STATUS OF LGBTQ HEALTH: SANTA CLARA COUNTY 2013

Findings for LGBTQ Older Adults
LGBTQ health assessment

- Historically, very limited data available on LGBTQ health in Santa Clara County
- Board President Ken Yeager, State of the County 2013
- First health assessment of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer SCC residents
- Goal: understand health needs of LGBTQ residents to identify priorities, strategies, and resources to address disparities
Timeline

- **August 5**: First Steering Committee Meeting
- **August 17-18**: Adult paper survey administered at San Jose PRIDE
- **August 28**: Community stakeholder meeting and community conversations
- **September-October**: Online LGBTQ adult survey in English, Mandarin, Spanish & Vietnamese
- **September-November**: Key Informant Interviews and additional community conversations
- **November 14**: Community Forum (i.e. recommendations and strategy development)
- **December 20**: Final Report
Community engagement and participation

Co-chairs
- PHD
- RDA

Community forum
Community conversations and key informant interviews
Steering Committee Members

Community engagement and participation
3 Co-chairs Steering Committee (N=27)

SCCPHD

Data collection

Adult Survey (N=1,175)

Community Conversations (N=17)

Key Informant Interviews (N=27)
Survey methods

- Limited to Santa Clara County LGBTQ adults (18+)
- Administered online and at SJ PRIDE and community events/locations
- Link to survey was distributed via email, social media, newspapers, websites

Limitations:
- “Convenience” sample (self-selected, not randomly selected)
- Not representative of the LGBTQ population
- Results cannot be compared to probability samples
Community conversations

Health and social issues

- Community connectedness and social cohesion
- Discrimination and acceptance
- Health care access and discrimination
- Families
- Outness
- Substance use and abuse
- Resiliency
- Safety
- Youth
- Mental health

Additional population specific conversations identified:
Latino/a LGBTQ (in Spanish); Asian; Seniors; Lesbian; Transgender men/women; African Americans; Youth (<18)
Key informant interviews

- 27 community leaders, experts, and service providers knowledge about particular issues or populations
- Similar topics as in community conversations
Community forum

1. Public Health Department and RDA identified...
2. 47 priority areas
3. Smaller steering committee working group selected...
4. 20 priority areas
5. Co-chairs selected...
6. 12 priority areas
SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS
Population size

- Lesbian or gay: 31,000 adults (3% of SCC adults)
- Bisexual: 16,000 adults (1% of SCC adults)
- Transgender: 3,500 adults (based on national estimates)

Age distribution by sexual orientation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Heterosexual %</th>
<th>Lesbian or gay %</th>
<th>Bisexual %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-39</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-64</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-79</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, 2011-12 California Health Interview Survey
Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents with health insurance by age

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents out to their healthcare provider by age

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
In their own words: Healthcare access

- LGBTQ seniors reported that their Medicare plans did not cover their basic dental, vision and hearing needs.
- Transportation to and from medical services was cited as an obstacle for seniors, noting existing transportation services as “insufficient, unsafe or unaffordable”.
- LGBTQ seniors reported that “they did not feel comfortable taking public transit after dark”.


In their own words: Medical provider competence

- Being “LGBTQ friendly” is not enough; providers need to be “LGBTQ knowledgeable”.

- “It’s nice to educate our doctors [about trans issues], but I want to know that they know what they’re doing, and not just fudging a little bit and figuring it out on us.”
PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents who are overweight or obese by age

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents who have ever been diagnosed with 1 or more physical chronic conditions by age

- 18-24: 24%
- 25-54: 34%
- 55+: 60%

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
Community members noted that economic insecurity contributes to poor physical and mental health outcomes.

Several LGBTQ seniors described making difficult choices about paying for medical care and other necessities.
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents who felt that they might need to see a professional in the past 12 months because of concerns with their mental health, emotions, nerves, or use of alcohol or drugs by age

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents who seriously considered attempting suicide or self-harm in the past 12 months by age

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
Community members described mental health as a serious concern, often connected to rejection, isolation, discrimination, and harassment.

Participants noted that LGBTQ older adults are at risk for depression due to isolation from their families, financial difficulties and from coming of age during an era when homosexuality was perceived as a mental illness and homophobia and persecution was accepted and commonplace.
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS AND SAFER SEX
## People living with HIV/AIDS by age (2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Rates (per 100,000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>3,342</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>182.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;=14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 - 19</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 - 29</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>86.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 - 39</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>201.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 - 49</td>
<td>1,145</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>411.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 59</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>400.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 - 64</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>264.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>93.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Testing for sexually transmitted infections

Among survey respondents who are men who have sex with men (MSM) ages 45+:

- 2% have *never been tested* for HIV
- 27% have *never been tested* for syphilis
- 24% have *never been tested* for gonorrhea

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
In their voices: STIs

- Community members identified a shortage of HIV and other STI outreach and testing.
- Participants highlighted stereotypes about who is at risk for HIV and other STIs as a barrier to increasing access to HIV and other STI testing.
- “Normally, gay men go out of the county to San Francisco to get a one-stop shop service.”
ACCEPTANCE AND DISCRIMINATION
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents ages 55 and older who agreed or strongly agreed with statements regarding social acceptance of LGBTQ people in Santa Clara County

- Most people in Santa Clara County are accepting of LGBTQ people: 64%
- Most people in my neighborhood are accepting of LGBTQ people: 58%
- Most people in my family are accepting of LGBTQ people: 72%
- Most people in my place of employment are accepting of LGBTQ people: 81%

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents who have come out by relationship type and age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship type</th>
<th>Ages 18 to 24</th>
<th>Ages 25 to 54</th>
<th>Ages 55 and older</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LGBTQ friend</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends who are not LGBTQ</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate family members</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended family members</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse or partner</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare provider</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coworkers</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
Community members noted that an individual’s socioeconomic status, age, cultural background, religion, and generation influence self-acceptance and outness.

“They have gone through being LGBTQ in years when it was not socially accepted to be gay.”

Community members also described challenges faced by LGBTQ older respondents related to family acceptance, including: isolation, rejection, verbal and physical abuse.

“A lot of the LGBT seniors have depression because they are not out to their family and friends.”
SOCIAL SERVICES
35% of LGBTQ respondents ages 65+ reported that they needed senior services but had a hard time accessing them

Among respondents 55+
- 13% needed affordable housing
- 12% needed transportation services
- 11% needed nutrition services
- 9% needed disability and special needs services
- 9% needed job training and placement
Affordable housing and homelessness

- The lack of safe and affordable housing options for LGBTQ individuals threatens emotional and physical well-being.
- Seniors pointed out that finding LGBTQ-friendly housing is especially challenging given that people their age tend to be less accepting of LGBTQ people than younger people.
- “[As a senior] there are two choices: Maintaining my identity and being isolated or going back to the closet after being out for so many years.”
Next steps

- Disseminate widely: report available online & print
- Data from report and recommendations from forum will help inform: community organizations, county agencies, and elected officials
- Goal: generate equitable action-oriented solutions to improve the lives of the LGBTQ community
Acknowledgements

- Supervisor Ken Yeager, Dr. Marty Fenstersheib, and Mr. Fred Ferrer
- Public Health Department staff
  - CDIP: Kris Vantornhout and staff
  - HIV/AIDS: Maharlika Aguirre, Raj Gill, Jim McPherson
  - Communications: Danica Cho, Amy Cornell and Johanna Silverthorne
- Steering Committee and community organizations
- Special thanks to the LGBTQ community of Santa Clara County
Great Things Start with Good Health

Reports

This section contains health status reports and fact sheets created by the Public Health Department.

Status of LGBTQ Health in Santa Clara County, 2013
- Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey

Pertussis Report, through September 28, 2013
- Previous Pertussis Reports in 2013
Child Poverty in Santa Clara County Report, 2013
Obesity, Physical Activity and Nutrition Report, 2013
Secondhand Smoke and Multi-Unit Housing in Gilroy: A Desktop HIA, 2013

Influenza Reports
Influenza Report, January 12-18, 2014
Influenza Report, January 5-11, 2014
- Previous Influenza Reports

Status of Latino/Hispanic Health Santa Clara County 2012
- Executive Summary (English)
- Executive Summary (Spanish)
- Volume 1: Latino/Hispanic Health Matters
- Volume 2: Neighborhood Conditions that Affect Latino/Hispanic Health
- Appendices: Methods and Tools
- Additional Tables and Graphs
- Presentations
- Neighborhood Profiles

External Links
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
California Department of Public Health
American FactFinder
Questions?