

# BARRIERS TO DISCLOSING SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY TO HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS IN RURAL AREAS

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# BACKGROUND

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- Health disparities in the LGBT community
  - HIV
  - Mental health and suicide
  - Alcohol and drug use
- LGBT disclosure rates
  - 74% in urban areas
  - 48% in rural areas
- How disclosure affects healthcare
  - HIV test frequency
  - Appropriate vaccines

# RESEARCH QUESTION

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- Why don't LGBT individuals in rural areas disclose their sexual orientation to their healthcare provider?

# RURAL VS URBAN

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- Rural vs urban environments
  - Community focus
  - Social challenges
- State and local laws
  - Refusal of services to LGBT individuals

# BARRIERS

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- Barriers to disclosing sexual orientation/gender identity
  - Healthcare provider knowledge of LGBT health
  - Healthcare provider microaggressions
  - Effects of the physical environment
  - Effects of stigma

# THE PROJECT

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- Creation of an educational video
  - Discussed the barriers and provided suggestions to overcome barriers
  - Video was reviewed by experts in the field
  - Available on Youtube
    - <http://youtu.be/B5GGcL8Tkvs>