Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people are members of every community. We are diverse, come from all walks of life, and include people of all races and ethnicities, all ages, all socioeconomic statuses, and from all parts of the United States.

Many LGBTQ+ people are at increased risk for a number of health conditions when compared to our heterosexual peers. Differences in sexual behavior account for some of these issues, but others are associated with social and structural inequities, such as the stigma and discrimination that LGBTQ+ people experience.

### Social Factors of Health

Social factors affecting the health of LGBTQ+ individuals largely relate to oppression and discrimination. Examples include:

- Legal discrimination in access to health insurance, employment, housing, adoption, and retirement benefits.
- Lack of laws protecting against bullying in schools or school policies that don’t affirm LGBTQ+ youth.
- Lack of social programs for LGBTQ+ youth, adults, and elders.
- Shortage of health care providers who are knowledgeable and culturally competent in LGBTQ+ health.
- Lack of access to safe public spaces, such as recreational facilities, parks, public transportation, etc.

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**Did You Know?**

- LGBTQ+ youth are at least 2 to 3 times more likely to attempt suicide.
- Lesbians are less likely to get preventive services for cancer.
- Gay men are at higher risk of HIV and other STDs, especially among communities of color.
- Lesbians and bisexual females are more likely to be overweight or obese.
- Transgender people have a high prevalence of HIV/STDs, victimization, mental health issues, suicide, and are less likely to have health insurance than heterosexual or LGB people.
- Elderly LGBTQ+ individuals face additional barriers to health because of isolation, a lack of social services and culturally competent providers.
- LGBTQ+ populations have the highest rates of tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use.

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**Understanding LGBTQ+ Health**

January 10, 2020
Learn More About Our LGBTQ+ Health Initiatives

Public Health has undertaken LGBTQ+ Health Initiatives to focus on improving health outcomes of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community (LGBTQ+).

Learn More About Our LGBTQ+ Health Initiatives

About Care

It is important for us to get care from healthcare providers who understand the different needs we have with our health, as well as the cultural issues we face that impact our health.

At Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County, we focus on providing the best care possible, delivered in a culturally competent way that meets every person’s needs. We have adopted an LGBTQ+ Patient Bill of Rights to make sure LGBTQ+ people are treated equitably and in a culturally competent and affirming way, and we can also help identify other culturally sensitive providers for you.

Visit our list of Pride Providers by clicking the QR code below or visit: https://www.phdmc.org/lgbtq-pride-providers. We can also connect you to various services through our LGBTQ+ Community Health Alliance that includes more than 60 LGBTQ+ people, organizations, and allies.

LGBTQ+ Pride Providers

LGBTQ+ Resources

For resources or more information visit: https://www.phdmc.org/client-services/lgbtq-care