We don’t know how many LBQ women have breast cancer.

Assumptions our bodies less important as a man not involved

Lack of research

Lack of formal and informal support systems

Relevant health promotion materials?

LBQ women don’t come out
Breast cancer inequalities

- LB women diagnosed with cancer at a younger age.
- LB breast cancer patients: higher stress associated with the diagnosis
- Lower satisfaction with the doctor’s care and
- With the perceived availability of emotional support (Boehmer et al. 2011; Quinn et al. 2015).
Cancer awareness and help seeking

- Bisexual women more likely to perceive barriers to help seeking;

- Less awareness of lifestyle as a risk factor among older lesbian and bisexual women

YouGov survey

- LBQ patients and carers report persistent insensitivities regarding their domestic and family life and status of partners.

Macmillan study
Funded by the NCAT as part of the National Cancer Equalities Initiative

Small scale qualitative study

One of only two UK studies about breast cancer in lesbian and bisexual women
Steering group

- 3 LB women with breast cancer
- Head of Policy and Research, Breast Cancer Care.
- User inclusion manager, Macmillan.
- Public relations officer, Cancer Research UK
- Clinical projects manager, Metro centre, London.
- Development worker, Kairos (centre for health/well being).
- Academic, UCL.
- Nurse specialist, London regional cancer network
- NHS South West, Equality and Diversity Lead
We had never particularly come out to them. Yes it’s fear, it’s really a little bit of fear about how are they going to treat you? Are they going to treat you different? Are they going to make things awkward for you?

Edna Campbell

Audre Lorde

Pat Battle

Lesbian women with breast cancer
I didn’t access any support groups because I had gone along... (to a) weekend.. in the all the bits where we went off and had discussions, all really that was being talked about was their relationships with their husbands. ...And so I just felt very uncomfortable. It was staying away in (a Northern city) so even the kind of social spaces, I already felt quite excluded...

Lesbian women with breast cancer

Wanda Sykes

Martina Navratilova
Involving partners

My partner had breast cancer and although the care she received generally was good, our relationship was never acknowledged and at best I was treated as her 'friend' which at times we found difficult and stressful. I think if I had been a male partner, the health professionals would have included me more in discussions rather than turning their back to me and seeing me as 'irrelevant' when I went with her to the hospital etc". 
Experiences of reconstructive surgery

So because I was on his list and I wasn’t having reconstruction, he gave it to a junior or someone to do and he really botched my surgery. And the nurse on the ward said it was a real pig’s ear and they hadn’t seen anything like that for a long time.
Policy briefing

Launched at Breast Cancer Care, Southwark.

Cancer service users talked about their experiences to an audience of service users, cancer professionals and voluntary and statutory organisations.

Briefing presented to NCEI in April 2011 by Breast Cancer Care and widely disseminated
Impact activities

• Presented to NCEI;
• Breakfast launch at Breast Cancer Care;
• 10 Downing St reception *Progress in beating cancer.*
Developing practice - training

- Knowledge of the issues
- Experience
- Environment
- Signposting/referrals
- Training/Support
- Communication skills
- Good practice

Seminar for cancer and social care professionals
Thanks for listening

- Prof. Julie Fish
- Centre for LGBTQ research
  De Montfort University, Leicester UK
- Twitter: @lgbtequalhealth