

The Williams Institute

RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

The Williams Institute is dedicated to conducting rigorous and independent research on issues affecting the lives of LGBT people. But our work doesn't stop there. We ensure that our findings reach policymakers, judges, service providers and the public so that decisions concerning the lives of LGBT people and families are grounded in facts—not stereotypes. Take a look at some of the impact our research has had in the past year.

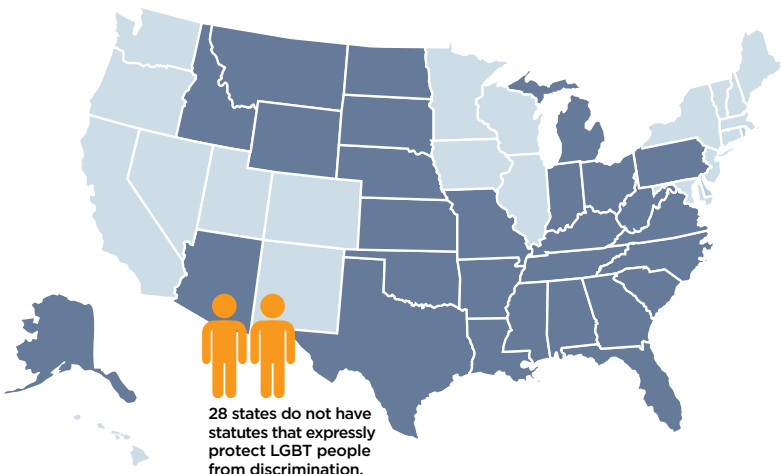
1 Equality Act

In March, a bipartisan group of Congress Members introduced the Equality Act, which would provide explicit federal protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, education, public accommodations, housing, credit and other areas. The bill referred to Williams Institute research that found same-sex couples are seven times more likely to foster or adopt than their different-sex counterparts and LGBTQ youth in foster care are twice as likely to report poor treatment in care as non-LGBTQ youth. The House passed the bill in May.



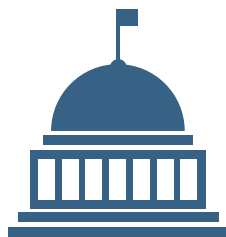
2 LGBT Nondiscrimination Protections

To coincide with the introduction of the Equality Act, the Williams Institute produced estimates of the number of LGBT people who lack protections from discrimination in employment, education, public accommodations, housing and credit under state statutes. In an op-ed for the *Advocate*, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Rep. David Cicilline, co-sponsors of the Equality Act, included our finding that half of the LGBT population lives in states without clear legal protections in these areas.



Conversion Therapy

In a 2018 report, the Williams Institute estimated that 700,000 LGBT adults in the U.S. had undergone conversion therapy—half of them before they had turned 18. Since the report was released, the call to end the practice on LGBT youth by licensed health care providers has intensified. Policymakers and advocates have relied on our estimates to advance laws banning the practice in states across the country, including in New York, Massachusetts, Colorado and Maine this year. Our findings also appeared in the final frame of the award-winning film *Boy Erased*.



State laws banning conversion therapy protect thousands of LGBT youth in the US.



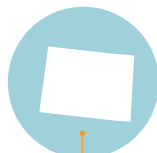
NEW YORK



MASSACHUSETTS



MAINE



COLORADO

Massachusetts Ballot Measure 3

In November 2018, Massachusetts became the first state to decide by popular vote whether to uphold a state law prohibiting discrimination against transgender people in public accommodations. Measure 3 opponents claimed that the protections leave women and children vulnerable to attack in public restrooms. However, a Williams Institute study, released before the vote, found that gender identity-inclusive non-discrimination laws do not compromise privacy or safety in public facilities. An overwhelming majority of Massachusetts voters chose to keep the non-discrimination law in place.

68%



An estimated 32,050 Massachusetts residents ages 13 and older identify as transgender.

Gay and Trans Panic Defense

In 2016, the Williams Institute drafted model language that states could use in writing legislation to ban the “gay and trans panic defense,” an argument used by defendants to reduce penalties for violence against LGBT victims. Our model guided the Nevada Youth Legislature as it drafted its bill introduced in the Nevada Senate and we testified in a committee hearing on the bill. The Nevada Legislature approved the bill, making Nevada the fourth state in the US to prohibit the defense.



Panic defenses have surfaced in court opinions in about half of all states since the 1960s.