

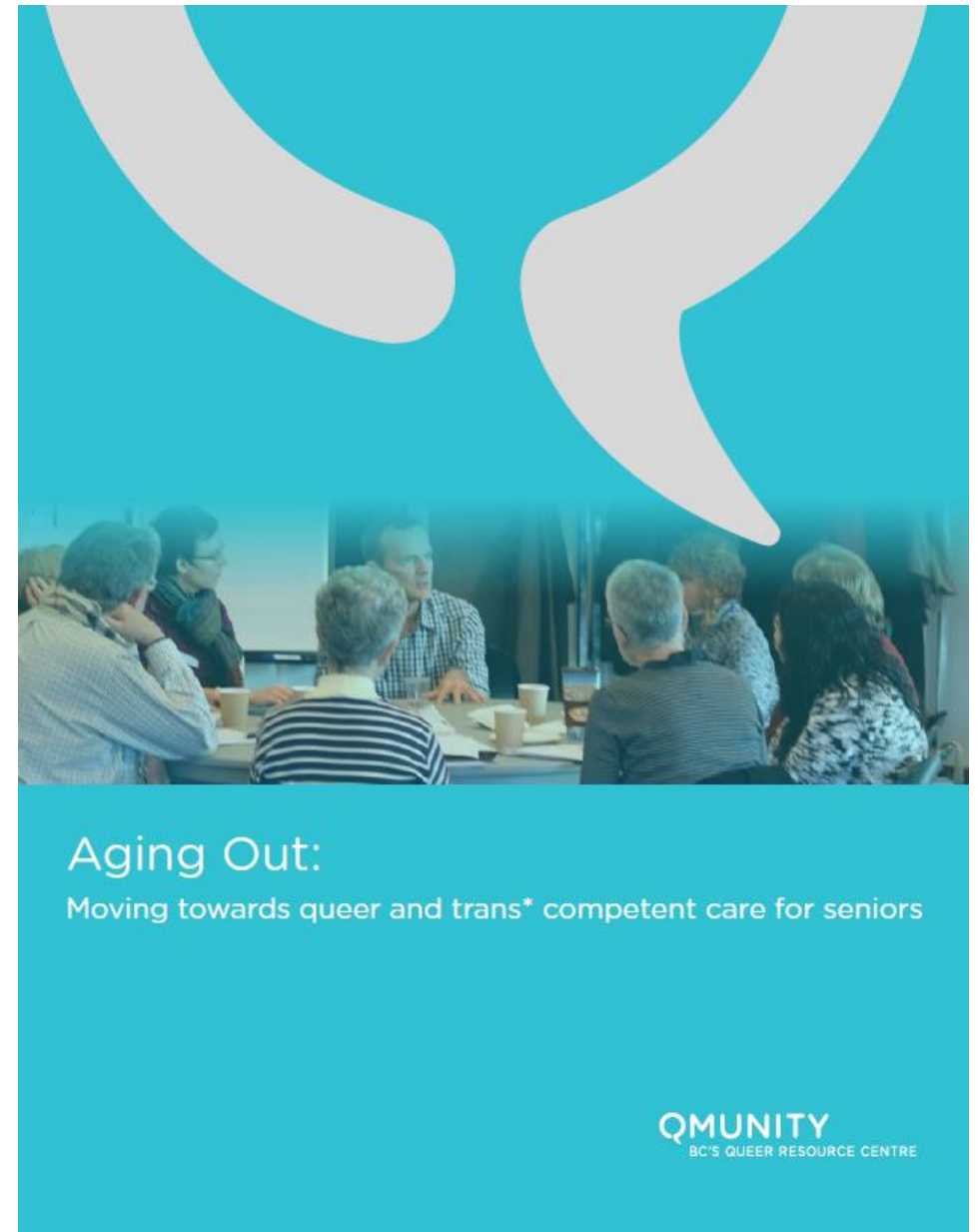


# Exploring the Intersections of Age and Sexuality: Concerns Among LGBTQ+ Older Adults about Moving from Independent Living to Residential Care.

By: Rebecca Matthews

# Introduction

- Population aging is happening during a time of significant social and cultural change.
- LGBTQ+ older adults were born, raised, and have aged during a time when discrimination due to sexual orientation was prevalent.
- LGBTQ+ older adults have many concerns about aging
- Living in Residential Care is a central concern



The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of an elderly person with white hair, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt. They are holding a rainbow flag, which is the primary visual element. The flag's colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) are visible in horizontal stripes. The person's hands are visible at the bottom, gripping the flagpole. The overall tone is warm and supportive.

# Residential Care

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Systemic heteronormativity

- The idea that binary gender identity and heterosexual orientation are the norm

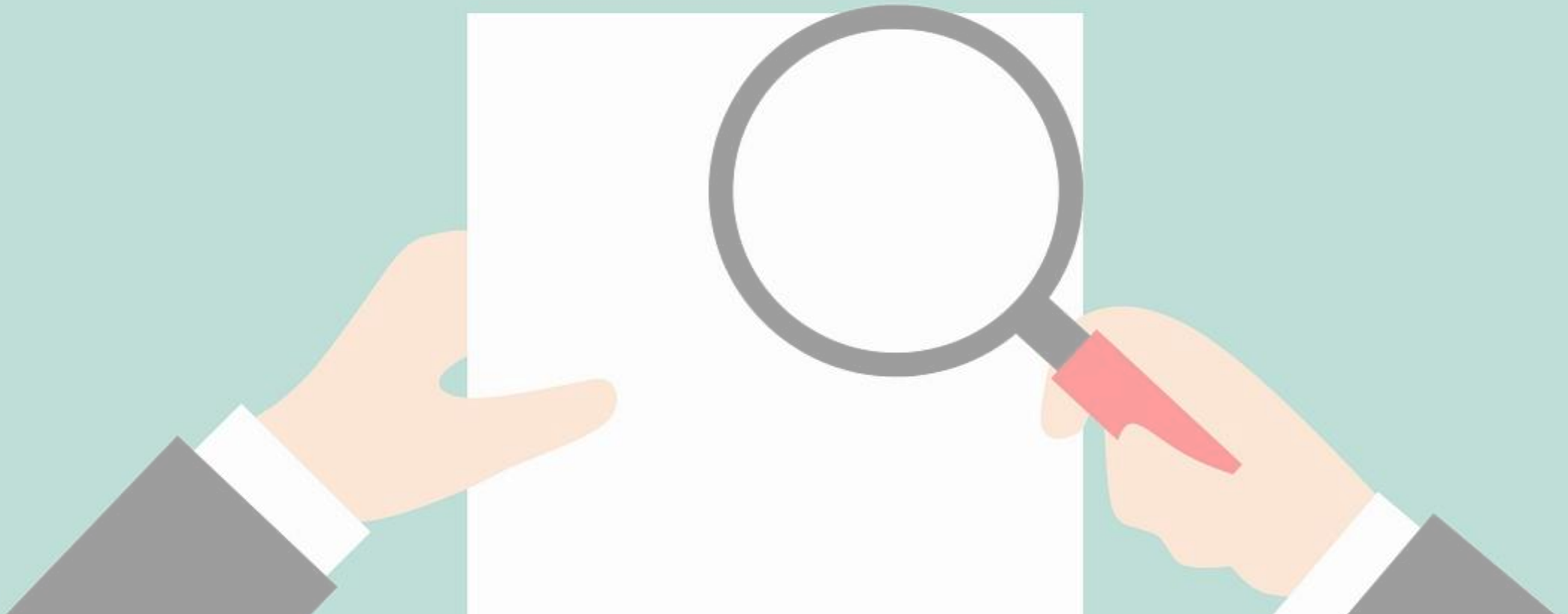
Discrimination

Fear of Disclosure





# Methodology





# Critical Appraisal

## The Critical Appraisal Skills Program (CASP) Qualitative Checklist



4. Was the recruitment strategy appropriate to the aims of the research?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't Tell	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

HINT: Consider

- If the researcher has explained how the participants were selected
- If they explained why the participants they selected were the most appropriate to provide access to the type of knowledge sought by the study
- If there are any discussions around recruitment (e.g. why some people chose not to take part)

Comments:

5. Was the data collected in a way that addressed the research issue?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't Tell	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

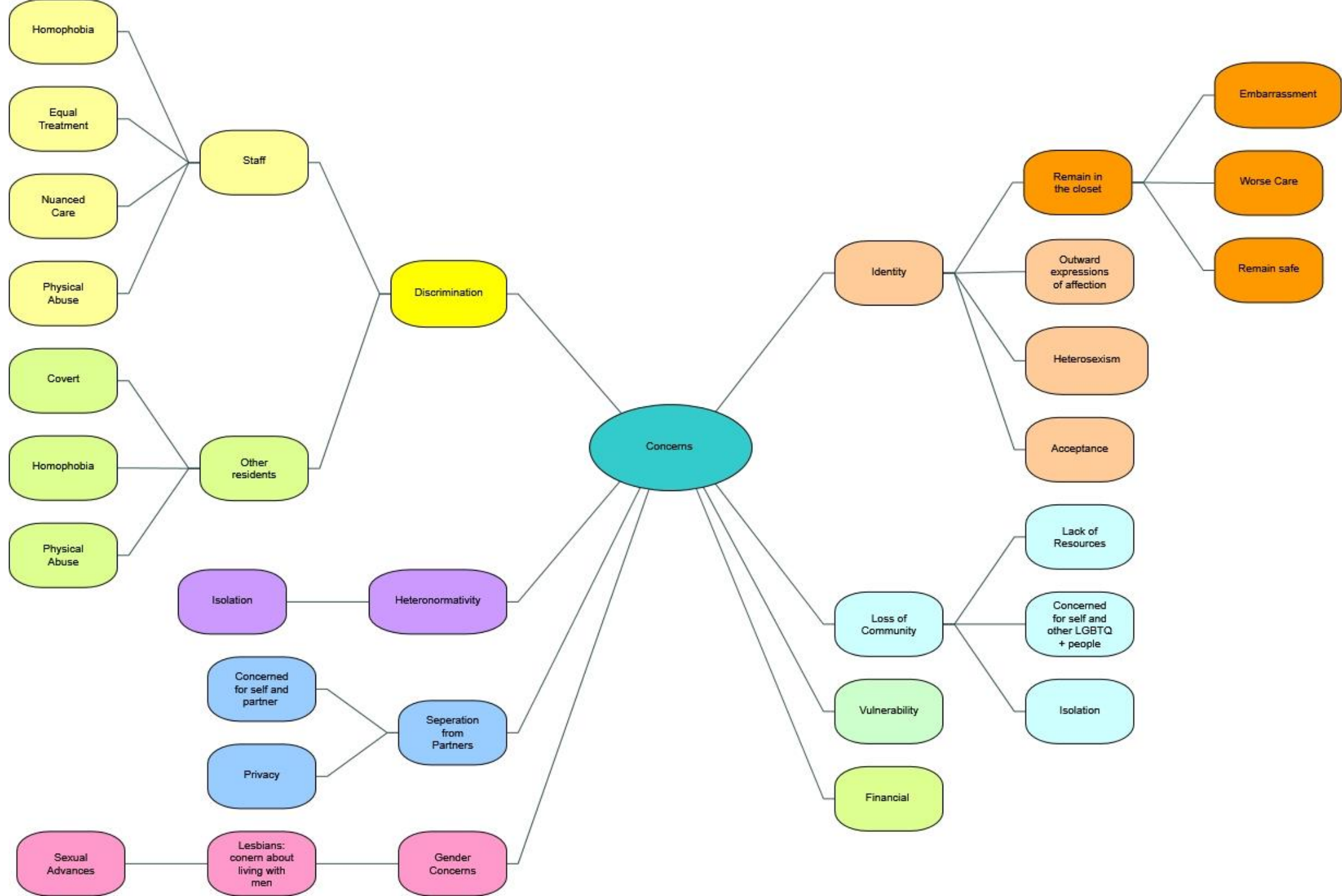
HINT: Consider

- If the setting for the data collection was justified
- If it is clear how data were collected (e.g. focus group, semi-structured interview etc.)
- If the researcher has justified the methods chosen
- If the researcher has made the methods explicit (e.g. for interview method, is there an indication of how interviews are conducted, or did they use a topic guide)
- If methods were modified during the study. If so, has the researcher explained how and why
- If the form of data is clear (e.g. tape recordings, video material, notes etc.)
- If the researcher has discussed saturation of data

Comments:







# Data Synthesis

A data synthesis matrix was generated using NVivo12 to compare themes across each study without removing the data from its original context.

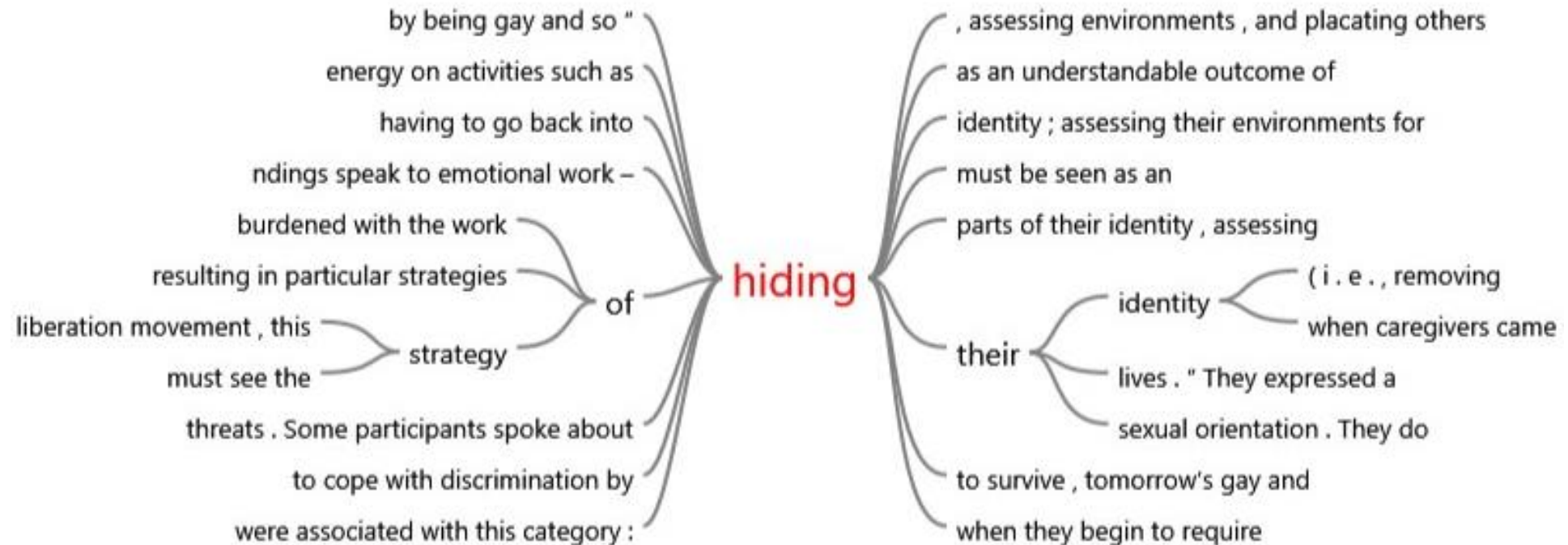
NVivo

- Matrix coding queries
- Text search queries

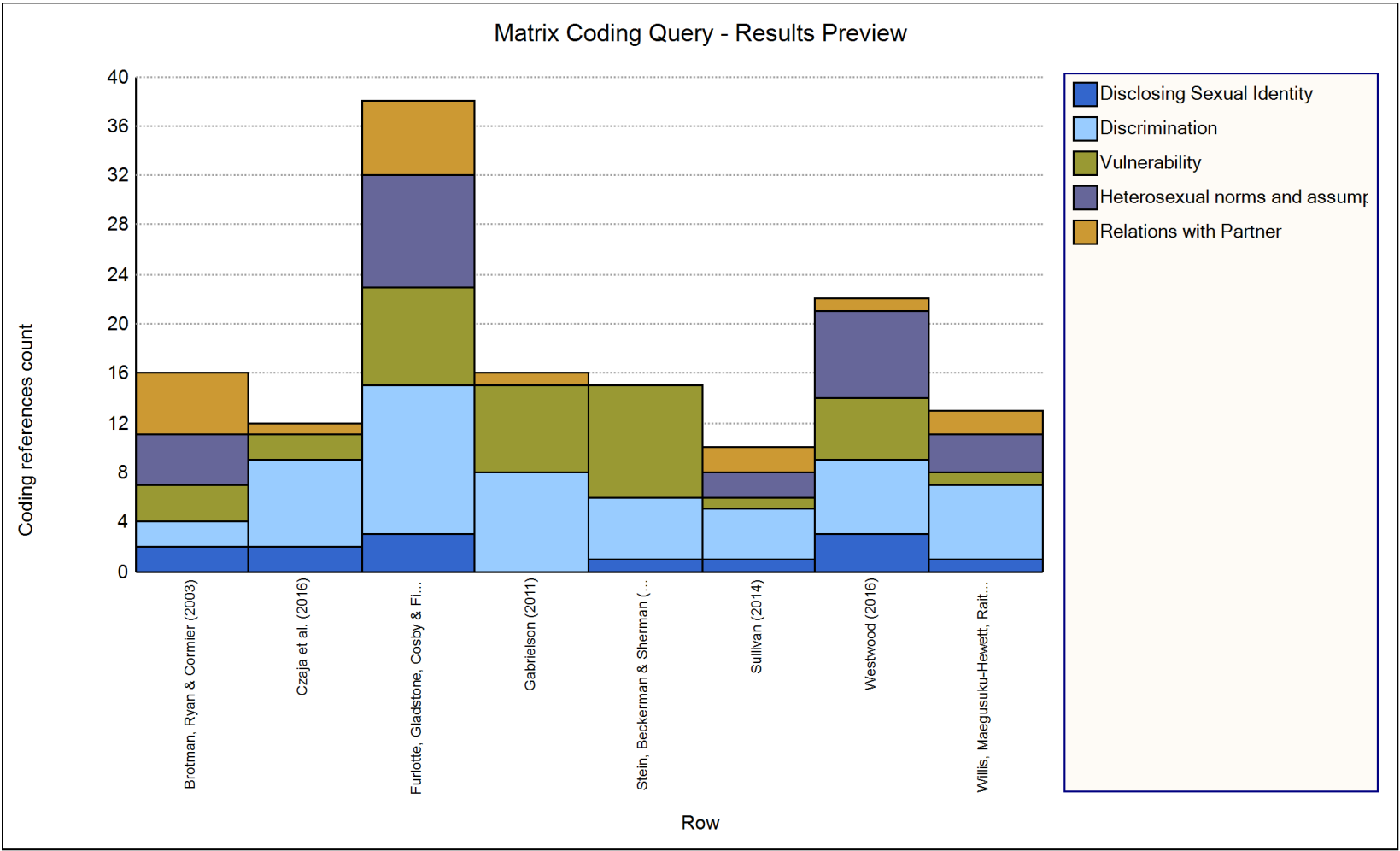


# Synthesis using NVivo

## Text Search Query - Results Preview



# Synthesis using NVivo





# Results



# Themes

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Five main themes were identified:

1. Discrimination
2. Vulnerability
3. Relationship with partner
4. Disclosing sexual identity
5. Heterosexual norms and assumptions.



# Discrimination

Concerns regarding discrimination arose in all studies

Two types of discrimination:

1. Covert
2. Overt

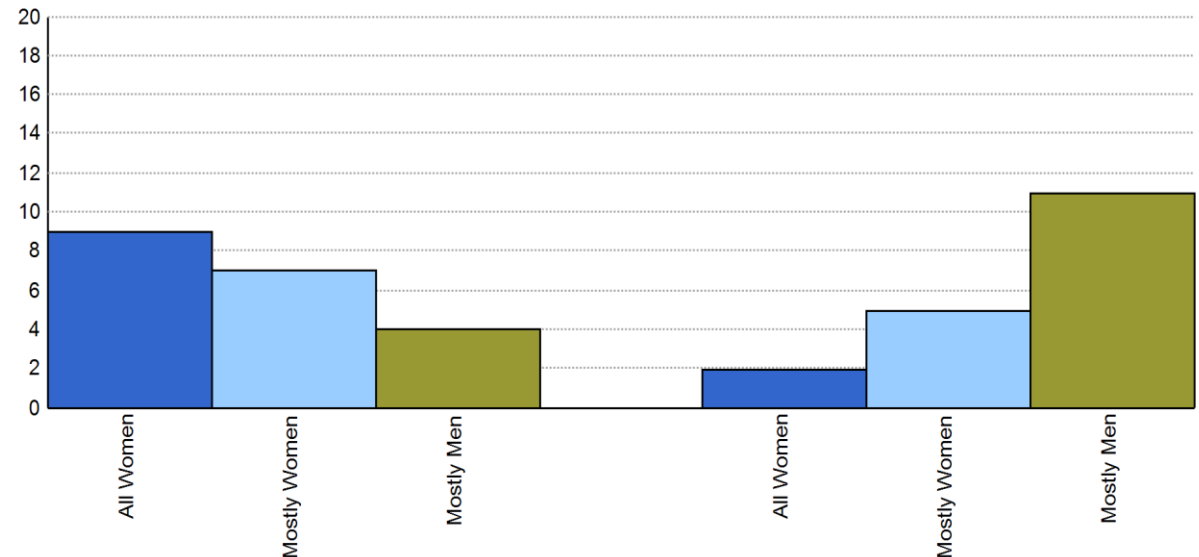


Figure 3: Coding for covert and overt discrimination based on gender



# Relationship with Partner's

“Let’s say that we both had to go. Would we be living together? Could we hold hands? Could we put our arms around each other watching television when everybody else is straight? I mean, socially it would be totally uncomfortable. What would it be like if my partner came to visit? How would we visit that would be acceptable to the rest of the facility?”

(Furlotte et al., 2016)



# Heterosexual Norms and Assumptions

**Heteronormativity:** being perceived as straight when entering residential care facilities.

**Heterosexist Environment:** always being around straight people, only having access to resources and other forms of media that are targeted at heterosexual people, having to listen to straight narratives, and having no social connection to the LGBTQ+ community.



# Discussion











# Next Steps



**Aging Out:**  
Moving towards queer and trans\* competent care for seniors

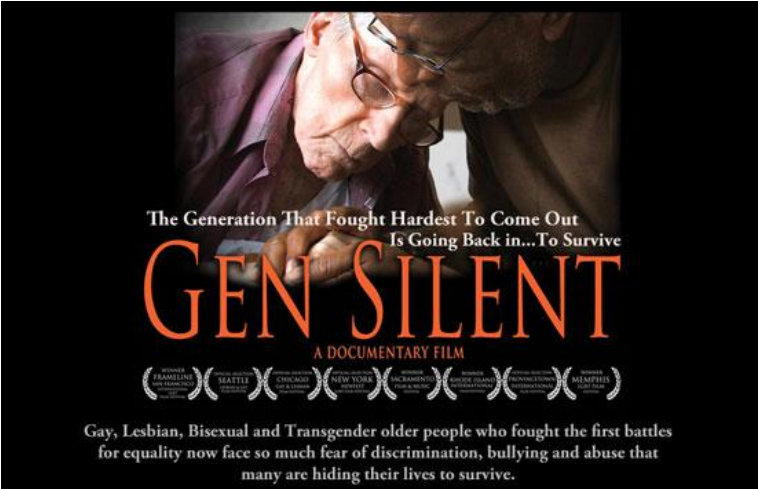
**QMUNITY**  
BC'S QUEER RESOURCE CENTRE

**'We're going back into the closet': LGBTQ seniors wary of being 'out' in long-term care facilities**



Gay seniors say they face a hard choice - hide who they are or deal with discriminatory backlash

 Nick Purdon & Leonardo Palleja - CBC News - Posted: Jun 28, 2018 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: June 28



**Lambda Legal Sues Senior Housing Facility for Allowing Abuse of Lesbian Resident** (En Español)





# IFA Conference 2018

## Addressing Inequalities

- Older LGBTQI
- Older Migrants
- Older Refugees
- Older Prisoners
- Older Women
- Older Homeless Persons
- Older Indigenous Persons



When returning to the closet  
is your only choice...

Many LGBTQI2S seniors fear going into assisted living centers and long term care facilities. They often feel they must hide their identities and partners to stay safe from abuse and discrimination.

Go to [egale.ca/seniors](http://egale.ca/seniors) for resources and training opportunities.

**Egale**  
Canada Human Rights Trust

Lezlie, 61  
dyke

losing your independence  
shouldn't mean losing your identity





# Grey Literature



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