SOUTHWEST ALABAMA
INCLUSION PROJECT

SOUTHWEST ALABAMA LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

COORDINATED BY THE SOUTHWEST ALABAMA INCLUSION PROJECT

This comprehensive needs assessment explores the lived experiences and challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ individuals in southwest Alabama. It identifies key areas for improvement in mental health, programming, services, and safety to support this diverse community.

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LGBTQIA+: Abbreviation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual. The additional "+" stands for all of the other identities not encompassed in the short acronym. It is an umbrella term that is often used to refer to the community as a whole.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Ambitiously Him and Her King Foundation

B-Bob's

Balanced Life Counseling

The Bevy

Black Belt Community Foundation

Black Empowerment Team

Center for Fair Housing

Citrus and Cane

Door to Serenity

FemmSouth

Flip Side

Flourish Psychotherapy Services

Gabriel's

Herz

Independent Living Center of Mobile

Krewe of Phoenix

LGBTQIA+ Liaisons, City of Mobile

Lifelines Counseling

MedPride and Allies

Mobile County Health Department

Order of Pan

Prime Timers Mobile

Prism United

Rainbow Pride of Mobile

Southern Transgender Alliance

Trans Pride of Mobile

USA Spectrum

We The Change Mobile

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INTRODUCTION

We're thrilled to share with you this groundbreaking report from the Southwest Alabama Inclusion Project (SAIP)! This comprehensive study, crafted by and for our local LGBTQIA+ community, is more than just a project – it's a commitment to understanding and addressing the unique needs and challenges our community faces daily.

This initiative was sparked by a critical lack of local data concerning the lives of LGBTQIA+ individuals in southwest Alabama – Mobile, Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Monroe, and Washington Counties. Aware of the significant impact of minority stress on our community, we realized the pressing need for data to inform community support services and access grant funding. To tackle this, we embarked on a journey in spring of 2022 beginning with community engagement, progressing through insightful focus groups, and culminating in a comprehensive survey that included youth and adults from the LGBTQIA+ community.

We are excited to present the outcomes of this survey in two detailed reports. This first report offers a broad overview of the participants' demographic characteristics and wide-ranging experiences. The second report, Appendix Q: LGBTQIA+ Community Health Needs Assessment in Southwest Alabama, is specially designed for healthcare providers, educators, and administrators. Both reports highlight critical areas where targeted efforts can significantly reduce health disparities linked to minority stress and social exclusion.

The engagement from the community was overwhelming, with 488 participants sharing their experiences openly and honestly. We are deeply grateful to every participant and all our community partners whose contributions have been vital. Your involvement is not just appreciated, it's crucial in our continued efforts to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment across southwest Alabama.

Thank you for taking the time to engage with this important work. Together, we're making strides toward a healthier and more inclusive community!

METHODS

The Southwest Alabama Inclusion Project (SAIP) is a community-based participatory needs assessment of LGBTQIA+ youth and adults in our region, which consisted of three phases: (1) Community Engagement, (2) Exploratory Focus Groups, and (3) Large-Scale Community Surveys directed at Queer Youth and Adults in southwest Alabama. Participants provided information about their demographics and their experiences in the community, in their families of origin, in schools, and in health and seeking health care. Two reports were developed based on these results. The first is the current report, the Southwest Alabama LGBTQIA+ Community Needs Assessment, is directed at the general public. The second report, Appendix Q: LGBTQIA+ Community Health Needs in southwest Alabama, is directed at healthcare providers, administrators, academic faculty, and learners.

Acknowledging the lack of data on the LGBTQIA+ population in southwest Alabama, the primary aim of this research is to evaluate the needs and identity-based experiences of this community. To address this objective, members of the community established SAIP, which embarked on a cross-sectional study engaging a convenience sample of LGBTQIA+ individuals who are currently residing or have recently lived within the bounds of the southwest Alabama region, as demarcated by the Alabama Coordinated Health Network. The region includes Mobile, Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Monroe, and Washington Counties.

Initially, stakeholders within the community pinpointed mental health, community, family, and school inclusion as concepts of significance to providing services for the LGBTQIA+ population. Subsequently, an academic committee devised a set of questions to probe the aforementioned concepts, as identified by these stakeholders. Following this, the academic team developed a survey instrument, employing measures sourced from the existing literature and, when necessary, devising new measures to fill any gaps. To support comparability to national samples of LGBTQIA+, questions on experiencing symptoms of anxiety, depression, suicidality, and perceived health were taken from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey. The current project's design and survey instrument were then reviewed and refined based on feedback garnered from focus groups comprising local LGBTQIA+ individuals and their allies. Modifications were made to the survey to incorporate the community's insights where feasible. One such modification was the inclusion of intermittent informed consent content warnings at the beginning of each thematic section. Participants were informed of the thematic content of the forthcoming section. They were given the option to consent to answer the questions, skip the questions because they "might be stressful," or skip the questions for "another (unspecified) reason." The final version of the survey was constructed utilizing the REDCap platform. The University of South Alabama Institutional Review Board approved the study.

The survey was distributed via various channels, including social media posts, email newsletters, medical clinics, and direct engagement at community resource events, thus ensuring extensive participation from the target demographic. It was open for participation March 5, 2023 – June 30, 2023. Respondents were qualified to participate in the survey if they identified as LGBTQIA+, currently or previously lived in southwest Alabama, and were at least 13 years old. Respondents were defined as being LGBTQIA+ if they identified with a sexual orientation other than straight/heterosexual, a gender identity other than cisgender, or both. A total of 488 respondents met the criteria for inclusion and completed a secure online questionnaire that included a maximum of 120 questions. The Youth Report includes 226 responses from participants aged 13-24. The Adult Report includes 384 responses from participants aged 18+. Responses from 117 participants aged 18-24 were included in both the Youth and Adult Reports as they share characteristics with both groups. Researchers chose to report the results in this way to provide a full picture of youth and adult experiences without truncating either age group. Therefore, direct comparisons between the youth and adult results in these reports should not be made. To support autonomy throughout the survey experience, participants could progress through the survey without answering every question except for demographic questions. Therefore, the number of participants answering each question varied. The total number of responses for each question is included throughout the reports. Participants who were eligible to complete the survey were offered a $10 gift card. Analyses were conducted using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software.

SOUTHWEST ALABAMA INCLUSION PROJECT
DATA ETHICS TENETS

Data collected by the Southwest Alabama Inclusion Project (SAIP) is the result of the labor of survey participants, who are members of the LGBTQIA+ community in southwest Alabama. These data are numerical representations of Queer lived experiences that have been shared with us for the purpose of bettering our community and the quality of life for Queer people living in our region. These Data Ethics Tenets were developed as guidelines to ensure that these data are used to support ethics-driven programming, grant procurement, and advocacy. We understand that doing so honors the humanity and contributions of survey participants, who have made these actions possible.

Southwest Alabama Inclusion Project Community Partners will agree to use SAIP data according to the tenets outlined below.

The Data Ethics Tenets are:

1. **Uphold applicable statutes, regulations, professional practices, and ethical standards.** Organizational leaders are encouraged to maintain up-to-date, comprehensive ethical standards regarding data use and staff are responsible for learning and applying agency guidance appropriately. SAIP data should only be used to support professional activities that are delivered according to the professional ethics and the standard guidelines that govern each field of practice. For example, medical and mental health professionals working in SAIP-supported programs should be fully licensed and appropriately trained to deliver the services that their agency promotes. Nonprofessional agency employees should be trained to deliver services with culturally competent, trauma-informed practices.

2. **Respect the public, individuals, and communities.** Data activities have the overarching goal of benefiting the public good. Responsible use of data begins with careful consideration of its potential impacts. Data initiatives should include considerations for unique community and local contexts and have an identified and clear benefit to the LGBTQIA+ community.

3. **Respect privacy, confidentiality, and emotional labor.** Privacy and confidentiality should always be protected in a manner that respects the dignity, rights, and freedom of data subjects. In this context, privacy is the state of being free from unwarranted intrusion into the private life of individuals, and confidentiality is the state of one's information being free from inappropriate access and misuse. Respect for the emotional labor of participants means using the data for its intended purpose of advancing quality of life for LGBTQIA+ individuals.

4. **Act with honesty, integrity, and humility.** All SAIP Community Partners and data users are expected to exhibit honesty and integrity in their work with data and in positions supported by SAIP data, regardless of job title, role, or data responsibilities. SAIP Community Partners and data users should not perform or condone unethical professional behaviors. When using data and findings, Community Partners and data users should report information accurately and present any data limitations, known biases, and methods of analysis that apply. It should also be recognized that no dataset can fully represent all facets of a person, community, or issue. SAIP Community Partners and data users are expected to have humility when presenting data, be open to feedback, and when possible invite discussion with the public. In addition, SAIP data users should accurately represent their abilities when working with data.

5. **Hold oneself and others accountable.** Accountability requires that anyone acquiring, managing, or using data be aware of stakeholders and be responsible to them, as appropriate. Remaining accountable includes the upholding data use agreements made with data providers. Participants in the Southwest Alabama Inclusion Project Community Needs Assessment consented for their data to be used to inform programming and program development, procure funding to support local LGBTQIA+ programming, and in support of advocacy efforts on behalf of the LGBTQIA+ community. SAIP Community Partners and data users should abstain from using SAIP data for purposes other than those to which survey participants consented. As such, SAIP Community Partners and data users will report data use plans and outcomes to SAIP before and after data use activities are implemented.

6. **Promote transparency so that individuals, organizations, and communities benefit from the ethical decision-making process.** Transparency depends on clear communication of all aspects of data activities and appropriate engagement with data stakeholders. Promoting transparency requires engaging stakeholders through easily accessible feedback channels and providing timely updates on the progress and outcomes of data use.

7. **Stay informed of developments in the contexts in which services are provided.** Advanced interventions provide great benefit to the LGBTQIA+ community, but should be deployed with a commitment to accountability and risk mitigation.

It is well-known that LGBTQIA+ people experience diminished access to appropriate and adequate community, mental health, and medical services. Lack of access occurs along two axes: 1) Broad lack of consideration and representation in services in a particular area at large and 2) Services that are presented to the LGBTQIA+ community as LGBTQIA+ affirming but lack the associated training and background to deliver services as advertised. Both contribute to health disparities among LGBTQIA+ people. SAIP Community Partners and data users will conscientiously endeavor to avoid enacting or reinforcing either condition, especially advertising LGBTQIA+ affirming services without the requisite training and competence to deliver those services ethically and appropriately. Any use of this data is an explicit agreement to uphold the tenets of the SAIP's Data Ethics Tenets.

07

LGBTQIA+ YOUTH

A. Youth Key Findings

The following survey results are derived from responses obtained from a group of 238 LGBTQIA+ youth within the age range of 13 - 24[1] years old. This diverse group of participants contributed their experiences through the survey, forming a needs assessment of this specific demographic in southwest Alabama. The findings encapsulate the unique voices and concerns of young adults navigating the intersection of their identity and age, providing valuable insights into the lives of LGBTQIA+ individuals in this pivotal stage of adulthood.

59.6% of respondents reported having seriously considered attempting suicide during the previous 12 months

59.6%

26.5%, or more than 1 in 4 respondents, reported attempting suicide during the previous 12 months

26.5%

66% reported at least one episode of depression during the previous 12 months

66%

61.7% reported experiencing stress, anxiety, or depression ALWAYS or MOST OF THE TIME during the previous 30 days

61.7%

[1] In the pages of this report, you will find sections dedicated to experiences shared by 488 youth (ages 13-24) and adults (age 18+). Age of majority in Alabama is 19 years old. Because the experiences of 18-24-year-olds are important to agencies serving youth and adults, this age group appears in both sets of results. Therefore, readers should not directly compare youth and adult data from this report.

27.8%, or more than 1 in 4, responded that they believe they are currently at risk, would be at risk if they lived openly, or did not know if they were at risk of losing their housing

27.8%

58.7% of respondents reported feeling as if they get enough food during any given week

58.7%

70.7% report having had to buy lower-quality food in order to have enough

70.7%

Just 17.9% agree that their school is LGBTQIA+ affirming

17.9%

More than 2 out of 3 youths say that they have experienced stress related to their LGBTQIA+ identity at school

Youths were more likely to consider suicide, report depression, or report poor mental health when...

...their families rejected or distanced themselves from them due to their LGBTQIA+ identities

...their families did not affirm their LGBTQIA+ identities

...they were unsure or did not believe they could live openly as LGBTQIA+ and continue to live at home

...they felt compelled to participate in religious activities (e.g. prayer, laying on of hands, etc) for the purpose of changing their LGBTQIA+ identities

...their families used slur words to refer to LGBTQIA+ people (other than the youth)

78% of Youth of Color agree that the mainstream LGBTQIA+ community does not reflect the needs of people of color

78%

B. Youth Participant Demographics

1. **In which of the following counties in southwest Alabama (SWAL) do you currently live? (Total: 228)**

County	Count
Choctaw	1
Escambia	2
Clarke	5
Former resident of SWAL	7
Baldwin	39
Mobile	174

2. **What is your age? (Total: 210)**

Participant Age	Number of Participants
13	2
14	9
15	23
16	26
17	33
18	17
19	22
20	13
21	19
22	10
23	17
24	19
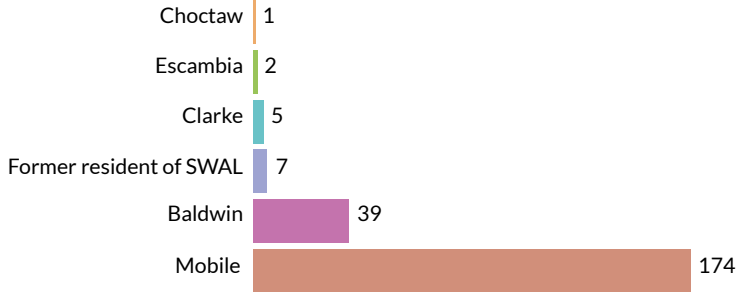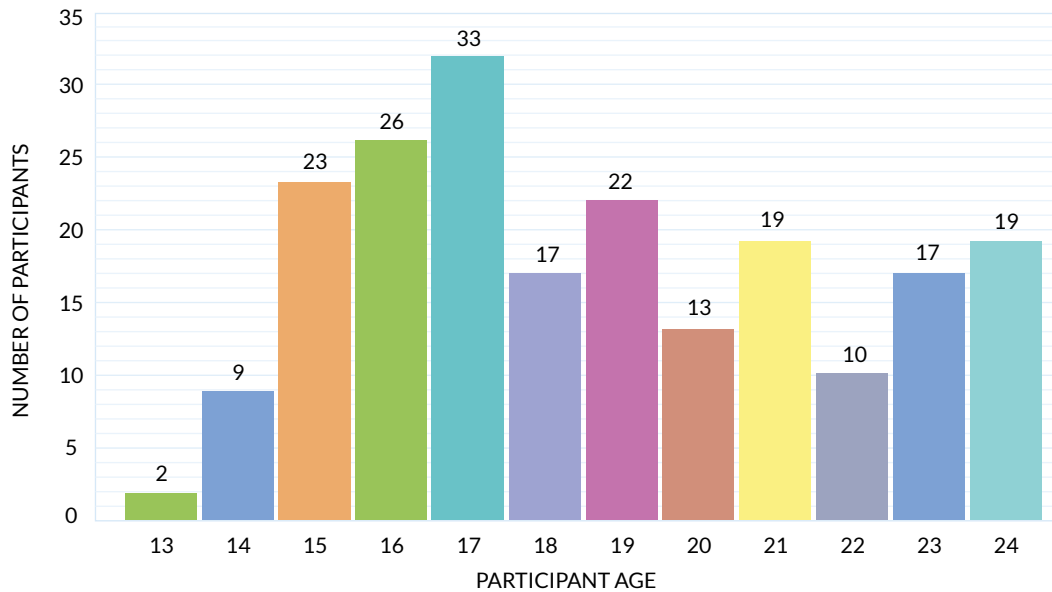
Alabama Inclusion Project represented at Color Fairhope With Pride in 2023

3. Which of the following best describes your current sexual orientation? (Total: 226)

Prefer not to answer 3%
Other 2%
Fluid 1%
Straight 4%
Questioning 6%
Pansexual 8%
Queer 9%
Asexual Spectrum 10%
Gay 11%
Lesbian 11%
Bisexual 35%

4. Which of the following best describes your gender identity? (Total: 225)

Transgender Girl or Woman 3.6%
Prefer not to answer 2.7%
Other 1.3%
Not sure or questioning 8.0%
Transgender Boy or Man 8.0%
Cisgender Boy or Man 15.6%
Nonbinary, Bigender, Genderfluid, or Genderqueer 17.8%
Cisgender Girl or Woman 43.1%

5. Which of the following best describes your relationship dynamic? (Total: 216)

Mixed Orientation Relationship 6.5%
Other 3.7%
Open Relationship 9.3%
Polyamorous 9.7%
Monogamous 70.8%

6. Which of the following best describes your relationship status? (Total: 224)

Prefer not to say 4.8%
Legally Married 2.1%
Other 1.8%
Committed Relationship, living together 7.8%
Casually dating 9.6%
Committed Dating Relationship, not living together 20.9%
Single 53.1%

LGBTQIA+

7.   What is your race/ethnicity? (Total: 201)

- Asian/Pacific Islander: 1
- Native/Indigenous: 2
- Other: 2
- Middle Eastern/Northern African: 3
- Prefer Not to Answer: 4
- Latin/Hispanic: 7
- Black or African American: 37
- White: 145

8.   Which of the following disability categories apply to you? (Total: 201)

- Hearing Difficulty 2.5%
- Ambulatory Difficulty 2.0%
- Self-Care Difficulty 2.0%
- Vision Difficulty 6.0%
- Prefer Not to Answer 10.4%
- No Difficulties Pertaining to Ability 58.7%
- Cognitive Difficulty 18.4%

9.   Are you an immigrant? (Total: 223)

- No: 221
- Yes: 2

10.   Which of the following best describes the spiritual or religious beliefs in the home where you grew up? (Total: 196)

- Agnostic 4.9%
- Judaism 2.8%
- Indigenous Spiritual Practice 1.4%
- Other 5.6%
- Spiritual but Not Religious 4.9%
- Atheist 5.6%
- Christianity 74.7%

11.   What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Total: 213)
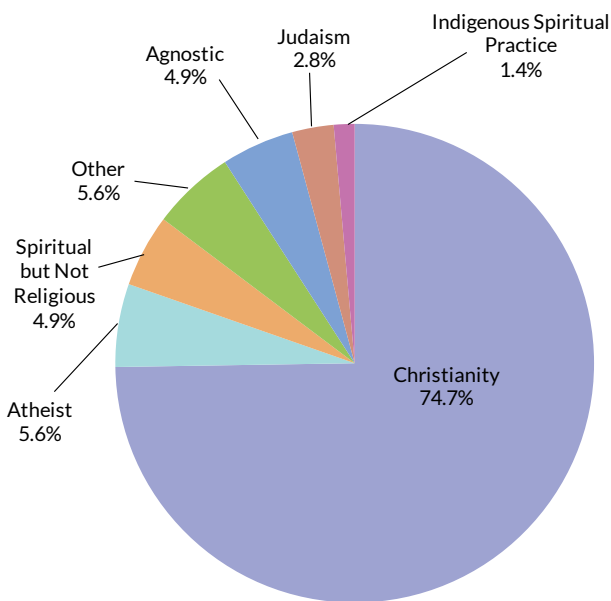
- Less than High School Graduate 1.9%
- Completed Vocational Training/Certification 1.4%
- Master's Degree or Higher 1.4%
- Still in Middle School 3.8%
- Bachelor's Degree 7.0%
- High School Graduate/GED 21.1%
- Some College or Associate's Degree 22.1%
- Still in High School 41.3%
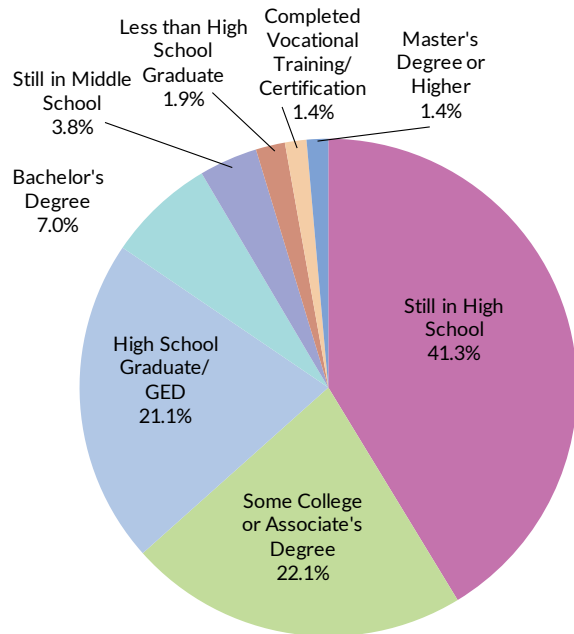
C. Youth Economic Access

1.   Income

What is your individual annual income? (If you are not sure, it's okay to estimate) (Total: 204)

Income	Count
$80,000 - $99,999	3
$60,000 - $79,999	6
$40,000 - $59,000	10
$20,000 - $39,000	17
Less that $20,000	168

What is the total annual income for your household? (If you are not sure, it's okay to estimate) (Total: 202)

Income	Count
$100,000+	26
$80,000 - $99,000	17
$60,000 - $79,000	36
$40,000 - $59,000	44
$20,000 - $39,000	32
Less than $20,000	47

How often do you (or your family) have difficulty making ends meet at the end of the month? (Total: 208)

- Never 46%
- Once or Twice Per Year 26%
- 3-6 Times Per Year 15%
- Nearly every month 7%
- Every month 6%

Which of the following have you had trouble affording in the last year? (Select all that apply) (Total: 120)

Category	Count
Other	1
Gender Affirming Care	1
Internet Service	1
Phone Service	1
Prescription Medication	2
General Medical Care	4
Housing	4
Education	5
Utilities	5
Food	6
Transportation	11
None/Does not apply	79

2.   Employment Status

What is your employment status? (Total: 137)

Status	Count
Student	36
Employed with one Part-Time Job	25
Unemployed, not looking for work	24
Employed Full-Time Job	21
Unemployed, looking for work	13
Employed with multiple Part-time Jobs	8
Self-employed	4
Gig Worker	2
Other	1
Seasonal Worker	1
Homemaker	1
Disabled/Unable to Work	1
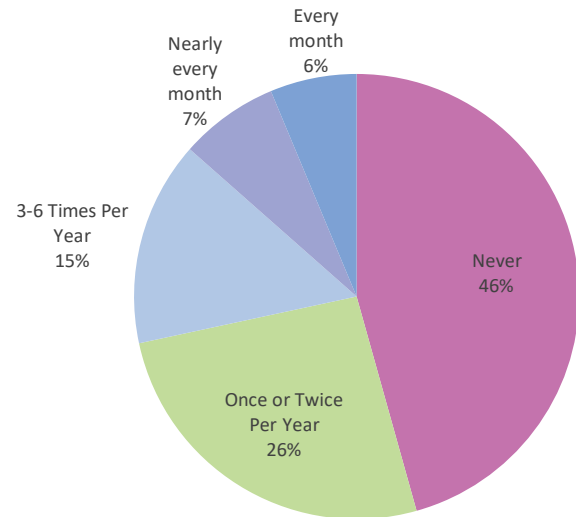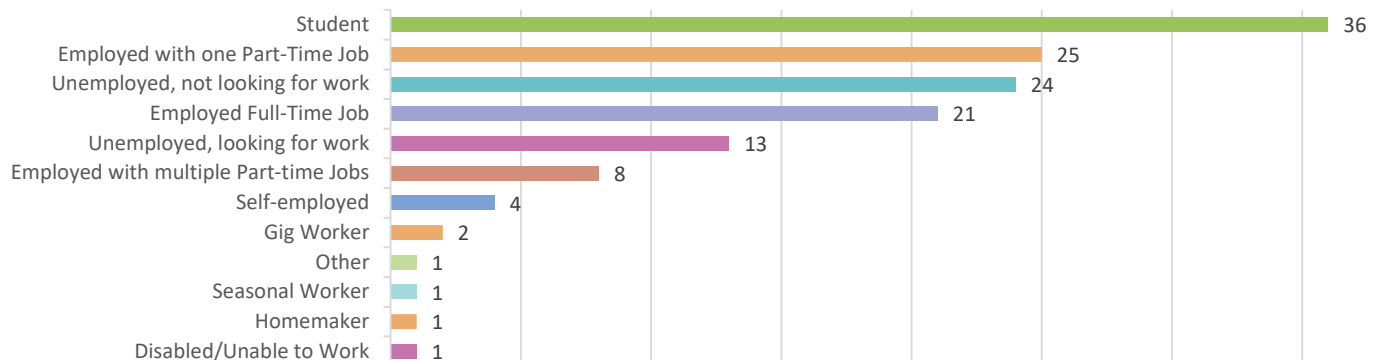
3. Insurance Access

Do you have medical insurance? (Total: 204)

No
17.2%

Yes
82.8%
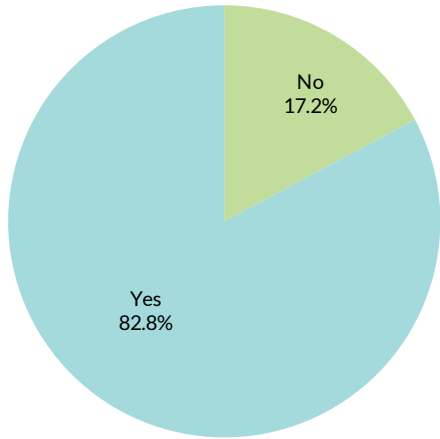
What kind of insurance do you have? (Total: 161)

Private Insurance from the
Health Care Exchange
(ObamaCare)
3.7%

Medicare
3.7%

Other
5.6%

Private
Insurance
from my
Employer
6.8%

Private Insurance
Provided by a
Spouse's
Employer
9.3%

Private
Insurance
Provided by a
Parent's
Employer
48.4%

Medicaid
22.4%
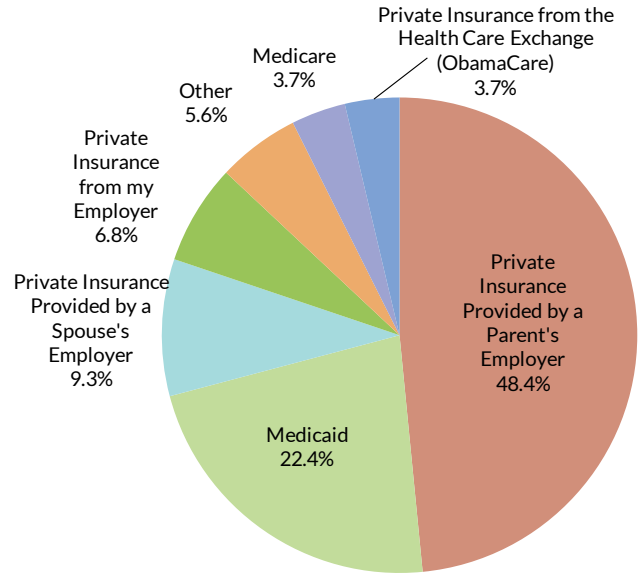
> "
>
> "Pride is about how we fell in love with our lives."
>
> Corey Harvard,
> Prism United
> Executive Director

4. Food Security

Do you feel that you get enough food during any given week? (Total: 58)

No
17.2%

Not Sure
24.1%

Yes
58.6%

Did you or your family have to buy lower quality food in order to have enough food? (Total: 58)

Not Sure
15.5%

No
13.8%

Yes
70.7%

Have you or your household felt like you must skip meals in order to pay for other household expenses such as water, electricity, or rent? (Total: 58)

Not Sure
22.4%

No
37.9%

Yes
39.7%

In the past 12 months, have you visited a charitable food site such as a food pantry, food distribution, etc.? (Total: 58)

Yes
20.7%

No
79.3%

Did you experience any discrimination or microaggressions (indirect, subtle, or unintentional discrimination) during this experience? (Total: 11)

Yes
18.2%

No
81.8%

5. Housing Security

Do you currently live with an adult who is your legal guardian? (Total: 95)

No
3.2%

Yes
96.8%

Have you ever been homeless (even for a short amount of time)? (Total: 205)

Yes
10.2%

No
89.8%

Which of the following best describes your CURRENT living situation? (Total: 208)

I live with Other Relative(s) in Their Home
4.3%

I am temporarily staying with a relative or friend
1.4%

I am temporarily staying in a shelter or homeless
0.5%

I share a rental with roommate(s)
7.2%

I live alone in my own home that I own or rent
7.2%

Other
7.2%

I live with my significant other(s) in a home that we own or rent
8.2%

I live with My Parent(s) in Their Home
64.0%

Have you ever been homeless or kicked out of your parents' home because of your LGBTQIA+ identity (even for a short amount of time)? (Total:143)

Yes   9

No   134

Have you ever been evicted from your home because of your LGBTQIA+ identity? (Total:146)

Yes   7

No   139

Do you believe you are at risk of homelessness or having to move from your current housing due to your sexual orientation or gender identity? (Total:144)

Yes   9

I don't know   13

Yes, if I live openly   18

No   104

6.   Sources of Transportation

What is your primary source of transportation? (Total: 209)

Walking — 4
Bicycle — 4
Rideshare — 6
Public Transportation — 9
Getting Rides from Friends and Family — 56
My Personal Vehicle — 130

7.   Perceived Economic Output

In the future, there will be opportunities for me to achieve economic stability/improve my economic outlook in the county where I currently reside. (Total: 207)

Somewhat Disagree 10%
Strongly Disagree 4%
Strongly Agree 19%
Neutral 26%
Somewhat Agree 41%

Pridefest 2023 in Mardi Gras Park

D. Youth Mental Health and Suicide Risk

1. Youth who seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months (Total: 161)

No	59.6%
Yes	40.4%
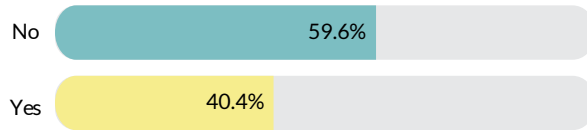
26.5%, or more than 1 in 4, reported attempting suicide in the previous 12 months

2. How many times youth attempted suicide during the past 12 months (Total: 162)

0 Times	73.5%
1 Time	14.2%
2-3 Times	11.1%
4-5 Times	1.2%
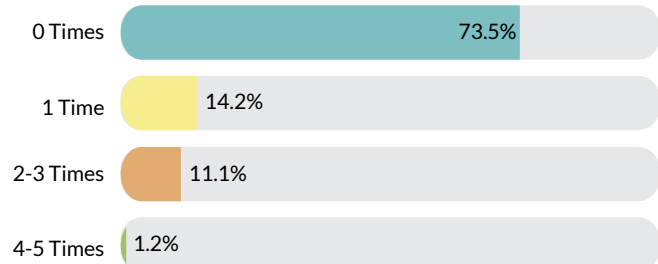
3. How often youth experienced stress, anxiety, or depression during the past 30 days (Total: 162)

Always	31.5%
Most of the Time	30.2%
Sometimes	28.4%
Rarely	6.2%
Never	3.7%
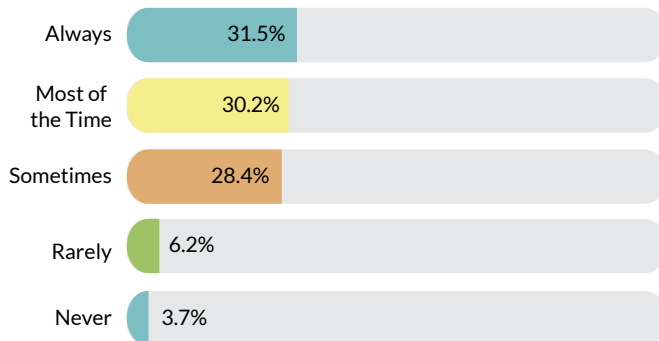
4. Youth who felt so nervous, anxious, or on edge that they found it hard to stop worrying or had an anxiety attack in the past 12 months (Total: 162)

Yes	83.3%
No	16.7%
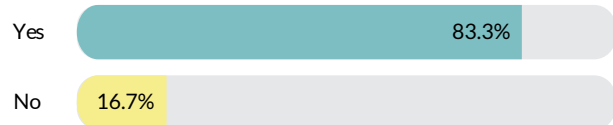
5. Youth who felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities in the past 12 months (Total: 162)

Yes	66.0%
No	34.0%
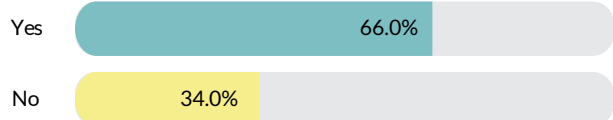
LGBTQIA+ youth in SW AL were more than 2x as likely to report poor mental health MOST or ALL of the time when compared to Alabama's general youth population[2]

[2] According to the 2021 CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, 27.5% of youth in Alabama reported that their mental health was most of the time or always not good as compared to 61.7% of LGBTQIA+ youth in southwest Alabama. In both studies, cis-women and people assigned female at birth were significantly more likely to report poor mental health than cis-men and people assigned male at birth. https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/app/Results.aspx?LID=AL

E. Youth Mental Health Care

1. Youth who wanted to seek mental health care in the past 12 months (Total: 161)

Yes   85.1%

No   14.9%

2. Youth who received mental healthcare in the past 12 months (Total: 161)

Yes   54.0%

No   46.0%
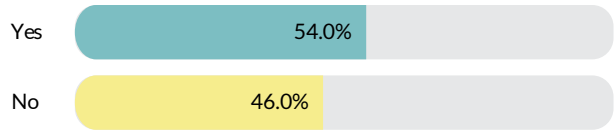
137 youth reported wanting mental health care in the previous 12 months while only 87 reported receiving mental health care

F. Being LGBTQIA+ Youth in Southwest Alabama

Have you ever been terminated from a job because of your LGBTQIA+ identity? (Total: 147)
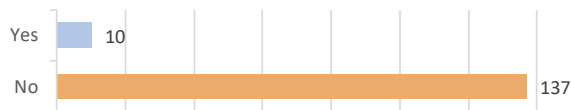
Yes   10

No   137

1. In general, the community where I live is: (Total: 147)
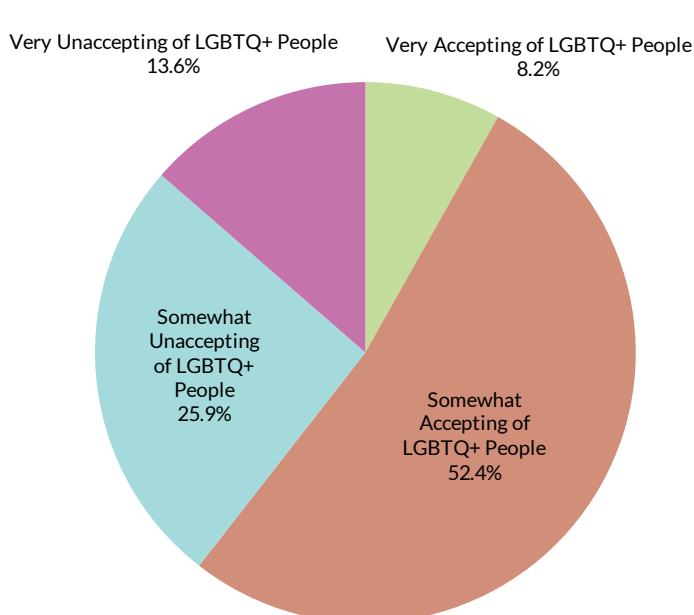
Very Unaccepting of LGBTQ+ People
13.6%

Very Accepting of LGBTQ+ People
8.2%

Somewhat Accepting of LGBTQ+ People
52.4%

Somewhat Unaccepting of LGBTQ+ People
25.9%

2. I work in a place where my sexuality and gender identity are affirmed. (Total: 143)

Strongly Disagree
4.2%

Disagree
8.4%

Neutral
22.4%

Agree
16.8%

Strongly Agree
21.0%

Not Applicable
27.3%
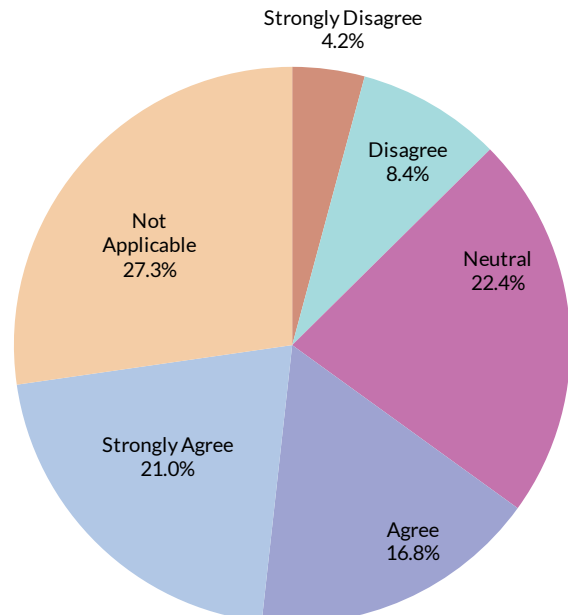
G. Youth Experiences in Families

1.   Has a parent or guardian ever taken any of the following actions to support your LGBTQIA+ identity? (Total: 59)

Come out to their communities as parents of LGBTQIA+ kids (with your permission)	0
Actively advocated for LGBTQIA+ rights and protections	0
Educated themselves about LGBTQIA+ people and issues	0
Stood up for you when you were being mistreated due to your LGBTQIA+ identity	0
Connected you with adult LGBTQIA+ people as mentors or role models	0
Encouraged other family members or friends to respect your LGBTQIA+ Identity	0
Other	1
Found a faith community that affirms and respects your LGBTQ+ identity	1
Left a faith community that disrespected your LGBTQ+ identity	1
Used your name and pronouns correctly	1
Taken you to LGBTQ+ related events or celebrations	1
Asked you how you would like your LGBTQ+ identity to be discussed with other people	1
Supported your gender identity	2
Openly and respectfully discussed LGBTQ+ issues with you	3
Talked with you respectfully about your LGBTQ+ identity	5
Been welcoming and kind to your LGBTQIA+ friends or partner(s)	7
None of the above	36

2.   I live in a home where my sexual orientation is affirmed. (Total: 146)

Agree 45.9%
Neutral 22.6%
Disagree 31.5%

3.   I live in a home where my gender identity is affirmed. (Total: 145)

Agree 55.2%
Neutral 20.7%
Disagree 24.1%

4.   LGBTQIA+ Relatives

Do you have at least one parent who identifies as LGBTQIA+? (Total: 144)

Not sure	11
Yes	13
No	120

Do you have other people in your family such as siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, or your own kids who identify as LGBTQIA+? (Total: 144)

Not sure	14
Yes	79
No	51

Are you a parent or step-parent? (Total: 143)

Yes	5
No	138

5. **In which of the following relationships has a response or reaction to your LGBTQIA+ identity EVER been stressful for you? (Total: 50)**

with my extended family (aunts, uncles, cousins)	1
with a grandparent	1
with my acquaintances	2
with my current partner	2
with my friends	2
with a sibling	3
with a former partner	3
with my father	4
with my mother	7
none of the above	25

6. **In the PAST 12 MONTHS, in which of the following relationships has a response or reaction to your LGBTQIA+ identity been stressful for you. (Total: 77)**

with my children	1
with my current partner	1
with a former partner	1
with my coworkers, colleagues	2
with my friends	2
with my father	2
with a grandparent	3
with my extended family (aunts, uncles, cousins)	3
with a sibling	4
with my mother	7
with my acquaintances	9
none of the above	42
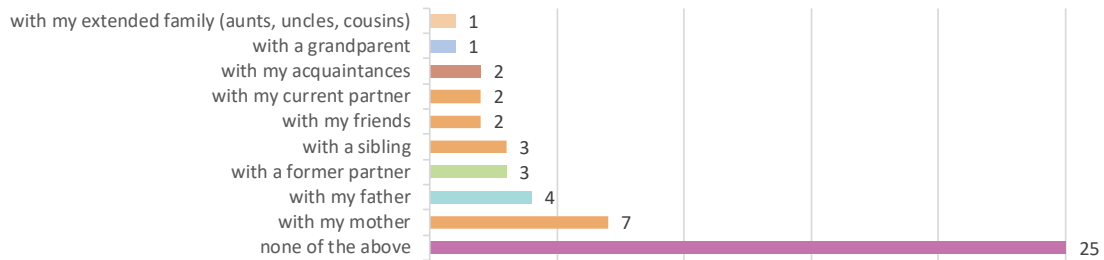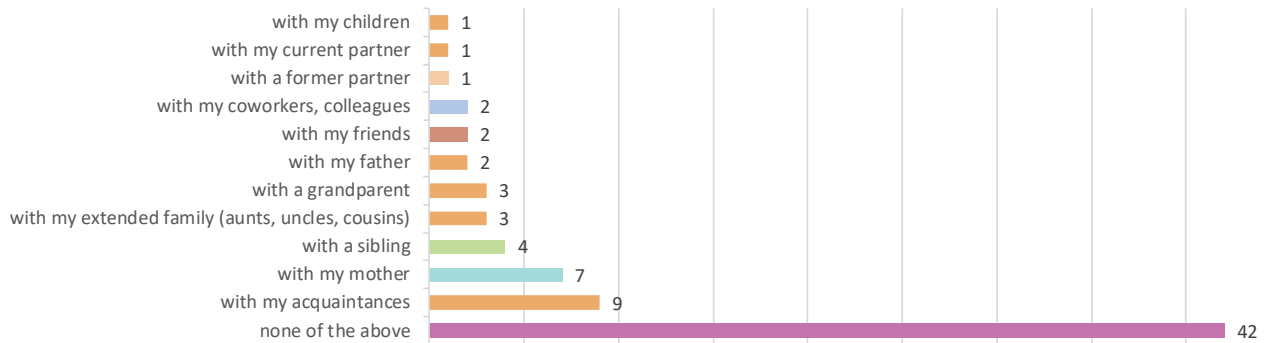
Trans-Lucent 2022 in Bienville Square

Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs)

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) refer to stressful or traumatic events that occur during childhood, before the age of 18. These experiences can vary widely and may include physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, neglect, household dysfunction such as substance abuse or mental illness among caregivers, or exposure to violence. ACEs can profoundly impact a child's physical, emotional, and cognitive development and overall well-being. For individuals who have experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences, the cumulative effects can be particularly severe. The greater the number of ACEs in one's background, the higher the risk of negative outcomes later in life. Research has shown that individuals with a high ACE score are more likely to suffer from chronic health conditions such as heart disease, obesity, and mental health disorders like depression and anxiety. Nationally, LGBTQIA+ people report higher numbers of ACEs than their heterosexual, cisgender counterparts. Survey participants in southwest Alabama report similarly high numbers of Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Over 60% of youth in southwest Alabama reported more than 4 Adverse Childhood Experiences, significantly higher than the number reported by the general population in the United States. This may at least partially account for the high rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidality reported by LGBTQIA+ Youth in our region.

Local Prevalence

ACE score prevalence among LGBTQIA+ Youth in southwest Alabama (Total: 114)

0 ACE
6.1%

1 ACE
8.8%

2-3 ACEs
23.6%

4+ ACEs
61.6%
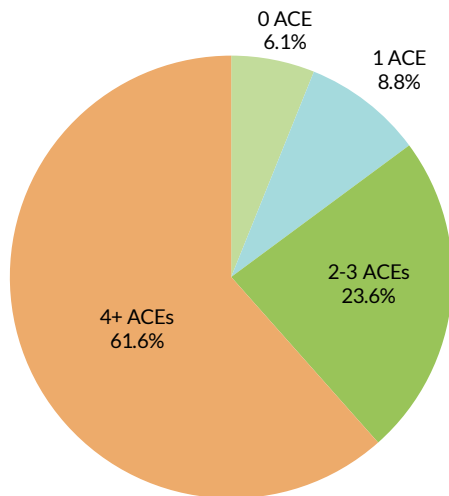
National Prevalence

ACE Score Prevalence among U.S. Adults, 2001-2020 BRFSS ACEs Module[3]
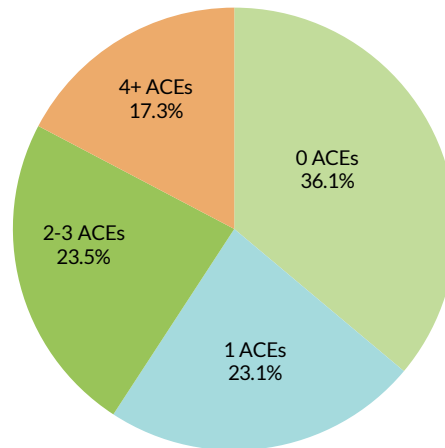
4+ ACEs
17.3%

0 ACEs
36.1%

2-3 ACEs
23.5%

1 ACEs
23.1%

[3] Source: Swedo EA, Aslam MV, Dahlberg LL, et al. Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences Among U.S. Adults — Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011–2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2023;72:707–715. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7226a2

7. Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs)

Did you live with anyone who was depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal? (Total: 114)

No 29
Yes 85
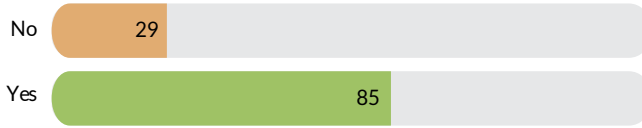
Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic? (Total: 120)
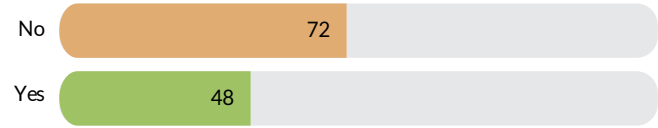
No 72
Yes 48

Did you live with anyone who used illegal street drugs or who abused prescription medications? (Total: 123)
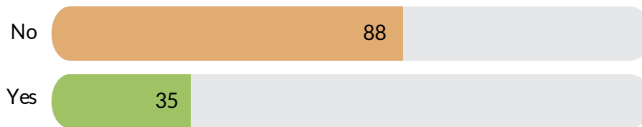
No 88
Yes 35

Did you live with anyone who served time or was sentenced to serve time in a prison, jail, or other correctional facility? (Total: 126)

No 106
Yes 20
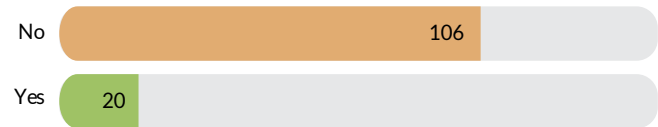
Were your parents separated or divorced? (Total: 119)

No 70
Yes 49
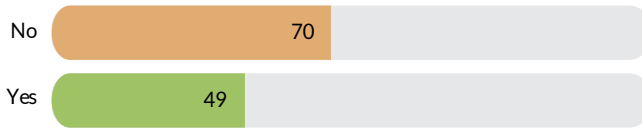
Did your parents or adults in your home ever slap, hit, kick, punch, or beat each other up? (Total: 117)
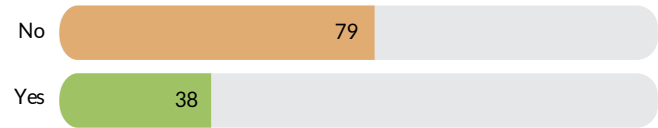
No 79
Yes 38

Not including spanking (before age 18), did a parent or adult in your home ever hit, beat, kick, or physically hurt you in any way? (Total: 121)

No 64
Yes 57
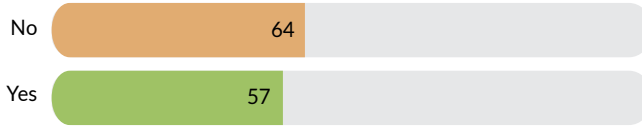
Did a parent or adult in your home ever swear at you, insult you, or put you down? (Total: 124)

No 21
Yes 103

Did anyone at least 5 years older than you, or an adult, ever touch you sexually? (Total: 119)
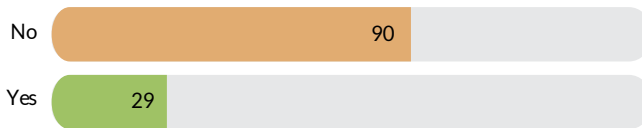
No 90
Yes 29

Did anyone at least 5 years older than you, or an adult, try to make you touch them sexually? (Total: 125)

No 102
Yes 23
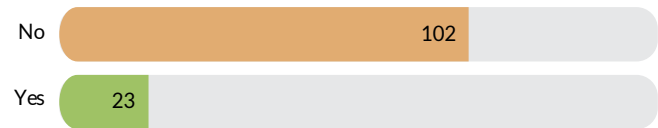
Did anyone at least 5 years older than you, or an adult, force you to have sex? (Total: 121)
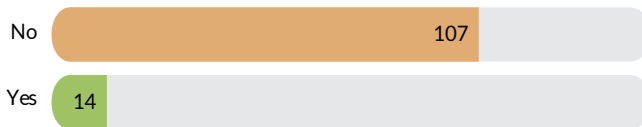
No 107
Yes 14

During your childhood, was there an adult in your household who made you feel safe and protected most or all of the time? (Total: 125)
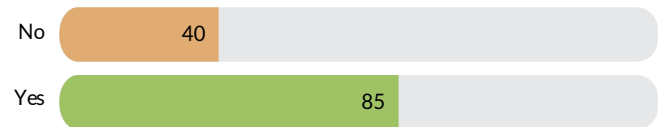
No 40
Yes 85

During your childhood, was there an adult in your household who tried hard to make sure your basic needs were met most or all of the time? (Total: 129)
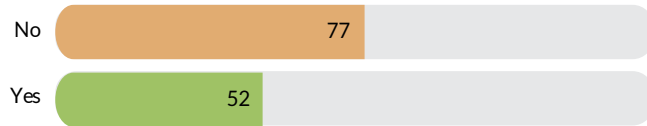
No — 77

Yes — 52

Have you ever seen, heard, or been a victim of violence in your neighborhood, community, or school? (For example, targeted bullying, assault or other violent actions, war or terrorism) (Total: 130)
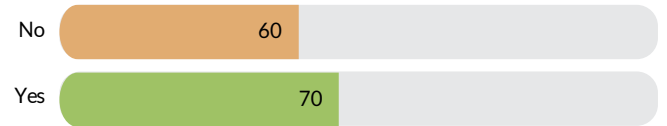
No — 60

Yes — 70

Have you experienced discrimination? (For example, being hassled or made to feel inferior or excluded because of your race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, learning differences, or disabilities) (Total: 131)
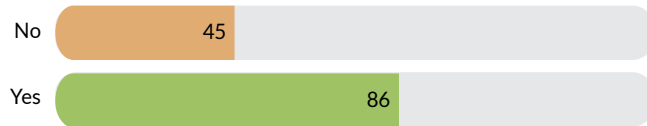
No — 45

Yes — 86

Have you ever had to sleep away from your parent(s) or caregiver(s) because you were kicked out or abandoned? (Total: 130)

No — 119

Yes — 11

Have you ever experienced verbal or physical abuse or threats from a romantic partner? (For example, a partner, boyfriend or girlfriend) (Total: 130)

No — 92

Yes — 38
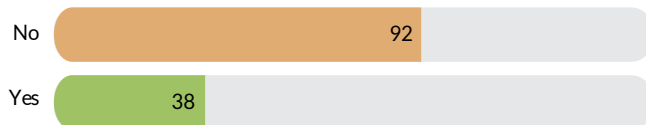
Have you ever been in foster care, even for a short period of time? (Total: 130)

No — 123

Yes — 7
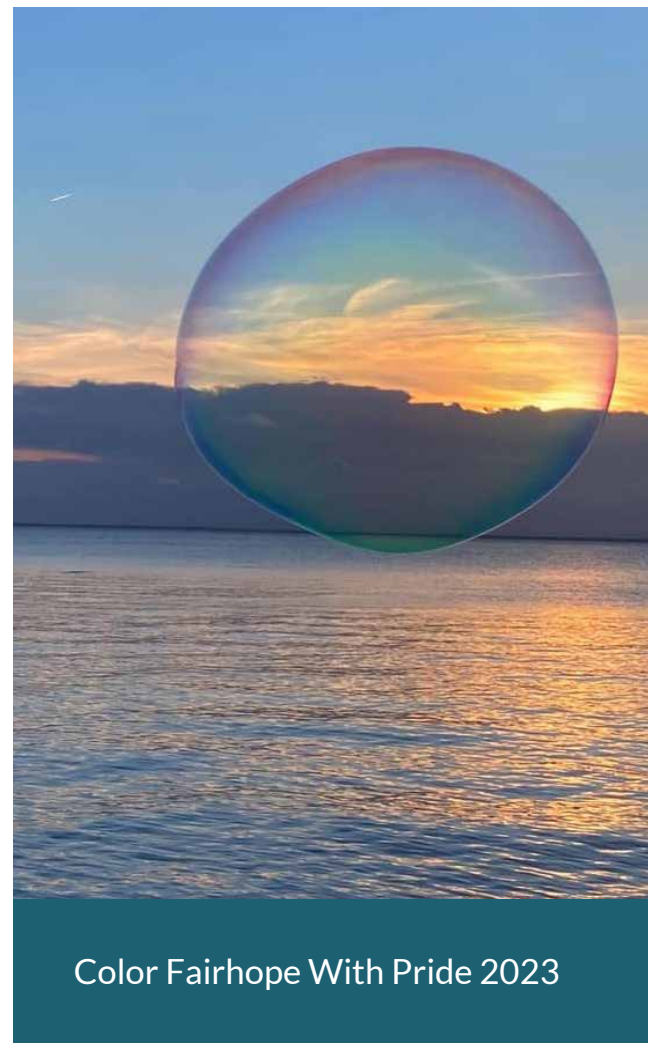
Color Fairhope With Pride 2023

8. Identity-based Adversity in Families

Have you ever been rejected by or distanced from family members because of your sexual orientation? (Total: 142)
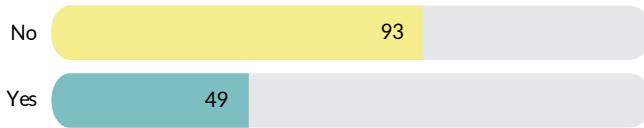
No   93

Yes   49

Have you ever been rejected by or distanced from family members because of your gender identity? (Total: 142)

No   112

Yes   30

Did a parent or guardian ever openly speak negatively of or use slur words to refer the LGBTQIA+ community? (Total: 143)

No   67

Yes   76
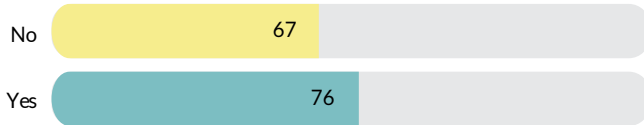
Has your parent or guardian ever threatened to withhold resources due to your LGBTQIA+ identity? (Total: 115)

No   102

Yes   13

Did you ever believe that your parent or guardian would likely withhold resources from you due to your LGBTQIA+ identity? (Total: 120)

No   67

Yes   53

Have you ever been homeless or kicked out of your parents' home because of your LGBTQIA+ identity (even for a short amount of time)? (Total: 143)

No   134

Yes   9

Do you believe you are at risk of homelessness or having to move from your current housing due to your sexual orientation or gender identity? (Total: 144)

No   104

Yes   40

Were you ever encouraged, compelled, or forced to participate in religious activities (e.g. prayer, laying on of hands, etc.) for the purpose of changing your sexual orientation or gender identity? (Total: 142)

No   110
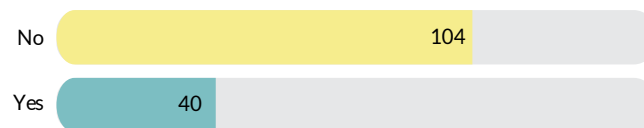
Yes   32

Were you encouraged, compelled, or forced to participate in "conversion" therapy with a mental health professional for the purpose of changing your sexual orientation or gender identity? (Total: 143)

No   132

Yes   11

With regard to your LGBTQIA+ identities and related experiences, did you often feel misunderstood, dismissed, stigmatized, or blamed by a parent or other important adults in your life? (Total: 105)

No   40

Yes   65

H. Youth Experiences in Schools
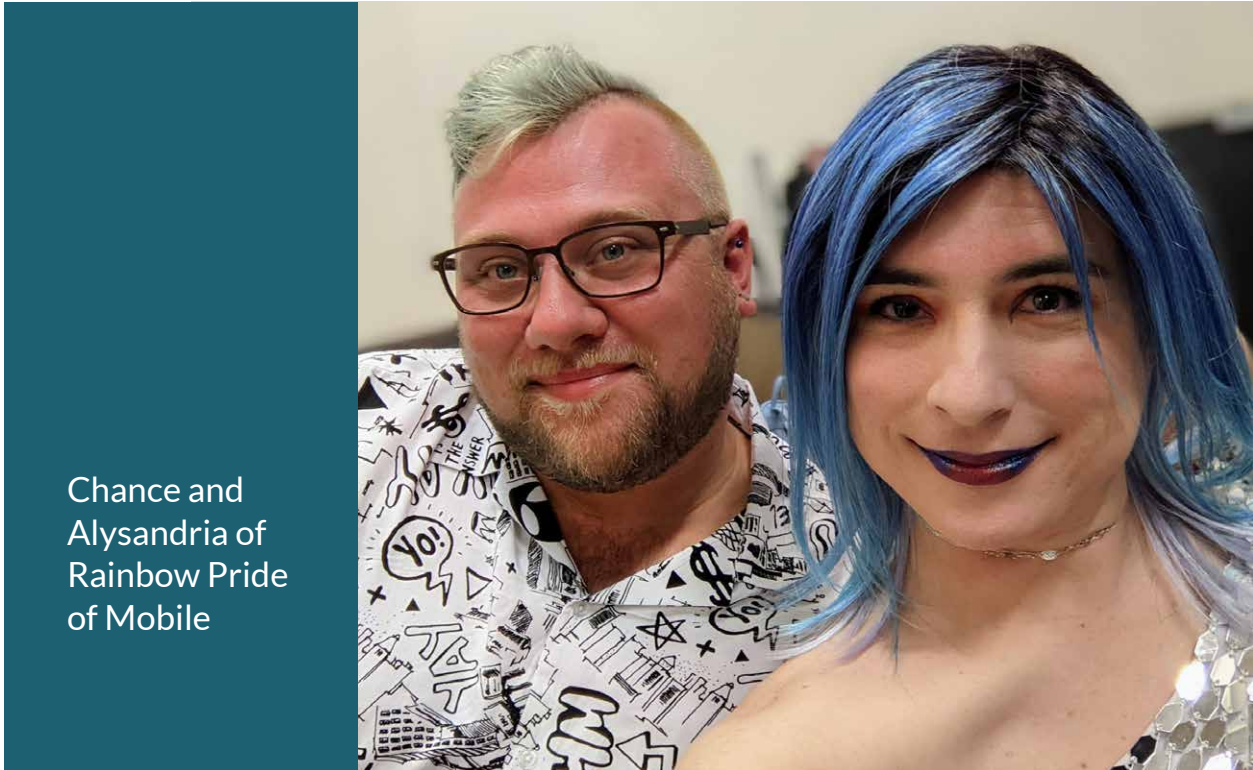
1. **Participating Youth attend the following High Schools in southwest Alabama**

Alabama Connections Academy

Alabama School of Math and Science

Alma Bryant High School

Baker High School

Bayshore Christian School

Bayside Academy

B.C. Rain High School

Daphne High School

Fairhope High School

Faith Academy

Flomaton High School

Foley High School

Mary G. Montgomery High School

McGill-Toolen Catholic High School

Murphy High School

Saraland High School

Spanish Fort High School

St. Paul's Episcopal School

Theodore High School

UMS Wright Preparatory School

Vigor High School

Washington County High School

W.P. Davidson High School

My high school is/was LGBTQIA+ affirming/supporting. (Total: 95)

Not Applicable	2
Agree	17
Neutral	27
Disagree	49
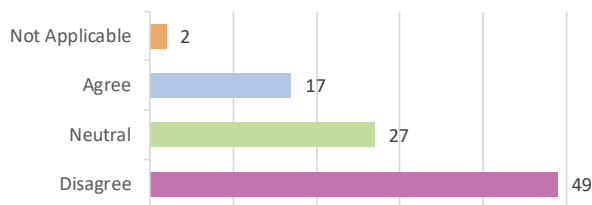
Just 17.9% of youth agreed that their school is affirming

Chance and Alysandria of Rainbow Pride of Mobile

Youth posing with Prism facilitator Ariel Flowers in 2024

More than 2 out of 3 youths say that they have experienced stress related to their LGBTQIA+ identity at school

Have you ever experienced stress related to your LGBTQIA+ identity at school? (Total: 94)

Yes	65
No	29
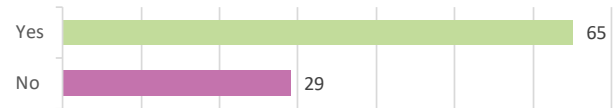
Does/did your high school have a Gay-Straight Alliance or other LGBTQIA+ inclusion club or organization? (Total: 95)

Yes	33
No	62
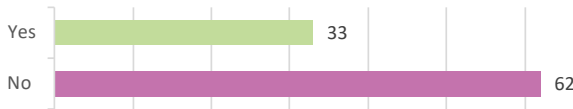
Only 1 in 3 local students have access to a Gay-Straight Alliance or other LGBTQIA+ affirming club at their school. Attending schools where these clubs are available have been shown to have a positive impact on LGBTQIA+ youth mental health.

Does/did your high school have a specific policy in place that prohibits LGBTQIA+ related bullying? (Total: 94)

No	50
I don't know	38
Yes	6
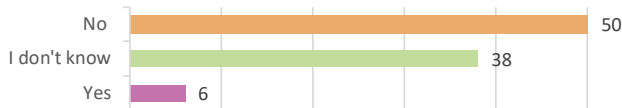
There are/were LGBTQIA+ affirming/supporting adults at my school. (Total: 95)

Agree	49
Neutral	23
Disagree	20
Not Applicable	3
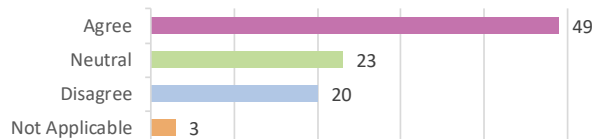
I. Youth Experiences within the LGBTQIA+ Community

1. **If I want to socialize with other LGBTQIA+ people in person, I am generally able to do so. (Total: 146)**
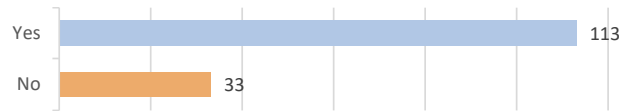
Yes	113
No	33

2. **Of which of the following LGBTQIA+ led/allied organizations are you aware? (Total: 47)**
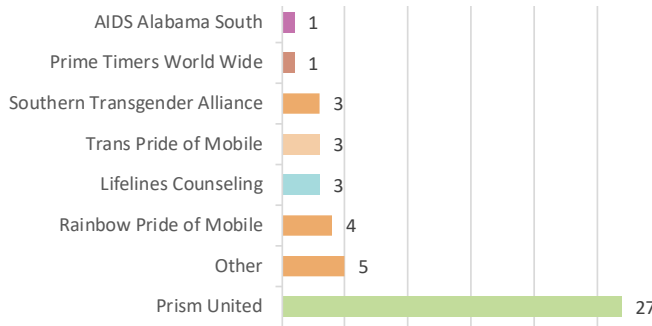
AIDS Alabama South	1
Prime Timers World Wide	1
Southern Transgender Alliance	3
Trans Pride of Mobile	3
Lifelines Counseling	3
Rainbow Pride of Mobile	4
Other	5
Prism United	27

3. **Which of the following LGBTQIA+ led/allied organizations have you interacted with in the past? (Total: 65)**

Collins Counseling	1
Prime Timers World Wide	1
Southern Transgender Alliance	1
Safe2BU	1
Trans Pride of Mobile	2
Rainbow Pride of Mobile	3
AIDS Alabama South	4
Other	10
Prism United	41
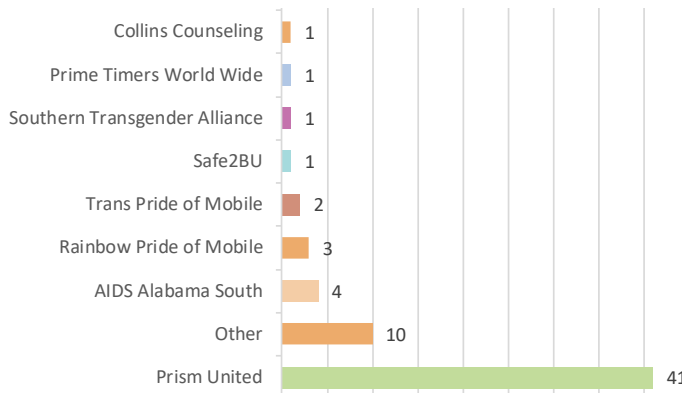
"I am thankful my kid could dress the way that made them feel comfortable and I am thankful for the acceptance they felt. They haven't stopped smiling and talking about it."

- Parent, About Prism Prom

4.   Affirmation within the LGBTQIA+ Community

At times I have felt rejected by the LGBTQIA+ community because of my cultural identity (e.g. race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, etc.). (Total: 146)
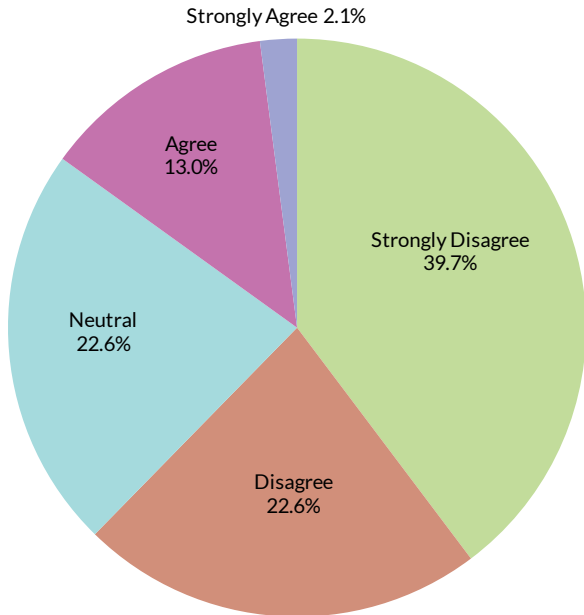
Strongly Agree 2.1%

Agree
13.0%

Neutral
22.6%

Strongly Disagree
39.7%

Disagree
22.6%

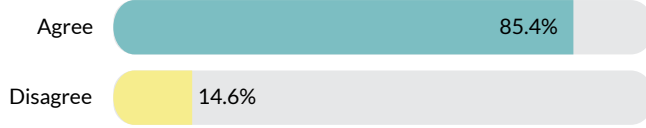**At times I have felt rejected by the LGBTQIA+ community because of my sexuality or gender identity. (Total: 146)**

Strongly Agree 6.8%

Agree
21.2%

Strongly Disagree
26.0%

Neutral
25.3%

Disagree
20.5%

At times I have felt rejected by the LGBTQIA+ community because of my health or disability status. (Total: 146)

Strongly Agree 4.1%

Agree
7.5%

Neutral
13.7%

Strongly Disagree
50.0%

Disagree
24.7%

5.   LGBTQIA+ People of Color

It is hard for people of color (POC) to come out because being LGBTQIA+ is less accepted in POC communities. (Total: 41)

Agree   85.4%

Disagree   14.6%
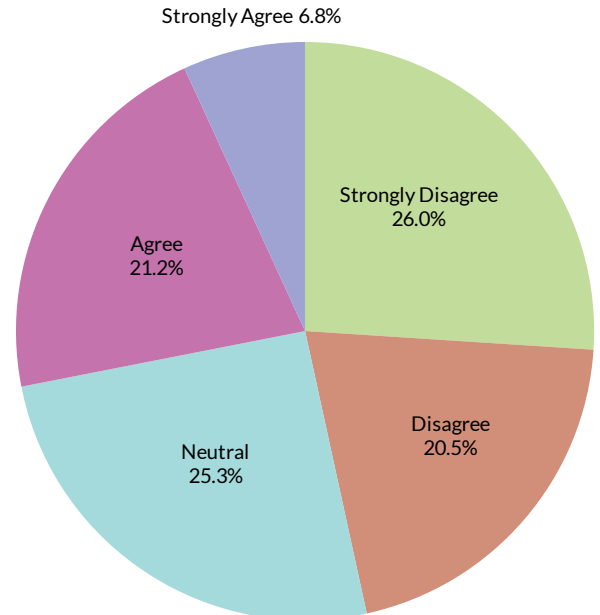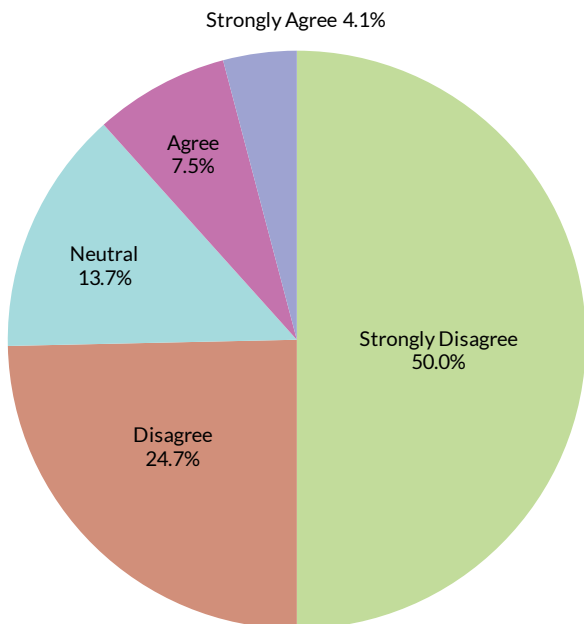
It is hard to find examples of LGBTQIA+ people of color whom I respect or see as a role model. (Total: 42)

Agree   66.7%

Disagree   33.3%

The mainstream LGBTQIA+ community does not reflect the needs of people of color. (Total: 41)

Agree   78%

Disagree   22%

There are already so many things to deal with when you are a person of color, that being LGBTQIA+ just makes things harder. (Total: 40)

Agree   87.5%

Disagree   12.5%

It is more comfortable for me to hang out with other LGBTQIA+ people of color than with white LGBTQIA+ people. (Total: 42)

Agree   57.1%

Disagree   42.9%
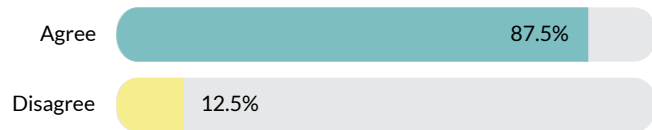
I am often asked to represent my entire race in mostly white LGBTQIA+ settings. (Total: 39)

Agree   59%

Disagree   41%
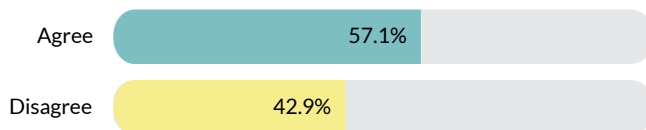
My LGBTQIA+ identity is more important to who I am than my identity as a person of color. (Total: 41)

Agree   34.2%

Disagree   65.9%
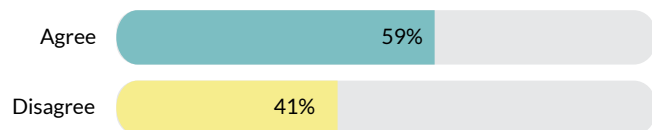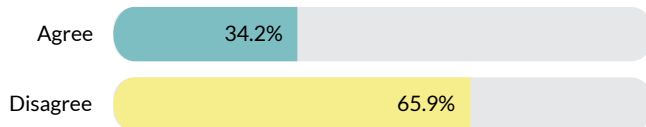
My identity as a person of color is more important to who I am than my LGBTQIA+ identity. (Total: 42)

Agree   59.6%

Disagree   40.4%
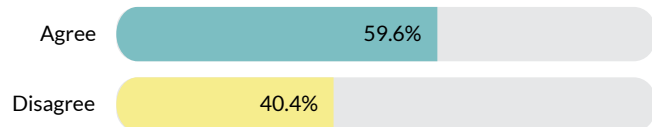
Lifelines Counseling at the 2023 Pride Art Walk in Cathedral Square

LGBTQIA+ ADULTS

A. Adult Key Findings

The following survey outcomes stem from feedback provided by a group of 377 LGBTQIA+ Adults, aged 18 and above[4]. These individuals generously shared their perspectives, thereby shaping a comprehensive needs assessment for this particular demographic within southwest Alabama. Through these findings, we gain invaluable insights into the challenges and experiences of LGBTQIA+ individuals.

A. Adult Key Findings

B. Adult Participant Demographics

C. Adult Economic Access

D. Adult Mental Health and Suicide Risk

E. Adult Mental Health Care

F. Being LGBTQIA+ Adults in Southwest Alabama

G. Adult Experiences in Families

H. Adult Experiences within the LGBTQIA+ Community

[4] In the pages of this report, you will find sections dedicated to experiences shared by 488 youth (ages 13-24) and adults (age 18+). Because the experiences of 18-24-year-olds are important to agencies serving youth and adults, this age group appears in both sets of results. Therefore, readers should not directly compare youth and adult data from this report.
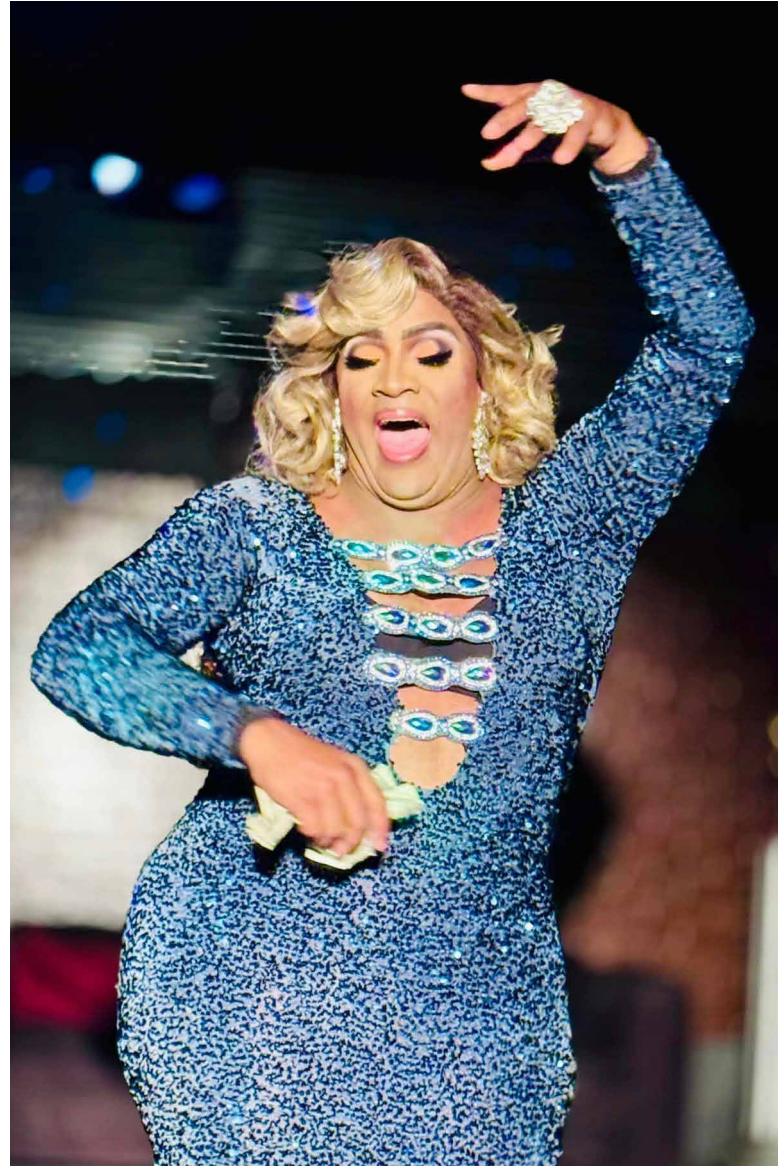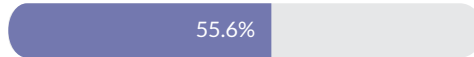
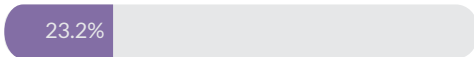Pharrah Kayla Dynamics performs at a Drag event in Mobile, AL

83% of adult respondents had to buy lower quality food in order to have enough food

83%

Nearly 1 in 4 adults have been homeless at some point in their lives

23.2%

12.7% or about 1 in 8 respondents reported attempting suicide in the past year

12.7%

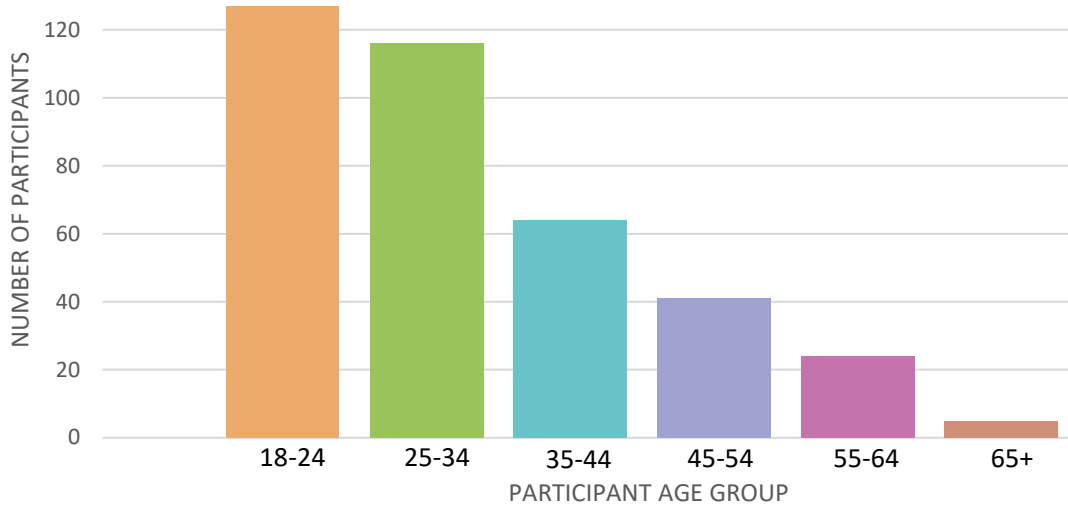*47.5% report experiencing poor mental health most of the time or always*

47.5%

3 out of 4 people felt so nervous, anxious, or on edge in the past 12 months that they found it hard to stop worrying or had an anxiety attack
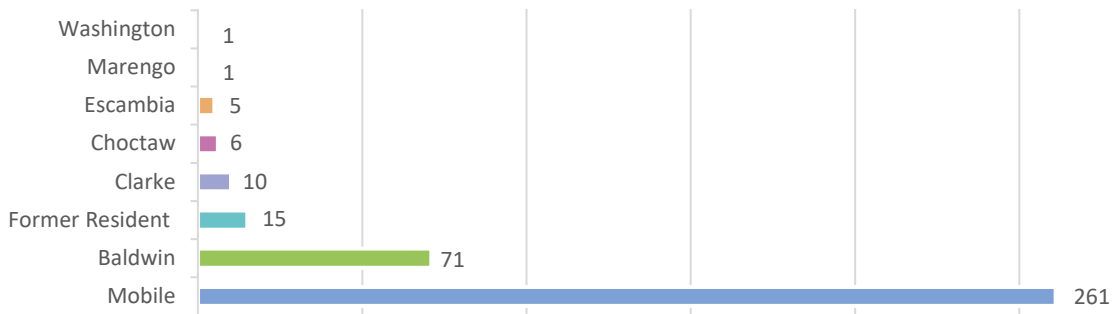
75.9%

More than half respondents felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities

55.6%

Less than half of adults reported working in a place where their sexuality and gender identity is affirmed

45.2%
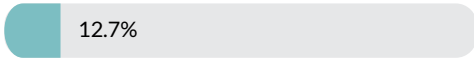
84.7% of respondents of color agree that the mainstream LGBTQIA+ community does not reflect the needs of communities of color

84.7%

AIDS Alabama South tabling at a community resource event
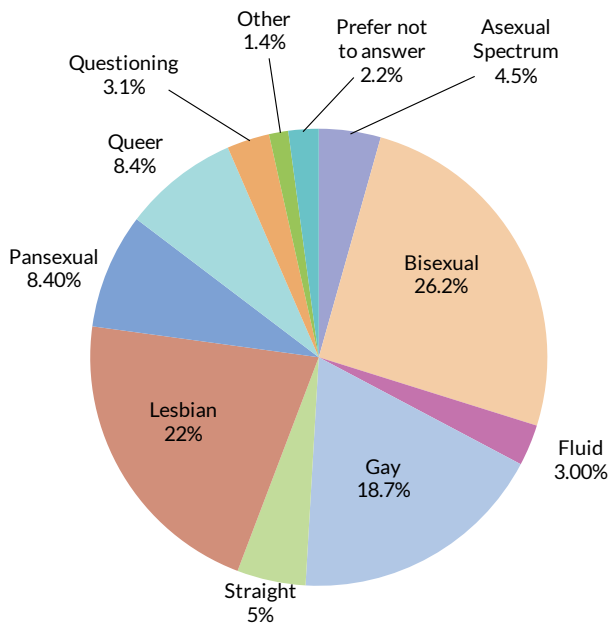
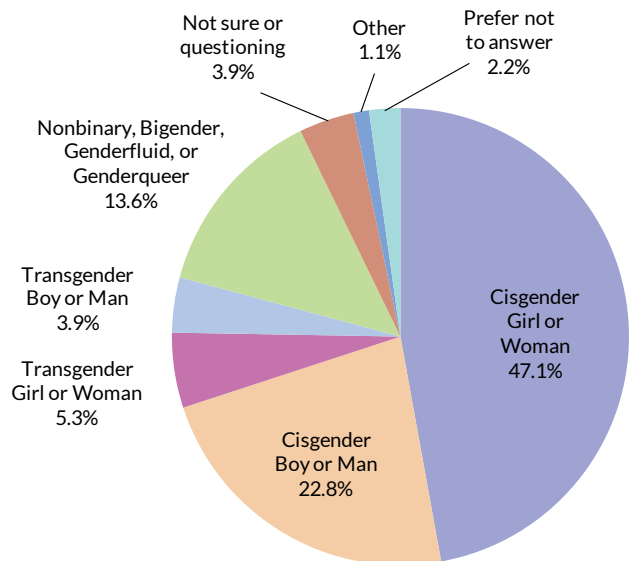# B. Adult Participant Demographics

1.   What is your age? (Total: 377)

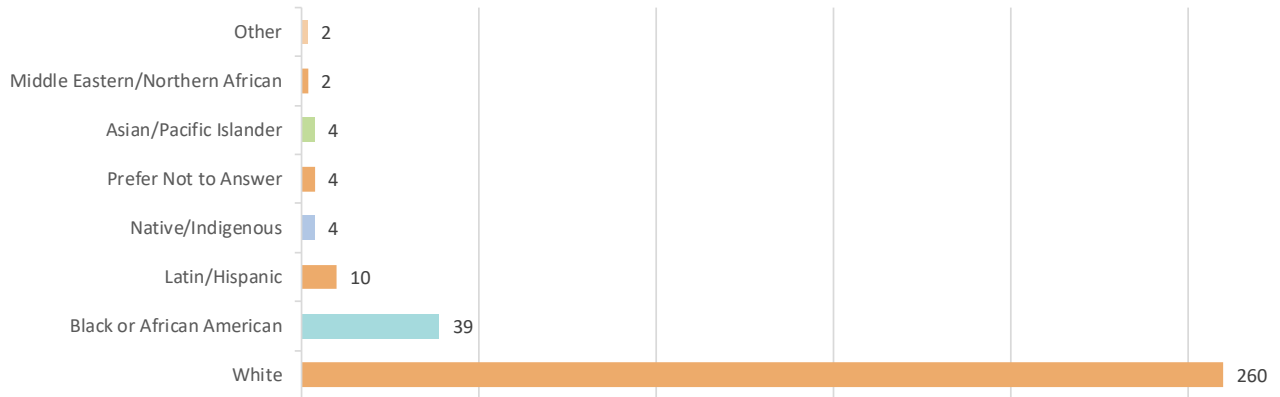**2.   In which of the following counties in southwest Alabama (SWAL) do you currently live? (Total: 377)**

County	Count
Washington	1
Marengo	1
Escambia	5
Choctaw	6
Clarke	10
Former Resident	15
Baldwin	71
Mobile	261

3.   Which of the following best describes your current sexual orientation? (Total: 359)

- Other 1.4%
- Questioning 3.1%
- Prefer not to answer 2.2%
- Asexual Spectrum 4.5%
- Queer 8.4%
- Pansexual 8.40%
- Bisexual 26.2%
- Lesbian 22%
- Gay 18.7%
- Fluid 3.00%
- Straight 5%

4.   Which of the following best describes your gender identity? (Total: 359)

- Not sure or questioning 3.9%
- Other 1.1%
- Prefer not to answer 2.2%
- Nonbinary, Bigender, Genderfluid, or Genderqueer 13.6%
- Transgender Boy or Man 3.9%
- Transgender Girl or Woman 5.3%
- Cisgender Girl or Woman 47.1%
- Cisgender Boy or Man 22.8%

5. What is your race/ethnicity? (Total: 325)

Category	Value
Other	2
Middle Eastern/Northern African	2
Asian/Pacific Islander	4
Prefer Not to Answer	4
Native/Indigenous	4
Latin/Hispanic	10
Black or African American	39
White	260

6. Are you an immigrant? (Total: 356)

Category	Value
Yes	6
No	350

7. Which of the following disability categories apply to you? (Total: 326)

- Prefer No to Answer 4.6%
- Hearing Difficulty 2.5%
- Vision Difficulty 1.2%
- Ambulatory Difficulty 1.8%
- Self-Care Difficulty 1.2%
- Cognitive Difficulty 12.9%
- Independent Living Difficulty 0.9%
- No Difficulties Pertaining to Ability 74.9%

8a. Which of the following best describes your relationship dynamic? (Total: 352)

- Mixed Orientation Relationship 4.5%
- Other 3.6%
- Open 8.2%
- Polyamorous 12.5%
- Monogamous 71.1%

8b. Which of the following best describes your relationship status? (Total: 359)

- Casually dating
- Other 1.7%
- Prefer not to say 0.3%
- Committed Dating Relationship, not living together 13.6%
- Single 32.9%
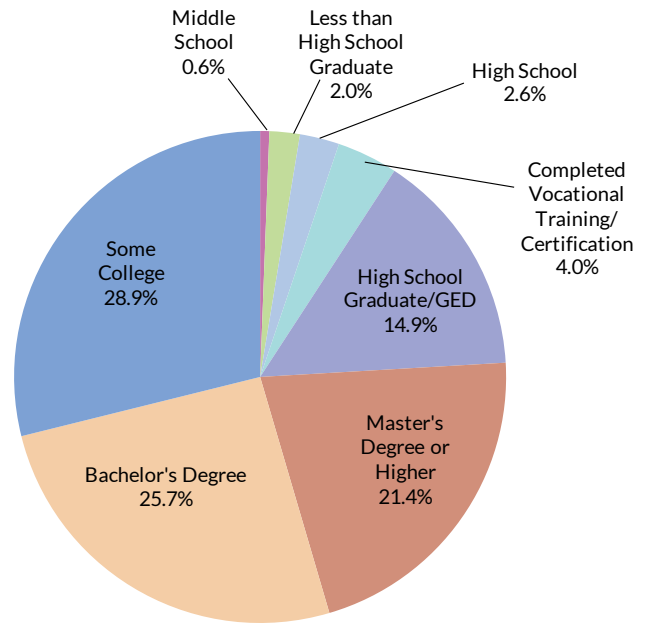- Committed Relationship, living together 18.7%
- Legally Married 25.1%

9. **Which of the following best describes the spiritual or religious beliefs in the home where you grew up? (Total: 196)**

Agnostic 3.1%
Judaism 1.7%
Indigenous Spiritual Practice 1.0%
Other 6.2%
Spiritual but Not Religious 3.5%
Atheist 4.5%
Christianity 80.0%

10. **What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Total: 213)**

Middle School 0.6%
Less than High School Graduate 2.0%
High School 2.6%
Completed Vocational Training/ Certification 4.0%
Some College 28.9%
High School Graduate/GED 14.9%
Bachelor's Degree 25.7%
Master's Degree or Higher 21.4%

Open Table United Church of Christ at 2022 PrideFest

C. Adult Economic Access

1. **Income**

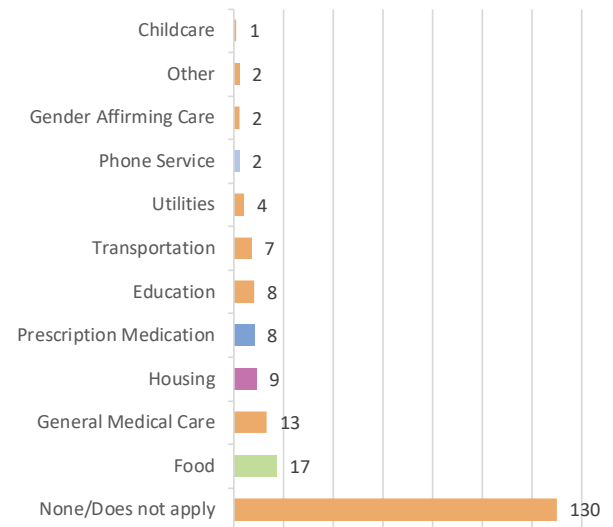**What is your individual annual income? (If you are not sure, it's okay to estimate) (Total: 204)**

Income	Count
100,000+	26
$80,000 - $99,999	16
$60,000 - $79,999	39
$40,000 - $59,000	61
$20,000 - $39,000	80
Less than $20,000	124

What is the total annual income for your household? (If you are not sure, it's okay to estimate) (Total: 202)

Income	Count
$100,000+	81
$80,000 - $99,000	31
$60,000 - $79,000	66
$40,000 - $59,000	63
$20,000 - $39,000	54
Less than $20,000	48

How often do you (or your family) have difficulty making ends meet at the end of the month? (Total: 347)

Category	Percent
Never	41%
Once or Twice Per Year	30%
3-6 Times Per Year	13%
Nearly every month	10%
Every month	6%

Which of the following have you had trouble affording in the last year? (Select all that apply) (Total: 203)

Category	Count
Childcare	1
Other	2
Gender Affirming Care	2
Phone Service	2
Utilities	4
Transportation	7
Education	8
Prescription Medication	8
Housing	9
General Medical Care	13
Food	17
None/Does not apply	130

2. **Employment Status**

What is your employment status? (Total: 275)

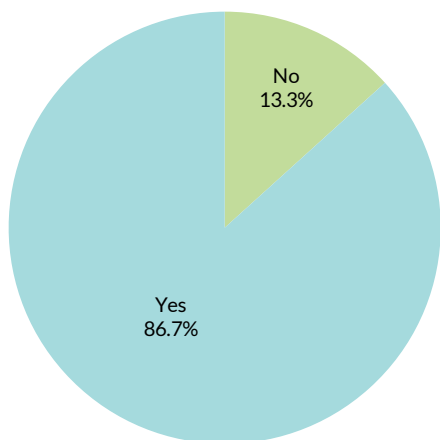| Category	Count
Employed Full-Time Job	159
Employed with one Part-Time Job	26
Student	23
Self-employed	22
Employed with multiple Part-time Jobs	14
Unemployed, not looking for work	7
Disabled/Unable to Work	7
Retired	6
Unemployed, looking for work	5
Homemaker	3
Seasonal Worker	1
Other	1
Gig Worker	1

Have you ever been terminated from a job because of your LGBTQIA+ identity? (Total: 304)

Yes   35
No   269

### 3.   Insurance Access
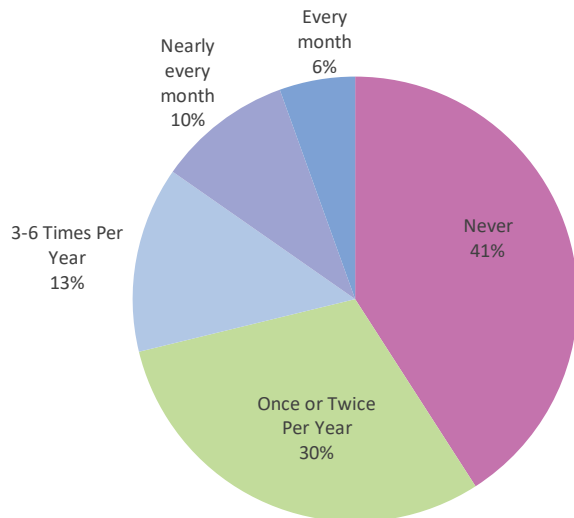
Do you have medical insurance? (Total: 377)

No
13.3%

Yes
86.7%

What kind of insurance do you have? (Total: 278)

Medicaid
6.5%

Other
5.0%

Private Insurance
from the Health
Care Exchange
(ObamaCare)
6.8%

Medicare
7.6%

Private Insurance
Provided by a
Spouse's Employer
10.1%

Private Insurance from
My Employer
42.4%

Private
Insurance
Provided by a
Parent
21.6%
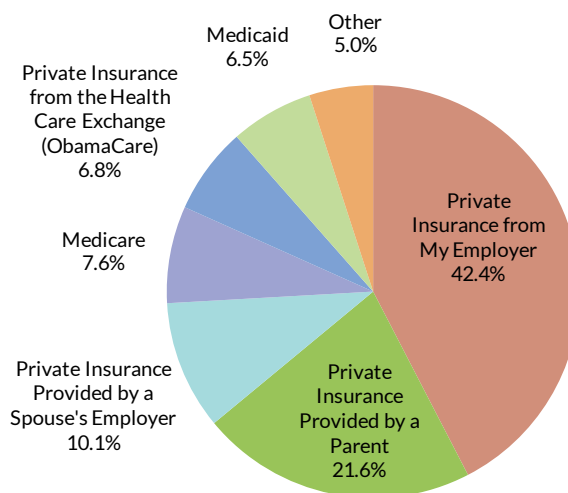
Dan Van Nostrand speaks at the City of Mobile LGBTQIA+ Liason Town Hall on Herz patio

4. **Food Security**

Do you feel that you get enough food during any given week? (Total: 105)

- Not Sure 16.2%
- No 23.8%
- Yes 60.0%
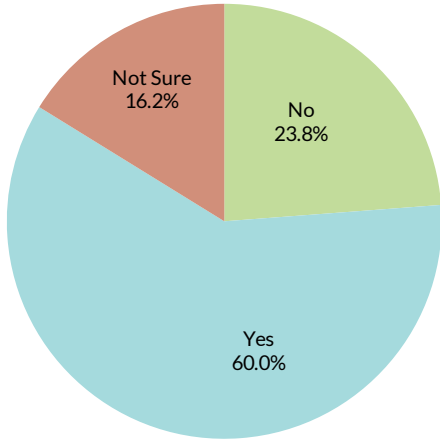
Did you or your family have to buy lower quality food in order to have enough food? (Total: 106)

- No 11.3%
- Not Sure 5.7%
- Yes 83.0%
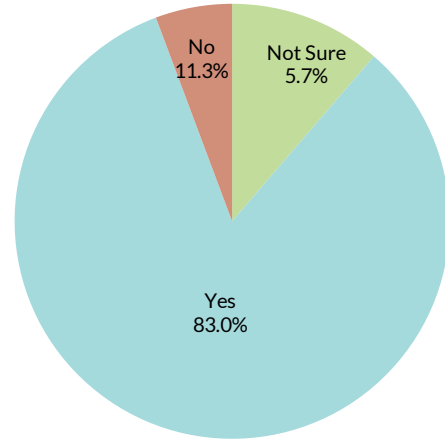
Have you or your household felt like you must skip meals in order to pay for other household expenses such as water, electricity, or rent? (Total: 107)
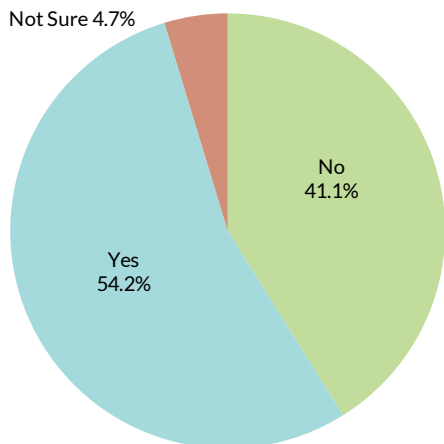
- Not Sure 4.7%
- No 41.1%
- Yes 54.2%

In the past 12 months, have you visited a charitable food site such as a food pantry, food distribution, etc.? (Total: 107)
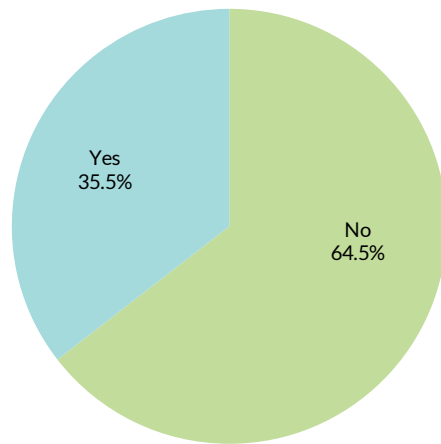
- Yes 35.5%
- No 64.5%

Did you experience any discrimination or microaggressions (indirect, subtle, or unintentional discrimination) during this experience? (Total: 38)

- Yes 34.2%
- No 65.8%
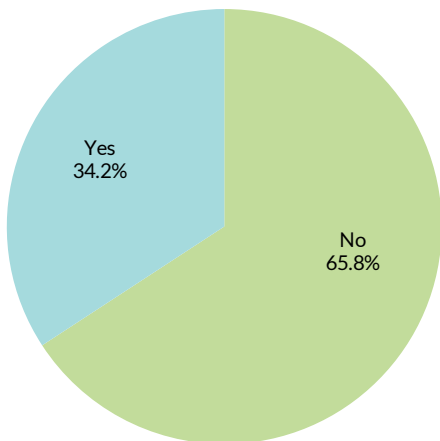
A night out at B-Bob's in Mobile

5.   Housing Security

Have you ever been homeless (even for a short amount of time)? (Total: 345)
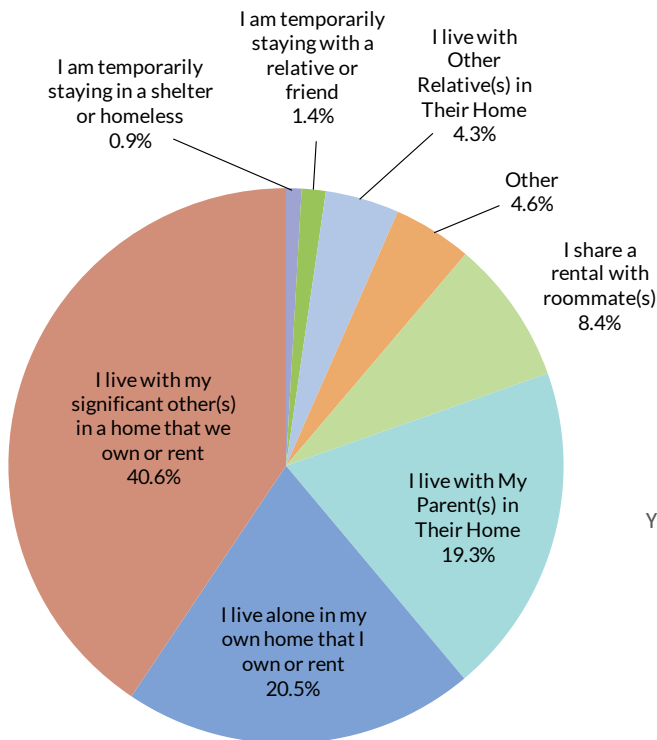

Yes
23.2%

No
76.8%
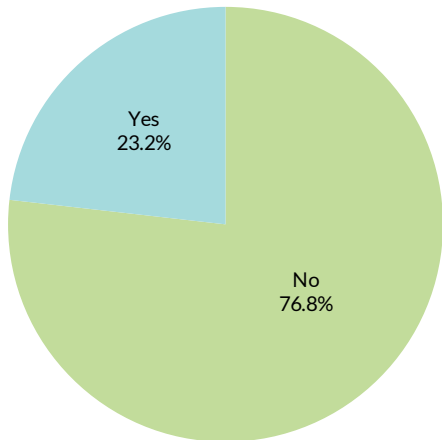
Nearly 1 in 4 LGBTQIA+ adults have been homeless at some point in their lives

Have you ever been homeless or kicked out of your parents' home because of your LGBTQIA+ identity (even for a short amount of time)? (Total:285)
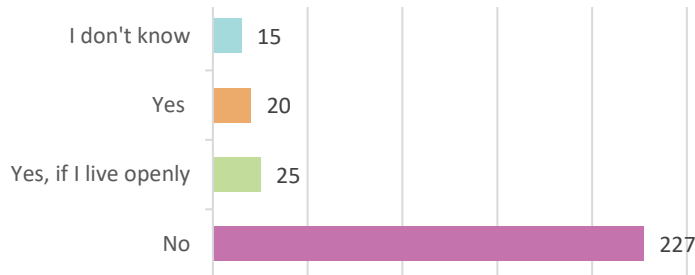

Yes   31
No   254

Which of the following best describes your CURRENT living situation? (Total: 347)

I am temporarily staying with a relative or friend 1.4%

I am temporarily staying in a shelter or homeless 0.9%

I live with Other Relative(s) in Their Home 4.3%

Other 4.6%

I share a rental with roommate(s) 8.4%

I live with my significant other(s) in a home that we own or rent 40.6%

I live with My Parent(s) in Their Home 19.3%

I live alone in my own home that I own or rent 20.5%

Have you ever been evicted from your home because of your LGBTQIA+ identity? (Total: 304)

Yes   21
No   283

Do you believe you are at risk of homelessness or having to move from your current housing due to your sexual orientation or gender identity? (Total: 287)
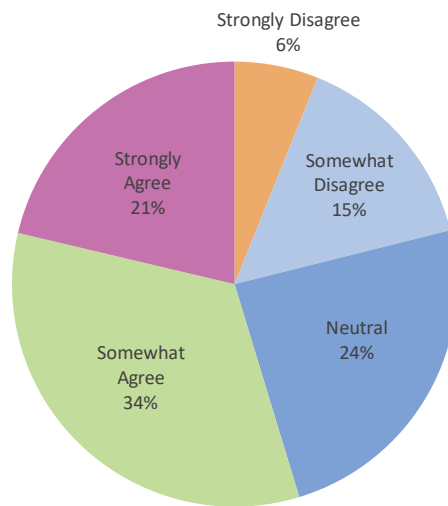

I don't know   15
Yes   20
Yes, if I live openly   25
No   227

6.   Sources of Transportation

What is your primary source of transportation? (Total: 346)

Source	Count
Bicycle	3
Walking	5
Rideshare	8
Public Transportation	14
Getting Rides from Friends and Family	25
My Personal Vehicle	291

7.   Perceived Economic Output

In the future, there will be opportunities for me to achieve economic stability/improve my economic outlook in the county where I currently reside. (Total: 347)
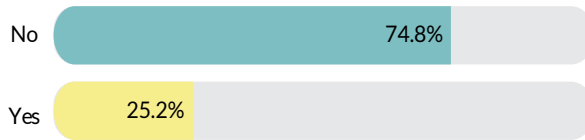
- Strongly Disagree 6%
- Somewhat Disagree 15%
- Neutral 24%
- Somewhat Agree 34%
- Strongly Agree 21%
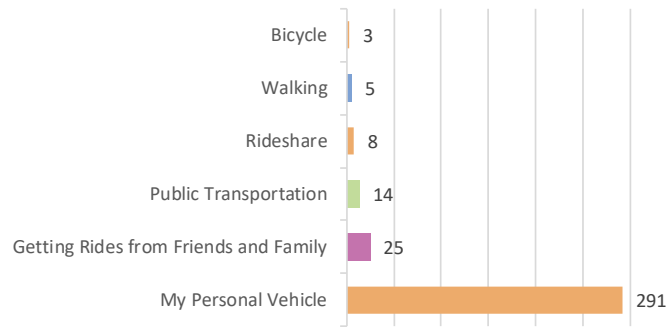
Revelers at the inaugural Wig Walk in 2023

D. Adult Mental Health and Suicide Risk

1. During the past 12 months, did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide? (Total: 321)

No — 74.8%

Yes — 25.2%

12.7% or about 1 in 8 respondents reported attempting suicide in the past year

**2. How many times adults actually attempted suicide during the past 12 months (Total: 162)**

0 Times — 87.3%

1 Time — 5.9%

2-3 Times — 5.3%

4-5 Times — 1.6%
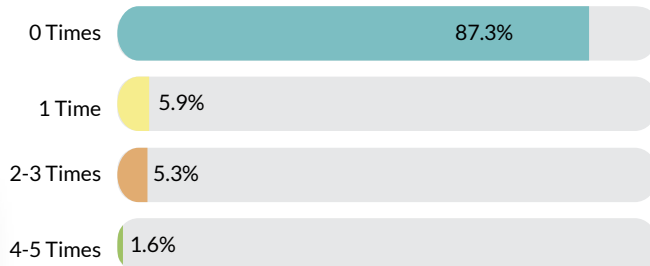
3. During the past 30 days, how often did you experience stress, anxiety, or depression? (Total: 322)

Always — 15.2%

Most of the Time — 32.3%

Sometimes — 39.8%

Rarely — 9.0%

Never — 3.7%
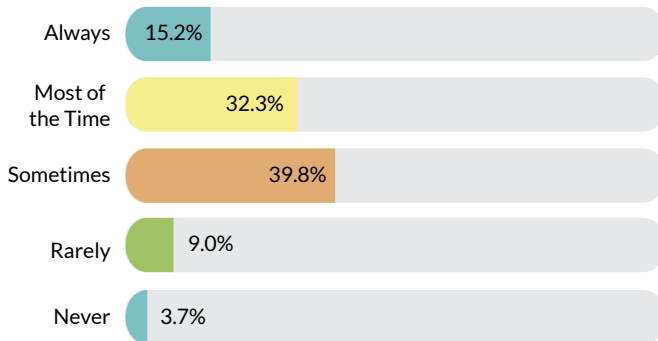
47.5 % reported experiencing poor mental health Most of the Time or Always

4. In the past 12 months, did you ever feel so nervous, anxious, or on edge that you found it hard to stop worrying or had an anxiety attack? (Total: 320)
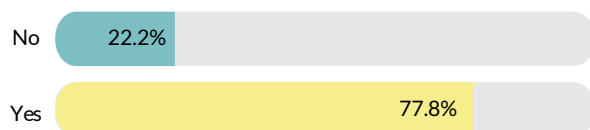
No — 24.1%

Yes — 75.9%
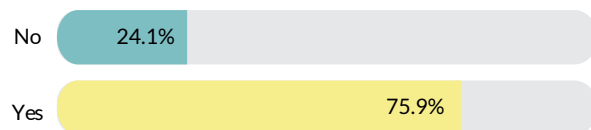
5. In the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities? (Total: 322)
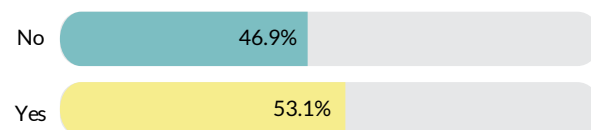
No — 44.4%

Yes — 55.6%
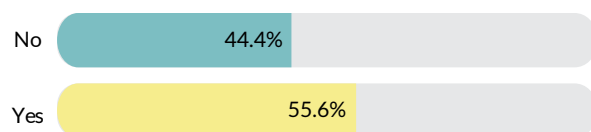
E. Adult Mental Health Care

1. In the past 12 months, have you wanted to seek mental health care? (Total: 320)

No — 22.2%

Yes — 77.8%

2. Adults who received mental healthcare in the past 12 months (Total: 161)
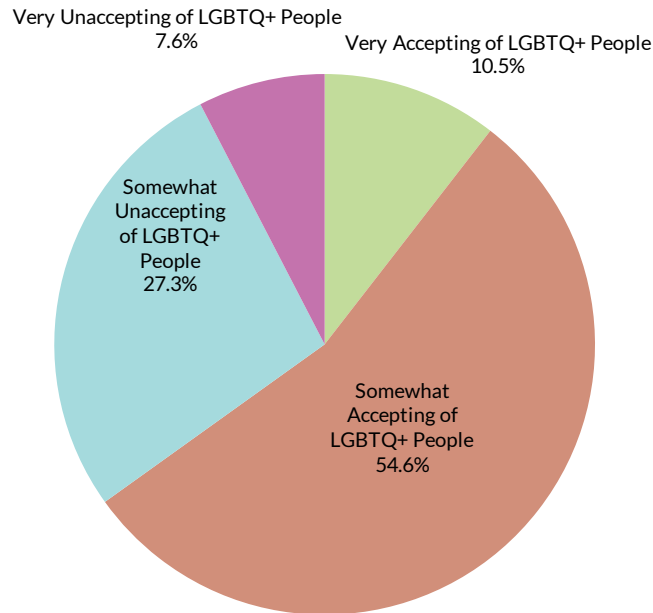
No — 46.9%

Yes — 53.1%

249 respondents reported wanting mental health care in the past year while only 170 reported having received mental health care in the past year
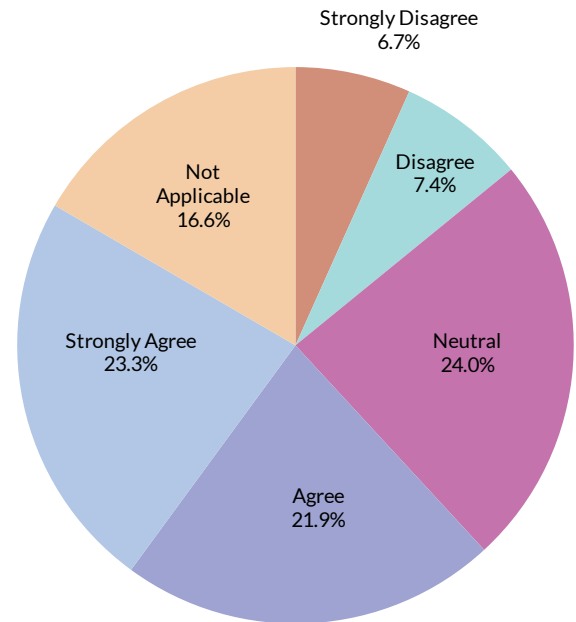
F. Being LGBTQIA+ Adults in Southwest Alabama

Less than half of LGBTQIA+ adults reported working in a place where their sexuality and gender identity are affirmed

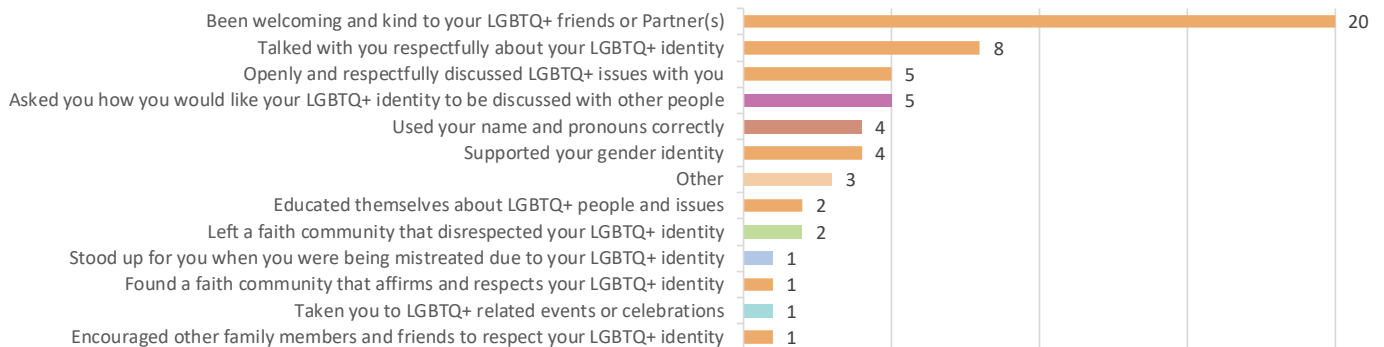**1.   In general, the community where I live is: (Total: 304)**

Very Unaccepting of LGBTQ+ People
7.6%

Very Accepting of LGBTQ+ People
10.5%

Somewhat Unaccepting of LGBTQ+ People
27.3%

Somewhat Accepting of LGBTQ+ People
54.6%

2.   I work in a place where my sexuality and gender identity are affirmed. (Total: 283)

Strongly Disagree
6.7%

Disagree
7.4%

Neutral
24.0%

Agree
21.9%
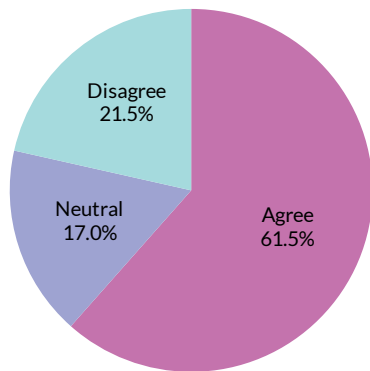
Strongly Agree
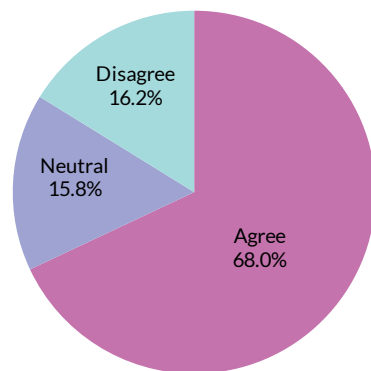23.3%

Not Applicable
16.6%

G. Experiences in Childhood Families - Adults

1.   Has a parent or guardian ever taken any of the following actions to support your LGBTQIA+ identity? (Total: 377)

Action	Count
Been welcoming and kind to your LGBTQ+ friends or Partner(s)	20
Talked with you respectfully about your LGBTQ+ identity	8
Openly and respectfully discussed LGBTQ+ issues with you	5
Asked you how you would like your LGBTQ+ identity to be discussed with other people	5
Used your name and pronouns correctly	4
Supported your gender identity	4
Other	3
Educated themselves about LGBTQ+ people and issues	2
Left a faith community that disrespected your LGBTQ+ identity	2
Stood up for you when you were being mistreated due to your LGBTQ+ identity	1
Found a faith community that affirms and respects your LGBTQ+ identity	1
Taken you to LGBTQ+ related events or celebrations	1
Encouraged other family members and friends to respect your LGBTQ+ identity	1

2. I live in a home where my sexual orientation is affirmed. (Total: 289)

Agree 61.5%
Disagree 21.5%
Neutral 17.0%

3. I live in a home where my gender identity is affirmed. (Total: 284)

Agree 68.0%
Disagree 16.2%
Neutral 15.8%

4. LGBTQIA+ Relatives

Do you have at least one parent who identifies as LGBTQIA+? (Total: 287)

- Not sure — 11
- Yes — 17
- No — 259

Do you have other people in your family such as siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, or your own kids who identify as LGBTQIA+? (Total: 287)

- Not sure — 23
- Yes — 166
- No — 98

Are you a parent or step-parent? (Total: 285)

- Yes — 96
- No — 189

5. In which of the following relationships has a response or reaction to your LGBTQIA+ identity EVER been stressful for you? (Total: 91)

- with my coworkers, colleagues — 1
- with my supervisor/boss — 2
- with my current partner — 2
- with my extended family (aunts, uncles, cousins) — 3
- with a sibling — 3
- with a grandparent — 3
- with a former partner — 3
- with my friends — 4
- with my father — 7
- with my acquaintances — 7
- with my mother — 13
- none of the above — 43

6. In the PAST 12 MONTHS, in which of the following relationships has a response or reaction to your LGBTQIA+ identity been stressful for you. (Total: 183)
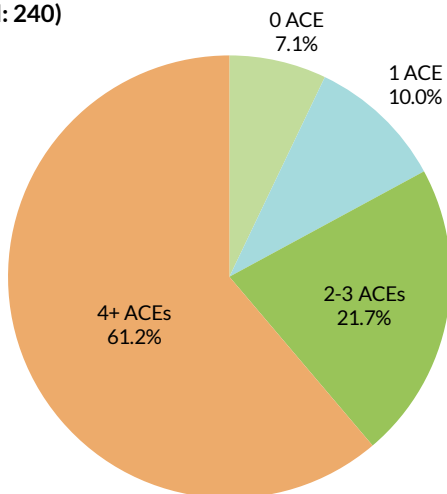
- with a former partner — 1
- with a grandparent — 1
- with my children — 2
- with my current partner — 2
- with my supervisor/boss — 4
- with my friends — 5
- with my extended family (aunts, uncles, cousins) — 6
- with a sibling — 6
- with my father — 6
- with my coworkers, colleagues — 8
- with my mother — 12
- with my acquaintances — 13
- none of the above — 117
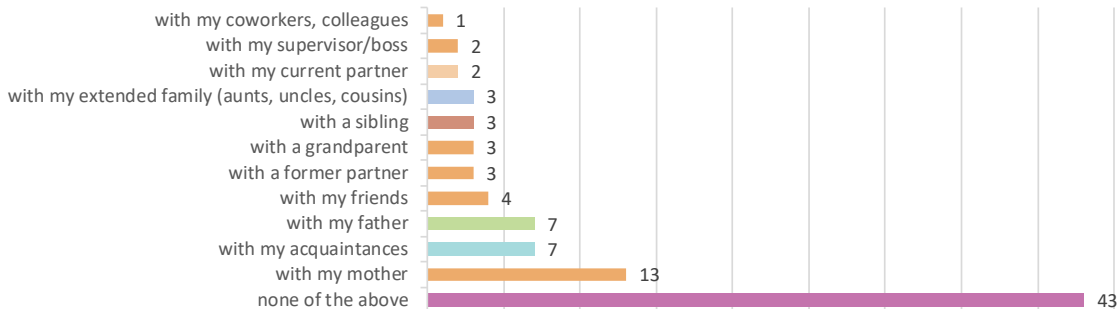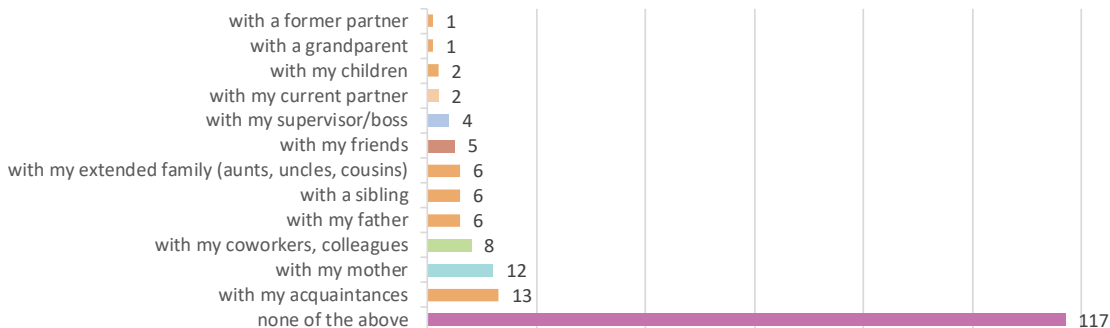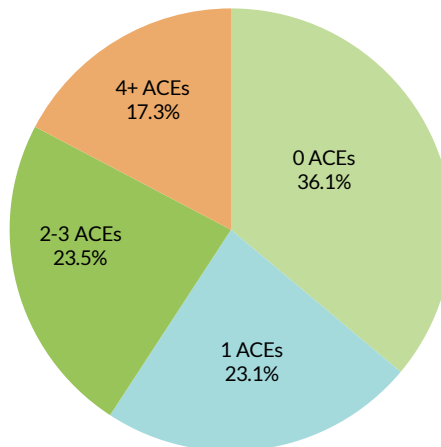
Participants at Love Wins Fairhope in 2023

Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs)

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) refer to stressful or traumatic events that occur during childhood, typically before the age of 18. These experiences can vary widely and may include physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, neglect, household dysfunction such as substance abuse or mental illness among caregivers, or exposure to violence. ACEs can profoundly impact a child's physical, emotional, and cognitive development, as well as their overall well-being. For individuals who have experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences, the cumulative effects can be particularly severe. The greater the number of ACEs in one's background, the higher the risk of negative outcomes later in life. Research has shown that individuals with a high ACE score are more likely to suffer from chronic health conditions such as heart disease, obesity, and mental health disorders like depression and anxiety. Additionally, they may have difficulties forming and maintaining healthy relationships, struggle with substance abuse or addiction, and face challenges in academic or professional settings.

Number of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) present in LGBTQIA+ Adults in southwest Alabama (Total: 240)

0 ACE
7.1%

1 ACE
10.0%

2-3 ACEs
21.7%

4+ ACEs
61.2%

ACE Score Prevalence among U.S. Adults, 2001-2020 BRFSS ACEs Module[5]

4+ ACEs
17.3%

0 ACEs
36.1%

2-3 ACEs
23.5%

1 ACEs
23.1%

[5] Source: Swedo EA, Aslam MV, Dahlberg LL, et al. Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences Among U.S. Adults — Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011–2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2023;72:707–715. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7226a2
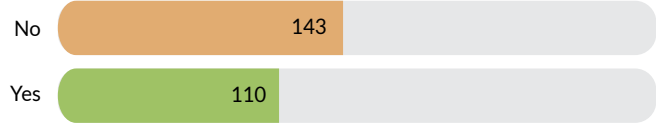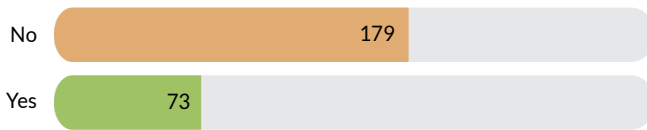
7. Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs)

Did you live with anyone who was depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal? (Total: 229)

No	75
Yes	154
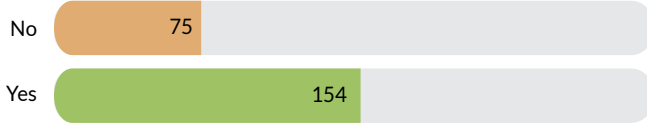
**Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic? (Total: 253)**

No	143
Yes	110

**Did you live with anyone who used illegal street drugs or who abused prescription medications? (Total: 252)**

No	179
Yes	73

Did you live with anyone who served time or was sentenced to serve time in a prison, jail, or other correctional facility? (Total: 263)

No	222
Yes	41

Were your parents separated or divorced? (Total: 250)

No	154
Yes	96
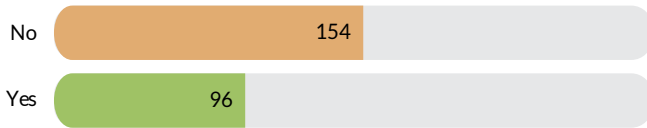
Did your parents or adults in your home ever slap, hit, kick, punch, or beat each other up? (Total: 245)
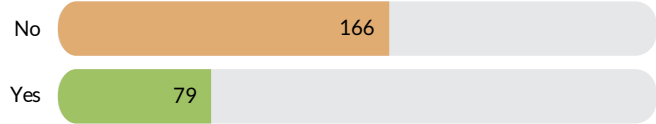
No	166
Yes	79

Not including spanking (before age 18), did a parent or adult in your home ever hit, beat, kick, or physically hurt you in any way? (Total: 259)
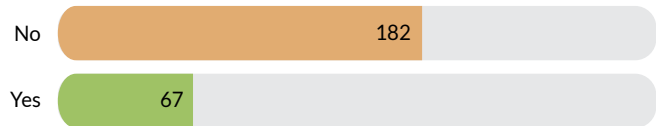
No	138
Yes	121
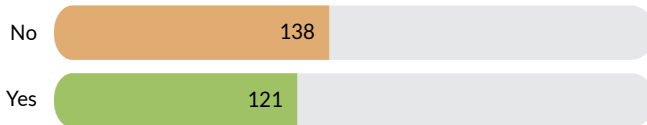
Did a parent or adult in your home ever swear at you, insult you, or put you down? (Total: 251)

No	58
Yes	193
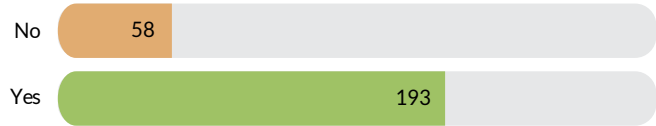
Did anyone at least 5 years older than you or an adult ever touch you sexually? (Total: 248)
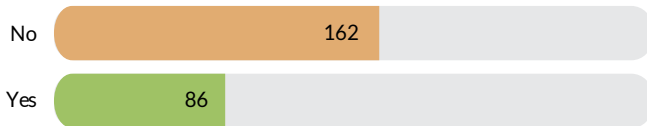
No	162
Yes	86

Did anyone at least 5 years older than you or an adult try to make you touch them sexually? (Total: 249)

|	
No	182
Yes	67

Did anyone at least 5 years older than you or an adult force you to have sex? (Total: 248)

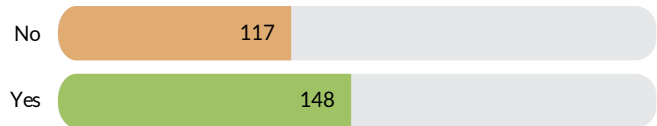|	
No	206
Yes	42

During your childhood was there an adult in your household who made you feel safe and protected most or all of the time? (Total: 259)

No	92
Yes	167

During your childhood was there an adult in your household who tried hard to make sure your basic needs were met most or all of the time? (Total: 262)
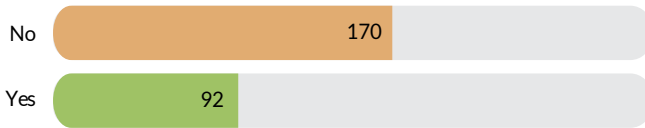
No — 170

Yes — 92

Have you experienced discrimination? (For example, being hassled or made to feel inferior or excluded because of your race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, learning differences, or disabilities) (Total: 265)
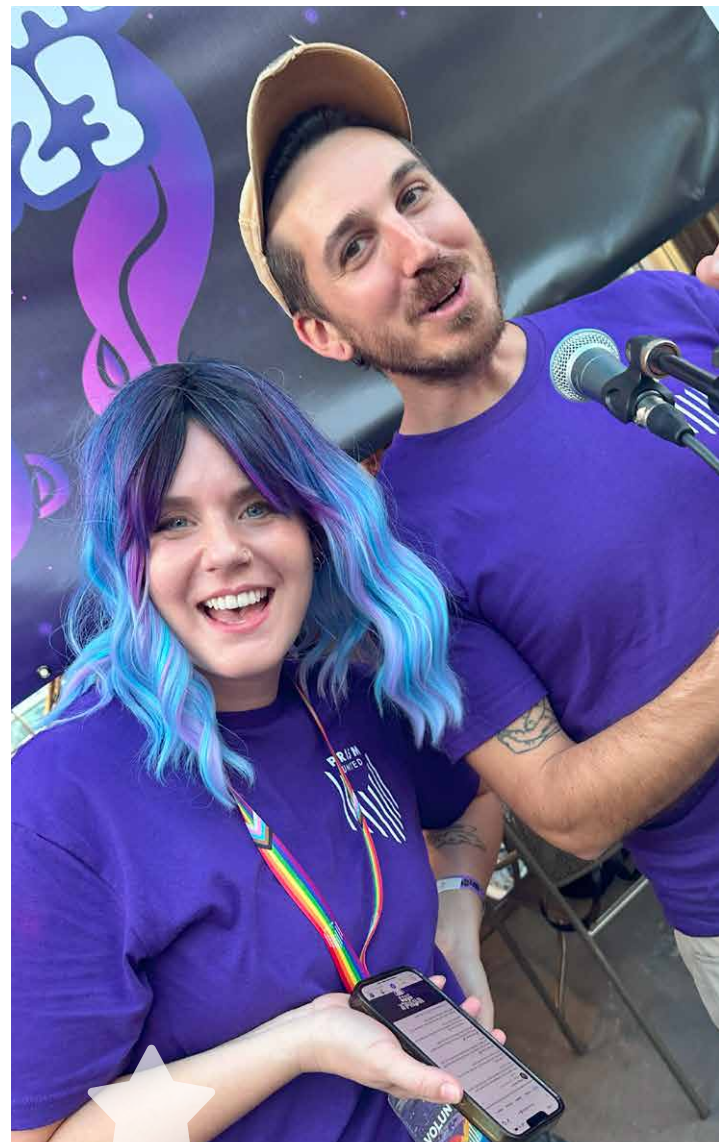
No — 84

Yes — 181

Have you ever experienced verbal or physical abuse or threats from a romantic partner? (For example, a partner, boyfriend or girlfriend) (Total: 264)
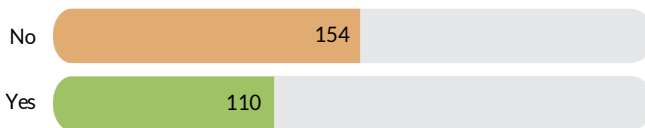
No — 154

Yes — 110

Have you ever had to sleep away from your parent(s) or caregiver(s) because you were kicked out or abandoned? (Total: 264)

No — 225

Yes — 39

Have you ever been in foster care, even for a short period of time? (Total: 264)

No — 252

Yes — 12

Have you ever seen, heard, or been a victim of violence in your neighborhood, community or school? (For example, targeted bullying, assault or other violent actions, war or terrorism) (Total: 265)

No — 117

Yes — 148
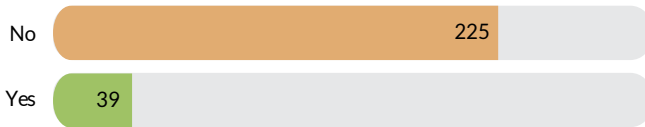
Rachel and Tom announcing the 2023 WigWalk costume winners at Oyster City Brewing Company

8. Identity-based Adversity in Families

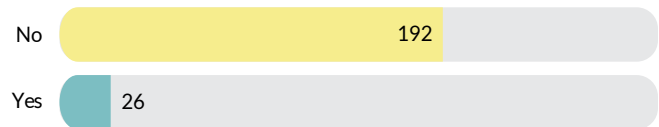**Have you ever been rejected by or distanced from family members because of your sexual orientation? (Total: 285)**
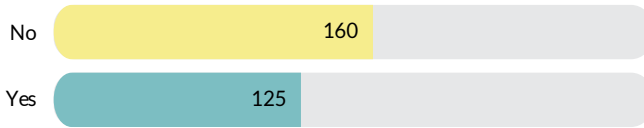
No   160

Yes   125

Have you ever been rejected by or distanced from family members because of your gender identity? (Total: 285)

No   227

Yes   58

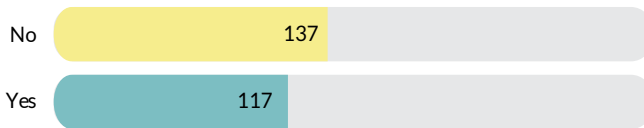**Did a parent or guardian ever openly speak negatively of or use slur words to refer the LGBTQIA+ Community? (Total: 286)**

No   123

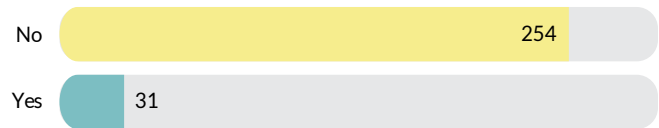Yes   163
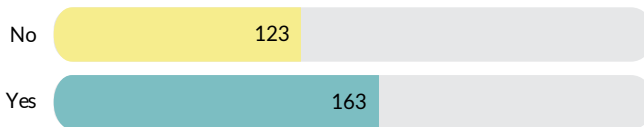
Has your parent or guardian ever threatened to withhold any resources due to your LGBTQIA+ identity? (Total: 218)
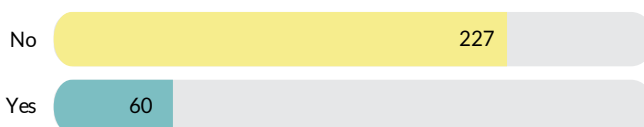
No   192

Yes   26

Did you ever believe that your parent or guardian would likely withhold resources from you due to your LGBTQIA+ identity? (Total: 254)
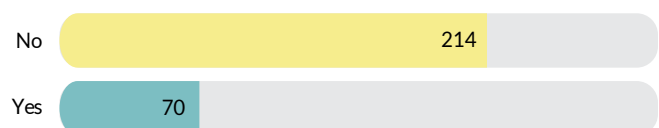
No   137

Yes   117

Have you ever been homeless or kicked out of your parents' home because of your LGBTQIA+ identity (even for a short amount of time)? (Total: 285)
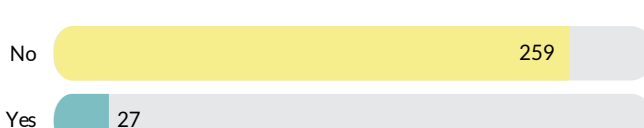
No   254

Yes   31

Do you believe you are at risk of homelessness or having to move from your current housing due to your sexual orientation or gender identity? (Total: 287)
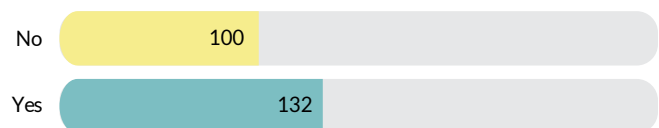
No   227

Yes   60

Were you ever encouraged, compelled, or forced to participate in religious activities (e.g. prayer, laying on of hands, etc.) for the purpose of changing your sexual orientation or gender identity? (Total: 284)

No   214

Yes   70

Were you encouraged, compelled, or forced to participate in "conversion" therapy with a mental health professional for the purpose of changing your sexual orientation or gender identity? (Total: 286)

No   259

Yes   27

With regard to your LGBTQIA+ identities and related experiences, did you often feel misunderstood, dismissed, stigmatized, or blamed by a parent or other important adults in your life? (Total: 232)
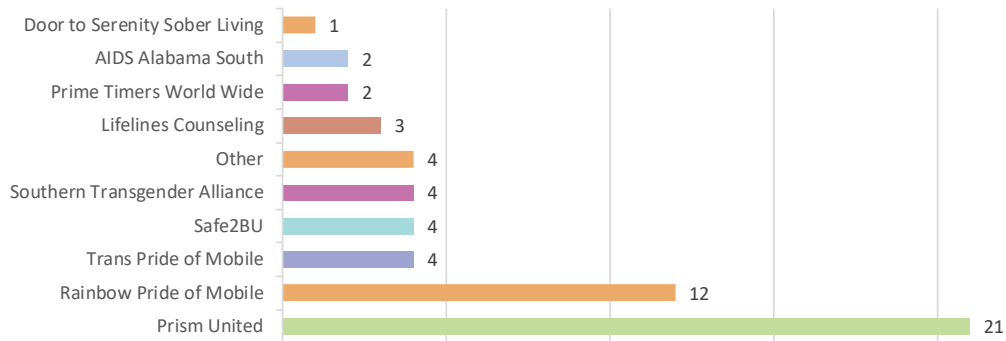
No   100

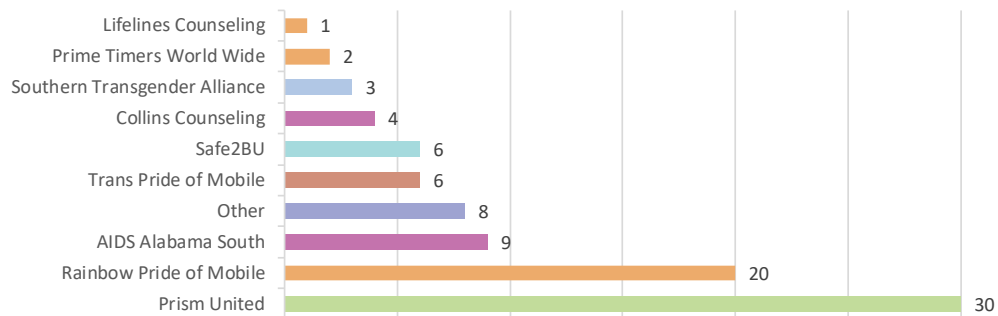Yes   132

H. Adult Experiences within the LGBTQIA+ Community

1. **If I want to socialize with other LGBTQIA+ people in person, I am generally able to do so. (Total: 303)**

Yes	254
No	49

2. **Of which of the following LGBTQIA+ led/allied organizations are you aware? (Total: 60)**

Door to Serenity Sober Living	1
AIDS Alabama South	2
Prime Timers World Wide	2
Lifelines Counseling	3
Other	4
Southern Transgender Alliance	4
Safe2BU	4
Trans Pride of Mobile	4
Rainbow Pride of Mobile	12
Prism United	21

3. **Which of the following LGBTQIA+ led/allied organizations have you interacted with in the past? (Total: 92)**

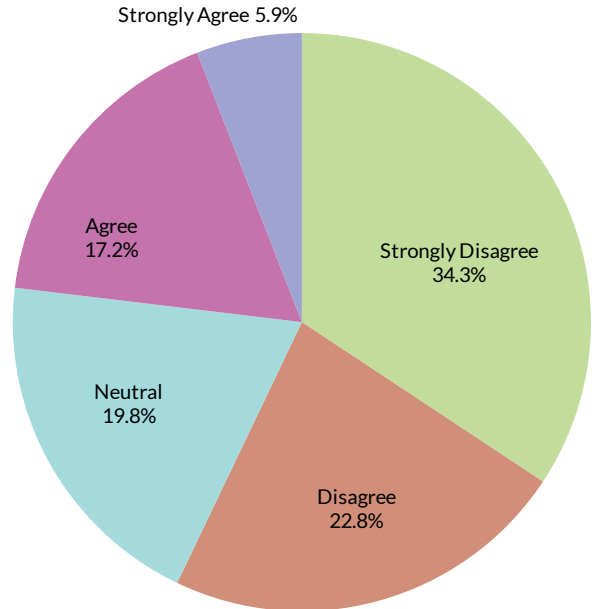|	
Lifelines Counseling	1
Prime Timers World Wide	2
Southern Transgender Alliance	3
Collins Counseling	4
Safe2BU	6
Trans Pride of Mobile	6
Other	8
AIDS Alabama South	9
Rainbow Pride of Mobile	20
Prism United	30

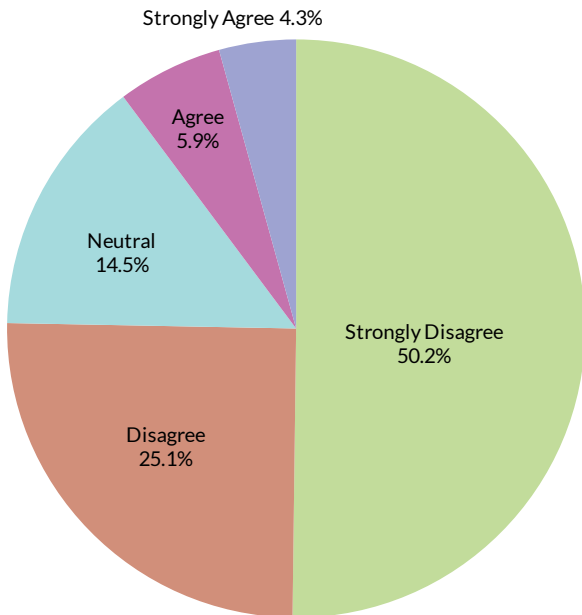**4.   Affirmation within the LGBTQIA+ Community**

At times I have felt rejected by the LGBTQIA+ community because of my cultural identity (e.g. race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, etc.). (Total: 303)

Strongly Agree 6.9%

Agree
12.9%

Strongly Disagree
39.9%

Neutral
17.8%

Disagree
22.4%

At times I have felt rejected by the LGBTQIA+ community because of my sexuality or gender identity. (Total: 303)

Strongly Agree 5.9%

Agree
17.2%

Strongly Disagree
34.3%

Neutral
19.8%

Disagree
22.8%

At times I have felt rejected by the LGBTQIA+ community because of my health or disability status. (Total: 303)

Strongly Agree 4.3%

Agree
5.9%

Neutral
14.5%

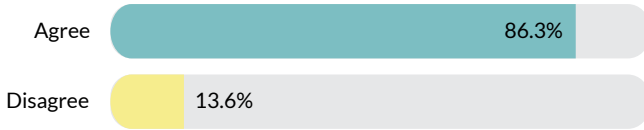Strongly Disagree
50.2%

Disagree
25.1%
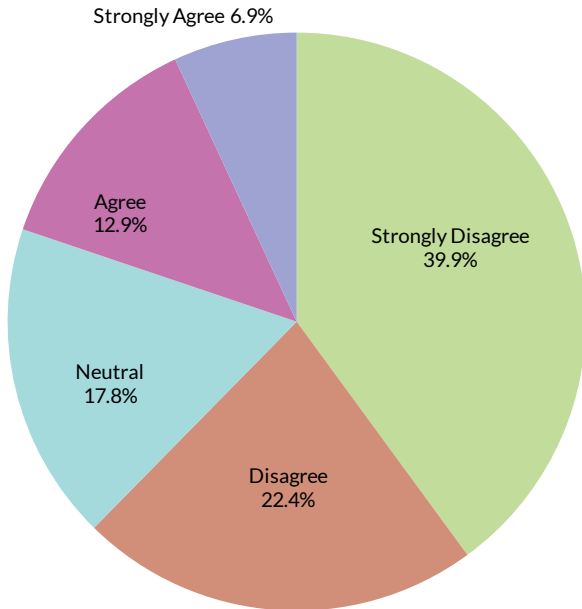
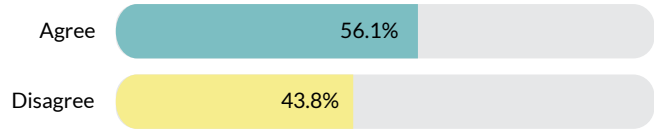Audience participation at a drag show at Club Elevate in Mobile

5.   LGBTQIA+ People of Color

It is hard for people of color (POC) to come out because being LGBTQIA+ is less accepted in POC communities. (Total: 73)
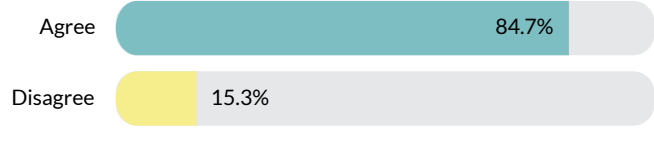
Agree   86.3%

Disagree   13.6%

It is hard to find examples of LGBTQIA+ people of color whom I respect or see as a role model. (Total: 73)
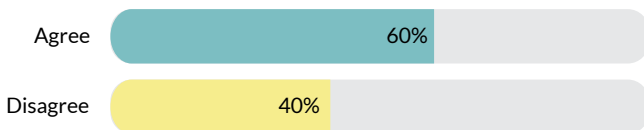
Agree   56.1%

Disagree   43.8%

There are already so many things to deal with when you are a person of color, that being LGBTQIA+ just makes things harder. (Total: 70)
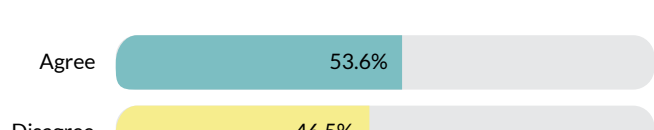
Agree   94.3%

Disagree   5.7%

The mainstream LGBTQIA+ community does not reflect the needs of people of color. (Total: 72)

Agree   84.7%

Disagree   15.3%

I am often asked to represent my entire race in mostly white LGBTQIA+ settings. (Total: 70)

Agree   60%

Disagree   40%

It is more comfortable for me to hang out with other LGBTQIA+ people of color than with white LGBTQIA+ people. (Total: 71)

Agree   53.6%

Disagree   46.5%

My identity as a person of color is more important to who I am than my LGBTQIA+ identity. (Total: 69)

Agree   52.1%

Disagree   47.8%
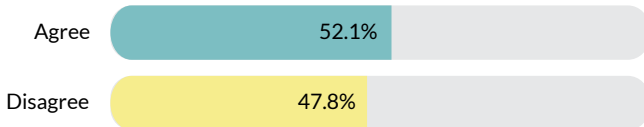
My LGBTQIA+ identity is more important to who I am than my identity as a person of color. (Total: 68)

Agree   32.4%

Disagree   67.6%
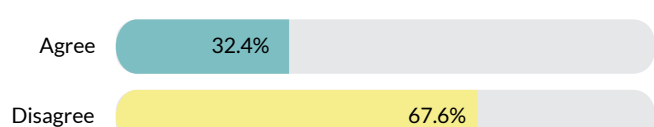
COMMUNITY NEEDS

Survey participants were asked to rank a list of community needs that were previously identified through discussions with local focus groups and individuals. Participants used a ranked voting system, selecting their top 5 priority needs as their first choices and their next 5 priority needs as their second choices. Each first-choice need was given double the weight of a second-choice need in the final tally, reflecting its higher priority. Second-choice needs were included without additional weight. The combined needs scores were calculated to quantitatively represent the community's priorities.

The survey results, presented in two sets of ranked Community Needs lists for each participant age group, provide a crucial basis for decision-making. The first set includes all participants in an age group, and the second set includes only participants who identified themselves as people of color. The significant differences in the needs rankings further emphasize the importance of diversifying leadership and involving communities of color in decision-making processes for local agencies and organizations.

Community Needs – All Youth

01 Access to safe spaces in schools

02 Safety from Violence and Victimization in the Community
and
Shelter for LGBTQIA+ Youth Experiencing Homelessness

03 LGBTQIA+ Community Center for Youth

04 Anti-Discrimination City Ordinance for LGBTQIA+ People
and
Accessible LGBTQIA+ Affirming Mental Health Care

05 More Organizing to Address Anti-LGBTQIA+ Laws and Government

06 More LGBTQIA+ Community Spaces (Other than the bar scene)

07 Affirming LGBTQIA+ Sex Education

08 More Advocacy and Support in Public School System
and
Accessible LGBTQIA+ Affirming Health Care

09 Affordable Housing

10 LGBTQIA+ Community Center for Adults

11 Affordable Food

12 Expanding Medicare/Access to Affordable Health Insurance

13 More People of Color in Leadership in LGBTQIA+ Organizations

14 Services for Families who want to learn to be affirming

15 Access to Gender-Affirming Identification

16 LGBTQIA+ Affirming Magnet School

17 More Accessibility to LGBTQIA+ Events/Spaces for Disabled People

Community Needs – Youth of Color

01 Access to safe spaces in schools

02 Affordable Housing

03 Safety from Violence and Victimization in the Community
and
More Organizing to Address Anti-LGBTQIA+ Laws and Government

04 Shelter for LGBTQIA+ Youth Experiencing Homelessness

05 LGBTQIA+ Community Center for Adults
and
More People of Color in Leadership in LGBTQIA+ Organizations

06 LGBTQIA+ Community Center for Youth
and
More LGBTQIA+ Community Spaces (Other than the bar scene)
and
More Advocacy and Support in Public School System

07 Accessible LGBTQIA+ Affirming Mental Health Care
and
Expanding Medicare/Access to Affordable Health Insurance

08 Accessible LGBTQIA+ Affirming Health Care
and
Affirming LGBTQIA+ Sex Education

09 Affordable Food

10 Anti-Discrimination City Ordinance for LGBTQIA+ People

11 Services for Families who want to learn to be affirming

12 LGBTQIA+ Affirming Assisted Living and Nursing Home Agencies

13 LGBTQIA+ Affirming Magnet School

14 Access to Gender-Affirming Identification

15 More Cohesion in the LGBTQIA+ Community

16 More Accessibility to LGBTQIA+ Events/Spaces for Disabled People

Community Needs – All Adults

Below, you'll find the results of the Adult LGBTQIA+ community needs assessment, reflecting the diverse perspectives and priorities of LGBTQIA+ adults. This invaluable input serves as a compass for understanding the challenges faced by our community and guiding efforts to address them effectively.

01 Shelter for LGBTQIA+ Youth Experiencing Homelessness

02 LGBTQIA+ Community Center for Youth

03 Anti-Discrimination City Ordinance for LGBTQIA+ People

04 Access to safe spaces in schools

05 Safety from Violence and Victimization in the Community

06 LGBTQIA+ Community Center for Adults

07 More LGBTQIA+ Community Spaces (Other than the bar scene)

08 Accessible LGBTQIA+ Affirming Mental Health Care

09 Affordable Housing

10 More Organizing to Address Anti-LGBTQIA+ Laws and Government

11 Accessible LGBTQIA+ Affirming Health Care

12 More Advocacy and Support in Public School System

13 Affordable Food

14 Expanding Medicare/Access to Affordable Health Insurance

15 Affirming LGBTQIA+ Sex Education

16 More People of Color in Leadership in LGBTQIA+ Organizations

17 Services for Families who want to learn to be affirming

18 LGBTQIA+ Affirming Magnet School

19 More Cohesion in the LGBTQIA+ Community

20 Access to Gender-Affirming Identification

Community Needs – Adults of Color

01 Access to safe spaces in schools
and
Safety from Violence and Victimization in the Community

02 Shelter for LGBTQIA+ Youth Experiencing Homelessness

03 LGBTQIA+ Community Center for Youth
and
Affordable Housing

04 More LGBTQIA+ Community Spaces (Other than the bar scene)

05 More Organizing to Address Anti-LGBTQIA+ Laws and Government

06 LGBTQIA+ Community Center for Adults
and
Accessible LGBTQIA+ Affirming Mental Health Care

07 Expanding Medicare/Access to Affordable Health Insurance
and
Affirming LGBTQIA+ Sex Education

08 More People of Color in Leadership in LGBTQIA+ Organizations

09 More Advocacy and Support in Public School System

10 Anti-Discrimination City Ordinance for LGBTQIA+ People

11 Affordable Food

12 Accessible LGBTQIA+ Affirming Health Care

13 LGBTQIA+ Affirming Magnet School
and
Access to Gender-Affirming Identification

14 Services for Families who want to learn to be affirming.
and
LGBTQIA+ Affirming Assisted Living and Nursing Home Agencies

15 More Cohesion in the LGBTQIA+ Community

16 More Accessibility to LGBTQIA+ Events/Spaces for Disabled People

SOUTHWEST ALABAMA
INCLUSION PROJECT