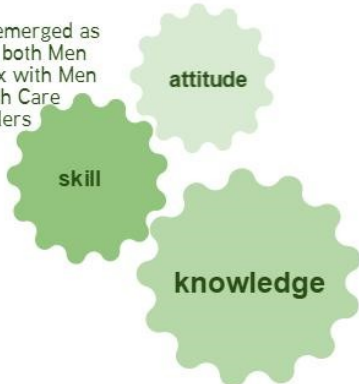


Real Needs of Gay/Bi & MSM in Simcoe/Muskoka

A Community Based Research Study through the Gilbert Centre

Competency emerged as an issue for both Men who have Sex with Men and Health Care Providers



Health Care Providers need access to evidence based, up-to-date knowledge, Men who have Sex with Men need a comfortable attitude of providers - want "to just feel I'm treated normal"

Background

In 2014/15 a research team embarked on a community-based research study to identify a baseline knowledge for men who have sex with men (MSM). Specifically, their knowledge, practices and needs - and to better understand the supports that exist within the service provider community.

The mixed methods research, consisted of quantitative data gathered from online surveys and qualitative data gathered through interviews with bi/gay/MSM and Health Care Providers (HCP). The study began with the local statistics gathered from the 2011 National Sex Now Survey from the Community Based Research Centre for Gay Men's Health. The statistics presented here are from both studies.

By the numbers

HIV Testing

Only 30% of gay and bisexual men surveyed said they were comfortable getting an HIV test from their family doctor

40% of guys who are having sex with guys are going to the GTA to access healthcare

Healthcare

Sex Partners

1 in 5 guys who are having sex with other guys reported also having had sex with women within the past year



25%

of the men partnered with women but also having sex with men had never been tested for HIV



49%

of men surveyed were "out" to their health care provider



38%

of men surveyed go to Toronto at least once per month to have sex with men

Analysis

- Establishing rapport facilitates ongoing contact and could lead to improved diagnosis, treatment and prevention;
- MSM want opportunities for social/recreational activities that respond to their needs and provide access to timely prevention and testing information
- There needs to be a reduction in the stigma in institutions with regard to gay/bi/MSM healthcare and HIV



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