

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Seniors in San Francisco

November 13, 2012

LGBT Senior Population Estimates & Demographics

LGBT Senior Population – Overall Estimates

Local Estimates of the LGBT Senior Population						
Data Source	# of senior respondents ¹	% of sample senior population that identified ² as...				
		Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual	Trans-gender	LGBT ³
California Health Interview Survey (CHIS): SF Seniors 60+	<i>(exact n not provided by CHIS website)</i>	12.3%			n/a	12.3%
SF City Survey, 1996-2011	7,603	1.1%	4.3%	3.6%	2.2% ⁴	11.1%
2006 SF Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) Phone Survey	464	0.4%	5.6%	5.0%	1.4%	12.4%
American Community Survey (2010, IPUMS): SF senior same sex couples	1,164	0.4%	1.2%	n/a	n/a	n/a

^[1] "n" is based on un-weighted figures. Percentages are calculated using the appropriate weighting variables for each survey. Not all senior respondents unambiguously identify sexual orientation and gender identity.

^[2] Percentages are based only on respondents for whom LGBT status could be unambiguously determined.

^[3] LGBT percentage may not equal the sum of the four categories if respondents were asked about sexual orientation and gender identity in separate questions.

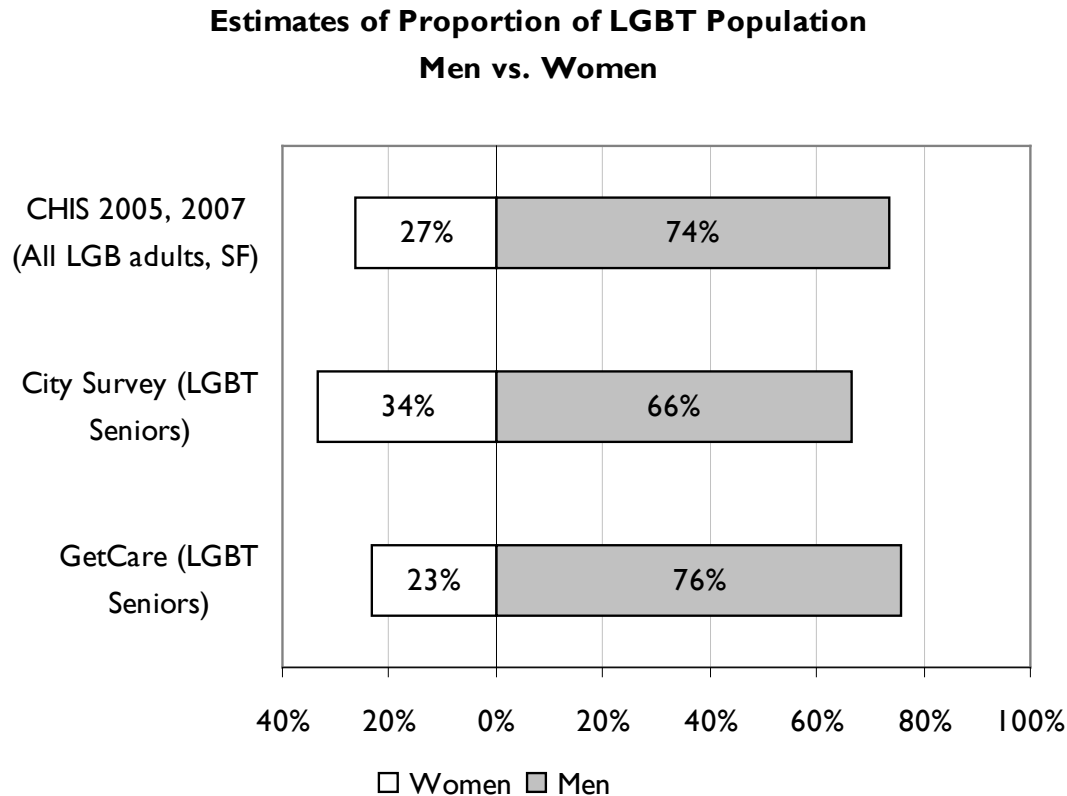
^[4] If calculated only for the years in which transgender status was included in the survey, this percentage increases to 4.1%, which seems very high.

LGBT Senior Population in Various Service Settings

Local Estimates of the LGBT Senior Population						
Data Source	# of senior respondents ⁶	% of sample senior population that identified ⁷ as...				
		Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual	Trans-gender	LGBT ⁸
SF Seniors enrolled in Office on the Aging database (GetCare FY 11/12)	21,981	0.4%	2.7%	0.9%	0.8%	4.8%
2005 Survey of residents of 8 SF Senior/Disabled SFHA Buildings	266	0%	2.7%	1.4%	0.7%	4.1%
SF DPH 2011 estimates of men who have sex with men (MSM)	36	n/a	3.0%		n/a	n/a
SF DPH HIV Health Services Clients 2009-2011	1166	0.3%	63.6%	7.2%	.9%	71.6% ⁹

Demographics of LGBT Seniors in Local Databases

1. Mostly men



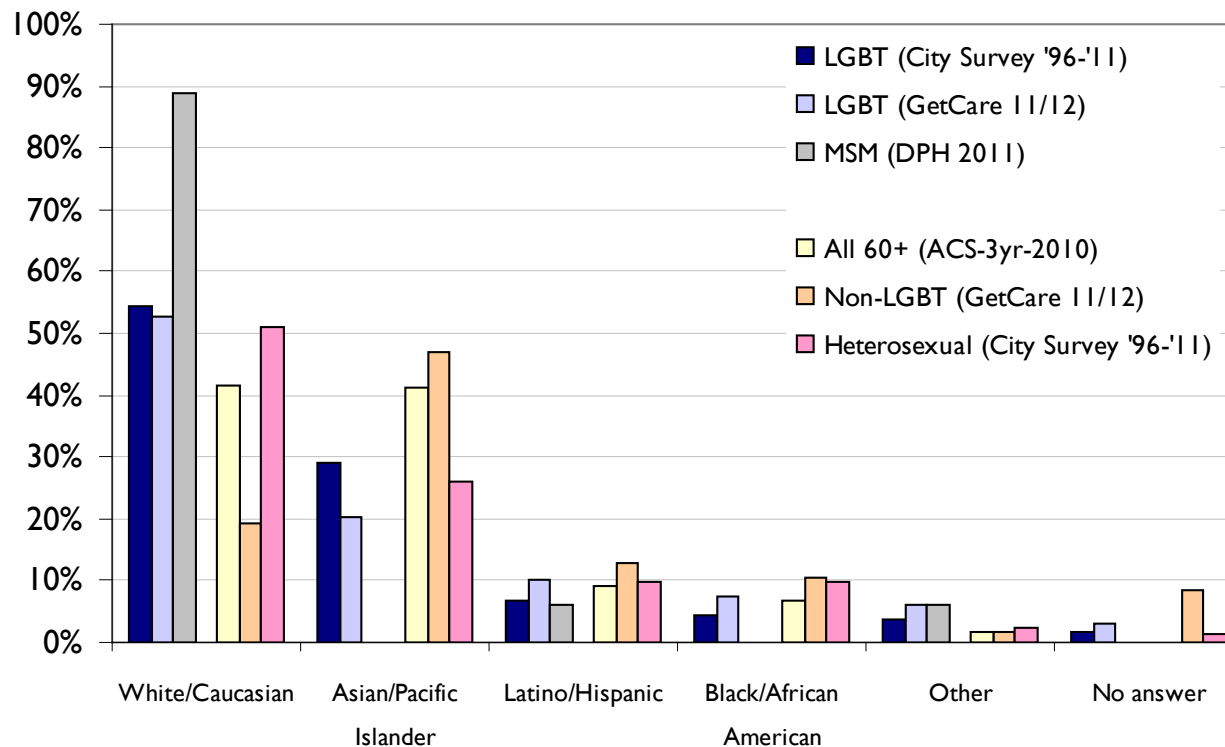
Demographics of LGBT Seniors in Local Databases

- 2. Fairly young:** The majority of LGBT seniors in each dataset were under 70 years old, in some cases an overwhelming majority fell into this age group (54%-88%). This may suggest increased closeting among older adults or a migration of this younger generation of LGBT seniors to the city.
- 3. Mostly English-speaking:** The level of English fluency among LGBT seniors enrolled in city-funded services is dramatically higher than would be expected based on the demographics of the city's entire senior population.

Demographics of LGBT Seniors in Local Databases

4. **More White and less Asian/Pacific Islander than the citywide senior population:** It is difficult to tell the degree to which this trend is due to uneven rates of closeting within different populations versus true differences of LGBT prevalence.

Demographics of SF Seniors, by LGBT Status and Data Source



Demographics of LGBT Seniors in Local Databases

5. **Living throughout the city, but concentrated in the North of Market, South of Market, Castro, and Mission districts.** Most common districts are 6 and 8.
6. **Often living alone:** The LGBT seniors City Survey respondents and LGBT seniors enrolled in Office on the Aging (OOA) senior services were much more likely to be living alone than their non-LGBT counterparts.
7. **Likely to have incomes at the extremes:** LGBT seniors have slightly higher rates of low-end and high-end incomes compared to heterosexual seniors.
8. **Mostly renters:** The City Survey estimates that 59% of LGBT seniors rent their homes, compared to 36% of heterosexual seniors.
9. **Much more likely than heterosexual seniors to be HIV+:** 72% of seniors receiving HIV Health Services were LGBT. However, this population makes up only 3% of the total projected LGBT senior population. Among HIV+ seniors, the year of infection was most commonly the mid-1980s to early 1990s, though new infections continue.
10. **Often veterans:** Limited local data showed that 20% of LGBT seniors enrolled in OOA senior services self-identified as veterans.

Local Service Utilization

Findings related to service utilization

1. **Data is very spotty**
 - a. **Most programs don't ask (e.g., self-sufficiency, housing, LHH, behavioral health, and adult day programs)**
 - b. **Combining LGBT data with age data can be difficult**
2. **Enrollment rates for LGBT seniors remain low for most programs, despite efforts to improve LGBT cultural relevancy in mainstream senior services.**

By Program	Total Enrollees	% LGBT	% Not LGBT	% LGBT Status Unknown
All Programs	24,368	2.6%	51.4%	46.0%
Congregate Meals	13,598	2.1%	60.1%	37.9%
Community Services	12,819	1.8%	52.2%	46.0%
Home Delivered Meals	3,927	3.3%	54.4%	42.4%
Nutritional Counseling HDM	1,691	4.1%	54.8%	41.1%
Case Management	1,396	2.8%	63.5%	33.7%
Health Promotion	797	3.3%	57.1%	39.6%
Congregate Meals (YAD)	606	2.0%	45.9%	52.1%
FCSP Elderly	600	3.8%	23.0%	73.2%
LGBT Senior Activity and Social Service Programs	315	56.2%	3.2%	40.6%
Home Care (Chore, Personal, Homemaker)	208	6.7%	56.7%	36.5%
Home Delivered Meals Emergency	144	4.2%	38.2%	57.6%
Adult Day Health/Social Care	132	0.0%	61.4%	38.6%
Case Management Transitional Care	122	8.2%	31.1%	60.7%
Congregate Meals-GF	106	0.0%	73.6%	26.4%
ADCRC	63	0.0%	66.7%	33.3%
Linkages	50	0.0%	4.0%	96.0%
Money Management	48	2.1%	47.9%	50.0%
FCSP Grandparent	36	0.0%	47.2%	52.8%
Transportation (Lighthouse)	24	0.0%	66.7%	33.3%

Findings related to service utilization

3. **HIV Health Services are dominated by LGBT clients, including among the senior clientele.** The most common services used by seniors in the HIV Health Services system were:
 - a. Outpatient/Ambulatory Medical Care (34%);
 - b. Oral Health Care (28%);
 - c. Case Management (non-medical) (26%);
 - d. Medical Case Management (including treatment adherence) (24%).
and
 - e. Food bank/Home-delivered meals (20%).
4. **Prevalence of older adults in the HIV Health Services is projected to increase in the coming years:** Successes of antiretroviral therapy is supporting people to live longer with HIV/AIDS, and new infections among older adults persist.

Local Needs Among LGBT Seniors

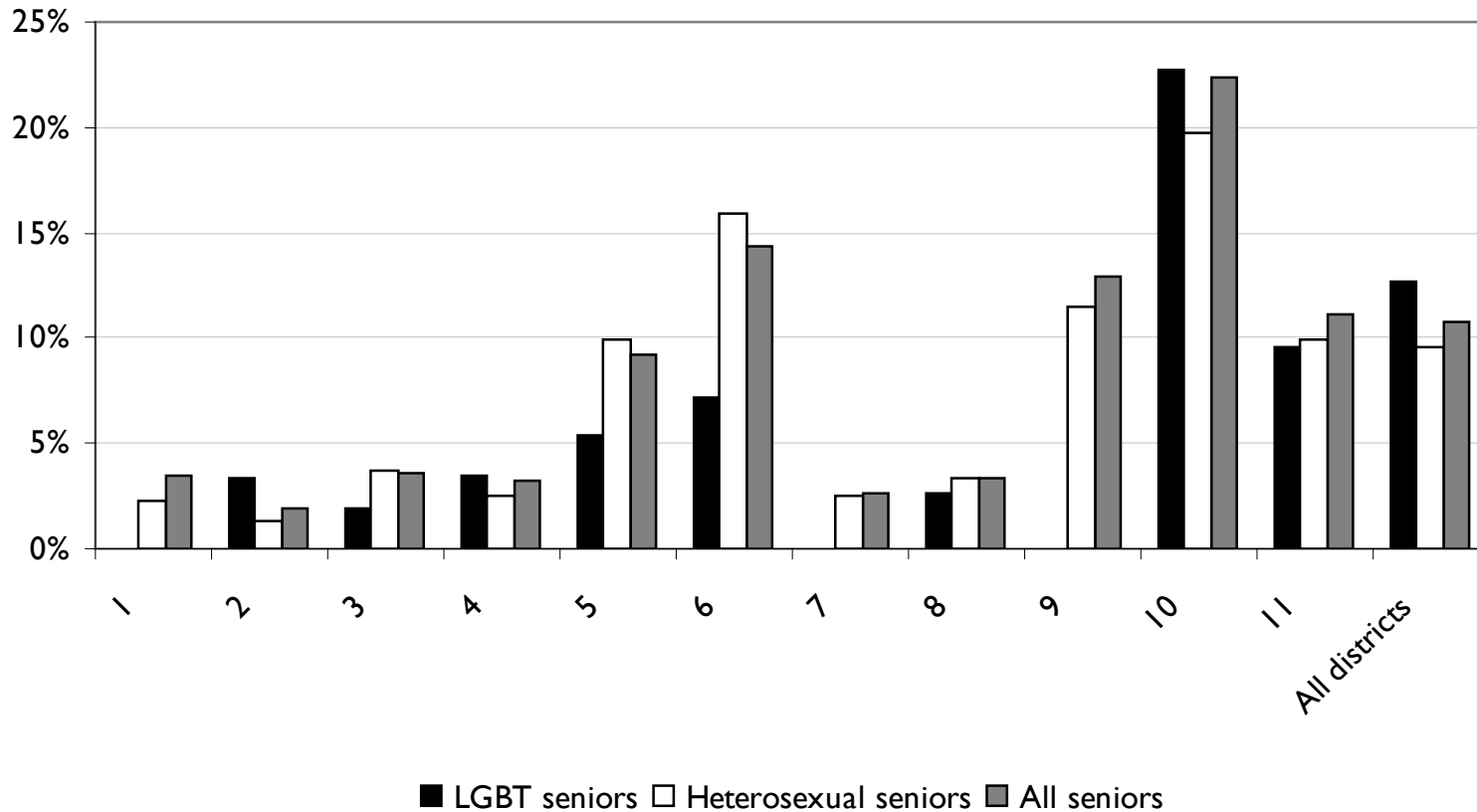
Findings related to local needs of LGBT seniors

1. **Concerns regarding discrimination and/or lack of sensitivity to LGBT issues among mainstream service providers, including:**
 - a. Lack of LGBT-friendly materials and environments at senior services;
 - b. Health care provider insensitivity and/or lack of legal recognition of partners in health care settings;
2. **Need for information about social services, including financial supports, benefits counseling, legal advocacy, and health insurance access;**

Findings related to local needs of LGBT seniors

3. **Need for supports to alleviate the extreme social isolation that some LGBT seniors experience;**
4. **Enhanced needs for behavioral health services (mental health and substance abuse);**
5. **Public safety concerns:** LGBT seniors were more likely than heterosexual seniors to have been the victim of a crime in the last year (19% vs. 10%), and those who were victims of nonviolent crimes were less likely to have reported them to the police (43% vs. 59%).;

% of seniors, by district, who report that they felt unsafe or very unsafe walking alone in their neighborhood during the day



Findings related to local needs of LGBT seniors

6. **Medical and health care concerns specific to older PLWHA:**
 - a. **Missed HIV/AIDS diagnosis:** When HIV/AIDS symptoms mimic those of normal aging (e.g., fatigue, weight loss), physicians may miss early diagnosis and delay treatment;
 - b. **Unknown long-term effects of ARVs;**
 - c. **Aging and HIV both diminish production of T-cells;**
 - d. **Chronic inflammation;**
 - e. **Need for Complementary Alternative Therapies;**
 - f. **Lack of geriatrics expertise among HIV care providers; and**
 - g. **Increased presence of co-morbidities (especially depression, arthritis, hepatitis, and neuropathy).**

Questions?

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