

Incorporating LGBTQ Healthcare in Dental Education

Ms. Makayla Medrano, BS

Dr. Shirley Lewis, BDS, CAGS, MSD

Objectives

- ❖ Determine if there is a need for LGBTQ+ healthcare education
- ❖ Propose LGBTQ+ healthcare topics to be incorporated in future curriculum
- ❖ Propose current resources available for immediate education

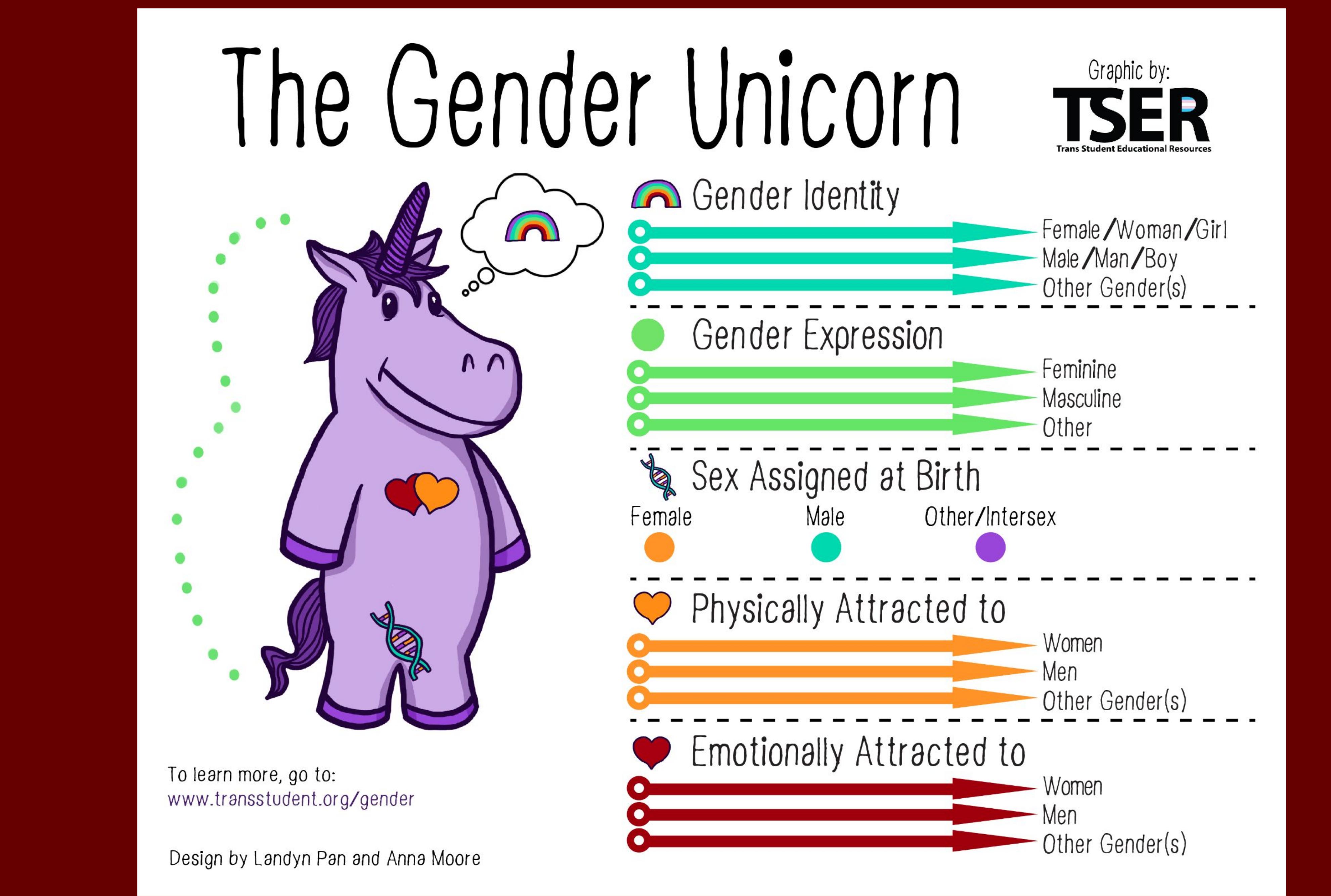
Methodology

- ❖ Used search engines for published literature reviews and studies
- ❖ Used key terms: "dental," "LGBTQ," and "education"
- ❖ Included studies published since 2000 and that were free and in full text

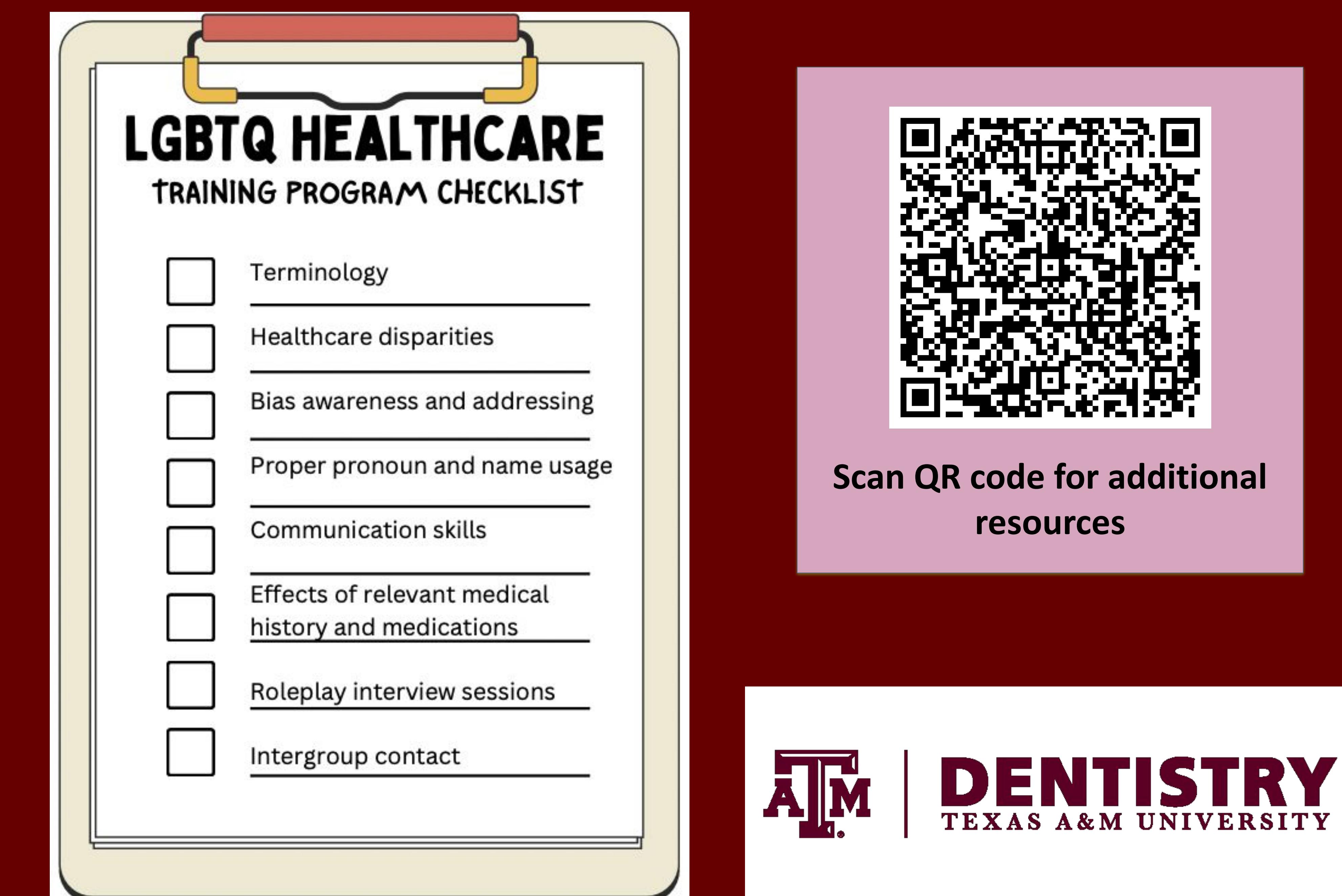
Results

Is there a need in dental education? **YES**

- ❖ Compared to medical and nursing students, significantly more dental students agreed that:
 - They felt **uncomfortable** discussing sexual health
 - Instructors **didn't demonstrate competence** in LGBTQ healthcare
 - Their **curriculum lacked** LGBTQ content
 - They did not know where to locate resources
- ❖ Regarding LGBTQ patients:
 - 43% (n=248) felt **uncomfortable** seeking care
 - 44% (n=244) felt dental offices created a welcoming environment
 - 37% (n=244) said history forms asked for preferred pronouns
 - 34% (n=248) said they were **treated unfairly**
- ❖ In 2004, half of 47 US dental schools surveyed, **reported 0-2 hours of LGBTQ health** in their curriculum



Gender Pronouns			
	Subject	Object	Pronoun
Gender Binary	She	Her	Hers
	He	Him	His
Gender Neutral	They	Them	Theirs
	Ze (zhee)	Zir (zhere)	Zirs (zheres)
	Xe (zhee)	Xem (zhym)	Xyrs (zhyre)



Conclusion

- ❖ Be informed and aware of:
 - Personal bias
 - Health disparities
 - Relevant medications and history
- ❖ Establish patient-provider communication
 - Preferred pronoun and name
 - Ask relevant questions
- ❖ Involve the LGBTQ community and allies in creating training programs

Future Direction

- ❖ Determine what areas of LGBTQ healthcare needs to be addressed
- ❖ Create training programs for OHP regarding these areas
- ❖ Assess training program effectiveness
- ❖ Other training programs
 - Geriatrics
 - Special needs

References

1. Thomson WM, Williams SM, Broadbent JM, Poulton R, Locker D. Long-term Dental Visiting Patterns and Adult Oral Health. *Journal of Dental Research*. 2010; 89(3):307-11. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022034509356779> PMID: 20093674
2. Gonzales G, Przedworski J, Henning-Smith C. Comparison of Health and Health Risk Factors Between Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Adults and Heterosexual Adults in the United States. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. 2016; 176(9):1344. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2016.3432> PMID: 27367843
3. Krehely J. How to close the LGBT health disparities gap. *Center for American Progress*; 2009. p. 1-9.
4. Legal L. When health care Isn't caring: lambda Legal's survey of discrimination against LGBT people and people with HIV. New York: Lambda Legal; 2010.
5. Grant JM, Mottet LA, Tanis J. National Transgender Discrimination Survey Report on health and health care. Washington DC: National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; 2010.
6. Shires DA, Jaffee K. Factors associated with health care discrimination experiences among a National Sample of female-to-male transgender individuals. *Health Soc Work*. 2015;40(2):134-41.
7. Eliason MJ, Dibble SL, Robertson PA. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) physicians' experiences in the workplace. *J Homosex*. 2011;58(10):1355-71.
8. National Academy of Medicine. Health of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations. *Lancet*. 2011; 377(9773):1211-. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(11\)60482-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(11)60482-0) PMID: 21481690
9. Heima M, Heaton LJ, Ng HH, Rocoforte EC. Dental fear among transgender individuals—a cross-sectional survey. *Special Care in Dentistry*. 2017; 37(5):212-22. <https://doi.org/10.1111/scd.12245> PMID: 29044585
10. Greene MZ, France K, Kreider EF, Wolfe-Roubatis E, Chen KD, Wu A, et al. (2018) Comparing medical, dental, and nursing students' preparedness to address lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer health. *PLoS ONE* 13(9):e0204104. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0204104>
11. Tharp G, Wulford M, Shukla A (2022) Reviewing challenges in access to oral health services among the LGBTQ+ community in Indiana and Michigan: A cross-sectional, exploratory study. *PLoS ONE* 17(2): e0264271. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0264271>
12. More FG, Whitehead AW, Gonthier M. Strategies for student services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students in dental schools. *J Dent Educ*. 2004; 68(6):623-32. PMID: 15217081

Acknowledgments

- ❖ Texas Retains and Recruits Grant
- ❖ Dr. Shirley Lewis, BDS, CAGS, MSD
- ❖ Tristen LoveKamp, MPA