

RISE PROGRAM

LOS ANGELES

Culturally Responsive Health Justice

Knowledge For Reducing Barriers To Service Provision For LGBTQ+ Children/Youth in Systems of Care

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Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression (SOGIE)

Gender Identity

Sexual Orientation

Sex Assigned at Birth

Gender Expression

Adapted from Prototype by Cristina González, Vanessa Prell, Jack Rivas, Jarrod Schwartz

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Attraction and Gender



Gender Identity
&
Gender Expression
&
Sexual Orientation

- **Not determined** by body parts
- **Distinct** from one another
- **Avoid** assumptions
- **Different** than sexual behavior

Adapted from National Association of Social Workers and Lambda Legal. (2009). Moving the margins: Training curriculum for child welfare services with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth in out-of-home care

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Right to Unbiased & Inclusive Curriculum

- **California Healthy Youth Act**
 - Makes comprehensive sexual health education a requirement
 - Instruction and materials must be appropriate for students of all sexual orientations and genders
 - Schools must teach about sexual orientation, gender identity, the harms of negative stereotypes, sexual harassment, healthy relationships, and can't portray only different-gender couples

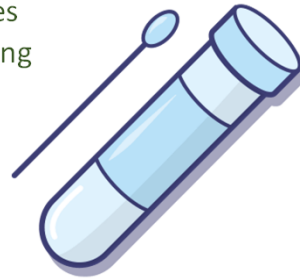


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Right to Access Health Services: Schools

- Students 12 years and older have the right to leave school to seek confidential medical services
- Sensitive services can include but are not limited to:
 - HIV or Sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing
 - Mental health or counseling services
 - Drug or alcohol treatment/counseling
 - Abortion care
 - Obtaining birth control



Confidential Medical Release, CDE Code § 48205

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Reproductive & Sexual Health: Foster Care

- Youth 12+ are entitled to medically accurate information about reproductive health care, the prevention of unplanned pregnancy, and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections



WIC §16001.9

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Understanding the Cycle



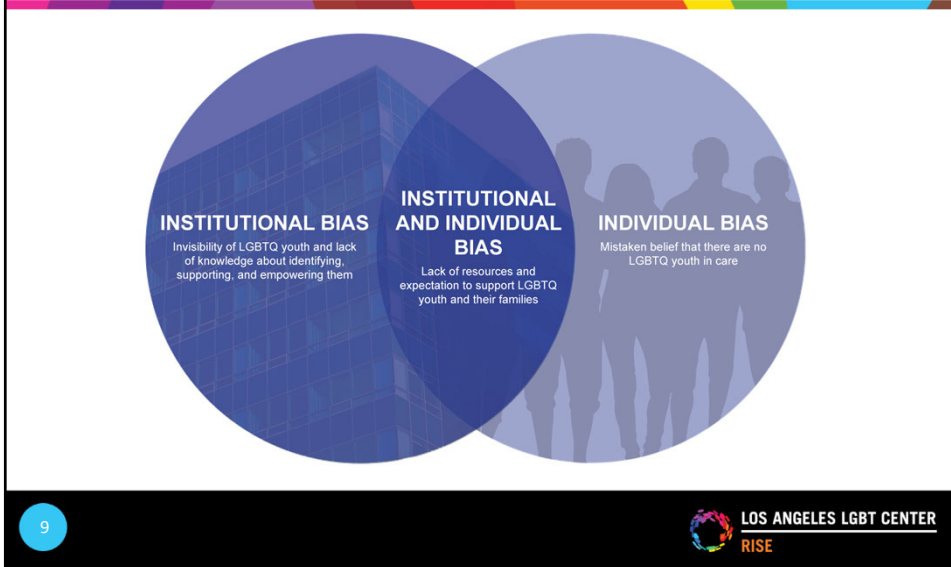
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Lifetime Spiral of Violence + Power & Control Wheel

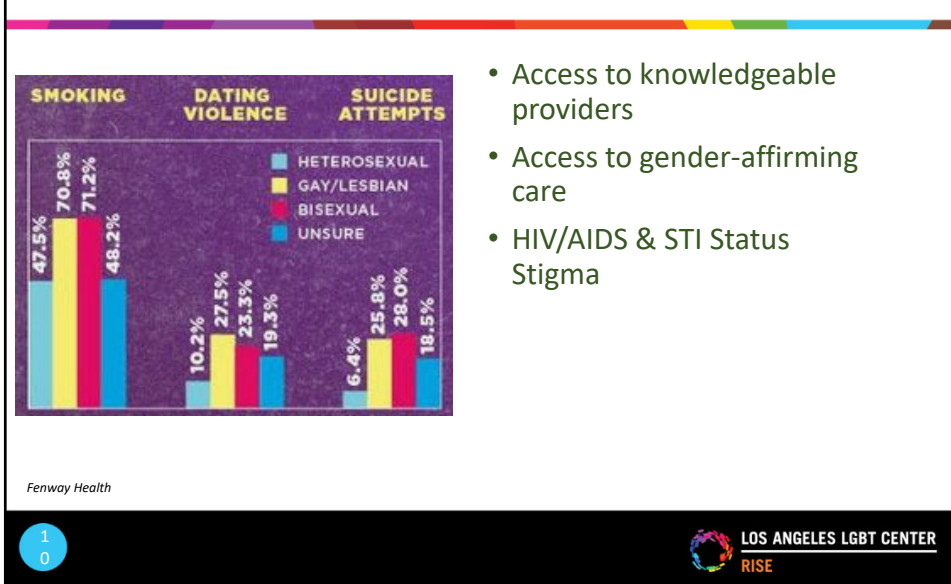


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Barriers to Intervention







Access to Healthcare



Caregivers

- Misinformation
- Lack of resources
- Unique developmental needs & milestones

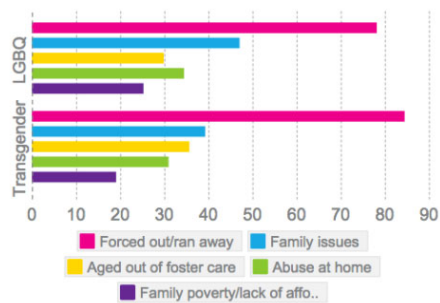
-  **8x**
More likely to attempt suicide
-  **6x**
More likely to report high levels of depression
-  **3x**
More likely to be at high risk for contracting HIV & STIs
-  **3x**
More likely to use illegal drugs

Family Acceptance Project

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Experiencing Homelessness



- Survival Crimes & “Quality of Life” Offenses
- Lack of identification (i.e. couch surfing youth)

True Colors Fund

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Child Welfare System

2x { 

as likely to report **poor treatment** by the foster system.

2x { 

as likely to **live in a group facility**, rather than with a loving family.

- Bias from: social workers, court, attorneys, caregivers, etc.
- Confidentiality and Outing
- Lack of legal framework and/or implementation
- Unaffirming and unsafe placements

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Education

- Non-affirming school climate
- Punitive Discipline
- Truancy

Analysis of State Laws that Address the Consequences of Bullying (as of 4/30/11)

Laws that Rely Solely on Punitive Consequences

57%

43%

Laws that Rely on Punitive Consequences & Supportive/Remedial Interventions

GSA Network

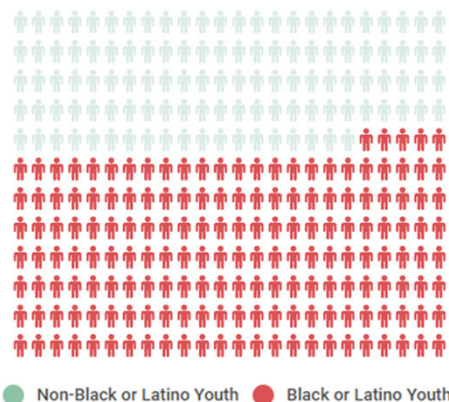
Source: U.S. Department of Education

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Juvenile Justice System

- Overcriminalization
- Incorrect placement and/or solitary
- Abuse



Irvine

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Institutional Obstacles: Caregivers

- **Disbelief, Disregard, & Lack of Credibility**
- **Further rejection**
- Loss of housing and/or permanency options
- Harassment in care + increased risk after abuse
- Lack of supports in child welfare system



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Institutional Obstacles: Legal System

- CSEC Involvement
- Mandated reporting
- Protection orders
- Misidentification as the abuser
- Unaccompanied Minor/Delinquency/Custodial Rights laws



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Institutional Obstacles: Shelters & Service Providers

- RHY vs. DV Shelters
- Safety Measures & Responses not designed for transgender or intersex people
- HIV/AIDS & STI Status Stigma
- Refusal of treatment and/or services + locating affirming services
- Screening process



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Making an Impact with Language

- Terms can convey bias:
 - Lifestyle or phase
 - Preference or choice
 - Popular
 - Homosexual
 - Transsexual
 - “he-she” or “it”
- Use appropriate gender pronouns. For example:
 - She/her/hers
 - He/him/his
 - They/them/theirs
 - All
 - No pronoun



Adapted from: National Association of Social Workers and Lambda Legal. (2009).

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Inclusive Language in Reproductive Health

Use This:

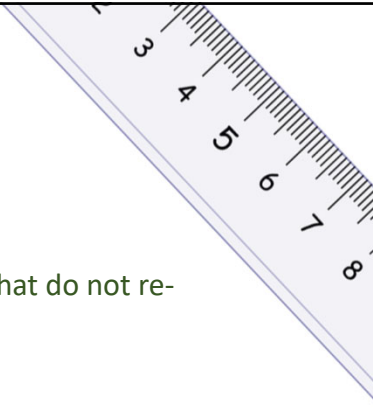
- Nursing/Pumping
- People who __ (e.g. menstruate, are pregnant, etc.)
- Assigned __ at birth
- Insetable condom
- Parenthood + Pregnancy

Vs. This:

- Breastfeeding
- Pregnant women, women on their period, emphasis on females, etc.
- Born a __, actually a __, or biologically a __
- Female condom
- Maternity/Paternity

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Best Practice Guideline

LGBTQ+ youth are entitled to services that do not re-victimize due to lack of inclusion


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Best Practice Guideline

The individual is the expert on the content of their personal culture and identity. Only they can define what health and healing looks like.

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Contact Us

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