

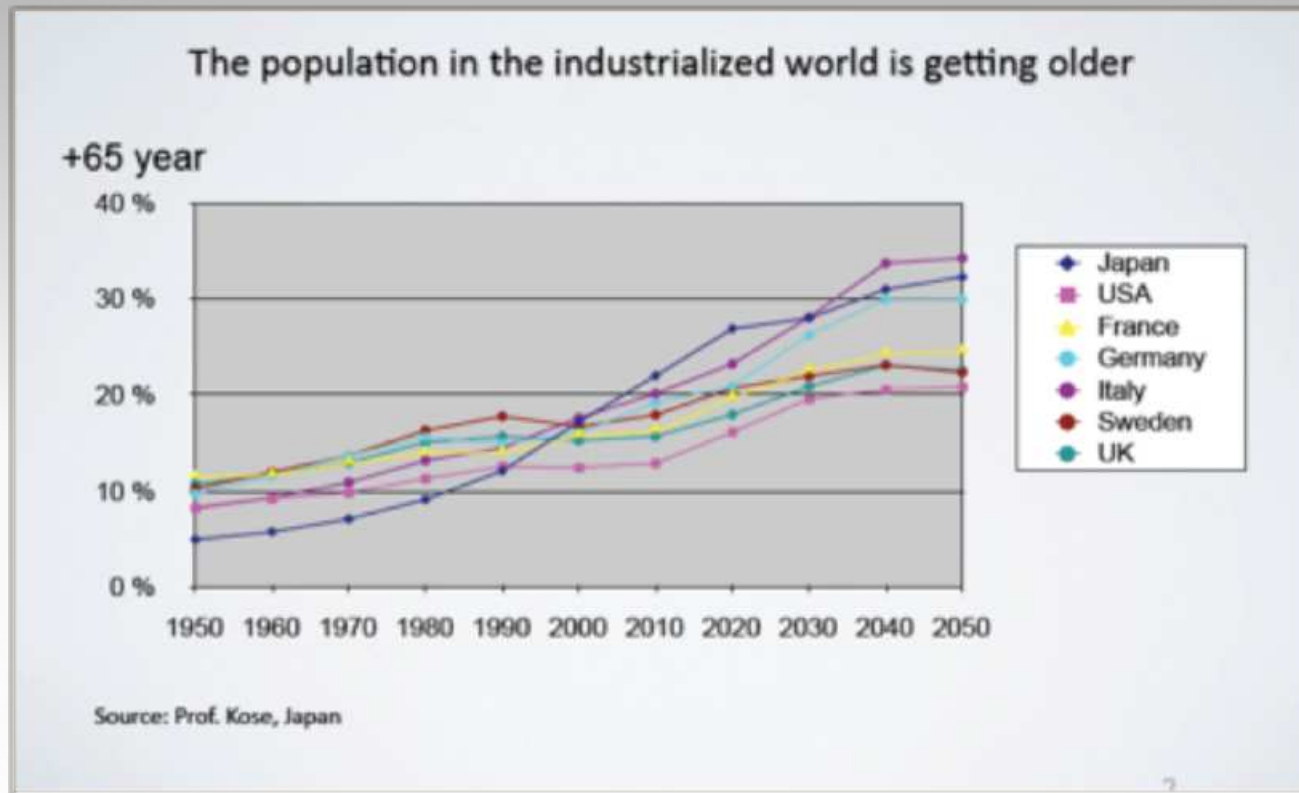


When the rainbow greys: Issues in ageing as an LGBT person

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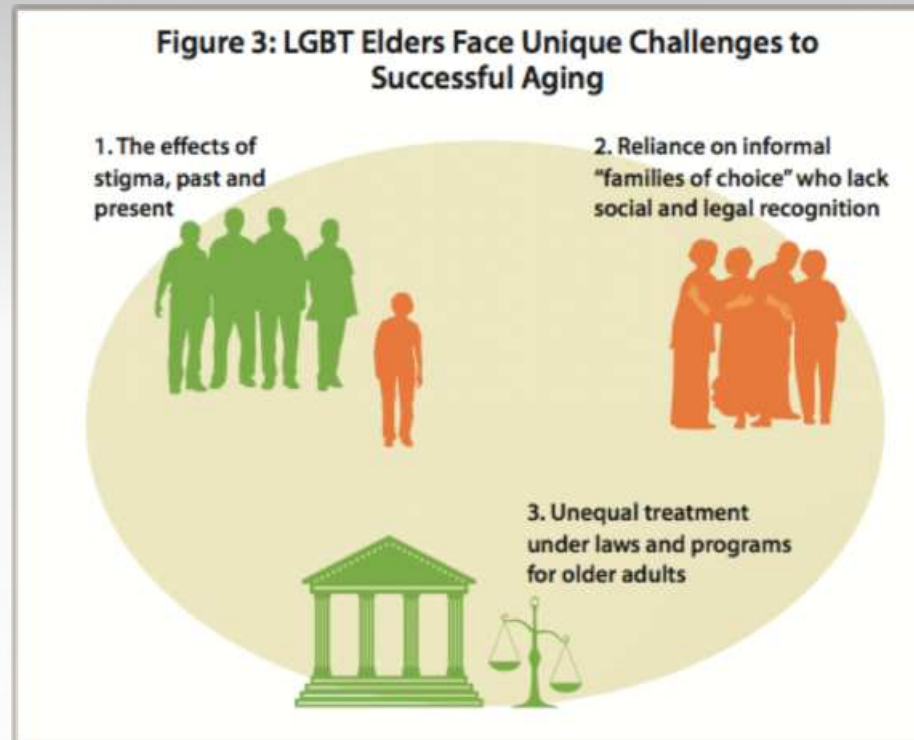


The population is getting older

<http://www.internetdagarna.se/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/population1.png>

- ❑ We live longer, have fewer children
- ❑ We are healthier
- ❑ Aging – a social construct
 - ❑ When are you old? 30? 50? 65? ...?
- ❑ ca 2% are LGBT





Factors influencing successful aging

Society has changed

Magnus Hirschfeld "The Einstein of Sex"



Conchita Wurst,
Eurovision winner 2014

Legal situations that influence aging

	Austria	Germany	Switzerland	Sweden
Decriminalized	1971	1968/1969	1798/1942	1944
Gender identity	Changed	2011	In process	1972/2013
Partner/marry	2010/2019	2001/2017	2007/...	1995/2009
Adoption	2013/2016	2005/2017	2018/...	2003

Life style



- Weight problems (US studies)
- Population studies (NL, CH) show:
 - Gay men use the health care system more
 - More have a chronic disease, physical health problems and some medication
 - More reports of physical ailments
- Bakker FC, et al. Soc Sci Med 63:2022-30. PMID: 16820254, Sandfort TGM, et al. Am J Publ Health 96:1119-25. PMID: 16670235, Wang J, et al. Prev Med 44:70-5. PMID: 16997357

■ Men are more normo weight Heck

JE, Jacobson JS. J Asthma 43:579-84. PMID: 17050221, Wang J, et al. Prev Med 44:70-5. PMID: 16997357

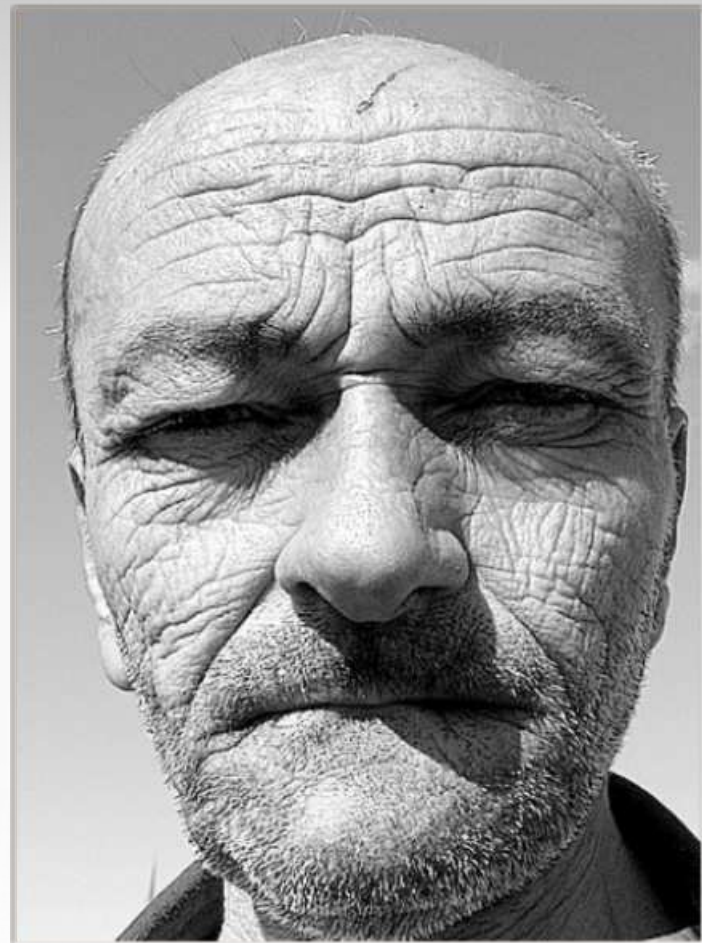
■ More smoke Heck JE, Jacobson JS. J Asthma 43:579-84.

PMID: 17050221, Pizacani BA, et al. Prev Med 48:555-61. PMID: 19306893

■ Commercials as a confirmation

Smith EA, et al. Am J Public Health 98:996-1003. PMID: 18445800

■ Alcohol and drug use



Trans people

- The oldest women and men in Sweden are 85 or older
- Care issues
- Taught not to be open about who they are

Not being allowed to transition

- *Yes I was, but when they heard that I had atrial fibrillation and a pacemaker and took a lot of heart medicine and Varan, yes, then [the doctor] just put down the pen and said “you can forget about that, because no one will put a knife in you if it’s not absolutely necessary.” And then I tried to get plastic surgery, too, but I got a “no” there as well. (Lena)*
- *Yes, then she said to me, “You only have 20 years left to live.” It was like a black shadow. I never thought about it like that. It was like a punch in the face. And I thought, okay, now you said that and I don’t care so much about it, but it could have affected me. You have to be careful with what you say and how you say things. You can say one thing that’s very concrete, but say it in another way. Because now . . . I got a bit hurt by that. (Lily)*

(Siverskog, 2015)

Mental health



- More reports of anxiety, depression

King M, et al. Br J Psychiatry 183:552-8. PMID:

15056584

- Better mental in health in countries with accepting laws

Lewis NM. Health Place 15:1029-45. PMID: 19515600

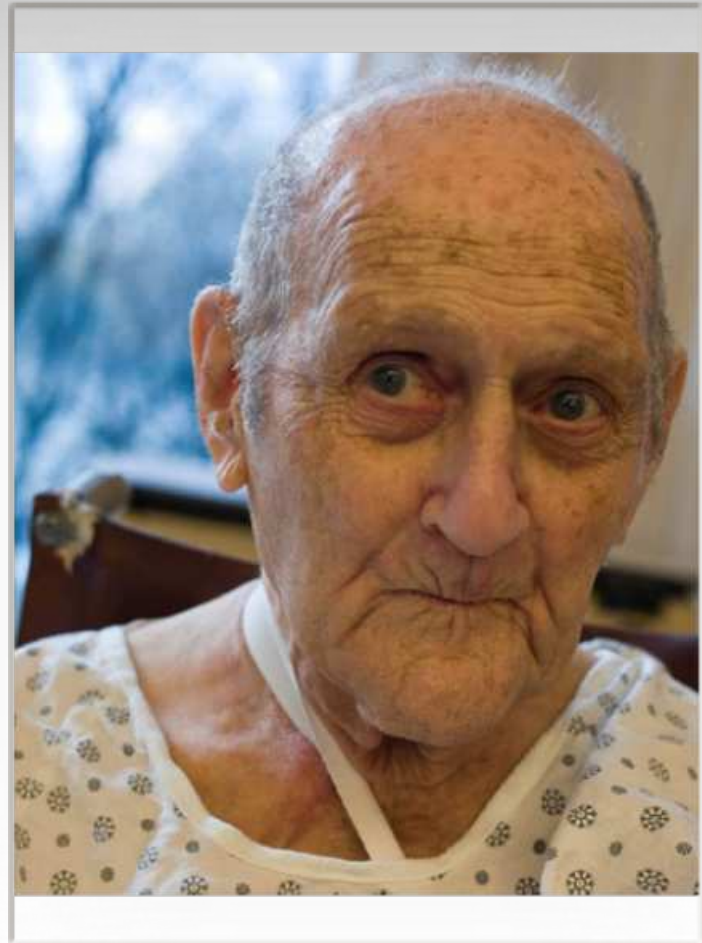
- Connection between mental health issues and perceived discrimination

Mays VM, Cochran SD. Am J Public Health

91:1869-76. PMID: 11684618



- Differences in physical health disappear when controlling for mental health disparities



Relationships



The love that dares not speak its name

- Who is my family?
- What labels to use? Husband? Partner? Friend?
- And how do we ask about it?



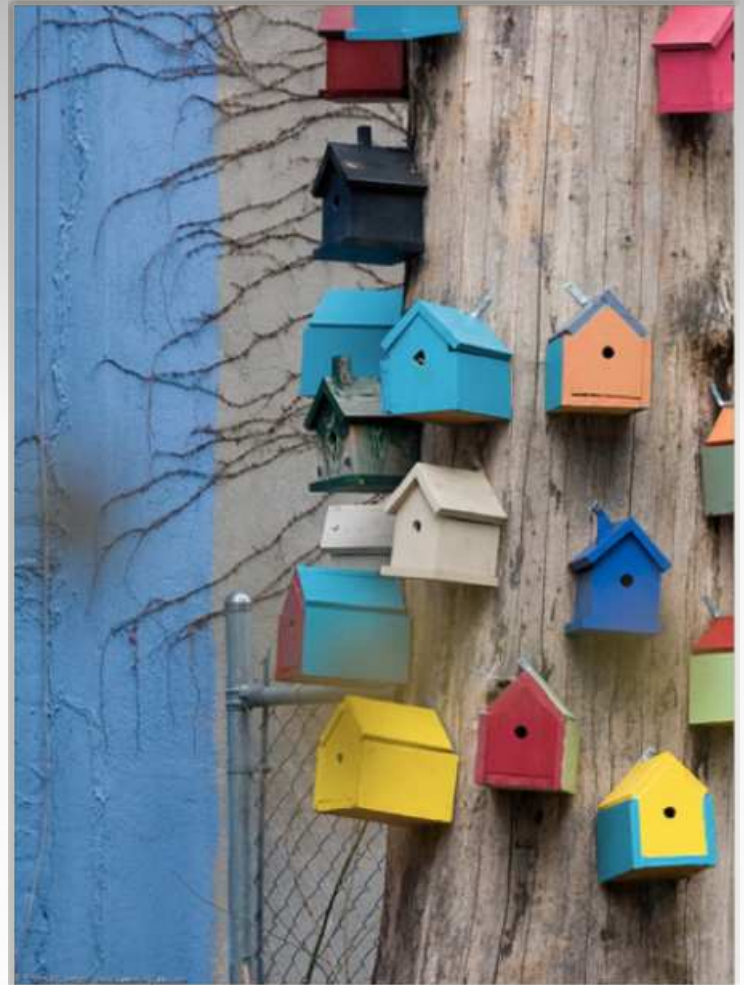
Care for or of others



- Common to have been involved in care of family and friends Grossman AH, et al. Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services 18:15 - 38
- Not seen or respected Fredriksen KI. Soc Work 44:142-55. PMID: 10718079
- Grieving groups perceived as heteronormative Hash KM. J Gerontol Soc Work. 47:121-38. PMID: 17062526



Housing



Loneliness

■ **Friendship** Barker JC, et al. Sex Res Soc Pol 3:1-23., Grossman AH, et al. J Gerontol B Psychol Sci Soc Sci 55:171-9. PMID: 11833974

■ **More than 50% live without a partner** Neville S, Henrickson M. J Clin Nurs 18:849-56. PMID: 18800992, Mays VM, Cochran SD. Am J Public Health 91:1869-76. PMID: 11684618

■ **Losses of partners and friends**
■ HIV/AIDS



- Live as neighbors
- White marriages
- Nursing homes



Nursing homes

- Fear of
- Heterosexism
- Ageism
- Staff or other people living there?

Johnson MJ, et al. J Homosex 49:83-102 PMID: 16048895



Suddenly, I am a ghost

HIV in the lives of older, queer men

Words and terminology

- Queer – (here) used here as an umbrella term for gay and bisexual cis-men
- Age – 50 as the definition of old in (earlier) HIV/AIDS research
- September 18: National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day



The empirical study

- In-depth interviews with four queer men in the San Francisco Bay Area 2007-2008
- Interpretive phenomenology
- 61-74 years old
- 3 Whites, 1 Latino
- 3 singles
- 1 PLWH



Survivors and the ones left behind

A Special Time



... There were a lot of nice things going on at the time, but that put a scare on everybody. The Castro, whole district changed. It wasn't the same but of course it's going to change, but a lot of people seemed to be more paranoid about it and catching diseases. (Francis)

The '80s and early '90s were unlike any other time. Because to be a gay man at that time was just to live with death every day. I mean, you would look at people in the gym, and in a month they were gone. You'd see someone on the street, and the next day everyone was crashing, and it was a time of fear, desperation. People were trying anything. (Peter)



An Embodied disease

Lust, bodies, disease



But walking up and down the streets and seeing people with Kaposi's sarcoma was not too nice, I mean. And there were plenty of people who had it ...uh, there was a certain fear about it too, of course. (Steve)

Treatments as trials

I remembered that roommate, at the time, he was taking a photography class and they had to do a self portrait. He did a self-portrait of all the AZT pills. He took them and laid them like in a circle on the dining room table and then superimposed his face onto the thing because it was so describing what he was dealing with at the time. (Timothy)



The repeated losses

When it was at its worst with people dying. I mean, just people were just dying, dying, dying, dying. Lost a whole handful of friends in that time. It was really a painful, stressful time. (Peter)

It just like you became numb to it, just as we became numb to the nightly news reports during the Vietnam War of another hundred soldiers were killed... But, I think we became numb to it and you became numb to every weekend there was another memorial service to sing at. (Timothy)

Ghost-like existence

Suddenly, I am a ghost



...all of my inner circle of people I knew in West Palm Beach are all dead. You know, so it's like-- I mean, I have nothing to go back there to see. There's no one who remembers me. There's no one I can sit down and joke about stories and tell all the crazy things. It's as though I didn't live there. In West Palm Beach, I'm a ghost. (Peter)

Life among ghosts

I actually moved here because it was time to leave New York. New York was filled with ghosts. [---] And walking the streets of the neighborhoods that I knew so well, it was almost like I was seeing ghosts, you know, not literally, but it was too many heavy memories of people that were no longer around, most of whom had died, although some had moved away.

(Timothy)

HIV in the care of older people

An unknown aging?

HIV in geriatric care



A challenge for medicine, nursing, and other caring professionals

Out of the closet and into the trenches: gay male Baby Boomers, aging, and HIV/AIDS.



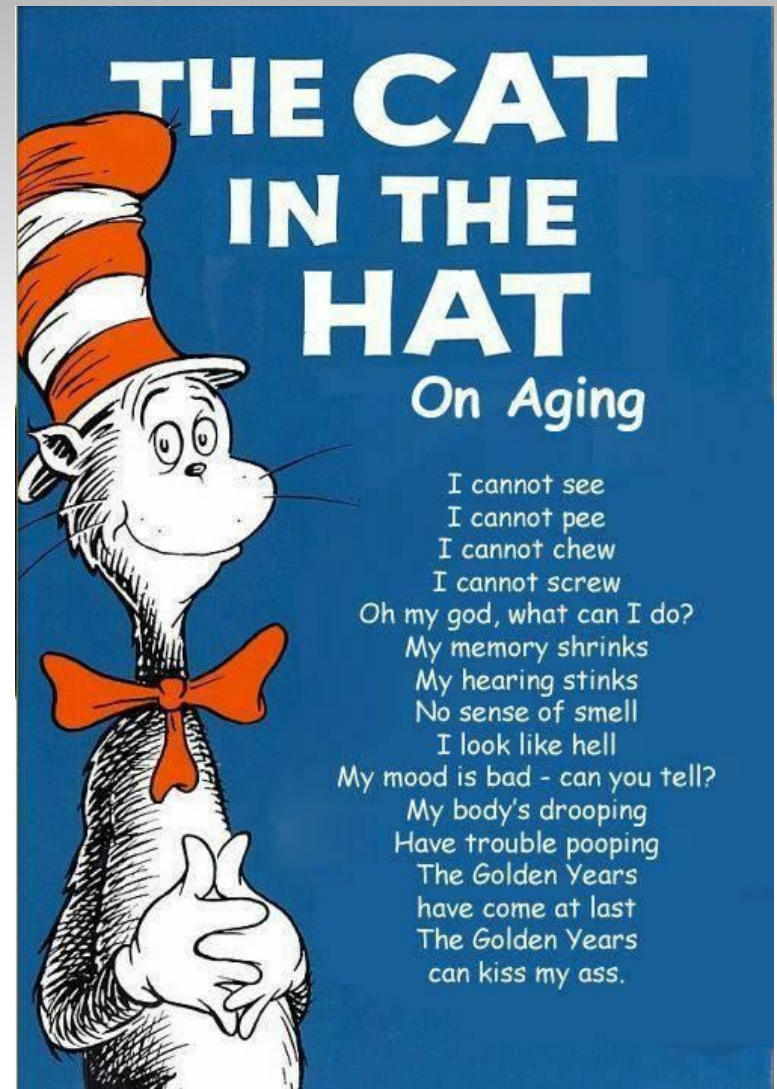
- Cohort with special experiences: "intersection between historical events, personal biography, and social and community ties"

Rosenfeld D, et al (2012). The Gerontologist 52:255-64. PMID: 22298746

- "Torka aldrig tårar"

Challenges

- Antiretroviral therapy and other medications – in older adults
- Memory loss and adherence
- Blessings and curse of MRSA and HCV



Old, queer and sexual

Sexual health



- ED medications (for men)
- Older people have the highest number of sex partners
- New diagnoses of HIV in people over 75
- Not addressed in sexual health information



Danke schön! Thank you!

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