

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) elders have shown considerable strength while aging in a society predicated on heteronormative and binary expectations for gender and sexuality. The life trajectories of LGBTQ older adults are shaped by discrimination and stigmatization, and the embodied resistance that comes with demanding their full participation and recognition in society. This symposium highlights the innovative scholarship of emerging scholars in the field of LGBTQ aging who are engaging in diverse substantive and methodological investigations. The first study takes a comparative cohort approach to explore differences in stressors and depressive symptomatology between younger and older sexual minorities, highlighting the significance of cohort effects among LGBTQ people. The second paper uses data from the Health and Retirement Study to examine anticipated nursing home placement needs between LGB and heterosexual adults with suggestions to better prepare aging service networks. The third describes the influence of state legislature mandating LGBTQ-sensitivity training by examining differences in provider baseline knowledge and attitudes toward LGBTQ older adults in two states, one mandating LGBTQ-sensitivity training and one not. The final paper highlights findings from a multi-methods study that explores how long-term care workers, managers, and administrators respond when staff, visitors, or residents challenge LGBTQ rights for religious and moral reasons. Although substantively and methodologically varied, these studies all demonstrate the importance of applied scholarship that builds knowledge in support of policies and practices that promote equity among LGBTQ individuals across the life course. Rainbow Research Group Interest Group Sponsored Symposium.

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF STATE POLICY INTERVENTIONS FOR LGBT AGING: COMPARATIVE CASE STUDY OF NEW YORK AND CALIFORNIA
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The majority of aging network service providers are unprepared to deliver targeted services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) older adults. In 2017, California legislature mandated ongoing LGBT sensitivity training for congregate living providers. Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) developed a specialized training, Creating Inclusive Communities, for congregate living staff to learn the unique needs of LGBT elders. This secondary data analysis compared pre-test knowledge and attitudes of training participants in two states, one mandating LGBT aging sensitivity training (California, N=328) and one without the mandate (New York, N=622). Preliminary results show that prior to receiving training, California participants demonstrate significantly less knowledge of LGBT aging issues compared to New York participants; $t(948)=-3.808$, $p<.001$. Attitudinal differences were also demonstrated. These results

suggest that laws mandating LGBT sensitivity training may help reach providers with greater training needs. Policy and practice implications will be discussed. Part of a symposium sponsored by Rainbow Research Group Interest Group.

WHY AGE MATTERS: THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORICAL CONTEXT IN THE STUDY OF MINORITY STRESS IN SEXUAL MINORITIES

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Currently, there is support that links experiences of stigma/discrimination, known as minority stress, with depressive symptomatology in older sexual minorities (OSM). Yet, the context of cohort is ignored, despite OSM having been exposed to greater stigma across their lifetime. The current project explores how cohort informs the minority stress process by comparing three minority stressors and their relationships with depressive symptomatology across a younger (18-39, N=129) and older sample (40-80, N=104). It was found that OSM had significantly less overall stress, had different significant links between each stressor and depressive symptomatology, and significantly used social support to buffer stress contrasting their younger counterparts. These results highlight the need to consider cohort and discover why OSM are more resilient to minority stress. Considering the role of cohort improves aging and minority stress theories, is useful for professionals improving well-being in OSM, and informs our understanding of the lived experiences of OSM. Part of a symposium sponsored by Rainbow Research Group Interest Group.

FUTURE NURSING HOME PLACEMENT, HEALTH, AND RELATIONSHIPS BY SEXUAL ORIENTATION: FINDINGS FROM THE HRS

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This study compares LGB and heterosexual adults on anticipated need for future nursing home (NH) placement and factors that influence NH placement. Using data from the 2016 HRS, we found a trend toward higher anticipated NH placement among LGB adults ($M=34.0$, $SD=29.2$) as compared to heterosexual adults ($M=26.9$, $SD=27.3$; $p=0.05$). Compared with LGB respondents ($n=137$), heterosexual adults ($n=3,469$) were more likely to have living child/children (37% vs. 82%, $p<.001$). Although there was no statistical difference in marital status between LGB (50% married/partnered) and heterosexual adults (65% married/partnered; $p=.06$), married/partnered LGB respondents were more likely to be very/quite close to their spouse/partner (99% vs. 90%, $p<0.01$) compared to heterosexual respondents. There was no difference in number of health conditions between groups. This study suggests that LGB adults may have higher rates of anticipated need for NH, thus NHs must ensure their workforce is educated and prepared to support this growing population. Part of a symposium sponsored by Rainbow Research Group Interest Group.