LGBTQIA+ YOUTH FACT SHEET:
"OVERREPRESENTATION OF LGBTQ & GNC YOUTH IN JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS"
Overrepresentation of LGBTQ and GNC youth in Juvenile Justice systems

It is estimated that lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth (LGB), youth comprise 5 to 7 percent of the general youth population [1] and transgender (T) youth comprise approximately 2.5 percent [2]. Studies of youth in juvenile justice, child welfare, and runaway and homeless youth settings report a significant overrepresentation of LGBT and gender non-conforming (GNC) youth among their service receiving populations. These studies find that LGBT youth make up between 19 to 30% of the child welfare population [3], 20% of the juvenile justice population [4], and are 120% more likely to experience homelessness than their cisgender, heterosexual counterparts [5].

In diving deeper into the systems experience of gender non-conforming and transgender (GNCT) youth, research finds that they have disproportionately high rates of dual system involvement. Thirty-five percent of GNCT youth with histories of justice involvement had been previously removed from their home as part of child welfare processes—as compared to 10% of their gender conforming counterparts [1].
As the research on programs, services, and practices designed to support LGBT youth grow, there remains a dearth of similar research and practice innovation supports specifically for GNCT youth, and even more so for GNCT youth of color. The peer-reviewed articles below highlight emerging research in transgender-affirming practices. The national resources included offer guidance on best practices for working with LGBT youth in out-of-home settings with a special focus on transgender and gender non-conforming youth.

**PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES ON EMERGING PRACTICES**


NATIONAL REPORTS AND GUIDES
A Place of Respect: A Guide for Group Care Facilities Serving Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth, National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Closing the Gap Between Recommended Practice and Reality for Transgender and Gender-Expansive Youth in Out-of-Home Care, Lambda Legal
https://www.lambdalegal.org/publications/safe-havens

LGBTQ Youth Resources, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
https://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth-resources.htm


State-by-State Analysis of Juvenile Justice Systems, Lambda Legal
https://www.lambdalegal.org/juvenile-justice

REFERENCES


