



Utilizing the HRC Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) Certification Process to Address Health Disparities in LGBTQ+ Student Populations

UCLA

Arthur Ashe Student Health & Wellness Center

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ABSTRACT & PURPOSE

<5%
OF SUBMISSIONS IN 2022 WERE STUDENT HEALTH CENTERS

For 15 years, HRC's Healthcare Equality Index has served as the national LGBTQ+ benchmarking tool for promoting equitable, inclusive care in the healthcare setting. However, of the more than 900 facilities that participated in 2022, <5% were student-serving, university health centers.

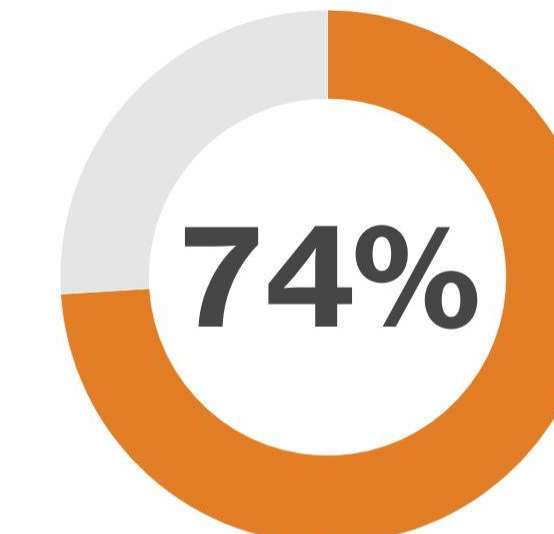
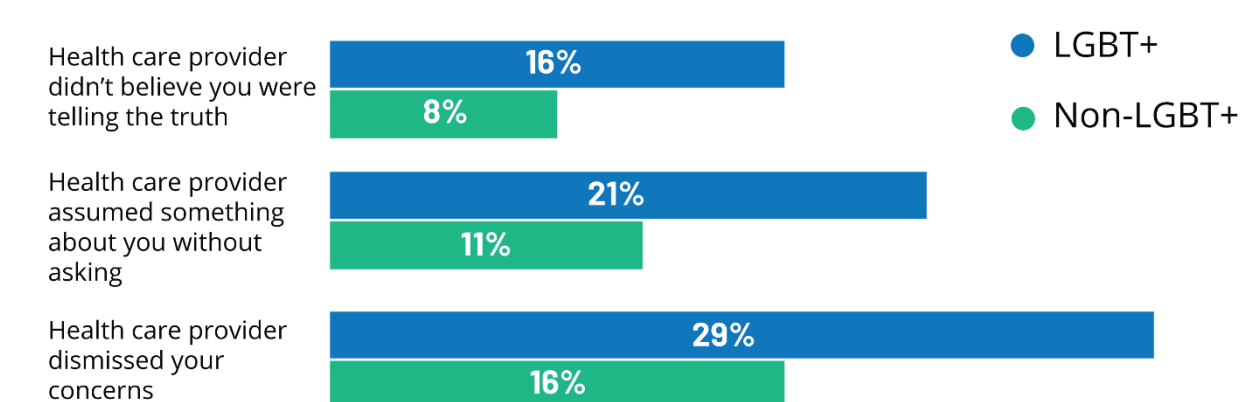
The purpose of this poster is to encourage college health administrators to explore the HRC HEI certification process as an avenue toward reducing healthcare disparities in the LGBTQ+ student population.

LGBTQIA+ HEALTH DISPARITIES



Larger Shares of LGBT+ Adults Report Negative Experiences with Their Providers Compared with Non-LGBT+ Adults

Thinking about your health care visits in the last two years, did you experience any of the following, or not?



have an official plan for reducing health disparities that specifically includes LGBT+ patients in addition to race, ethnicity, and linguistic concerns.

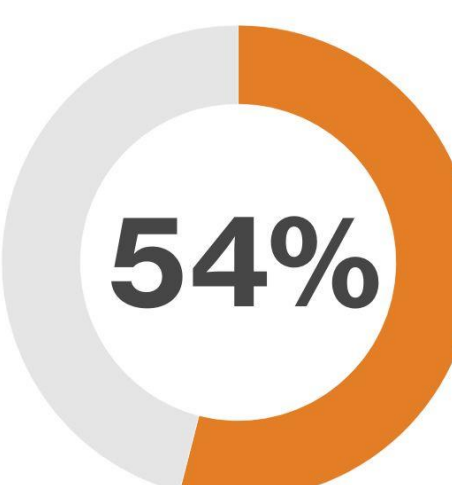
Behavioral health issues complicate care, especially in the age of COVID-19

20.1% of gay or lesbian adults were current cigarette smokers, compared with 16.5% of heterosexual adults. A separate meta-analysis of several studies found that overall, **LGBT people smoke cigarettes at 1.5 to 2.5 times the rate of heterosexual and non-transgender people.**

21% of **LGBTQ adults have asthma** compared with 14% of heterosexual adults.

Nearly **1 in 6 bisexual women experienced serious psychological distress** in the past 30 days, more than three times the rate of heterosexual women.

36.2% of gay or lesbian adults had four or more alcoholic drinks in one day at least once in the past year, compared with 27.5% of heterosexual adults.



of HEI participants indicated that their facility has a policy or policies that specifically outline procedures and practices aimed at eliminating bias and insensitivity, and ensuring appropriate, welcoming interactions with transgender patients.

DATA/ STATISTICS

A 2021 Centers for Disease Control (CDC) survey found that 40% of **TRANSGENDER WOMEN** report having HIV. Gay men have higher rates of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), especially among communities of color.

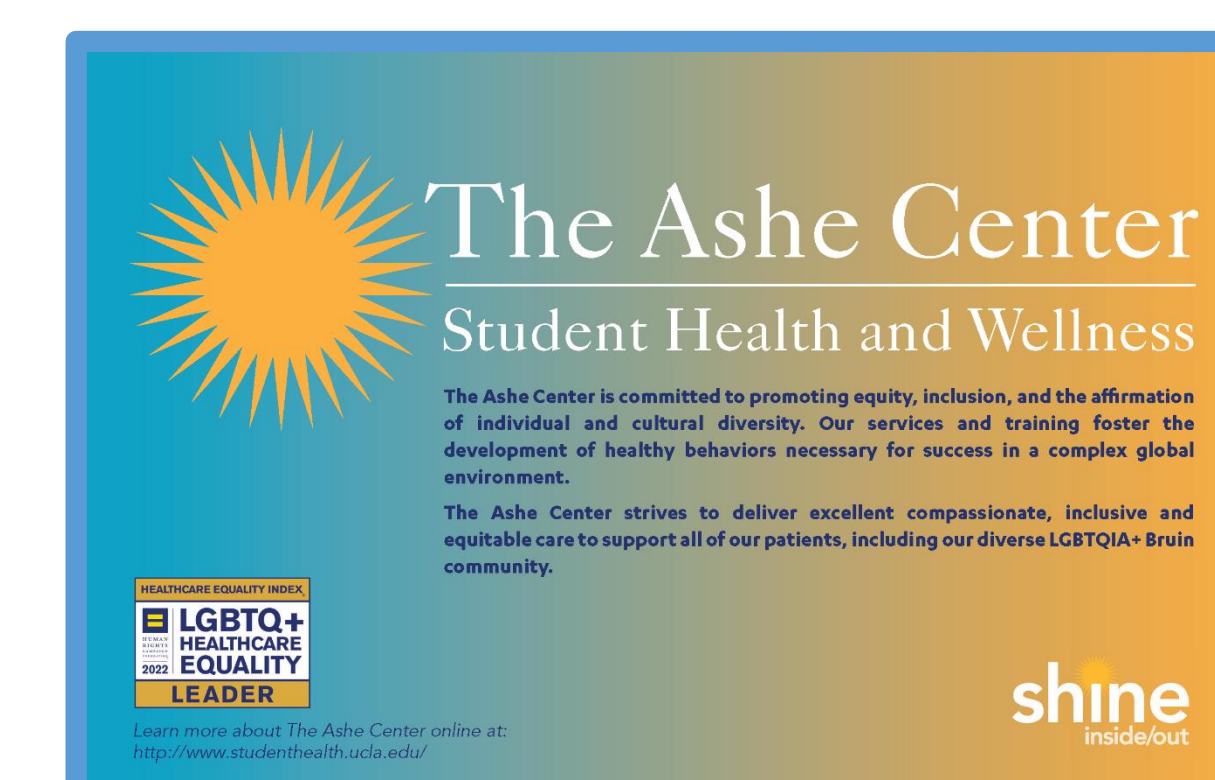
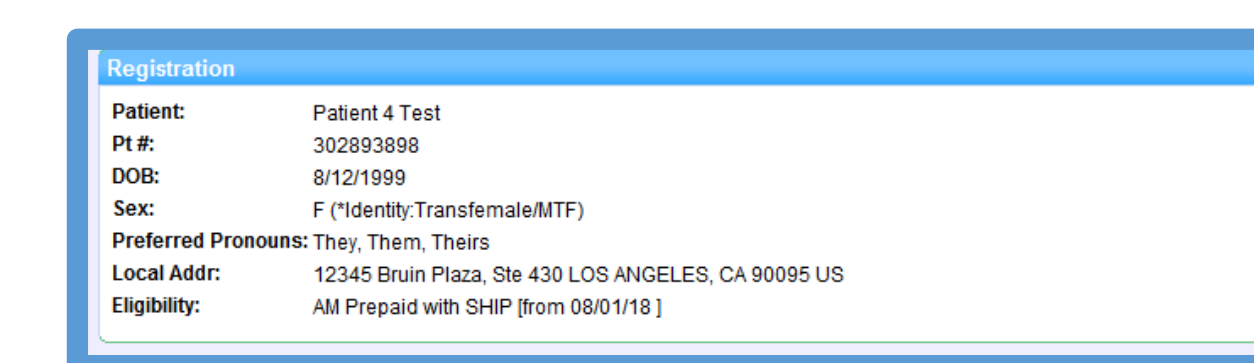
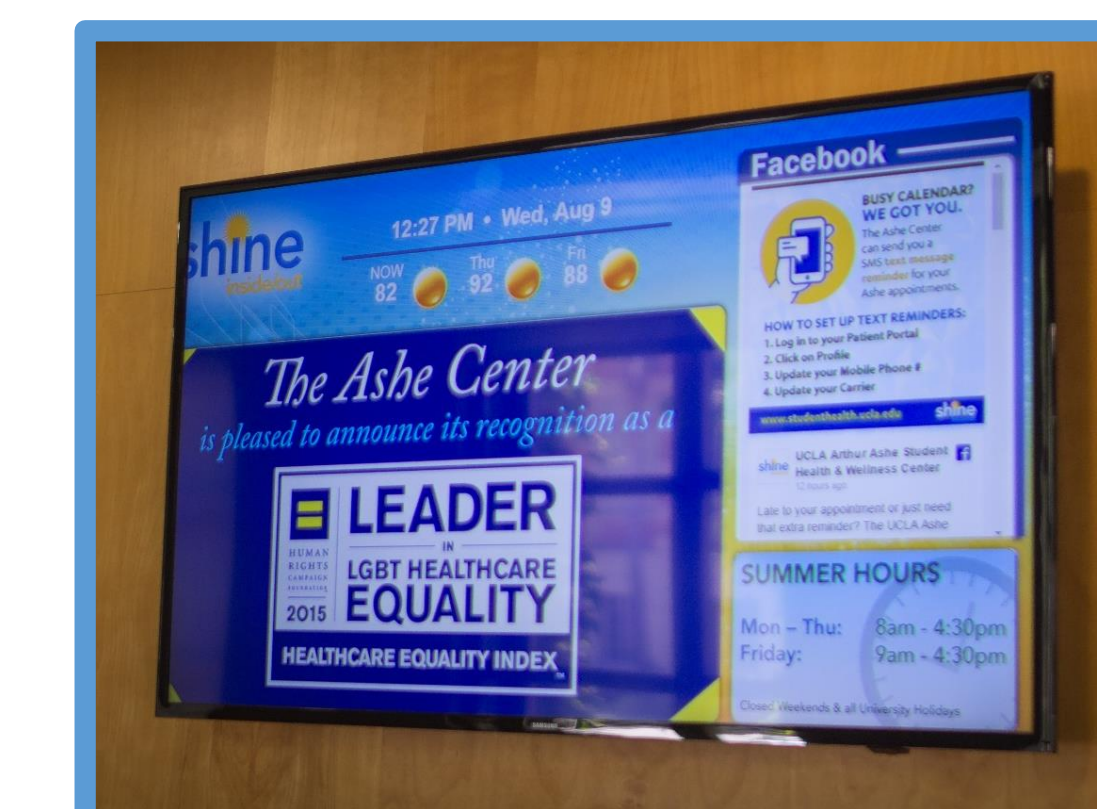
LGBTQ PEOPLE are more likely to experience heart disease. Researchers trace this to the elevated stress hormones triggered by discrimination, social rejection, and the fear of violence.

LESBIANS are less likely to seek or receive preventive health services for cancer. **LESBIANS and BISEXUAL FEMALES** are more likely to be overweight or obese, which can lead to other health problems such as heart disease and diabetes.

According to national crime data analysis by the Williams Institute of UCLA School of Law, **LGBTQ PEOPLE** are nearly four times more likely to experience violence. This includes rape, sexual assault, and aggravated or simple assault.

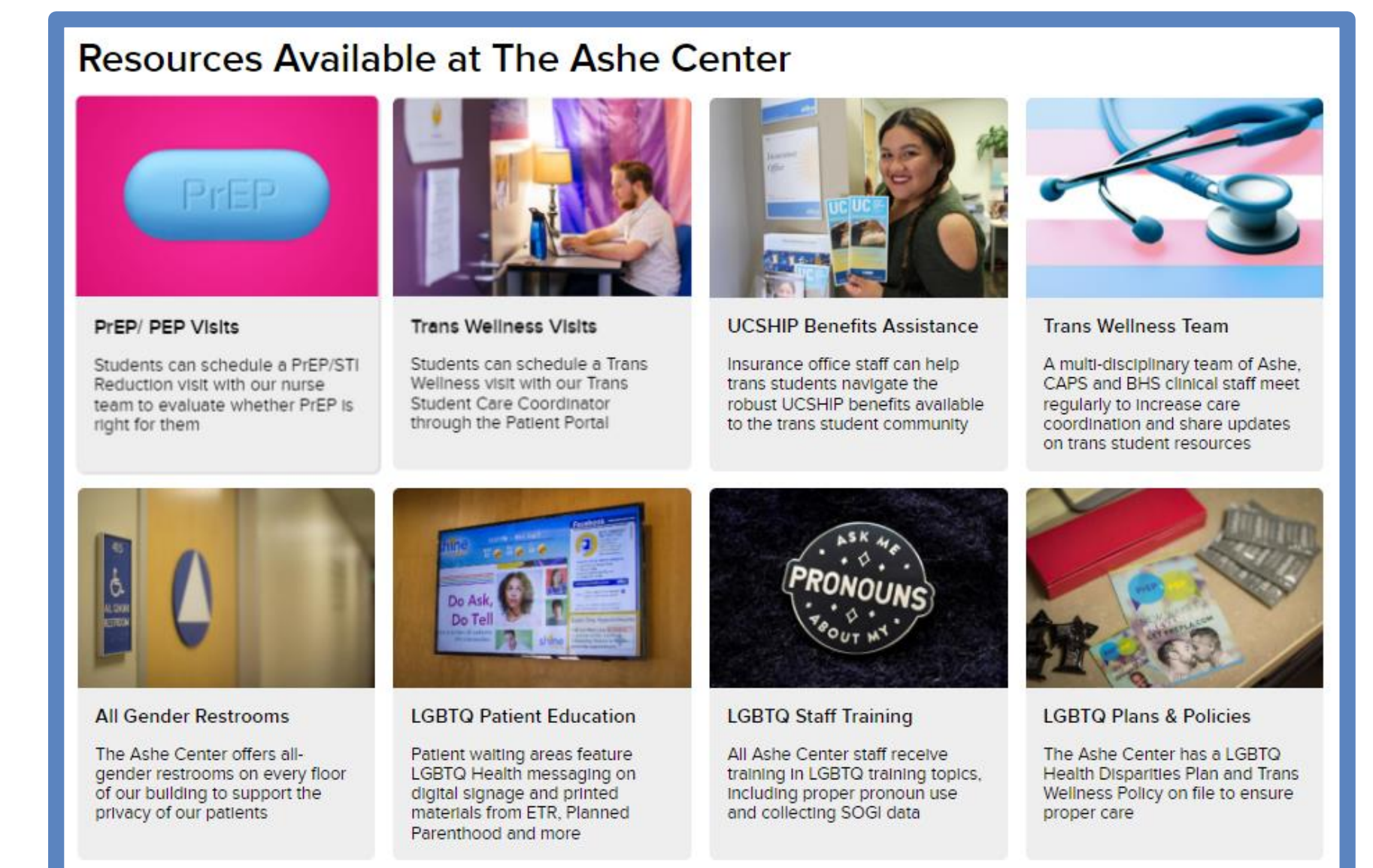
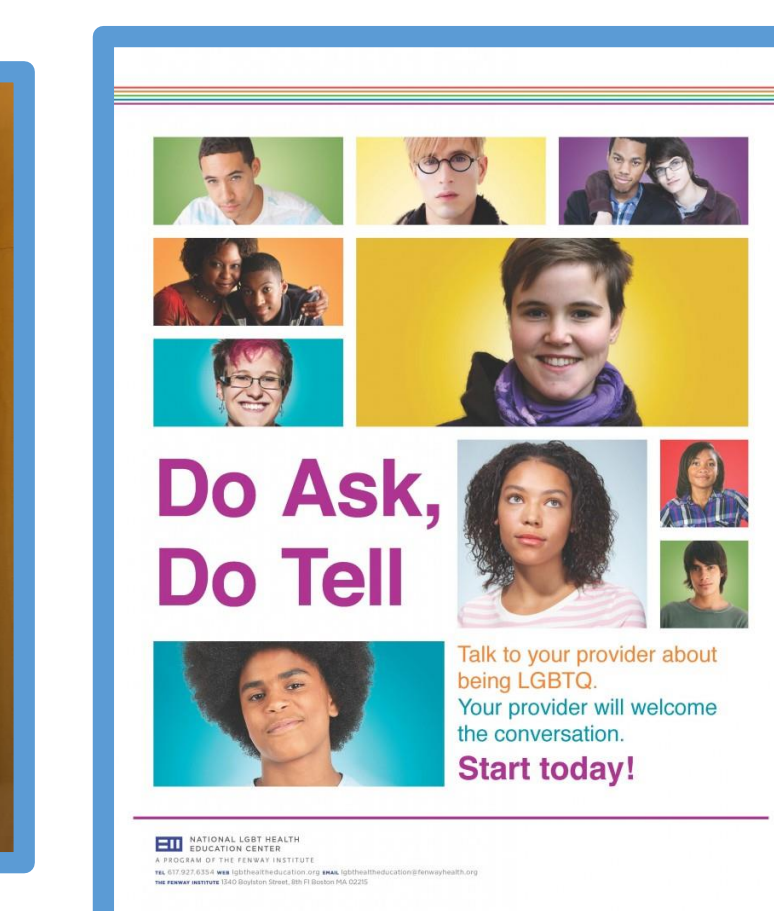
The risk of experiencing a mental health condition is more than twice as high for **LGB ADULTS** and nearly four times as high for transgender individuals.

The risk of suicide is 2 times as high for **LGB ADULTS** and nearly 8 times as high for transgender individuals.



THE ASHE CENTER & HEI

Diversity Statement: The Ashe Center is committed to promoting equity, inclusion, and the affirmation of individual and cultural diversity. Our services and training foster the development of healthy behaviors necessary for success in a complex global environment.



WHAT IS HRC HEI?

- HEI participant are given a score based on how many LGBTQ+ inclusive policies and practices they have in place in four different criteria.
- Participants that have earned the LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader designation have received the highest score in each criteria.

HEI 2024 OPENS JUNE 2023

SCORING CRITERIA

1. NONDISCRIMINATION & STAFF TRAINING
2. PATIENT SERVICES & SUPPORT
3. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & POLICIES
4. PATIENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
5. RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

WHY PARTICIPATE?



QR CODE LIBRARY



AT YOUR STUDENT HEALTH CENTER

- EMPLOYEE TRAININGS (CULTURAL COMPETENCIES)
- CREATION OF A DIVERSITY STATEMENT & LGBTQ+ HEALTH DISPARITIES PLAN
- CLINIC SIGNAGE: WELCOMING & INCLUSIVE
- LGBTQ+ HEALTH SERVICES WEBSITE DESIGN
- EMR/ FORM REVIEW FOR INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE
- ALL-GENDER RESTROOMS & NEW DEPARTMENT NAMES
- INCLUSIVE HIRING PRACTICES/ DEI WORK IN HUMAN RESOURCES
- POLICY & PROCEDURES REVIEW & COMPLIANCE
- LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PRIDE COMMEMORATION

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- HRC HEI Support Team (hrc@hei.org)