**What was the Health Needs Assessment?** The Health Needs Assessment was instigated in 2019, with the aim to detail the inequalities in health and wellbeing experienced by Scotland`s LGBT+ communities. Working with LGBT+ people the aim was to identify ways in which our public health systems could change to make a positive difference for LGBT+ communities in Scotland.

**What data was used?** A Scotland-wide survey was undertaken in the summer of 2021. LGBT+ people responded in large numbers (2,358 respondents) to share their experiences. Feedback was also received on what LGBT+ people felt the priorities should be for COVID recovery. As the health and wellbeing of the LGBT+ population was already poorer than the background population, COVID has been particularly detrimental.

**What is LGBT+ History Month?** It is celebrated every February across the UK and began in February 2005. LGBT+ History Month was founded by Schools OUT co-chairs, Paul Patrick & Professor Emeritus Sue Sanders.

This month for LGBT+ History Month we will be considering health needs of LGBT+ communities by exploring the findings from the Health Needs Assessment which was published in May 2022.

**2**

**3**

**What data was used (cont.)?**

* Literature review – with a focus on literature from the previous 10 years in the UK with a particular emphasis on Scotland.
* Qualitative research (2019) – interviews and focus groups with 175 LGBT+ people and services and staff supporting LGBT+ communities.
* Qualitative research (2020) – online focus groups with 32 LGBT+ people on the effects of the pandemic.

**1**

**What next?** It is important that we consider the differential impacts on LGBT+ individuals, therefore we will:

* Share findings from the Health Needs Assessment across NHS A&A;
* Look at the priority areas to see where we can make improvements; and
* Embed actions specific to LGBT+ communities in existing work areas.

For more information you can download the final report of the [Health Needs Assessment.](https://www.stor.scot.nhs.uk/handle/11289/580332)

**What themes emerged from the Health Needs Assessment?** The report was divided into seven themes from the data produced:

* Social Health
* Physical Wellbeing
* Neurodiversity
* Mental Wellbeing
* Individual behaviours
* Financial Wellbeing
* Health Services

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**What data was used (cont.)?**

* Qualitative work with LGBT+ Deaf and Deafblind people (2021) – involved three participants.
* A national online survey (2021) – received 2,358 responses from LGBT+ people.

**5**