

The National



LGB&T Partnership

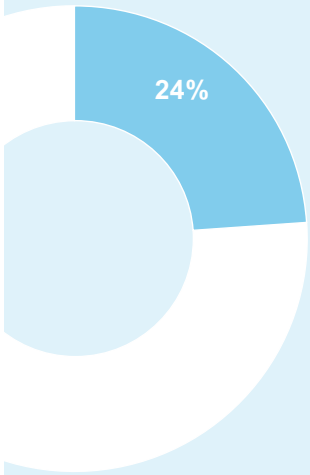


50 facts

about LBT
women's health

1 Lesbians are treated with powerful psychopharmacological medicines for what is thought to be a psychological disease causing their homosexual orientation because of pathologising beliefs regarding lesbians.

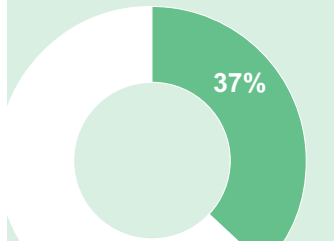
2 A study found that when trans women used healthcare facilities, their gender-related requirements were “ignored or not taken into account” by **24%** of trans women.



3 Lesbian, bi, and trans women are more likely to face inappropriate questions or inquiry from healthcare providers because of their sexuality. According to statistics, **8.1%** of lesbians, **5.9%** of bisexuals, **12.1%** of queer cis women, and **15.4%** of trans women encountered inappropriate questions or curiosity about their sexual orientation while seeking healthcare in the previous year.

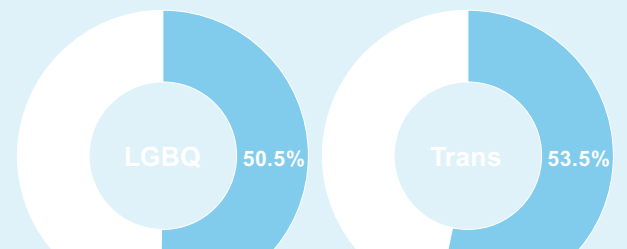


4 In the North-West, **37%** of lesbian and bisexual women have been advised at one point or another that they didn't need a cervical screening test.



5 Lesbian and bisexual women reported more self-harm and greater use of mental health services than heterosexual women.

6 Accessing mental health care is 'not easy' or 'not at all easy' for **50.5%** of cis LGBQ women and **53.5%** of trans women, according to one survey.



7 Lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women have worse physical and mental health than heterosexual women.

8 Women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, or transgender endure disproportionately high rates of discrimination, harassment, and domestic violence, as well as impediments to accessing support services.



9 Lesbians and bisexual women are more likely than other women to suffer from mental illness, including self-harm and suicidal ideation. This is frequently associated with bullying or discrimination.

11 When compared to white lesbians and bisexuals, black and Latinx lesbians and bisexuals have a lower frequency of mental health problems but higher rates of suicidality.

13 Lesbian and bisexual women should continue to be tested. When women exchange bodily fluids, they might contract STIs like herpes, genital warts, and chlamydia.

14 Some health care practitioners may presume lesbian and bisexual women are straight when discussing their sexual health because of heteronormativity.

10 According to qualitative research on Pakistani Muslim lesbian women, sexual identity declaration is hindered by honour and religious demands, as well as the fear of honour abuse.

12 Major stressful experiences associated with coming out, such as assault, abuse, and homelessness, are more significantly linked to suicide risk among black and Latinx lesbian and bisexual people than depression and other mental disorders.



15 Because women in same-sex relationships are thought to have fewer occurrences of sexually transmitted infections, lesbian and bisexual women's health concerns may go unnoticed by health care practitioners who are unfamiliar with LGBT health.

16 According to one survey, just around half of LB women have been tested for STIs. And half of those who were tested had a sexually transmitted infection (STI).



17 **42.8%** of LBT women said that they had experienced sexual violence compared to an estimated **20%** of all women in the UK.

42.8%
LBT women

20%
all women

18 Smoking rates are significantly higher among the LGB population - **18.8%** of heterosexual people smoke, this compares to **27.9%** of lesbian women and **30.5%** of bisexual women.

19 **56%** of LGBT women were not active enough to maintain good health, compared to **45%** of women in the general population.





25 Lesbian and bisexual women are more likely than heterosexual women to acquire certain gynecologic cancers, but they are also less likely to receive routine gynaecological health care, such as pelvic exams and Pap tests.

27 COVID-19 does discriminate; measures and the impact of COVID-19 on LBT women is underrepresented. We won't completely grasp the impact on all LBT women until we have this data.

26 Due to COVID, trans persons are facing delays or cancellations of vital gender-affirming treatment, which many have been waiting for years.

28 Widowed and celibate lesbians in their 50s are more likely than other relationship groups to report depression.

20 According to a literature review conducted by Macmillan Cancer Support, when LGB people are diagnosed with cancer, they are less likely to receive the information and support they require, as well as information about self-help and support groups for cancer patients, than heterosexual people with cancer.

21 According to a new 24-year study, LB women have a **27%** increased chance of having type 2 diabetes than other women.

23 Transgender women using hormone treatment show an increased risk of breast cancer compared with the general male population.

22 While trans women who use hormone therapy have a higher risk of breast cancer, the absolute risk is low and not as great as it is in the cis-gendered female population.

24 Lesbian and bisexual women are more likely than heterosexual women to get breast cancer, but they are less likely to receive routine cancer screenings, such as mammograms, which are used to detect cancer in its early stages. This is problematic because early discovery is critical for disease treatment and increases the odds of remission for the lady.

29 Lesbian and bisexual women between the ages of 50 and 79 are more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer compared to women in general.



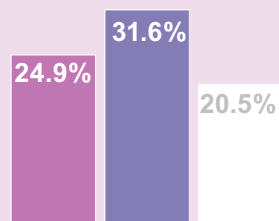
30 Older widowed and celibate lesbians are more likely to report depression than other relationship groups.

31 Obesity is more common among lesbian and bisexual women than among heterosexual women. Obesity has been linked to other diseases such as heart disease and cancer, both of which are among the top causes of death in women.

32 A specialised examination of the England GP Patient Survey found that LB women were more likely than heterosexual women to have musculoskeletal health issues, asthma and respiratory disorders, and various types of cancer.



33 According to the English GPPS study, lesbian and bisexual women self-reported 'fair or poor' health status at **24.9%** and **31.6%** respectively, compared to heterosexual women at **20.5%**.



34 According to international research, lesbian and bisexual women are more likely than heterosexual women to have chronic health issues and disabilities.

35 According to research from the United Kingdom, lesbian and bisexual women are more prone than heterosexual women to indulge in harmful drinking practices, and that this behaviour is often established in adolescence.

36 According to polls of lesbians and bisexual women in the United Kingdom, lesbians are more likely than bisexual women to use recreational drugs, and there is consistent evidence that both groups use drugs more than heterosexual women.

37 Lesbian and bisexual women drink more than heterosexual women on average, and they are more likely to develop alcohol-related issues such as alcoholism and alcohol abuse.

38 Lesbian and bisexual women have greater rates of smoking, cocaine, and marijuana usage than heterosexual women, according to research. The use and abuse of these chemicals has been related to a variety of cancers as well as heart and lung diseases, which are the top three causes of mortality in women.



39 Being a younger lesbian

from a low-income family can lead to more victimisation and prejudice, which can lead to internalised homophobia. As a result, self-harm is a possibility.

40 One in ten LGBT people

(**10%**) have been outed without their consent by healthcare staff in front of other staff or patients. More than one in four trans people (**27%**) have been outed without their consent compared to seven per cent of LGB people who aren't trans. Similarly, **15%** of LGBT disabled people have experienced this.

41 **5%** of lesbians and

7% of bi women had attempted suicide, whereas **7%** of POC and **10%** of disabled lesbian/bi women have attempted suicide.

42 Lesbian and bisexual

women are reported to binge drink **29%** of the time, compared to only **12%** of heterosexual women. According to a 2012 study on trans health, **62%** of trans persons either abuse alcohol or are alcohol dependent.

43 Lesbian and bisexual

women are more likely to develop alcohol and substance abuse problems.

44 Female same-sex couples

are made to pay tens of thousands of pounds in artificial inseminations in high-priced clinics to prove their infertility before they can receive NHS fertility therapy.

45 Some masc-presenting

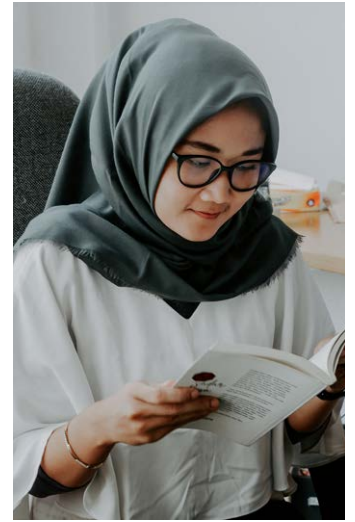
lesbian women have a fear of childbirth (FOC) and a fear of pregnancy because they are concerned about an increase in body dysmorphia and being regarded as feminine and/or as women.

46 To date, young trans

women's only choice for fertility preservation has been a privately financed route. Although NHS medical paths have directly resulted in compromised fertility, NHS Trusts have not always responded similarly to the trans population in terms of fertility preservation in the same way they did to other patients.

47 When maternity care

professionals presume the woman's partner will be a man and the child's genetic parent, it is a problematic issue for lesbian and bisexual women couples.



48 Lesbian and bisexual

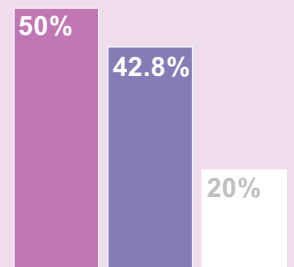
women are up to 10 less likely to have had a cervical screening test in the past three years than heterosexual women.

49 Prevalence of all

cancers is higher in lesbians (**4.4%**) and bisexual women (**4.2%**) than heterosexual women.

50 **42.8%** of LBT women

said they had experienced sexual violence compared to an estimated **20%** of all women in the UK.



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