

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN
**POST-ELECTION
SURVEY
OF YOUTH**

KEY FINDINGS FROM OHIO



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN
FOUNDATION[™]

Just days before Donald Trump's inauguration, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation released the results of a groundbreaking survey of 50,000 young people, ages 13-18, across the United States. The survey asked teens how the election had



participants ages 13-18 from across the United States

affected them, what changes they've seen in their schools and communities, and how they've changed their self-expression and plans for the future. We also asked youth what they'd like to tell the new president and vice-president—and what they want adults in their community to know. The results reveal the deeply damaging fallout the November election has had on youth across the United States.

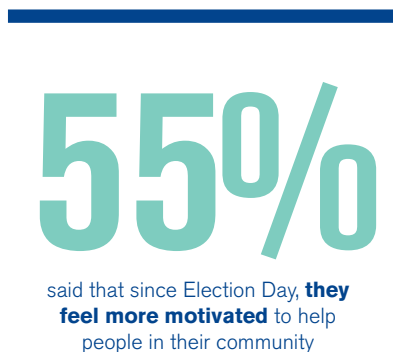
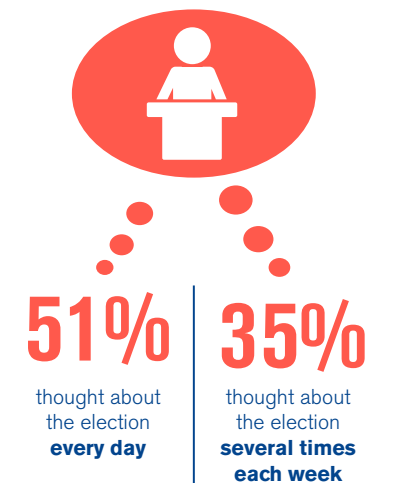
Across states and regions, we found marked increases in bullying and harassment that have particularly targeted youth of color, LGBTQ youth, immigrant youth, Muslim youth, and young women. We also found evidence of particularly serious effects on LGBTQ youth, as well as consistently high levels of race- and ethnicity-based harassment. Along with these commonalities, there were notable differences among states, some of which can help us understand which youth are in particular need of support at this challenging time.

This report describes the experiences of survey participants from Ohio. When appropriate, it compares LGBTQ youth to their non-LGBTQ counterparts, and Ohio youth to their counterparts across the country. It also includes selected write-in responses that represent what we heard from diverse youth across the state.

To view the national report, visit hrc.im/survey.

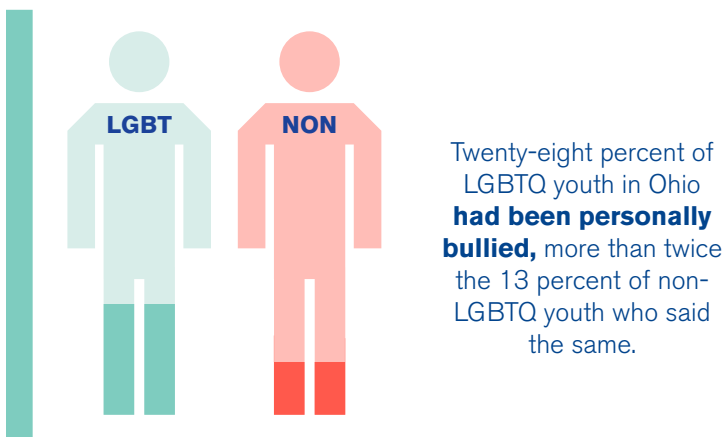
ALL OHIO YOUTH

- In Ohio, 1,856 young people ages 13-18 took the survey, representing a diversity in gender, sexual orientation, and race.
- Before Election Day, 52 percent of Ohio teens reported thinking about the election every day, while 34 percent thought about it several times each week—similar to the reports of youth in other states.
- Fifty-one percent of Ohio youth reported feeling nervous most or all of the time during the past 30 days, and 35 percent of youth reported feeling hopeless during most or all of that period. Twenty-nine percent reported a pervasive sense of worthlessness. Youth in Ohio had these feelings at rates similar to youth across the country.
- Seventy-four percent of respondents from Ohio reported witnessing bullying, hate messages or harassment during or since the 2016 election, greater than the national average of 70 percent. Of those participants, 79 percent said such behaviors had been occurring more frequently since the beginning of the presidential campaign, the same proportion we found across all states.
- Among Ohio young people who reported witnessing bullying and harassment, 73 percent witnessed incidents motivated by race or ethnicity, 67 percent had seen incidents motivated by sexual orientation, 59 percent saw incidents motivated by immigration status, 59 percent had seen incidents motivated by gender, and 52 percent saw incidents motivated by religion. Sixty-three percent of respondents said at least one of the incidents was directed at them personally or at a group they are a part of.
- Despite widespread fear and anxiety, Ohio teens say they are more committed than ever to support people who face harassment and bullying. Fifty-five percent said that since Election Day, they feel more motivated to help people in their community, a percentage similar to the nation as a whole.



OHIO LGBTQ YOUTH

- Before Election Day, 55 percent of LGBTQ teens thought about the election every day, greater than the 48 percent of non-LGBTQ teens who did so. LGBTQ youth in Ohio thought about the election at rates similar to their LGBTQ counterparts across the United States.



- LGBTQ youth were much more likely than non-LGBTQ youth to score high on a series of questions that measure psychological distress. For instance, 44 percent frequently felt hopeless and 39 percent frequently felt worthless, compared to only 24 percent and 16 percent of non-LGBTQ youth.
- Twenty-eight percent of LGBTQ youth in Ohio had been personally bullied, more than twice the 13 percent of non-LGBTQ youth who said the same.
- Forty-seven percent of LGBTQ Ohio youth had changed their self-expression or future plans in light of the election, similar to the reports of LGBTQ youth nationwide (46 percent) and greater than the 25 percent of non-LGBTQ Ohio youth who said the same.

METHODS

- Youth between 13 and 18 years old and living in the United States were eligible to take the survey. Across the country, the survey was initiated 92,474 times and completed 51,394 times. Incomplete responses were eliminated, and 775 duplicate and mischievous responses were removed, for a final sample of 50,619. Of these, 1,856 took the survey from the state of Ohio.



**RESPONDENTS WERE SOLICITED THROUGH
HRC'S SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS AND
THOSE OF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

- The survey was not branded by HRC or partner organizations, but was advertised through HRC's social media channels (including Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram) and those of partner organizations whose missions include civil rights, social justice, mental health and youth well-being, as well as by young social influencers.
- The survey was not designed to be statistically representative of all U.S. teens, but it speaks to the experiences, fears, and convictions of a large number of young people across the country.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- The average Ohio survey-taker was 16 years old.
- Sixty-four percent of respondents from Ohio identified as female, 27 percent identified as male, and 10 percent identified as another gender.
- Thirteen percent of respondents from Ohio identified as transgender. Of those, 55 percent identified as a non-binary gender (not exclusively male or female), 40 percent identified as transgender boys and five percent identified as transgender girls.
- Eighty-four percent of Ohio respondents identified as white and non-Hispanic, and 16 percent identified as people of color and/or multiracial. Six percent identified as black or African American, six percent identified as American Indian or Native Alaskan, six percent identified as Hispanic or Latinx, and four percent identified as Asian American or of Asian descent, with some respondents selecting more than one race.
- Forty-three percent of respondents from Ohio identified as heterosexual. Twenty-six percent identified as bisexual, 17 percent identified as gay, 14 percent identified as pansexual, nine percent identified as queer, and six percent identified as asexual.

TRANSGENDER

Thirteen percent of participants identified as transgender.

GENDER TERMS

Transgender

A term used to describe people who identify as a different gender from the sex they were assigned at birth.

Transgender girl/woman

A term used to describe people who were assigned male at birth and now identify themselves as girls or women.

Transgender boy/man

A term used to describe people who were assigned female at birth and now identify themselves as boys or men.

Non-binary

A term used to describe people who do not identify themselves exclusively as male or female (and therefore don't fit within the 'gender binary'). Another common term for a non-binary gender identity is 'genderqueer'.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION TERMS

Heterosexual

A term describing a person who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to people of a different gender. Also known as straight.

Bisexual

A term that describes a person who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to people of more than one gender, though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way or to the same degree.

Gay

A term that describes a person who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to some members of the same gender.

Pansexual

A person who can be attracted to any gender.

Queer

A term some people use to identify themselves with a flexible and inclusive view of gender and/or sexuality. Also used interchangeably with LGBTQ to describe a group of people such as "queer youth." Historically it has been used as a negative term for LGBTQ people. Some people still find the term offensive while some embrace the term as an identity.

Asexual

A term that describes a person who lacks sexual attraction or desire for other people.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

ACCOUNTS OF BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

"I came out as bisexual in the summer of 2015 and had never faced any sort of extreme bullying for it. About three days after the election a supporter of Trump took a picture of himself in front of my home in the middle of the night and sent it to me with the caption 'Sleep tight fag'. I have also received several messages from unknown accounts and numbers threatening to rape and/or sexually assault me for my sexuality. This has never happened before the results of the election came out. (16-year-old)

"A girl at school was saying how transgender people shouldn't use the bathroom they identify with. During this she stated how Donald Trump would make this happen and that he was the better candidate for that reason."

- 15-year-old

"A girl at school was saying how transgender people shouldn't use the bathroom they identify with. During this she stated how Donald Trump would make this happen and that he was the better candidate for that reason." (15-year-old)

"A girl at my school was bullied for wearing a hijab. My best friend is Mexican and she has been repeatedly harassed by people saying they hope her family gets deported." (15-year-old)

"My peers saying 'Trump will deport you' to people of color, telling me as a queer person that I will go to hell or get beat up. A general increase in bigoted comments and action, as well as clothing and social media posts has come about after the election." (15-year-old)

CHANGING SELF-EXPRESSION AND FUTURE PLANS

"I was a planning on coming out as a lesbian sometime soon, but I have decided not to due to hateful comments towards LGBT people sparked by this election." (17-year-old)

"I'm not open about my sexuality with those other than my close friends, and I avoid admitting my political or social views outside of my house or a safe environment."

- 16-year-old

"I'm not open about my sexuality with those other than my close friends, and I avoid admitting my political or social views outside of my house or a safe environment." (16-year-old)

MESSAGES FOR TRUMP AND PENCE

"Please denounce all of the hatred, violence, and discrimination you promoted during the election. On November 9th I woke up feeling disgusted that such hatred could prevail over common sense. I am hoping you prove us all wrong and do some good with your power. Please keep Obamacare, I know many people who will be without healthcare if you repeal it. I am worried for my LGBTQ friends, because Mike Pence believes in electroshock therapy. I am worried for my black father and brothers, because Donald Trump had the backing of the KKK. I am worried for myself, because I am a woman who is slowly losing the rights to her body. I am just worried. But I am also ready to fight back every move, every appointment, and every piece of legislation I disagree with." (18-year-old)

"What do you say to someone who fostered a platform of hate to win a glorified competition they aren't even qualified for?" (15-year-old)

MESSAGES FOR ADULTS

“Encourage more education! Learning is the key the diminishing ignorance. We need to understand the differences between people and grow and develop as a society so it’s okay to be different—different doesn’t mean bad! Also, we need to spread tolerance and empathy.” (16-year-old)

“Encourage more education! Learning is the key the diminishing ignorance. We need to understand the differences between people and grow and develop as a society so it’s okay to be different—different doesn’t mean bad! Also, we need to spread tolerance and empathy.”

- 16-year-old

“I think my school overall has not really opened discussion for students. I feel like giving everyone time and space to speak is essential for the student body to unite against hate.” (17-year-old)