



Aging in California with Dignity

Closing the Gap for LGBTQIA+ Elders

Financial security, health disparities, discrimination

LGBTQIA+ older adults are members of communities across California who lived through discriminatory policies, community rejection, and great social progress. These experiences distinctly intertwine financial and health disparities among LGBTQIA+ older adults.

1966.

Compton Cafeteria Riots

1975.

Consensual same sex relationships decriminalized

2003.

Discrimination protections for LGBTQIA+ people

2008.

Gay marriage ban through Prop 8

2015.

Obergefell v Hodges legalizes gay marriage

2024.

Gay marriage protected in state constitution

The 2024 Survey of LGBTQIA+ Older Adults in California: From Challenges to Resilience captured the health and service needs of **4,037 LGBTQIA+ older adults across California.**



1 in 5 LGBTQIA+ Older Adults Have Fair or Poor Health

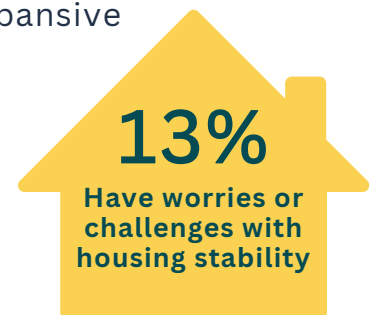
THIS SUGGESTS SIGNIFICANT HEALTH DISPARITIES, AS THIS MEASURE PREDICTS SERIOUS HEALTH CONCERNS LIKE MORTALITY,¹ HOSPITALIZATION,² AND STROKE.³

Food insecurity (21%) and financial insecurity (19%) was common among LGBTQIA+ older adults

Almost one in five (19%) transgender and gender expansive respondents had an income of \$20,000 or less.

Most common causes for housing worries:

- Not having enough money for housing
- Increase in rent or housing costs
- Evictions
- Physical health conditions



Discrimination and Abuse Underly Financial and Overall Wellbeing

More than **1 in 4** experienced discrimination in the past year.

1 in 5 experienced abuse in the past year.

30% of transgender and gender expansive respondents were uncomfortable with first responders knowing their gender identity and sex assigned at birth.



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We have opportunities to remove the barriers to wellbeing and financial stability.

The results of this survey suggest that LGBTQIA+ older adults may have unique barriers to essential services. Improving cost, accessibility, and inclusivity of these needed services may help address health and financial disparities among this population.

Services with the greatest unmet need:

1. Dental services
2. Financial assistance or counseling
3. Medical and health services
4. Mental health and substance use
5. Social support services

Reasons for not using needed services included:

48% - Difficult to access

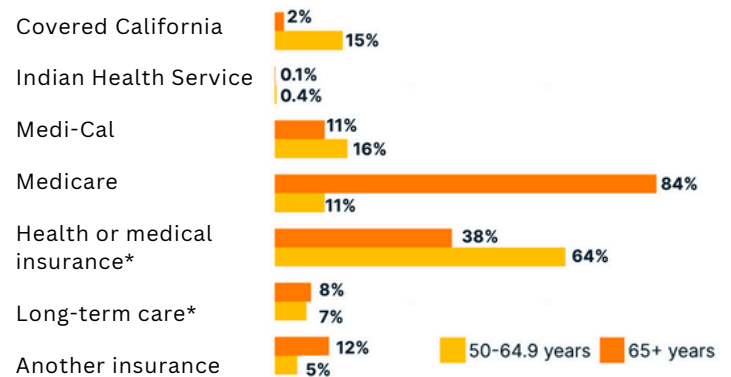
40% - Too expensive

38% - May not qualify

20% - Not LGBTQIA+ friendly

*Percentages out of all those who reported reasons for not using needed services

Insurance use by age



The estimated 5% or more of Californians who identify as LGBTQIA+ may need better access essential services that support healthy aging.

Addressing the needs of LGBTQIA+ older adults, such as the impact of housing and healthcare discrimination, is important to ensure widespread access to these services.

Continued evaluation of service utilization and wellbeing among LGBTQIA+ older adults will ensure that no one is left behind in California's aging population.



The full report may be found at https://aging.ca.gov/Survey_of_LGBTQIA/

1 Idler, E. L., & Benyamini, Y. (1997). Self-Rated Health and Mortality: A Review of Twenty-Seven Community Studies. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 38(1), 21-37. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2955359>

2 Bierman, A. S., Bubolz, T. A., Fisher, E. S., & Wasson, J. H. (1999). How well does a single question about health predict the financial health of Medicare managed care plans?. *Effective clinical practice : ECP*, 2(2), 56-62.

3 Katzan, I. L., & Lapin, B. (2018). PROMIS GH (Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System Global Health) Scale in Stroke: A Validation Study. *Stroke*, 49(1), 147-154. <https://doi.org/10.1161/STROKEAHA.117.018766>

4 LGBT Demographic Data Interactive. (January 2019). Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law.