



THE NATIONAL CANCER SURVEY

GENDER EXPANSIVE FINDINGS: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2021





GENDER EXPANSIVE FINDINGS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

>> This Executive Summary highlights the experiences of gender expansive cancer survivors as compared to cisgender LGBTQI+ survivors. Based upon our analyses, we identified four key themes about cancer diagnosis, treatment and care for gender expansive folks.

1

Gender expansive folks experience unique barriers in disclosing their LGBTQI+ identity to healthcare providers due to fears related to less welcoming care.

Gender expansive survivors are **2X** as likely not to disclose their LGBTQI+ identity to cancer healthcare providers compared with cisgender survivors.

Gender expansive survivors who did disclose their LGBTQI+ identity were **3X** as likely to report their care as less welcoming afterwards.

"I did not want to piss off the person who was treating me."

2

Gender expansive folks are less likely to receive recommended cancer screenings - possibly due to barriers accessing culturally competent healthcare providers.

CULTURALLY COMPETENT PROVIDERS

About how many of the [insert provider type] that you encountered during your cancer diagnosis and treatment provided culturally competent care? ⚠️



* 87% cis male	* 88% cis male	* 86% cis male
81% cis female	82% cis female	80% cis female


"As a gender diverse person who was assigned female at birth, it is VERY rare to receive any kind of gender affirming gynecological care."

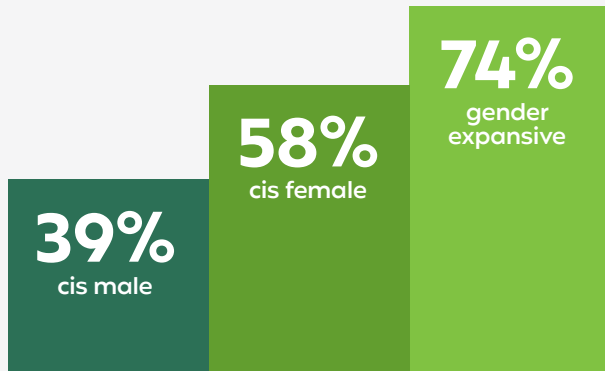




3

Environmental indicators of welcoming care are significantly more important for gender expansive folks in identifying safe spaces to receive cancer treatment and care.


Environmental Indicators of Welcoming Care are Somewhat or Very Important 



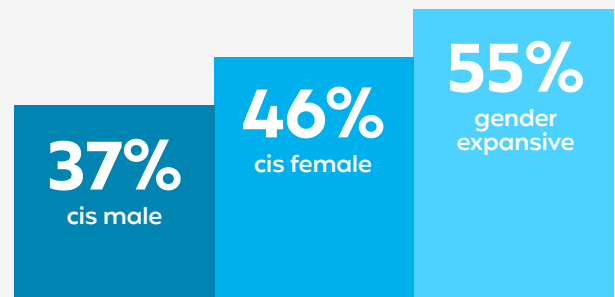
“Place visual cues that your clinic or practice is a safe place. These can be in the form of a rainbow sticker, gender neutral bathrooms or even on your intake forms.”


4

Navigating disruptions in health care caused by the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated feelings of pessimism about gender expansive survivors' future health.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, more pessimistic about future health. 

“I feel less connected to my care team, in a similar way that I feel less connected to my friends.”



A red triangle  is included by all questions where there was a statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between gender expansive survivors and LGBTQI+ cisgender survivors. This means that the responses of gender expansive survivors were unique from LGBTQI+ cisgender survivors. For select questions, there is a callout, in the form of an asterisk (*) highlighting the findings by sub-group.



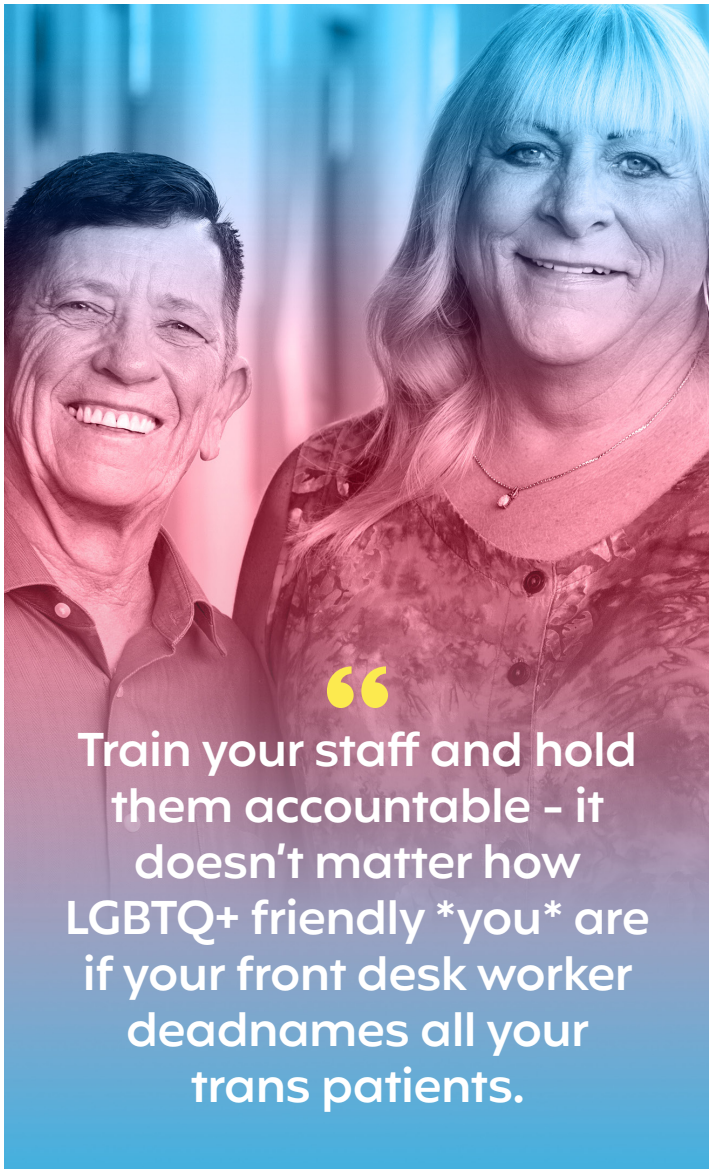
Recommendations for Providers

REQUIRE TRAINING FOR ALL STAFF

Provide a clear professional mandate that all staff are expected to provide patient-centered care that acknowledges and affirms the unique experiences of LGBTQI+ survivors, specifically gender expansive folks. Do not require us to educate providers at the same time as we navigate cancer screening, care, or survivorship.

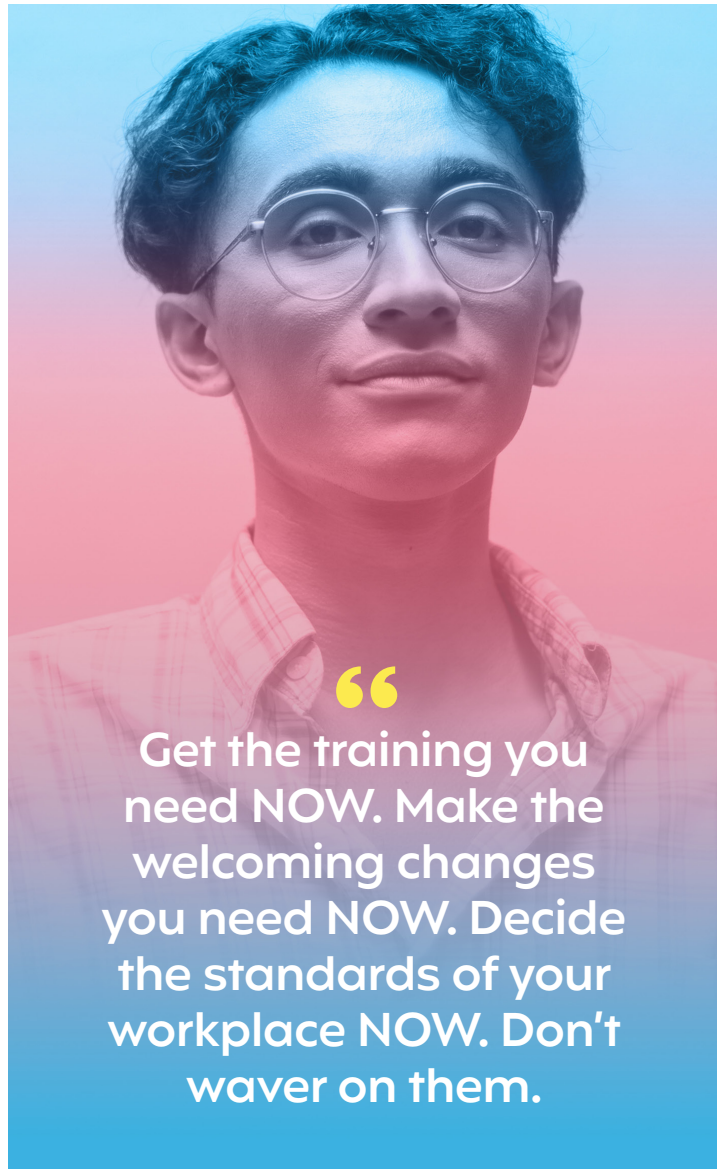
REMEMBER TO SHOW LGBTQI+ WELCOME BEFORE ASKING US TO DISCLOSE

For example, introduce yourself with your pronouns, include LGBTQI+ in a posted non-discrimination statement, ask about LGBTQI+ status on intake forms.



“

Train your staff and hold them accountable - it doesn't matter how LGBTQ+ friendly *you* are if your front desk worker deadnames all your trans patients.



“

Get the training you need NOW. Make the welcoming changes you need NOW. Decide the standards of your workplace NOW. Don't waver on them.



Tips for LGBTQI+ Cancer Survivors from Gender Expansive Cancer Survivors

1

Seek Support

"In the hardest moments, you are often reduced to your body parts. Seek support from people that can help you to emotionally navigate this time and advocate for yourself."



2

Choose Your Hospital System Wisely

"Get to a hospital system that has IN WRITING your identity in its nondiscrimination policy, preferably also with a gender clinic to prove it means it."



3

Sign And Notarize Power of Attorney

"Get Health POA signed and notarized with the names of who you WANT to make decisions for you if you're not capable, and who should NOT receive info or access."



4

Bring Your Whole Self

"Your whole self is impacted by cancer. Bring your whole self to your treatment and care."



5

Create Your Own Quick Answers Sheet

"Create a handout or sheet that you can provide each provider that will give them quick answers about things like pronouns. It is frustrating to have to remind people constantly, but having a card or something simple takes the pressure off."



6

Ask About Sex

"Ask healthcare providers specific questions about sex after surgery. The guidelines they give are often limited and may not be applicable to your sexual activities."





Tips for Providers from Gender Expansive Cancer Survivors

1

Don't Assume

"Don't assume my gender or sexual orientation. Don't assume I want to keep my breasts or hair. Don't assume anything."



2

Get The Training You Need NOW

"There are already LGBTQI+ people in your establishments who deserve to be treated with the same respect and dignity that your straight, cisgender patients receive."



3

Earn Our Trust

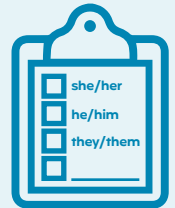
"Recognize that many of us have had bad experiences with doctors and you may need to earn our trust. This means making an extra effort to listen and affirm our experiences."



4

Include Us In Your Office Atmosphere

"Make sure we are included in your intake forms. Train all staff members on working with queer and gender diverse communities."



5

Listen To Us

"We're scared about so much after getting our diagnosis. We don't want to have to fear a reaction from our providers about who is there to support us. You want us to listen to you and trust you - listen to us and trust us too."

