


Lesbian, Gay, and Bi (LGB+) Women and Cervical Screenings

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17.8% of LGB+ women of eligible screening age (25 to 64) have never been for cervical screening
LGBT Foundation, 2018

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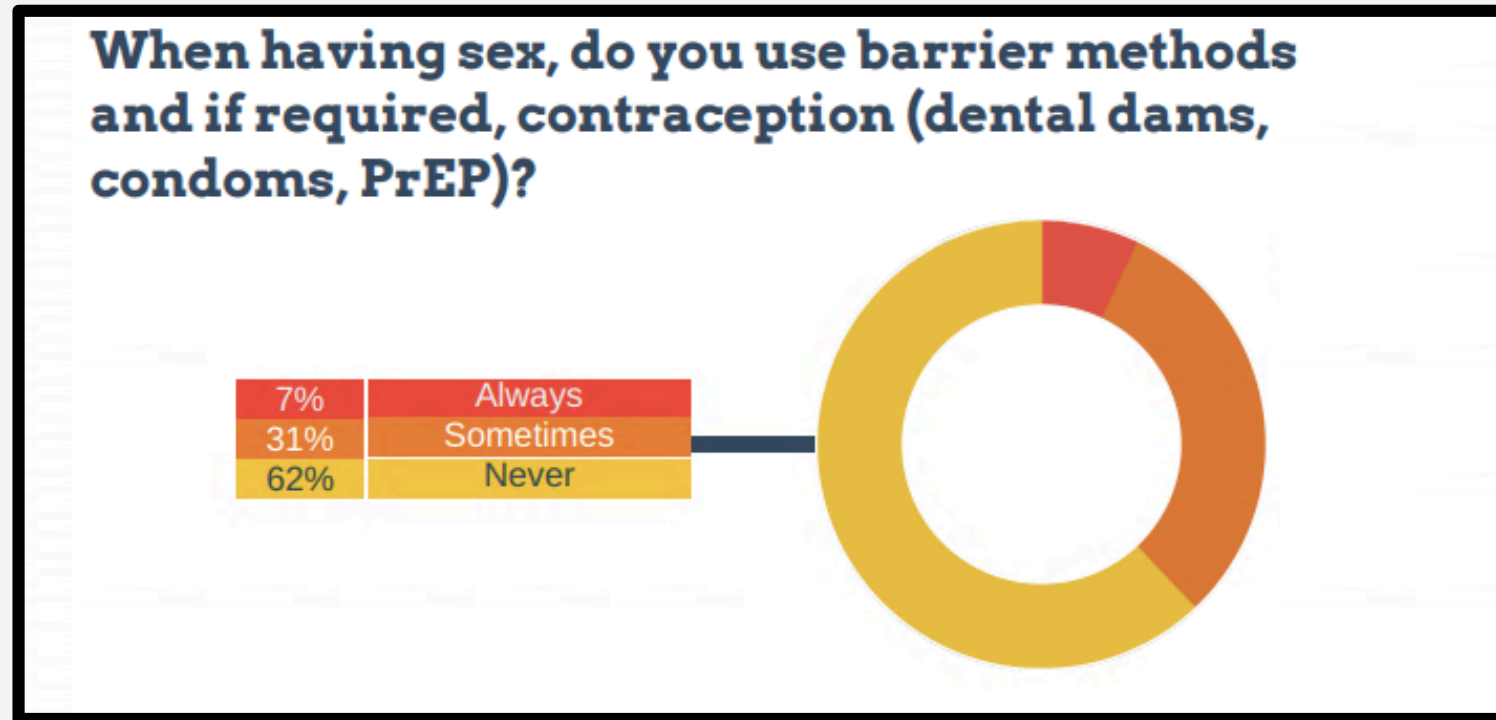
**What are the barriers to
LGB+ women with cervixes
accessing cervical
screenings?**

The myth that they don't need one!

- 40.5% of LGB women of an eligible age have been told they don't need screening because of their sexual orientation -
LGBT Foundation, 2013

“I put off going because at least three nurses over the years have said if you don't have sex with men you don't need a test. As I was really scared of going this just made me decide not to bother.”- Jo, 45

Lack of understanding around HPV and STIs in general



It's a Question of Sex, LGBT Foundation, 2019


Anxiety around healthcare settings

“Came out to my nurse - she kept asking about contraception and sex so I had no choice but to tell her. When I told her she was very rude and tried to get me out of the treatment room as soon as she could.” – Megan, 38

“I went for a cervical screen test and was asked if I was sexually active. When I said yes I was asked if I was trying for a baby. When I said no, I was asked what contraception I was using. When I said none, I had to endure a 10 minute tirade about how irresponsible I am.” - Anne

Heteronormative assumptions and language use

- "It's smaller than a penis"
- 'Virgin' speculum
- Notion of 'real' sex



Cervical screenings for trans men with cervixes, and for non-binary people with cervixes



What can be done?

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- Better education for all parties
 - Challenging the myths around STIs for women and countering the belief that LGB women don't need a cervical screening
- More inclusivity in primary healthcare – particularly around the language we use and perceptions of sex
 - Pride in Practice, NHS Rainbow Badges