



**Youth Justice
Institute**

An initiative of the Division of Criminal Justice Services,
Office of Children and Family Services and University at Albany



LGBTQIA+ YOUTH FACT SHEET:

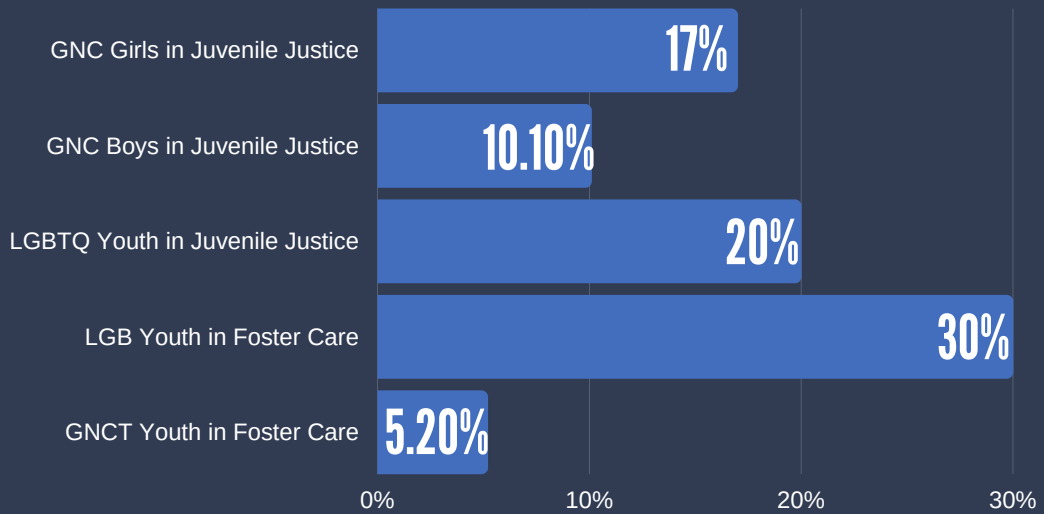
**"OVERREPRESENTATION OF
LGBTQ & GNC YOUTH IN JUVENILE
JUSTICE SYSTEMS"**



Overrepresentation of LGBTQ and GNC youth in Juvenile Justice systems

It is estimated that lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth (LGB), youth comprise 5 to 7percent 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].

Disparities Based on SOGIE



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

Allen, L. R., Watson, L. B., Egan, A. M., & Moser, C. N. (2019). Well-being and suicidality among transgender youth after gender-affirming hormones. *Clinical Practice in Pediatric Psychology, 7*(3), 302-311. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cpp0000288>

Austin, A., Craig, S. L., & D'Souza, S. A. (2018). An AFFIRMative cognitive behavioral intervention for transgender youth: Preliminary effectiveness. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 49*(1), 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pro0000154>

Chang, S. C., & Singh, A. A. (2016). Affirming psychological practice with transgender and gender nonconforming people of color. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity, 3*(2), 140-147. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000153>

Russell, S. et al. (2018.) Chosen Name Use is Lined to Reduced Depressive Symptoms, Suicidal ideation, and Suicidal Behavior Among Transgender Youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health. 63*(4), 503-505. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2018.02.003>



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.

http://www.nclrights.org/wpcontent/uploads/2013/07/A_Place_Of_Respect.pdf

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>

Singh, A. A. (2018). Queer and trans resilience workbook: Skills for navigating sexual orientation and gender identity. San Francisco, CA: New Harbinger.

State-by-State Analysis of Juvenile Justice Systems, Lambda Legal

<https://www.lambdalegal.org/juvenile-justice>

REFERENCES

[1] Gates GJ, Newport F. Special Report: 3.4% of US Adults Identify as LGBT. Washington, DC: Gallup; 2012.

[2] Wilson, B. D.M. et al. Sexual and Gender Minority Youth in Foster Care: Assessing Disproportionality and Disparities in Los Angeles. The Williams Institute 2014. Baams L, Wilson BDM, Russell ST. LGBTQ Youth in Unstable Housing and Foster Care. Pediatrics. 2019;143(3): e20174211

[3] Wilson et al., 2014

[4] Irvine, A., & Canfield (2016). The overrepresentation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, gender nonconforming and transgender youth within the child welfare to juvenile justice crossover population. Journal of Gender, Social Policy & the Law, 24(2), 243–261.

[5] Morton, M.H., Dworsky, A., & Samuels, G.M. (2017). Missed opportunities: Youth homelessness in America. National estimates. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

[6] Irvine, A., & Canfield (2016).