

Looking for LGBTQ+ young adults with cancer experience in British Columbia to share their stories

Cancer affects many people in Canada, and specific social groups are especially impacted by certain types of cancer, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and other sexual minority (LGBTQ+) populations. Some studies have found that healthcare providers who learn about LGBTQ+ health issues not only have better attitudes towards their LGBTQ+ patients but also help these patients find the right health services. Few studies have examined the experiences of adolescent and young adults (AYA) with cancer who are also LGBTQ+. To understand and meet the needs of AYA LGBTQ+ patients, providers should have conversations to find out if their patients identify as LGBTQ+. However, these conversations can be difficult to initiate from both the patient and provider perspective. Further research needs to be done to understand how sexual identity disclosure occurs between cancer care professionals and their AYA LGBTQ+ patients. You are receiving this informational letter because you are a part of an organization that includes LGBTQ+ young adults with cancer experience in British Columbia.

I am a graduate student whose research focuses on sexual identity disclosure conversations in cancer care. This study seeks to understand the experiences of AYA LGBTQ+ patients and cancer care professionals who reside in British Columbia, specifically surrounding communication regarding patient sexual identity disclosure. I would like to connect with AYA LGBTQ+ members aged 18-39 in your network to gauge their interest in participating in our project.

Those interested can take part in this study by participating in a one-to-one interview. During the interview, participants will be asked questions about their experiences with disclosing their sexual identity to their cancer care team, including facilitators of or barriers to disclosure conversations. The interview may take place either in-person or via Zoom. The interview will last between 45-90 minutes and participation is voluntary.

If you would like to talk more about the project or know someone who might be interested in participating, please email me at wqa8@sfu.ca.

Thank you!

Whitney Qualls, PhD Candidate, Simon Fraser University