

# LIVINGSTON COUNTY

## HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY

### Health and Human Service Needs

### ADULT FACT SHEET

## LGBTQ+ in Livingston County September 2019

### What does LGBTQ+ stand for?

LGBTQ is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning. These terms are used to describe a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. The + sign is inclusive to all other terms used to describe a person's sexual orientation and gender identity. You can find definitions for these terms at the following link: <https://bit.ly/2srceH4>.



### Why is this issue so important to Livingston County?

According to the 2015-16 American Community Data for Michigan, 3.8% of people identify as LGBTQ adults and an additional .43% identify as transgender. In 2010 there was 142 same sex households in Livingston County. According to the National Institutes of Health, there are 1.5 million gay, lesbian and bisexual people over 65 living in the US currently and that number is expected to double by 2030. These older adults face additional challenges as they seek both medical and household supports.

### What are the Alarming Facts?

From the National LGBTQ Task Force Survey:

- 19% reported being refused medical care outright because they were transgender or gender non-conforming.
- 28% reported they were subjected to harassment in medical settings
- 50% reported having to teach their medical providers about transgender care
- 41% reported attempting suicide compared to 1.6% of the general population.

According to the National Intimate Partner and sexual violence survey of 2010:

- 44% of lesbian women and 61% of bisexual women and 26% of gay men and 37% of bisexual men experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

It is no wonder, that according to the UCLA School of Law Williams Institute Report:

- 10% of LGBTQ adults are more likely to be unemployed, compared to 5% in the general population.
- 10% of LGBTQ adults are more likely to be uninsured, compared to 7% in the general population.
- 25% of LGBTQ adults are more likely to be food insecure, compared to 15% in the general population.
- 28% of LGBTQ adults are more likely to have an income under \$24,000, compared to 20% in the general population.

According to National Association of Mental Illness at [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org) :

- LGBTQ individuals are almost 3 times more likely than others to experience a mental health condition such as major depression or generalized anxiety disorder.
- An estimated 20-30% of LGBTQ people abuse substances, compared to 9% of the general population.



## What are the Encouraging Facts?

According to the 2018 Gallop Poll, 67% of Americans DO support marriage equality. Up from 27% in 1996.

In GLAAD's third annual *Accelerating Acceptance* report:

- 20 percent of Millennials — people age 18-34 — identify as LGBTQ, compared with 12 percent of Generation Xers (35-51), 7 percent of Baby Boomers (52-71), and 5 percent of Elders (72 and older).
- Among non-LGBTQ people, Millennials were the most likely to be allies. The figure was 63% for Millennials, 53% of Gen Xers, 51% of Baby Boomers, and 39% of Elders.

Also, GenForward is a nationally representative survey of Millennials led by Dr. Cathy Cohen from the University of Chicago, taken from May 17 to June 3, 2018.

- Across racial and ethnic groups, Millennials say the two most important issues facing the LGBT community are reducing hate crime violence against LGBT people and ending bullying against LGBT youth.
- Majorities of Millennials say they could accept their son or daughter being LGBT with white Millennials (80%) expressing the greatest acceptance toward having a child that identified as LGBT.
- Majorities of Millennials say our society has not gone far enough in accepting people who are transgender with Asian American Millennials (69%) leading the group.

## What about Protection Laws?

The importance of sharing these laws is to acknowledge the progress that has been made and highlight the gaps that still exist.

### National Laws

- As of June 26, 2015 – all states license and recognize marriage between same sex couples as directed by the Supreme Court. This law in turn, also allows married same sex couples to adopt.
- There are no other federal laws that ban discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

### Michigan Laws

- Do not prohibit housing discrimination.
- Prohibit discrimination in public and private employment.
- Recognize sexual orientation in the collection of hate crimes, but do not cover it in hate crime law.
- Only 3 counties and 4 cities in Michigan offer domestic partner benefits. Livingston County is not one of them.
- In January 2019, Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued an executive order prohibiting discrimination on the basis of both sexual orientation and gender identity in all areas of state government employment, including employers receiving state contracts or grants.



## What programs & services exist?

- **PFLAG of Livingston County**      [www.pflaglivingston.weebly.com](http://www.pflaglivingston.weebly.com)      517-548-0839  
Support group for parents/friends and allies
- **St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brighton**      [www.saintpaulsbrighton.org](http://www.saintpaulsbrighton.org)      810-229-2821  
Affirming Congregation
- **Community Unitarian Universalists in Brighton**      [www.cuub.org](http://www.cuub.org)      810-225-CUUB  
Affirming Congregation
- **Michigan Medicine Health Clinic in Howell**      517-548-1020  
Medical staff trained in patient centered care for LGBTQ+ patients
- **Jim Toy Community Center** – [www.wrap-up.org/](http://www.wrap-up.org/)
- **Ruth Ellis Center** - [www.ruthelliscenter.org](http://www.ruthelliscenter.org)
- **Affirmations** – [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)



## What can the community do to help?

Work to improve the environments you work and live in. Demand equality and address discrimination. Practice acceptance and integration.

- Get involved with the programs and services above
- Join the Diversity Council: Nicole Matthews-Creech at [livingstondiversitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:livingstondiversitycouncil@gmail.com)
- Join Pride Alliance of Livingston – contact Mary Beno at [marybeno@livingstonesa.org](mailto:marybeno@livingstonesa.org)

