Understanding Health Disparities Among Older Sexual and Gender Minorities: Implications for Improving Health for Nevada

Abstract

By 2030, there will be nearly six million sexual and gender minority adults aged 65 or older in the U.S. who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex. These populations experience unique health disparities compared to their heterosexual and non-gender minority counterparts. Health disparities experienced by older sexual and gender minorities include a higher prevalence of physical and mental health problems, such as higher rates of disability, chronic conditions, and depression. This presentation will highlight how Dr. Flatt utilizes methodologies from the social and behavioral sciences to better understand the extent and possible causes of these health disparities, including the use of community-engaged research approaches and implementation science. This presentation will also highlight how he leverages existing population-based and electronic medical record data and interdisciplinary partnerships to identify and address health disparities among sexual and gender minority populations. Dr. Flatt will link these research efforts to improving health and quality of life in Nevada as well as opportunities for future policy change and health workforce training.