

Family Acceptance for African American LGBTQ+ Youth

Important Statistics

1 in 2

LGBTQ+ African-American youth say their family is not accepting of LGBTQ+ people.

57%

Black youth represent 57% of all new HIV infections among youth aged 13 to 24.

40% of all homeless youth are LGBTQ+, of which 31% identify as African-American

3X

Black students are 3X as likely to be suspended from school as their white counterparts.

LGBTQ+ youth who experience a high level of family rejection are 8X more likely to attempt suicide, 3X more likely to use illegal drugs, and are at a 3X higher risk for HIV. This is compared to LGBTQ+ youth who experience low levels of family rejection.

*cdc.gov, nbjc.org, hrc.org, transstudent.org, truecolorsfund.org



How to Support LGBTQ+ Students with Concerns of Family Acceptance

Ask students who share their identity with you and if they have come out to their family. If so, ask in detail about the reactions. If not, offer support to help them do so if they wish.

Respect the students' decisions about whether, how, and when they choose to disclose their LGBTQ+ identity to parents, caregivers, and other family members.

For LGBTQ+ youth who report family rejection, individual counseling can help the student deal with rejection, and referral to LGBTQ+ youth programs, including a school Gay Straight Alliance can provide access to peer support.

How to Support Families Struggling to Understand their LGBTQ+ Child to Increase Family Acceptance

Educate families on how acceptance or rejection can affect their LGBTQ+ child's health such as suicide ideation, illegal drug use, depression, and HIV.

Listen to the concerns of families and connect them to the necessary resources, trainings, or support groups that will help them to further support their child-including the resources on this page.

Provide families with respectful language relevant to conversations about sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

*Family Acceptance Project

Resources for Parents and Family Members

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays-PFLAG (Central Florida)

pflag.org/publications

A national support, education, and advocacy organization that offers resources for parents and other caring adults. On the website, you will find local chapters where you can meet with other family members of LGBTQ+ people. You will also find answers to frequently asked questions about LGBTQ+ identity, and tips on how to be supportive.

Zebra Coalition (Central Florida)

zebrayouth.org

Zebra Coalition is a local LGBTQ+ organization within Orlando that can provide mental health and support services to individuals and families. They offer counseling services tailored to benefit LGBTQ+ youth in strengthening their relationships and family bonds by providing an open and supportive environment.

The Family Acceptance Project (National)

familyproject.sfsu.edu/publications

An initiative that works to decrease health and related risks for LGBTQ+ youth in the context of their families. In addition to research and videos, the Family Acceptance Project provides guides for how families can support their LGBTQ+ children.

National Black Justice Coalition (National)

nbjc.org/resources/reports-publications

The National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC) is a civil rights organization dedicated to the empowerment of Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) people, including people living with HIV/AIDS. NBJC's mission is to end racism, homophobia, and LGBTQ bias and stigma.

National Minority AIDS Council (National)

nmac.org

The agency advances its mission by providing minority and minority-serving faith- and community-based organizations a variety of capacity building assistance programs, online and classroom-based trainings, printed and electronic resources, grassroots organization and political advocacy. These activities help these agencies deliver HIV/AIDS services more efficiently and effectively, ultimately helping to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS in underserved and marginalized communities.