We believe in data. At a time when perspective often poses as evidence, the Williams Institute remains committed to rigorous, independent research on sexual orientation and gender identity. For more than two decades, we have supplied policymakers with facts illuminating the impact of law and policy on the lives of LGBT people. 2023 was no different. In a year marked both by continued support for LGBTQ people by the federal government and unprecedented opposition to transgender rights by state legislatures, the Williams Institute’s research highlighted the impact of laws and policies on LGBTQ communities. Take a look at some of our most groundbreaking findings from the past year.

LGBT ADULTS IN THE US

13.9 MILLION

or 5.5% of adults in the US identify as LGBT

Source: bit.ly/LGBTAdultPop
The Transgender Bill of Rights is reintroduced in Congress to strengthen nondiscrimination protections and improve mental health services for trans and nonbinary individuals.

President Biden signs the Inflation Reduction Act in honor of the 60th anniversary of Older Americans Month, capping out-of-pocket prescription drug costs for people on Medicare.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis expands the “Don’t Say Gay” law to prohibit classroom instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity from pre-K through the eighth grade.

### MENTAL HEALTH

- **Transgender adults in the US**
  - 81% Have ever thought about suicide
  - 42% Have ever attempted suicide
  - 56% Have ever engaged in self-injury

- **82% of transgender people have accessed formal mental health care**

- **Nearly one-third of transgender people report high levels of drinking and drug use.**

### DEMOGRAPHICS

- **Older people (65+) living below the FPL**
  - 19% LGBT
  - 15% Non-LGBT

- **FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL**
  - 56% of LGBTQ parents surveyed have considered leaving Florida because of the law, and 17% have taken steps to do so.

- **One-quarter of LGBT adults age 65+ live alone compared to 15% of their straight cisgender peers.**

- **9 out of 10 LGBTQ parents were concerned about the impact of the “Don’t Say Gay” law on themselves and their children.**

- **Nearly one-third of LGBT adults age 65+ who take prescription medication for mental health**
  - 29% LGBT
  - 20% Non-LGBT

- **Nearly one-third of transgender people report high levels of drinking and drug use.**

### "DON'T SAY GAY" LAW

- **LGBTQ parents surveyed**
  - 23% feared harassment by neighbors
  - 21% were less out in their neighborhood, workplace, or community
  - 13% said LGBTQ children had fears about living in Florida

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Source: bit.ly/TransPopSuicidality
Source: bit.ly/LGBTOlderAdults
Source: bit.ly/DontSayGayImpact
June

► U.S. Supreme Court rules that the First Amendment’s free speech protections allow a website designer in Colorado to refuse to serve same-sex couples based on her religious beliefs.

► The U.S. Supreme Court strikes down the use of affirmative action in college admissions, ending the consideration of race in the admissions process.

► Missouri Governor Mike Parson signs two bills that ban gender-affirming care for minors and bar transgender students from playing on teams aligning with their gender identity.

**DISCRIMINATION**

**EDUCATION**

**TRANSGENDER YOUTH**

More than 70% of US Adults oppose using religious beliefs as a reason to discriminate against LGBTQ people.

1/3 of LGBTQ people of color received little or no information about college applications from high school counselors and teachers.

Among LGBTQ POC, percent who received little or no information about...

- Entrance exams: 41%
- Letters of recommendation: 48%
- Financial aid: 41%

More than 1/4 of LGBTQ people of color faced bullying, harassment, or assault in college.

105,200 transgender youth live in 22 states where gender-affirming medical care is banned.

23 states restrict access to school sports for transgender students.

146,700 transgender youth live in states that protect doctors and parents who prescribe or seek access to medical care for youth.

**Opposition to denying services to LGBTQ people by race**

- Black: 82%
- Hispanic: 68%
- White: 73%
- Other/Multiracial: 79%

**Come in WE'RE OPEN**

71% of religious adults oppose allowing businesses to refuse to serve LGBTQ people based on religious beliefs.

Source: bit.ly/opnixempt

Source: bit.ly/BPOCLGBTHigherEd

Source: bit.ly/2023transbills
## INTERNATIONAL

- The Ghana Parliament proposes an anti-LGBTQ law that criminalizes consensual same-sex activity, being transgender, and advocating for LGBTQ rights.

## YOUTH HUNGER

- Data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that millions of American families fell into poverty in 2022 with the poverty rate among children more than doubling from 2021.

## HATE CRIMES

- The FBI’s annual crime report shows a rise in anti-LGBTQ hate crimes, including a 33 percent jump in crimes based on gender identity compared to the previous year.

### Victims of hate crimes

- **703,000** LGBT youth (18 to 24) did not have enough to eat in the past week.

### Trends among countries with high LGBTQ acceptance

- **Attacks on LGBTQ people and their rights are strongly associated with democratic backsliding.**

### Hunger among LGBT high school students by race/ethnicity

- **20%** of LGBT high school students experience hunger due to food insufficiency.

### LGBT people are nine times more likely to be victims of violent hate crimes

### LGBT response to violent hate crimes versus other violent crimes

- More likely to feel angry, violated, and unsafe
- More likely to feel anxious, sad, or depressed

### Sources

- Source: bit.ly/LGBTyouthhunger
- Source: bit.ly/A.GBThatecrimes
- Source: bit.ly/GAIdemocracy