

The Health of the Central New York LGBT Community

A Report from the 2015 NY State LGBT Health and Human Services Needs Assessment

HIGHLIGHTS

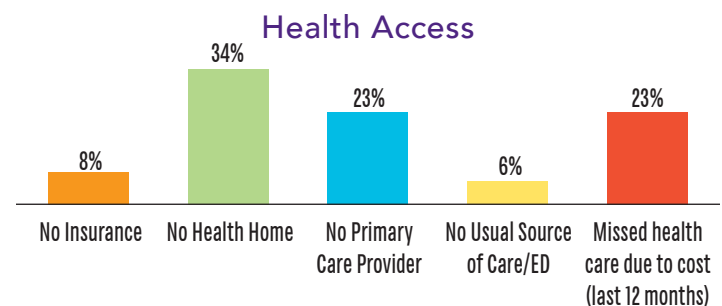
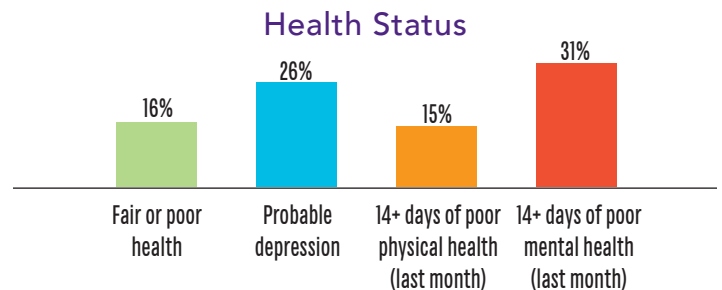
- In the Central New York region, more than two in five respondents reported annual incomes below 200% of the poverty line and a similar number were food insecure.
- Respondents from the Central New York region were most likely to identify personal financial resources as a barrier to accessing health care services.

Background

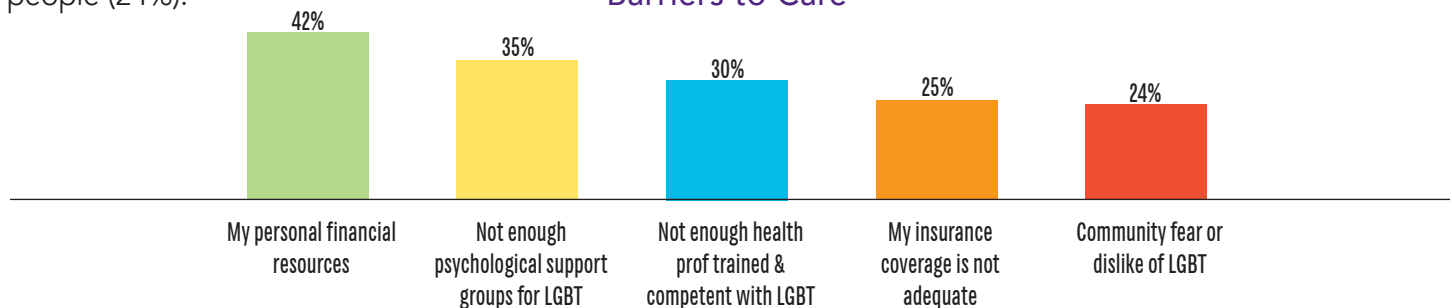
The Central New York region includes Cayuga, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, St. Lawrence and Tompkins counties. The total population of this region is 1.5 million.¹ There are four members of the LGBT Health & Human Services (HHS) Network and/or AIDS Institute LGBT HHS Initiative grantees based in this region, Cortland LGBT Resource Center at Family Counseling Services of Cortland County, Inc., The Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project, Pride and Joy Families, SAGE Upstate and the Q Center at ACR Health. Four hundred and seventy five people responded to the New York State LGBT needs assessment from the Central New York region. Almost three quarters (73%) of respondents had been to an LGBT center in the last year, while 22% visited at least once a month.

Current Health Status, Access, and Barriers to Care

Sixteen percent of respondents from the Central New York region were in “fair” or “poor” health, while nearly one third (31%) had frequent mental distress (14+ days of poor mental health in the past month). While just eight percent had no insurance, nearly three times as many (23%) could not access needed health care in the last 12 months because of cost. About one third (34%) had no health home and nearly one quarter (23%) had no primary care provider. Among the barriers to health care services measured in the survey, respondents most frequently selected the following as “somewhat” or “major” problems: personal financial resources (42%), not enough psychological support groups for LGBT (35%), not enough health professionals who are trained and competent with the LGBT community (30%), inadequate insurance coverage (25%) and community fear or dislike of LGBT people (24%).

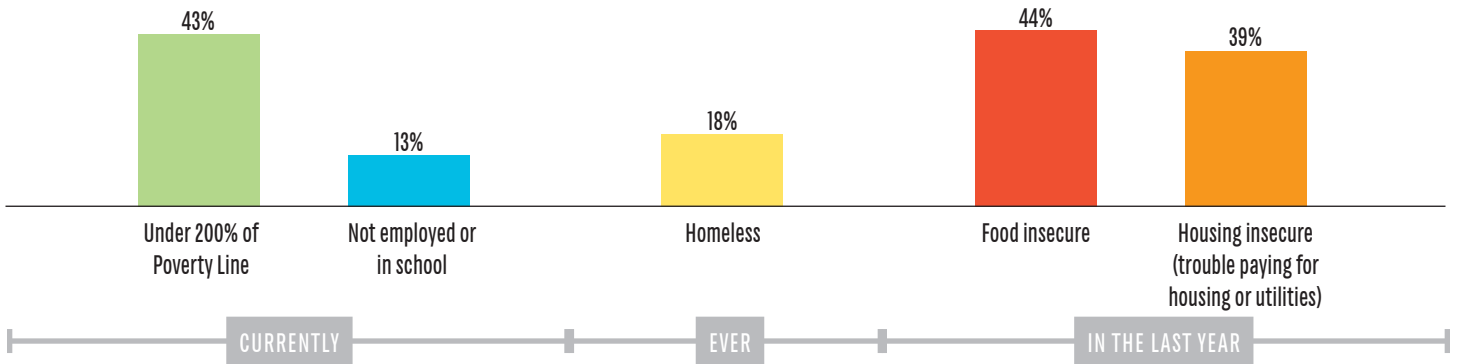


Barriers to Care



Works Cited 1. National Center for Health Statistics Population Data. Department of Health, Information for a Healthy New York. Total Population. 2012 data as of July, 2014. Available at www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/general/g96.htm. Accessed October 12, 2015.

Economic Vulnerabilities



Economic Status and Vulnerabilities

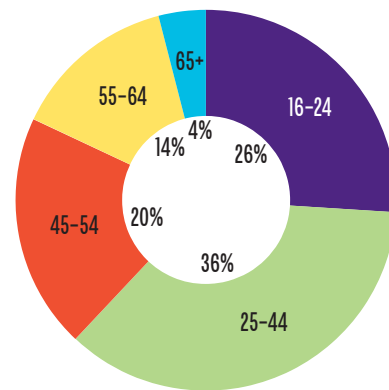
More than two in five (43%) reported annual incomes under 200% of the poverty line. Nearly three quarters (73%) were employed full or part time, almost one quarter (23%) were students and just over one in ten (13%) were neither employed nor in school (and not retired). Nearly one in five (18%) had been homeless at some point in their lives. Forty four percent were food insecure and slightly fewer (39%) were housing insecure. Nearly a quarter (23%) had accessed public benefits in the last year.

Demographics

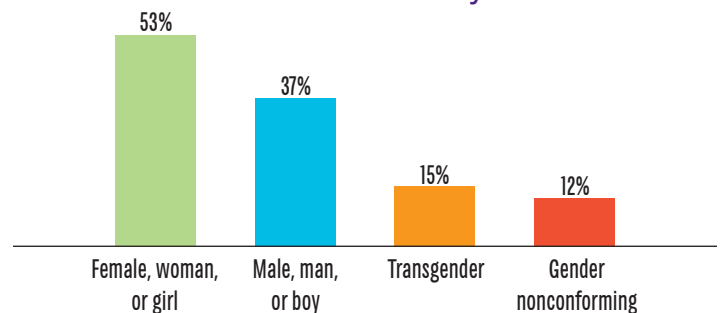
Over one in five (22%) of those who took the survey identified as transgender or gender nonconforming (respondents could identify as more than one gender). Over one third (34%) identified as lesbian, slightly fewer (32%) as gay and 19% as bisexual. Seventeen percent reported having a disability.

Ninety three percent of survey respondents identified as white and 10% as people of color (respondents could select more than one race or ethnicity). Four percent identified as multiracial. Other racial and ethnic categories were too small to analyze. A total of 52% had a college degree or higher. Four percent had served in the military.

Age (in years)



Gender Identity



Methods This fact sheet is part of a larger project to assess the health and human service experiences and needs of LGBT people in New York State. Data sources include (1) 22 focus groups with over 150 people, conducted from November 2014 to April 2015 (2) an online convenience sample survey of 3,792 LGBT people who live, work or receive services in New York State, conducted June to August 2015 and (3) analyses of population based secondary data. The survey was available in English and Spanish. Qualtrics software was used for data collection. Data were analyzed using STATA, a statistical program commonly used by social scientists. In order to preserve confidentiality, data are not shown if there were five or fewer respondents in the numerator and/or 20 or fewer respondents in the denominator. For fact sheets on other topics, a full report on methodology and a final report from the data, please visit gaycenter.org/thenetwork#reports.