2020
Impact Report

The Williams Institute
RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

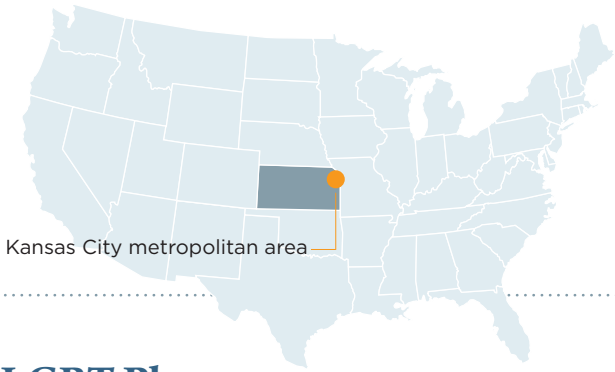
The Williams Institute is dedicated to conducting rigorous and independent research on issues affecting the lives of LGBT people. But our work doesn't stop there. We ensure that our findings reach policymakers, judges, service providers, and the public so that decisions concerning the lives of LGBT people 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

Fair Housing

In March 2019, students from Blue Springs South High School petitioned to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the city's fair housing ordinance. To support the students, the Williams Institute presented research to the Blue Springs City Council that showed LGBT people in the Kansas City metropolitan area—which includes Blue Springs—are more likely than non-LGBT residents to be uninsured, live below the federal poverty level, and experience food insecurity. The Blue Springs City Council voted unanimously to expand the city's fair housing ordinance to include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected characteristics.





2

Candidates' LGBT Plans

During the 2020 presidential campaign, a number of Democratic candidates released LGBTQ plans that detailed policies and actions they would take to improve the lives of LGBTQ youth and adults. LGBTQ plans by Elizabeth Warren, Pete Buttigieg, and Joe Biden explicitly cited Williams Institute research on LGBT families, conversion therapy, homelessness, immigration, suicide among transgender people, incarceration, and other issues. In addition, Biden's LGBTQ plan would reinstate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. An estimated 81,000 DREAMers in the U.S. identify as LGBTQ, and 39,000 of them participate in DACA. The vast majority of LGBT DACA participants live in five states.



3

Police Training



In June 2018, the Williams Institute released an analysis of the largest survey of LGBTQ adults ever conducted in Northeast Florida. The study revealed a number of issues between the LGBTQ community and law enforcement, especially involving the transgender community. In response to the findings, report recommendations, and conversations with community groups, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office formed an outreach group to the LGBTQ community, instituted LGBTQ-focused training in the police academy, and drafted new guidelines on how to refer to transgender people.

4.5% of LGBTQ respondents in Northeast Florida reported being unfairly stopped, searched, questioned, physically threatened, or abused by the police in the past year.

4

MSM Blood Ban



Approximately 8.7% of men who are eligible to donate give blood.

This spring, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a dramatic drop in blood donations across the U.S. In a letter urging the Food and Drug Administration to revise its policy on blood donations from men who have sex with men, Representatives Carolyn Maloney and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez cited Williams Institute research on the impact of the policy on the blood supply. In April, the FDA revised its recommended deferral period for men who have sex with men from 12 to 3 months.

5

Conversion Therapy

In a 2018 report, the Williams Institute estimated that nearly 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 included in a report presented to the U.N. Human Rights Council by the United Nations Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The expert called for a global ban on the practice. This is the first report by the U.N. addressing conversion therapy around the world.



In the U.S., 20 states and D.C. ban the use of conversion therapy on youth by licensed health care providers.