Aging in the LGBT+ Community

Fostering a culture of respect
Key Considerations

residents affordable activities privacy Quality Location care live staff
partner respected people Loss facility Cost affordability

people physical living Lack facilities residents Safety Security Cost
discrimination Affordability Homophobia Privacy accepted respected old staff

space Affordability privacy Need services concerns Social guests
living Quality Isolation activities ability
LGBT+ Seniors
Population estimates for Calgary & Area

2015  19,890
2043  37,310
FEAR OF STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

“My current experience with seniors’ facilities (visiting a family member) is one of the LGBT+ community being ignored or [being victimized by] hostile behavior from residents and care-givers”

“I would be afraid to have an event for fear of what would happen to people if they were ‘outed’”
## Experiences in Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment as an LGBT+ person</th>
<th>Positive or Very Postive</th>
<th>53.3%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negative or Very Negative</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
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</tbody>
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Support Networks

Child(ren) or Step Child(ren)
- Yes: 66.7%
- No: 33.3%

Children able to support housing or financially if necessary
- No: 69.2%
- Maybe / Not sure: 28.8%
- Yes: 1.9%
Summary

• Generational Context
• Stigma & Discrimination – experiences and fears
• Immediate Family v. Social support networks
• Coming ‘out’ is continuous and situational
• Diversity within the community

“Every time I enter a new place I have to assess.. “is it safe”?”
Housing Ideas and Recommendations
LGBT+ centric housing?

- LGBT+ Focussed but inclusive of allies: 57.70%
- Not-LGBT+ Specific: 32.70%
- Reserved for LGBT+: 14.40%
Q26 If you were to live in Seniors' housing (or already do) which of the following is most important to you?

Answered: 111  Skipped: 13

- Proximity to LGBT+ events or groups
- Transportatio to LGBT+ events or groups
- On-site support groups or events...
- On-site social activities that make...
- None of the above
Inclusion and respect in mainstream organizations

“It’s not about special treatment, it’s about equal treatment”
What can you do in your practice / organization?

PRINCIPLES

• Including “Peers” in decision-making and implementation

• Creating a place that is safe to be or to come ‘out’

• Recognizing diversity within LGBT+ population – “one size does not fit all