



LET'S TALK!
Sexual orientation and gender identity matter in health care.

LGBT Health Awareness Month
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Program
Office of Primary Care Services
LGBTProgram@va.gov

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Patient Care Services
Primary Care

VA has STD/HIV care, including PrEP!

Your VA healthcare team can help you address known health risks specific to your sexual orientation and gender identity/ expression.

Find LGBT-specific health information from the following sources.



Centers for Disease Control



LGBT Healthlink Network
for Health Equity



LGBTQ+ Veteran Online Resources

[VA does not endorse the information, products, or services provided by these organizations.]

- American Veterans for Equal Rights
- Gay Military Signal
- American Military Partner Association
- Service Academy Gay and Lesbian Alumni
- Network (links to branch-specific support)
- The Palm Center (Gender, Sexuality, & Military)
- OUTServe / Servicemembers Legal Defense Network
- Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)
- National Center for Lesbian Rights
- National Black (LGBT) Justice Coalition
- Transgender American Veterans Association
- National Center for Transgender Equality
- Transgender Law Center

Local:

- Pride Center San Antonio —Resource Page
- Out In SA (online magazine)
- San Antonio Gender Association (SAGA)

LGBTQ+ Veterans



VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Serves



All Who



Served!



Veterans Health Education Committee
Approved: March 2017

Commitment to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBTQ+) Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to addressing the health needs of LGBTQ+ Veterans and reducing health disparities for them and members of other vulnerable communities.



The South Texas Veterans Health Care System (STVHCS) participates annually in the **Human Rights Campaign's Healthcare Equality Index** survey to make public its commitment to LGBTQ+ veterans and their families. Like many VA hospitals across the country, **STVHCS is recognized as a leader in LGBT healthcare equality** for its non-discrimination policies and commitment to training staff in LGBT patient-centered care.

The VA defines "family" as anyone a Veteran identifies as family. This may include persons not legally related to the Veteran. Veterans and their family members will not be discriminated against in the VA for any reason, including sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

Veterans may select any person as their surrogate healthcare decision maker for times they might become unable to make decisions for themselves.



No Need to Watch Your Pronouns

The VA has never had a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. You do not have to hide who you are, what you do, or whom you love. You do not have to be careful about using gender-neutral pronouns when speaking with your medical providers. You also may ask VA staff to use your preferred name and pronouns.

Transgender Care

Your VA primary care team can help arrange specialized transgender services. Although prohibited by Congress from providing gender-confirming surgeries, the VA offers otherwise complete transgender medical/mental health care including:

- Cross-sex hormone therapy
- Voice retraining therapy
- Gender-confirming pre/post operative care

Your Voice Matters

Please tell us what we are doing right and what we can do to improve our services for LGBTQ+ Veterans.

If you have problems, concerns, questions, suggestions, or compliments, please share with:

- ◆ Your VA Healthcare Providers
- ◆ STVHCS Patient Advocates
(210) 949-3822
- ◆ LGBT Veteran Care Coordinator
Michele Mick, PhD
(210) 617-5300 Ext. 16645

More VA LGBTQ+ Information

Go to VETS.gov or use a smart phone "QR" app to scan the codes below.



VA healthcare, educational, employment, and disability benefits



VA LGBT Health Care Fact Sheet PDF



VA LGBT Patient Care Services