Mental Health

Mental health is very important for everyone, however, mental health issues disproportionally affect the LGBTQ+ community...

On average, bisexuals are more likely to be depressed than heterosexual, gay or lesbian individuals.7

All LGBTQ+ are more likely to experience anxiety disorder than heterosexuals.7

Homelessness

4 of 10  Homeless youth served by shelters are LGBTQ+.4

30%  Of youth living in housing programs self-identify as LGBTQ+.4

LGBTQ individuals who face homelessness are at a higher risk of violence and abuse compared to their heterosexual peers. They also have difficulty finding shelters that accept and respect them. All these factors add to the stress of seeking healthcare.2,4
Interacting with Healthcare Providers

**Professional—Patient Relationships**

Good healthcare professional-patient relationships are important to maintain health and ensure movement towards health equity.

Unfortunately, LGBTQ+ persons frequently report poor interactions with healthcare professionals.\(^1\)

Poor interactions often decrease the amount of visits that patients have with their providers.\(^1,3\)

Being LGBTQ+ is directly associated with difficulties in accessing healthcare.\(^2\)

LGBTQ+ patients are less likely to have health insurance than their heterosexual peers.\(^6\)

**Tips for Healthcare Providers\(^5\)**

- Ask what your patients preferred pronouns are.
- Advocate for an LGBTQ+ friendly workplace.
- Use gender-neutral language to promote inclusiveness.
- Know key LGBTQ+ definitions and terminology.


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**Boston Scientific**

**CLOSE THE GAP**

Health Equity for Life