

THE FLUID NATURE OF CAREGIVING: FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IN LGBTQ+ DYADS FACING DEMENTIA

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BACKGROUND

- 7 million Americans live with dementia
- 12 million unpaid caregivers provide 19 billion hours of care annually
- Cost of dementia → financial hardship → negative physical and/or mental health

METHODS

- 90-minute virtual focus group (N=5):
 - 2 LGBTQ+ persons living with dementia
 - 3 care partners
- Guided by the Financial Hardship Typology
- Interviews analyzed using directed content approach using NVivo software.

KEY FINDINGS

LGBTQ+ individuals living with dementia and their care partners **experience evolving financial hardship over time.**

Shaped by **past** planning challenges, **present** cost-cutting strategies, and **future** care concerns—which contributes to declining health, shifting caregiving roles, and uncertainty due to limited financial and social support.

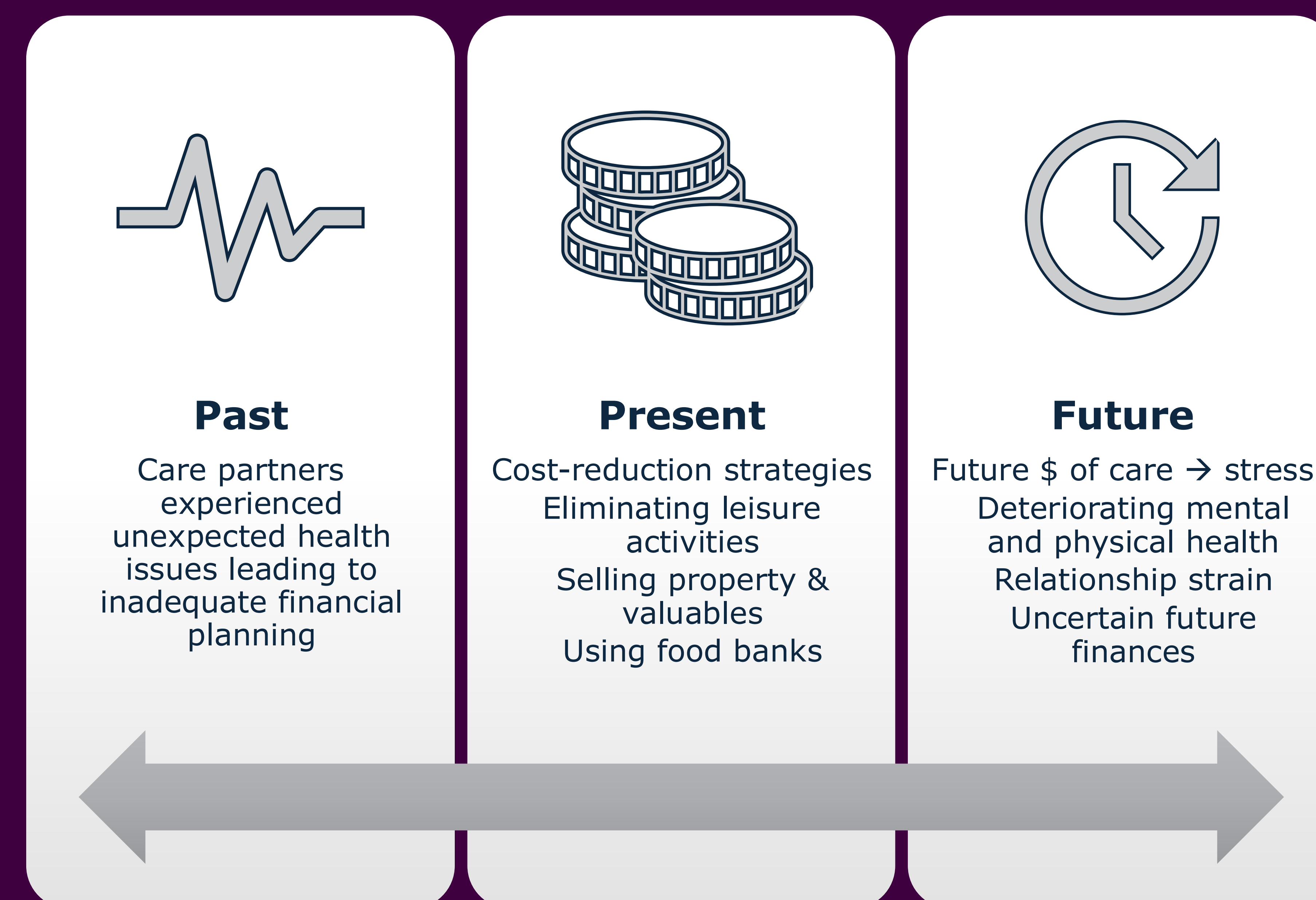


Figure 1. Past, Present, and Future challenges of LGBTQ+ individuals and their care partners.

CONCLUSION

- Declines in physical and mental health → financial stress
- Caregiving roles shift fluidly as health needs of either partner change
- Anxiety about future ability to hire a caregiver following a partner's death; rooted in insufficient funds to hire professional caregivers and limited support from biological family
- Dynamic nature of caregiving and financial planning for LGBTQ+ persons living with dementia must account for temporary or permanent loss of full-time care by current care partner