

Examining How the Institutional Policies Affect LGBT Residents Living in Long-Term Care

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Abstract : Much of the research examining sexuality in long-term care focus on individual experiences, specifically their past, present, and future lived experiences. We know little about long-term care home policies, how they relate to the LGBT community, or how accommodating long-term care homes are to the LGBT+ community. In many ways, residents who identify as LGBT+ have been invisible in long-term care homes. Up until the not-to-distant past, homosexuality was illegal, and discrimination was acceptable. Canada's LGBT population has also suffered because of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. For these and other reasons, members of the LGBT community might resist entering long-term care or attempt to keep their sexuality secret. The goal of any long-term care home is to be a welcoming place, to display signs of inclusion, and to help residents and staff feel that they are embraced. From the perspective of the long-term care home, it is possible that many of these facilities do not necessarily see the need to mention gender identity or sexual orientation in their welcoming materials. However, from the perspective of the invisible minority, it may be important that these homes be more than just welcoming. This study examined the role of institutional policies in long-term care for residents who identify as LGBT.

Keywords : long-term care, LGBT, HIV/AIDS, policy

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