

The Attitude of Medical Practices Toward LGBT Older Adults Before and After Intervention

Mackenzi Kim MS4
USF MCOM- LVHN Campus

Lynn M. Wilson DO
Lehigh Valley Health Network, lynn_m.wilson@lvhn.org

Nyann Biery MS
Lehigh Valley Health Network, nyann.biery@lvhn.org

Brenda Frutos MPH, CHES
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Brenda.Frutos@lvhn.org

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Published In/Presented At

Kim, M. Wilson, L. Biery, N. Frutos, B. (2019, March). *The Attitude of Medical Practices Toward LGBT Older Adults Before and After Intervention*. Poster Presented at: 2019 SELECT Capstone Posters and Presentations Day. Kasych Family Pavilion, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA.

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The Attitude of Medical Practices Toward LGBT Older Adults Before and After Intervention

Mackenzi Kim MS4, Lynn Wilson DO, Nyann Biery MS, Brenda Frutos MPH CHES

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

Background

- Between 2-8% of the population aged 65 and older identify as LGBT¹
- LGBT individuals historically face immense obstacles in search of quality healthcare²
- Older LGBT adults face these obstacles in the setting of complex health problems with few social support and services³⁻⁵
- Negative experiences at the hands of healthcare professionals are a primary barrier to care faced by older LGBT adults⁶
- Training healthcare professionals with the film, *Gen Silent*, is one way the knowledge gaps and biases of healthcare professionals have been addressed^{7,8}
- Showing this film to primary care practice staff at LVHN-affiliated practices aligns with work done by GWEP and Judith Sabino MPH to assess and increase awareness about the needs of aging LGBT patients

Problem Statement

Utilizing the Porter et al. survey, are there any significant changes in health professionals' knowledge, perceptions, and attitudes toward LGBTQ older adults after viewing *Gen Silent*?⁹

Methods

The LVHN institutional review board approved study protocol

LVHN primary care practices were recruited via email for 45-minute sessions

Sessions included showing of abbreviated, educational version of *Gen Silent*

All sessions were preceded by pretest, and followed by a discussion and posttest

Data from pre- and posttests were analyzed for all participants who viewed entirety of *Gen Silent* using a paired t-test

- Participation was voluntary
- No incentive was offered to participate
- All answers were anonymous
- Pretest and posttest questions included: 16 Likert scale questions, 7 true/false responses, and 2 yes/no responses, job title, practice site, and previous LGBT training
- Pretest surveys were piloted by healthcare providers to ensure question clarity

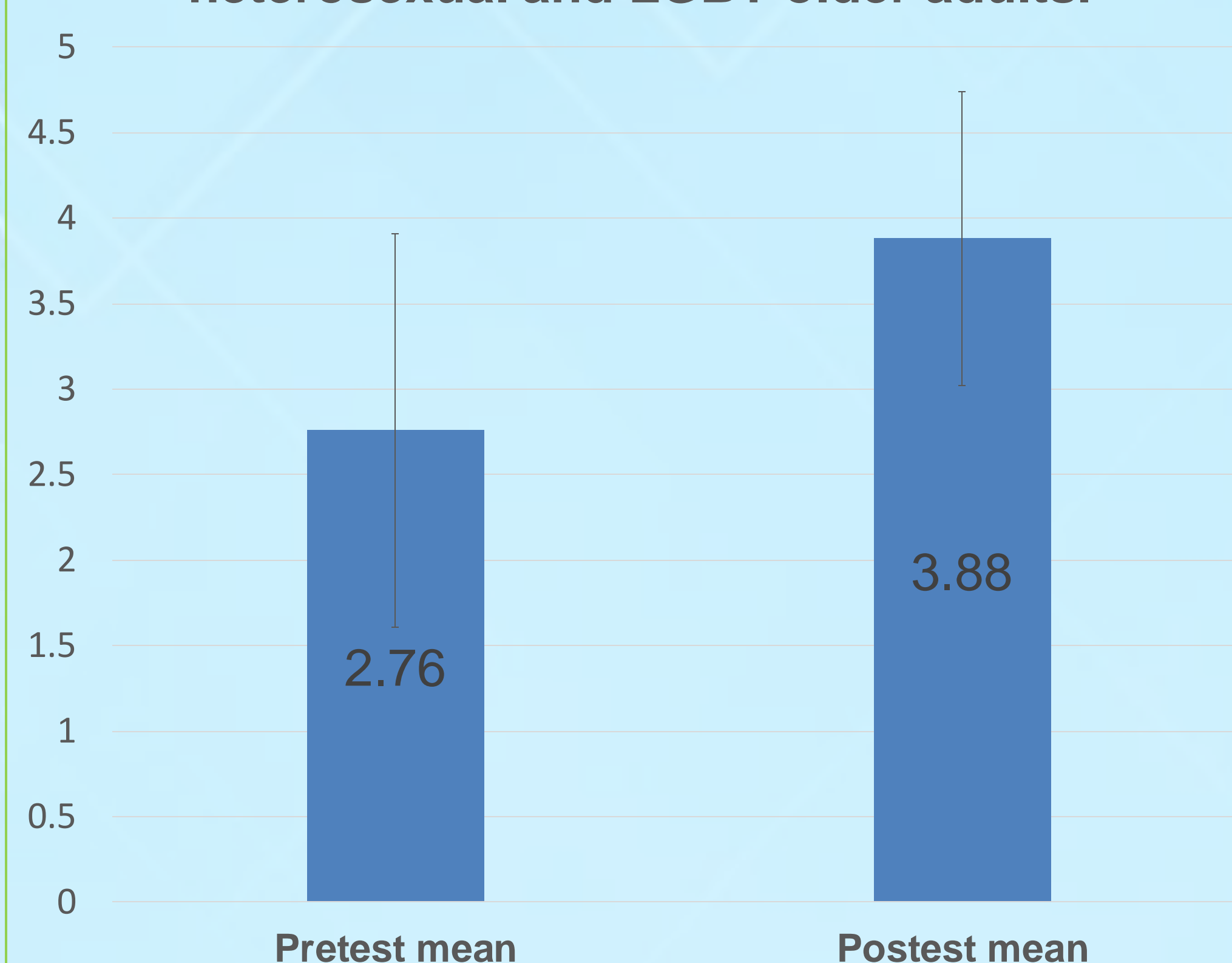
Results

Demographics of study participants (N=17)

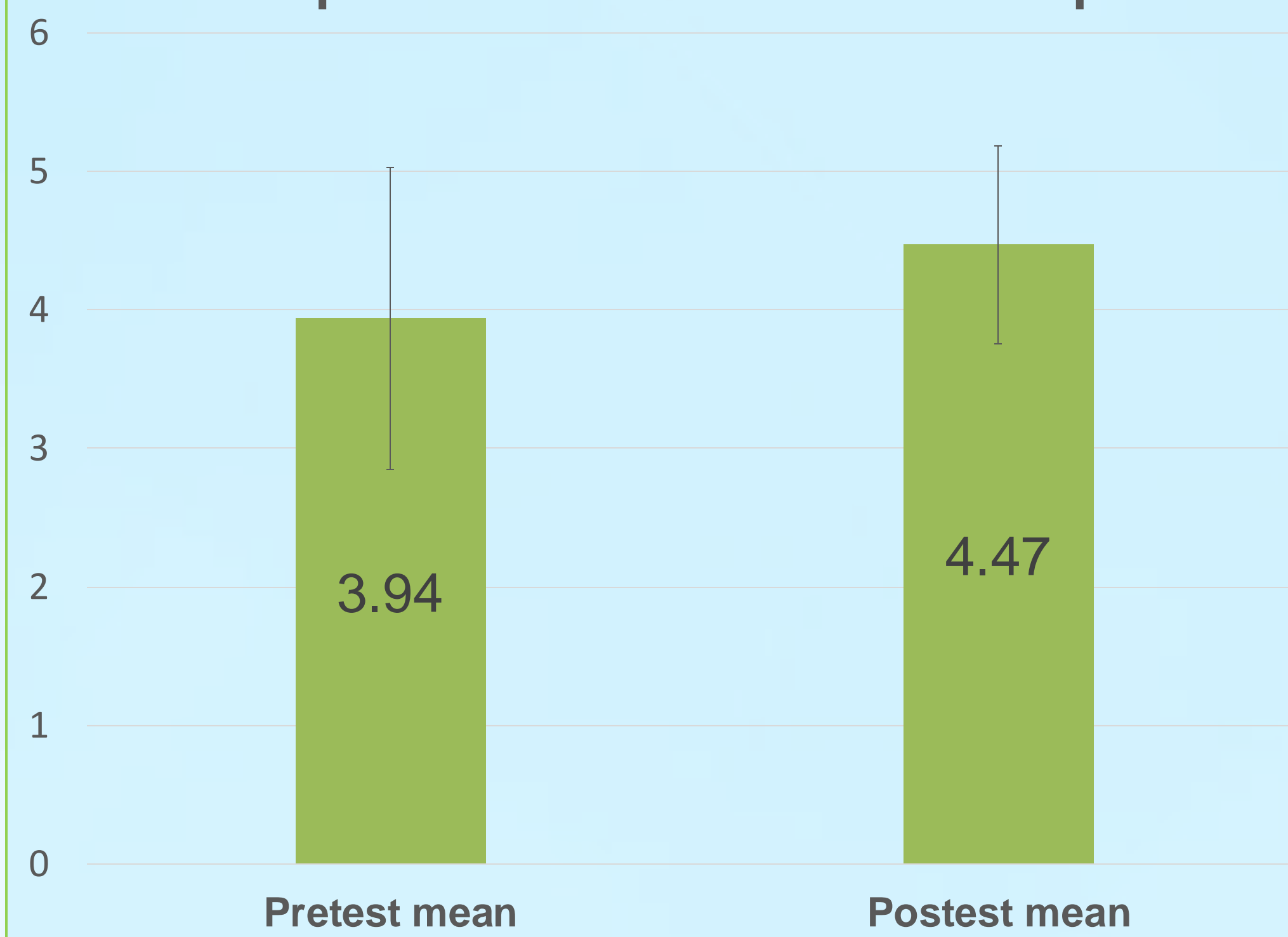
LVHN practice	Number Respond
LVPP-17 th Street	5
LVPG Family Medicine-Family Health Center	3
LVPG Family Medicine-Southside	5
LVPG Family Medicine-Hamburg	4
Participant role	
Clinical coordinator	1
Medical assistant	6
Medical interpreter/diabetes aide	1
Nurse	4
Office coordinator	1
Patient service representative	1
Physician	2
Social service representative	1
Recipient of previous LGBT training	
Yes	3
No	14

Two questions exhibited statistically significant change:

I am aware of policy disparities between heterosexual and LGBT older adults.



I know that LGBT older adults face additional barriers to care in comparison to their heterosexual peers.



Discussion

- Training using *Gen Silent* can effectively alter primary care professionals' perception, attitude, and knowledge of LGBT older adults
- Nearly all questions exhibited changes between pre- and posttest responses
- Less than 20% of study participants had received previous LGBT training (N=3)
- Physicians exhibited greater knowledge of LGBT-specific issues and more positive attitudes towards LGBT older adults

Limitations:

- Small sample size
- Lack of control group
- Uncertainty about participant honesty
- Uncertainty about long term efficacy

Future opportunities:

- Increase number of primary care participants
- Expansion to other specialties
- Use of longer interval follow-up survey

Conclusions

- While limited, the results of this study indicate that primary care practitioners would benefit from training specific to the aging LGBT population
- Utilizing *Gen Silent* as a training modality would likely be effective
- Expanding this work to more primary care practices and other specialties may help improve care for LGBT older adults
- Utilizing follow-up surveys with longer intervals would allow for assessment of long term efficacy of this training

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