

Special Issue

The Effects of Loneliness, Stigma, and Social Support on the Health and Mental Health of Older Populations

Message from the Guest Editors

By 2050, the older world's population is expected to double to nearly two billion (22% of the world's population). These demographic changes highlight the need to promote the health and well-being of older populations. However, two biopsychosocial phenomena stand out as potential major public health pandemics with major negative impact on the mental health of older adults: loneliness and stigma. The chronicity of stigma, loneliness, and stress can have significant consequences on the health and mental health of older populations. In particular, older sexual minorities (lesbian, gay, bisexual) are faced with inequalities at various levels, including worse health indicators and poorer levels of adjustment and subjective well-being, when compared to the general older population, due to the impact of minority stress and sexual stigma. In contrast, protective variables, such as connectedness to the LGBT+ community, social support, and resilience, have been shown to play important roles in reducing the negative impact of minority stress and stigma.

Guest Editors

Dr. Pedro Costa

William James Center for Research, ISPA—Instituto Universitário, 1149-041 Lisbon, Portugal

José Alberto Ribeiro-Gonçalves

William James Center for Research, ISPA—Instituto Universitário, 1149-041 Lisbon, Portugal

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Healthcare
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
healthcare@mdpi.com

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Lorraine S. Evangelista

Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing, University of California, Irvine, CA
92697, USA

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