

Empowering LGBT+ Older Adults to Find Affirming Long-Term Care

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Purpose

- **This is the Empowering LGBT+ Older Adults To Find Affirming Long-Term Care or Home Health Services Group Project**
 - Our purpose is to aid and assist older LGBT+ adults by finding places that are more inclusive, and give guidelines for further improvement to each long term care community (LTCC) in Knox County, Tennessee in partnership with the Aging Rainbow Coalition (ARC), an LGBT+ aging advocacy organization.
 - Older LGBT+ adults have information needs and related barriers¹ concerning issues that cisgender heterosexual older adults do not. Such as can I have my partner live with me/visit me even if we're the same gender? Can I get gender affirming care? Will me being LGBT+ be a non-issue?² And many more similar questions.³
 - Long term, this content analysis process will allow ARC to adapt the tool for auditing home health companies in Knox County, and to share it with long term care and home health organizations throughout East Tennessee.



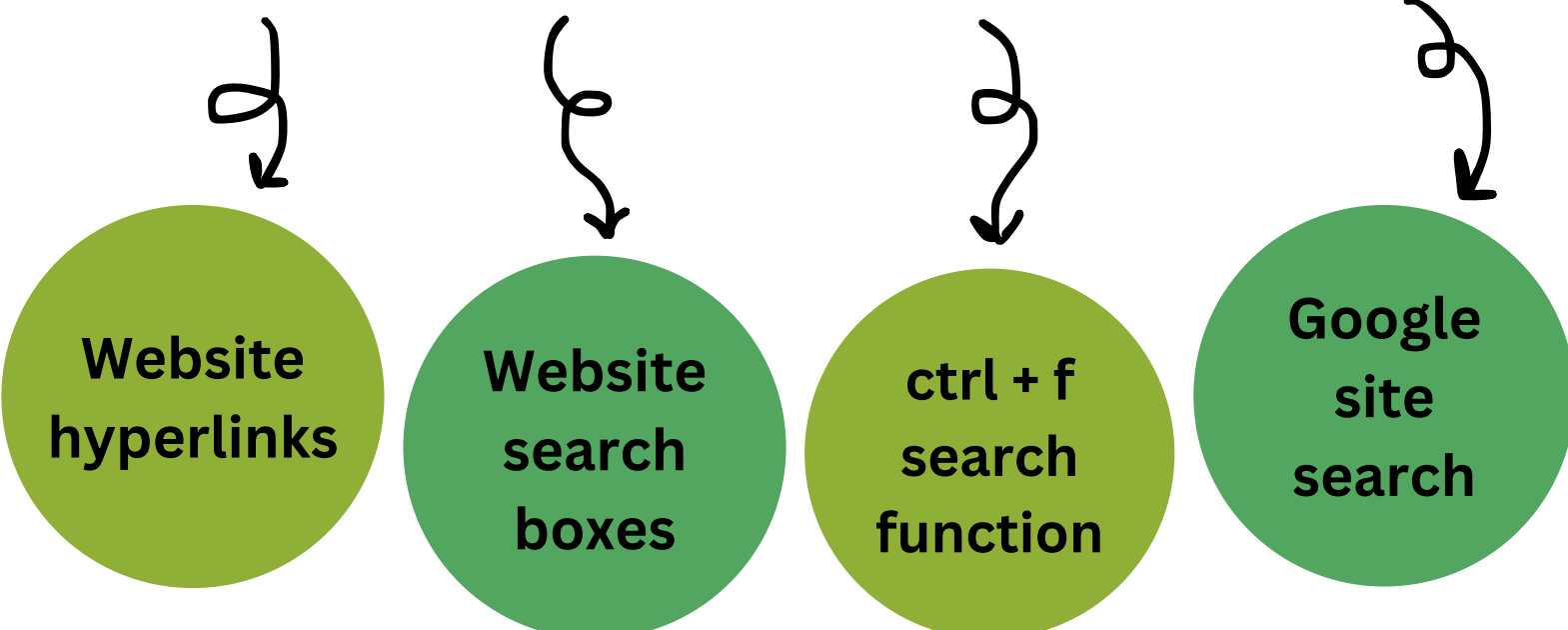
Methodology

Using a methodological approach inspired by **Bharat Mehra and Rebecca Davis's research**⁴ and a content analysis form adapted from the **HRC and SAGE's Long Term Care Equality Index**,⁵ we...

Consulted housing lists provided on the Knox Seniors website and compiled our own list of **LTCC websites** and **social media platforms** for analysis.

Split up the list between our two group members and completed our content analyses.

Methods we used to find information relating to the unique needs of LGBTQ+ older adults on **LTCC websites**:



When analyzing **social media platforms**, we limited ourselves to posts from the past year. We made note of content that **related to, highlighted, or celebrated the LGBTQ+ community**.

Our Findings

Overall, most LTCCs **did not have information readily accessible online** to meet the unique information needs of LGTBQ+ older adults.

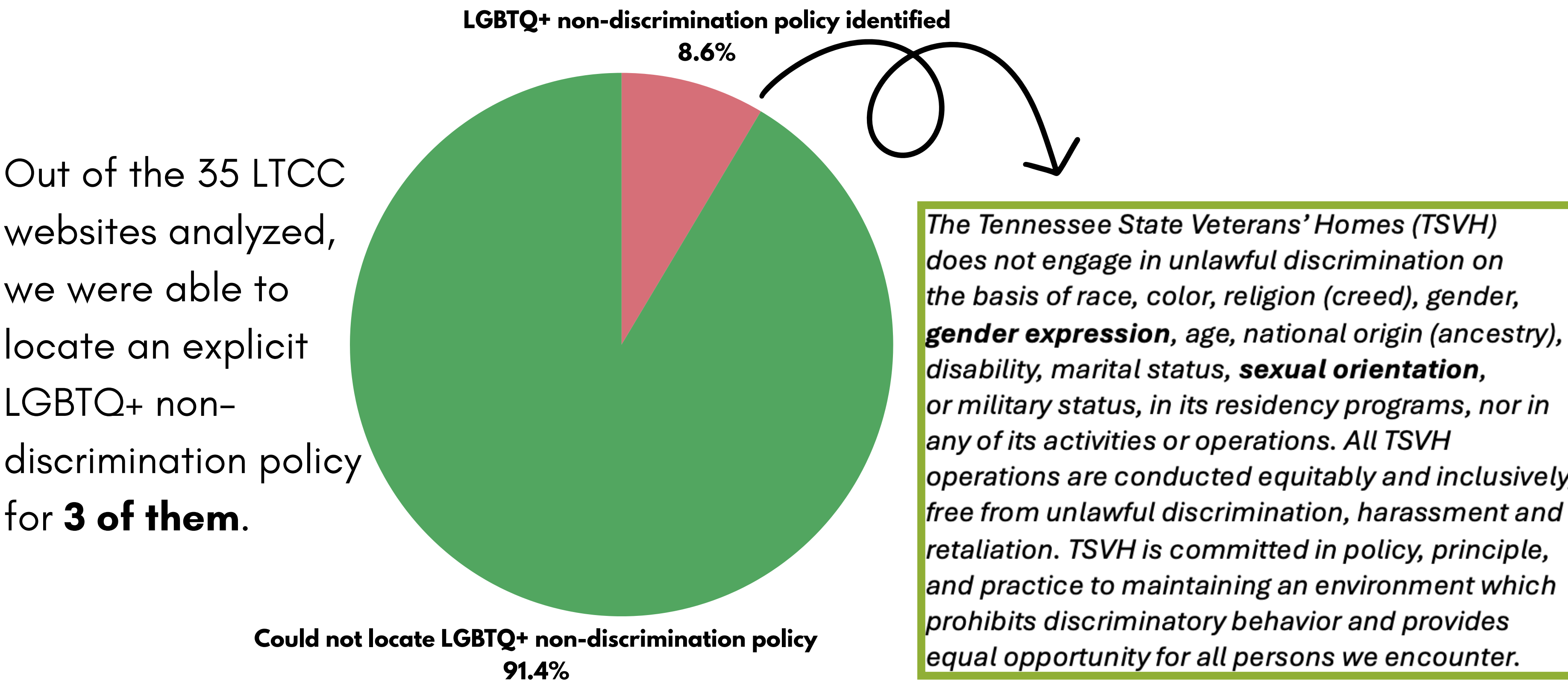


Image 1: Non-discrimination policy from the Tennessee State Veterans' Homes indicates that residents will be protected from gender- and sexuality-based discrimination.

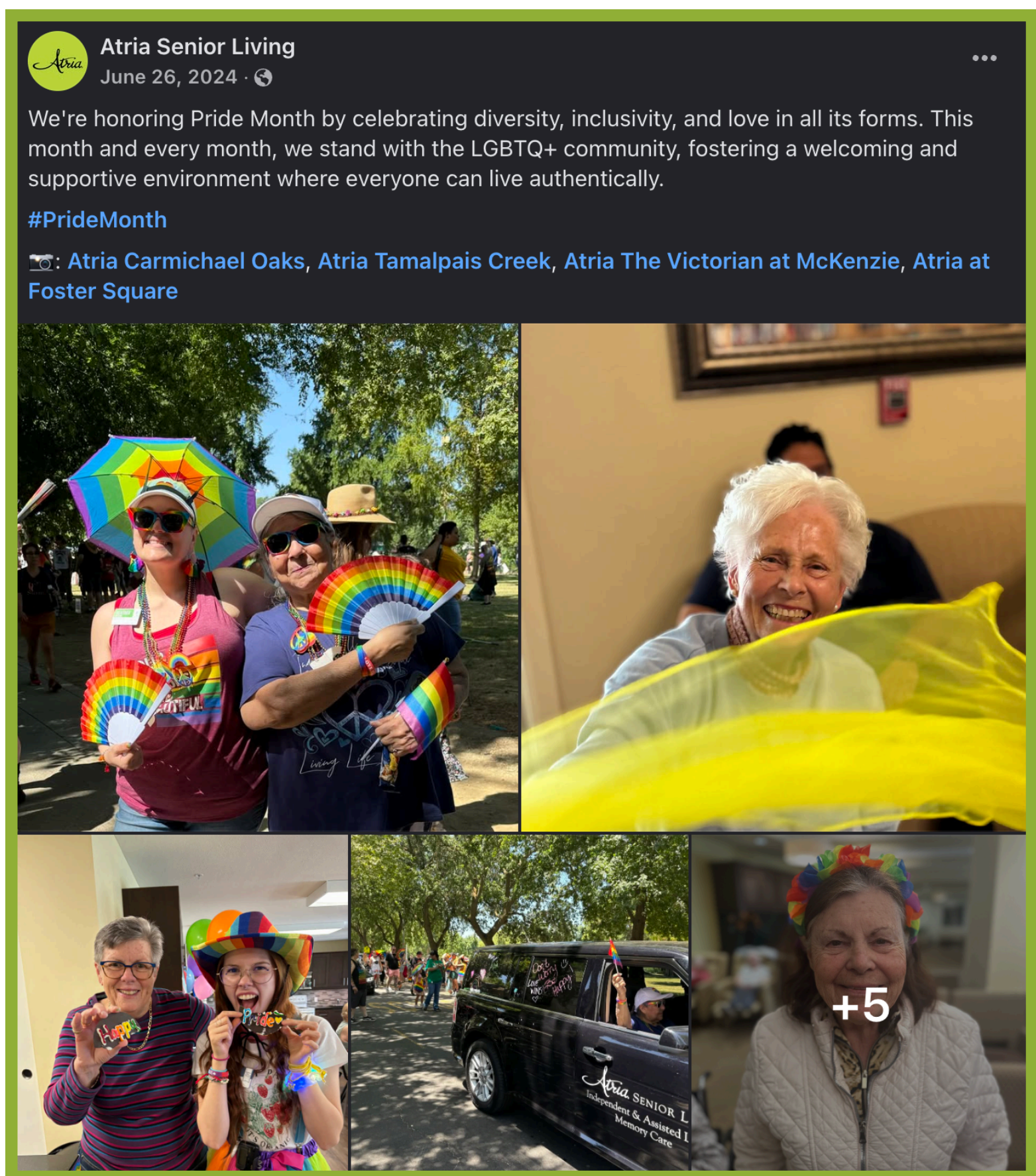
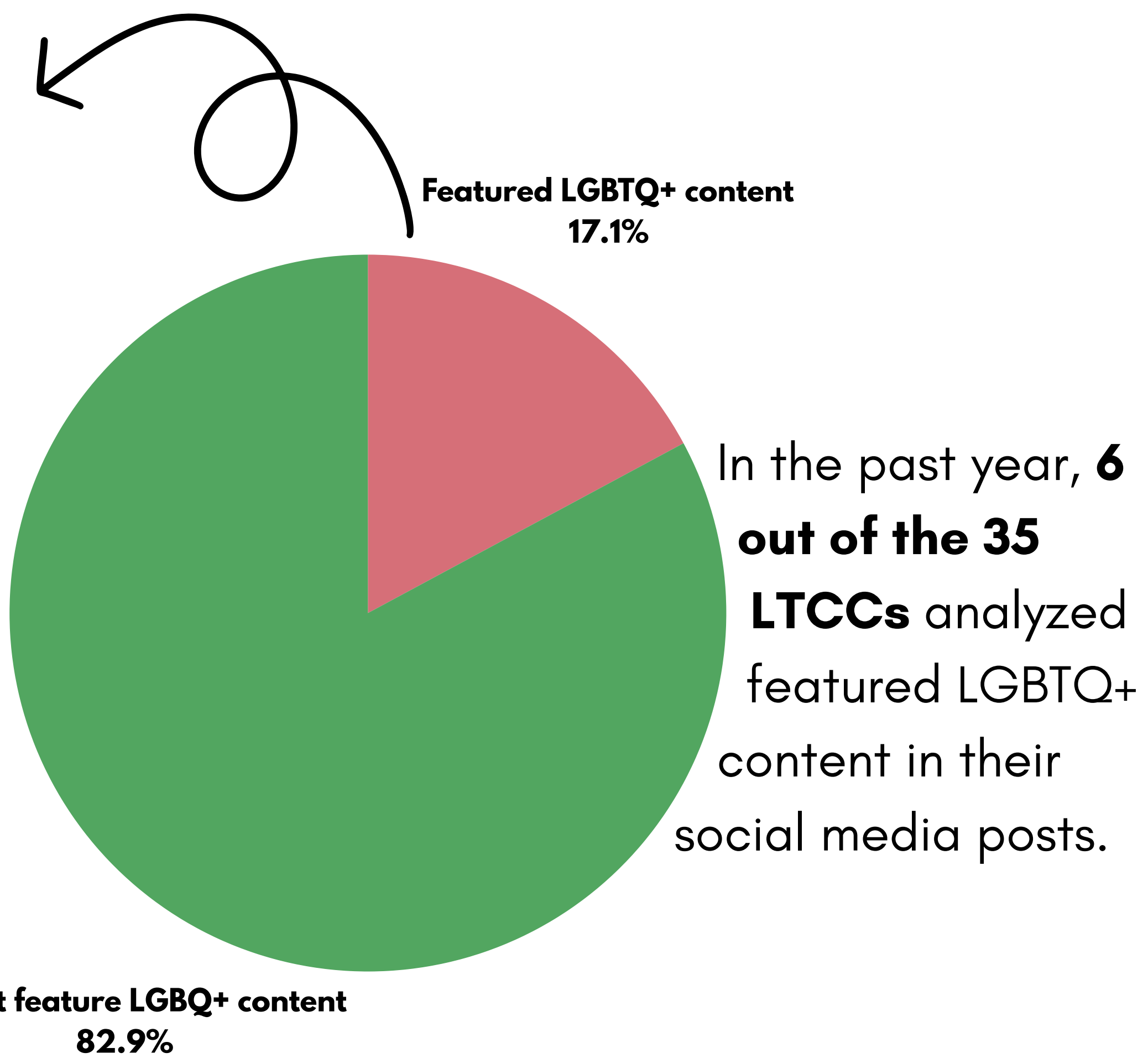


Image 2: Facebook post from Atria Senior Living features photos taken during their Pride Month celebrations.



Next Steps

Communicating our **findings** and **recommendations for improvement** with the leadership of the 35 LTCCs analyzed is of the utmost importance.

- Each LTCC analyzed will receive:
 - A **coversheet** that provides:
 - A rationale for our research
 - Customized resource recommendations
 - ARC's contact information
 - A copy of their **content analysis results**.



Conclusion

- LTCCs in Knox County, TN must make **pragmatic changes** to their websites and social media presences to better meet the information needs of LGBTQ+ older adults.
- ARC can easily adapt our content analysis process to **audit home health companies** in Knox County.
 - ARC will share our process with LTCCs and home health organizations throughout East Tennessee.
- A future practicum group might be able to assess how LTCCs in Knox County meet the information needs of LGBTQ+ older adults **in offline contexts**.

References

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4. Mehra, B., & Davis, R. (2015). A strategic diversity manifesto for public libraries in the 21st century. *New Library World*, 116(1/2), 15-36. <https://doi.org/10.1108/NLW-04-2014-0043>
5. SAGE. (n.d.). About the Long-Term Care Equality Index (LEI). SAGE. Retrieved April 3, 2025, from <https://www.sageusa.org/lei/>.