

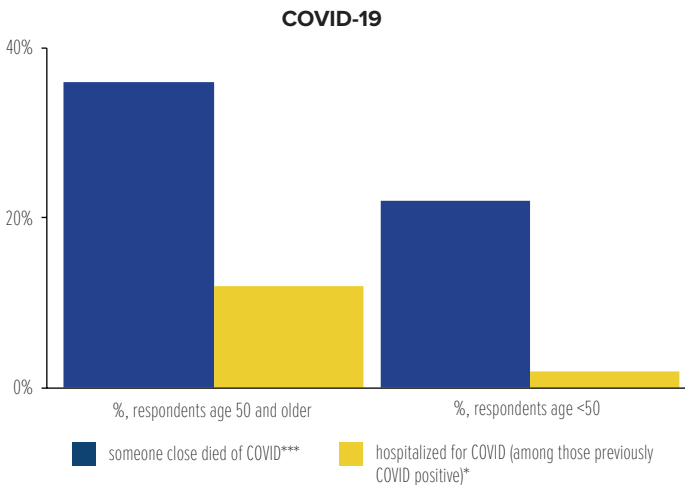
ISSUE BRIEF: Older Adults

Quality of life

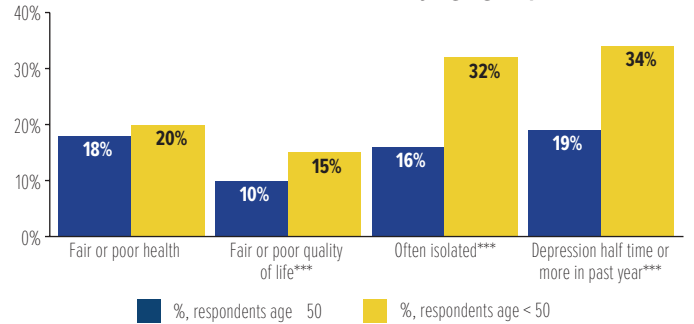
The health and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ individuals over the age of 50 differed from younger community members in important ways. In terms of self-reported overall health, quality of life, social isolation and depression, older respondents reported lower numbers than younger respondents. Results are largely statistically significant. For instance, older adults were significantly less likely report feeling isolated (32% versus 16%) or depressed (19% versus 34%). These are distinctive results for this community and this survey, showing older adults reporting better health and quality of life than younger respondents. In the general population, youth tend to report higher levels of excellent health and life quality and much lower levels of “fair” or “poor” health and life quality than older individuals.

Health concerns

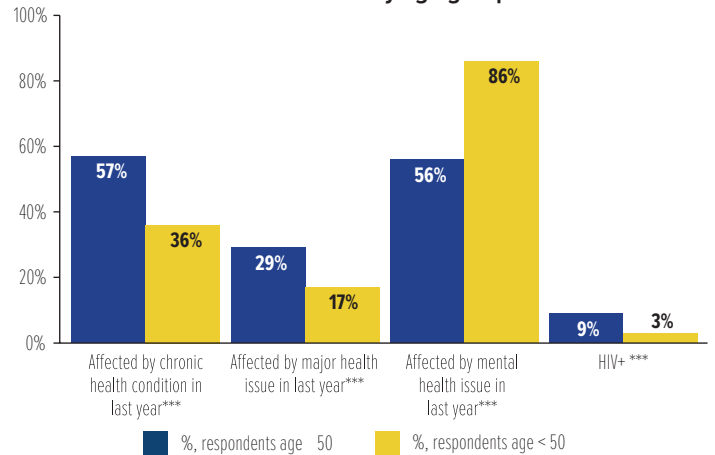
For chronic conditions and major health events (such as surgery or a heart attack or stroke), older respondents reported higher levels of need, which is consistent with population health outcomes in general. Older respondents were also more likely to be living with HIV (9% versus 3%), which also conforms to national trends in HIV outcomes. As well, older respondents also reported more severe experiences with COVID-19 infection, including hospitalization, and more commonly experienced someone close to them dying of COVID.



Life and health status by age group



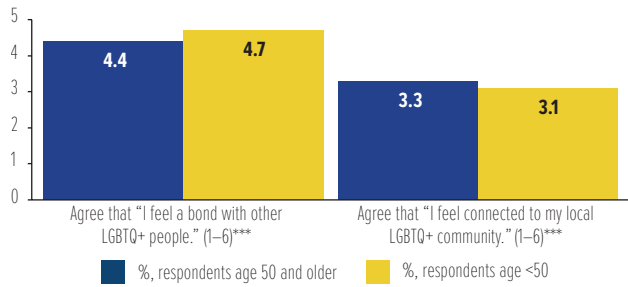
Health conditions by age group



Note: Asterisks denote statistically significant difference from statewide percent, per t-test.
* = $p < .05$; ** = $p < .01$; *** = $p < .001$

Note: Due to rounding of percentages, pie chart totals may add to 100%, +/- 1%.

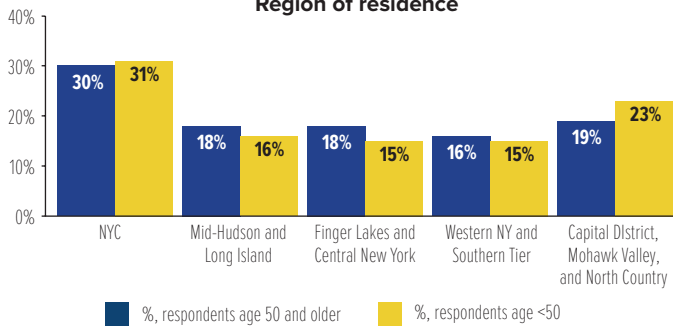
Strength of connection to LGBTQ+ community



Strength of connection to LGBTQ+ community and region of residence

Regarding their personal links with the LGBTQ+ community, older adults were more likely than younger respondents to say that they felt connected to their local LGBTQ+ community and less likely to say that they felt a bond with other LGBTQ+ people. In terms of regional distribution, respondents from New York City skewed older, with a much larger percentage of respondents over 50 residing in NYC—30% as opposed to 16-19% in the other regions of the state.

Region of residence



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