

# UC San Diego

## UC San Diego Previously Published Works

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**Session Proposal ID:**

109

**Session Title:**

Gay and Gray IX:

Gay and Gray IX: Turning Red, White and Blue: How a History of Military Sexual Trauma Impacts the Lives of Older LGBT Veterans

**Session Description:**

Older LGBT veter

Older LGBT veterans served in the military during an intensely homophobic era. As a result, some were victims of various forms of trauma inspired by their LGBT phenotype. The faculty members of this session will provide an overview of the history LGBT individuals' service in the US Armed Forces, summarize the existing literature on PTSD in older adults, present three case reports which describe how victimization due to gender or sexual minority status while serving in the Armed Forces impacted the rest of their lives and then discuss the treatment options for these veterans currently available through the VA Healthcare System. The presenters each have specific expertise in his or her assigned area and will share that information with those in attendance.

**Overall Abstract:**

As the general pc

As the general population of older adults in the US continues to rapidly increase so is the population of older Veterans who belong to a gender or sexual minority. A subset of these older LGBT veterans experienced victimization while serving in the military inspired by their LGBT status some of these veterans even now are still experiencing the consequences of this trauma. The overarching goal of this session is to help mental health providers provide the best care possible for older veterans who were traumatized during their period of military service as a result of being LGBT. The session will cover the following areas: the history of LGBT individuals serving in the US Military, the scientific literature on PTSD in later life, three clinical vignettes of older veterans being treated for military sexual trauma and the potentially helpful clinical services currently available through the VA for older military sexual trauma survivors.

**Needs Assessment:**

This submission i

This submission is the ninth in a series of annual meeting submissions whose primary purpose has been to increase the ability of clinician to care optimally for the mental health needs of older LGBT adults. The older adult population is increasing in number and, in parallel, so is the size of the

population of older LGBT veterans with residual psychiatric issues related to experiencing military sexual trauma. Currently, this group has received relatively little attention by researchers or clinicians and this specific topic has never been the subject of a session at the AAGP annual meeting. This session is intended to help geriatric mental health care providers become more able to provide these veterans with optimal care.

**Topic:**  Clinical

**Topic Area:**  Gender & Cultural Issues

**Other Topic Area:**

**Learning Objective 1:**  To summarize history of the U.S. Armed Services acceptance of LGBT adults

**Learning Objective 2:**  To become better acquainted with the existing literature on PTSD in older adults

**Learning Objective 3:**  To learn how to recognize and appropriately treat psychiatric symptoms in older veterans related to victimization due to being identified as a member of the LGBT community while serving in the military

**Learning Objective 4:**  To increase awareness of services available through the VA Healthcare System that may prove helpful to this population

### Question and Answers:

1.  Rates of which of the following are higher in sexual minority Veterans compared to the general population of Veterans?

A.  Alcohol use

B.  Depression

C.  Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

D.  All of the above

Correct Answer:  Answer D

2.  Which of the below describes the odds of having suicidal ideation over the lifetime among LGB Veterans when compared to non-LGB Veterans?

A.  No difference

B.  2x higher

C.  3x higher

D.  10x higher

Correct Answer:  Answer C

3.  Female veterans with a history of military sexual assault utilizing the VA system for (both mental and physical) healthcare were \_\_\_\_\_ as likely to report a wide array of vague physical symptoms.

A.  Half

B.  Equally

C.  Twice

D.  Ten times

Correct Answer:  Answer C

4.  Clinical research data on the intersection between sexual orientation, military sexual trauma or harassment, and subsequent mental health treatment is limited by:

A.  Due to fears of discrimination and reprisal, choosing not to report accurately gender or sexual minority status when participating in government-sponsored health research

B.  Religious upbringing of individual veterans

C.  Research not beginning to be recorded until the 1980's

D.  All of the above

Correct Answer:  Answer D

5.  A 77-year-old established male patient presents to your practice for continued management of depression. His medical history is only notable for hypertension managed via medication and a basal cell carcinoma managed via surgical extraction. He is a retired English teacher with a history of sexual assault while in boot camp as a young adult. He has never married, is attracted to men, but never formally came out of the closet. He does not feel close to his family, having lost contact with them upon returning home from overseas, and immediately moving to New York City. Based on case reports, aside from the medical community, from which of the following would this veteran be most likely to seek support?

- A.  Department of Veterans Affairs
- B.  Cancer Center Patient Navigation Services
- C.  Employees Assistance Program sponsored by the school district for which he worked
- D.  LGBTQ support group at the local LGBT community center

Correct Answer:  Answer A

	Name	Institution	Presentation Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Type: Chair</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Sewell	University of California, San Diego	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Type: Discussant</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chadrick Lane	Yale	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Type: Presenter</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephen Smilowitz	Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine	A Brief History of LGBT Individuals and the US Armed Forces
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shafagh Heidari	UC San Diego	An Overview of PTSD in Older Adults
<input type="checkbox"/>	Erawadi Singh	Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine - Middletown	Three Case Reports of Older Veterans with a History of Sexual Military Trauma

Close

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