

LGBTQ Facts

- It is estimated that in the U.S. a teen takes his/her life every 5 hours because they are gay, bisexual, transgender, or lesbian, and cannot deal with the added stresses that society puts upon them.
- Several studies have found that approximately 40% of homeless teens self-identify as gay/lesbian yet there are relatively few resources specifically aimed at meeting their needs.
- Homeless LGBTQ teens face increased risk for a variety of health and emotional problems.
- LGBTQ youth are two to three times more likely to attempt suicide than non-LGBTQ youth.
- Thirty percent of completed teen suicides are by LGBTQ youth.
- LGBTQ youth are attacked at alarmingly high rates nationwide.
- LGBTQ youth are at increased risk for drug/alcohol problems, teen pregnancy and dropping out of school.
- Many LGBTQ youth drop out of school due to harassment or low self-esteem, and fear of being “outed”.
- People who believe they do not know someone who is LGBTQ are more likely than those who do to reject equal rights for, and equal treatment of, LGBTQ youth.

- Early exposure to diversity and sexuality issues helps to reduce prejudice and homophobia, including internalized homophobia which often leads to self-destructive behaviors.
- Teenagers and young adults are among the leading perpetrators of anti-gay violence.

** LAMBA Youth OUTreach