

# LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care: The Need for Affirming Homes

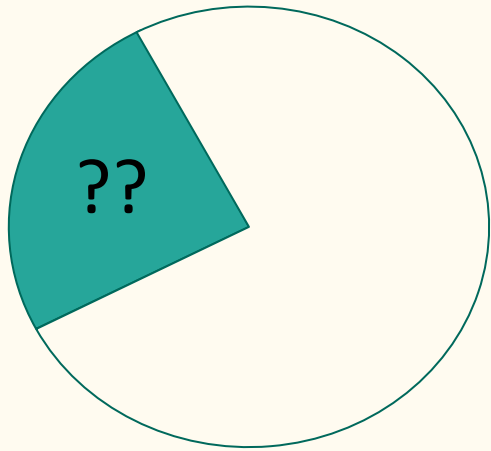


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*“I was told that foster families didn’t want a gay kid in their home, so I grew up in group homes and residential centers where I was abused sexually, physically and emotionally.”*

**– Kristopher, eight years in foster care**

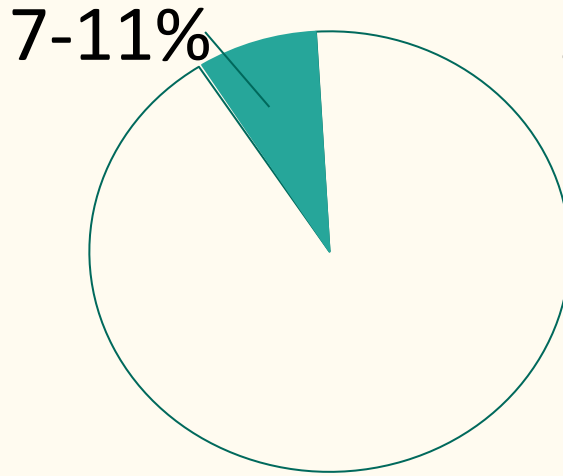
(Human Rights Campaign 2016)



20,000 Youth Age Out Nationally Each Year

?? Unknown What Percent of Youth Aging Out Identify as LGBTQ

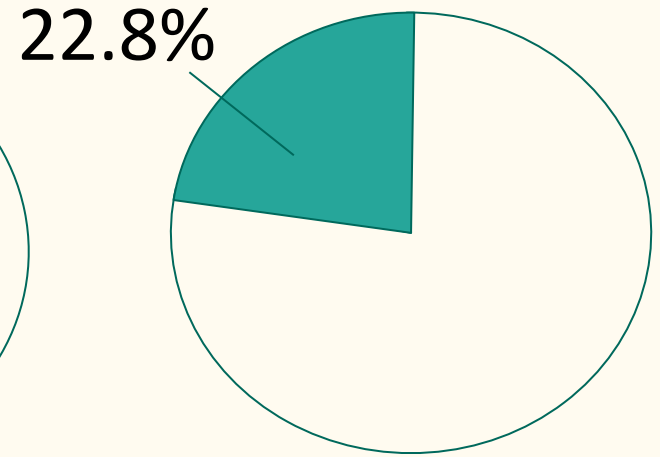
(Lee & Berrick 2014, Dworsky & Hall 2013)



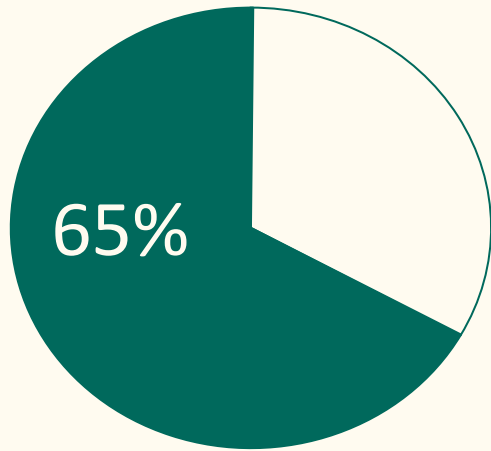
Youth In Nation who Identify as LGBT

Disproportionate Amount of LGB Youth In Foster Care Underestimates True Prevalence of LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care

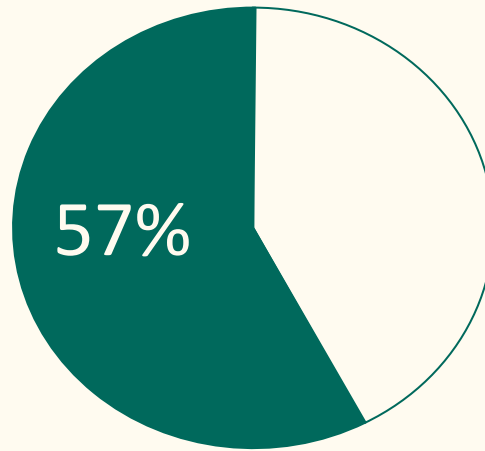
(Forthcoming Study as Cited in Martin et al 2016)



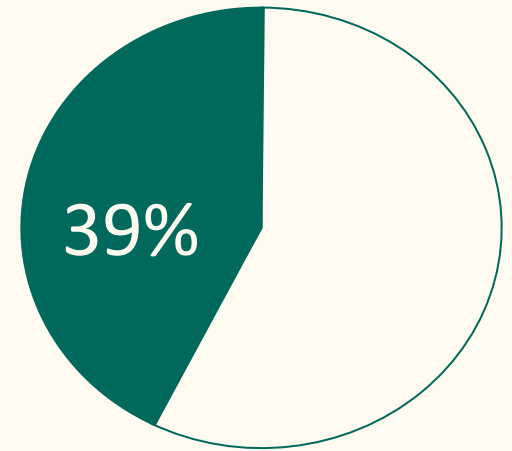
Youth In Foster Care who Identify as LGB



65% of all LGBT youth nationally, had lived in foster care or a group home



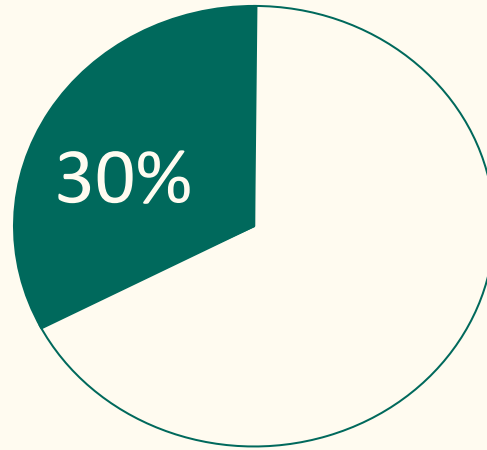
57% of LGBTQ youth in foster care identify as people of color



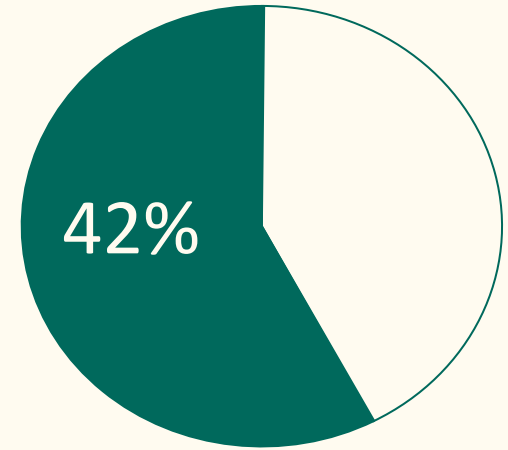
39% of LGBTQ youth in foster care were forced to leave their home because of their sexual orientation or gender identity

# Disparities While In Foster Care

- Lack of stability, safety, permanence
- Over twice as likely to have caregivers request placement move (19.6% compared to 8.6%)
- Disproportionately placed in higher and more restrictive levels of care



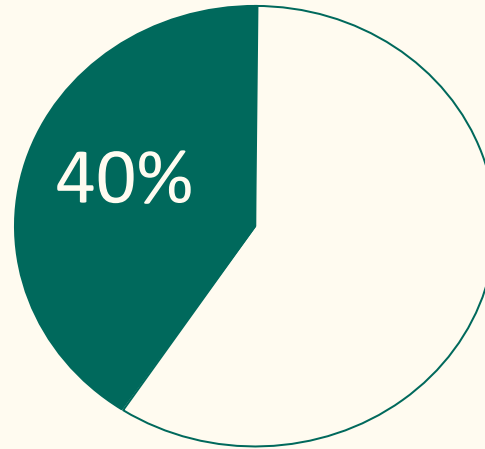
30% of LGBT youth in foster care reported physical violence from foster families after disclosing their LGBTQ identities



42% of LGBTQ youth in foster care were removed from their homes based on reactions to their LGBTQ identities

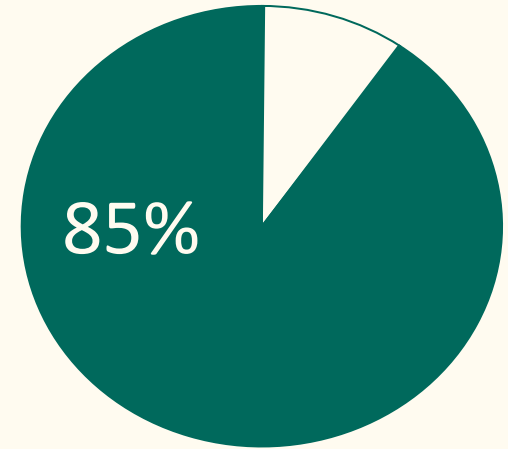
# Disparities After Aging Out

- Disparities in functional outcomes including education, employment, housing stability, and finances
- Suicide attempts at least double for LGBTQ youth
- Substance use issues 15 times higher for gay and bisexual youth men
- Further disparities for youth of color



40% of runaway and homeless youth identify as LGBTQ

40% of young girls in juvenile justice system identify as LGBTQ



85% of LGBTQ young girls in the juvenile justice system identify as youth of color

# Key Implications

- The need for more systems in place to match LGBTQ youth in foster care with LGBTQ affirming homes
- The need for more LGBTQ specific foster care interventions and supports, including LGBTQ specific aging out services
- The need for more research, including research that includes the voices of LGBTQ youth



For more information or questions

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