Postsecondary National Policy Institute
LGBTQ Students in Higher Education

While over 100 LGBTQ centers exist on college campuses across the country, there is limited federal data about LGBTQ students in higher education. For this reason much of what we know about LGBTQ students comes from non-Federal sources.

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 (Best Colleges, 2020).

College Campus Support and Resources
- Currently, over 100 campuses have a dedicated office or resource center for LGBTQ students with paid staff members (Campus Explorer, 2020; Diverse, 2017).
- Nationally, 26% of campuses prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation in 2017 and less than 16% expressly prohibit discrimination based on “gender identity and expression” (Diverse, 2017).

Safety Concerns
- Of undergraduate TGQN\(^1\) students, 65.1% reported experiencing harassing behavior since enrolling at their school. In addition, 21.5% reported intimate partner violence, and 15.2% reported having been stalked (Association of American Universities, 2019).

Completion & Earnings
- LGBTQ men were twice as likely to obtain a bachelor’s degree than LGBTQ women in 2015 (Business Insider, 2015).
- The probability of LGBTQ women completing a bachelor’s degree was 25%, which is lower than heterosexual women’s predicted probability of 34% in 2015 (Business Insider, 2015).
- In 2015, LGBTQ women earned less than heterosexual women, reporting an average annual salary of $45,606 vs. $51,461 (Forbes, 2016).
- Similarly, in 2015, LGBTQ men reported earning an average of $56,936, compared with average earnings for heterosexual men of $83,469 (Forbes, 2016).

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\(^1\) TGQN is defined as students who listed their gender identity as Transgender woman, Transgender man, Nonbinary or genderqueer, Gender questioning or Gender not listed (Association of American Universities, 2019).
Sources


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

“AAU Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct (2019).” Association of American Universities, September 2015.


“College Guide for LGBTQ Students.” Best Colleges, 2020


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

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