


Domestic violence and abuse among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men: Evaluation of an intervention in a sexual health clinic setting (HERMES)

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INTRODUCTION

- 29% - 48% of gbMSM experience domestic violence and abuse (DVA)
-  depression, anxiety, risky sexual behaviours
- Few published interventions in health services for gbMSM
- DVA guidelines for gbMSM are lacking

METHODS




- Pre-post, mixed method evaluation of HERMES in a UK LGBTQ sexual health clinic
- 21 interviews with sexual health practitioners, 20 matched pre-post Provider Intervention Measure (PIM)
- Audit of 533 patient records

INTERVENTION

Health Responding to Men for Safety (HERMES)

- Respect UK, Galop LGBTQ anti abuse charity & clinical co-trainers
- Job aid for practitioners to sensitively ask about DVA, document and refer to Galop

RESULTS

-  Readiness to inquire and respond to DVA
-  Awareness of signs, symptoms, risk factors for DVA
-  DVA cases identified
- Improved linkage to specialist support
- *But* no men contacted Galop
- Practitioner fear of the perpetrator

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Sexual health visits offer a key opportunity to assess DVA in gbMSM
- Practitioners support *routine* DVA inquiry, men prefer *selective* inquiry
- Integrate DVA case discussions into regular clinical meetings
- Further research is needed on preferred DVA interventions for gbMSM in sexual health services

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