COVID-19 & LGBTQ AMERICANS

Tara McKay, PhD
Center for Medicine, Health, and Society
LGBTQ Policy Lab
INCREASED RISK OF INFECTION

- LGBTQ Americans are at increased risk of COVID-19 due to the higher prevalence of underlying health conditions
  - HIV
  - Heart disease
  - Diabetes
  - Asthma
  - Smoking
  - other pre-existing conditions
INCREASED RISK OF ECONOMIC IMPACTS

• LGBTQ Americans are more likely to work in highly affected industries

• Compared with different-sex couples, LGBTQ couples raising children have
  • lower incomes
  • higher levels of poverty

Submit a question:
Nancy.VanReece@Nashville.gov
INCREASED RISK OF SOCIAL IMPACTS

- Some members of our communities are already socially isolated, especially older men (33-50% nationally)
- LGBTQ folks are at high risk of becoming disconnected from critical social supports, including substance use and recovery programs
COVID-19 & LGBTQ AMERICANS
APRIL 10 TO MAY 10, 2020

• National study using short, anonymous online survey instrument
• Aim to capture individual responses, behavior changes, and concerns in a rapid assessment
• 1,968 completed surveys as of May 10, 2020
• Respondents from all 50 states + DC
## SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Living alone</th>
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<td>23%</td>
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<td>18%</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Non-White</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<td>38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Married</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partnered</td>
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<tr>
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<td>18-44</td>
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<td>45+</td>
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</table>

Source: 2020 Impact of Covid-19 on LGBTQ Americans
KEY FINDINGS

HEALTH IMPACTS

• Any risk factor
  • 24% before May 1
  • 17% after May 1

• Risk Factors
  • Sick in last 4 weeks with flu-like illness
  • Contact with person known positive
  • International travel after Feb 1, 2020
  • Tested positive

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KEY FINDINGS

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

• Job loss
  • 18% before May 1 (National ~12%)
  • 16% after May 1

• Reduced wages
  • 30% before May 1
  • 29% after May 1

• Food insecurity
  • 33% before May 1
  • 29% after May 1

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KEY FINDINGS

HEALTHCARE IMPACTS

- difficulties accessing medical care
  - 24% before May 1
  - 29% after May 1
- avoiding routine medical care
  - 59% before May 1
  - 61% after May 1
- difficulties accessing routine medications
  - 14% before May 1
  - 20% after May 1
OTHER CONCERNS

HIV + COVID-19?

- Many LGBTQ Americans are concerned about how HIV may affect risk, treatment or recovery from Covid-19
- This is an area where we currently have very little information or data
- Many would welcome information on
  - HIV + Covid-19
  - PreP + Covid-19
• Sponsored and marketed by *NashvilleHealth* and Metro Public Health Department

• Representative sample of adults aged 18+ living in Davidson County between October 2018 and April 2019

• Low response rate (16%), so some health measures may be underestimated

• Missing information on immunosuppressed disorders (HIV)

• Representative data available from 1,800 county residents

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APPROXIMATELY 6-8% OF NASHVILLE IDENTIFIES AS LGBTQ


Submit a question:
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>50% LGBTQ NASHVILLIANS LIVE IN COVID-19 HOT SPOTS


Submit a question: Nancy.VanReece@Nashville.gov
LGBTQ NASHVILLIANS: MORE LIKELY TO BE UNINSURED & LIVING WITH MENTAL DISTRESS

Notes: Chronic diseases include diabetes, asthma, emphysema, COPD, coronary heart disease, and previous heart attacks. High risk for COVID-19 includes any above chronic diseases and severe obesity (BMI≥40) according to the CDC.
OLDER LGBTQ NASHVILLIANS ≥50 YEARS:
AT HIGHER RISK FOR COVID-19 COMPARED TO NON-LGBTQ PEERS

Uninsured | Poor/Fair Health | Frequent Mental Distress | Any Chronic Diseases | Multiple Chronic Diseases | High Risk for COVID-19
---|---|---|---|---|---
2% | 20% | 41% | 51% | 18% | 56%
5% | 5% | 14% | 38% | 14% | 41%

Notes: Chronic diseases include diabetes, asthma, emphysema, COPD, coronary heart disease, and previous heart attacks. High risk for COVID-19 includes any above chronic diseases and severe obesity (BMI≥40) according to the CDC.

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OLDER LGBTQ TENNESSEANS & COVID-19

Tara McKay, PhD
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LGBT Policy Lab
OLDER LGBTQ TENNESSEANS & COVID-19
APRIL 1 TO MAY 4, 2020

• Vanderbilt University Social Network, Aging, and Policy Study (VUSNAPS)
• Actively recruiting 1,150 older LGBTQ people in TN, NC, and AL
• 134 Tennesseans enrolled in the study by May 4
• Not representative but we expect Covid-19 impacts to be more acute for older LGBTQ adults
• We will continue to provide updates throughout the summer

Submit a question:
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KEY FINDINGS

• 98% of older LGBTQ Tennesseans report that Covid-19 has affected them significantly.

• Biggest impact areas
  • Loss of financial resources
  • Loss of social connections, increased stress, isolation
  • Worry about exposure and concerns about response
LOSS OF WORK OR REDUCED INCOME

Prior to the epidemic, LGBTQ Tennesseans were already more likely to be
• Have incomes less than $25,000
• Food insecure
• Uninsured

Several older adults
• report job loss
• wage loss
• insufficient funds to cover expenses like housing
LOSS OF WORK OR REDUCED INCOME

“I have] no work. [I am] only receiving unemployment...[I] had to make arrangements with my landlord to pay rent as I receive my funds. In 6 years, I had never been late with rent.”

“[My Spouse] had a significant pay cut at work. I lost part of my benefits package.”
LOSS OF CRITICAL SOCIAL SUPPORTS

Many areas mentioned here, including:

• Family (Parents, adult children)
• Friends
• LGBTQ community
• Substance use support groups
• Sheltering in place with non-affirming adults

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STRESS AND ISOLATION

- 1 in 3 report feeling isolated every day in the last week
- 1 in 3 report feeling depressed at least some of the time in last 30 days

“I haven’t left my property in about a month. I haven’t been in the company of a living human being for about 3 weeks, other than the WalMart delivery guy for a few minutes.”
ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Several are considered essential workers in healthcare and other service industries and are worried about exposure to the virus.

“I work in a grocery store. Since Covid, it is now a very stressful job ...I'm grateful to have income but worried that I'll catch Covid and die.”

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WORRY AND CONCERNS ABOUT RESPONSE

• 83% view Covid-19 as a significant threat to their health
• 70% view Covid-19 as a significant threat to their life
• Just 12% trust the federal government to combat coronavirus
• 27% trust the Tennessee state government to combat coronavirus

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**COVID-19 & LGBTQ AMERICANS**
- Most taking precautions
- Health risks
- Economic impacts
- Social impacts

**NASHVILLE HEALTH & WELL-BEING SURVEY**
- Health risks
- Social risks
- Geographic risks

**OLDER LGBTQ TENNESSEANS & COVID-19**
- Economic impacts
- Social impacts
- Mental health impacts
- Opportunity for leadership

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