



Cancer and the LGBT Community

Because many of us delay routine medical care due to past negative experiences with providers and fear of mistreatment, we are less likely to receive vital cancer prevention education, early detection, and access to treatment. As a result, we may be at greater risk for certain types of cancer, including breast and ovarian cancer, lung cancer, and cancers linked to human papilloma virus (HPV), such as cervical and anal cancer.

Rates of ovarian cancer are higher among women who have not been pregnant or used oral contraceptives. Many lesbians fall into this category, and therefore may have an increased risk for ovarian cancer. We also know that lesbians access gynecological care less frequently than heterosexual women, which can result in later diagnosis of cervical, ovarian or breast cancer.

Studies have found that gay men have a greater risk of anal cancer due primarily to an increased rate of HPV infection, thought to be present in more than half of all gay and bisexual men. Colorectal cancers can be reduced by early detection, removal of pre-cancerous polyps, and access to treatment in the earliest stages of the disease.

TAKE ACTION TO IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH:

- Women and transmen over 18 should have a gynecological exam at least every 3 years, more often if risk factors are present.
- Women and transpeople with breast tissue over 40 should have annual mammograms.
- Get a baseline screening at age 50. If you have a family history of colorectal cancer, you may need to start earlier
- If you are a gay or bisexual man, transwoman or transman who has anal sex with men, talk to your doctor about getting a rectal Pap smear for HPV.
- If you currently smoke, please find a program to help you quit.
- Exercise regularly and eat a well balanced diet.

HELPFUL WEBSITES : www.lgbthealth.net • www.mautnerproject.org • www.glbthealth.org/documents/GayMenCFBrochure.pdf • www.glbthealth.org/documents/LesbianCFBrochures03.pdf • www.glbthealth.org/documents/GLBTTobacco.pdf

educate yourself about cancer prevention.

remember, early detection saves lives.



A PROJECT OF:
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LGBT HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK
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