



Photo by Shane Wynn

OCTOBER 2024

Full Community Report and Recommendations



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment







Greater Cleveland
LGBTQ+
Community Needs Assessment

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"We constantly hear from funders and policy makers that we need data. If you don't exist in the data, you don't exist in the policies or funding decisions. Gathering meaningful data is crucial for visibility and impact."



A Foreword from the Research Team



Andrew M. Snyder | he, him
OUTREACH PROGRAM DIRECTOR
AND ADJUNCT FACULTY



Alex DiDonato | they, them
GRADUATE ASSISTANT



Erin Washington | she, her
GRADUATE ASSISTANT



Jehlani White | he, him
GRADUATE ASSISTANT



Ty Stimpert | he, him
GRADUATE ASSISTANT

The Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment is an exercise in community solidarity, understanding, and visioning for the future. As individuals and a community, we have an abundance of strength, resilience, and resourcefulness. At the same time, our community continues to be disproportionately affected by a range of physical, mental, and behavioral health, economic, social, legal, and political issues.

Many organizations may overlook our needs because they don't understand what our needs are. This project represents a collaborative effort that is unparalleled in its scope and depth, to capture the unmet needs, aspirations, and challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community in the Greater Cleveland area.

This project was guided by the premise that data holds the key to unlocking meaningful change. The true essence, however, of this project extends beyond mere data collection. Our findings are not only statistics in a data set; they represent lived experiences fueling a clear call to action.

To each and every person who has walked with us in trust and openly shared some of the most difficult experiences associated with your LGBTQ+ identity – we extend our deepest gratitude. This was perhaps the most rewarding experience for our team. Your voices, stories, and perspectives have been instrumental in shaping a more nuanced understanding of our community's needs.

Together, we have laid a foundation upon which we can build a brighter, more inclusive future for all LGBTQ+ individuals in Greater Cleveland.

In solidarity,

The Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs
Assessment Research Team

Thank You to Our Generous Funders

The impact of the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment would not have been possible without our generous funders. We are grateful for your trust and philanthropic commitment to the success of our community-wide effort to improve the day-to-day lives of our local LGBTQ+ community.

VISIONARIES



CHAMPIONS



ADVOCATES



KEY COMMUNITY PARTNERS



LGBTQ+ OWNED AND ALLIED BUSINESSES WHO DONATED IN-KIND SUPPORT



HONORARIUM RECIPIENT ORGANIZATIONS



HONORARIUM RECIPIENT INDIVIDUALS

Bree Easterling

Jenesis Tate

Zakiya Acey

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Albert Einstein Academy
Baldwin Wallace University
Care-A-Van
Carve Your Own Path
Case Western Reserve University
Center for Employment Opportunities
Cleveland Guardians
Cleveland Public Library
Cleveland State University
Cuyahoga Community College
Destination Cleveland
Fair Housing Resource Center
Family Planning Services of Lorain County
Gladey Consulting, LLC
Goodwill Industries
Greater Cleveland Partnership
Healthy Northeast Ohio
MYCOM
Northwest Neighborhoods
PFLAG Cleveland
Starting Point Academy
The Gathering Place

We would like to thank the many working hands of all those who contributed to help this project find success. Among those, listed below, are special recognition for support.

Steering Committee

Gulnar Feerasta (Chair)
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Prakash Ganesh
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Alyssa Johnson
Andrew Katusin
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Kelsey League-Weston
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Angelic Nicola
Julie Patterson
ChrisTina Reed
Kori Sewell
Malik Swisher
Sarah Szabo
Kevin Torigoe
Robert Toth
Kate Tullio
Catherine Viola-Kissinger
Michelle Viola-Kissinger

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Ginger Marshall
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Randy Partain
Jess Peacock
Alison Pollina
Brian Saxe

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Margaret “Mars” Harper Jenkins
Jordi Luke
MK Meals
Amanda Perez
Maya Simek
Bella Sin
Jessy Vallejo
Rick Wilson

Community Stakeholders & Community Members

Murat Altinay
Denise Astorino
Mary Beth Bartholomew
Wendy Bridges
Azariah Burkette
Meg Carver
Philip “Flapp” Cockrell
Tim Collingwood
Kim Cook
Becky Cummings
Caleb Curry
Kai Dawn
Jacqueline Dolata
Ayron “Ace” Evans
Brooke Forrest
Autumn Franz
Ryan Goldstein
Matthew Grimes
Daniel Hamilton
Ed Hamner
Jory Hopper
Rae Jackson
James Knapp
Dawn Kotalik
Gil Kudrin
Anthony “Zoo” Leakes
Victor L. Leandry

Cameron Mack
Bonnie Mango
William Marion
John Mastrojohn III
Kristin Mazur
Libby McGraw
Chris Miller
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Kevin Schmotzer
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Steven Schreiber
Amy Shideler
Audrey Silvestro
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Madeline Swanbeck
Holly Spencer-Truman
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Slayicon Wamego
Heidi Weisel
Ryan Weisel
Minna Zelch

About Kent State University

Kent State University is one of 76 public, higher-research universities, categorized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and ranked in the top-tier list of Best National Universities by U.S. News and World Report. Kent State is one of Ohio's leading public universities and a major educational, economic, and cultural resource far beyond the Northeast Ohio region it has served since 1910. The student body comprises more than 37,000 students, and the alumni family exceeds 257,000. The University's mission is to transform lives and communities through the power of discovery, learning, and creative expression in an inclusive environment.

About Kent State University's College of Public Health

The College of Public Health at Kent State educates future public health leaders, scientists, and scholars, creating national impact on people and our community. The public health profession has contributed to significant gains in lifespan over the past 100 years and will continue to improve the overall health of our population with added contributions from our program graduates.

Vision: To be a leader in public health education, inquiry, and engagement.

Mission: To advance public health by preparing leaders, scientists, and practitioners to collaborate with community partners in conducting impactful research and practice to solve public health challenges.

Values: **F** - Fairness

L - Leadership

A - Accountability

S - Students First

H - Honor

E - Excellence

S - Success

How to Cite this Report

Snyder, A. M., DiDonato, A. E., Stimpert, T., White, J., & Washington, E. (2024).

Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ community needs assessment. Kent State University, College of Public Health. <https://lgbtqohio.org>



Introduction, Purpose, and Goals of this Community Needs Assessment

Community needs assessments are tools public health professionals use to collect, synthesize, and disseminate valuable information to support and validate decision-making and commitments to implementing community health interventions, resources, and investments. Capturing insight about the current health status and potential accomplishments as well as deficiencies in community services and community resources inform key stakeholders—both within and outside the healthcare sector—who are committed to delivering culturally competent services to the LGBTQ+ community. This contributes to the overall improved health status of the target population.

Community needs assessments are an essential tool for identifying the strengths, opportunities, and resources available in a community to meet the unmet needs of the people living there. Community needs assessments also provide valuable insight and information for identifying and developing innovative solutions to service gaps and building a supportive community to live in. As LGBTQ+ individuals and as a community, we have abundant strength, resilience, and resourcefulness. At the same time, our community continues to be disproportionately affected by a range of physical, mental, and behavioral health, economic, social, legal, and political issues. Many organizations may overlook our needs because they don't understand what our needs are.

Goals:

- Increase awareness about public health as it relates to the LGBTQ+ community in Greater Cleveland
- Lean into the local LGBTQ+ population demographically as the LGBTQ+ community is currently unassessed by the US Census, leaving us to rely on estimates
- Describe the status of the local LGBTQ+ community holistically; not just focusing on weaknesses and unmet needs but also identifying strengths and achievements
- Develop a set of community recommendations based on participant input that inform future investments and decision-making for the local LGBTQ+ community
- Strengthen partnerships and collaborations between organizations within the local public health system



Research Methodology

Planning

The Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment was conducted from January 2023 to December 2024 using a community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach. This approach prioritized collaboration with LGBTQ+ community members and stakeholders across diverse sectors. The project was guided by nine committees: a Steering Committee, a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Committee, and seven sub-committees, collectively representing a holistic approach to community health. These sub-committees included Health and Wellness, Religion and Spirituality, Education and Literacy, Housing, Food, and Basic Needs, Business, Employment, and Commerce, Safety and Law Enforcement, and Recreation and Leisure.

These leadership teams were composed of over 180 individuals from more than 120 organizations, including health services, educational institutions, and LGBTQ+ advocacy groups. The planning process, facilitated by a Program Director and four graduate students from Kent State University's College of Public Health, involved developing clear objectives, establishing recruitment strategies, and identifying key community issues to assess.

Each sub-committee, consisting of LGBTQ+ community members, subject experts, professionals, and stakeholders, participated in a series of ten 90-minute virtual meetings. These meetings guided the teams in defining the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community, conducting SWOT analyses, identifying concerns, determining researchable questions, and selecting appropriate data collection mechanisms. The sub-committees' work was reviewed by the Steering and DEIB committees, with feedback incorporated through monthly virtual meetings.

Data Collection

Community Survey

The primary means of data collection was a comprehensive digital survey co-developed by the project committees to cover critical health domains and community needs. Recruitment occurred through social media, in-person engagement at LGBTQ+ community events and significant venues, and flyer distribution in collaboration with community partners across

Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Lorain counties. The core project team attended and posted flyers at over 120 events and venues. Participants included individuals aged 12 or older, with parental consent for those under 18, identifying as LGBTQ+ or LGBTQ+ allies living in the target counties or relying on Greater Cleveland for resources. Survey participants were incentivized with a raffle for one of 35 gift cards from local LGBTQ+-owned or affirming businesses valued at \$75 each.

Survey metrics reveal that the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment gathered a total of 2,006 unique survey responses. Of these respondents, 1,653 (82.5%) identified as LGBTQ+, with 1,594 adults and 59 youth. Additionally, 353 (17.5%) respondents identified as LGBTQ+ allies, including 350 adults and 3 youth. The BIPOC LGBTQ+ response rate was 22.4% (371 responses). The overall completion rate was 75%. There were six surveys completed in Spanish. In total the community survey collected 363,041 unique data points.

Stakeholder Interviews

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 23 key stakeholders from community organizations, healthcare providers, and government. These interviews aimed to gather in-depth insights into the systemic challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community and identify potential areas for intervention. Stakeholders were selected for their expertise and involvement in LGBTQ+ issues, ensuring diverse perspectives. Interviews were anonymous, recorded, transcribed, and thematically analyzed to highlight common concerns and strategic recommendations for improving community health outcomes.

Intersectionality Listening Sessions

Intersectionality listening sessions (focus groups) were held with historically underrepresented subcommunities, identities, subgroups, and shared experiences. These sessions employed a qualitative approach to create a safe space for participants to share their specific challenges and needs. A total of 178 participants engaged in 26 ninety-minute sessions held at the LGBTQ+ Community Center of Greater Cleveland, El Centro De Servicios Sociales, Colors+, Geauga Public Library, Lake County Health Department, and B. Riley Sober House. Participants were compensated with a \$50 prepaid Visa gift card

for sharing their time and experiences with the project. Facilitators led guided discussions to identify and prioritize unmet needs, existing resources, barriers to access, and potential solutions and calls to action. The insights from these sessions were crucial in ensuring underrepresented voices were central to the needs assessment process.

Analysis

Data analysis involved both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Quantitative data from the community survey were analyzed using descriptive statistics and published in this full community report to provide a broad overview of the LGBTQ+ community's needs. Qualitative responses, particularly from open-ended questions, were analyzed thematically through coding and categorization using a three-person protocol, with independent reviewers identifying recurring themes related to fears, concerns, and suggested improvements. Intersectional analysis was applied to understand the unique challenges faced by individuals with intersecting identities, enriching the overall findings of the assessment.

Dissemination

The findings from the needs assessment were disseminated through multiple channels to ensure broad accessibility and community engagement. Preliminary results were shared at community forums, stakeholder meetings, and LGBTQ+ events to facilitate dialogue and feedback.

- A comprehensive report, including both quantitative and qualitative findings, was submitted for peer review and made available on the project's website, LGBTQOhio.org.

Additionally, infographics summarizing key findings and actionable recommendations were developed for distribution across community organizations and social media platforms to maximize outreach and impact.

Strengths

- **Robust Participation:** The assessment recorded 2,006 valid and unique survey responses, providing a rich dataset with a high completion rate that reflects the diverse experiences within the LGBTQ+ community of Greater Cleveland.
- **Mixed-Methods Approach:** Utilizing both quantitative and qualitative data allows for a comprehensive understanding of the community's needs and priorities.

- **Community-Partnered Approach:** The project piloted a recruitment method that equitably compensated eight community organizations and individuals with access to hard-to-reach LGBTQ+ subcommunity members, working hand-in-hand with the core project team to recruit potential participants for the survey and listening sessions, increasing the diversity of the final sample.







Limitations

- **Sampling Bias:** The non-probability convenience sampling approach led to potential underrepresentation of certain intersections within the LGBTQ+ community, such as intersex individuals, LGBTQ+ youth of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, LGBTQ+ individuals experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, LGBTQ+ seniors (over 65), and LGBTQ+ individuals from Middle Eastern, North African, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and American Indian and Native Alaskan backgrounds.
- **Access Barriers:** Further local research with these identities in particular should be conducted in the future to better understand and meet the needs of these LGBTQ+ community members.
- **Age Restriction:** Data collection did not include LGBTQ+ community members under the age of 12, which may overlook critical insights from younger demographics.
- **Self-Reported Data:** The assessment relied on self-reported data, which can be subject to biases, including over- or under-reporting behaviors, experiences, or needs. Respondents may have provided socially desirable answers rather than accurate reflections of their circumstances.
- **Response Bias:** Certain groups may have been more likely to participate in the survey or focus groups, leading to a response bias. Individuals who are more engaged or have stronger opinions may have skewed the results toward those perspectives.
- **Limited Generalizability:** Due to the non-random, convenience sampling method, the findings may not be fully generalizable to the entire LGBTQ+ population or to other regions outside Greater Cleveland. The specific needs identified may be unique to the respondents.

Community Recommendations for Addressing LGBTQ+ Needs

The following table presents a prioritized list of community recommendations derived from our qualitative community survey question, “What do you need to address your biggest fear, worry, or concern for yourself as a member of the LGBTQ+ community?” These recommendations aim to identify and address the most pressing fears, concerns, and worries expressed directly by community members.

The recommendations are sorted by priority, with the most frequently identified priorities at the top. Through a three-person thematizing analysis, 1,352 themes were identified from 830 qualitative responses, which were organized into 34 community recommendations. The top 20 community recommendations are depicted in this table.

Recommendation	Total Responses	Health and Wellness	Religion and Spirituality	Education and Literacy	Housing, Food, and Basic Needs	Business, Employment and Commerce	Safety and Law Enforcement	Recreation and Leisure	BIPOC Priority
Foster a culture of inclusiveness, open-mindedness, empathy, acceptance, and respect within and outside the LGBTQ+ community.	147	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Enact and enforce laws against discrimination, including those related to gender-affirming care, workplace rights, reproductive rights, family rights, marriage rights, gender markers on government documents, housing policy, and taxation on non-spousal health benefits.	131	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Address uncertainty and feelings of helplessness by promoting actionable solutions and community engagement.	125	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Increase accessible community education, including health, civic education, cultural competency, allyship, law enforcement training, workplace training, intersectionality, mediation techniques, and first aid and emergency preparedness.	98	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Ensure government and local leaders actively support the LGBTQ+ community.	87	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Support political and legal advocacy and activism around LGBTQ+ issues, including actions from healthcare institutions, youth empowerment initiatives, and union organizing.	68	X		X	X	X	X		
Invest in accessible support programs and groups for LGBTQ+ community members, allies, and general community members, such as youth outreach, mentoring, networking, social groups and services, safe online spaces, and groups for autistic LGBTQ+ individuals.	65	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Build safe LGBTQ+-friendly resources, including medical services, childcare and family planning, coming out support, political resources, relationship and dating resources, addiction recovery and prevention services, affirming medical schools and institutions, affirming lawyers and legal services, LGBTQ+-owned businesses, Cleveland Service Providers, and self-defense tools.	62	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Advocate for systemic changes in political structure and climate.	51	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Ensure accessible, affordable, and affirming healthcare, including mental, behavioral, and sexual health services such as STI testing, HIV/AIDS case management, and family planning and fertility services.	49	X			X		X		



BIPOC Priorities: Recommendations that are especially prioritized by BIPOC community members are marked with the BLM fist. This indicates that, when accounting for race and ethnicity, a higher percentage of BIPOC community members have highlighted this recommendation as a priority. To better understand the priorities of BIPOC LGBTQ+ community members, see our 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report available at lgbtqohio.org.

Recommendation	Total Responses	Health and Wellness	Religion and Spirituality	Education and Literacy	Housing, Food, and Basic Needs	Business, Employment and Commerce	Safety and Law Enforcement	Recreation and Leisure	BIPOC Priority
Promote active allyship within and outside the LGBTQ+ community, including trans allyship, BIPOC allyship, and lesbian allyship, with support from institutions, businesses, and philanthropic funders.	44	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Build more LGBTQ+-friendly safe spaces, community areas, and neighborhoods, including co-ops, city planning initiatives, third spaces outside bars and clubs, inclusivity and pride indicators, art collaborations to beautify community spaces, gender-neutral bathrooms, and safety improvements to existing LGBTQ+ spaces.	42				X		X	X	
Provide a wide range of affordable events, programming, and entertainment for the LGBTQ+ community, including community and grassroots organizing events, music events, family-friendly programming, art activities, singles events, and self-defense classes.	34							X	
Increase financial support and funding for education, housing, food, income, and other needs.	31			X	X	X			
Encourage voter turnout and civic engagement.	28	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Provide job support and resources, including ERGs, affirming business resource guides for job applicants, improved benefits, interview readiness, resume and CV assistance, and legal resources.	24					X			
Implement LGBTQ+-affirming and inclusive school policies and spaces, including DEI initiatives and curriculum changes.	24			X					
Increase the visibility of LGBTQ+ identities and community members in media, data, and research reporting.	23	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Provide housing assistance, including senior housing, low-income housing, trans-friendly housing, and co-op living.	22				X				
Support a community-led coalition that mobilizes, advocates, raises awareness, and calls for accountability around LGBTQ+ issues and community-based grassroots projects.	19	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Community Survey

Unified Community Definition

For the purpose of this project, when referring to the LGBTQ+ Community of Greater Cleveland, we mean anyone who identifies with marginalized sexual orientations and gender identities such as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and/or Queer or Questioning. This includes individuals whose identity may not be expressly included in the acronym LGBTQ+, or may not publicly identify or “out” themselves but still feel they belong to the community.

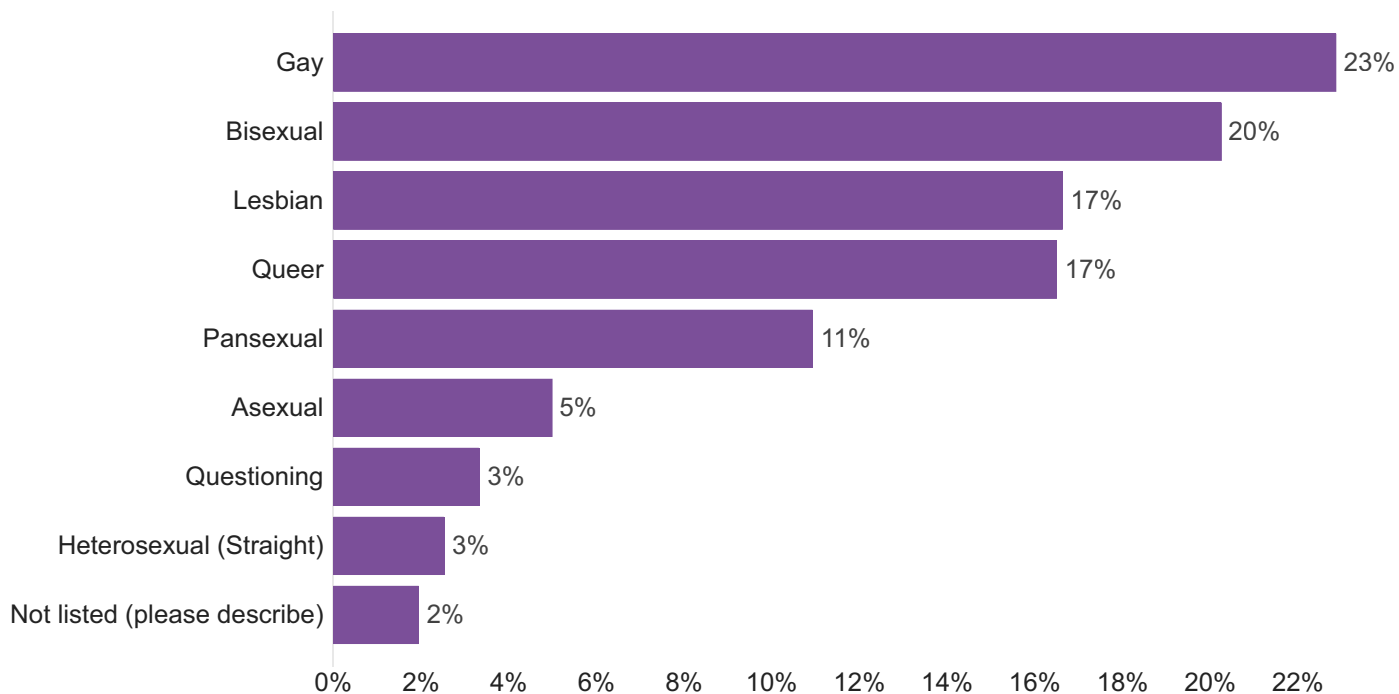
The LGBTQ+ Community of Greater Cleveland encompasses those who live or work in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga counties or rely on Greater Cleveland for Healthcare, Social Services, Employment, Education, Religion or Spirituality, Recreation, Community Resources, or Support to satisfy their needs.

We seek to understand the unique needs of those who identify within the many intersections and co-communities of the larger acronym 2SLGBTQIAAP+. This includes acknowledging the unique lived experiences and challenges that historically underserved communities face, which are often excluded from contemporary conversations around wellness and quality of life. To this end, we aim to acknowledge and uplift LGBTQ+ intersections, including, but not limited to those who are:

- Transgender, nonbinary, gender non-conforming, queer, intersex, pansexual, asexual, and aromantic people
- Indigenous (including those recognized as Two Spirit)
- Black
- Hispanic/Latinx
- Asian
- Arab
- Speakers of various languages
- Immigrants, newcomers, and refugees
- First-generation Americans
- Religious minorities and atheists
- Individuals with disabilities and neurodivergent individuals
- Veterans
- Supporting people across the lifespan, from children to older adults
- Individuals with non-Western cultural backgrounds
- Rural LGBTQ+ individuals
- Survivors of sexual assault and abuse
- People living with HIV
- People experiencing homelessness or impacted by persistent poverty
- Sex workers

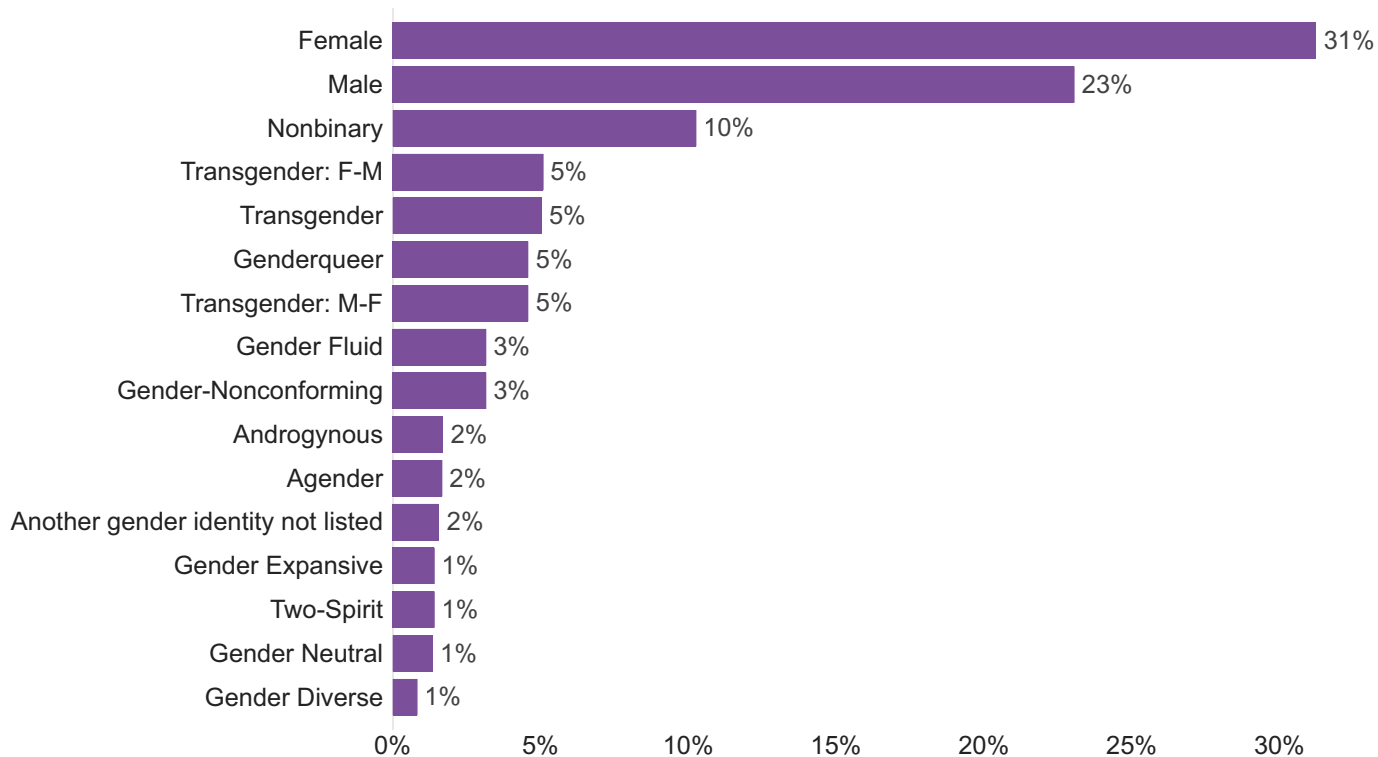
What is your sexual orientation? (select all that apply)

1651 Responses



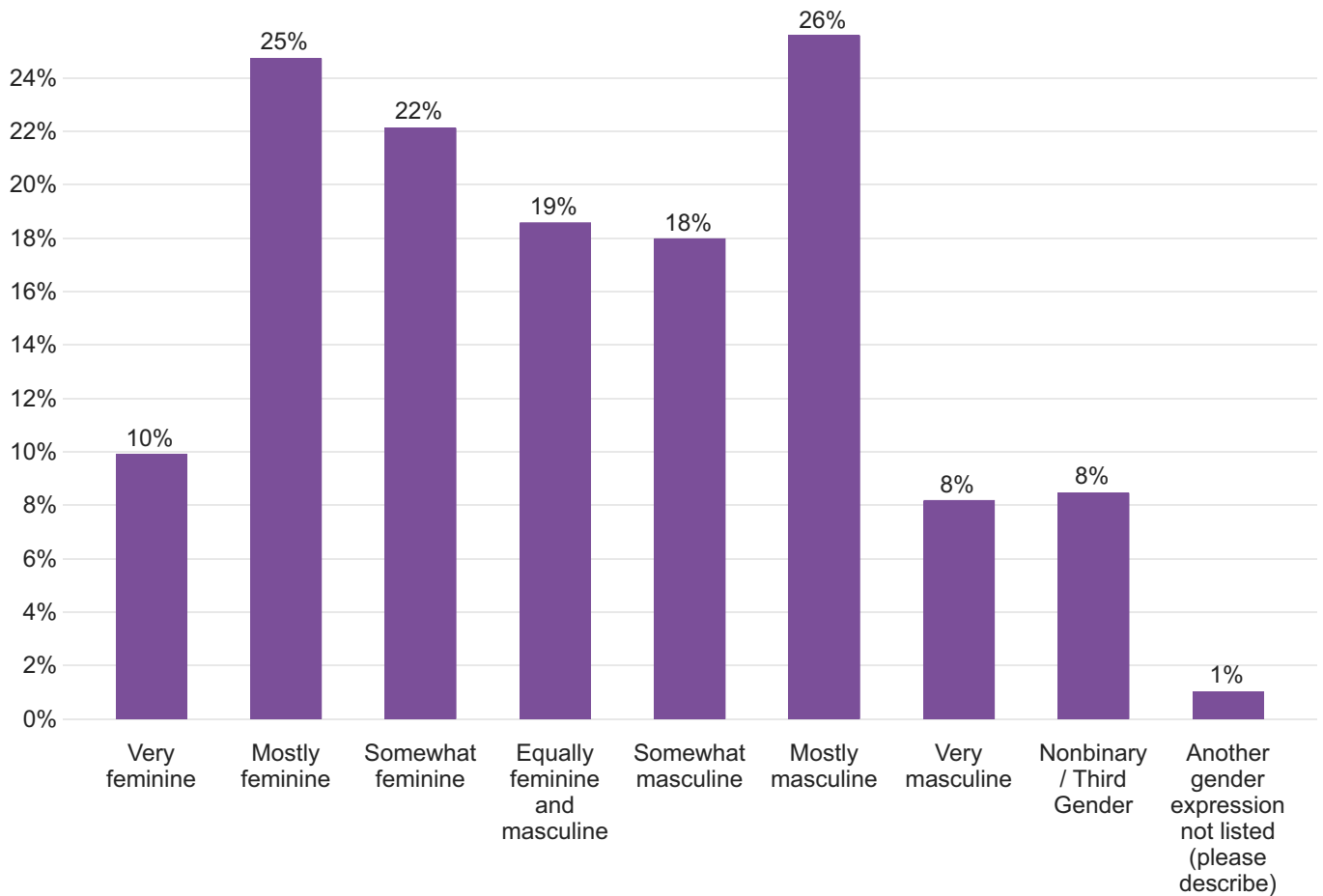
What is your current gender identity? (select all that apply)

1652 Responses



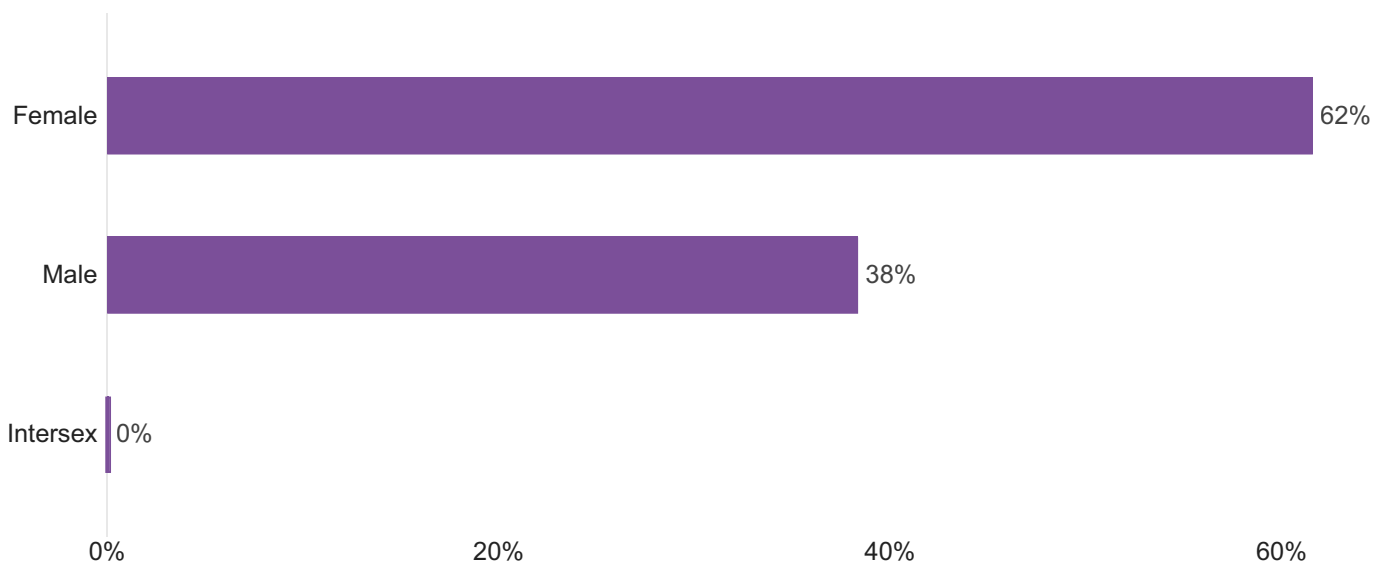
What is your gender expression? (select all that apply)

1653 Responses



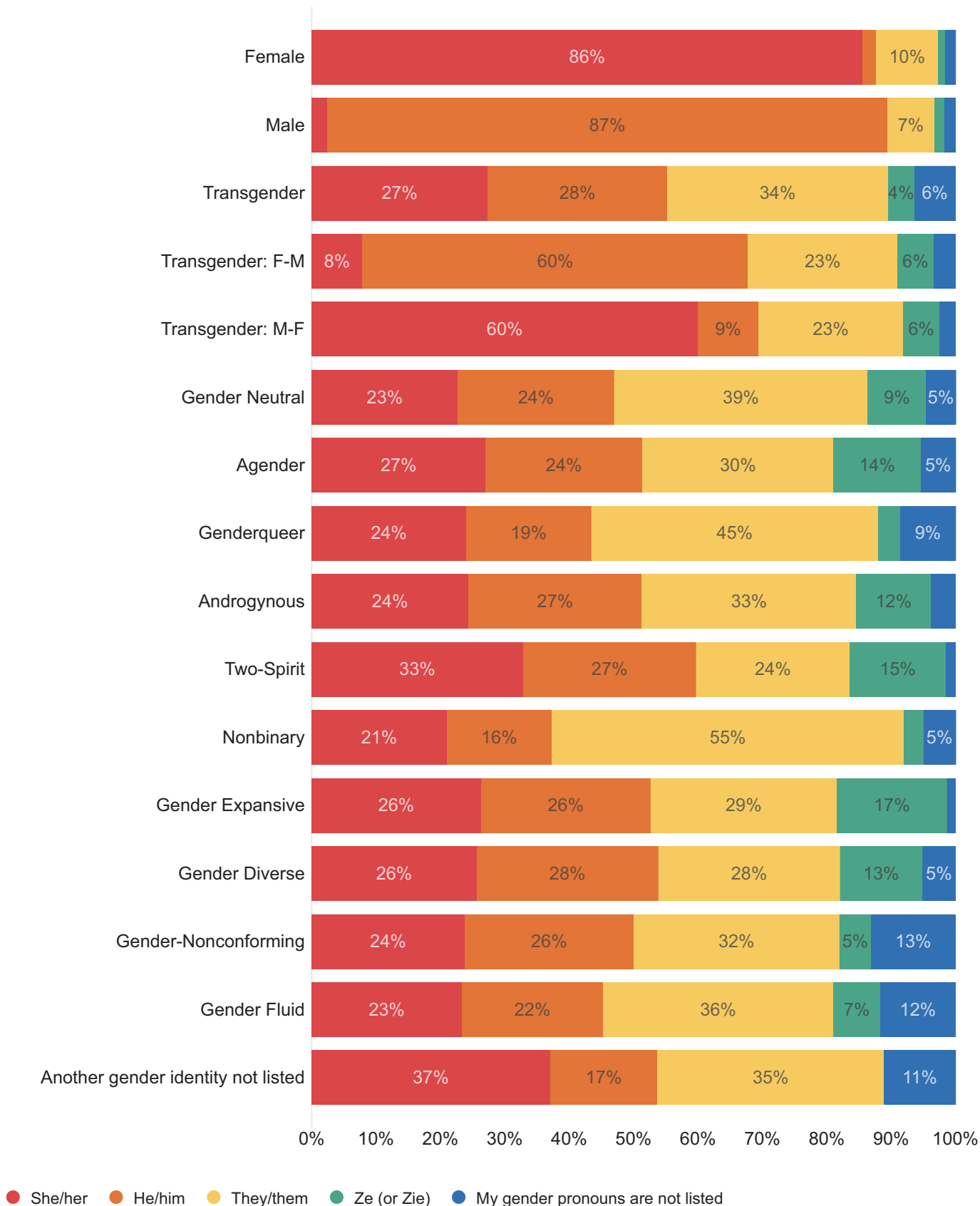
What sex were you born as or assigned at birth?

1653 Responses



What are your pronouns? (select all that apply) - Broken out by gender identity

1649 Responses

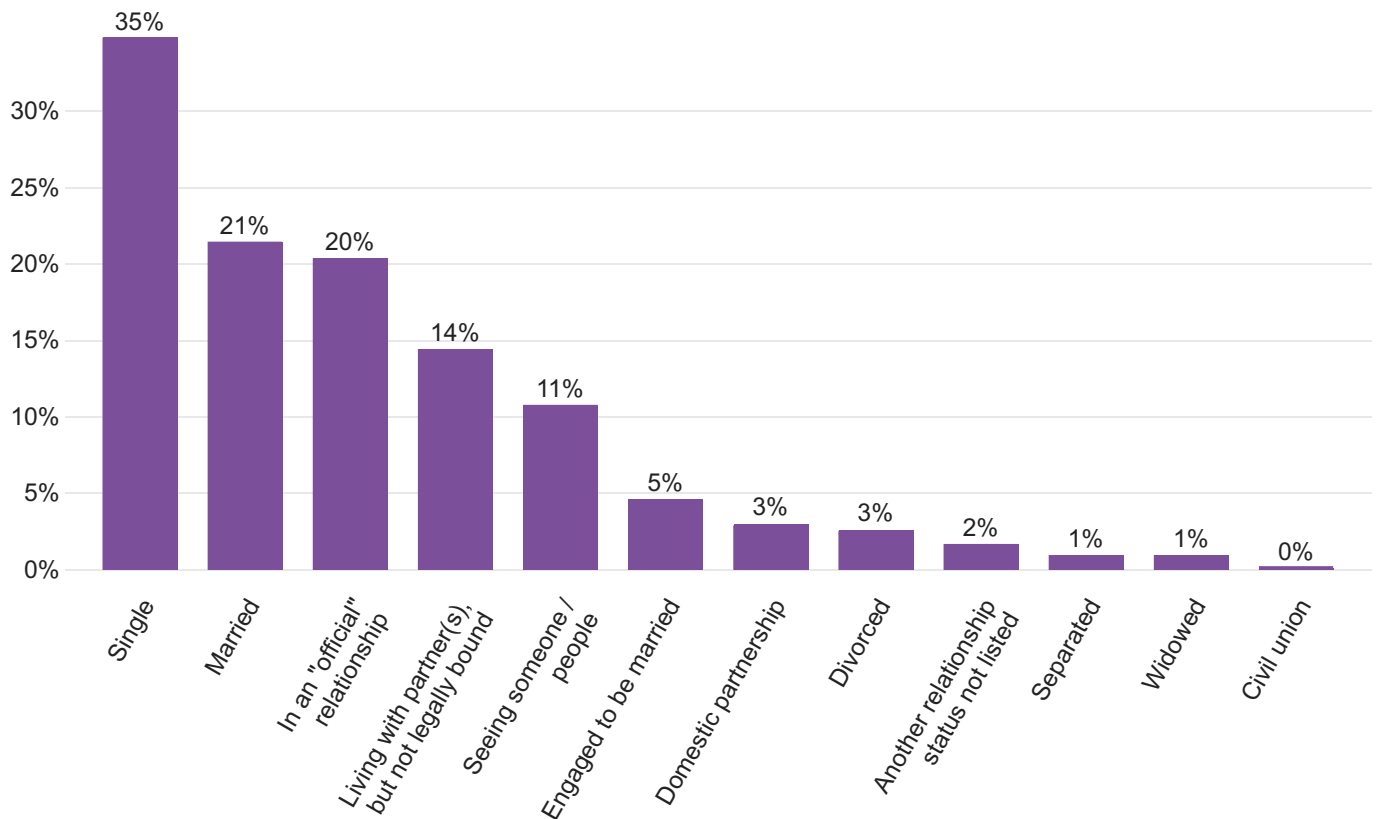




“Every generation has had a different experience, and we need to hear about all those different experiences.”

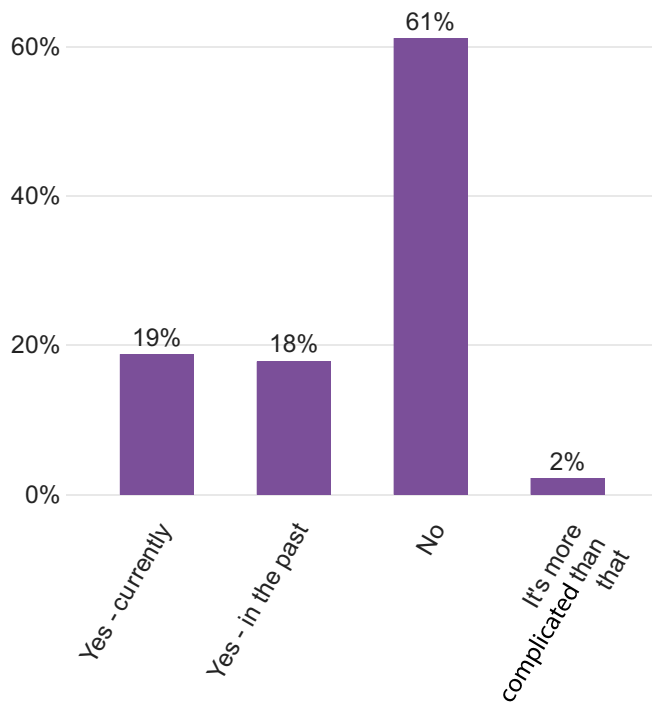
What is your current relationship status? (select all that apply)

1652 Responses



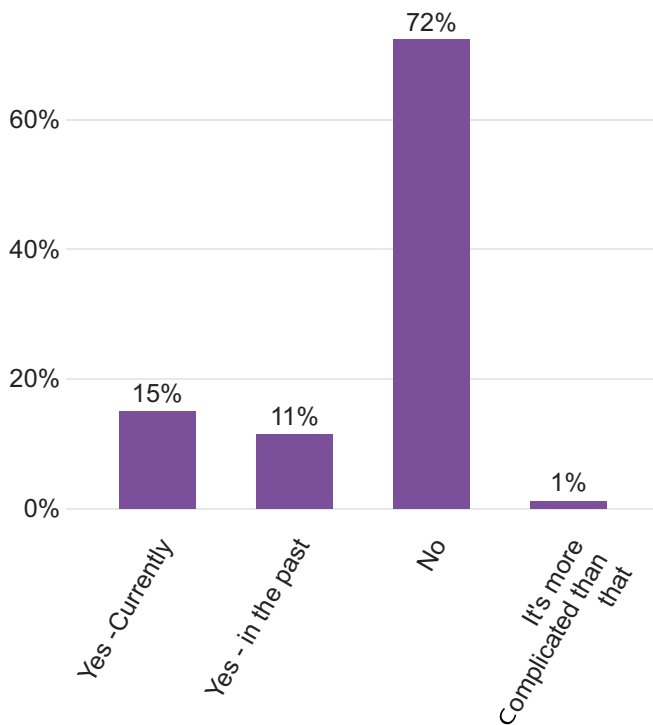
Are you currently in, or have you ever been in, an open relationship?

1591 Responses



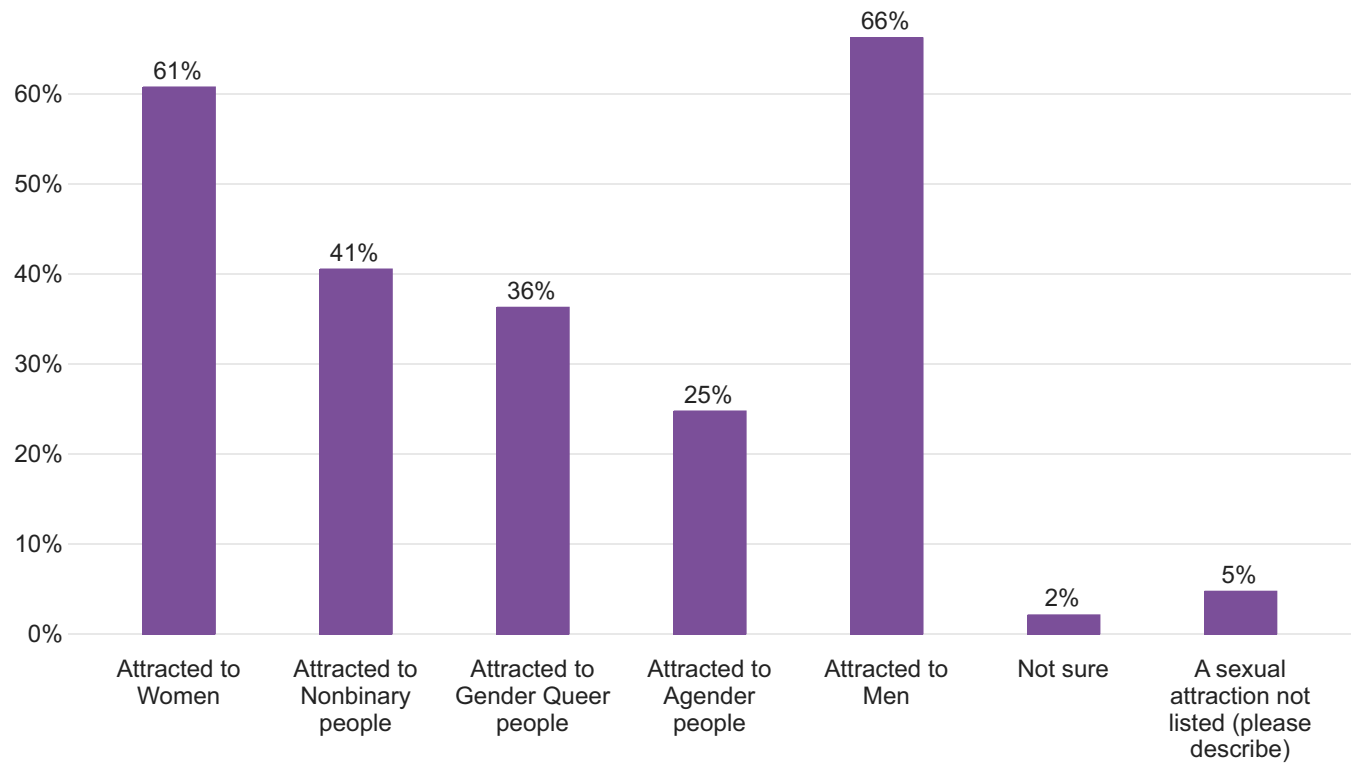
Are you currently in, or have you ever been in, a polyamorous relationship?

1591 Responses



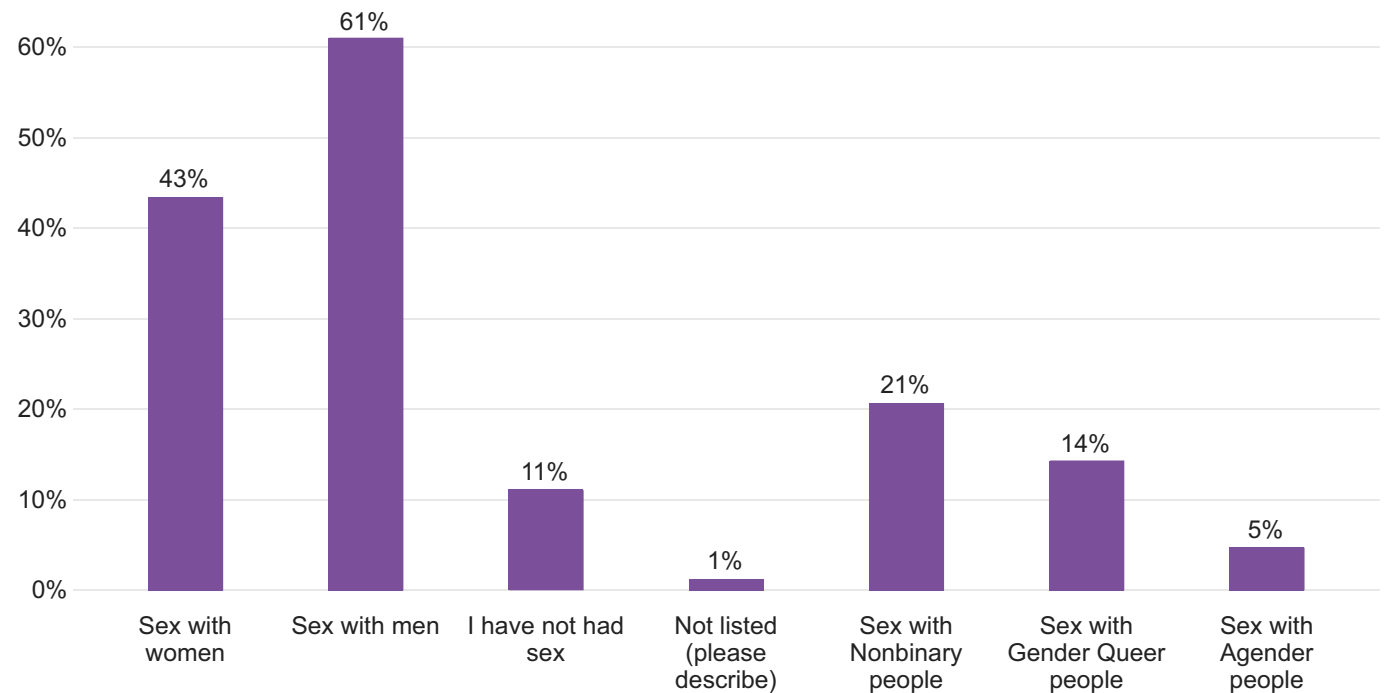
How would you best describe your sexual attraction(s)? (select all that apply)

1590 Responses



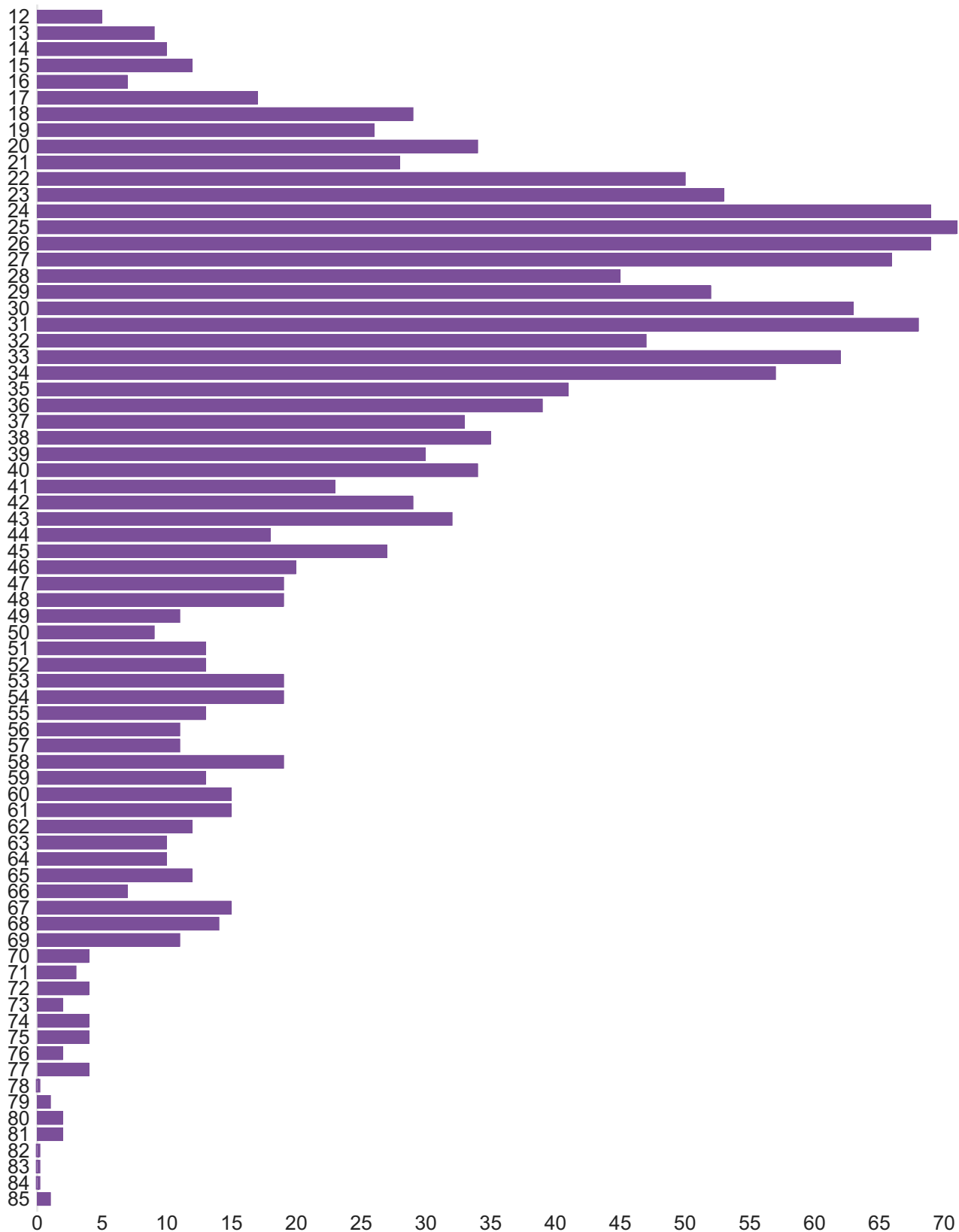
How would you best describe your sexual behavior(s) over the past five (5) years? (select all that apply)

1592 Responses



How old are you?

1653 Responses



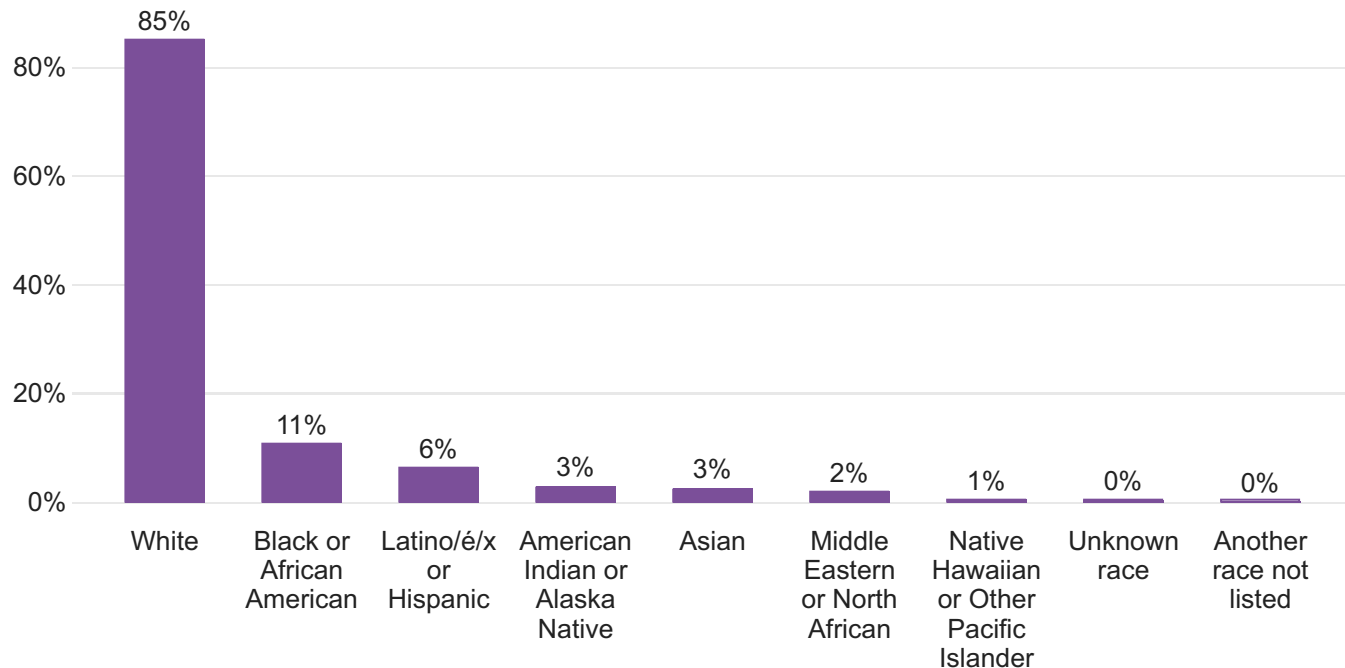


“Representation matters. We need a more unified effort to ensure that members of our community are in places of leadership across the spectrum. This includes local government, corporate positions, healthcare, and nonprofits.”



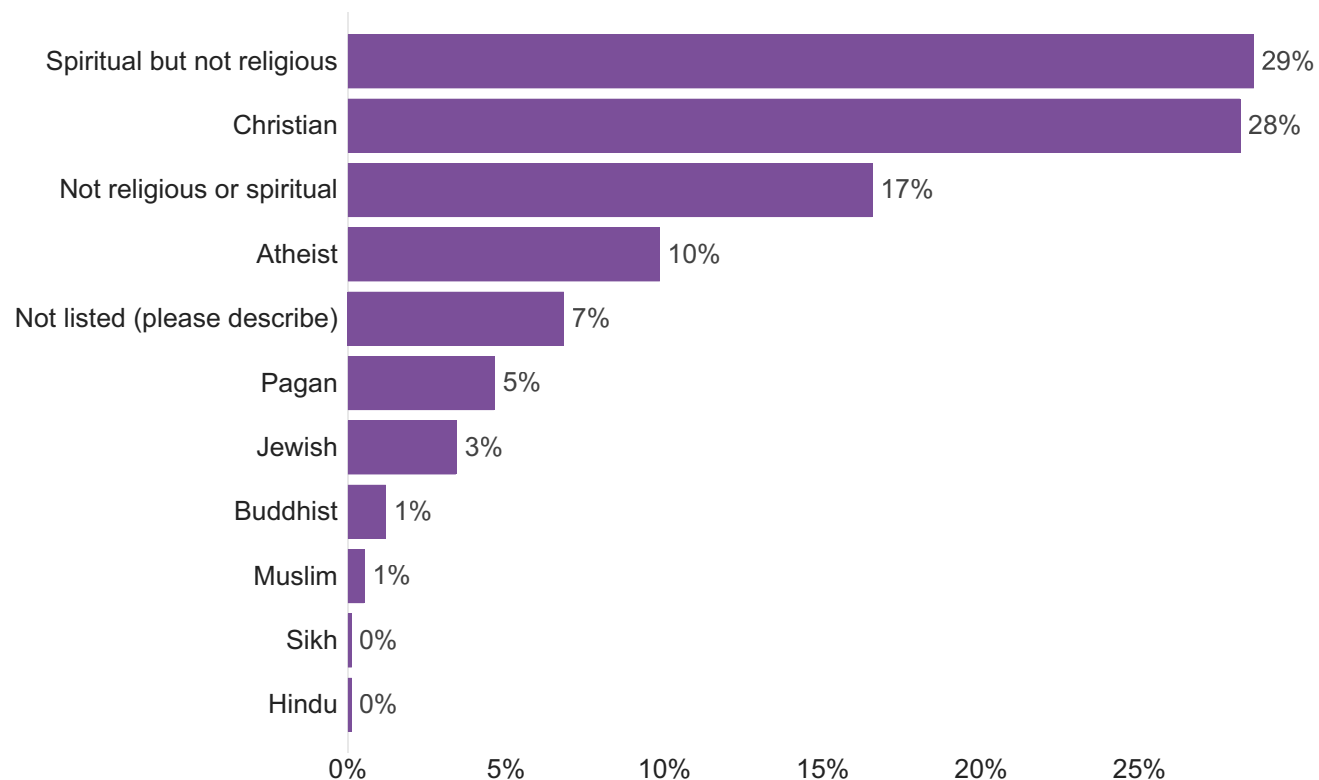
What is your race and ethnicity? (select all that apply)

1648 Responses



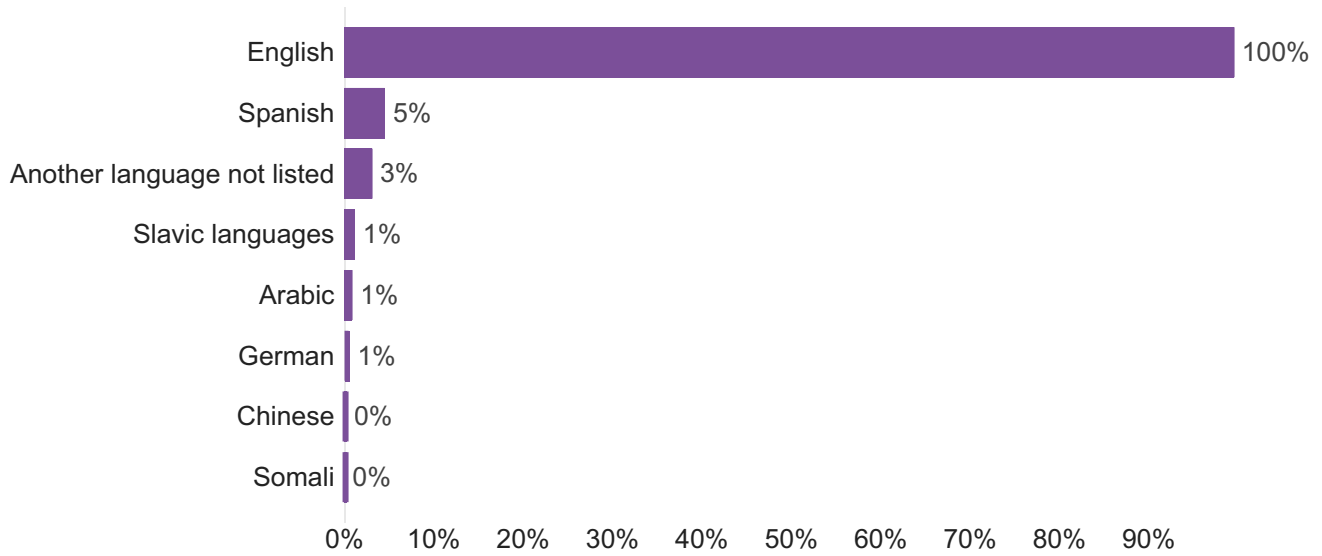
How would you describe your religion or spirituality?

1920 Responses



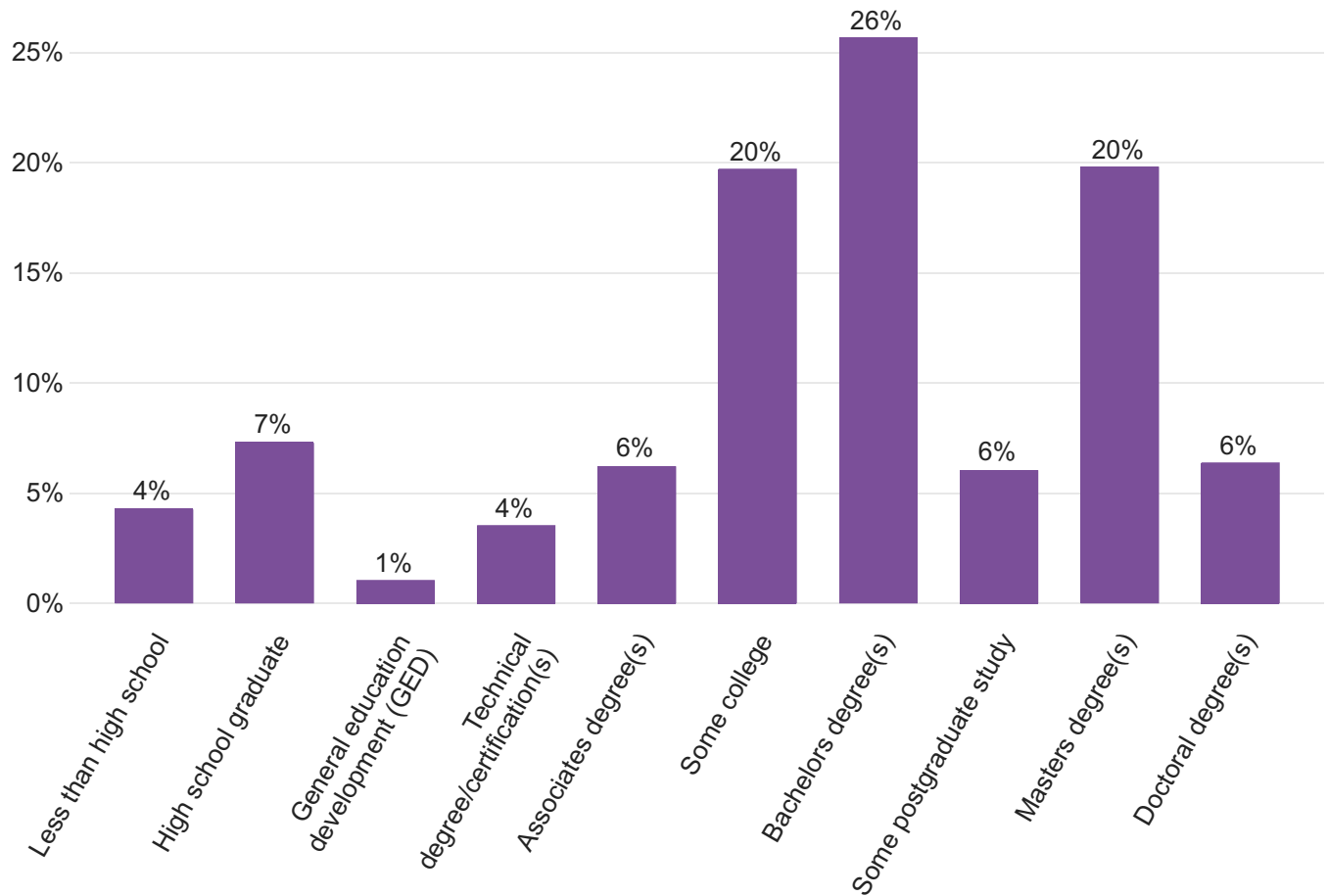
What language(s) do you speak at home? (select all that apply)

1650 Responses



What is the highest level of education you have completed?

1651 Responses

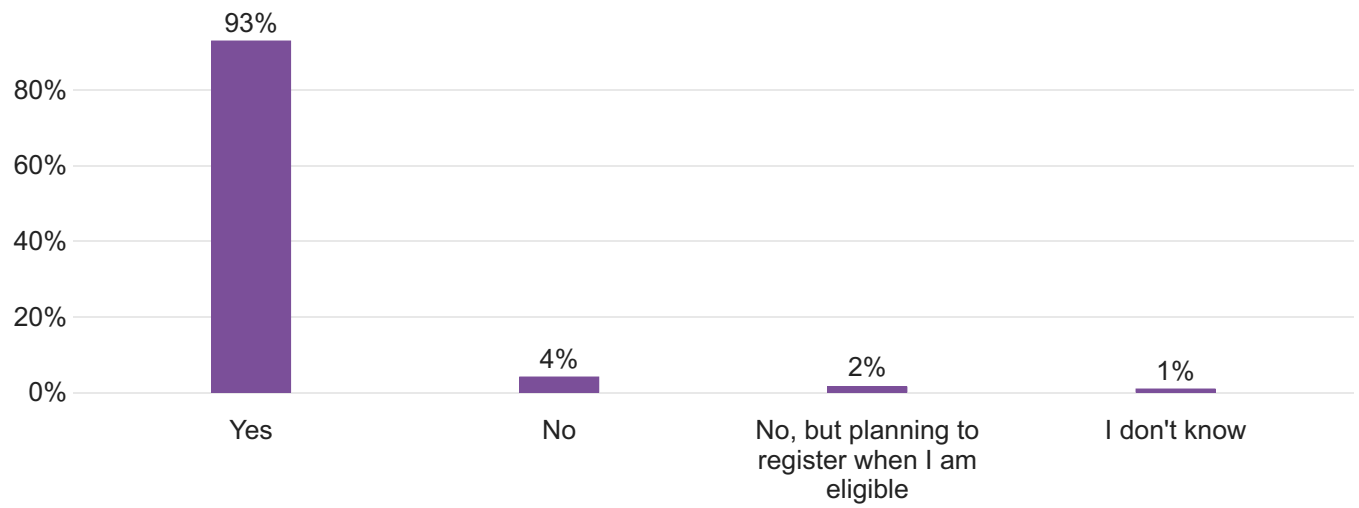


“My concern is that if we don’t stand strong together and organized we will be taking huge steps backwards as a country and the future of the safety of our community will suffer.”



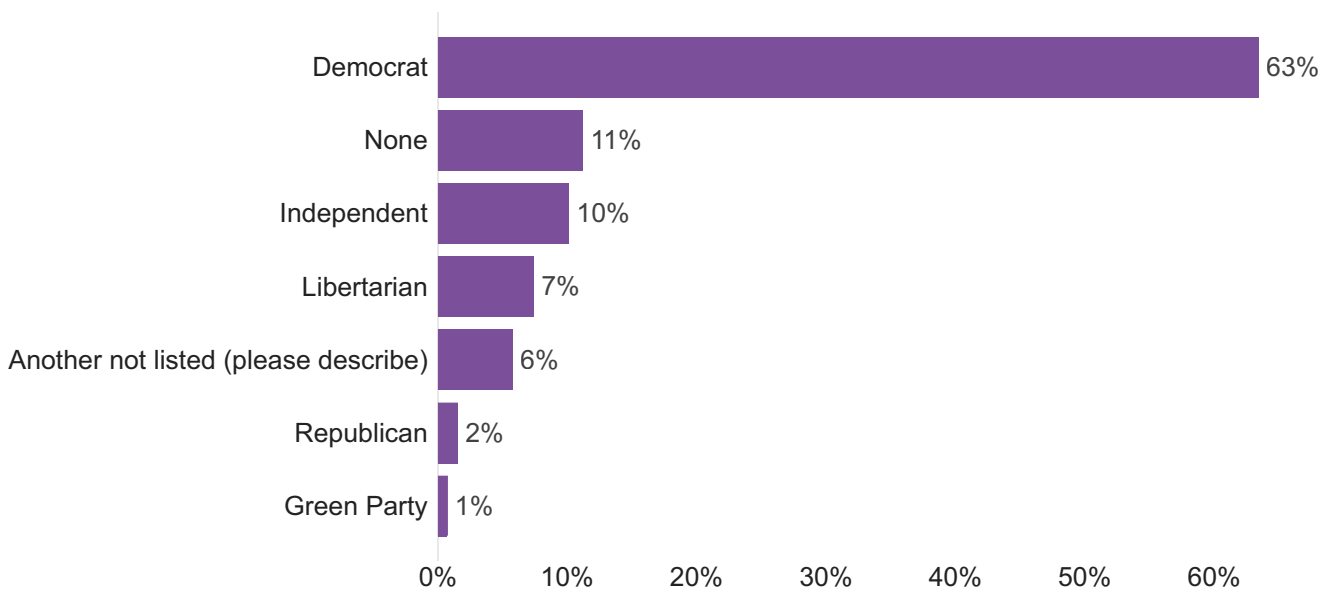
Are you registered to vote?

1590 Responses



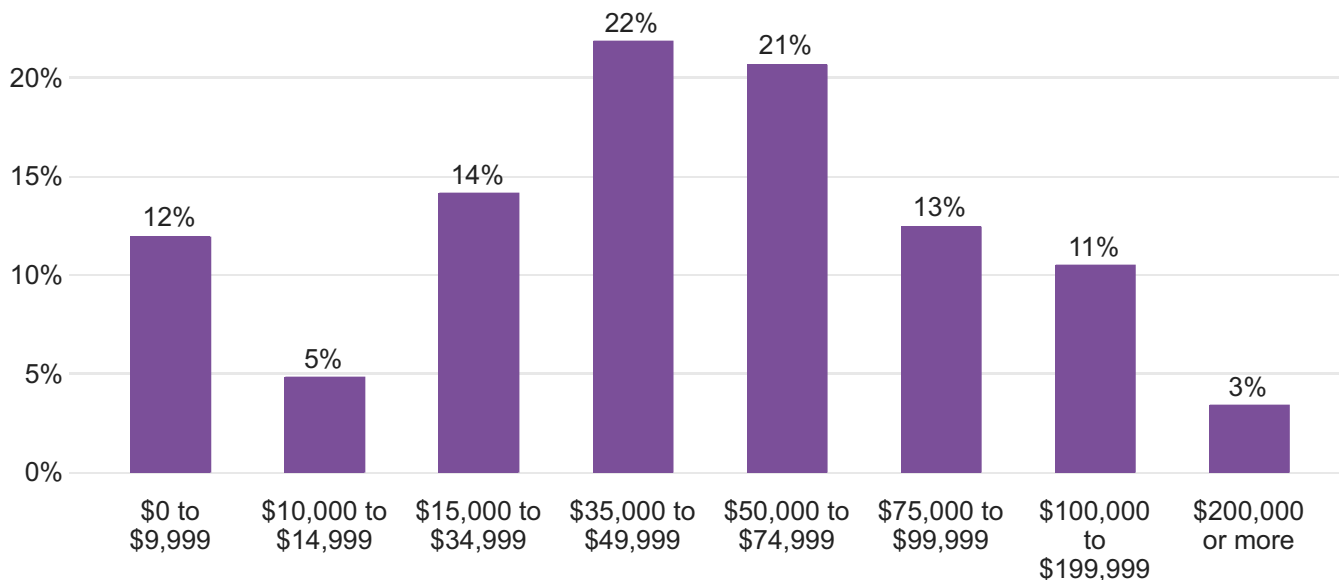
What is your political affiliation?

1585 Responses



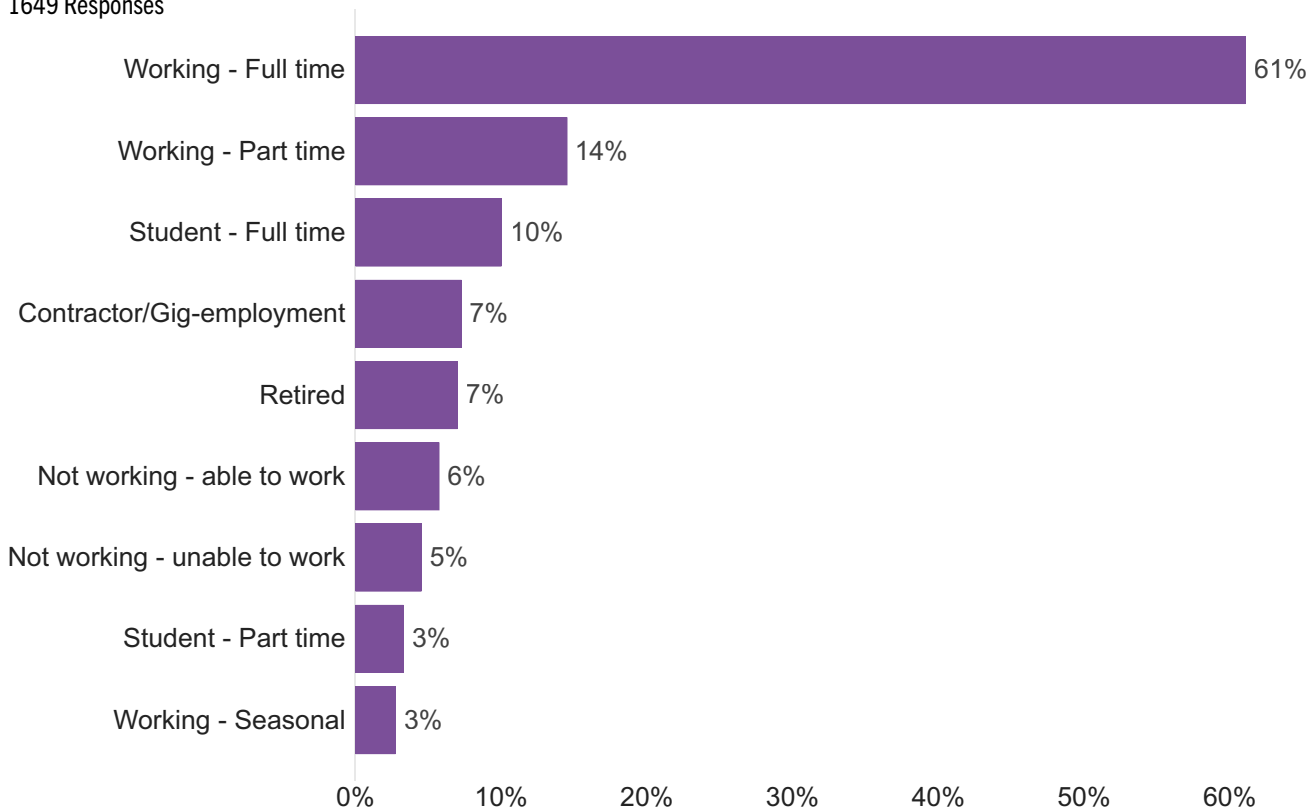
How much do you make in a year from all sources before taxes?

1576 Responses



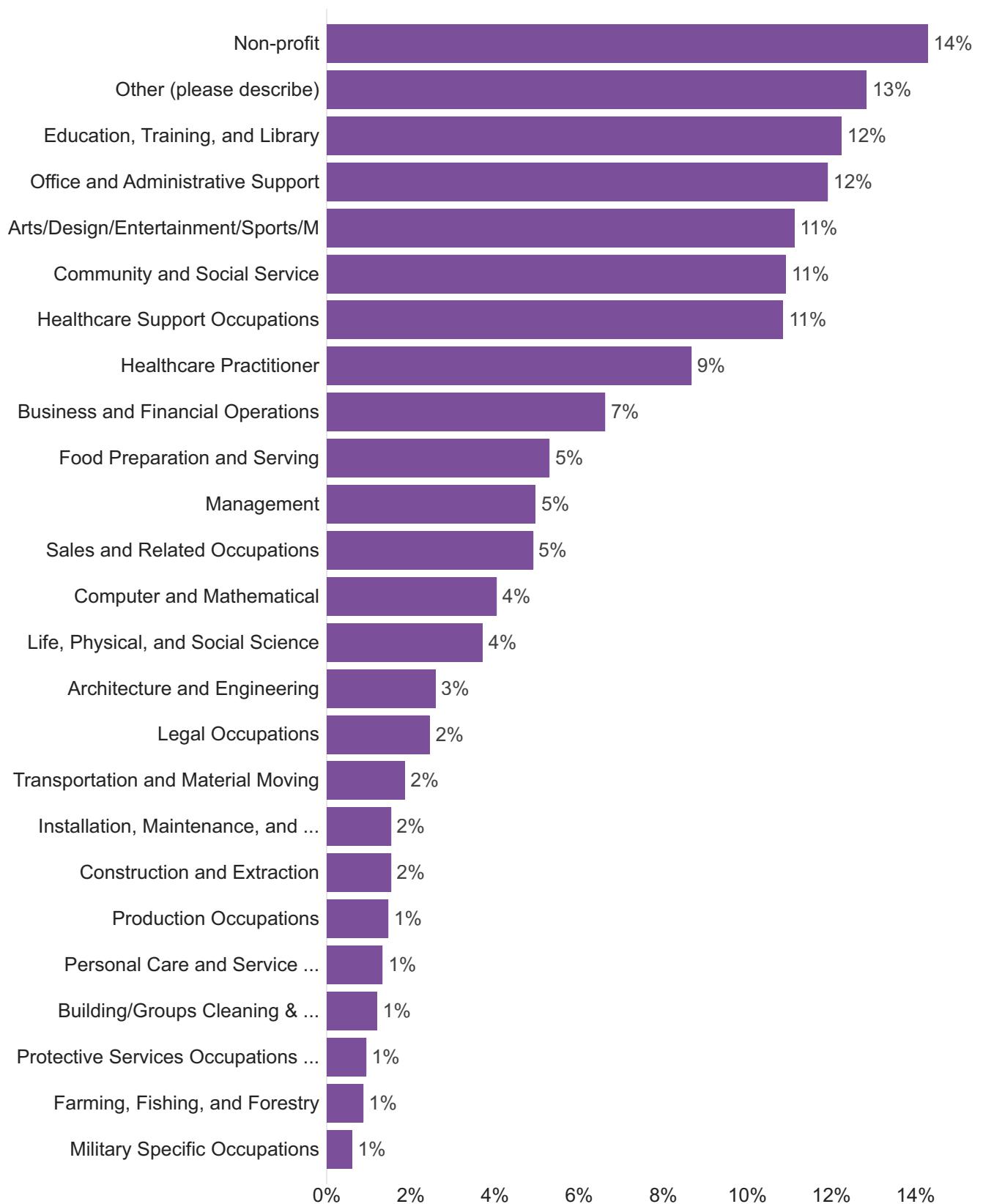
What is your employment status? (select all that apply)

1649 Responses



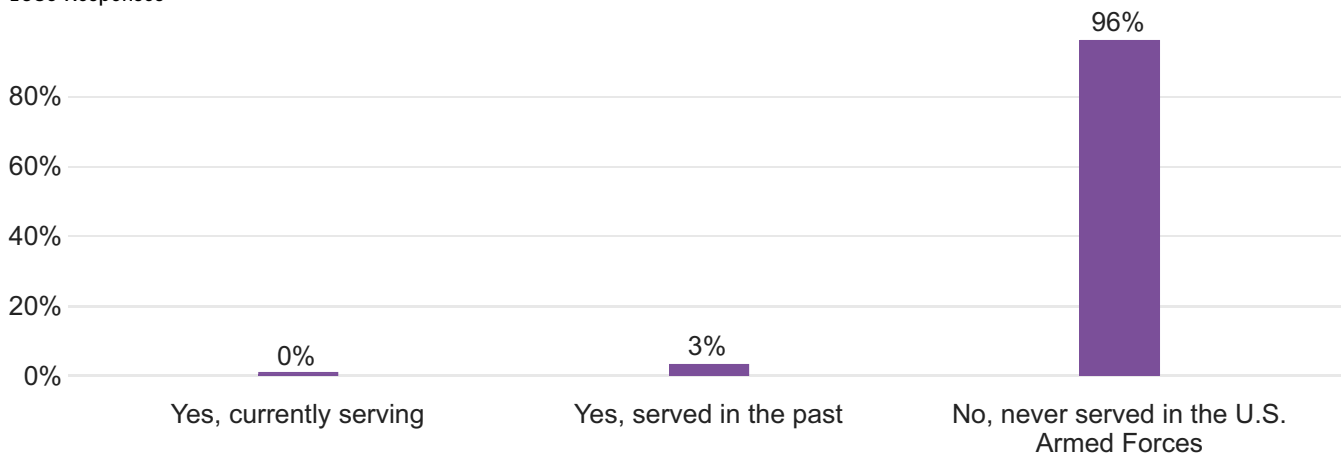
What is your occupation? (select all that apply)

1512 Responses



Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces?

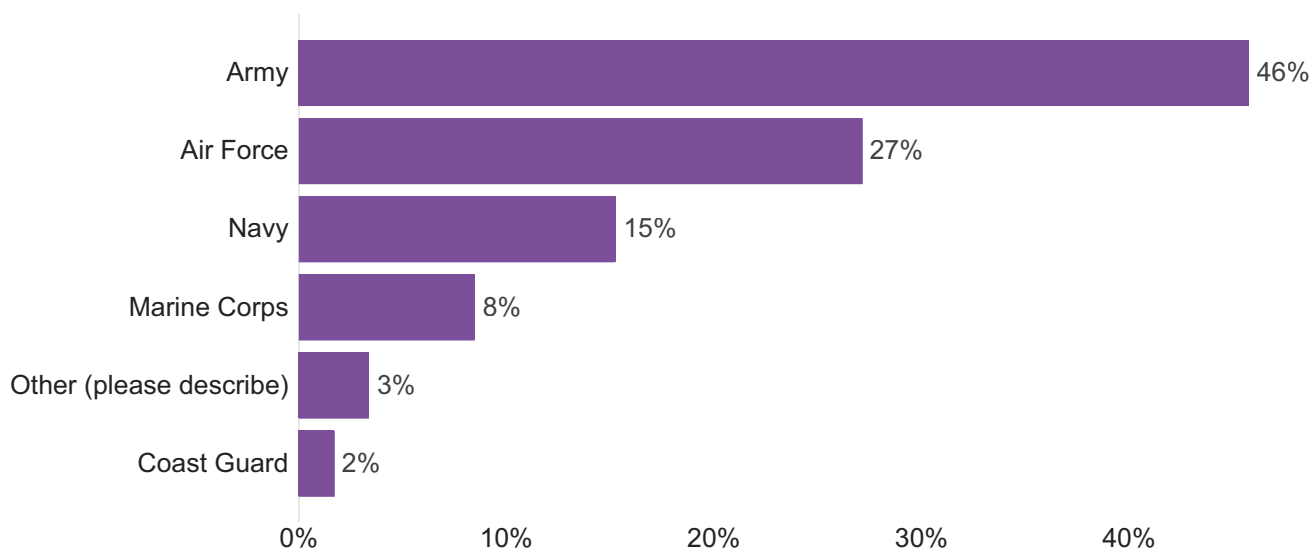
1589 Responses



In which branch or branches did you or do you serve on active duty? (select all that apply)

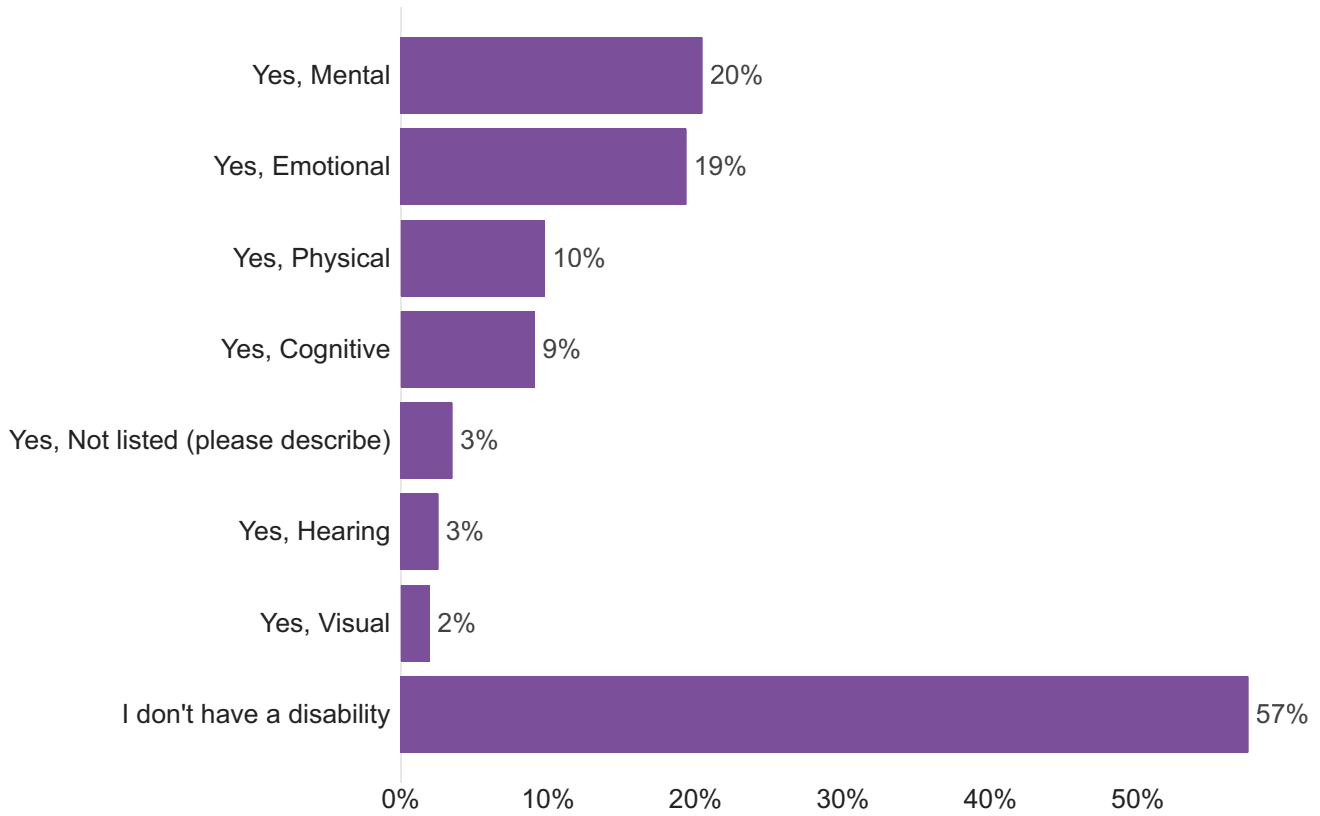
Only respondents indicating 'yes, currently serving' or 'yes, served in the past' were asked this question.

59 Responses

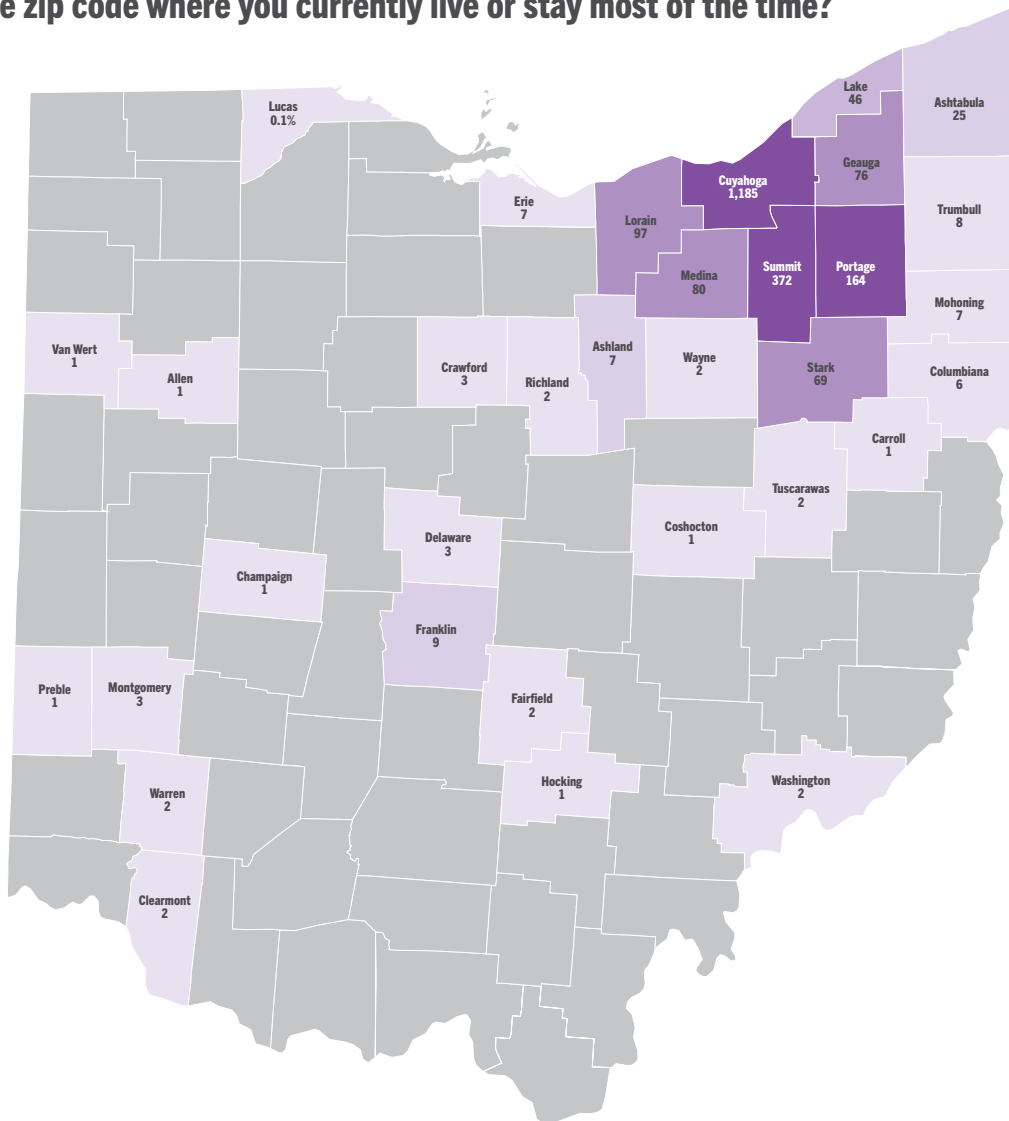


Do you have any disabilities as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)? (select all that apply)

1629 Responses

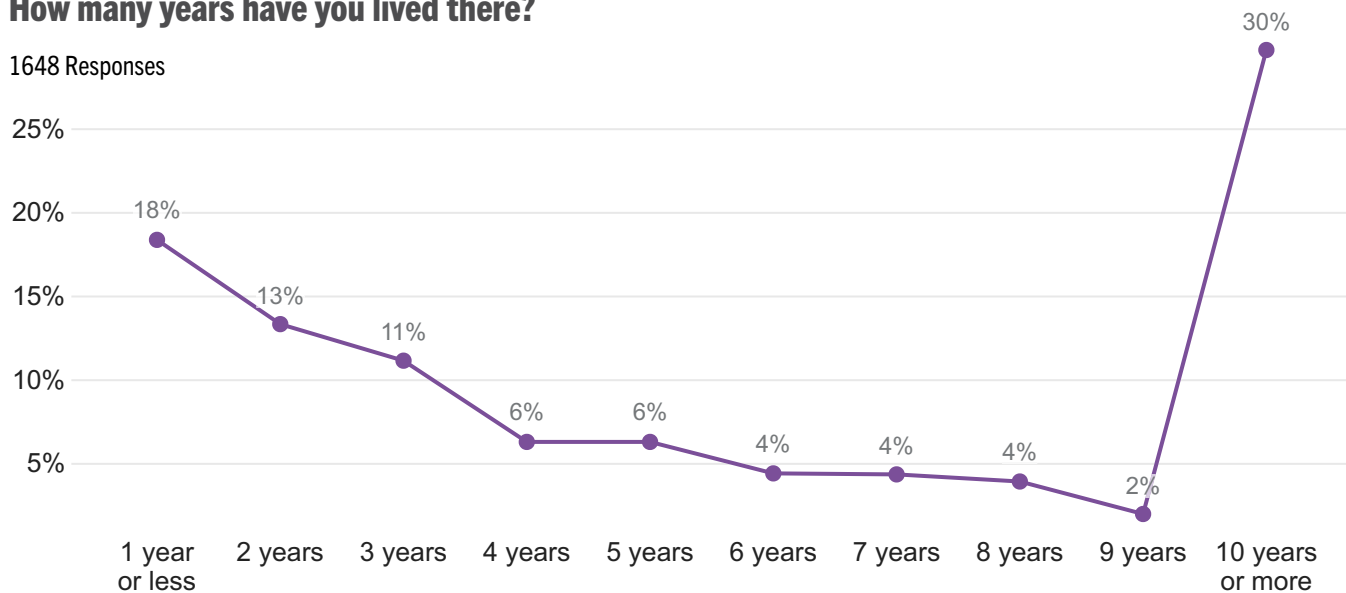


What is the zip code where you currently live or stay most of the time?



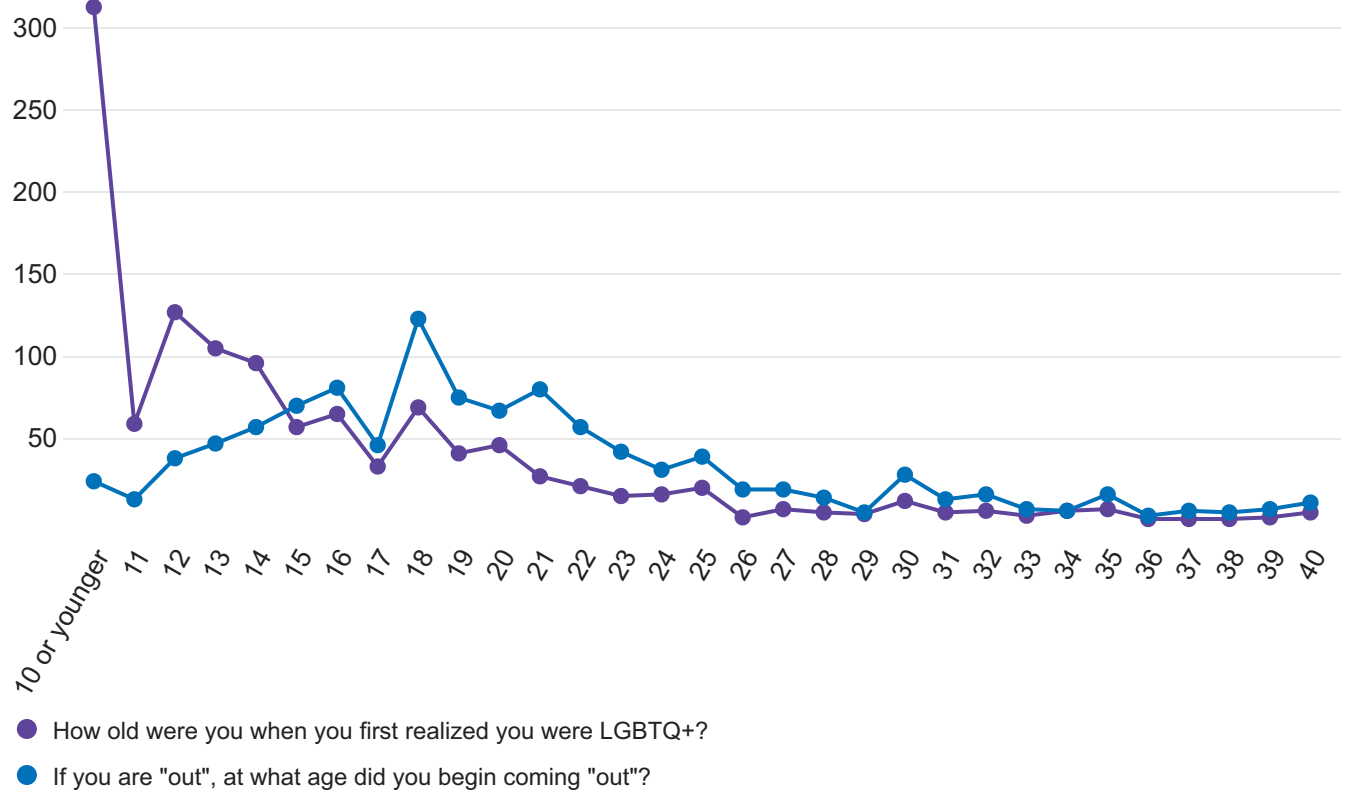
How many years have you lived there?

1648 Responses



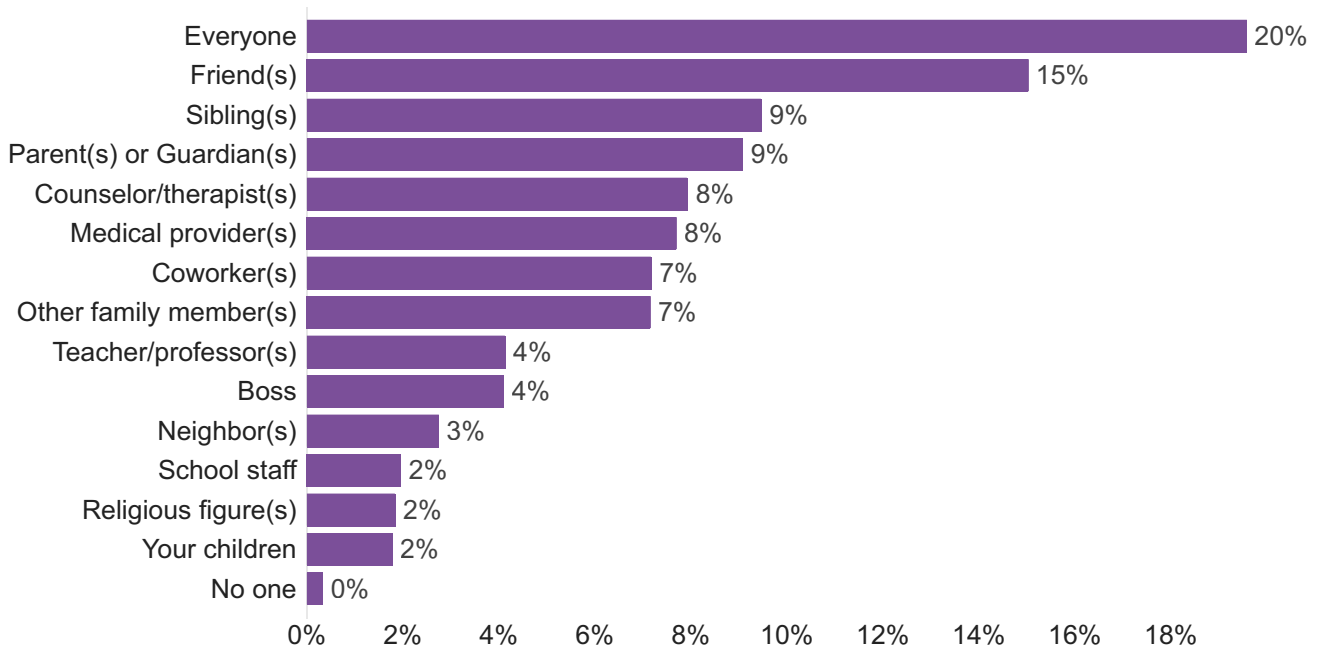
Coming Out

1199 Responses



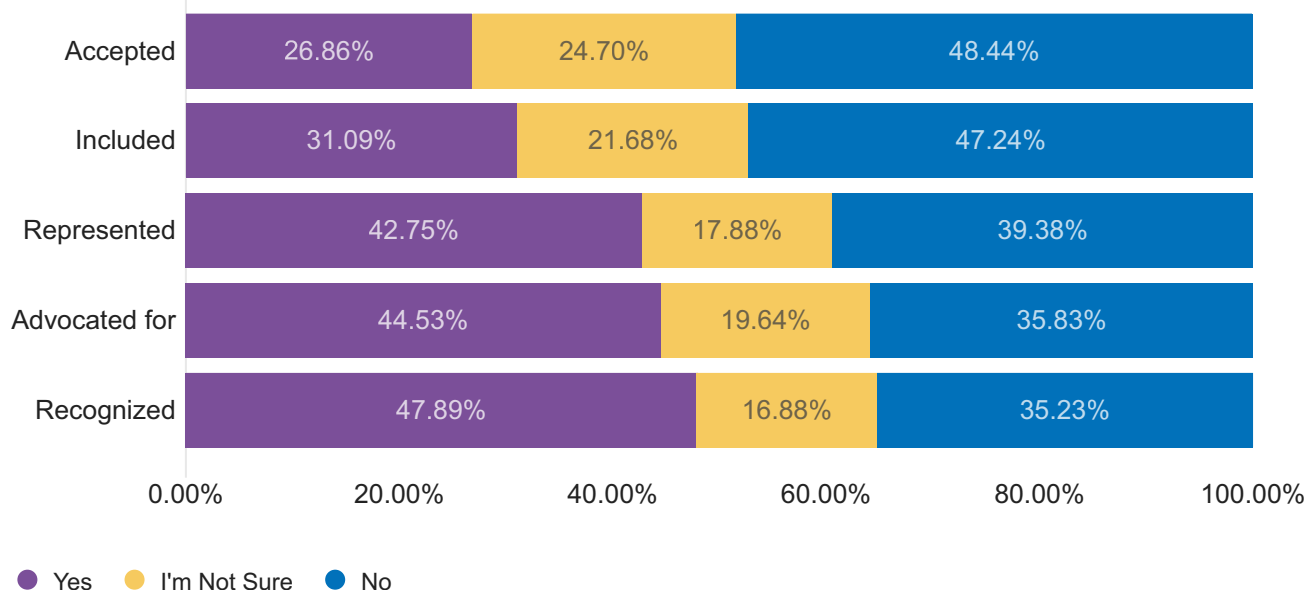
Which of the following people are you "out" to? (select all that apply)

1202 Responses



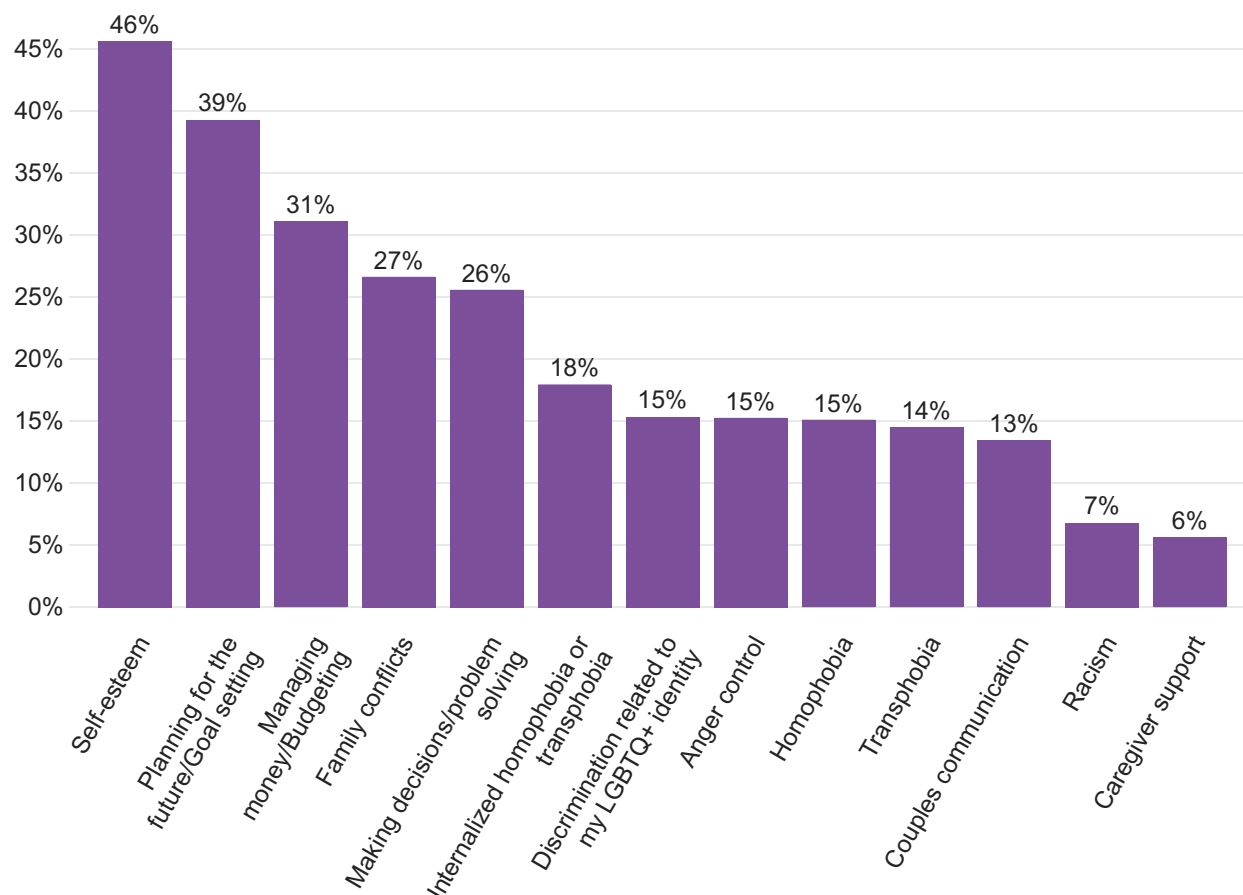
In your own experience, do you feel you and your needs are represented, recognized, included, advocated for, and accepted in society?

1169 Responses



Are you experiencing difficulty with any of these things? (select all that apply)

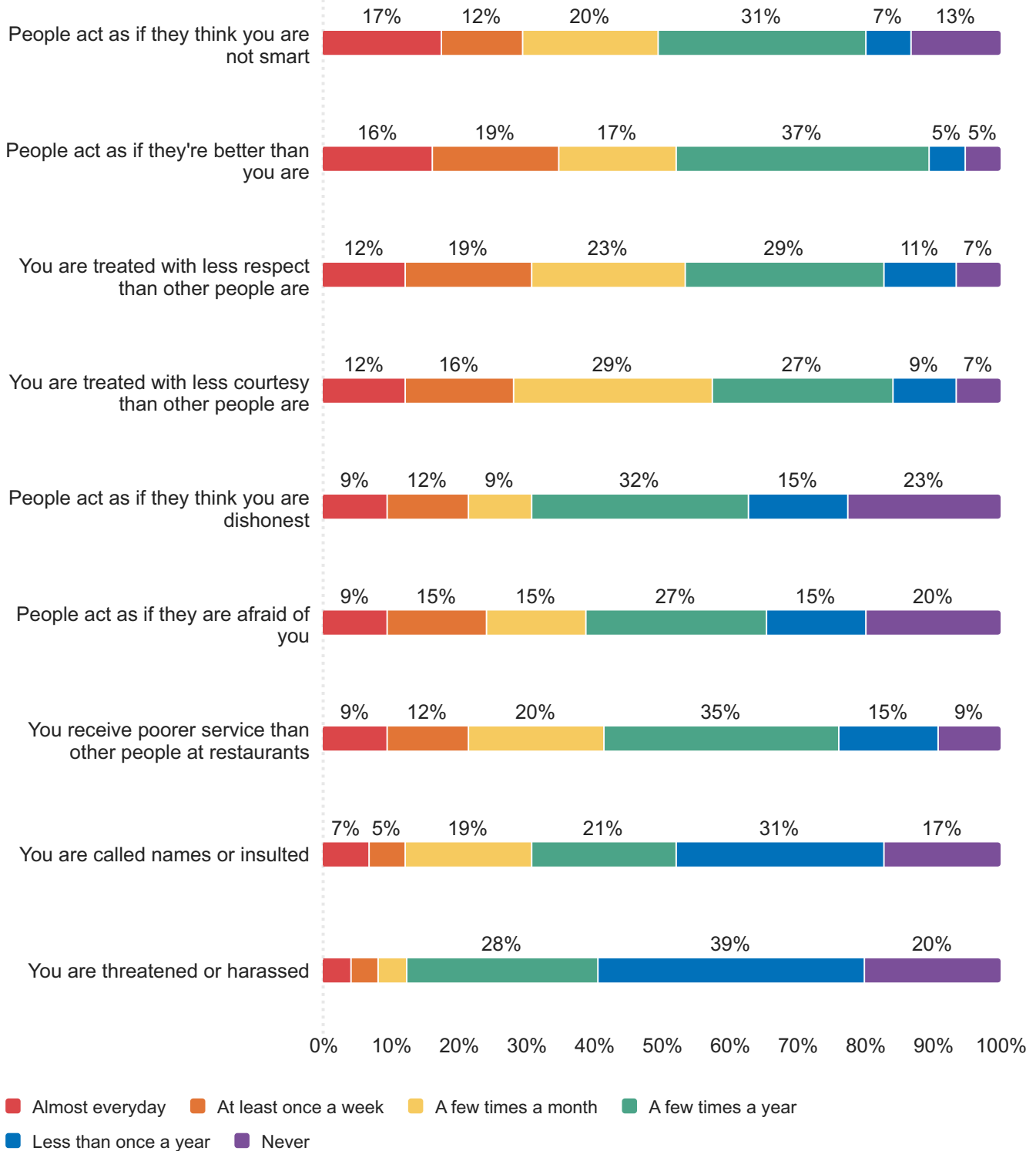
1161 Responses



In your day-to-day life, how often do any of the following things happen to you related to your experience of racial discrimination?

Only respondents indicating “Racism” to the question “Are you experiencing difficulty with any of these things?” were asked this question.

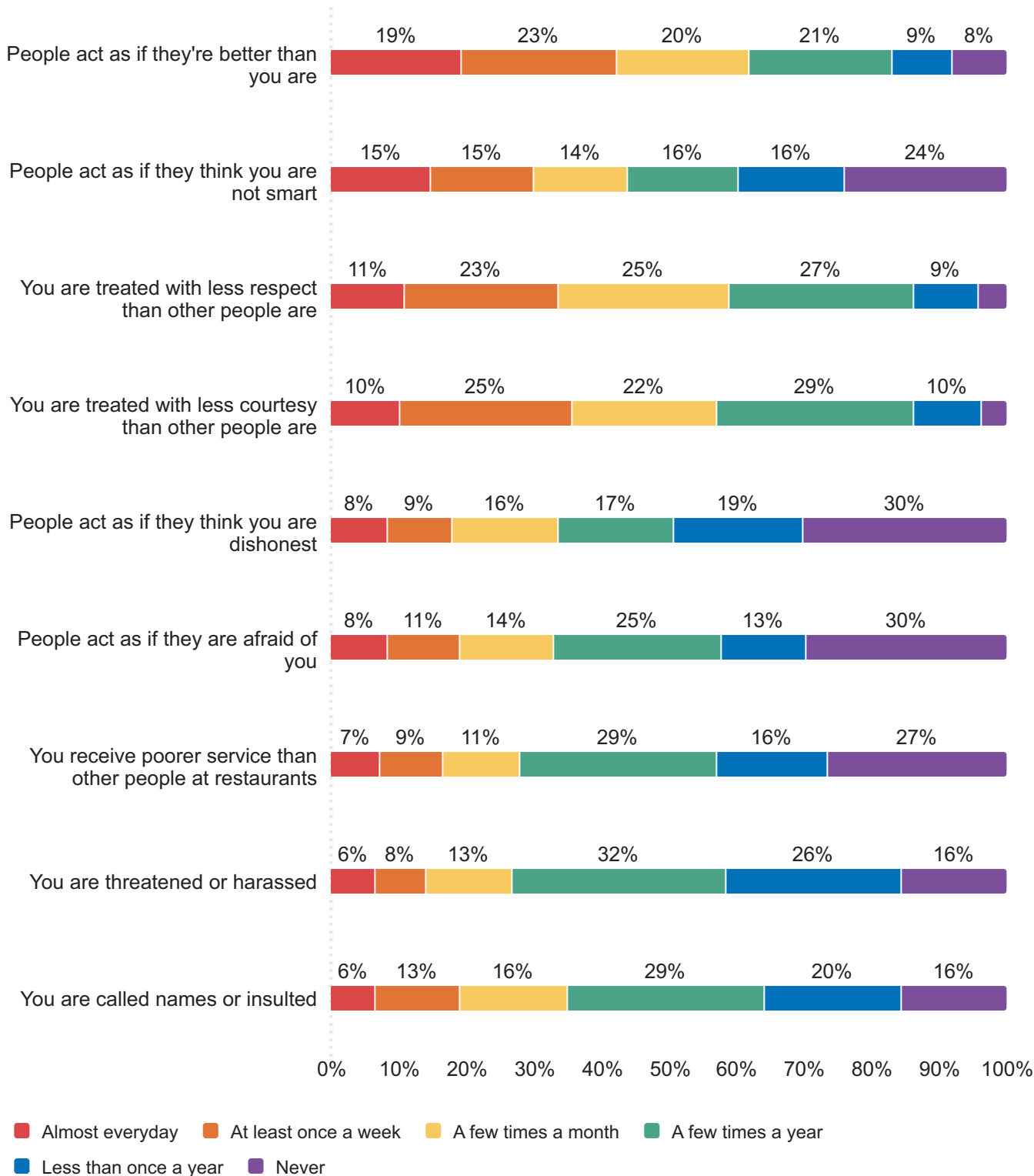
75 Responses



In your day-to-day life, how often do any of the following things happen to you related to your experience of LGBTQ+ discrimination?

Only respondents indicating “Discrimination related to my LGBTQ+ identity” to the question “Are you experiencing difficulty with any of these things?” were asked this question.

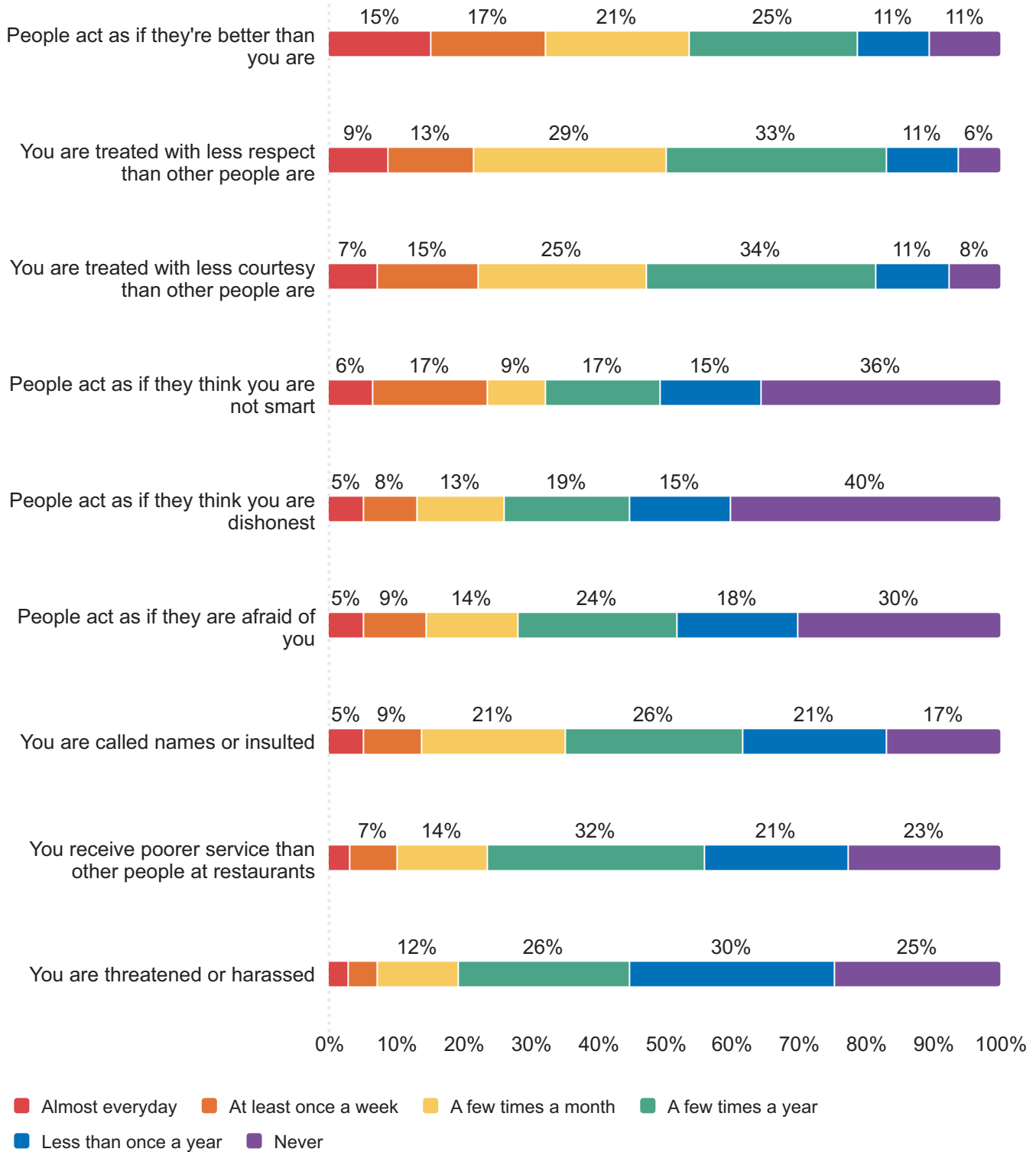
158 Responses



In your day-to-day life, how often do any of the following things happen to you related to your experience of homophobia?

Only respondents indicating “Homophobia” to the question “Are you experiencing difficulty with any of these things?” were asked this question.

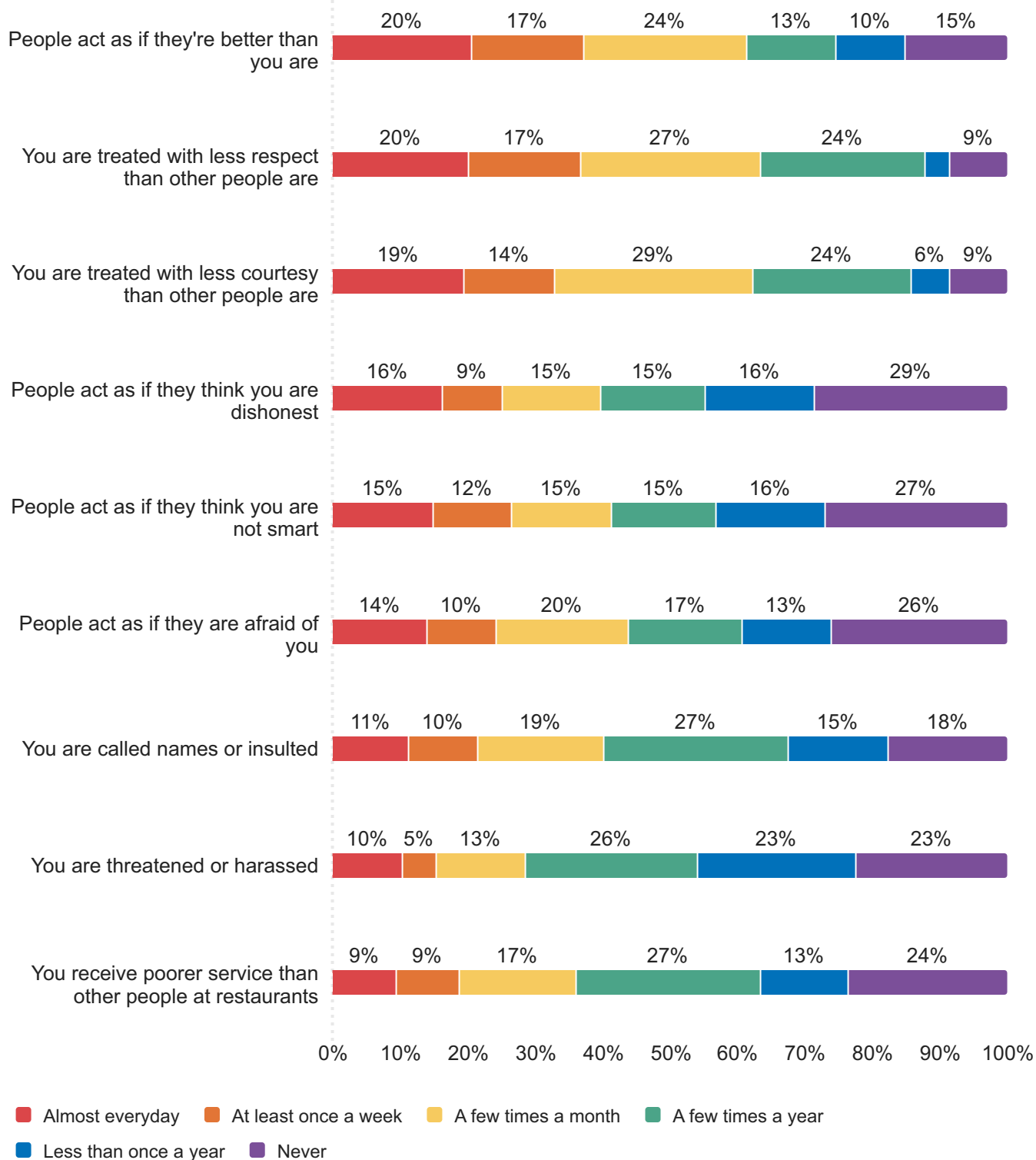
142 Responses



In your day-to-day life, how often do any of the following things happen to you related to your experience of transphobia?

Only respondents indicating “Transphobia” to the question “Are you experiencing difficulty with any of these things?” were asked this question.

140 Responses



A close-up portrait of a person's face, looking directly at the camera. They have colorful floral headbands (red, yellow, blue, pink) around their head. Their eyes are adorned with purple and pink glitter. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey. A teal horizontal bar is overlaid on the top part of the image, containing the section header.

Health and Wellness

For the purpose of this project, we take a holistic approach to health and wellness, encompassing respondents' needs and concerns across all dimensions of well-being, including physical, mental, behavioral, emotional, social, sexual, medical-legal, occupational, and spiritual health, throughout their lifespan. We understand the various factors that impact health and wellness, such as access to quality care and coverage, and acknowledge the importance of health literacy in health issues that disproportionately affect the LGBTQ+ community.

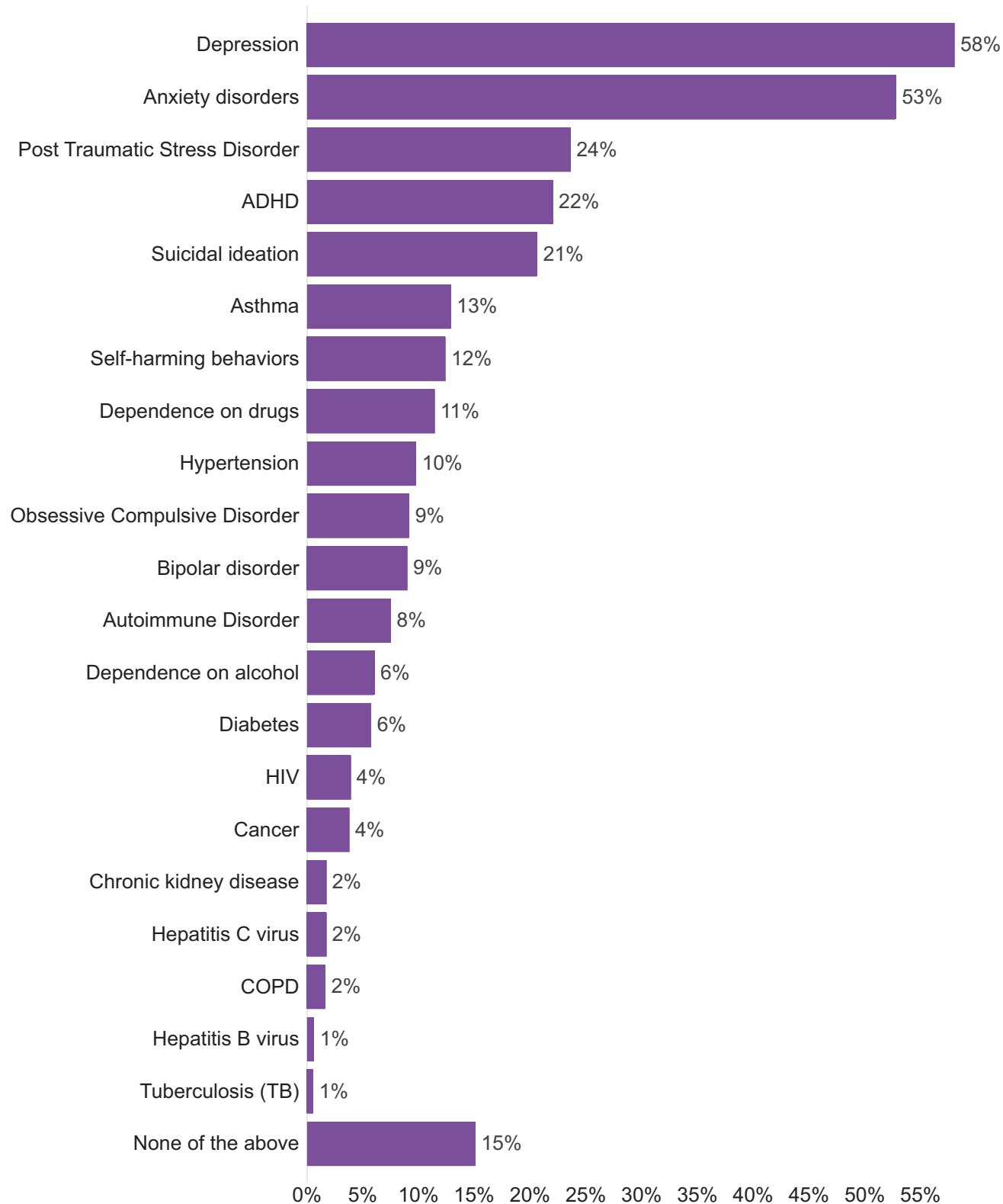
To achieve health equity, we recognize the need to assess institutional and community barriers that limit healthcare access, such as stigma and discrimination. We advocate for trauma-informed, gender-affirming, and culturally competent care to ensure that LGBTQ+ individuals have access to competent healthcare providers. We acknowledge the challenges faced by rural LGBTQ+ communities in accessing culturally competent healthcare services, and the need for alternative and community spaces for providing healthcare and prevention services.

We also recognize the importance of continuity of care across institutions serving the LGBTQ+ community, as well as the needs of caregivers, including healthcare proxies and power of attorney. We acknowledge and welcome the involvement of LGBTQ+-identifying healthcare providers in providing competent and inclusive care.

Additionally, we prioritize wellness by providing coping skills specific to the LGBTQ+ community, and promoting self-advocacy, education, and training. We acknowledge the value of collecting Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity data and implementing appropriate data standards.

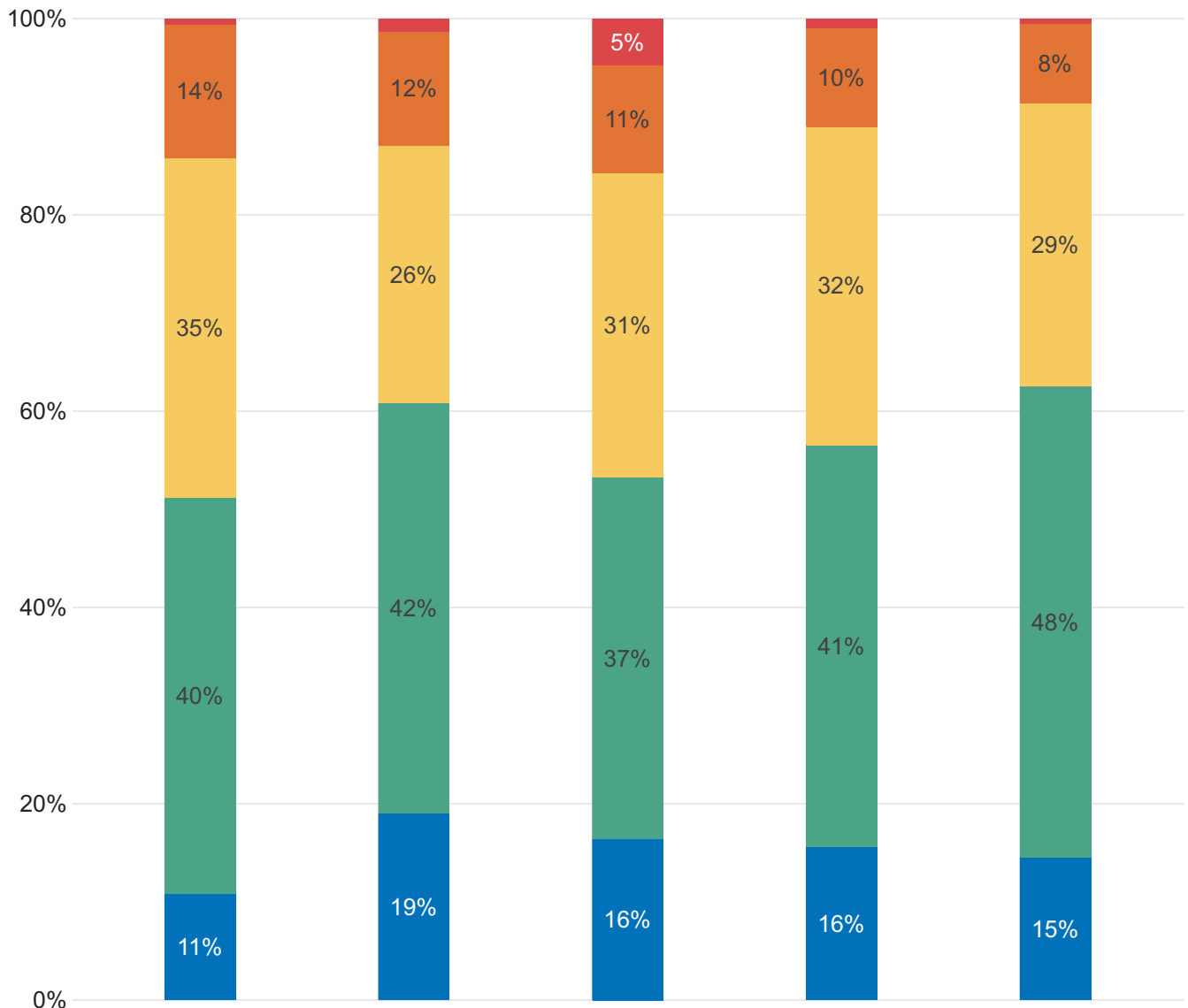
Have you ever been diagnosed with or experienced any of the following health events in the past five (5) years? (select all that apply)

1639 Responses



How would you rate your overall physical, mental, behavioral, spiritual, and social health?

1649 Responses



Mental Health: The state of well-being in which an individual feels good about themselves, can handle life's challenges, and can function effectively in their daily lives.

Social Health: The ability to establish and maintain healthy relationships with others, including family, friends, and community, which can contribute to overall well-being.

Spiritual Health: The sense of having a purpose or meaning in life and a feeling of inner peace and harmony.

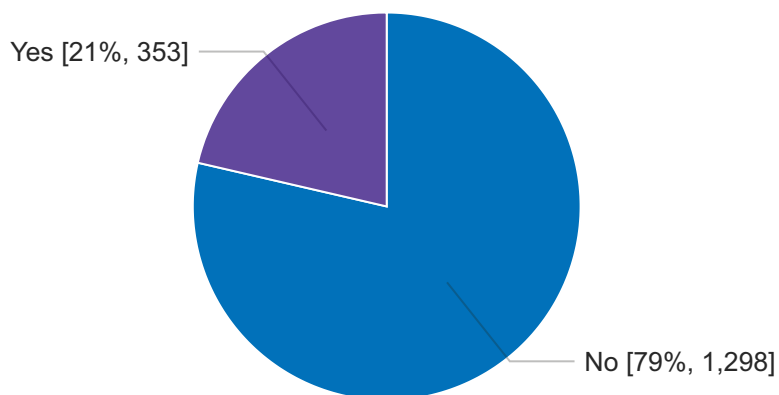
Behavioral Health: The connection between a person's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that can influence their overall well-being, including how they manage stress and cope with challenges.

Physical Health: The state of being in good physical shape and free from illness or injury, which enables you to perform daily activities and stay healthy.

● Not Sure ● Poor ● Fair ● Good ● Excellent

Do you currently use any tobacco product(s)?

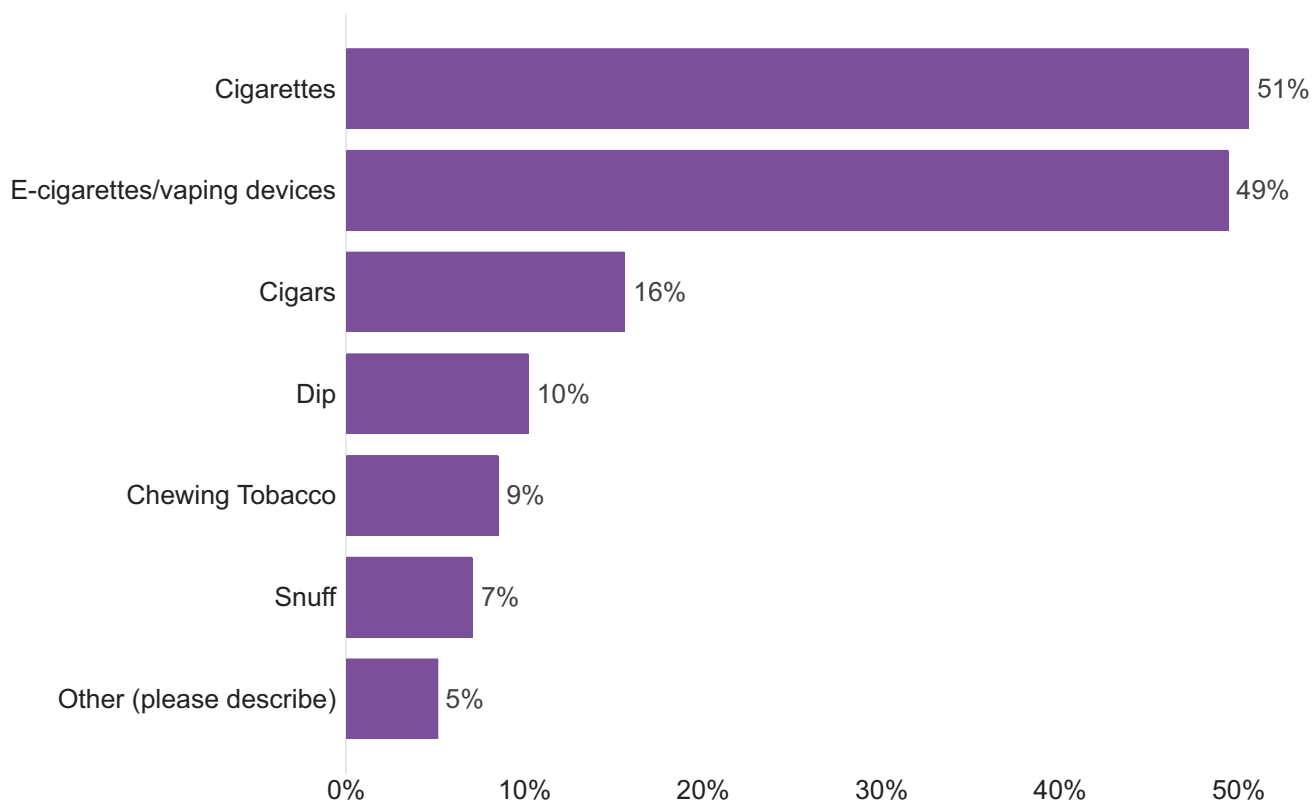
1651 Responses



What kind of tobacco product(s) do you use? (select all that apply)

Only respondents indicating "Yes" to the question "Do you currently use any tobacco products?" were asked this question.

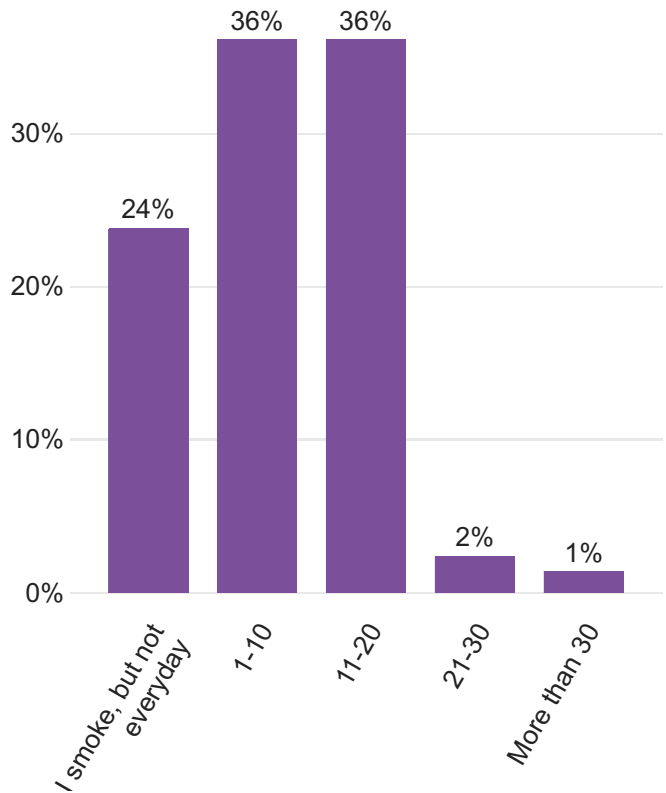
352 Responses



On average, how many cigarettes/ cigars per day do you smoke?

Only respondents indicating “Cigarettes” or “Cigars” to the question “What kind of tobacco product(s) do you use?” were asked this question.

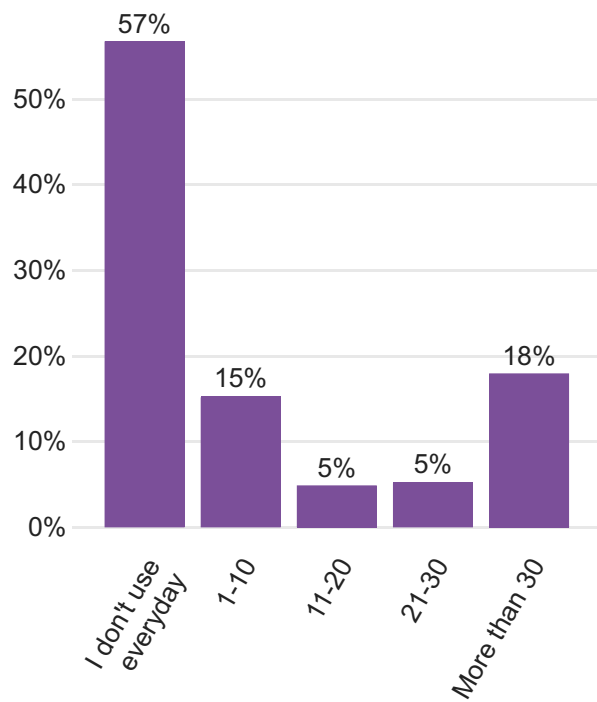
210 Responses



If you use a form of tobacco other than cigarettes or cigars, how many times per day do you use it?

Only respondents indicating “E-cigarettes/vaping devices”, “Dip”, “Chewing Tobacco”, “Snuff”, or “Other” to the question “What kind of tobacco product(s) do you use?” were asked this question.

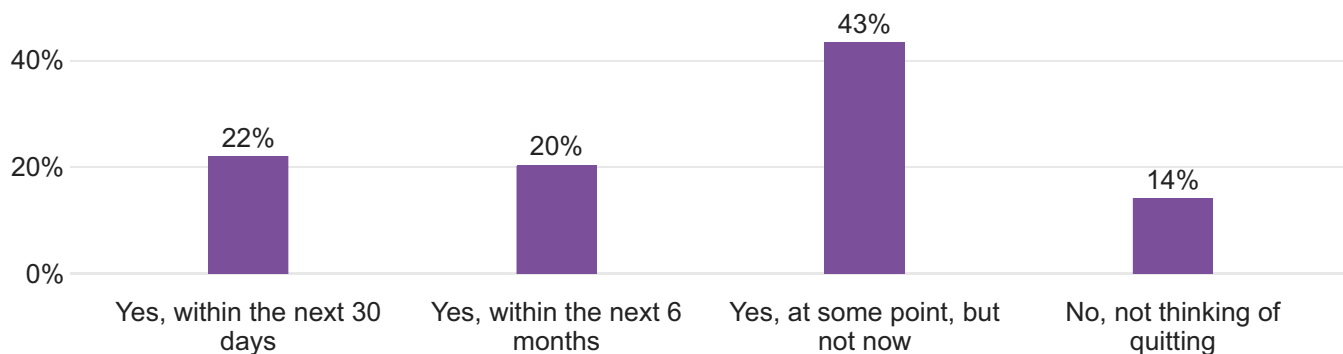
229 Responses



Are you seriously considering quitting smoking/using tobacco product(s)?

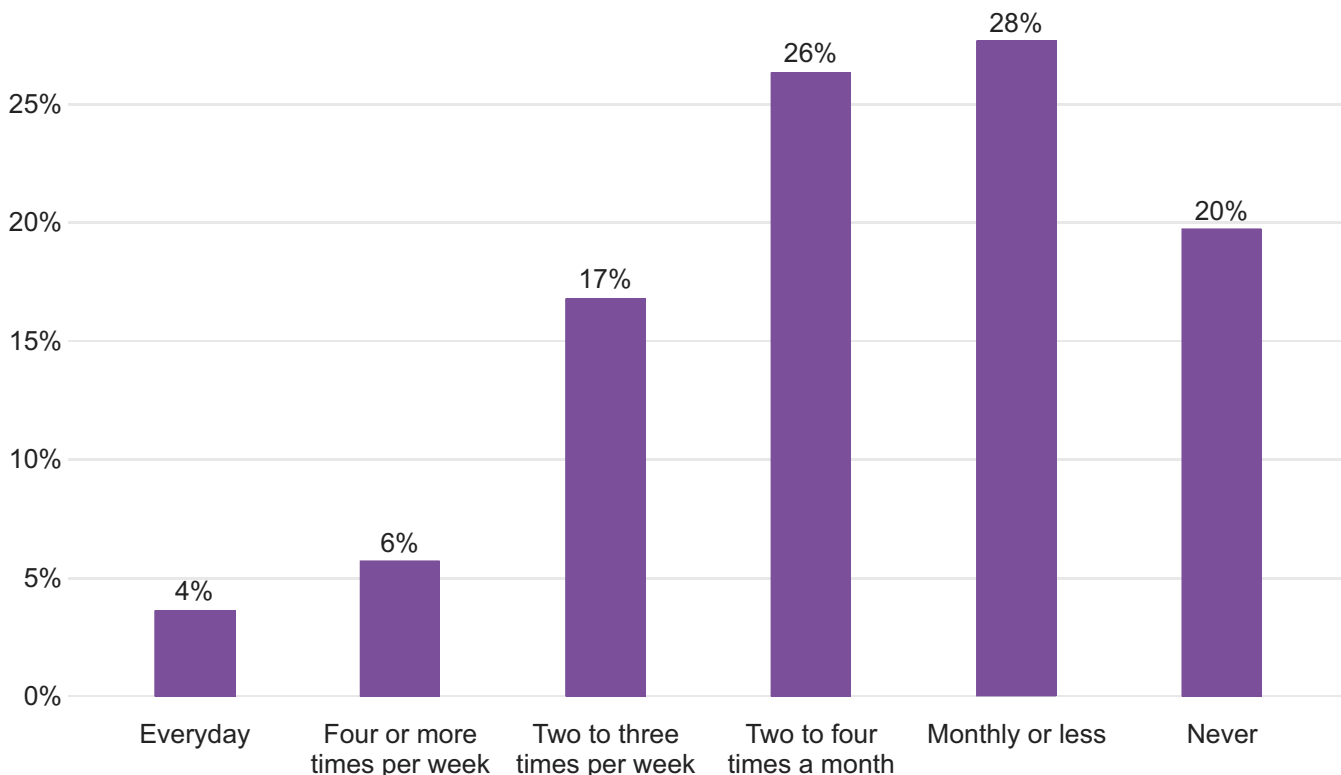
Only respondents indicating “Yes” to the question “Do you currently use any tobacco products?” were asked this question.

345 Responses



How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?

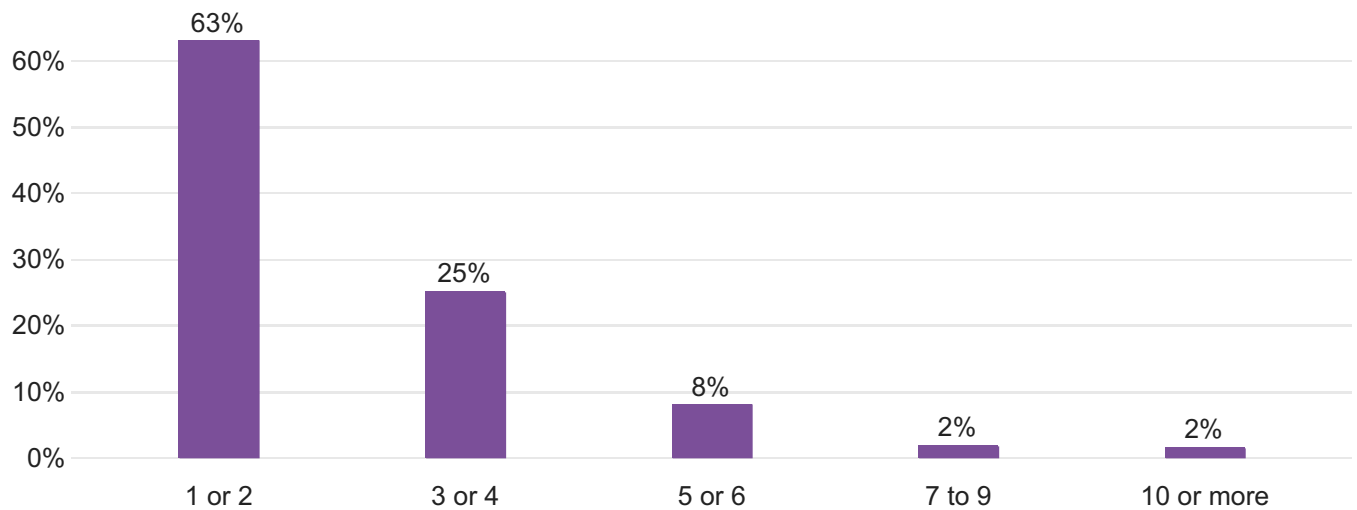
1646 Responses



How many drinks containing alcohol do you have on a typical day when you are drinking?

Only respondents who indicated “Everyday”, “Four or more times per week”, “Two to three times per week”, “Two to four times a month” or “Monthly or less” to the question “How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?” were asked this question.

1293 Responses



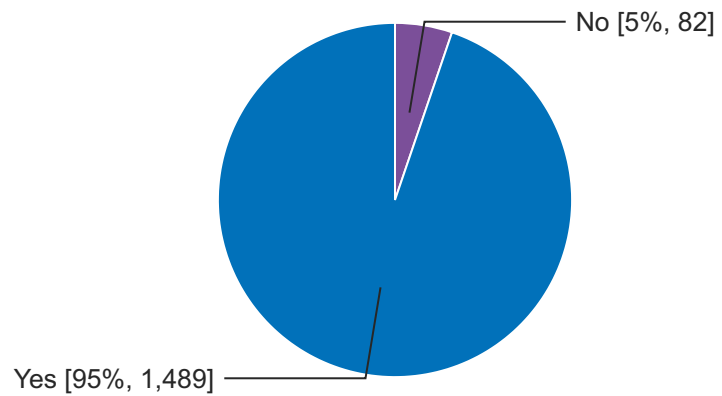
“From a medical career standpoint, in medical school, our trainings, physicians or healthcare providers are really not taught much about LGBTQ health.”





Do you currently have health insurance coverage?

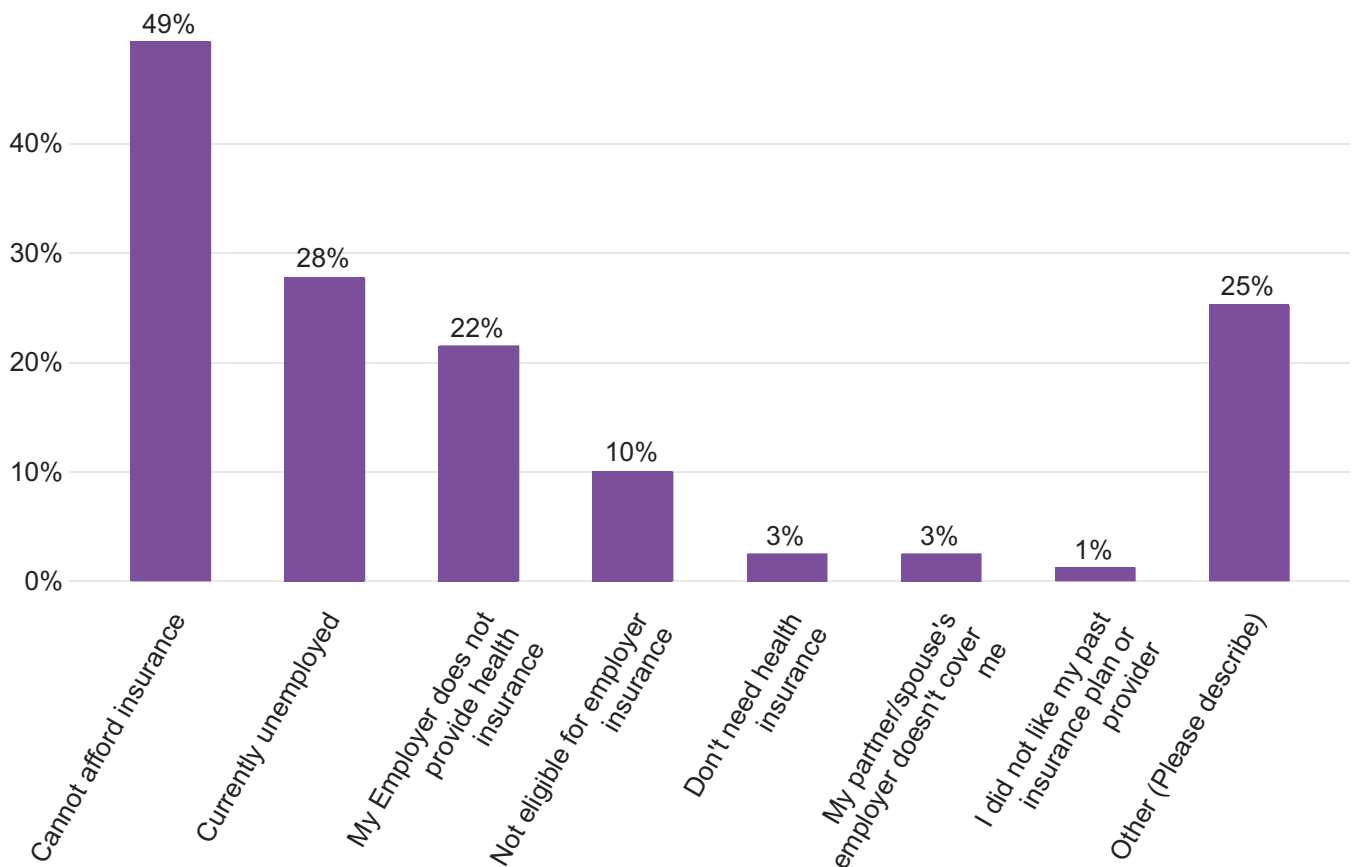
1571 Responses



What are the reason(s) you are currently uninsured? (select all that apply)

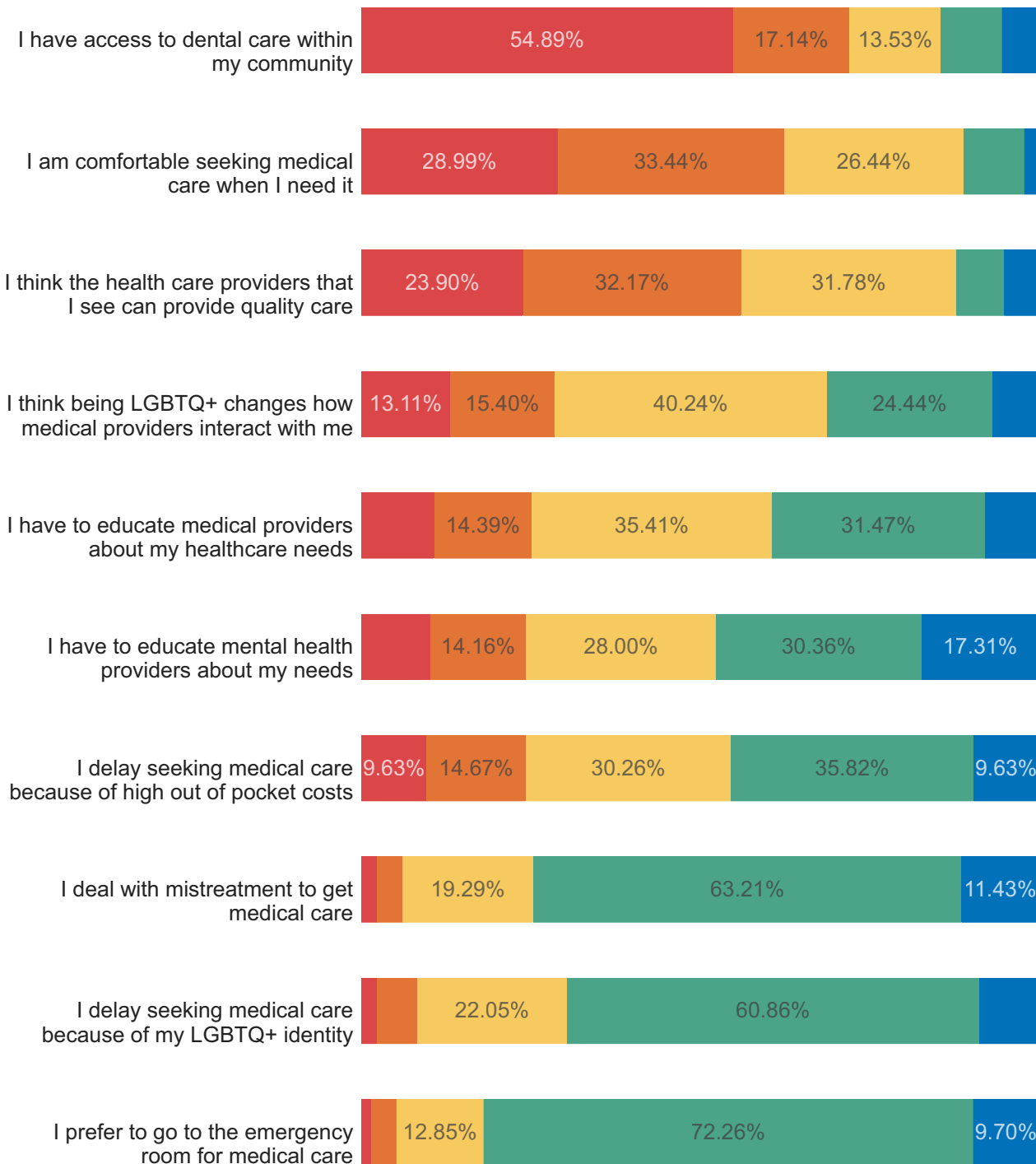
Only respondents who indicated “No” to the question “Do you currently have health insurance?” were asked this question.

79 Responses



Please tell us more about your typical experience getting healthcare-related services in the past 5 years.

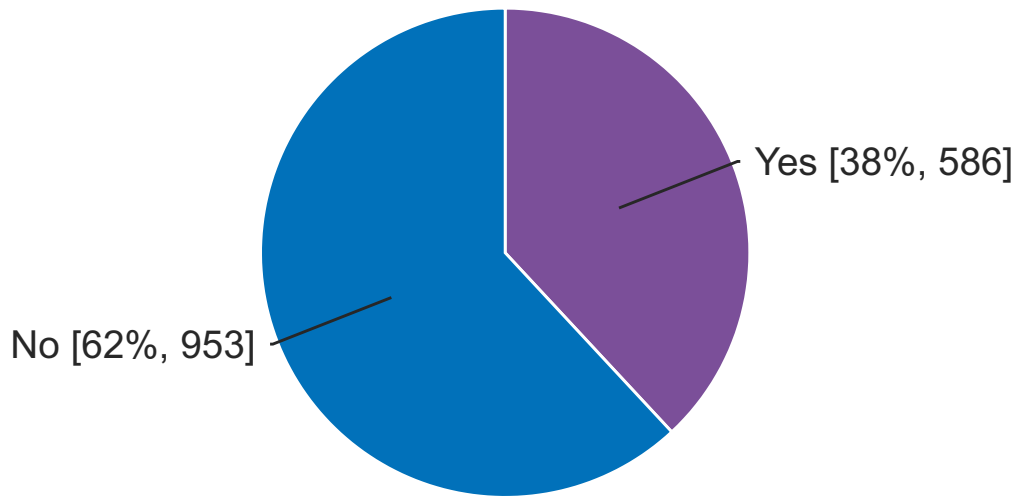
1535 Responses



● Always ● Most of the Time ● Sometimes ● Never or Almost Never ● Not Applicable

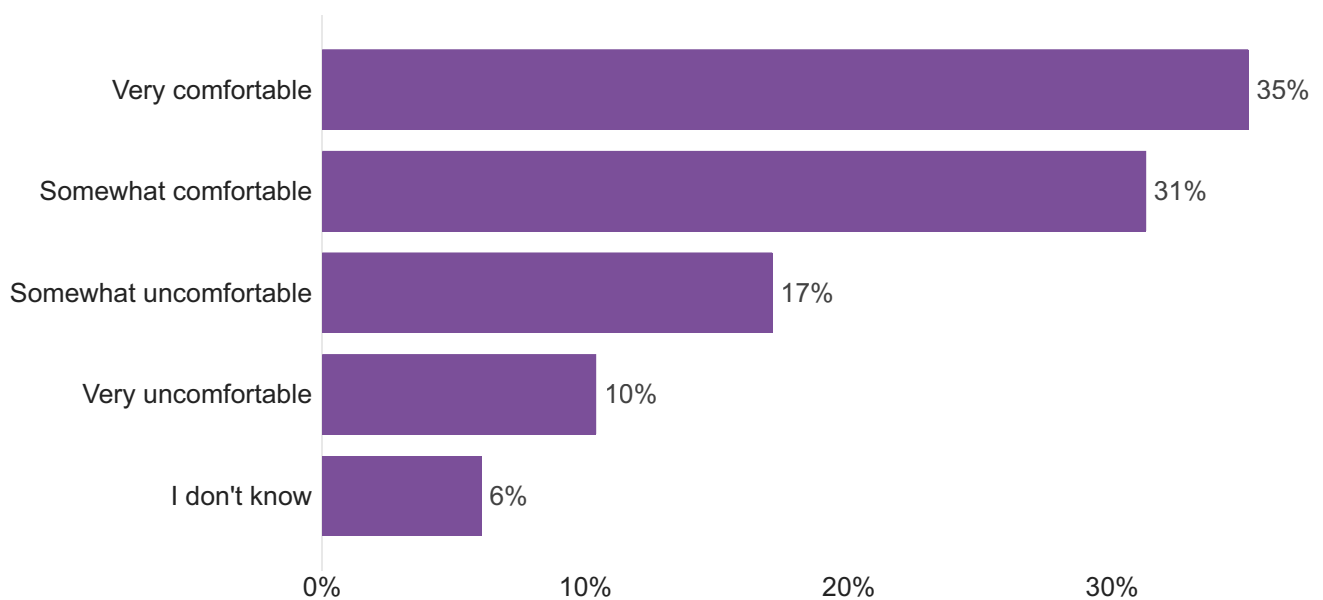
**Have you gone to an LGBTQ+ specific doctor's office in the past five (5) years?
(i.e.: an LGBTQ+ clinic, gender-affirming clinic, or other LGBTQ+ specialized practice)**

1539 Responses



Would you feel comfortable having your health care organization(s) collecting sensitive data such as sexual orientation or gender identity in your patient file?

1538 Responses

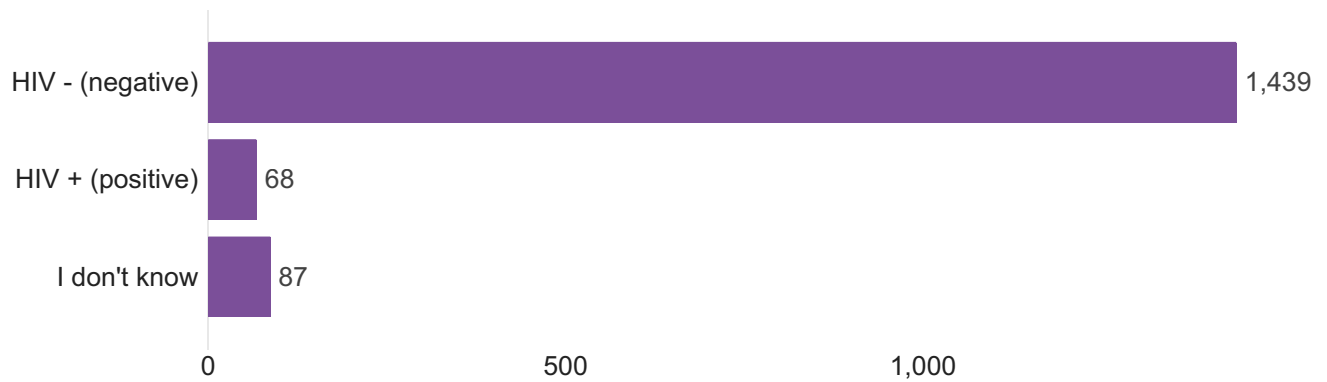




“We can't just expect LGBTQ people to come to the healthcare providers, but sometimes the health needs to go to these communities too.”

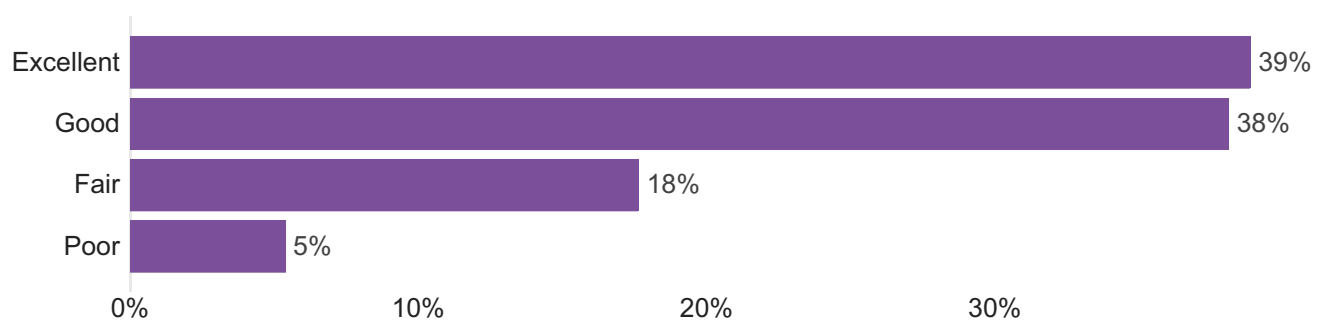
What is your HIV status?

1594 Responses



How would you rate your knowledge about HIV and HIV prevention?

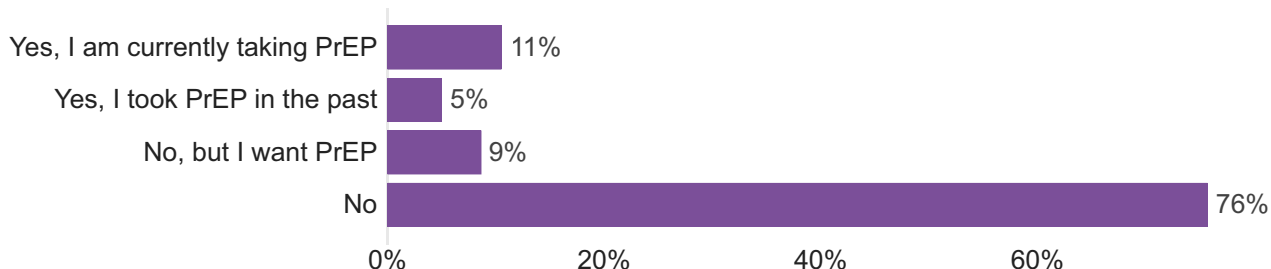
1598 Responses



Have you ever taken pre-exposure prophylaxis (also know as PrEP) for HIV prevention?

Only respondents indicating “HIV - (negative)” or “I don’t know” to the question “What is your HIV status?” were asked this question.

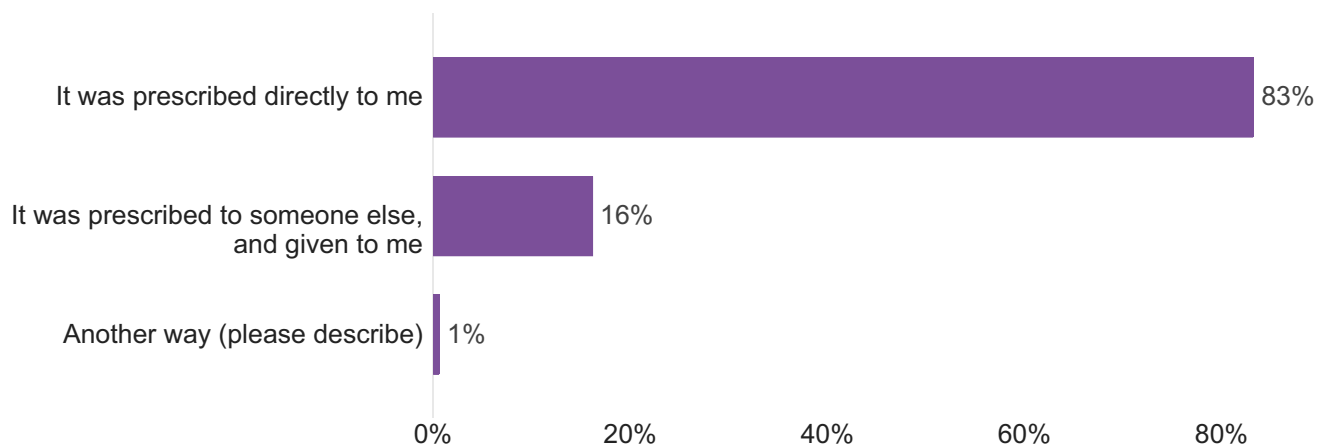
1521 Responses



How did you last get your PrEP medication?

Only respondents indicating “Yes, I am currently taking PrEP” to the question “Have you ever taken pre-exposure prophylaxis (also known as PrEP) for HIV prevention? were asked this question.

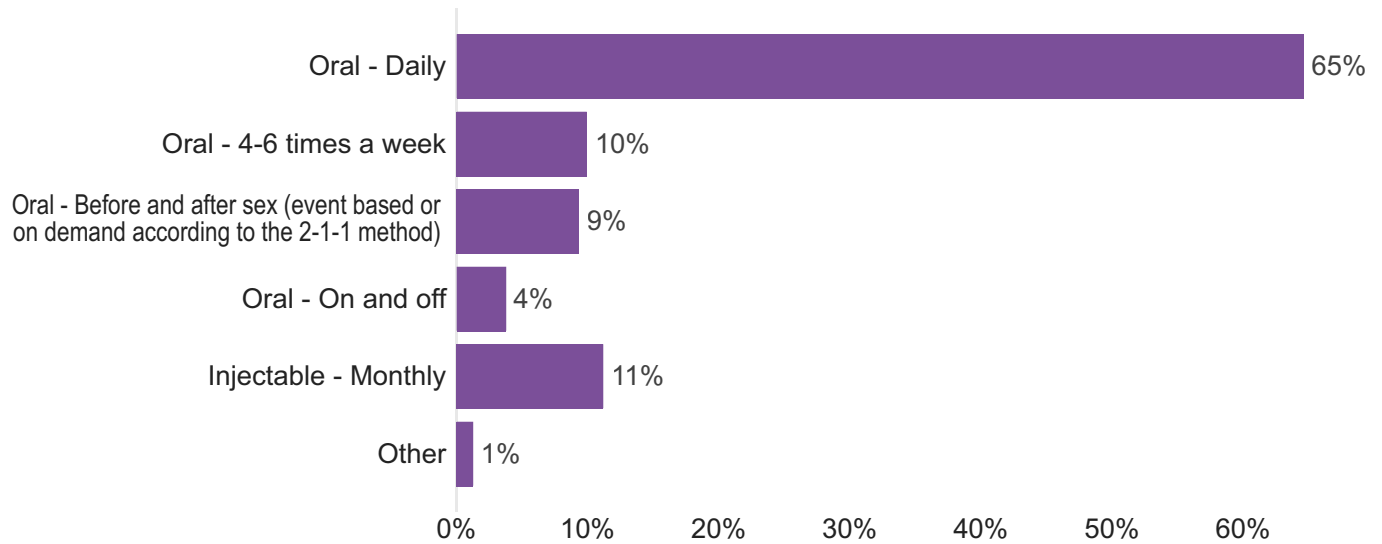
161 Responses



How often do you take your PrEP medication?

Only respondents indicating “Yes, I am currently taking PrEP” to the question “Have you ever taken pre-exposure prophylaxis (also known as PrEP) for HIV prevention?” were asked this question.

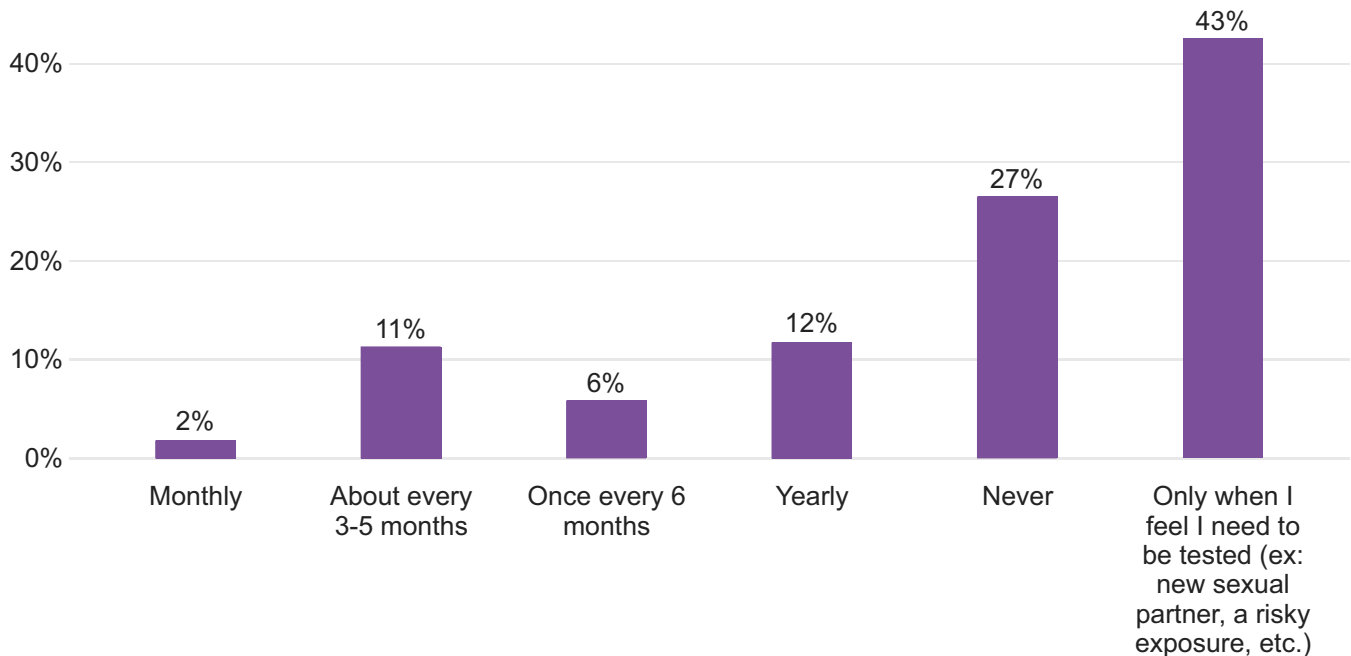
161 Responses



Which of the following best describes how often you get tested for HIV?

Only respondents indicating “HIV - (negative)” or “I don’t know” to the question “What is your HIV status?” were asked this question.

1480 Responses



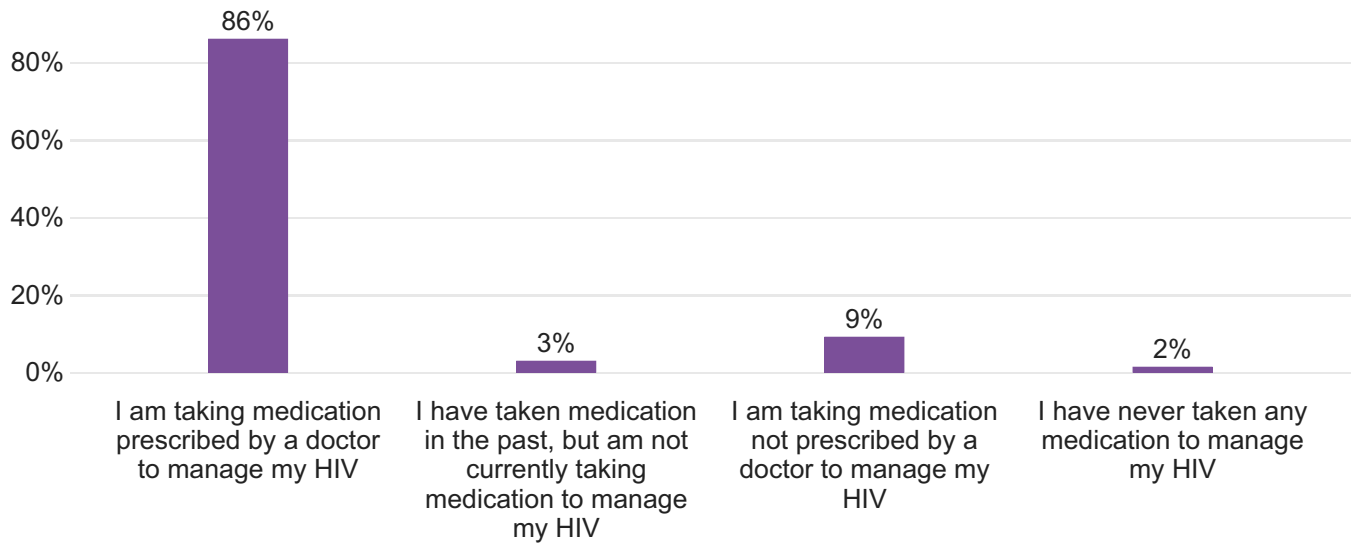
“It’s difficult for LGBTQ individuals to find an entire organization they can trust. Even if a specific doctor or provider is affirming, the other staff involved might not be. This creates a big barrier to getting the treatment they need, leading many to avoid healthcare altogether.”



Choose all options that best fit your approach to your HIV medication(s)? (select all that apply)

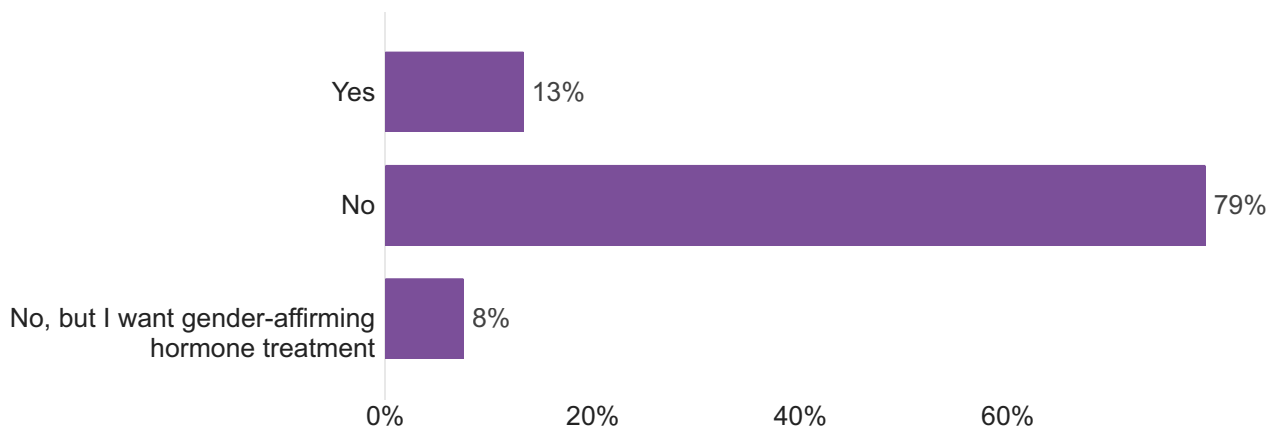
Only respondents indicating “HIV + (positive)” to the question “What is your HIV status?” were asked this question.

65 Responses



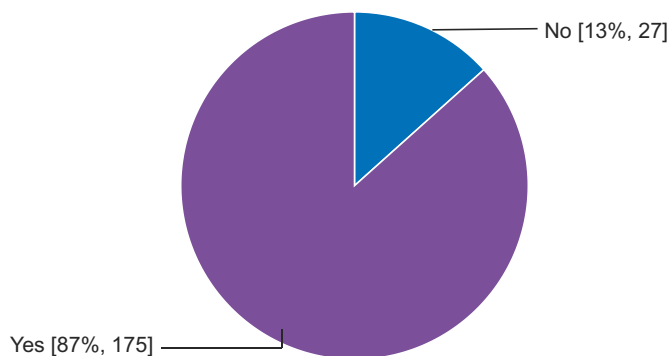
Are you currently receiving gender-affirming hormone treatment?

1529 Responses



Are you under the supervision of a licensed medical professional for your gender-affirming hormone treatment?

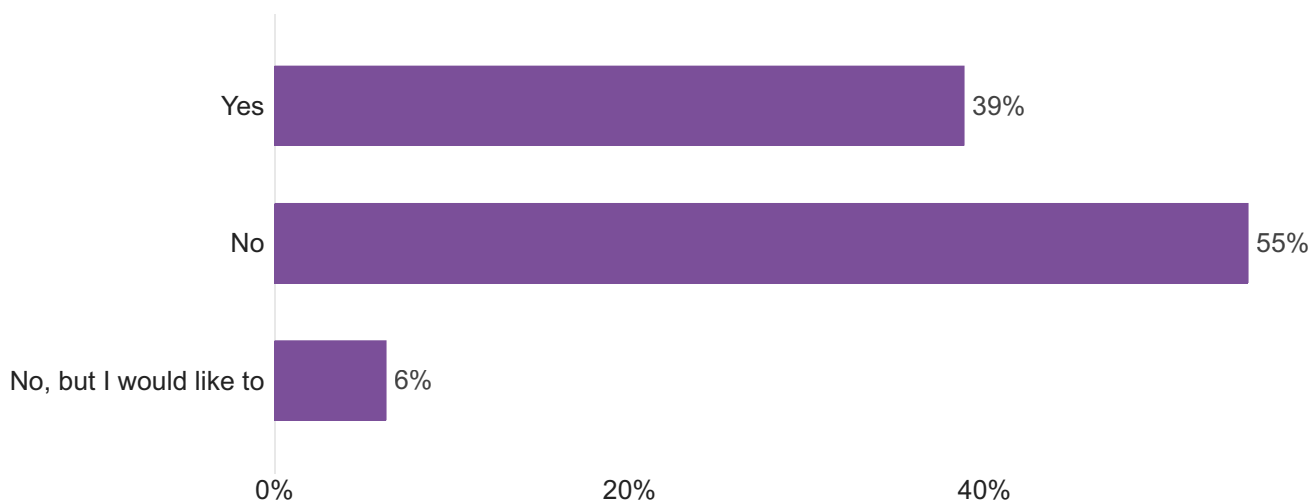
Only respondents indicating “Yes” to the question “Are you currently receiving gender-affirming hormone treatment?” were asked this question.
202 Responses



Do you use telemedicine to access your gender-affirming hormone treatment licensed medical provider?

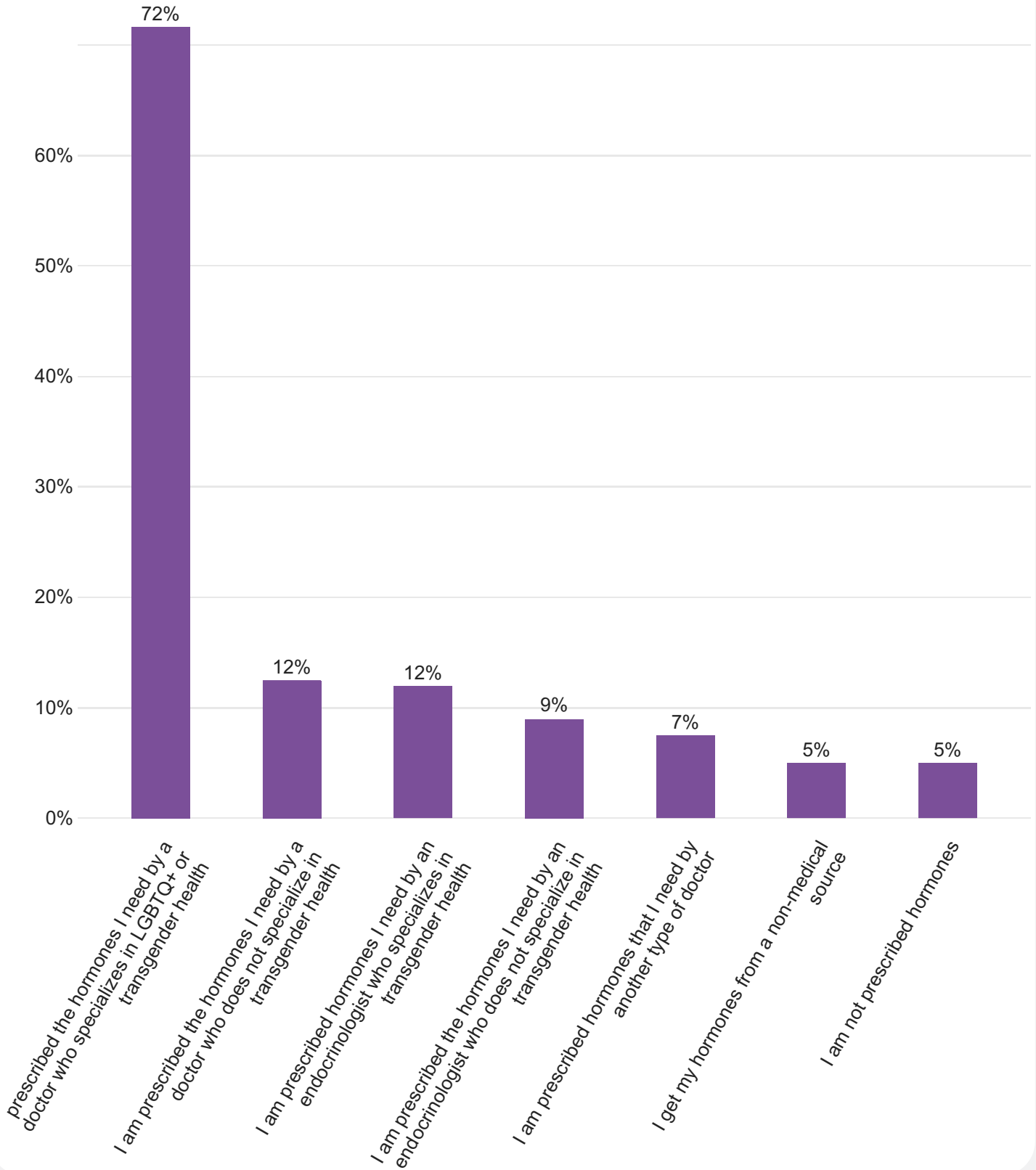
Only respondents indicating “Yes” to the question “Are you under the supervision of a licensed medical professional for your gender-affirming hormone treatment?” were asked this question.

175 Responses



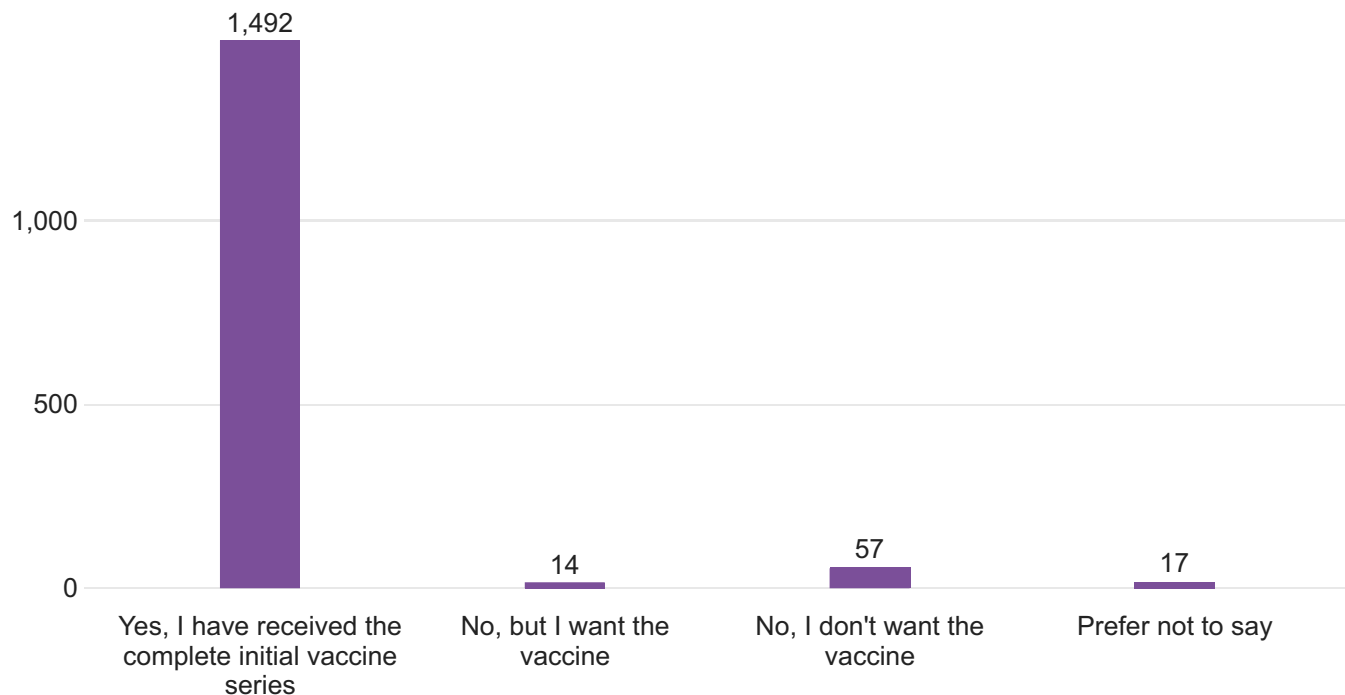
Which of the following best describes your gender-affirming hormone treatment access? (select all that apply)

Only respondents indicating “Yes” to the question “Are you currently receiving gender-affirming hormone treatment?” were asked this question.
201 Responses



Have you already completed your primary COVID-19 vaccine series (two doses of Pfizer/ Moderna; or one dose of Johnson&Johnson)?

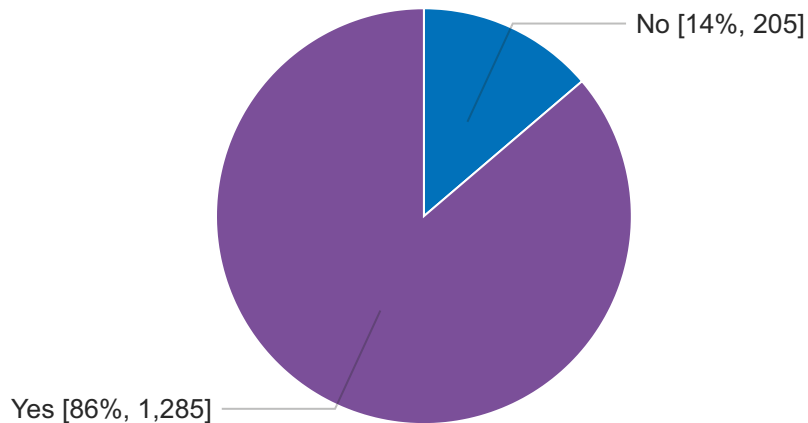
1580 Responses



Did you receive any additional dose(s) of the COVID-19 vaccination? This includes boosters or additional full doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Only respondents who indicated “Yes, I have received the complete initial vaccine series” to the question “Have you already completed your primary COVID-19 vaccine series?” were asked this question

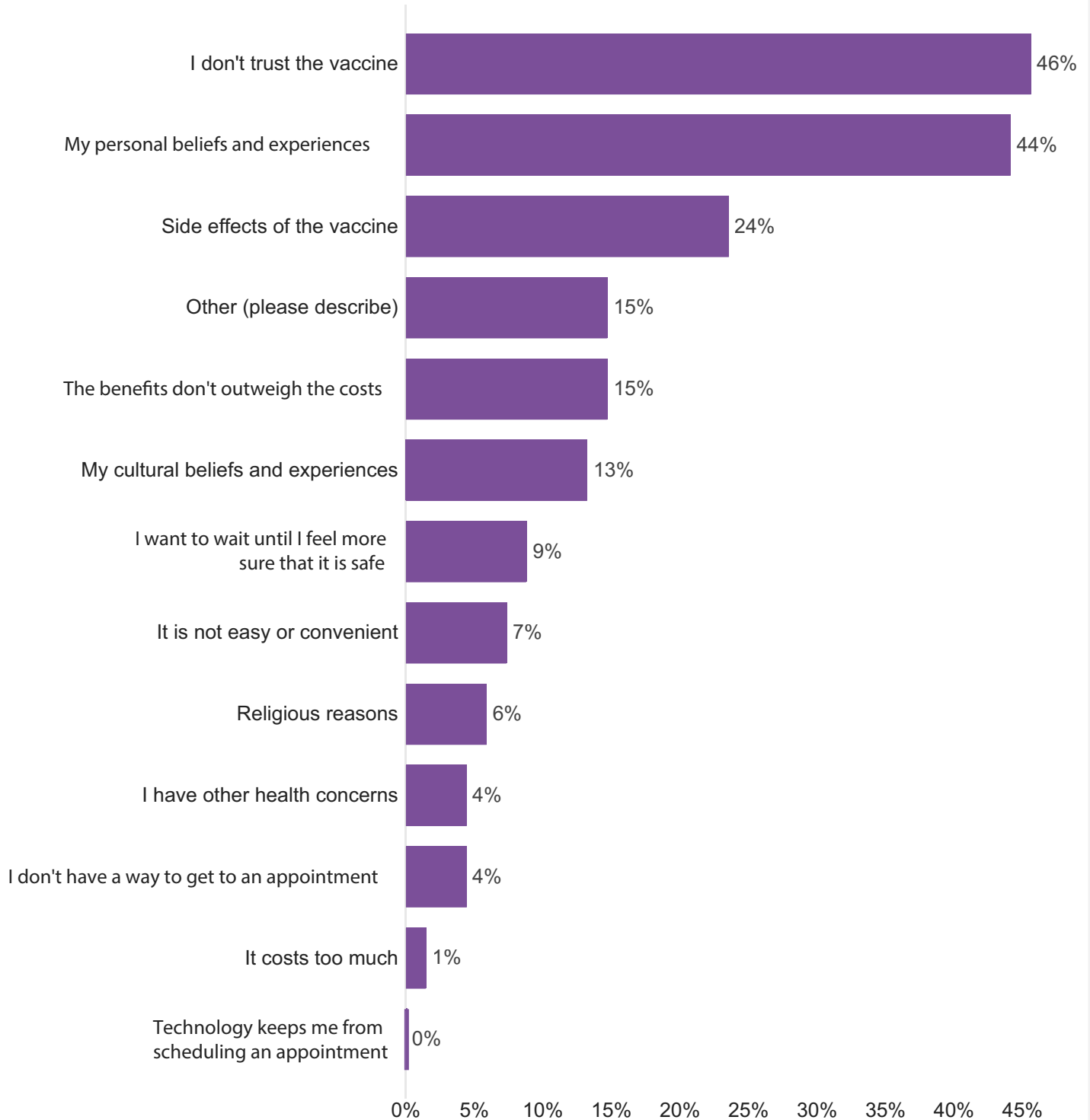
1490 Responses



What are the biggest reasons you have not gotten the COVID-19 vaccine? (select all that apply)

Only respondents who indicated “No, but I want the vaccine” or “No, I don’t want the vaccine” to the question “Have you already completed your primary COVID-19 vaccine series?” were asked this question.

68 Responses







Religion and Spirituality

For the purpose of this project, when referring to religion and spirituality, we acknowledge respondents' religious and spiritual beliefs and practices as integral to their identities. We aim to assess the inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals in religious and spiritual communities and the impact of religion and spirituality on the physical, mental, social, spiritual, and behavioral health and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals.

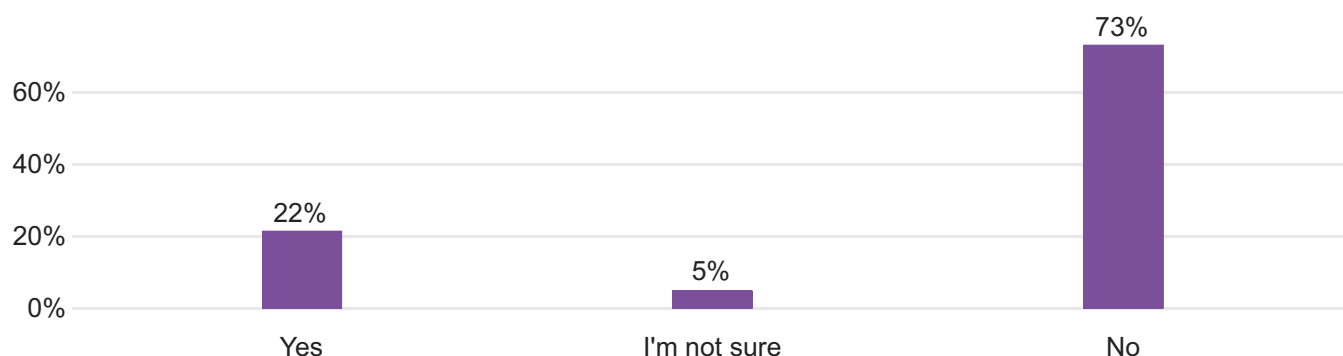
We recognize that definitions of religion and spirituality are diverse and individualistic and that seeking guidance beyond oneself and connecting with a higher power can take many forms.

This domain emphasizes identifying concerns related to the inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals in religious and spiritual communities, exploring the impact of religion and spirituality on health, promoting greater understanding and acceptance, and assessing the historic religious trauma of LGBTQ+ individuals within diverse religious and spiritual traditions.

It also recognizes the need for sensitivity and understanding towards individuals who have been marginalized and discriminated against in religious and spiritual contexts while also creating a safe space for LGBTQ+ individuals to explore their spirituality and religion without fear of judgment or harm.

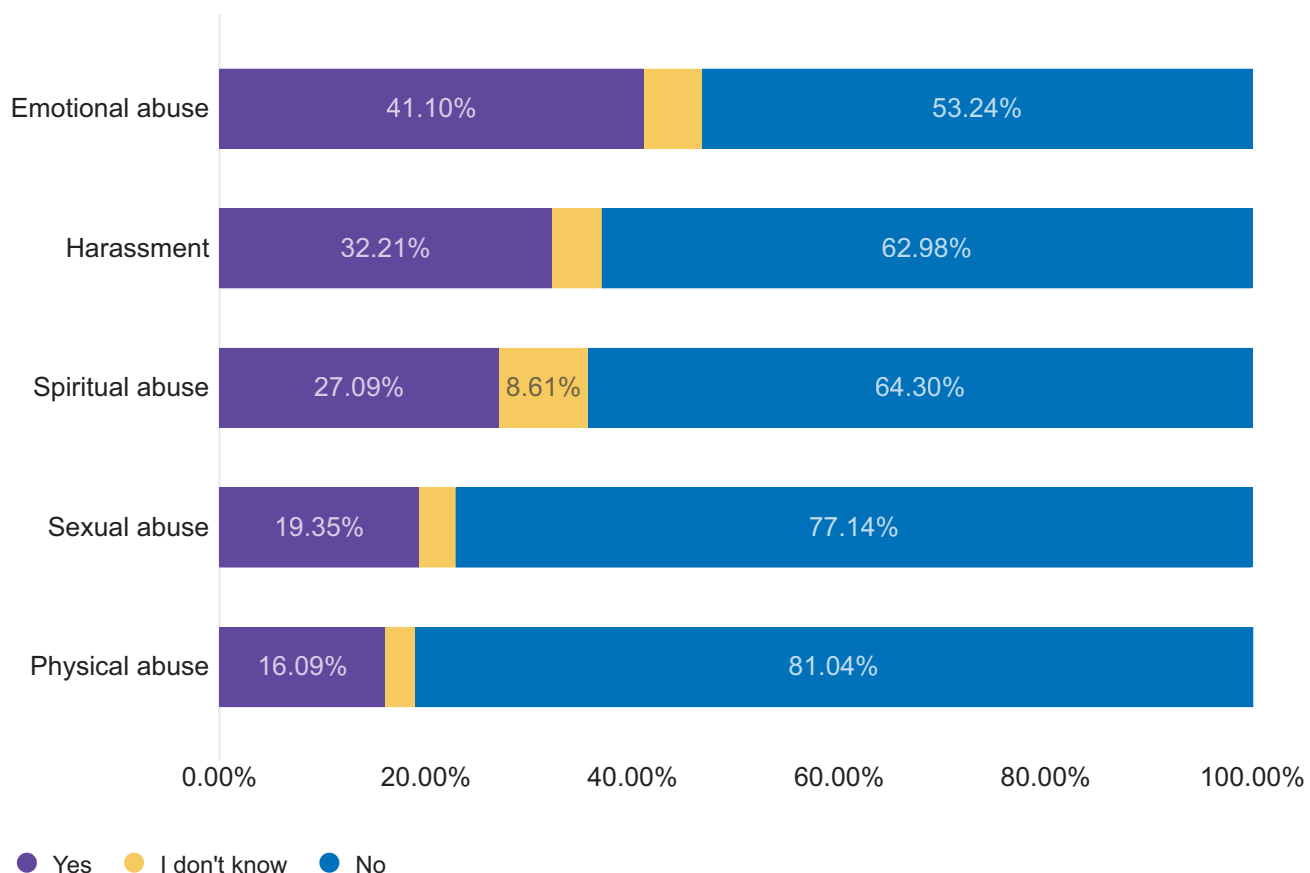
Have you ever felt forced to participate in religious or spiritual activities that you did not want to participate in to receive help or support (such as food assistance, temporary shelter, or other basic needs)?

1221 Responses



Are you a survivor of sexual, physical, spiritual, emotional abuse or harassment that occurred in a spiritual setting?

1212 Responses

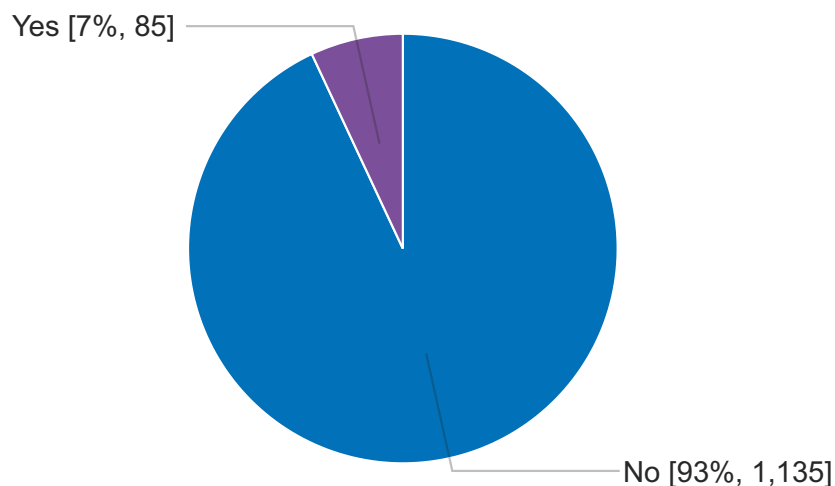




“I fully believe that my parents would support me no matter what, but I don't know if my religious family members would do the same and I feel like that notion has caused me to lose love and respect for them.”

Conversion therapy is any attempt to change a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Have you ever received conversion therapy?

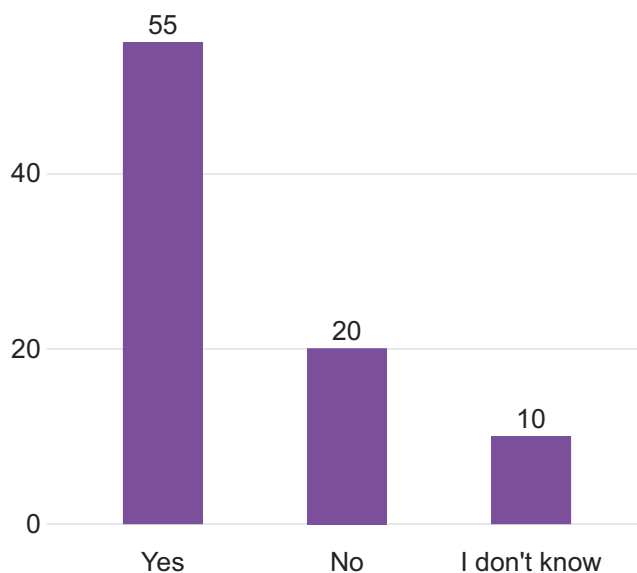
1220 Responses



Were you forced or coerced to participate in conversion therapy?

Only respondents indicating “Yes” to the question “Have you ever been involved in conversion therapy?” were asked this question.

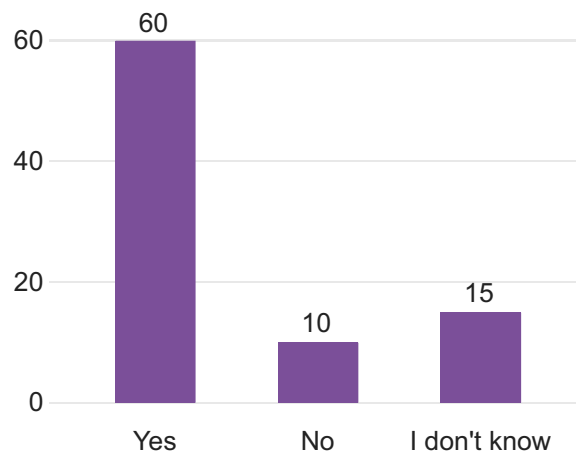
85 Responses



Was your participation in conversion therapy in response to a religious or spiritual belief or concern?

Only respondents indicating “Yes” to the question “Have you ever been involved in conversion therapy?” were asked this question.

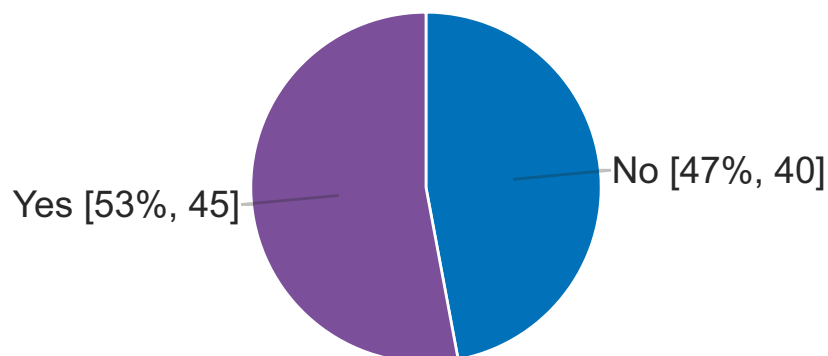
85 Responses



Was this experience with conversion therapy in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga counties in Ohio?

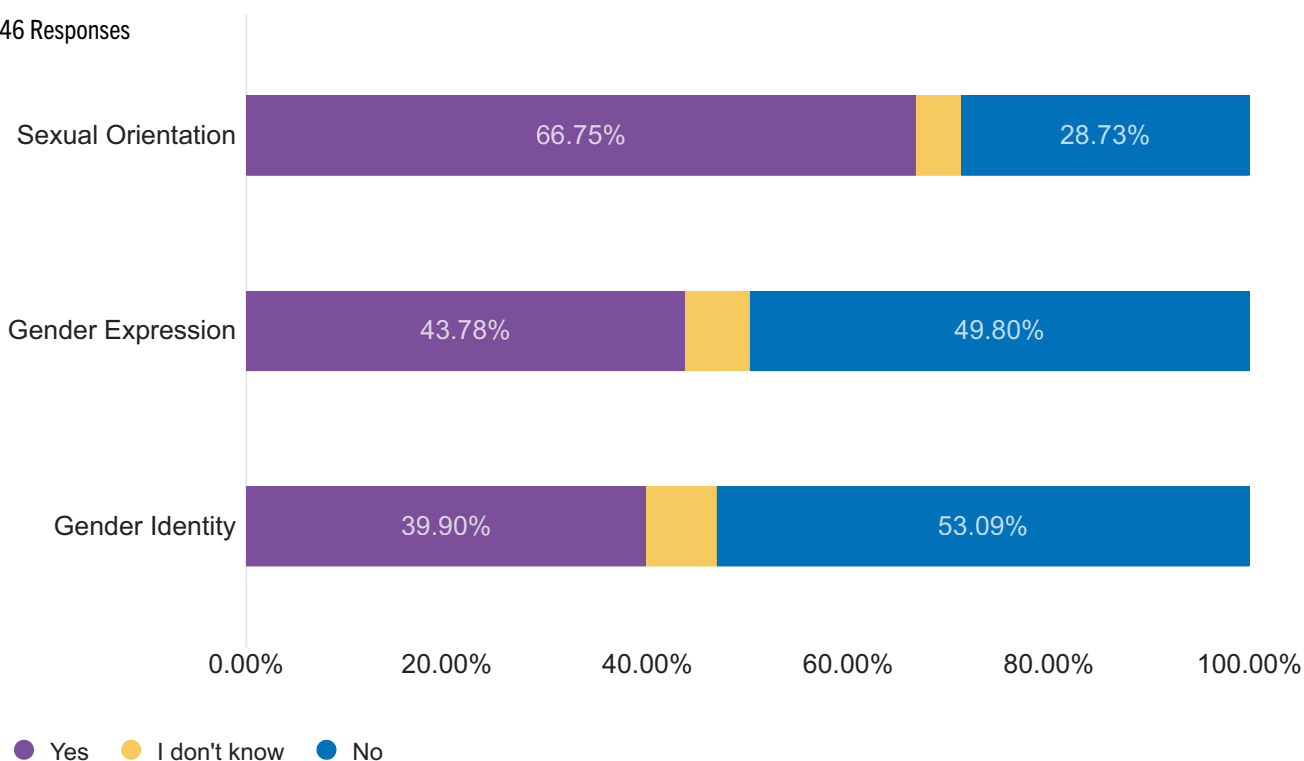
Only respondents indicating “Yes” to the question “Have you ever been involved in conversion therapy?” were asked this question.

85 Responses



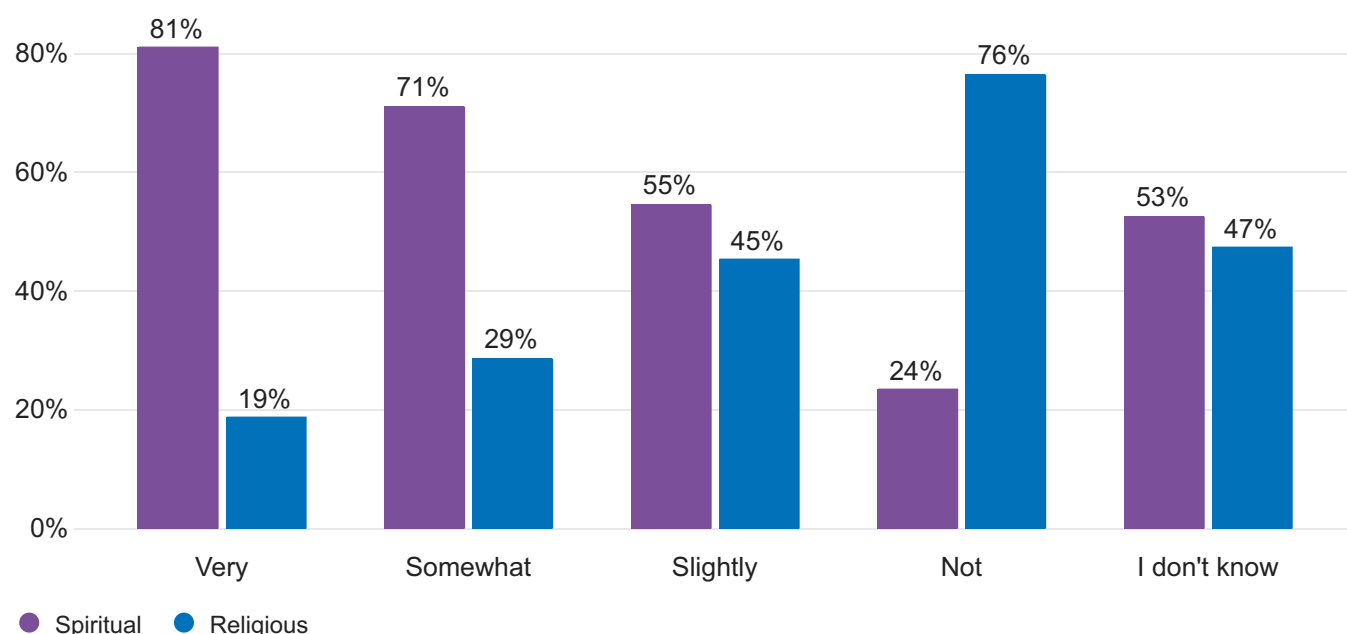
Have religious teachings about gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation ever made you feel a diminished sense of self-worth?

1246 Responses



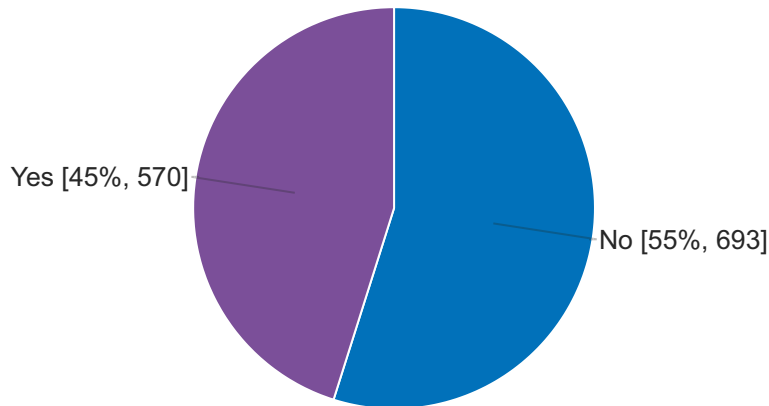
To what level do you consider yourself to be religious or spiritual?

1265 Responses



Would you like to know more about which local religious and spiritual organizations are LGBTQ+ welcoming, friendly, and affirming?

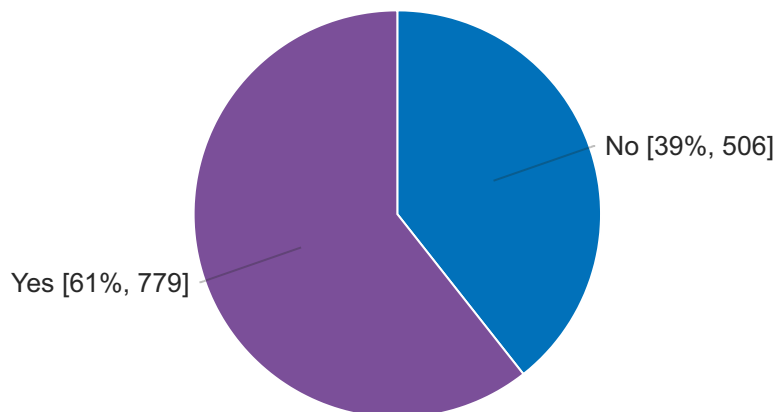
1263 Responses



As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, do you feel you have a safe place to explore and/or practice your religion or spirituality to the degree that you would like to?

Only respondents who indicated "Very", "Somewhat", "Slightly", or "I don't know" to the question "To what level do you consider yourself to be religious or spiritual?" were asked this question.

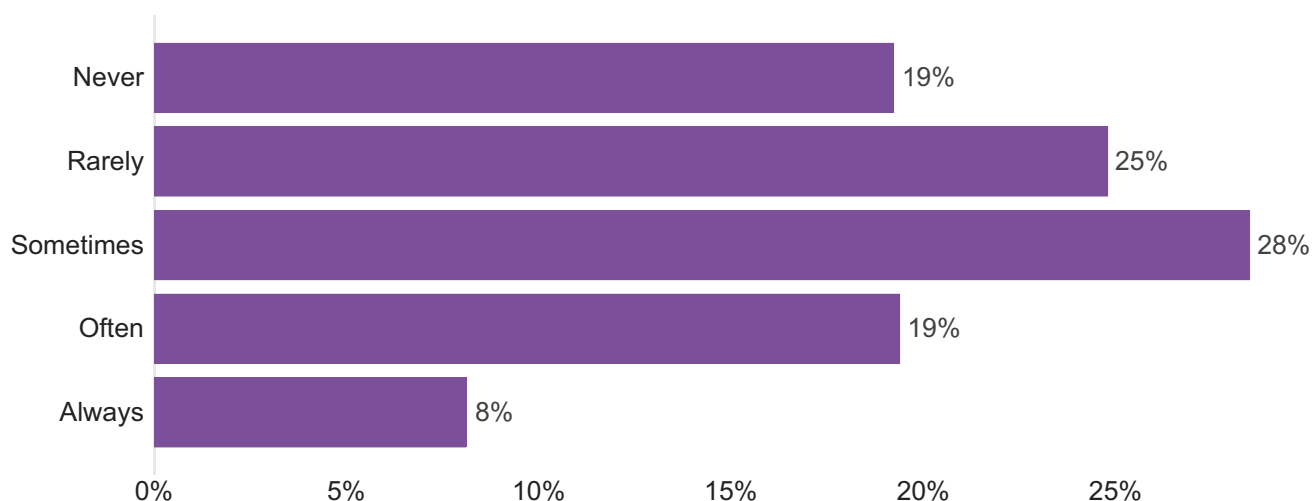
1285 Responses



How often do you turn to your religion or spirituality to help you deal with problems in your life?

Only respondents who indicated “Very”, “Somewhat”, “Slightly”, or “I don’t know” to the question “To what level do you consider yourself to be religious or spiritual?” were asked this question.

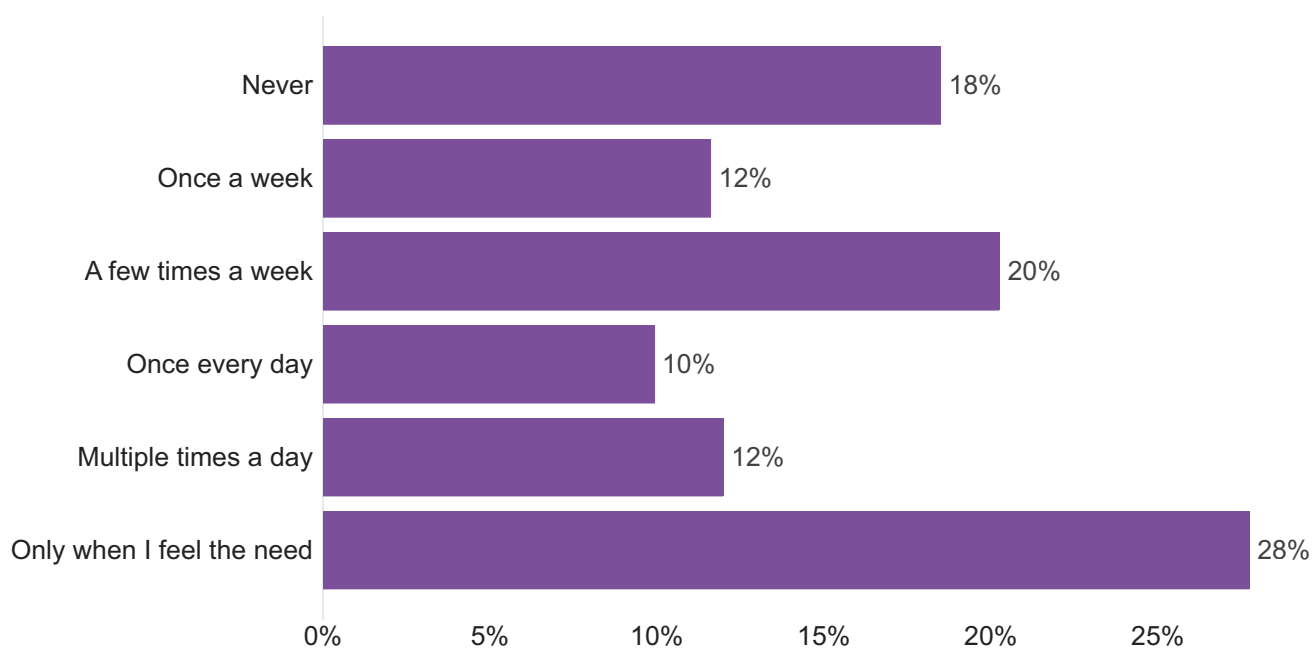
1352 Responses



How often do you participate in individual spiritual practices alone? (such as praying, meditating, or some other individual spiritual practice)

Only respondents who indicated “Very”, “Somewhat”, “Slightly”, or “I don’t know” to the question “To what level do you consider yourself to be religious or spiritual?” were asked this question.

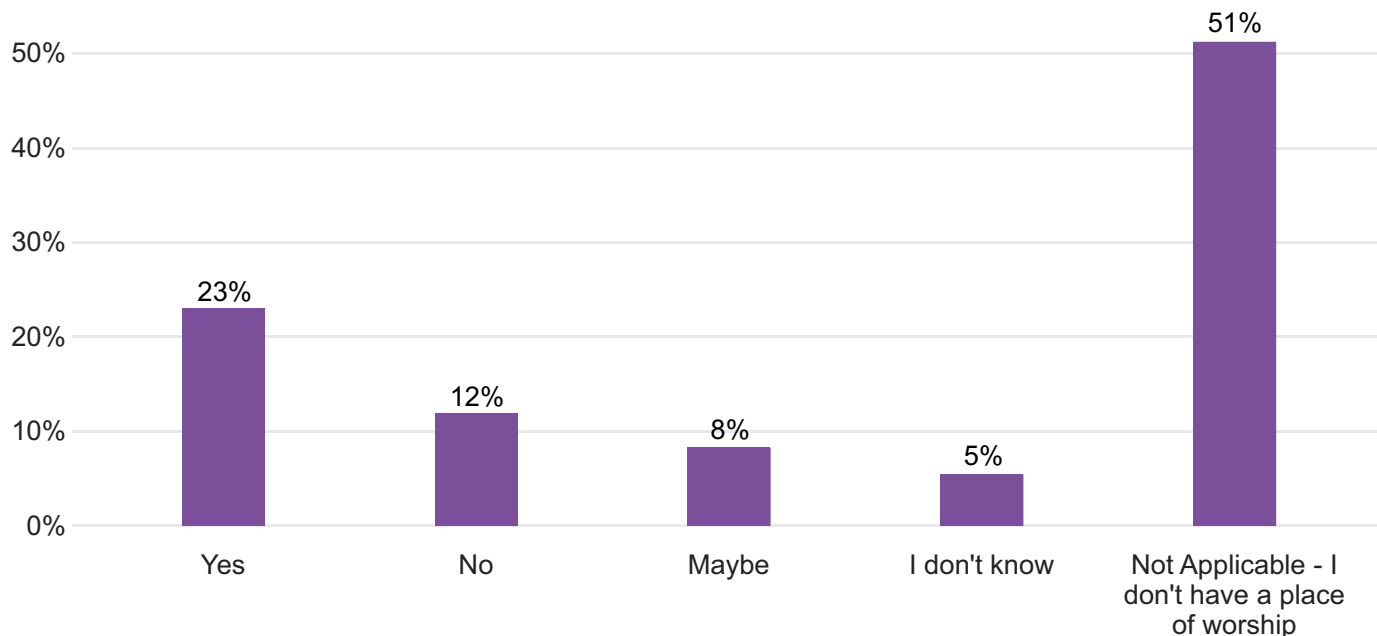
1352 Responses



Do you feel the religious or spiritual leaders in your place of worship need more LGBTQ+ diversity training?

Only respondents who indicated “Very”, “Somewhat”, “Slightly”, or “I don’t know” to the question “To what level do you consider yourself to be religious or spiritual?” were asked this question.

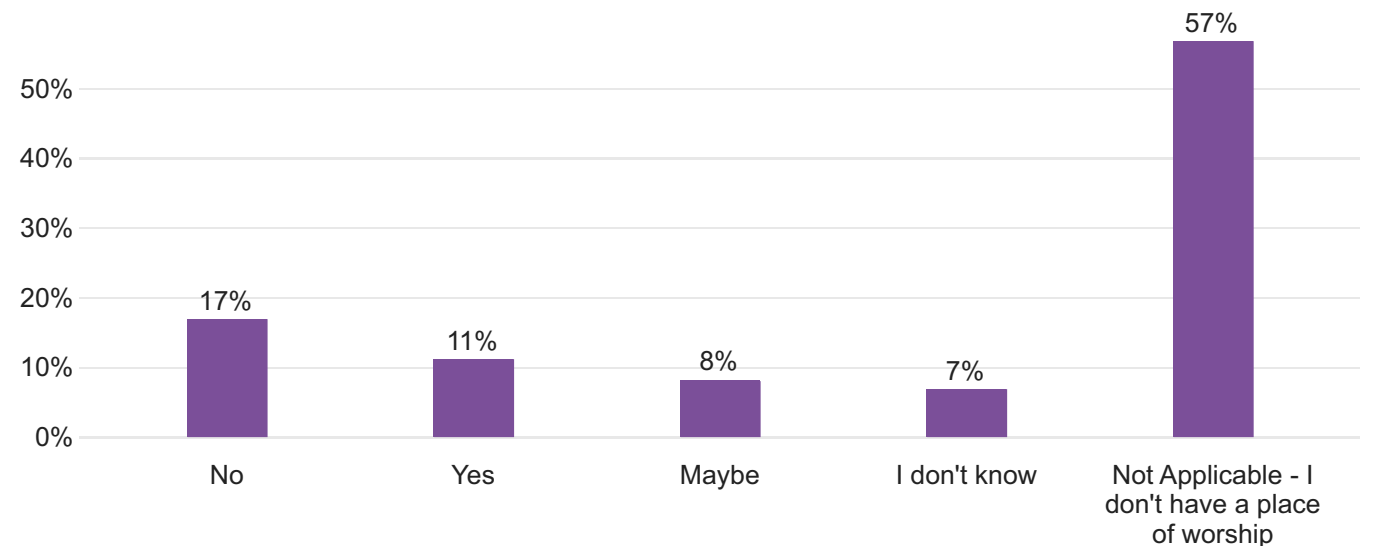
1354 Responses



Do you feel your religious or spiritual organization claims to be LGBTQ+ welcoming, friendly, and affirming outwardly, but the culture internally is not welcoming, friendly, and affirming?

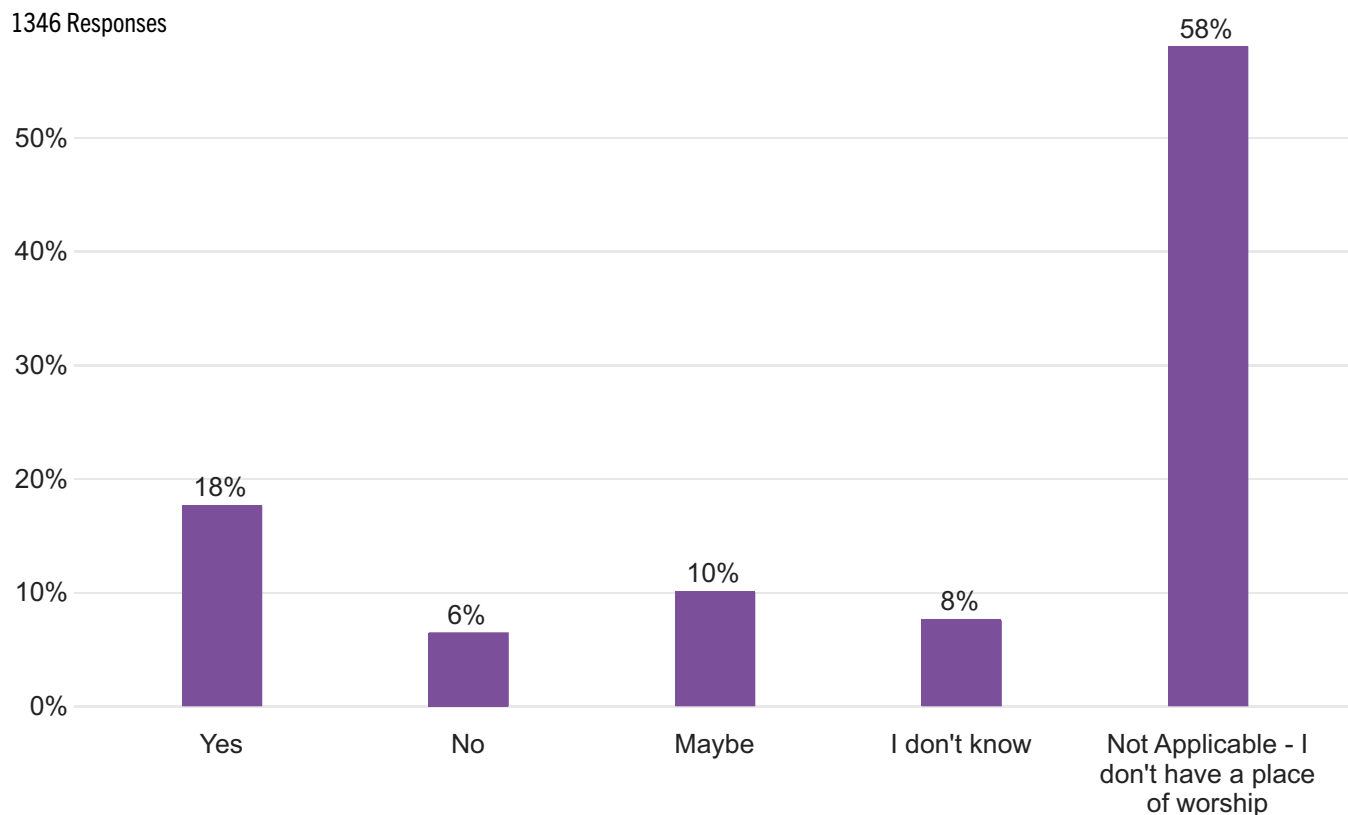
Only respondents who indicated “Very”, “Somewhat”, “Slightly”, or “I don’t know” to the question “To what level do you consider yourself to be religious or spiritual?” were asked this question.

1346 Responses



Do you feel the members of your religious or spiritual organization are as welcoming, friendly, and affirming as the organization's leaders?

1346 Responses





Education and Literacy

Education and literacy are important factors for the success of the LGBTQ+ community. For the purpose of this project, we aim to assess respondents' concerns and needs related to inclusive and affirming education and literacy resources in all learning settings, including homeschool/private/public schools in Greater Cleveland.

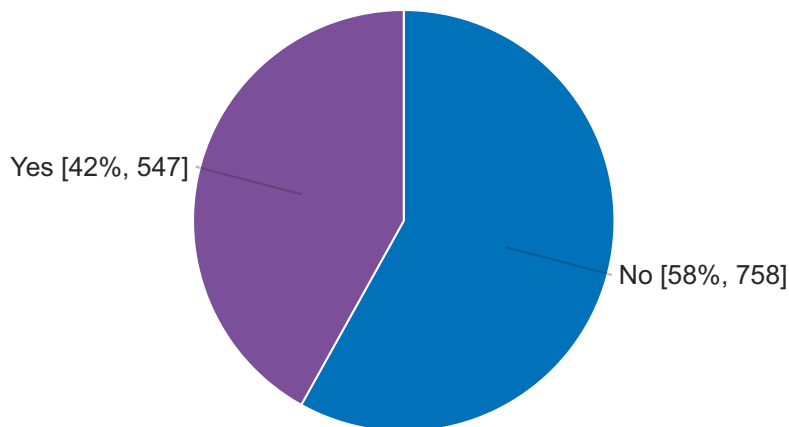
We aim to assess learning environments to ensure learners and educators feel represented, have a sense of belonging, and are supported. We also acknowledge the importance of enhancing health literacy, financial literacy, political literacy, and media literacy among LGBTQ+ individuals.

Moreover, we consider workforce training and development needs in short-term certificates and other educational pathways that propel career growth and gainful employment, especially among adult and non-traditional students. Additionally, the domain seeks to explore literacy disparities.

In our efforts to ensure equal access to education and literacy resources, we aim to assess the barriers around safety and policy initiatives related to LGBTQ+ topics/issues.

Have you been enrolled as a student in the past five (5) years?

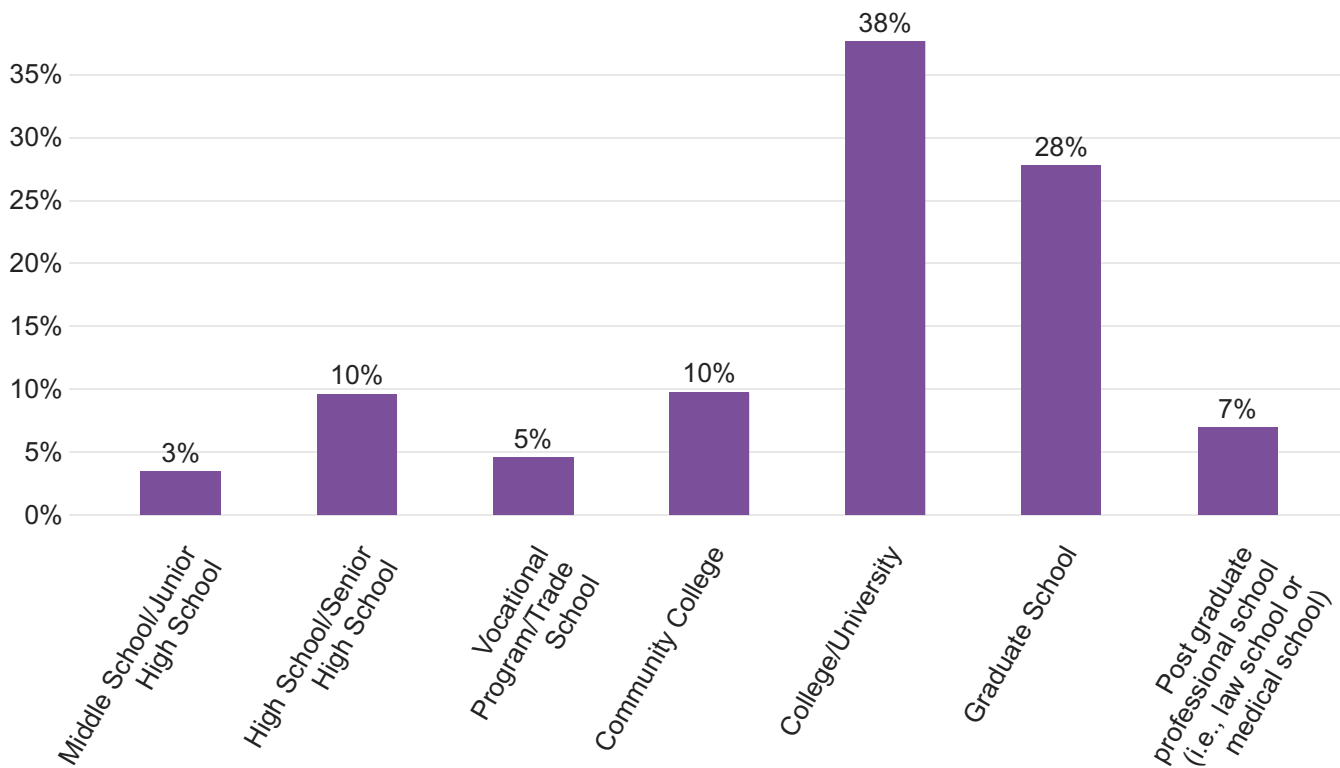
1305 Responses



What kind of education program, certification, or training are/were you enrolled in?

Only respondents who indicated “Yes” to the question “Have you been enrolled as a student in the past five (5) years?” were asked this question.

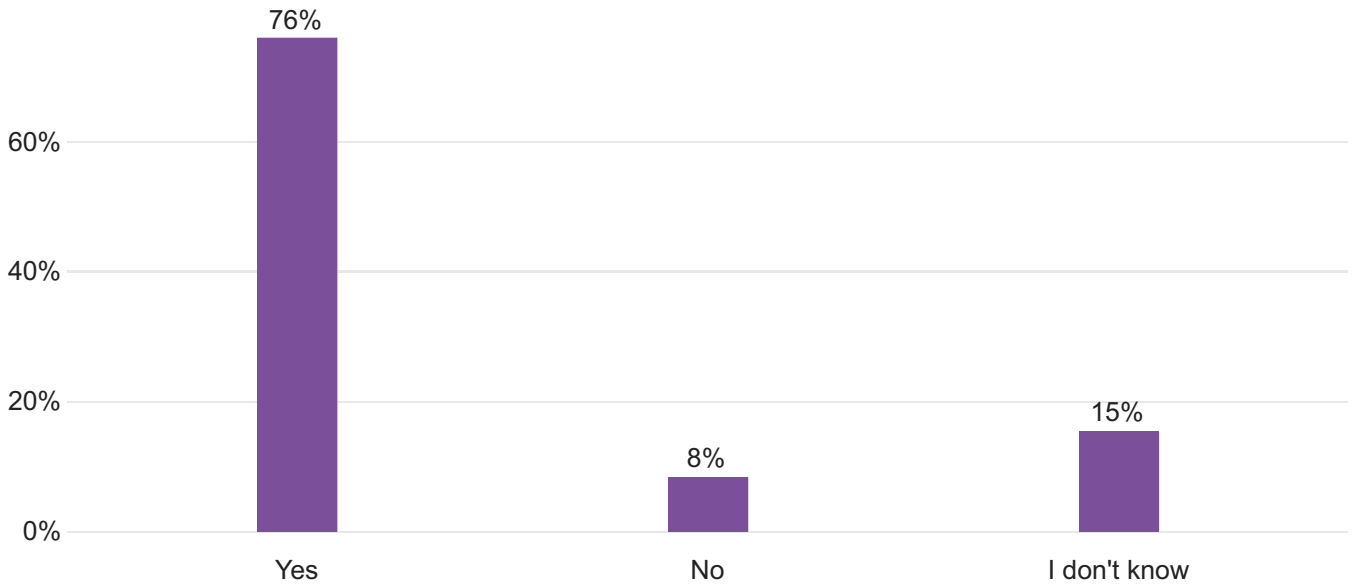
544 Responses



Do you plan to continue your education after high school?

Only respondents who indicated “Middle School/Junior High School” or “High School/Senior High School” to the question “What kind of educational program, certification, or training are/were you enrolled in?” were asked this question.

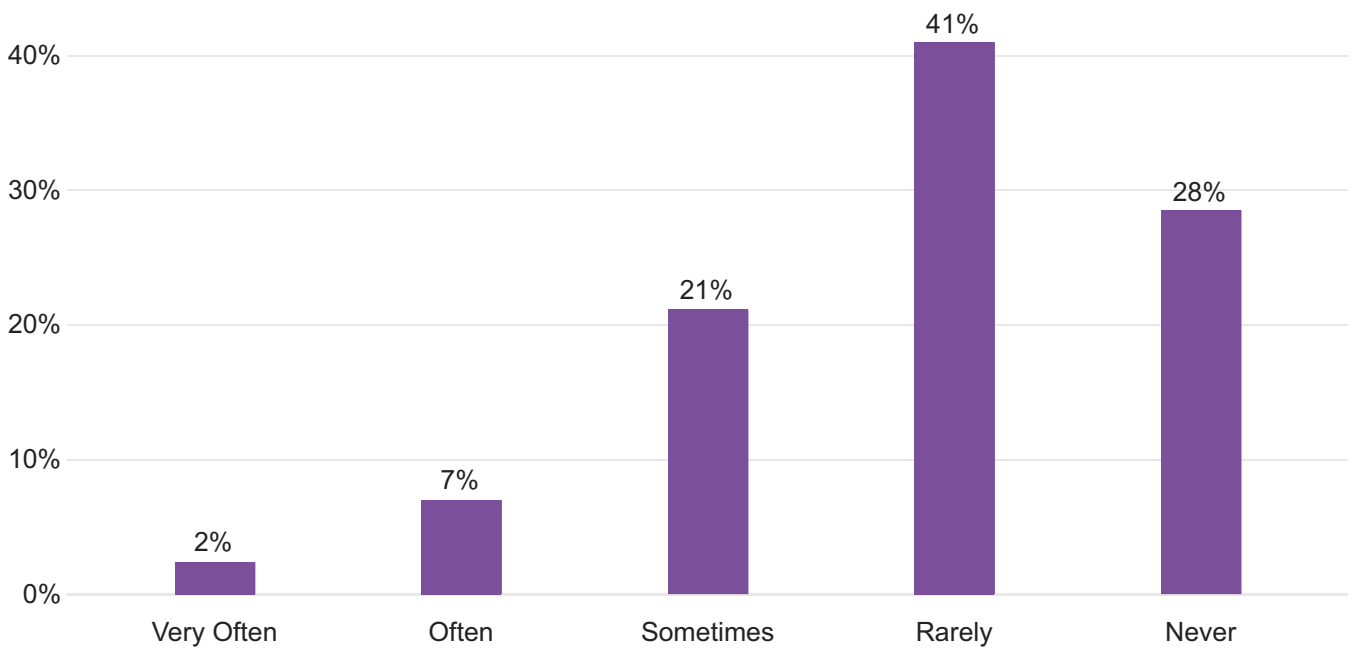
71 Responses



How often have you been worried about your physical safety in your educational setting(s)?

Only respondents who indicated “Yes” to the question “Have you been enrolled as a student in the past five (5) years?” were asked this question.

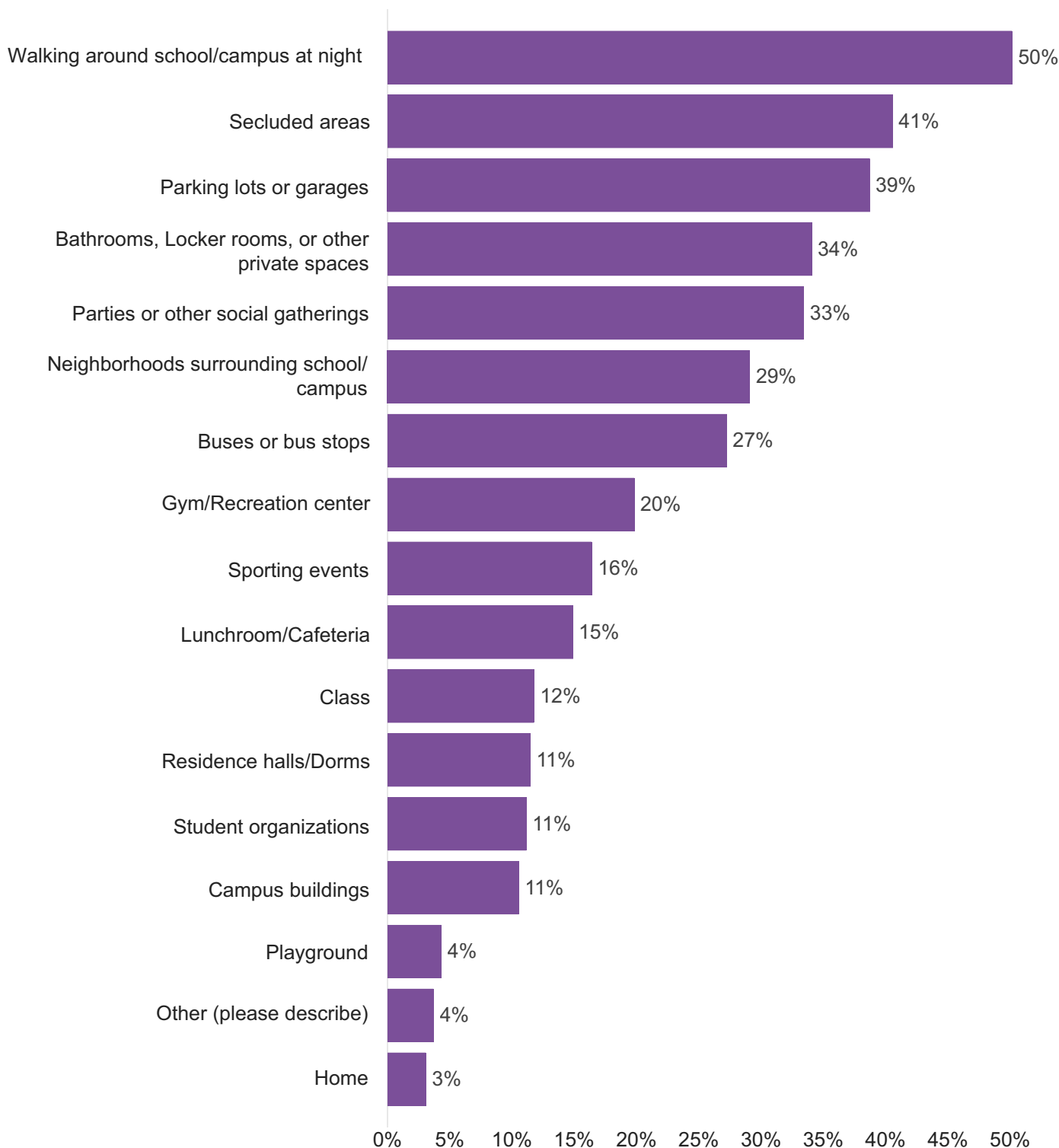
544 Responses



Which of the following settings have you avoided due to fear for your physical safety (select all that apply)

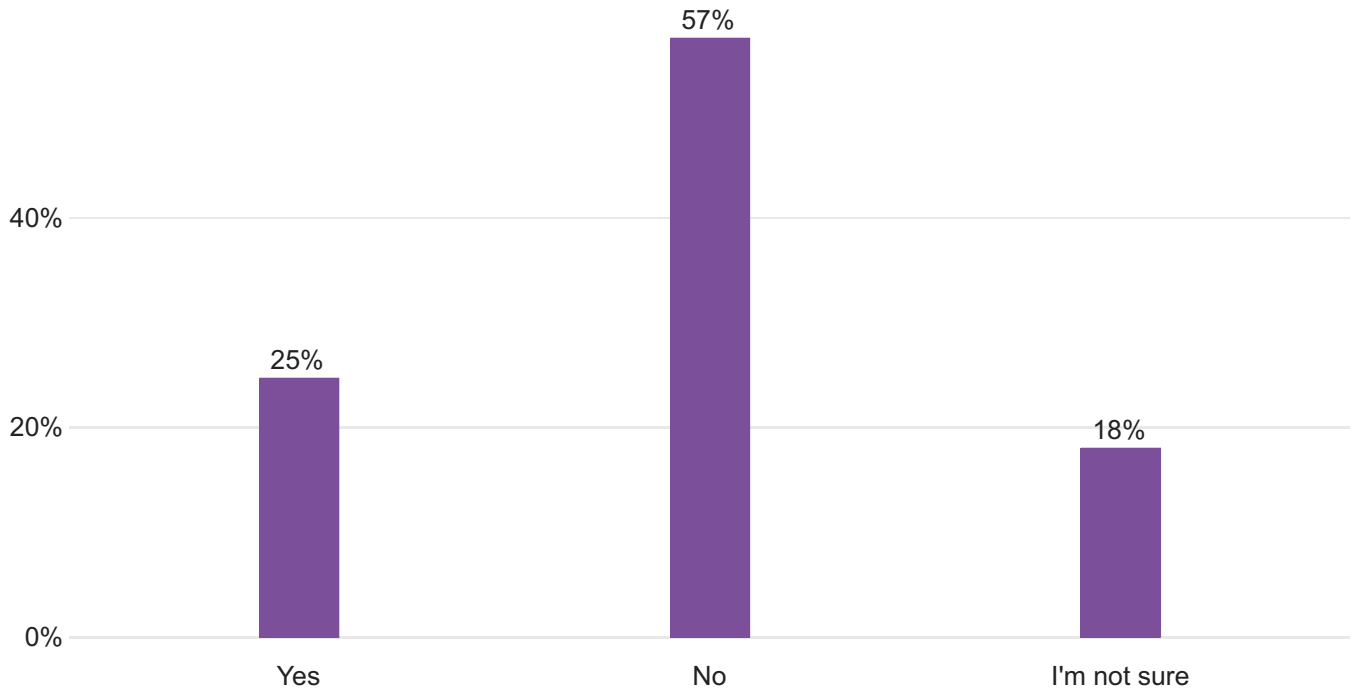
Only respondents who indicated “Very Often”, “Often”, “Sometimes”, or “Rarely” to the question “How often have you been worried about your physical safety in your educational setting(s)?” were asked this question.

323 Responses



In general, have you felt discriminated against in an educational setting because you are LGBTQ+?

Only respondents who indicated “Yes” to the question “Have you been enrolled as a student in the past five (5) years?” were asked this question.
542 Responses



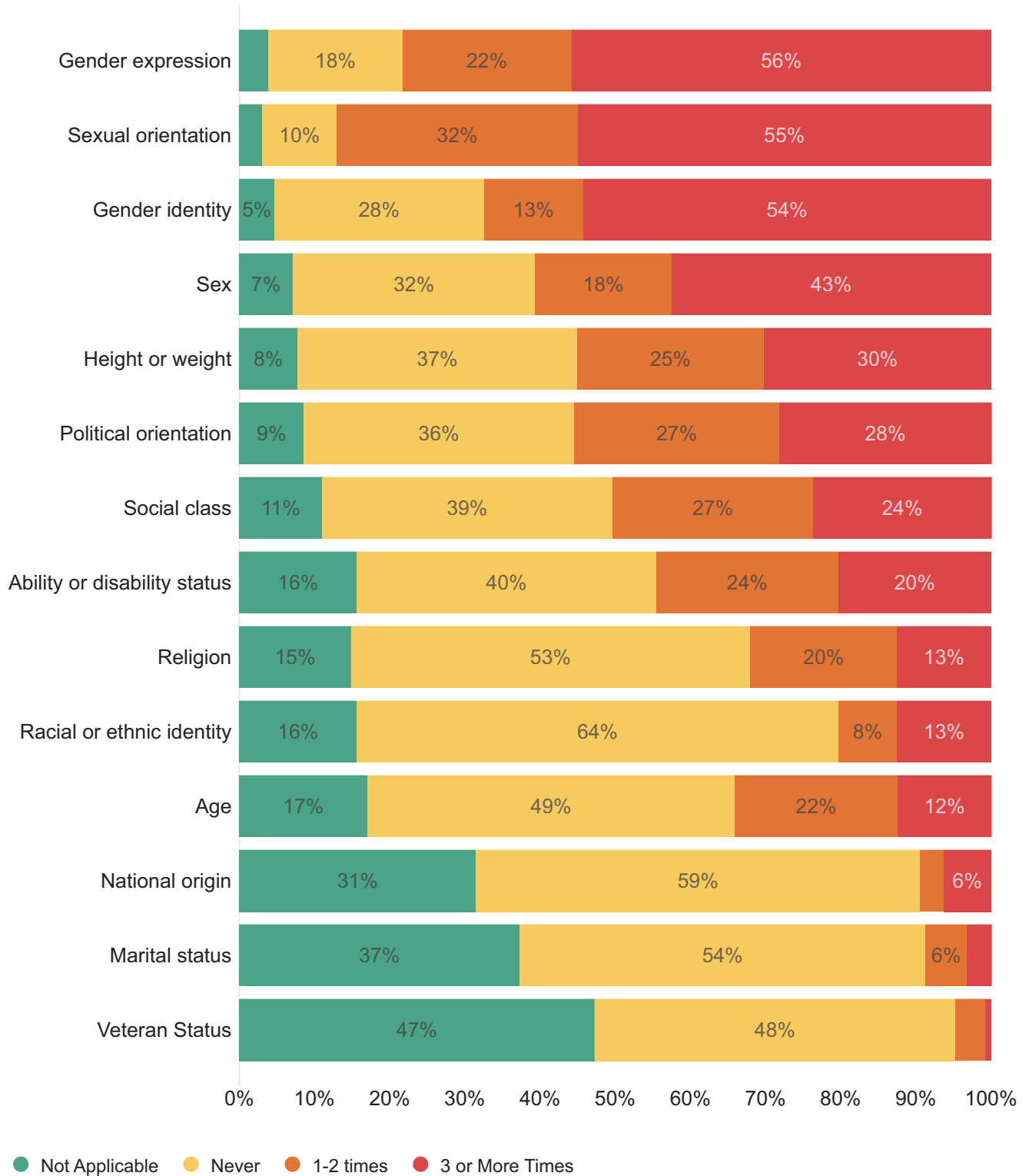
“I worry about my rights and the world my daughters are going to grow up in. I worry about them being bullied in general, but also being bullied specifically for having two moms. I worry about my daughters not feeling comfortable talking about their home life at school for fear of being bullied.”



How often have you experienced any of the following types of discrimination in an educational setting?

Only respondents who indicated “Yes” to the question “In general, have you felt discriminated against in an educational setting because you are LGBTQ+?” were asked this question.

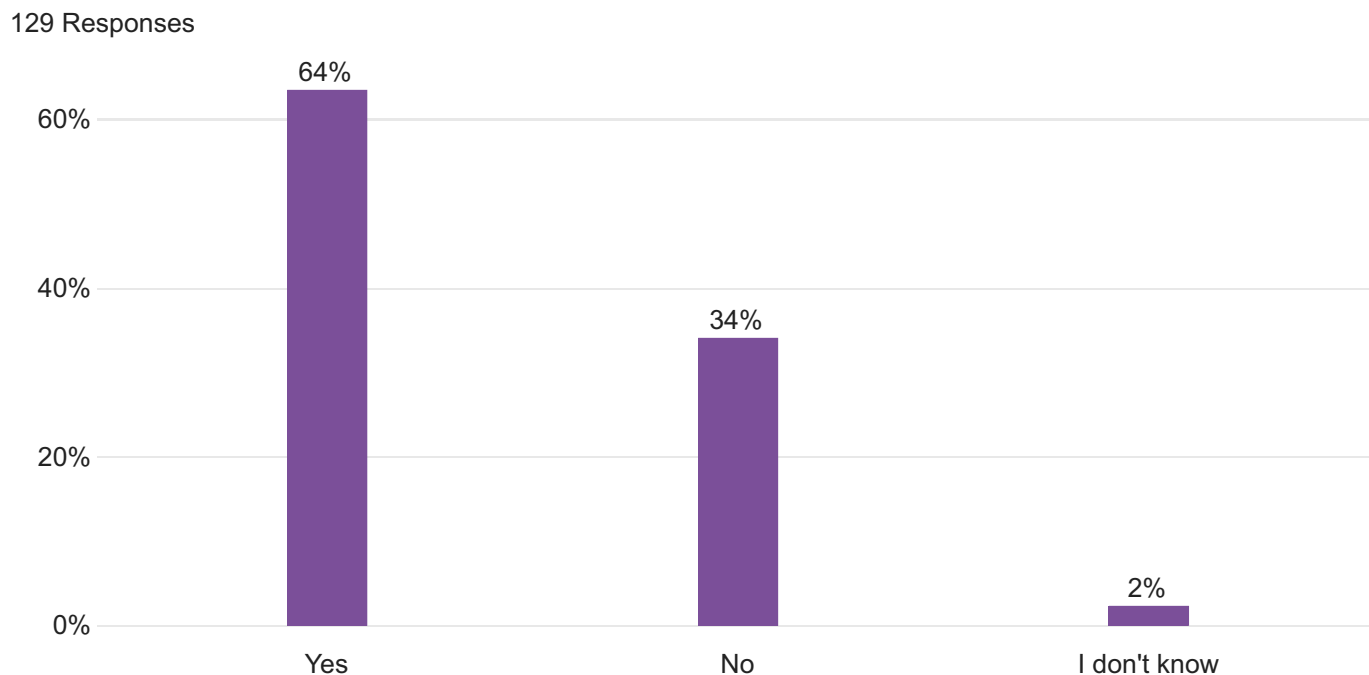
132 Responses



Did this/these events happen in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County, Ohio?

Only respondents who indicated “Yes” to the question “In general, have you felt discriminated against in an educational setting because you are LGBTQ+?” were asked this question.

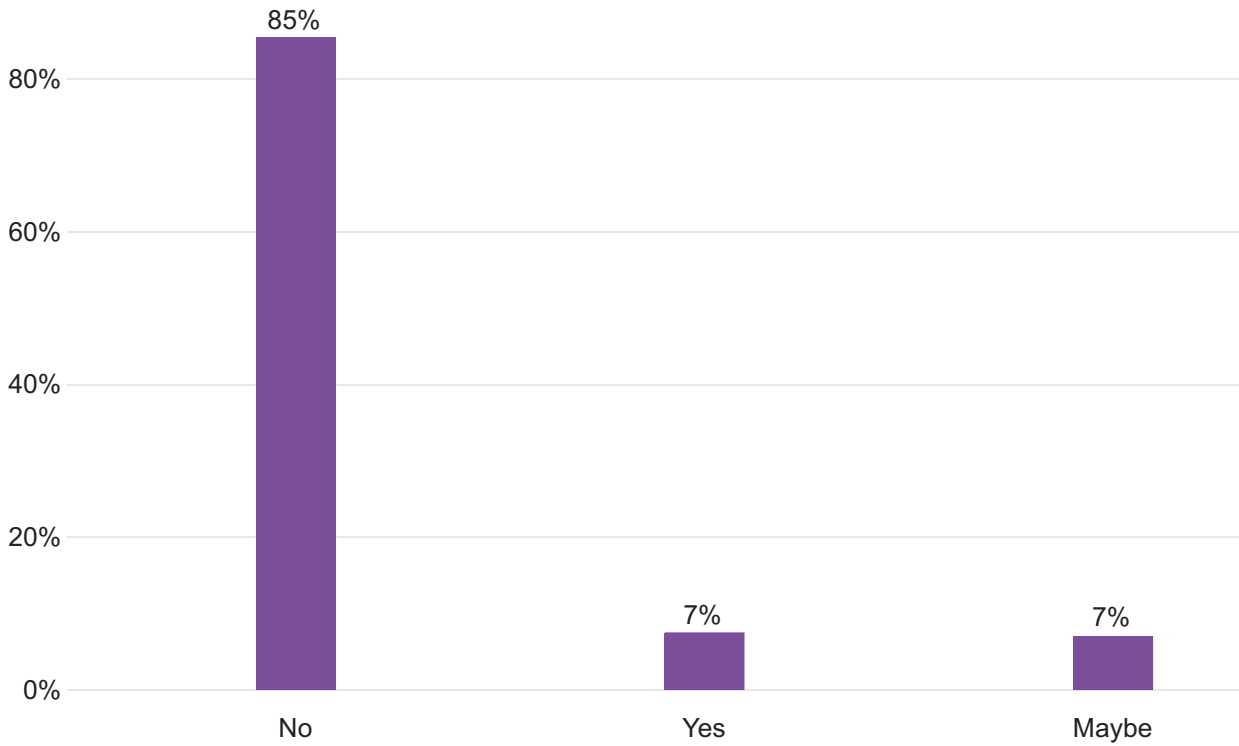
129 Responses



“In my mind, I think the biggest issue particularly now is really just intersectional awareness and education because just like any other underrepresented group communities get cast as a monolith, and that's incredibly problematic because it does not really explore or really expose the really complicated nature of things happening internally and the varied sort of multidimensional aspects of how you reach inclusion and access and belonging.”

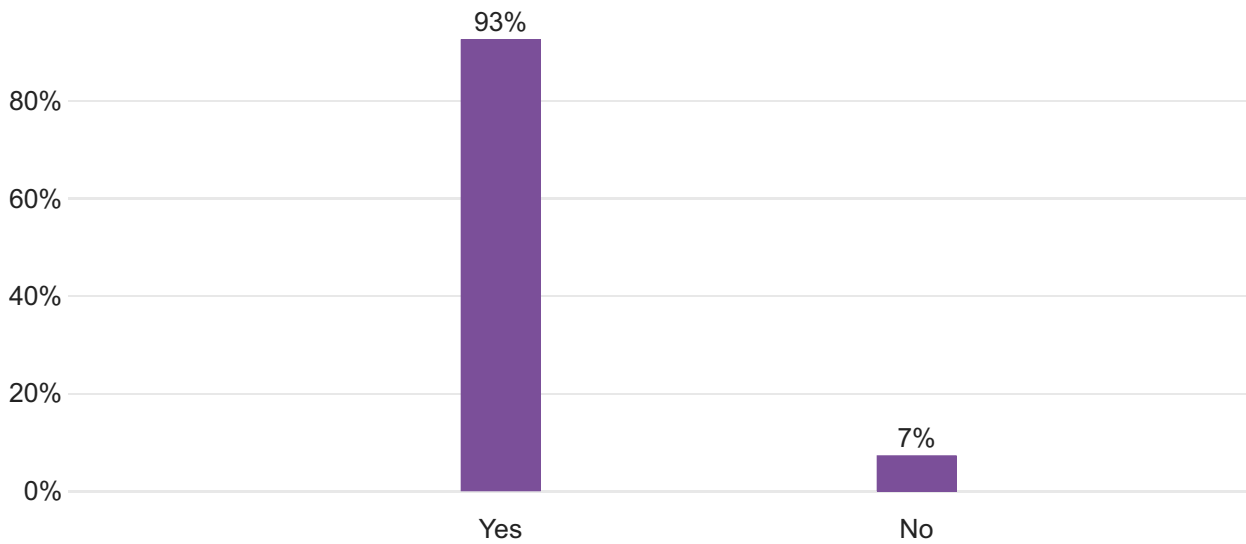
Do you feel you received enough LGBTQ+ sex education in school?

1287 Responses



Did you have to find any LGBTQ+ sex education or information on your own?

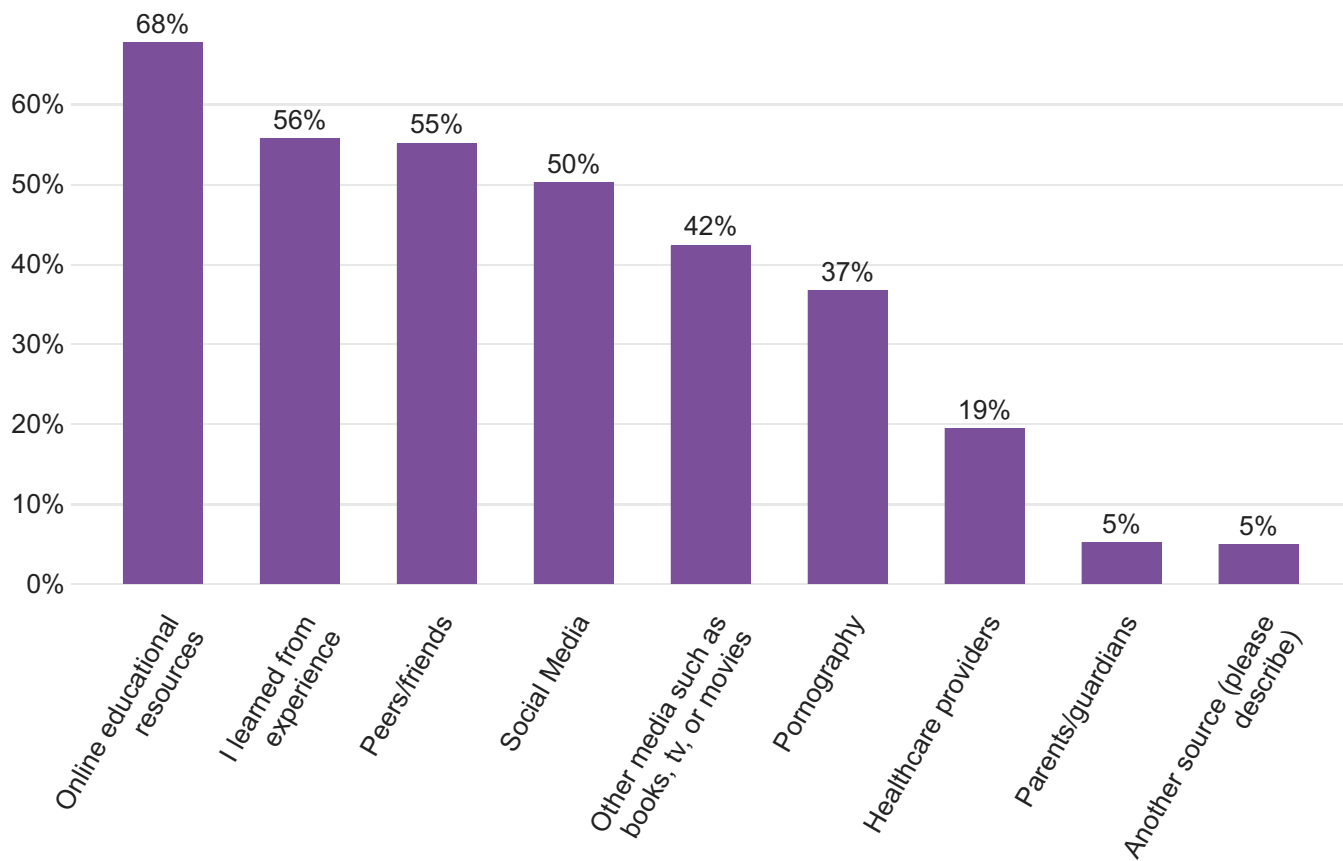
1286 Responses





Where did you typically get your LGBTQ+ sex education/information? (select all that apply)

1282 Responses





Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

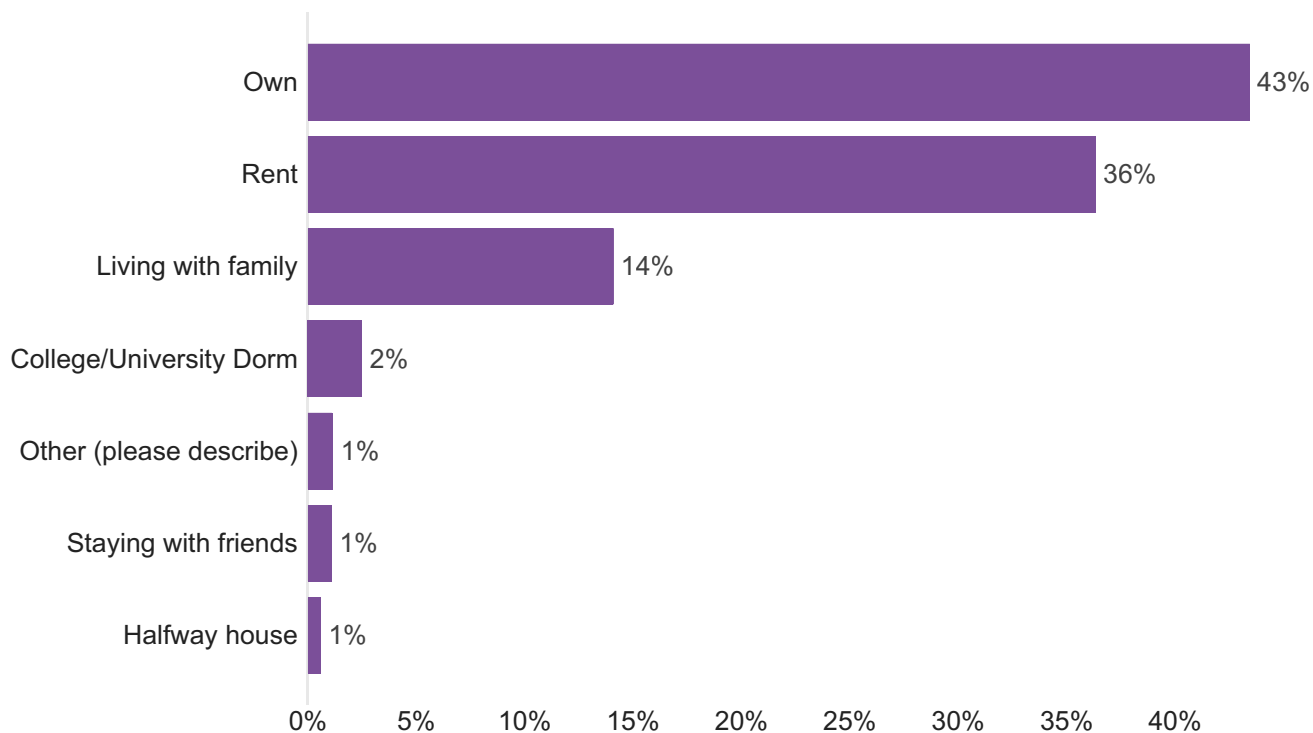
For the purpose of this project, when referring to housing, food, and basic needs, we acknowledge that having access to safe, affordable, and sustainable basic necessities is essential for leading a fulfilling life.

There are numerous challenges and barriers that individuals within the LGBTQ+ community may face when accessing basic needs such as food, shelter, transportation, and medical care. In addition, we acknowledge that homelessness can take many forms. Individuals experiencing housing insecurity may not fit the traditional definition of homelessness, but they still have significant needs that must be assessed.

Therefore, this assessment will prioritize identifying and assessing the unique needs and barriers faced by LGBTQ+ individuals in accessing these basic necessities and work towards developing equitable and sustainable solutions to ensure that everyone in the community can lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

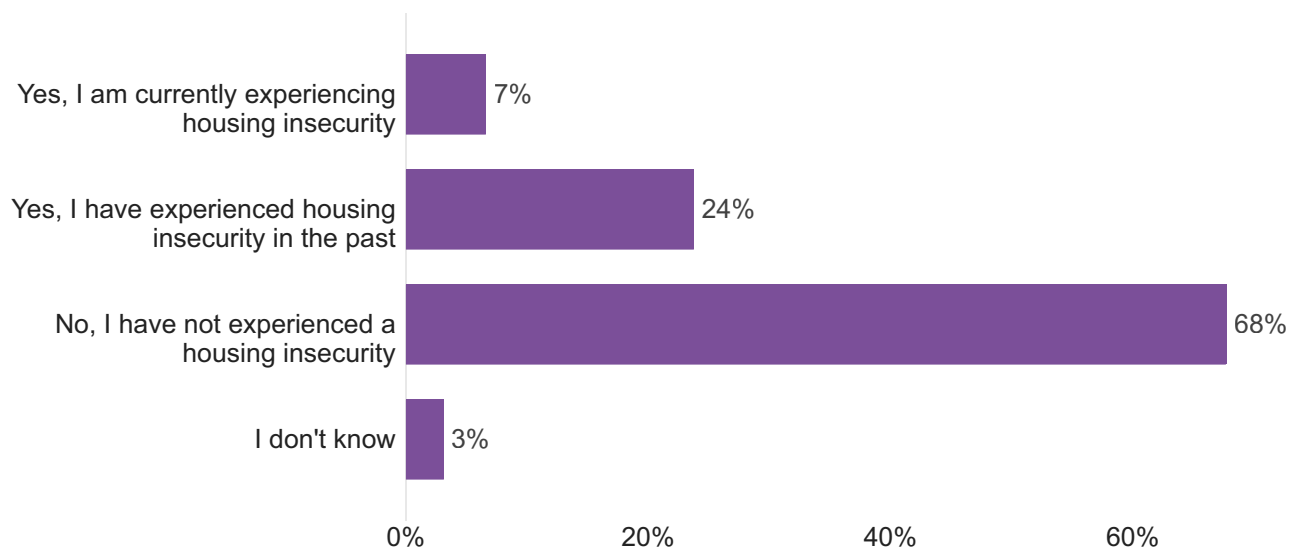
What is your current housing status?

1564 Responses



Housing insecurity is when you are unable to access or afford enough housing consistently. Have you ever in your life experienced housing insecurity? (select all that apply)

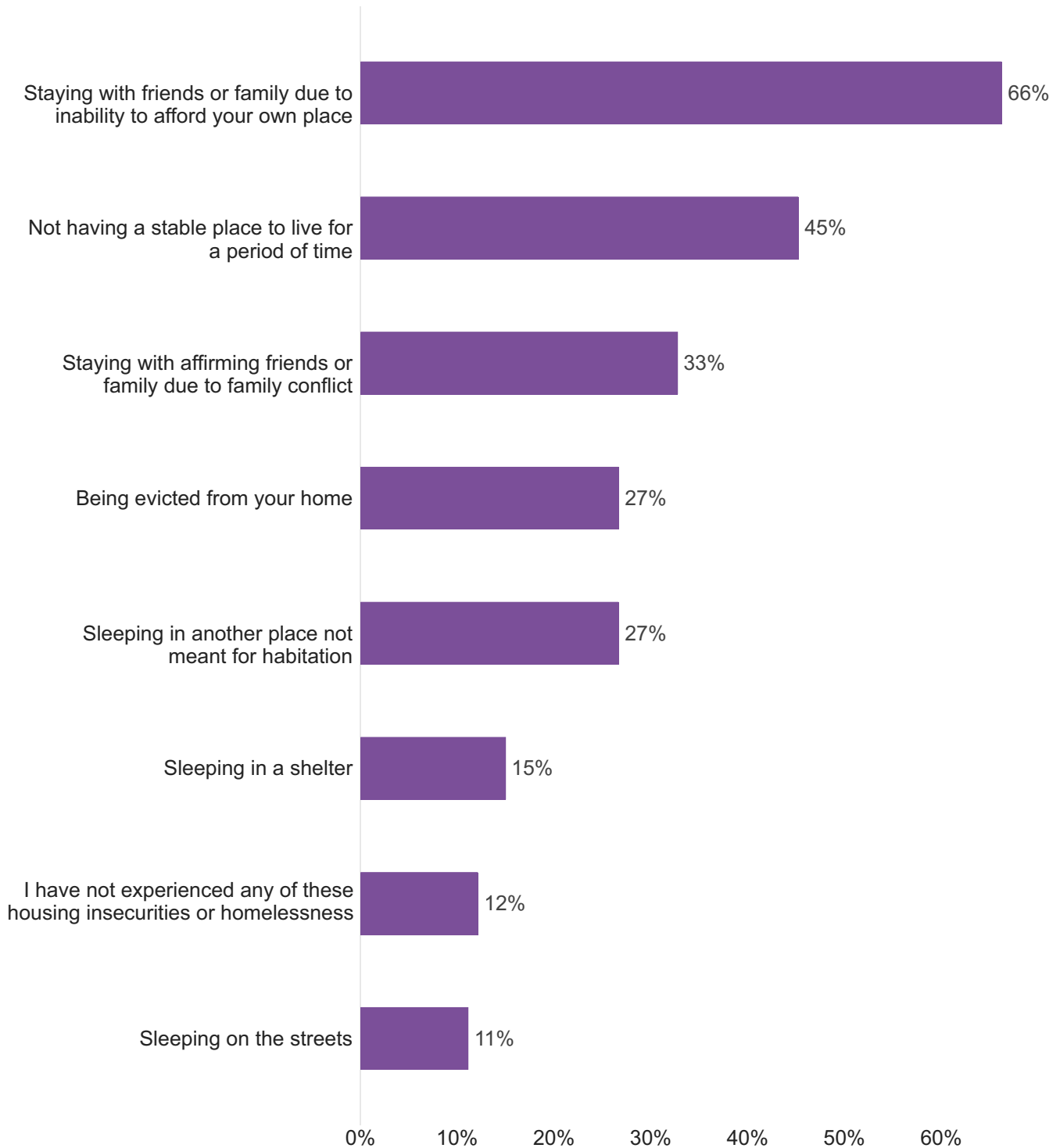
1561 Responses



Have you ever experienced any of the following housing insecurity or homeless situations?

Only respondents indicating “Yes, I am currently experiencing a housing insecurity”, “Yes, I have experienced a housing insecurity in the past”, or “I don’t know” to the question “Have you ever in your life experienced housing insecurity?” were asked this question.

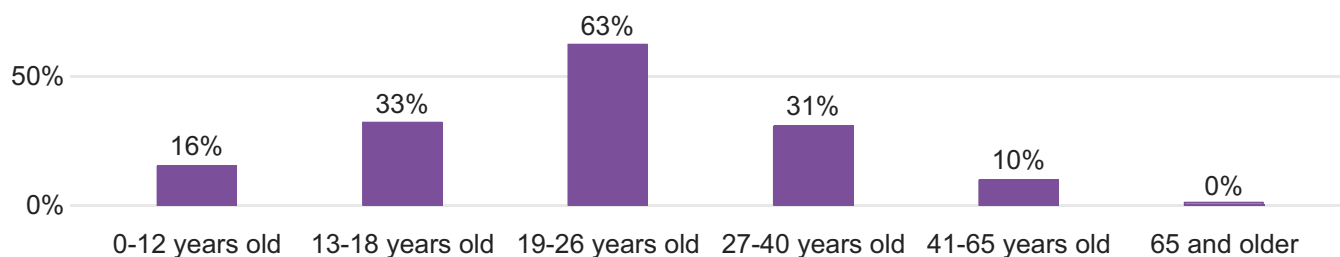
495 Responses



At what age range(s) have you experienced these housing insecurities or homelessness? (select all that apply)

Only respondents indicating “Yes, I am currently experiencing a housing insecurity” or “Yes, I have experienced a housing insecurity in the past” to the question “Have you ever in your life experienced housing insecurity?” were asked this question.

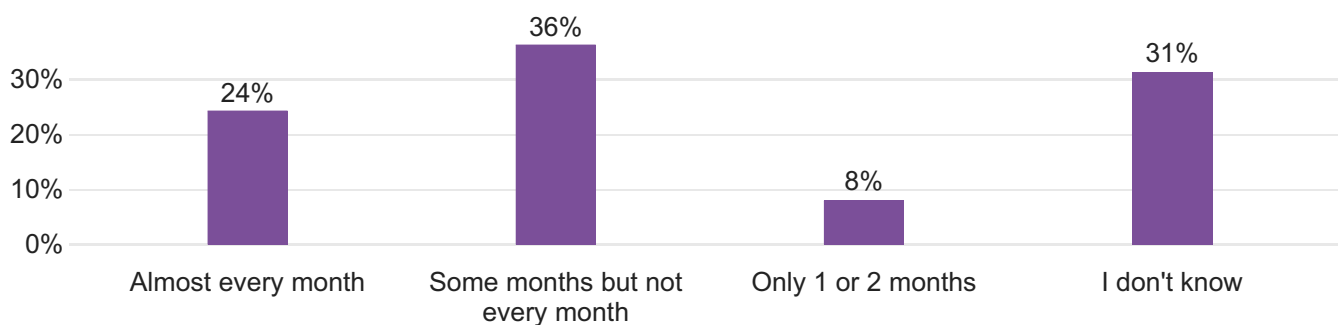
442 Responses



How often do you experience these housing insecurities or homelessness?

Only respondents indicating “Yes, I am currently experiencing a housing insecurity” to the question “Have you ever in your life experienced housing insecurity?” were asked this question.

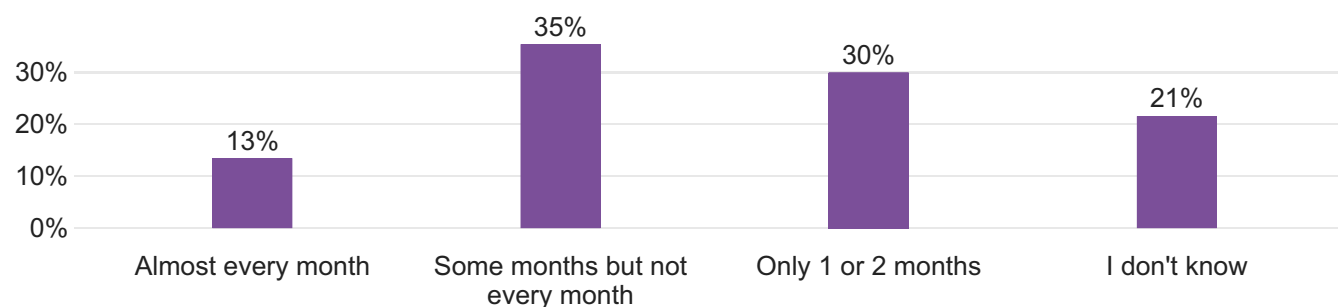
99 Responses



How often did you experience these housing insecurities or homelessness in the past?

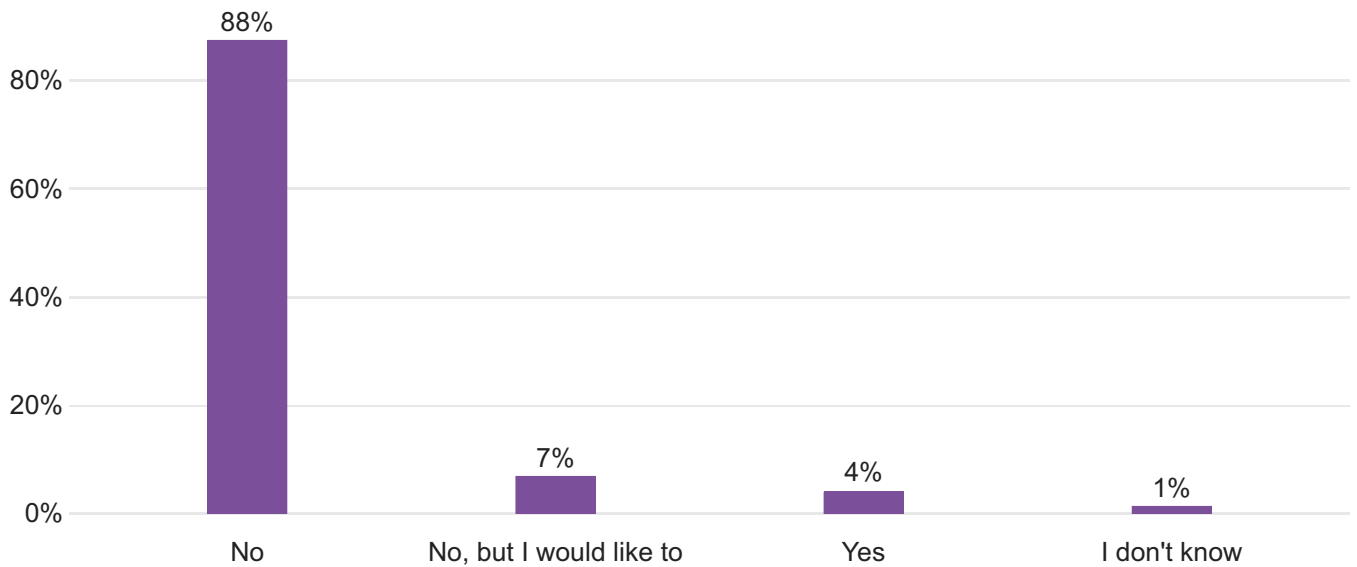
Only respondents indicating “Yes, I have experienced a housing insecurity in the past” to the question “Have you ever in your life experienced housing insecurity?” were asked this question.

359 Responses



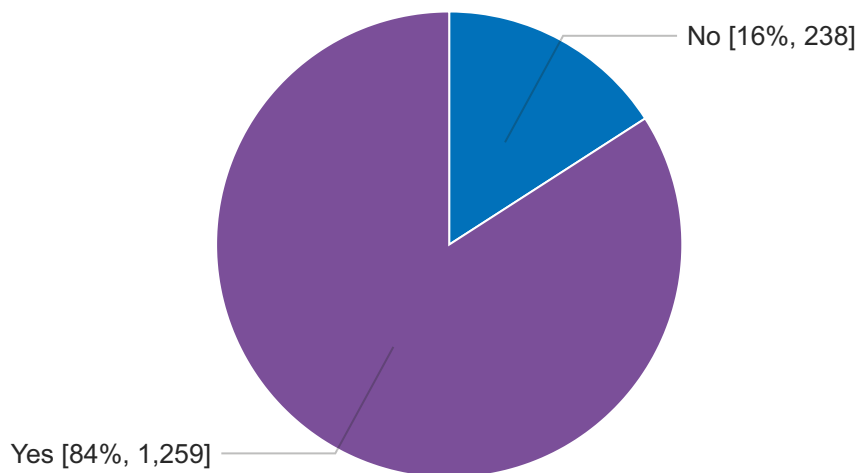
Are you currently receiving housing assistance such as programs and/or services designed to provide support and resources to individuals or families who are in need of affordable housing or experiencing housing-related difficulties?

1498 Responses



Are you satisfied with your current living arrangements?

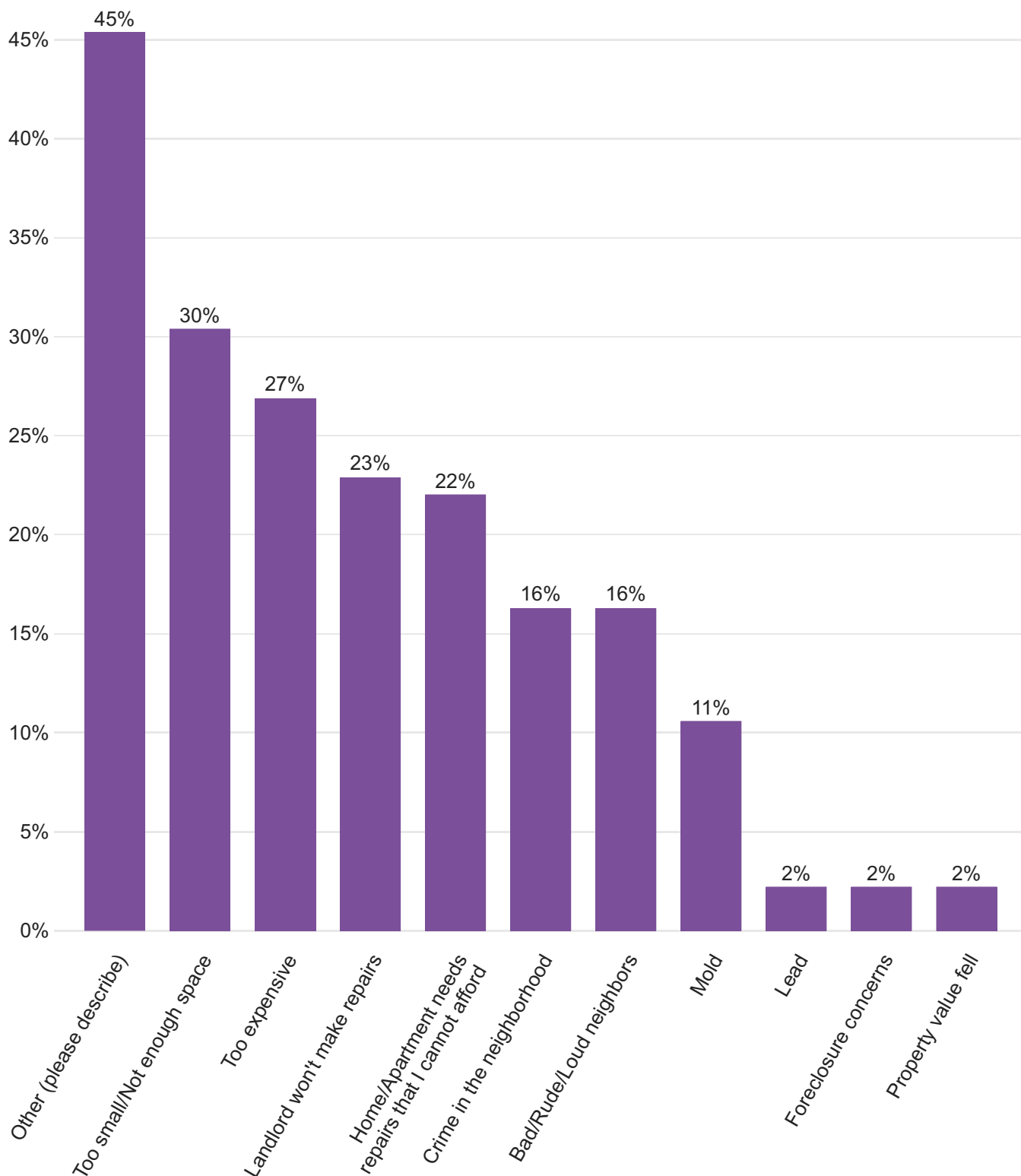
1497 Responses



Please tell us why you are not satisfied with your current living arrangement. (select all that apply)

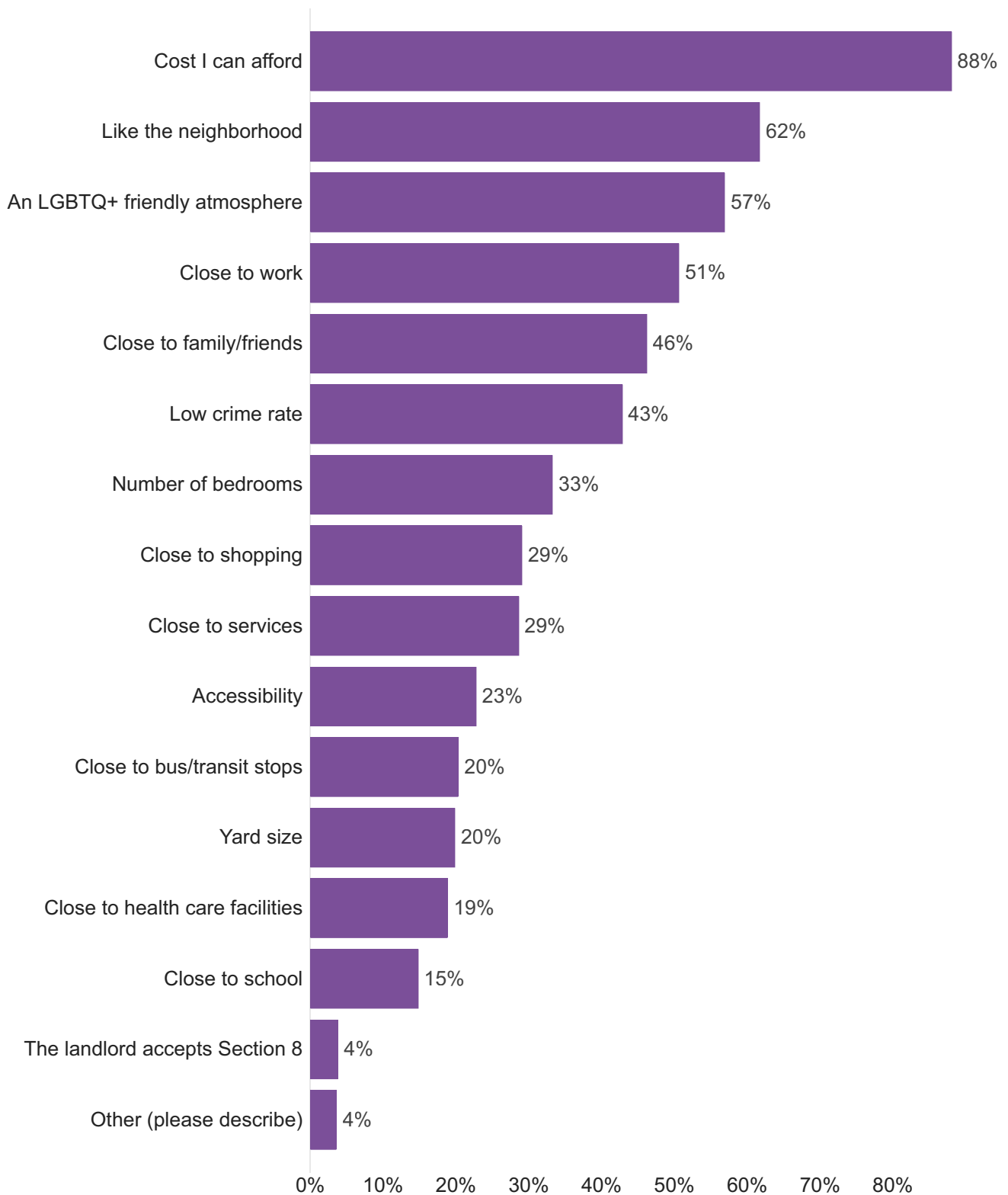
Only respondents indicating “No” to the question “Are you satisfied with your current living arrangements?” were asked this question.

227 Responses



What factors are most important to you when choosing your home or apartment? (select all that apply)

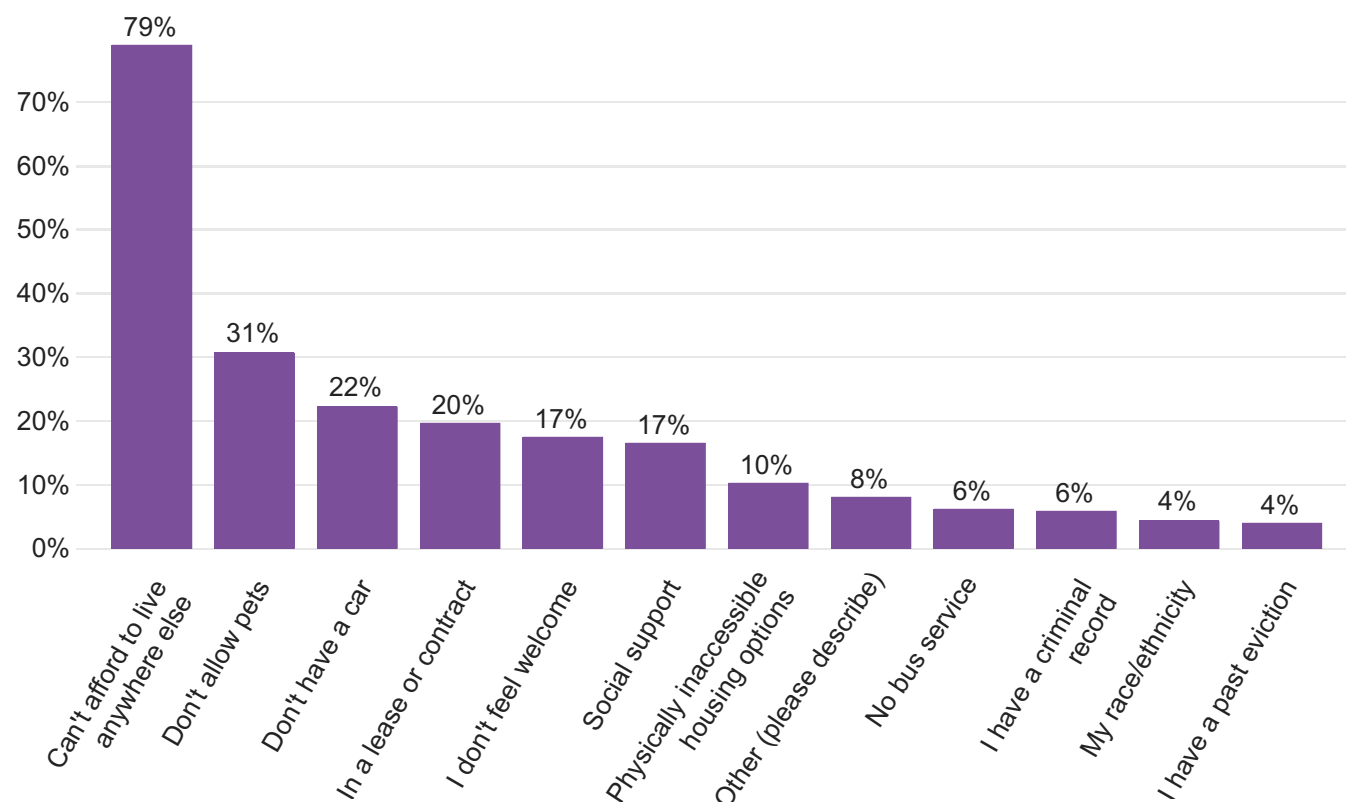
1476 Responses



What are the barriers, if any, that keep you from living in another part of your community? (select all that apply)

Only respondents indicating “No” to the question “Are you satisfied with your current living arrangements?” were asked this question.

224 Responses



“Housing is a huge need. Our young people are especially vulnerable when they come out or are outed. We need systemic investment in housing for all marginalized communities.”



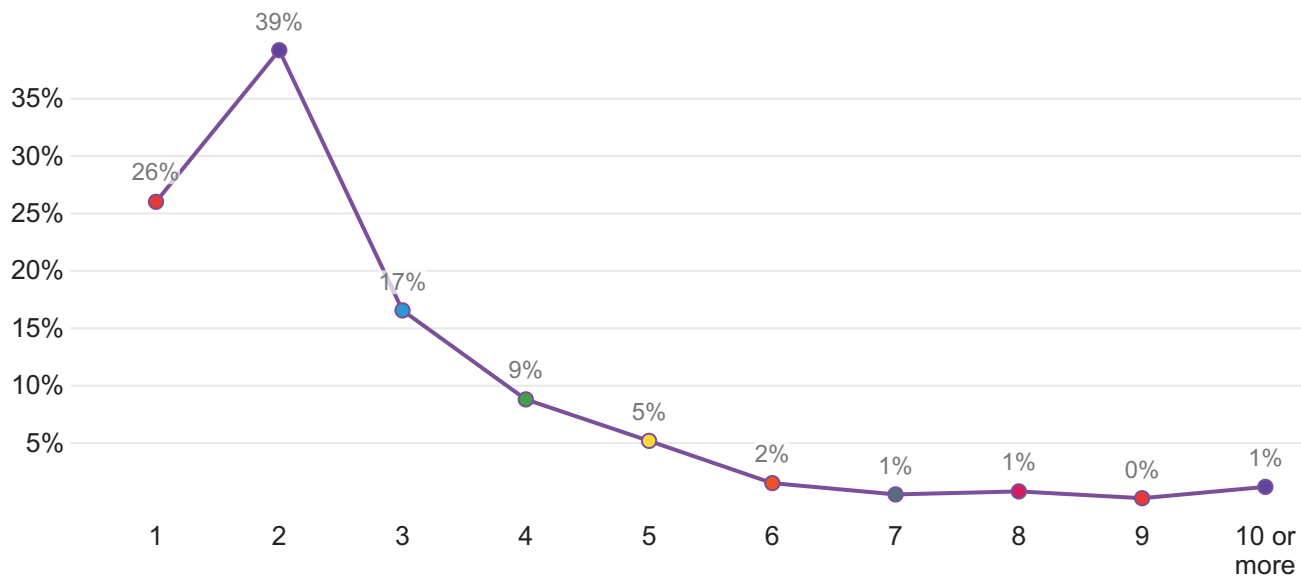


“We need to get honest about our racial equity or lack thereof. It’s always the same few leaders, which is unfair and speaks to a level of comfort among the white community. We need broader representation.”



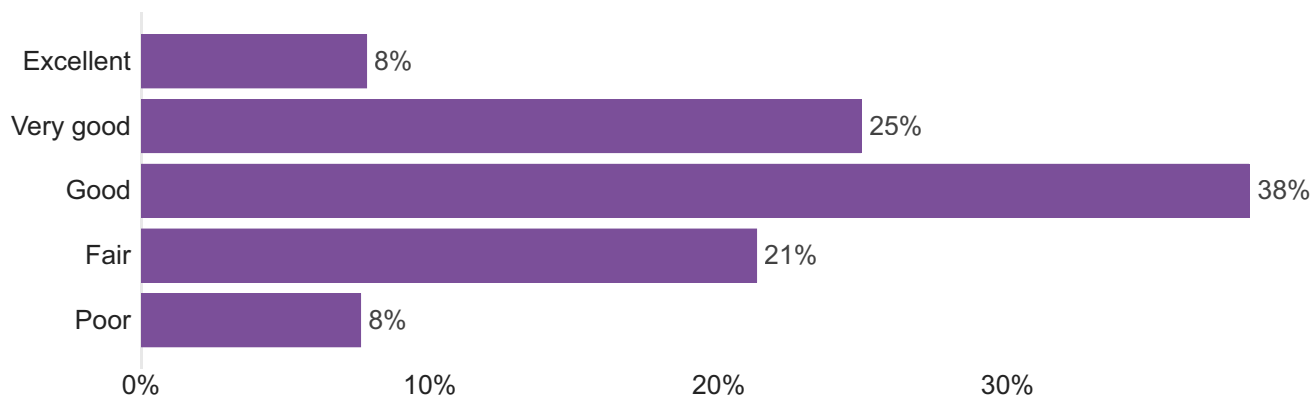
How many people live in the place where you stay? (including yourself)

1522 Responses



In general, how healthy do you feel your overall diet is?

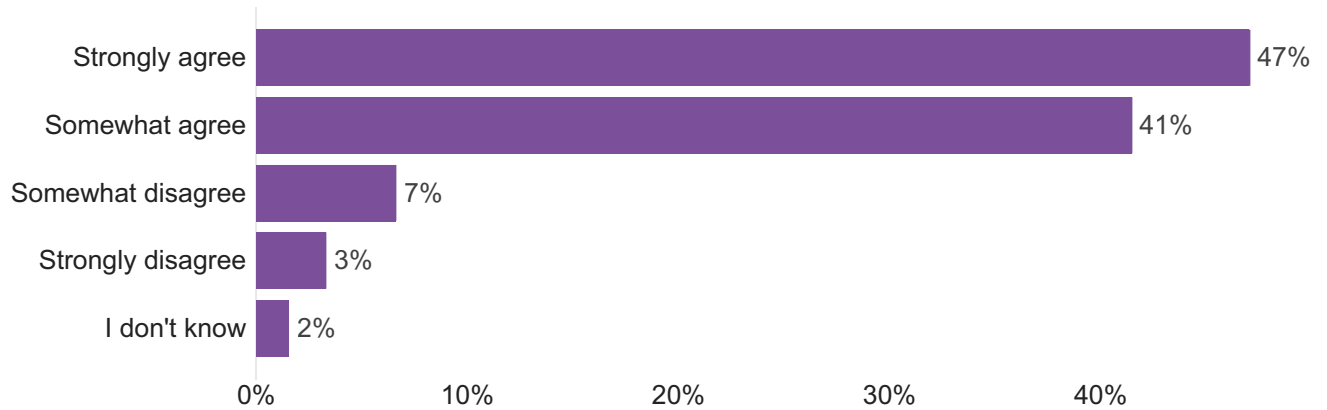
1540 Responses





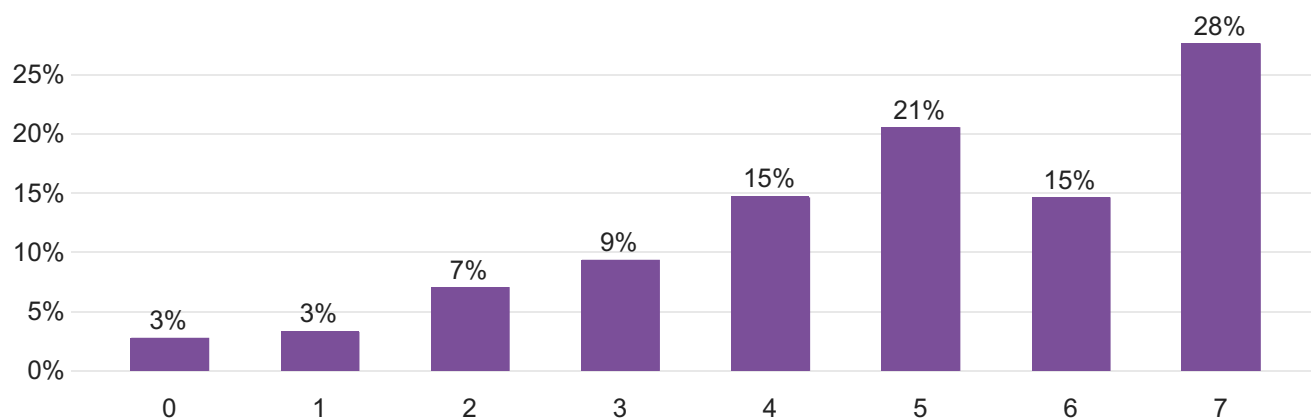
I am confident that I know how to choose healthy foods.

1539 Responses



How many days per week do you eat meals prepared in your home?

1476 Responses

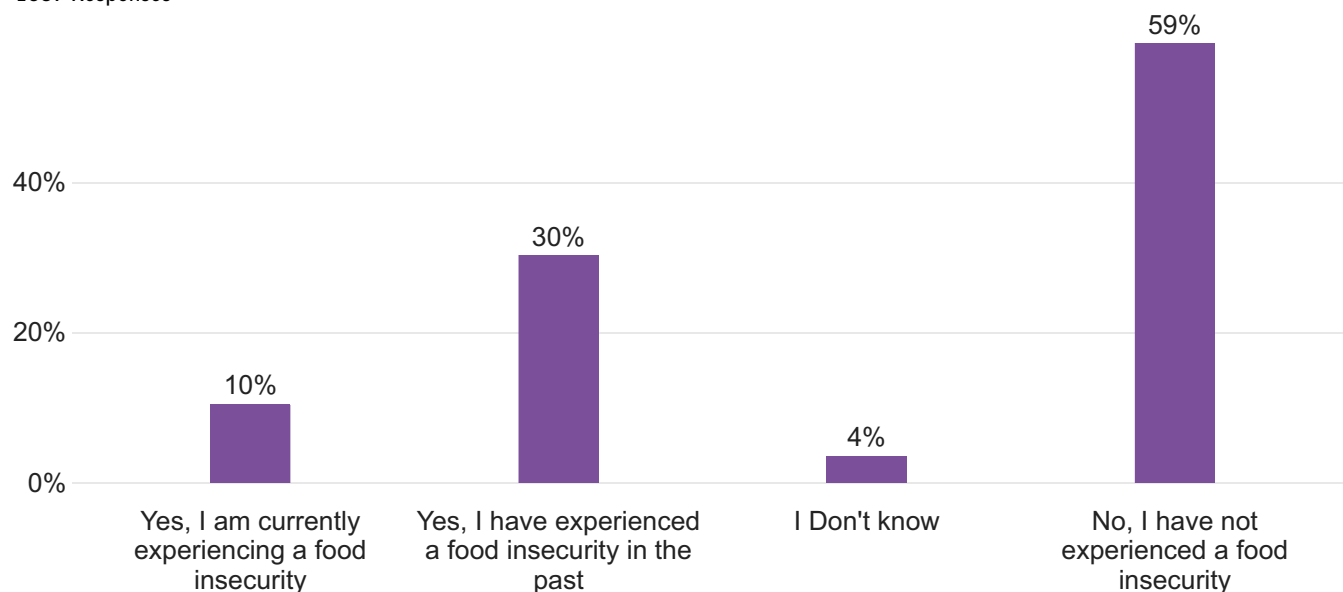


“Creating neighborhoods where people can come and feel safe and well is crucial. We need more affordable housing options and more vibrant, welcoming neighborhoods that can hold on to queer people, much like other places that have managed to do so.”



Food insecurity is when you are unable to access or afford enough food consistently. Have you ever in your life experienced food insecurity? (select all that apply)

1537 Responses

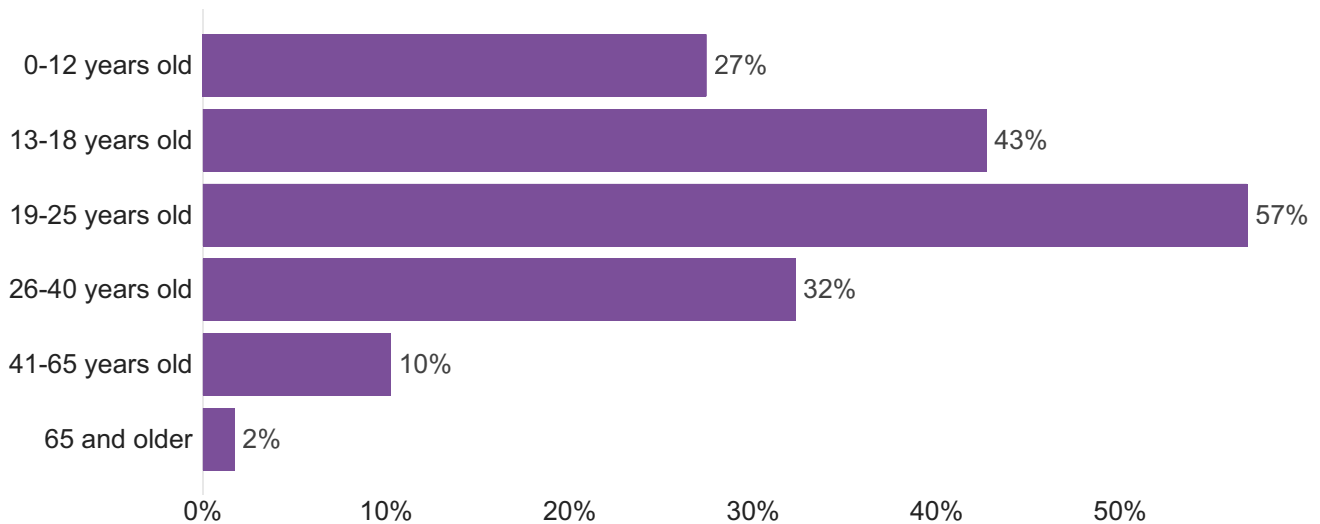


“It starts with allowing members of the community to have a voice and opening the doors for them to come in, giving them a spot at the table. That is where we have to start because there are members who say they support the community, but how are they supporting?”

At what age range(s) have you experienced food insecurity? (select all that apply)

Only respondents who indicated “Yes, I am currently experiencing a food insecurity” or “Yes I have experienced a food insecurity in the past” to the question “Have you ever in your life experienced a food insecurity?” were asked this question.

576 Responses



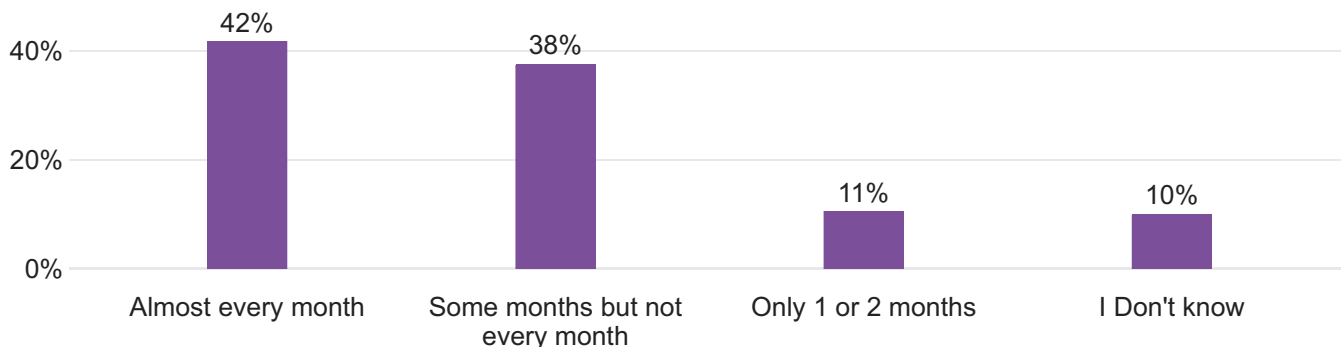
“It’s critical that you have a home and access to healthy food. In fact, housing and food is healthcare.”



How often do you experience food insecurity?

Only respondents who indicated “Yes, I am currently experiencing a food insecurity” to the question “Have you ever in your life experienced a food insecurity?” were asked this question.

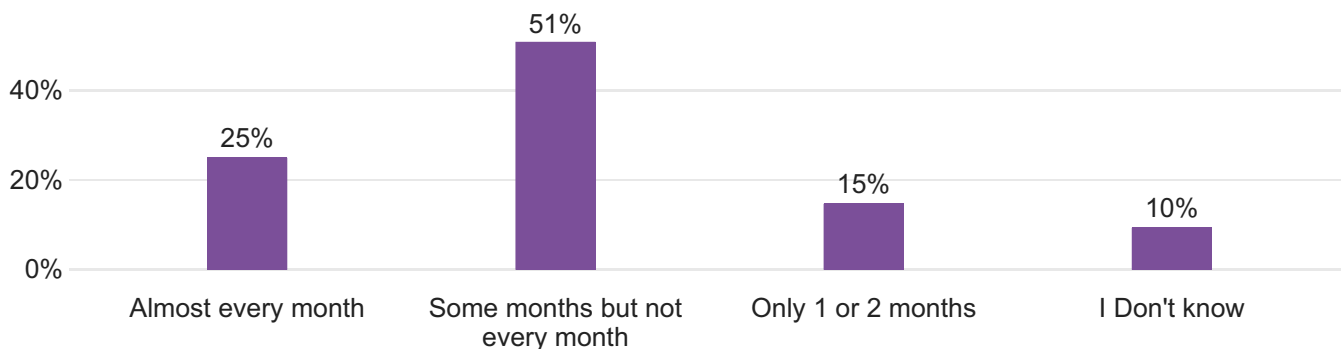
160 Responses



How often did you experience food insecurity in the past ?

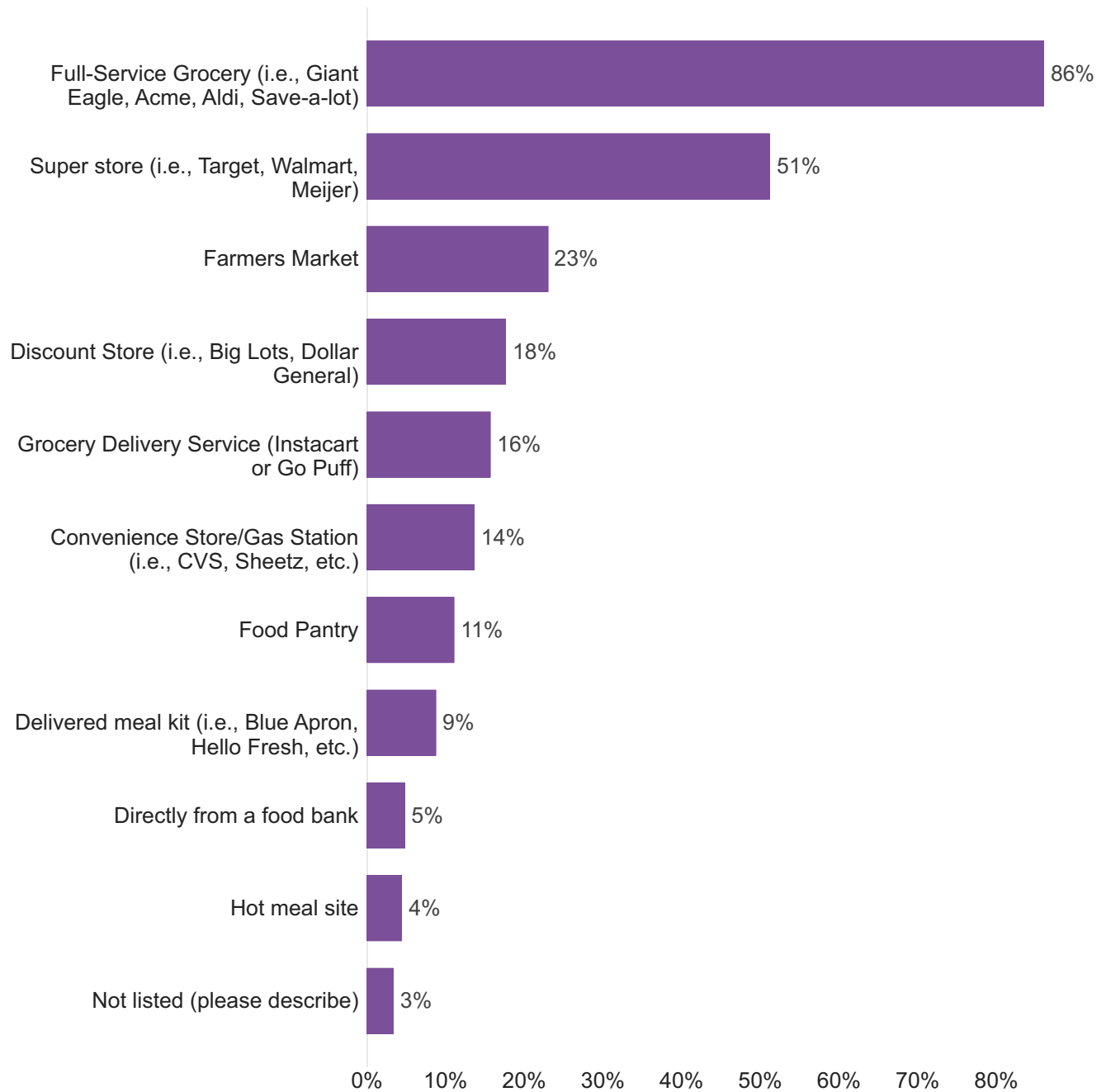
Only respondents who indicated “Yes I have experienced a food insecurity in the past “ to the question “Have you ever in your life experienced a food insecurity?” were asked this question.

461 Responses



Where do you usually get your groceries? (select all that apply)

1471 Responses

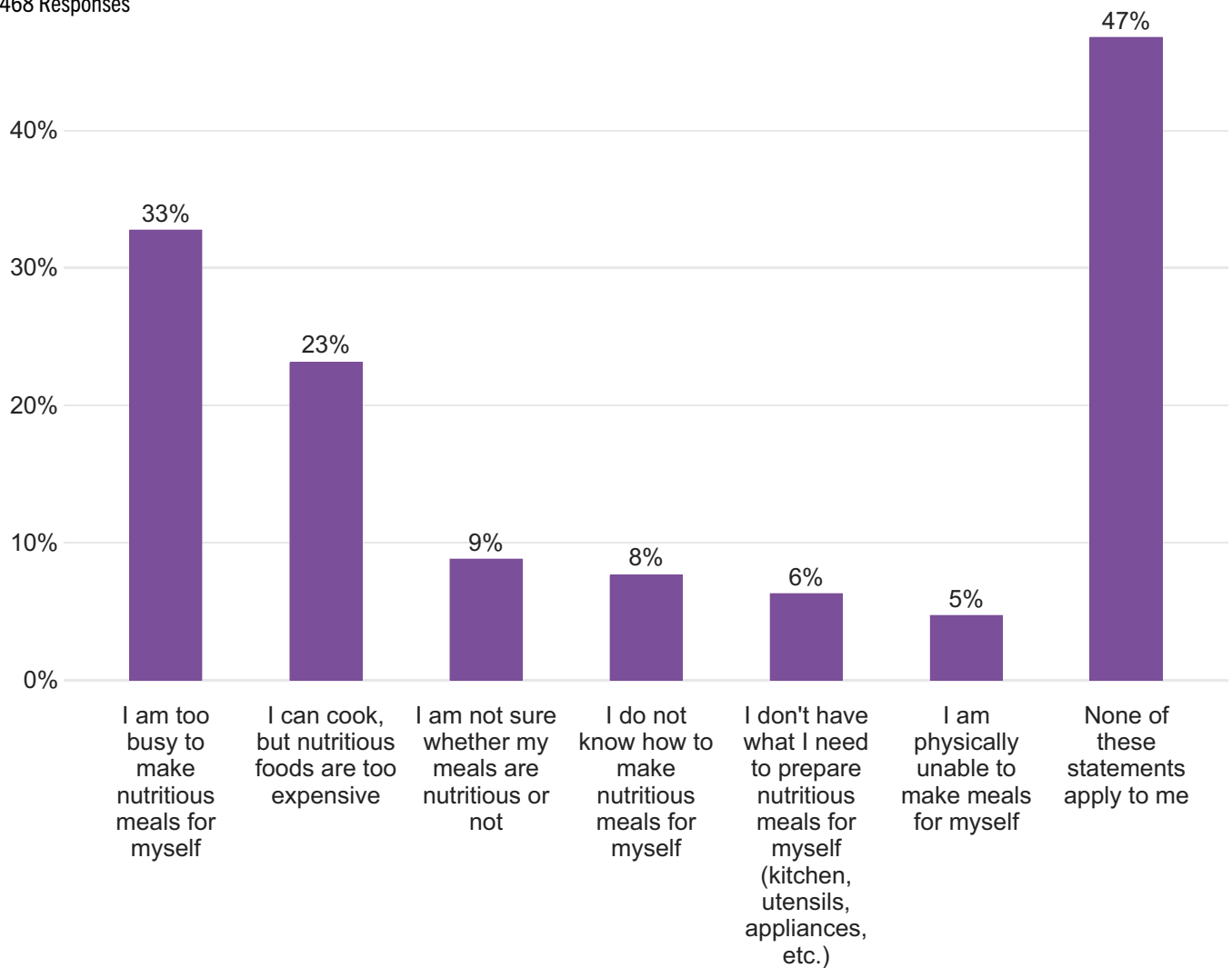




“Cleveland is a land of 1,000,000 nonprofits. There’s a nonprofit for everything. So many nonprofits, and really, if you took stock of all the nonprofits that were there offering resources, you probably could come up with a very robust package for people to have access to everything that they need, from transportation to health care to food, to shelter to, like, furnishing their apartments all of that... The biggest thing is that these organizations don't communicate with each other...”

**Please select all of the following statements that you feel apply to you about food and nutrition.
(select all that apply)**

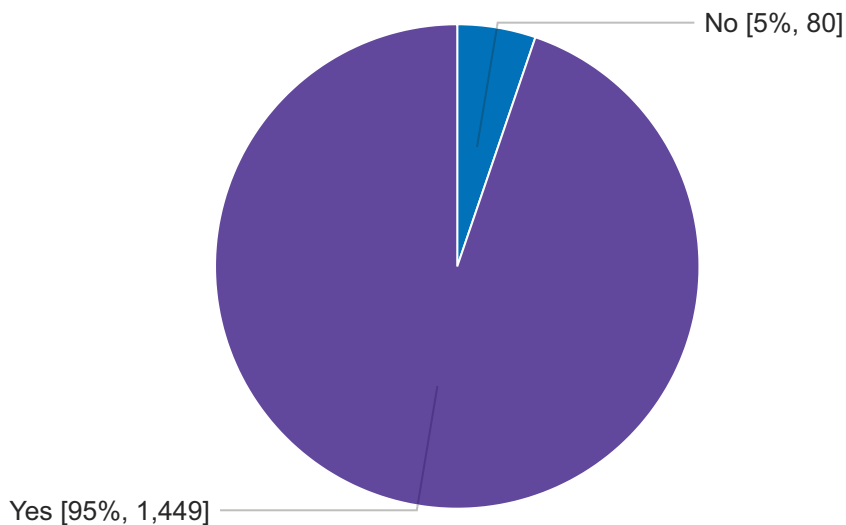
1468 Responses



“It's not just housing; it's housing plus. We need another layer between the people receiving services and those providing them. They need someone to hold their hand, ensure they know how to access the services, and help them make this more than just emergency housing.”

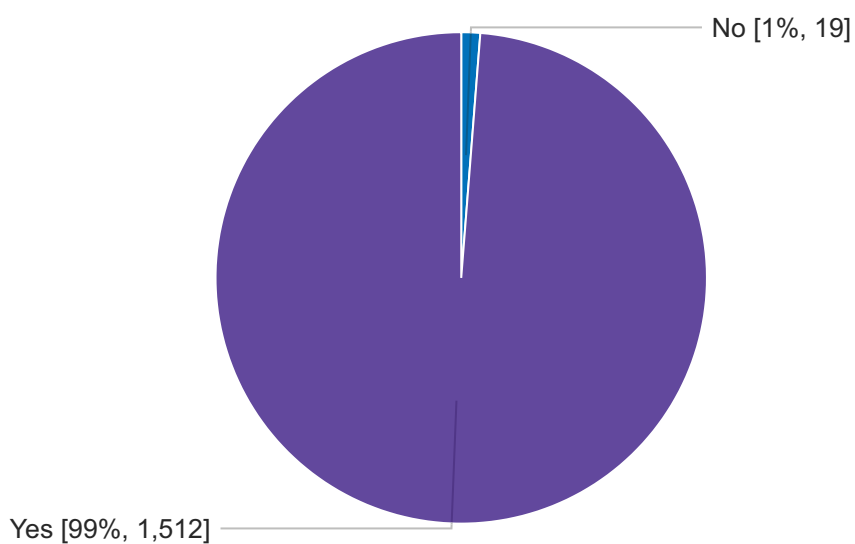
Do you have a computer or laptop with internet access at the place you live or stay that you can use?

1529 Responses



Do you have a smartphone with internet access? (a phone that also has computer capabilities and accesses the internet)

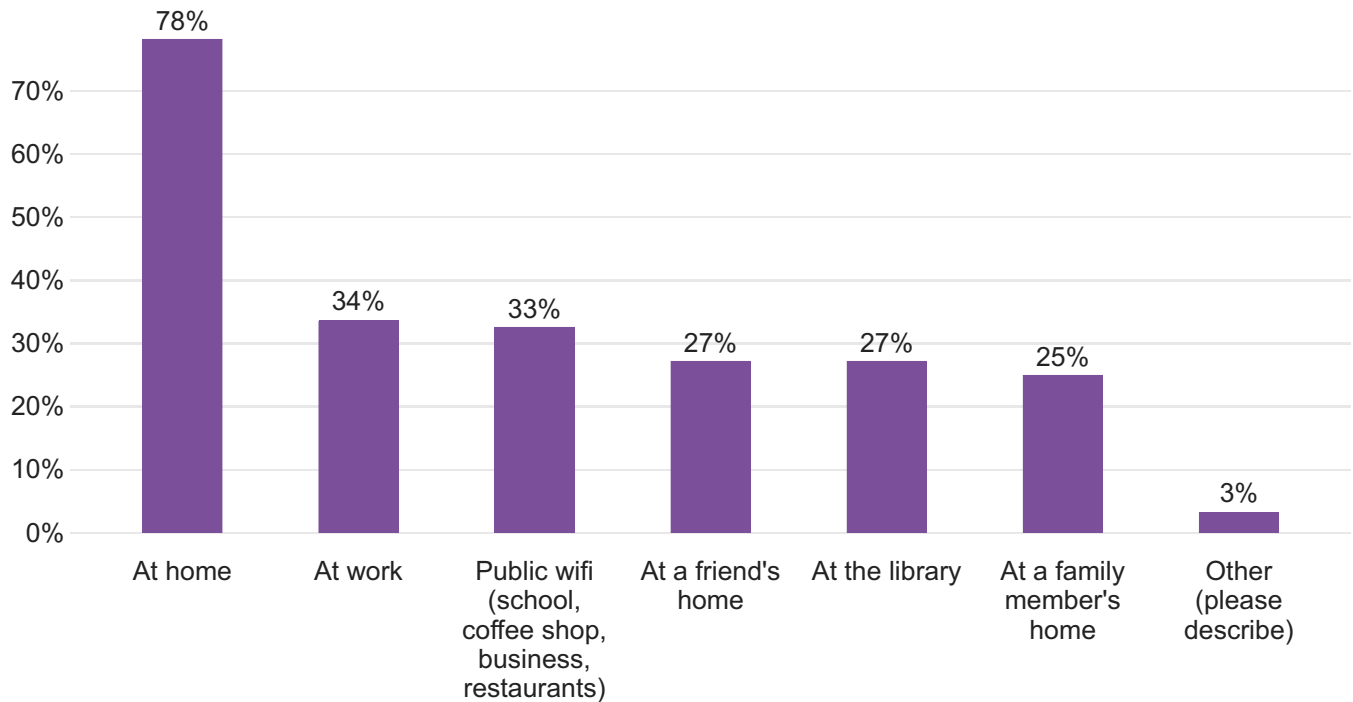
1531 Responses



Where do you usually access/use the internet? (select all that apply)

Only respondents who indicated “No” to the question “Do you have a computer or laptop with internet access at the place you live or stay that you can use?” or “Do you have a smartphone with internet access?” were asked this question.

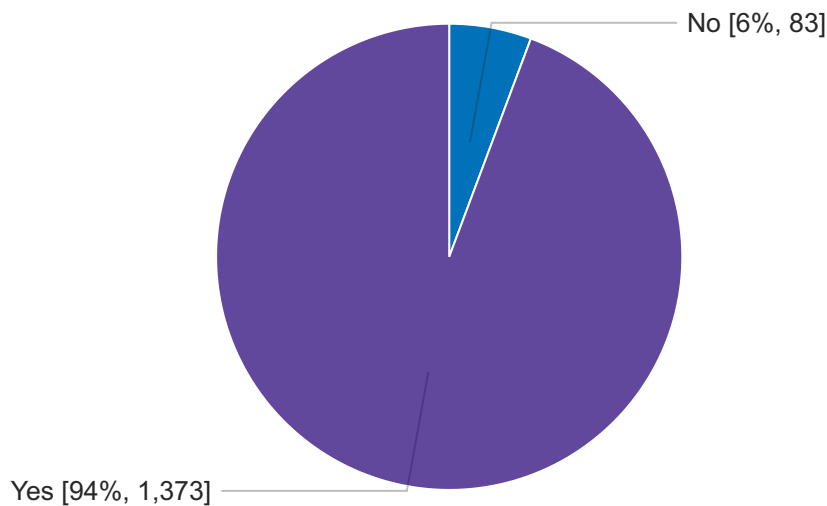
92 Responses



Do you have access to a reliable form of transportation?

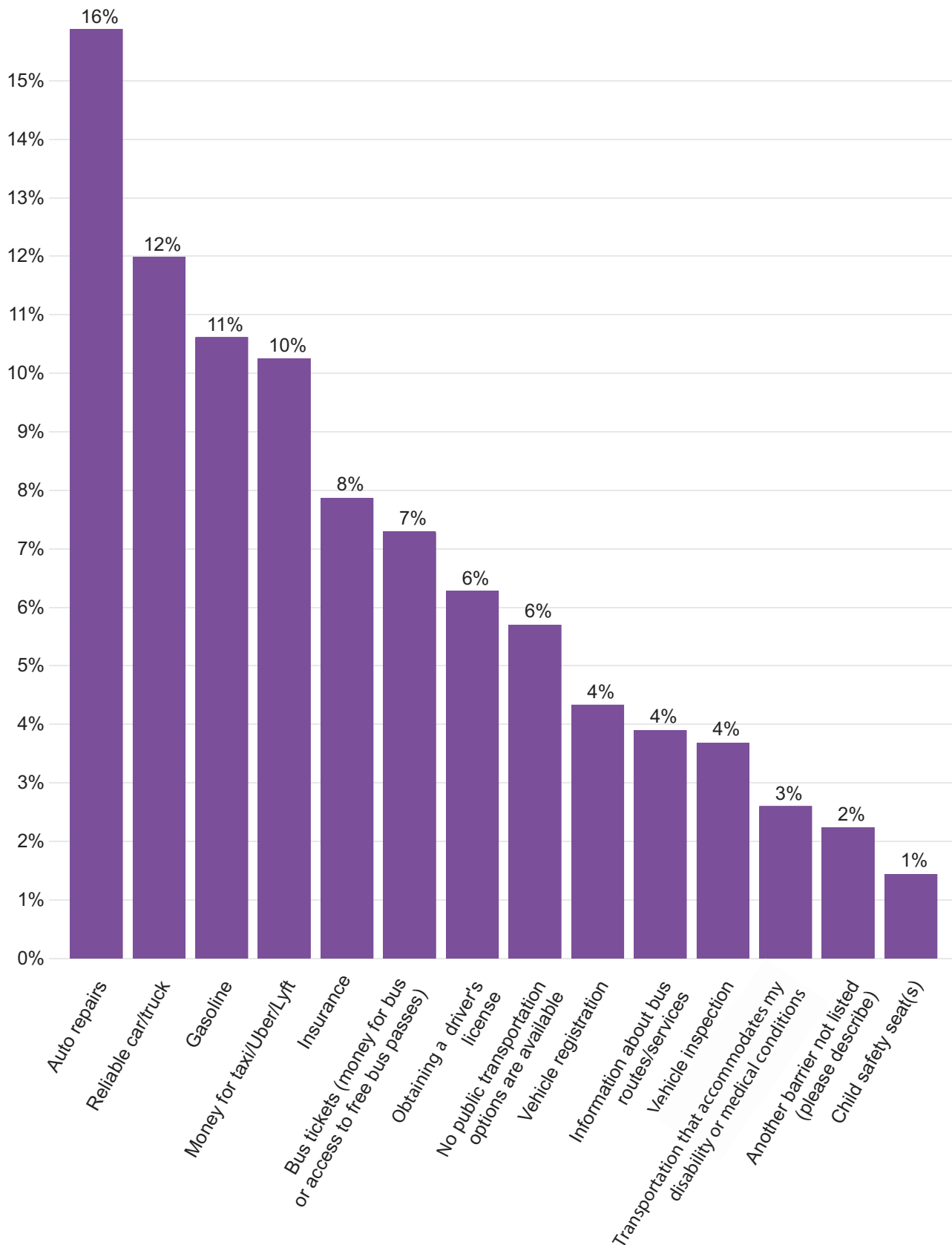
Only respondents who indicated “No” to the question “Do you have a computer or laptop with internet access at the place you live or stay that you can use?” or “Do you have a smartphone with internet access?”

1456 Responses



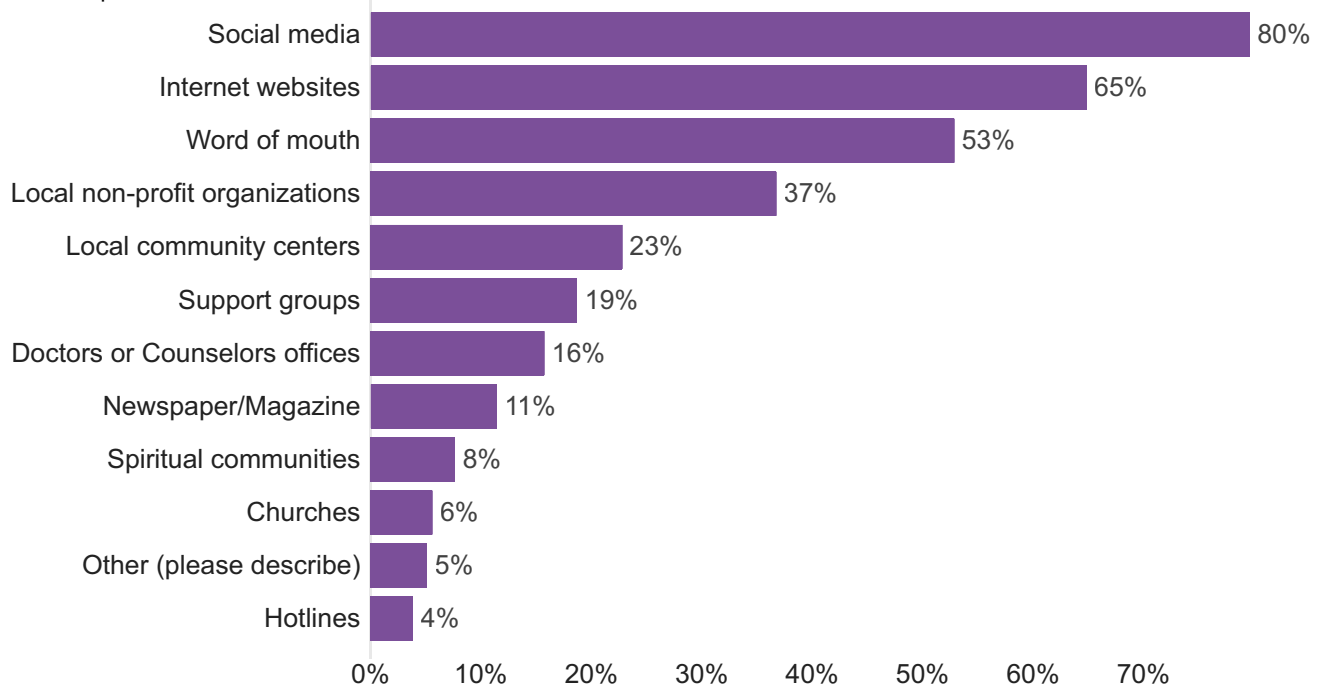
Is it hard for you to use or get any of the following transportation related needs? (select all that apply)

1385 Responses



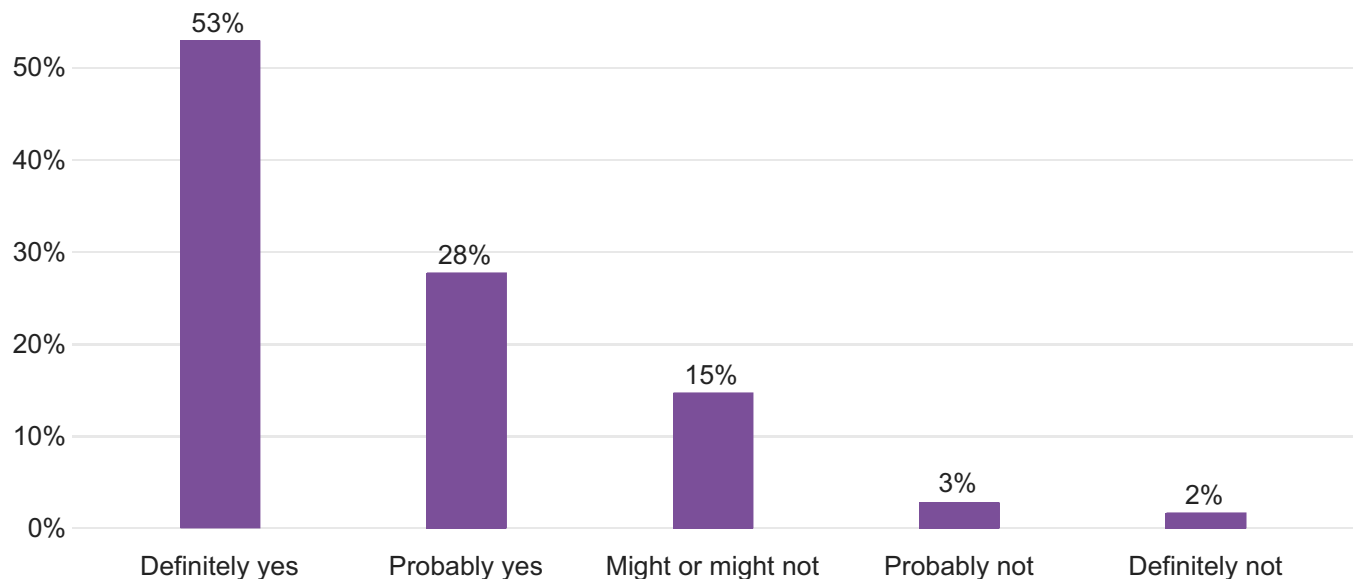
Where do you go to find LGBTQ+ community information, support, or resources? (select all that apply)

1509 Responses



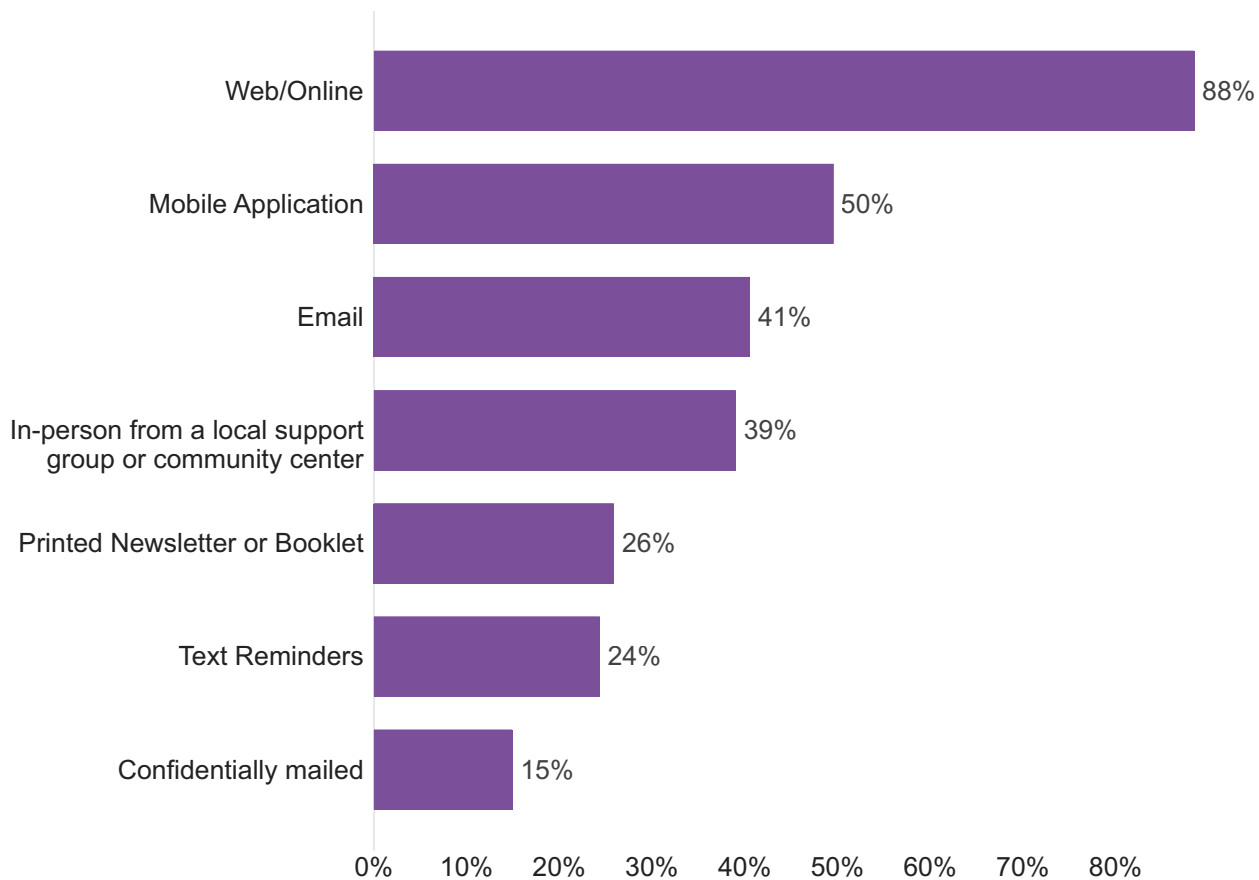
Do you think it would be helpful to have one centralized place to house all LGBTQ+ affirming community support and resource information, so you don't have to go to different places to find it?

1515 Responses



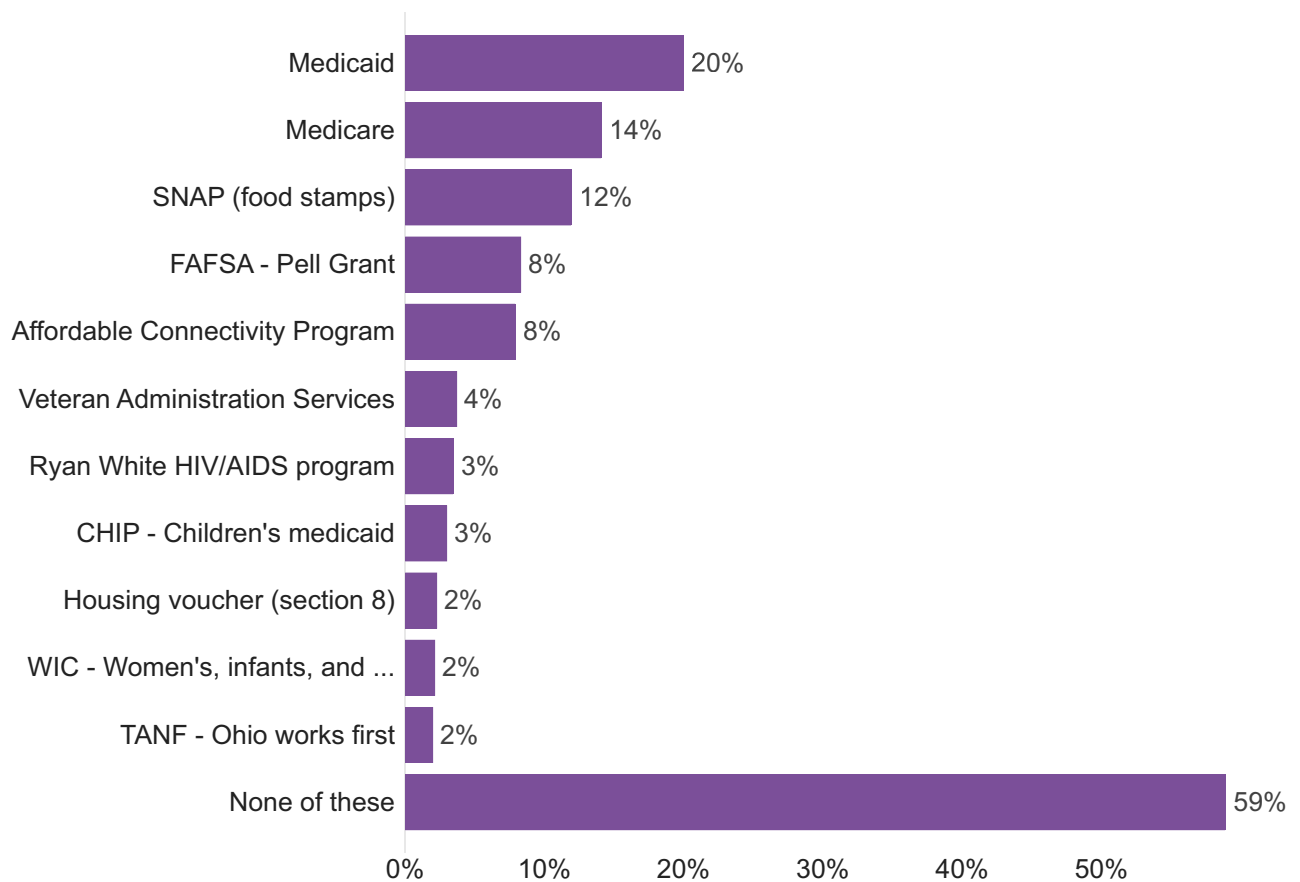
What format would you prefer this type of information to be available? (select all that apply)

1432 Responses

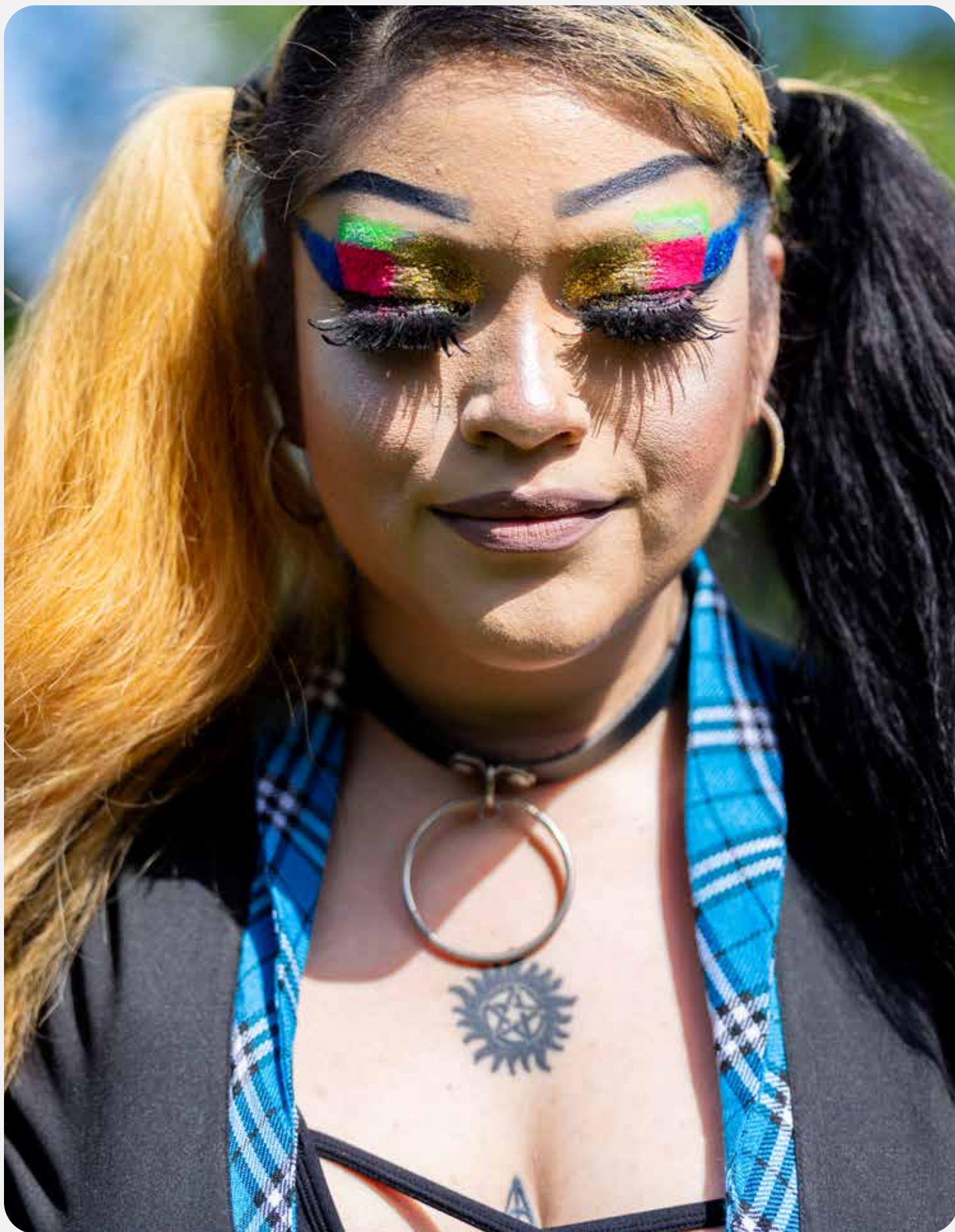


Do you or a member of your household receive any of these types of assistance? (select all that apply)

1392 Responses



“Our elderly population are being left out and those who serve the elderly population are not referring out... A lot of us don’t have children by choice. We just don’t. And when we get to the end of life, it’s just us. Who do we take care of? Who? Who’s taking care of us?”





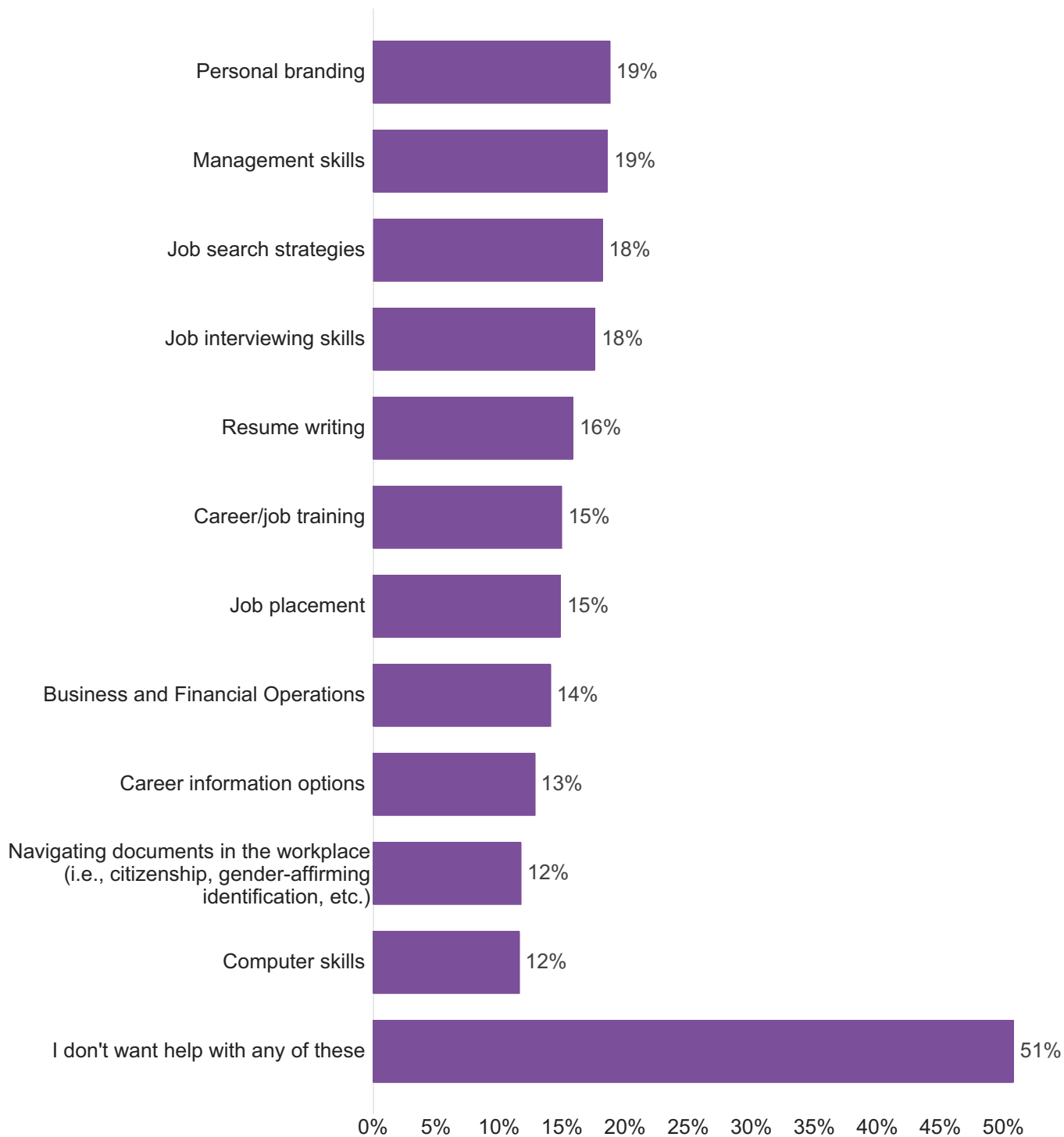
Business, Employment, and Commerce

For the purpose of this project, when referring to business, employment, and commerce, we include respondents' experiences, concerns, and needs as business owners, employees, or consumers, with special considerations for barriers that prevent respondents from receiving fair and equitable treatment free of discrimination in these settings.

In this project, we recognize and assess the unique experiences, concerns, and needs of individuals at the intersection of race, gender, class, and ability. Our goal is to promote inclusivity, support, and meaningful experiences for individuals who identify as queer or who prefer not to disclose their identity. We also aim to consider the needs of newcomers, particularly those in the refugee community, to ensure that they feel supported and included in the business and employment sector in Greater Cleveland.

Would you like help with any of these job-related activities? (select all that apply)

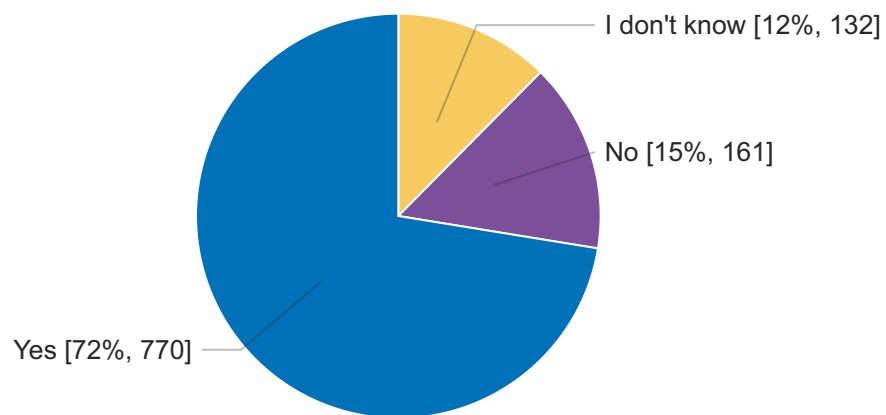
1208 Responses



Do you feel safe being “out” in your current work environment?

(Please answer this question about your primary work environment if you work more than one job)

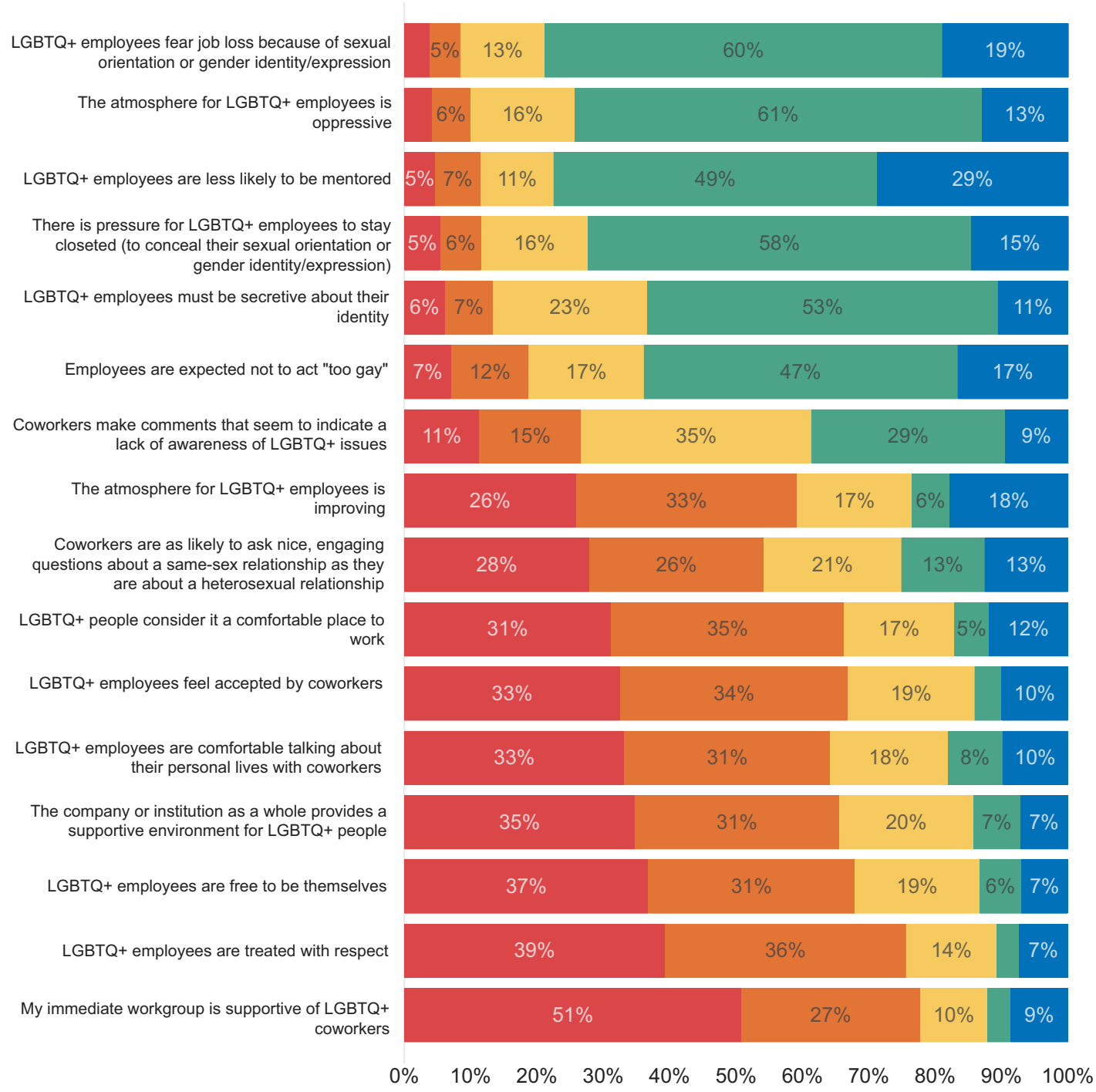
1063 Responses



Tell us what attitudes exist at your job/workplace towards LGBTQ+ employees

(Please answer these questions about your primary work environment if you work more than one job)

1049 Responses



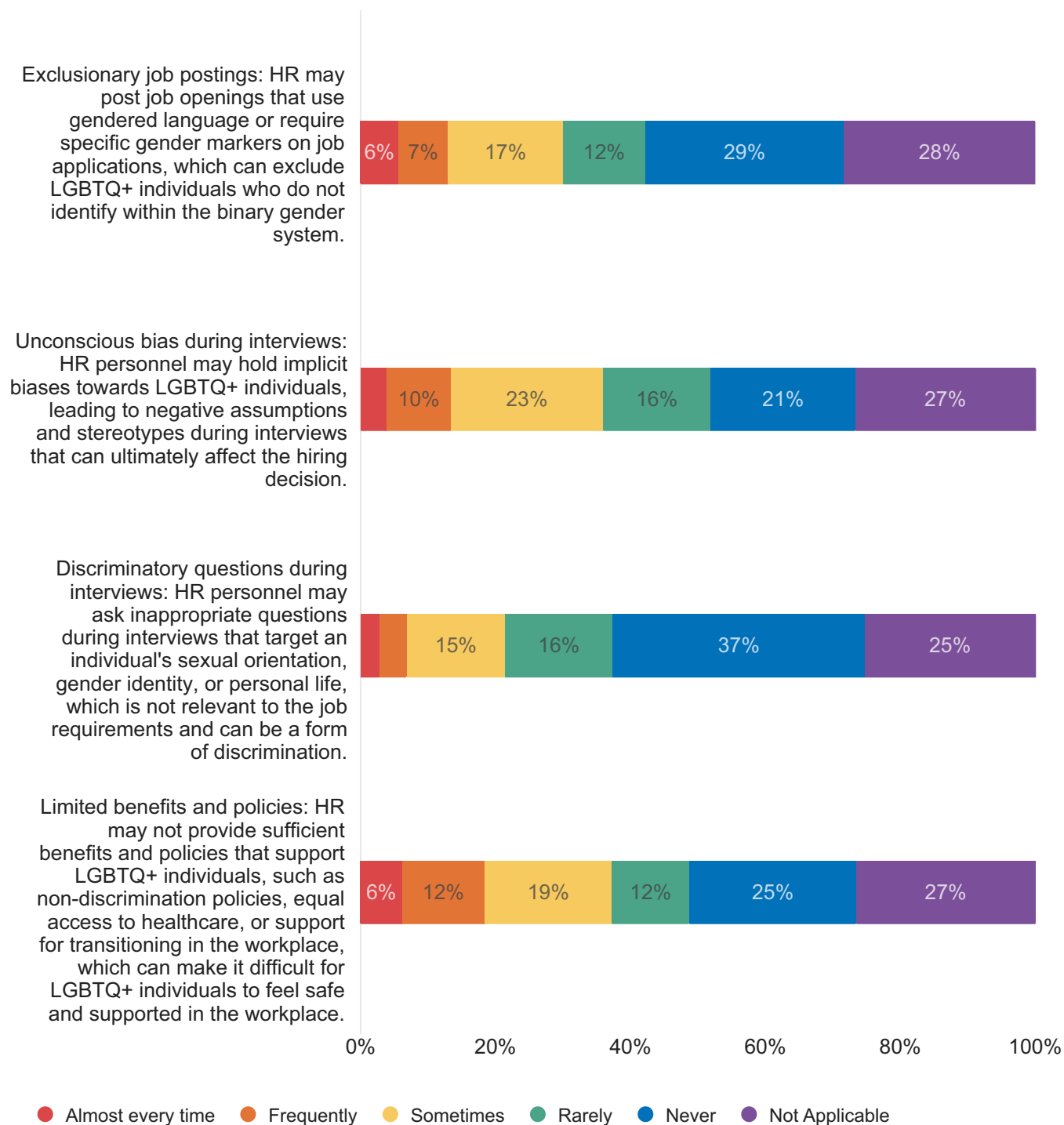
● Describes Extremely Well
 ● Describes Pretty Well
 ● Describes Somewhat or A Little
● Doesn't Describe At All
 ● I don't know

“One of the most impactful things would be for corporations and governments to include LGBTQ in their definitions of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Time and time again, the LGBTQ community is shut out of funding because we are not explicitly outlined in these definitions.”



Tell us about how often you experience any of the following in the hiring process or during interviews that you have had in the past.

1221 Responses

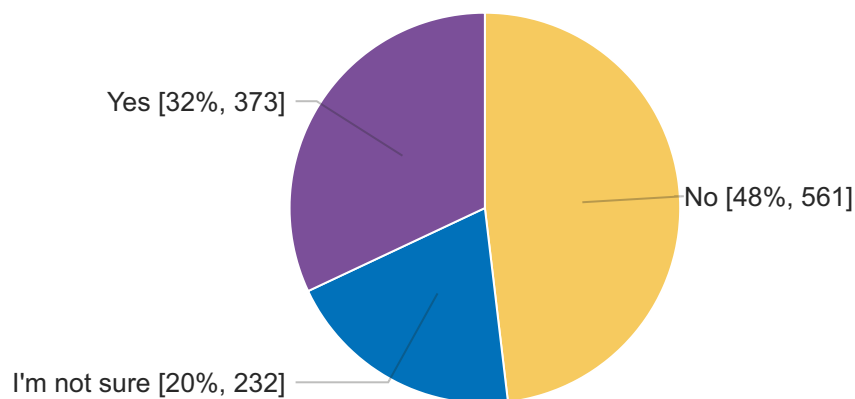




“Workforce development is critical, but it also includes mental health services, transportation, housing, access to education, and social services. We need a more streamlined way of accessing funding for initiatives that are good for the community.”

Have you ever felt discriminated against based on your sexual orientation or gender identity at work?

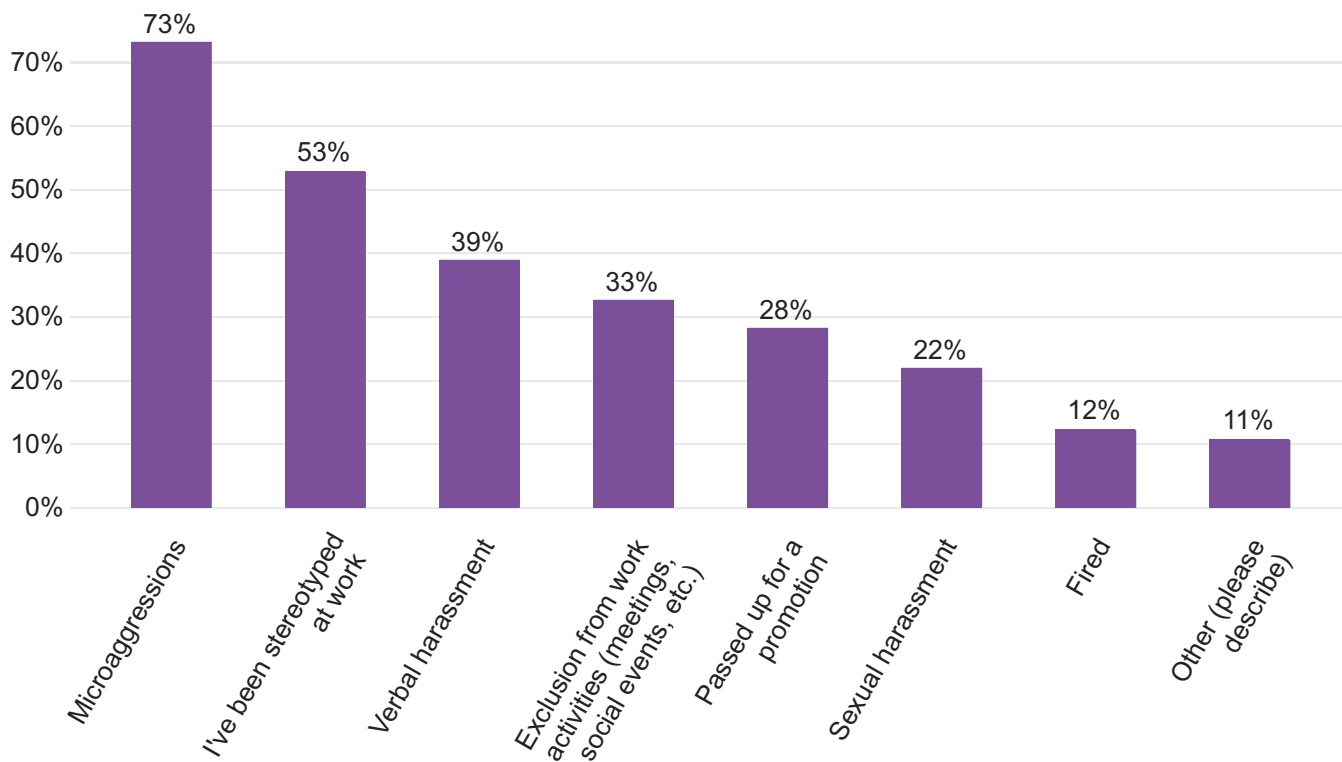
1166 Responses



What kind of workplace discrimination have you experienced based on your sexual orientation or gender identity (select all that apply)?

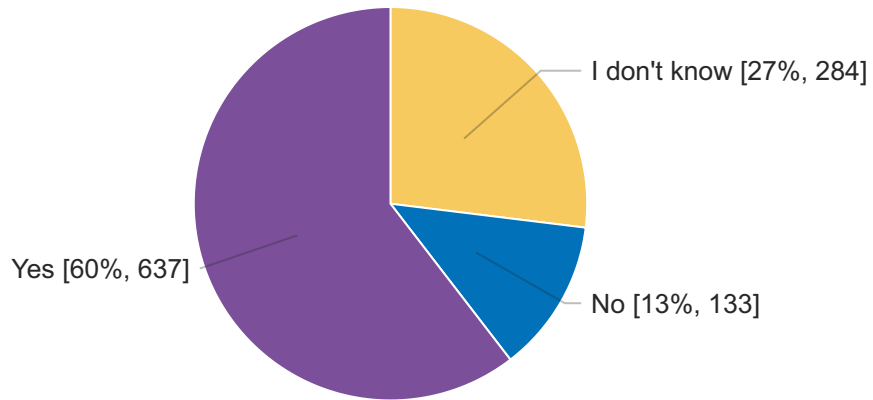
Only respondents indicating "Yes" to the question "Have you ever felt discriminated against based on your sexual orientation or gender identity at work?" were asked this question.

355 Responses



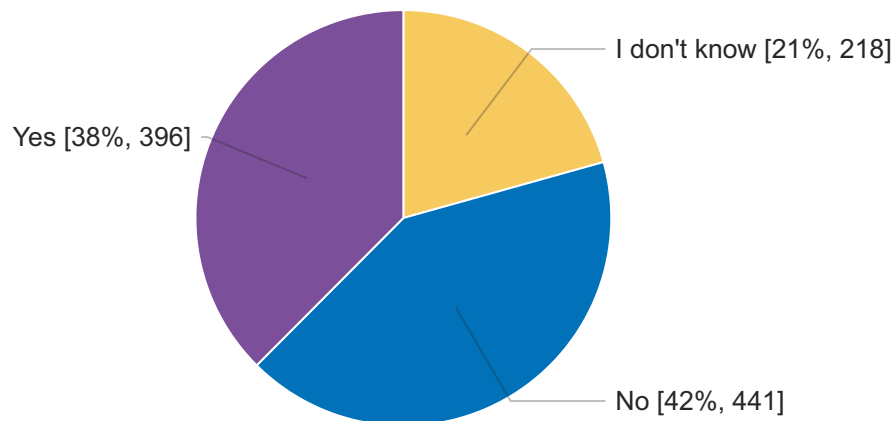
Does your current employer have rules/regulations/policies in place for those who have experienced workplace discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity?

1054 Responses



Does your place of employment have an LGBTQ+ employee resource group (ERG), LGBTQ+ affinity group, or LGBTQ+ employee resource network (ERN)?

1055 Responses



“I think it matters when corporations leverage their voices. I think it matters when employee resource groups are allowed to be vocal all year long. I think it does matter.”



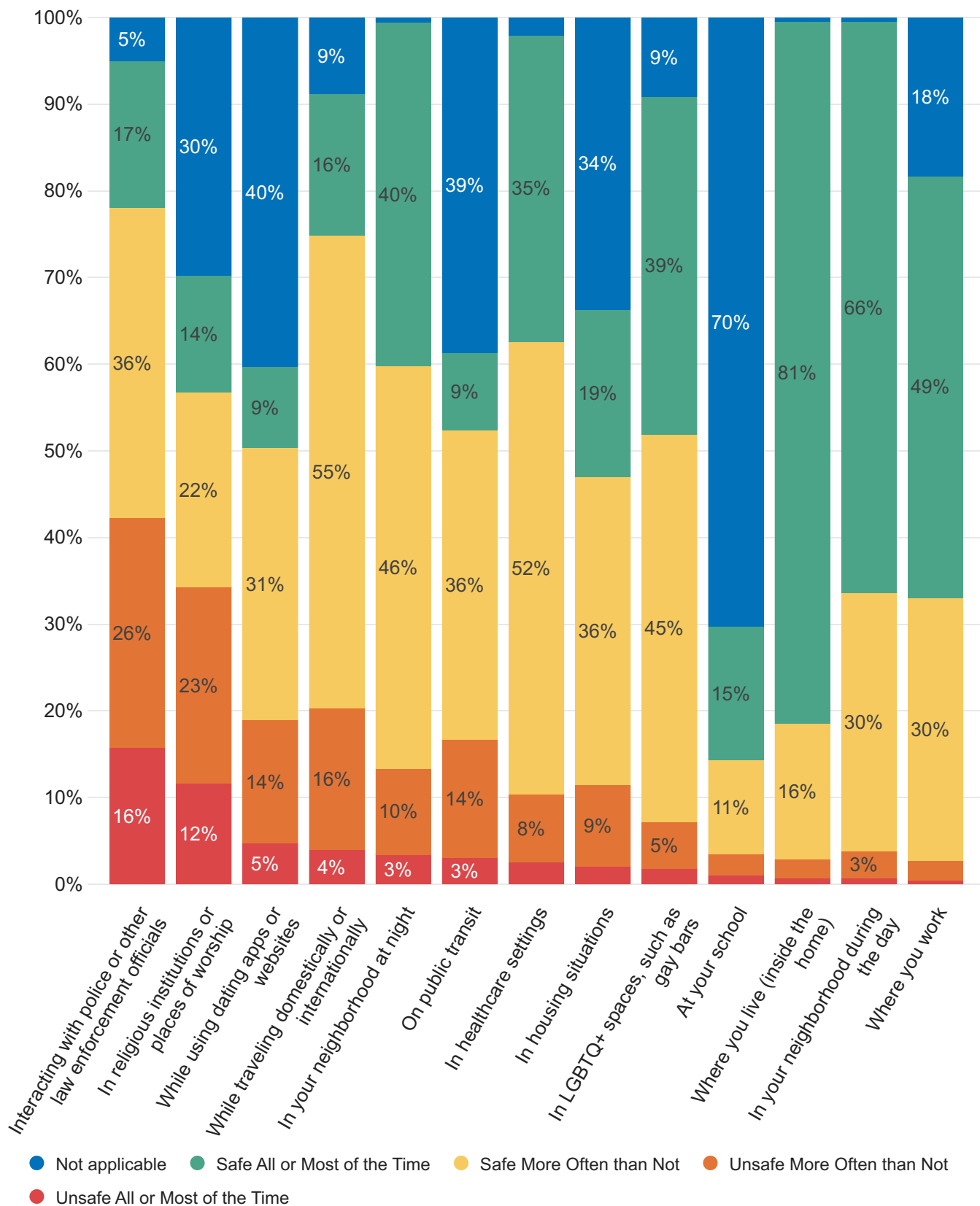


Safety and Law Enforcement

For the purpose of this project, we use the term safety and law enforcement to encompass respondents' treatment, perceptions of safety, and safety needs in all spaces throughout the community, including private and public areas. We recognize that creating a safe physical space involves more than just the presence of law enforcement and is an inter-professional responsibility. Therefore, we aim to assess various aspects of safety preparedness and raise awareness of available safety and law enforcement resources. Additionally, we acknowledge a need to recognize and respond to shifts in law enforcement from historical views and experiences, and prioritize professional development opportunities for people in positions of power to better understand the experiences of those most affected, including intersectional LGBTQ+ identities.

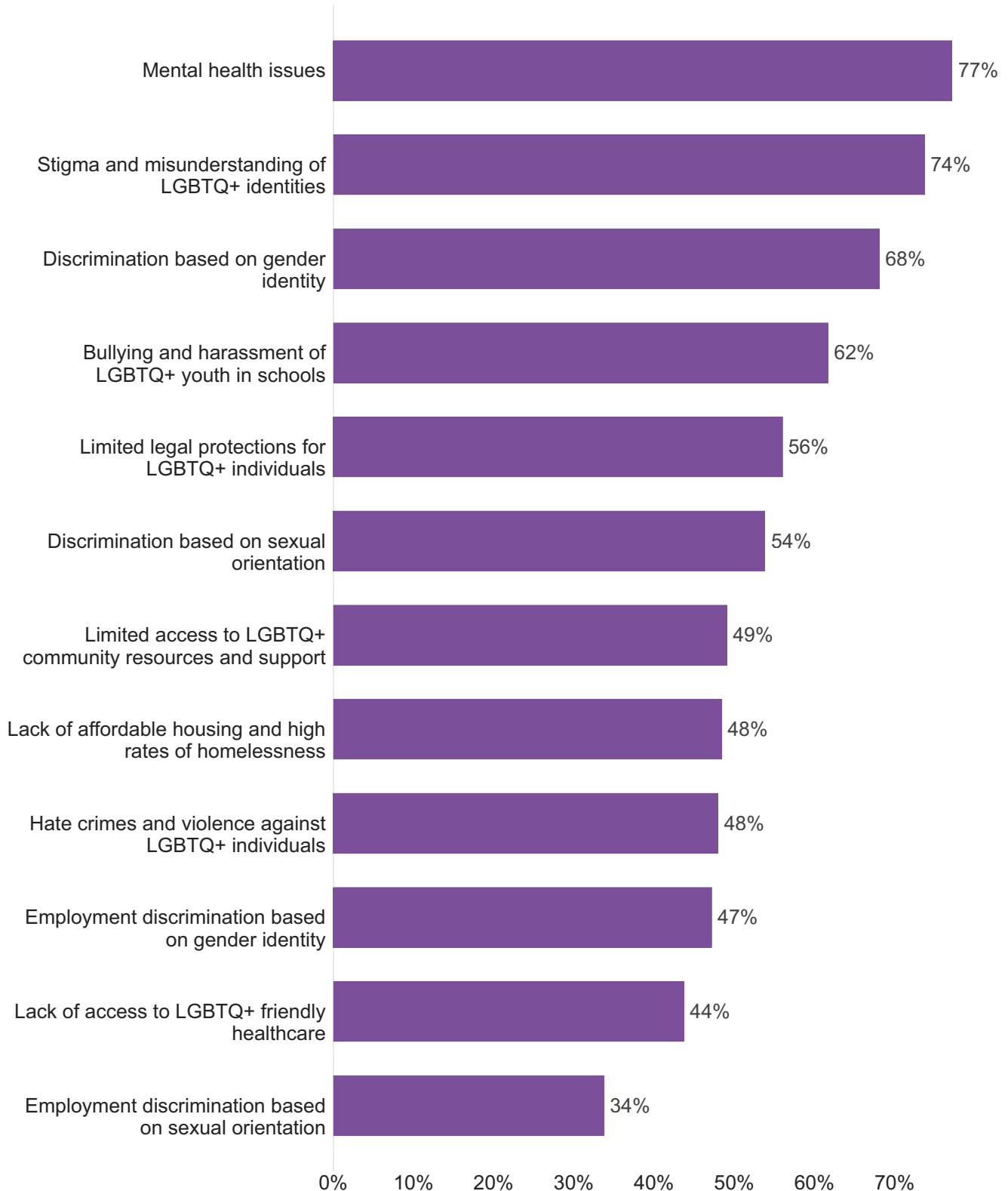
How physically safe do you feel in the following situations and settings?

1399 Responses



Please select the issues that you think are problems specifically related to the LGBTQ+ community in your local area. (select all that apply)

1363 Responses

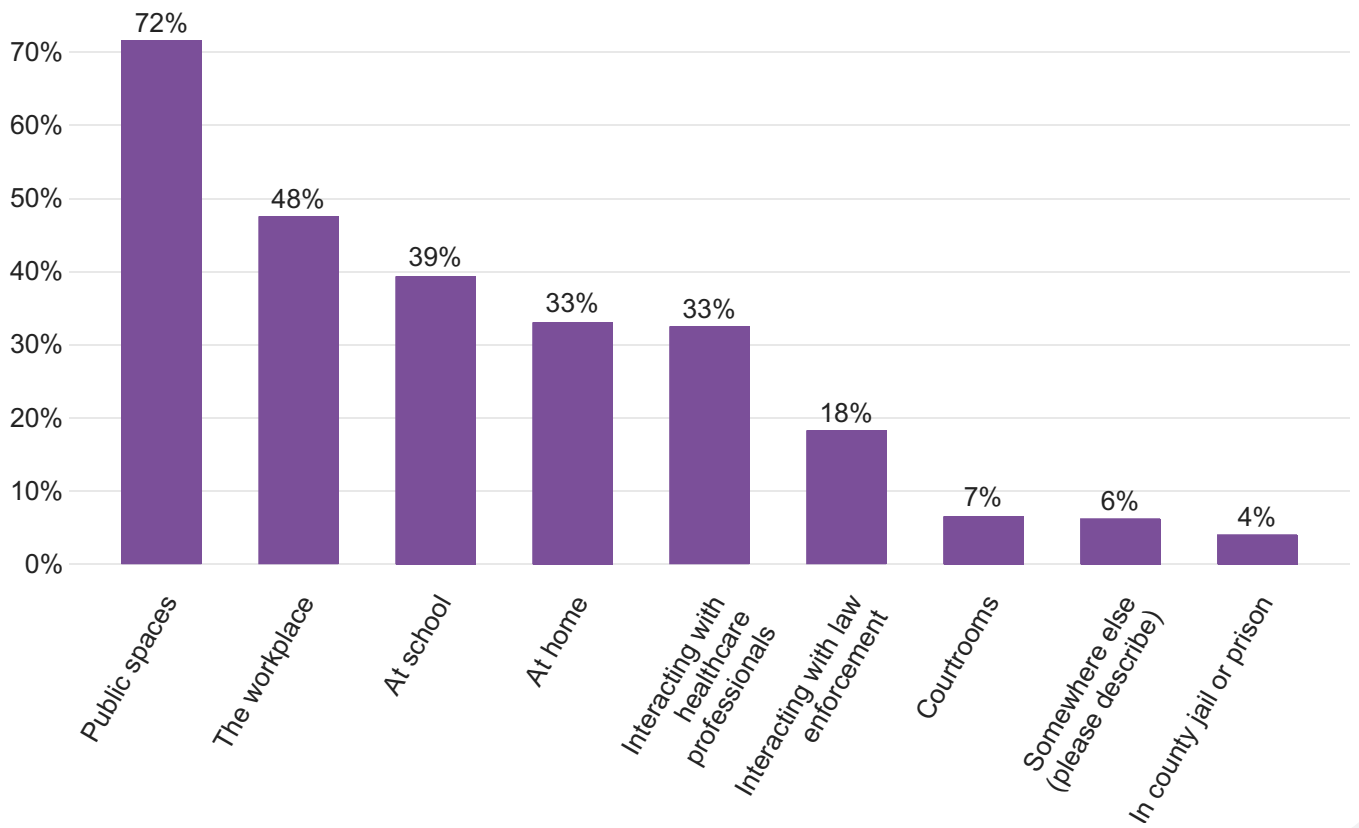


“Local government needs to acknowledge our existence and help us be more visible. Cleveland needs to integrate our community into the city's culture and priorities.”



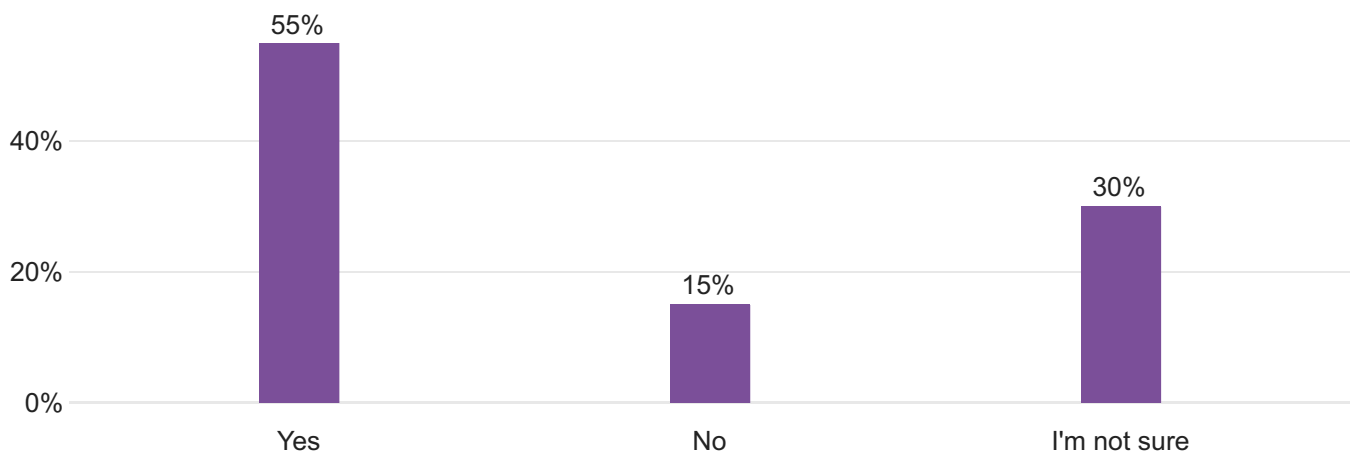
Have you ever experienced LGBTQ+ discrimination in the following places or situations? (select all that apply)

1132 Responses



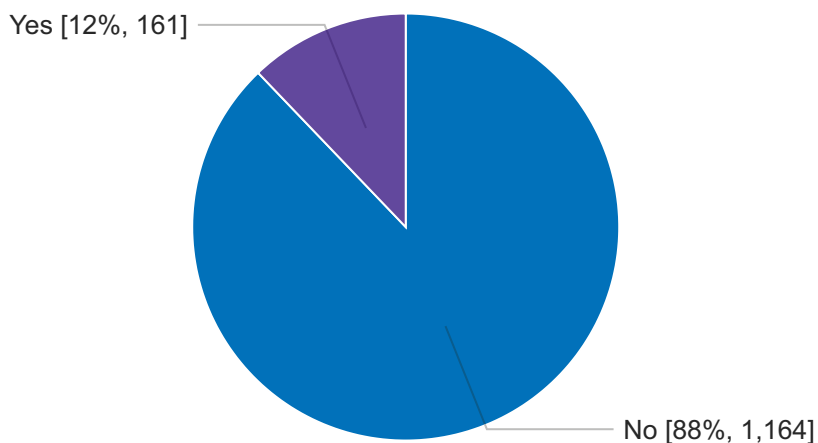
Are there certain parts of Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga counties that you worry about your safety or acceptance because of your LGBTQ+ identity?

1395 Responses



Have you been arrested, detained by, or had a negative interaction(s) with a law enforcement officer or the justice system in the past five (5) years?

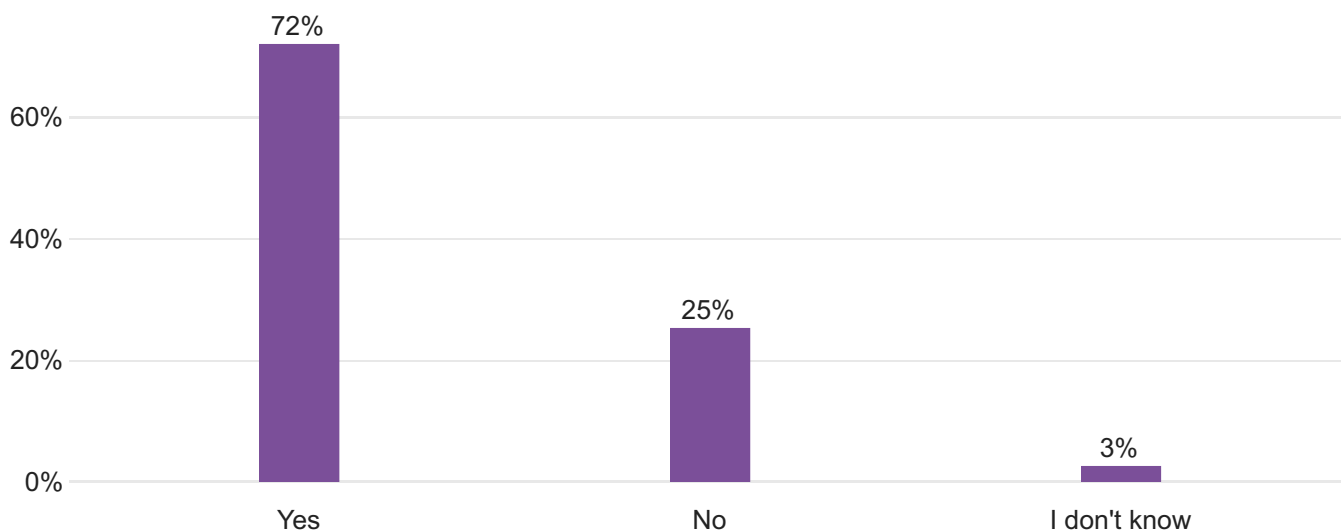
1325 Responses

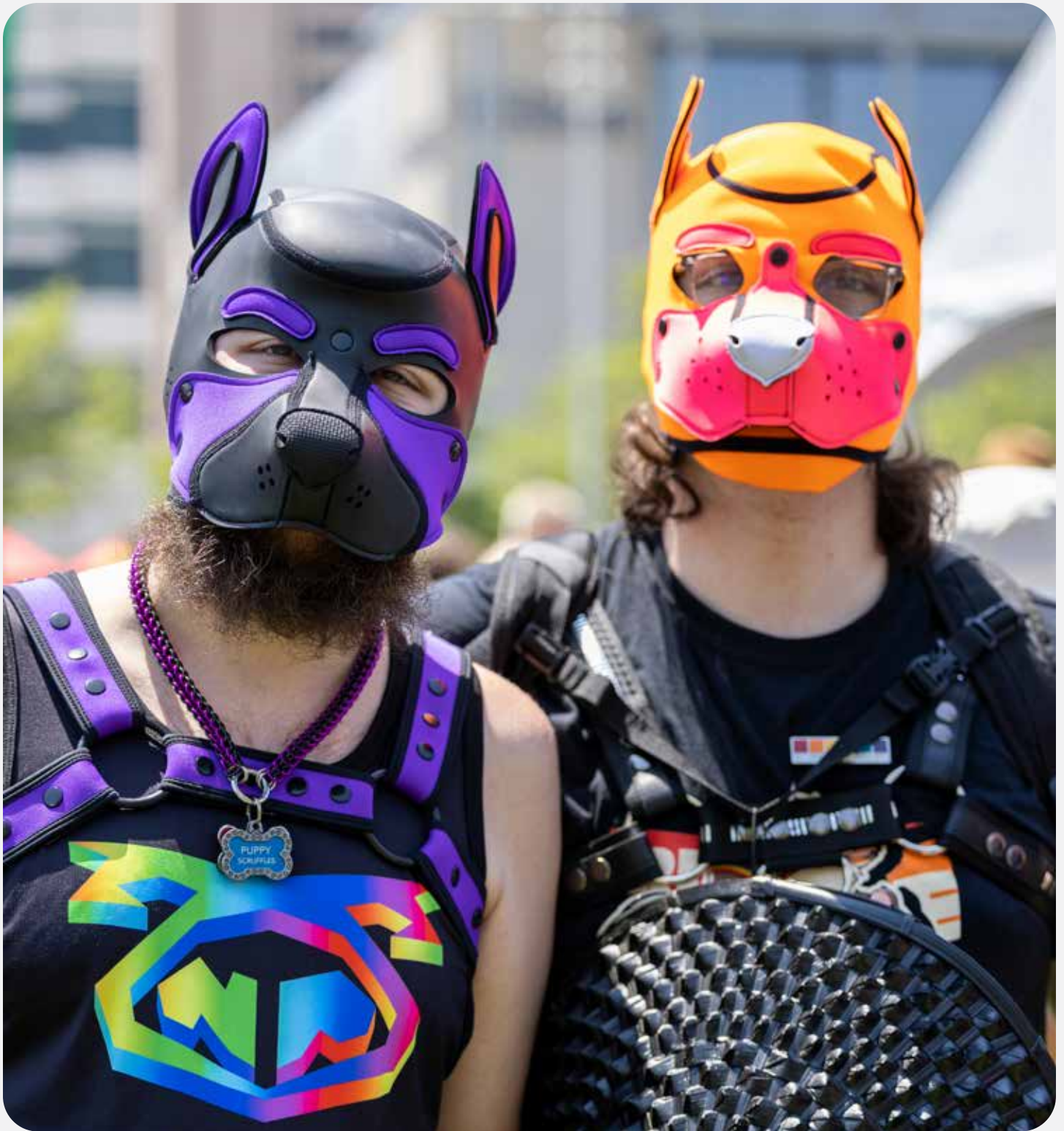


Was this arrest, detainment, or negative interaction(s) with a law enforcement officer or the justice system in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County, Ohio?

Only respondents who indicated “Yes” to the question “Have you been arrested, detained by, or had a negative interaction(s) with a law enforcement officer or the justice system in the past five (5) years?” were asked this question.

158 Responses



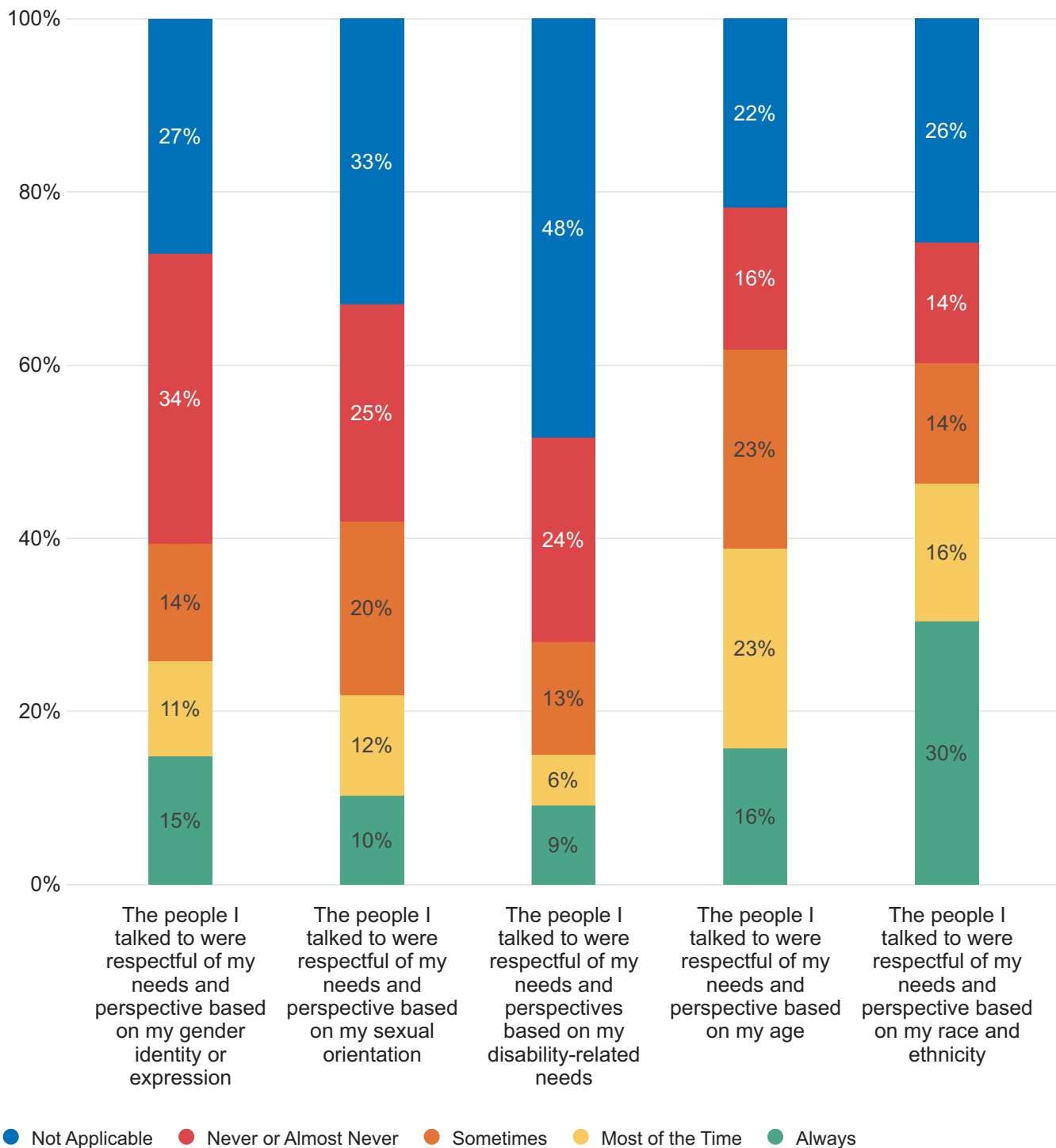


“Every time we come out in a new way, we take the risk of becoming more of a target.”

How often are the following statements true pertaining to your arrest, detainment or interactions with the justice system?

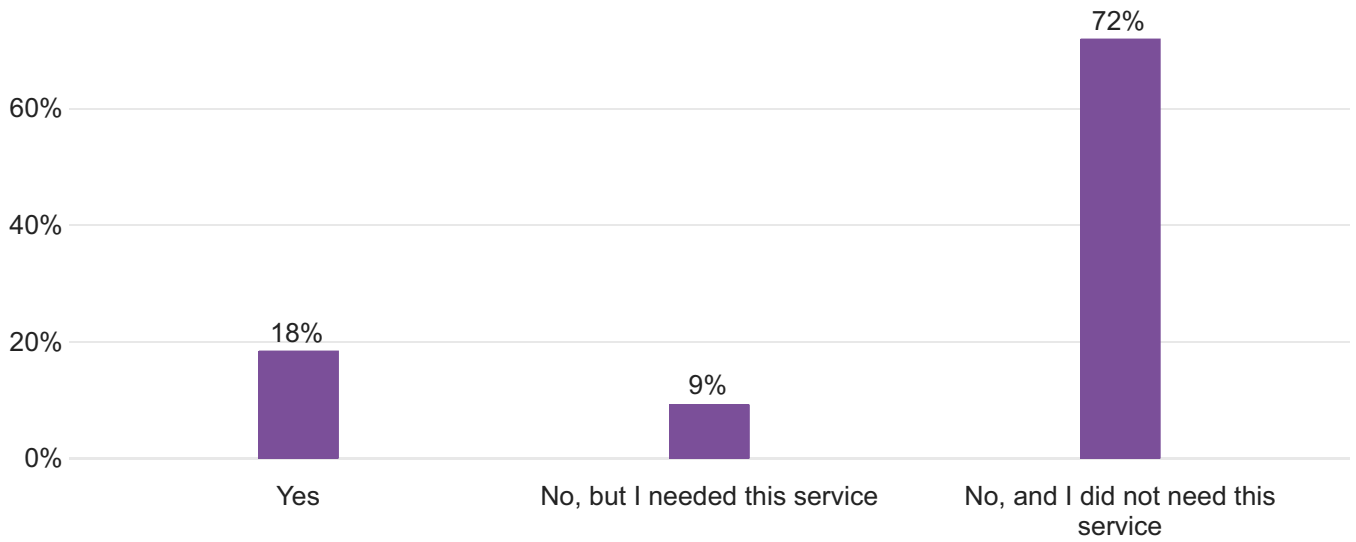
Only respondents who indicated “Yes” to the question “Have you been arrested, detained by, or had a negative interaction(s) with a law enforcement officer or the justice system in the past five (5) years?” were asked this question.

156 Responses



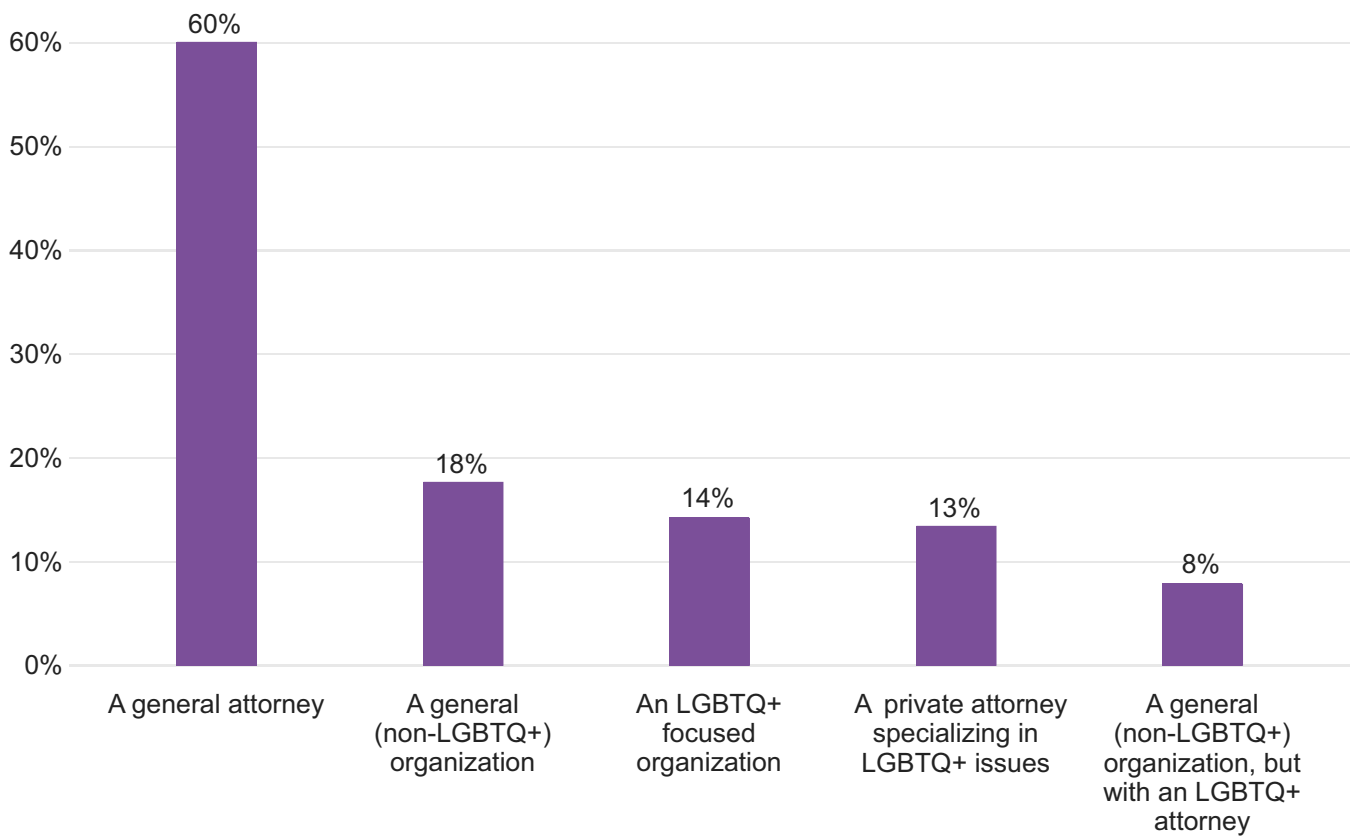
Did you use any kind of personal legal help or services in the past five (5) years?

1314 Responses



Where did/do you usually get these legal services? (select all that apply)

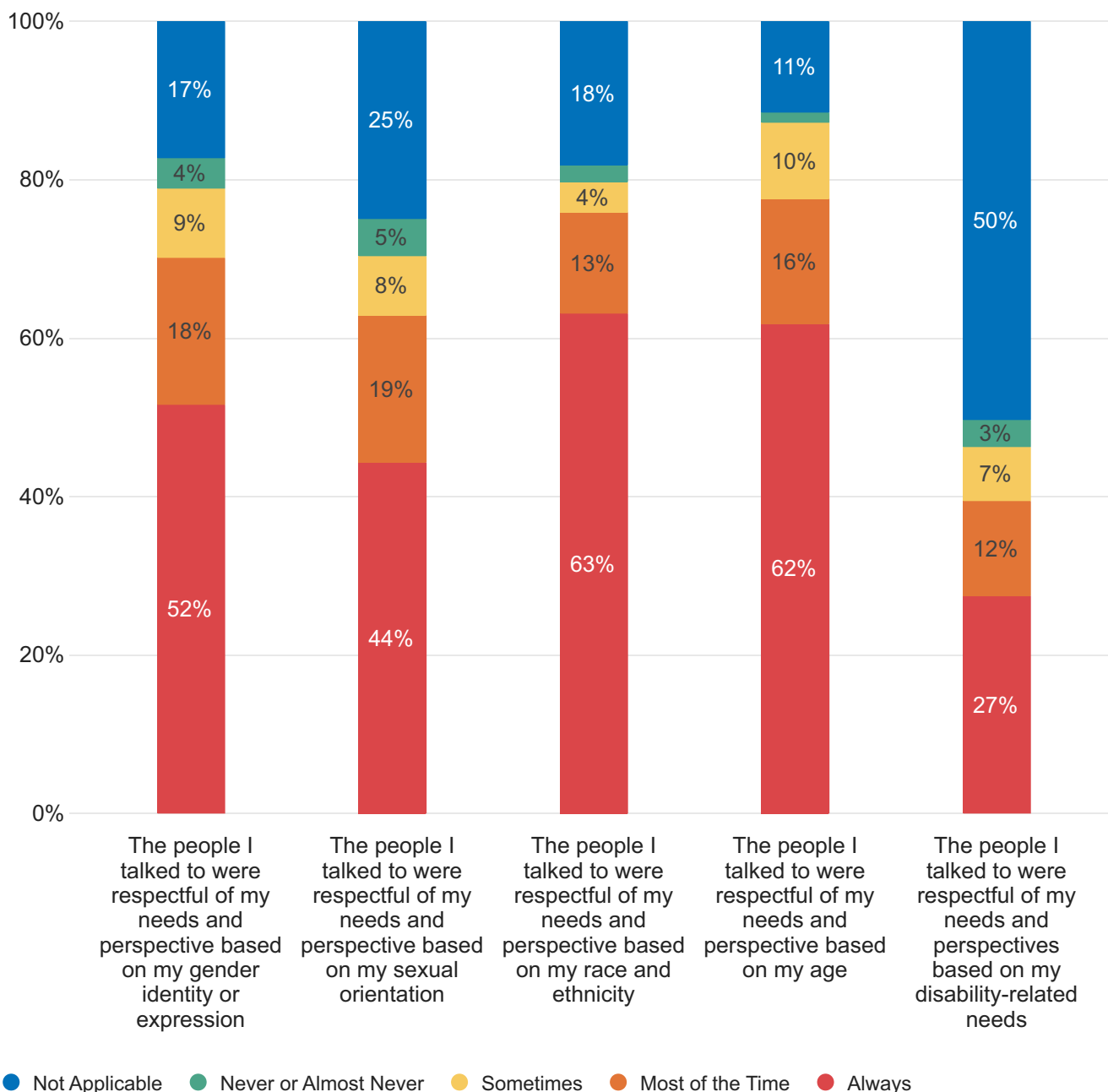
238 Responses



How often are the following statements true pertaining to your interactions with legal services?

Only respondents who indicated “Yes” to the question “Did you use any kind of personal legal help or services in the past five (5) years?” were asked this question.

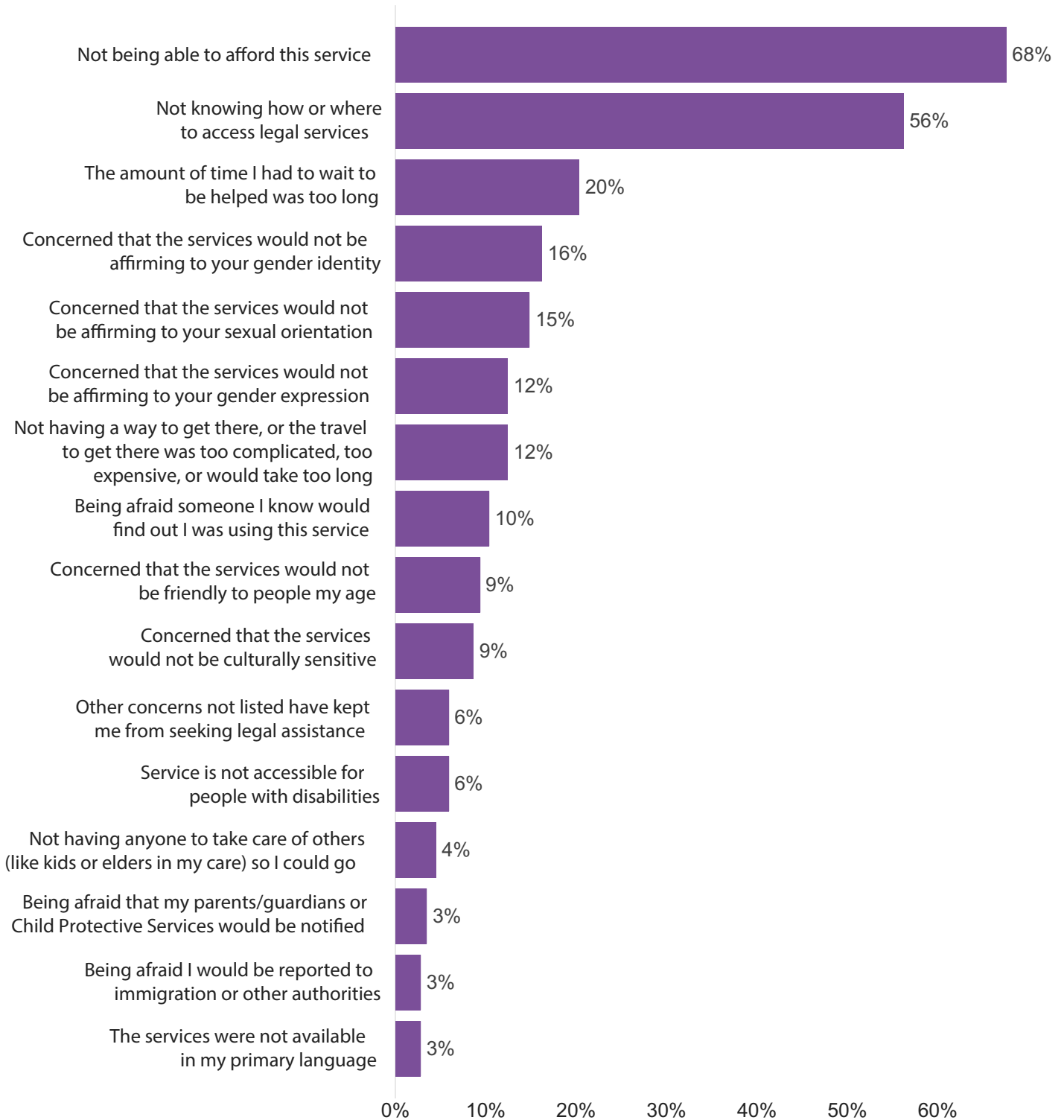
239 Responses



Do any of these make it hard for you to get legal support? (select all that apply)

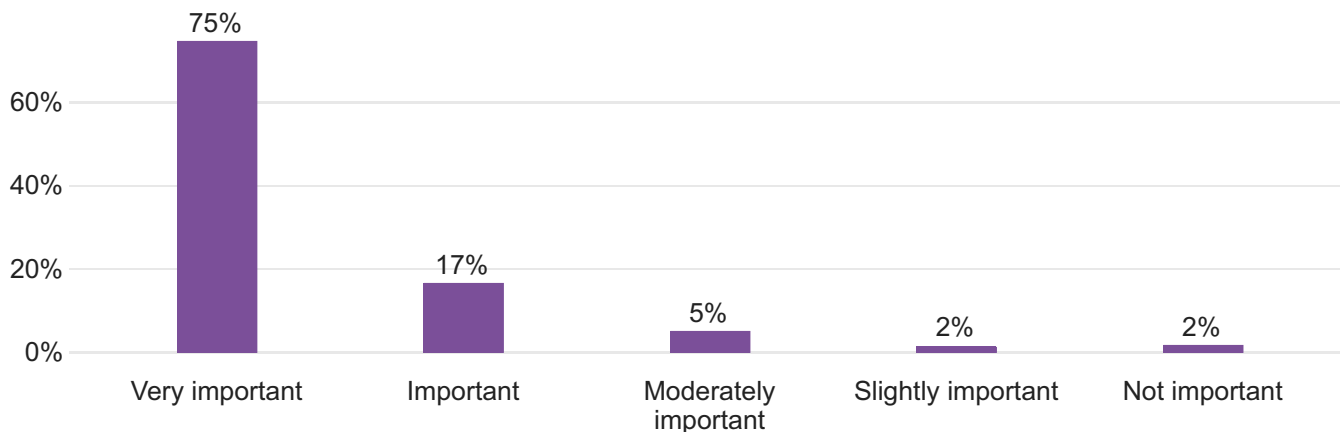
Only respondents who indicated “Yes” or “No, but I needed this service” to the question “Did you use any kind of personal legal help or services in the past five (5) years?” were asked this question.

290 Responses



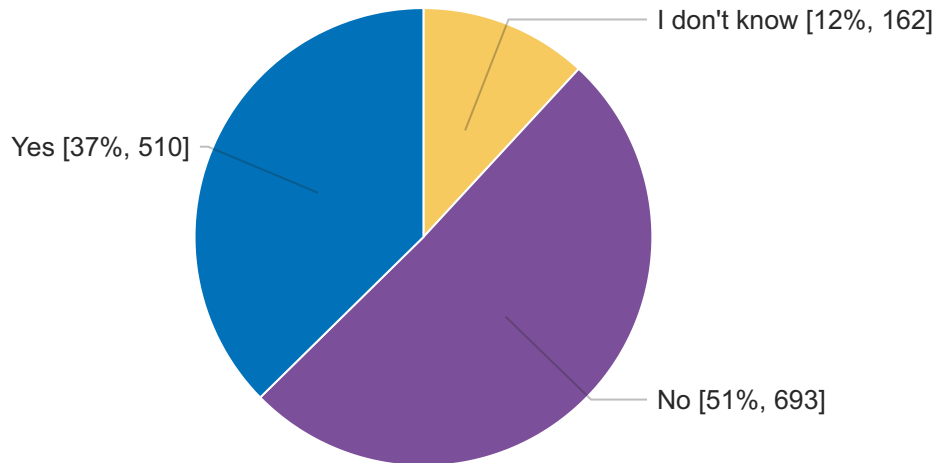
Whether or not you have personally needed legal help, how important do you feel it is that LGBTQ+ specific lawyers or other legal services are available?

1307 Responses



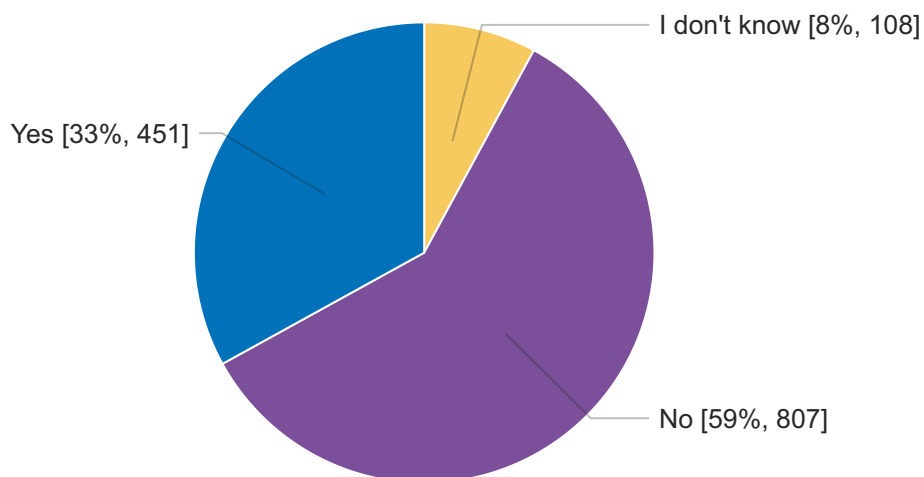
In the past five years, have you ever been bullied because of your LGBTQ+ identity?

1365 Responses



In the past five years, have you ever been electronically bullied (count being bullied through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media)?

1366 Responses





“I worry every single day about our trans community, especially our trans women of color. They are disproportionately impacted by violent crime, domestic violence, harassment, and abuse. We need to understand, educate, empower, and make Cleveland a place where trans people can thrive and feel safe.”

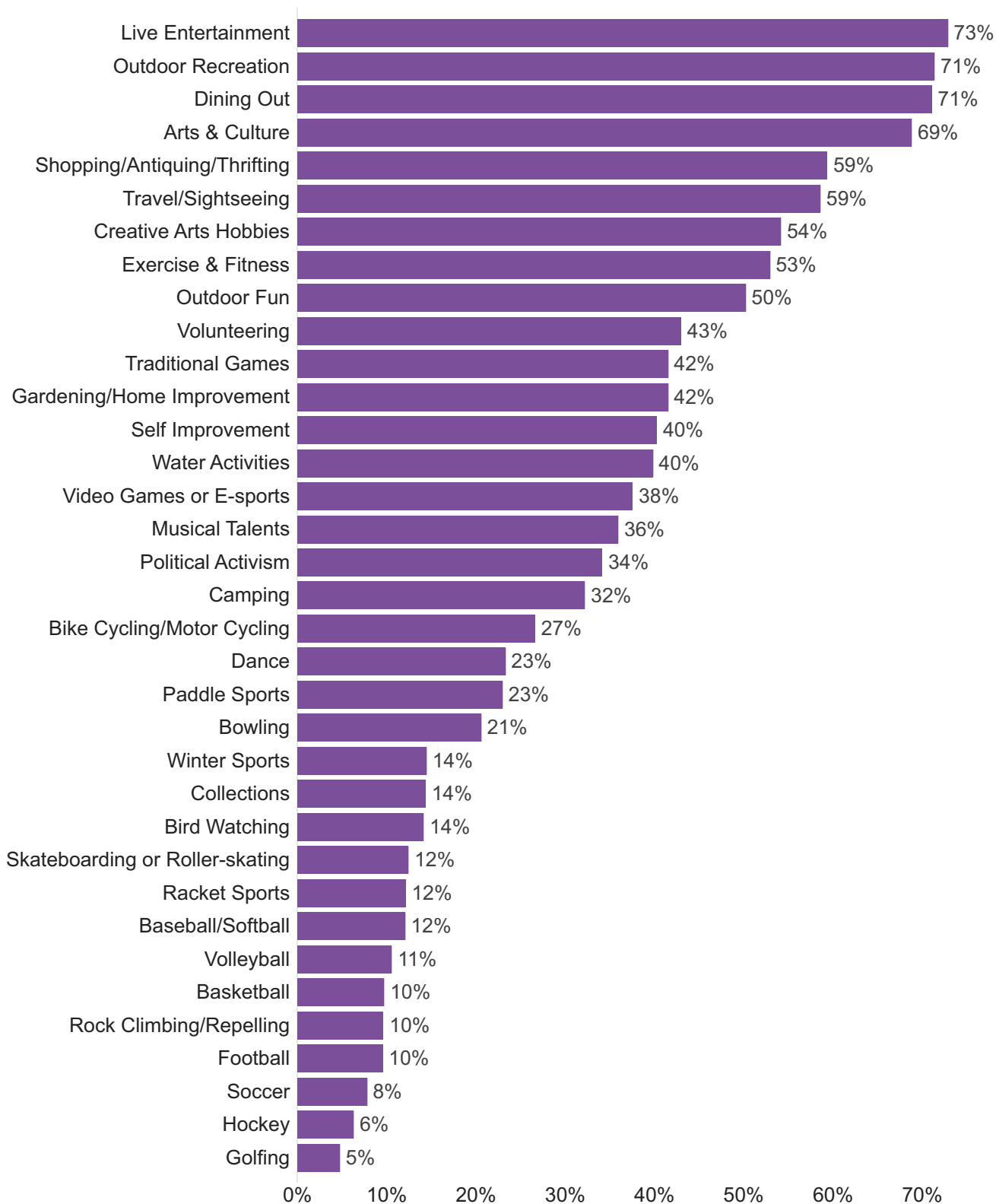


Recreation and Leisure

For the purpose of this project, we define Recreation and Leisure broadly to include respondents' concerns, experiences, and social needs related to both active and passive activities, which may occur both inside and outside of work and be pursued for enjoyment and relaxation. We recognize that diverse communities may engage in a wide range of recreational and leisure activities, and we strive to acknowledge and respect these differences.

Select the types of activities you enjoy watching or participating in? (select all that apply)

1289 Responses



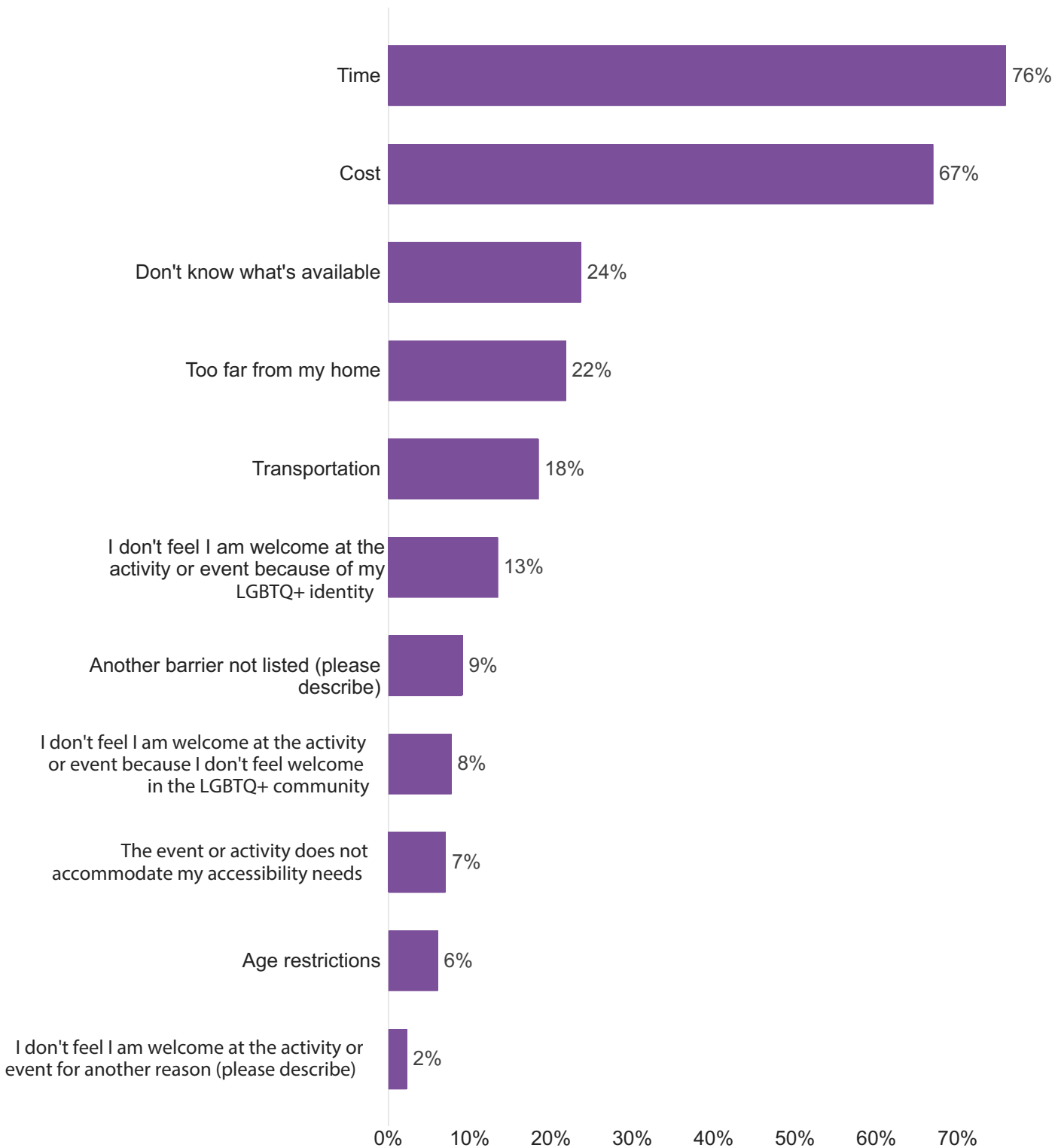


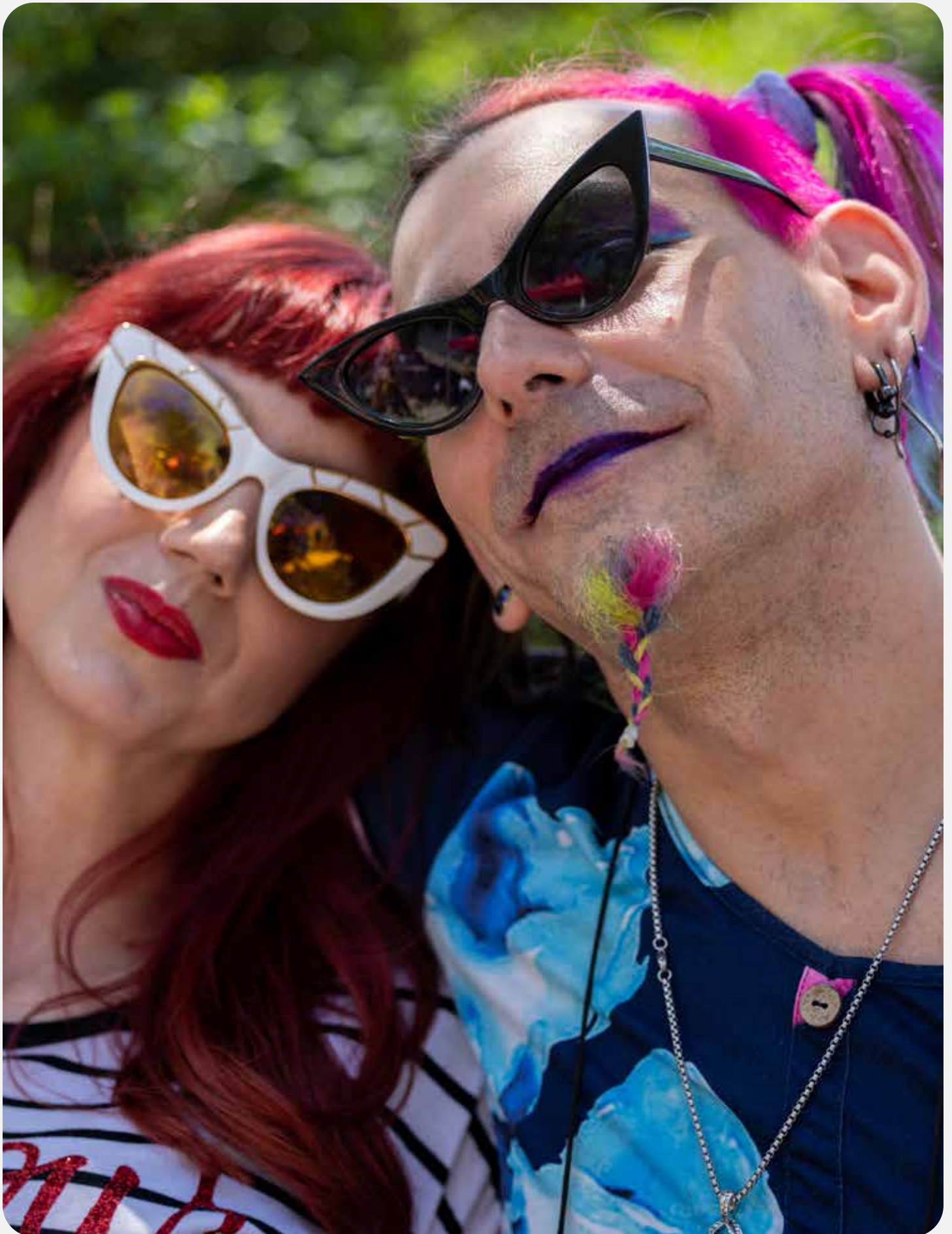
“It's important to ensure that there are sufficient queer spaces, whether nonprofit or for-profit, from community centers to bars and restaurants. We need gathering spaces that promote visibility and a high quality of life for LGBTQ+ individuals.”



Do any of the following barriers prevent you from participating in recreation and leisure activities that you enjoy as much as you would like to? (select all that apply)

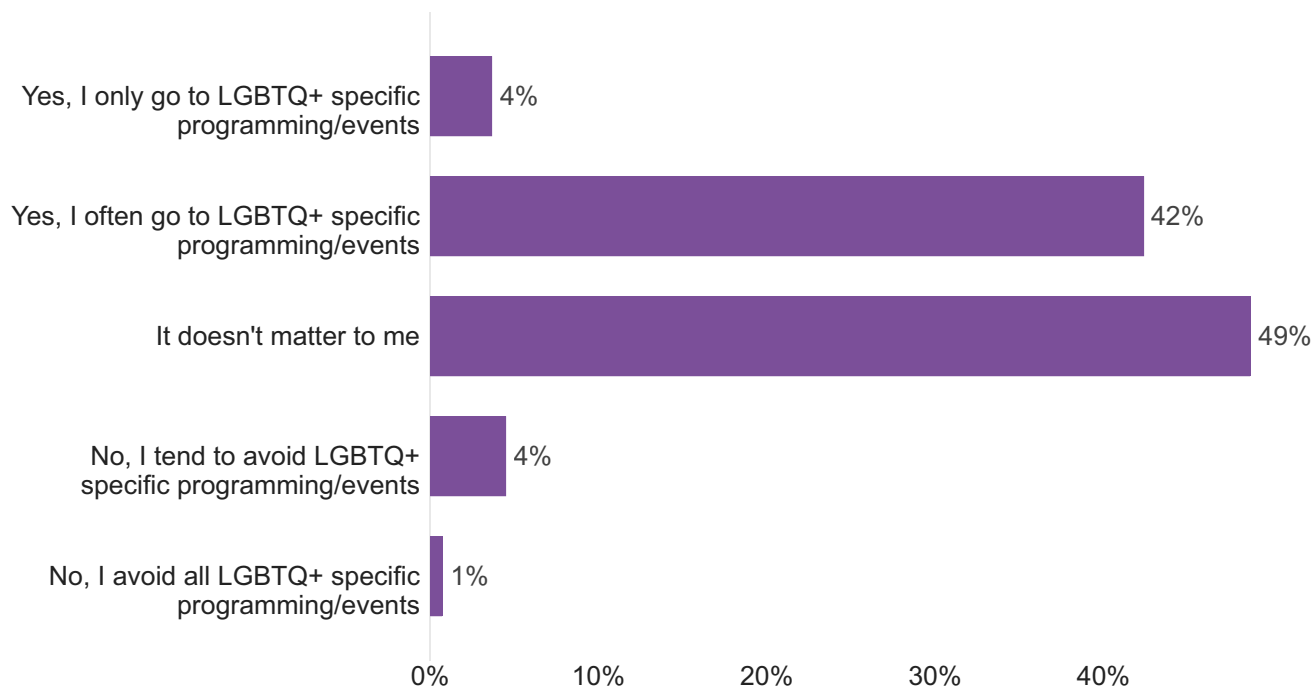
1214 Responses





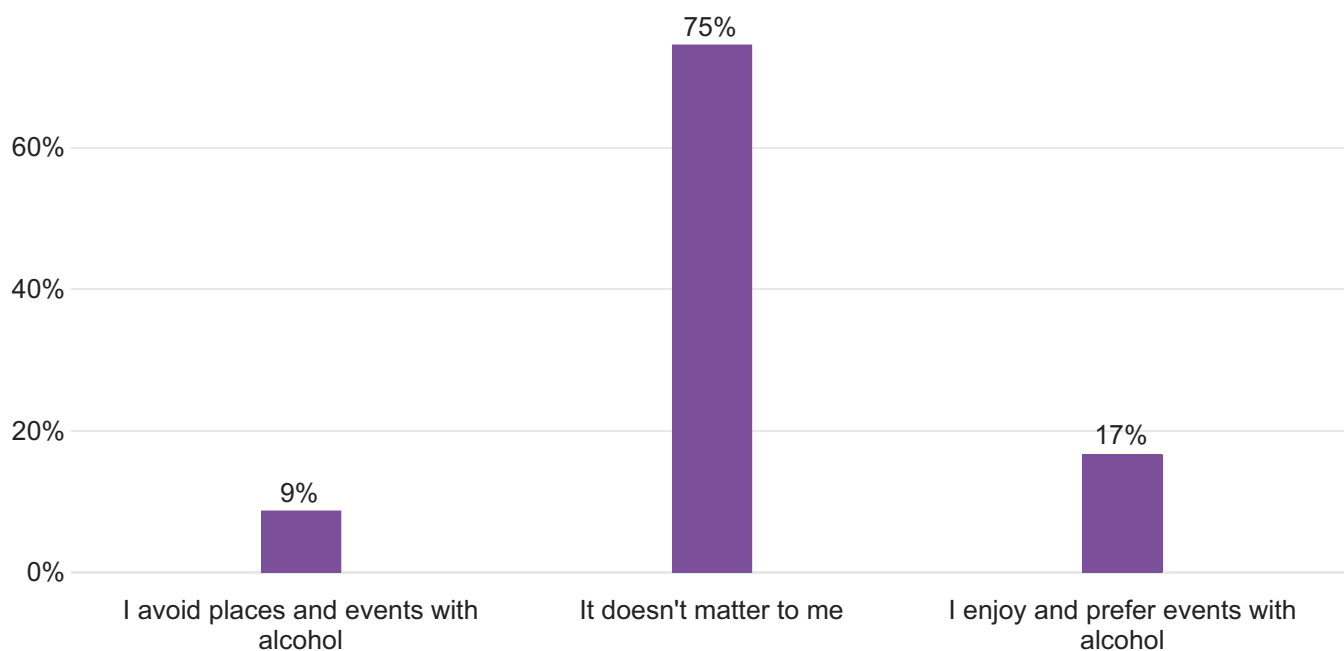
In general, do you prefer LGBTQ+ specific programming and events over general community programming and events?

1223 Responses



If there is alcohol at an LGBTQ+ event does it keep you from attending?

1228 Responses



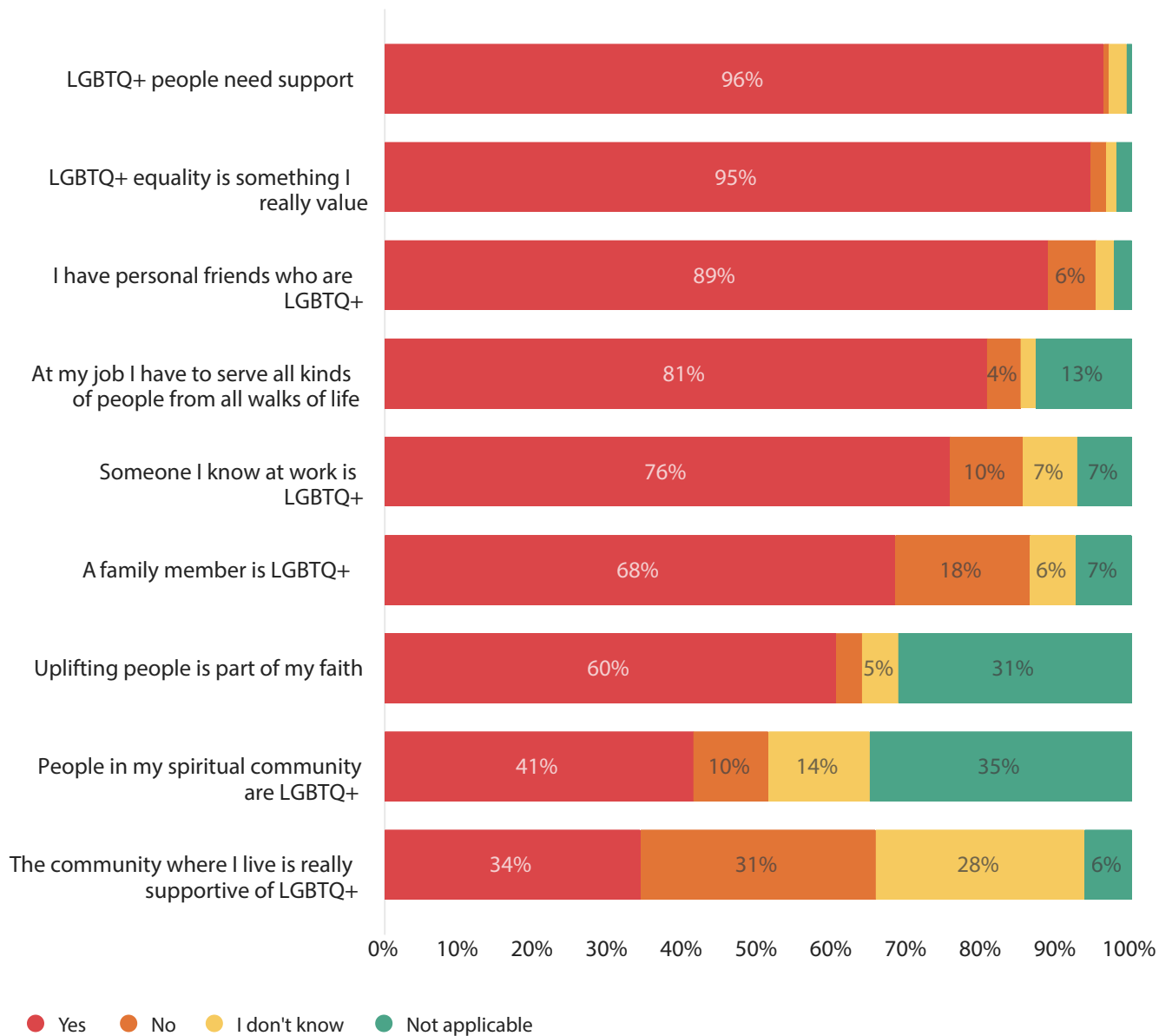


We recognize the vital role that allyship plays in supporting the LGBTQ+ community. An LGBTQ+ ally is someone who actively supports and advocates for the rights and inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals. While allies may not identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community, they stand in solidarity with LGBTQ+ people, challenge discrimination and promoting equality. We are committed to understanding and fostering effective allyship by identifying and addressing the needs of allies, empowering them to be strong, informed, and supportive partners in the pursuit of equality and justice for LGBTQ+ individuals.

LGBTQ+ ALLYSHIP

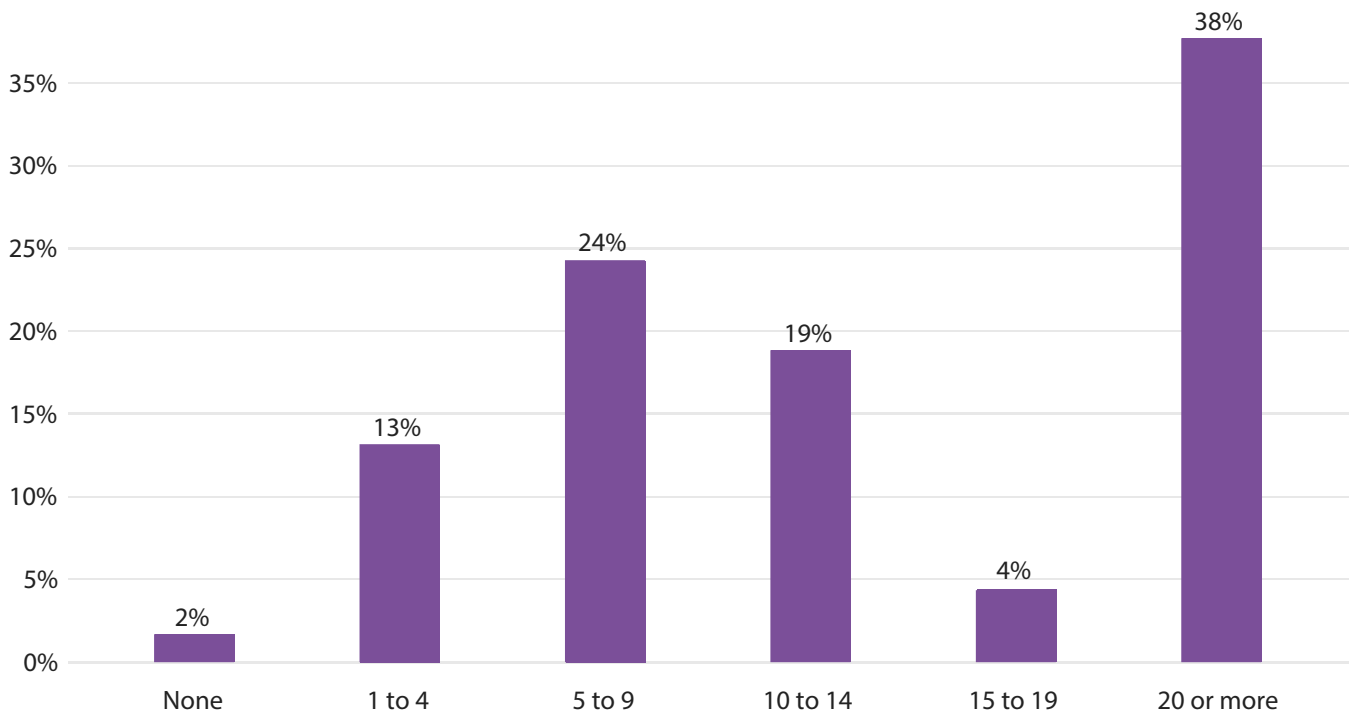
Tell us about how you became an ally. Which of the following impacted your decision?

297 Responses



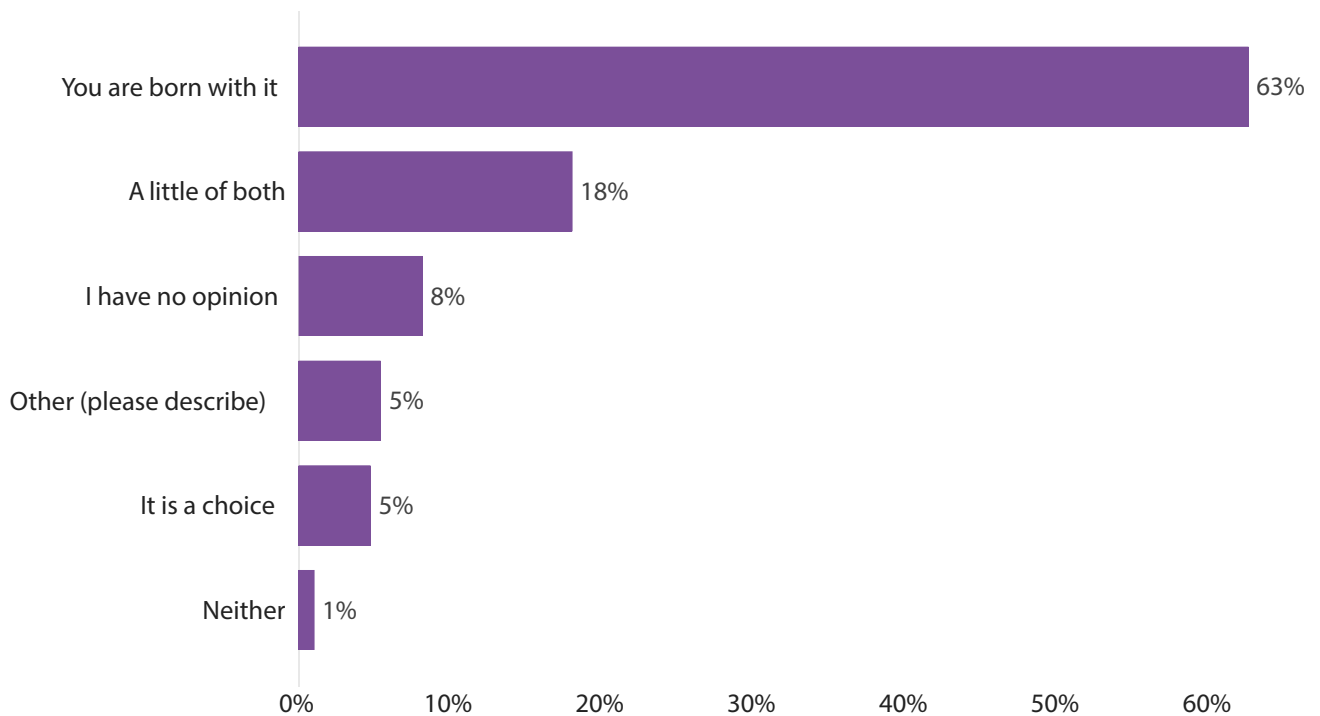
How many people in your life do you know who identify as LGBTQ+

297 Responses



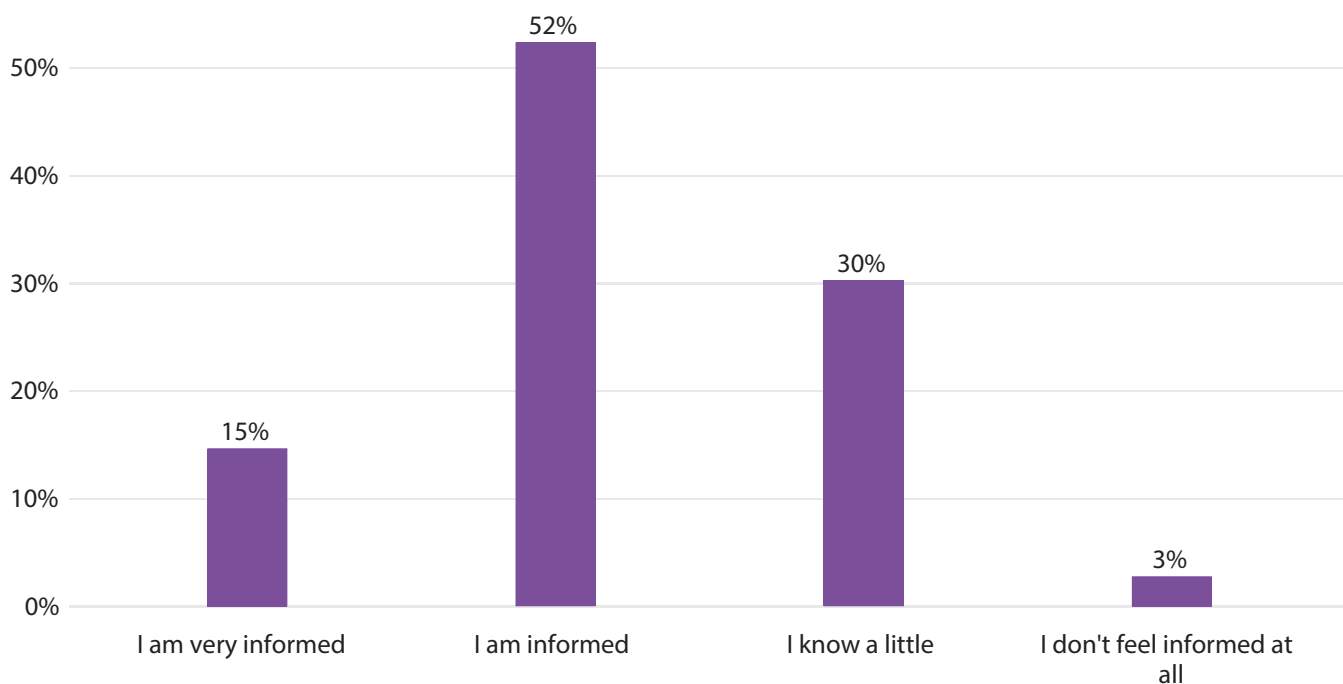
Do you think being LGBTQ+ is a choice or something you are born with?

294 Responses



Do you feel like you are up to date and generally know what LGBTQ+ issues are most important right now?

294 Responses

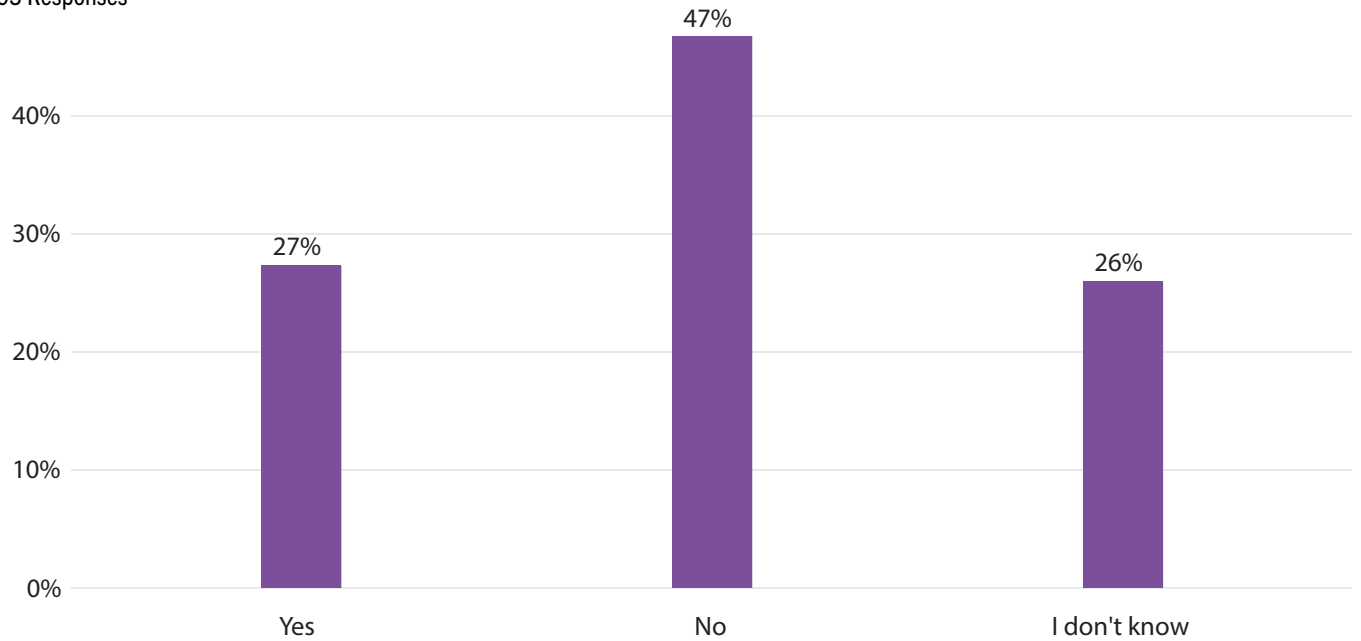


“The people who are coming [to our community trainings] are making comments about, “You know, I’m accepting, but there was so much I didn’t understand. And now I understand it.”



To the best of your knowledge, are LGBTQ+ individuals protected from employment, housing, and public accommodation discrimination in Ohio?

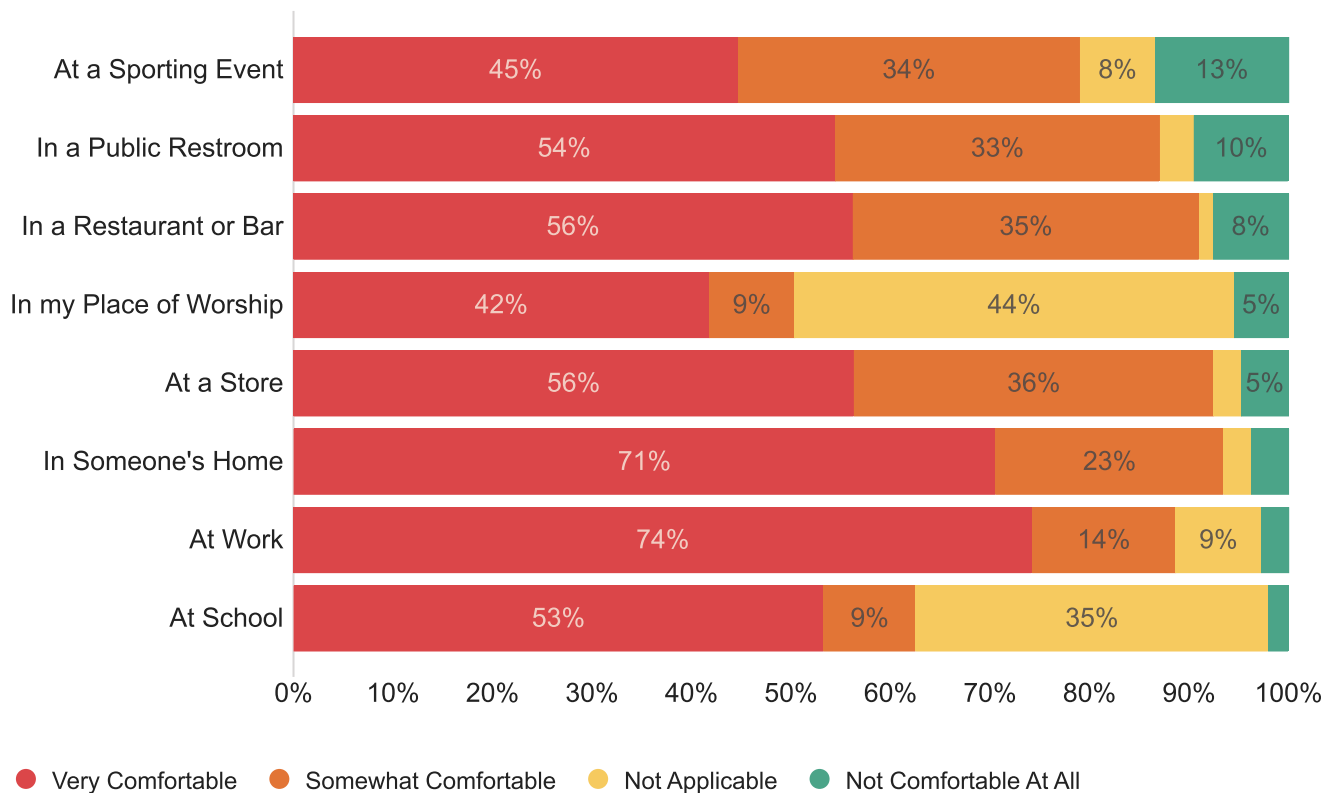
293 Responses





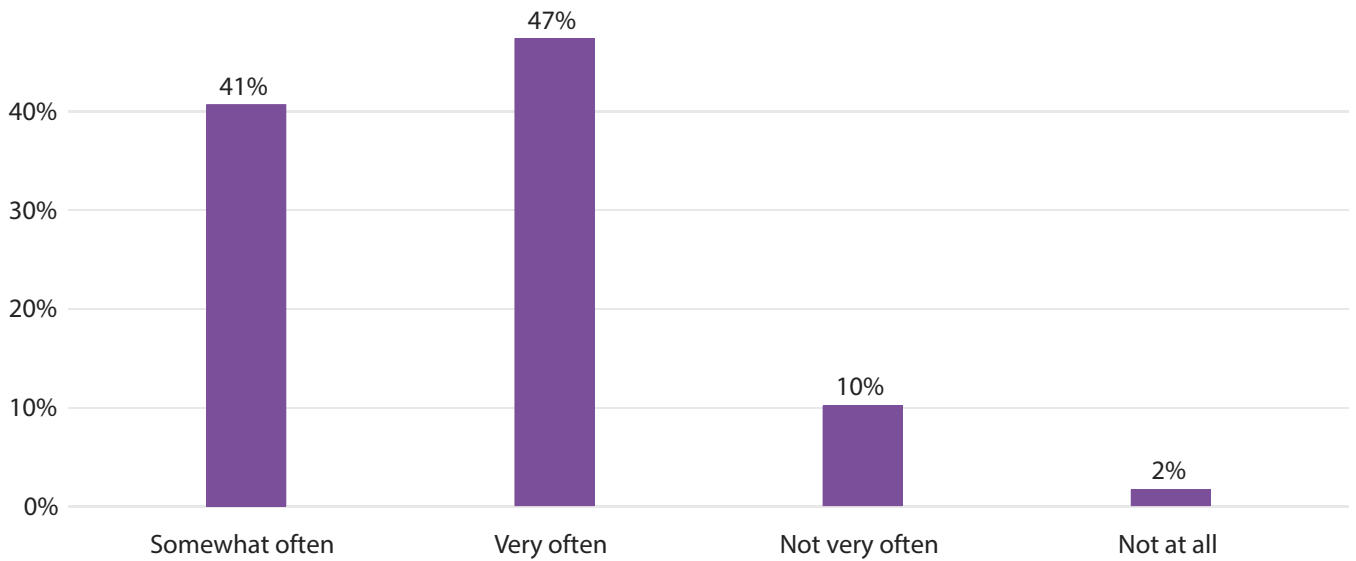
How comfortable do you feel standing up for LGBTQ+ people as an Ally at the following places?

294 Responses



In the past year, how often would you say you have supported an LGBTQ+ person or people?

295 Responses



“If our politicians genuinely cared about the LGBTQ+ community, demonstrated true allyship, and reformed our education system to be inclusive and supportive, we could reduce ignorance born from a lack of knowledge. Educating people of all ages to embrace diversity and respect each individual’s identity would foster a culture of love and acceptance. Ultimately, this shift would inspire future generations to spread love instead of hate.”

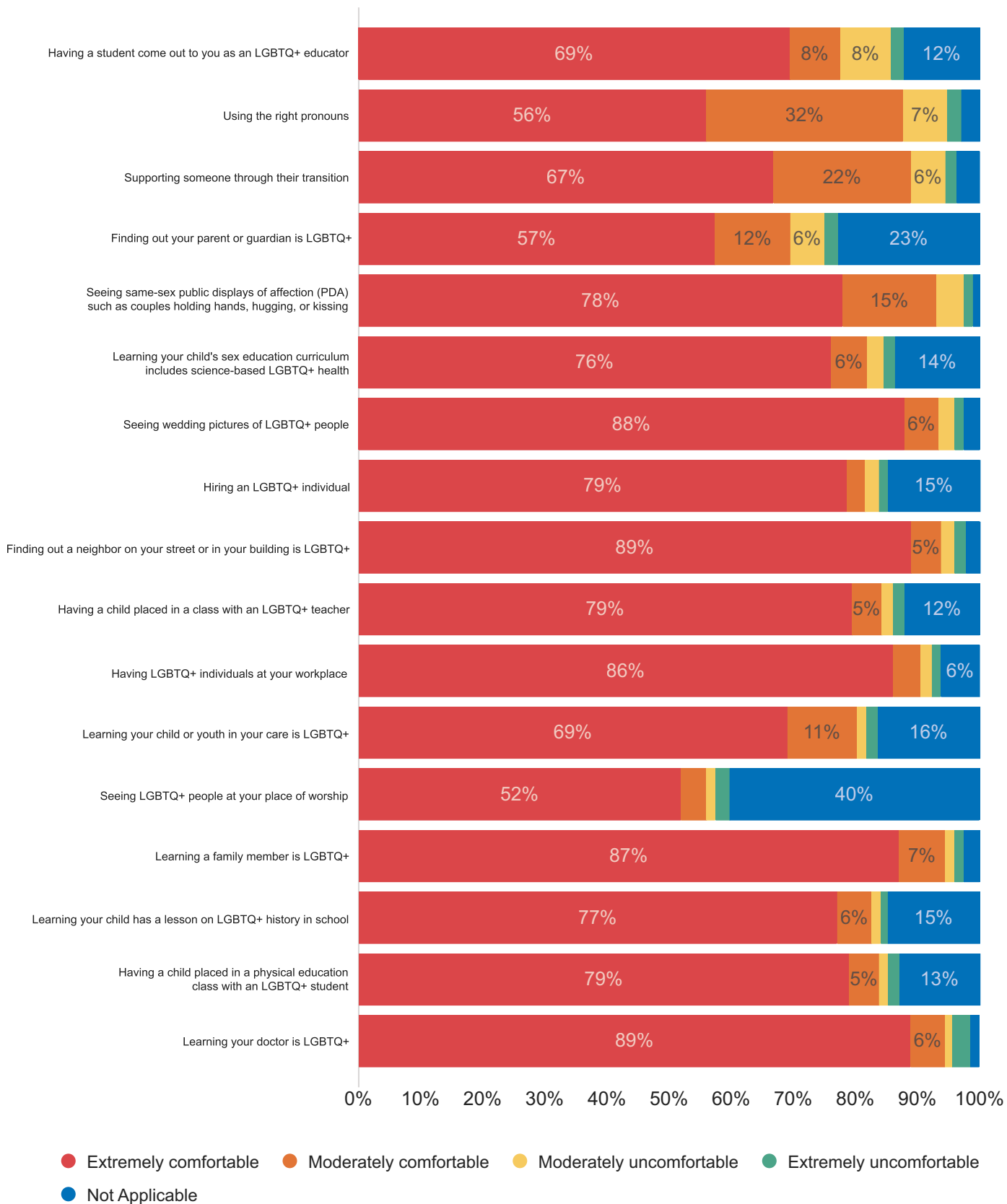


“My worries would largely be soothed with stronger displays of allyship at the state and county level. It is great when towns and cities affirm my humanity, but without coordinated support on a larger administrative level it often feels empty.”



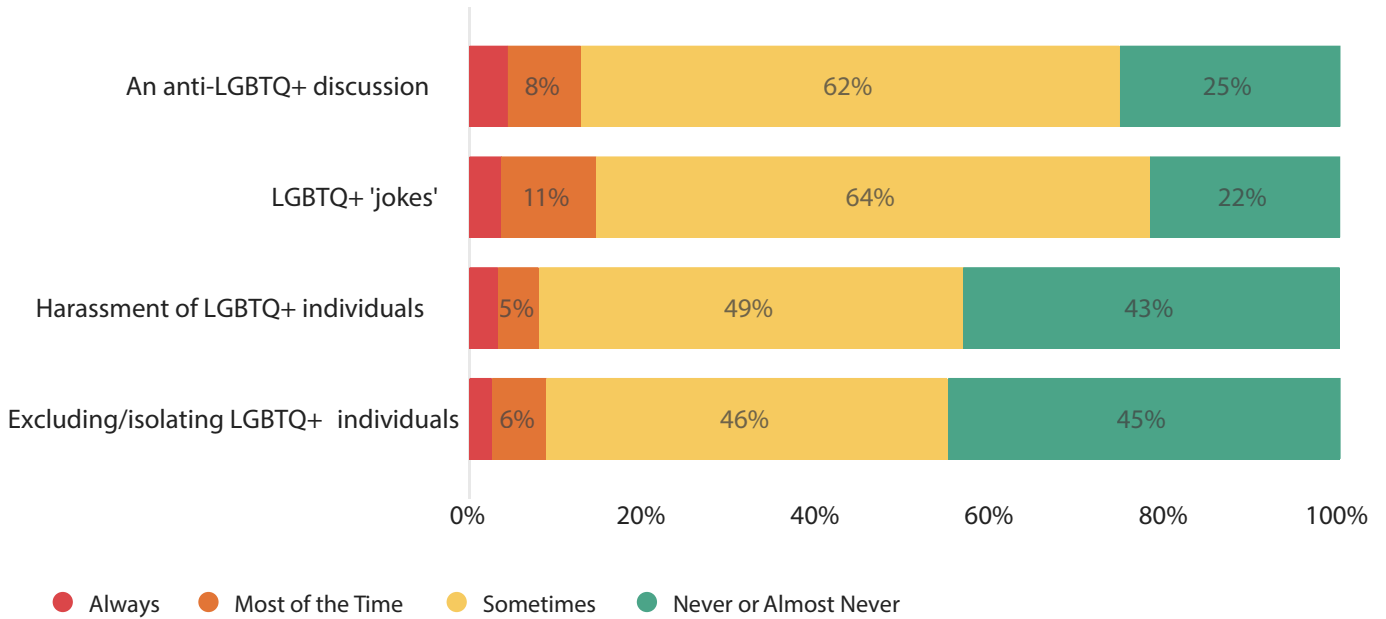
How comfortable in the following situations do you feel?

272 Responses



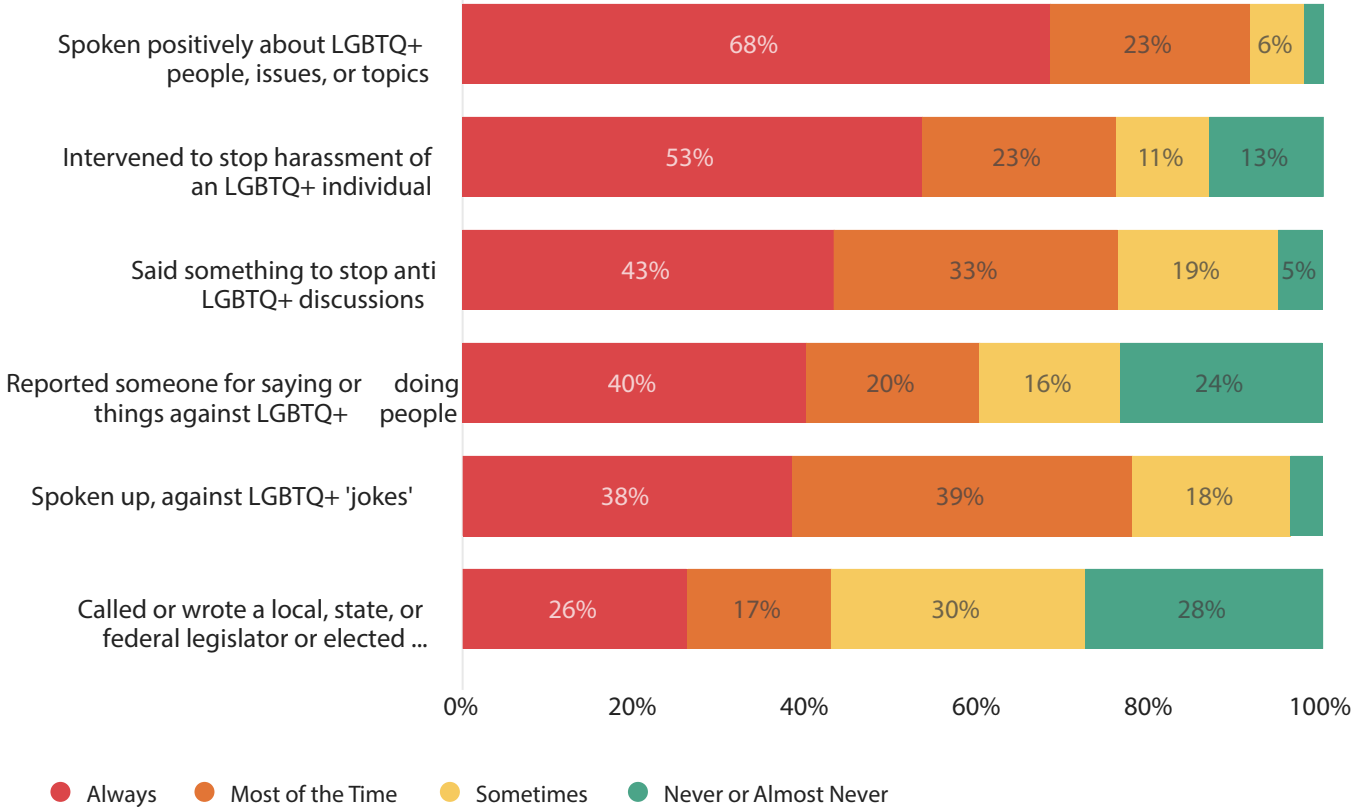
How often do you hear or see the following things happening by others?

275 Responses



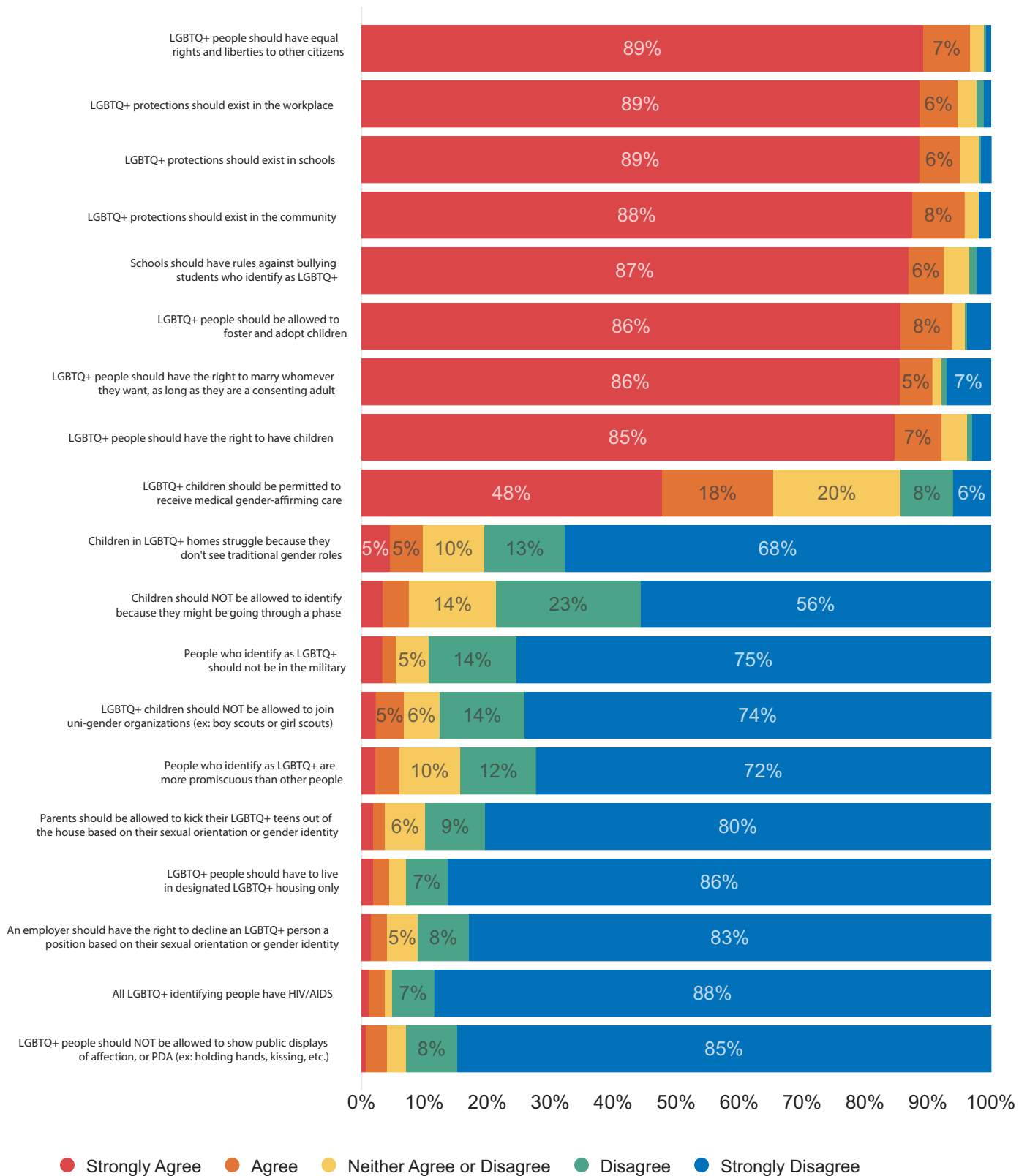
How often have you done, or would you do, any of the following things?

271 Responses



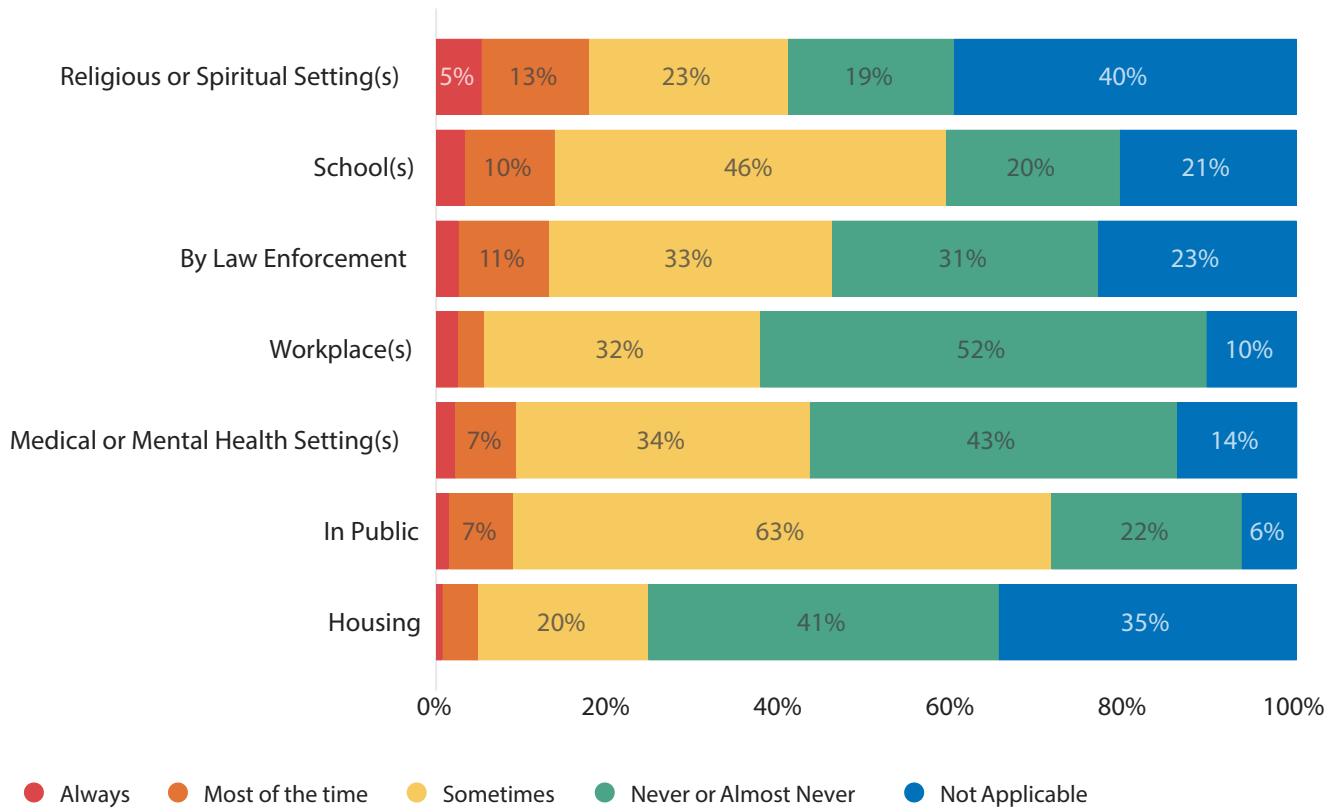
Choose the response that best represents your answer to the following statements.

272 Responses



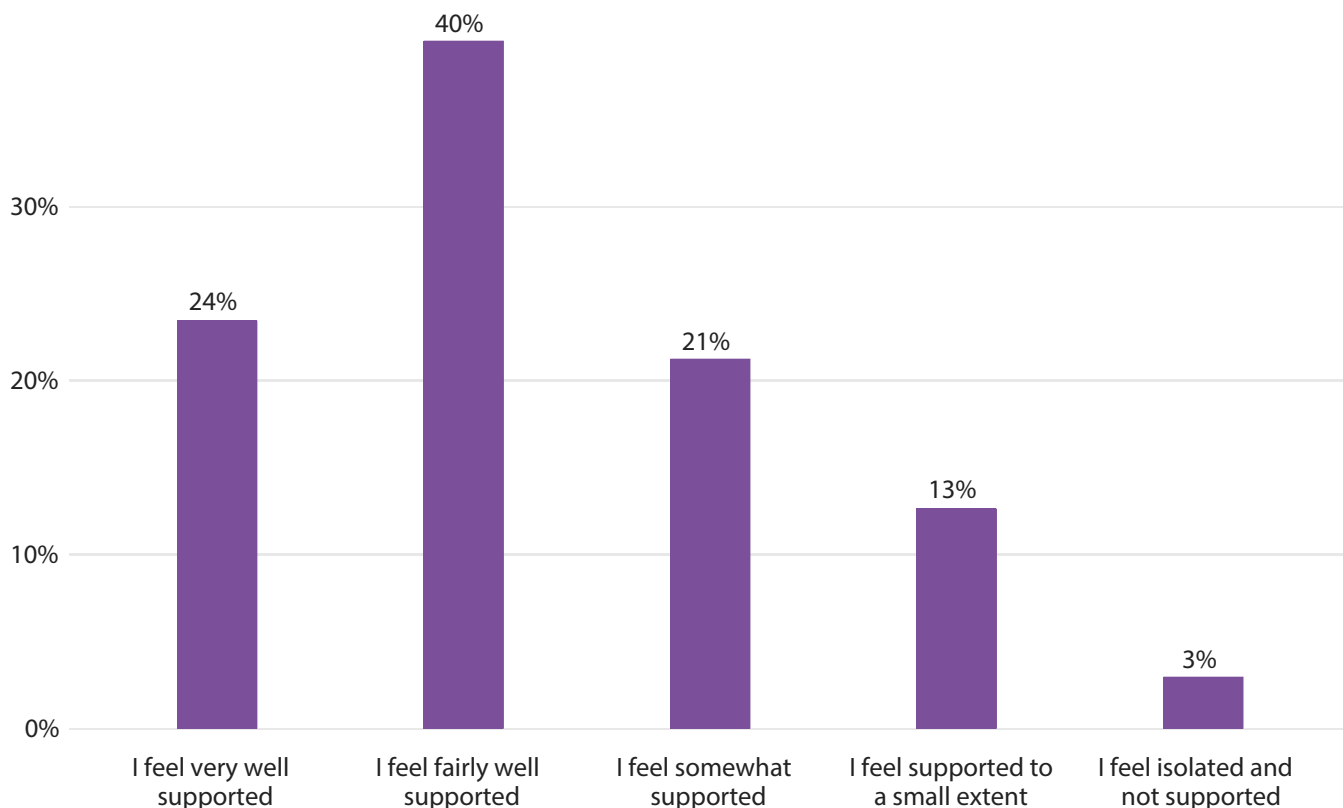
To what level or degree have you observed an LGBTQ+ person being discriminated against in the following settings?

269 Responses



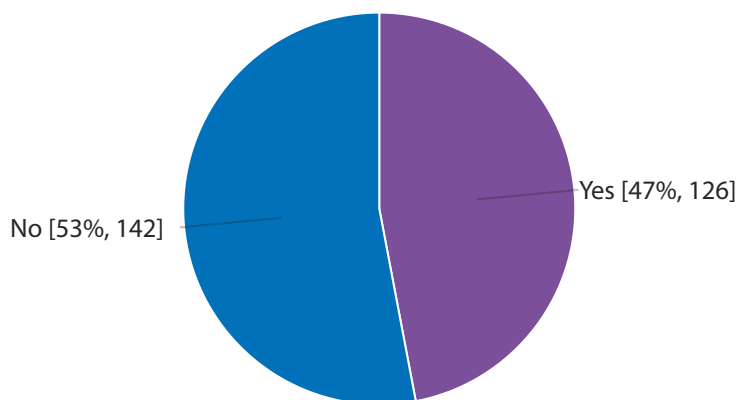
Do you feel supported by others as an LGBTQ+ Ally?

268 Responses



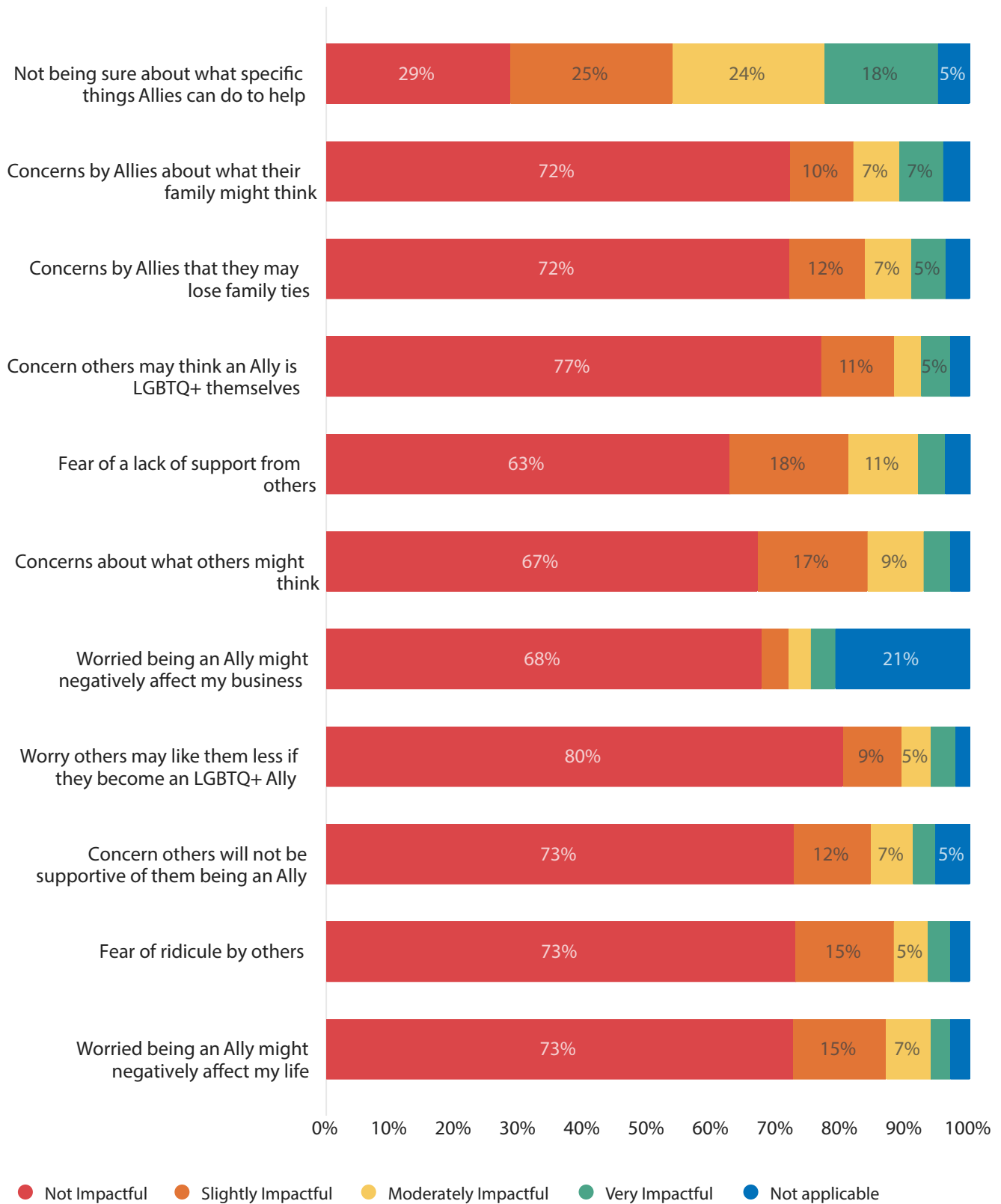
Have you ever wanted to say something in support of LGBTQ+ people but something stopped you?

268 Responses



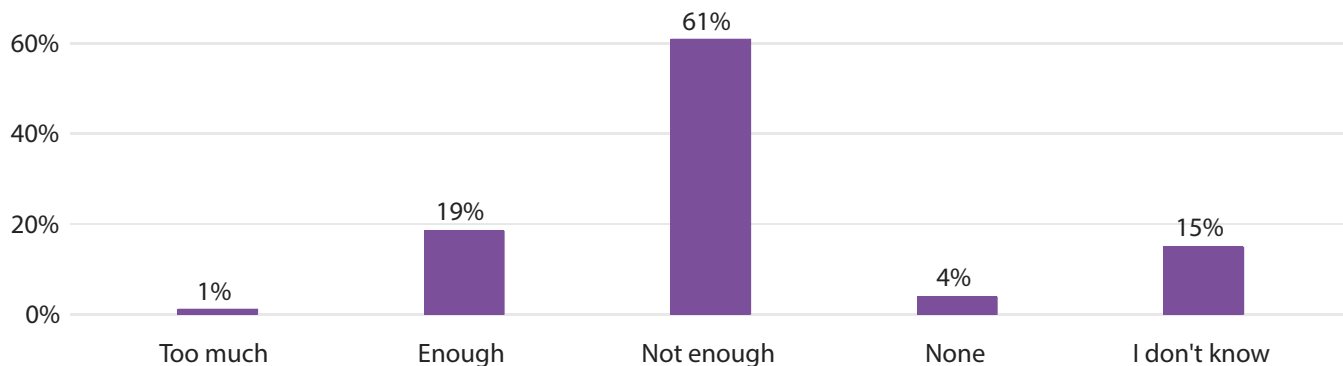
In your experience, how impactful have these factors been in identifying as an LGBTQ+ Ally yourself?

266 Responses



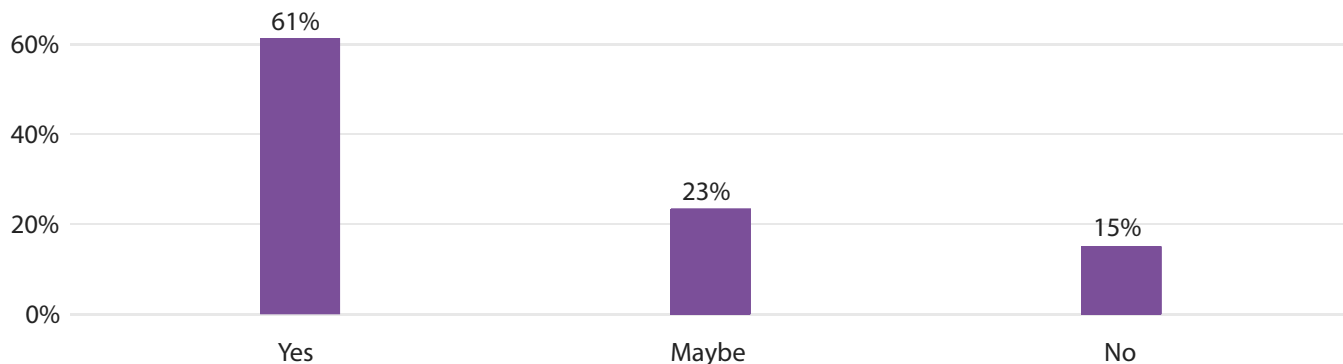
How much LGBTQ+ support would you say there is in the community where you live?

269 Responses



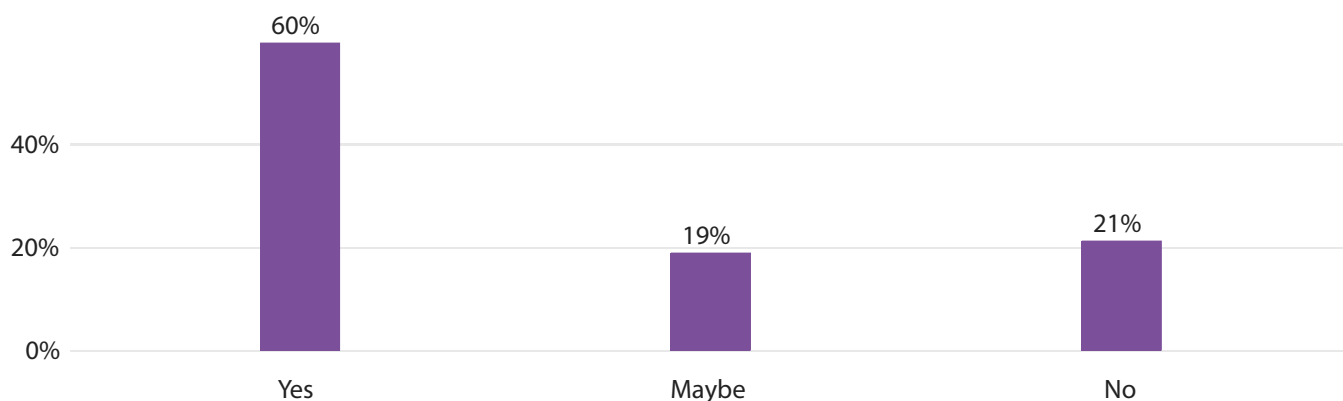
Do you know where you can get LGBTQ+ information and educational support?

269 Responses



Are you aware of LGBTQ+ resources in your local community that you can refer your LGBTQ+ friends/family to?

269 Responses





Understanding Our Intersectionality Community Spotlights

We are excited to introduce our intersectionality community spotlights, a series of printable information sheets designed to bring awareness to the health status, community priorities, and calls to action from members of historically marginalized, underserved, and hard-to-reach identities and experiences within the LGBTQ+ community.

These spotlights are compilations of data and insights gathered from our intersectionality listening sessions (focus groups) and community survey.

The Importance of Intersectionality

Intersectionality is a critical framework for understanding how various aspects of a person's social and political identities (such as gender, race, class, sexuality, ability, etc.) combine to create different modes of discrimination and privilege. For LGBTQ+ individuals, these intersecting identities can significantly influence their lived experiences, particularly in terms of health equity and access to resources.

Spotlighting these diverse communities is an attempt to bring this crucial information to the forefront of societal consciousness. By highlighting the unique challenges and needs of various sub-communities within the LGBTQ+ population, we aim to foster greater awareness, empathy, and informed action.

The health inequities faced by LGBTQ+ individuals are often compounded by additional layers of marginalization. For instance, Black transgender women may face not only transphobia but also racism and sexism, which together can exacerbate their struggles with accessing adequate healthcare and support services. By compiling and presenting this data, we aim to illuminate these complex realities and advocate for holistic, inclusive solutions.

Each spotlight is crafted to serve a dual purpose: it can be read as part of this comprehensive report or printed as standalone info sheets to be distributed or posted on bulletin boards to raise awareness within the community. Our goal is to ensure that these pages are not only informative but also accessible and actionable.

How to cite the intersectionality community spotlights

Snyder, A. M., DiDonato, A. E., Stimpert, T., White, J., & Washington, E. (2024). Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ community needs assessment. Kent State University, College of Public Health. lgbtqohio.org

Data Included in Each Spotlight

When possible, the intersectionality community spotlights include the following data points:

- **Health Insurance Coverage:** The percentage of community members sampled without health insurance. Note: LGBTQ+ youth under 18 were not asked this question.
- **Housing Insecurity:** The percentage of community members sampled who reported experiencing housing insecurity at the time of taking the community survey.
- **Food Insecurity:** The percentage of community members sampled who reported experiencing food insecurity at the time of taking the community survey.
- **Tobacco Product Use:** The percentage of community members sampled who reported currently using tobacco products.
- **Bullying:** In the absence of collecting health insurance coverage data for LGBTQ+ youth, we replaced these data points in the community spotlights with the percentage of participants surveyed who experienced bullying because of their LGBTQ+ identity.
- **Community Priorities and Calls to Action:** Insights from our qualitative intersectionality listening sessions that highlight the key priorities and actionable steps identified by community members.

We hope that these spotlights will serve as valuable resources for understanding and addressing the unique challenges faced by various sub-communities within the LGBTQ+ population. By raising awareness and promoting informed action, we aim to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for all community members.

LGBTQ+ Seniors

Individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ over the age of 65 and reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County or the surrounding areas.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

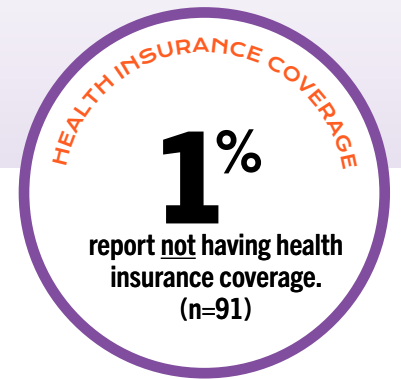
- Develop training programs for healthcare providers to improve cultural competency and the proper use of pronouns and titles.
- Expand and improve transportation options, including expanded bus routes, community-directed volunteer assistance, and increased accessible parking.
- Advocate for policy changes to lower income requirements for housing, develop co-housing options, and create LGBTQ+ affirming or centered senior housing.
- Establish more intergenerational programming and social support groups through LGBTQ+ community organizations.
- Increase availability of senior discounts and affordable events, and improve promotion and marketing to ensure seniors are aware of these options.
- Simplify processes to accessing assistance programs and provide more holistic support for navigating digital and online systems.
- Fund and create positions for navigators or ombudsmen to assist LGBTQ+ seniors with accessing services and resources.
- Improve food accessibility by providing more affordable and inclusive dietary restriction options and expanding food programs to other regions/counties.

“My biggest fear is being and dying alone. I’m having a hard time finding friends in the LGBTQ+ community to get to know and hang out with.”

-Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 67

“Marriage equality came about sooner than I thought it would. Now there is a backlash and people feel free to attack LGBTQ folks. We need LGBTQ Centers and activities more than ever. Do affluent, comfortable LGBTQ people even realize this?”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 77





Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

Cuyahoga County LGBTQ+ Adults

Individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ over the age of 18 who reside in Cuyahoga County.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

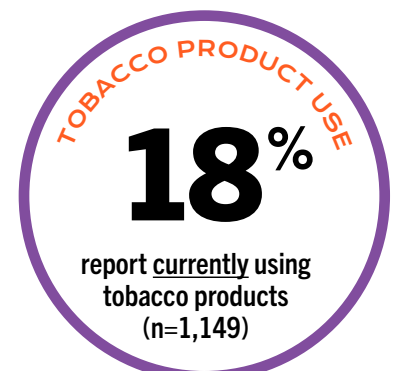
- Create and promote job opportunities that are accessible to LGBTQ+ individuals, including those without extensive education or experience requirements, and advocate for inclusive hiring practices.
- Establish safe havens and build dedicated LGBTQ+ communities with the necessary tools, skills, and resources for self-sufficiency.
- Increase funding for food security programs and ensure equitable distribution of food resources.
- Develop policies to increase affordable housing options and support housing stability for trans individuals and other marginalized LGBTQ+ groups.
- Expand transportation options and improve safety on public transit, particularly in underserved areas like the East Side of Cleveland.
- Promote authentic and active allyship through community involvement, ongoing education, and accountability measures to reduce performative allyship.
- Advocate for greater LGBTQ+ representation in leadership positions and media, and create campaigns that normalize and positively portray the queer experience.
- Provide safe spaces and comprehensive support for LGBTQ+ youth, including mentorship internships, and educational programs on queer topics.

“We really have a desert for LGBTQ resources and community in the south east side of town. We are barely in summit county and go north for all our services. But there’s no way to connect and gain support around here. It would help to feel less alone.”

-Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 44

“My biggest fear for myself as an LGBTQ+ member is not being able to have the same opportunities as others because of people being prejudice to me because of who I am.”

-Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 24



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org

Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for Cuyahoga County adults (n=6) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents age 18+ and reporting a zipcode in Cuyahoga County (n=1,150).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

**INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS**

Geauga County LGBTQ+ Adults

LGBTQ+ community members over the age of 18 who reside in Geauga County.

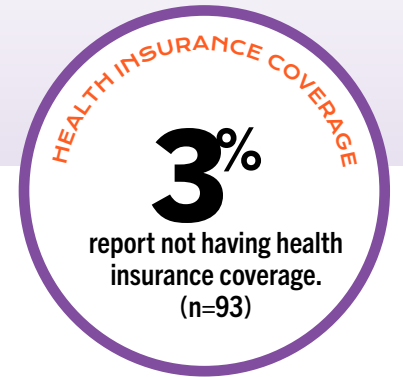
Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Establish more safe spaces and LGBTQ+-affirming third spaces where individuals can feel comfortable and secure.
- Implement comprehensive sensitivity training for students, teachers, and the larger community to address homophobia and discomfort in conversations about LGBTQ+ topics.
- Develop and integrate inclusive LGBTQ+ sexuality education programs in schools and community centers.
- Increase access to LGBTQ+-competent mental health services, including training for local therapists and promoting mental health resources.
- Enhance visibility and awareness of LGBTQ+ support in residential, educational, and organizational settings through indicators such as stickers, signs, and public statements.
- Promote public support from politicians and community leaders to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for LGBTQ+ residents.

“LGBTQ center opening in geauga county or east side of Cuyahoga”
- Geauga County Resident, Age 51

“How do we shift the mindset of a whole community? I guess in Geauga county, it’s important to start young and educate kids before they become closed minded adults. It’s also important for young people (and people of any age, really) to feel supported and loved. Things as simple as a restaurant like Element 41 flying their pride flag and hosting a drag show make a world of difference.”
- Geauga County Resident, Age 48

“I’m afraid to be myself whenever I go into rural towns like this, and it’s not fair. I have a pride sticker on the back of my car, and every time someone is behind me I feel myself get nervous like they’re going to harm me in some way, and nobody should ever have to feel afraid like that.”
-Gauga County Resident, Age 19



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for Geauga County adults (n=8) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents age 18+ and reporting a zipcode in Geauga County (n=93).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

Lake County LGBTQ+ Adults

LGBTQ+ community members over the age of 18 who reside in Lake County.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Advocate for and invest in the development of LGBTQ+-affirming mental health and addiction services, both for adults and youth.
- Increase public education and inclusive sex education about LGBTQ+ issues, working to shift the culture towards greater acceptance and understanding.
- Establish more non-faith-based support services and shelters for LGBTQ+ individuals, ensuring these resources are affirming and inclusive.
- Develop a centralized resource hub to provide easy access to information and reduce reliance on word-of-mouth and social media.
- Create and promote more safe, affirming recreational spaces and events that are not nightlife-based, such as library events, movie nights, and community potlucks.
- Support efforts to pass non-discrimination ordinances at the city level to promote equal opportunity in employment and other areas.
- Secure more funding for secular treatment and support services to reduce the burden on existing organizations and improve accessibility.
- Promote fair wages and affordable housing to help LGBTQ+ individuals achieve financial stability and housing security.

"I am not of voting age, the most I can do is convince people why these bills aren't what they seem to be. And maybe get them to vote no idk."

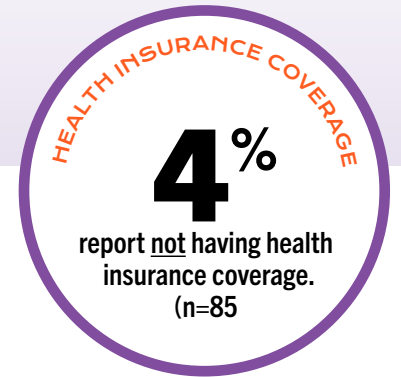
-Lake County Resident, Age 16

"People need to stand up against the government efforts to harm LGBTQ+ community. Allies in healthcare also need to stand up and speak out against bigotry, hate and even just simple ignorance. The burden of change falls on the Allies to use their privilege to include and normalize LGBTQ+ people and to educate those around them about how to do the same."

- Lake County Resident, Age 43

"I worry about the changing political climate as a queer woman. I worry about my trans friends and family. I want to live in a community where I can date a woman or non-cis person."

- Lake County Resident, Age 26



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for Lake County adults (n=5) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents age 18+ and reporting a zipcode in Lake County (n=85).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

Lorain County LGBTQ+ Adults

LGBTQ+ community members over the age of 18 who reside in Lorain County.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Provide comprehensive training for healthcare providers on LGBTQ+ health issues and inclusive practices, ensuring respectful treatment and understanding.
- Establish queer social spaces and a community center in Lorain County to serve as hubs for resources, visibility, and engagement.
- Increase outreach, education, and advertising for HIV testing, prevention, and PrEP within Lorain County.
- Develop a network to connect LGBTQ+ individuals with inclusive and affirming faith-based organizations.
- Implement sensitivity and inclusivity training in workplaces, focusing on issues such as misgendering and respecting name changes for trans and gender-diverse individuals.
- Expand support systems and resources for LGBTQ+ individuals in Lorain County, including financial assistance and counseling services.
- Conduct training for law enforcement on humanizing BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities, addressing racial and LGBTQ+ biases.
- Organize large-scale conferences and resource connection events to provide centralized access to information and support for the LGBTQ+ community.

“I would love to see more recreational places that we can enjoy and be a part of without thinking whether or not we should hold hands. That goes for pretty much anything; going out shopping, night life, parks!”

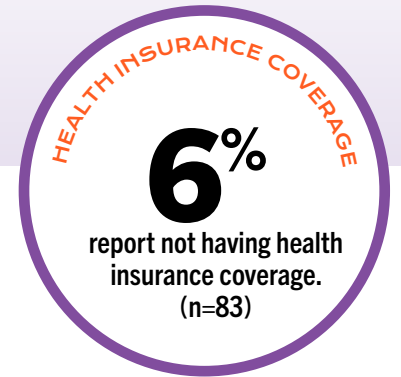
- Lorain County Resident, Age 25

“More voices that support LGBTQ+ rights, mainly transgender rights, and a better way to be informed of upcoming laws and elections and such that regard LGBTQ+ rights”

- Lorain County Resident, Age 16

“My biggest fear is the government. I’m terrified about being forced to detransition, or worse.”

- Lorain County Resident, Age 62



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for Lorain County adults (n=7) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents age 18+ and reporting a zipcode in Lorain County (n=83).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

Cuyahoga County LGBTQ+ Youth

LGBTQ+ community members ages 12-17 who reside in Cuyahoga County.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Ensure comprehensive and inclusive healthcare for LGBTQ+ youth, with respectful treatment, easier access to gender-affirming surgeries (like top surgeries), and proper use of names and pronouns by all healthcare staff.
- Create safe exercise spaces specifically for women and non-binary individuals to engage in physical activity without fear of harassment.
- Establish clear anti-harassment policies in healthcare to prevent staff from questioning or dismissing the health concerns of LGBTQ+ youth.
- Improve access to supportive religious spaces by developing networks that connect LGBTQ+ individuals with inclusive faith-based communities.
- Strengthen school policies for LGBTQ+ inclusion by enforcing anti-bullying measures, ensuring gender-neutral bathrooms, and promoting the formation of Gay-Straight Alliances (GSA) in all schools.
- Train educators and school staff on LGBTQ+ issues, ensuring teachers use preferred names and pronouns and are proactive in addressing slurs and bullying.
- Expand resources for mental health and support, focusing on the unique emotional challenges LGBTQ+ youth face, ensuring they feel loved, supported, and safe in their environments.
- Address policing in schools, reduce over-policing and focus on creating safe environments through protective measures rather than increased enforcement.
- Enhance workplace inclusivity, ensuring all employees are respected and introducing tools like pronoun pins to create more inclusive professional environments.
- Increase inclusion in sports, allowing trans individuals to compete without restriction and developing more gender-neutral sports teams.
- Support creative and recreational outlets for LGBTQ+ youth by fostering spaces for arts, music, and sports, where they can feel free to express themselves and connect with others who care about their well-being.
- Advocate for proactive legislative changes, shifting from reactive defense against harmful laws to actively passing protections for LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly focusing on trans rights and public accommodations.

"I'm afraid I will lose my family, friends, and will be treated differently at school. Being kicked out is a real concern for me, and if I did, I would no longer be allowed to go to my high school."

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 16

View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for Cuyahoga County youth (n=9) and quantitative data on bullying, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents age 12-17 and reporting a zipcode in Cuyahoga County (n=30).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

Geauga County LGBTQ+ Youth

LGBTQ+ community members ages 12-17 who reside in Geauga County.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Provide access to affirming healthcare for transgender individuals, including information on how to find safe, gender-affirming healthcare providers.
- Outlaw conversion therapy statewide to protect LGBTQ+ youth from harmful practices.
- Support the establishment of GSAs (Gay-Straight Alliances) in all schools, ensuring administrative backing and overcoming opposition from parents and students, while ensuring safety and support for those who want to participate.
- Expand LGBTQ+ inclusive sex education and implement classes on LGBTQ+ history, laws, and government to educate both youth and adults.
- Create affirming legal services to assist LGBTQ+ youth with name changes, legal sex changes, and navigating anti-LGBTQ+ legislation.
- Increase the availability of gender-neutral bathrooms in schools and public spaces, ensuring privacy with occupied labels on stalls.
- Reduce discrimination in employment, particularly for young queer individuals, by establishing clearer protections against job discrimination based on gender expression.
- Facilitate access to gender-affirming clothing and resources like binders and gaffs, and create safe spaces for LGBTQ+ youth to shop for clothing that aligns with their gender identity.
- Organize more free LGBTQ+ youth events in Geauga County, while also providing opportunities to connect with youth from neighboring areas and Cleveland to build a stronger community network.
- Offer educational workshops and sessions for LGBTQ+ youth on how to respond to harmful laws or policies, hosted in accessible community spaces like libraries.

"I fear for my ability to succeed being hindered by discrimination. I do very well on assignments, in school, and in other places, but I fear that it will not matter once I come out."

- Geauga County Resident, Age 17



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for Geauga County youth (n=6) and quantitative data on bullying, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents age 12-17 and reporting a zipcode in Geauga County (n=12).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

Lorain County LGBTQ+ Youth

LGBTQ+ community members ages 12-17 who reside in Lorain County.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Increase access to counseling and mental health services.
- Listen to LGBTQ+ youth voices and prioritize their unique needs and concerns. Create platforms for LGBTQ+ youth to share their perspectives without being overshadowed by adult concerns.
- Strengthen peer support networks. Encourage and fund peer support programs.
- Address vaping and substance use among youth, with stricter regulations to prevent easy access and stop illegal sales of vape products to minors.
- Promote affirming religious spaces, with an emphasis on inclusion and acceptance.
- Expand educational offerings, including more art classes and other creative outlets. Support GSAs (Gay-Straight Alliances) and encourage collaboration with other student clubs, like disability support groups.
- Enhance school safety, addressing bullying and violence with regular screenings and safety checks. Improve emotional support systems within schools for LGBTQ+ youth.
- Support family mediation programs to help facilitate conversations between LGBTQ+ youth and their parents.
- Preserve and create more queer spaces for the next generation, such as gay bars or safe community events, to maintain visibility and provide safe spaces for youth once they come of age.
- Encourage more LGBTQ+ friendly public spaces, like rainbow sidewalks and fun events for youth.
- Promote safer online spaces, helping LGBTQ+ youth avoid harmful or inappropriate content on social media, while creating supportive online communities.
- Build inclusive recreational spaces like a cat café and offer more LGBTQ+ youth-centered events in the community, fostering a sense of belonging and joy.

“I especially worry for my life as a trans queer teen with all the new anti-trans/ LGBTQ+ state laws being passed, as well as my near-future ability to be able to access HRT and top surgery.”

- Lorain County Resident , Age 16



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for Lorain County youth (n=3) and quantitative data on bullying, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents age 12-17 and reporting a zipcode in Lorain County (n=8).

Trans Men and Transmasculine Community

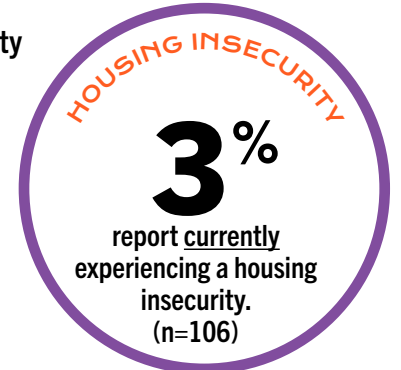
Trans men and transmasculine community members, regardless of their sexual orientation, over the age of 18, and reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County or the surrounding areas.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Develop comprehensive educational resources on testosterone and its side effects, ensuring accurate information is widely available.
- Train mental health providers to better understand and support transmasculine individuals.
- Implement protocols to prevent misgendering and ensure transmasculine individuals are taken seriously in all professional and healthcare settings.
- Increase research and support for trans BIPOC individuals, focusing on their unique intersections.
- Provide accessible resources and guidance for managing pre-existing conditions with testosterone use.
- Improve the training of researchers to be culturally competent and sensitive to transmasculine needs.
- Simplify and affirm the informed consent process in healthcare.
- Ensure continuous and proactive follow-up care for transmasculine patients, offering alternatives without them needing to ask.
- Advocate for the removal of insurance barriers that require unnecessary proof for treatment changes.
- Provide more comprehensive medical guidance to reduce the reliance on patients seeking information themselves.
- Enhance the supportiveness and affirmation at Pride clinics.
- Increase trust in medical professionals by improving their understanding and affirming behavior towards transmasculine individuals.
- Standardize care practices, including proper injection training, for transmasculine healthcare.
- Encourage and support more trans individuals entering healthcare professions.
- Address educational and job mobility barriers caused by early trauma.
- Reduce costs for accessing transmasculine-specific events and spaces.
- Create more everyday spaces that cater to social and professional needs of the transmasculine community.
- Promote awareness and understanding of transmasculine experiences through education and visibility.
- Organize and support trans-friendly job fairs and ensure DEI training for employers beforehand.
- Improve job assistance and resources for trans veterans, with a focus on black trans veterans.

Being transmasculine means navigating a world where information, understanding, and care often feel out of reach. We need comprehensive resources about testosterone and its effects, accessible and reliable for everyone."

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 31



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for transmasculine and tran men (n=5) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents identifying as trans men (n=113).

Trans Women and Transfeminine Community

Trans women and transfeminine community members, regardless of their sexual orientation, over the age of 18, and reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County or the surrounding areas.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Develop more recovery spaces or expand existing ones to be LGBTQ+ affirming, addressing the funding and insurance barriers.
- Increase resources and support for the transitioning process, including transportation assistance to access these resources.
- Establish more communal safe spaces and sober spaces, such as coffee shops, tea places, and general arts venues.
- Enhance education programs and support services related to rights, law, and legal services, addressing barriers like internet access, language, and tech-savviness.
- Foster and promote affirming neighborhoods similar to Lakewood, Cleveland Heights (Coventry), Gordon Square, and Ohio City.
- Create more affirming programs for youth, focusing on gender-neutral activities in arts and music at community organizations.
- Increase trans representation in the media, promoting resources like Translash Media (podcast), Out.com, and activists like Alok (@alokvmenon).
- Provide more support for trans people when dealing with police, including training for law enforcement and community support programs.
- Organize communal activities that are safe and supportive for trans individuals.
- Make sports safer and more inclusive for LGBTQ+ youth, providing supportive environments and preventing suppression of identities.
- Ensure inclusive sex education is accessible to all, incorporating it into school curriculums and community programs.
- Improve public bathroom safety by advocating for inclusive bathroom policies and facilities.
- Increase trans voter registration and political representation through targeted campaigns and support networks.
- Develop trauma-informed spaces that address transphobia and provide safe environments for trans individuals.

“It’s not just about surviving; it’s about living fully in spaces that affirm and protect us. We need more recovery spaces that welcome our identities, and safe, sober places where we can gather, relax, and just be ourselves.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Unknown Age





Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

Nonbinary Community

Nonbinary community members, regardless of their sexual orientation who are over the age of 18, and reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County or the surrounding areas.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Launch awareness campaigns and educational programs to increase understanding of nonbinary identities and experiences within the broader community.
- Expand and promote gender-affirming healthcare services, including training for healthcare providers on nonbinary-specific needs and issues.
- Create and support more safe, inclusive spaces for nonbinary individuals, ensuring these spaces are widely publicized and accessible.
- Develop and implement policies in educational institutions that support nonbinary students, including more GSAs and affinity groups.
- Increase funding and reduce costs for access to healing and community spaces, ensuring these spaces are economically accessible.
- Foster greater collaboration and communication among LGBTQ+ organizations to enhance visibility and support for nonbinary community members.
- Establish targeted programs and resources to address the specific experiences of discrimination and economic challenges faced by nonbinary individuals.
- Enhance awareness and accessibility of legal and political support resources through streamlined, widely promoted initiatives.

“As a nonbinary person, I want top surgery, but not HRT. I am worried it will be restricted in Ohio, and that it will be to expensive for me to access. I am worried that because of my gender expression, it will be harder for me to get surgery.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 26

“My biggest concern is being able to be fully out as a nonbinary person in relation to finding employment without fear of discrimination or constantly having to explain what being nonbinary is.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 43



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org

Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for the nonbinary community (n=7) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents identifying as nonbinary (n=228).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

Bisexual Community

Bisexual community members, who are over the age of 18, and reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County or the surrounding areas.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Implement sensitivity training and guidelines for inclusive advertising and promotion of LGBTQ+ health services, ensuring messages do not perpetuate biphobia.
- Facilitate open dialogues and community feedback forums to address internalized biphobia and promote positive messaging about bi+ identities.
- Consult and recognize current bi+ leadership within community organizations, ensuring representation and accountability in leadership positions.
- Advocate for policy reforms requiring LGBTQ+ competency training in medical education and ongoing professional development for healthcare providers.
- Empower community-led groups through funding and support to provide health coaching and advocacy services tailored to bi+ community needs.
- Encourage community leaders to publicly acknowledge and address systemic errors and biases, promoting transparency and community-driven solutions.

“The current climate of anger towards our community and lately even locally, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, of which I am a member, is being targeted. I’m afraid for my safety some of the time.”

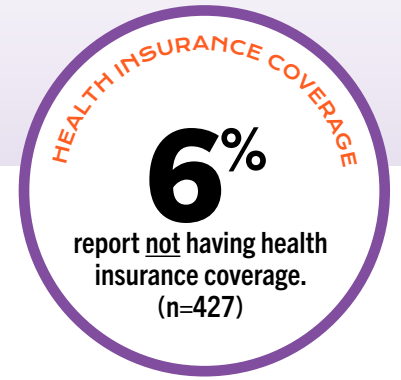
- Lake County Resident, Age 40

“Right now making my chosen family and being welcomed into the leather community bring me the most joy in my life.

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 25

“I am bisexual and ‘pass’ as straight because I have been in a relationship with a cisgender straight man for 7 years. It is sometimes hard for me to feel like part of the queer community because other see me as an ‘ally’ rather than a member. But I am and always will be queer. I am still attracted to both men and women.”

- Lake County Resident , Age 46



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for the bisexual community (n=2) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents identifying as bisexual (n=455).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

Latiné, Latinx, Latino, Hispanic and Spanish LGBTQ+ Community

Latiné, Latinx, Latino, Hispanic, Afro-Latino, and/or Spanish LGBTQ+ community members, over the age of 18, who reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County or the surrounding area.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Establish community-centric free support groups to address the stigma, access, and cost of mental health resources.
- Implement training programs in LGBTQ+ venues to reduce discrimination based on language barriers and accents, fostering a more inclusive environment.
- Increase awareness and intervention programs to address violence and bullying, promoting safer spaces within the community.
- Foster collaborative efforts between intersectional community groups and organizations to provide comprehensive support.
- Enforce anti-discrimination policies in workplaces and provide support for those facing workplace racism.
- Enhance safety measures in digital spaces and public transit, including more safety/security staff and better enforcement of legal protections.
- Provide legal services through existing support organizations to assist with navigating legal documentation issues.
- Allocate budget and prioritize the translation of resources and materials into Spanish, ensuring accessibility for non-English speakers in LGBTQ+ spaces and events.

“The inclusion of Latino queer individuals in Cleveland is still a relatively new practice. studies like this one not only address this by creating space but also provided accessible language and resources for a community that has long needed visibility and information. While the work has begun, I am eager to see its continued development and growth in the future.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 39



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org

Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for the Latiné, Latinx, Latino, Hispanic and Spanish LGBTQ+ community (n=7) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents identifying as Latiné, Latinx, Latino, Hispanic or Spanish (n=107).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

Black and African American LGBTQ+ Community

Black, African American, and/or Afro-latino LGBTQ+ community members, over the age of 18, and reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County or the surrounding area.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Expand services for affordable housing, particularly on the east side of Cleveland, and establish more LGBTQ+-friendly housing options.
- Address food insecurity by creating more accessible and healthy food options and improving transportation to these resources.
- Develop and support intersectional spaces for Black LGBTQ+ individuals, fostering a sense of community and belonging.
- Implement policies and training programs to reduce discrimination in nightlife and other social spaces, ensuring inclusivity and safety.
- Enhance public transportation safety measures and provide more options for accessing healthy food.
- Improve access to healthcare by addressing systemic barriers, increasing supportive resources, and ensuring inclusive and affirming care for Black LGBTQ+ individuals.
- Create microgrant programs and networking opportunities for Black LGBTQ+ artists and independent workers to support their creative and professional endeavors.
- Strengthen community-based services to address intersectionality and historical trauma, ensuring they are robust and inclusive.

"I worry about the intersections of my queerness and Blackness in interactions with safety and law enforcement officials, as well as recreational and leisure activities in certain spaces."

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 45



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for the Black and African American LGBTQ+ community (n=7) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents identifying as Black or African American (n=180).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

**INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS**

Middle Eastern and North African LGBTQ+ Community

Middle Eastern and/or North African LGBTQ+ community members over the age of 18 who reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County.

While this community spotlight aims to shed light on the experiences and needs of Middle Eastern and North African (ME/NA) LGBTQ+ individuals, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of our study. The ME/NA LGBTQ+ community remains underrepresented in our sample, which may be attributed to several factors, including geographical isolation, historical marginalization, and the mistrust of research initiatives due to past exploitation and cultural insensitivity. Despite having collected insights on the following community priorities and calls to action, our team would like to highlight the need for more inclusive and targeted efforts to ensure their voices are adequately heard and represented in future research and community assessments.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Promote opportunities for ME/NA people in management and other power positions within the LGBTQ+ community.
- Utilize government grant programs to repurpose empty and unused real estate, such as Airbnbs, for affordable housing for immigrants and homeless LGBTQ+ youth.
- Foster volunteering and financial assistance programs from large organizations to support emergency food, shelter, and voucher services. Implement food recycling programs.
- Develop educational resources and outreach programs to enhance understanding of religious and cultural beliefs. Include required workplace training on these topics.
- Create and distribute educational resources for LGBTQ+ education in the ME/NA community, emphasizing safety, acceptability, and receptiveness.
- Promote Queer ME/NA safe spaces through TV ads and other confidential channels.
- Implement educational resources and required training in workplaces to combat ME/NA discrimination, focusing on microaggressions and colorism. Foster more sensitivity and language education.
- Provide educational resources and training for the LGBTQ+ community about ME/NA cultures and intersectionality. Include outreach to physicians in training, clinical programs, and workplaces.
- Expand case management services by creating more paid positions for community health workers both within the health system and the community.
- Develop third-party representation, interpreters, financial assistance, and community outreach to support ME/NA individuals needing resources for citizenship, documentation, and safety. Encourage support from the LGBTQ+ community to foster buy-in from the ME/NA community.

“My biggest concern as part of the LGBTQ+ community is not being fully accepted or loved by my middle eastern family once they know who I am.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 30



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for the Middle Eastern and North African LGBTQ+ community (n=2) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents identifying as Middle Eastern or North African (n=36). Limitation: underrepresentation in intersectionality listening session.



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

Asian American and Pacific Islander LGBTQ+ Community

Asian American and/or Pacific Islander LGBTQ+ community over the age of 18 who reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County.

While this community spotlight aims to shed light on the experiences and needs of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AA/PI) LGBTQ+ individuals, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of our study. The AA/PI LGBTQ+ community remains underrepresented in our sample, which may be attributed to several factors, including geographical isolation, historical marginalization, and the mistrust of research initiatives due to past exploitation and cultural insensitivity. Despite having collected insights on the following community priorities and calls to action, our team would like to highlight the need for more inclusive and targeted efforts to ensure their voices are adequately heard and represented in future research and community assessments.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Support the expansion and resourcing of existing AA/PI queer organizations like OPAWL to increase accessibility and outreach within the community.
- Advocate for education and cultural competency training within AA/PI-serving organizations to ensure LGBT inclusivity and trauma-informed care.
- Facilitate the establishment of new inter-organizational groups tailored to the diverse needs of AA/PI LGBTQ+ people, fostering community and support across generational and cultural differences.
- Promote media portrayal and visibility of AA/PI LGBTQ+ individuals, advocating for their inclusion in community events, social justice initiatives, and government policies without tokenization.
- Organize listening sessions and cultural exchanges to bridge inter-community cultural differences and foster understanding among adopted and emigrated AA/PI individuals.

“Coming out to my Chinese immigrant parents led to me being kicked out of the house. It took me a long time to understand there will be a lot of people in life who don’t love you because of who you are. But there’s gonna be a lot of people who do love you. One of those people is going to be you one day.”

- Lake County Resident, Age 31

View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for the Asian American and Pacific Islander LGBTQ+ community (n=1) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents identifying as Asian American or Pacific Islander (n=44). Limitation: underrepresentation in intersectionality listening session.



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

American Indian and Alaska Native LGBTQ+ Community

American Indian and/or Alaska Native LGBTQ+ community members over the age of 18 who reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County.

While this community spotlight aims to shed light on the experiences and needs of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) LGBTQ+ individuals, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of our study. The AI/AN LGBTQ+ community remains underrepresented in our sample, which may be attributed to several factors, including geographical isolation, historical marginalization, and the mistrust of research initiatives due to past exploitation and cultural insensitivity. Despite many attempts by our team to host intersectionality listening sessions for this part of our community we were unable to engage this important part of our community in collecting qualitative lived experiences.

Due to the lack of identifying community priorities and calls to action directly from AI/AN LGBTQ+ community members and to address these limitations and enhance future engagement and representation of the AI/AN LGBTQ+ community in future initiatives, our team proposes the following actions:

- Build trust with the AI/AN LGBTQ+ community through cultural competency
- Increase outreach and accessibility to the AI/AN community
- Strengthen community partnerships with historically trusted AI/AN serving organizations
- Promote inclusive policy and advocacy for the AI/AN LGBTQ+ community
- Provide funding and resources

By implementing these actions, we can work towards a more inclusive and representative understanding of the AI/AN LGBTQ+ community, ensuring that their voices are heard, respected, and valued in all aspects of research and community engagement.

“With being Indigenous as well as a woman, I get talked down too a lot! People have no idea what a 2 spirit person is. I have to be firm and hold my ground. I try to pave the way for the 2 spirit people’s after me.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 43



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native (n=49). Limitation: no representation in intersectionality listening session.



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

LGBTQ+ Business Owners

LGBTQ+ community members who own a business in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Geauga County.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Develop comprehensive advertising campaigns and community initiatives to foster greater support and patronage of LGBTQ+-owned businesses.
- Create and maintain a robust LGBTQ+ business directory and network, ensuring accessibility and promotion across various platforms.
- Advocate for financial literacy programs and affordable health insurance options tailored to LGBTQ+ business owners, addressing specific needs and challenges.
- Implement mentorship programs and community-wide events focused on business development and advocacy for LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs.
- Expand educational opportunities and awareness campaigns to dispel myths and misconceptions about LGBTQ+ financial status and needs.
- Collaborate with advocacy organizations and policymakers to enhance legal protections and support for LGBTQ+-owned businesses, including certification processes.
- Promote the creation of safe spaces and inclusive policies within business communities, ensuring equitable treatment and opportunities for LGBTQ+ individuals.

“I have no clue as to what would make small or medium sized local businesses to feel safer in being openly LGBTQ identifying. They seem terrified of the backlash, and do not think LGBTQ customers would ‘make up the difference.’”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 58

“My biggest worry is my business being targeted for a hate crime, I own a luxury lingerie and lifestyle store and we are very inclusive, binders and tucking underwear, and I fear that someone could try and get us closed or worse cause damage to the physical property of a person working.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 36

“My only concern is how utilizing a rainbow flag on my products may negatively impact others desire to purchase them.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 45



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for LGBTQ+ business owners (n=7) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents who indicated owning a business (n=218).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

LGBTQ+ Performers and Entertainers

LGBTQ+ community members who are performers or entertainers over the age of 18 who reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga county.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Establish a union for drag performers and entertainers to ensure fair compensation and accountability for cancellations.
- Promote visibility and support for sex-positive spaces such as strip clubs, bathhouses, and swinger clubs.
- Increase access to health care through organizations like Central Outreach and Planned Parenthood; provide legal services and insurance options.
- Develop educational resources and workshops on what it entails to work in drag and performing, including financial and legal aspects.
- Create more LGBTQ+-specific, sober spaces for all-age performances and events, such as drag chess nights or brunches for kids.
- Implement safety plans and protocols for performances, especially in response to resistance and threats from groups opposing all-age drag events.
- Address drug and alcohol use in performance spaces by providing alternative venues and support for those in recovery.
- Organize monthly community meetings for mentorship, networking, and sharing experiences in a neutral, non-bar setting.
- Educate bar and venue owners on the value and needs of LGBTQ+ performers, potentially through workshops like Drag 101.
- Advocate for performers' rights to refuse exploitation and demand fair treatment, booking fees, and respect as professionals.

"I don't appear LGBTQ+ enough for many, and too much for others. Usually as a drag entertainer it's the former. My biggest issue is trying to perform and do enough gigs to count as a job, while being disabled."

- Lorain County Resident, Age 33



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org

Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for LGBTQ+ performers and entertainers (n=6) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey who indicated an occupation in Arts/Design/Entertainment/Sports/Media (n=168).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

Drug and Alcohol Misuse, Addiction, and Recovery in the LGBTQ+ Community

LGBTQ+ community members who struggle with drug or alcohol misuse, addiction, or are in recovery over the age 18 who reside in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, or Lorain County.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Establish trans-inclusive rehabilitation centers to ensure all individuals receive appropriate and respectful care.
- Implement gender-neutral restrooms in public spaces and recovery facilities to accommodate all individuals.
- Increase visibility and support for the sober LGBTQ+ community through public awareness campaigns and dedicated support groups.
- Develop recovery programs that specifically address and support diverse gender identities. Implement comprehensive training programs for law enforcement on issues related to trans safety and LGBTQ+ inclusivity.
- Create employment support programs that specifically assist individuals in recovery from the LGBTQ+ community to find and maintain stable employment.
- Utilize abandoned properties and increase funding to expand residential treatment and phase-based recovery options.
- Implement prevention programs for LGBTQ+ youth in unsafe family situations, including safe shelters and support homes.
- Improve the training and vetting of rehab workers to ensure they are passionate and committed to the recovery process.
- Promote unity and support at the intersection of recovery and LGBTQ+ identities through community programs and peer support systems.

“As a sober individual in recovery, the majority of LGBTQ+ events are filled with drugs or alcohol, which makes it hard to connect with the community.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident , Age 28



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for drug and alcohol misuse, addiction, and Recovery in the LGBTQ+ community (n=12) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents indicating a diagnosed dependence on alcohol or drugs (n=234).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

LGBTQ+ Survivors of Violence

LGBTQ+ community members who are experiencing or have experienced violence who are over 18 years of age and reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga county. This may include the experience of physical or sexual violence, verbal or emotional abuse, and/or intimate partner violence.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Implement specialized training for healthcare providers on trauma-informed care for LGBTQ+ survivors of violence.
- Advocate for policy changes to improve access to safe and supportive housing options, including reforms to Section 8 procedures.
- Establish peer support networks and community-led initiatives to provide ongoing support for survivors, addressing both social and healthcare needs.
- Promote workplace diversity and inclusion training, focusing on LGBTQ+ issues, pronoun usage, and creating supportive environments.

"I have to exist in a way that feels like not existing. Most times, they [doctors] just tell you to get over it. People aren't worried about you; you have to worry about yourself."

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 29



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for LGBTQ+ survivors of violence (n=6) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents indicating experiencing difficulty with elder abuse or intimate partner violence (n=26).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

Disabilities in the LGBTQ+ Community

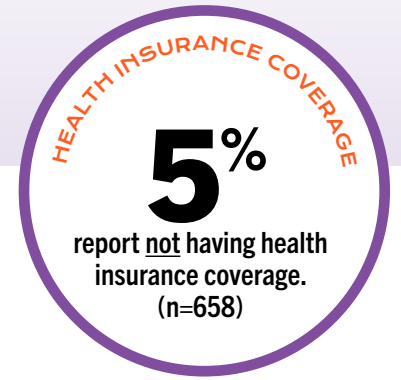
LGBTQ+ community members living with one or more disabilities who are 18 years or older and reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga county. This may include but not limited to physical, sensory, neurodevelopmental, intellectual, chronic illness, and/or invisible disabilities.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Develop and implement specialized training programs for law enforcement agencies on interacting with autistic individuals, emphasizing communication strategies and de-escalation techniques.
- Advocate for systemic reform within the legal system to address discrimination and ensure equitable access to legal services for LGBTQ+ individuals with disabilities.
- Establish comprehensive psychosocial evaluation protocols for prospective parents in the foster care and adoption systems, ensuring they are equipped to support children with trauma and disabilities.
- Create databases of LGBTQ+ affirming lawyers and legal services, expanding accessibility and support for individuals facing discrimination in disability and SSI legal processes.

“The lack of care or knowledge of disability and accessibility in queer spaces makes them unwelcoming. The ONLY group who has cared for us are other disabled folks. Until the queer community is ready to address its ableism it will continue to be a hostile place for a lot of folks.”

- Lorain County Resident , Age 37



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for disabilities in the LGBTQ+ community (n=3) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents indicating a diagnosed disability (n=693).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

LGBTQ+ People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)

LGBTQ+ community members living with HIV/AIDS who are over the age of 18 and reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga county.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Establish dedicated funding and grant programs for transitional housing tailored to PLWHA, ensuring ongoing support beyond case management.
- Advocate for policy changes to recognize HIV/AIDS as a qualifying condition for SSI, streamlining the application process and providing necessary financial support.
- Expand outreach efforts and create centralized hubs for accessible and inclusive dissemination of HIV care resources, both digitally and physically.
- Collaborate with healthcare providers to enhance cultural competency and reduce stigma in HIV care settings.
- Promote peer support programs and mentorship initiatives within the community to foster a supportive network for PLWHA, including buddy programs and support groups.

“I have Medicaid and am HIV positive and am worried about making more money and losing my insurance, but cannot move out of my housing situation unless I make more right now. I know that there are programs that will help cover medical costs if I lose my insurance but I am afraid of trying to navigate those changes.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 28

“We need greater resources for healthcare support for HIV+ individuals regardless of income level. More organizations who can help navigate the available programs would make a big impact.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 43

“My biggest fear as a person living with HIV is that I will lose my health insurance and not be taken care of causing me to go bankrupt because of high costs associated with care. My second biggest concern is the stigma from both society and even the LGBTQ+ community regarding positive undetectable status.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 48



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for LGBTQ+ people living with HIV/AIDS (n=9) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to HIV positive respondents (n=68).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

Incarceration, Arrest, Detainment, and Negative Law Enforcement Interactions in the LGBTQ+ Community

LGBTQ+ community members who have been incarcerated, arrested, detained, or had a negative interaction with law enforcement who are over 18 years of age and reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga county.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Advocate for the creation of separate, safe spaces within prisons for LGBTQ+ individuals to ensure their safety and well-being.
- Implement comprehensive LGBTQ+ sensitivity and cultural competency training programs for prison staff to reduce discrimination and mistreatment.
- Establish supportive programs that address economic disparities and provide access to affordable healthcare, including hormone treatments, both during and after incarceration.

“Prison is not a safe place to be openly ‘out,’ especially in the general population. There needs to be a separate space for safety. It’s more accepted and safer in women’s prisons compared to men’s.”

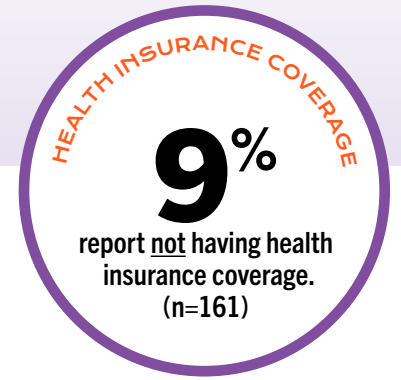
- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 45

“I still have concerns about police and Law Enforcement. Having experienced abuse during a mental health crisis, I just can never trust them.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 69

“I fear interactions with law enforcement. Given the history of relations between police departments and the LGBTQ+ community, I’m sure this is a common concern, and it causes me to feel more fear and anxiety than protection whenever I have to interact with law enforcement or other powerful figures.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 25



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for incarceration, arrest, detainment, and negative law enforcement interaction in the LGBTQ+ community (n=14) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents who indicated having been arrested, detained, incarcerated or had a negative interaction with law enforcement in the past five years (n=161).



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

**INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS**

Parents, Grandparents, or Legal Guardians of LGBTQ+ Youth

Parents, grandparents, or guardians of LGBTQ+ youth and reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County or the surrounding areas.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Advocate for the training and certification of more counselors specializing in transgender youth.
- Create centralized resource hubs to reduce the burden on parents and guardians searching for information and support.
- Develop and promote networks for parents to connect, share information, and support each other.
- Identify and promote affirming churches, and use these spaces as community hubs for support and resources.
- Encourage school systems to collaborate with community organizations and parent groups to address fear of pushback and promote inclusive policies.
- Offer life skills training for parents and caregivers to better support their LGBTQ+ youth in transitioning to adulthood.
- Increase the promotion and availability of gender-neutral recreational activities and spaces.
- Improve access to gender-affirming clothing through local initiatives and partnerships.
- Provide guidance and safety plans for navigating social media and balancing visibility with safety, particularly in rural areas.
- Establish and support Gay-Straight Alliances (GSA's) in schools to provide safe spaces and resources for LGBTQ+ youth.
- Develop resources and support systems for neurodivergent LGBTQ+ youth.
- Enhance the visibility of affirming symbols and messages in the community.
- Offer guidance and education for parents and caregivers on how to support their LGBTQ+ children's friendships and relationships.
- Provide comprehensive, science-based sex education that is LGBTQ+ affirming for both parents and youth.
- Develop and implement allyship training programs for parents and caregivers to better understand and support the LGBTQ+ community.

"I am concerned for my child's safety. They are gender-fluid and the county isn't exactly the most welcoming place. I worry less about myself because I am able to stay closeted in situations that I wouldn't feel safe in."

- Geauga County Resident, Age 33

"I am the parent of a transgender child and losing healthcare is a major concern for us"

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 40

View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for Parents, Grandparents, or Legal Guardians of LGBTQ+ youth (n=3). Limitation: No quantitative indicators measuring parents, grandparents, or legal guardians of LGBTQ+ Youth were included in the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey.



Greater Cleveland

LGBTQ+

Community Needs Assessment

**INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS**

LGBTQ+ Kink Community

LGBTQ+ community members, over the age of 18, who are engaged in or involved with the kink community (ex., leather or BDSM) in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County or the surrounding areas.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Advocate for legislative changes to protect and promote the legality of consensual kink spaces. Lobby for the support of politicians and legislative leaders.
- Increase diversity and visibility across the LGBTQ+ spectrum through inclusive events, educational programming, and better marketing strategies.
- Develop and promote trusted, vetted resources related to kink safety and sex education by unifying efforts of existing organizations.
- Foster acceptance of kink events at non-kink-specific locations to bridge the gap in perception and reality.
- Create more substantial and inclusive multimedia representation, including local films and social media presence, to educate and maintain communication.
- Improve access to affordable kink gear and merchandise, ensuring guidance and instructional assistance are available.

“The kink community is built on community. The way I see it, believing in one another and fostering growth together is paramount. We can’t keep our community alive without supporting one another.”

- Summit County Resident, Age 27

“The current climate of anger towards our community and lately even locally, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, of which I am a member, is being targeted. I’m afraid for my safety some of the time.”

- Lake County Resident, Age 40

“Right now making my chosen family and being welcomed into the leather community bring me the most joy in my life.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 25

“Many of us turn our backs on religious community to embrace our authentic selves and identity. There needs to be a space for those who are queer and spiritual. I want a space, a room, a platform ... anything where people don’t have to be belittled for being this (kinky) or that (religious/spiritual) – a space to embrace both identities.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 36



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org

Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for the LGBTQ+ kink community (n=10).
Limitation: No quantitative indicators measuring the kink community were included in the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey.



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INTERSECTIONALITY
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

Sex Work in the LGBTQ+ Community

LGBTQ+ community members currently or in the past involved in sex work over 18 years of age and reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County. This may include individuals who work in the adult entertainment industry, engage in escort services, or have experience with other forms of commercial sexual work.

While this community spotlight aims to shed light on the experiences and needs of LGBTQ+ individuals who are sex workers, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of our study. Sex workers in the LGBTQ+ community remain underrepresented in our sample, which may be attributed to several factors, including lack of quantitative indicators measuring sex work in our community survey, historical marginalization, and the mistrust of research initiatives due to past exploitation and cultural insensitivity. Despite having collected qualitative insights on the following community priorities and calls to action, our team would like to highlight the need for more inclusive and targeted efforts to ensure their voices are adequately heard and represented in future research and community assessments.

Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Establish safety protocols and resources for sex workers, including self-defense workshops, realistic self-defense items, and safety check-in systems through apps or social media.
- Advocate for accessible housing programs and emergency transitional housing options tailored to the needs of sex workers, ensuring stability and safety.
- Develop comprehensive support programs that include life skills workshops, education opportunities, and career development initiatives to empower individuals to transition out of sex work.
- Enhance healthcare access and support for sex workers, including onsite testing for STIs, cultural competence training for healthcare providers, and destigmatization of sex work in medical settings.

“Back in the day- we used to look out for each other. It’s not the same anymore. These kids need a phone app to help with safety [when engaging in sex work].

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 62

“It’s a social issue that no one wants to talk about because of the stigma surrounding it. You’re looked down on, treated as if you’re beneath others. I needed to do it to eat, to survive. I hate the way people judge.”

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 59

View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at lgbtqohio.org



Data Source: Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for sex work in the LGBTQ+ community (n=10).
Limitation: no quantitative indicators measuring sex work were included in the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey.

“The big challenge is that there is no coordinated city or regional direction on LGBTQ issues, and that speaks a lot to the organizations' leadership that we have.”





LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

ЦЕНТР ЛГБТ КОММУНИТИ

LGBT Community Center

5705

More Information and Data Requests

The intention of this community needs assessment is to collect information directly from the local LGBTQ+ community and provide it in an organized, accessible, and easy-to-use format for community members, stakeholders, and organizations who serve the LGBTQ+ community to carry out their mission.

Please visit our website at lgbtqohio.org for more information and to stay up to date with this project and future related work.

By visiting the website, you will be able to:

- Download a .PDF copy of this Full Community Report and Recommendations
- Download a .PDF copy of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report
- Access the interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard
- Access the Local Resource Linktree
- Learn more about expanding and adapting this work to Northeast Ohio
- Request a presentation of this information to your organization
- Connect with the project for future opportunities to support this work



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