

Ageing and Caring through the lens of LGBT Sistergirl and Brotherboy people with HIV in Queensland.

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Background:

Among individuals aged 50 and above, estimates indicate that the global prevalence rates of HIV are on the rise. By 2027, it's projected that in Australia the majority of people living with HIV (PLHIV) will fall within the 55-59 age group. Understanding successful ageing for PLHIV is critical to inform health policy development and coordinated service provision. To address this gap, we explored self-reported perceptions of successful ageing, and preferences for information access and support, amongst LGBT, Sistergirl, and Brotherboy PLHIV in Queensland.

Methods:

Data was derived from participants living with HIV and extracted from a larger dataset collected through the online survey '*Building a better picture of LGBT, Sistergirl, and Brotherboy ageing and caring in Queensland*'. The survey participant responded to questions pertaining to perceptions, experiences, and concerns around successful aging. Quantitative data were analysed by calculating frequency and proportion for nominal quantitative variables, while qualitative data were analysed using latent content analysis.

Results:

Of the 233 people who responded to the survey, twenty (8.6%) reported to be living with HIV. Twelve participants met the criteria for inclusion in this analysis. Most participants were cisgender men (91.7%, n = 11), and identified as gay (83.3%, n = 10). The average age of participants was 58.8 with ages ranging from 29 to 70 years. Most participants lived in metropolitan Queensland (83.3%, n = 10). Three themes that related to successful ageing were: 1) social connections, agency, and autonomy; 2) physical and mental wellbeing; and 3) considerations of care needs and information. General practitioners (83.3%) and HIV support services (75.0%) were the most preferred sources of information about ageing and care supports.

Conclusion:

Findings identify opportunities for policy improvements, provision of funding, and community support to enable LGBT, Sistergirl, and Brotherboy PLHIV to experience successful ageing.