

# DELMARVA LGBTQIA+ CLIMATE SURVEY

## SUSSEX COUNTY SEMANTIC ANALYSIS

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There were 64 responses to the qualitative short answer prompt " If you ever faced an obstacle to receiving medical care or services? Please, share that experience with us." Simple semantic analyses were conducted to identify themes. The themes identified as presenting most commonly were a lack of providers, discrimination and/or bias from providers, long waits for appointments, far distances needed to travel to access providers, issues with cost, and providers lacking knowledge about the LGBTQIA+ community.

Theme	Number of Mentions
Lack of providers	18
Discrimination bias hostile	8
Long waits	7
Distance/ Must Travel	6
Cost	3
Providers lack of knowledge	3



## Sample Responses

*I had a very hard time finding a provider who would prescribe HRT to me. It took me over a year.*

*It's extremely difficult to find a provider if you're new to the area because the healthcare system is saturated and strained.*

*We have recently moved here. There are no doctors available. Sussex needs to stop overdevelopment. We can't sustain what's here.*

*I had a very hard time finding a provider who would prescribe HRT to me. It took me over a year to find a provider in Kent County DE.*

*Have waited 6 months for an initial appointment in order to secure a PCP*

*Literally any medical treatment requiring a specialist - one must go outside the county/state to acquire quality care in my experience. Husband and I are straight and find we must travel outside DE to get quality specialist care and have done so repeatedly.*

*It takes a long time to get appointments for any doctor, especially when establishing as a new patient. Mental health services are especially difficult to access as there are not enough providers. You cannot "shop around" to find the best fit for counselors or doctors, but generally take whomever is available.*

*I continue to travel back to DC for Primary Care Physician Dental care Dermatology care As I cannot access care here in Sussex County.*

*At age 17, I came out as transgender. My Mom and I immediately started looking into gender affirming care and which local medical providers provided this treatment. With no surprise, we realized we'd have to search far and wide to find someone who was willing to provide me with HRT. Finally, after a year of searching, we found a clinic in Dover, which is an hour away from where I live. Thankfully, they offer telehealth. But if they didn't, I'd have to make frequent trips to Dover for my appointments, which clashes with my schedule.*

*Not enough Dr's, lack of expertise and serious issues you need to go to larger cities for medical care*

*The healthcare community needs a lot of training in understanding the LGBTQ community. Need to be part of their training and development.*

*I am uninsured as I work part time and have not been to the doctor in almost a year due to cost. I possibly need glasses for the first time ever and have had recurring strep. But because we don't have universal health care, it's not likely to happen any time soon. In addition to stopping my therapy after a job change from an assoc. dir. for a nonprofit to a part time employee - can't afford it.*

*I cannot find any LGBTQ+ friendly mental health care or OB/GYNs in my area, so I am going without those resources. Specifically, I asked the office where I was applying for a therapist through if there was anybody there familiar or comfortable with LGBTQ+ issues, and they told me no, and to look somewhere else.*

*We have to travel an hour to Milford to receive reproductive care. They are so nice, but there should be somewhere closer with equal services.*

Yes - challenges accessing PrEP through a primary care provider - challenges with wait times in Sussex County for primary and specialty care - difficulty finding LGBTQ+ affirming providers.

I have faced political and personal bias in finding and receiving health care.

There were 49 individuals offering responses to the qualitative short answer prompt " Please, describe what type of support or services you feel are most needed." Simple semantic analyses were conducted to identify themes. The most common themes were medical services, support/resource/advocacy, mental health services, more LGBTQIA+ groups, a lack of social activities, more education/training/knowledge, resources and for unhoused LGBTQIA+ individuals, and the need for a guide.

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Number of Mentions</i>
Medical Care	28
Support/Services/Advocacy/Resources	21
Mental Health Services	17
More education and/or trainings	6
More resources for youth	5
More social activities or LGBTQIA+ Groups	4
Need for a guide list of services	4
Support for elders	3
Shelter and/or services for the homeless community	3



## Sample Responses

*Greater availability. Better central repository of LGBTQ+ friendly services, providers, and service centers.*

*PFLAG is a great organization and Sussex Pride and Camp Rehoboth help the community but more Transgendered services are needed for youth and adults*

*There aren't enough LGBT healthcare or mental healthcare providers in this area. The ER care sucks and your lucky if you aren't sitting in a waiting room for hours or days before anyone will even talk to you.*

*We need more local providers who can help with gender affirming care. Especially providers for HRT and surgeons.*

*Some kind of list of services for LGBTQIA+. The public library is very socially oriented and could cooperate in this. Not sure what is offered since I would not need such services.*

*Easy access to resources, and training in the medical field about the LGBTQ community.*

*More Mental health, therapeutic therapy and psychological therapy services*

*Better regular STI screening, testing and treatment beyond just HIV testing*

*Primary care doctors and dentists. Hospital services as the hospital is far too small for me number of people moving to the area.*

*Mental health supports Supports for transgender/nonbinary persons*

*Accessibility to quality healthcare of all types, support systems (including transportation) for all citizens and for LGBTQ+ citizens in particular.*

*More doctors in the area and affordable places for seniors to live.*

*Accessibility to quality healthcare of all types, support systems (including transportation) for all citizens and for LGBTQ+ citizens in particular.*

*Medical School on eastern shore; Federal Voting Rights Act (health care access and services are directly affected by judicial decisions and legislative actions)*

*School staff need lots of in service about how to support LGBTQIA+ students. I am a retired teacher and in my more than 40 years in the classroom never once had one! I witnessed lots of bullying in the halls and classrooms, as few teachers intervened when overhearing comments like "that's so gay" or specific hurtful comments to children. Student surveys indicated that it was worse in cafeterias and bathrooms. Western Sussex County needs MUCH support for families and youth, as well as LGBTQ+ people of all ages; there are plenty of supports "at the beach" but we live HERE and there's nothing. PFLAG, social groups, activities for LGBTQ+ people of all ages, welcoming faith houses, none of those exist out in the wild west of Sussex County. We need more visibility, for cities/towns, hospitals, police, schools, businesses to take an*

*active role in outreach, in welcoming and in supporting us. KUDOS to Seaford District Library (I can't speak for other ones) for maintaining and displaying a selection of YA LGBTQ+ literature.*

*Primary Care Physicians Dermatology Dental services Competent and Consistent Pharmacist services*

*Medical personnel need training on how to deal with trans individuals*

*A directory of businesses (legal, retail, health-care, hospitality, etc.) that cater to, are run by, or show support for the LGBTQ community.*

*Western Sussex county DESPERATELY needs more community groups. A PFLAG chapter would be ideal. We don't have GSA's in most of our schools, which would significantly help LGBTQIA+ youth feel more seen. We have such few resources for the LGBTQ+ community, that myself and many others who I know, have attempted suicide before reaching the age of 18. We NEED these resources in the Laurel/Seaford area.*

*More mental health services in schools and for young adults.*

*More community events (bowling, beer tasting, archery, gardening, volunteering, etc.). I'm returning to the area after ten years away and would like to network and connect with folks. Loud and emphatic lobbying as a group and community. Big visible Community queer art projects - I'm seeing too much oppressive messaging with trump, "let's go Brandon" crap that we need to be louder than.*

*LGBTQ committee at the city or county level.*

*Mental health for youth. There is a lack of providers that can assist them or they are difficult to get into.*

*Mandatory LGBTQ+ trainings for health care providers Navigators or social workers that are knowledgeable about LGBTQ+ issues and can refer to folks to appropriate services - Seniors especially dont know where to go or who is trustworthy. - Gender Affirming Care - a more transparent, timely, and effective system for filing civil*