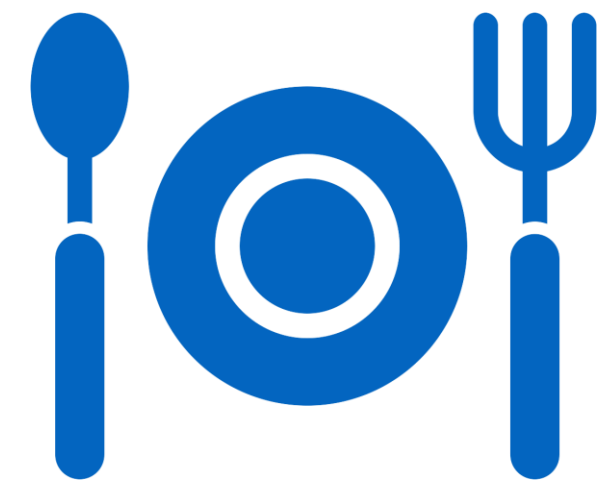


BACKGROUND

In 2016, food insecurity affected 15.6 million households in the U.S.



Approximately 10% of senior-only households experience food insecurity.

Food insecurity in seniors is linked to: depression, social isolation, heart attack, congestive heart failure, asthma.



LGBT adults are at greater risk for the above, however, few studies have examined food insecurity within the older LGBT community



METHODS

We conducted 10 qualitative interviews with older adults who self-identified as members of the LGBT Community.

- Interviews were audio recorded & transcribed verbatim
- The study team developed a codebook based on open coding
- Coding and analysis was facilitated by NVivo11 Software
- All transcripts were double coded
- Emergent codes were organized into thematic categories

KEY FINDINGS



"I only order once a month. Because my income is once a month. I only get the one income. So once I receive it then I go right online & order my groceries. Everything has to come out of that one pay."

"...you have to plan ahead for it to be a day with good weather and I can't buy as much as I might want to because a bicycle can only hold so much and still balance the bicycle."

"Because it's a dollar a bag. It's fresher. I can't afford supermarket produce. But I'll get the farmers market. There has these dollar bags so I can get 3 portions per dollar of freshly picked vegetable or fruits."

"I buy a lot at the Acme because I can just walk there. Its in the neighborhood."

"The volunteers all know I'm gay and its not an issue. Where I wouldn't mention that if I were going to some other places. I just don't want to have to go through that experience."

"Well, I don't think anybody's ever refused to sell me anything in the grocery retailer. You know on the food stamp card just, you know, you just swipe that through and nobody can say anything."

DISCUSSION & LIMITATIONS

LGBT older adults face many of the same barriers and some additional barriers as their heterosexual and cisgender counterparts.

LGBT older adults report better access when they have social or familial support.

Current programs designed to help individuals access food fall short in meeting this community's needs.

Food access programs should consider the unique needs of the LGBT older adult community.

This study was geographically limited as all participants live in Center City. Programs and barriers that exist in other parts of Philadelphia were not explored.

CORE COMPETENCIES

1A1, 1A2, 1A3, 1A7, 1A8, 1A10, 1A12
2A1, 2A2, 2A6, 2A7, 4A3, 4A4,
5A1, 5A2, 5A3, 5A6, 5A7, 5A10, 8A1

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