

Conference Program

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- 8:00 - 9:00am Conference Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 - 9:30am **Welcome Remarks**
MC: Mary Morten, Director of the Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues.
- Featured speakers: Susan Wood, PhD, Deputy Director, Office on Women's Health, US Department of Health and Human Services; Steven R. Potsic, MD, MPH, Regional Health Administrator, US Department of Health and Human Services Region V; Sharon Green, MS, Deputy Director of Women's Health, Illinois Department of Public Health; Sheila Lyne, RSM, Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health; Rosalie Sagraves, PharmD, Dean of the UIC College of Pharmacy; Michelle Hoersch, MS, Director US Public Health Service's Office on Women's Health - Region V.
- 9:30 - 10:30 **Keynote Address**
Overview Of Lesbian Health Research, including a Historical Perspective and Update on the Recent Institute of Medicine Meeting, Judy Bradford, Ph.D., Director of Survey Research Laboratory at Virginia Commonwealth University; member of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Lesbian Health Priorities
- 10:30 - 10:45 **Break**
- 10:45 - 12:15 **Open Plenary**
Barriers to Care for All: How Do We Secure Quality of Care for the Diverse Lesbian Community? A dialogue about inclusivity and access in lesbian health. How do we ensure economic, cultural and physical accessibility? Panel will include community activists, organizers and women working in health care. Moderator: Mary Morten, Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues

12:30 - 1:30pm

Lunch Keynote

Lesbian Adolescents: Health & Mental Health Issues of Lesbian Adolescents. Caitlyn Ryan, MSW, ACSW. Author, *Lesbian and Gay Youth: Care and Counseling*

1:45 - 3:00pm

Concurrent Educational Sessions I

Panel on Barriers to Care and Issues of Access

This panel of regional experts in lesbian health will address the multiple factors that may present barriers to receiving health care for the lesbian patient. Joanne Hall, PhD, RN, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; Roberta Cassidy, MS, RN, University of Illinois at Chicago; Nicole S. Kramer, Ohio State University Women Studies Department.

Lesbians' Experiences Regarding Mammography Utilization

Sarita Karon PhD, University of Wisconsin, will present results from a study of Midwestern lesbians, exploring barriers to mammography, reasons for obtaining mammography, and strategies to improve mammography utilization by lesbians.

Providing Services to Adolescent Lesbians

This workshop is geared for providers of health services who are interested in learning how to become more youth friendly as well as more lesbian youth friendly. Laura McAlpine, LCSW, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, Elizabeth Huesemann, LCSW, Horizons Community Services, Sandy McNabb, Medical Director, Chicago Women's Health Center.

Legal Issues for Lesbian Families

This workshop, delivered by Heather Sawyer, JD, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and Rosemary Mulryan, JD will explore the legal issues and protections that exist for lesbian families, in their broad constructs.

Internalized Homophobia: Part 1

This extended session workshop will provide an interactive and experiential examination of internalized oppression and its effects on the lives of lesbians. Presented by Jeanette C. Zweifel, EdD and Deb Wilke, Family Counseling Services of Aurora.

Bisexual Women's Health Issues

This workshop will explore the inclusion of bisexual women in the lesbian community, addressing psychosocial and health concerns. Sarah Senseman, Laura Hawkins, MSW, Howard Brown Health Center

Health Issues Facing Transgender Lesbians

This panel presentation will explore the specific health and psychosocial issues facing Transgender members of the lesbian community, from both a community activist and research perspective. Lorraine Sade Baskerville, BSW; Choices Counseling Associates; Gretchen Kenagy, PhD

Panel on Lesbian Health Research

This panel of researchers will address methodological and theoretical challenges to researching the lesbian population and the climate in which lesbian health is addressed. Lindsay Rossano, MPH, Columbia University School of Public Health; Suzanne Brunner, PhD, RN, University of Maine School of Nursing, Laura A. Szalacha, Ph.D., Boston University.

3:00 - 3:20 pm

Break

3:30 - 5:00pm

Concurrent Educational Sessions II

Domestic Violence

This panel will increase knowledge and awareness of domestic violence in lesbian relationships. Carolina Bono and Mary Howard, MA LCPC, TIA/Chicago Connection; Toni Carrigan, Director Horizons Community Services Anti-Violence Project, Daphne Glanton, Supervisor, Women's Program, TIA/Chicago Connection.

HIV Prevention for Lesbians and Bisexual Women

This presentation will discuss the results of a participatory action research project concerning HIV prevention for lesbians and bisexual women. Patricia Stevens, PhD, RN and JoAnn Hall, PhD, RN, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee.

Internalized Homophobia: Part 2

This extended session workshop will provide an interactive and experiential examination of internalized oppression and its effects on the lives of lesbians. Presented by Jeanette C. Zweifel, EdD and Deb Wilke, Family Counseling Services of Aurora

Hepatitis in African American Lesbians: The New ABCs

This workshop will examine the prevalence of STDs among African American lesbians, addressing issues of transmission, public awareness, and prevention. Donna Weems, Network for Gay and Lesbian Concerns for Occupational Therapy.

Working With Lesbian Survivors of Sexual Abuse

This workshop will address issues of shame in the lives and identities of lesbians who have survived childhood sexual abuse, with specific clinical considerations. Theo Pintzuk, MSW, Howard Brown Health Center

Leather/BDSM in the Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Women's Community This panel presentation will address issues of sexual health and safety among lesbians and sexual issues for women living with disabilities. Judith Routh, Executive Director of Access Living.

Self-Image Workshop

Using art-therapy, this workshop will explore the integration of self and sexual identity. Harriet Wadeson, PhP, ATR-BC, HLM.

Creating and Expanding the Lesbian Family

This presentation will discuss research concerning the lesbian step family, including tasks and stages faced in becoming a family, strengths and challenges, and strategies for successful family functioning. Jean Lynch, PhD.

Is Menopause Different for Lesbians?

This presentation will provide a holistic perspective on both natural and surgical menopause and the changes that women experience around the time of menopause. Three types of management will be explored: minimal or no therapy, natural remedies, and hormone replacement. Linda Bernhard, PhD, RN, College of Nursing and Department of Women's Studies, Ohio State University

Alcohol Use and Mental Health Among Lesbians

This workshop will present original research on the intersecting issues of substance use, sexual harassment, and mental health among lesbians. Stephanie Nawyn, Loyola University and Tonda Hughes PhD, RN, University of Illinois at Chicago.

5:10 - 6:30pm **Lesbian Health Roundtable: Developing Community, Public and Private Partnerships** This roundtable discussion will provide an interactive, problem-solving forum to address the development of public health - community - private partnerships in lesbian health.

6:30 - 8:00pm **Networking Reception**
Location: Vendor Fair
All conference participants are invited to attend this reception. Mingle with your fellow conference attendees. Sign up for excursions to local cafes, restaurants, and women's bars. Lay the groundwork for Saturday's regional breakouts to develop coordinated lesbian health networks.

Friday Evening Informal Excursions to Local Cafes, Restaurants, and Women's Bars. Sign up for these events at the Friday Networking Reception. Join other conference participants on escorted trips to some of Chicago's neighborhood cafes, restaurants, and women's bars. Further details will be posted at the conference.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

8:00 - 9:00am **Registration & Continental Breakfast**

9:00 - 10:30am **Keynote Address: Beyond the Institute of Medicine: Creating Community-Based Epidemiology**
This keynote address will explore issues of community organizing for the lesbian health movement - Marj Plumb, Founding member of the DC-based Lesbian Health Advocacy Network, former Policy Associate for the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association

10:40am - Noon **Concurrent Educational Sessions III:**

Spirituality, Religious Institutions and Health
This workshop will examine the role of religious institutions as deliverers of health care to lesbians. Elizabeth Goudy, MDiv.

Models of Care, Education and Outreach
This panel of health and social service professionals will discuss issues of sexual orientation in care, education and outreach. Sarah Bortt, Women's Health Education Project, Annetta Wilson, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health; Janette Bowers, BSN; Bharathi Jayaram, Chicago Women's Health Center.

Lesbian Experiences with Physicians

This workshop will present a qualitative research project designed to improve the provider-patient relationship. Rebecca Williams, MD, Clinical Family Practice, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Using Media As An Organizing Tool

This panel of media professionals will describe the use of mainstream media as vehicle to reaching the community. Panel: Debbie Howlett, *USA Today*, Martha Irvine, Associated Press; Jackie Northam, WBEZ Radio/FM 91.5; and Terry Wilson, *Chicago Tribune*. Moderator: Diane Goodwin, Howard Brown Health Center.

Creating Lesbian Health Networks

This health care professional will describe the successful creation of a lesbian health provider network and its potential to influence health care delivery. Renee Lohman, MBA, Washington Behavioral Health Care

Lesbian Health Fairs

This workshop will describe the origin and implementation of the Lesbian Health Fair project, sponsored by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Workshop participants will receive assistance to translate outreach and implementation tools to their own communities. Susan Scott, President, Lesbian Health Initiative.

Building Bridges: Mentorship of Lesbian Youth

This workshop will focus on the clear need to create lasting positive affirming and supportive relationships with our young people. The workshop will give a how to for the development of local frameworks. Diane Rae Kavanaugh, Youth Program Coordinator, Affirmations Community Center

Providing Lesbian Health Services in a Rural Community

Providing lesbian health services in a rural area presents unique opportunities and challenges. This session will present the history and activities of the Lesbian Health Project of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center in Bangor, Maine. Suzanne Brunner, PhDc, RN, Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, University of Maine School of Nursing

Focus on Lesbian Health, A Grassroots Approach

This panel will explore the challenges and successes of grassroots organizing to promote networks supportive of lesbian health. Lisa Dillenberg, Kari Sievert, Co-chairs of Lesbian Health Issues Task Force of Dane County; Jane Vanderbosch, PhD; Sara Karon, University of Wisconsin; Arlene Zaudia; Vicky DiProva, MSW, Lesbian Community Cancer Project.

Compulsive Eating and Lesbian Relationships

This workshop will provide information on the nature of compulsive eating, demonstrating differences between eating disorders and other eating problems. The presentation will link communication, sexual relationships, work practices, emotional and physical well-being, financial and social stressors in lesbian relationships with eating problems. Joan Ebbitt, LCSW

In Her Own Words

A lesbian discusses her experience as a survivor of domestic violence. This is an interactive discussion. Carrol Smith, RN, MS, University of Illinois at Chicago; Toni Carrigan, Horizons Anti-Violence Project.

12:15 - 1:30pm

Lunch Session:

Alcohol Use and Sexual Identity: The Challenge of Ascertaining Lesbians' Risk Status

Historically, lesbians as a group have been largely ignored in women's health research and lesbians remain mostly invisible in the substance abuse research and clinical arenas. This gap remains despite claims in the literature that lesbians are at high risk for alcohol abuse and alcoholism. Until recently, little attention has been given to the limitations of these studies including small, nonrepresentative sample, lack of control and comparison groups, and inconsistent or absent definitions of sexual identity. In this presentation I will summarize some of the findings related to alcohol use from a recent study of lesbians and heterosexual women in Chicago and discuss some the methods used to address the challenges faced when conducting research on lesbian health. Tonda Hughes, University of Illinois at Chicago.

1:40 - 3:00pm

Concurrent Educational Sessions IV

Alternative Insemination

This workshop will explore, from a feminist, collective model of health care, building and delivering alternative insemination services to lesbians. Sandy McNabb, Medical Director and Terri Kapsalis, PhD, Healthworker, Chicago Women's Health Center

Building a Lesbian Health Data Base

This presentation will explore original survey research on lesbian health. Alice Dan, PhD., Center for Research on Women and Gender, University of Illinois at Chicago; Tonda Hughes, PhD, RN, University of Illinois at Chicago and Andrea Densham, MA, Lesbian Community Cancer Project

Youth Talking for Themselves: the current experiences of lesbian/bi/trans young women. This panel will consist of young women from the six state region and the North Carolina Lambda Youth Network. Moderator Laura McAlpine, LCSW, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health.

High Risk Populations of Women Who Have Sex With Women

This panel presentation will examine research and prevention work with women who have sex with women who are also involved in commercial sex work, injection drug use, and incarcerated communities. Carrol Smith, RN, MS, University of Illinois at Chicago; Lisa Tuttle, MPH; Brie Dean, MAC, Howard Brown Health Center

What Every Lesbian Needs To Know About Her Menstrual Cycle

This workshop will walk participants through the changes of menstrual cycle from adolescence to menopause. Trish Beckman, RN.

Let's Talk About Sex

A workshop in HIV risk reduction for women who have sex with women. Tonia Poteat, Callen-Lourde Community Health Center.

3:15-4:45 pm

Building a Regional Network

This general session is designed to gather together participants from around the six-state region to identify the region's most critical lesbian health care issues and develop an action plan.

4:45 - 5:00pm

Closing

Access Information

ASL Interpretation and Audiotapes

There are Audiotapes of this program booklet available. There will be ASL interpreters available on both days of the conference for the general sessions. If you did not preregister, we cannot guarantee that we will have an interpreter available during the concurrent sessions. The registration information included the symbol for hearing impairment suggesting that hearing loops would be available. We regret that the loops are not available and that this symbol was used incorrectly.

Bathrooms

There are two bathrooms that can accommodate women in wheelchairs. The most accessible, which has the biggest stall and most direct path from the door to the stall, is located on the second floor next to the campus bank. The second choice is also on the second floor, next to the A. Montgomery Ward Gallery. It has a larger stall, but the doorway is difficult to maneuver. These bathrooms will be marked with signs.

Seating in the Illinois Room

On Friday from 9:00-1:30 and on Saturday from 9:00-10:30 and Noon -1:30, the conference will be held in the Illinois Room. There will be an area reserved near the stage for people who need to be up front. There will also be tables provided in that area in case they are needed.

Food and Drinks

There will be food and beverages provided at various times during the conference. If someone has allergies and needs to know about ingredients in a food item, a list will be provided. There will be water available throughout the conference in each room.

Nap Room

There is a nap room on the fourth floor in the North tower of the building. There will be someone to sign you in and will wake you up when you are ready to go to your next session. You must have your conference badge with you in order to sign up for the nap room. The nap room is run by the University and there may be students not associated with the conference also using this space.

Assistance

If at any point during the conference you need help with any of the things mentioned or assistance in another area, please let a conference staff person know and we will do what we can to accommodate you.

THIS CONFERENCE IS IN A SMOKE-FREE SPACE