
LGBTQ Health Awareness Week

March 24 - 28

Dayna Morrison, MPH

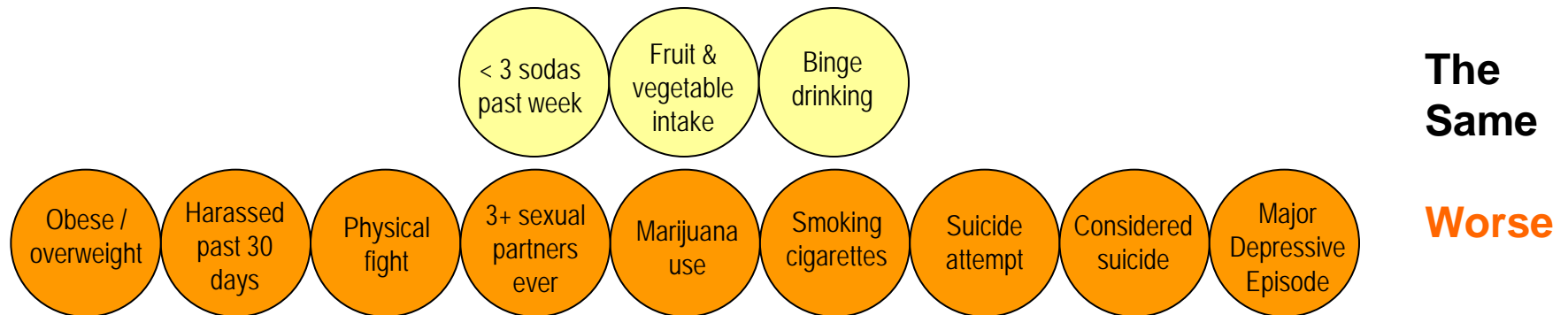
Coordinator, LGBTQ Health Coalition of the
Columbia-Willamette

Please Remember...

Although the acronym LGBTQ is used as an umbrella term, and the health needs of our community are often grouped together, each of these letters represents a distinct population with its own health concerns. Furthermore, among lesbians, gay men, bisexual men and women, transgender, and queer people, there are subpopulations based on race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, geographic location, age, and other factors.

Health Concerns Among Specific Populations Within the Community

How does the health of **LGBQ Oregon YOUTH** compare to their straight peers?



1 in 2

LGBQ youth were **harassed at school** in the past 30 days, compared to 1 in 4 straight youth.

3 times as many

LGBQ youth **missed school in the last 30 days because they felt unsafe** (14% vs. 4% straight youth).

1 in 10

LGBQ youth were **threatened with a weapon on school property** in the last year, compared to 1 in 20 straight youth.

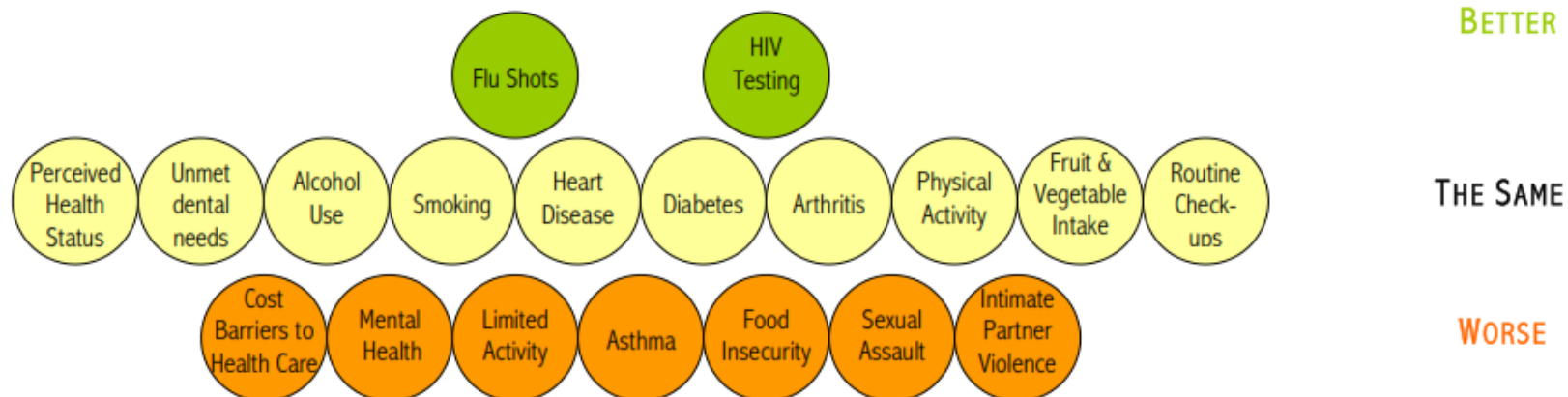
1 in 5

LGBQ youth in Oregon have **attempted suicide**,

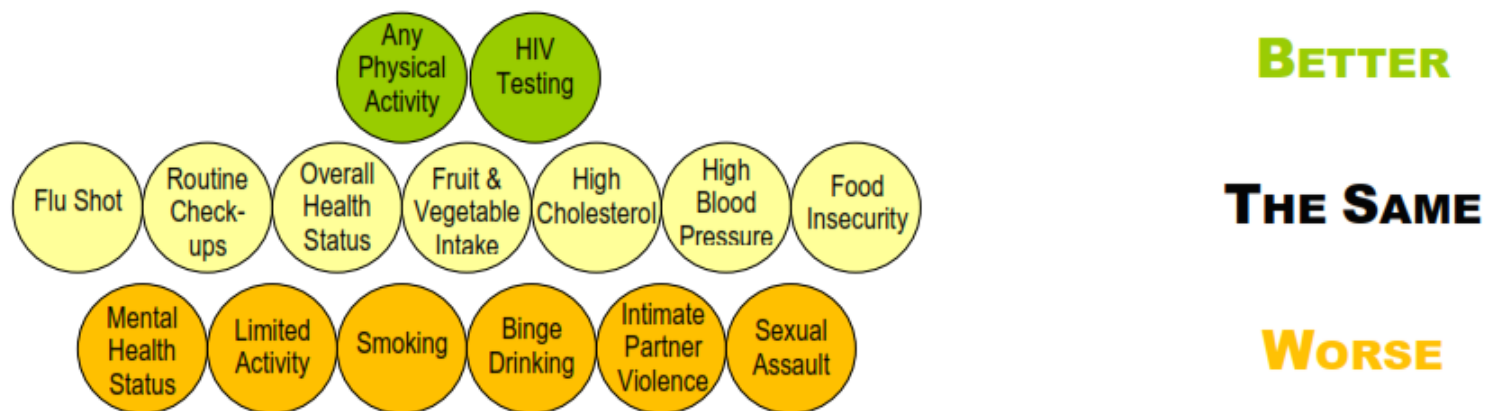


compared to 1 in 22 straight youth.

Key health indicators among adults 55-70 in Oregon: How are LGB older adults doing compared to straight older adults?



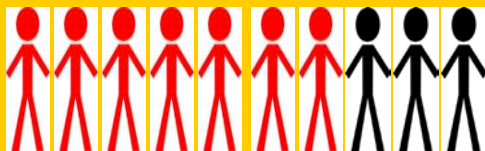
How is the health of LGB people of color compared to straight people of color?



Health of Transgender & Genderqueer Adults in Oregon

7 OUT OF 10

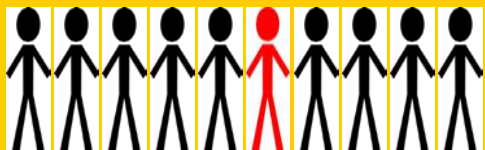
Trans & genderqueer adults in Oregon have **health insurance**.



But, only

About 11%

have access to health insurance that covers transgender-specific healthcare.



"I was denied coverage for my breast reduction by my insurance provider, even though the reduction was proven medically necessary. It was declined because my gender identity was transgender, and they assumed I was a transsexual and wanting to transition to male, when this was not the case."

"I had insurance, but put off finding a primary care provider for months because I was not sure how to find someone I would be comfortable with. I finally set up an appointment with a physician I found through the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association. I received a call back saying that they would be happy to be my primary care provider, but would not manage my hormones. At the time I had been on hormones for 5 years."

72% of transgender people in Oregon struggle with depression.

56% of transgender people in Oregon struggle with anxiety.

24% of trans & genderqueer people in Oregon **have avoided care** due to fear of discrimination.

86% of trans & genderqueer people in Oregon eat fewer than 5 servings of fruits & vegetables per day.

47% of trans & genderqueer adults in Oregon have experienced physical violence or unwanted sex within a relationship.

Headlines Highlighting Local Efforts

MULTNOMAH COUNTY BECOMES ONE OF THE FIRST IN NATION TO REQUIRE GENDER-NEUTRAL BATHROOMS FOR TRANSGENDER USERS, June 13, 2013

Multnomah County is jumping to the forefront of a national debate by becoming one of the first in the country to require single-occupancy, gender-neutral bathrooms in all new construction projects for the county.

TransActive Education & Advocacy

Transactiveonline.org

- **TRANSACTIVE SECURES COVERAGE FOR TRANS YOUTH PUBERTY SUPPRESSING TREATMENT, Jan. 10 2013**
Physician recommended puberty suppressing treatment of transgender adolescents has been added to the Oregon Health Plan and Oregon Healthy Kids program. This marks the first time any local, state or federally funded program has added such coverage. Beginning October 1, 2014, the Oregon Health Plan will cover the cost of pubertal suppression evaluation, treatment and monitoring for youth diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria by a qualified mental health provider.

Basic Rights Education Fund

Basicrights.org

- **VICTORY: BIRTH CERTIFICATES FOR TRANSGENDER OREGONIANS!, June 19, 2013**
Governor Kitzhaber has signed House Bill 2093, making Oregon just one of a handful of states to remove the onerous surgery requirement imposed on transgender Oregonians seeking an accurate birth certificate. Transgender Oregonians will now be able to access a legal change of gender without costly, undesired or unobtainable surgeries.
- **OREGON REMOVES INSURANCE BARRIERS TO TRANS* HEALTH CARE, January 4, 2013**
The Insurance Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) just announced that insurance companies doing business in Oregon must end discriminatory exclusions of medically-necessary healthcare for transgender Oregonians.
- **OHSU REMOVES EXCLUSIONS TO GENDER AFFIRMING CARE!, Dec 14, 2012**
Following an extensive internal review of health benefits, along with discussions with Basic Rights Oregon and transgender advocates, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) is removing exclusions to healthcare for transgender employees.

Recent Publications by Local Organizations promoting LGBTQ Health Equity

- **The Benefits of Equality: A Blueprint for Inclusive Health Care for Transgender Workers**, Basic Rights Oregon's Trans Justice team and the Trans Justice Working Group
 - **Tribal Equity Toolkit 2.0**, The Native American Program of Legal Aid Services of Oregon, the Indigenous Ways of Knowing Program at Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling, the Western States Center, the Pride Foundation and Basic Rights Oregon
 - **Lift Every Voice: The Black LGBTQ Oregonian Experience**, Black PFLAG and the Urban League
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2014 LGBTQ Meaningful Care Conference

- The 2014 Meaningful Care Conference is the effort of a group of LGBTQ-focused community programs and individuals who have joined together to promote cultural competency for healthcare and social service providers working with members of the LGBTQ.
- This day long conference is held, March 28, in conjunction with National LGBT Health Awareness Week expects 400 people in attendance in 2014.
- Started by dedicated staff at Multnomah County we are fortunate to continue to grow this conference to meet our community needs.



2014 Conference Highlights

- In addition to highlighting some of the local efforts mentioned in this presentation, the 2014 conference will:
 - Highlight the role of historical trauma and discrimination in poor health outcomes
 - Have two Nationally recognized keynotes: Steven Barrios and Dr. Scout
 - Contextualize the provider role within public health and suggest avenues for systematic changes to ensure the health of our community.

Additional Resources for LGBTQ Health in Portland

LGBTQ Health Coalition of the Columbia-Willamette

www.oregonlgbtqhealth.org

Basic Rights Education Fund (BRO)

www.basicrights.org

Cascade AIDS Project

www.cascadeaids.org

Outside In

www.outsidein.org

Partnership Project

www.ohsu.edu/partnership

Q Center

www.pdxqcenter.org

SAGE Metro Portland

<http://www.friendlyhouseinc.org/programs/gay-and-grey/>

SMYRC

<http://www.pdxqcenter.org/programs/youth-programs/smyrc/>

Transactive

www.transactiveonline.org

Questions?

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www.oregonlgbtqhealth.org/mcc
