

RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

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# COVID-19 AND LGBT ADULTS AGES 45 AND OLDER in the US

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Prior Williams Institute research has shown that many LGBT adults are at higher risk of serious illness related to COVID-19 and its resulting negative economic impacts. This report is a follow up to the March 2021 Williams Institute report [The Impact of the Fall 2020 COVID-19 Surge on LGBT Adults in the US](#) and examines the impact of COVID-19 on LGBT people ages 45 and older by comparing their experiences to those of non-LGBT people ages 45 and older, and to those of younger LGBT and non-LGBT people. The report also explores differences related to race and ethnicity among older (those ages 45 and up) LGBT and non-LGBT people.

Drawing upon data collected by Ipsos from a nationally representative sample of over 12,000 adults in the fall of 2020, we find that LGBT people ages 45 and older are more likely to experience the health and economic impacts of the pandemic than non-LGBT people ages 45 and older. Older LGBT people of color, in particular, experience significant disparities in the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 compared to older white non-LGBT people.

Older LGBT people are also more likely to follow recommended public health measures, such as social distancing and wearing masks, and to say they intend to get the vaccine in comparison to younger LGBT people.

Questions that measure respondents' trust in government and public health officials regarding COVID-19 show that older LGBT people had less trust in the Trump Administration and pharmaceutical companies' handling of the pandemic and more trust in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state governments, and other public health officials. With the change to the Biden Administration, restoring trust in institutions leading vaccine administration among older LGBT communities, and in particular older LGBT communities of color, is critical.

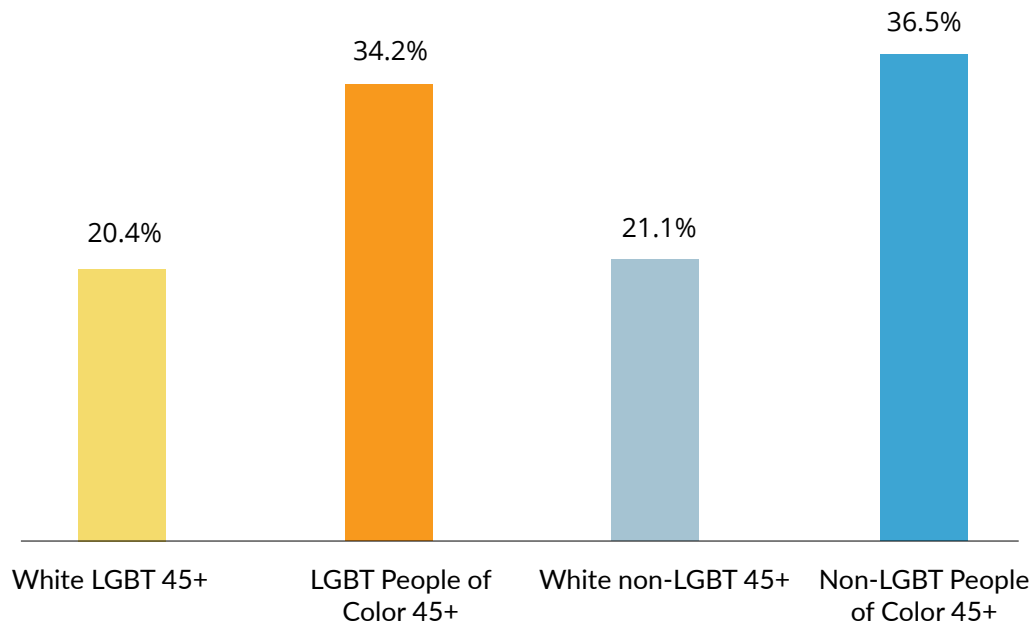
Finally, most government data collection efforts focused on COVID-19 do not include sexual orientation and gender identity measures. These omissions, including from the U.S. Census Bureau's [Household Pulse Survey](#), as well as other state and federal efforts to track deaths and disease more generally, hinder efforts to incorporate the needs of LGBT populations, including older LGBT populations, into COVID-19 recovery efforts.

## KEY FINDINGS

### Health Impacts of COVID-19

- Among those who have tested for COVID-19, positivity rates were similar between LGBT people ages 45 and older (7.9%) and non-LGBT people ages 45 and older (7.5%).
- Of those tested, 12.8% of older LGBT people of color and 5.5% of older white LGBT people had tested positive. Although these numbers suggest that older LGBT people of color may have been more likely to have tested positive, the difference is not statistically significant.

Figure 1. Personally knew someone who died of COVID-19 among US adults ages 45+

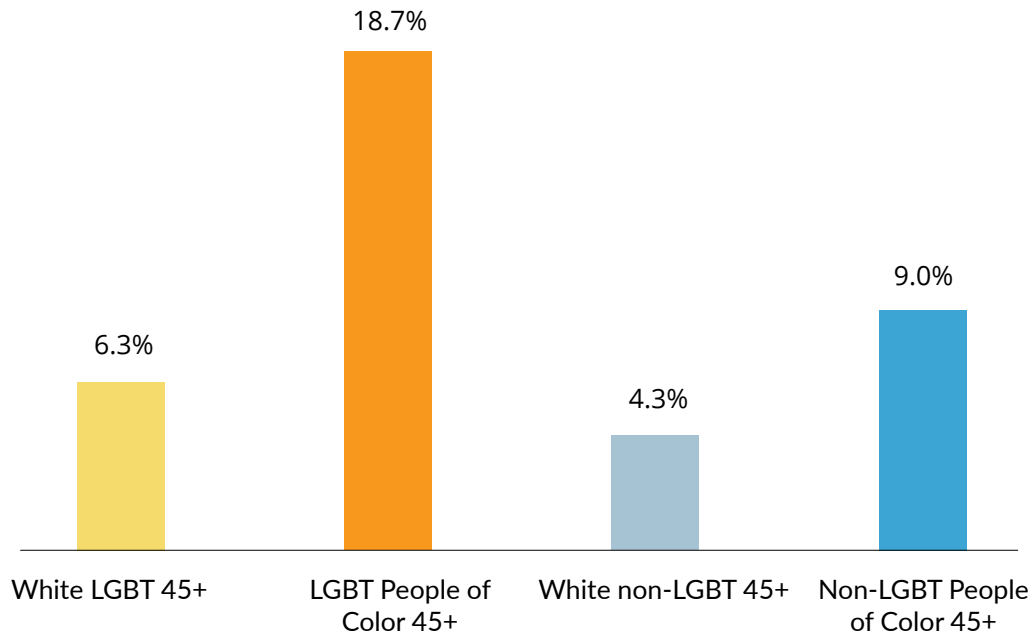


- In terms of knowing someone who died of COVID-19, there were differences by race, but not LGBT status. Both older LGBT people of color (34.2%) and older non-LGBT people of color (36.5%) were more likely than older white LGBT people (20.4%) and older white non-LGBT people (21.1%) to personally know someone who died of COVID-19.

### Economic Impacts of COVID-19

- Older LGBT respondents—particularly older LGBT respondents of color—were more likely to experience job loss and other negative economic impacts related to COVID-19 than older non-LGBT people.
- Older LGBT respondents were more likely than older non-LGBT respondents to have been recently laid off (10.7% v. 5.9%) or furloughed (13.3% v. 9.2%) from their jobs, report problems affording basic household goods (20.6% v. 14.4%), and report having problems paying their rent or mortgage (14.9% v. 8.3%).
- Older LGBT people of color were significantly more likely to experience these hardships than older white LGBT and non-LGBT people, as well as older non-LGBT people of color. Older LGBT people of color were twice as likely to have been laid off as older non-LGBT people of color, and at least three times as likely to have been laid off as older white LGBT and non-LGBT people.
- Older LGBT people of color were also significantly more likely than other groups to report that their ability to afford household goods and to pay their rent or mortgage got worse due to the pandemic. Close to one-third (30.8%) of older LGBT people of color reported that their ability to pay for household goods got worse and one-fourth (24.5%) said their ability to pay their rent or mortgage got worse. They were twice as likely to report these problems as older white LGBT people.

Figure 2. Recently laid off work among US adults ages 45+



### Following Public Health Recommendations & Vaccination

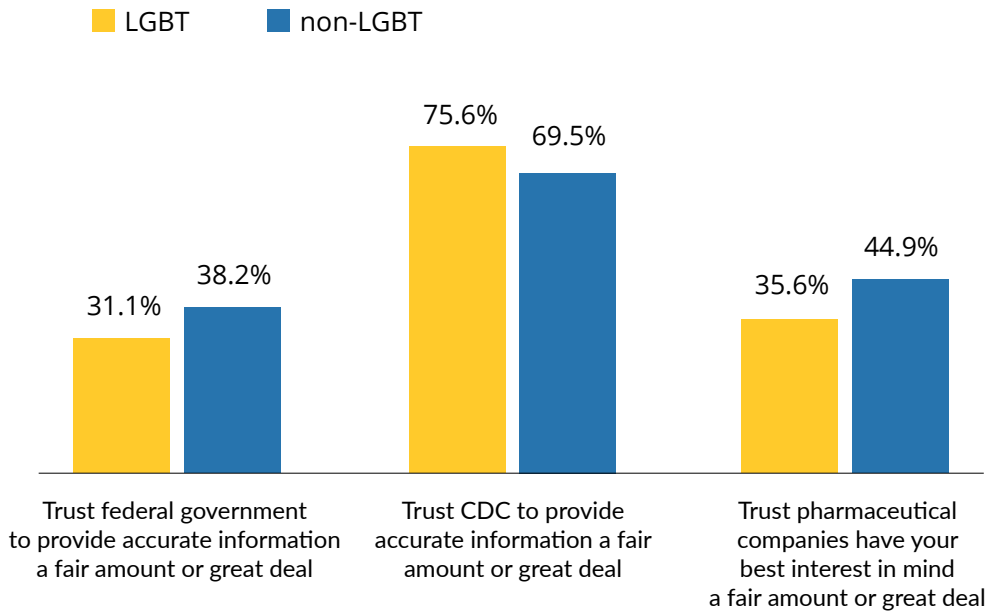
- Older LGBT people (92.8%) were more likely to say they were concerned about the COVID-19 outbreak than older non-LGBT people (84.0%), younger LGBT people (89.0%), and younger non-LGBT people (80.0%).
- Older LGBT people (and non-LGBT people) were more likely to follow recommended public health measures, such as social distancing and wearing a mask, than younger people.
- Similar percentages of older LGBT (54.5%) and older non-LGBT (49.1%) people said they intended to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it became available to them.
- When considering race and ethnicity among older adults, concern about COVID-19 and compliance with public health recommendations were fairly consistent across all groups, with one exception—older white non-LGBT people tended to report lower levels of concern and compliance.

### Trust in Government and Public Health Institutions

- During the final months of the Trump Administration, older LGBT respondents were less likely than older non-LGBT respondents to report that they trusted the federal government to provide accurate information about COVID-19 (33.2% v. 40.4%).
- Higher percentages of both older LGBT respondents (66.2%) and older non-LGBT respondents (59.3%) reported that they trusted state governments to provide accurate information about COVID-19 than trusted the federal government.

- Around one-third of older LGBT adults (35.6%) and 44.9% of non-LGBT adults said they trusted pharmaceutical companies to look out for their best interests.

Figure 3. Trust in institutions among US adults ages 45+



Collected during the COVID-19 surge in the fall and early winter of 2020, these data show differences in how pandemic has been experienced by older LGBT people compared to older non-LGBT people and younger people. In particular, the data show that older LGBT people of color are at increased risk of experiencing economic hardships related to the pandemic.

Policy and other interventions aimed at ending the pandemic and facilitating recovery must address the unique needs of older LGBT people. Specifically, economic recovery efforts must consider older LGBT people—particularly older LGBT people of color—and vaccination efforts must address the built-up distrust in the federal government and pharmaceutical companies among LGBT people in general, including older LGBT people.

## INTRODUCTION

Research from the Williams Institute and others has shown that many LGBT adults, particularly older LGBT adults, are at higher risk of serious illness related to COVID-19 and its resulting negative economic impacts due to a variety of health and economic vulnerabilities.<sup>1</sup> For example, a 2020 Williams Institute report looking specifically at the transgender population found that 319,800 transgender adults in the U.S. have one or more medical conditions that put them at increased risk of serious illness related to COVID-19, including asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and HIV, and approximately 217,000 transgender adults in the U.S. are age 65 or older.<sup>2</sup> Williams Institute research also highlighted health vulnerabilities among many older LGBT people in California, including asthma, heart disease, and diabetes.<sup>3</sup>

Other Williams Institute research has found that many LGBT people experienced economic insecurity even before the pandemic began. For example, a report based on data collected in 2017 found that nearly 27% of LGBT people had experienced food insecurity in the prior year. Rates of prior year food insecurity were particularly high for LGBT women (31%), Black LGBT people (37%), and Latino/a LGBT people (32%).<sup>4</sup> Another report based on data collected between 2016 and 2019 found that 8% of transgender adults and 3% of cisgender LGB adults experienced homelessness within the prior year compared to 1% of non-LGBT adults.<sup>5</sup> Among LGB adults, Black respondents had significantly higher rates (6%) of recent housing instability.<sup>6</sup>

Information about the impact of COVID-19 on LGBT people is scarce because most publicly funded data collection efforts, including from the U.S. Census Bureau's COVID-19 impact assessment surveys,<sup>7</sup> do not include demographic questions about sexual orientation and gender identity. Collecting data about sexual orientation and gender identity is critical to including LGBT people in recovery efforts.

<sup>1</sup> See U.S. Ctrs. Disease Control & Prevention, *Sexual Orientation Disparities in Risk Factors for Adverse COVID-19—Related Outcomes, by Race/Ethnicity—Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, United States, 2017-2019* 70 MMWR 5 (Feb. 5, 2021), <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/pdfs/mm7005a1-H.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> JODY L. HERMAN & KATHRYN O'NEILL, WILLIAMS INST., *VULNERABILITIES TO COVID-19 AMONG TRANSGENDER ADULTS IN THE U.S.* 1 (2020), <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Trans-COVID19-Apr-2020.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> ILAN H. MEYER & SOON KYU CHOI, WILLIAMS INST., *VULNERABILITIES TO COVID-19 AMONG OLDER LGBT ADULTS IN CALIFORNIA* 1-2 (2020), <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Older-LGB-COVID-CA-Apr-2020.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> BIANCA D.M. WILSON & KERITH J. CONRON, WILLIAMS INST., *NAT'L ESTIMATES OF FOOD INSECURITY: LGBT PEOPLE AND COVID-19* 1 (2020), <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Food-Insecurity-COVID19-Apr-2020.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> BIANCA D.M. WILSON ET AL., WILLIAMS INST., *HOMELESSNESS AMONG LGBT ADULTS IN THE US* 1 (2020), <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGBT-Homelessness-May-2020.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Measuring Household Experiences during the Coronavirus Pandemic*, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU (Apr. 14, 2021), <https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/household-pulse-survey.html>.

This report is based on Axios/Ipsos data drawn from a nationally representative sample of over 12,000 adults collected between August 21, 2020 to December 21, 2020 by Ipsos and is focused on the impact of COVID-19 on LGBT people ages 45 and older.<sup>8</sup> We compare the experiences of this group to the experiences of non-LGBT people ages 45 and older, and to those of younger LGBT and non-LGBT people. The report also explores differences related to race and ethnicity among older (those ages 45 and up) LGBT and non-LGBT people.

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<sup>8</sup> See Appendix for methodology. Our analysis is focused on older adults, defined as those ages 45 and older. We selected 45 as the cutoff age because it provided a large enough sample of older adults to analyze differences based on LGBT status and race. With improved and expanded data collection on LGBT populations, future research will like be able to examine differences among narrower age groups.



## RESULTS

### DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

LGBT adults ages 45 and older in the Axios-Ipsos sample were much more likely to be male (68.0%) than non-LGBT adults (46.4% male) ages 45 and older.

About 40% of older LGBT adults (39.8%) were married compared to 68.6% of older non-LGBT adults, and 8.7% of older LGBT adults were living with a partner compared to 1.3% of older non-LGBT adults.

Older LGBT and non-LGBT adults in the sample were similar along other demographic measures, including race, educational attainment, and income. Older LGBT adults, however, were less likely to own their own home (66.2% v. 81.4%) and more likely to live in urban areas (49.2% v. 31.4%) than older non-LGBT adults.

Older LGBT adults were more likely to identify as Democrats (49.4% v. 28.1%) and less likely to identify as Republicans (16.1% v. 32.2%) than older non-LGBT adults.

**Table 1. Demographic characteristics of US adults (N=12,450) by LGBT status and age, Axios-Ipsos Poll, August – December 2020**

	LGBT 45+ N=365	NON-LGBT 45+ N=7,673	LGBT UNDER 45 N=477	NON-LGBT UNDER 45 N=3,935
	%	%	%	%
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	68.0	46.4	46.7	51.7
Female	32.0	53.3	53.3	48.3
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>				
White, non-Hispanic	66.2	70.5	53.8	56.6
People of color	33.8	29.5	46.2	43.4
<b>Relationship Status</b>				
Married	39.8	68.6	26.0	45.9
Living with partner	8.7	1.3	15.7	10.7
Never married	31.0	7.0	52.1	37.3
Widowed	3.7	7.4	0.2	0.3
Divorced	14.5	13.7	4.9	4.3
Separated	2.2	2.0	1.1	1.6
<b>Education</b>				
< Four-year college	64.6	67.2	64.6	62.8
> Four-year college	35.4	32.8	35.4	37.2
<b>Household Income</b>				
< \$25,000	13.9	11.2	14.3	12.7
> \$25,000	86.1	88.8	85.7	87.3

	LGBT 45+ N=365	NON-LGBT 45+ N=7,673	LGBT UNDER 45 N=477	NON-LGBT UNDER 45 N=3,935
	%	%	%	%
<b>Housing Status</b>				
Owned	66.2	81.4	49.6	61.1
Rented	32.3	17.0	47.1	37.2
Other	1.5	1.6	3.3	1.6
<b>Urbanicity</b>				
Urban	49.2	31.4	44.3	38.2
Suburban	37.9	49.3	48.0	45.4
Rural	12.8	19.3	7.6	16.5
<b>Party Affiliation</b>				
Republican	16.1	32.2	8.0	19.4
Democrat	49.4	28.1	53.4	31.4
Independent	27.3	27.9	17.4	25.2
Something else	7.1	11.5	21.1	24.0

## COVID-19 TESTING

### Comparisons by Age and LGBT Status

By the fall of 2020, about 30%-40% of people reported ever having taken a COVID-19 test across older and younger LGBT and non-LGBT people. Among people ages 45 and older, similar percentages of LGBT (34.0%) and non-LGBT (29.3%) people reported taking a COVID-19 test. LGBT people under ages 45 reported high rates of testing, with 40.5% of LGBT people under ages 45 saying that they had taken a test at some point during the pandemic. This rate was significantly higher than the percentage of younger (28.6%) non-LGBT people who reported testing.

Across older and younger LGBT and non-LGBT people, between 7%-11% of those tested reported testing positive. There were no significant differences in the rates of people who tested positive by LGBT status or age, meaning that all groups were about as likely to say that they had tested positive for the virus.

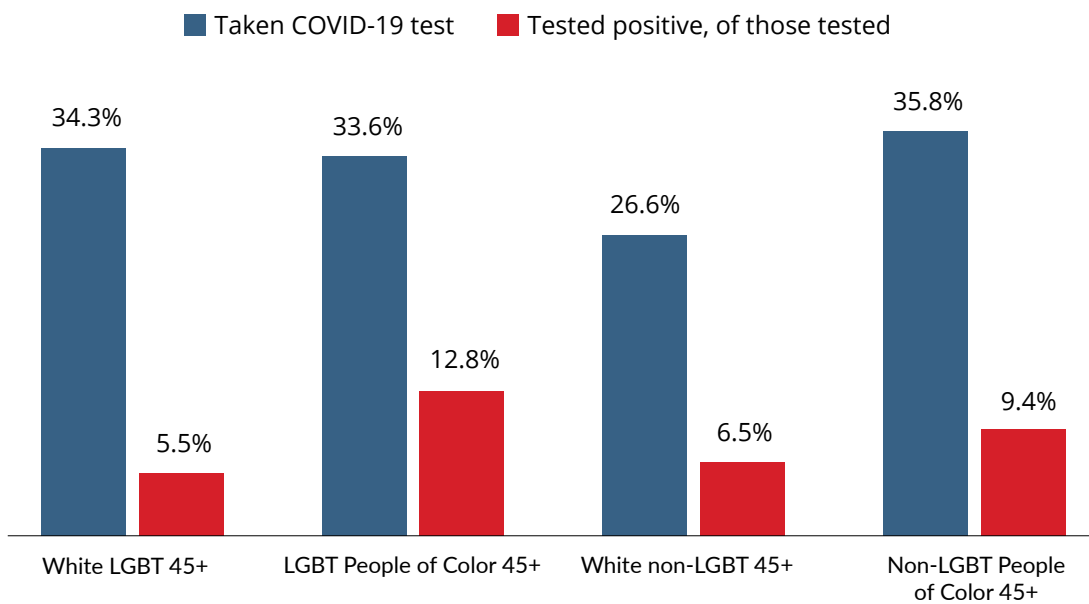
**Table 2. COVID-19 testing among US adults (N=12,450) by LGBT Status and age, Axios-Ipsos Survey, August – December 2020**

	LGBT 45+ N=365	NON-LGBT 45+ N=7,673	LGBT UNDER 45 N=477	NON-LGBT UNDER 45 N=3,935
	%	%	%	%
Ever taken a COVID-19 test	34.0	29.3	40.5	28.6
Tested positive for COVID-19	7.9	7.5	11.3	10.1

### Comparisons by Race/Ethnicity and LGBT Status among Older Adults

When looking at differences in testing by race/ethnicity among older LGBT and non-LGBT adults, white LGBT people and LGBT people of color ages 45 and older reported similar rates of testing for COVID-19. About one-third of each group said they had been tested. Among those who were tested, 12.8% of older LGBT people of color and 5.5% of older white LGBT people tested positive. Although these numbers suggest that older LGBT people of color may have been more likely to have tested positive, the difference is not statistically significant. Older non-LGBT people of color (9.4%) and older white non-LGBT people (6.5%) tested positive at similar rates.

Figure 4. COVID-19 testing among adults ages 45+



## ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19

### Comparisons by Age and LGBT Status

Several months into the pandemic, older LGBT respondents—particularly older LGBT respondents of color—were more likely to experience job loss and other negative economic impacts than non-LGBT people. About 10% of LGBT people ages 45 and older had been laid off of work just prior to the survey compared to 5.9% of non-LGBT people ages 45 and older. Older LGBT people (13.3%) were also more likely to have been furloughed in the few weeks prior to the survey compared to older non-LGBT people (9.2%). Younger LGBT people were also more likely to report being laid off than younger non-LGBT people.

LGBT respondents were also more likely to report other forms of financial insecurity than non-LGBT respondents. Among respondents ages 45 and older, one-fifth (20.6%) of LGBT respondents reported that their ability to afford household goods got worse in the prior few weeks and 14.9% reported that their ability to pay their rent or mortgage got worse. By comparison, 14.4% of non-LGBT respondents

ages 45 and older reported that their ability to afford household goods got worse and 8.3% reported that their ability to pay their rent or mortgage got worse. Younger LGBT people were similarly more likely to experience financial insecurity than younger non-LGBT people.

Additionally, many LGBT and non-LGBT people reported that they were concerned about their ability to pay bills, including over 40% of older LGBT people and over 50% of younger LGBT people.

**Table 4. Economic impact of COVID-19 on US adults (N=12,450) by LGBT status and age, Axios-Ipsos Survey, August – December 2020**

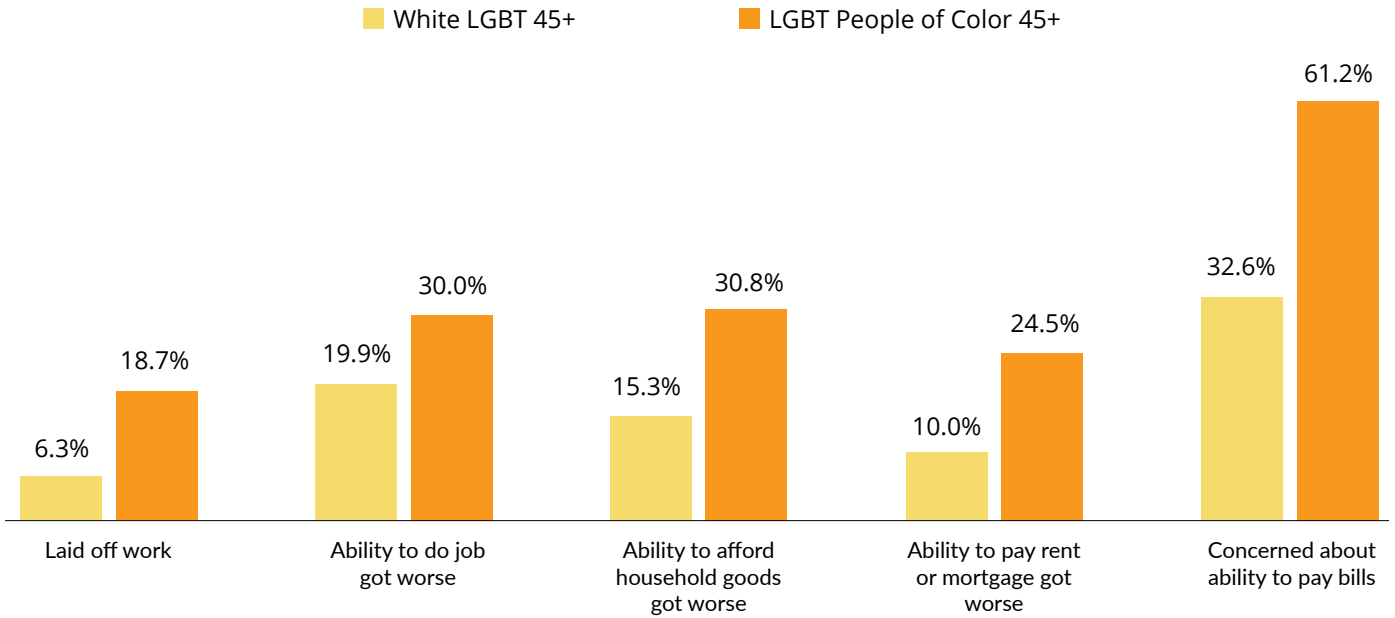
	LGBT 45+ N=365	NON-LGBT 45+ N=7,673	LGBT UNDER 45 N=477	NON-LGBT UNDER 45 N=3,935
	%	%	%	%
<b>In the last few weeks...</b>				
Laid off work	10.7	5.9	13.1	9.3
Temporarily furloughed or suspended	13.3	9.2	14.5	10.1
Ability to do job got worse	23.3	16.2	25.6	18.3
Ability to afford household goods got worse	20.6	14.4	25.0	19.9
Ability to pay rent or mortgage got worse	14.9	8.3	22.4	16.1
<b>Currently, very or somewhat concerned about ability to pay bills</b>	42.0	36.4	55.7	47.2

### Comparisons by Race/Ethnicity and LGBT Status among Older Adults

Older people of color—particularly older LGBT people of color—were significantly more likely to experience these economic hardships than older white non-LGBT respondents. Nearly one-fifth (18.7%) of LGBT people of color ages 45 and older reported being laid off work just prior to the survey. They were twice as likely to have been laid off as non-LGBT people of color ages 45 and older, three times as likely as older white LGBT people (6.3%), and five times as likely as older white non-LGBT people (4.3%). Older LGBT people of color were also twice as likely as older white non-LGBT people to report that their ability to do their job got worse (30.0% v. 14.6%).

Older LGBT people of color were also significantly more likely to experience other types of financial insecurity related to the pandemic compared to other groups of respondents ages 45 and older. Close to one-third (30.8%) of older LGBT people of color reported that their ability to pay for household goods got worse and about one-fourth (24.5%) said their ability to pay their rent or mortgage got worse. They were over twice as likely to report these problems as older white LGBT people—15.3% of white LGBT respondents ages 45 and older reported that their ability to pay for household goods got worse and 10% reported that their ability to pay their rent or mortgage got worse. LGBT people of color were also significantly more likely to report these types of financial insecurity than both groups of older non-LGBT people.

Figure 5. Financial troubles related to COVID-19 among US adults ages 45+



## CONCERN ABOUT COVID-19 AND COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

### Comparisons by Age and LGBT Status

Overall, high percentages of all respondent groups reported being concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic and about getting sick, and over 20% of each group said they knew someone who died of COVID-19.

Eighty percent or more of each group reported that they were concerned about the pandemic, with older LGBT people the most likely to say they were concerned (92.8%). Similar percentages across groups also reported that they were concerned about getting sick. Many people reported knowing people who had died of COVID-19. Over 20% of each group reported knowing someone who died, with about one-quarter of older LGBT (25.1%) and non-LGBT (25.6%) saying they knew someone who died. Older people were no more likely to report knowing someone who died than younger people.

In terms of following recommended public health measures to curb the spread of COVID-19, LGBT people of both age groups were more likely to say they were following the measures than non-LGBT people of comparable ages, though compliance was high across all groups. Among older LGBT people, 83.1% said they practiced social distancing and 96.3% reported wearing a mask at all times outside the home. Among younger LGBT people, 78.4% said they practiced social distancing and 92.9% said they wore a mask at all times. By comparison, 76.7% of older non-LGBT people said that they practiced social distancing and 91.3% said that they wore a mask outside the home, along with similar percentages of younger non-LGBT people.

At the time the data were collected, the U.S. was on the verge of seeing the first COVID-19 vaccinations administered to health care workers. The first shot was given to a nurse in New York City on December 14, 2020.<sup>9</sup> At the time of the survey, only about half of respondents reported that they intended to get a vaccine as soon as it became available to them. Among respondents ages 45 and older, 54.5% of LGBT people and 49.1% of non-LGBT people said that they intended to get the vaccines when they became available. A similar percentage of younger LGBT people (49.0%) said they intended to get the vaccine along with a slightly lower percentage of younger non-LGBT people (41.6%).

Figure 6. Intend to get the COVID-19 vaccine among US adults

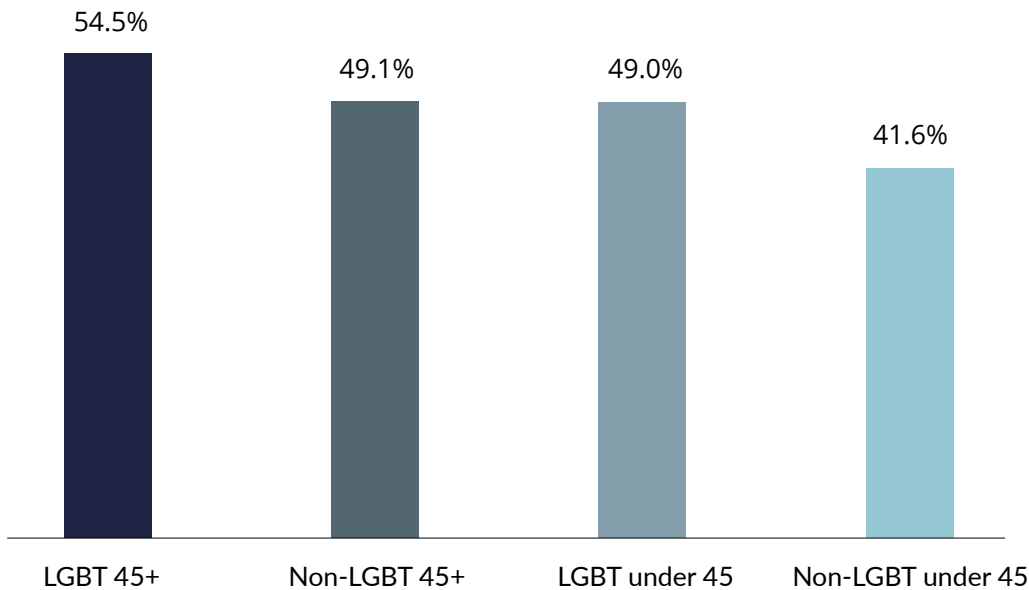


Table 6. Concern about COVID-19 and adoption of public health recommendations among US adults (N=12,450) by LGBT status and age, Axios-Ipsos Survey, August - December 2020

	LGBT 45+ N=365	NON-LGBT 45+ N=7,673	LGBT UNDER 45 N=477	NON-LGBT UNDER 45 N=3,935
	%	%	%	%
Very or somewhat concerned about the coronavirus or COVID-19 outbreak	92.8	84.0	89.0	80.0
Very or somewhat concerned about getting sick	83.3	76.1	86.0	73.4

<sup>9</sup> Sharon Otterman, 'I Trust Science,' Says Nurse Who Is First to Get Vaccine in U.S., NYTIMES.COM (Dec. 14, 2020), <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/14/nyregion/us-covid-vaccine-first-sandra-lindsay.html>.

	LGBT 45+ N=365	NON-LGBT 45+ N=7,673	LGBT UNDER 45 N=477	NON-LGBT UNDER 45 N=3,935
	%	%	%	%
Know someone personally who died of COVID-19	25.1	25.6	26.2	21.2
Practiced social distancing in the past week—that is stayed at home and avoided others as much as possible	83.1	76.7	78.4	72.8
Wearing a mask all or some of the time when outside of home	96.3	91.3	92.9	88.1
Somewhat or very likely to get the first generation COVID-19 vaccine after it becomes available	54.5	49.1	49.0	41.6

### Comparisons by Race/Ethnicity and LGBT Status Among Older Adults

When considering race/ethnicity and LGBT status among older adults, concern about COVID-19 and compliance with public health recommendations were fairly consistent across all groups, with one exception—older white non-LGBT people tended to report lower levels of concern and compliance.

Overall, the levels of concern about the COVID-19 pandemic and about getting sick were high across all groups. Ninety percent or more older LGBT people of color (94.7%), older white LGBT people (91.9%), and older non-LGBT people of color (90.3%) reported that they were concerned about the pandemic. When asked if they were concerned about getting sick, 87.3% of older LGBT people of color, 81.4% of older white LGBT people, and 83.6% of older non-LGBT people of color reported that they were concerned. By comparison, 81.4% of older non-LGBT white respondents said that they were concerned about the pandemic and 73.1% said they were concerned about getting sick.

Older people of color—both LGBT and non-LGBT—were more likely to say that they knew someone who died of COVID-19 than older white respondents. More than one-third of older LGBT people of color (34.2%) and non-LGBT people of color (36.5%) said they knew someone who died compared to 20.4% of older white LGBT people and 21.1% of older white non-LGBT people.

In terms of following public health recommendations, overall compliance was high across all groups. Over eighty percent of older LGBT people of color (86.4%), older non-LGBT people of color (83.0%),

and older white LGBT people (81.5%) said they practiced social distancing. Almost all older LGBT people of color (97.7%), older non-LGBT people of color (96.3%), and older white LGBT people (96.3%) said they wore a mask at all times when outside the home. Compliance among older non-LGBT white respondents was slightly lower with 74.1% saying they practiced social distancing and 89.2% saying they wore a mask outside the home.

In terms of vaccine intentions, older non-LGBT people of color (41.6%) were the least likely to say that they intended to get a vaccine when it became available. By comparison, 54.9% of older white LGBT people, 53.8% of older LGBT people of color, and 52.3% of older non-LGBT people of color said that they intended to get the vaccine.

**Table 7. Concern about COVID-19 and compliance with public health recommendations among US adults ages 45+ (N=8,038) by LGBT status and race/ethnicity, Axios-Ipsos Survey, August – December 2020**

	WHITE LGBT 45+ N=264	POC LGBT 45+ N=101	WHITE NON-LGBT 45+ N=5,728	POC NON-LGBT 45+ N=1,945
	%	%	%	%
Very or somewhat concerned about the coronavirus or COVID-19 outbreak	91.9	94.7	81.4	90.3
Very or somewhat concerned about getting sick	81.4	87.3	73.1	83.6
Know someone personally who died of COVID-19	20.4	34.2	21.1	36.5
Practiced social distancing in the past week—that is stayed at home and avoided others as much as possible	81.5	86.4	74.1	83.0
Wearing a mask all or some of the time when outside of home	96.3	97.7	89.2	96.3
Somewhat or very likely to get the first generation COVID-19 vaccine after it becomes available	54.9	53.8	52.3	41.6



## TRUST IN GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS, AND PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES

### Comparisons by Age and LGBT Status

In the fall of 2020, older LGBT respondents were less likely than older non-LGBT respondents to report that they trusted the federal government to provide accurate information about COVID-19 (33.2% v. 40.4%) and to feel that the federal government was looking out for their best interests (28.4% v. 35.3%). Higher percentages of both older LGBT and non-LGBT respondents said that they trusted the the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and national public health officials to provide accurate information about the pandemic—about three-quarters of older LGBT respondents said they trusted the CDC and national public health officials along with around 70% of older non-LGBT respondents. This pattern was found for younger LGBT and non-LGBT people as well.

In addition, higher percentages of older LGBT people and non-LGBT people said they trusted their state governments to provide accurate information and to look out for their best interests in comparison to the federal government. Two-thirds (66.2%) of older LGBT people and 59.3% of older non-LGBT adults said they trusted their state government to provide accurate information about COVID-19. Similar percentages of older LGBT (58.6%) and non-LGBT (54.8%) people said that they felt their state governments were looking out for their best interests. This pattern was found for younger LGBT and non-LGBT people as well.

Around one-third of older LGBT adults (35.6%) and 44.9% of older non-LGBT adults said they trusted that pharmaceutical companies were looking out for their best interests. Trust in pharmaceutical companies was higher among both older LGBT and non-LGBT adults compared to their younger counterparts.

It is important to note that these data were collected prior to the beginning of the Biden Administration on January 20, 2021. In terms of party affiliation, consistent with other research about the party affiliation of LGBT adults,<sup>10</sup> LGBT respondents were much more likely to identify as Democrats than Republicans (Table 1).

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<sup>10</sup> CHRISTY MALLORY, WILLIAMS INST., THE 2020 LGBT VOTE (2019), <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020-LGBT-Vote-Oct-2019.pdf>.

**Table 8. Trust in government, public health officials, and pharmaceutical companies among US adults (N=8,038) by LGBT status and race/ethnicity, Axios-Ipsos Survey, August – December 2020**

	LGBT 45+ N=365	NON-LGBT 45+ N=7,673	LGBT UNDER 45 N=477	NON-LGBT UNDER 45 N=3,935
	%	%	%	%
Trust federal government to provide accurate information about coronavirus or COVID-19 a fair amount or great deal	33.2	40.4	29.9	35.2
Trust state government to provide accurate information about coronavirus or COVID-19 a fair amount or great deal	66.2	59.3	56.9	53.9
Trust CDC to provide accurate information about coronavirus or COVID-19 a fair amount or great deal	75.5	70.5	75.6	68.0
Trust national public health officials to provide accurate information about coronavirus or COVID-19 a fair amount or great deal	75.9	68.7	73.3	65.8
Trust the federal government to look out for the best interests of you and your family a fair amount or great deal	28.4	35.3	23.1	31.0
Trust the state government to look out for the best interests of you and your family a fair amount or great deal	58.6	54.8	49.9	49.2
Trust pharmaceutical companies to look out for the best interests of you and your family a fair amount or great deal	35.6	44.9	25.0	35.5

### Comparisons by Race/Ethnicity and LGBT Status Among Older Adults

Similar patterns were found on these measures when looking at older LGBT and non-LGBT adults by race/ethnicity. Meaning, there were few significant differences between older LGBT people of color and older white LGBT people, and similarly between older non-LGBT people of color and older white non-LGBT people, on these measures.

## CONCLUSION

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on LGBT people cannot be fully understood without considering other dimensions of inequality associated with race/ethnicity and age. Across a number of indicators, older LGBT people of color are more likely to experience the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 than older white people (both LGBT and non-LGBT) and older non-LGBT people of color. Older LGBT people of color are more likely to have tested positive for COVID-19 and to have experienced several types of economic instability as a result of the pandemic. In general, older LGBT people are more likely to follow recommended public health measures than non-LGBT people, yet many have indicated that they do not intend to get the vaccine. The impact of the pandemic on older LGBT people—and older LGBT people of color specifically—must be taken into account as the federal government seeks to restore trust in institutions responding to the public health crisis and to provide support to those most economically affected by COVID-19.

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## APPENDIX

### METHODOLOGY

Data analyzed for this brief were gathered between August 21, 2020 to December 21, 2020 by Ipsos via the weekly using the [KnowledgePanel®](#)—an online probability-based panel that is representative of the U.S. adult population ages 18 and up. Panelists are primarily recruited by address-based sampling with a random sample of households drawn from the latest Delivery Sequence File of the USPS—a database with full coverage of all delivery points in the U.S. All persons in selected households are invited to join and participate in KnowledgePanel. Ipsos provides selected households that do not already have internet access a tablet and internet connection at no cost to them. Those who join the panel and who are selected to participate in a survey are sent a unique password-protected log-in used to complete surveys online. Panelists receive reward points or incentives such as cash payments to participate in surveys. Survey participation is voluntary.

The Axios-Ipsos Coronavirus Index questions about the COVID-19 pandemic and was conducted in English and Spanish with representative samples from KnowledgePanel panelists each week. The data were analyzed using Stata 14.1 and weighted using sampling weights provided by Ipsos. Sampling weights adjust for the probability of selection and for gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, Census region, metropolitan status, and household income to align with benchmarks from the U.S. population as reported in the 2020 March supplement of the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. In some weeks, where a differential nonresponse by party identification was observed, an additional weighting adjustment was included for party identification using benchmarks from recent ABC News/Washington Post telephone polls conducted around the time of each study wave.

Differences in weighted percentages were assessed by examining the overlap between 95% confidence intervals (CI) where non-overlapping intervals were deemed indicative of statistically significant differences in percentages at an alpha of 0.05. In instances where confidence intervals appeared close, t-tests were conducted to evaluate whether two percentages were indeed different, with a one-tailed *p*-value of .05 as the threshold. All sample sizes (N) are unweighted.

## SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of US adults (N=12,450) by LGBT status and age, Axios-Ipsos Poll, August – December 2020

	45+				UNDER 45			
	LGBT N=365		NON-LGBT N=7,673		LGBT N=477		NON-LGBT N=3,935	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>								
Male	68.0	62.7, 72.9	46.7	45.3, 47.6	46.7	42.1, 51.5	51.7	50.0, 53.3
Female	32.0	27.1, 37.3	53.3	52.4, 54.7	53.3	48.5, 57.9	48.3	46.7, 50.0
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>								
white, non-Hispanic	66.2	60.7, 71.4	70.5	69.4, 71.6	53.8	49.0, 58.5	56.6	54.9, 58.2
people of color	33.8	28.6, 39.3	29.5	28.4, 30.6	46.2	41.5, 51.1	43.4	41.8, 45.1
<b>Relationship Status</b>								
Married	39.8	34.7, 45.2	68.6	67.5, 69.7	26.0	22.0, 30.3	45.9	44.3, 47.5
Living with partner	8.7	6.0, 12.6	1.3	1.1, 1.7	15.7	12.6, 19.4	10.7	9.7, 11.8
Never married	31.0	26.3, 36.1	7.0	6.4, 7.6	52.1	47.3, 56.8	37.3	35.7, 38.9
Widowed	3.7	2.2, 6.2	7.4	6.8, 8.0	0.2	0.0, 1.4	0.3	0.2, 0.6
Divorced	14.5	11.1, 18.8	13.7	12.9, 14.6	4.9	3.1, 7.6	4.3	3.6, 5.0
Separated	2.2	1.1, 4.5	2.0	1.7, 2.3	1.1	0.4, 3.0	1.6	1.2, 2.1
<b>Education</b>								
< Four-year college	64.6	59.5, 69.4	67.2	66.1, 68.2	64.6	60.1, 68.9	62.8	61.3, 64.3
> Four-year college	35.4	30.6, 40.5	32.8	31.8, 33.9	35.4	31.1, 39.9	37.2	35.7, 38.7
<b>Household Income</b>								
< \$25,000	13.9	10.4, 18.3	11.2	10.4, 12.0	14.3	11.0, 18.3	12.7	11.6, 13.9
> \$25,000	86.1	81.7, 89.6	88.8	88.0, 89.6	85.7	81.7, 89.0	87.3	86.1, 88.4
<b>Housing Status</b>								
Owned	66.2	60.9, 71.2	81.4	80.4, 82.3	49.6	44.8, 54.3	61.1	59.5, 62.7
Rented	32.3	27.4, 37.6	17.0	16.1, 17.9	47.1	42.4, 51.9	37.2	35.6, 38.8
Other	1.5	0.6, 3.8	1.6	1.4, 2.0	3.3	1.9, 5.7	1.6	1.3, 2.1
<b>Urbanicity</b>								
Urban	49.2	43.9, 54.6	31.4	30.3, 32.5	44.3	39.7, 49.1	38.2	36.6, 39.8
Suburban	37.9	32.9, 43.3	49.3	48.1, 50.5	48.0	43.3, 52.8	45.4	43.7, 47.0
Rural	12.8	9.7, 16.7	19.3	18.4, 20.2	7.6	5.5, 10.5	16.5	15.3, 17.7
<b>Party Affiliation</b>								
Republican	16.1	11.8, 21.8	32.2	30.8, 33.6	8.0	5.2, 12.2	19.4	17.8, 21.0
Democrat	49.4	42.4, 56.5	28.1	26.8, 29.5	53.4	47.1, 59.6	31.4	29.5, 33.4
Independent	27.3	21.4, 34.2	27.9	26.6, 29.3	17.4	1.0, 23.0	25.2	23.4, 27.1
Something else	7.1	4.0, 12.4	11.5	10.6, 12.6	21.1	16.4, 26.8	24.0	22.2, 25.8

Weighted percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. CI: confidence interval

**Table 2. COVID-19 testing among US adults (N=12,450) by LGBT status and age, Axios-Ipsos Survey, August – December 2020**

	45+				UNDER 45			
	LGBT N=365		NON-LGBT N=7,673		LGBT N=477		NON-LGBT N=3,935	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Ever taken a COVID-19 test	34.0	29.2, 39.3	29.3	28.3, 30.4	40.5	35.9, 45.2	28.6	27.1, 30.1
Tested positive for COVID-19	7.9	4.2, 14.6	7.5	6.4, 8.9	11.3	7.5, 16.7	10.1	8.3, 12.2

CI: confidence interval

**Table 3. COVID-19 testing among US adults ages 45+ (N=8,038) by LGBT status and race/ethnicity, Axios-Ipsos Survey, August – December 2020**

	45+							
	WHITE LGBT N=264		POC LGBT N=101		WHITE NON-LGBT N=5,728		POC NON-LGBT N=1,945	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Ever taken a COVID-19 test	34.3	28.6, 40.4	33.6	24.8, 43.7	26.6	25.5, 27.8	35.8	33.5, 38.0
Tested positive for COVID-19	5.5	2.5, 11.9	12.8	4.8, 30.1	6.5	5.3, 8.0	9.4	7.2, 12.2

CI: confidence interval

**Table 4. Economic impact of COVID-19 on US adults (N=12,450) by LGBT status and age, Axios-Ipsos Survey, August – December 2020**

	45+				UNDER 45			
	LGBT N=365		NON-LGBT N=7,673		LGBT N=477		NON-LGBT N=3,935	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
<b>In the last few weeks...</b>								
Laid off work	10.7	6.8, 16.3	5.9	5.1, 6.9	13.1	9.4, 17.8	9.3	8.2, 10.4
Temporarily furloughed or suspended	13.3	9.2, 19.0	9.2	8.2, 10.3	14.5	10.8, 19.1	10.1	9.0, 11.3
Ability to do job got worse	23.3	17.6, 30.1	16.2	14.9, 17.5	25.6	20.8, 19.8	18.3	16.8, 19.8
Ability to afford household goods got worse	20.6	16.4, 25.4	14.4	13.6, 15.3	25.0	21.0, 29.4	19.9	18.5, 21.2
Ability to pay rent or mortgage got worse	14.9	11.3, 19.4	8.3	7.7, 9.0	22.4	18.6, 26.8	16.1	14.9, 17.4
Currently, very or somewhat concerned about ability to pay bills	42.0	35.6, 48.7	36.4	35.0, 37.8	55.7	49.8, 61.5	47.2	45.2, 49.2

CI: confidence interval

**Table 5. Economic impact of COVID-19 on US adults ages 45+ (N=8,038) by LGBT status and race/ethnicity, Axios-Ipsos Survey, August – December 2020**

	45+							
	WHITE LGBT N=264		POC LGBT N=101		WHITE NON-LGBT N=5,728		POC NON-LGBT N=1,945	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
<b>In the last few weeks...</b>								
Laid off work	6.3	3.2, 12.0	18.7	10.4, 31.2	4.3	3.6, 5.3	9.0	7.3, 11.1
Temporarily furloughed or suspended	13.1	8.5, 19.6	13.9	6.8, 26.1	7.1	6.1, 8.2	13.2	11.1, 15.7
Ability to do job got worse	19.9	14.0, 27.4	30.0	18.8, 44.2	14.6	13.2, 16.2	19.2	16.7, 22.1
Ability to afford household goods got worse	15.3	11.4, 20.4	30.8	22.0, 41.1	13.1	12.2, 14.0	17.7	15.9, 19.6
Ability to pay rent or mortgage got worse	10.0	6.9, 14.3	24.5	16.5, 34.8	6.6	6.0, 7.3	6.6	6.0, 7.3
Currently, very or somewhat concerned about ability to pay bills	32.6	25.9, 40.1	61.2	48.2, 72.8	30.4	28.9, 31.9	51.1	48.3, 53.9

CI: confidence interval

**Table 6. Concern about COVID-19 and adoption of public health recommendations among US adults (N=12,450) by LGBT status and age, Axios-Ipsos Survey, August – December 2020**

	45+				UNDER 45			
	LGBT N=365		NON-LGBT N=7,673		LGBT N=477		NON-LGBT N=3,935	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Very or somewhat concerned about the coronavirus or COVID-19 outbreak	92.8	89.6, 95.1	84.0	83.1, 84.8	89.0	85.5, 91.7	80.0	78.7, 81.3
Very or somewhat concerned about getting sick	83.3	77.8, 87.7	76.1	74.9, 77.3	86.0	81.3, 86.7	73.4	71.6, 75.1
Know someone personally who died of COVID-19	25.1	20.6, 30.2	25.6	24.6, 26.7	26.2	22.3, 30.5	21.2	19.9, 22.6
Practiced social distancing in the past week—that is stayed at home and avoided others as much as possible	83.1	78.7, 86.8	76.7	75.7, 77.7	78.4	74.1, 82.2	72.8	71.3, 74.2
Wearing a mask all or some of the time when outside of home	96.3	94.8, 97.9	91.3	90.6, 91.9	92.9	89.9, 95.0	88.1	87.0, 89.1
Somewhat or very likely to get the first generation COVID-19 vaccine after it becomes available	54.5	48.5, 60.4	49.1	47.8, 50.5	49.0	43.7, 54.3	41.6	39.7, 43.4

CI: confidence interval



**Table 7. Concern about COVID-19 and compliance with public health recommendations among US adults ages 45+ (N=8,038) by LGBT status and race/ethnicity, Axios-Ipsos Survey, August – December 2020**

	45+							
	WHITE LGBT N=264		POC LGBT N=101		WHITE NON-LGBT N=5,728		POC NON-LGBT N=1,945	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Very or somewhat concerned about the coronavirus or COVID-19 outbreak	91.9	87.9, 94.6	94.7	87.8, 97.8	81.4	80.3, 82.4	90.3	88.8, 91.6
Very or somewhat concerned about getting sick	81.4	74.8, 86.6	87.3	75.5, 93.9	73.1	71.6, 74.5	83.6	81.4, 85.6
Know someone personally who died of COVID-19	20.4	15.8, 25.9	34.2	25.2, 44.6	21.1	20.0, 22.2	36.5	34.3, 38.8
Practiced social distancing in the past week—that is stayed at home and avoided others as much as possible	81.5	76.1, 85.9	86.4	77.7, 92.1	74.1	72.9, 75.2	83.0	81.1, 84.7
Wearing a mask all or some of the time when outside of home	96.3	95.3, 97.1	97.7	91.2, 99.4	89.2	88.3, 90.0	96.3	95.3, 97.1
Somewhat or very likely to get the first generation COVID-19 vaccine after it becomes available	54.9	47.8, 61.7	53.8	42.7, 64.6	52.3	50.8, 53.8	41.6	39.0, 44.2

CI: confidence interval

**Table 8. Trust in government, public health officials, and pharmaceutical companies among US adults (N=12,450) by LGBT status, Axios-Ipsos Survey, August – December 2020**

	45+				UNDER 45			
	LGBT N=365		NON-LGBT N=7,673		LGBT N=477		NON-LGBT N=3,935	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Trust federal government to provide accurate information about coronavirus or COVID-19 a fair amount or great deal	33.2	28.2, 38.6	40.4	39.2, 41.6	29.9	25.6, 34.7	35.2	33.6, 36.9
Trust state government to provide accurate information about coronavirus or COVID-19 a fair amount or great deal	66.2	60.7, 71.2	59.3	58.1, 60.5	56.9	51.9, 61.8	53.9	52.2, 55.6
Trust CDC to provide accurate information about coronavirus or COVID-19 a fair amount or great deal	75.5	70.4, 79.9	70.5	69.4, 71.6	75.6	71.1, 79.6	68.0	66.4, 69.6
Trust national public health officials to provide accurate information about coronavirus or COVID-19 a fair amount or great deal	75.9	70.9, 80.3	68.7	67.6, 69.9	73.3	68.6, 77.5	65.8	64.1, 67.4
Trust the federal government to look out for the best interests of you and your family a fair amount or great deal	28.4	23.9, 33.5	35.3	34.2, 26.4	23.1	19.3, 27.4	31.0	29.4, 32.5
Trust the state government to look out for the best interests of you and your family a fair amount or great deal	58.6	53.2, 63.8	54.8	53.7, 56.0	49.9	45.1, 54.7	49.2	47.6, 50.8
Trust pharmaceutical companies to look out for the best interests of you and your family a fair amount or great deal	35.6	26.9, 45.4	44.9	42.8, 47.0	25.0	18.7, 32.6	35.5	32.8, 38.4

CI: confidence interval