

The *Gen Silent* documentary exemplifies how hard it is for members of the LGBT community to find and maintain a support system of accepting people. It also demonstrates how important it is that they have support to help cope with the trauma they experienced from the 1950s as closeted gay people where they had to cover it up during times like the McCarthy era. The fact that some of the people that are older feel they must go back into the closet because they don't feel safe where they live in is heartbreaking. They especially studied the mental struggles of someone who was a veteran in the 1950s, and how that affected their transition into a woman later in life. It was especially hard to hear her son when she was in the hospital dying, call her dad. It was difficult to hear for the fact that he didn't accept her for who she became, and for the fact that he didn't feel like the fatherly role in his life was filled by anyone and clung to the idea that he had a father.

The only time I noticed a statistic was used throughout the documentary was when they were talking about the acceptance of homosexuality by staff in nursing homes. They stated that "50% of nursing home staff reported their nurses would be intolerant to homosexuality." They also stated that LGBT members were "more likely to age alone because they have no connection with children or family origin." This was an effective place to use statistics because it proves that their claims of homophobia within care systems is not just an accusation but can be measured numerically. For people who are unwilling to accept LGBT elders, they may be more likely to cooperate with the statistical analysis rather than just claims or singular experiences. That being said I do not think that adding too many more statistics would make the video more effective. The study was about the emotional and physical toll the lack of acceptance and support has on these elderly people. The video was not about how many people are in such a situation, but rather a visual for what specifically the situation is like for them. You can really feel the loneliness

some of these elderly people experience when the one lady who was a transgender veteran was celebrating her 60th birthday, and no one from her biological family was there with her. Her only supporters were nurses from the hospital. Putting a statistic in this visual would take away from the emphasis on the emotional struggle she was going through.

It is difficult to get proper data on LGBT elders because so many of them remain closeted from fear of getting abused or mistreated. Therefore, even if they collect a small sample on the number of LGBT elders in nursing homes, it most likely won't represent the entire population since the number of closeted LGBT members in homes could be so much more than what is recorded or openly known. There could also be many more elderly members who are living alone and without anyone knowing they exist, since so many people are too scared to let others into their home or to leave the safe space of their home. Even if it means risking their health.