

Frequently Asked Questions

This survey is being conducted by the [Research & Evaluation Group at Public Health Management Corporation](#) (PHMC) in coordination with [Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center](#). We are dedicated to protecting the information you provide in the 2020 needs assessment. We understand providing information about your health and identity can feel vulnerable. We want to help you understand where the information is stored, who has access to it, and how it will be used.

How is my information kept private?

Data will be deidentified and stored in an access-restricted folder by the Research & Evaluation Group at PHMC. Individual surveys are anonymous and will be prepared for analysis by select researchers at PHMC. The researchers who will analyze these data are LGBTQ-identified or allies who conduct this needs assessment with the goal to improve health services and social supports for all LGBTQ Pennsylvanians. Individual data will not be reported. Aggregated data (data presented as summaries of all responses) will be made publicly available in a report format. A fully deidentified dataset will be available on an application basis via the Pennsylvania Department of Health following the public release of the summary report.

Why is taking this survey so important?

This needs assessment is the largest source of LGBTQ health data in the state. In 2018, the needs assessment collected over 100 health measures from over 4,600 LGBTQ Pennsylvanians. Health services use findings to plan and implement improved resources for our community. State legislators were provided findings to improve policy and direct funding. We hope to reach as many LGBTQ people in Pennsylvania as possible this year in order to more fully understand the health priorities, health risks, and strengths of our community.

Who developed and houses the survey?

This year's survey was developed by Bradbury-Sullivan LGBTQ Community Center, the Research & Evaluation Group at Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC), [LGBT HealthLink \(a program of CenterLink\)](#), and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Survey development was driven by LGBTQ staff, with support from other LGBTQ community members. The survey is housed in the Research & Evaluation Group at PHMC.

Can researchers request access to the data?

Researchers and organizations can request a copy of the final dataset for research/analysis purposes. Zip code will be removed from the data set to restrict data being tied to any individuals. Individuals

requesting data must provide a reason for the request that will benefit the LGBTQ population. Data will not be given to organizations who indicate anti-LGBTQ reasons for analyzing the data.

What will happen if I report a severe health condition?

You will never be asked for your name or contact information and the survey does not collect IP address or other information on your computer. Therefore, we cannot and will not contact you or anyone else about individual survey responses, regardless of the severity of health issues indicated, including self-harm. Please be honest in your responses.

What is the link at the end of the survey?

You will have the option to provide your email address in a separate form following the completion of the survey. You may provide your email address in order to enter into a raffle but you are not required to provide your email or enter the raffle. Your email address is NOT tied to your survey responses.

If I want to participate to the needs assessment but still have questions, who can I contact?

Katie Suppes at katie@bradburysullivancenter.org