LGBTQ+ Cultural Competence in Physical Therapy Survey Phase 1: Qualitative and Quantitative Assessment of Clinician Perspectives

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Purpose

- To investigate LGBTQ+ cultural competence (CC) among practicing Physical Therapists (PTs) and Physical Therapy Assistants (PTAs)

Introduction

- LGBTQ+ individuals are at higher risk for health care disparity
- There is no precedent in PT education to improve care for LGBTQ+ individuals
- Research shows health care providers exhibit lack of knowledge and bias toward LGBTQ+ patients

Methods

Part 1: Qualitative Focus Groups

- Nationwide convenience sampling - clinical site lists associated with Regis University and Thomas Jefferson University
- Virtual focus group format with open ended questions addressing the 5 areas of cultural competence: cultural awareness, cultural knowledge, cultural skill, cultural encounters, and cultural desire
- Words, phrases, and concepts were discussed by transcript and simultaneous data to develop themes

Part 2: Qualitative Surveys

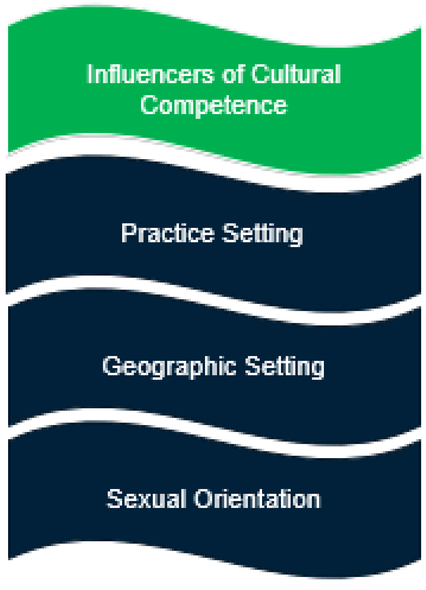
- Nationwide convenience sampling - QR codes were sent to participants via mail and social media platforms
- Survey included: Hofmann Scale, LGBT-DOCSS, and demographics
- Regression analysis was used to determine CC predictors
- ANOVA was used to assess differences within CC predictors
- Correlation and split sample Rasch analysis was used to validate Hofmann scale to LGBT-DOCSSS

Part 1: Qualitative Results

Part 2: Quantitative Results

Multiple Regression Results

Independent Variable	B	Standard Error	T	Sig	95% CI
(Constant)	66.27	5.08	13.048	<0.001	(56.24, 76.31)
Lesbian	5.39	2.23	2.42	0.017	(0.98, 9.80)
Inpatient	8.96	4.23	2.12	0.036	(0.59, 17.32)
Midwest	-6.14	2.29	2.68	0.0080	(-19.66, -1.61)
Mountain West	-8.42	2.46	-0.38	<0.001	(-13.28, -3.57)
South	-5.85	2.43	-2.41	0.017	(-10.65, -1.056)
Age	-0.13	0.061	-2.12	0.036	(-0.25, 0.0090)



Participant Demographic Data

	Part 1: Qual No. (%/Mean(SD)	Part 2: Quant No. (%/Mean(SD)		Part 1: Qual No. (%/Mean(SD)	Part 2: Quant No.(%/Mean(SD)
Highest Level of PT Education			**Practice Setting**		
Associates Degree	0	7 (3.7)	Outpatient	36 (53.7)	103 (54.2)
Bachelor's Degree	13 (19.4)	31 (16.4	Inpatient	21 (31.3)	22 (11.6)
MSPT/MPT	10 (14.9)	36 (19.0)	Home Health	1 (1.5)	18 (9.5)
DPT	3 (55.2)7	112 (59.3)	Long Term Care	0	6 (3.2)
Other	1 (1.5)	3 (1.6)	Other	9 (13.4)	41 (21.6)
Sexual Identity			**Gender Identity**		
Heterosexual	50 (74.6)	153 (80.5)	Male	16 (23.9)	51 (26.7)
Gay	3 (4.5)	8 (4.2)	Female	46 (68.7)	138 (72.3)
Lesbian	5 (7.5)	19 (10.0)	Non-Binary/Transgender m/f	5 (7.5)	2 (1.0)
Bisexual	6 (9.0)	7 (3.7)	**PT Role**		
Queer	3 (4.5)	2 (1.2)	PT	66 (98.5)	183 (96.3)
Other	0	1 (0.5)	PTA	1 (1.5)	7 (3.7)
Race			**Age**		
White	64 (97.0)	167 (88.4)	20-29	8 (11.9)	28 (15.0)
Black	0	8 (4.2)	30-39	27 (40.3	32 (17.1)
Latin/Hispanic	1 (1.5)	9 (4.8)	40-49	20 (29.9)	17 (9.1)
Asian	1 (1.5)	4 (2.1)	50-59	10 (14.9)	88 (47.1)
Other	0	1 (0.5)	>60	2 (3.0)	22 (11.8)
Geographic Location					
Pacific West Coast	5 (8.1)	24 (12.8)	South	4 (6.5)	31 (16.6)
Midwest	7 (11.3)	40 (21.4)	East Coast	19 (30.6)	52 (27.8)
Mountain West	27 (43.5)	36 (19.3)	Southwest	0	4 (2.1)

Discussion

- Overall, average score for Hofmann Scale was low (61.59/ 100)
- Sexual identity, practice setting, geographic location and age influence LGBTQ+ CC among PT clinicians
- PT education lacks CC regarding the LGBTQ+ community
- Aiming for excellence in healthcare requires seeking out more LGBTQ+ specific education and then applying that knowledge to adapt behavior in clinical practice
- Environmental influences like familiarity and exposure to the LGBTQ+ community, regional culture and politics, military connection, religious beliefs, and generational differences may influence people's views of acceptance

Clinical Relevance

- Identifying barriers to LGBTQ+ cultural competency is the first step to addressing the discrimination LGBTQ+ people endure when accessing healthcare
- Workplaces, along with DPT programs, should incorporate LGBTQ+ training to shift the burden of education and training away from individuals
- References attached