

LGBTQ+ Youth and Juvenile Justice

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What We're Here to Do...and Not Do

- Promote one goal: Helping any and all children
- Learn from available general research and literature
- Discuss how non-heterosexual sexual behaviors impact treatment
- Otherwise, no agenda, gay or otherwise



The “Official” Learning Objectives

- Enhance their understanding of youth who identify as a LGBTQ+.
- Learn how youth who identify as a LGBTQ+ are impacted by juvenile justice.
- Enhance their understanding of problematic sexual behavior in children and adolescents.
- Learn how to more effectively support and advocate for youth who identify as a LGBTQ+.



Labels, Acronyms, Initialisms...Oh, My!

- Acronyms as tools of inclusion and community identity
 - So then what is the purpose of LGGBTQAAAIFP2-S?
 - Gender spectrum also included
- Sexual minority: Sexual (and gender) identity, orientation, and/or practices differ from the majority of the surrounding society
- LGBTQ+ is the most appropriate and widely used acronym



Terminology is Important

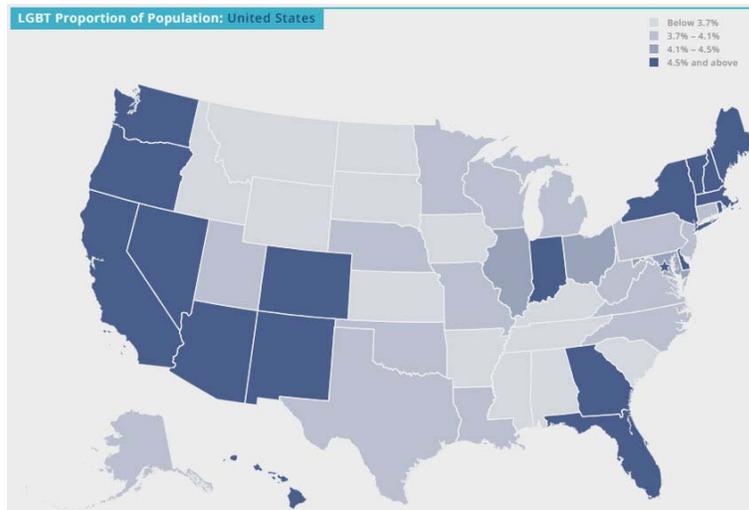
- Be clear on definitions. For example, gender and sex are not necessarily the same
- Be aware of heteronormative and gender binary language
- Use of preferred gender pronouns and, also, vocabulary
- LGBTQ+ culture and language and communication is fluid and dynamic

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LGBT Adult Percentage by State (2019)

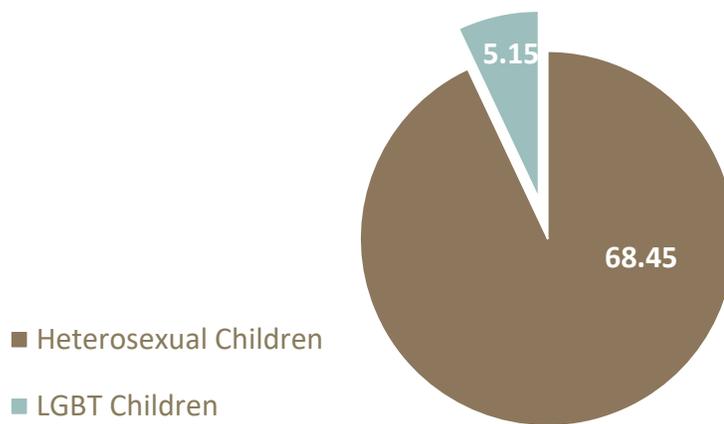


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Estimated 73,600,000 Children in the USA (2017)



People's Responses to Sexual Minorities

- Adverse misconceptions
- Physical abuse
- Family violence
- Bullying
- Sexual abuse
- Homelessness
- Substance ab/use
- Dating violence
- Victimization
- Family rejection

Increased Likelihood of Adverse Effects

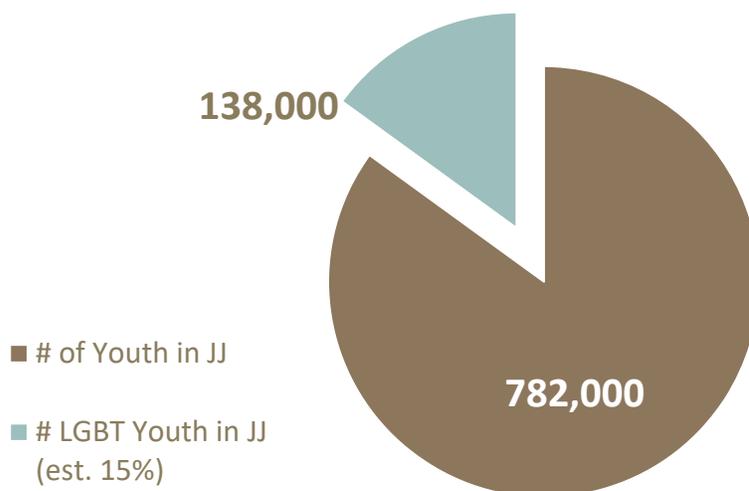
- Major Depression
- Generalized Anxiety Disorder
- PTSD
- Substance Abuse/ Dependence Disorders
- Suicide
- High risk sexual behaviors
- Entry into foster care and/or juvenile justice

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Estimated 920,000 Delinquency Cases



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Sexual Minorities in Juvenile Justice

- Juvenile justice system is not designed or currently structured to adequately serve or protect the rights of LGBTQ+ youth.
- More likely to be targeted and stopped by police
 - 70% indicated police mistreatment was a “very/somewhat serious” problem
- Out-of-home placements and detention more common and for longer durations
- More likely to not be given due process



LGBTQ+ Youth in Juvenile Justice

- Due to Other People’s Responses, *perceived* to be
 - More likely to engage in criminal activity (e.g., trans youth as prostitutes)
 - More likely to reoffend
 - “Higher risk”
- More likely to be prosecuted for age-appropriate consensual sexual activity



LGBTQ+ Youth and Problematic Sexual Behavior

- Virtually no research that address problematic sexual behavior among gay youth
- LGBTQ+ youth referred for sex harmful therapies (e.g., conversion therapy) or sex offender treatment
- Could be more likely to be administered risk assessment measures



LGBTQ+ Youth and Problematic Sexual Behavior

- General and popular misconception that gay youth (and adults) are sexual predators
 - Age of Consent for homosexual sexual behavior in Nevada is age 18



LGBTQ+ Youth and Problematic Sexual Behavior

- Sexual behavior between LGBTQ+ youth may be identified as “deviant” and be criminalized and, thus, lead to being charged and adjudicated of a sexual offense
 - Caregivers use courts as means to change youth (back to sexual majority)
 - More vigorous efforts by prosecution
 - Harsher, long-term collateral consequences
 - Longer detention stays
 - Sex offender registration



Helping LGBTQ+ Youth

- Be educated about LGBTQ+ youth
- Know and, hopefully, understand risk factors and strategies that LGBTQ+ youth may use to stay safe and merely be their authentic selves
- Increasing and enhancing family acceptance
- Creating safe and welcoming places
- Use of Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy is supported by research as effective treatment to address many of mental health issues



PSB-CBT and LGBTQ+ Youth

- Asking about gender spectrum and sexual orientation at intake and during treatment
 - Critical need for confidentiality
- Approach to families and respectful of culture and current beliefs
- Be more inclusive of different sexual orientations and gender spectrum youth

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PSB-CBT and LGBTQ+ Youth

- Know when to offer supplemental family therapy to address child's status and/or family's reaction to child as a LGBTQ+
- Advocate for youth in juvenile justice when their sexual behavior is developmentally normative but the system's response is inappropriate

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Where to Go for More

- It Gets Better Project:
 - www.itgetsbetter.org
- American Psychological Association
 - www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/programs/safe-supportive/lgbt/
- Centers for Disease Control
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth-resources.htm>
- GLAD
 - www.glad.org
- The Trevor Project
 - www.thetrevorproject.org/
- PFLAG
 - <https://www.pflag.org/>
- National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth
 - www.NCSBY.org

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PASSION TO HELP
CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, AND THEIR
FAMILIES!!!**

Contact: OU-YPSB@ouhsc.edu

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