



OUT AND COUNTED

2026 LGBTQ+ Young People Community Survey Findings

June 2026



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Research by

Wanda Alston Foundation

LGBTQ+ Politics Research Initiative at
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Introduction

Power in Pride

The Nation's Capital has long been a safe haven for the LGBTQ+ community because of its historic activism, allies who championed the movement for equality through legislative action, a thriving queer culture, and proximity to our country's highest levels of power.

Today, D.C. is the gayest city in the country, with 14.5% (1) of the city's population identifying as LGBTQ+. The city's dynamic demographic mix has a youthful power base, with 51% of the 700,000 residents identifying as millennial or Gen Z (2), two generations who are more likely to identify as LGBTQ+, according to Gallup. The convergence of this historic legacy and a rising generation ensures that D.C. remains at the forefront of LGBTQ+ equity.

Survey Background

As federal protections are scaled back and state-level anti-LGBTQ+ legislation escalates, the Wanda Alston Foundation and the LGBTQ+ Politics Research Initiative at Loyola Marymount University launched a community survey to analyze the urgent issues facing D.C.'s LGBTQ+ young people, aged 18 to 30. This work is now more urgent than ever, with information on LGBTQ+ populations removed from 360 federal data systems (3) and over 500 anti-LGBTQ+ bills being debated across our nation's state legislatures (4).



Photo: courtesy of [washington.org](https://www.washington.org).

(1) <https://www.washingtonblade.com/2024/01/03/dc-gayest-city-williams-institute-report/>

(2) <https://ora-cfo.dc.gov/blog/population-and-demographic-changes-dc-during-and-after-pandemic-part-1>

(3) <https://www.nextgov.com/digital-government/2026/03/lgbtq-data-disappearing-under-trump-reports-find/411831/>

(4) <https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights-2026>

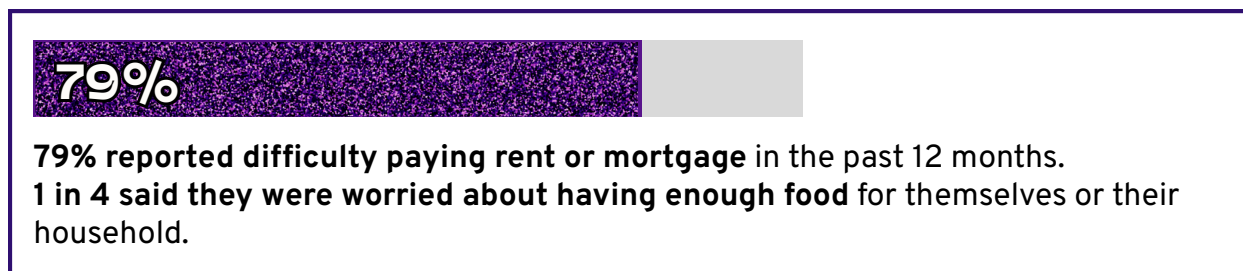
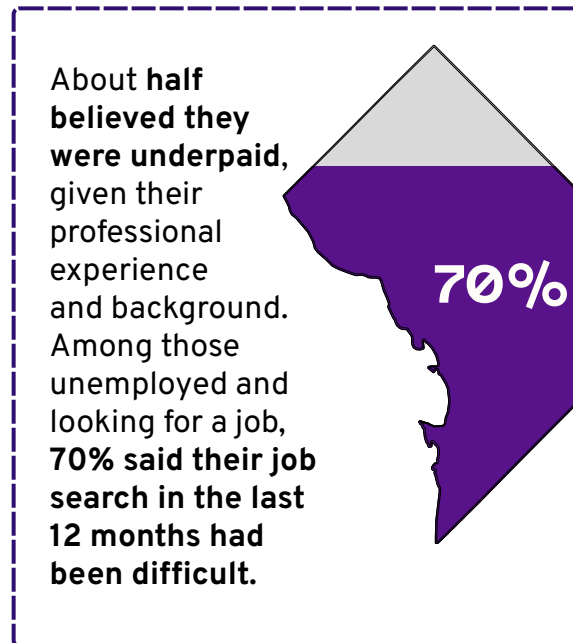
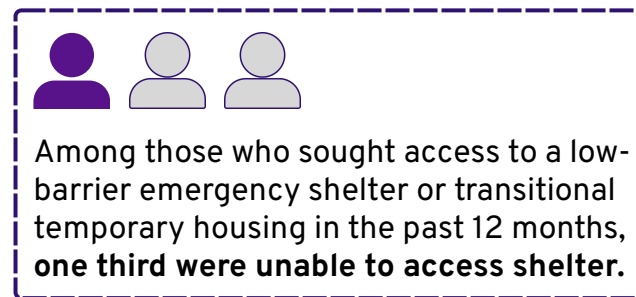
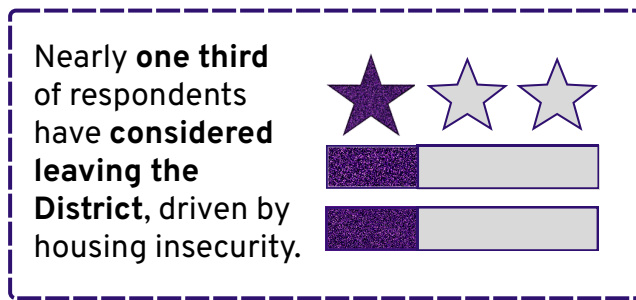
This report is dedicated to the memory of **Richard H. LaLumondier**, whose support helped shed light on the challenges facing the next generation of LGBTQ+ youth and advance the work toward a more just and supportive future.



Key Findings



Our findings illuminate a crisis facing young people in the nation's capital. The analysis of the survey answers from 304 LGBTQ+ respondents aged 18-30 and residing in Washington, D.C. shows:



These findings underscore a clear and urgent need for targeted, accessible housing solutions to ensure DC's LGBTQ+ young people are not forced into instability or out of the District altogether.

Detailed Findings



Survey Respondents

A survey designed by the Wanda Alston Foundation and Loyola Marymount University's LGBTQ+ Politics Research Initiative was fielded to the D.C. community, along with over 16 non-profit, advocacy and business partners. In total, 304 LGBTQ+ young people aged 18-30 who were residents of Washington, D.C., completed the survey in March and April 2026 thanks to multiple outreach strategies, including paid digital ads, in-person outreach, and other communication channels.

The following is the analysis of the demographic makeup and characteristics of the 304 respondents.

Sexual Orientation

About 41% of the respondents identified as gay, 17% as lesbian, 16% as bisexual, 14% as queer, 8% as pansexual, 1% as asexual, and 1% as demi-sexual. (5)

Gender Identity

About 54% identified as cisgender men, 23% as cisgender women, 5% as transgender men, 3% as transgender women, 7% as genderqueer, 13% as non-binary, 5% as gender non-conforming, 4% as transgender non-binary. (6)

Among all respondents, 3% identified as intersex.



As an LGBTQ+ young person, I want D.C. decision-makers to recognize our daily challenges: limited healthcare access, unfair judgment, and lack of representation. Too often, policies are made without hearing LGBTQ+ youth.

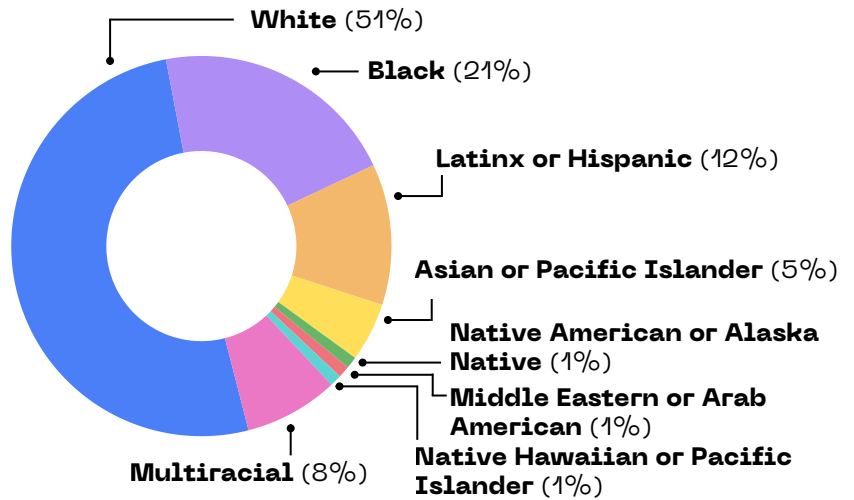
We need protected spaces, better mental health support, and full rights in schools and public areas. We deserve to be seen, not ignored. The city should create more inclusive programs and let us take part in policy discussions. We hope to live openly, safely, and equally, with the government truly understanding and supporting our lives.

Anonymous Survey Respondent

(5) The total is greater than 100 because respondents could select more than one option to describe their sexual orientation.
(6) The total is greater than 100 because respondents could select more than one option to describe their gender identity.

Race & Ethnicity

About 51% of the respondents identified as white, 21% as Black, African American, or Afro-Caribbean, 12% as Latinx or Hispanic, 5% as Asian or Pacific Islander, 1% as Native American or Alaska Native, 1% as Middle Eastern or Arab American, 1% as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 8% as multiracial.



Disability

About 12% of respondents reported having a disability or a long-term health condition that limits their daily activities.



Photo: courtesy of washington.org.

Socio-Economic Conditions

Household Income

More than half of the respondents (55%) reported a household income of less than \$49,999, including 11% reporting less than \$25,000. Additionally, 28% reported incomes between \$50,000 and \$99,999. The remaining 15% reported incomes above \$100,000.



Household income less than \$49,999 (50%)

Education

Regarding education, 5% of respondents had a high school diploma, 34% attended some college but did not obtain a degree, 5% had an associate degree, 43% had a bachelor's degree, 13% had a master's degree, and 1% had a doctorate or a professional degree.

Of those who at least attended some college, 80% said the institution was supportive of LGBTQ+ students (including 31% who said it was very supportive and 49% somewhat supportive), 16% said it was neither supportive nor unsupportive, and 4% said it was somewhat unsupportive.

Nearly half of the respondents (49%) said they participated in a job-related skills training or professional development program in the last 12 months. Of these, about 7 in 10 said the environment was at least somewhat supportive of LGBTQ+ participants (19% said very supportive and 52% somewhat supportive), 26% said it was neither supportive nor unsupportive, 3% said it was somewhat unsupportive, and 1% said it was very unsupportive.

Family Status

Over one third of respondents (36%) said they were single or not currently in a relationship, one third in a committed relationship but not married (33%), 29% dating casually, 5% married, and 3% polyamorous or consensually non-monogamous.

Faith

A majority (59%) of respondents identified as not religious, 18% as spiritual but not religious, 13% as agnostic, and 10% as religious.



Photo: courtesy of washington.org.

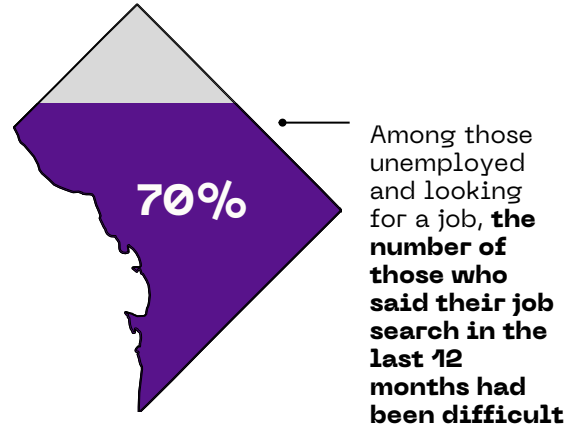
Employment & Education

Regarding **employment status**, 81% of respondents were employed full-time, 4% were employed part-time, 6% were students, **6% were unemployed and looking for work**, and 1% were unemployed and not currently looking for work.

Among those employed, 66% worked in the private for-profit sector, 21% in the nonprofit sector, 9% in the public sector, and 2% were self-employed.

Among those employed, **almost 1 in 2 (46%) respondents believed they were underpaid** relative to their professional experience and background (7% believed they were severely underpaid and 39% somewhat underpaid).

Among those unemployed and looking for a job, **70% said their job search in the last 12 months had been difficult**, including 47% who said it had been very difficult and 23% somewhat difficult.



Our trans community needs serious support, including opportunities for cash assistance and career advancing programs.

Anonymous Survey Respondent

Almost **half of the respondents (48%)** said they **struggled to afford basic necessities like housing, food, or utilities**, including 2% who always struggled, 6% who often struggled, and 40% who sometimes struggled.

About **1 in 4 (25%)** said they had worried about **having enough food for themselves or their household in the previous 12 months**, including 2% who always worried, 5% who worried often, and 18% who worried sometimes.

A high percentage of respondents faced **difficult tradeoffs in the previous 12 months, having to choose between paying for basic needs (e.g., housing, food, utilities) and saving money (68%)** or choosing between paying for basic needs and other expenses, such as healthcare (33%), transportation (29%), education or training (14%), supporting family (12%), and medications or prescriptions (11%).

Housing

Over 1 in 4 (26%) said they had experienced housing instability in their lifetime. Among these, 67% experienced housing instability in the previous 12 months.

Among all respondents (aged 18-30), 8% had sought access to a low-barrier emergency shelter or transitional temporary housing in the previous 12 months, and one-third were unable to access emergency or transitional housing.

79% reported difficulty paying rent or mortgage in the past 12 months. **1 in 4** said they were worried about having enough food for themselves or their household.

When asked how familiar they were with **housing assistance programs offered by the District of Columbia government**, about **3 in 4 respondents (75%)** said they were not familiar, including 33% who were not at all familiar and 42% who were not very familiar.

Most respondents were **not very familiar with specific housing programs**. The programs that respondents were relatively more familiar with were:

- Inclusionary zoning affordable housing (13%)
- Temporary cash assistance for needy families (13%)
- Transitional housing (12%)
- Home purchase assistance program (11%)
- Housing choice voucher program (10%)

Nearly **one third of respondents have considered leaving the District**, driven by housing insecurity.

While **40% of respondents said they wanted to purchase a home in D.C.**, about the same share (**39%**) said they were not confident they would be able to purchase one in the next 5 years.

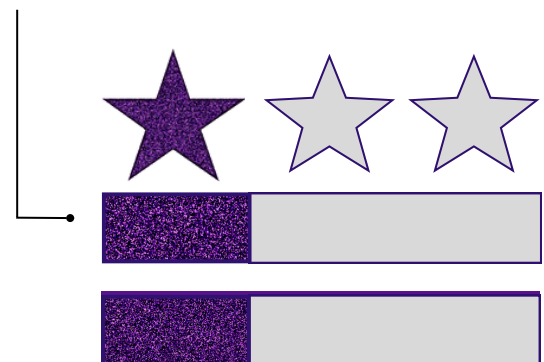
When asked **what would most increase their likelihood of staying in D.C.**, the top-mentioned factors were affordable housing (84%), better job opportunities (68%), higher pay (60%), feeling more welcomed and valued (59%), more LGBTQ+ spaces (47%), safer communities (42%), better healthcare access (34%), transportation (20%), and family proximity (13%).



Housing insecurity is a huge issue. Many LGBTQ+ young people in D.C. are dealing with unstable housing or couch surfing because of family rejection or high rent. Safe and affordable housing options specifically for LGBTQ youth are still very limited.

Anonymous Survey Respondent

Proportion of respondents who **considered leaving the District**, driven by housing insecurity. (Nearly one-third)



Health & Wellness

Healthcare

- About 9 in 10 (91%) respondents reported having health insurance coverage.
- **13% of respondents said they had sought but had been unable to access gender-affirming healthcare services** when they needed them.
- Among respondents who had not been able to access gender-affirming healthcare services, the top reasons were difficulty finding available providers (47%), cost or lack of insurance coverage (41%), and long wait times (38%).

Mental Health

- When asked how they would rate their mental health, **over 1 in 2 (54%) respondents rated their mental health as less than good**, including 2% who said it was very poor, 10% who said it was poor, and 42% who said it was fair.
- **13% of respondents said they had been unable to access mental health services** even though they wanted to in the previous 12 months.
- Among respondents who had not been able to access mental health services, the top reasons were costs or lack of insurance coverage (62%), difficulty finding available providers (49%), lack of LGBTQ+ affirming providers (33%), scheduling or time constraints (31%), and concerns about privacy or stigma (28%).

Smoking & Drinking Habits

- **4 in 10 (40%) respondents reported using tobacco or nicotine products** (e.g., cigarettes, cigars, vapes, e-cigarettes, etc.), including 5% who used them daily, 5% a few times a week, 1% once a week, 7% a few times a month, and 23% rarely.
- **About one-third (32%) of respondents reported using e-cigarettes or other electronic vaping products**, including 4% who used them daily, 3% a few times a week, 1% once a week, 4% a few times a month, and 20% rarely.
- **1 in 2 (50%) respondents reported using marijuana products** (e.g., flower, pre-rolls, vapes and cartridges, edibles, concentrates, etc.), including 8% who used them daily, 10% a few times a week, 2% once a week, 7% a few times a month, and 23% rarely.
- **90% of respondents reported drinking alcohol**, including 4% who reported drinking four or more days a week, 37% drinking between one and three days per week, and 50% drinking occasionally.
- Among respondents who drink alcohol, 95% reported drinking with friends, 71% at bars, 55% at clubs, 24% with family, 22% with co-workers, 20% at sport-related events, and 15% alone.

HIV

- **More than half (56%) of the respondents said they had been tested for HIV in the previous 12 months.**
- **89% of respondents said they were familiar with HIV prevention medications such as PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), including 29% who were very familiar and 60% somewhat familiar.**
- **79% respondents said they knew how to access PrEP in their area.** 69% said it would be easy for them to access PrEP if they wanted it, including 33% who said it would be very easy and 36% who said it would be somewhat easy.
- **About 10% of respondents said it would be difficult for them to access PrEP,** including 2% who said very difficult and 7% somewhat difficult.
- **Among those who said it would be difficult for them to access PrEP,** the top reasons were costs or lack of insurance coverage (52%), concerns about privacy or confidentiality (44%), uncertainty about where to go (41%), fear of stigma or judgement (33%), difficulty finding a provider who prescribes PrEP (30%), and long wait times for appointments (30%).

Loneliness

- **Over 80% of respondents said they felt they lacked companionship,** they felt left out, or they felt isolated from others at least some of the time.
- **When asked how often they felt hopeful about their future in the previous 30 days,** 1% said never, 9% rarely, 44% sometimes, 39% often, and 6% always.



Photo: courtesy of the Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser.

Safety & Justice

Interactions with the Police

- Among respondents with some experience with the police in D.C., about **41% reported a negative experience**, 22% a positive, and the remaining 37% described their experience as neither positive nor negative.
- When asked whether they trusted the police in their community to act in the public's best interest, **61% of respondents indicated they had low trust**, 34% some trust, and 4% a great deal.

Discrimination

- **Almost 4 in 10 (37%) respondents said they had personally experienced discrimination in D.C. in the previous 12 months.**
- Among those who experienced discrimination, **the settings** mentioned more frequently were public spaces (58%), housing (42%), online or social media (27%), workplace (22%), healthcare (18%), law enforcement (13%), and school or university (12%).
- When asked about **the reasons** why they believed they had experienced discrimination, the reasons mentioned most frequently were gender identity (59%), sexual orientation (40%), race or ethnicity (22%), gender (17%), religion (6%), disability (5%), and immigration status (5%).
- **Over 80% said they felt safe in public spaces** as a member of the LGBTQ+ community in D.C. in the previous 12 months.



Discrimination still happens in jobs, housing, and health care. Laws must be enforced, not just written down.

Anonymous Survey Respondent



Transgender people are under attack and need concrete legislative protections to safeguard our healthcare and civil rights

Anonymous Survey Respondent

Civic Engagement

Over 80% of respondents reported being registered voters in D.C. and voting in the 2024 presidential cycle.

Regarding other forms of political participation during the 2024 presidential cycle, over 1 in 2 (53%) respondents said they had posted or shared political content online, about 1 in 2 (51%) signed a petition, over 1 in 3 (33%) attended a protest or demonstration, about 1 in 4 (24%) participated in a political rally or demonstration, 1 in 5 (20%) contacted an elected official, almost 1 in 5 (18%) donated money to a political campaign or cause, and about 1 in 7 (14%) volunteered for a campaign or political organization.

Policy Implications



The LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness Crisis

The survey findings suggest a systemic capacity crisis among LGBTQ+ young adults in D.C., with 26% reporting lifetime housing instability, which is 9 points higher than the national average for sexual minority adults (7). The District’s “safe haven” status is under threat.

More alarming, among the 26% of survey respondents who experienced housing instability in their lifetime, 67% experienced it in the last year.

Among all respondents (aged 18-30), 8% had sought access to a low-barrier emergency shelter or transitional temporary housing in the previous 12 months, and one-third were unable to access emergency or transitional housing, suggesting that the homelessness continuum of care for LGBTQ+ young adults may be at a breaking point, forced to turn away those in active crisis.

The reality is that 40% of all of D.C.’s unoused youth identify as LGBTQ+ (8), and the 2025 Point-in-Time count of persons experiencing homelessness reported a 9-point surge of LGBTQ+ youth homelessness (9).

Currently, D.C.’s safety net provides only 91 beds specifically for LGBTQ+ young adults (ages 18-24). To move residents from survival to stability, the District must expand this housing support portfolio across every stage of the continuum of care.



Photo: courtesy of [washington.org](https://www.washington.org).

(7) <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/lgbt-homelessness-us/>

(8) <https://wearedcaction.org/dc-kids-count/key-measures/economic-justice/>

(9) https://wandaalstonfoundation.org/s/2025_PIT_Report_Combined_web_rev2-4.pdf

Table 1: Housing Programs for LGBTQ+ Young Adults in DC, ages 18-24

Program Name	Program Description	Number of Beds
Emergency Shelter	A 90-day residential program for LGBTQ+ youth to provide a safe space.	24
Transitional Housing	A two-year residential program for LGBTQ+ youth in apartment-style living with wrap-around services.	38
Extended Transitional Housing	A three-year residential program for LGBTQ+ youth in apartment-style living with wrap-around services.	24
Rapid Rehousing	A short-term rental assistance and supportive services in scattered-site apartments	21
Total		107

Despite the severity of this crisis, 75% of respondents are largely unfamiliar with D.C. housing assistance programs, with the partial exception of the Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) affordable housing program. This gap between the need for support and awareness of available resources in the District represents a major policy opportunity to improve outreach and accessibility for the city's most vulnerable young professionals.

Affordability Cliff

The data signals that LGBTQ+ young adults are hitting an affordability cliff despite high workforce participation. While 81% are employed full-time and 91% have health insurance, 79% reported difficulty paying rent or mortgage, a sharp contrast to the approximately 45-50% rent-burdened rate seen in the general D.C. population. (10) Furthermore, nearly half (48%) of respondents reported struggling to afford basic necessities.

This instability has reached a critical threshold: 1 in 3 respondents said they were considering leaving the District specifically because of housing insecurity.

To prevent a **"Queer Flight"** that would hollow out the District's LGBTQ+ cultural and economic engine, the District must develop policy prescriptions to remedy this affordability crisis impacting LGBTQ+ young adults.

(10) <https://dcfpi.org/all/nearly-half-of-all-renters-and-more-than-half-of-black-renters-in-dc-struggle-to-afford-rent-2/>

The Mandate for Strategic Mobilization

We recommend the immediate formation of a **Cross-Sector Task Force on LGBTQ+ Economic Security**, charged with developing a comprehensive, multi-year roadmap. This body must bridge the gap between LGBTQ+ service providers, government leaders, and economic experts to:

- **Audit Existing Barriers:** Evaluate why this demographic remains disconnected from the District's current housing assistance. One third of those in need reported not being able to access shelter and 70% of those unemployed said their job search in the last 12 months had been difficult.
- **Architect New Policy Frameworks:** Move from research to solution by drafting targeted economic interventions that address the unique safety net gap faced by LGBTQ+ young adults.
- **Secure the District's Future:** Develop a robust retention strategy that ensures D.C. remains a viable home for LGBTQ+ young professionals to thrive, build families, and invest in the local economy.

LGBTQ+ young adults are diverse in more than just gender identity and sexuality. Our economic status, race, professions, education level, etc all intersect and shapes how we move through this city. I do think we are still uniquely impacted by the current economic turbulence at the moment and finding quality, high paying jobs is harder than ever. Accessible housing and more economic opportunities are of big concern to me and many others in my life.

Anonymous Survey Respondent

I wish decision makers understood how difficult it is to stay financially stable in DC as a young lgbtq+ person. Even when you're working, the cost of rent, transportation and basic living expenses makes it hard to feel secure.

Anonymous Survey Respondent



Photo: courtesy of washington.org.

Alarming Health–Risk Behaviors

Socio-economic stress may be driving compounding health risks. Tobacco and nicotine use, alcohol use, and marijuana use were significantly higher among LGBTQ+ youth than the D.C. Department of Health’s benchmarks for the general adult population (see Table 2).

These findings suggest alarming rates of substance use by the city’s LGBTQ+ young adults aged 18-30. This disparity might be attributed to the Minority Stress Framework (11), which posits that individuals in marginalized communities might utilize these substances as "maladaptive coping mechanisms" to navigate systemic discrimination, housing instability, and the psychological toll of a hostile national political climate.

While D.C. provides sanctuary, the Minority Stress is migratory. LGBTQ+ youth working or living in the District often carry the psychological weight of past traumas, family rejection and a hostile national environment.

It is worth noting that, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey (12), LGBTQ+ high school students are more likely than their peers to have used or misused various substances, including alcohol, marijuana, opioids, and illicit drugs. More than 3 in 5 LGBTQ+ students experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness, and 1 in 5 LGBTQ+ students attempted suicide during the past year.

To address the alarming health-risk behaviors and understand the District’s current mitigation efforts, we recommend that the **D.C. Council Committee on Health hold a Special Roundtable on LGBTQ+ Health Equity** this year, focused on queer & trans young adults.

This would be the first of its kind hearing focused on the intersection of substance abuse and mental health challenges, and harm reduction strategies facing the District’s LGBTQ+ community. This roundtable must serve as a formal mechanism to:

1. Review the newly released D.C. LGBTQ+ Community Health Report (13)
2. Spotlight community lived experiences and service provider expertise
3. Analyze current targeted investments supporting the LGBTQ+ community
4. Identify funding and programmatic gaps



Photo: courtesy of the Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser

(11) <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10712335/>

(12) <https://www.cdc.gov/yrebs/dstr/index.html>

(13) <https://dchealth.dc.gov/publication/lgbtq-community-health-report-2025>

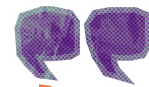
Table 2: LGBTQ+ Adults Substance Use Comparison Chart

Substance	LGBTQ+ Survey Findings aged 18-30	D.C. General Adults aged 18-25 (14)	National General Adults aged 18-25 (15)
Alcohol Use	90%	65%	50%
Tobacco Use	40%	18%	16%
Marijuana Use	50%	34%	25%
Used Electronic Vapor Products	32%	16%	24%

Mental Health & Loneliness Crisis

The findings indicate a profound Loneliness Paradox: in the nation’s "gayest city," over 80% of LGBTQ+ youth feel isolated. This is not merely a social deficit; it is a clinical one. Additionally, 54% of respondents rated their mental health as "fair" or "poor," yet 13% were unable to access care, primarily due to cost (62%) and a lack of affirming providers (33%).

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, the health impact of social disconnection is as deadly as smoking 15 cigarettes a day (16) and even greater than obesity and physical inactivity. In the context of D.C., where we already see a 40% nicotine use rate among LGBTQ+ young adults, this 'double burden' of smoking and systemic loneliness creates a compounding health crisis that the current District infrastructure is not addressing head-on.



I wish decision makers understood how hard it is to access affordable mental health care that is truly LGBTQ affirming. Many of us want therapy, but cost, long waitlists, and fear of being misunderstood stop us from getting help. Studies show LGBTQ youth experience high rates of anxiety, depression, and discrimination, yet many still cannot access care.

Anonymous Survey Respondent

(14) SAMHSA, NSDUH 2023-2024 State-Specific Tables, Table 28A (District of Columbia).

<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt56986/2024-nsduh-sae-state-tabs1/2024-nsduh-sae-state-tabs-dc.pdf>

(15) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2024). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (HHS Publication No. PEP24-07-021, NSDUH Series H-59). Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2023-nsduh-annual-national-report>

(16) <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf>

Centralized Wellness Infrastructure

To combat the mental health and loneliness crisis, the District’s leading LGBTQ+ service providers must unite to build a Centralized Wellness Infrastructure with funding support from a dedicated LGBTQ+ Fund managed by a local philanthropic organization. As of 2026, there is no major centralized LGBTQ+ dedicated funding for local non-profits delivering culturally competent services in D.C.

This system could coordinate citywide LGBTQ+ events, operationalize affirming clinical services, and expand activations for sporting leagues and other clubs. We further recommend that the LGBTQ+ service provider coalition secure private-sector investments for targeted digital outreach to isolated youth and develop a Multi-Partner Outcome Dashboard to track social connectivity and mental health outcomes.

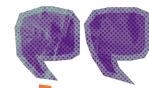
Preserving Historic Third Spaces

When over 80% of our youth report isolation and more than half faced discrimination in public spaces, public celebrations are not mere entertainment; they are much-needed interventions of visibility, belonging, and joy.

The District’s nightlife, robust culture, and annual pride festivities are an economic engine for the city and region. A study found that Capital Pride events generate an estimated \$371 million in total economic impact across the DMV region, with a substantial portion, about \$245 million annually, felt right here in the District through hotel stays, dining, transportation, retail, and cultural spending (17).

Unfortunately, Capital Pride is expected to incur more than \$1.6 million in city service fees in 2026, which threatens the Capital Pride Alliance’s ability to successfully host the District’s largest LGBTQ+ public events. Additionally, D.C.’s Black Pride organizers reported similar financial challenges, pointing to corporate abandonment of diversity, equity, and inclusion (18).

The city should ensure that today’s LGBTQ+ third spaces can thrive and continue building community by providing a 100% exemption from city service fees (permitting, emergency services, and departmental logistics) for major LGBTQ+ parades, festivals, and concerts.



Many of us have multiple identities and different experiences within our community, we all have different needs. As a deaf person, my number one is access to information. How can I be included in queer events? Are all events accessible?

Anonymous Survey Respondent

(17) https://wandaalstonfoundation.org/s/CapitalPride2026_Budget_Testimony_20260513.pdf

(18) <https://www.metroweekly.com/2026/05/black-pride-funding-crisis/>

Appendix

About the Wanda Alston Foundation

The Wanda Alston Foundation was formed in 2008 to honor the life and legacy of Wanda Renita Alston, a fierce LGBTQ+ activist, feminist, and organizer. Wanda was the driving force behind the creation of the D.C. Mayor’s Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs, despite facing significant opposition.

Today, the Foundation provides housing, support services, and pathways to economic mobility for at-risk and homeless LGBTQ+ youth in DC. Complementing these services, the Foundation founded a Counseling Center to provide free trauma-informed and culturally competent mental health services to the District’s LGBTQ+ community, who are survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, or anti-LGBTQ+ violence.

Methodology

The Wanda Alston Foundation and Loyola Marymount University’s LGBTQ+ Politics Research Initiative conducted a survey of 304 LGBTQ+ young adults aged 18-30 residents of the District of Columbia in March and April 2026. The survey was administered online. Respondents were self-identifying LGBTQ+ young adults, representing every zip code across the District.

Outreach was conducted in partnership with over 16 community partners via social media, in-person engagement, online Facebook & Instagram ads, texting, paid promotion via MetroWeekly Magazine and the Washington Blade, and in-kind ads on Grindr.

Authors

Cesar Toledo, the Executive Director at the Wanda Alston Foundation.

Gabriele Magni, Associate Professor of Political Science and Founding Director of the LGBTQ+ Politics Research Initiative at Loyola Marymount University.

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- DC Homos
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