

ABSTRACT IBTN 2022

Title: What do we know about the impact of COVID-19 on the health of LGBTQIA+ older adults?
Results of a systematic literature review

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Background: Older lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, and people with other sexual orientations and forms of gender expression (LGBTQIA+) are at higher risk of poverty, inadequate healthcare, discrimination, and mental health problems. However, little is known about the health impact of COVID-19 on LGBTQIA+ older adults.

Objective: To explore the impact of COVID-19 on LGBTQIA+ older adults' physical and psychosocial health.

Methods: A total of 167 references were identified by three independent librarians specializing in Geriatrics and Psychology. Using COVIDENCE software, two independent reviewers screened abstracts describing LGBTQIA+ older adults, with participants older than 65, and published since 2019.

Results: Only 21 articles met the inclusion criteria, 13/21 studies had recruited participants, and three of the studies were based on secondary data from a larger study. The total aggregated sample included 1258 LGBTQIA+ older adults. The main consequences of the pandemic on LGBTQIA+ older adults include diminished physical health (e.g., lower medication adherence and lack of access to healthcare) and psychosocial challenges (e.g., isolation and exacerbation of previous mental health problems). During the pandemic, personal risk (e.g., perceived ageism and discrimination) and environmental factors (e.g., financial vulnerability), as well as personal protective (e.g., resilience) and environmental factors (e.g., online support groups) have an impact on the health of LGBTQIA+ older adults.

Conclusion: The lack of access to specialized care services and significant social isolation were highlighted as issues specifically experienced by LGBTQIA+ older adults during the pandemic.