## **Equity** A Powerful Force for the Future of Aging



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University of Washington (Funded in part by NIH/NIA, 1R01AG026526-01A2; 2R01AG026526-03A1)

#### **Elder Friendly Futures Conference**

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## Marginalization: Health & Aging

#### Health and Well-being in Marginalized Communities

- Aging with Pride: National Health, Aging, Sexuality and Gender Study
- Healthy Hearts in Tulalip Native Community
- HIV/AIDS and Older Adults in China











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## U.S. Health Priorities

#### Institute of Medicine Report (IOM, 2011)

At-risk and underserved

#### **Healthy People 2020**

- Inclusion of sexual and gender identity
- National health priorities

#### **Growing Number Older Adults with HIV**

Emlet, C. A., Fredriksen-Goldsen, K. I., Kim, H. J., & Hoy-Ellis, C. (2015). The relationship between sexual minority stigma and sexual health risk behaviors among HIV-positive older gay and bisexual men. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*.



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## Shifting Landscape

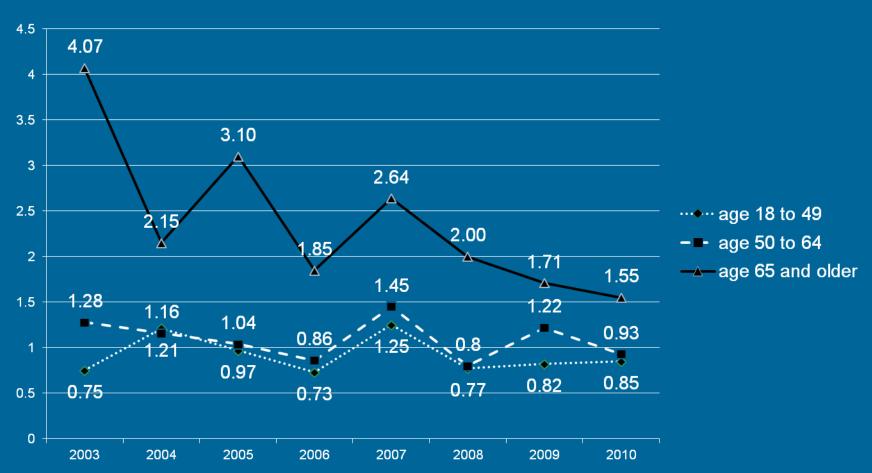
#### **Global worldwide aging and diversity**

#### Estimate 2.4 million LGBT, age 50 and older

- Every population group
- Hidden-within-hidden
- Increasing diversity by race and ethnicity

Kim, H.-J. & Fredriksen-Goldsen, K. I. (2016). Disparities in mental health quality of life between Hispanic and non-Hispanic White LGB midlife and older adults and the influence of lifetime discrimination, social connectedness, socioeconomic status, and perceived stress. *Research on Aging*.

#### Figure 1. Non-response Over Time: Sexual Identity Question



Time Trends in Rates of "Refuse to Answer" on Sexual Orientation by Age: Washington State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS-WA), 2003-2010

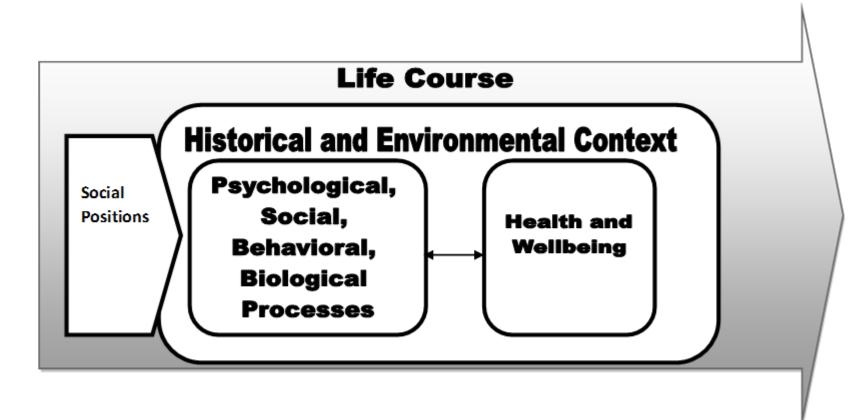
Fredriksen-Goldsen, K. I., & Kim, H.-J. (2015). Count me in: Response to sexual orientation measures among older adults. *Research on Aging*, *37*(5), 464-480.



## Aging with Pride: National Health, Aging, Sexuality and Gender Study

- Analysis of population based data (NHIS, HRS, BRFSS)
- National community-based survey (N=2,450)
- Longitudinal design
- Use of biological and self-report measures

#### **Figure 2: Health Equity Promotion Model**



Fredriksen-Goldsen, K. I., Simoni, J. M., Kim, H.-J., Lehavot, K., Walters, K. L., Yang, J., Hoy-Ellis, C. P., & Muraco, A. (2014). The Health Equity Promotion Model: Reconceptualization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) health disparities. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 84(6), 653-63.

## **Health Disparate Population**



American Journal of

Health Disparities Among Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Older Adults: Results From a Population-Based Study Karen I. Fredriksen-Goldsen, PhD, Hyun-Jun Kim, PhD, Susan E. Barkan, PhD, Anna Muraco, PhD, and Charles P. Hoy-Ellis, MSW

Disability Among Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Adults: Disparities in Prevalence and Risk Karen I. Fredriksen-Goldsen, PhD, Hyun-Jun Kim, PhD, and Susan E. Barkan, PhD



## **Distinct Groups**

#### **Unique risks and strengths**

- LGBT people higher education, comparable or less income
- LGBT people have historically been more likely to serve in the military
  - 41% of transgender older adults served in the military
  - Most LGBT veterans do not access they health benefits

Unique circumstances of diverse groups of LGBT older adults

Fredriksen-Goldsen, K. I., Cook-Daniels, L., Kim, H.-J., Erosheva, E. A., Emlet, C. A., Hoy-Ellis, C. P., Goldsen, J., & Muraco, A. (2014). The physical and mental health of transgender older adults: An at-risk and underserved population. *The Gerontologist*, *54*(3), 488-500.

## Life Course Perspective

#### Social context Cultural meaning

#### **Structural location**

- Invisible Generation
- Silent Generation
- Pride Generation

## Adversity

#### LGBT older adult participants

- Victimization
- Discrimination
- Everyday bias

#### Many have trauma related histories that must be considered.

Fredriksen-Goldsen, K. I., Emlet, C. A., Kim, H.-J., Muraco, A., Erosheva, E. A., Goldsen, J., & Hoy-Ellis, C. P. (2013). The physical and mental health of lesbian, gay male and bisexual (LGB) older adults: The role of key health indicators and risk and protective factors. *The Gerontologist*, *53*(4), 664-675.

## Historical Trauma

"I am not aware that anyone close to me knows or suspects my sexual orientation. My son once hinted at it but not in recent years. At my death, they will probably find tell-tale clues."

88-year-old participant

## Resilience

#### LGBT older adult participants

- Wellness activities
- Spiritual or religious activities

Recognize the many strengths and resources of LGBT older adults and their families.

Fredriksen-Goldsen, K. I., Kim, H.-J., Shiu, C., Goldsen, J., & Emlet, C. A. (2015). Successful aging among LGBT older adults: Physical and mental health-related quality of life by age group. *The Gerontologist*, *55*(1), 154-168.

## Lack of Access

#### LGBT older adult participants

- Denied or received inferior healthcare
- Do not disclose sexual or gender identity
- Bisexual older adults less likely to disclose
- Physicians' failure to recognize, and patients' reluctance to disclose, both create an incomplete assessment.

Fredriksen-Goldsen, K. I., Kim, H.-J., Emlet, C. A., Muraco, A., Erosheva, E. A., Hoy-Ellis, C. P., Goldsen, J., Petry, H. (2011). *The Aging and Health Report: Disparities and Resilience among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Older Adults.* 

## Unique Support

#### LGBT older adult participants

- Rely heavily on friends and partners, most of similar age
- Often lack a will or durable power of attorney
- There may be limits in friends' ability to provide care over the long-term, especially if decision-making is required.

## **Unmet Needs**

#### LGBT older adults in King County

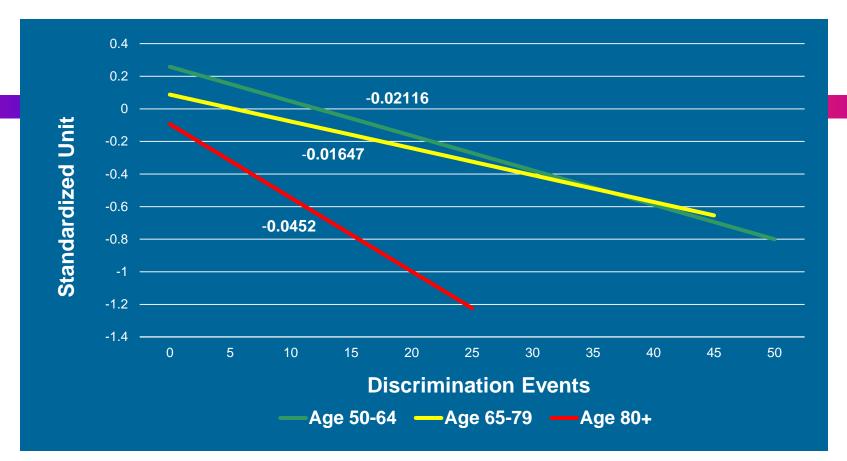
- Senior housing, transportation, legal services, social events, and support groups
- Care partners: Supportive long-term care facilities
- Most services fail to take into account the unique needs facing LGBT older adults and their caregivers.

Fredriksen-Goldsen, K. I., Shiu, C., Kim, H.-J., Emlet, C. A., & Goldsen, J. (2015). *At-risk and underserved: LGBTQ older adults in Seattle/King County - Findings from Aging with Pride.* Seattle, WA: Aging with Pride.

# Invisible, Silent and Pride Generations

- Configuration of risks and resources differ by age group
- For older age groups: Lifetime discrimination lower; degree of internalized stigma higher; degree of sexual orientation disclosure lower
- Non-disclosure may reduce risk of discrimination yet reduce access to social resources. The degree of influence of discrimination is more negative for older age group

#### Figure 3. Lifetime Discrimination and Health by Age Groups



Slope Comparisons	Wald Test	p value
Between Group 1 & 2	$\chi^{2}_{(1)} = 0.71$	0.3985
Between Group 1 & 3	$\chi^{2}_{(1)} = 3.01$	0.0828
Between Group 2 & 3	$\chi^{2}_{(1)} = 4.41$	0.0358

## Life Events

Retired Survivors Midlife Bloomers Visibly Resourced Beleaguered At-Risk

Fredriksen-Goldsen, K. I., Bryan, A. E. B., Jen, S., Goldsen, J., Muraco, A., & Kim, H.-J. (under final review). The unfolding of LGBT lives: Key events associated with health and well-being in later life. *The Gerontologist*.

## Service Innovations

Aging as a community issue Practitioner competencies Emerging service models Generations with Pride Safe space trainings

## Policy Innovations

Medicaid Waiver Program: Washington State Special Legislative Commission: Massachusetts Affordable Care Act Bathroom Bills / Antidiscrimination Protections Greatest Social Need

## Research Innovations

Population level data collection

Development and testing: Evidence based practices Technology

Local to global

## **Moving Forward**

Aging and health trajectories over time Culturally responsive services Evidence based programs and policies Interventions designed for unique needs

#### At-Risk and Underserved: LGBTQ Older Adults in Seattle/King County

Findings from Aging with Pride

Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen, PhD, Chengshi Shiu, PhD, Hyun-Jun Kim, PhD, Charles A. Emlet, PhD, Jayn Goldsen, BS

Report published by Aging with Pride, University of Washington, Seattle, WA October 2015



#### The Aging and Health Report

Disparities and Resilience among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Older Adults

> By Karen I. Fredriksen-Goldsen, PhD, Hyun-Jun Kim, PhD, Charles A. Emlet, PhD, Anna Muraco, PhD, Elena A. Erosheva, PhD, Charles P. Hoy-Ellis, MSW, Jayn Goldsen, BS, Heidi Petry, PhD



#### Publications and information available at www.Age-Pride.org AgePride@uw.edu