

LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY  
Health and Human Service Needs  
YOUTH FACT SHEET

## LGBTQ+ Youth in Livingston County August 2019

### Who are “LGBTQ+ Youth?”

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 of all other terms used to describe a person's sexual orientation and gender identity. The following link provides definitions to these terms: <https://bit.ly/2srceH4>. The data below pertains to youth ages 11-18 years old. It is important to remember that many young people are still discovering and exploring their identities. Many are uncertain. So, the statistics may not present a complete picture.



### What are the Facts?

According to the 2018 LGBTQ Youth Report conducted by the Human Rights Campaign:

- 78% of LGBTQ youth who are not out to their parents as LGBTQ hear their families make negative comments about LGBTQ people.
- 48% of LGBTQ youth who are out to their parents, say their families make them feel bad for being LGBTQ.
- 95% of LGBTQ youth report they have trouble getting to sleep at night.
- 77% of LGBTQ youth report that on average they had felt down or depressed in the past week.
- 70% of LGBTQ youth have been bullied at school because of their sexual orientation.
- 73% of LGBTQ youth have experienced verbal threats at school because of their actual or perceived LGBTQ identity.
- 51% of transgender youth can never use the restrooms or locker rooms that match their gender identity.
- Only 1 in 3 Transgender youth are always called by their preferred name in school.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in their 2015 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey:

- 18% of LGBTQ students have experienced physical dating violence. Compared to 9.6% overall. Another 18% have been forced to have sexual intercourse. Compared to 6.7% overall.

According to the Trevor Project at [www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org):

- LGBTQ youth seriously contemplate suicide almost 3 times the rate of heterosexual youth.
- LGBTQ youth are almost 5 times as likely to have attempted suicide, compared to their heterosexual classmates.



According to the Williams Institute Study in 2012:

- 40% of young people (implied 18 and under) experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ. Reasons for becoming homeless
  - 46% ran away due to family rejection
  - 43% forced out by their parents
  - 32% faced physical, emotional or sexual abuse at home.

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

In Livingston County, approximately 1 out of every 11 students in our high schools identify as LGBTQ+ and are subject to these greater risks. According to Livingston County's most recent Michigan Profile for Health Youth (2017-18):

- 8.7% of High School respondents identify as LGBTQ.
- 5.7% of Middle School respondents identify as LGBTQ.



## 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  
Youth Group and Affirming Congregation
- **Connection Youth Services** [www.theconnectionyouthservices.org](http://www.theconnectionyouthservices.org) 866-440-SAFE  
Umbrella Initiative Youth Group, All services are inclusive and affirming
- **Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) at Schools**  
Student and teacher led club/organization at high schools. GSAs work to support, advocate and educate about the needs and challenges of LGBTQ+ students.
  - **Brighton School Counselors:** 810-299-4100
  - **Hartland School Counselor:** 810-626-2352
  - **Howell School Counselor:** 517-540-8300
  - **Pinckney GSA Advisor:** 810-225-5609
- **Michigan Medicine Health Clinic in Howell** 517-548-1020  
Medical staff trained in patient centered care for LGBTQ+ patients
- **Trevor Lifeline** – Hotline that takes 45,000 calls a year: 866-488-7386

## What can the community do to help?

Relationships and support systems strengthen and enhance youth development. Family, peer, and positive adult relationships are examples of these important support systems. LGBTQ+ youth often experience fewer of these supports and relationships. Many of which may be stressed or disrupted when these youth “come out” and identify as LGBTQ+. In many communities, LGBTQ+ youth face ongoing stigma and discrimination. This further influences their social development and growth.

There is a gap in supports for LGBTQ+ youth. Recognizing this gap is a call to action to develop relationships with these young people. It is a call to action to know them for who they are and who they are becoming. Schools, organizations, and communities are called upon to come together. And, in doing so, provide opportunities, role models, resources and supports that LGBTQ+ youth need to learn, grow, and thrive.

- Get involved with the programs and services above
- Join the Diversity Council: Nicole Matthews-Creech [ncreech@lacasacenter.org](mailto:ncreech@lacasacenter.org)
- Join the LGBTQ+ Workgroup: Anne Rennie [arennie@cmhliv.org](mailto:arennie@cmhliv.org)

