LGBTQ Pride Month commemorates the anniversary of the Stonewall riots where in June of 1969, patrons and supporters of the Stonewall Inn in New York City staged an uprising against police harassment and persecution of non-heterosexual and non-cisgender (LGBTQ) Americans. This uprising marked the beginning of a movement to outlaw discriminatory laws and practices against LGBTQ Americans.

People who are LGBTQ are members of every community, and include people of all races and ethnicities, all ages, all faiths, all socioeconomic statuses, and from all parts of the country. However we identify, we must become key allies in the necessary efforts to ensure wellness, safety, and equity for all LGBTQ persons. LGBTQ Pride Month serves as an annual reminder to continue promoting laws, policies and programming that affirm, support, and value LGBTQ individuals, families, and communities.

Facts About LGBTQ Youth

95% of LGBTQ youth report they have trouble getting to sleep at night.

77% of LGBTQ youth report that on average they have felt down or depressed in the past week.

51% of transgender youth can never use the restrooms or locker rooms that match their gender identity.

80% of LGBTQ youth of color have personally experienced racism.

In the United States, nearly 40% of homeless youth are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, while LGBTQ youth represent only 7% of the total youth population. In Knoxville, 20% of the youth who are experiencing homelessness identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or questioning. Youth who are experiencing homelessness face unique barriers to care and service, putting them in jeopardy of substance abuse, mental health problems, physical abuse, and sexual exploitation. For LGBTQ youth, these barriers can be even more daunting, creating a dire need for better access to more supportive environments.


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