

LGBT Health: Considerations and Conversations

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Presenters:

- Moderator:
 - > Mark Brennan-Ing, PhD: Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging, Hunter College, City University of New York
- Panelists:
 - > Sandra Butler, PhD, MSW: School of Social Work, University of Maine
 - > John Hennessy: Advocacy and Services for GLBT Elders (SAGE) Maine

Overview of Older LGBT Health



Older LGBT Adults: Health Inequalities

- Numerous reports of health inequalities for LGBT older adults—why?
- Meyer and colleagues point to the Minority Stress Model:
 - LGBT people experience stigma and discrimination in their social environments.
 - Stress resulting from stigma and discrimination negatively affects health.

Choi, S.K. & Meyer, I.H. (2016). LGBT Aging: A Review of Research Findings, Needs, and Policy Implications. Los Angeles: The Williams Institute

SOURCE OF DATA

- There are many reports of LGBT health disparities, but most lack a comparison with heterosexual and cisgender groups.
- Source for info on LGB health disparities had heterosexual comparisons:
 - Fredriksen-Goldsen, K. I., Kim, H. J., Barkan, S. E., Muraco, A., & Hoy-Ellis, C. P. (2013). Health disparities among lesbian, gay, and bisexual older adults: Results from a population-based study. *American journal of public health, 103*(10), 1802-1809.

Older LGB Health

- Women:
 - Compared to heterosexuals lesbian/bisexual had greater risk of:
 - Disability
 - Poor Mental Health
 - Obesity
 - Cardiovascular Disease

Older LGB Health

● Men

- Compared with heterosexual men, gay/bisexual men had greater risks for:
 - Poor physical health
 - Poor mental health
 - Disability
 - Diabetes

Older LGB Health Behaviors



- Compared with heterosexuals, LGBT adults (both men and women) were more likely to smoke and to drink excessively.



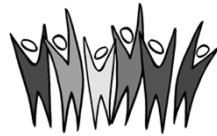
Transgender and gender-non-conforming (TGNC) Health

- Older people who are TGNC are more likely to report asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hepatitis, and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), compared with cisgender people (i.e., those whose sex assigned at birth is congruent with their gender identity) (Brown & Jones, 2016; Dragon, Guerino, Ewald, & Laffan, 2017).
- Compared with cisgender peers, people who are TGNC are more likely to experience depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance use disorders (Brown & Jones, 2016; Dragon et al., 2017).
- Among Medicare beneficiaries, a higher proportion of people who were TGNC were enrolled in the program as a result of disability compared to cisgender beneficiaries (Dragon et al., 2017).

Panel Presentation:

John Hennessey
Sandy Butler

Q & A



Thank You!

For further information please
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