



NONBINARY IN INDY

A Supplementary
Report of LGBTQ+
Community Needs
2020 Indianapolis

GATHERING COMMUNITY INPUT

In early 2020, a collaborative group of community partners - including the Damien Center, GenderNexus, Indiana Youth Group (IYG), Indy Pride, Indy Rainbow Chamber, the IUPUI LGBTQ+ Center, and OutCare Health - joined efforts to develop and distribute an LGBTQ+ community needs assessment survey. As a result, 682 LGBTQ+ community members in the Greater Indianapolis area shared their input, helping to inform this group of community partners' shared vision of establishing an LGBTQ+ Community Center designed to meet these needs in Indianapolis. Results of the full LGBTQ+ community needs assessment survey are available in the publication entitled "LGBTQ+ Community Needs: 2020 Indianapolis," released in June 2020.

This supplementary report focuses exclusively on the 19% of survey respondents who do not self-identify with the gender binary, including those who identify as Transgender Women, Transgender Men, Nonbinary, or Additional Identities.



It is important to note that participating community partners distributed the LGBTQ+ needs assessment survey in February and March of 2020 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacting the Central Indiana community. It is equally important to note that this survey was distributed primarily through email and social media channels, limiting responses to those with internet access and connection to participating community partners. Based on these limitations, survey responses may not represent the full diversity of the LGBTQ+ community within Greater Indianapolis.

SHARING THE RESULTS

This report presents the following information about the 128 individuals who do not self identify with the gender binary (19% of overall LGBTQ+ community needs assessment survey respondents):

- **demographics** (pages 3-5),
- the **greatest needs** that emerged through the survey (page 6), and
- the **comprehensive survey results** (pages 7-16) presented within the five social determinants of health - a set of conditions within the public health framework that are known to influence the overall health of an individual, group, or community - including: Health and Healthcare, Economic Stability, Social and Community Context, Neighborhood and Built Environment, and Education.

Comments shared by individuals within the survey are also reflected in quotations throughout this report. It is important to note that these statements were made anonymously by survey respondents and are not affiliated with the individuals pictured.

Recommended Citation

The **community partners** who participated in this effort (page 18) encourage the reproduction or distribution of this report, in whole or in part, provided that it is done so with appropriate citation. This study was funded by the Damien Center. This report was prepared by Taylor Advising. Citation recommendations of various styles include:

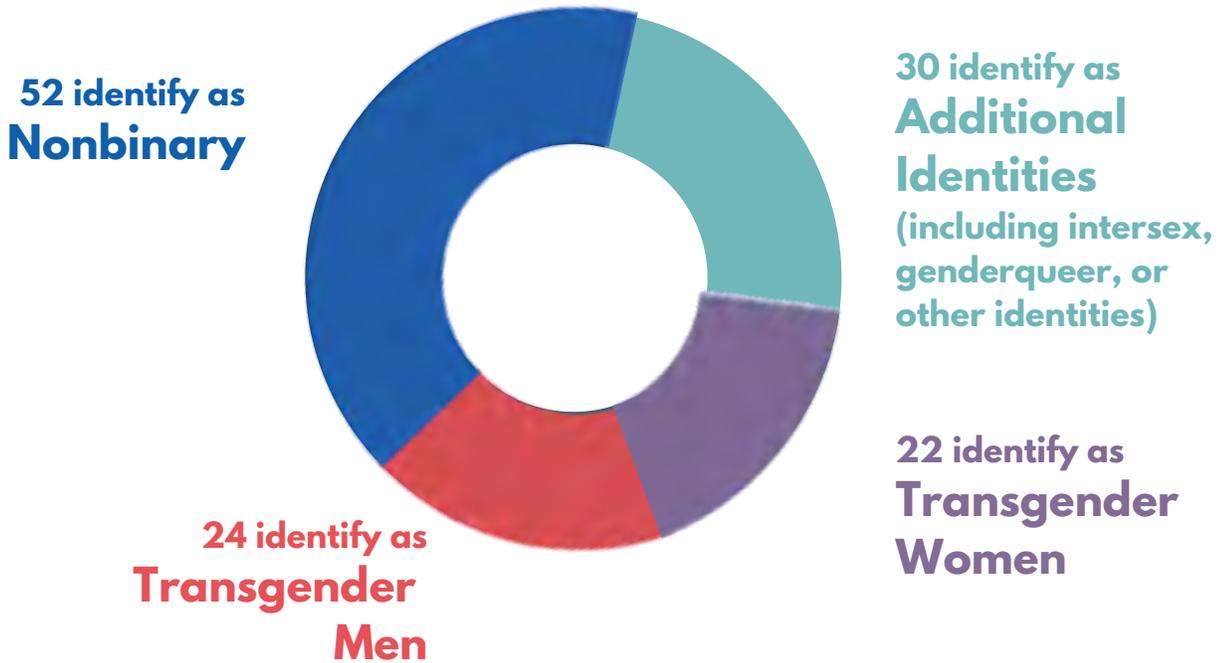
Taylor, M., & Witchey, A. (2020). Nonbinary in Indy: A Supplementary Report of LGBTQ+ Community Needs: 2020 Indianapolis. Indianapolis, IN: Damien Center.

Taylor, Marla, and Alan Witchey. Nonbinary in Indy: A Supplementary Report of LGBTQ+ Community Needs: 2020 Indianapolis. Indianapolis: Damien Center, 2020.

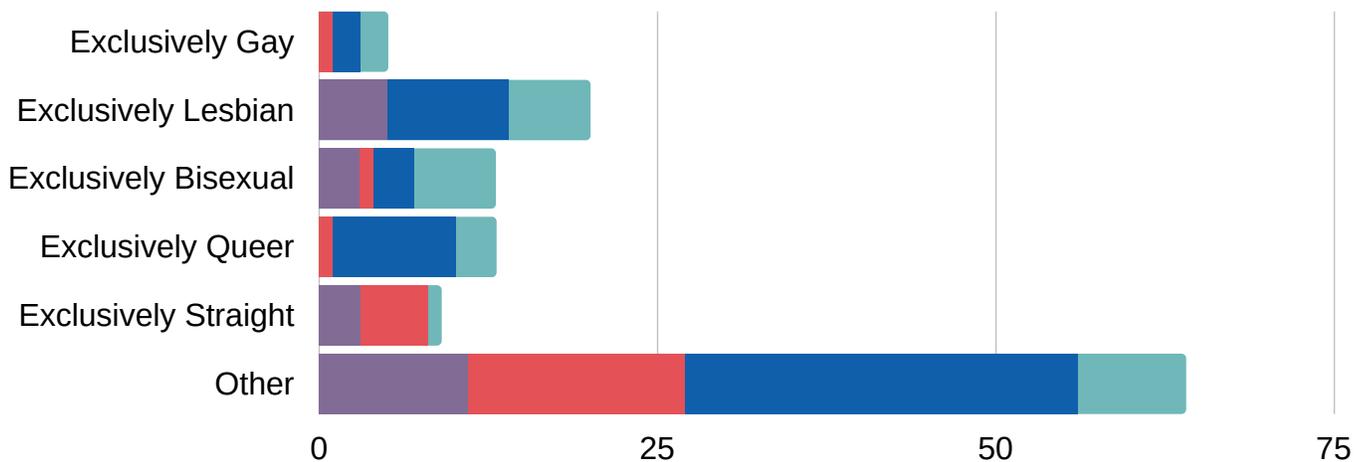
Taylor, M, Witchey A. Nonbinary in Indy: A Supplementary Report of LGBTQ+ Community Needs: 2020 Indianapolis. Indianapolis, IN: Damien Center; 2020.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Of these **128 individuals** who completed the 2020 LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment survey and do not self identify with the gender binary...



and identify their sexual orientation as...



Of these 128 individuals...

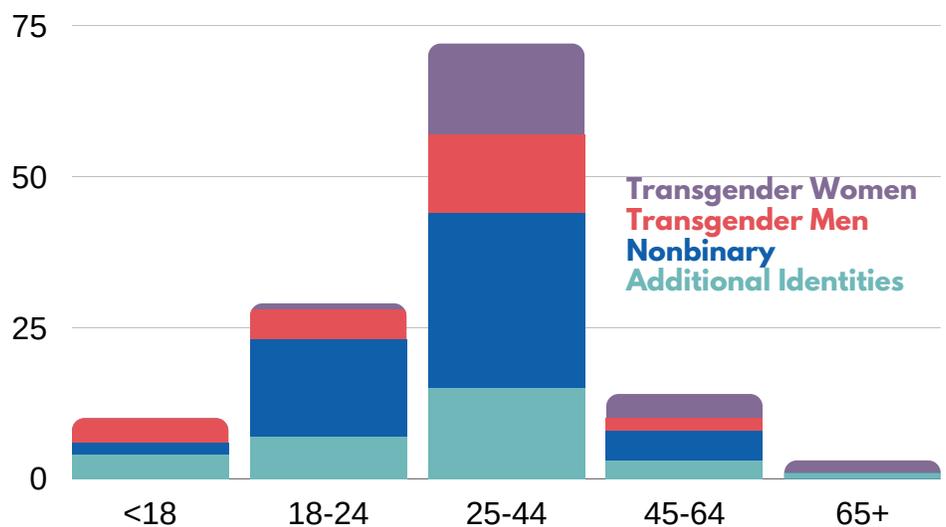
63%
live in Marion County



Most are adults
between 18-45 years old



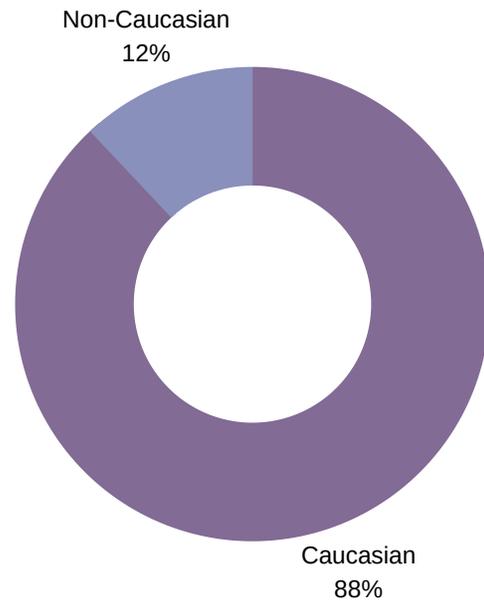
3 in 5
are in a
relationship



Of the 128 individuals...

Most identify as Caucasian

112	Caucasian
4	African American or Black
5	Bi-Racial or Multi-Racial
1	Latinx
1	Middle Eastern
1	Asian
2	Other



Those who identify as living with a disability include:

- 23% of Transgender Women
- 38% of Transgender Men
- 44% of Nonbinary Individuals
- 40% of Individuals with Additional Identities

...in comparison to 21% of all survey respondents who identify as someone living with a disability.

GREATEST NEEDS

While a variety of needs emerged through the community survey, the areas of greatest need listed below represent the issues that were identified as important or extremely important by 100% of each population of survey participants when asked to rank the issues of importance to them.

For Transgender Women

- Access to LGBTQ+ mental health counseling
- Access to LGBTQ+ sensitive healthcare

For Transgender Men

- Access to LGBTQ+ sensitive healthcare
- Addressing racial bias within the LGBTQ+ community
- Addressing LGBTQ+ youth homelessness
- Ensuring schools are safe for LGBTQ+ youth
- Ensuring parents have information on supporting LGBTQ+ youth
- Employment opportunities for LGBTQ+ populations
- Access to affordable and safe housing for LGBTQ+ populations

For Nonbinary Individuals

- Addressing healthcare inequities related to LGBTQ+ populations
- Access to LGBTQ+ mental health counseling
- Addressing racial bias within the LGBTQ+ community
- Addressing LGBTQ+ youth homelessness
- Ensuring schools are safe for LGBTQ+ youth
- Access to adequate food for LGBTQ+ populations
- Increased access to PrEP and HIV/STD prevention services

For Individuals with Additional Identities

- Employment opportunities for LGBTQ+ populations
- Addressing LGBTQ+ youth homelessness

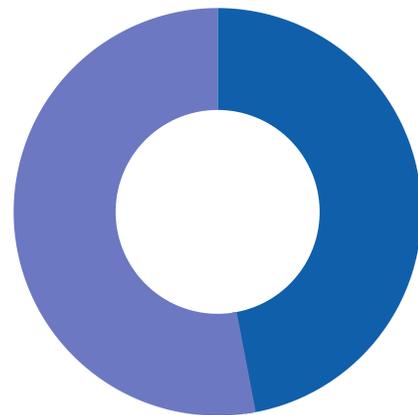
HEALTH & HEALTHCARE

Of these 128 individuals...

**Nearly half
rate their overall health
as fair or poor**

...in comparison to nearly one third (29%) of all survey respondents who rated their overall health as fair or poor.

Good or Very Good
53%



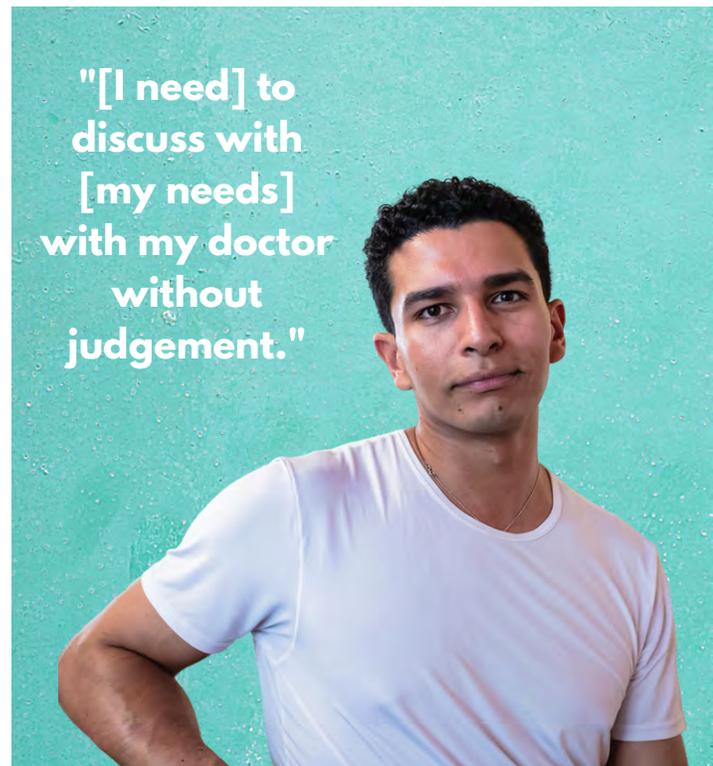
Fair or Poor
47%



**Most are HIV negative
but...**

- 18% of Transgender Women**
- 42% of Transgender Men**
- 31% of Nonbinary Individuals**
- 37% of Individuals with Additional Identities**

**...are unsure of their HIV status
or have never been tested**



"[We need] informed and caring physicians who know the treatment protocols for transgender and non-binary individuals."



While nearly all (97%) identify access to LGBTQ+ sensitive health care as a critical need, several factors affect their willingness or ability to access medical care when they need it.

Over half
report not seeking
medical care because
they could not afford it

2 in 5
struggle having
enough money to pay
for needed medications



...in comparison to 27% of all survey respondents who struggle having enough money to pay for needed medications.

For those who identify as Transgender...

17%

do not take hormones because they don't know where to get them

1 in 4

report that medical care providers are not sensitive to their needs based on their gender identity/expression

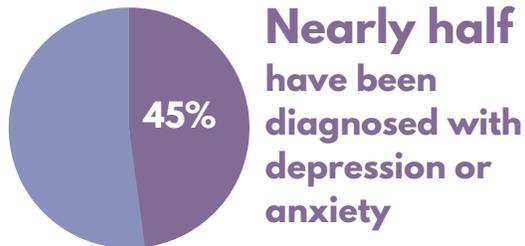
63% of Nonbinary Individuals and 37% of Individuals with Additional Identities report this same experience.

More than 4 in 5
are concerned health
care services won't be
trans-friendly, and

87% of Nonbinary Individuals and 70% of Individuals with Additional Identities are concerned that health care services won't be queer/LGBTQ+ friendly.

Of the 128 individuals...

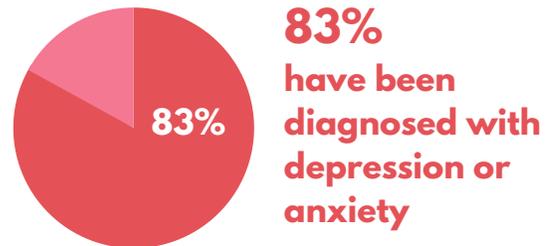
who identify as Transgender Women...



1 in 4
have acted on
thoughts of suicide
at some point



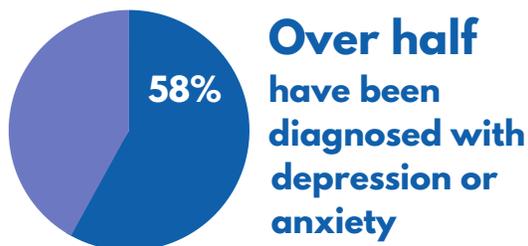
Transgender Men...



2 in 5
have acted on
thoughts of suicide
at some point



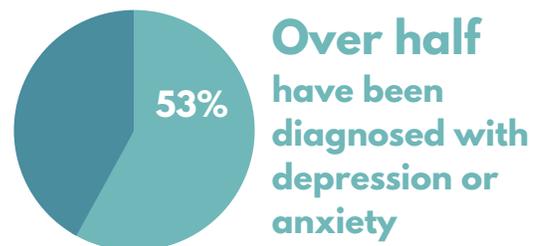
Nonbinary Individuals...



Half
have acted on
thoughts of suicide
at some point



Individuals with Additional Identities...



1 in 3
have acted on
thoughts of suicide
at some point



These responses indicate a significantly higher prevalence of depression, anxiety, and acting on thoughts of suicide than is found in the general population. Public health data indicates that roughly 17-20% of individuals in the United States are diagnosed with a depressive disorder and roughly 30% are diagnosed with anxiety some point in their lives. Public health data also indicates that roughly 3% of individuals in the United States have acted on thoughts of suicide at some time in their life while roughly 4% of individuals in the United States had serious thoughts of suicide in the past year.¹

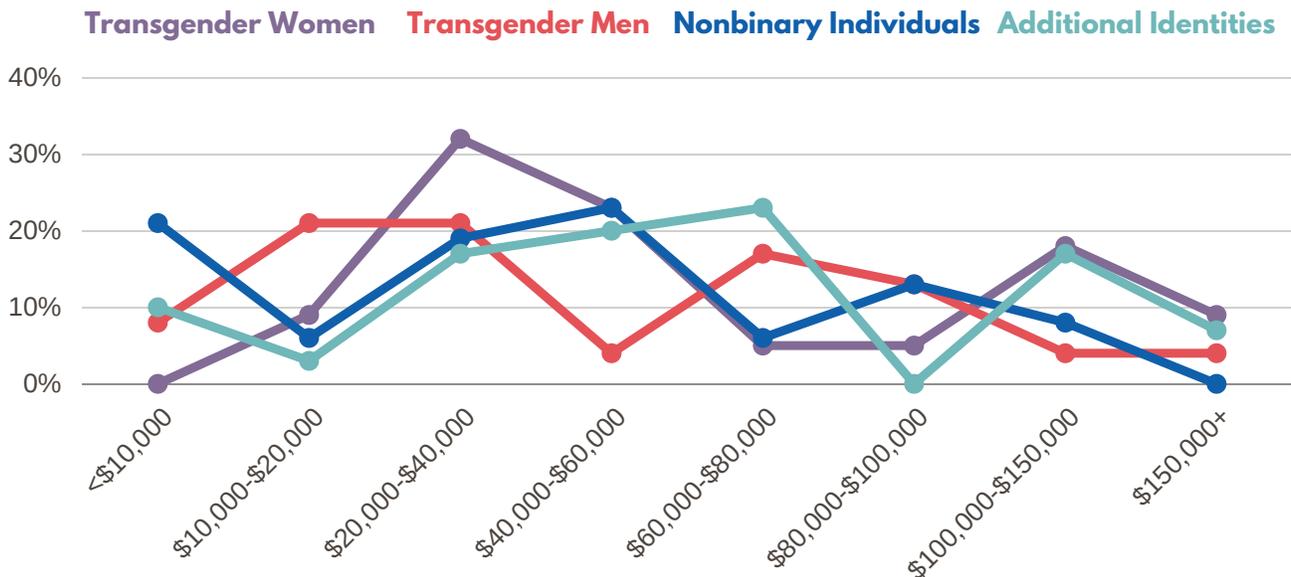
ECONOMIC STABILITY

Of these 128 individuals...

77%
are currently
employed

Over Half
earn over
\$40,000 a year

1 in 5
Nonbinary
Individuals earn less
than \$20,000 a year



Regardless of annual income levels, challenges were present for these survey respondents across all income levels and subgroups.

"The community is fragmented even more than one would expect."



68%
of Nonbinary Individuals and Transgender Women struggle to have enough money to pay their bills

21% of Transgender Men and 40% of Individuals with Additional Identities report this same experience.

Of these **128 individuals...**

Many
struggle getting a job or earning
a better wage because of their
LGBTQ+ identity, including...

- 36% of Transgender Women
- 21% of Transgender Men
- 38% of Nonbinary Individuals
- 17% of Individuals with Additional Identities



69%
live in their own housing

in comparison to 89% of all
survey respondents who live
in their own housing.

2 in 5
Transgender Women have
experienced homelessness at
some point

17% of Transgender Men, 27% of
Nonbinary Individuals, and 20% of
Individuals with Additional
Identities have had this same
experience

Nearly all
(98%) believe employment
opportunities for LGBTQ+
populations are a critical need

"I need education
on how to be an
LGBTQ+ advocate
in the workplace."



12 individuals
have had no place to sleep
at night at some point in
the last year

This specific data point is often overlooked
when experiences of homelessness in the
general population are reported, therefore
opportunities for comparison are limited.

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Of these 128 individuals...

Many
have difficulty meeting other
LGBTQ+ individuals for friendship
in Central Indiana, including...

- 64% of Transgender Women
- 46% of Transgender Men
- 54% of Nonbinary Individuals
- 30% of Individuals with Additional Identities

Only 38%
feel connected to the
LGBTQ+ community in
Central Indiana



4 in 5
would take advantage of a safe
place for social support and
community building if offered by
an LGBTQ+ competent program

Over half
would like more
opportunities to
socialize with people
their own age

"As a queer person who does not drink, it doesn't feel like there are a lot of spaces or activities I can engage with as an adult."



Of these **128 individuals...**

Less than 1 in 10 Transgender Individuals believe Central Indiana work culture is LGBTQ+ friendly

15% of of Nonbinary Individuals and 17% of Individuals with Additional Identities hold this same belief.



Many have experienced verbal harassment in their work environment related to being LGBTQ+, including...

- 45% of Transgender Women
- 38% of Transgender Men
- 48% of Nonbinary Individuals
- 27% of Individuals with Additional Identities

1 in 5 Transgender Women have been fired as a result of revealing their LGBTQ+ identify in the workplace



10% of of Nonbinary Individuals and Other Individuals have had this same experience.



Over one third of Transgender and Nonbinary Individuals need help with their legal name change or gender marker change

NEIGHBORHOOD & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Of these 128 individuals...

Only 2 in 5
who identify as Transgender or
Nonbinary feel safe expressing
themselves as LGBTQ+ in their own
neighborhood

3 in 5 of Individuals with
Additional Identities have this
experience.



Most
do not feel safe expressing
themselves as LGBTQ+
when interacting with police
or law enforcement officers,
including...

91% of Transgender Women
75% of Transgender Men
85% of Nonbinary Individuals
67% of Individuals with
Additional Identities

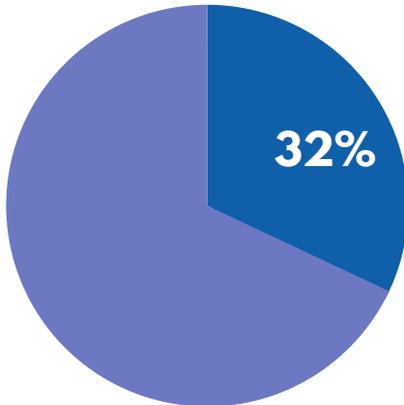
Many
have been harassed, threatened, or
attacked in the last year for being
LGBTQ+, including...

68% of Transgender Women
75% of Transgender Men
56% of Nonbinary Individuals
57% of Individuals with Additional
Identities

"I want to help make people feel
welcome here."



Of these 128 individuals...



Less than one third
are able to easily find
the resources and
services they need as
an LGBTQ+ individual



More than 2 in 5
who identify as
Transgender struggle
having enough food to eat

37% of Nonbinary individuals
and 23% of Individuals with
Additional Identities have this
same experience.

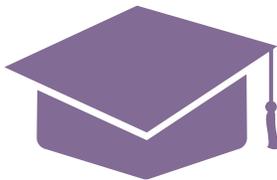
88%
see safe transportation for
LGBTQ+ populations as a
critical need

EDUCATION

Of these 128 individuals...

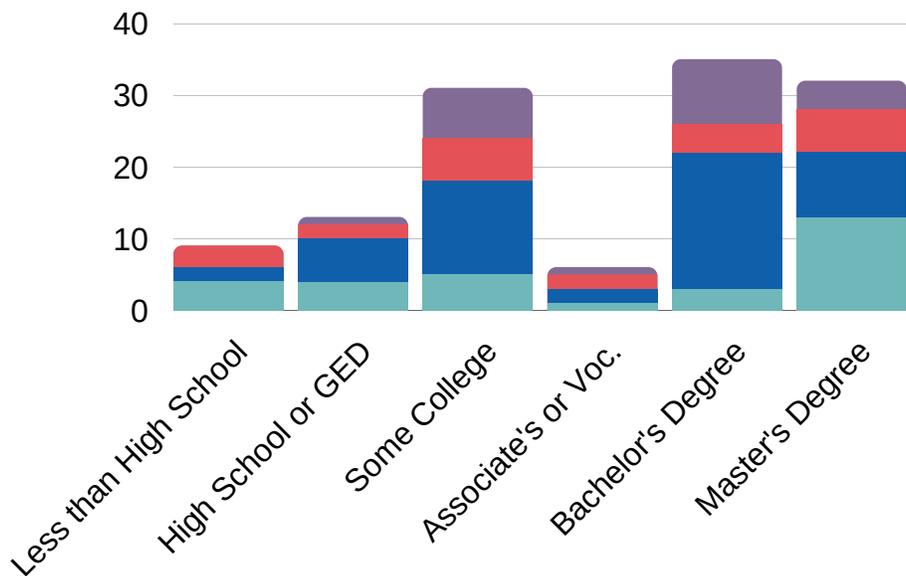
96%
believe it is
important to ensure
schools are safe for
LGBTQ+ youth

30%
need help paying for
school or seeking
financial aid



Most
are college educated

Transgender Women
Transgender Men
Nonbinary Individuals
Additional Identities



PUBLIC HEALTH REFERENCES

¹Sources of comparative data noted within this report include:

Hasin, D.S., Sarvet, A.L., Meyers, J.L., et al. (2018). Epidemiology of adult DSM-5 major depressive disorder and its specifiers in the United States. *JAMA Psychiatry*, 75(4), 336-346. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2017.4602>

Kessler, R.C., Petukhova, M., Sampson, N.A., et al. (2012). Twelve-month and lifetime prevalence and lifetime risk of anxiety and mood disorders in the United States. *International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research*, 21(3), 169-184. <https://doi.org/10.1002/mpr.1359>

National Institute of Mental Health. (2017, November). Any Anxiety Disorder. <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/any-anxiety-disorder.shtml>

Nock, M.K., Borges, G., Bromet, E.J., et al. (2008). Cross-national prevalence and risk factors for suicidal ideation, plans and attempts. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 192(2), 98-105. <https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.bp.107.040113>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2019). Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Rockville, MD: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/cbhsq-reports/NSDUHNationalFindingsReport2018/NSDUHNationalFindingsReport2018.pdf>

Taylor, M., Nowaski, D.Z., & Witchey, A. (2020). LGBTQ+ Community Needs: 2020 Indianapolis. Indianapolis, IN: Damien Center.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Thank you to all of the Central Indiana-based organizations whose efforts were critical in gathering community input through the LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment survey in early 2020. The continued collaboration and leadership of these community partners and many others will pave the way toward bringing the vision of an LGBTQ+ Community Center in Indianapolis to life.



For more information about this study or the efforts of this group, please contact the Damien Center President and CEO Alan Witchey at awitchey@damien.org or 317-632-0123.

This study was
funded by



**DAMIEN
CENTER**

This report was
prepared by

Taylor
Advising

August 2020