

FAMILY & COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES



Tulsa's Sexual and Gender Minority Community Needs Report, 2019

Bright Spots and Progress

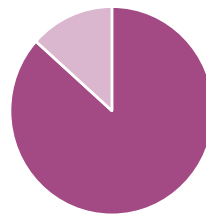
Many are living with others and in relationships.

- **Nearly 4 in 5** are living with at least one other person.
- **Over half** are in a relationship.



Many are reporting generally positive experiences with family.

- **Over half** of respondents reported none of the listed negative experiences with family. For participants under 20, **61.2%** reported none of the listed negative experiences with family.
- **Two-thirds** of respondents reported at least one of the listed positive experience with family. For participants 19 and younger, **3 out of 4** reported at least one such positive experience.



86.6% reported being open with at least some family members, and about **1 in 8** reported that immediate family members were unsupportive.

Many respondents are accessing agencies, programs, and services in the community.

- **55.6%** of adults are accessing Oklahomans for Equality and **58.7%** of youth are accessing Gender and Sexuality Alliances.

Those who have been involved in spiritual or religious communities in the past 3 years are **more open** about their SGM identity with their communities.

- **58%** of those who have been involved within the past 3 years are open with members and leaders in their spiritual and religious communities, whereas just **one-third** of participants who had been previously involved in such communities, but not within the past 3 years, reported having been open.
- Of adults who reported being open with at least some members, just **10%** reported that members were unsupportive.



Among those who report being visible as SGM, those who have had a **more SGM-affirming experience** have **continued to be involved** in their spiritual and religious communities in the past 3 years.

Other findings identify the negative experiences of many in the SGM community...

The Prism Project - to better inform the community of issues involving Tulsa's LGBTQ+ members.

In 2019, Tulsa Reaches Out (TRO) partnered with several Tulsa-area organizations to conduct a needs assessment survey to provide outreach, create advocacy groups and guide policymakers about the needs of Tulsa's sexual and gender minorities, commonly referred to as the LGBTQ+ community.

TRO commissioned The Hope Research Center at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa to conduct the survey within Tulsa's LGBTQ+ community. More than 800 anonymous surveys were completed and analyzed. From this effort, a 73-page report was released in November 2019.

From the findings and the report, TRO established three goals:

1. **Provide outreach** to community partners to inform practices and ensure responsive services to the needs of sexual and gender minorities (SGM);
2. **Inform advocacy groups** working to increase public awareness and support goals to improve the well-being of the SGM community, and
3. **Guide policymakers** with data and analysis about the SGM community to inform future policy recommendations and actions.

The Prism Project tracks changes in the LGBTQ+ community since TRO first conducted a LGBTQ+ Needs Assessment in 2004-2005.

This brief is one in a series of five which summarize key findings in the report:

- Family & Community Experiences
- Health & Healthcare Access
- Mental Health
- Workplace Experiences
- Youth Experiences

The complete report, the briefs, a PowerPoint and other supportive materials can be found at link.ou.edu/tulsa-lgbtq

About Tulsa Reaches Out (TRO)

Tulsa Reaches Out is an advisory council within the Tulsa Community Foundation whose goal is to raise awareness and address changes needed for sexual and gender minorities.

Challenges

A **high percentage** of respondents reported leaving their spiritual or religious communities, driven by fear of rejection or actual rejection by their communities.

- **Half** of respondents had been involved in such communities but not in the past 3 years. **Nearly two-thirds** reported leaving out of fear of rejection or actual rejection.

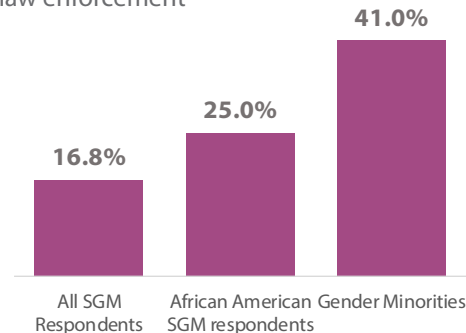
Gender minorities and Black/African American respondents reported **high rates** of negative experiences with law enforcement

- **41%** of gender minorities and **25%** of Black/African American SGM respondents reported at least one of the listed negative experience, compared to **16.8%** of all SGM respondents—the most common experience being verbal harassment.

Several respondents have experienced homelessness, yet have not utilized shelters.

- **1 in 8** have experienced homelessness in their lifetimes, and **just under 5%** within the past 3 years.
- Of those who have stayed at a shelter, **over one-third** reported negative experiences as an SGM person.

Gender minorities and Black/African American respondents reported **high rates of negative experiences** with law enforcement



Of those who have experienced homelessness



nearly **9 in 10** did not utilize a homeless shelter—with **nearly 30%** not doing so out of concerns of safety and fear of mistreatment.

The survey indicates important priorities moving forward:

Regarding the most important services needed for SGM individuals:

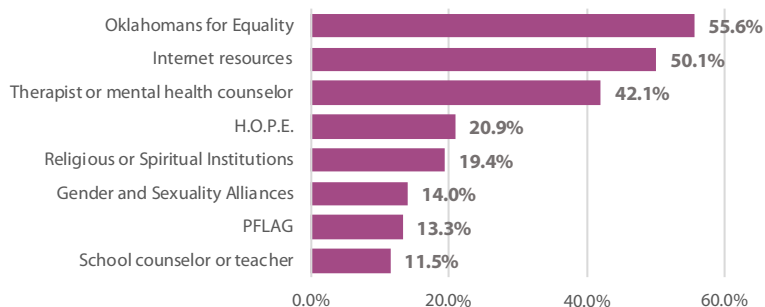
Adults indicated preferences for:

- mental health and counseling services
- advocacy at the state legislature
- physical and medical health services
- public awareness about LGBTQ+ issues

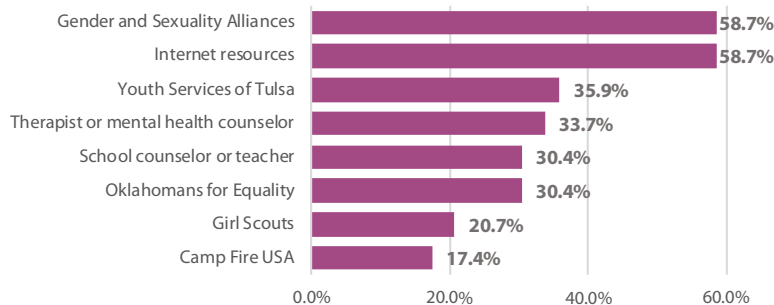
Youth indicated preferences for:

- mental health and counseling services
- public awareness about LGBTQ+ issues
- programs for LGBTQ+ youth
- sexual health education

The **top 8** agencies, programs, and services accessed by **adults**



The **top 8** agencies, programs, and services accessed by **youth**



We hope readers will consider **committing** their resources, influence, and networks to come up with **creative solutions** to the persistent challenges faced by sexual and gender minorities so that we can continue making progress together as **one community**.