



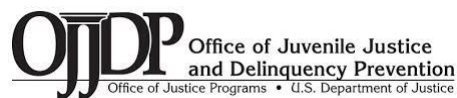
Helping All Children: LGBTQ+ Youth and Child Maltreatment and Enhancing Professional Response

Jimmy Widdifield, Jr., LPC | He, Him, His
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National Children's Advocacy Center

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LGBTQ+ youth and adults are at greater risk for adverse outcomes, including child abuse, because of social stressors related to prejudice and stigma regarding who they are authentically.

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**Child abuse professionals,
including CASA volunteers, are
critical frontline solutions to
improving outcomes for LGBTQ+
youth who experience
maltreatment and their families.**

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The “Official” Learning Objectives

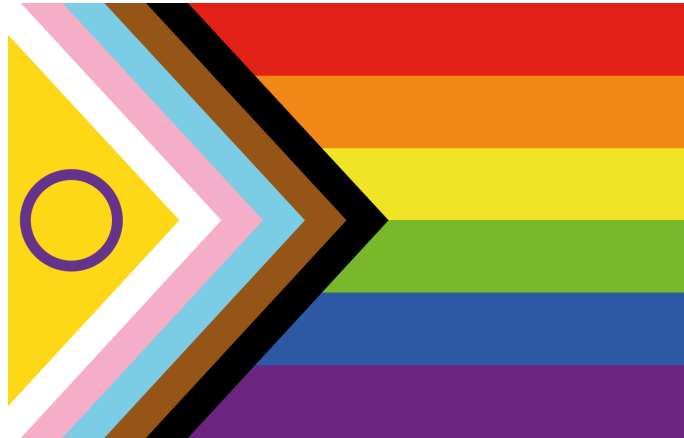


- Learn and demonstrate an understanding of common LGBTQ+ terminology and definitions.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the scope of child maltreatment of LGBTQ+ youth.
- Gain an awareness of the role of CASA volunteers in working with LGBTQ+ youth and how to enhance advocating for a child's best interest.

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When you hear "LGBTQ," who from the media comes to mind?



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The Dinglehopper; Wait – It's a...

- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
- Genderqueer/Gender Expansive, Diverse
- Queer, Questioning
- Intersex
- Ally/Affirming, Asexual
- Friendly
- Pansexual
- Demisexual
- Two-Spirit

- >Gender Diverse/Queer/Fluid/Non-Binary
- >Cisgender



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The Dinglehopper; Wait – It's a F...

- LGBT
- LGBTQ
- LGBTQIA
- LGBTQIAF
- LGBTQIAFP
- LGBTQQIAAFP
- LGBTQQIAAFP2-S
- LGBTTTTIQQAADFPP2-S
- LGBTQQIDAAPPO2SBNBGNCGGAPPO+

LGBTQ+

SOGIE



Sexual Orientation / Gender Identity & Expression

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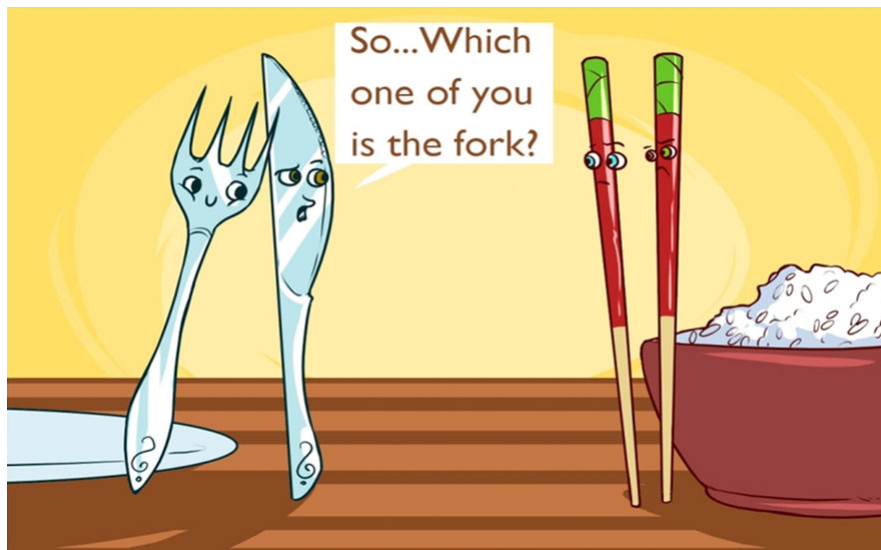
But What Is a Fork Anyways?

- Be clear on definitions. For example, gender and sex are not necessarily the same
- Be aware of heteronormative and gender binary language
- Use of gender pronouns and, also, vocabulary
- LGBTQ+ culture and language and communication is fluid and dynamic




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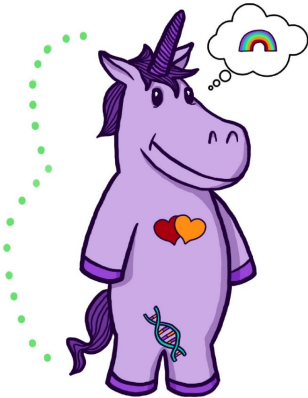


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The Gender Unicorn

Graphic by: **TSER**
Trans Student Educational Resources




To learn more, go to:
www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore

- Gender Identity** (Rainbow icon): Female/Woman/Girl, Male/Man/Boy, Other Gender(s)
- Gender Expression** (Green icon): Feminine, Masculine, Other
- Sex Assigned at Birth** (Pencil icon): Female, Male, Other/Intersex
- Physically Attracted to** (Orange icon): Women, Men, Other Gender(s)
- Emotionally Attracted to** (Red icon): Women, Men, Other Gender(s)

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more than 100 different combinations of terms to describe their gender identity:

- Agender, Androgynous, Bigender, Boy or man, Butch, Cisgender, Demiboy, Demigirl, Femme, Gender non-conforming, Genderfluid, Genderflux, Genderqueer, Girl or woman, Neutrois, Nonbinary, Omnigender, Queer, Questioning, Transfeminine, Transgender, Transmasculine

more than 100 different combinations of terms to describe their sexual orientation:

- Achilleean, Androsexual, Asexual/Ace Spectrum, Biromantic, Bisexual, Demiromantic, Demisexual, Gay/Lesbian, Greysexual, Gynosexual, Monosexual, Omnisexual, Panromantic, Pansexual, Polyamorous, Polysexual, Prefer no labels, Queer, Questioning, Sapphic, Sexually fluid

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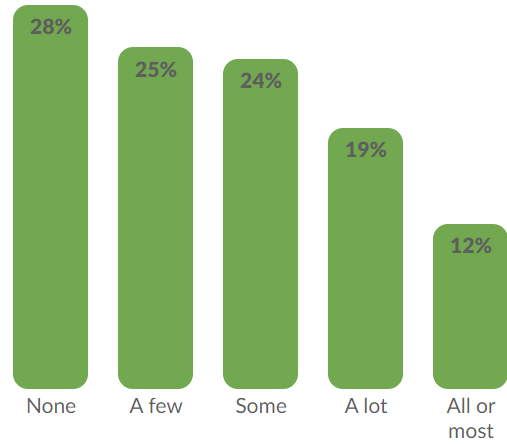


Pronouns

Hello. My name is..., and my pronouns are...

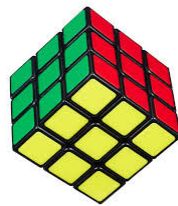
What is your name and pronouns?

Youth who attempted suicide, comparison of number of people who respected their pronouns:



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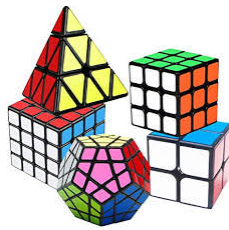
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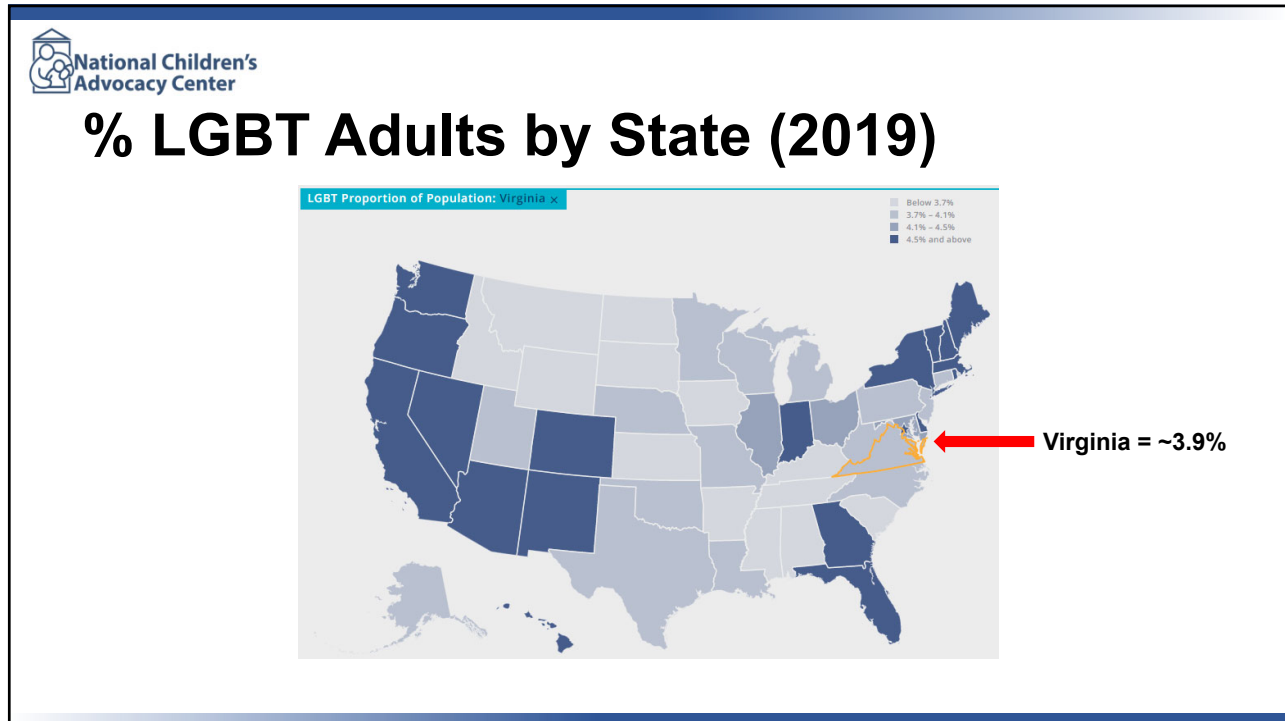
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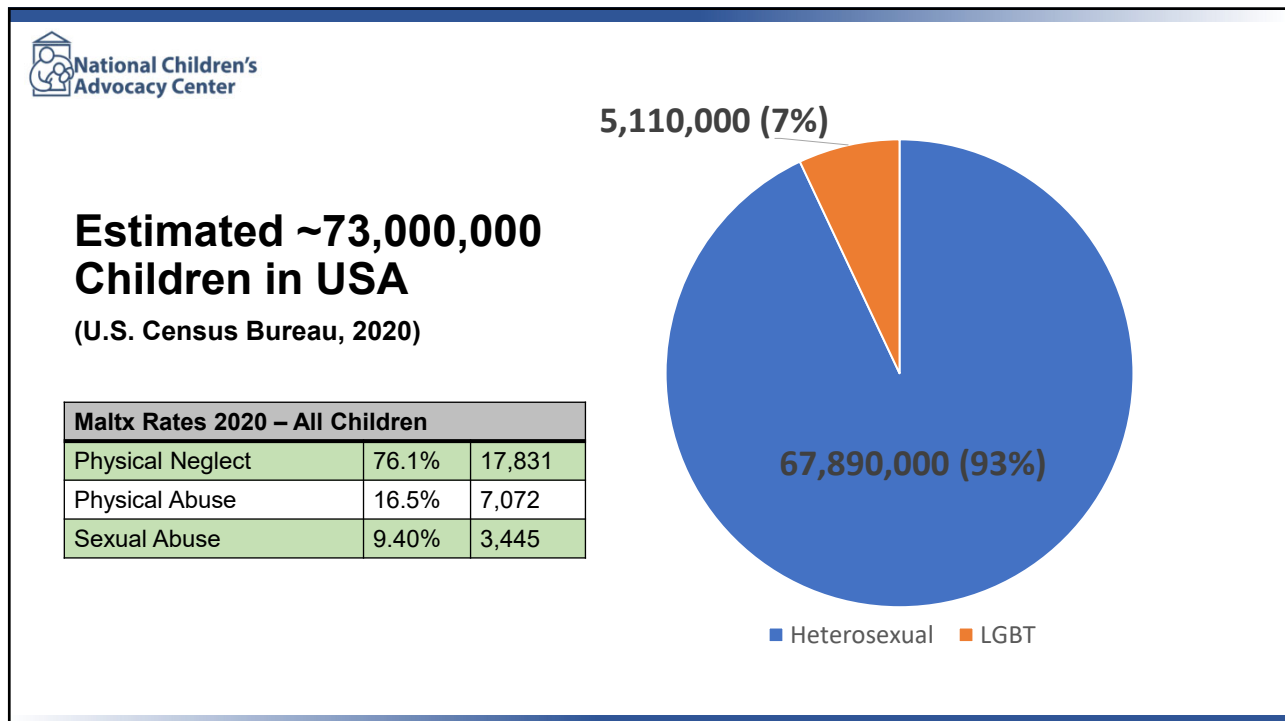
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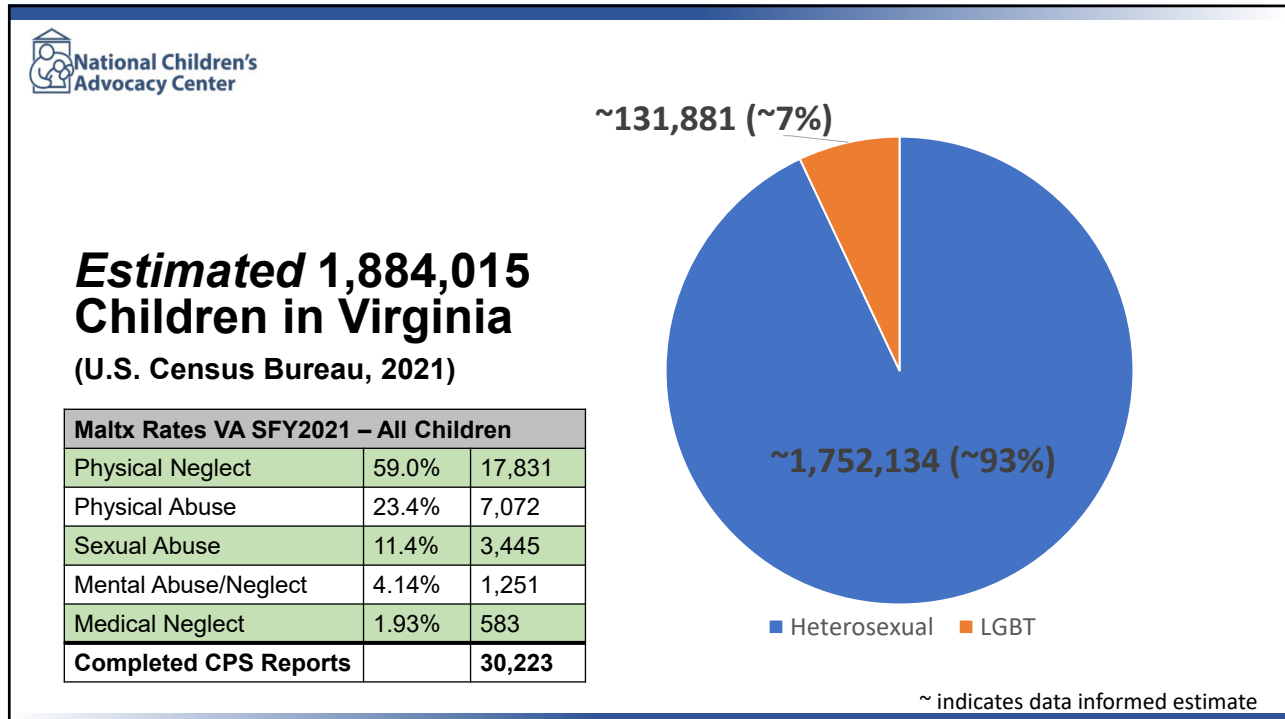
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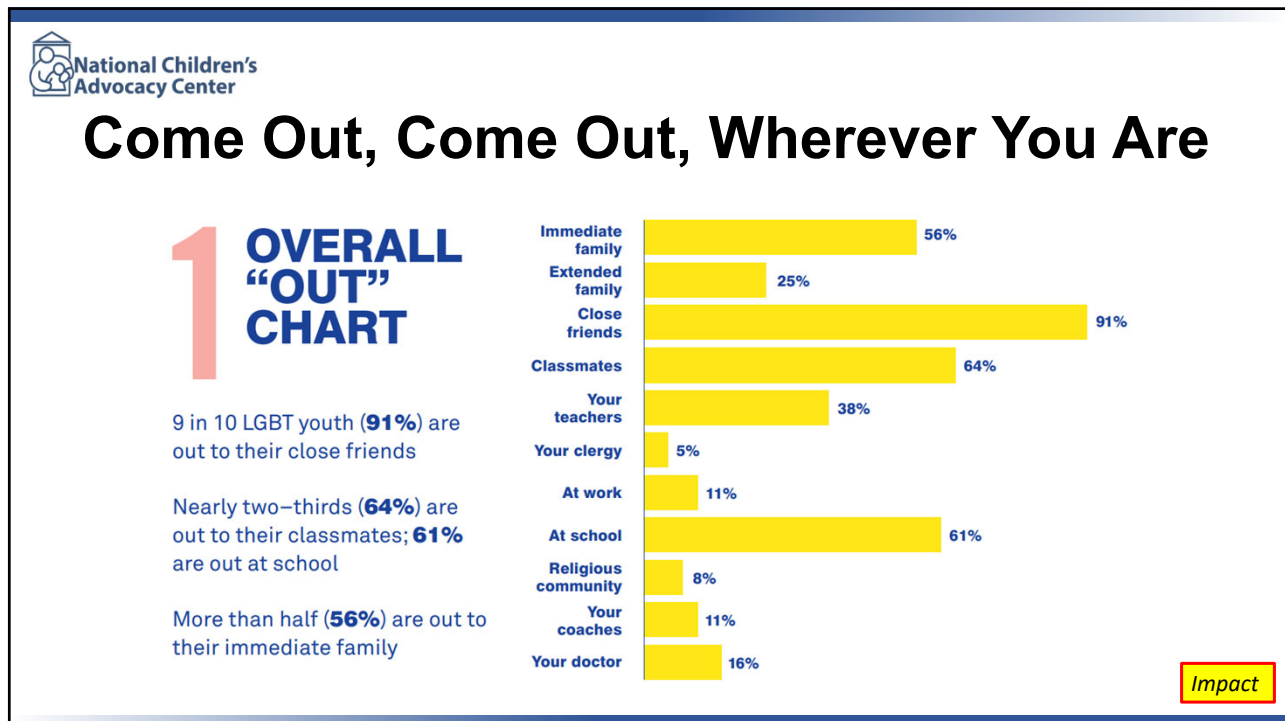
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92% of LGBT youth say they hear negative messages about being LGBT. The top sources are school, the Internet and their peers.

www.hrc.org/youth

#LGBTYOUTH

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Impact of People's Responses to Sexual Minorities

Societal

- Bullying
- Dating violence
- Victimization

Internalizing

- Substance abuse
- Mental and physical health issues



Potential Child Maltx

- Family rejection
- Homelessness
- Family violence
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking
- Psychological abuse

Misconceptions = Adverse Outcomes

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Entry Points to Child Maltreatment Systems

- Physical abuse
 - 30% experience family violence after coming out
 - 1 in 3 reported being physically threatened or harmed in their lifetime
- Sexual abuse
 - Teens 2.9x greater risk
 - Teen boys 4.9x greater risk
- [Physical neglect] Homelessness and housing instability
 - 40% 640,000) homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+
 - 29% report experiencing homelessness, being kicked out, or running away
- Psychological abuse more difficult to determine

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The infographic features two stylized human figures on a yellow background. The figure on the left is light blue and labeled "LGBT", with a teal base. The figure on the right is light pink and labeled "NON", with a red base. To the right of the figures is a text box with a blue border containing statistics. Below the text box is a white speech bubble with the website URL and another white speech bubble with the hashtag. The Human Rights Campaign logo is in the bottom right corner.

26% of LGBT youth say their biggest problems are not feeling accepted by their family, trouble at school/bullying, and a fear to be out/open. 22% of non-LGBT youth say their biggest problems are trouble with class, exams and grades.

www.hrc.org/youth #LGBTYOUTH

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Increased Likelihood of Adverse Effects



- Major depression
- Generalized anxiety disorder
- PTSD
- Substance abuse / dependence disorders
- Suicide
- High-risk sexual behaviors
- Entry into foster care and/or juvenile justice

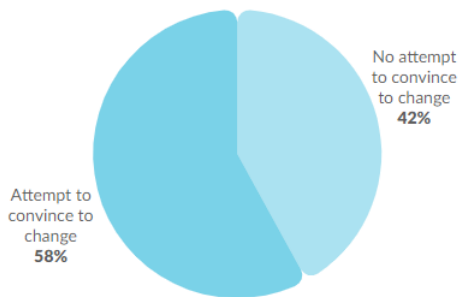
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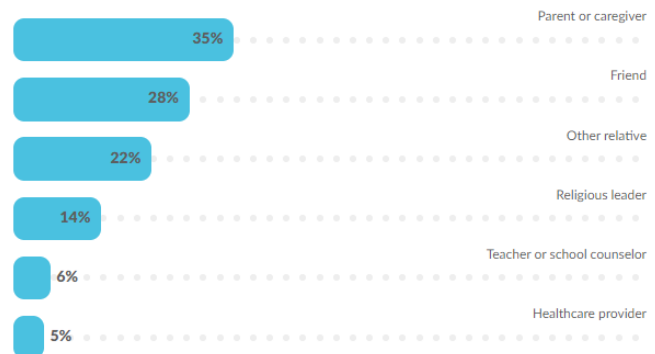


Convincing Youth to Change Sexual Orientation or Identity

LGBTQ youth who reported someone attempted to convince them to change their sexual orientation or gender identity:



Who attempted to convince you to change your sexual orientation or gender identity?



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Conversion / Reparative / ??? Therapy

Any attempt or effort to change an individual's sexual orientation, sexual identity, or gender expression

**NOT SUPPORTED BY SCIENCE/RESEARCH
INEFFECTIVE AT BEST, HARMFUL AT WORST**

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LGBTQ+ Youth and Child Welfare



- Overrepresentation in foster care system: 1 out of 5
- Increased frequency of placement disruptions: 19.6% vs. 8.6%
- Increased risk of suicidal ideation, depression, sexually transmitted infections

Adapted with permission from Terry Scraggins, 2020.

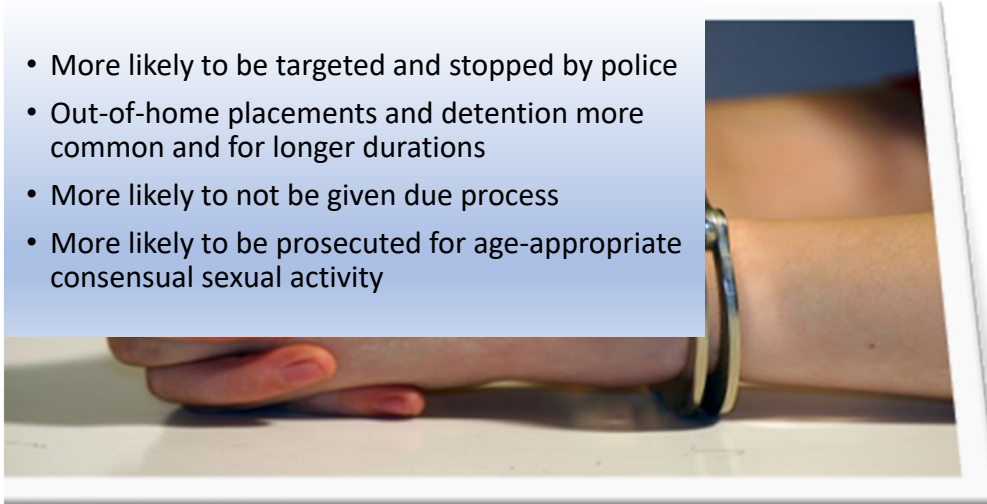
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LGBTQ+ Youth and Juvenile Justice

- More likely to be targeted and stopped by police
- Out-of-home placements and detention more common and for longer durations
- More likely to not be given due process
- More likely to be prosecuted for age-appropriate consensual sexual activity



Hidden Injustice: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in Juvenile Courts (2009)

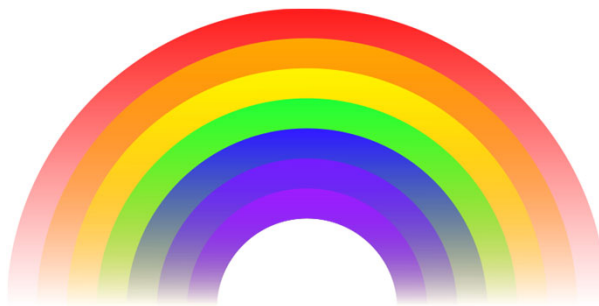
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LGBTQ+ Affirmative Services

An approach to services that embraces a positive view of LGBTQ+ identities and relationships, and addresses the negative influences that homophobia, transphobia, and heterosexism have on the lives of LGBTQ+ people



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Being an Affirmative Professional Involves...

- Engage in self-reflection to identify own thoughts, beliefs, etc.
- Get and stay educated and keep up with the current knowledge
- Acknowledge that each person has own unique story



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Tips for Affirmative Professionals

- Be open and actionable about your commitment to providing and creating affirmative services and spaces to all clients and reflect that commitment in policies
- Use the correct terminology; when in doubt, ask!
- Maintain confidentiality and privacy of LGBTQ+ youth
- Get involved (local community and national/global issues) and know the local resources





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Engaging with Others Who Have Opposing Beliefs

- Adjust response based on their role (e.g., professional vs. caregiver)
- Be respectful 
- Confirm your goal: Safe, happy, and healthy children – not to change beliefs
- Listen and work toward gaining an understanding
- Reminder of common (and collaborative) foundation 
 - Professional: Safety, well-being
 - Caregivers: Love, safety, well-being

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Thank you!

Jimmy Widdifield, Jr., LPC | He, Him, His
>> jwiddifield@nationalcac.org <<

Did you ...

Learn and develop a basic understanding of common LGBTQ+ terminology and definitions?

Develop an understanding of the scope of child maltreatment of LGBTQ+ youth?

Gain an awareness of the role of CASA volunteers in working with LGBTQ+ youth and how to enhance advocating for a child's best interest?



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Resources for Supporting LGBTQ+ Children, Teens, and Adults

PFLAG: www.pflag.org

- Support group and resources for students, families and allies.
- Chapters across the state and country

Gender Spectrum: www.genderspectrum.org

Gender Identity and Expression Map: www.genderbread.org

- Identify differences in gender identity, expression and orientation.
- Genderbread person.

The Trevor Project: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org>

- Support and suicide prevention for LGBTQ+ youth.

It Gets Better Project: www.itgetsbetter.org

- Support for LGBTQ+ youth.

Human Rights Campaign: <https://hrc.org>

- Advocacy for LGBTQ+ issues.

GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD): www.glad.org

Planned Parenthood:
<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn>

- Health care for LGBTQ+ individuals

GLSEN: www.glsen.org

- Resources for LGBTQ+ students and support groups in schools.
- Lessons plans that are LGBTQ inclusive.

Schools In Transition: A Guide for Supporting Transgender Students in K-12 Schools:

www.genderspectrum.org/studenttransitions

- Information on supporting, promoting rights of transgender students in schools.

A Queer Endeavor: www.aqueerendeavor.org

- Resources for educators, staff and students to help create an inclusive school environment.

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs: www.avp.org/ncavp

- Information on anti-bullying programs.

Centers for Disease Control:

<https://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth-resources.htm>

National Child Traumatic Stress Network:

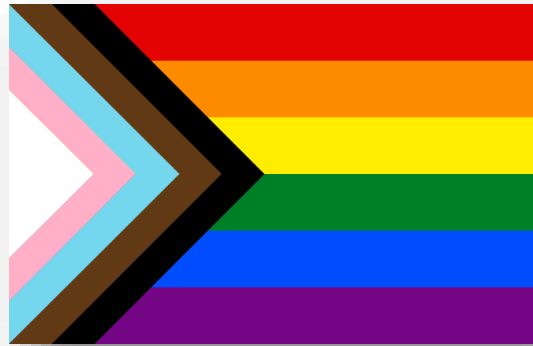
<https://www.nctsn.org/what-is-child-trauma/populations-at-risk/lgbtq-youth>

- Resources on LGBTQ+ child and teen and impact of trauma.

American Psychological Association:

<https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/programs/safe-supportive/lgbt/resilience>

- Information on affirmative mental health



>> Helping all children be safe, happy, and healthy <<