

Gender- Affirming healthcare in the Western Cape of South Africa and the potential influence of other Middle-Income countries

Introduction

- Significant gap in the Western Cape health system in access to gender-affirming healthcare
- Bad health outcomes for these populations
- High suicide rates for TGGD youth

Objectives

The primary objective of this study is to provide recommendations to the Western Cape gathered by turning to other middle income countries, like Thailand who are excelling in providing gender affirming health care

Methods

- Conduct interviews in both Thailand and South Africa
- Visit clinics and learn more about the health systems and how they provide GAHC

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Reflection and findings

Both Thailand and the Western Cape still have large strides to be made in Health Care accessibility for TGGD individuals however Thailand is much more accepting of LGBTQIA+ groups than those in the Western Cape experience.

Unfortunately the Western Cape struggles with clinic attendance as there is so much stigma.

In Thailand, I was able to learn more about what makes the Tangerine Clinics there so incredibly successful at drawing in clients..



Discussion

One of the most interesting findings drawn from the Tangerine Clinic is the importance of phrasing when labeling clinics. Many patients feel as though the clinics are simply a place for HIV/AIDS prevention which unfortunately some are interested in. Advertising clinics as a place to receive hormones instead for example may increase popularity.

Questions

- How do my findings in Thailand translate to recommendations for South Africa
- What exactly can the Western Cape feasibly do with its current resource level

Conclusions

Lots of works still needs to be done in both of these countries but still, the Western Cape can learn a lot from other middle income countries