LGBTQ STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

While over 200 LGBTQ centers exist on college campuses across the country, there is limited data about LGBTQ students in higher education. But research shows that as early as high school, LGBTQ students face challenges that factor into their college enrollment and college experiences. In fact, data has shown that 13.4% of LGBTQ students who experienced frequent verbal harassment didn’t plan to attend college after high school.

ENROLLMENT

- In 2016, the American College Health Association found that out of a sample of more than 33,000 undergraduate students, 10% identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, asexual, pansexual, or questioning.

COLLEGE CAMPUS SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

- Currently, over 200 campuses have a dedicated office or resource center for LGBTQ students with paid staff members.
- Nationally, 26% of campuses prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation in 2017.
- 347 institutions of higher education included sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies in 2017.

SAFETY CONCERNS

- 3 in 4 LGBTQ college students reported having experienced sexual harassment at least once in a 2015 climate survey by the Association of American Universities (AAU).
- 20% of LGBTQ college students feared for their physical safety due to their gender identity or their perceived sexual orientation according to the 2015 AAU climate survey.
- 31% of LGBTQ students of color reported experiencing “exclusionary, intimidating, offensive, or hostile conduct” that they attributed to their racial identity in the 2015 AAU climate survey.
CHALLENGES

▪ LGBTQ men were twice as likely to obtain a bachelor's degree in comparison to LGBTQ women in 2015.
▪ The probability of LGBTQ women completing a bachelor’s degree was 25%, which is below heterosexual women’s predicted probability of 34% in 2015.
▪ In 2015, LGBTQ women earned less than heterosexual women, reporting an average annual salary of $45,606 vs. $51,461.
▪ Similarly, in 2015, LGBTQ men reported earning an average of $56,936, compared with average earnings for heterosexual men of $83,469.

SOURCES


“LGBT College Statistics.” Campus Explorer.

“LGBT Students and Campus Sexual Assault.” The Atlantic, September 2015.


“College Guide for LGBTQ Students.” Best Colleges,


“Gay Men are more Likely to Graduate College than Anyone Else.” Business Insider, June 2015.

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