

Global Views on LGBT Acceptance and the Respective Impact on Health

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LGBT acceptance and rights have made significant progress in the recent years in some countries. The purpose of this presentation is to peruse global acceptance of LGBT rights and the respective impact on health. Globally, LGBT acceptance has increased in around 80 countries experienced and declined in 46 countries. In many countries, LGBT people still face widespread stigmatization, discrimination, and persecution including policies that support penalty for same-sex relationships such as prison or even death. Acceptance of LGBT people has a positive impact on physical and mental health, employment, and other social determinants of health.

In North America, the European Union, and much of Latin America, around 39 countries have broad acceptance of LGBT people. Nevertheless, in predominantly Muslim nations and in Africa, as well as in parts of Asia and in Russia, there is a proportionate widespread rejection. Reports showed that that richer countries where religion is less central in people's lives, there were higher levels of acceptance of LGBT rights and health. Contrarily, in poorer countries with high levels of religiosity had less social acceptance of LGBT acceptance and rights. This rejection is accompanied by discriminatory laws and policies where some countries criminalize same sex behavior and others impose the death penalty. These policies lead to stigma, discrimination, and violence in society and within the healthcare sector; thus, limiting access to needed healthcare services and adversely affecting health outcomes. Accordingly, LGBT people suffer from poorer physical health outcomes, higher rates of mental health conditions, and increased rates of risky behaviors. In these countries, LGBT health is championed by special interest groups and activists who are trying to push the policy agenda.

Despite the increased acceptance and successes of LGBT rights and health, there is a lot of efforts needed globally to enhance the wellbeing of LGBT people. Global action is needed to show accountability towards the rights and health of LGBT people. Leaders in healthcare and those who have a global impact should take a vital role in supporting LGBT health.