

MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE

The inclusion of LGBTQ+
health needs and concerns
within nursing and midwifery
pre-registration programmes



OPENING THE DOOR TO INCLUSION

Launch of the LGBTQ+ HEALTH NETWORK for Nursing and Midwifery Academics

Friday 26th May 2023 • 10.00am - 12.30pm • Queen's University Belfast





THE ISSUES

LGBTQ+ people experience a range of physical and psychosocial issues and concerns that impact on their health and well-being and wider social inclusion. There are important contributions required from nurses and midwives to address their health concerns. However, despite the identification of significant health needs and health inequalities, the inclusion of the LGBTQ+ health concerns and distinct needs of the population in nursing and midwifery pre-registration programmes appears limited and in need of development.

WHAT WE DID

The research study had three phases:

- 1. Literature reviews of the scope and extent of the inclusion of LGBTQ+ health concerns within health education programmes.**
- 2. A survey across all Schools of Nursing and Midwifery in the United Kingdom and Ireland to identify the current content within nursing and midwifery pre-registration programmes in relation to LGBTQ+ health.**
- 3. In-depth interviews with 12 academics to identify best practice and education innovation regarding LGBTQ+ health within nursing and midwifery pre-registration programmes.**

The data from the three phases of the study were analysed and integrated to identify themes to make evidence informed recommendations of the actions required to more fully embed LGBTQ+ health within nursing and midwifery programmes. The collective findings and experiences of developing, implementing and delivering LGBTQ+ health content were used to inform a Best Education Practice Guide regarding LGBTQ+ health within nursing and midwifery pre-registration education programmes.

WHAT WE FOUND

- **Examples of LGBTQ+ health within nursing and midwifery pre-registration programmes with a need for systematic development by all universities.**
- **Universities appear to be addressing wider equality and diversity issues with a need to develop a stronger focus on LGBTQ+ health issues and concerns.**
- **Teaching activity varies considerably and ranges from 'little seeds to acorns' with involvement from students, staff and service users.**
- **There is a longing by academics for direction and guidance on teaching content as there is uncertainty about what to include.**





WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

- **LGBTQ+ health should be reflected as part of what is currently being delivered and approved for future curriculum inclusion within nursing and midwifery pre-registration programmes.**
- **Theory, practice and assessments need to focus on learning aims and outcomes.**
- **Best education practice guidance needs to be made available as a tool to raise awareness and support academics.**

One of the key findings arising from the study was the need to establish and develop a new LGBTQ+ health network for Nursing and Midwifery Academics. Further funding was provided by the Burdett Trust for Nursing and Queen's University Belfast to establish and develop the new academic network.

This new network will be established for nursing and midwifery academics to share best education practice that embeds LGBTQ+ health within programmes. An on-line network portal will be created to facilitate the sharing and dissemination of resources which have been 'tried and tested' by nursing and midwifery academics.

It is anticipated that the network will improve education practice by providing academics initially in nursing and midwifery with a forum to engage in professional conversations and knowledge exchange regarding the delivery of LGBTQ+ health.

The outcomes of the network will support the inclusion of LGBTQ+ health concerns within nursing and midwifery programmes, ultimately improving the knowledge, skills and confidence of nursing and midwifery students regarding the provision of care and support for LGBTQ+ people.



THE STUDY REPORT MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE CAN BE ACCESSED HERE:



PUBLICATIONS

Brown, M., McCann, E., McLoughlin, G., Hollins Martin, C. & McCormick, F. (2023). **The views and experiences of midwifery academics regarding LGBTQ+ health education in pre-registration programmes in the United Kingdom and Ireland: qualitative findings from a mixed-methods study.** *Nurse Education in Practice*, 67. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nepr.2023.103554>

Brown, M., McCann, E., Webster-Henderson, B., Lim, F. & McCormick, F. (2023). **The inclusion of LGBTQ+ health across the lifespan in pre-registration nursing programmes: qualitative findings from a mixed-methods study.** *Healthcare*, 11, 198. <https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare11020198>

Brown, M., McCann, E., Donohue, G., Hollins Martin, C. & McCormick, F. (2021). **LGBTQ+ psychosocial concerns in nursing and midwifery education programmes: Findings from a qualitative study.** *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18, 11366. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph182111366>

Brown, M., McCann, E. & McCormick, F. (2021). **Making the Invisible Visible: The inclusion of LGBTQ+ health needs and concerns within nursing and midwifery pre-registration programmes.** *Final Report. Belfast: Queen's University Belfast.* <https://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofNursingandMidwifery/FileStore/Filetoupload,1222743,en.pdf>

McCann, E., Brown, M., Hollins Martin, C., Murray, K. & McCormick, F. (2021). **The views and experiences of LGBTQ+ people regarding midwifery care: A systematic review of the international evidence.** *Midwifery*, 103. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.midw.2021.103102>

McCann, E., Brown, M. & McCormick, F. (2021). **Learning to be inclusive.** *World of Irish Nursing & Midwifery, Journal of the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation*, 29(5), 47.



Marketing collateral created
by EH6 Design, Edinburgh
www.eh6design.co.uk

