What are lesbian and bisexual women's experiences with health care?

What issues are important to you?

Let your voice be heard!

Are there any real differences between the health and health care of lesbians and heterosexual women?

Ideally, there shouldn't be. However, research studies indicate that lesbians sometimes have had negative experiences with their health care providers. Lesbian health has long been a neglected topic in mainstream research. In fact, there have been very few studies focused solely on lesbians, with little said at all about women of color or lesbians and bisexual women over 40! But we need to change that. One way is to identify what lesbian and bisexual women consider priorities in their health care.

As a means of assessing the current health concerns and health problems of the lesbian and bisexual community in the Bay Area, Drs. Susan Cochran and Vickie Mays at UCLA have developed a survey. We have already heard from over 1,100 women from Los Angeles County and are now asking you to help give a voice to the health needs of lesbians in the Bay Area by filling out one of these surveys. Our goal is to reach lesbian and bisexual women of all ages who live in Los Angeles County or the Bay Area. We would especially like to hear from lesbian and bisexual women of color and young women ages 18-24 as their voices are often unheard. We also want to make sure that lesbian and bisexual women over 65 participate because they rely more frequently on the health care system. Help us by committing yourself and 3 other people you know to complete the survey. THE SURVEY IS ANONYMOUS. The survey will come to you in an envelope that will not have any identifying information about the content of the questionnaire. Please help improve the quality of health care delivery for lesbians and bisexual women by telling us about your experiences.

If you have any questions, please email us at **whispers@ucla.edu** or call **(310) 206-5160**. If you would like to complete a survey please call and leave us your name, address, city and zipcode. You can use a nickname, and a PO Box if you wish as long as it is recognizable for delivery to the address listed. Thank you and please lend your support. You can also request a survey on-line at **www.WhispersProject.org**

WHISPERS: Women's Health Interview Survey Project for Education, Research & Services, c/o Dr. Susan Cochran
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