

LGBT Youth Facts/Statistics

- According to GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian Straight Education Network):
 - 90% of LGBT students hear anti-LGBT comments in school
 - On average, an LGBT high school student will hear 26 anti-LGBT slurs per day
 - 1/3 of which come from a school staff member
 - 84% of LGBT youth report verbal harassment at school because of their gender identity and/or sexual orientation.
 - 74% of Transgender youth report sexual harassment at school based on their gender identity and expression.
 - 25% of LGB students have been physically hurt by another student because of their sexual orientation.
 - 55% of Transgender youth report physical attacks based on their gender identity and/or expression.
 - 28% of LGBT youth drop out of school due to this harassment.
- The consequences of physical and verbal abuse directed towards LGBT students include truancy, dropping out of school, poor grades, and having to repeat a grade. In one study, 28% of LGBT youth dropped out of school due to peer harassment. (GLSEN)
- LGBT youth are twice as likely to abuse alcohol, three times more likely to use marijuana, and 8 times more likely to use cocaine/crack than non-LGBT youth. (Lambda Legal)
- LGBT individuals account for 30% of all suicides each year. (Lambda Legal)
- Greater than 50% of transgender youth attempt suicide. (University of NH)
- Roughly 34% of LGBT youth report suffering physical violence from their parents as a result of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. (GLSEN)
- Up to 46% of LGBT youth of color experience physical violence related to their sexual orientation.
- 26% of LGBT youth are forced to leave home because of conflicts with family over sexual orientation and/or gender identity. (Lambda Legal)
- 25-40% of the youth who become homeless each year are LGBT, and the number is likely much higher. (Lambda Legal)
- More than one anti-transgender murder per month is reported in the USA, and in the last 10 years, 51 youth have been murdered in confirmed cases of anti-transgender attacks; the actual number is likely much higher. (GenderPAC)
- According to NGLTF (National Gay and Lesbian Task Force):
 - Only 9 states and the District of Columbia protect LGBT people from employment, housing and other discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression (approximately 34% of the USA population); another 8 states protect based on sexual orientation only. Wisconsin is one of these 8.

Some positive trends do exist:

- In a recent poll, more than half of adults supported protecting the civil rights of LGBT people. In another survey, 95% of youth supported expanding hate crimes to cover gender identity and sexual orientation. Source: GLSEN
- A recent study of LGBT youth who receive gay-sensitive HIV prevention education in school showed they engaged in less risky sexual behavior than similar youth who did not receive such instruction. Source: GLSEN
- Research suggests that the age of “coming out” has been dropping in recent years. Increased access to information and wider availability of support services for LGBT youth, particularly in urban areas have provided greater opportunities for self-affirmation and socialization. These positive trends allow LGBT youth the opportunity to live more fully integrated lives.

