

Historical Events Related to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Experienced by LGBT Older Adults

The past affects the present and future

Historical Events

Year	Event
1924	First known gay rights organization founded in Chicago By Henry Gerber
1925	Ma Rainey is arrested in her home in Harlem for having a lesbian party
1928	Margaret Mead concluded that attitudes toward sex are culturally prescribed
1934	Gay/bisexual men were forced to wear pink triangles and lesbian/bisexual women were forced to wear black triangles in Nazi Germany
1941	Gays banned from the military
1948	Kinsey Report findings include the statistics that 50% of men had experienced erotic attraction for other men and 4% were exclusively homosexual

Historical Events Cont.

Year	Event
1950	Senator Joseph McCarthy defined 650 employees at the State Department as “subversive because they were gay/lesbian
1951	Mattachine Society organization (first known gay group) was founded by Harry Hay
1951	Radclyffe Hall’s “Well f Loneliness” published
1953	First American (Christine Jorgenson) undergoes gender reassignment surgery
1953	Evelyn Hooker publishes study that shows homosexual are not mentally disturbed
1955	Daughters of Bilitis organization formed by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon
1955	Rosa Parks is arrested for violating Alabama segregation Laws

Historical Events Cont.

Year	Event
1957	Wolfenden Report Issued which stated that homosexuals behavior between consenting adults should no longer be considered a criminal offense
1960	First national lesbian convention in San Francisco held
1961	Hollywood's production code is revised to allow films to portray homosexuality
1961	Illinois became first state to decriminalize homosexual acts
1969	Stonewall Inn Riots on June 27 th – beginning of the gay liberation movement
1970	National Organization of Women passes a resolution recognizing the “double oppression” of lesbians
1973	American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality as a disease category

Historical Events Cont.

Year	Events
1974	Rita Mae Brown published “Rubyfruit Jungle”
1977	Anita Bryant founded “Save our Children” and leads a campaign to repeal a gay civil rights ordinance in Dade County Florida
1977	Formation of SAGE – Senior Action in a Gay Environment
1978	Harvey Milk (San Francisco’s first openly gay elected city supervisor) is assassinated along with Mayor George Mascone.
1979	First National march on Washington DC for gay rights
1981	Reported cases of “unexplained” deaths among gay males in San Francisco, later called GRID – Gay Related Infectious Disease
1981	J.R. Roberts publishes “Black Lesbians – an Annotated Bibliography”
1982	Wisconsin is the first state that outlaws discrimination based on sexual orientation

Historical Events Cont.

Year	Event
1986	The Supreme Court in Bowers v. Hardwick rule that homosexual relations between consenting adults in the privacy of their own homes is not protected under the constitution
1987	The Gay March on Washington revitalizes the gay movement
1992	Measure 9 (an antigay initiative) in Oregon is narrowly defeated
1993	K.D. Lange appears on cover of Vanity Fair with Cindy Crawford
1993	“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy in U>S> Armed Forces
1996	Hawaii court rules that the state has not proved that it has a “compelling interest” for banning gay marriage
1996	U.S. Supreme Court strikes down CO’s Amendment 2, which denied gays and lesbians protection from discrimination
1996	The Federal Defense of Marriage Act forbids gay marriages

Historical Events Cont.

Year	Event
1997	42 million viewers watched Ellen DeGeneres in the “Coming Out” episode of the Ellen Show
1998	Matthew Shepard murdered in Laramie, Wyoming
1999	Jury awards 25 million to Amedure family in wrongful death suit against the Jenny Jones show
2000	Civil unions were created in Vermont
2000	California voters approve a ballot measure to block recognition of same-sex marriages
2000	U.S. Census included data for same-sex households with partner age 55 or older
2001	Rev. Jerry Falwell suggest that homosexuals were partly responsible for the September 11 th terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. On September 14 th he apologized for his comments

Historic Events Cont.

Year	Event
2002	Alabama Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore says that homosexuality is “an inherent evil”
2002	Clinton Risetter is set a fire and dies because he was gay
2003	U.S. Supreme Court struck down discriminatory Sodomy laws
2004	Eleven states pass amendments to define “marriage”
2004	Legal same-sex weddings begin in MA
2005	Pope Benedict XVI proposes guidelines barring gay men from the priesthood
2007	Chelsea Jewish Nursing Home Foundation engages in a \$26 million capital campaign to construct a nursing home to cater to LGBT elders
2007	New Jersey becomes the third state (VT, CT) to recognize “civil unions.” Forty-five states have legal or constitutional bans on sam-sex marriages

Historical Events

Year	Event
2007	Senator Larry Craig (Idaho) resigns from Senate after pleading guilty to “inappropriate” behavior with a male police officer in a restroom at a Minnesota Airport
2008	Marriage for same-sex couples is legal in CA for several months until voters pass Proposition 8
2009	Same-sex marriage laws come into effect in Iowa and Vermont, while Maine bans same-sex marriage
2009	Barbra “Babs” Siperstein was nominated and confirmed as an at-large member of the Democratic National Committee, becoming its first openly transgender member.
2010	Same Sex marriage laws come into effect in New Hampshire and Washington DC
2010	Australia becomes the first country in the world to recognize a “non-specific” gender

Historical Events Cont.

Year	Event
2010	First time that the U.S. Census will report counts of both same-sex partners and same-sex spouses
2010	Creation of the National LGBT elder resource center
2011	First baby boomer turn 65 years of age
2011	Same-sex marriage passes and comes into effect in New York
2011	End to ban gay or lesbians in the military –"Don't ask, don't tell"
2011	Chaz Bono appeared on the 13 th season of Dancing with the Stars- first time an openly transgender man starred on a major network television show for something unrelated to being transgender
2012	U.S. states of Maine, Maryland and Washington are the first states to legalize same-sex marriage by popular vote.

Historical Events Cont.

Year	Event
2012	U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development issued a regulation to prohibit LGBT discrimination in federally assisted housing programs
2012	Barack Obama became the first U.S. President to publicly announce support for same-sex marriage on May 9 th
2012	Berkely California became the first city in America to officially proclaim a day recognizing bisexuals
2013	Colorado Senate Bill 11 legalizing civil unions signed by Governor
2013	U.S. Supreme court hears arguments that could lead to the legalization of same-sex marriage nationwide
2013	The Supreme Court rules that the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional in a 5 to 4 vote. It is the first case ever on the issue of gay marriage in the Supreme Court

Historical Event Cont.

Year	Event
2013	Queen Elizabeth II approves a same-sex marriage bill for England and Wales
2014	Obama Administration announces that the Federal government will recognize the marriages of the 1,300 same-sex couples in Utah even through the state government decided not to do so.
2014	19 states and the District of Columbia recognize same-sex marriages (CA, CT, DE, HI, IL, IA, ME, MD, MA, MN, NH, NJ, NY, OR, PA, RI, UT, VT, WA). 2014
2014	10/6/2014-Supreme Court's decision brought an end to delays in same-sex marriages in 5 states (IN, OK, UT, VA, WI) with 6 additional states pending (CO, KN, NC, SC, WV, WY. Same-sex marriage is legal in 30 states (and DC)/ See http://www.freedomtomarry.org/states/
2014	The U.S. Supreme Court denies a request to block same-sex marriage bans in Kansas.

Historical Events Cont.

Year	Event
2014	6 th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision upholds same-sex marriage bans in Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and Michigan
2015	President Barack Obama became the first president to use the words “lesbians,” “bisexual.” and “transgender” in a State of the Union speech
2015	The DC Cent for the LGBT community became the first LGBT group to march in the Washington DC St. Patrick’s Day parade.
2015	Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples can marry nationwide

Source

Orel, N., & Fruhauf, C. (2015). The intersection of culture, family, and individual aspects: A guiding model for LGBT older adults. In N. Orel & C Fruhauf (Eds.), *The Lives of LGBT older adults: Understanding challenges and resilience* (pp. 3-24). Washington DC: American Psychological Association

Heterosexism

- Heterosexism is a system of [attitudes](#), [bias](#), and [discrimination](#) in favor of opposite-sex [sexuality](#) and relationships.^[1] It can include the presumption that other people are [heterosexual](#) or that opposite-sex attractions and relationships are the only [norm](#)^[2] and therefore superior. Although heterosexism is defined in the online editions of the [American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language](#) and the [Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary](#) as anti-gay [discrimination](#) and/or prejudice "by heterosexual people"^[3] and "by heterosexuals",^[4] respectively, people of any [sexual orientation](#) can hold such attitudes and bias, and can form a part of [internalised hatred](#) of one's sexual orientation.^[5] Heterosexism as discrimination ranks [gay](#) men, [lesbians](#), [bisexuals](#) and other sexual minorities as [second-class citizens](#) with regard to various legal and [civil rights](#), economic opportunities, and [social equality](#) in many of the world's jurisdictions and societies. Heterosexism is often related to homophobia. [Wikipedia](#)

Homophobia

- **Homophobia** encompasses a range of negative attitudes and feelings toward homosexuality or people who are identified or perceived as being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT).^{[1][2][3]} It can be expressed as antipathy, contempt, prejudice, aversion, or hatred, may be based on irrational fear, and is sometimes related to religious beliefs.^[4] . Wikipedia

Barriers

- Many LGBT older adults encounter long-term care settings that are not welcoming to their LGBT identities—and many report encountering hostility and discrimination. Moreover, the available research shows that few aging providers are trained in LGBT cultural competence, few conduct outreach to the LGBT community and few are prepared to address acts of discrimination aimed at LGBT elders by staff or other residents.
- **SAGE** Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders

Generations Defined

The Millennial Generation Born after 1980

Generation X Born 1965 – 1980

The Baby Boom Generation Born 1946 – 1964

The Silent Generation Born 1928 -1945

