

Problem Definition

LGBT older adults report reluctance to seek medical care.



Lack of adequate medical utilization.

Delayed care, risk of serious illness, and poorer health outcomes.

The Center for Health Aging (CHA) at Jefferson is proximal to a large LGBT population.

Aims For Improvement

CHA's overall goal is to improve the care delivered to LGBT older adults.

Step 1: Needs assessment with provider and staff survey (Fall 2020)

Step 2: Implementation of SAGE training and provider education (Fall/Winter 2020)

Step 3 (this study): Needs assessment with community-dwelling LGBT older adults (Spring 2021)

This needs assessment will be used to improve practice policies, procedures, and training in the coming year.

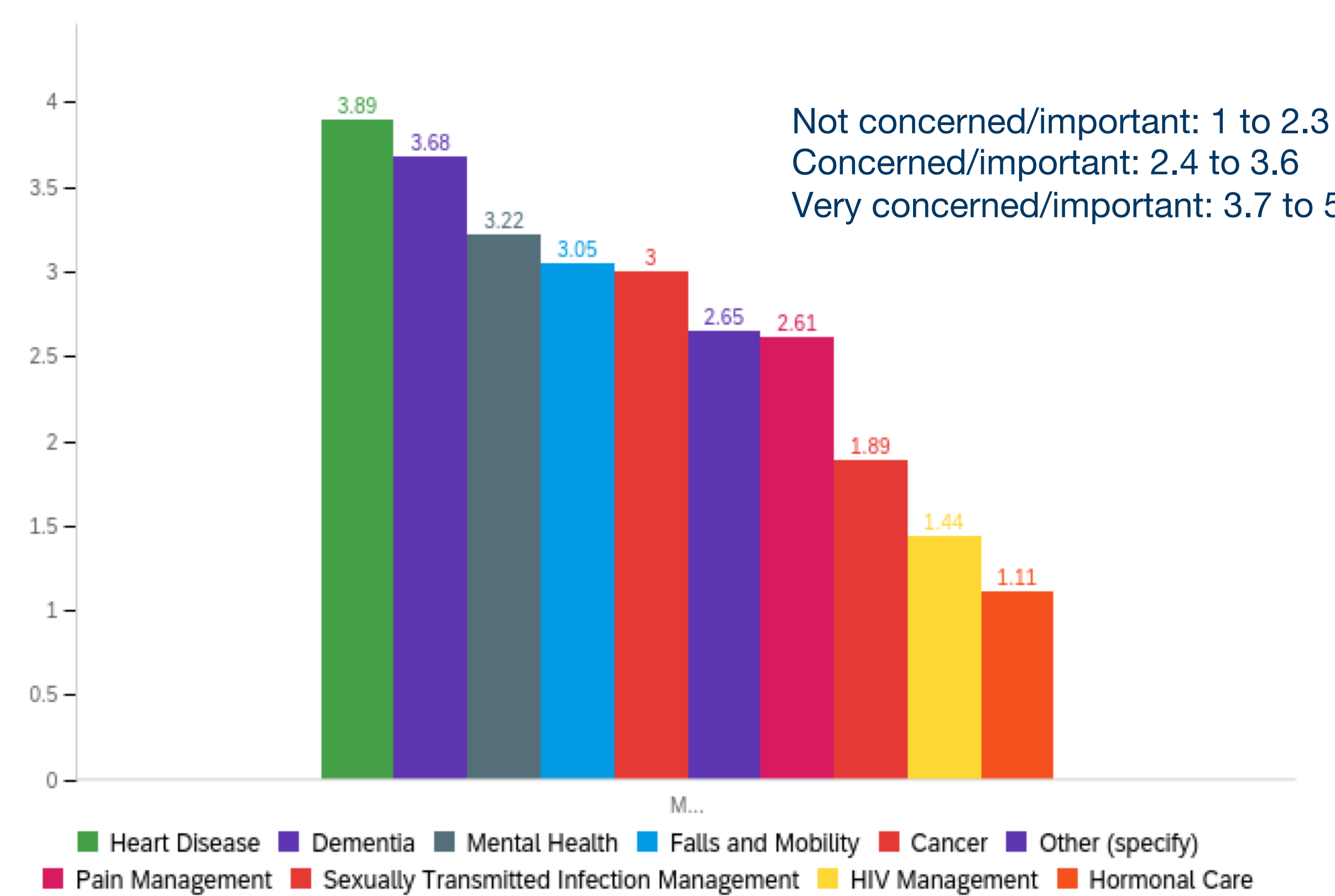
Intervention

Anonymous and voluntary survey. Questions focused on the following.

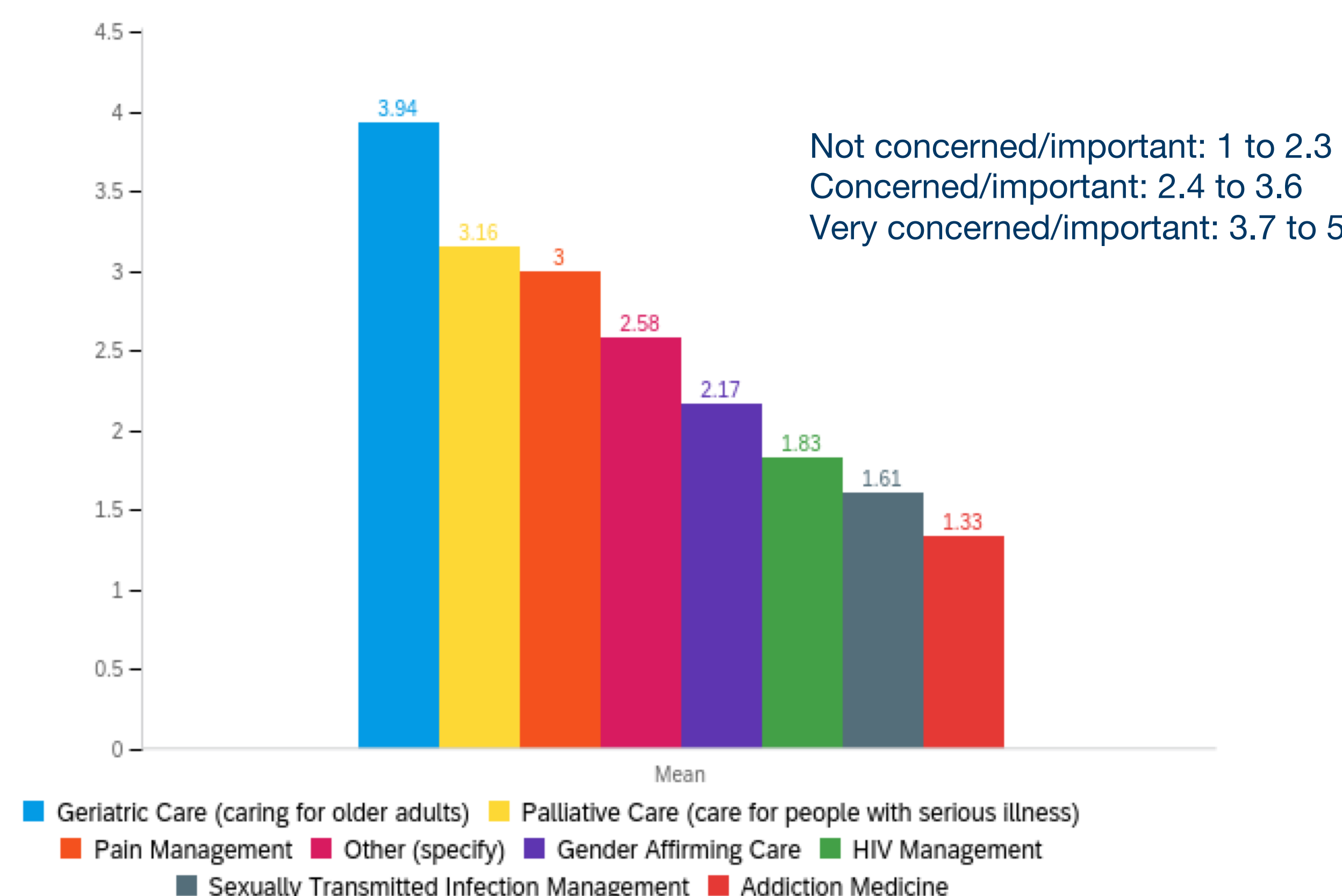
- Demographics
- Health concerns
- Life concerns
- Preferred provider expertise
- Valued medical services



Measurements/ Results



Life Concerns



Provider Expertise

22 completed surveys were obtained (16 male, 5 female, one non-binary/third gender). 16 participants self-identified as gay, 2 as bisexual, 3 as a lesbian, and one as heterosexual. Age distributions of participants were primarily 65 to 75 years.

- Reported health concerns with heart disease, dementia, mental health, and falls and mobility, cancer, and pain management more than STI management, HIV management, and gender-affirming therapy.
- Participants reported life concerns of social isolation, maintaining independence, caregiving, and financial security.
- Respondents valued expertise in geriatric care, palliative care, pain management, and end of life planning.
- Medical services valued as very important was access to electronic medical records.

10 people volunteered to participate for a focus group.

Lessons Learned

- Underscores the value of geriatric care for this population.
- Highlights the importance of creating inclusive care settings for the care of all older adults.

Future Goals

- 1) Achieve transgender and non-binary older adult representation.
- 2) Form a focus group including survey respondents and patients of CHA.
- 3) Implement feedback into provider training.

References

