National Coming Out Day
Youth Report
Growing Up LGBT in America—the Human Rights Campaign’s groundbreaking research among more than 10,000 LGBT–identified youth ages 13 to 17—illustrated how the deck is stacked against young people growing up lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Survey responses revealed that many LGBT youth are profoundly disconnected from their communities, in sometimes stark ways. Still, LGBT youth often report resilience in facing today’s challenges and optimism about tomorrow’s possibilities.

This report for National Coming Out Day explores the coming out experiences of the LGBT youth who responded to the survey—to whom they come out, in what settings, obstacles they experience, and the ways in which coming out may be related to their personal well-being, sense of safety, and their connections to family, school and community.
Friends matter, and peers are the most important supporters in the lives of many LGBT youth.

Youth who are out to their immediate family or at school report higher levels of happiness, optimism, acceptance and support through multiple measures. Not surprisingly, they also report higher levels of in-person participation with LGBT organizations at school and in the community.

Youth who are not out are more likely to be cut off from key forms of support: adults in their family or community they could talk to and LGBT organizations at school or elsewhere.

Youth who are out to their immediate family and those who are out at school are more likely to report being happy than those who are not out in those settings.

41% of youth who are out to immediate family say they are “pretty happy” or “very happy” while 33% of youth who are not out say the same. 40% of youth who are out at school say they are “pretty happy” or “very happy” while 33% of youth who are not out say the same.

Youth who are out to their immediate family or at school are more likely to be involved in LGBT groups at school or in the community.

43% of youth who are out at school participate in LGBT groups at school “very often” or “sometimes,” while a quarter (26%) of youth who are not out say the same. 33% of youth who are out at school participate in LGBT groups outside of school, 11% of youth who are not out at school say the same.

Youth who are not out are more likely to experience verbal harassment at school and outside of school. At the same time, youth who are out at school are slightly more likely to experience verbal harassment at school than those who are not out in those settings.

Youth who are out at school are more likely than those who are not out to be involved in LGBT groups at school or in the community.

About half of LGBT youth—out and not out—experience little or no harassment at school. At the same time, youth who are out at school are slightly more likely to experience verbal harassment at school. Among youth who are not out at school, the most frequent obstacle they describe is that teachers or classmates will treat them differently or judge them.

Youth who are not out to their immediate family or at school say they do not have an adult in their family they could talk to if they were sad. Nearly half of youth who are not out say the same.

Youth who are out to their immediate family or at school report a higher likelihood to achieve several life goals compared to those who are not out, if asked to imagine their future while living in their current city or town.

The summary text is not applicable. The text is formatted as a list of facts and statistics related to LGBT youth, their support systems, and the impact of being out to their family and school.
FINDINGS

OUT TO WHOM?

1 OVERALL “OUT” CHART

9 in 10 LGBT youth (91%) are out to their close friends.

Nearly two-thirds (64%) are out to their classmates; 61% are out at school.

More than half (56%) are out to their immediate family.

2 GENDER

“OTHER” GENDER

57% (5699) of high school youth say they are out to close friends. Generally, 9 in 10 youth are out to close friends—from 89% among Asian/Pacific Islander youth to 93% among Hispanic/Latino youth.

In this sample, American Indian/Native American youth report the highest percentages of being out in 8 of 11 categories (immediate family, extended family, teachers, clergy, at work, at school, at congregation, to their doctor).

Hispanic/Latino youth report the highest percentages of being out to classmates, at school and with coaches.

3 SCHOOL STATUS

High school youth who attend religious services regularly, 19% are out at their congregation and 11% are out to their clergy.

4 RACE/ETHNICITY

5 REGION

Youth from the Mountain states tend to report the largest percentages of being out across most categories except “out to doctor.”

Youth from the Middle Atlantic states consistently report the smallest percentages of being out in most categories compared to the other 7 regions.

Across all regions, there is little difference in the percentage of youth who are out to close friends. Generally, 9 in 10 youth are out to close friends.

Across all regions, there is little difference in the percentage of youth who are out to clergy (5–6%).

LGBT youth across all three residence areas (rural, suburban and urban) are similarly likely to be out to close friends (91 or 93%) and immediate family (55 or 57%).

7 AREA OF RESIDENCE

RURAL/SUBURBAN/URBAN

70% of urban youth say they are out to classmates; 63% of rural and 62% of suburban youth say the same.

61% of rural youth say they are out at school; 61% of rural and 58% of suburban youth say the same.

Nearly two-thirds (64%) are out to their classmates; 61% are out at school.

Across all regions, there is little difference in the percentage of youth who are out to close friends (91 or 93%) and immediate family (55 or 57%).

Among the three other institutions/types of people where youth are most likely to be out (i.e. immediate family, classmates, at school), there are greater differences between regions.

62% of youth in the Middle Atlantic and East North Central states are out to their classmates; 68% of youth in the Mountain States are out to classmates.

58% of youth in the Middle Atlantic states are out at school; 67% of youth in the Mountain States are out at school.

52% of youth in the Middle Atlantic states are out to their immediate family; 60% of youth in W. North Central states are out to immediate family.

Among the 10,030 LGBT youth, 26% (1951) chose a religious identity among 8 choices (Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Mormon, Orthodox, Other Christian, Other Not Christian) and attended a congregation every week or one or two times a month.

Across all regions, there is little difference in the percentage of youth who are out to clergy (5–6%).

Across all regions, there is little difference in the percentage of youth who are out to close friends (91 or 93%).

Among the religious-identified LGBT youth who attend religious services regularly, 19% are out at their congregation and 11% are out to their clergy.

In the sample, American Indian/Indigenous youth report the highest percentages of being out in 8 of 11 categories (immediate family, extended family, teachers, clergy, at work, at school, at congregation, to their doctor).

Hispanic/Latino youth report the highest percentages of being out to classmates, at school and with coaches.

Across all races/ethnicities, there is little difference in the percentage of youth who are out to clergy, except for Asian/Pacific Islander youth (79%) and White youth (64%).

Youth from the Mountain states are most likely to be out (e.g. immediate family, classmates, at school), there are greater differences between regions.

62% of youth in the Middle Atlantic and East North Central states are out to their classmates; 68% of youth in the Mountain States are out to classmates.

58% of youth in the Middle Atlantic states are out at school; 67% of youth in the Mountain States are out at school.

52% of youth in the Middle Atlantic states are out to their immediate family; 60% of youth in W. North Central states are out to immediate family.

Among the 10,030 LGBT youth, 26% (1951) chose a religious identity among 8 choices (Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Mormon, Orthodox, Other Christian, Other Not Christian) and attended a congregation every week or one or two times a month.

Across all regions, there is little difference in the percentage of youth who are out to clergy (5–6%).

Across all regions, there is little difference in the percentage of youth who are out to close friends (91 or 93%).

Among the religious-identified LGBT youth who attend religious services regularly, 19% are out at their congregation and 11% are out to their clergy.

In the sample, American Indian/Indigenous youth report the highest percentages of being out in 8 of 11 categories (immediate family, extended family, teachers, clergy, at work, at school, at congregation, to their doctor).

Hispanic/Latino youth report the highest percentages of being out to classmates, at school and with coaches.

Across all races/ethnicities, there is little difference in the percentage of youth who are out to clergy, except for Asian/Pacific Islander youth (79%) and White youth (64%).

Youth from the Mountain states are most likely to be out (e.g. immediate family, classmates, at school), there are greater differences between regions.

62% of youth in the Middle Atlantic and East North Central states are out to their classmates; 68% of youth in the Mountain States are out to classmates.

58% of youth in the Middle Atlantic states are out at school; 67% of youth in the Mountain States are out at school.

52% of youth in the Middle Atlantic states are out to their immediate family; 60% of youth in W. North Central states are out to immediate family.

Among the 10,030 LGBT youth, 26% (1951) chose a religious identity among 8 choices (Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Mormon, Orthodox, Other Christian, Other Not Christian) and attended a congregation every week or one or two times a month.

Across all regions, there is little difference in the percentage of youth who are out to clergy (5–6%).

Across all regions, there is little difference in the percentage of youth who are out to close friends (91 or 93%).

Among the religious-identified LGBT youth who attend religious services regularly, 19% are out at their congregation and 11% are out to their clergy.

In the sample, American Indian/Indigenous youth report the highest percentages of being out in 8 of 11 categories (immediate family, extended family, teachers, clergy, at work, at school, at congregation, to their doctor).

Hispanic/Latino youth report the highest percentages of being out to classmates, at school and with coaches.

Across all races/ethnicities, there is little difference in the percentage of youth who are out to clergy, except for Asian/Pacific Islander youth (79%) and White youth (64%).

Youth from the Mountain states are most likely to be out (e.g. immediate family, classmates, at school), there are greater differences between regions.

62% of youth in the Middle Atlantic and East North Central states are out to their classmates; 68% of youth in the Mountain States are out to classmates.

58% of youth in the Middle Atlantic states are out at school; 67% of youth in the Mountain States are out at school.

52% of youth in the Middle Atlantic states are out to their immediate family; 60% of youth in W. North Central states are out to immediate family.
REASONS YOUTH DON’T COME OUT TO FAMILY

19% SAY THEY ARE SCARED OF REACTION, AFRAID, OR DON’T KNOW HOW THEIR FAMILY WILL REACT

“I’m scared of what they might think about me. I have been and I want them to love me back.”

“They won’t be understanding. I don’t want to be judged by my family. I want to be happy. To go to college. To see colleges, and I need to spend Christmas with my family.”

“I am scared that they won’t accept me and not accept me for who I am.”

30% SAY THEIR FAMILY IS NOT ACCEPTING OR IS HOMO/BI/TRANS-PHOBIC

“Most of my extended family is homophobic. They also love using gay slurs and other remarks. I am out to a few extended family members though.”

“They are very unaccepting. An aunt of mine actually took me aside when I was younger to tell me that ‘gays aren’t right in the head.’ Her goal was to scare me into being straight.”

“They would throw me out if I told anyone in my extended family. So I have to keep my mouth shut, otherwise I would end up penniless and homeless.”

16% SAY THEY HAVE “RELIGIOUS” REASONS

“My mom has taught the children of my family to believe that being LGBT is disgusting and an abomination because of her religious beliefs.”

“My entire extended family is blindly religious and frequently refers to those who are LGBT as ‘disgusting’ or ‘diseased.’”

10% SAY THEY ARE NOT READY

“When I tell them I want to be ready for whatever they may say or throw at me. Whether this means kicking me out or accepting me for who I am, I want to be ready. Right now, I’m not ready because I am not yet able to support myself.”

“I’m waiting for ‘the right time,’ whatever that means. I want to be absolutely positive about who I am and absolutely sure and confident when I tell them.”

“I still feel slightly in the questioning stage although I am about 90% sure that I identify as queer. Until I feel absolutely certain, I do not want to come out to my extended family.”

10% DON’T OR CAN’T TALK WITH THEIR FAMILY

“I don’t really have a close relationship with my extended family. I don’t really see them that often either.”

“Because they are very religious and hate gays and I don’t want them to hate and disown me. I don’t want to disappoint them or lose them.”
Youth who are out to their immediate family or out at school report higher levels of happiness, optimism, acceptance and support through multiple measures. Not surprisingly, they also report higher levels of in-person participation with LGBT organizations at school and in the community. They also report slightly higher levels of harassment than youth who are not out.

Youth who are not out are more likely to be cut off from key forms of support—adults in their family or community they could talk to and LGBT organizations at school or elsewhere. Those who are not out may rely especially on support online—about half of LGBT youth who are out and not out participate in online communities that address LGBT youth issues.

HAPPINESS, OPTIMISM, ACCEPTANCE, PARTICIPATION & HARASSMENT

HAPINESS

Youth who are out to their immediate family or out at school report being happy; those who are not out report feeling unhappy. Nearly half (47%) of youth who are not out to their immediate family say they do not have an adult in their family they could talk to if they were sad. Among youth who are out, 63% say they have such an adult in their family.

OPTIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE

OPTIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE

Youth who are out to family or at school and those who are not out report similar levels of optimism about achieving life goals. However, when asked to imagine if they stayed in their same city or town, youth who are out to family or at school report a higher likelihood for several life achievements than their peers who are not out to family or at school.

LEVELS OF ACCEPTANCE OF LGBT PEOPLE

LEVELS OF ACCEPTANCE OF LGBT PEOPLE

Among youth who are out at school, 31% say their school is “very accepting” of LGBT people; among youth who are not out at school, 19% say their peers are “very accepting.” Among youth who are not out, 14% say their peers are “very accepting.” Among youth who are out to a close friend, 19% say their peers are “very accepting,” while among youth who are not out to a close friend, 40% say their peers are “not very” or “not at all” accepting.

Youth who are out to their immediate family are twice as likely as youth who are not out to their immediate family they could talk to if they were sad. A quarter (25%) of youth who are out to their immediate family say there is an adult in their family they could talk to; 31% of youth who are not out to their immediate family say the same.

Youth who are out to their immediate family are also more likely to say they are unsure if there is an adult they could talk to in their family if they were sad. Nearly a quarter of youth (21%) who are not out to their immediate family chose “don’t know” when responding to that question; 12% of youth who are out to their immediate family say the same.

Youth who are out to their close friends are much more likely than youth who are not to say they have an adult in their community who they could talk to if they were sad—62% of youth who are out to their close friends say the same. 23% of youth who are out to their immediate family say the same.

Youth who are out to their close friends are more than twice as likely as those who are not out to participate in LGBT groups at school or outside of school.

Youth who are out at school are more likely than youth who are not out to report that they are verbally harassed or called names outside of school. 12% of youth who are out at school say they experienced such harassment; among youth who are not out, 6% say they have experienced such harassment.

Those who are out to immediate family are more likely to report being happy (very/pretty happy) than those who are not—41% of those out to immediate family report being happy; 33% of those not out to immediate family report being happy.

Nearly half (47%) of youth who are not out to their immediate family say they do not have an adult in their family they could talk to if they were sad; a quarter (25%) of youth who are out say the same.

Youth who are out report being happier (very/pretty happy) than those who are not; 41% of those out to immediate family report being happy; 33% of those not out to immediate family report being happy.

Those who are not out to immediate family are more likely to report being unhappy (pretty/very unhappy) than those who are out—21% of those who are out to immediate family report being unhappy; 16% of those who are not out to immediate family report being unhappy.

Those who are not out at school are more likely to report being unhappy (pretty/very unhappy) than those who are out—21% of those who are not out to school report being unhappy; 16% of those who are out to school report being unhappy.
"I am not out because high school is harsh and I would be bullied and harassed. There is another lesbian couple at my school, and they get bullied and discriminated against so much it’s not even funny. So I’m scared."

"I would feel threatened by students and teachers. My school addresses bullying a lot but never LGBT bullying."

"I don’t want to be bullied more than I already am."

"People are cruel and I don’t want to be broken up for my sexual orientation. I know being in those clothes is the only thing I can do at the moment."

"As I attend a Catholic school, most teachers are very homophobic and speak of LGBTs in a negative light. My classmates, especially straight males, think LGBTs are disgusting and a wrong part of society."

"I’m out to my friends but not everyone in the school, and not teachers because I think they’re going to treat me different from everyone else."

"I’m scared of not being accepted and treated differently, and I don’t know if I’m strong enough to deal with all of the hate yet."

"I’m afraid that they won’t view me the same way and that our relationship will slowly deteriorate. I’m afraid of abandonment."

"I’m out to my friends but not everyone in the school, and not teachers because I think they’re going to treat me different from everyone else."

"I’m scared of not being accepted and treated differently, and I don’t know if I’m strong enough to deal with all of the hate yet."

"I’m afraid that they won’t view me the same way and that our relationship will slowly deteriorate. I’m afraid of abandonment."

"I don’t want to be bullied more than I already am."

"I’m out to classmates but not teachers only because they don’t really need to know and I fear they will tell my parents."

"I believe it is not their business and I don’t want it to interfere with my learning."

"I am out to my friends and classmates; they are very supportive about it. I have not come out to the teachers because I don’t think they need to know."

"Because the majority of people at my school are not my closest friends; they are merely acquaintances. My teachers play little or no role in my life therefore I don’t feel the need to tell them, mainly in fear that they may grade my academic performance differently than they would anyone else in the class."

"Because the majority of people at my school are not my closest friends; they are merely acquaintances. My teachers play little or no role in my life therefore I don’t feel the need to tell them, mainly in fear that they may grade my academic performance differently than they would anyone else in the class."

"I don’t want to be bullied more than I already am."

"I am out to my friends but not everyone in the school, and not teachers because I think they’re going to treat me different from everyone else."

"I’m scared of not being accepted and treated differently, and I don’t know if I’m strong enough to deal with all of the hate yet."

"I’m afraid that they won’t view me the same way and that our relationship will slowly deteriorate. I’m afraid of abandonment."

"I’m out to classmates but not teachers only because they don’t really need to know and I fear they will tell my parents."

"I believe it is not their business and I don’t want it to interfere with my learning."

"I am out to my friends and classmates; they are very supportive about it. I have not come out to the teachers because I don’t think they need to know."

"Because the majority of people at my school are not my closest friends; they are merely acquaintances. My teachers play little or no role in my life therefore I don’t feel the need to tell them, mainly in fear that they may grade my academic performance differently than they would anyone else in the class."

"Because the majority of people at my school are not my closest friends; they are merely acquaintances. My teachers play little or no role in my life therefore I don’t feel the need to tell them, mainly in fear that they may grade my academic performance differently than they would anyone else in the class."

"I don’t want to be bullied more than I already am."

"I’m out to my friends but not everyone in the school, and not teachers because I think they’re going to treat me different from everyone else."

"I’m scared of not being accepted and treated differently, and I don’t know if I’m strong enough to deal with all of the hate yet."

"I’m afraid that they won’t view me the same way and that our relationship will slowly deteriorate. I’m afraid of abandonment."
CALL TO ACTION

LGBTQ YOUTH

If you are LGBT or questioning and you are considering coming out to close friends or someone in your family, it’s good to make a plan. What kind of signals are you getting from your friend or family member? Do you have enough information to answer the types of questions they might have about being LGBT? Do you know what you want to say? Do you have support? Is it the right time? Reactions may vary, and you should be prepared.

Tips for coming out are available through the Human Rights Campaign (www.hrc.org).

If you need other information or support, resources include the Trevor Project (www.thetrevorproject.org), It Gets Better (www.itgetsbetter.org), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (www.healthychildren.org).

Close friends matter. With 9 in 10 LGBT youth out to their close friends, young people are relying on close friends to be understanding and supportive. Be brave — be a friend. Learn more about being a friend and supporter through the Give a Damn campaign (www.wegiveadamn.org) and the Gay–Straight Alliance Network (www.gsanetwork.org).

While these youth are heading towards greater independence, parents, families & friends still shape and influence their feelings of safety and well-being. Your words and actions are being watched. Do not use demeaning speech about LGBT people. Be open to your children’s experiences, even if you are unsure or uncomfortable. Stand up for your children if they are harassed or abused due to their identity. Support and information is available at Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) (www.pflag.org), the Family Acceptance Project (www.familyproject.sfsu.edu), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (www.healthychildren.org).

EDUCATORS

Educators set the tone in their classrooms and influence the climate throughout a school — the hallways, gyms, cafeterias, and study halls. Many LGBT youth are justly afraid to come out at school because they fear being bullied. Make your classroom safe and inclusive for all. Respond to bullying and name-calling. Consider ways to include LGBT issues and themes in your curriculum. Great resources are available at Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (www.glsen.org), Gay–Straight Alliance Network (www.gsanetwork.org), and HRC’s Welcoming Schools (www.welcomingschools.org).

If you need other information or support, resources include the Trevor Project (www.thetrevorproject.org), It Gets Better (www.itgetsbetter.org), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (www.healthychildren.org).

TEACHERS

CLERGY & RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Congregations can be a place where LGBT youth can feel most accepted and embraced. Sadly, though, because of religious-based homophobic and transphobic messages, clergy and religious people are often the least likely group to be sought out by young people. Religious leaders need to be overt in their literature, their signage and in the pulpit about their embrace of LGBT people. Make your congregation more open through HRC’s resource, Living Openly in Your Place of Worship. If you’re Christian, see HRC’s weekly preaching and devotional commentary, Out In Scripture, for ideas about how to craft affirming LGBT messages from the pulpit or other religious resources (www.hrc.org/resources/category/religion-faith).

ELECTED OFFICIALS

68% of LGBT youth say they hear negative messages about being LGBT from elected officials; only 16% hear positive messages from politicians. Change your rhetoric — end attacks on LGBT people and instead support your LGBT constituents. Stand strong for legislation that moves equality forward. See www.hrc.org.

If you need other information or support, resources include the Trevor Project (www.thetrevorproject.org), It Gets Better (www.itgetsbetter.org), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (www.healthychildren.org).

While these youth are heading towards greater independence, parents, families & friends still shape and influence their feelings of safety and well-being. Your words and actions are being watched. Do not use demeaning speech about LGBT people. Be open to your children’s experiences, even if you are unsure or uncomfortable. Stand up for your children if they are harassed or abused due to their identity. Support and information is available at Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) (www.pflag.org), the Family Acceptance Project (www.family-project.sfsu.edu), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (www.healthychildren.org).

At the same time, LGBT youth are twice as likely as their peers to be harassed at school. Make your school safer by being more than a bystander — be a friend. Learn more about being a friend and supporter through the Give a Damn campaign (www.wegiveadamn.org) and the Gay–Straight Alliance Network (www.gsanetwork.org).

At the same time, LGBT youth are twice as likely as their peers to be harassed at school. Make your school safer by being more than a bystander — be a friend. Learn more about being a friend and supporter through the Give a Damn campaign (www.wegiveadamn.org) and the Gay–Straight Alliance Network (www.gsanetwork.org).

FRIENDS & PEERS

While these youth are heading towards greater independence, parents, families & friends still shape and influence their feelings of safety and well-being. Your words and actions are being watched. Do not use demeaning speech about LGBT people. Be open to your children’s experiences, even if you are unsure or uncomfortable. Stand up for your children if they are harassed or abused due to their identity. Support and information is available at Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) (www.pflag.org), the Family Acceptance Project (www.family-project.sfsu.edu), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (www.healthychildren.org).

At the same time, LGBT youth are twice as likely as their peers to be harassed at school. Make your school safer by being more than a bystander — be a friend. Learn more about being a friend and supporter through the Give a Damn campaign (www.wegiveadamn.org) and the Gay–Straight Alliance Network (www.gsanetwork.org).

At the same time, LGBT youth are twice as likely as their peers to be harassed at school. Make your school safer by being more than a bystander — be a friend. Learn more about being a friend and supporter through the Give a Damn campaign (www.wegiveadamn.org) and the Gay–Straight Alliance Network (www.gsanetwork.org).
This study includes a review of frequencies and cross-tabulations of raw data from research conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner. That original data included 10,030 LGBT-identified youth and more than 500 non-LGBT youth. This report analyzed only those responses by LGBT-identified youth regarding various questions about their coming out experience. Below is a full description of the original methodology. Most of the LGBT youth were recruited through the public URL described below; the 5% of respondents to the Harris Poll Online who identified as LGBT were also included in those findings.

**PUBLIC URL**

Working with the Human Rights Campaign and Harris Interactive Service Bureau, who hosted the web survey, Greenberg Quinlan Rosner created a link that allowed participants to take this survey online. Participants invited to the study were screened for self-identified LGBT youth (lesbian, gay, bisexual, or queer) status. This method was used to collect the overwhelming majority of LGBT interviews in this study and ultimately produced a sample of 10,030 participants ages 13–17 who self-identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or queer. Certain questions in the survey were directed only to self-identified LGBT respondents.

During April and May of 2012, the Human Rights Campaign advertised this link through a partnership with The Trevor Project, through its social media, as well as through direct communication with dozens of LGBT youth centers across the country. This method of collecting interviews is common in exploring hard-to-reach populations, but it does not represent a truly random opt-in sample. Traditional measures of margin of error do not apply and the results here may not be representative of this population as a whole.

**ONLINE PANEL**

In addition, this research includes 510 interviews among respondents ages 13–17 drawn from the Harris Poll OnlineSM (HPOL). These interviews were not screened for LGBT status and comprise the “non-LGBT” population in this study. Note, however, that five percent of these interviews self-identified as LGBT and were asked questions directed at this population.

Harris Poll OnlineSM (HPOL) is a multimillion-member panel of cooperative online respondents. Panelists have joined the Harris Poll Online from over 100 different sources. Diverse methods are leveraged to gain panelists including: co-registration offers on partners’ websites, targeted emails sent by online partners to their audiences, graphical and text banner placement on partners’ websites (including social media, news, search and community portal), trade show presentations, targeted postal mail invitations, TV advertisement and telephone recruitment of targeted populations.

When respondents are recruited into this panel, it is made very clear to them that they are joining a market research panel and that they will be asked periodically to participate in online research. They are shown the terms and conditions of panel membership as well as our privacy policy. Panelists must agree to our Terms of Use which state that panelists are limited to a single membership and can be removed if they are found in violation of this rule.

All panelists recruited have completed a confirm or “double” opt-in (COI/D0) process. This process requires that each respondent confirm his or her desire to join our panel by clicking on a link within an email that is sent to the registrant’s email address upon registering. The content of the email specifies that by clicking on the link the registrant is expressly stating his or her desire to take part in the panel. Once they consent to join the panel, members are invited to participate in various surveys through email invitations which include a short description of the research and indicate the approximate survey length.

Our research policies for U.S.-based research comply with the legal codes of conduct developed by the Council of American Survey Research Organizations (CASRO). According to CASRO guidelines, the minimum age to consent to participate in survey research in the U.S. is 13 years old.

Data collected for this survey were collected by Harris Interactive Service Bureau (HiSB) on behalf of the Human Rights Campaign. HiSB was responsible for the data collected and Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Client was responsible for the survey design, data weighting, data analysis and reporting any/all methods that apply.

This study includes a review of frequencies and cross-tabulations of raw data from research conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner. That original data included 10,030 LGBT-identified youth and more than 500 non-LGBT youth. This report analyzed only those responses by LGBT-identified youth regarding various questions about their coming out experience.
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

HRC COMING OUT MATERIALS
A La Familia
www.hrc.org/resources/entry/a-la-familia

A Resource Guide to Coming Out
www.hrc.org/resources/entry/resource-guide-to-coming-out

A Resource Guide to Coming Out for African Americans
www.hrc.org/resources/entry/resource-guide-to-coming-out-for-african-americans

Guía de Recursos para Salir del Closet
www.hrc.org/resources/entry/guia-de-recursos-para-salir-del-closet

Transgender Visibility: A Guide to Being You
www.hrc.org/resources/entry/transgender-visibility-guide

Living Openly in Your Place of Worship
www.hrc.org/resources/entry/living-openly-in-your-place-of-worship

Coming Out as a Straight Supporter: A Guide to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Americans
www.hrc.org/straight

ORGANIZATIONS FOR PARENTS, FRIENDS, TEACHERS, OTHERS
American Academy of Pediatrics
www.healthychildren.org

American Veterans for Equal Rights
www.avert.us

Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
www.astraeafoundation.org

Campus Pride
www.campuspride.org

Centerlink: The Community of LGBT Centers
www.lgbtcenters.org

COLAGE [People with a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Queer Parent]
www.colage.org

Family Acceptance Project
familyproject.sfsu.edu

Family Equality Council
www.familyequality.org

Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network
www.glsen.org

Gay and Lesbian Medical Association
www.glma.org

Gay Asian Pacific Support Network
www.gapsn.org

Gay-Straight Alliance Network
www.gsanetwork.org

Immigration Equality
www.immigrationequality.org

National Black Justice Coalition
www.nbjc.org

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays
www.pflag.org

Straight for Equality
www.straightforequality.org

The Transgender Center
www.ntac.org

Welcoming Schools
www.welcomingschools.org

CREATIVE: DESIGN ARMY