



2020 Pennsylvania LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment

Statewide: Older Adults Ages 65 and older

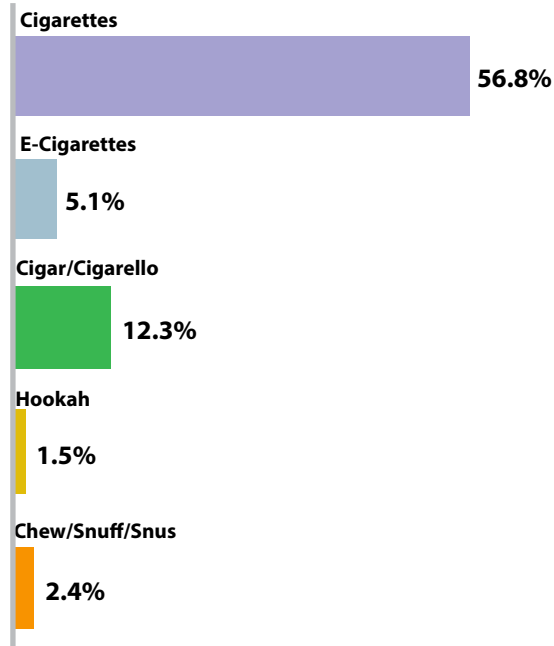


Tobacco Use

Pennsylvanians ages 65 and older were participants in 64 counties that participated in the 2020 PA LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment. There were 372 total older adult participants.

Older Pennsylvanians Agree

- ▶ **70.8%** Pride celebrations should be smoke-free events
- ▶ **78.9%** vaping, Juuling, and e-cigarettes are a health threat to LGBTQ communities



▶ **1 in 10** Currently smoke

Among older adult participants who have ever smoked cigarettes.

▶ **1 in 4** Currently vape

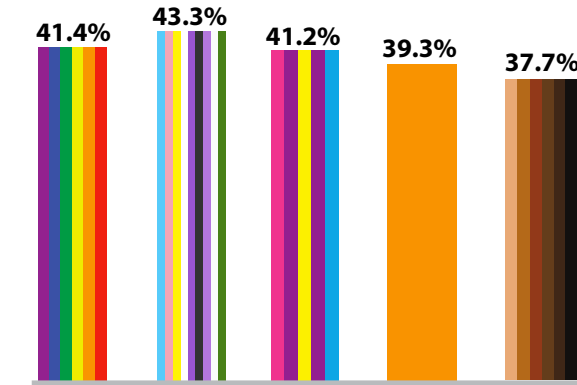
Among older adult participants who have ever used e-cigarettes or vaping devices.

▶ **95.9%** Are interested in healthy living strategies such as healthy eating, active living, and tobacco cessation.

Have you ever used these tobacco products?

The tobacco industry has historically targeted LGBTQ communities, using strategies like marketing at Pride festivals and advertising in LGBTQ publications to promote tobacco use among LGBTQ people. This legacy of aggressive marketing by tobacco companies has had a serious impact, contributing to higher rates of tobacco use in the LGBTQ community.

◀ **The chart to the left** shows the high rates of having ever used any tobacco product among older adult survey participants from Pennsylvania and groups who are particularly vulnerable to tobacco use including: transgender/genderqueer/ non-binary participants, bisexual/pansexual participants, youth under 25 years of age, and people



Have you ever used any tobacco products?



"Tobacco usage" includes cigarettes, cigars/cigarillos, electronic cigarettes and other vaping devices, hookah, smokeless tobacco such as snuff and chewing tobacco, and other tobacco products.



▶ **Have you heard of the PA Free Quitline?**
Quitline is a phone-based tobacco cessation counseling service offering free coaching, with no judgment.
Only **34.7%** of older adult participants were aware of the PA Free Quitline.
(1-800-QUIT-NOW)



Support for LGBTQ Community Organizations

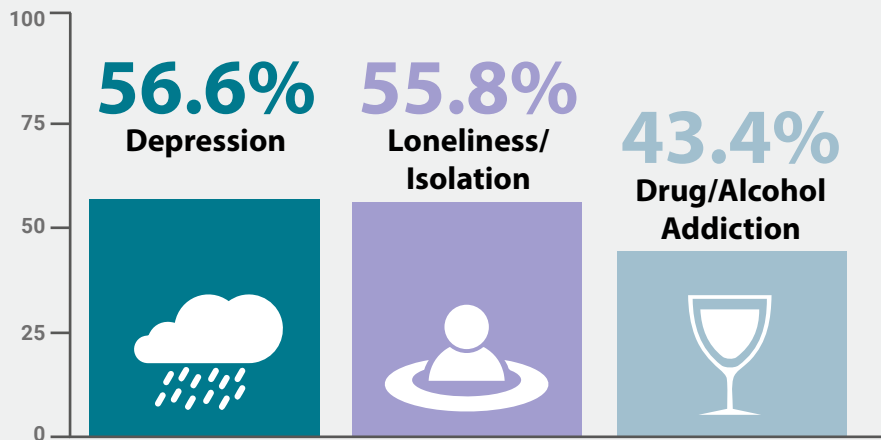
Many older adult participants chose an **LGBTQ organization** as the place they felt most comfortable...

1. Getting help quitting tobacco - **23.7%**
2. Receiving an HIV test - **38.9%**
3. Accessing cancer-related support - **27.2%**

Another popular answer was "personal doctor or healthcare provider."

Community Priorities

Top **three health issues** impacting older adult LGBTQ communities :



Basic Needs

12.4%



Have experienced **homelessness**.

14.7%



Often or sometimes worried whether their food would run out before they got money to buy more.

36.5%



Had not enough or just enough money left over at the end of the month.

Barriers to Care

Sometimes LGBTQ people do not access health services (including mental health services) because of barriers to care.

Older Adult Participants said:

3.1% LGBTQ-affirming healthcare providers are not covered by my health insurance.

3.6% I cannot find LGBTQ-affirming healthcare providers for the care I need.

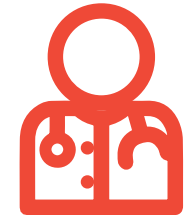
5.6% LGBTQ-affirming healthcare providers are too far away from me.

▶ 16.9%



have experienced a **negative reaction from a healthcare provider** when they learned you are LGBTQ.

▶ 12.1%



sometimes, often, or always fear a negative reaction by a healthcare provider if you come out as LGBTQ.



for the full report, please visit:

livehealthypa.com/lgbt