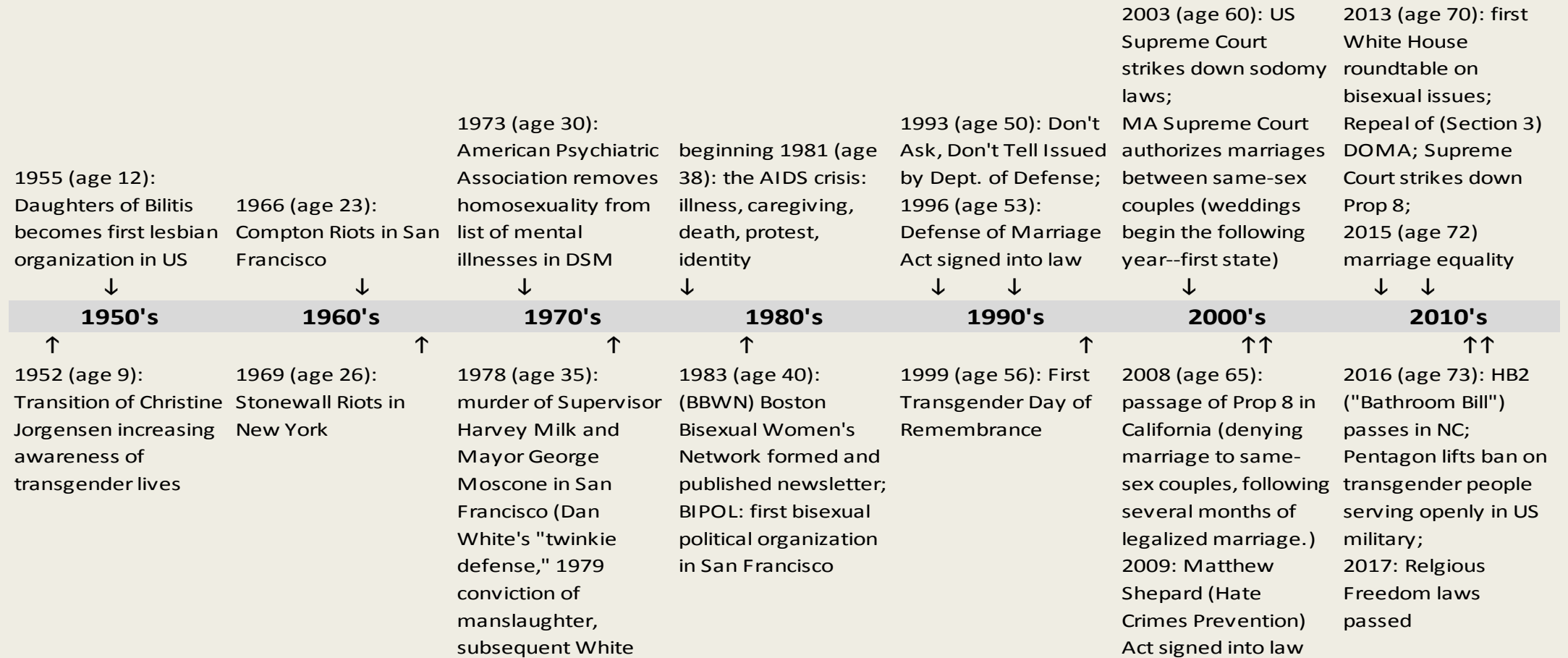




AGE DISCRIMINATION AND AGEISM AMONG LGBTQ2 OLDER ADULTS

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Life Line markers of a 75-year-old LGBT person



The Unique Demographic Characteristics of LGBT Older Adults

■ More likely to live alone

- *About one in three (34%) LGBT older Americans compared to one in five (21%) of non-LGBT persons (SAGE, 2014)*
 - In SF study (2013): 58% live alone (compared to 28% of older SF adults in general)
 - Especially gay men (4x higher in MetLife Boomer study, 2010)

■ Less likely to be partnered

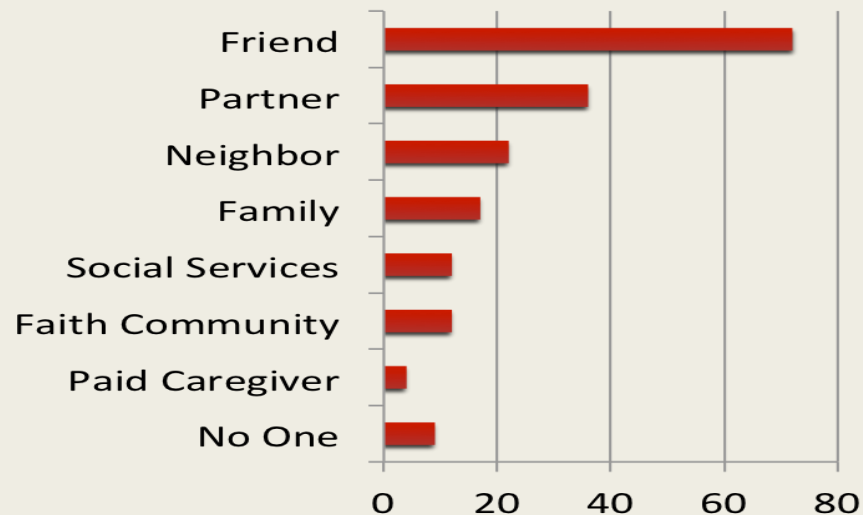
- *About half (48%) LGBT older Americans are partnered compared to 70% non-LGBT older persons (SAGE, 2014)*
 - Especially gay men (12% never-partnered -- 4x higher than general population -- MetLife, 2010)

The Unique Demographic Characteristics of LGBT Older Adults (cont'd)

■ Less likely to have children

- *15% have children (SF study, 2013)*
- *Among those who have children, 60% report that their children are not available to help them.*

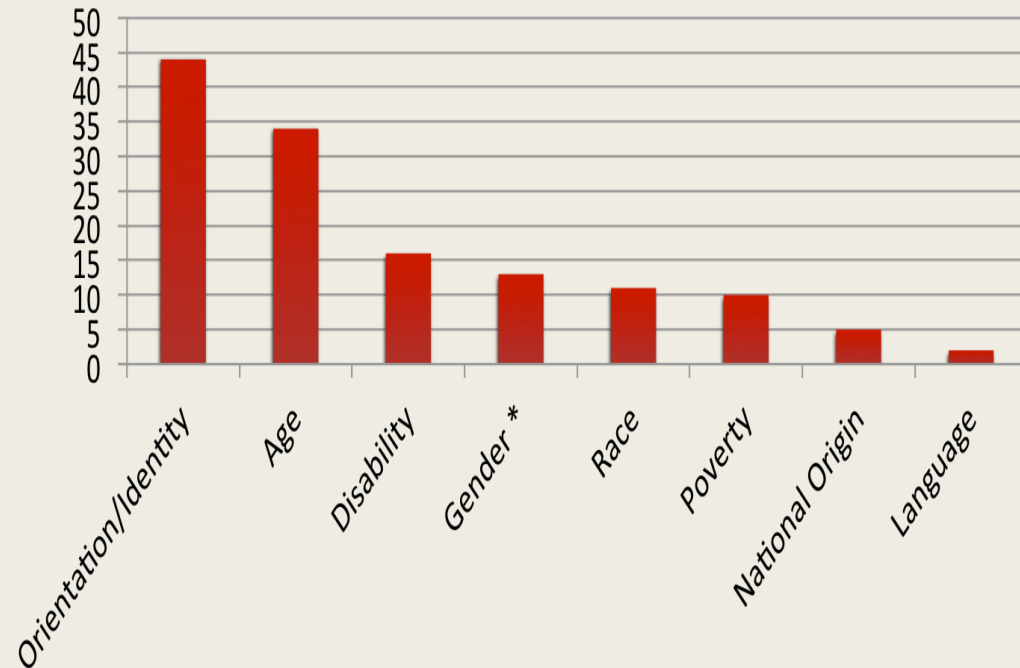
■ More likely to turn to friends (SF study, 2013)



- Lesbians more likely to turn to partner, family, neighbor
- Transgender persons more likely to turn to faith community
- Gay men more likely to have no one to whom to turn

Experience of Discrimination

SF Study (2013): Discrimination in previous 12 months



* 69% of Transgender adults reported gender discrimination

The "categories" we inhabit are not distinct

- Woody's (2015) qualitative study: one 67-year-old lesbian was quoted as:

"...not only am I old, I am an old African American female ... and then when you add being a lesbian to that, that puts you in the toilet."

Preparations for Later Life: Concerns about Ageism

(Canadian study, under review)

Gay	Lesbian	Transgender	Service Provider
<p>-Ageism, concerns about finding partner/relationship; “Chances slim of finding Prince Charming after 50;” “No one wants to be the close and intimate friend of a 75-year old”</p> <p>-Issues of trust: concerned about “being screwed over by younger persons, nieces, nephews”</p> <p>-“We need to educate younger gay men”</p>	<p>“some of the younger people deliberately avoided speaking to us; you could feel it. It was like a curse. It hurts so much.”</p>	<p>-Growing old is not something that can be discussed among trans people—it become a joke; “The community tries to erase aging”</p> <p>-When you are old and trans you get pretty lonely</p> <p>-Cohort issues: younger persons transitioning today have access to different surgeries, hormones—don’t have the same experiences of having to pass—“don’t have to apologize for who they are”; Believe that younger cohort no longer want to identify as transgender—“they are better at being proud”</p>	<p>- “the queer community is ageism on steroids”</p> <p>- “Issues worst for older LGBT persons, given historical marginalization and being closeted”</p>

What would your life be like without homophobia, racism, sexism?

➤ Life in a world where they would not be deprived of critical possibilities and resources

➤ Life in a world where they would be safe and accepted, across the life course

BUT ALSO, a life without

➤ Enhanced self-concepts (stronger, focused, multi-dimensional)

➤ The communities formed in response to oppression

➤ The fight for social justice and equity

(Meyer et al., 2012)

Positive Marginality

The strength, resistance and radical possibilities that exist and develop in the margins of social disenfranchisement

- Create communities, families and political movements
- Empathy and generativity
- Authentic self-awareness

(Lewis & Marshall, 2012; Unger, 2000)