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## INTRODUCTION

- The LGBTQ+ community is considered a minority group and has unique health needs (Perez-Stable, 2016), including higher rates of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, substance abuse, smoking, depression, anxiety, weight control issues, and violence (National LGBT Health Education Center, 2016).
- A guideline of LGBTQ+ health topics to include in nursing curricula does not exist.
- Nursing students are often ill-prepared to care for LGBTQ+ patients or uncomfortable with caring for the LGBTQ+ community as they enter the workforce (Cornelius & Carrick, 2015; Maley & Gross, 2019).



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## PURPOSE



To conduct a national survey of graduating nursing students to assess their perceived preparedness and comfort level pertaining to the care of LGBTQ+ patients.

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# METHODS



- Multisite descriptive correlational design.
- Sample: Part-time or full-time prelicensure nursing students graduating from their nursing program.
- Tool: Modified version of *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Nursing Education Assessment (LGBT-NEA)*.
- Email with the electronic survey link was sent to the deans/directors inviting their graduating nursing students to participate in the study.
- Tests: An independent samples *t*-test, Pearson correlations and one-way analyses of variance (ANOVAs).

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# SAMPLE

Table 1

Participant Demographic Characteristics

| Variable                                  | n   | %     |
|---|-----|-------|
| <b>Race</b>                               |     |       |
| American Indian or Alaska Native          | 3   | 0.84  |
| East Asian                                | 7   | 1.95  |
| South Asian                               | 10  | 2.79  |
| Black or African-American                 | 29  | 8.08  |
| Hispanic or Latino                        | 37  | 10.31 |
| Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander | 2   | 0.56  |
| White                                     | 244 | 67.97 |
| Other                                     | 5   | 1.39  |
| More than one race/ethnicity              | 18  | 5.01  |
| Decline to answer                         | 4   | 1.11  |
| <b>Gender</b>                             |     |       |
| Cis Man                                   | 46  | 12.81 |
| Cis Woman                                 | 297 | 82.73 |
| Gender Fluid                              | 2   | 0.56  |
| Gender Nonbinary                          | 8   | 2.23  |
| Another gender identity                   | 3   | 0.84  |
| Decline to answer                         | 3   | 0.84  |
| <b>Sexual orientation</b>                 |     |       |
| Asexual                                   | 2   | 0.56  |
| Bisexual                                  | 36  | 10.03 |
| Heterosexual                              | 262 | 72.98 |
| Homosexual                                | 18  | 5.01  |
| Lesbian                                   | 18  | 5.01  |
| Pansexual                                 | 5   | 1.39  |
| Queer                                     | 3   | 0.84  |
| Questioning                               | 10  | 2.79  |
| Another sexual identity                   | 1   | 0.28  |
| Decline to answer                         | 4   | 1.11  |
| <b>Nursing program</b>                    |     |       |
| Accelerated Baccalaureate                 | 33  | 9.19  |
| Associate                                 | 108 | 30.08 |
| Baccalaureate                             | 180 | 50.14 |
| Direct Entry Masters                      | 38  | 10.58 |

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## RESULTS: CONTENT AREAS OFFERED

**Table 2**

*LGBTQ+ Education Offered*

| Item   | Education Offered |       |
|--|-------------------|-------|
|  | n                 | %     |
| HIV among LGBTQ+ populations                                       | 277               | 77.16 |
| Sexually transmitted infections (not HIV) among LGBTQ+ populations | 266               | 74.09 |
| Mental health among LGBTQ+ populations                             | 257               | 71.59 |
| Safe sex practices for LGBTQ+ populations                          | 249               | 69.36 |
| Sexual identity  | 183               | 50.97 |
| Barriers to accessing medical care among LGBTQ+ populations        | 173               | 48.19 |
| Unhealthy relationships among LGBTQ+ populations                   | 157               | 43.73 |
| Gender identity  | 156               | 43.45 |
| Alcohol, tobacco, or other drug use among LGBTQ+ populations       | 131               | 36.49 |
| Chronic disease risk among LGBTQ+ populations                      | 130               | 36.21 |
| Adolescent health among LGBTQ+ populations                         | 130               | 36.21 |
| Body image among LGBTQ+ populations                                | 123               | 34.26 |
| Reproductive health among LGBTQ+ populations                       | 111               | 30.92 |
| Non-surgical transitioning   | 84                | 23.40 |
| Health research challenges with LGBTQ+ populations                 | 79                | 22.01 |
| Coming out   | 77                | 21.45 |
| Gender affirming surgery   | 59                | 16.43 |
| Geriatric care among LGBTQ+ populations                            | 55                | 15.32 |

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## RESULTS: PREPAREDNESS IN CONTENT OFFERED

**Table 3**

*Preparedness in LGBTQ+ Education*

|  | Felt Prepared |       |
|--|---------------|-------|
|  | n             | %     |
| HIV among LGBTQ+ populations                                       | 223           | 62.12 |
| Safe sex practices for LGBTQ+ populations                          | 208           | 57.94 |
| Sexually transmitted infections (not HIV) among LGBTQ+ populations | 206           | 57.38 |
| Mental health among LGBTQ+ populations                             | 166           | 46.24 |
| Sexual identity  | 161           | 44.85 |
| Alcohol, tobacco, or other drug use among LGBTQ+ populations       | 158           | 44.01 |
| Gender identity  | 157           | 43.73 |
| Unhealthy relationships among LGBTQ+ populations                   | 150           | 41.78 |
| Barriers to accessing medical care among LGBTQ+ populations        | 143           | 39.83 |
| Body image among LGBTQ+ populations                                | 138           | 38.44 |
| Coming out   | 131           | 36.49 |
| Adolescent health among LGBTQ+ populations                         | 128           | 35.65 |
| Chronic disease risk among LGBTQ+ populations                      | 119           | 33.15 |
| Reproductive health among LGBTQ+ populations                       | 110           | 30.64 |
| Health research challenges with LGBTQ+ populations                 | 99            | 27.58 |
| Geriatric care among LGBTQ+ populations                            | 92            | 25.63 |
| Non-surgical transitioning   | 82            | 22.84 |
| Gender affirming surgery   | 80            | 22.28 |

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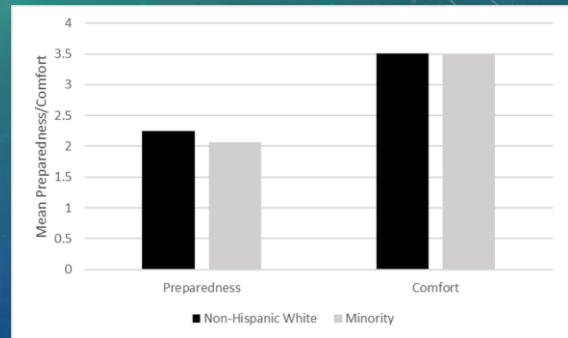
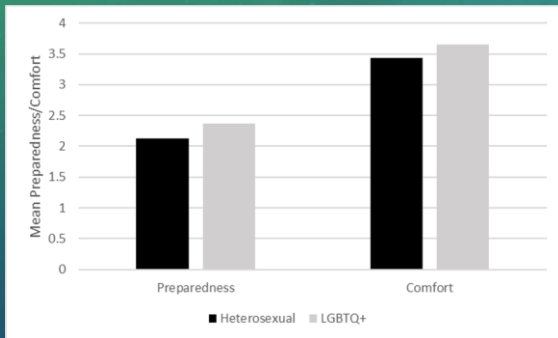
# RESULTS: OVERALL PREPAREDNESS, COMFORT AND EDUCATION EXPERIENCES

**Table 4**  
*Preparedness and Comfort in Caring for LGBTQ+ Patients*

| Variable   | n   | %     |
|--|-----|-------|
| <b>Currently feel prepared to care for LGBTQ+ patients</b>               |     |       |
| I feel prepared  | 121 | 33.70 |
| I feel somewhat prepared   | 175 | 48.75 |
| I feel unprepared  | 55  | 15.32 |
| Do not know  | 8   | 2.23  |
| <b>Training changed level of preparedness</b>                            |     |       |
| I am MORE prepared   | 148 | 41.33 |
| My level of preparedness has NOT CHANGED                                 | 198 | 55.15 |
| I am LESS prepared   | 13  | 3.62  |
| <b>Opportunity to care for LGBTQ+ patients during clinical rotations</b> |     |       |
| Yes  | 150 | 41.78 |
| No   | 208 | 57.94 |
| No response  | 1   | 0.28  |
| <b>Currently feel comfortable caring for LGBTQ+ patients</b>             |     |       |
| I feel comfortable   | 218 | 60.72 |
| I feel somewhat comfortable  | 111 | 30.92 |
| I feel somewhat uncomfortable  | 19  | 5.29  |
| I feel uncomfortable   | 11  | 3.06  |
| <b>Training changed level of comfort</b>                                 |     |       |
| I am MORE comfortable  | 116 | 32.31 |
| My level of comfort has NOT CHANGED                                      | 223 | 62.12 |
| I am LESS comfortable  | 2   | 0.56  |
| Do not know  | 18  | 5.01  |

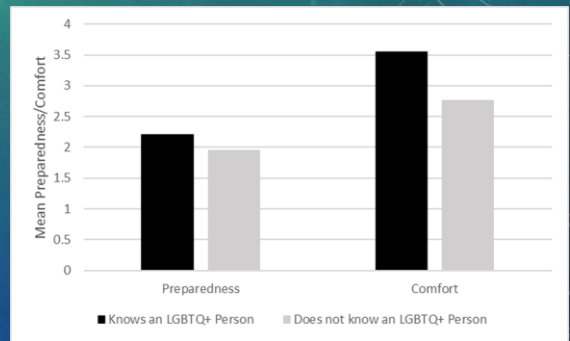
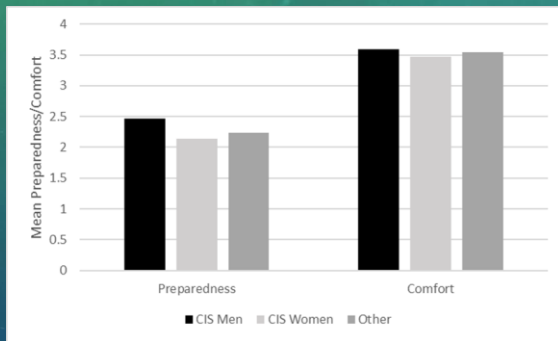
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# RESULTS: DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES AND PREPAREDNESS AND COMFORT



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## RESULTS: DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES AND PREPAREDNESS AND COMFORT



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## LIMITATIONS

- Utilized deans/directors for survey distribution rather than contacting students directly.
- Limited to those who were members of NLN, AACN, and OADN.
- Majority of participants (50%) were from BSN programs, followed closely by ADN programs (30%).
- Majority of participants were White, heterosexual, cisgender women, and 92% of participants reported knowing someone in the LGBTQ+ community.



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## IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

- Nursing programs recommendations:
  - Examine their current curricula
  - Evaluate students' perceived preparedness
  - Seek out clinical sites that specialize in LGBTQ+ care or are specifically associated with LGBTQ+ communities
- Nursing faculty should examine their own knowledge and comfort level with LGBTQ+ health care topics.



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## CONCLUSION

- Nurses must be able to provide holistic and personalized care to all patients.
- Nursing programs and faculty are accountable for ensuring the inclusion of LGBTQ+ content in their curricular offerings.
- Lack of and ineffective inclusion of LGBTQ+ content in the curriculum has lead students to seek the information elsewhere.
- Future research:
  - Explore undergraduate nursing faculty knowledge of and comfort with teaching LGBTQ+ content.
  - Similar studies with nurse practitioner (NP) and doctorate of nursing practice (DNP) students.



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