

After watching the videos and listening to the different stories of people within the LGBTQIA+ community, it is very clear to see just how affected their lives are or can be based on how they are treated by the healthcare system. Although there have been changes made and laws placed to help benefit them when dealing with their health, it solely comes down to how they are treated by others that affects their overall outcome. I feel that personally, I have a small understanding of the community due to being introduced through family members, however I still do feel like there is a lack of education that should be started when we are younger. I believe by doing so, more people are likely to be more acceptable to those who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community, as well as feeling confident with communicating in a manner that is comfortable for both parties. I was able to learn pretty quickly that people, no matter what or who they identify as, just want to be treated like they are societies “normal” and be given that respect as well. They are no different from those that are cisgender or heterosexual, and there is a line that has been placed that sometimes puts them in positions where they don’t necessarily feel accepted even when it may be unintentional. By seeing it from their perspective, I know that I should do my part in becoming more educated with how their community works and go into treating them with an open mind without assuming things. Equality is so important when it comes to working in healthcare, and I know “implicit bias” is something everyone has. By focusing on learning and introducing myself to opportunities in which I can help educate others will be beneficial to everyone in creating a safer and more comfortable healthcare system. This will impact my nursing practice by making me more observant when it comes to treating my patients on all aspects such as their social history/relationships rather than just their diagnosis no matter who they are. I know that when patients feel comfortable, they are more likely to open up with problems they may be having whether it be mental or family situations, and by doing so it could lead me to helping them with issues that they necessarily didn’t get admitted for. This again would help with their overall outcome in their lives along with their outlook on the healthcare system leading to less cases amongst their community.