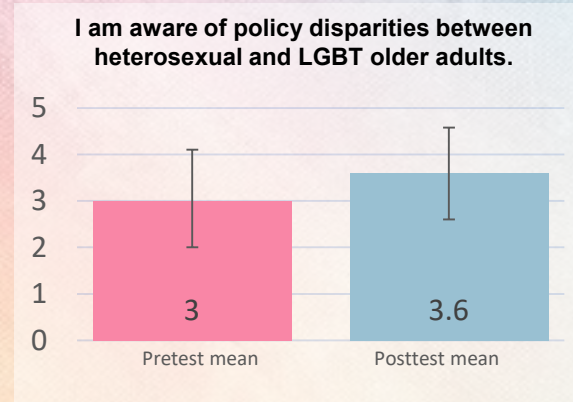
Professional roles of study participants (N=31)

Role	N (%)
Medical Student	14 (45)
Medical Assistant	7 (22)
Nurse	4 (13)
Physician	2 (6)
Clinical Coordinator	1 (3)
Medical Interpreter	1 (3)
Office Coordinator	1 (3)
Patient Service Representative	1 (3)

Did participants receive previous LGBT training? (N=31)

Previous LGBT Training	N (%)
Yes	12 (39)
No	19 (61)

Likert scale questions which exhibited significant change



Discussion

- Training using *Gen Silent* can effectively alter primary care professionals' perception, attitude, and knowledge of LGBT older adults
- Nearly all questions exhibited changes between pre- and posttest responses
- Physicians and medical students exhibited greater knowledge of LGBT-specific issues and more positive attitudes towards LGBT older adults

Limitations

- Small sample size
- Lack of control group
- Uncertainty about long term efficacy

Future opportunities

- Increase number of participants
- Expansion to other specialties
- Use of longer interval follow-up survey

Conclusions

- While limited, the results of this study indicate that primary care practitioners would benefit from training specific to the aging LGBT population
- Utilizing *Gen Silent* as a training modality would likely be effective
- Expanding this work to more primary care practices and other specialties may help improve care for LGBT older adults
- Utilizing follow-up surveys with longer intervals would allow for assessment of long-term efficacy of this training

References

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