

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESEARCHERS

These recommendations have been produced in response to 'Beyond Babies & Breast Cancer', a wideranging overview of available evidence on the healthcare needs of lesbian and bisexual women.

To read the full report, download a copy from www.lgbt.foundation/womenshealth, email women@lgbt.foundation or call **0345 3 30 30 30** to request a printed version.

COMMUNICATE in a non-discriminatory way, without making assumptions about sexual orientation, to create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

- Ensure that lesbian and bisexual women are included in all general population surveys. Train staff members who are conducting surveys in communicating in a sensitive and non-discriminatory way and understand how making assumptions about sexual orientation can be damaging to research interactions.

MONITOR sexual orientation as part of your equality data and use the findings to inform future plans.

- Questions on sexual orientation should be asked and recorded alongside questions on other protected characteristics (for example gender, disability, and ethnic origin) in all general population surveys.
- Analyse the data you collect across all protected characteristics including sexual orientation to identify where there are gaps, trends and differences in relation to the topic you are researching.

INCLUDE lesbian and bisexual women's needs in mainstream health information, services, policies and strategies.

- When developing public engagement in research, specifically seek involvement from lesbian and bisexual women in the design, conduct, management and interpretation of study results.

TARGET lesbian and bisexual women with specific health information and campaigns.

- Seek to close knowledge gaps by conducting research specifically amongst lesbian and bisexual women to better understand their needs and experiences and the health inequalities they face.
- Specific health issues where there are gaps in knowledge around lesbian and bisexual women's risks and experiences currently include: lung cancer, coronary heart disease, diabetes and gynaecological cancers.

DEVELOP specialist health and support services for lesbian and bisexual women, their partners and families.

- Expand the evidence base by developing networks to share research into lesbian and bisexual women's needs among researchers and practitioners in the public and voluntary sectors.
- Use 'Evidence Exchange', a searchable database of statistics relating to the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, to share evidence and data: lgbt.foundation/evidence.