

Queer experiences of maternity care

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This project is an exploratory study of queer/LGBTQ+ people's experiences of the healthcare system in relation to pregnancy and birth. This study seeks to understand the ways in which queer parents feel that birth care providers, including midwives, obstetricians, nurses, doulas, and other healthcare providers, are able and unable to provide queer-inclusive care. Secondly, this project seeks to evaluate healthcare providers' efforts to provide queer-inclusive ceother

published resources, including first-person narratives about maternity care, inclusivity information from midwifery and maternity care practices, medical and maternity care associations' guides to caring for gender- and sexuality-diverse patients, and legal resources regarding healthcare and adoption for queer families. Contact with queer parents, birth care providers, midwifery educators, and reproductive justice organizers further contributed to the project. These sources provided information about the intersections of birth care, cultural competence training for healthcare providers, inclusivity for queer clients, and social justice.

Language use in interpersonal communications, prenatal education sessions, and printed resources was found to be a major factor in inclusive birth care. Many queer people reported healthcare providers' reliance on gender-centric terms such as

' failure to use their appropriate pronouns.

Queer parents report more positive experiences of pregnancy and birth when they feel that their healthcare providers are educated on queer identities and family structures. A lack of such understanding may be demonstrated by a healthcare provider's inability to distinguish between parents in two