



# GenPRIDE

Generations Aging with Pride

[www.genprideseattle.org](http://www.genprideseattle.org)

# The Study

## The Aging and Health Report

*Disparities and Resilience  
among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Older Adults*

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## Aging in Community: Addressing LGBTQ Inequities in Housing and Senior Services

Executive Summary

Karen Fredriksen Goldsen, PhD

Seattle/King County is vibrant, with a growth rate surpassing most large metropolitan areas, intensifying issues of housing affordability and accessibility. Given profound demographic shifts and the aging of the U.S. population overall, Seattle/King County is becoming increasingly older and more diverse by race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression. With one of the largest LGBTQ communities in the nation, 8% of older adults in Seattle/King County are LGBTQ accounting for more than 27,000 older adults. Housing and aging issues are at a critical crossroads - still today in Seattle/King County LGBTQ older adults remain largely invisible and underserved.

This project was commissioned by the City of Seattle Office of Housing, with the goals of examining the housing and senior service needs of LGBTQ older adults to create an action agenda. More than 500 surveys were returned, with 419 completed by LGBTQ older adults, reflecting unprecedented diversity including those age 70 and older (30%), people of color (32.5%), women (43.1%), and trans/non-binary (17.8%).

Based on the information gathered, several key housing and senior service challenges emerged:

- Inadequate services prevent LGBTQ seniors from remaining in their homes and aging in community.
- Lack of affordable, stable, safe, and accessible housing for LGBTQ seniors.
- Limited cultural capacity of providers to ensure LGBTQ affirming housing environments.
- High rates of discrimination and bias in housing, with most not obtaining legal recourse.
- LGBTQ racial inequities in access to affordable housing and senior services.
- Insufficient community engagement and advocacy for LGBTQ aging and senior housing.
- Lack of information necessary to proactively guide and monitor decision making to better support LGBTQ communities and eliminate inequities in the allocation of City and County resources.

Seattle/King County is falling behind other major metropolitan areas in addressing LGBTQ housing and senior needs. In 2013, the City of San Francisco commissioned a report to assess the needs of LGBTQ older adults. Based on the findings and advocacy efforts, San Francisco's Department of Aging and Adult Services now invests more than 6 million dollars to address the needs of LGBTQ seniors, with an LGBTQ Senior Center and two LGBTQ senior housing buildings - Seattle/King County has neither. This report is an important first step for Seattle/King County to have the information necessary to address the needs of LGBTQ older adults.

*"We have the history and years of experience.  
But our talents are being wasted. It is our turn. Count us in."*

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# Study Findings



## Diverse Research Population

30% are 70+

33% are People of Color

43% are Women

18% are Transgender / Non-binary

## Key Findings

45% live alone

75% financially insecure

40% experience housing insecurity

68% victimized or discriminated 3+x

Most not accessing senior/housing services

## Recommendations

Fund a Senior Center

Promote and engage our community

Build affordable LGBTQ Senior Housing

Build LGBTQ Cultural Knowledge

# GenPRIDE Vision & Mission

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## Vision

We seek a future where older LGBTQ adults feel a sense of belonging and can live successfully and gracefully.

## Mission

GenPRIDE empowers older LGBTQ adults to live with pride and dignity by developing and promoting services that enhance connection and support, prevent discrimination and honor aging community members.



## Current Focus

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- Free Fitness Classes, Educational Workshops
- Community Conversations and Social Connections
- Building an LGBTQ Senior Center program
- Elder Care Equity Workshops

# GenPRIDE: Future Focus



- Create an LGBTQ Senior Center
- Caregiver Support
- Case Management
- GenFRIENDS Companion Program
- County-wide LGBTQ Training in Senior Centers
- LGBTQ-led programs in regional Senior Centers
- GenREPS Ambassador Program

Renditions of new LGBTQ Affirming affordable housing with GenPRIDE Center on ground floor



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