

# **SAME SAME BUT DIFFERENT: A COMPARISON OF HETEROSEXUAL & LGBT CLIENT PREFERENCES & REPORTED RECEIPT OF SMOKING CARE IN ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG TREATMENT**

**Authors:** Billie Bonevski<sup>1</sup>, Eliza Skelton<sup>1</sup>, Ashleigh Guillaumier<sup>1</sup>, Flora Tzelepis<sup>1,2</sup>, Anthony Shakeshaft<sup>3</sup>, Sarah Lambert<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The University of Newcastle, School of Medicine and Public Health, Faculty of Health and Medicine, 1 University Drive, Callaghan, NSW 2308, Australia.

<sup>2</sup> Hunter New England Population Health, Hunter New England Local Health District, Booth Building, Longworth Avenue, Wallsend, NSW 2287, Australia.

<sup>3</sup> The University of New South Wales, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, 22-32 King Street, Randwick, NSW 2031, Australia.

<sup>4</sup> ACON, Wellbeing Programs, 414 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010, Australia.

Email: [Billie.Bonevski@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Billie.Bonevski@newcastle.edu.au)

## **Introduction:**

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender(LGBT) populations are more likely to experience substance misuse and smoke tobacco at higher rates than heterosexual people however they are the subject of limited tobacco control research. The purpose of the current study was to examine receipt of smoking care and preferences for treatment in alcohol and other drug treatment.

## **Methods:**

An online cross-sectional survey was administered to clients who smoke tobacco from 31 AOD treatment services in four states and territories of Australia from February to August 2015. Smoking-related variables, receipt of cessation care during treatment, preferred quit strategies and characteristics were assessed.

## **Results:**

Among 896 clients surveyed, 100 individuals identified as LGBT. Of the LGBT sample, the majority (62%) were female and had an average age of 34 years(SD=10). Poly substance abuse was common among both groups, however LGBT persons were significantly more likely to use hallucinogens(10% vs 3%), tranquilizers(49% vs 34%) and inhalants(13% vs 2%, all  $p<0.05$ ). Moderate to high nicotine dependence was comparable (both 74%). On average, LBGT persons had made more quit attempts in the last 12 months (3 vs 2,  $p=0.012$ ). Both groups reported receiving similar rates of cessation care however more LGBT persons reported receiving a prescription of Champix (31.5% vs 36.4%,  $p=0.04$ ). Both groups reported wanting similar evidence-based quit strategies during treatment.

## **Conclusions:**

The frequency of quit attempts and openness to receive multiple quit smoking strategies suggests the need to explore perceptions of substance use and tobacco smoking in the LGBT community in order to provide effective clinical treatment.