

Oregon's First LGBTQ+ Older Adult Survey



Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

November 17, 2021

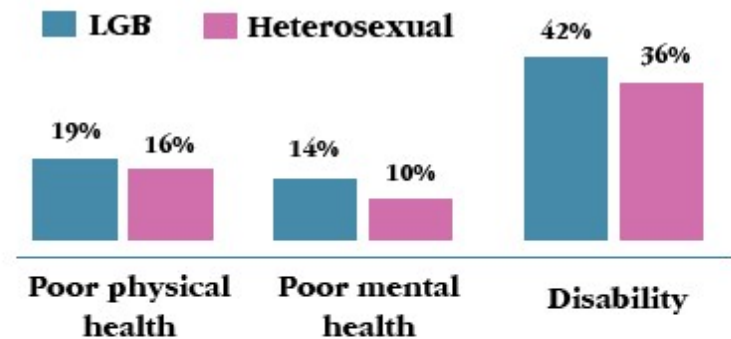


Liz James - pronouns she/they
Member, Oregon LGBTQ+ Aging Coalition
Former CEO, Lesbian Health Initiative of Houston, Inc.

3.4% of Oregonians aged 55 and older identify as lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB). They are more likely than their heterosexual peers to:

- Live at or below 200% federal poverty level
- Not be married or partnered
- Live alone

*2013 - 2018 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System



The average number of chronic conditions for LGB older adults ($M = 1.8$) is also higher than heterosexual peers ($M = 1.7$).

Survey Results Topic Sections

- Access to Aging Health & Other Services
- Health & Wellbeing
- Adverse Experiences
- Economic and Housing Stability
- Impacts of COVID-19
- Social Resources and Resilience



Who Participated



The voices of 1,402 LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, Two Spirit, non-binary, or sexual or gender diverse) adults aged 55 and older residing across the state of Oregon.

Results shed new light on the diversity and cumulative risks facing this aging population and it provides critical information needed to address the needs of this growing population.

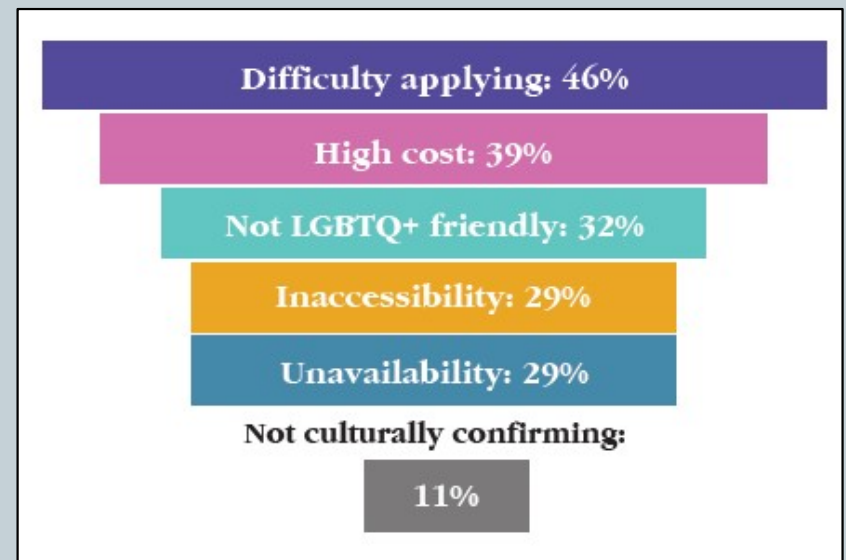
Access to Aging Health & Other Services

Key Findings

Services needed most:

- Medical & health services - 67%
- Social support programs - 64%
- Mental health/substance use treatments - 48%
- Food assistance – 38%
- Medication assistance – 35%
- Transportation – 35%

54% of participants have unmet services needs. Major barriers include:



Access to Aging Health & Other Services Key Findings

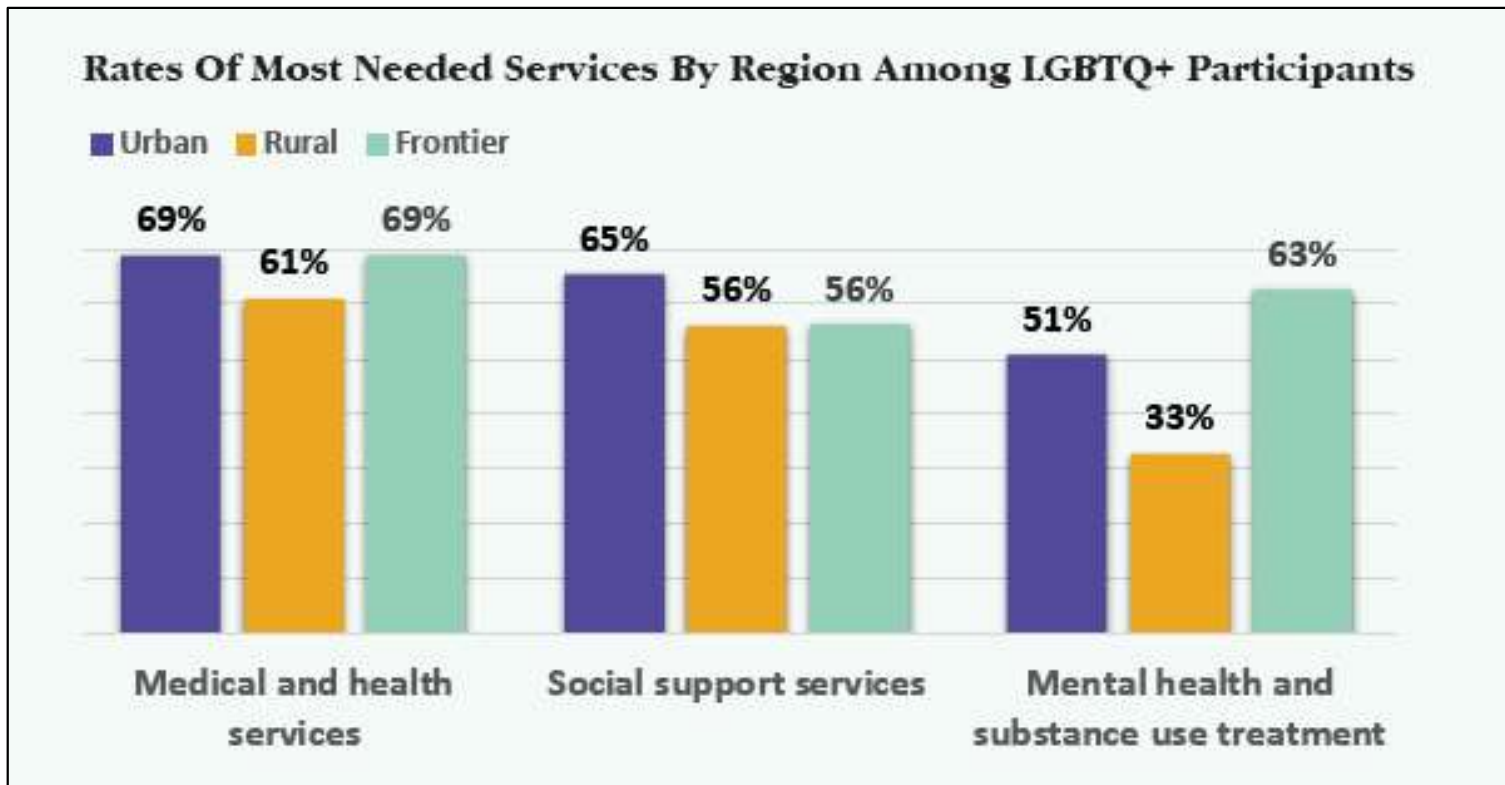


Racial and ethnic minority participants show higher rates of unmet needs for services

- 92% Asian and Pacific Islanders
- 86% of Black/African Americans
- 84% of Native American/Alaska Natives
- 60% of Hispanics
- 44% of non-Hispanic Whites.

Access to Aging Health & Other Services

Key Findings



Health and Well-Being Key Findings

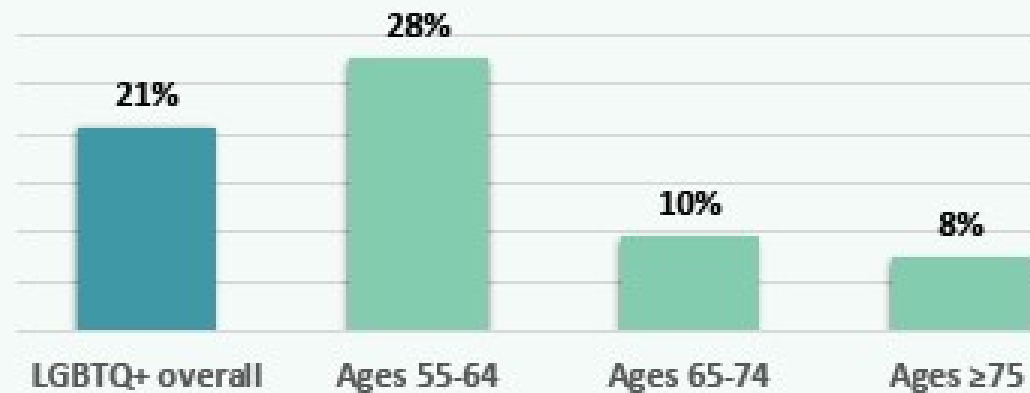


- Over a fifth reported that their quality of life and general health is poor.
- Higher rates of poor general health was reported by those living with HIV, those $\leq 200\%$ FPL, and transgender adults.
- Nearly one in three reported subjective cognitive impairment with higher rates found among all racial and ethnic minority groups.
- **21% reported past-year suicidal ideation**
 - Higher for people of color, including half of Asian and Pacific Islanders, those with lower income and gay men.

Health and Well-Being Key Findings



**Rates of Suicidal Ideation in the Past Year by Age Group
Among LGBTQ+ Participants**



Adverse Experiences Key Findings



24% experienced elder abuse in the past year
76% did not report it

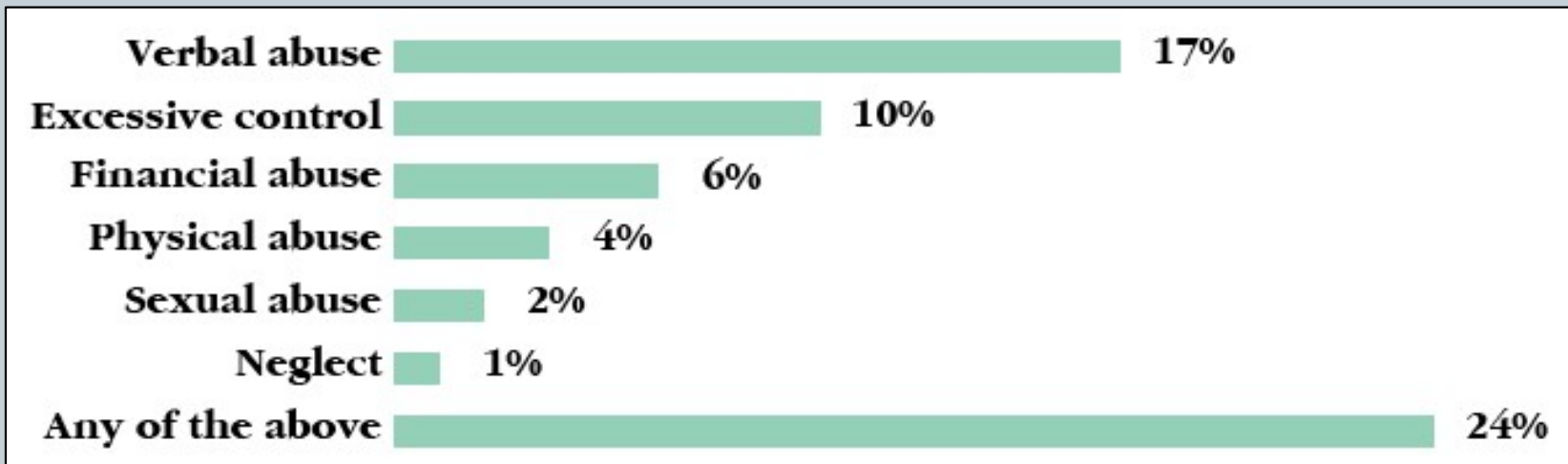
The most common barriers to reporting abuse are:

- Distrust of authorities' fair treatment of LGBTQ+ people (26%)
- Feeling ashamed because of the experience (20%)
- Lack of knowledge on how to report (16%)
- Fear of having to disclose their identity (16%)

Adverse Experiences Key Findings



Rates of Elder Abuse in the Past Year



Adverse Experiences Key Findings



Nearly 60% reported they have experienced discrimination within the past year

- Nearly 60% in public places
- More than 25% in employment
- Nearly 25% in residential settings or care and health services.

Adverse Experiences Key Findings



Most experienced discrimination due to the perception of the following:

- Sexual orientation or gender identity or expression (56%)
- Age (42%)
- Gender (30%)
- Highest rates are among participants of color, transgender and gay men

21% do not disclose their sexual or gender identity to health care and other service providers.

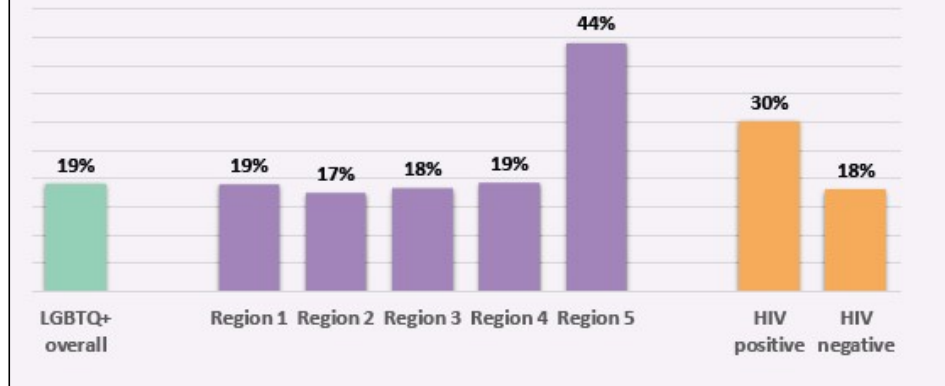
Adverse Experiences Key Findings



Economic & Housing Stability - Key Findings

One-third have difficulty paying bills or buying nutritious meals due to financial instability - higher risks among those who are younger, people of color, those living with HIV, and those living in frontier areas.

Having Struggled to Pay Bills Due to Income Instability in the Past Year, by Region and HIV Status Among LGBTQ+ Participants

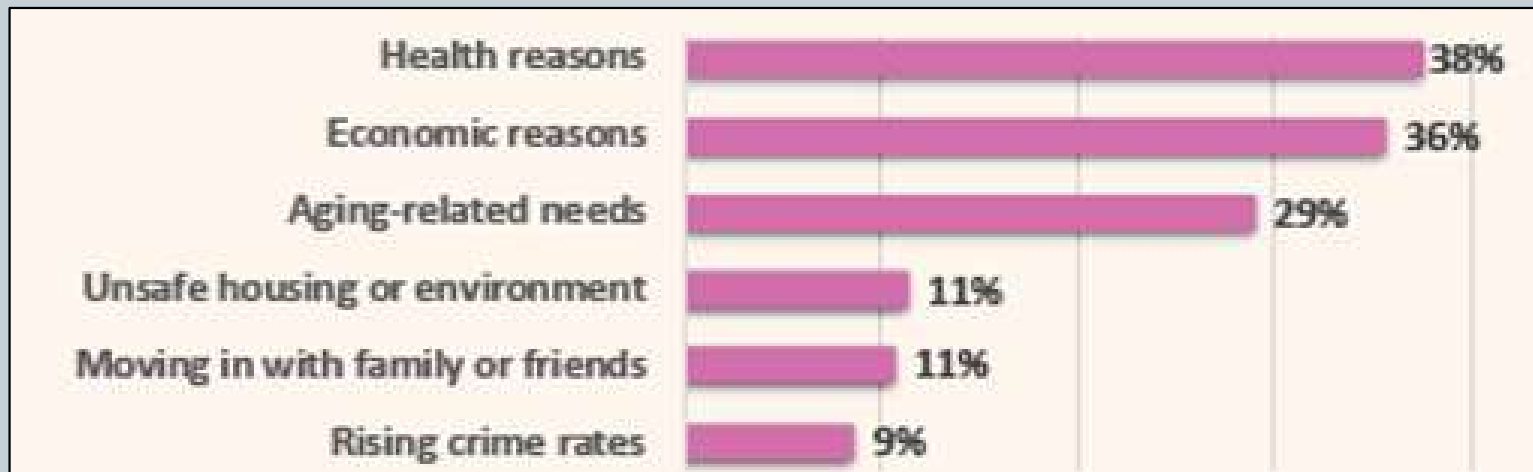


- Region 1 (61%): Columbia, Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington
- Region 2 (26%): Clatsop, Tillamook, Yamhill, Polk, Marion, Lincoln, Benton, Linn, and Lane
- Region 3 (9%): Douglas, Coos, Curry, Josephine, and Jackson
- Region 4 (2%): Hood River, Wasco, Jefferson, Crook, Deschutes, and Klamath
- Region 5 (2%): Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wheeler, Grant, Baker, Lake, Harney, and Malheur

Economic & Housing Stability Key Findings



64% are not confident that they will be able to continue living in their current housing



Economic & Housing Stability Key Findings



- 40% live at or below 200% of the FPL
 - Risks and issues are higher for people of color, those living in frontier areas and those living with HIV.
- More than one in three have experienced financial stress in the past 12 months.
- About one-third of those who sought employment report that the COVID-19 pandemic and related health concerns have been substantial barriers to employment.

Impacts of COVID-19

Key Findings



- 95% received a vaccine and more than 25% know someone who died of COVID-19
- The vast majority are worried about their health, the health of family members, and losing social connections.
 - Transgender, people of color, those in frontier most likely to report concerns about losing social connections.
- Participants reported an overall decrease in use of social support programs, adult day programs, and transportation services due to COVID-19; there was an overall increase in reported use of food assistance.

Social Resources & Resilience

Key Findings



Resilience

- More than 70% have three or more people they can count on for social and emotional support.
- More than 40% attend faith, spiritual, or religious services.
- Those aged 75 and older reporting the highest resilience.

Social Resources & Resilience

Key Findings



Resilience

The majority are actively engaged in LGBTQ+ communities through helping others, receiving help; and being involved in advocacy activities.



Social Resources & Resilience

Key Findings



Social Resources

Despite close relationships and communities, **nearly 20% report lack of social support** – and was highest among people of color

Lack of high-speed internet access and the need for technical assistance is greater among participants with lower incomes and people of color



Karen Fredriksen Goldsen,
Hyun-Jun Kim, Hailey H. Jung,
Adam Davis, Charles A. Emlet

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Thank You!



Contact information:

Liz James

LizJamesAdvocacy@gmail.com