2021
Impact Report

The Williams Institute
RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

The Williams Institute is dedicated to conducting rigorous and independent research on issues affecting the lives of LGBT people. But our work doesn't stop there. We ensure that our findings reach policymakers, judges, service providers, and the public so that decisions concerning the lives of LGBT people and families are grounded in facts—not stereotypes. Take a look at some of the impact our research has had in the past year.

1

Data Collection

Throughout the spring of 2021, the Williams Institute provided federal agencies with research and guidance on adding sexual orientation and gender identity questions on federal surveys. This June, the Census Bureau announced that it would begin asking questions about sexual orientation and gender identity on the Household Pulse Survey. The survey provides information about how people's lives have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Several other agencies intend to add sexual orientation and gender identity questions to surveys they administer over the coming months.



2

Transgender Youth

In August 2020, the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a Virginia school board violated the constitutional rights of transgender student Gavin Grimm when they banned him from using a bathroom that aligned with his gender identity. The court's decision cited a number of Williams Institute reports, including 2017 estimates of the number of transgender youth in the U.S., a 2014 study on transgender military servicemembers, and a 2013 study examining the impact of gendered restrooms on the lives of transgender people. In June, the Supreme Court declined to review the case, allowing the Fourth Circuit ruling to stand.



150,000

Estimated number of transgender youth ages 13-17 in the U.S.

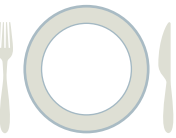
3

Food Insecurity

In April 2020, the Williams Institute released a study showing that food insecurity among LGBTQ people is twice as high as the national average. That finding inspired Peanut Butter & Co.'s founder & CEO Lee Zalben to create the One Million Spoonfuls campaign, which will distribute 36 thousand pounds of peanut butter to food banks in more than 12 cities nationwide. Zalben worked with the Williams Institute to develop a strategy for the campaign that ensures resources will be used effectively.



One in four LGBT people experienced food insecurity in the past year.

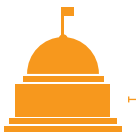


Women, people of color, young adults, and those with low incomes have particularly high rates of food insecurity.

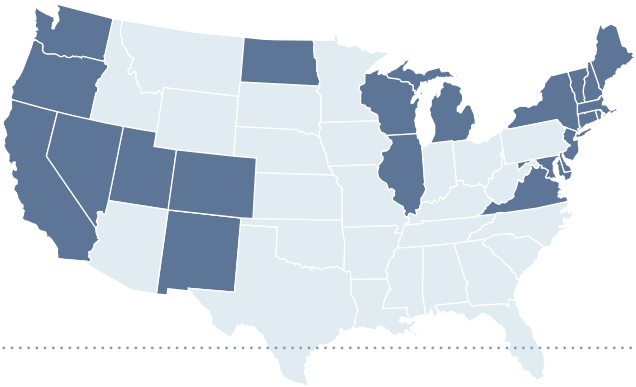
4

Conversion Therapy

In a 2018 report, the Williams Institute estimated that 700,000 LGBT adults in the U.S. had undergone conversion therapy—half of them before they had turned 18. This June, the study was cited in an executive directive issued by Michigan's governor that prohibits the use of state and federal funds for the practice of conversion therapy on minors, including Medicaid, child welfare services, and juvenile justice programs.



In the U.S., 23 states and D.C. limit the use of conversion therapy on youth.



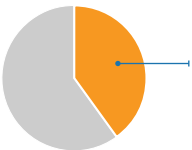
5

HIV Criminalization

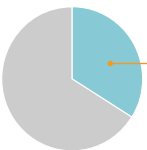
The Williams Institute's study on the impact of Nevada's HIV criminalization laws found that the laws were enforced inequitably against Black people and sex workers—and failed to consider modern medical advances related to HIV. Based on these findings, the Williams Institute provided testimony and legislative drafting expertise to support the Nevada legislature's effort to reform HIV criminalization laws in the state. In May, Nevada's governor signed the reform bill into law, reducing the penalties from felonies to misdemeanors.



NEVADA



40% of people arrested for HIV crimes in Nevada are Black



34% of people arrested for HIV crimes in Nevada are women