

Abstract:

Those who identify as LGBTQ+ experience a higher degree of marginalization and discrimination within healthcare than those who identify as heterosexual. Though these disparities have been researched upon, actual interventions to address them are scarce. The original purpose of our study was to evaluate the process and impact of an LGBTQ+ Clinic within the interprofessional DAWN Student-Run Free Clinic (SRFC) on patient experience in Aurora, CO. Two years after establishment of this clinic, due to low patient volume and thus low number of patient responses, the leadership team re-evaluated the clinic and decided the clinic would be best served reincorporated into the main DAWN SRFC with patients scheduled with providers more experienced in gender affirming care. In the future, we plan to evaluate patient experience and outcomes with pre and post-visit surveys and evaluate the clinic process with provider surveys we had created. We hypothesize that access to properly trained, experienced, affirming, and knowledgeable providers will increase the trust and respect of patients who identify as LGBTQ+ to clinics and providers, increase comfort in disclosure of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI), improve their relationship with healthcare, and increase access to care overall. We hypothesize this clinic will improve our patient's physical and mental health related to self-esteem, social support, resilience, and coping ability.