

LGBT Fast Facts



A demonstration outside L.A. City Hall in June, 2016. Photo by L.A. Weekly

“People around the world face violence and inequality – and sometimes torture, even execution – because of who they love, how they look, or who they are. Sexual orientation and gender identity are integral aspects of ourselves and should never lead to discrimination or abuse.” [Human Rights Watch LGBT Program](#)

Fast Facts from the [Human Rights Campaign](#):

- 4 in 10 LGBT youth (42%) say the community in which they live is not accepting of LGBT people. 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.
- 92% of LGBT youth say they hear negative messages about being LGBT. The top sources are school, the Internet and their peers. 68% of LGBT youth say they hear NEGATIVE messages about being LGBT from elected leaders.
- LGBT youth are twice as likely as their peers to say they have been physically assaulted, kicked or shoved at.
- 73% of LGBT youth say they are more honest about themselves online than in the real world.

LGBT America: By the Numbers 2016 from [PBS](#)

- Accurate estimates of LGBT Americans have proven elusive for many researchers over the years... [however, approximations say] there are approximately 9 million members of the LGBT community in America today. This number would indicate that the LGBT community is larger than the population of 40 American states.
- Approximately 3.5% of Americans identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual, while 0.3% are transgender.
- In 2015, an estimated 780,000 Americans are in same-sex marriages, while another two million live with a same-sex domestic partner.
- Looking at 14 years of hate crime data, Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center recently told the PBS Newshour, “LGBT people are targeted for violent hate crimes at a rate of two times that of... Muslims or black people, four times that of Jews, and 14 times that of Latinos.”

Recent HRW News and Reports:

[South Dakota Lawmakers Withdraw Bill Targeting Transgender Youth](#) – February 1, 2017: Lawmakers in South Dakota have withdrawn a discriminatory bill that would have barred transgender students from using locker rooms consistent with their gender identity.

[“Like Walking Through a Hailstorm”: Discrimination against LGBT Youth in US Schools](#) – December 7, 2016: Outside the home, schools are the primary vehicles for educating, socializing, and providing services to young people in the United States. Schools can be difficult environments for students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, but they are often especially unwelcoming for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth. A lack of policies and practices that affirm and support LGBT youth—and a failure to implement protections that do exist—means that LGBT students nationwide continue to face bullying, exclusion, and discrimination in school, putting them at physical and psychological risk and limiting their education.

[“Shut Out”: Restrictions on Bathroom and Locker Room Access for Transgender Youth in US Schools](#) – September 13, 2016: Over the past year, transgender individuals’ access to bathrooms, locker rooms, and other facilities has erupted as a divisive and sensationalized issue in political debates, statehouses, courts, and communities across the United States. Efforts to limit transgender people’s access to facilities that correspond with their gender identity have had a particular focus on public schools and universities, typically under the guise of protecting children.

[“Do You See How Much I’m Suffering Here?”: Abuse against Transgender Women in US Immigration Detention](#) – March 23, 2016: At any given time, the United States holds scores of transgender women in immigration detention, including many who have fled to the US seeking protection from torture, sexual violence, and other forms of persecution in their home countries related to their gender identity or gender expression. Once they arrive, the women are locked up for months or even years at a time in jails or prison-like detention centers as they wait for a court to adjudicate their asylum claims, or to be deported for civil immigration violations. While in detention, many experience sexual assault and other forms of abuse and ill-treatment, including denial of access to necessary medical care.