



Advocating for Greater Health Access for the LGBTQIA+ Community

*Medical Students from LC 15, UCCOM Class of 2027
In partnership with Equitas Health*



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*Data from LC 15 - Class of
2026*

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01

Social Determinants of Health: Health Access



Health Access

Health access is the **ability** to obtain healthcare services such as

- Prevention
- Diagnosis
- Treatment
- Management of diseases, illness, disorders, and other health-impacting conditions.

For healthcare to be accessible it must be **affordable and convenient.**





02

Data Analysis and Community Impact



33% of transgender patients reported having **at least 1 negative experience** with a healthcare provider

19% reported being **refused medical care**

15% were asked **unnecessary or invasive questions** unrelated to their visit

28% **postponed general medical care** due to prior discrimination

23% **did not seek health care** when needed due to fear of being disrespected or mistreated

Transgender patients are **less likely to adhere to mammography screening guidelines** than cisgender patients.



20-40% of oncology providers feel **comfortable and confident** addressing the unique health needs of LGBTQIA+ patients with cancer

but

70-80% are interested in further education



Data Analysis and Community Impact

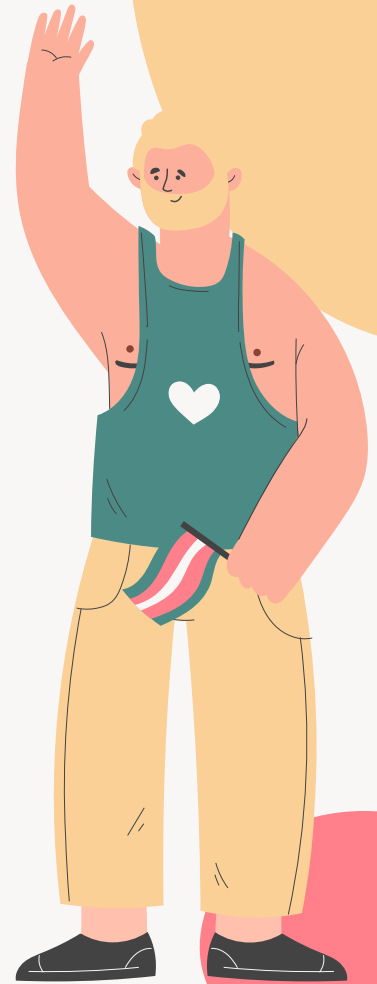


- Trans patients broadly have negative experiences interacting with the healthcare system
 - 1 in 3 patients could not seek care due to affordability
 - 1 in 3 patients have experienced verbal harassment or refusal of care
 - 1 in 4 patients have avoided healthcare settings for fear of mistreatment
- It is critical to:
 - Bridge the gaps in knowledge to optimize care for trans patients
 - Collect more recent data to assess efficacy of policy interventions, grassroots or otherwise
 - Need to ensure trans patients feel heard



03

Policy Status
House Bill 68



Ohio House Bill 68

Date Enacted: April 2024

Policy Objectives

- Primary goal: Prohibiting providers from prescribing hormones, puberty blockers, and gender-affirming surgery to trans minors
- Secondary goal: Prohibiting assigned male at birth athletes from competing in women's sports

Gender Affirming Care in Ohio Today

- Gender affirming care for minors is now illegal due to House Bill 68
 - Opposed by Cincinnati Children's and many other medical centers
 - Includes hormones, surgery, and even some mental health services
- No bans on gender affirming care for adults but governor Dewine has talked about plans to make care more difficult to receive

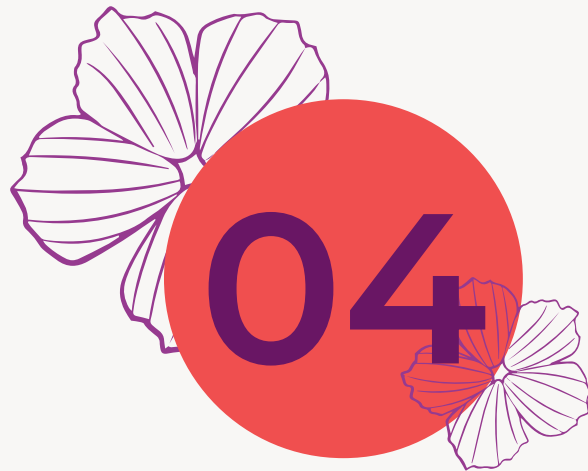
Policy Status in Cincinnati

- Cincinnati City Council has declared the city a “sanctuary city” for gender affirming care
 - Support for people receiving care
 - Support for providers giving care
 - Requires city healthcare plans to have access to gender-affirming care



Rationale for Policy Modifications

- Ohio's largest children's hospitals testified against HB 68:
 - "The care that is provided is ethical and follows the latest evidence and standards of care in the field, including those from mainstream professional societies such as the AAP, the AACAP, and the Endocrine Society." - *Dr. David Axelson, Nationwide Children's*
 - "Please don't make us turn away those who are at highest risk, causing children in severe distress to wait before they can access mental health care." - *Dr. Stephen Davis, Cincinnati Children's*
- According to 2022 US Trans Survey (USTS), Ohio is among the top 10 states that respondents reported leaving because of state laws targeting transgender people for unequal treatment



Advocacy Strategies

How can we help?

Advocacy Strategies



Storyteller Bureau

Patient advocates at Equitas clinics connect patients to advocacy opportunities



Family Days

Families can share their stories and the importance of gender affirming care at the state house or at city council



Religious Organization Outreach

Open discussion with local religious groups as they are the major proponents for HB

Canvas

Volunteers can educate the community on trans-related issues on ballots



Network

Connecting with local hospital systems and creating strategies for care if legislation changes



Collect Signatures

For a ballot issue to vote on in the next election





**Thank
you!**

Any questions?

