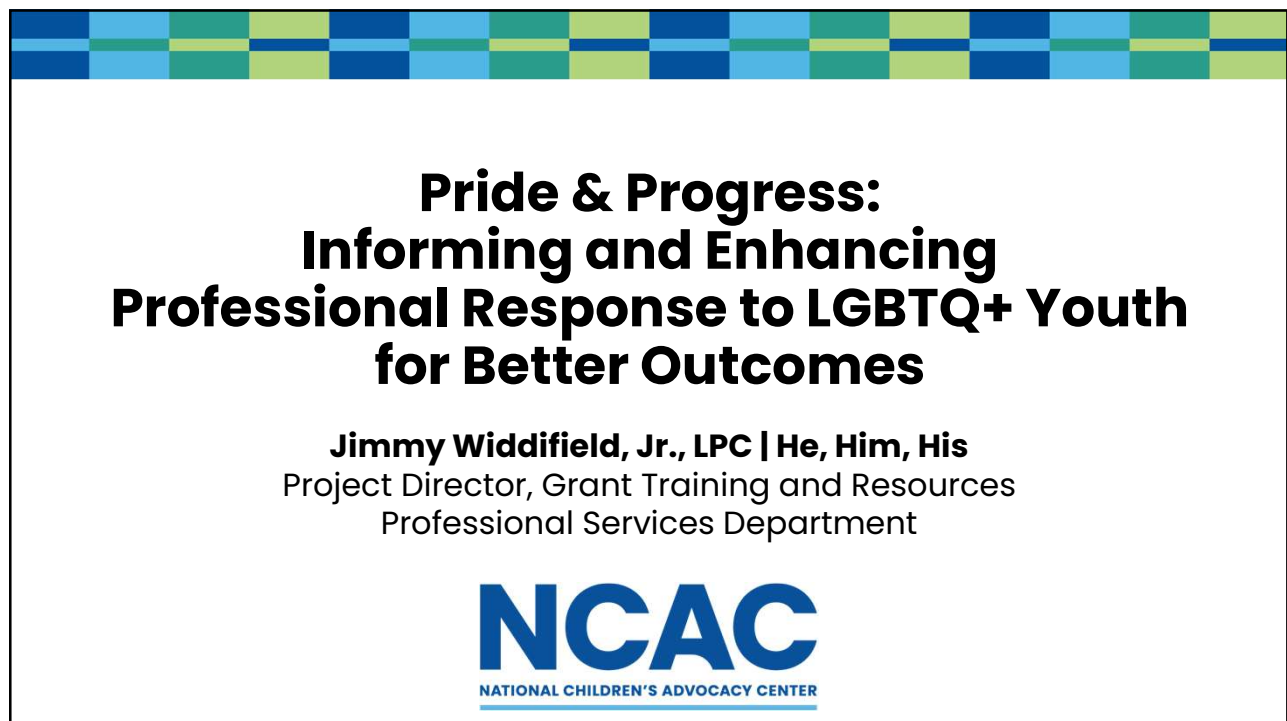


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2

This project was supported by
Award No. 15PJDP-23-GK-01575-JJVO
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The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations
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Image source: <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/media/image/9331>



3

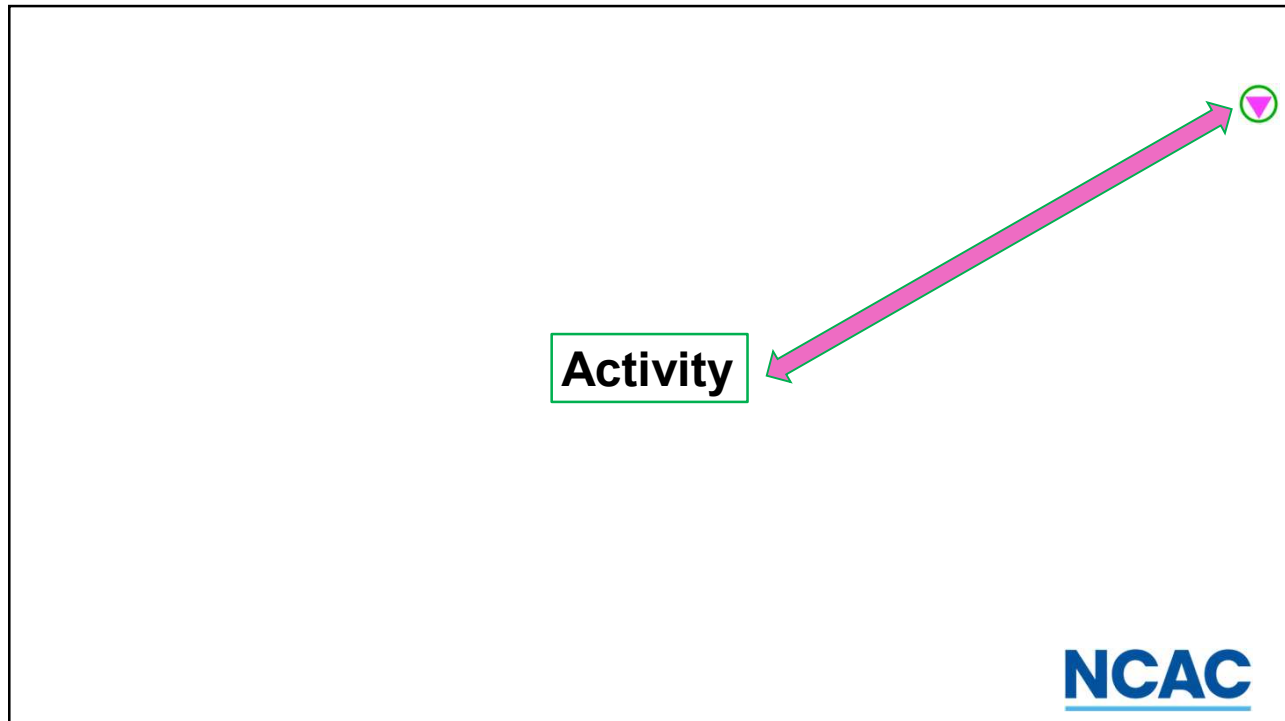


- **Put you first.**
- **Be mindful of your own responses and well-being.**
- **Make decisions to keep yourself mentally, physically, spiritually (if applicable) healthy and your worldview harmonized.**

Image source: Microsoft



4



5

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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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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7

Child abuse professionals and Children's Advocacy Centers are critical frontline solutions to improving outcomes for LGBTQ+ youth who experience maltreatment and their families.

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Child abuse professionals and
Children's Advocacy Centers are
critical frontlines solutions to
YOU improving outcomes for LGBTQ+
youth who experience
maltreatment and their families.

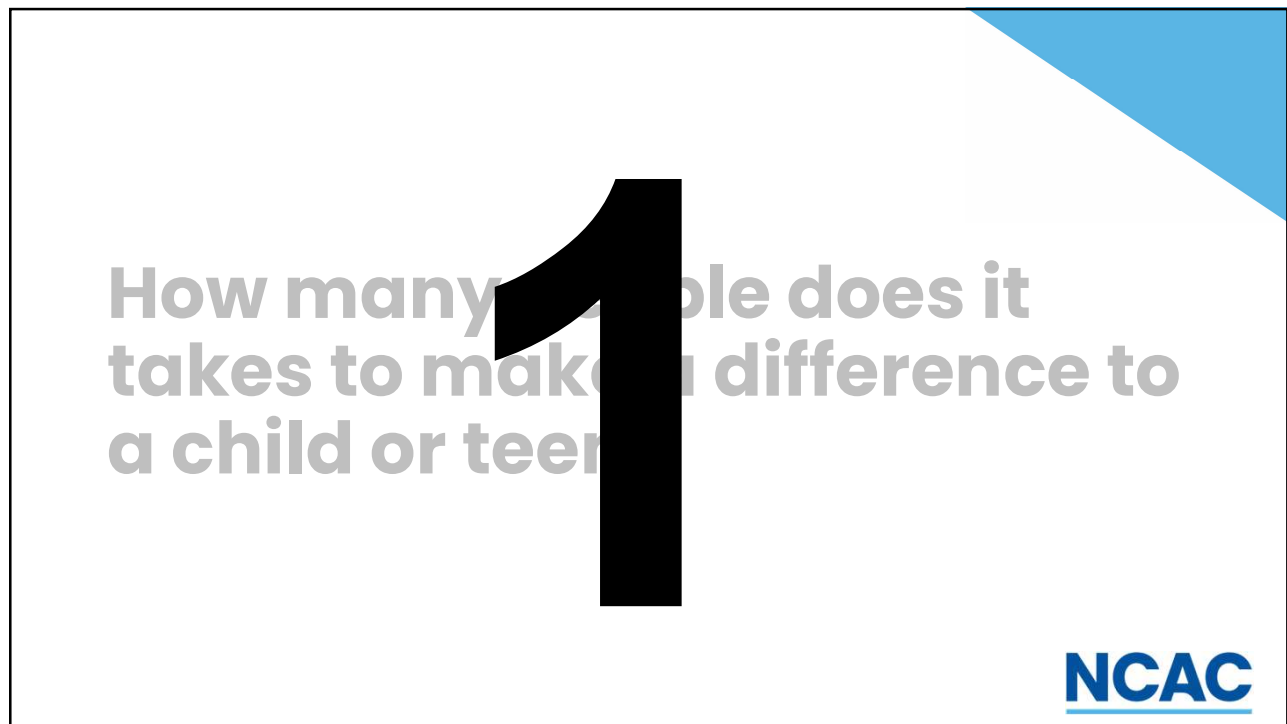
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**How many people does it
takes to make a difference to
a child or teen?**

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10



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Affirming, supportive, and safe adults are critical frontline solutions to improving outcomes for LGBTQ+ youth who experience abuse and their families.

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Affirming, supportive, and safe adults are critical frontline solutions to improving outcomes for LGBTQ+ youth who experience abuse and their families.

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



- Promote one goal: Helping any and all children.
- Learn from available research and literature.
- Discuss impact of services.
- Be respectful and safe.
- Be curious and ask questions.
- Otherwise, no agenda, gay or otherwise.



Image source: Unknown



15

The “Official” Learning Objectives

- Describe basic concepts for sexual orientation, sexual identity, and gender expression and how those concepts will enhance their understanding of youth who identify as LGBTQ+.
- Identify ways in which youth who identify as LGBTQ+ are impacted for being their authentic selves.
- Identify strategies for how to more effectively serve youth who identify as LGBTQ+ and their families and how to apply to LGBTQ+ youth with problematic sexual behaviors.





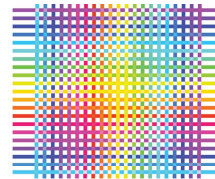
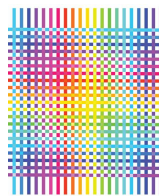
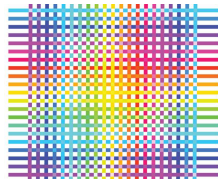
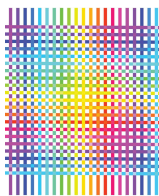
Image source: Unknown



16

Intersectionality & Experiences Are Critical

How a person may face multiple types of overlapping discrimination depending on their race, gender, age, ethnicity, physical ability, class or any other characteristic that might place them in a minority class (marginalized group).



www.vecteezy.com

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17

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

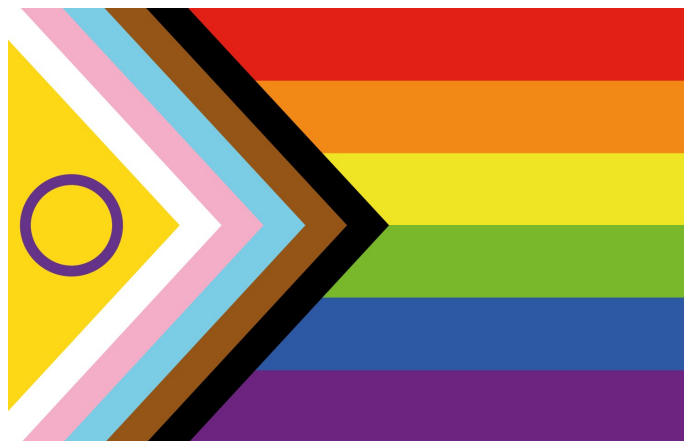


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**Visibility and representation
are protective factors.**

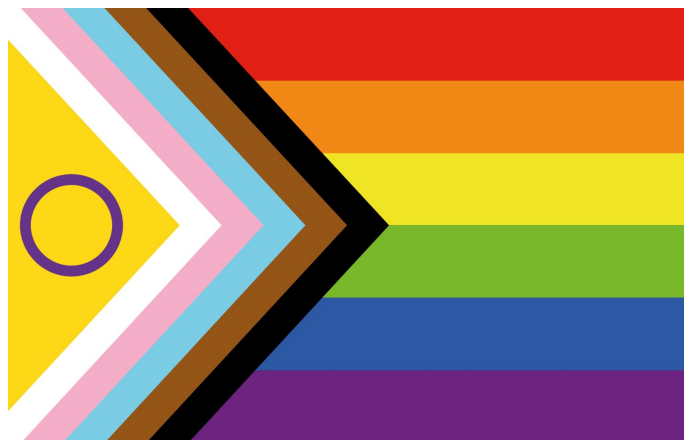


Image source: Unknown

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Image source: Unknown

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The Dinglehopper; Wait – It's a...

LGBT
LGBTQ
LGBTQIA
LGBTQIAF
LGBTQIAFP
LGBTQQIAAFP
LGBTQQIAAFPD2-S
LGGBTTTIQQAAADFPP2-S
LGBTQQIDAAPPO2SBNBGNCGGAPPO+


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The Dinglehopper; Wait – It's a...

LGBT
LGBTQ
LGBTQIA
LGBTQIAF
LGBTQIAFP
LGBTQQIAAFP
LGBTQQIAPD2-S
LGGBTTTTIQQAAADFPP2-S
LGBTQQIDAAPPO2SBNBGNCGGAPPO+

1. Groups of 2-3.
2. What are the words for each letter?



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What Is a Fork Anyways?

- L-G-B-T = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
- Q = Queer, Questioning
- I = Intersex
- A = Asexual
- P = Pansexual
- D = Demisexual
- 2-S = Two-Spirit

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

Image source: Unknown



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The Dinglehopper; Wait – It's a F...

GLB/LGB

LGBT

LGBTQ

LGBTQIAF

LGBTQIAFP

LGBTQQIAAFP

LGBTQQIAP2-S

LGGBTTTIQQAAADFPP2-S

LGBTQQIDAAPPO2SBNBGNCGGAPPO+

LGBTQ+

SOGIE



**Sexual Orientation /
Gender Identity &
Expression**

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WARNING



WARNING

Image source: Unknown

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26



A unit of measurement for a bundle of sticks used for kindling fires.

Image source: Unknown

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Misogynistic term that implies older women (typically without a husband) are worthless.

A slur for gay men that infers worthlessness because they are like women.

Image source: Unknown

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But What Is a Fork Anyways?

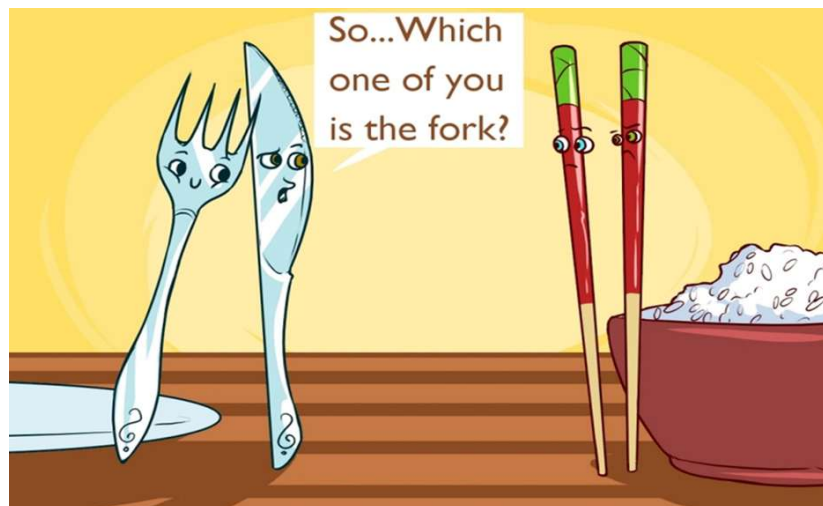
- Be clear on definitions. For example, gender and sex are not necessarily the same.
- Be aware of heteronormative and gender binary language.
- Use of gender pronouns and, also, vocabulary.
- LGBTQ+ culture and language and communication is fluid and dynamic.



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Image source: Unknown

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Image source: Unknown

30

The Gender Unicorn

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

Gender Identity

- Female/Woman/Girl
- Male/Man/Boy
- Other Gender(s)

Gender Expression

- Feminine
- Masculine
- Other

Sex Assigned at Birth

- Female
- Male
- Other/Intersex

Physically Attracted to

- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

Emotionally Attracted to

- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

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

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore

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GLSEN
GENDER TERMINOLOGY

GENDER ATTRIBUTION
HOW YOUR GENDER IS PERCEIVED BY OTHERS

GENDER IDENTITY
HOW YOU IDENTIFY (SEE YOURSELF)

SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH
WHAT THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY LABELS YOU

GENDER EXPRESSION
HOW YOU WANT TO DISPLAY YOUR GENDER

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This was back then...

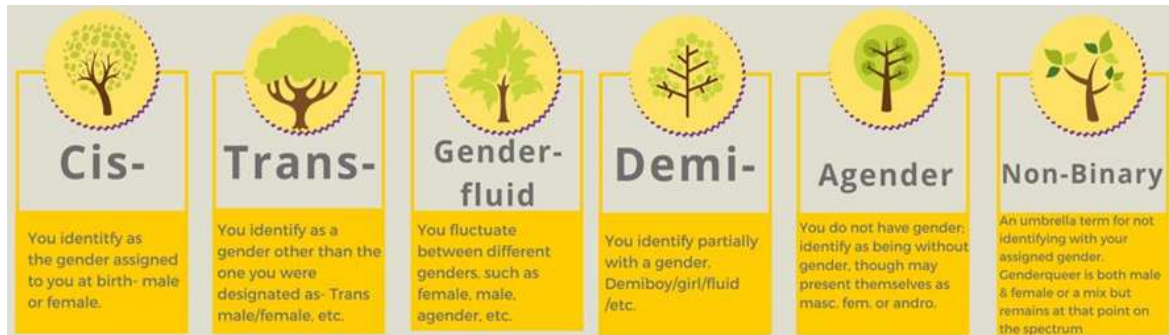
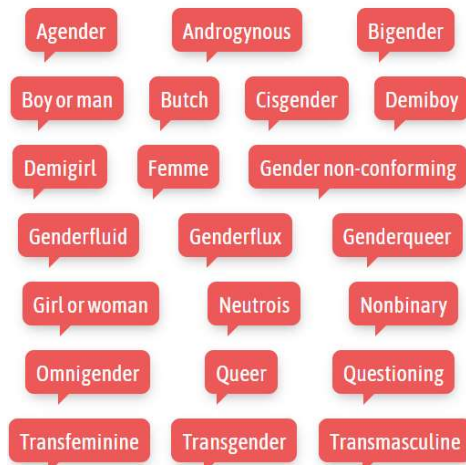


Image source: Unknown

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



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



Image source: Trevor Project

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Pronouns & Suicide Among Trans and Nonbinary Young People

Of those who **attempted suicide** in the past year, comparison across the **number of people they live with respecting their pronouns...**

None of the people I live with



Some of the people I live with



All of the people I live with



Image source: Trevor Project (2024)

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Pronouns

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

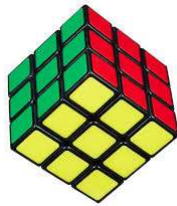
What is your name
and pronouns?

1. Scale of 1 (impossible) to 10 (easy)?
2. How did it feel introducing yourself?

Image source: Trevor Project

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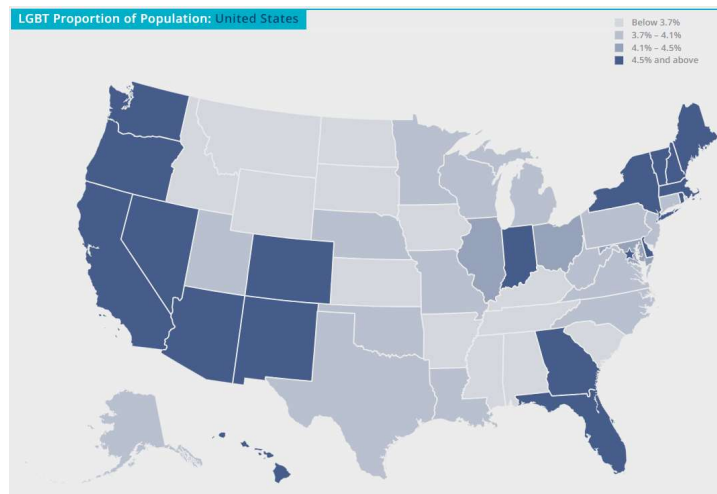


38



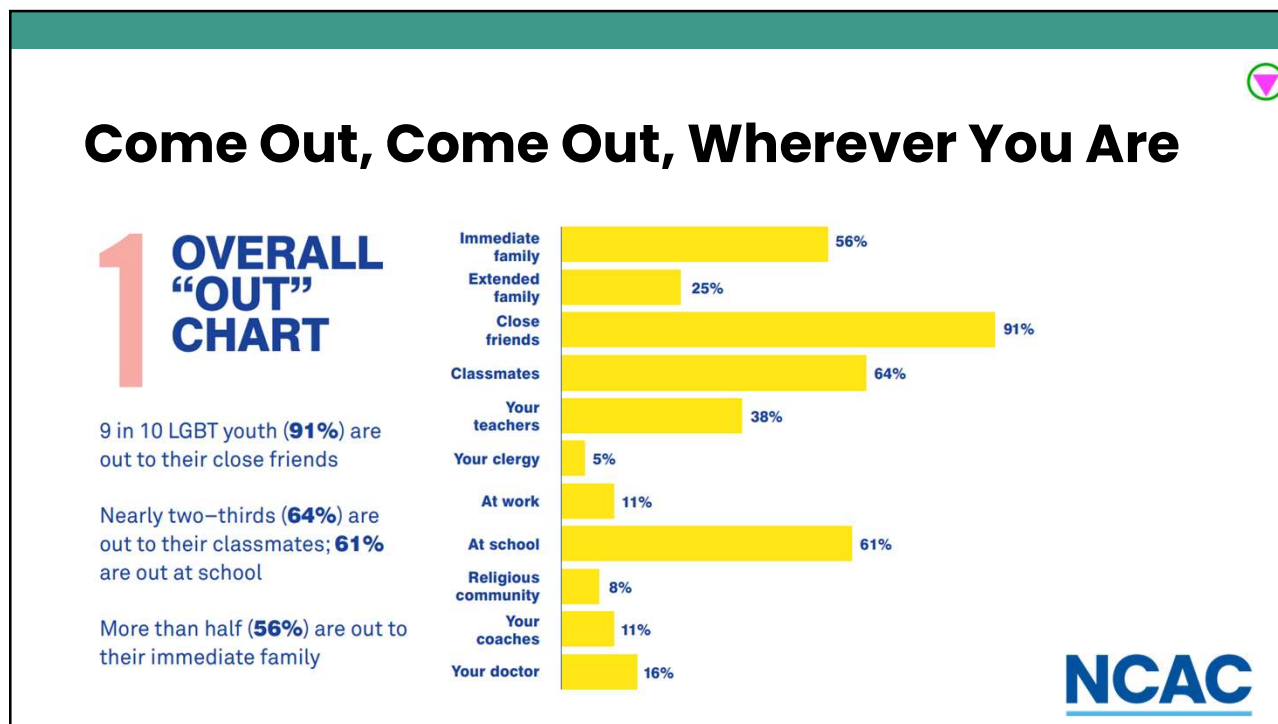
39

% LGBT Adults by State (2019)



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Impact of People's Responses to Sexual Minorities

Societal

- Bullying
- Dating violence
- Victimization

Child Maltreatment

- 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'. The figure on the right is pink and labeled 'NON'. To the right of the figures, text states: '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.' Below this text is the HRC logo and the text 'HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN'. At the bottom, there are two speech bubbles: one with the website 'www.hrc.org/youth' and another with the hashtag '#LGBTYOUTH'. The NCAC 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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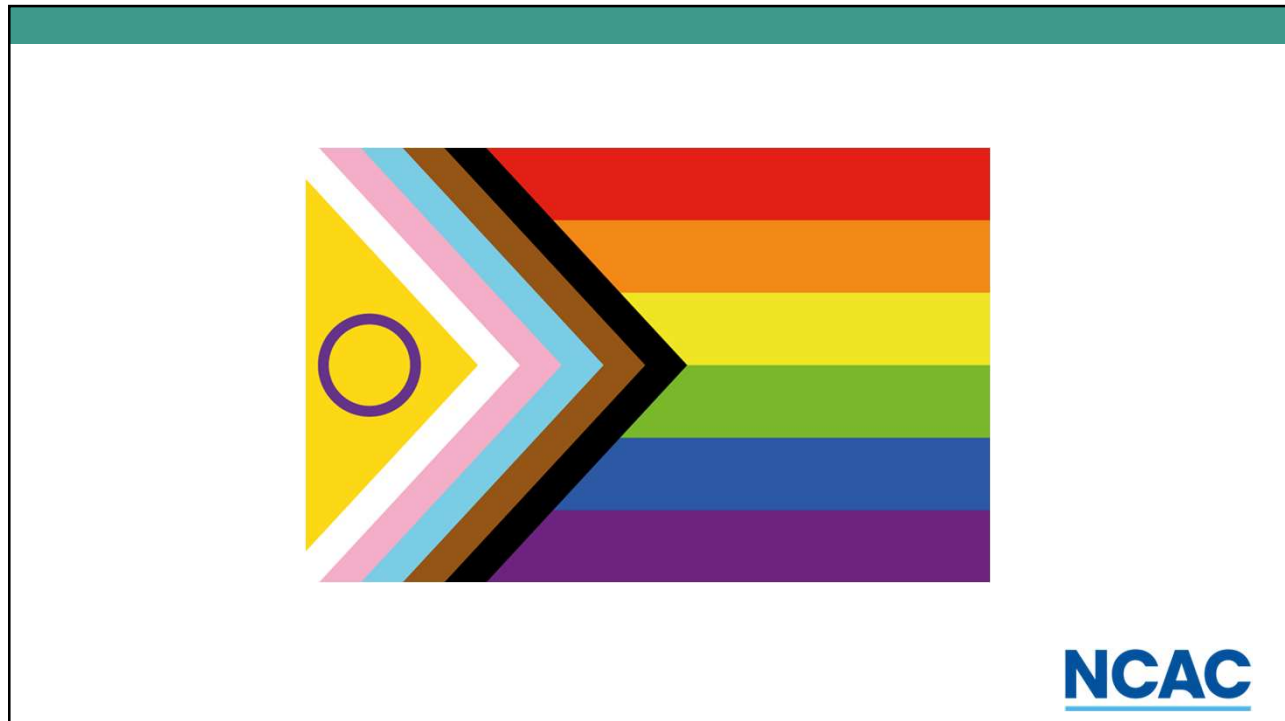
A tilted illustration of a person sitting on a couch, looking distressed. They are wearing a white shirt with colorful paint splatters. A large, dark, shadowy figure looms over them. The background is dark blue with some light blue and pink splatters.

Increased Likelihood of Adverse Effects

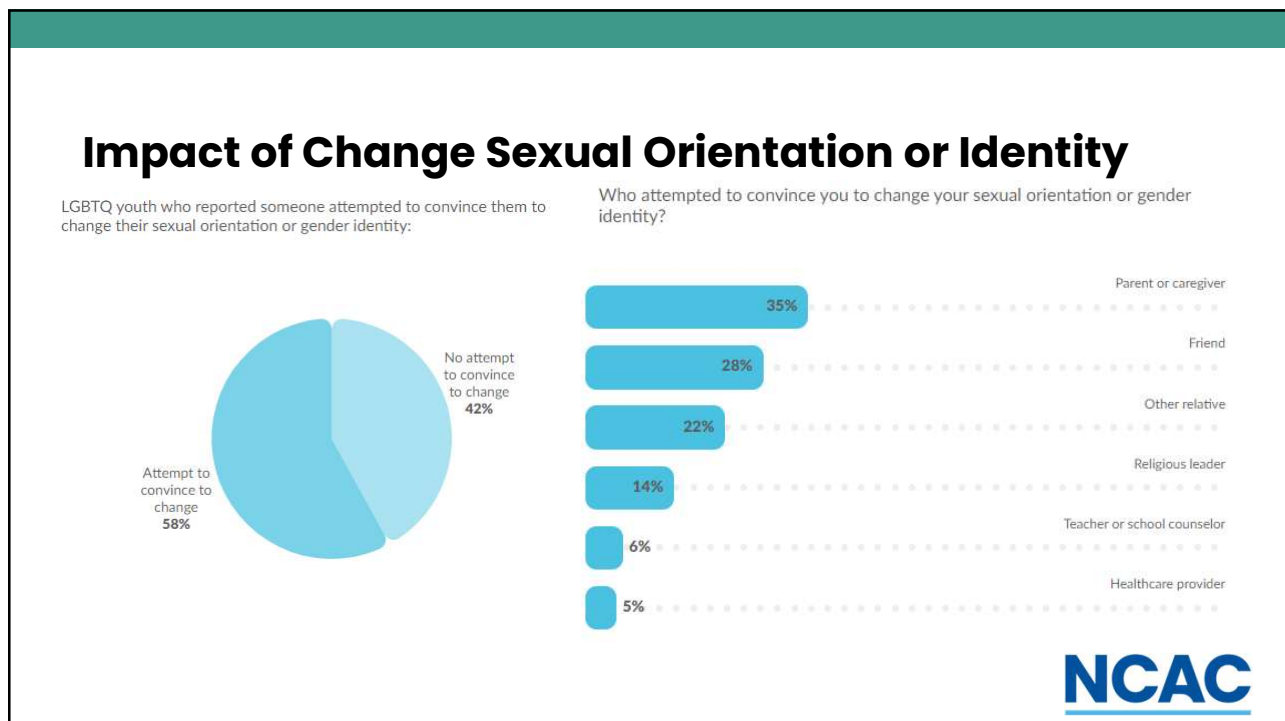
- Major depression
- Generalized anxiety disorder
- Acute stress disorder
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Substance abuse / dependence disorders
- Suicide
- High-risk sexual behaviors <?>
- Entry into foster care and/or juvenile justice

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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

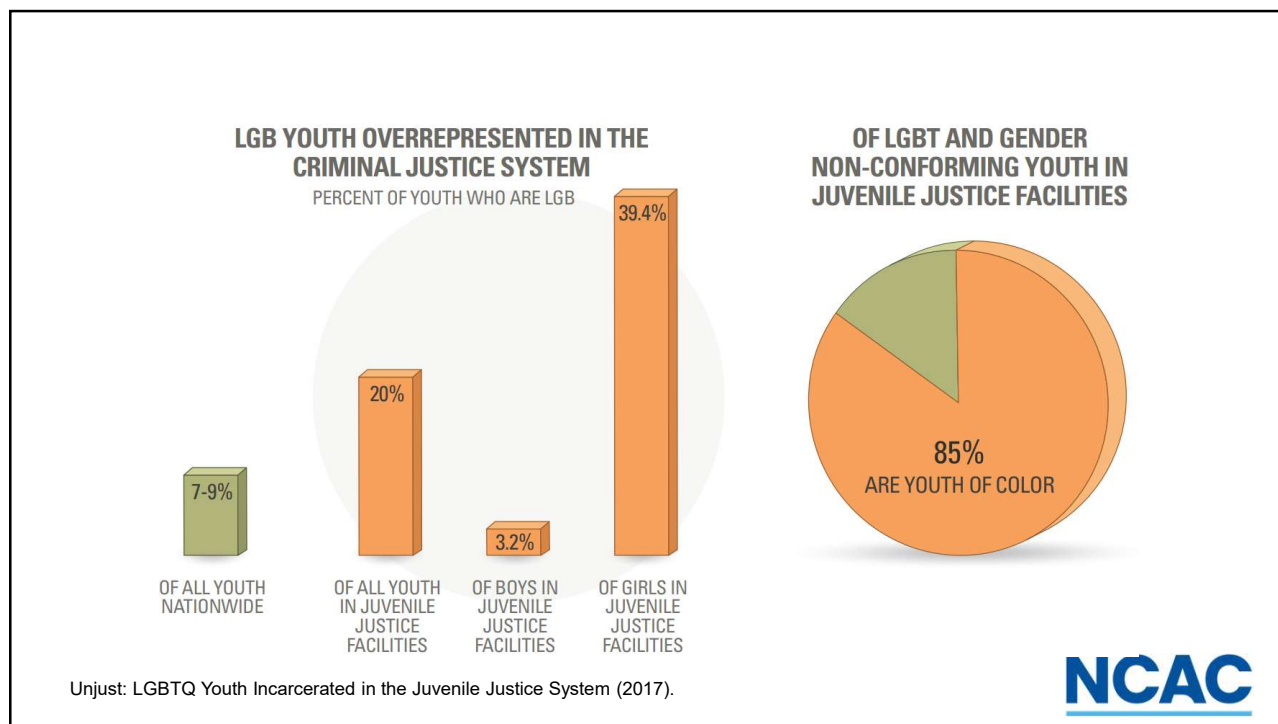
- More likely to be targeted and stopped by police
- Out-of-home placements and detention more common and for longer durations
- More likely to not be given due process
- More likely to be prosecuted for age-appropriate consensual sexual activity



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



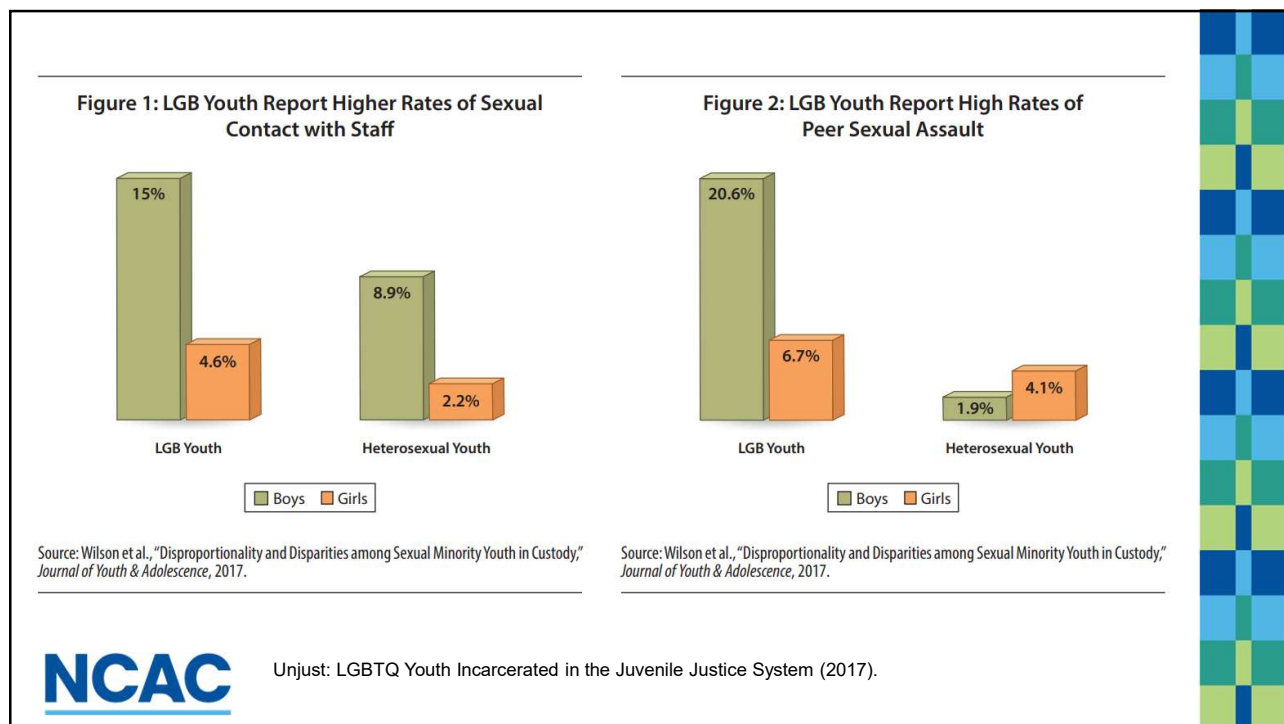
52



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54



55

LGBTQ+ Affirming/ative Services

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

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Image source: Unknown

56

Affirmative Services = Culturally Competent

- **Access to and receipt of culturally competent services improves outcomes, short and long-term**
- Identity pride and social supports
 - Resiliency factors that buffer against the impact of LGBTQ+ minority stress
 - Child abuse professionals can support both factors through being affirming
- On the right track: LGBTQ+ youth report...
 - 78% have access to at least one in-person LGBTQ-affirming space
 - 85% have high levels of support from at least one person



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Being an Affirming 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+ you
- Get involved (local community and national/global issues) and know the local resources.



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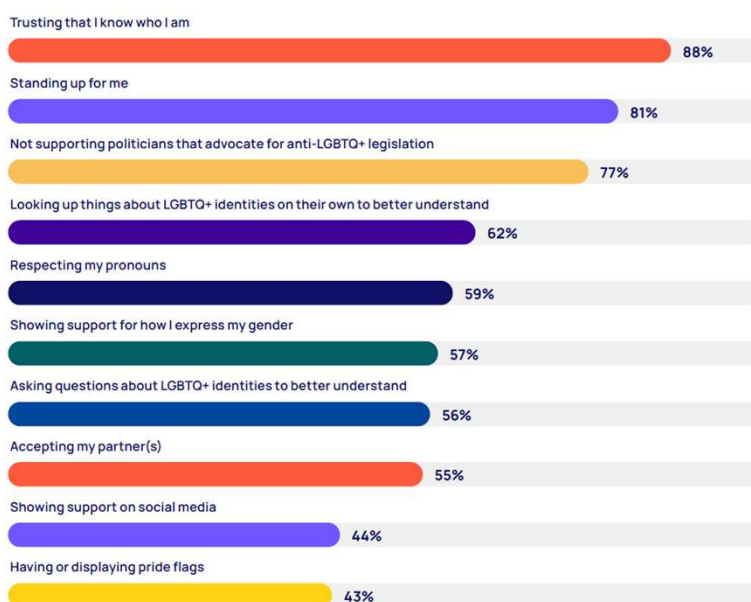



Image source: Trevor Project (2024)

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Planning for Service Delivery

- Remember...
 - These are still kids and teens.
 - Services are still services; you know what to do.
- Consider planning for more time
- Talk with youth and caregivers separately.
- Orient the youth to services, as needed.
- Use typical engagement questions.
- Support the youth where they are now (i.e., it is not a phase):
 - If you can't provide support right now, then how can you be less rejecting?


Personal communication with Shauna Lawlis, MD, 06/28/23.




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Exploring Social and Sexual Histories

- Use gender neutral terminology and/or terms used by the youth:
 - Sex assigned at birth
 - Sexual/gender identity
- Inquire about who knows and what about the youth's SOGIE*.
- Assess safety for youth at home, school, community, dating/sexual relationships.
- Obtain sexual history using gender neutral, open-ended questions
 - "Who are you attracted to?"
 - "Are you dating anyone?"
 - "How many sexual partners have you had, including males, females, and other genders?"



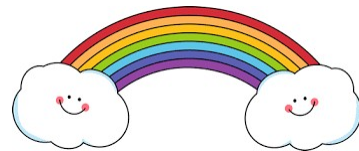
Personal communication with Shauna Lawlis, MD, 06/28/23.



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When Caregivers & Professionals Don't Know

- Never out a youth.
- Collaborate with the youth to identify a plan:
 - To share or not, and with whom
 - What to share
 - Safety, as needed
 - Ongoing support
- If youth asks for help telling family, then ask if they want you...
 - To tell the family member(s) or
 - To start the conversation
- When others are surprised, normalize reactions (e.g., feelings, time to adjust, etc.) and, if appropriate, acknowledge caregivers' fears about child safety.



Personal communication with Shauna Lawlis, MD, 06/28/23.

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Engaging with Others Who Are Not Affirming

- 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



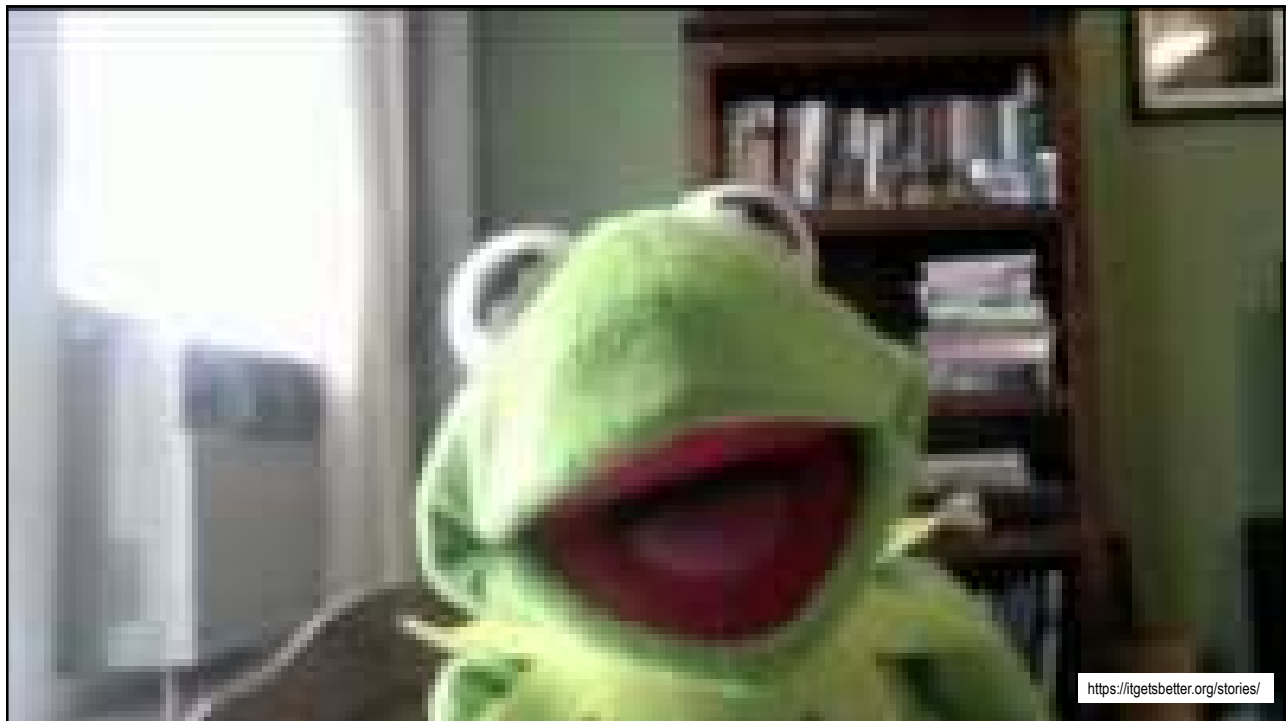
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HUMAN

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66

Rainbow Panel Setup & Expectations

- The panelists are the most important people in the room
- Safety, psychological and otherwise, is paramount
- Write relevant questions on provided slips of paper
- Be respectful by being present
- Learn something new



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Thank you!

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

Did you learn...

Concepts for sexual orientation, sexual identity, and gender expression that enhanced your understanding of youth?

Ways in which youth are impacted for being authentically themselves?

Ways in which youth are impacted by involvement in each child welfare, law enforcement, and juvenile justice systems?

Strategies for how to more effectively serve youth and their families?

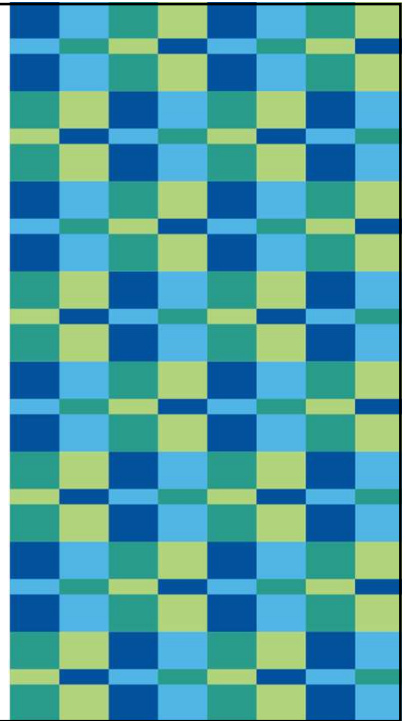


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Contact Information



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NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Championing and Strengthening the Global Response to Child Abuse.

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