

# A Child is a Child

**SNAPSHOT:** California  
Children's Health



## LGBTQ+ CHILDREN, TEENS, & YOUNG ADULTS Health & Well-Being

We know that when children are healthy, they are more likely to succeed in school and in life. We work to address the underlying causes of health inequities by improving the conditions in which children live, learn, grow, and play so that young people from historically marginalized communities have the resources and

opportunities they need to achieve their dreams and reach their full potential. This infographic provides an overview of key LGBTQ+ children, teen, and young adult health facts in California and nationally to inform the work we must do together to make California the best state to raise healthy, thriving children.

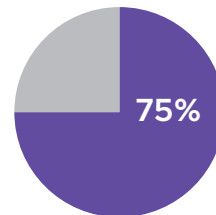


### MASKED HEALTH INEQUITIES

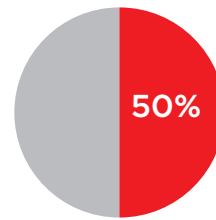
California must do more to collect data specific to LGBTQ+ children, teens, and young adults to more fully understand the structural disadvantages and inequities that impact their health. This includes data on health care access and coverage, food access and insecurity, poverty measures, and child welfare and juvenile justice systems. With accurate data, programs and policies can be put in place to improve the chances for LGBTQ+ children, teens, and young adults to have every opportunity to live healthy, safe, successful lives as youth and as adults.

### POPULATION

At least **1 in 10** children and teens enrolled in California's public middle and high schools **identify as LGBTQ+.**



Of these children and teens, **OVER 75%** are **BLACK, INDIGENOUS, and PEOPLE of COLOR (BIPOC).**



**LATINX** children and teens in particular make up a large share of LGBTQ+ children and teens: **1 in 2** students who identify as LGBTQ+ are Latinx.

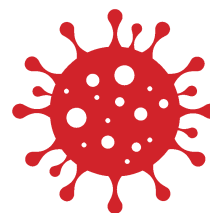
### CHILD WELL-BEING



**ACEs** are **ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES** of traumatic or stressful life events before the age of 18. Compared to heterosexual

individuals, LGB children, teens, and young adults experience disproportionately higher prevalence of ACEs: nearly **42%** of LGB individuals report **4 or more ACEs** compared to **25%** of heterosexual peers.

### COVID-19



**THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC** has had a direct and detrimental impact on LGBTQ+ teens and young adults. Nationally, more than **80%** of

LGBTQ+ teens and young adults stated that COVID-19 made their living situation more stressful, with nearly **40%** stating they had **LOST THEIR JOB** during the pandemic. In addition, **70%** stated that their **MENTAL HEALTH** was poor most of the time or always during COVID-19.

# DISCRIMINATION



Over **80%** of **LGBTQ+ BIPOC** teens in California have experienced **RACISM**.

Nationally, **75%** of LGBTQ+ teens and young adults have experienced **DISCRIMINATION** based on their sexual orientation or gender identity at least once in their lifetime. **HALF** of LGBTQ+ BIPOC teens and young adults reported experiencing racism, including **67%** of Black and **60%** of Asian American and Pacific Islander LGBTQ+ teens and young adults.

# SCHOOL CLIMATE

LGBTQ+ children and teens are **2X** as likely as non-LGBTQ+ children and teens to **MISS SCHOOL BECAUSE THEY DO NOT FEEL SAFE**. Only **37%** of transgender children and teens perceive school to be safe compared to **65%** of non-transgender children and teens.



Only about **2 in 5** transgender children and teens and **1 in 2** LGB children and teens report the presence of **CARING ADULT RELATIONSHIPS IN SCHOOL** compared to **OVER 60%** of non-LGBT children and teens.



# MENTAL HEALTH

LGBTQ+ children and teens are **2X** more likely to cite feeling **SAD, HOPELESS, OR ANXIOUS** as a reason for missing school than non-LGBTQ+ children and teens. Over **1 in 2** LGBTQ+ children and teens report feelings of chronic sadness.



LGBTQ+ children and teens are **3X** more likely than non-LGBTQ+ children and teens to report contemplating **SUICIDE**. Over **1 in 2** transgender children and teens report contemplating **SUICIDE** compared to about **15%** of non-transgender children and teens.

Nationally, nearly **1 in 3 (31%)** Indigenous teens and young adults, and nearly **1 in 4** Black and Latinx teens and young adults (**21% and 18%, respectively**) attempted **SUICIDE** in the last year, compared to **12%** of white teens and young adults.

# CHILD WELFARE



LGBTQ+ children and teens are **3X** more likely to live in a **FOSTER HOME OR GROUP CARE**, or be awaiting placement than non-LGBTQ+ children and teens.

# JUVENILE JUSTICE



Nationally, LGBTQ+ teens are overrepresented in the **JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**: the percentage of **INCARCERATED** LGBTQ+ teens is **DOUBLE** that of LGBTQ+ teens in

the general population. Among California's incarcerated teens, about **1 in 10 BOYS** and **1 in 2 GIRLS** are LGBTQ+. Of these teens, **OVER 90%** are **BIPOC**.

# HOUSING



Compared to non-LGBTQ+ children and teens, California LGBTQ+ children and teens are roughly **2X** as likely to experience **HOMELESSNESS** and living in **UNSTABLE HOUSING**,

like sharing a home with more than one family, living with relatives, or staying at a hotel, shelter, campground or other kind of transitional or temporary housing.

# FOOD ACCESS



Nationally, in 2020, nearly **1 in 3 (30%)** LGBTQ+ children, teens, and young adults experience **FOOD INSECURITY**, including **1 in 2** of all Indigenous

LGBTQ+ children, teens, and young adults.



HEALTH  
CARE  
FOR ALL  
FAMILIES



EQUALITY  
CALIFORNIA

A PROJECT OF  
**The Children's Partnership**

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Data Note: The Children's Partnership and Equality California collected data for this fact sheet from various surveys and reports, some of which allow for estimates that are representative of California's youth population. Unless otherwise stated as national, the data in this fact sheet is specific to California's LGBTQ+ children, teens and/or young adults. For complete citations and explanation of sources, please visit: [bit.ly/ACHildIsAChild](http://bit.ly/ACHildIsAChild)

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