



STATE OF THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY:

A PATH FORWARD FOR THE TRI-COUNTY AREA LGBTQ COMMUNITY



OVERVIEW

TERMINOLOGY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATIONS



KEY CONCEPTS

BIOLOGICAL SEX

GENDER IDENTITY

GENDER EXPRESSION

SEXUAL ORIENTATION



EVOLUTION OF UNDERSTANDING



KINSEY SCALE

MOVING FROM BINARY TO
NON-BINARY



KEY TERMS

LESBIAN / GAY / BISEXUAL / PANSEXUAL

ASEXUAL

TRANSGENDER / TRANSEXUAL / FTM / MTF

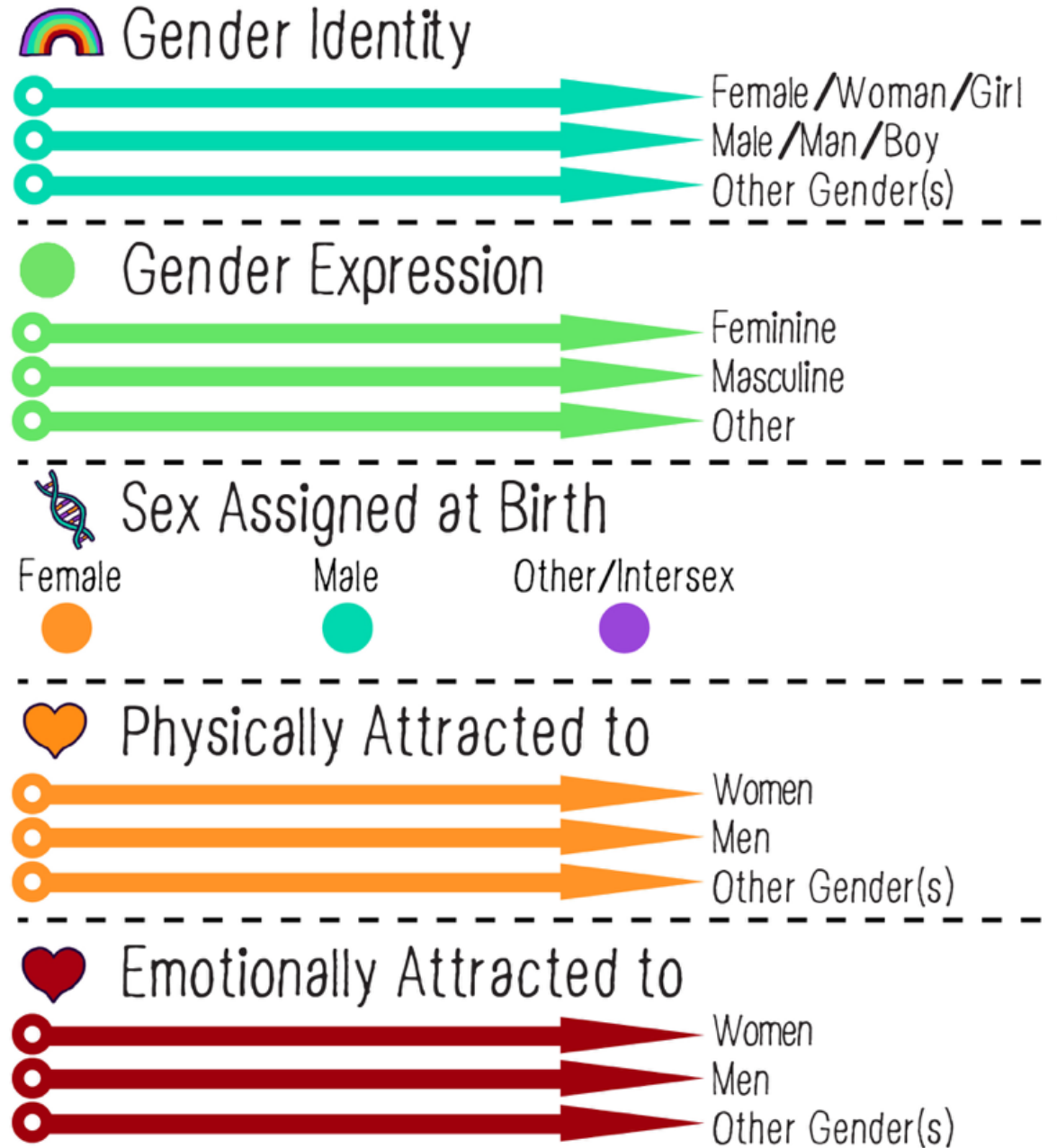
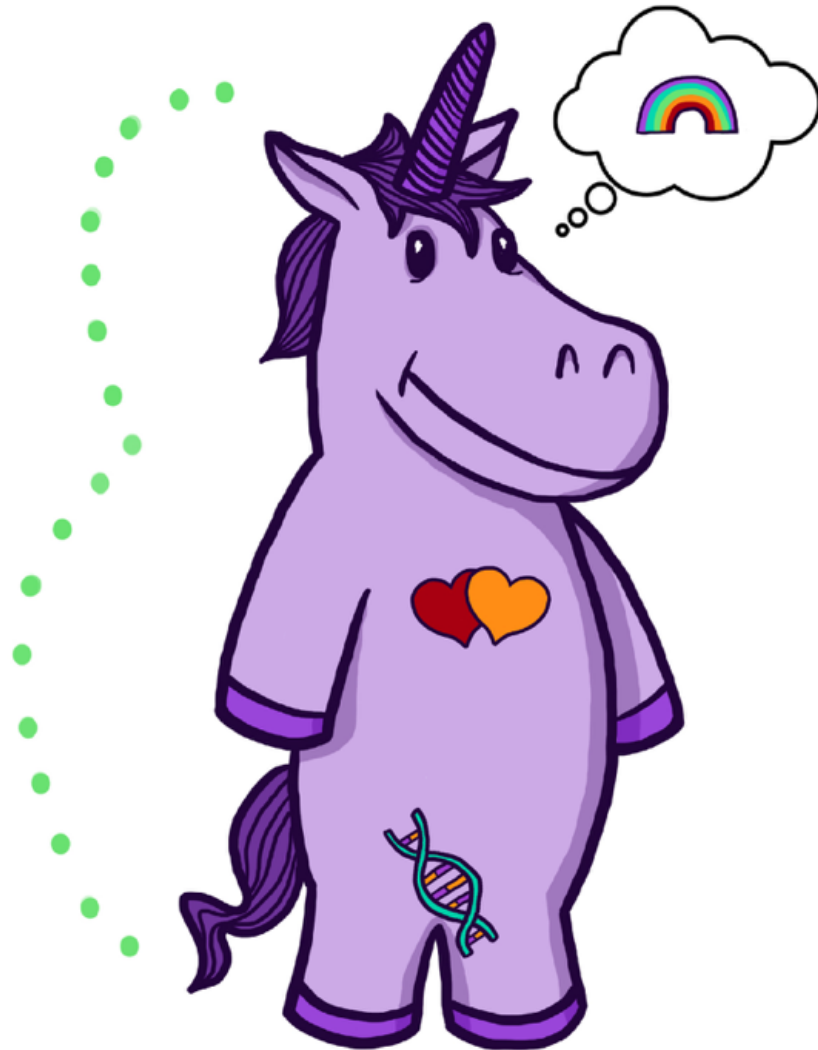
NON-BINARY / GENDERQUEER

INTERSEX

QUEER

The Gender Unicorn

Graphic by:
TSER
Trans Student Educational Resources



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

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore



NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROJECT SUMMARY





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LGBTQ perspectives, issues, and concerns in
Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties of South Carolina





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Personal and financial well-being,
mental and emotional health, and personal safety



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Five focus groups were conducted
based on initial online survey findings

FAMILY + HOME

AFFA

FAMILY + HOME



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of queer people have
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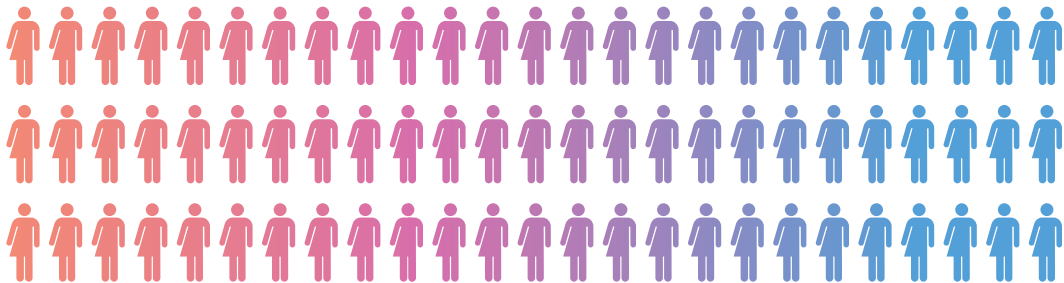
of all respondents experienced
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of respondents said they **did not experience**
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75

individuals reported having been
kicked out of their homes
because of their LGBTQ identity



“My father and his
entire side of the family
disowned me for being
gay when I was 16.”



FAMILY + HOME

Conclusion:

When families don't offer support,
it fosters a feeling that LGBTQ individuals aren't loved
by the people who mean the most to them.

WORK

AFFA

WORK

55%

of respondents felt like they
could not be themselves in the workplace

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250+

respondents worry they will be
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heard people at work
criticizing LGBTQ people

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250+

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165

respondents were told **not to let others**
know their identity in the workplace

WORK



PERSONAL INCOME

Those who participated in the study overall have **lower incomes than the general public**—even though our respondents had more education than the general public.

On average, **non-cisgender individuals make even less than cisgender people.**

“[I was] forced to go
back into the closet for 15 more years
in order to secure my employment.”



WORK

Conclusion:

LGBTQ workers need to feel safe
in their places of employment and respected
for who they are where they work.

HEALTHCARE

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HEALTHCARE



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HEALTHCARE

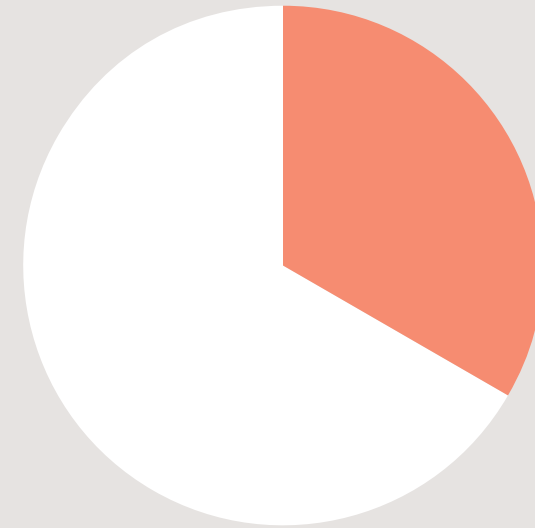
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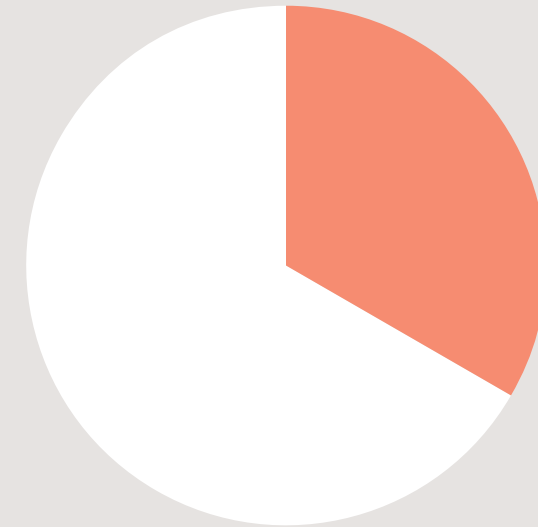
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**“My doctor hadn't even
heard of PrEP.”**

**“I don’t think I’ve ever had a doctor
proactively ask me about my
sexual orientation or gender identity.
If they don’t ask for this basic information,
how can they know how to treat me?”**



HEALTHCARE

51%

reported their partner **not being treated like family**
by their healthcare providers

HEALTHCARE

Conclusion:

Healthcare providers need to take steps to educate themselves to better serve the LGBTQ community.

QUALITY OF LIFE

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QUALITY OF LIFE

52%

said they have
felt sad or depressed for a long time

QUALITY OF LIFE

52%

said they have
felt sad or depressed for a long time

33%

said they have **self-medicated**

QUALITY OF LIFE



1 out of 4 said they have thought about killing themselves—**5X THE S.C. AVERAGE***

“Mental health resources are lacking overall in the South...
[and] for marginalized communities it’s lacking even more.”

*According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 4.2% of all South Carolinians have thought about killing themselves

QUALITY OF LIFE

207

people said they have been
attacked on the street before

QUALITY OF LIFE

207

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35%

said they have felt they could not
show affection in public in the last year

“There are places where my wife and I go
and we immediately get a bad vibe.
It’s like, ‘Nope. We’re not holding hands here.
This is not a safe space.’”

QUALITY OF LIFE

30%

said they have considered moving from the Tri-County area

QUALITY OF LIFE

Conclusion:

Mental health professionals need to be aware of the specific challenges LGBTQ people face and policy makers need to take steps to create communities that are safer and more welcoming to the LGBTQ community.

INTERSECTIONS OF IDENTITY



- LGBTQ Elders
- LGBTQ Youth
- LGBTQ Homelessness
- LGBTQ People of Color
- Sexuality / Sexual Health
- Underground Economy / Sex Work

RECOMMENDATIONS

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RECOMMENDATIONS



POLICY MAKERS & CIVIC LEADERS

- Advocate for and pass uniform non-discrimination laws and ordinances that include sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression
- Advocate for and pass ban on LGBTQ conversion therapy (also known as “reparative therapy”)
- Enact policies that contractors may not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment on the basis sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression
- Establish a Commission on LGBTQ Issues to study the issues that exist for LGBTQ residents, make policy and legislative recommendations, and work to effectuate their implementation

RECOMMENDATIONS



COMMUNITY MEMBERS & ALLIES

- Advocate for LGBTQ-inclusive protections and policies within your workplace, school, religious group, or social club
- Be visible— Attend rallies, festivals, days of remembrance services, and fundraisers to visibly support the LGBTQ community
- Support businesses that have LGBTQ-inclusive anti-discrimination policies
- Schedule a time to talk to someone at AFFA about how you can get involved

RECOMMENDATIONS



MEDICAL & MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

- Thoughtfully update intake forms and train all patient-facing employees on the "who, what, why and where"
- Update our language to be inclusive of all orientations and identities
- Regularly attend LGBTQ cultural competency CEU offerings
- Provide visual clues for LGBTQ patients that this is a safe place
- Remember the intersections at which LGBTQ people live

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Board of Directors of the Alliance For Full Acceptance

“Living LGBTQ in Central Alabama” Planning Committee

College of Charleston Community Assistance Program

Spartanburg County LGBTQ Needs Assessment Team

Joseph P. Riley Center for Livable Communities

Morten Group Chicago

MUSC College of Health Professions

Grindr4Equality

Freeman Foundation

THANK YOU!

843.883.0343



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