



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSING

Position Statement on Health Care for Sexual Minority and Gender Diverse Populations

The American Academy of Nursing recognizes that diversity in sexual orientation and gender identity are variations in human sexuality that have occurred throughout history (Crompton, 2003; Haggerty, 2000). Further, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) individuals and populations have unique and distinct identities, cultural and psychosocial characteristics, and health care vulnerabilities and needs that should be addressed by nurses in providing health care (IOM, 2011; Eliason, Dibble & DeJoseph, 2010). However, LGBTQ people currently experience social and cultural discrimination as well as health care disparities, including inadequate access to high-quality, comprehensive, culturally sensitive, dignified and respectful health care; stigma and discrimination in health care settings; legal barriers to equal protection under the law; and lack of sufficiently educated and culturally sensitive health care professionals who can meet their unique needs (IOM, 2011; Keepnews, 2011; Mayer, Bradford, Makadon, Stall, Golhammer & Landers, 2008, Irwin, 2007; Gee, 2006; Neville & Henrickson, 2006; Fogel, 2005; Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, 2002). In accordance with its mission to influence the adoption of effective health care policies and processes, the American Academy of Nursing opposes any discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in health care and in society as a whole. AAN supports advocacy and establishment of policies and initiatives that enhance the health of LGBTQ people.

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