

# Long Island Lesbian Cancer Initiative

**Contact:**  
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**Long Island agency announces historic kick-off of the first ever study looking into the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) cancer survivors.**

**The Long Island Lesbian Cancer Initiative (LILCI)** is launching its campaign to facilitate inclusion of Long Island's LGBT cancer survivors in this historic study on the experiences of LGBT cancer survivors. Regional results of this needs assessment will be used to better educate health care providers and to directly inform cancer services for the LGBT communities on Long Island.

This campaign launch coincides with the fourth annual National LGBT Health Awareness Week (March 12 - 18, 2006). This year's theme is "Own Your Health. Get Checked Out." the main goal of which is to encourage members of the LGBT communities to be aware of their own health and take concrete steps to become and stay healthy. Participating in this study is one way that LGBT cancer survivors on Long Island can improve researchers understanding of what it means to become and remain healthy after a diagnosis of cancer.

Health disparities research identifies cancer as a disease that takes a disparate toll on LGBT communities. However, there is no systematic information available to guide the development of post-treatment medical, behavioral or psycho-social care for LGBT cancer survivors. "This study's successful completion will help us develop effective and culturally relevant interventions to improve the quality of cancer care for our communities." says Diane Bruessow, RPA-C, LILCI's Director.

The study is being conducted by researchers at **Howard Brown Health Center** and **University of Illinois at Chicago** in collaboration with regional LGBT Health and Human Service providers across the country. Blase E. Masini, PhD, Director of Research, **Howard Brown Health Center**, is the principal investigator of this research. He points out that according to an **American Cancer Society** analysis of government health data, for the first time in public health history, the overall number of cancer deaths in the United States has declined. "We want to make sure that the LGBT cancer survivors are among those receiving quality, comprehensive care," said Dr. Masini.

Additional information and resources can also be found at <http://www.lgbthealth.net>, the **National Coalition for LGBT Health** web site. The site contains fact sheets on over a dozen topics of interest to LGBT people as well as other press materials for National LGBT Health Awareness Week.

*The Long Island Lesbian Cancer Initiative is a voluntary nonprofit agency dedicated to health and wellness with emphasis on cancer. LILCI's purpose is to eliminate health disparities through education, advocacy research and services. For more information: phone 1.888.LILCINY or email [info@lilci.org](mailto:info@lilci.org).*

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For more information on the Long Island Lesbian Cancer Initiative (LILCI), and this regional campaign, contact Diane Bruessow, RPA-C at 471 North Broadway #123 | Jericho | NY | 11753 | p: 1.888.LILCINY | e: [info@lilci.org](mailto:info@lilci.org)

For more information on this national research initiative, contact Blase E. Masini, Ph.D. at [blasem@howardbrown.org](mailto:blasem@howardbrown.org)

For more information on National LGBT Health Awareness Week:  
National Coalition for LGBT Health | 1407 S Street, NW | Washington, DC 20009  
p: 202.797.3516 | f: 202.797.4430 | [www.lgbthealth.net](http://www.lgbthealth.net)  
[coalition@lgbthealth.net](mailto:coalition@lgbthealth.net)

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*L.I.L.C.I. is a grassroots, social justice, nonprofit initiative dedicated to health and wellness, with emphasis on cancer. LILCI's purpose is to eliminate health disparities through education, advocacy, research & services.*