



National L G B T tobacco control network

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November 13, 2006

Policy Statement: LGBT Cultural Competence in Smoking Treatment Quitlines

Summary statement

It is the position of the National LGBT Tobacco Control Network that state smoking quitlines should add LGBT question(s) to the demographic section of their intake whenever possible. This addition not only helps collect usage data for an underserved population, but it also helps present a culturally competent front to the intervention. Both of these actions are sorely needed to address the sincere health disparities experienced by the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities.

Reasoning

- Because LGBT populations experience significant tobacco health disparities, across all studies, they are 40%-almost 200% more likely to smoke than the general population.
- Because there is evidence of tobacco targeting of LGBT communities.
- Because health disparities resulting from targeting and population-specific variables have not been shown to disappear with response interventions that are one size fits all.
- Because 37% of respondents in a recent full probability survey in CA believe the tobacco control efforts ignore LGBTs.
- Because demonstrating awareness and responsiveness to a disproportionately impacted community is one method of demonstrating cultural competence.
- Because LGBT questions have been added to other quitlines with success. Currently at least the states of New Mexico, Hawaii, Indiana, Oregon, Washington, and Iowa collect sexual orientation (LGB) information through their quitline. Kansas already collects sexual orientation and gender identity information (LGBT) and Minnesota has plans to add an LGBT question in the near future.
- NM presented on the feasibility of having an SO questions on a quitline at 2006 WCTOH.
- Because IA reports only 1 breakoff after 8 months of monitoring the new SO question on their quitline.
- Because large scale phone survey studies also demonstrate the feasibility and acceptance of inclusion of LGB or LGBT questions.
- Because eliminating a health disparity hinges on being able to measure intervention progress.

For all these reasons the National LGBT Tobacco Control Network strongly urges state and local officials to add LGBT questions to their quitlines, adult tobacco surveys, and other relevant measures for health disparities.

National Advisory Council

CLASH

Mautner Project

American Lung Association

American Legacy Foundation

Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids

Tobacco Control Network

National Coalition for LGBT Health

Gay and Lesbian Medical Association

National Youth Advocacy Coalition

Chase-Brexton Health Services

Howard Brown Health Center

Callen-Lorde Community Health Center

Legacy Community Health Services

Whitman Walker Clinic

Fenway Community Health

Tobacco Technical Assistance Consortium

National Association of LGBT Community Ctrs



Please feel free to contact us at lgbttobacco@gmail.com for more information on the references used to create this policy statement.

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