

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Permanency - Stability - Well Being

Children and youth with diverse SOGIE (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression) have been found to be at greater risk for physical and emotional abuse, drug use, suicide attempts, mental health concerns, homelessness, interpersonal and/or community violence, bullying, harassment, academic challenges, increased school sanctions, and various forms of discrimination than their heterosexual peers.

Once in the child welfare system they are far less likely to reunify, more likely to be in congregate care, more likely to age out without a support system which then makes them again more likely to become homeless, come into contact with the justice system, and be trafficked, among other poor outcomes.



Almost 19% of youth in child welfare identify as LGBTQ, including 13% as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual and 5.6% as Transgender ^(1,2)

11.1% = Gender Non-Binary (Gender Non-Conforming)

3-8% of youth in US population identify as LGBTQ ⁽³⁾

In order to provide greater stability, permanency, well-being Cuyahoga County is working on:

- Safe and Confidential Identification
- Affirming Placements - Pride Caregiver Network
- Chosen Affirming Family

1. Human Rights Watch (2001) Hatred in the Hallways: Violence against lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender students in U.S. schools. New York: Human Rights Wat

2. Massachusetts Department of Education (2006). 2005 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey results. Retried from <https://www.doe.mass.edu/cnp/hprogrms/yrbs/05/default.html>.

3. Wilson, B., Cooper, K., Kastanis, A. Nezhad, S. (2014). Sexual and Gender Minority Youth in Foster Care: Assessing Disproportionality and disparities in Los Angeles. The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law.

www.qiclgbtq2s.org

The National Quality Improvement Center on Tailored Services, Placement Stability, and Permanency for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Two-Spirit Children and Youth in Foster Care (QIC-LGBTQ2S). Grant#90CW1145 U.S. ACF



Cuyahoga County
Together We Thrive
Division of Children and Family Services

