

# SUICIDE AMONG THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY



2025

The Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition has identified LGBTQ+ community members as a priority population for suicide prevention. Data from this report can help to prevent suicide in our community.

Columbus, Ohio has more LGBTQ+ households than the average city of its size, and this community is growing.<sup>1</sup> In Franklin County, 1 in 5 (20%) LGBTQ+ adults seriously considered suicide in the past year.<sup>2</sup> Thoughts of suicide are 4 times more common among LGBTQ+ adults than among adults overall.<sup>2</sup> In the US, LGBTQ+ young people belonging to racial/ethnic minority groups are more likely than non-Hispanic White LGBTQ+ young people to have attempted suicide in the past year.<sup>3</sup> Possible reasons for higher suicidality among the LGBTQ+ community include social stigma, prejudice, and discrimination, including institutionalized discrimination that appears in laws and policies.<sup>4</sup>

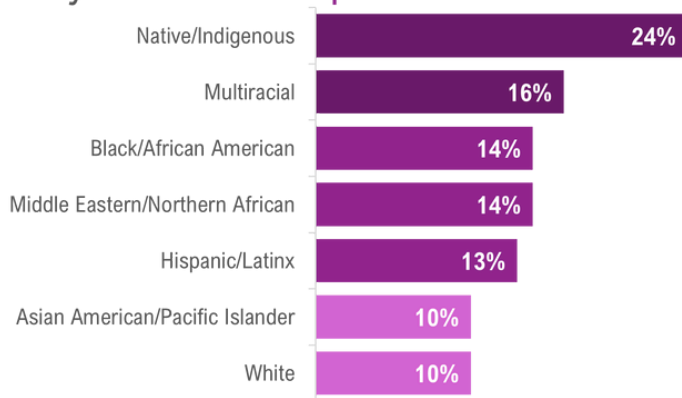
**1 in 5** LGBTQ+ adults living in Franklin County **seriously considered suicide** in the past year.



## LGBTQ+ YOUTH

LGBTQ+ youth and young people are more likely to experience suicidal thoughts and behaviors.<sup>2,3</sup>

LGBTQ+ young people belonging to racial/ethnic minority groups are most likely to have **attempted suicide**.



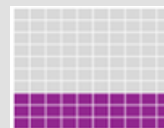
Among Franklin County\* transgender and gender nonconforming middle and high school students:<sup>5</sup>



**1 in 3** (36%) seriously **considered attempting suicide** in the past year.



**90%** were **treated badly** or **unfairly** because people think they are LGBTQ+.



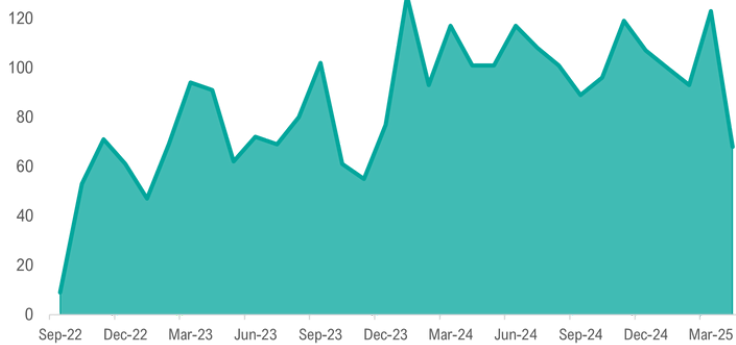
**70%** recently saw a **healthcare provider** for a mental health problem compared to 38% of students overall.

**LGBTQ+** is an abbreviation for **L**esbian, **G**ay, **B**isexual, **T**ransgender, **Q**ueer or **Q**uestioning, and more. These terms are used to describe a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. The '+' is used to signify additional gender identities and sexual orientations that are not captured by the previous terms, such as Intersex and Asexual.

*\*Includes voluntary students attending Accel Schools Ohio LLC, Bexley CSD, and Upper Arlington CSD*

***Want to learn more?***  
***[FranklinCountySPC.org](https://FranklinCountySPC.org)***

The LGBTQ+ line of 988 received nearly **3,000 calls** from Franklin County from September 2022 through April 2025.



## 988 LGBTQ+ LIFELINE

From September 2022 to April 2025, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline received 2,735 Franklin County calls to the LGBTQ+ line.<sup>6</sup> In 2024, there was an average of **4.5 Franklin County calls each day** routed to 988's LGBTQ+ line.<sup>6</sup>

In July 2025, the LGBTQ+ line of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline was discontinued. Other 988 lines are still available.

## RISK & RESILIENCE: KEY INFLUENCES ON SUICIDE RISK

Understanding factors that influence someone's risk of suicide can inform what actions we take to prevent suicide in our communities. The most common **stress management strategies** displayed among transgender/gender nonconforming students in Franklin County\* were **expressing themselves through the arts and literature** (75%), **participating in hobbies or community service** (46%), **avoiding people who create "drama"** (38%), and **getting support from others** (36%).<sup>5</sup> Research shows that other protective factors include adult/peer support, at-school safety, inclusive healthcare, and gender-affirming services and policies.<sup>7</sup> Risk factors for suicide<sup>8</sup> and suicide attempt<sup>3</sup> among the LGBTQ+ community include:

- Substance use
- Physical, sexual, or emotional abuse
- Domestic violence
- Anxiety and depression
- Low self esteem and social difficulty
- Living in an unaccepting community
- Experiencing bullying, discrimination, or physical threat or harm
- Lacking a gender-affirming school environment
- Threat of or subjection to conversion therapy

## SUICIDE FATALITY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS: LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

- 👤 Create evidence-based, culturally diverse education campaigns targeted toward the LGBTQ+ community utilizing intentional communication methods (social media, community gathering spaces, etc.).
- 👤 Increase Question, Persuade, Refer suicide prevention training in the LGBTQ+ community and organizations.
- 👤 Build local LGBTQ+ peer support opportunities where community members can share the struggles they are facing, increasing opportunities for intervention.
- 👤 Share and distribute resources from programs that support LGBTQ+ youth, especially transgender youth (Kaleidoscope Youth Center, TransOhio, etc.).
- 👤 Increase frequency of suicidality assessments with clients at high risk for suicide.

*For additional SFR recommendations, view the 2024 Suicide Fatality Review Report.*



## Want to learn more?

Connect with local agencies serving LGBTQ+ residents at:  
[FranklinCountySPC.org/Resource/Prevention](https://FranklinCountySPC.org/Resource/Prevention)

1. The Columbus Foundation, *Benchmarking Central Ohio*, 2024
2. CDC, *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*, 2021-2023
3. The Trevor Project, *US National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People*, 2024
4. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, *Preventing Suicide in LGBTQ Communities*
5. Ohio DCY, *Ohio Healthy Youth Environment Survey (OHYESI)*, 2022-2023
6. Vibrant Emotional Health, *988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline*, 2022-2025
7. Risk & Protective Factors for Suicidality Among LGBTQ+ Young People, 2024, DOI: [10.1002/jad.12308](https://doi.org/10.1002/jad.12308)
8. Franklin County Coroner's Office, *Forensic Psychosocial Interviews*, 2021-2024