

# LGBTQ+

## Terms, Definitions and Resources

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## Terminology

The glossary below provides definitions for words or terms used in the report. The authors recognize that these terms continue to evolve with cultural trends and that the LGBTQ community refers to broad groups that are diverse with respect to gender, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. The authors also recognize the importance of the distinct groups, each with its own health-related concerns and needs.

Except for research or other specific citations, “LGBTQ” (to stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) and the term “LGBTQ community” are used throughout this report to provide consistency and lessen confusion.

“Substances” is used to indicate alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, prescription drugs including opiates, club drugs (such as Ecstasy), synthetic marijuana (such as K2), and vaping devices to the degree that they serve as vessels for other drugs like marijuana.

“Students”, “youth,” “adolescents” and “teens” are used interchangeably and refer to ages 12-17.

## Glossary

**Bisexual**—A person emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to more than one sex, gender or gender identity though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way or to the same degree.

**Cisgender**—A term used to describe a person whose gender identity aligns with those typically associated with the sex assigned to them at birth.

**Coming out**—The process in which a person first acknowledges, accepts and appreciates their sexual orientation or gender identity and begins to share that with others.

**Discrimination**—It occurs when members of a more powerful social group behave unjustly or cruelly to members of a less powerful social group. Discrimination can take many forms, including both individual acts of hatred or injustice and institutional denials of privileges normally accorded to other groups. Ongoing discrimination creates a climate of oppression for the affected group.

**Gay**—An attraction and/or behavior focused exclusively or mainly on members of the same sex or gender identity; a personal or social identity based on one’s same-sex attractions and membership in a sexual community.

**Gender identity**—One’s innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One’s gender identity can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth, and can change or evolve over time.

**Gender nonconforming**—A broad term referring to people who do not behave in a way that conforms to the traditional expectations of their gender, or whose gender expression does not fit neatly into a category.

**Lesbian**—Used as a sexual orientation identity label by women whose sexual attractions and behaviors are exclusively or mainly directed to other women.

**Non-binary**—A term used to describe people whose gender identity falls outside the male-female binary; can also describe persons who identify as both male and female (bigender), don't identify with any gender (agender) or identify as a mix of different genders (e.g. male, female, and agender on different days).

**Queer**—An inclusive, unifying sociopolitical, self-affirming umbrella term for people who are gay; lesbian; bisexual; pansexual; transgender; transsexual; intersexual; genderqueer; or of any other non-heterosexual sexuality, sexual anatomy, or gender identity. Historically, a term of derision for gay, lesbian, and bisexual people.

**Sexual identity**—How a person identifies physically: female, male, in between, beyond, or neither. This identity can change or evolve over time.

**Stigma**—Relative powerlessness that society collectively assigns to individuals and groups that are associated with various conditions, statuses, and attributes.

**Transgender**—A person who lives as a member of a gender other than that expected based on anatomical sex. Sexual orientation varies and is not dependent on gender identity.

**To download a glossary that defines other LGBT terms go to:**

[https://www.lgbtqihealtheducation.org/wp-content/uploads/LGBT-Glossary\\_March2016.pdf](https://www.lgbtqihealtheducation.org/wp-content/uploads/LGBT-Glossary_March2016.pdf)

## Rhode Island Resources

### PFLAG

[www.pflagprovidence.org](http://www.pflagprovidence.org)

PFLAG, formerly known as “Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays,” is a national support, education and advocacy organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender

### Rhode Island Pride

Providence, RI

401-467-2130

[www.prideri.org](http://www.prideri.org)

The mission of Rhode Island Pride is to create opportunities for integrating and promoting visibility for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community; promoting equal rights and diversity through public education and the arts; provide safe opportunities and venues for people to come out with the ability to express and celebrate their sexual identities.

### Gay Lesbian & Straight Education

Network New York, NY

212-727-0135

[www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org)

The mission of GLSEN is to create safe and affirming schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression through educator resources, an educator network, professional development, programming, and research.

Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) Network Oakland, CA 415-552-4229 [www.gsanetwork.org](http://www.gsanetwork.org) GSA Network is a next-generation LGBTQ racial and gender justice organization that empowers and trains queer, trans and allied youth leaders to advocate, organize, and mobilize an intersectional movement for safer schools and healthier communities.

## Health / Medical Resources

### **Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP)**

Cranston, RI

401-467-9610

[www.comcap.org](http://www.comcap.org)

CCAP is one of Rhode Island's largest organizations dedicated solely to fighting the war on poverty. Their professional staff provide a wide spectrum of services designed to help those in immediate need and empower anyone desiring to become more self-sufficient.

### **Thundermist Health Center**

Woonsocket, RI

401-767-4100

[www.thundermisthealth.org](http://www.thundermisthealth.org)

Thundermist Health Center's goal is to bring healthcare to the people who need it most. They have grown and developed new programs to meet patient demand. Thundermist patients struggle with transportation challenges, substance abuse disorders, homelessness, unemployment or underemployment, and many other issues.

### **Tri-County Community Health Center**

Johnston and North Providence, RI

401-519-1940

<https://tricityri.org/services/health-centers-lab/>

To provide accessible, quality, and comprehensive social, educational, health, prevention, and other services to people in need, while empowering them to achieve the highest possible level of self-sufficiency and quality of life. Tri-County Community Health Center is a proud participant of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Rhode Island (BCBSRI) LGBTQ Safe Zone Program. More information about this program (and other medical, mental health, and dental providers that are proud participants) can be found at: [www.bcbsri.com/safezones](http://www.bcbsri.com/safezones).



## **National LGBT Health Education Center at Fenway**

Health Boston, MA

617-927-6354

[www.lgbthealtheducation.org](http://www.lgbthealtheducation.org)

The Center provides educational programs, resources, and consultation to health care organizations with the goal of optimizing quality, and cost-effective health care for LGBT people.

## **Hotlines for Support, Referrals**

### **LGBT National Help Center, Youth Talkline**

Toll-free: 800-246-7743

[www.glbthotline.org](http://www.glbthotline.org)

Serving youth through age 25. Peer counseling, information and local resources.

### **LGBT Peer Listening Line (25 years and under)**

617-267-2535 Toll-free: 888-399-PEER

Hours: Monday-Saturday, 5:00 – 10:00 pm

[www.fenwayhealth.org/care/wellness-resources/help-lines](http://www.fenwayhealth.org/care/wellness-resources/help-lines)

Based out of Fenway Health in Boston, MA, callers can receive help, information, referrals, and support for a range of issues. Talk to trained volunteers about safer sex, coming out, where to find gay-friendly establishments, HIV and AIDS, depression, suicide, and anti-gay/lesbian harassment and violence.

### **Trevor Helpline Crisis Intervention for LGBTQ Youth**

Toll-free: 866-488-7386

Trained counselors are available 24/7 for any young person in crisis, feeling suicidal, or in need of a safe and judgement-free place to talk.