

# The Health of Western New York's LGBT Community

A Report from the 2015 NY State LGBT Health and Human Services Needs Assessment

## HIGHLIGHTS

- In the Western New York region, nearly half of respondents reported annual incomes below 200% of the poverty line and a similar number were food insecure.
- One in four respondents from the Western New York region reported being unable to access needed health care in the last year because of cost.

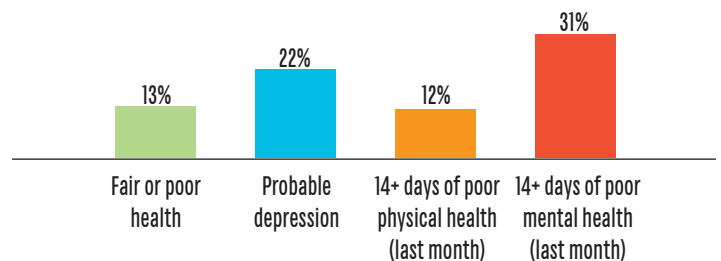
## Background

The Western New York region includes Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming counties. The total population of this region is 1.5 million. There are five members of the LGBT Health & Human Services (HHS) Network and/or AIDS Institute LGBT HHS Initiative grantees based in this region. Three hundred and eighty nine people responded to the New York State LGBT needs assessment from the Western New York region. More than three quarters (76%) of respondents had been to an LGBT center in the last year, while 21% visited at least once a month.

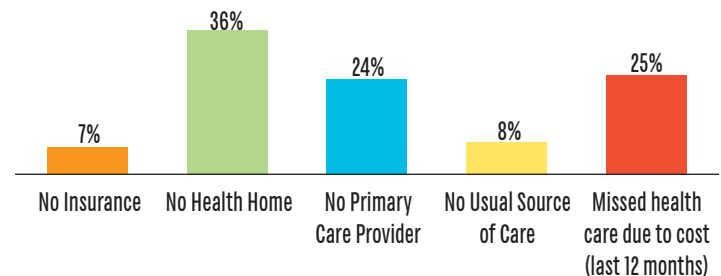
## Current Health Status, Access, and Barriers to Care

Thirteen percent of respondents from the Western New York region had “fair” or “poor” health, while nearly one third (31%) had frequent mental distress. While just seven percent had no insurance, more than three times as many (25%) could not access needed health care in the last 12 months because of cost. Over one third (36%) had no health home and nearly one in four (24%) had no primary care provider. Among the barriers to health care services measured in the survey, respondents most frequently selected the following as “somewhat” or “major” problems: personal financial resources (44%), not enough psychological support groups (40%), community fear or dislike of LGBT people, (33%), not enough health professionals who are trained and competent with the LGBT community (32%) and inadequate insurance coverage (22%).

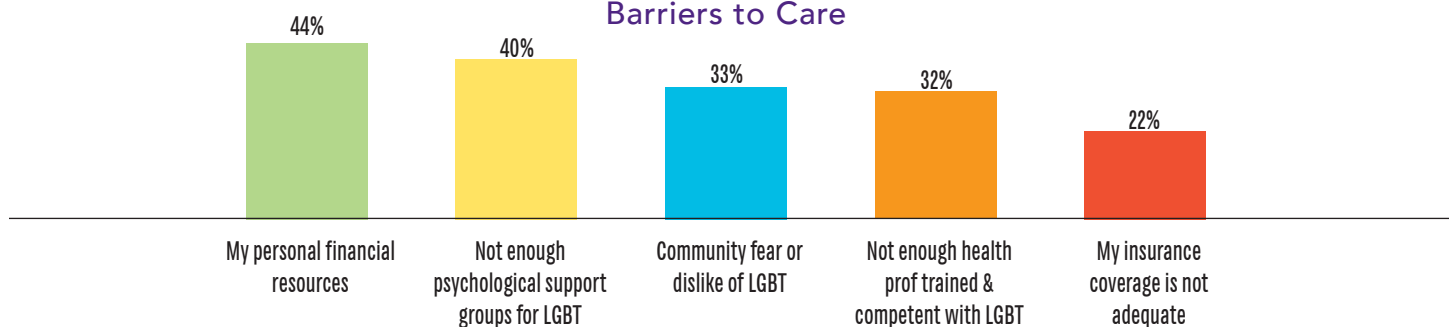
### Health Status



### Health Access

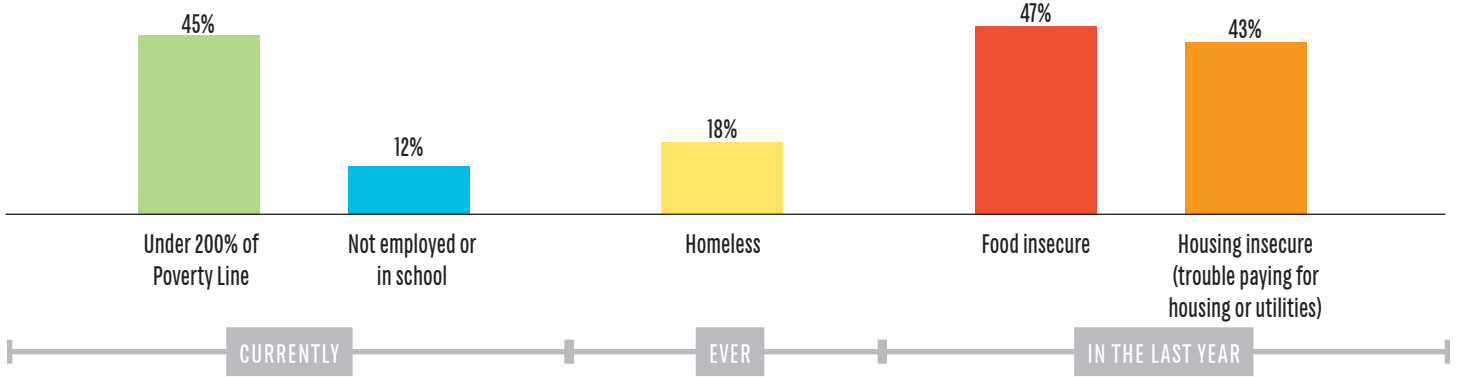


### Barriers to Care



**Works Cited** 1. National Center for Health Statistics Population Data. Department of Health, Information for a Healthy New York. Total Population. 2012 data as of July, 2014. Available at [www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/general/g96.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/general/g96.htm). Accessed October 12, 2015.

## Economic Vulnerabilities



### Economic Status and Vulnerabilities

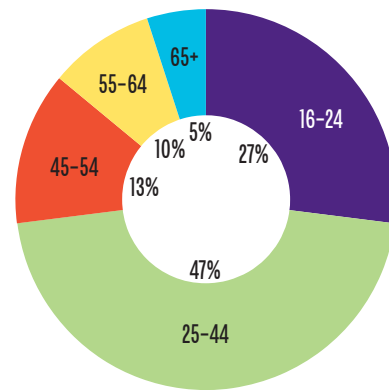
Nearly half (45%) reported annual incomes under 200% of the poverty line. More than three quarters (77%) were employed full or part time, nearly one quarter (23%) were students and just over one in ten (12%) were neither employed nor in school (and not retired). Nearly one in five (18%) had been homeless at some point in their lives. Nearly half (47%) were food insecure, while slightly fewer (43%) were housing insecure. Over one quarter (26%) had accessed public benefits in the last year.

### Demographics

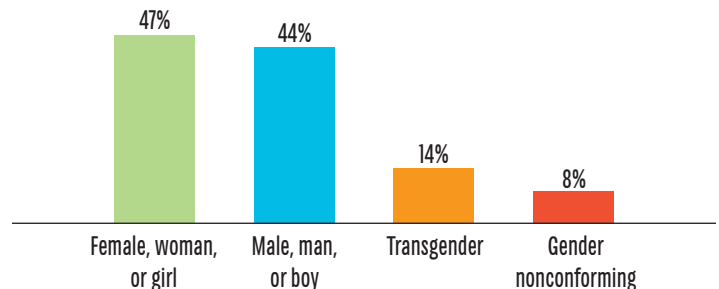
One in five (20%) of those who took the survey identified as transgender or gender nonconforming (respondents could identify as more than one gender). Nearly two in five (39%) identified as gay, 27% as lesbian and 20% as bisexual. Eleven percent reported having a disability.

Eighty seven percent identified as white and 18% as people of color (respondents could select more than one race or ethnicity). Six percent identified as Black or African American, six percent as American Indian or Native, five percent as Hispanic or Latino/a and five percent as multiracial. Other racial and ethnic categories were too small to analyze. A total of 46% had a college degree or higher. Five percent had served in the military.

### Age (in years)



### Gender Identity



LGBT HHS Network Members and AIDS Institute  
 LGBT HHS Initiative Grantees: Gay & Lesbian Youth Services (GLYS) of Western New York, Inc. • Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley (GAGV) • Pride Center of Western New York, Evergreen Association • The MOCHA Center, Inc. • Trillium Health

**Methods** This fact sheet is part of a larger project to assess the health and human service experiences and needs of LGBT people in New York State. Data sources include (1) 22 focus groups with over 150 people, conducted from November 2014 to April 2015 (2) an online convenience sample survey of 3,792 LGBT people who live, work or receive services in New York State, conducted June to August 2015 and (3) analyses of population based secondary data. The survey was available in English and Spanish. Qualtrics software was used for data collection. Data were analyzed using STATA, a statistical program commonly used by social scientists. In order to preserve confidentiality, data are not shown if there were five or fewer respondents in the numerator and/or 20 or fewer respondents in the denominator. For fact sheets on other topics, a full report on methodology and a final report from the data, please visit [gaycenter.org/thenetwork#reports](http://gaycenter.org/thenetwork#reports).