

HealthCare Disparities Among Autistic LGBTQ+ People

Abstract

This study looked at how two groups of people, LGBTQ+ folks (which means people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer) and autistic people (people who have autism), experience differences in their healthcare. We wanted to see if being both LGBTQ+ and autistic made it even harder for them to get the healthcare they need.

To do this, we asked 62 LGBTQ+ autistic adults and 58 straight/cisgender (which means people whose gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth) autistic adults about their health and healthcare experiences.

Here's what we found:

1. LGBTQ+ autistic people had more problems with their physical and mental health, more other medical conditions, and more times when they couldn't get the healthcare they needed compared to straight/cisgender autistic people.
2. But for LGBTQ+ people, having good laws in their state that protect LGBTQ+ people from being treated unfairly in healthcare, along with having less money, helped them get more of the healthcare they needed.

So, this study tells us that if you are both LGBTQ+ and autistic, you might have more health problems and trouble getting the right healthcare. But if your state has good laws to protect LGBTQ+ people and you have less money, you might have an easier time getting the care you need. We also need to study more about other things that might help LGBTQ+ autistic people get better healthcare.

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