



**Center for Healthy
Aging and Innovation**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover®

LGBTQ + Aging

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NO MATTER THE PLATFORM, IT'S STILL NATIVE LAND.

Digital space is still Native space. The server, the ground holding the cable tower, the air that holds the WiFi signal. You are on Indigenous land.



USDAC.US/NATIVE LAND

The University of Minnesota Twin Cities is located on traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of Indigenous people. The University resides on Dakota land ceded in the Treaties of 1837 and 1851.

Learn more about these lands at <https://editions.lib.umn.edu/openrivers/article/where-we-stand/> and why treaties matter at <http://treatiesmatter.org/exhibit/>

#HonorNativeLand



Maggie is 87 years old and identifies as transgender and straight. She uses the pronouns “she” and “her.” Maggie has some forgetfulness due to vascular dementia and must move into a nursing facility to receive more care.



Jim is 81 years old and identifies as a gay man and uses the pronouns “he” and “him.” Jim lives with Alzheimer’s disease and needs homecare.



Sex

Chromosomes

Genitals

Hormones

Reproductive Organs

Secondary Sex Characteristics

Gender

Roles

Identity

Expression

Gender Related Terms



Transgender

Cisgender

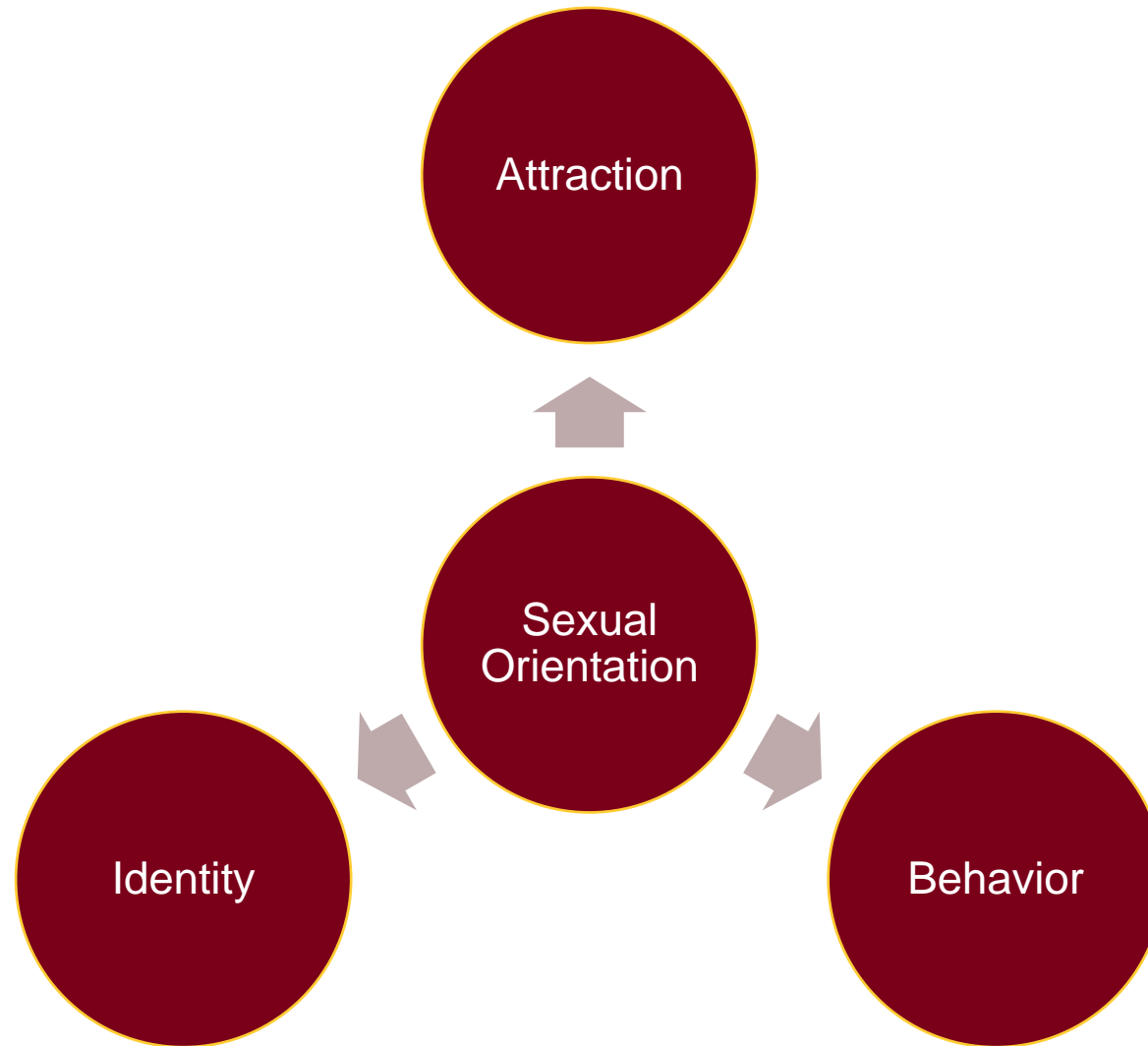
Nonbinary

Agender

Gender fluid

Gender dysphoria

Sexual Orientation



LGB

T

Q+

Sexual
Orientation

Gender
Identity

Sex, Sexuality,
Gender

Diverse communities

Queer

Umbrella term for non-heterosexual and/or
non-cisgender identities

Alternative term to “LGBTQ”

Historically used as a slur



Person-Centered Language

Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual	Transgender
Queer	Two Spirit	Asexual	Pansexual
Straight	Cisgender	Non-binary	Gender fluid
Gender Dysphoria	She/Her	He/Him	They/Them

Pronouns



How we refer to
someone when
not using their
name

Often denote
gender

She/her/hers
He/him/his
They/them/theirs

LGBTQ Older Adults



Disparities



Fear



Invisible



Disparities “More likely to...”

Delay or not seek
medical care

Delay or not get
needed Rx

Use emergency
rooms

Experience
distress

Have suicidal
ideation

Have problems
with alcohol
abuse and
smoke

Have cancer

Less likely to
report having
excellent or good
overall health

LGBT HISTORY TIMELINE

1920s

1924 Henry Gerber forms first gay group; arrested, loses job, group dissolves.

1930s

1935 "Successful" electric shock therapy of homosexuality reported.

1940s

1943 U.S. military bans gays and lesbians from serving in the Armed Forces. **1948** Kinsey: 4% men are gay, 37% had same sex relationship.

1950s

1952 APA includes homosexuality in first list of psychological disorders | Gay and lesbian immigrants banned from the U.S. | Christine Jorgensen has sex reassignment surgery in Europe. **1954** Gay men and lesbians banned from federal employment.

1960s

1966 First U.S. based sex reassignment surgery at Johns Hopkins. **1967** The Advocate sells out first edition. **1969** Stonewall Rebellion. Origin of pride celebrations.

1980s

1981 Disease later named AIDS is first reported. **1982** Wisconsin becomes first state to pass gay rights law. **1986** Reagan administration declares AIDS care & treatment is not a federal concern. | Supreme Court upholds state sodomy laws. **1987** March on Washington. First year to include bisexual people. 100,000 participants.

2000s

2002 Vermont first state to recognize civil unions between two people of the same sex. **2003** Sodomy laws struck down as unconstitutional. **2011** Repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. **2012** Minnesota Marriage Amendment defeated. **2013** Minnesota legalizes same-sex marriage. **2015** SCOTUS declares 14th Amendment requires a State to license a marriage between two people of the same sex.

1990s

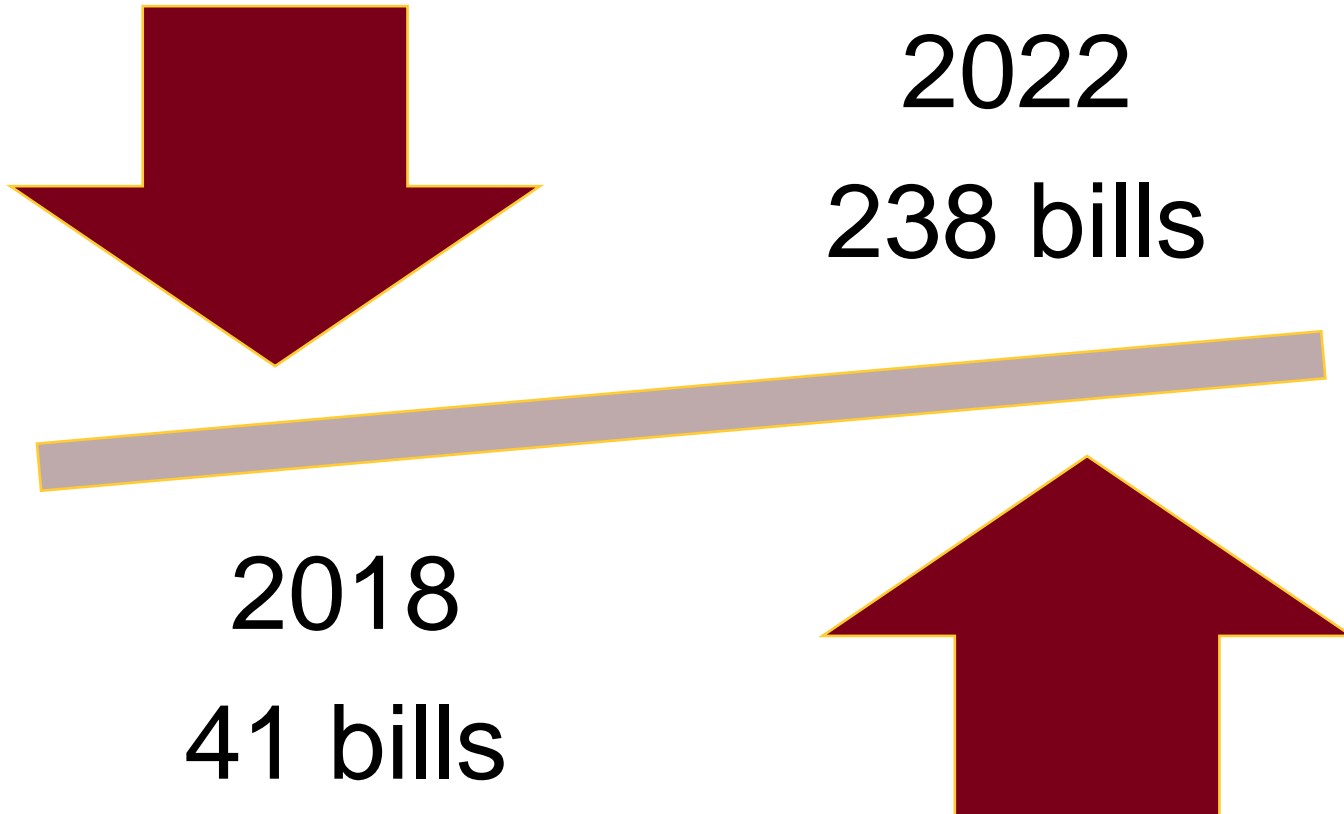
1990 Hate Crimes Act passes, includes crimes based on victim's sexual orientation. **1992** World Health Organization removes homosexuality from classification of illnesses **1993** Military personal shouldn't be asked their sexual orientation; known as Don't Ask Don't Tell | Minnesota passes first trans-inclusive anti-discrimination law. **1994** The AMA removes sexual orientation and related disorders from its official list of disorders. **1996** Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) denies relationship recognition to same-sex couples. **1998** Matthew Shepard beaten, tortured and left to die. **1999** Texas court rules woman who had sex reassignment surgery is legally male, thus not her husband's legal widow.

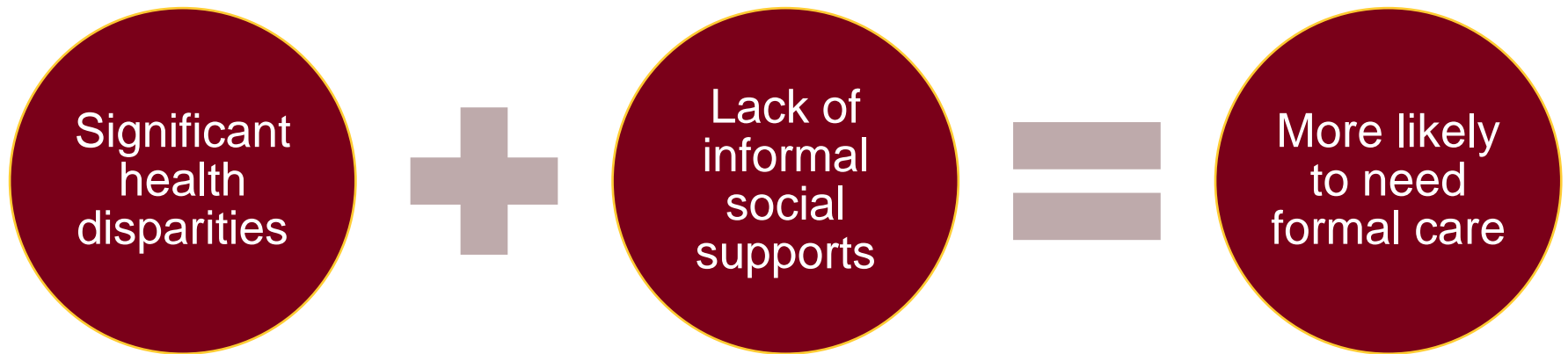
1920-1970-Raids, Arrests: Routine raids of public gatherings of LGBT people; arrests, including for dressing in the attire of the "other" gender.

1920-mid-1970-Discrimination: Discrimination is legal in every part of the U.S. against LGBT people, including jobs, housing, and public accommodations.



Perpetuating Fear





Intake Form

Please check the following to receive services

Location:

- Duluth, Minn
- Superior, Wisc

Height:

- 6'2"
- 6'6"

Forms are
not inclusive

I didn't
even
consider
it

I don't
know
what to
ask

I can't
change
the form

Our past impacts our present



While having been together for over 40 years, Jim and his partner did not have the same rights to marry until 2015. When Jim was in the hospital, his partner did not have the right to automatically visit him.

Today, Jim and his partner took down all the photos of their life together and moved Jim into the spare bedroom to hide their relationship from a home care provider.

In her 40s, Maggie lost her job because she is transgender. At that time, it was legal to fire someone because they identify as LGBTQ.

Today, Maggie experiences anxiety whenever there is a new caregiver because she's afraid of how she'll be treated by them as a trans person. In fact, Maggie's long term care plan was to end her life.

Impacting Lives



Knowledge

Attitudes

Quality of
Care

Quality of
Life

Case Scenarios

Scenario - Joseph



You anticipate transfer of an admission to skilled care from a hospital after hip surgery. The discharge paperwork from the hospital notes that the gender of your new resident as “female.” There is a notation that the individual identifies as being transgender.

When the resident arrives, you quickly discover that he identifies as male and goes by the name Joseph. His gender identity is male, but legal sex is female. You learn further that Joseph has not had gender confirmation surgery, but is receiving hormone replacement therapy.

Scenario - Susan



You learn that an openly lesbian woman named Susan has had an unpleasant experience with your services. She feels isolated and sometimes not safe. She fears group settings and often will eat alone.

You soon realize after further investigation that she experiences bullying from other women because she identifies as a lesbian. Two particular ladies don't allow her to sit with them and make her sit away from others. They have been overheard telling her she isn't welcome to attend activities.

Scenario - George



A closeted gay man, George, is receiving services from your organization. A long term employee, Mary, learned George's sexual orientation and has told you that because of her beliefs, she cannot serve George.

Later, you learn that Mary is telling other staff George's sexual orientation.

Scenario – Jessica



Jessica, an older bisexual woman who never identified her sexuality until talking with a social worker at your skilled nursing facility. She has mild cognitive impairment and her son, Jacob, serves as her financial power of attorney.

A woman, Grace, has been visiting Jessica. Jacob has complained that she has no right to visit Jessica and in the past has caused significant turmoil in Jessica's family. On the other hand, Jessica seems to enjoy Grace's visits and is overall happy.

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