

“The Unspoken Obvious: There are Queer Children”



Willie Edward Taylor Carver Jr.

2022 Kentucky Teacher of the Year

Author, *Gay Poems for Red States* (UPK, 2023)

Board Advocate, Kentucky Youth Law Project

LGBTQ+ Council, KY 120 United American Federation of Teachers

Instructor, Bluegrass Community & Technical

Student Support Services, University of Kentucky



The students of OpenLight, an LGBTQ-affirming group in Mount Sterling, KY, raise money for mental health awareness programming.

Description: In this workshop, we will discuss the **current data** existing on LGBTQ youth, **the legal, social, and emotional issues specific to them***, and some best practices for helping them make it as successfully as possible to adulthood.



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**There is no monolithic queer identity, let alone a monolithic queer experience, youth or otherwise. What we can talk about is context and the trends resulting from it.*

Participants will



The initial collection of the Rainbow Youth Freedom Library at the Gateway Regional Arts Center in Mount Sterling, Kentucky.

- be able to name, in general, the statistics describing the lives of LGBTQ youth;
- be aware of the general legal issues now making the lives of LGBTQ youth more difficult;
- know some best practices for helping LGBTQ youth.

Queer Children

Queer Children

Imagine how different people you know or know of might respond to this combination of words.

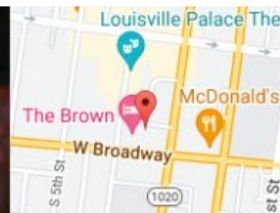
(maybe people you know personally, maybe people you encounter at work or see in media, maybe people you like or maybe people you don't like)

Part I: Some (Recent) Socio-Historical Context





17
OCT David Sedaris



Save event



Get tickets



Directions



Share

Details



Tue, Oct 17, 7:30 PM



The Brown Theatre
315 W Broadway, Louisville, KY

Check out the past concert and event calendar for David Sedaris in Louisville along with detailed ticket and venue information including photos, videos, bios, maps and more. [Read more on Do502](#)

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Corduroy & Denim



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Guardian

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2004.

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“Chicken in the Henhouse”

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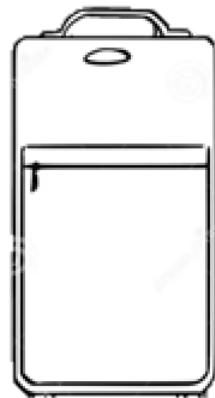


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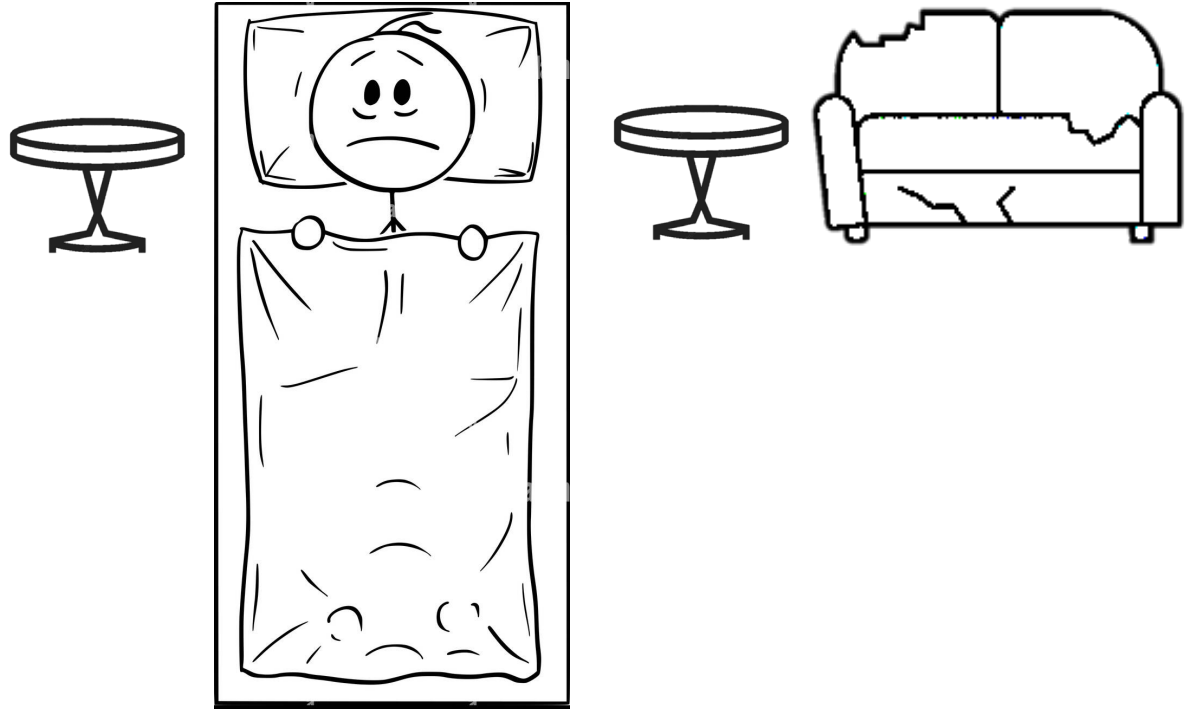
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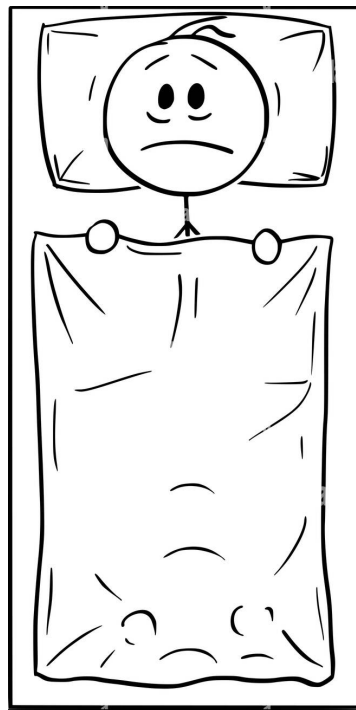
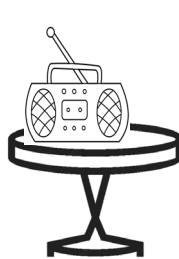


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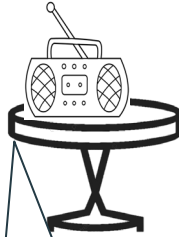


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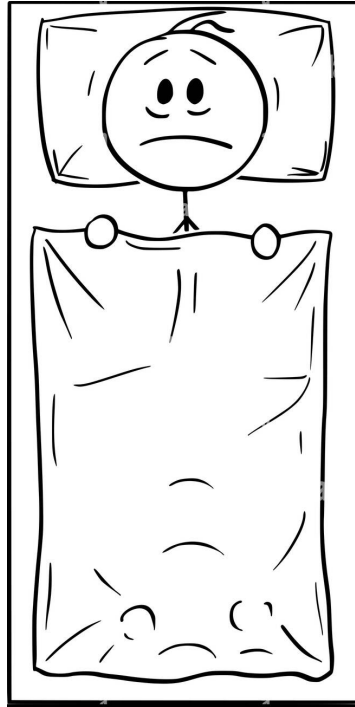
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Blah. Blah.
Extreme radio
preacher anti-
gay call in show
saying that gay
people are child
molesting
satanists who
hate America.
Blah. Blah.

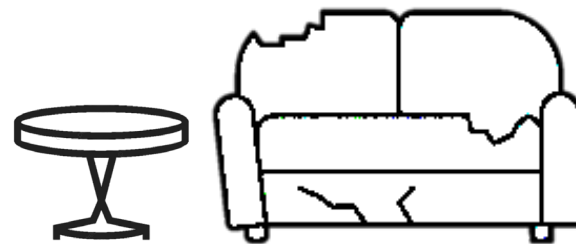
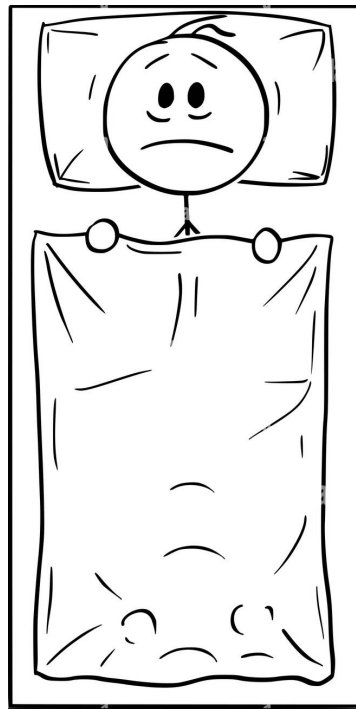
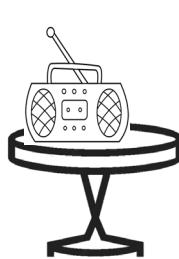


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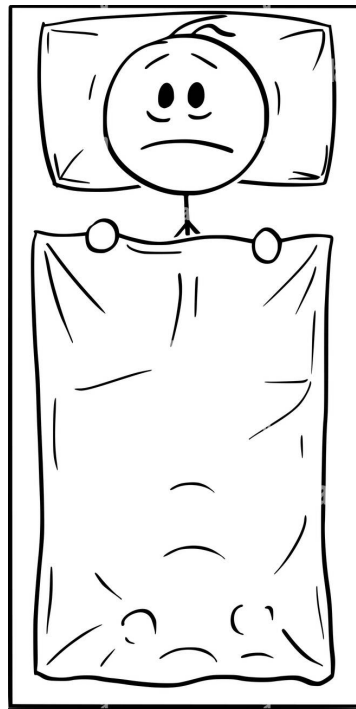
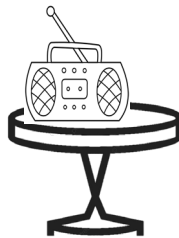


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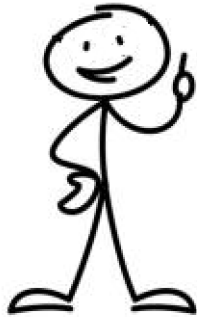


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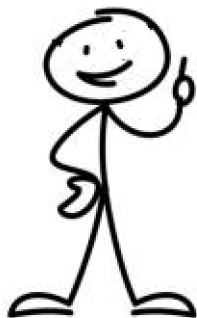


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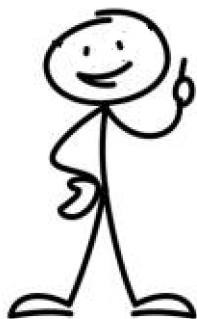


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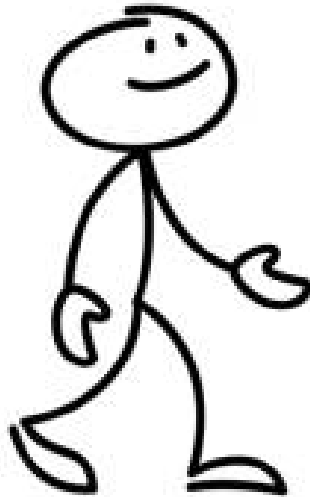


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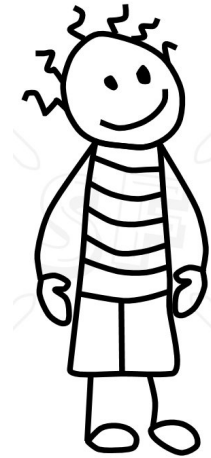


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"I am a person who feels guilty for crimes I have not committed" (120)

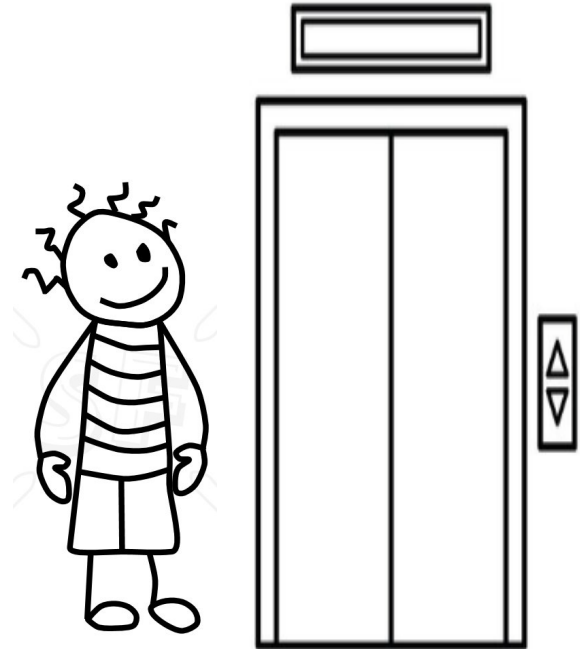


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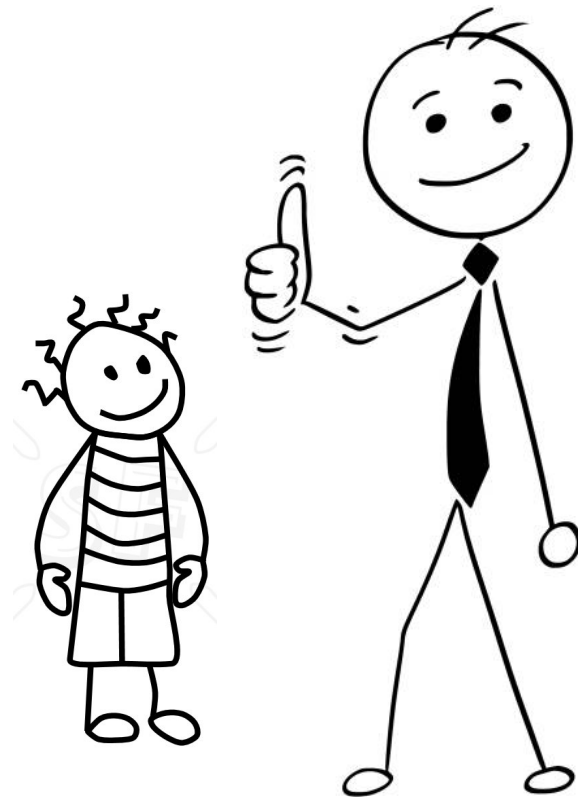


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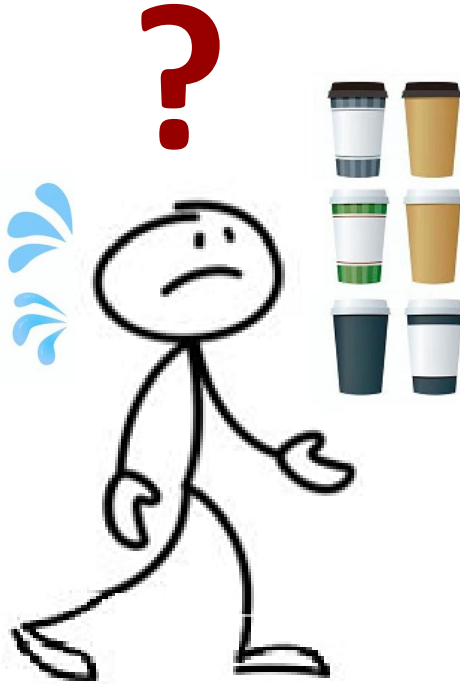


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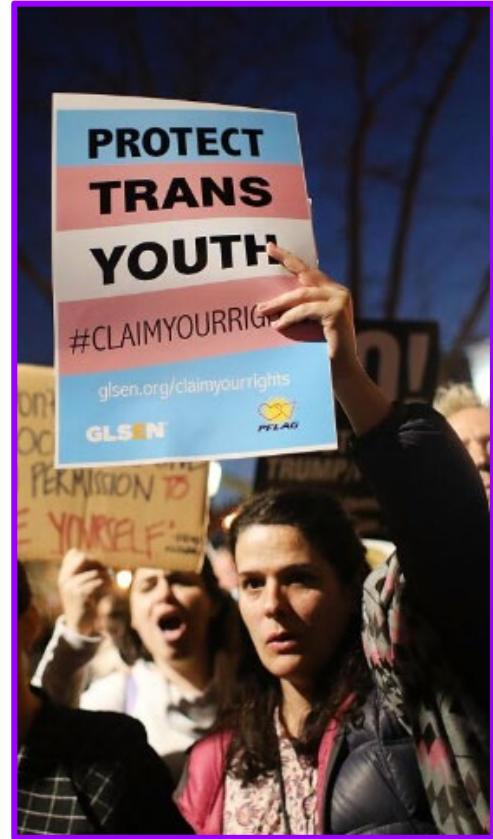
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"Chicken in the Henhouse"

"The closer we got to the end of the hall, the more anxious I became. I had not laid a finger on the boy's head. I have never poked or prodded either a baby or a child, **so why did I feel so dirty?** [It] ... had to do with the [kind of] voices I hear on talk radio, and my tendency, in spite of myself, to pay them heed. The man in the elevator had not thought twice about asking Michael personal questions or about laying a hand on the back of his head. **Because he was ... not a homosexual**, he hadn't felt the need to watch himself, worrying that **every word or gesture** might be misinterpreted. He could unthinkingly wander the halls with a strange boy, while for me it amounted to a political act — **an insistence that I was as good as the next guy**" (123)



What does David's story have to do with LGBTQ youth?





brobert545 @brobert545 · Apr 10

...

The **LGBTQ** community is **recruiting** in schools. Are your **kids** recruitable?



Julius @TodaywithJulius · Nov 20, 2021

...

California teachers are **recruiting kids** into **LGBTQ** clubs.



Isabella Riley Moody
@isabellarileyus

...

Being a homosexual and proclaiming it PROUDLY has ZERO PLACE inside the Republican Party or within the conservative movement.

Just as Christians should be ashamed of and repent for their sins, so too should homosexuals be ashamed, and repent.

Further, being "gay and proud" is itself GROOMING.

If you're gay and flaunting it proudly, you're recruiting. And you should STOP it. NOW.



giveawayhub @ritly_ · Apr 9

...

Replying to @pseverus_ and @seyramdzisi

You see how you feel about pedophilia, same way people feel about your **lgbtq**. 😊. And you have even **started recruiting** children in your **lgbtq** agenda. You know they can't consent right? Open your mind ok. It's your children they are after.



TN Perspective @SpeakinFromTN · Aug 20

...

She can call it homophobia if she wants but we don't send our **kids** to school to be come her activism young **recruits** or to be groomed into being the **LGBTQ's** foot soldiers. Keep your sexualities & activism out of the classrooms. twitter.com/libsoftiktok/s...



Chidimma cynthia @Chidimmacynth20 · Jun 18

...

Replying to @JoeyMannarinoUS

I don't a problem with this **LGBTQ** guys , my problem is why **recruits** little children of 4 to their nonsense, parents will be scared to send their **kids** to school . is really appalling 🙄



Sunsetboy4ever @Sunsetboy4ever1 · Jun 10

...

So

Saturday

Ive seen the world fighting back against the alphabet mafia a lot in the last week

Their agenda is much clearer now...and its nothing short of dominating everything. Their open push for **kid recruits** is where they fucked up **LGBTQ...LEAVE THE KIDS ALONE**

i know i dont



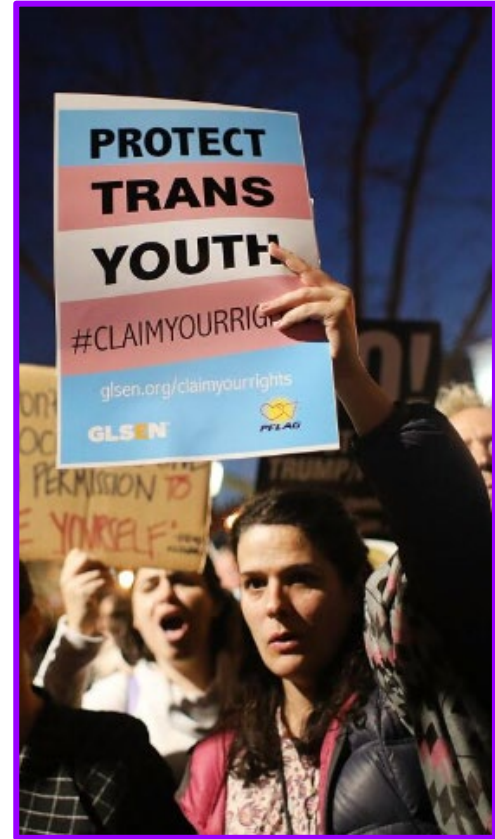
Kerosine @Kerosine000 · Mar 14

...

While its honorable to protect human rights, its also decent not to exclude other's rights while promoting other rights. If **LGBTQ** is natural,then let's not try so hard to educate&**recruits kids** into it , while confusing them to doubt their genders

The fear of the queer child “has been transformed in the last fifty years” (608) from one in which an asolescent *falls into queerness* to a new model introduced in the 1970’s of “the indoctrination fear ... **that LGBTQ adults will actively recruit children** ... into queerness” (609)

–Roskey, Clifford. “Fear the Queer Child.” *Buffalo Law Review*. 2013.



1977, Miami-Dade County Ordinance

“barred discrimination based on ‘affectional or sexual preference’ in employment, housing, and public accommodations.”

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE
GAY TO BE FIRED!

You just have to:

- Express an unpopular opinion
- Wear the wrong clothes

TEACHER
IS A FAG

- Have a student angry at you
- Hug a fellow teacher
- Defend a gay friend
- Hug a student
- Speak out on human rights

The list is endless.

VOTE
NO^{ON} 6

THERE'S NO HUMAN RIGHT
TO CORRUPT OUR CHILDREN!

PAID FOR BY SAVE OUR CHILDREN, INC., ANITA BRYANT, PRESIDENT

SIGN PETITION HERE
TO REPEAL METRO'S
'GAY' BLUNDER!

SAVE OUR
CHILDREN
FROM
HOMOSEXUALITY

SIGN PETITION
TO REPEAL METRO'S
'GAY' BLUNDER

SAVE OUR
CHILDREN
FROM
HOMOSEXUALITY

"PROTECT OUR CHILDREN"



PRESERVE PARENTS' RIGHTS TO PROTECT THEIR
CHILDREN FROM TEACHERS WHO ARE IMMORAL
AND WHO PROMOTE A PERVERTED LIFE STYLE

VOTE "YES" ON 6

Former Police Chief, Ed Davis: "THERE IS NO QUESTION
THAT HOMOSEXUALS POSE A THREAT TO CHILDREN"

Ad paid for by Fundamental Baptist Church, David Martin, Pastor

SAVE OUR
CHILDREN
FROM
HOMOSEXUALITY!

VOTE
FOR REPEAL
OF METRO'S
'GAY' BLUNDER
JUNE 7.

HERE'S WHY...

The last half-century of this narrative has affected the social landscape.



Lawyers and Advocates helping Kentucky's LGBTQI+ Children & Youth



Keith Elston, Founder & Director
KY Youth Law Project (2014)



Keith Elston, Founder & Director
KY Youth Law Project (2014)

"I noticed an early need for representation for LGBTQ youth [in my legal career]. Typically, gay adults would try to stay as far away from LGBTQ kids as possible because of the stereotypes of gay adults being child molesters. This was preventing LGBTQ kids from having any access to justice.

Everyone deserves justice."

--on *Progress Kentucky* (March 2023)

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THE NO.1 US BESTSELLER

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in Corduroy and Denim

david sedaris

author of ME TALK PRETTY ONE DAY

'A humorist par excellence, he can make Woody Allen
appear ham-tongued, Oscar Wilde a drag'

OBSERVER

There is a group at your place of work, business, political group. It advocates for ...

- **concerns important to women**
- **concerns important to African Americans**
- **concerns important to rural folk**
- **concerns important to recent immigrants**
- **concerns important to people with disabilities**
- **concerns important to LGBTQ people**



Who makes up these groups?

There is a group at your local school. It advocates for ...

- **concerns of important to girls**
- **concerns important to African American students**
- **concerns important to rural students**
- **concerns important to recent immigrant students**
- **concerns important to students with disabilities**



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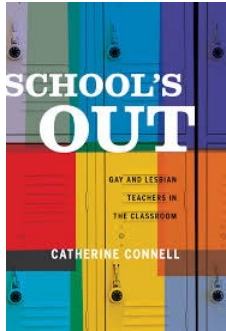
- **concerns of important to girls**
- **concerns important to African American students**
- **concerns important to rural students**
- **concerns important to recent immigrant students**
- **concerns important to students with disabilities**
- ***concerns important to LGBTQ students***



Who makes up these groups?



Teach the Rainbow.
American Federation of Teachers.



KY Dept of Education
@KyDeptofEd

The @KyDeptofEd is proud to support our LGBTQI+ community and is committed to ensuring Kentucky's public schools are places where ALL students and staff feel respected and welcomed.

@KyDeptofEd resource: bit.ly/KDEResources

@usedgov resource: bit.ly/UsEdGovResource

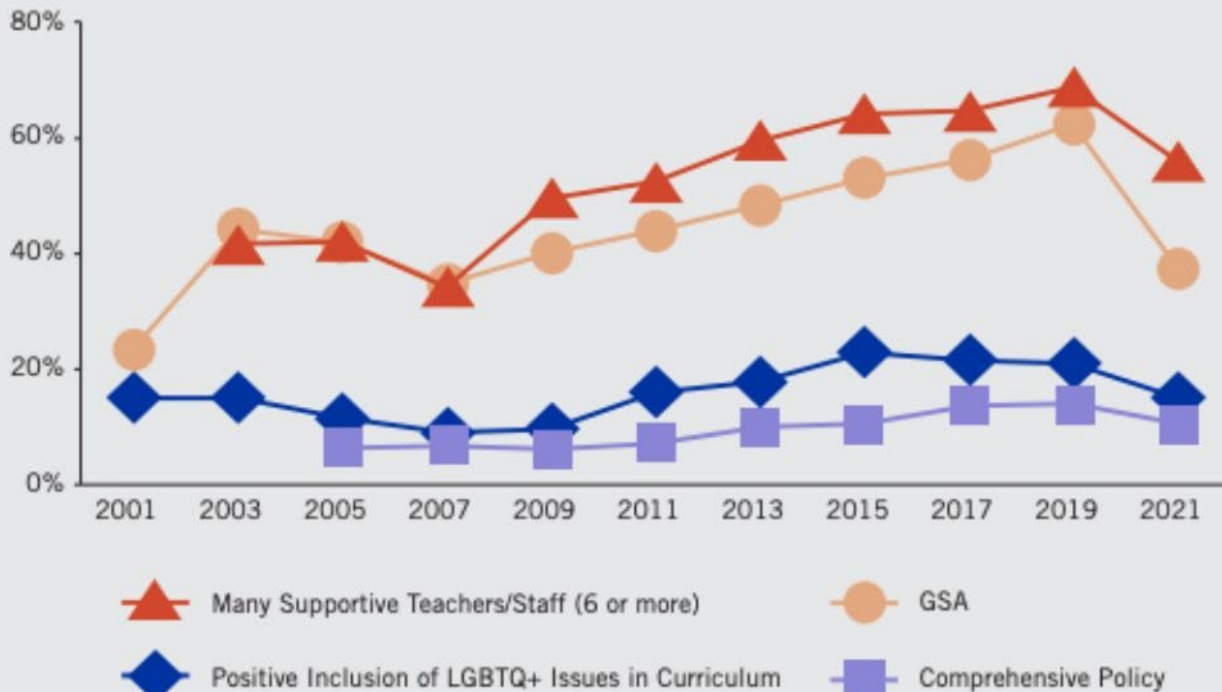


near-lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer+ caucus



Availability of LGBTQ+-Related School Resources Over Time

(Percentage of LGBTQ+ Students Reporting Resource in School, Accounting for Covariates)



Source:
GLSEN



NBC News
https://www.nbcnews.com › think › opinion › teach-...

I'm a gay kindergarten teacher in Florida. These are ...

Apr 29, 2022 — Many even used the words “pedophile” and “groomer.” To have people describe you in such horrible terms because of whom you love ... to have



USA Today
https://www.usatoday.com › story › opinion › 2022/08/29

Amid teacher shortage, folks who called them 'groomers' ...

Aug 29, 2022 — Who would've thought calling school teachers 'groomers' might lead to a teacher shortage? Here's an apology letter for the mopes who hurled ...



AP News
https://apnews.com › article

'Grooming': The ubiquitous buzzword in LGBTQ school ...

Mar 29, 2022 — 'Grooming': The ubiquitous buzzword in LGBTQ school debate. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis shows no signs from the children's book. *Sally Mathew*



HuffPost
https://www.huffpost.com › entry

Worried About Grooming? Teaching Kids Comprehensive ...

Jul 18, 2022 — Educators who teach sex ed have been called "groomers" by political pundits the right. But comprehensive sex ed can help kids identify ...



Education Week
https://www.edweek.org › leadership › 2022/04

Why Misusing 'Groomer' as a Political Smear Is Especially ...

Apr 26, 2022 — The term, used in connection with child sexual abuse, is being intentionally misappropriated in fights over teaching and curriculum.



Lexington Herald Leader
https://www.kentucky.com › opinion › article278271738

Cameron is now sorry GOP said bad things about teachers

Aug 17, 2023 — 'Like an abusive relationship.' GOP now sorry for calling Ky teachers groomers and pedophiles. | Opinion. Profile Image of Linda Blackford.



Media Matters for America
https://www.mediamatters.org › matt-walsh › daily-wir-...

Daily Wire's Matt Walsh calls LGBTQ teachers "groomers" ...

May 17, 2023 — Daily Wire's Matt Walsh calls LGBTQ teachers "groomers," adding, "There is no heterosexual person demanding this sort of thing on the other side ...



Los Angeles Times
https://www.latimes.com › opinion › story › groomers-...

Abcarian: 'Groomers' coming for your children?

Apr 20, 2022 — Conservative Republicans have settled on a new slur, 'groomers,' for those support sex education in schools.



Flatwater Free Press
https://flatwaterfreepress.org › All our stories

Minds polluted? Film claims teachers are "grooming" ...

Jul 15, 2022 — In a follow-up interview, Ripley said she hasn't personally witnessed any of the grooming activities alleged in the film. She called the teachers at her kids' public school "lovely ...



ABC News - Breaking News, Latest News and Videos
https://abcnews.go.com › Politics › story

LGBTQ teachers open up as their schools -- and identities

Aug 30, 2022 — LGBTQ teachers open up as their schools -- and identities -- become ... and called child "grooming" -- a term that has become popular in ...



NPR
https://www.npr.org › 2022/05/11 › accusations-groomi...

LGBTQ advocates fight the homophobic 'grooming' narrative

May 11, 2022 — Old accusations of LGBTQ people "grooming" and "recruiting" ... Teachers the chilling effect of Florida's so-called 'Don't Say Gay' ...



PolitiFact
https://www.politifact.com › article › may › why-its-...

Why it's not 'grooming': What research says about gender ...

May 11, 2022 — Teachers using gender inclusive reading material and lesson plans are not, by definition, grooming children. Nor is Disney by dropping gender- ...



Newsweek
https://www.newsweek.com › ... › Teachers › Twitter

Steven Crowder Tells Teachers Not to Be Groomers During ...

May 2, 2022 — Conservative commentator Steven Crowder took to Twitter on Monday in honor of Teacher Appreciation week, telling teachers to not be groomers ...



Medium
https://medium.com › oh-those-scary-groomer-teach-...

Oh, Those Scary "Groomer" Teachers! | by Bill Kuhn

Apr 10, 2022 — "The bill that liberals inaccurately call 'Don't Say Gay' would be more accurately described as an Anti-Grooming Bill," tweeted Christina ...



AlterNet
https://www.alternet.org › conservative-hosts-teacher-...

Right-wing hosts call teachers 'groomers' for showing kids ...

May 17, 2023 — Right-wing hosts call teachers 'groomers' for showing kids a 'diverse collection' of books and movies ... Daily Wire host Matt Walsh, Image via ...



The Hill
https://thehill.com › homenews › house › 3262988-g...

'Groomer' debate inflames GOP fight over Florida law

Apr 8, 2022 — "Groomer" is the new favorite term being used by far-right commentators and activists to describe opponents of Florida's Parental Rights in ...



Daily Mail
https://www.dailymail.co.uk › news › article-11676795

Tennessee teacher is quitting because people who oppose ...

Jan 25, 2023 — A Tennessee high school teacher went viral after she said in a TikTok video that she was quitting teach after being called a groomer ...



The Big Picture | Substack
https://thinkbigpicture.substack.com › groomer-lgbtq-sl...

'Groomer' Is the New LGBTQ+ Slur—It's Time To Fight Back

Mar 23, 2023 — The groomers are the ones instructing their kids how to hold and fire AR-15s. The groomers are the ones teaching kids how to hate in the name of ...



OnlySky Media
https://onlysky.media › hemant-mehta › preacher-tea...

Preacher: Teachers 'grooming' kids should be beheaded ...

Apr 25, 2022 — After falsely calling LGBTQ-accepting teachers "groomers," Jason Graber called for their executions. Avatar photo by Hemant Mehta Apr 25, ...



AZ FREE NEWS
https://azfreewords.com › 2022 › April

Scottsdale Principal Required Middle School Teachers to ...

Apr 13, 2022 — Grooming usually happens to minors, but it may also occur with adults. Those who groom, nicknamed "groomers," attempt to build trust, dependency ...



Prostasia Foundation
https://prostasia.org › Blog

Moral panic 101: "grooming" is bunk

Mar 27, 2023 — Teachers and school administrators are called "groomers" because they may teach sexual education in class, per a state's health curriculum.

GROOMER:

GROOMER:

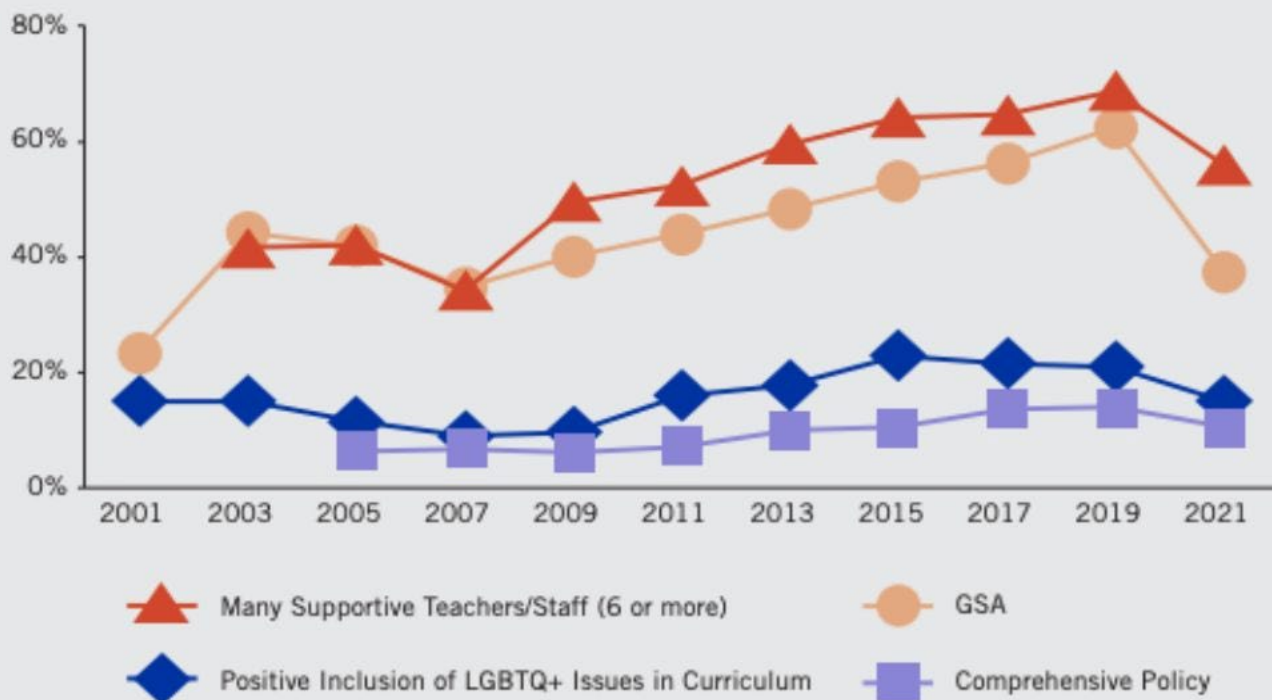
“someone becomes friends with children with the intention of trying to persuade them to have a **sexual relationship**” (Cambridge)

“an adult develops a friendship with a child with the intention of having an illegal **sexual relationship**” (Oxford)

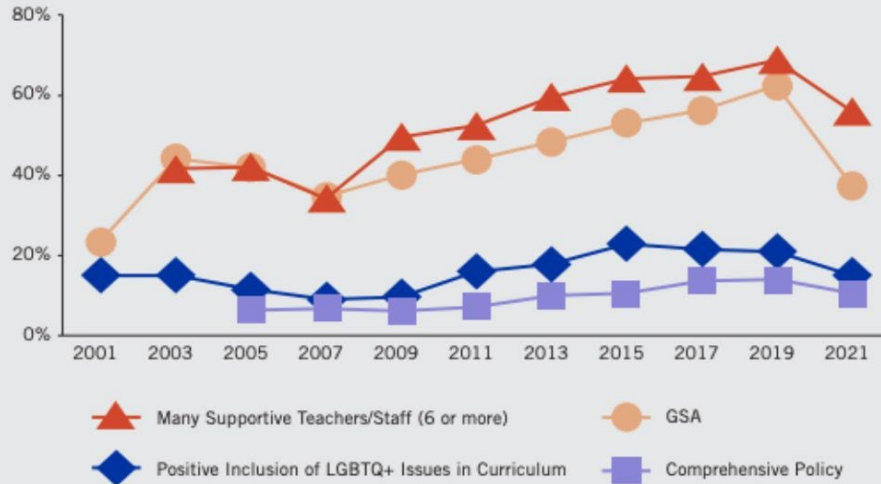
“someone who builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child or young person so they can manipulate, exploit and **abuse them** (704

Availability of LGBTQ+-Related School Resources Over Time

(Percentage of LGBTQ+ Students Reporting Resource in School, Accounting for Covariates)

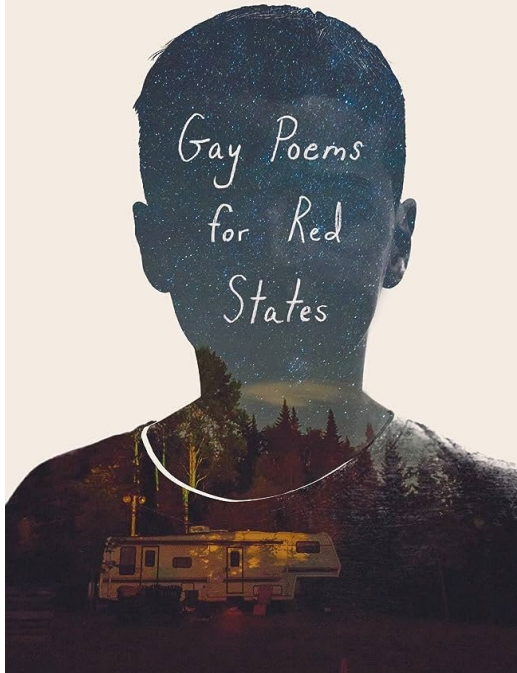


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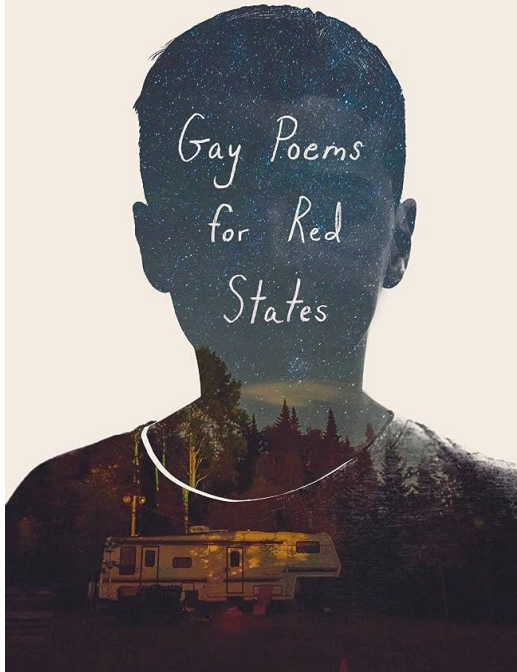




Willie Edward Taylor Carver Jr.

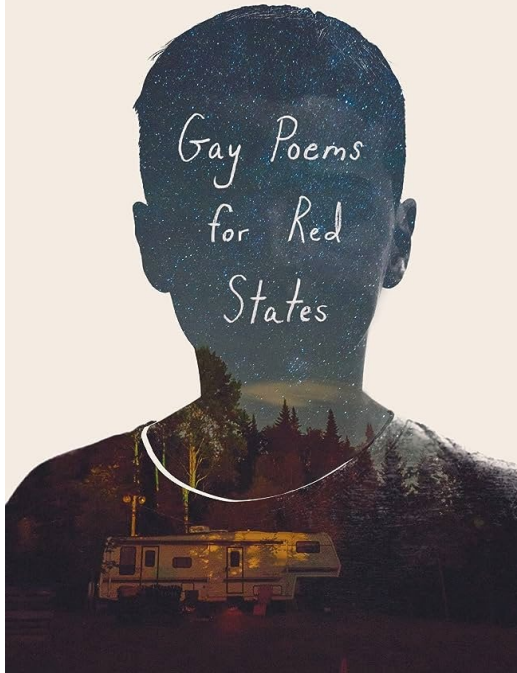


Willie Edward Taylor Carver Jr.



“Why is there a child on the cover of a gay book, you fu-----groomer!”

Willie Edward Taylor Carver Jr.



“Why is there a child on the cover of a gay book, you fu-----groomer!”



The last half-century of this narrative has affected the social landscape.

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Anyone who dares help or even reference the existence of LGBTQ youth can be attacked with the most vicious accusations imaginable,

The last half-century of this narrative has affected the social landscape.

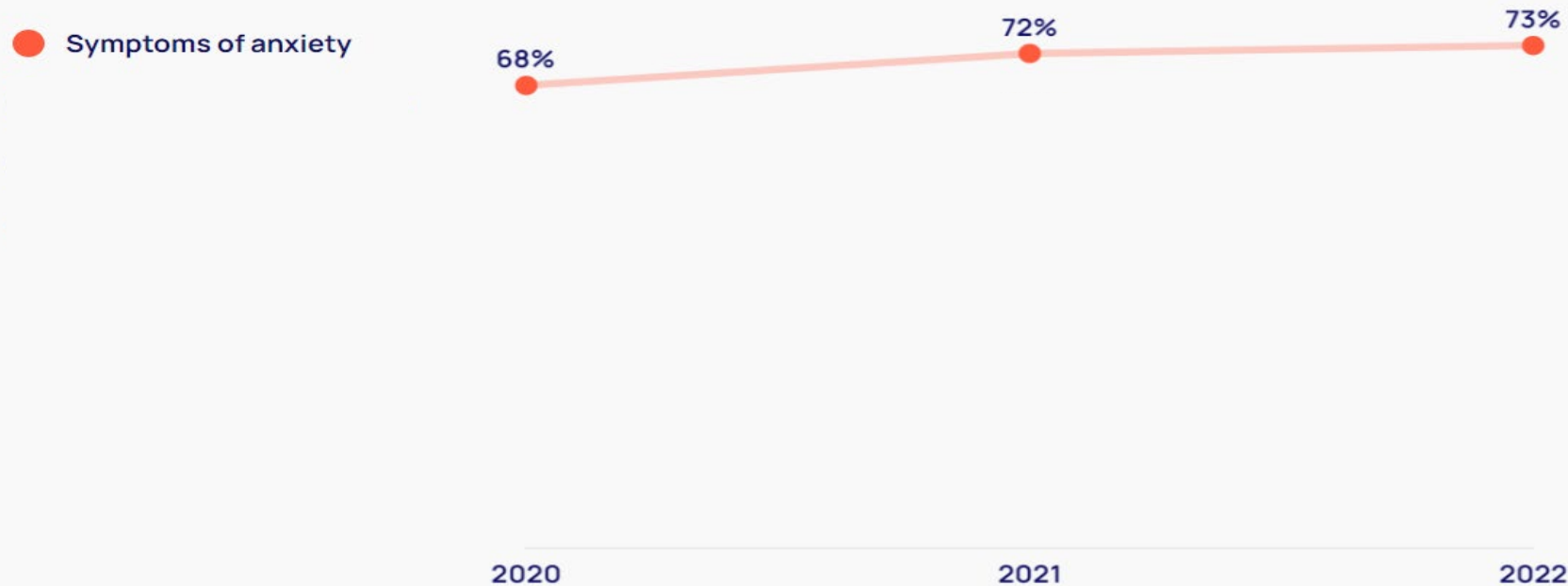
Anyone who dares help or even reference the existence of LGBTQ youth can be attacked with the most vicious accusations imaginable, so LGBTQ youth are not helped or referenced, regardless of the need.

Part I: Some (Recent) Socio-Historical Context ✓

Part I: Some (Recent) Socio-Historical Context ✓

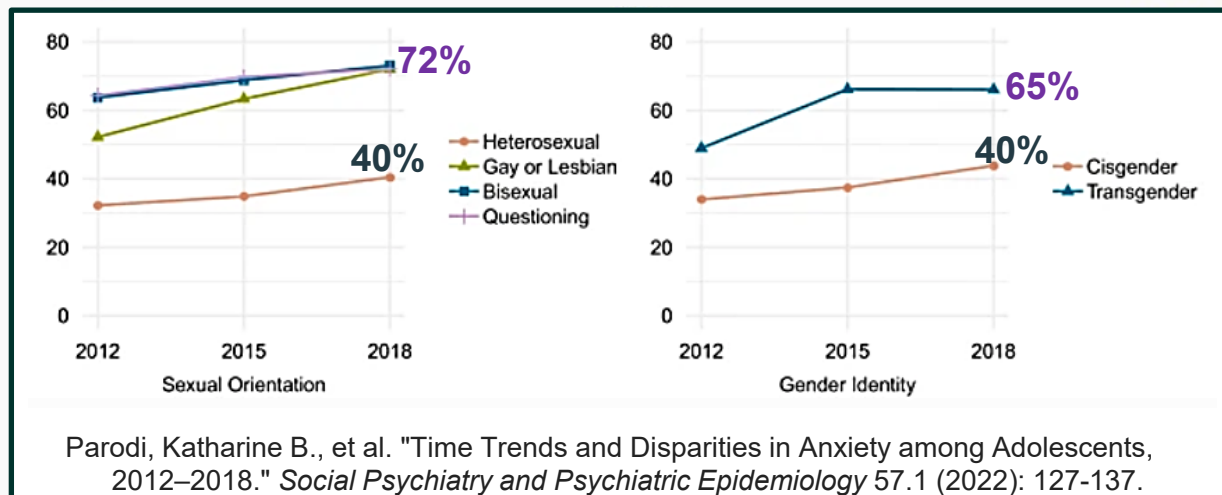
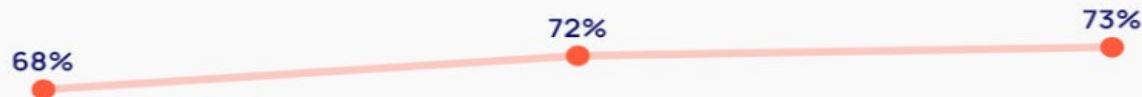
Part II: Where We Are (the need)

Trends in LGBTQ youth mental health & suicide risk from 2020 to 2022

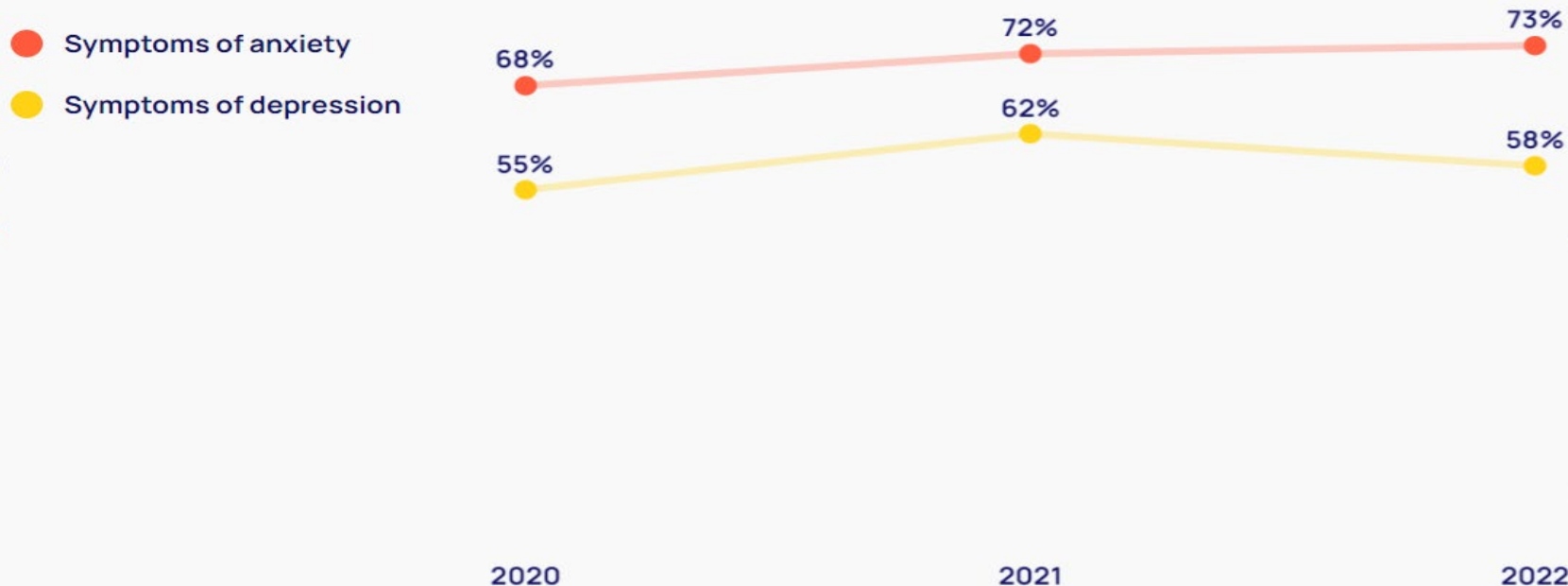


Trends in LGBTQ youth mental health & suicide risk from 2020 to 2022

● Symptoms of anxiety



Trends in LGBTQ youth mental health & suicide risk from 2020 to 2022



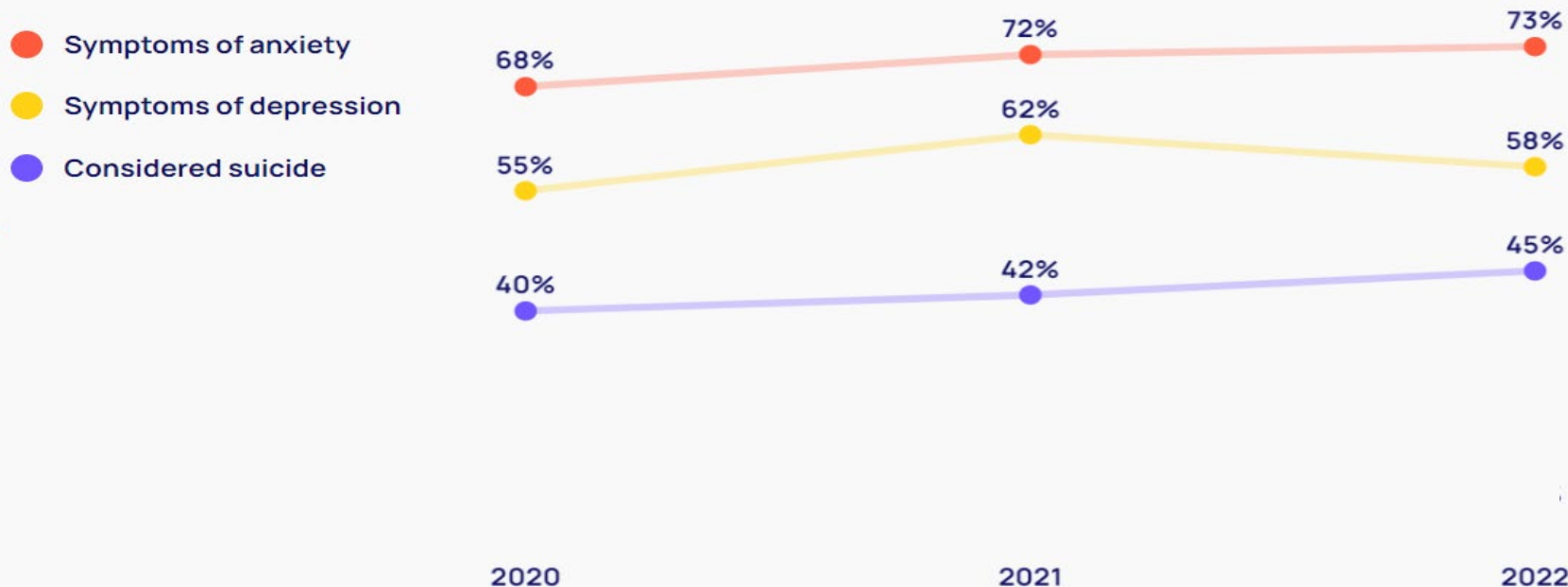
Trends in LGBTQ youth mental health & suicide risk from 2020 to 2022



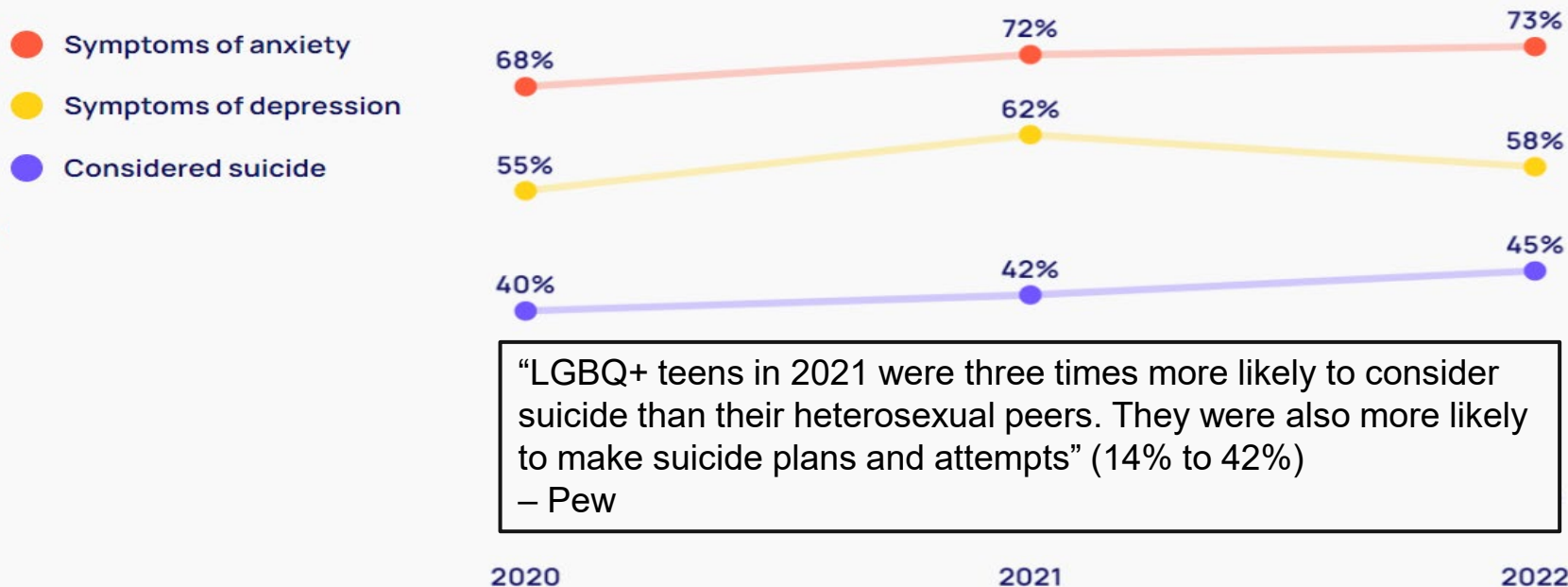
“Around half of LGBT+ young people say they have had or currently have depression, compared to a fifth (20%) of non-LGBT+ young people”

- Independent study of 2,934 high school students by Just Like Us Foundation in 2020.

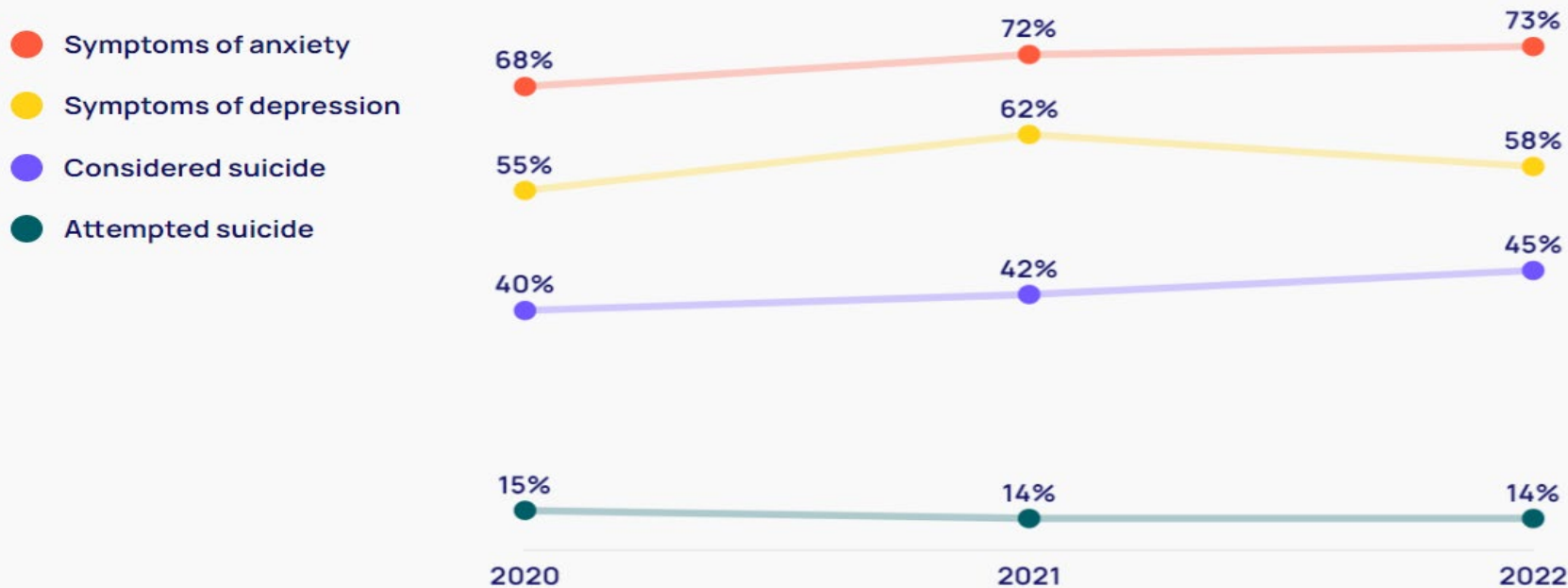
Trends in LGBTQ youth mental health & suicide risk from 2020 to 2022



Trends in LGBTQ youth mental health & suicide risk from 2020 to 2022



Trends in LGBTQ youth mental health & suicide risk from 2020 to 2022





Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

The rate of suicide among high school students who identify as LGBTQ ... is **five times higher** than the rate reported among heterosexual students (5.2%).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1991-2019 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data. Available at <http://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/>. March 3, 2021.

45% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year.



Nearly 1 in 5 transgender and nonbinary youth attempted suicide and LGBTQ youth of color reported higher rates than their white peers.

2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health. Trevor Project.

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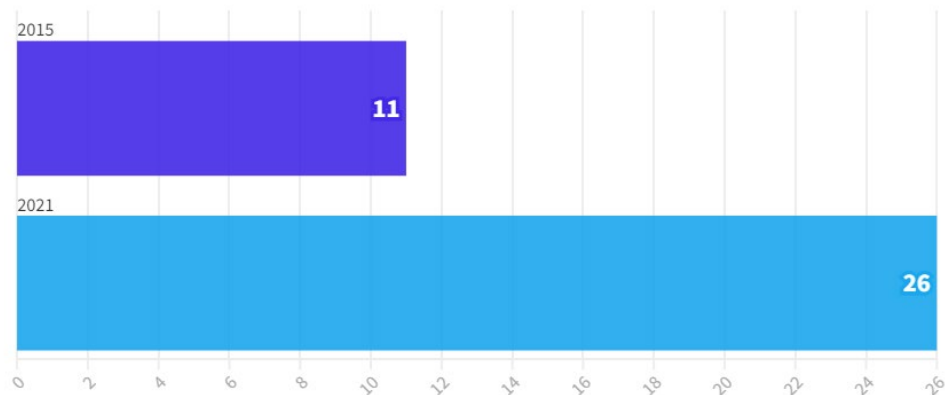


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2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health. Trevor Project.

Students who identify as LGBTQ

■ 2015 ■ 2021



Center for Disease Control and Convention. 2023.

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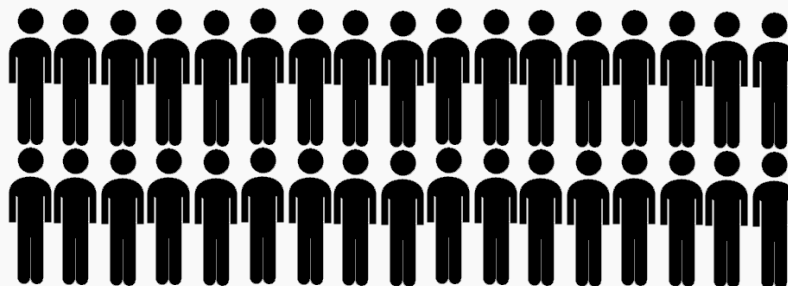
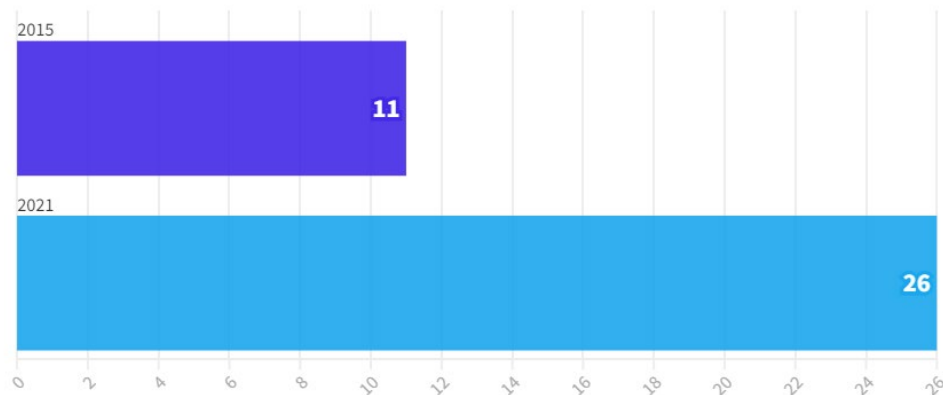


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2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health. Trevor Project.

Students who identify as LGBTQ

■ 2015 ■ 2021



Total
32 students

45% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year.

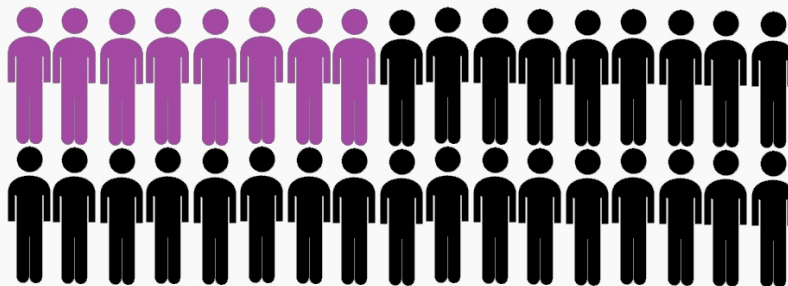
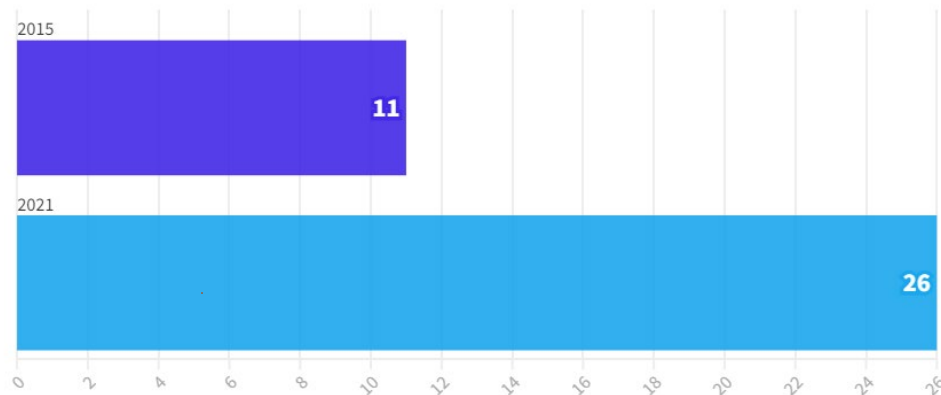


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2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health. Trevor Project.

Students who identify as LGBTQ

■ 2015 ■ 2021



Total

32 students

8 LGBTQ

45% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year.

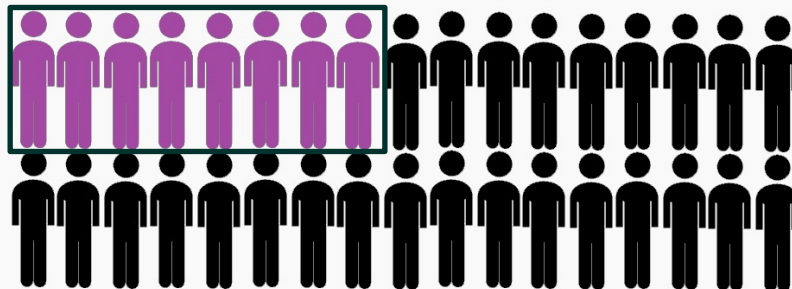
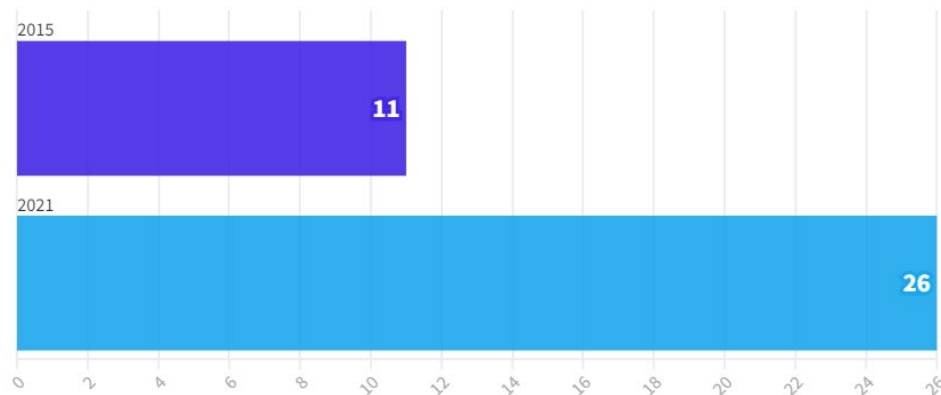


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2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health. Trevor Project.

Students who identify as LGBTQ

■ 2015 ■ 2021



Total
32 students
8 LGBTQ

45% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year.

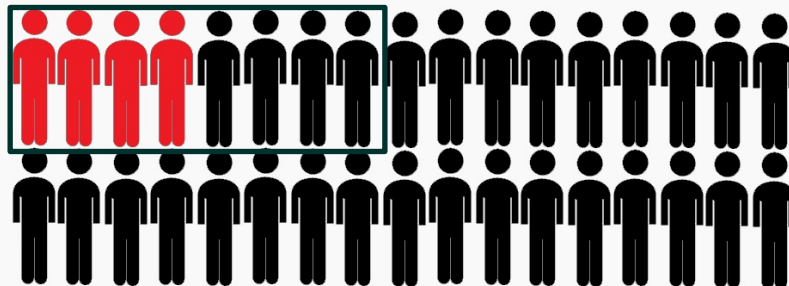
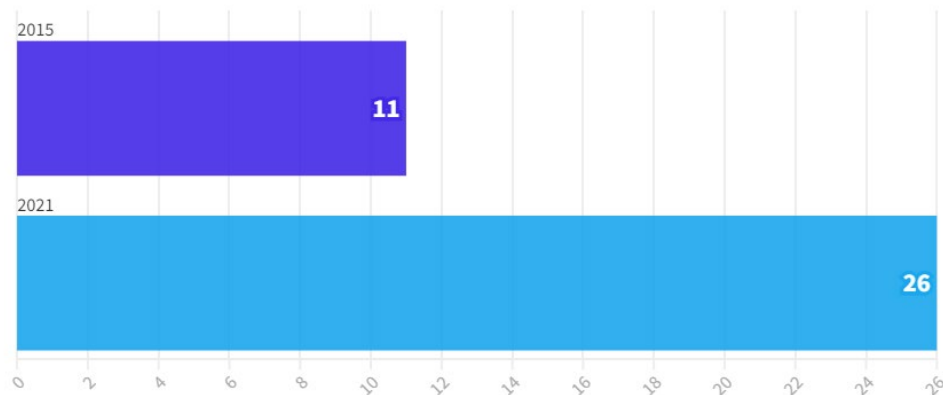


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2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health. Trevor Project.

Students who identify as LGBTQ

■ 2015 ■ 2021



Total

32 students

8 LGBTQ

4 consider

45% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year.

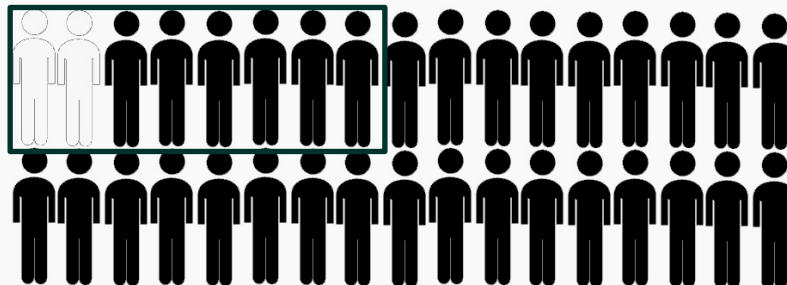
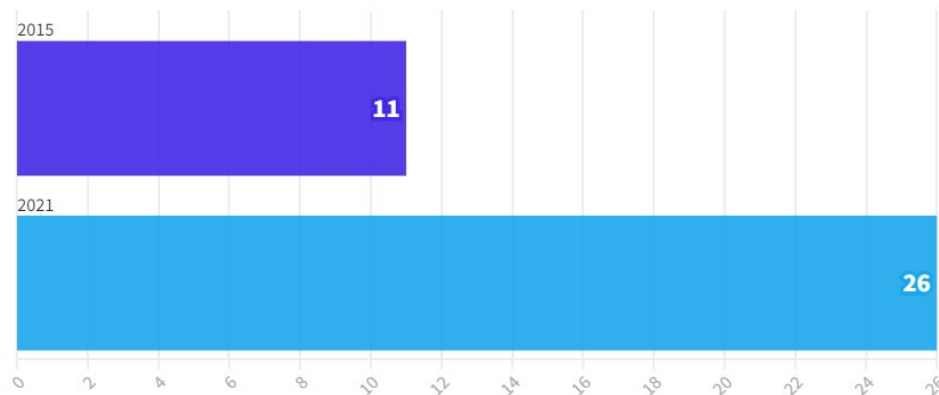


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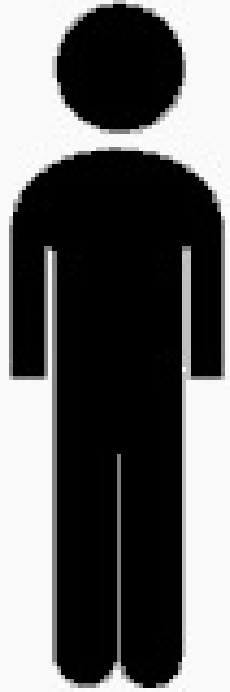
2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health. Trevor Project.

Students who identify as LGBTQ

■ 2015 ■ 2021



Total
32 students
8 LGBTQ
4 consider
2 will attempt

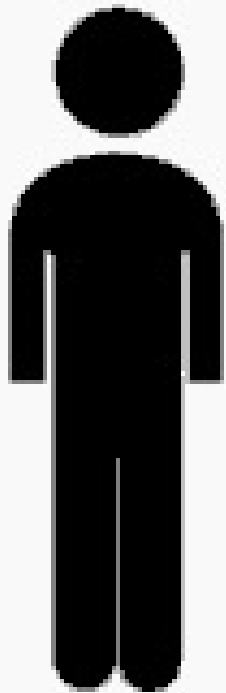


home

community

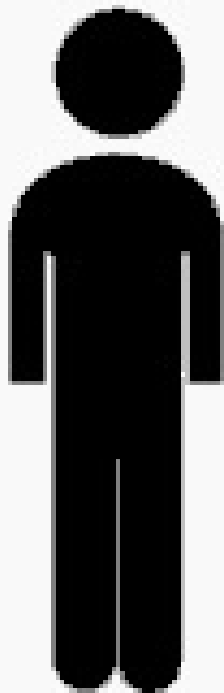
school

home



LGBTQ youth who felt high social support from their family reported attempting suicide at **less than half the rate** of those who felt low or moderate social support.

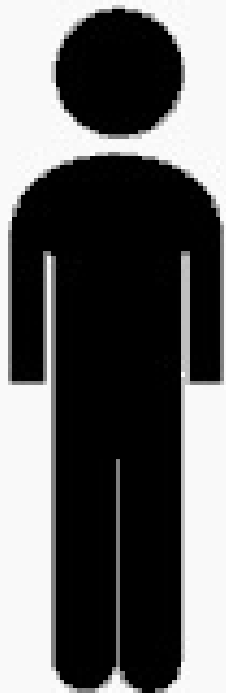
home



LGBTQ youth who felt high social support from their family reported attempting suicide at **less than half the rate** of those who felt low or moderate social support.

Fewer than 1 in 3 transgender and nonbinary youth found their home to be gender-affirming.

home



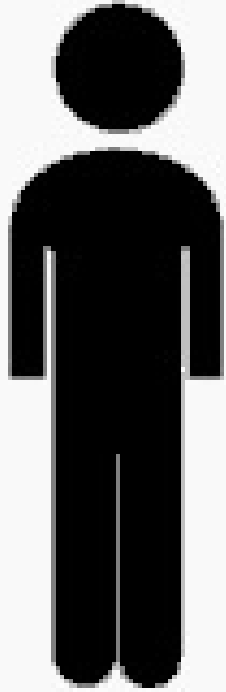
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LGBTQ youth who identified home as an LGBTQ -



home



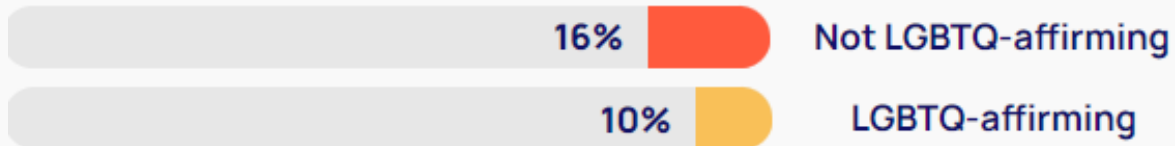
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LGBTQ youth who identified home as an LGBTQ -



LGBTQ Suicide Attempt Comparison by Affirming Home

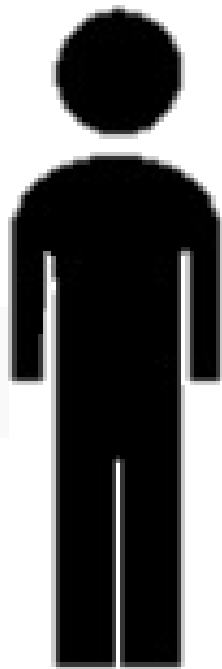


home

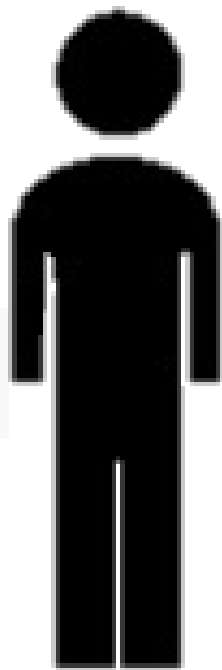
Conversion Therapy

17% of LGBTQ youth reported being threatened with or subjected to conversion therapy

including more than 1 in 5 transgender and nonbinary youth (22%) and more than 1 in 10 cisgender youth (11%).



home



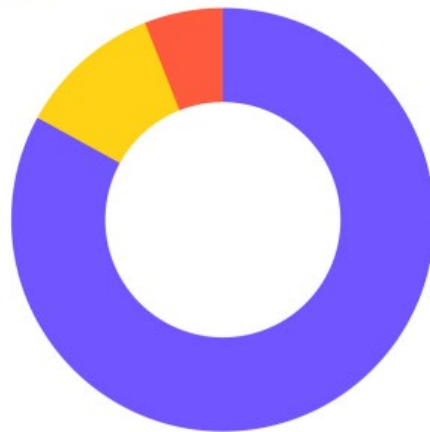
Conversion Therapy

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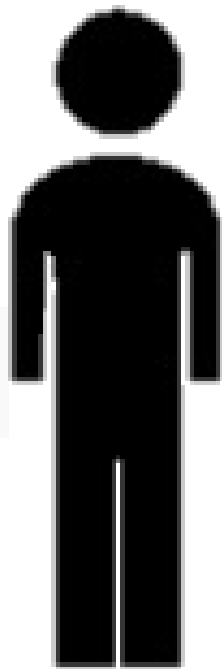
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LGBTQ youth who reported being threatened with or subjected to conversion therapy

83% Not subjected to or threatened with conversion therapy
11% Threatened with conversion therapy
6% Subjected to conversion therapy



home



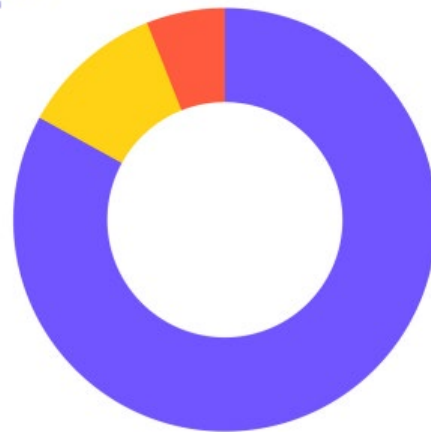
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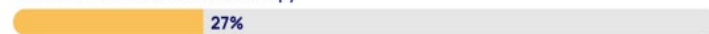
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11% Threatened with conversion therapy
6% Subjected to conversion therapy



Subjected to conversion therapy



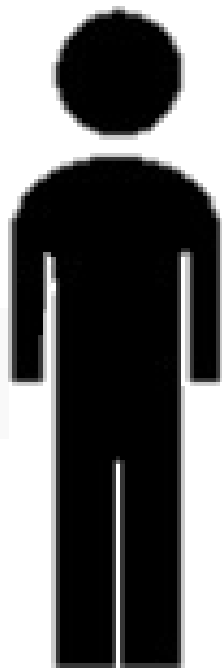
Threatened with conversion therapy



Not subjected to or threatened with conversion therapy



home

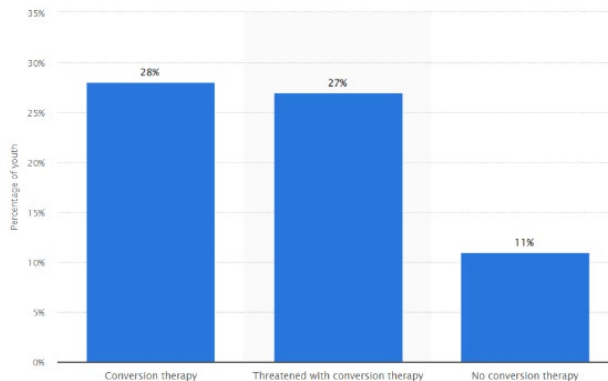


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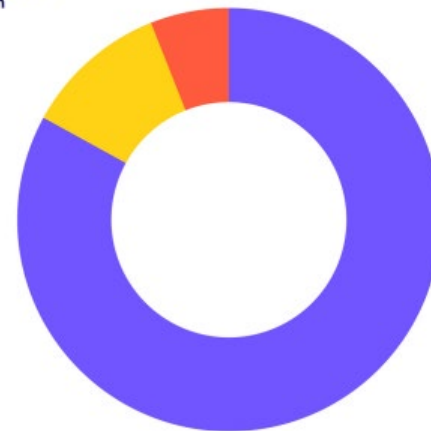
LGBTQ suicide attempts in last 12 months, 13-24



Statista Research Department. 2021.

LGBTQ youth who reported being threatened with or subjected to conversion therapy

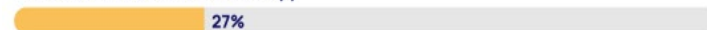
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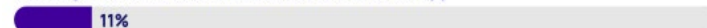
Subjected to conversion therapy



Threatened with conversion therapy



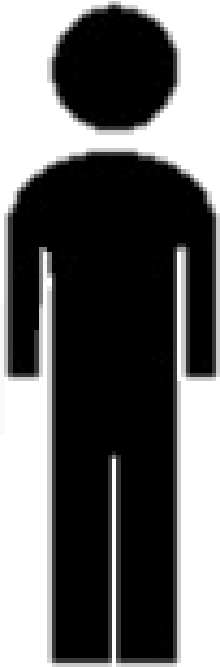
Not subjected to or threatened with conversion therapy



2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth
Mental Health. Trevor Project.

home

homelessness



“LGBTQ young adults have a **120 percent higher risk** of reporting homelessness compared to youth who identified as heterosexual and cisgender” (Morton et al).

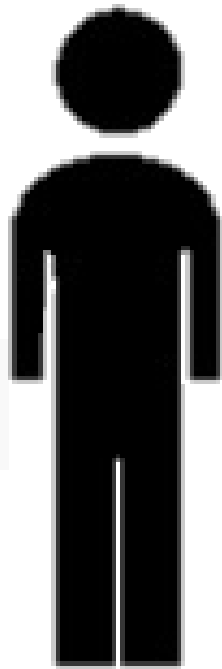
“LGBTQ+ youth experience homelessness at higher rates than non-LGBTQ+ youth for a range of reasons. A study of more than 350 runaway and homeless providers throughout the United States identified **four top causes** for homelessness among LGBTQ+ youth. The most common cause:

family rejection resulting from sexual orientation or gender identity
(Durso et al)

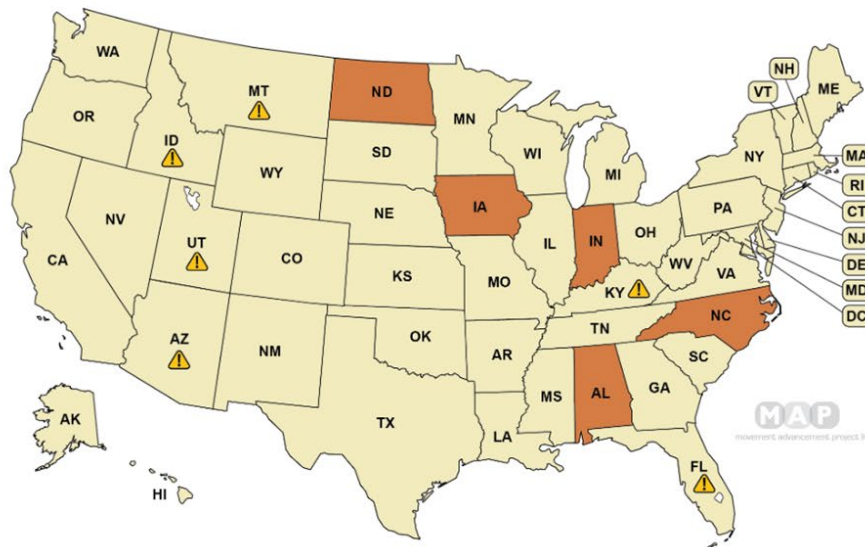
Durso, Laura E., and Gary J. Gates. "Serving Our Youth: Findings From A National Survey Of Services Providers Working With Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual And Transgender Youth Who Are Homeless Or At Risk Of Becoming Homeless." (2012).




Morton, Matthew H., Amy Dworsky, and Gina Miranda Samuels. "Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America. National Estimates." Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago (2017).

home forced outing



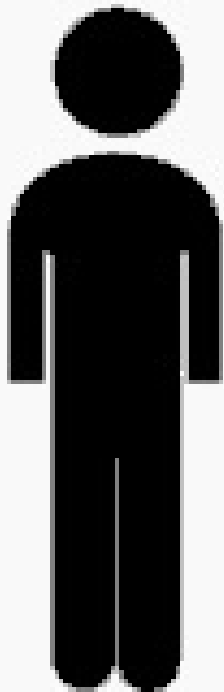
Since 2020, there has been a growing legislative attack on transgender people, and particularly on transgender youth. This includes a growing number of bills (and now laws) that explicitly require school staff—and in some cases, any government or public employee—to out transgender youth to their families, often without regard for whether doing so might put the child at risk of harm.



-  State law forces the outing of transgender youth in schools (5 states)
-  State law does not force the outing of transgender youth in schools (45 states, 5 territories + D.C.)
-  State law promotes, though does not require, outing of transgender youth in schools (see note) (6 states)

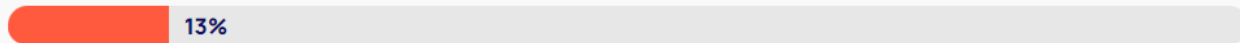
 Citations & More Information

community

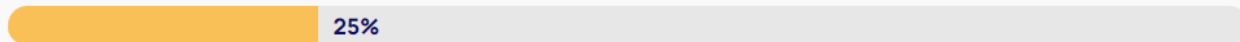


Reports of community acceptance of LGBTQ people among LGBTQ youth

Very unaccepting



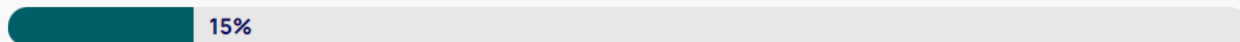
Somewhat unaccepting



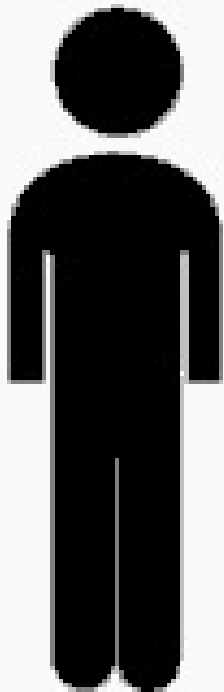
Somewhat accepting



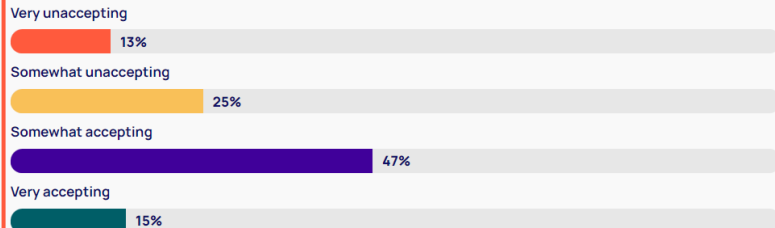
Very accepting



community

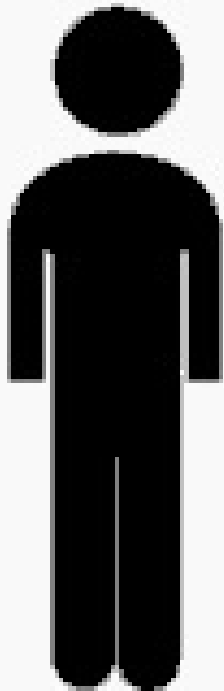


Reports of community acceptance of LGBTQ people among LGBTQ youth

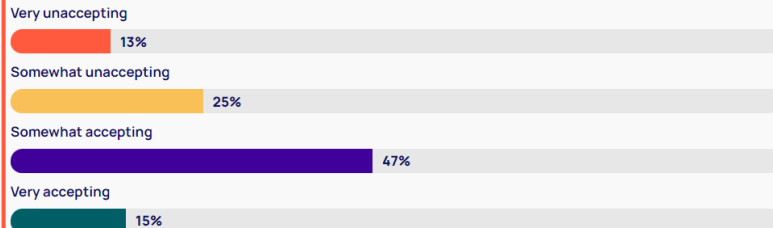


LGBTQ youth who live in a community that is accepting of LGBTQ people reported significantly lower rates of attempting suicide compared to those who do not.

community



Reports of community acceptance of LGBTQ people among LGBTQ youth

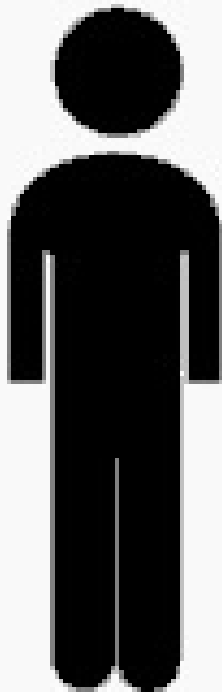


LGBTQ youth who live in a community that is accepting of LGBTQ people reported significantly lower rates of attempting suicide compared to those who do not.

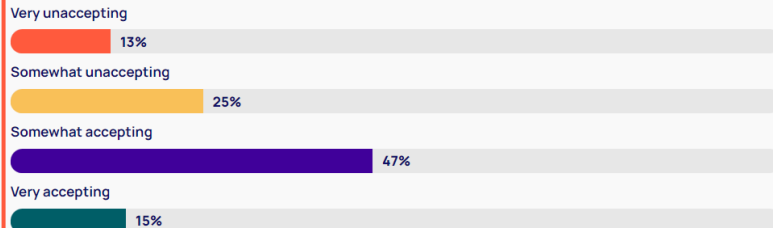
Suicide attempt rate by community acceptance of LGBTQ people



community

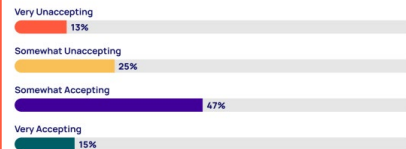


Reports of community acceptance of LGBTQ people among LGBTQ youth



LGBTQ youth who live in a community that is accepting of LGBTQ people reported significantly lower rates of attempting suicide compared to those who do not.

Reports of community acceptance of LGBTQ people among LGBTQ youth



The Importance of LGBTQ Representation & Advocacy

89% of LGBTQ youth reported that seeing LGBTQ representation in TV/ movies made them feel good about being LGBTQ.

LGBTQ youth also reported feeling good about being LGBTQ when...

79% musicians come out as LGBTQ

74% other celebrities come out as LGBTQ

71% non-LGBTQ celebrities advocate for LGBTQ people

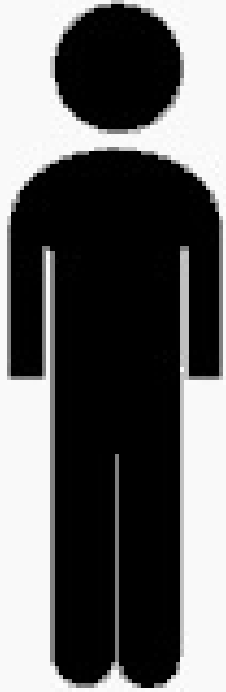
70% companies are led by LGBTQ people

67% athletes come out as LGBTQ

Suicide attempt rate by community acceptance of LGBTQ people



schools



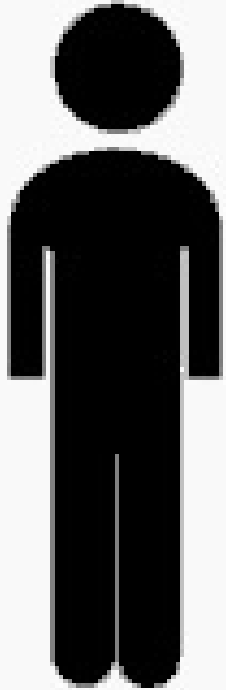
Has anyone ever quit or asked to be transferred because of a negative situation or environment at work?



schools

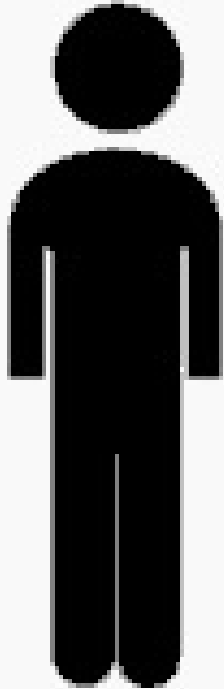


schools



LGBTQ youth who found their school to be LGBTQ-affirming reported **lower rates of attempting suicide.**

schools



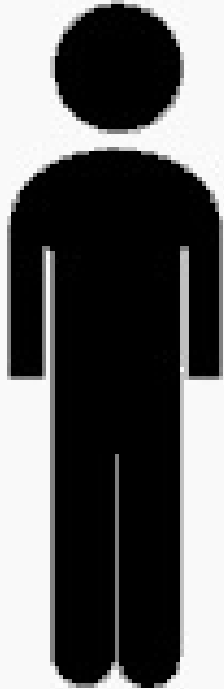
LGBTQ youth who found their school to be LGBTQ-affirming reported **lower rates of attempting suicide.**

LGBTQ youth who identified school as an LGBTQ-affirming space

Identified school as an LGBTQ-affirming space



schools



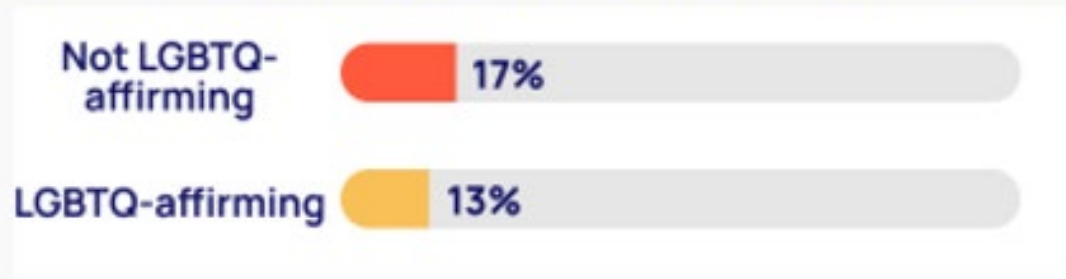
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LGBTQ youth who identified school as an LGBTQ-affirming space

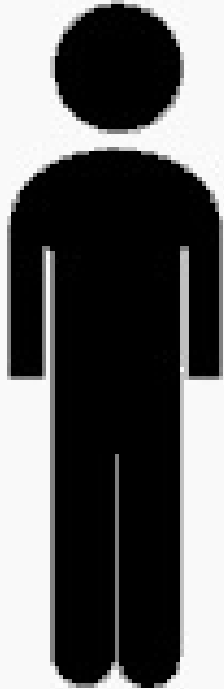
Identified school as an LGBTQ-affirming space



Suicide Attempts and School Environment



schools



LGBTQ youth who found their school to be LGBTQ-affirming reported **lower rates of attempting suicide.**

LGBTQ youth who identified school as an LGBTQ-affirming space

Identified school as an LGBTQ-affirming space

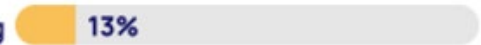


Suicide Attempts and School Environment

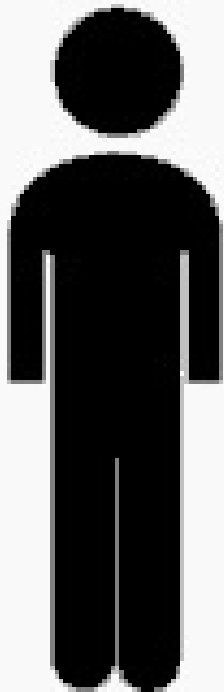
Not LGBTQ-affirming



LGBTQ-affirming



schools



“I might not graduate high school”

7.6% transgender students

7.6% genderqueer students

2.2% cisgender LGBTQ students

**most cited reason: school harms mental health (67%)*

“A hostile or unsupportive school climate is a barrier my completing high school”

57.9% LGBTQ students

“I might not finish high school”

+ **“I have not been victimized for being LGBTQ”** 2.1% LGBTQ students

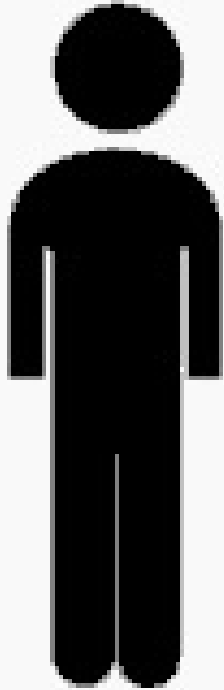
+ **“I have been victimized for being LGBTQ”:** 6.6% LGBTQ students

“I have missed a day of school or more this month”

+ **“I have not faced anti-LGBTQ discrimination at school”:** 13.8% LGBTQ students

+ **“I have faced anti-LGBTQ discrimination at school”:** 43% LGBTQ students

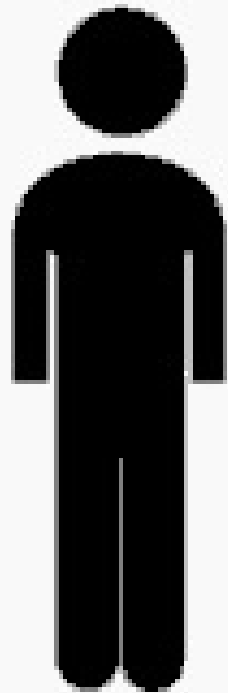
schools



Year-to-Date Snapshot: 2023 Anti-LGBTQ+ State Legislative Activity

- **Over 520** anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been introduced in state legislatures, a record;
- **Over 220** bills specifically target transgender and non-binary people, also a record; and
- **A record 70** anti-LGBTQ laws have been enacted so far this year, including:
 - Laws banning gender affirming care for transgender youth: 15
 - Laws requiring or allowing misgendering of transgender students: 7
 - Laws targeting drag performances: 2
 - Laws creating a license to discriminate: 3
 - Laws censoring school curriculum, including books: 4

schools



“94% of LGBTQ youth report that recent politics negatively impacted their mental health.”

“A [trans student] whose parent or legal guardian provides written consent to school officials shall be provided with the best available accommodation, but that accommodation shall not include the use of school restrooms, locker rooms, or shower rooms designated for use by [cis students] while [cis students] are present.”

“A school shall notify a parent ... if school personnel make a referral ... for the student to receive a school's health services or mental health services ... or an external health care provider.”

“A local school district shall not require school personnel or students to use pronouns for students that do not conform to that particular student's biological sex.”

“Any child, regardless of grade level ... does not receive any instruction or presentation that has a goal or purpose of students studying or exploring gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation”

Kentucky Senate Bill 150



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**Mandatory reporting if
any child says they're
LGBTQ**



**Banning/removing all
LBTQ+ theme books**



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**Banning/removing all
LBTQ+ theme books**



**Banning pride flags/
safe space stickers**



**Banning pronouns in email
signatures or on any
document students see**



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Banning any discussions of LGBTQ topics

Part I: Some (Recent) Socio-Historical Context ✓

Part II: Where We Are (the need) ✓

Part III: How To Help

Part I: Some (Recent) Socio-Historical Context ✓

Part II: Where We Are (the need) ✓

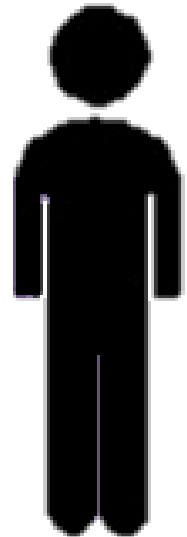
Part III: How To Help



Part I: Some (Recent) Socio-Historical Context ✓

Part II: Where We Are (the need) ✓

Part III: How To Help



Goal #1: Assume (and insist) that LGBTQ youth exist.



Goal #2: Help create (even unexpected) affirming spaces



Mount Dora, Florida



Mount Sterling, KY



Goal #3: Pick up the slack



“If I go to the library, the actual library, I’m not really going to find any books of this kind. Right now, this is the only Rainbow Library that we have, and that just makes this one a lot more special as well. The people can come here and **read books that really just help them.**”

Jones would love to see more Rainbow Libraries established across Kentucky. “That would most definitely **make my heart flutter,**” Jones shared.



Dolt4Meryl – color run



Bloom Candles



Camp Beacon



Morehead Writing Project

Goal #4: GO TO BOARD MEETINGS and SPEAK



Goal #5: Engage with local non-profits (and the big guys too)



Rainbow Youth Project USA, Inc.



Kentucky Youth Law Project, Inc.

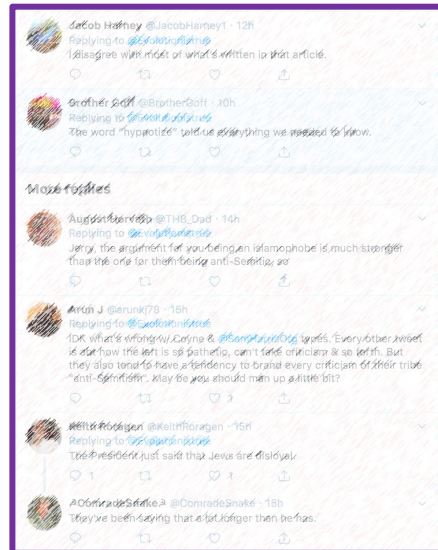
Lawyers and Advocates helping Kentucky's LGBTQI+ Children & Youth

Goal #5: Engage with your neighbors



***Culture is inherited and created**

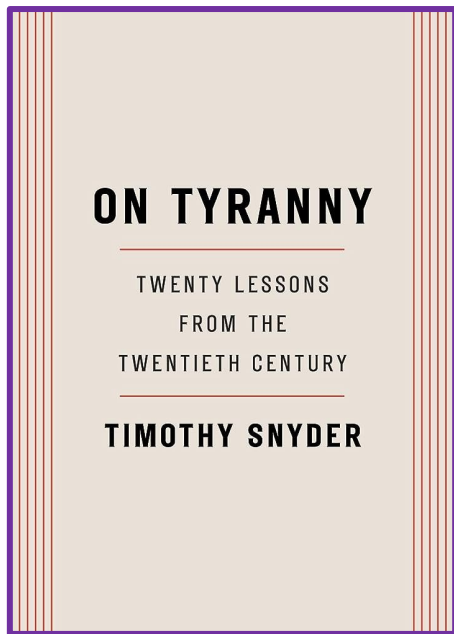
***We are a narrative-driven species**



Goal #6: Ask how to support your local Gay-Straight Alliance



Goal #7: Do not obey in advance



- DEI initiatives
- Wording in conversations and documentation
- Removing signals/visibility
- Making assumptions

Goal #8: Remember professional ethics

To Students

1. Shall provide students with professional education services in a nondiscriminatory manner and in consonance with accepted best practice known to the educator.
2. Shall respect the constitutional rights of all students.
3. Shall take reasonable measures to protect the health, safety, and emotional well-being of students.
4. Shall not use professional relationships or authority with students for personal advantage.
5. Shall keep in confidence information about students which has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law.
6. Shall not knowingly make false or malicious statements about students or colleagues.
7. Shall refrain from subjecting students to embarrassment or disparagement.
8. Shall not engage in any sexually related behavior with a student with or without consent, but shall maintain a professional approach with students. Sexually related behavior shall include such behaviors as sexual jokes; sexual remarks; sexual kidding or teasing; sexual innuendo; pressure for dates or sexual favors; inappropriate physical touching, kissing, or grabbing; rape; threats of physical harm; and sexual assault.

Goal #9: Don't be afraid to make mistakes



Goal #10: Find your level of courage

