

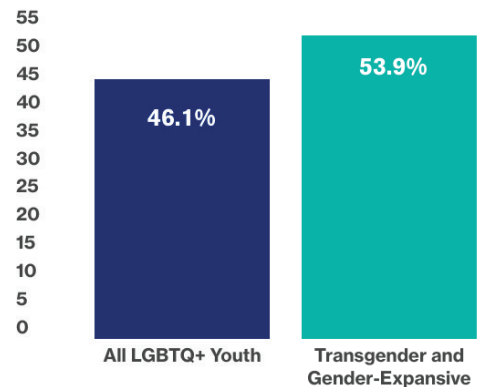


In 2022, HRC and the University of Connecticut surveyed nearly 13,000 LGBTQ+ youth (age 13-18) from across the United States on their health, well-being, school and home experiences, and more. Full results from this survey are presented in the [2023 LGBTQ+ Youth Report](#). Below, we present key findings every librarian and media specialist should know, along with action steps you can take to support the LGBTQ+ youth in your community.

Key findings you should know:

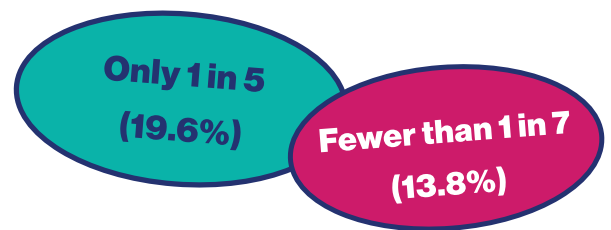
+ SCHOOL SAFETY: Many LGBTQ+ youth feel unsafe at school—yet the library is often seen as a safe haven

- Almost half (**46.1%**) of LGBTQ+ youth, including over half (**53.9%**) of transgender and gender expansive youth, reported feeling unsafe in at least one school setting
- However almost 9 in 10 (**88.7%**) LGBTQ+ youth reported that they usually or always feel safe in their school library



+ ACCESS TO INCLUSIVE SPACES:

- Only 1 in 5 (**19.6%**) LGBTQ+ youth have access to LGBTQ+ inclusive sex education
- Less than 1 in 7 (**13.8%**) LGBTQ+ youth are taught LGBTQ+ history in schools.



+ INFORMATION SEEKING

- **82.5%** of LGBTQ+ youth have ever used the internet to seek out LGBTQ+ specific sexual health and behavior information
- Over 9 in 10 (**95.3%**) LGBTQ+ youth have used the internet to seek out information about LGBTQ+ identities, and their own identity as an LGBTQ+ person



What Can You Do to Support LGBTQ+ Youth

...In Your Library

- Where possible, post positive and LGBTQ+ affirming symbols, such as pride flags and safe space stickers, in your library.
- Where possible, provide age-appropriate books that teach about LGBTQ+ people, histories and identities.
 - Check out Welcoming Schools Booklists for ideas - <https://welcomingschools.org/resources/books>.
- Ensure your library's internet protection software or parental control software does not block youth's access to appropriate LGBTQ+ content such as information about LGBTQ+ identities and age-appropriate sexual health information.
- Add pronouns to library accounts to decrease misgendering of patrons and add staff pronouns to name plates, name badges, and the library's website to normalize pronoun use for everyone.

...In Your Community

- Host all-ages LGBTQ+ community events such as Drag Story Hour and Pride Book Clubs to celebrate LGBTQ+ culture within your library.
- Ensure your library provides professional development training on bias-based bullying for your full team.
 - If you are based in a school, check out Welcoming Schools Training Program - <https://welcomingschools.org/resources/training>.
- Provide LGBTQ+ affirming local resources including affirming mental health resources to support LGBTQ+ youth and families.
 - Check out the database of local LGBTQ+ community centers with our partners at CenterLink - <https://www.lgbtqcenters.org/LGBTCenters>.
- Allow all patrons, especially youth, the option of using a chosen name instead of a legal name on their library card and library account.

To read the full 2023 Youth Survey Report, visit: hrc.im/YouthReport2023