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# Identification of LGBTQ+ Knowledgeable Clinicians in the OB-GYN Department at Lehigh Valley Health Network

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## Background

- 7.1% of US population (including 10.5% of Millennials and 20.8% of Gen Z individuals) identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ+) (Gallup, 2022).
- This population requires LGBTQ+ knowledgeable (LGBTQ-K) clinicians to ensure accessible and equitable care.
- Healthcare barriers, including social stigma and few LGBTQ-K clinicians, etc., may exist for LGBTQ+ individuals in healthcare settings.
- **Study Purpose:** To identify LGBTQ-K clinicians within the OB-GYN department at LVHN for LGBTQ+ patients seeking equitable and culturally sensitive healthcare.

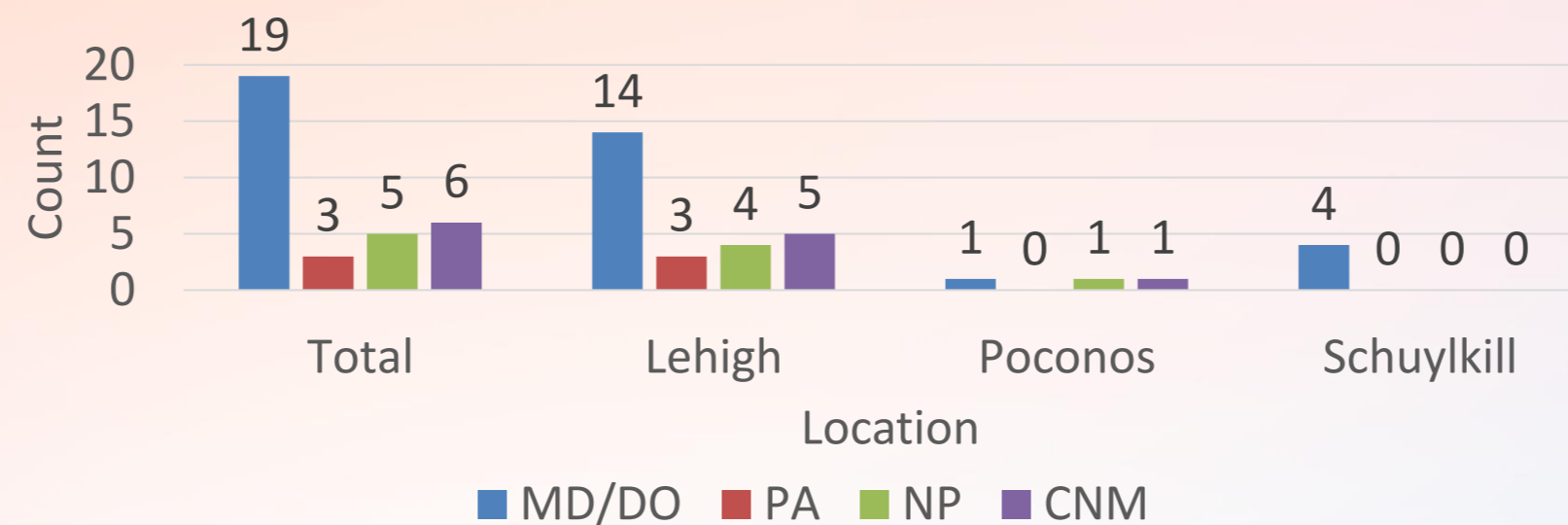
## Methodology

- Updated 2021 survey to measure provision of LGBTQ+ services (including 29 items on medical therapies, preventative care, and sexual health) among a group of clinicians.
- Distributed survey via RedCap to 102 OB-GYN physicians, physician's assistants (PAs), nurse practitioners (NPs), and certified nurse midwives (CNMs) delivering services in the Lehigh Valley, Hazelton, Pocono, and Schuylkill regions.
- Survey participants indicated those services which they provide, refer to in-network providers, refer to out-of-network providers, or neither provide or refer.
- A 25th percentile cut off for services provided and/or referred was used to identify LGBTQ-K clinicians. The 25th percentile of LGBTQ+ specific services represented a number of 10 services provided and a number of 10 services referred.

## Results

Population Size (n=102) Survey Response Rate = 33/102 (32%)

Responses By Clinician Type

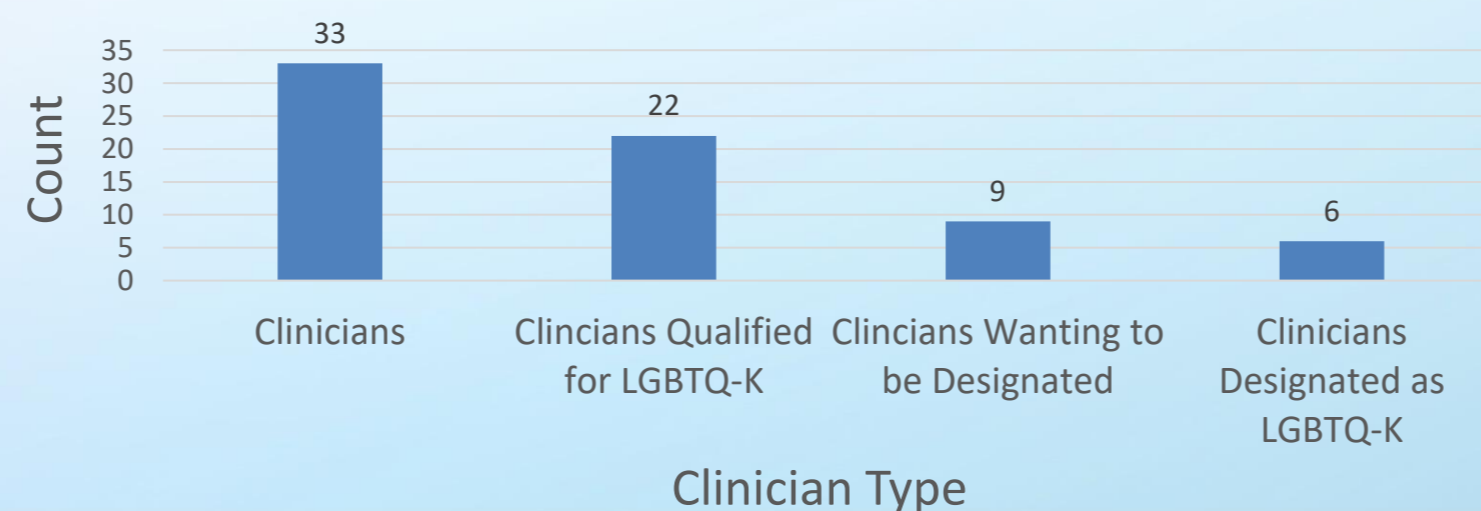


\*MD/DO = Doctor of Medicine, PA = Physician's Assistant, NP = Nurse Practitioner, CNM = Certified Nurse Midwife

\*Hazelton was also surveyed, but no responses were received

**On average, responding clinicians provide 12.5 services, refer 12.7 services within LVHN, refer 5.0 services outside LVHN, and neither provide nor refer 5.8 LGBTQ+ specific services.**

Number of LGBTQ+ K Clinicians



## Discussion

- 9 clinicians out of 33 wished to be designated LGBTQ-K, and 6 met the criteria to be designated as LGBTQ-K with each receiving yearly LGBTQ+ continuing medical education (CME).
- Of the 6 clinicians, 4 are in Lehigh region and 2 in Schuylkill region.
- Low response rate in Pocono (21%) and Hazelton (0%) regions are to be considered.
- Additional LGBTQ-K clinicians can be designated by providing CME on LGBTQ+ care, promoting available LVHN and external services among clinicians, etc.

### Limitations:

- *Voluntary Response Sample:* survey response was voluntary, and clinicians could choose to not take it.

## Conclusion

- LVHN OB-GYN clinicians who are LGBTQ-K were identified, and this designation can be added to their Find a Doctor profile.
- Future surveys are required in specific geographic regions, such as Hazelton and Pocono, where no clinicians are currently designated as LGBTQ-K.
- By designating clinicians in this way, it supports LVHN's commitment to high quality and equitable healthcare for patients of all orientations and genders.

