

Highlights

Toward Care for All: Access to Health Care for Francoqueer Patients in Manitoba

Background

French-speaking 2SLGBTQI+ people experience generally poorer health outcomes. Paradoxically, they also face more barriers to accessing social and health services. Access to care at the intersection of minority language status and 2SLGBTQI+ realities remains largely undocumented.

This study is the first phase of the *Toward Care for All* [*Vers des soins pour toustes*] program, a five-year research initiative aimed at improving access to care for Francoqueer people in Manitoba. Its objective was to document Francoqueer patients' experiences of accessing care and to deepen understanding of care trajectories at the intersection of minority language status and 2SLGBTQI+ realities.

Key findings of the study

In total, 37 episodes of care were explored through seven interviews conducted between November 2025 and February 2026. The participants represented diverse 2SLGBTQI+ identities and care pathways and a variety of areas of care; overall, they were relatively highly educated, predominantly urban, and often turned to services in English.



1. CONSISTENCY WITH EXISTING LITERATURE

Participants reported a number of barriers that have already been documented in research on 2SLGBTQI+ people and Francophone minority communities. These include predominantly English and minimally inclusive communication, a lack of an active offer of French-language and inclusive care, experiences of discrimination, and limited information about available resources.

2. RECONFIGURATION OF ACCESS TO CARE FROM AN INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The study highlights a dynamic of constant trade-offs between various forms accessibility: linguistic, inclusive, geographic, and financial. Speaking English becomes a mechanism for accessing resources, vocabulary, or spaces seen as more affirming of 2SLGBTQI+ people.

3. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE DELIVERY OF CARE

The findings reveal strong support for intersectional measures. Many actions, such as hiring diverse staff, modernizing services, and reducing financial barriers, are perceived as helping the population as a whole, while also improving access to care for 2SLGBTQI+ and/or French-speaking people.

Recommendations

FOR HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS

- Implement known facilitators of access to care for French-speaking and 2SLGBTQI+ people
- Adopt tailored accessibility strategies for Francoqueer communities
- Implement accessibility measures that benefit the population as a whole

FOR POLICYMAKERS

- Support the development of Francoqueer-specific services
- Review legal and policy frameworks that hinder access to care

FOR RESEARCHERS

- Document the blind spots in Francoqueer care
- Routinely apply an intersectional lens in research
- Improve the production of population-level data

