



The new **queer** teenager:

Sexual & gender identity diversity in the twenty-first century

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+ Three big stories



1. There is a **revolution** in gender and sexuality, and adolescents are **leading** the way.



2. Queer youth **struggle** in the midst of **stigma**.

3. For queer teens, **empowering settings** help.



+ STORY 1

The revolution



Coming out at **younger** ages

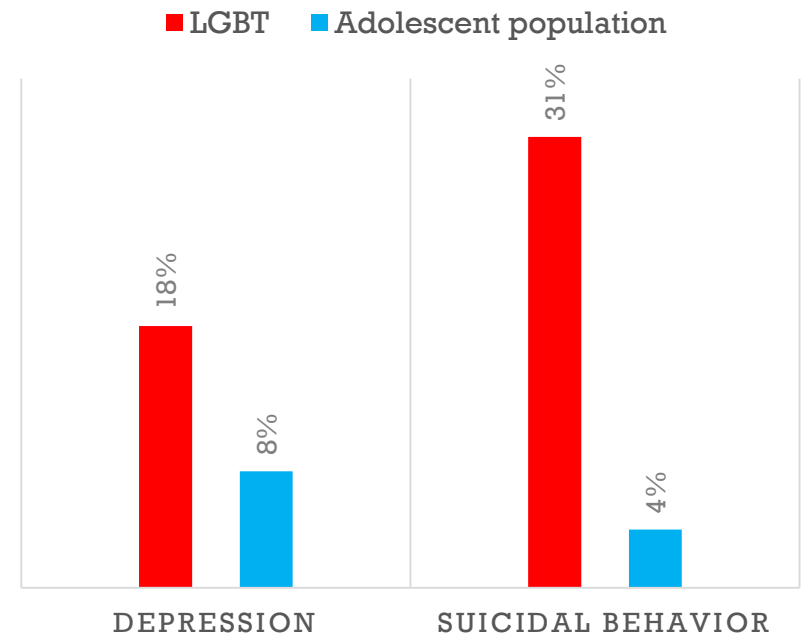


Challenging received categories and taxonomies, creating **new** identities

+ STORY 2

The struggle

Stigma endures...



...and creates mental health **disparities**

+ STORY 3

The power of settings



Supportive families & communities matter



Schools matter



Online communities matter



Settings empower

+ A Twenty-First Century Action Agenda



SCIENTISTS

1. Document diversity



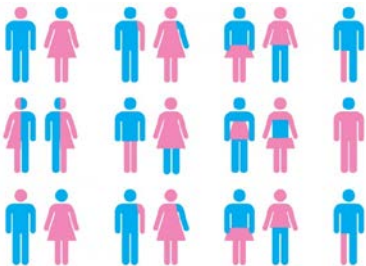
SCIENTISTS & CULTURAL INFLUENCERS

2. Debunk myths of compulsory heterosexuality & gender identity



EDUCATORS

3. Educate for diversity



EDUCATORS & POLICY MAKERS

4. Reduce structural stigma through policy

EDUCATORS, POLICY MAKERS, COMMUNITY LEADERS

5. Recognize and enhance (fund) empowering settings



+ Acknowledgements



Questions?
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KEY STATS: Queer Teens



■ Bullying/victimization/harassment

- 60% of LGB youth report past-30 day bullying, compared with 30% of straight peers (Haztenbuehler & Keyes, 2013)
- 48.6% report cyberbullying (GLSEN, 2016)

■ Demographics

- 2-5% of adults identify as LGB
- 1-8% of adolescents report same-sex attraction
- 1% identify as transgender



KEY STATS: Queer Teens



■ Family support

- Most youth do not experience support
- 24% say they can be themselves at home (HRC, 2018)
- 67% say they hear derogatory comments about SGID at home (HRC)
- Trans youth more than twice as likely to experience victimization at home

■ Mental health

- 95% report difficulty getting to sleep at night (HRC, 2018)
- 85% report high stress levels (HRC)
- 18% major depression vs. 8% general population (Mustanski/Kessler)
- 11% PTSD vs. 3.9% general population
- 31% lifetime suicidal behavior vs. 4.1 general population



KEY STATS: Queer Teens

School Climate



- 54% say their school has a GSA (GLSEN)
- 66% say their school has discriminatory or anti-LGBT policies/practices
- 30% disciplined for displays of public same-sex affection
- 22% prevented from wearing gender non-conforming attire
- 17% prevented from writing about LGBT topics
- 16% prevented from attending dance or event with same-gender partner
- 14% prevented from starting GSA
- 51% of trans prevented from using pronoun
- 60% of trans required to use bathroom of natal sex
- 10% say their school has a SOGI-inclusive anti-bullying program
- Over 95% hear derogatory remarks at school; 56% say they hear these from teachers or staff



KEY STATS: Queer Teens



■ Substance use

- Almost three times more likely compared to straight peers

■ Suicide

- Significantly higher rates among sexual minority than heterosexual youth
- 31% lifetime suicidal behavior vs. 4.1 general population
- Risk of suicide attempt is 20% greater for LGB youth in negative community climates (e.g., communities with fewer GSAs, registered Democrats, same-sex couples, anti-bullying school policies)
- 33.7% of trans youth report past-year suicidal ideation compared to 18.85% non-trans LGB