

PRESS RELEASE
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New Report Highlights Best and Promising Practices to Engage LGBT Communities Throughout the Cancer Continuum

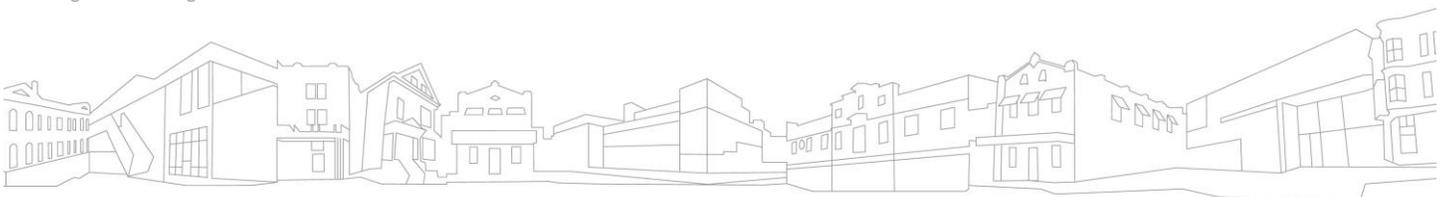


Ft. Lauderdale, FL – LGBT HealthLink and the National LGBT Cancer Network proudly announce the release of a new report, *LGBT Best and Promising Practices Throughout the Cancer Continuum*. The report is the result of an 18 month national process that engaged cancer survivors, caretakers, and health care providers in-person and online. Current research points to increased cancer risk factors in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities, coupled with lower screening rates and additional challenges in cancer survivorship. While more data are needed, there is adequate knowledge to improve cancer care from prevention through end of life for LGBT people. According to Liz Margolies, LCSW, Executive Director of the National LGBT Cancer Network and one of the report’s editors, “This report represents another tool in the fight against cancer, especially in LGBT communities who experience higher behavioral and environmental cancer risk factors compared to the general population.”

The report highlights five cross-cutting issues and lists 68 distinct best and promising practices across the cancer continuum. The main goal of the report is to encourage adoption of these practices across national and local health systems. LGBT cancer survivors and their support networks can use the report as a tool in advocating for better cancer care. In addition, the report provides 33 best and promising practices for use by public health departments.

Copies of this report will be distributed to all Centers for Disease Control funded comprehensive cancer control programs and to many cancer centers; highlights of the report have already been presented at several medical conferences. “We often find that public health leaders are interested in addressing LGBT disparities but don’t know where to start. This report will give cancer policymakers a roadmap to ensure their programs are tailored and welcoming to LGBT people everywhere,” said Dr. Scout, Director of LGBT HealthLink. The report outlines strategies that can be adopted by government health departments, LGBT Community Centers, national cancer organizations, professional cancer and medical associations, hospitals, clinics, healthcare facilities and anyone

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looking to improve the health of LGBT communities. Visit <http://www.lgbthealthlink.org> for an interactive online module that allows you to filter best practice by cross-cutting issue or phases of the cancer continuum, and to download the full report.

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LGBT HealthLink: the Network for Health Equity, a program of CenterLink, links people and information to spread LGBT wellness best practices across state health departments, federal policymakers, and community organizations. We do a weekly roundup of top LGBT wellness stories that's accessible every Monday on Huffington Post Gay Voices [Wellness page](#). We are one of eight CDC-funded tobacco and cancer disparity networks. <http://www.lgbthealthlink.org>

The National LGBT Cancer Network addresses the cancer needs of LGBT survivors and those at risk across the country. We train health care providers to offer more culturally sensitive, safe and welcoming care to LGBT patients; educate the LGBT community about our increased cancer risks and the importance of screening/early detection; advocate for LGBT inclusion in cancer research, media and national organizations; and support LGBT cancer survivors and their caregivers. <http://www.cancer-network.org>

CenterLink: the Community of LGBT Centers was founded in 1994 as a member-based coalition to support the development of strong, sustainable LGBT community centers. A fundamental goal of CenterLink's work is to help develop strong, sustainable LGBT community centers and build a thriving center network that creates healthy, vibrant communities. Now in its 21st year, CenterLink continues to play an important role in addressing the challenges centers face by helping them to improve their organizational and service delivery capacity, access public resources and engage their regional communities in the grassroots social justice movement. <http://www.lgbtcenters.org>

