

The Health of the Queens LGBT Community

A Report from the 2015 NY State LGBT Health and Human Services Needs Assessment

HIGHLIGHTS

- More than two in five respondents from Queens lacked a health home, while more than one quarter did not have a primary care provider.
- Greater than one in five respondents from Queens identified as transgender or gender nonconforming.

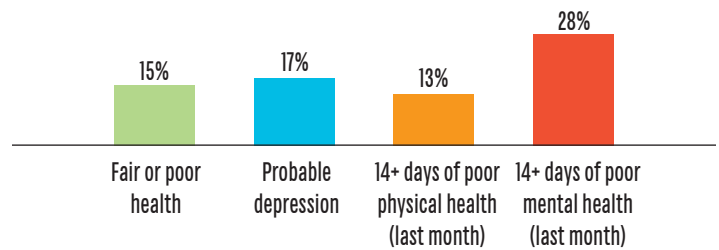
Background

Queens is the largest and second most populous of New York City's boroughs with nearly 2.3 million people.¹ There are four members of the LGBT Health & Human Services (HHS) Network and/or Aids Institute LGBT HHS Initiative grantees based there, AIDS Center of Queens County, Inc., Queens Center for Gay Seniors, Queens Pride House at Queens Community House, and Make the Road New York. Two hundred and twenty seven people responded to the New York State LGBT needs assessment in Queens. Fully 81% of respondents had been to an LGBT Center once in the past year, while just under one third (32%) visited at least once a month.

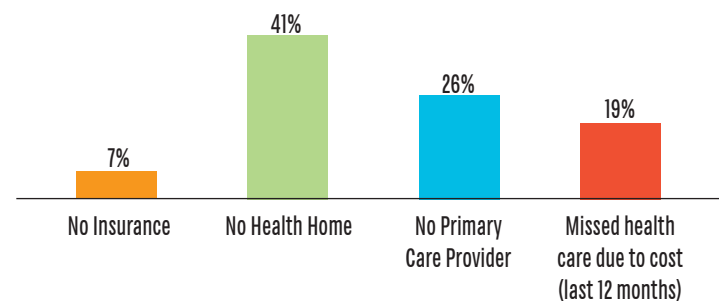
Current Health Status, Access, and Barriers to Care

Fifteen percent of respondents from Queens had "fair" or "poor" health, while nearly three in ten (28%) had frequent mental distress. While just seven percent had no health insurance, nearly one in five (19%) could not access needed health care in the last 12 months because of cost. About two in five (41%) had no health home and about one in four (26%) had no primary care provider. Among the barriers to health care services measured in the survey, respondents most frequently selected the following as "somewhat" or "major" problems: personal financial resources (33%), not enough psychological support groups (33%), not enough health professionals who are trained and competent with the LGBT community (31%), community stigma (26%) and inadequate insurance coverage (23%).

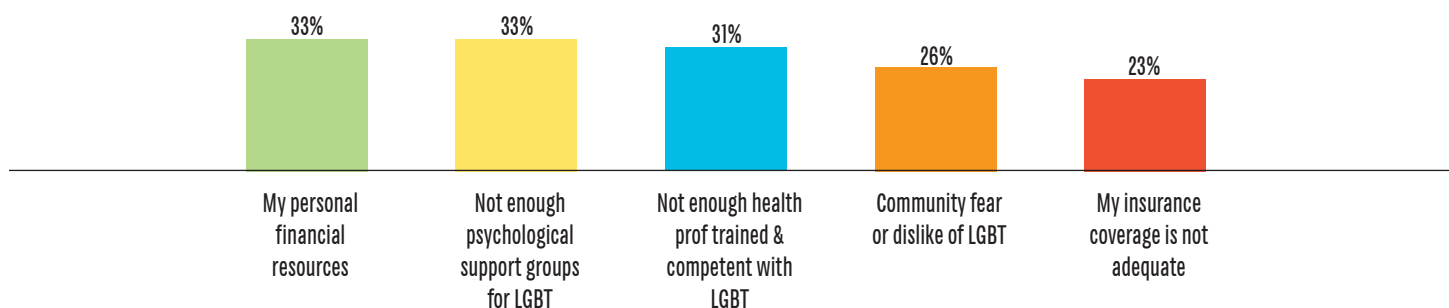
Health Status



Health Access

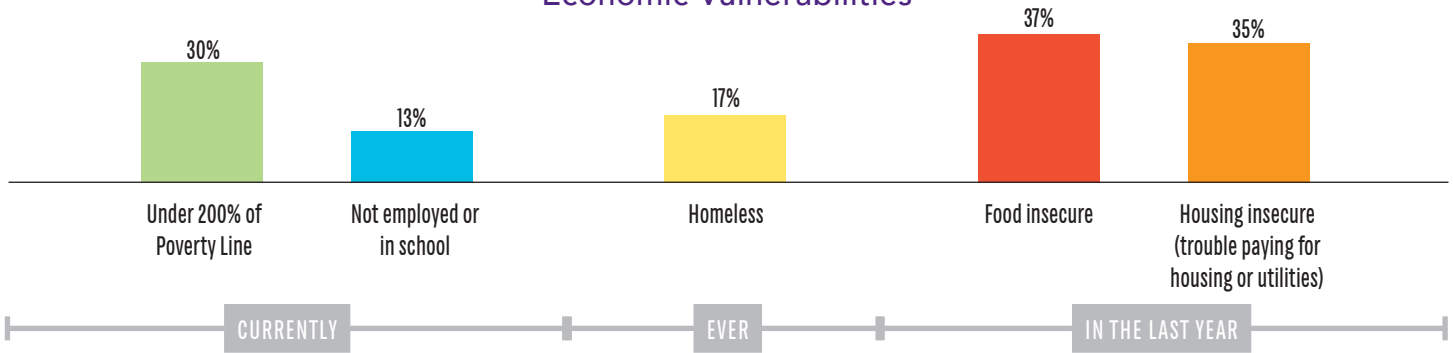


Barriers to Care



Works Cited 1. National Center for Health Statistics Population Data. Department of Health, Information for a Healthy New York. Total Population. 2012 data as of July, 2014. Available at www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/general/g96.htm. Accessed October 12, 2015.

Economic Vulnerabilities



Economic Status and Vulnerabilities

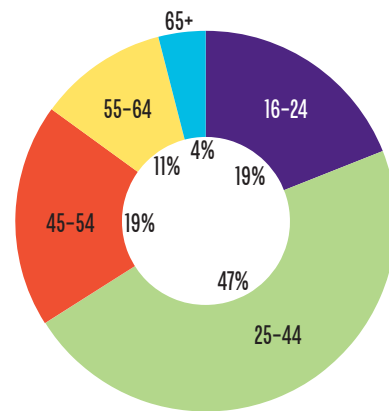
Nearly one third (30%) reported annual incomes under 200% of the poverty line. Three quarters (75%) were employed full or part time, about one in five (21%) were students and 13% were neither employed nor in school (and not retired). Seventeen percent had been homeless at some point in their lives. Just under two in five (37%) were food insecure and more than one third (35%) were housing insecure. Seventeen percent had accessed public benefits in the last year.

Demographics

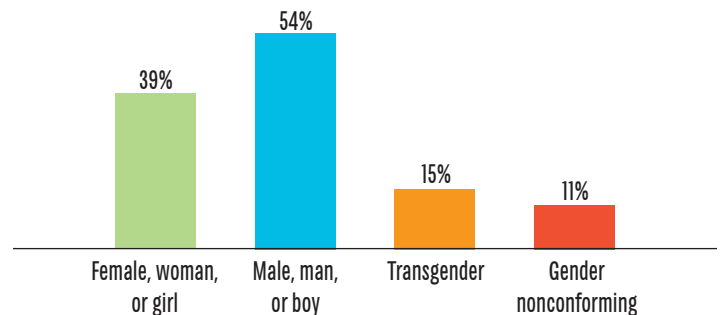
About one in five (21%) of those who took the survey identified as transgender or gender nonconforming (respondents could identify as more than one gender). Almost half (45%) identified as gay, almost one in four (24%) as queer, and 20% as bisexual. Twelve percent reported having a disability.

Two in five (40%) of survey respondents identified as people of color, while 67% were white (respondents could select more than one race or ethnicity). Nearly one in five (19%) identified as Hispanic or Latino/a, 13% as Asian/Pacific Islander, seven percent as Black or African American and 10% as multiracial. Other racial and ethnic categories were too small to analyze. Sixty percent had a college degree or higher. Four percent had served in the military.

Age (in years)



Gender Identity



Methods This fact sheet is part of a larger project to assess the health and human service experiences and needs of LGBT people in New York State. Data sources include (1) 22 focus groups with over 150 people, conducted from November 2014 to April 2015 (2) an online convenience sample survey of 3,792 LGBT people who live, work or receive services in New York State, conducted June to August 2015 and (3) analyses of population based secondary data. The survey was available in English and Spanish. Qualtrics software was used for data collection. Data were analyzed using STATA, a statistical program commonly used by social scientists. In order to preserve confidentiality, data are not shown if there were five or fewer respondents in the numerator and/or 20 or fewer respondents in the denominator. For fact sheets on other topics, a full report on methodology and a final report from the data, please visit gaycenter.org/thenetwork#reports.