

Senior Centers: A Resource for All

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Madison (WI) Senior Center, 330 West Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53711
OutReach, Inc., 600 Williamson Street, Madison, WI 53703

LGBT History Timeline

- 1930s 1935: “Successful” electric shock therapy of homosexuality reported
- 1940s 1943: US military bans gays and lesbians from serving in the Armed Forces
 1948: Kinsey reports that 4% of men are gay, 37% had same-sex relationship
- 1950s 1952: APA includes homosexuality in list of disorders; gay and lesbian immigrants banned from the US; Christine Jorgensen has sex reassignment surgery in Europe
 1954 Gays and lesbians banned from federal employment
- 1960s 1969: Stonewall Rebellion, origin of pride celebrations
- 1970s 1975: End of federal employment ban
 1977: SAGE (Seniors Aging in a Gay Environment) founded
 1978 & 1979: 100,000+ participants march on Washington, DC
- 1980s 1981: Disease later called AIDS first reported
 1982: WI first state to pass gay rights law
 1986: Reagan administration declares AIDS treatment & care not a federal concern, Supreme Court upholds state sodomy laws
- 1990s 1990: Hate Crimes Act passes and includes victim’s sexual orientation
 1992: World Health Organization removes homosexuality from list of illnesses
 1993: Military personal should not be asked their sexual orientation, called Don’t Ask Don’t Tell
 1996: Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) denies recognition to same-sex couples
- 2010s 2011: Repeal of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell
 2012: Minnesota Marriage Amendment defeated; Administration of Aging acknowledges that LGBT older people are a priority population
 2013: Minnesota legalizes same-sex marriage

Charge

Organize and Plan

Educate All Stakeholders

Ask for Needed Support

Engage the Population

Be Flexible and Have FUN

ACCESS TO CARE

- 15% Fear seeking care outside LGBT community
 - 13% Denied care or provided inferior care
 - 21% Do NOT Disclose to the physician
 - 2% of transgender older adults need a doctor, but can't afford visit
- Most needed services: senior housing, transportation, social events, support groups and legal services

RISKS

- 68% experienced verbal harassment; 43% threatened with violence
- 31% experience depression; 53% report loneliness
- 27% have experienced the death of a partner
- 30% do not have a will; 36% do not have a durable power of attorney
- 14% of gay and bisexual male participants are living with HIV

HEALTH DISPARITIES

- Lesbians, gay and bisexual older adults have higher rates of disability and mental distress than heterosexuals of similar age (counterparts)
- Lesbians and bisexual older women have higher rates of cardiovascular disease and obesity than counterparts
- Gay and bisexual older men experience poor physical health and more likely to live alone than counterparts
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CAREGIVING ROLES

Most participants have social support available

- 27% assist someone close to them with needs or a health issue
- 35% care for a partner or spouse; 2% care for an adult child
- 32% care for a friend
- 16% care for a parent; 7% care for other relatives

RESILIENCE

- 91% engage regularly in wellness activities
- 82% engage in moderate physical activities
- 38% attend spiritual or religious activities at least once a month
- 41% of transgender older adults and 41% of bisexual men have served in the military

RESOURCES AND CONTACT INFO

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Madison Senior Center, www.madisonseniorcenter.org

Outreach, Inc., www.lgbtoutreach.org

LGBT Senior Alliance, www.lgbtsenior.org

The Health Report; Disparities and Resilience among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Older Adults. <http://CaringAndAging.org/>