

# LATINX LGBTQ+ STUDENTS & THEIR EXPERIENCES

**22% OF LATINX MILLENIALS (25-40 YEAR-OLDS) IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ+,**

and findings show that Gen Z (24 and younger) are identifying at higher rates.<sup>1</sup>

**LATINX LGBTQ+ STUDENTS**

57% feel unsafe in school due to their gender expression.<sup>3</sup>

**35%** are more likely to miss school due to feeling unsafe.<sup>4</sup>



**LGBTQ+ STUDENTS TEND TO HAVE LOWER GPAs**

due to lack of attendance, support, and feelings of belonging.<sup>7</sup>

**35% LATINX LGBTQ+ STUDENTS EXPERIENCE SCHOOL DISCIPLINE**

(detention, suspension, expulsion).<sup>9</sup>



Latinx LGBTQ+ youth who experience school discipline **HAVE LOWER GPAs AND ARE LESS LIKELY TO PURSUE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.**<sup>11</sup>

**ANTI-LGBTQ+ HARASSMENT IN SCHOOLS BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION<sup>2</sup>**

	National	AZ	CA	FL	TX
Verbal Harassment	<b>68.7%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>74%</b>
Physical Harassment	<b>25.7%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>29%</b>
Physical Assault	<b>11%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>14%</b>

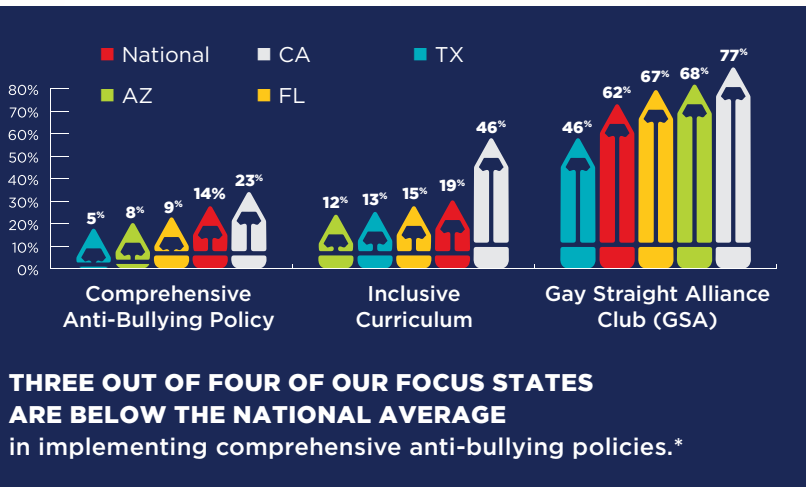
NOTE: Arizona, California, Florida, and Texas are UnidosUS priority states.

Harassment due to sexual orientation and race/ethnicity can contribute to:

- Higher absenteeism
- Lower likelihood of obtaining a 4-year degree
- Greater levels of depression<sup>5</sup>

**2.8%** OF LATINX LGBTQ+ YOUTH DO NOT PLAN ON COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL.<sup>6</sup>

**AVAILABILITY OF LGBTQ+ RESOURCES IN SCHOOL<sup>8</sup>**



**THREE OUT OF FOUR OF OUR FOCUS STATES ARE BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE** in implementing comprehensive anti-bullying policies.\*

**LATINX LGBTQ+ STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOLS:<sup>10</sup>**

- With supportive staff had higher levels of self-esteem and lower levels of depression.
- With GSA clubs are less likely to miss school and report feeling a greater sense of belonging.
- With ethnic clubs feel greater sense of belonging and engage in activism.
- With inclusive curricula feel safer and more connected to their school community.
- That are predominantly white are more likely to have access to a GSA.



\* Comprehensive anti-bullying policies mention disciplinary action against any harassment specifically related to both sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.

**LATINX LGBTQ+ YOUTH:**

**70%**  
experience symptoms of generalized anxiety disorder.<sup>12</sup>

**64%**  
experience major depressive disorder.<sup>13</sup>

**43%**  
considered suicide.<sup>14</sup>

**40%**  
experience assault/harassment due to race and sexual orientation.<sup>15</sup>

**18%**  
have attempted suicide.<sup>16</sup>

**LGBTQ+ YOUTH:<sup>17</sup>**

- Are more likely to experience anti-LGBTQ discriminatory school policies.
- 10% report not being allowed to use their preferred pronoun.

**More than 15% experience the following:**

- Being prevented from wearing LGBTQ+ supportive clothes or clothes they feel best expresses their gender identity.
- Being prevented from participating in GSA or similar clubs.
- Being prevented from writing about LGBTQ+ topics.
- Being prevented from attending school dances with their partner.
- Being required to use a restroom/locker room of legal sex.



**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- **Encourage schools and districts to fund GSA, ethnic clubs, and other similar programs.** These programs help with a positive school climate, greater sense of belonging, and greater participation in activism.
- **Urge schools and districts to fund professional development for staff to incorporate inclusive school policies.** Positive relationships with school personnel and implementation of inclusive school policies show positive outcomes in school participation and GPAs.
- **Urge the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights to enforce existing Title IX and Sex Discrimination laws** and include sexual orientation and gender identity.
- **Urge the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights to disaggregate data to reflect the multiple identities of students** related to race, ethnicity, and gender identity when conducting surveys related to LGBTQ+ students.

**About UnidosUS**

UnidosUS, previously known as NCLR (National Council of La Raza), is the nation’s largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. Through its unique combination of expert research, advocacy, programs, and an [Affiliate Network](#) of nearly 300 community-based organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico, UnidosUS simultaneously challenges the social, economic, and political barriers that affect Latinos at the national and local levels.

For more than 50 years, UnidosUS has united communities and different groups seeking common round through collaboration, and that share a desire to make our country stronger. For more information on UnidosUS, visit [www.unidosus.org](http://www.unidosus.org), or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

**Endnotes**

- 1 Cathy J. Cohen et al., *Millennial Attitudes on LGBT Issues: Race, Identity, and Experience* (Chicago, Illinois: GenForward, 2018).
- 2 Kosciw et al., *The 2019 National School Climate Survey*.
- 3 Joseph G. Kosciw et al., *The 2019 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Youth in Our Nation’s Schools* (New York: GLSEN, 2019).
- 4 Adrian D. Zongrone, Nhan L. Truong, and Joseph G. Kosciw, *Erasure and Resilience: The Experiences of LGBTQ Students of Color, Latinx LGBTQ Youth in U.S. Schools* (New York: GLSEN, The Hispanic Federation & UnidosUS, 2020).
- 5 Zongrone, et al., *Erasure and Resilience*.
- 6 Neal A. Palmer, Emily G. Greytak, and Joseph G. Kosciw, *Educational Exclusion: Drop Out, push Out, and School-to-Prison Pipeline among LGBTQ Youth*. (New York: GLSEN, 2016).
- 7 Adrian D. Zongrone, Nhan L. Truong, and Joseph G. Kosciw, *Erasure and Resilience: The Experiences of LGBTQ Students of Color, Latinx LGBTQ Youth in U.S. Schools* (New York: GLSEN, The Hispanic Federation & UnidosUS, 2020).
- 8 Kosciw et al., *The 2019 National School Climate Survey*.
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 Zongrone, et al., *Erasure and Resilience*.
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 The Trevor Project. *2021 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health*. (West Hollywood, California: The Trevor Project, 2021).
- 13 Ibid.
- 14 Ibid.
- 15 Ibid.
- 16 Ibid.
- 17 Kosciw et al., *The 2019 National School Climate Survey*.