

Who is serving LGB2Q youth? *Has anything changed for the 'Will and Grace' Generation?*



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# Objectives



- To illuminate issues affecting LGB2Q youth in the TTS sample
  - what they desire re: information and education
  - risk factors we uncovered
  - issues related to accessing services

# Of 1,216 youth.....



- 47 (4%) identified as LGB2
  - more likely to be White and Canadian-born
- 37 (3.3%) identified as Q ('questioning')
  - more likely to identify as Asian

**“LGBTQ South Asian youth face a greater challenge from their cultural communities - there is a persistent denial of the existence of LGBTQ people.”**

# Information and Education



- LGB2Q youth less interested in learning about HIV
- Most interested in learning about:
  - sexual pleasure
  - healthy relationships
  - sexual orientation issues

# What's putting LGB2Q youth at risk?



- LGB2Q youth more likely:
  - to report engaging in higher risk (penetrative) sexual activities
  - to report problems with drugs/alcohol

# What's putting LGB2Q youth at risk?



- LGB2Q youth more likely :
  - to report pregnancy involvement

“Because then you don't have to come out right. I mean if you're a pregnant lesbian and you're a teen, you don't have to necessarily come out.”

# Accessing Clinical Services



What do LGB2Q youth seek from clinics?

- LGB2Q youth are more likely to go to health care services for STI/HIV testing
- LGB2Q youth more likely to receive health services in multiple locations

# Accessing Clinical Services



- LGBT service providers referring through hidden networks
- “... like it’s difficult underground but sometimes it has to be that way through informal word of mouth or through that sort of networking... It’s not just as easy as collecting all these resources together and putting them up.”

# Accessing Clinical Services



- feeling unsafe as LGBTQ2 service providers

“Homophobia is rampant within larger institutions- their own employees aren’t even “out” .

# Accessing Clinical Services



- feeling pressure to be out as LGBT2 service providers

“Don't know how many doctors are willing to out themselves in order to provide services to queer patients.”

# Accessing Clinical Services



- lack of adequate training about sexual orientation issues

“...the need to educate service providers around working with LGBTQ youth. Some of us do that specifically but also the agencies that don't specifically or even primarily serve LGBTQ youth [need it]...”

# Accessing Clinical Services



- invisibility of LGB2Q newcomers

“...I’ve had one settlement worker tell me that ‘oh we don’t have any issues....we don’t need the workshops... and we don’t have any gay immigrants’. Like you’ll hear that too...”

# Who is serving the Will and Grace Generation?



TTS' LGB2Q data provide two windows on the world.....

1. the 2000s
  - greater diversity in age, race/ethnicity, newcomer status, HIV status, etc.
2. the 1990s

# Implications?



- addressing the needs of LGB2Q youth must involve:
  - addressing systemic barriers in services
  - ensuring LGBQ2-friendly environments for clients AND staff
  - ensuring LGB2Q youth remain on the radar screen
  - ensuring health promotion programs are designed and situated within broader contexts