



# Ohio

**LIKE PENNSYLVANIA, OHIO IS ONE OF TWENTY-SEVEN STATES IN** the U.S. that ranked in the lowest-rated category, “High Priority to Achieve Basic Equality,” in HRC’s 2017 annual State Equality Index. In addition to lacking statewide non-discrimination and hate crime laws that include sexual orientation and gender identity, the Buckeye state undermines LGBTQ equality by having laws on the books that criminalize people living with HIV.

Fortunately, LGBTQ Ohioans have several hospitals and other healthcare facilities throughout the state that have embraced LGBTQ inclusion. With 27 facilities participating in the HEI, Ohio ranks 5th overall among states in the number of HEI participants and is tied for 3rd among states in the number of LGBTQ Healthcare Leaders, with 24 facilities. Many of these facilities are going well beyond the basics of non-discrimination policies and are on the cutting edge of LGBTQ policies and practices.

On the next page we profile the great work being done by **The MetroHealth System**, particularly at their PRIDE Network. They are joined in the Cleveland area by the **Cleveland Clinic Health System** which has 8 Ohio hospitals that participate in the HEI and are all LGBTQ Healthcare Equality Leaders. Both MetroHealth and the Cleveland Clinic have implemented a Pronoun Project to allow staff and patients to share their pronouns.

Ohio has three multidisciplinary gender clinics for transgender and gender expansive youth. In addition to the clinic at MetroHealth, **Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center** and **Nationwide Children’s Hospital** in Columbus also have youth gender clinics. These clinics are providing vital and lifesaving care by meeting the varied medical and mental health needs of transgender youth.

In addition to providing LGBTQ-inclusive care in their clinics, the **Columbus Public Health Department** created the LGBTQ Health Initiative to address gaps in care and issues of health inequity within LGBTQ communities. Columbus is also home to Leaders, **The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center** and the **James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute**.

**Equitas Health**, a FQHC look-alike based in Columbus, is one of the nation’s largest HIV/AIDS, LGBTQ healthcare organizations serving more than 67,000 individuals in three states. New to the HEI this year is **Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio Region**, also providing excellent LGBTQ outpatient care in the region.

Since 2013, more than 100 Veterans’ Health Administration sites have participated in the HEI and we are excited that all five VA Medical Centers in Ohio not only participate, but are Leaders. These facilities are the **VA Medical Centers located in Chillicothe, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Dayton**.

Rounding out the state, are **The University of Toledo Medical Center** and the **Summa Health Akron and Barberton Campuses**.





## MetroHealth: Taking PRIDE in their LGBTQ Clinical Care

**“The growth and achievements of the PRIDE Clinic over the years have been remarkable. It demonstrates the need for LGBTQ clinical and cultural competency throughout the health system so patients get the health care they need.”**

**Bernard Boulanger, MD**  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Clinical Officer,  
MetroHealth

**METROHEALTH FIRST PARTICIPATED** in the Healthcare Equality Index in 2011, yet that was not the first time they demonstrated their commitment to serving the needs of their LGBTQ patients. In 2007, MetroHealth opened the PRIDE Clinic which was the first medical home devoted to serving the health needs of the LGBTQ community in the Cleveland region. Prior to starting the clinic, MetroHealth worked with the LGBTQ community by surveying their needs and specific challenges in addressing traditional healthcare and even allowing the community to name the clinic.

The PRIDE Clinic started as a once-a-week offering and within a year had more than 100 patients. The Clinic provides primary care, OB-GYN care, disease risk reduction and prevention, chronic disease management, behavioral health services, transgender health services such as hormonal medical care, sexually transmitted disease (STD) screenings, HIV prevention, testing and care and more. The Clinic's patient population has now grown to approximately 1,700.

The commitment to the LGBTQ community did not end with the PRIDE Clinic, over the years, MetroHealth began to employ many of the other best practices recommended in the HEI throughout the health system such as training on LGBTQ patient-centered care, transgender patient policies, SOGI data collection in their EHR and more.

In 2017, the PRIDE Clinic celebrated its 10th anniversary by announcing two new developments aimed at increasing inclusion across the MetroHealth System and in the community. These developments included the pronoun project and the expansion of the PRIDE Clinic into the PRIDE Network. Previously, the PRIDE Clinic was centered at MetroHealth's McCafferty Health Center. The PRIDE Network recognizes the specialists at other locations who care for patients in the LGBTQ community. Patients will have increased flexibility in terms of when and where they can utilize MetroHealth's PRIDE resources, as well as make it clear that their needs are not any different than those of other patients who have access to the System's more than 20 locations.