The Williams Institute

RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

The Williams Institute produces research with real-world relevance. We generate knowledge about LGBT people and examine the impact of law and policy on their health and well-being. Our independent and rigorous research informs policymakers, advocates, the courts and the media worldwide, infusing data into the public discourse. Take a look at some of the ways our work has made an impact in the past year.

1

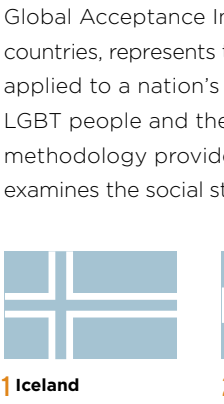
Conversion Therapy

The Williams Institute produced the first-ever estimates of the number of LGBT youth who will receive conversion therapy in the U.S. Since the report was released, four states, including Washington, Maryland, Hawaii and New Hampshire, have passed laws banning health care professionals from conducting conversion therapy on youth. Policymakers and advocates relied on our research to support passage of the laws. In Maryland, our study findings were included in the legislative note on the bill.

20,000 YOUNG PEOPLE WILL UNDERGO CONVERSION THERAPY FROM A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL BEFORE THEY TURN 18

4 STATES HAVE BANNED CONVERSION THERAPY ON YOUTH IN 2018

2



CALIFORNIA'S HIV LAWS PRIMARILY AFFECT WOMEN AND PEOPLE OF COLOR.

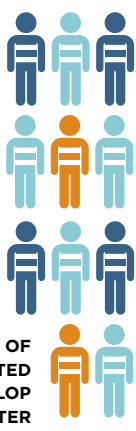
HIV Criminalization in California

The Williams Institute's four-part study on the application and impact of California's HIV criminalization laws found that the laws were enforced inequitably—primarily affecting women and people of color—and lacked consideration of modern medical advances related to HIV. Those findings helped inform the legislative debate surrounding California's bill to modernize HIV criminalization laws. In October 2017, Governor Jerry Brown signed the bill into law, reducing HIV stigma by bringing the penalty for exposing others to HIV in line with other serious communicable diseases.

3

LA County Preparedness Scan

In October 2015, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors commissioned the Williams Institute and KC & Associates to evaluate how prepared the county is to meet the unique needs of LGBTQ youth. Our report, which surveyed staff of 11 county departments that serve youth, found unevenness in the depth of staff knowledge, comfort, attitudes, experiences and awareness of support systems, such as policies and training. The findings prompted the LA County Board of Supervisors in January 2018 to direct five of the county's child welfare, probation and health agencies to develop plans to better serve LGBTQ youth.

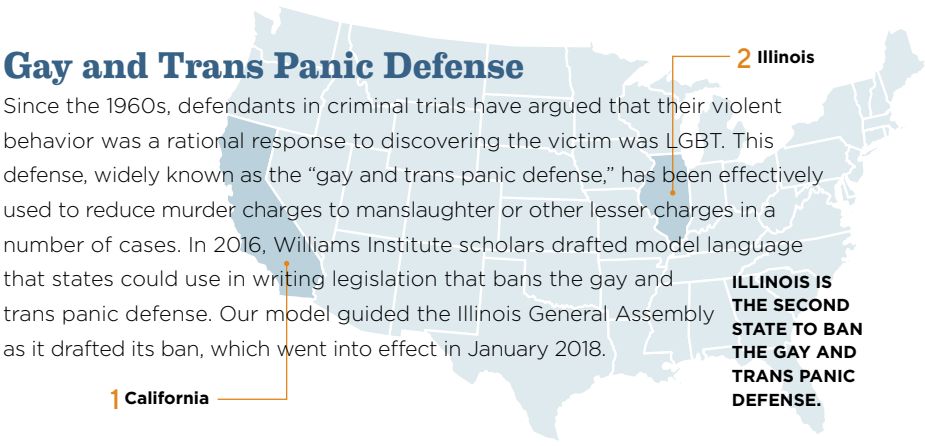


LA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DIRECTED 5 AGENCIES TO DEVELOP PLANS TO BETTER SERVE LGBTQ YOUTH.

4

Gay and Trans Panic Defense

Since the 1960s, defendants in criminal trials have argued that their violent behavior was a rational response to discovering the victim was LGBT. This defense, widely known as the "gay and trans panic defense," has been effectively used to reduce murder charges to manslaughter or other lesser charges in a number of cases. In 2016, Williams Institute scholars drafted model language that states could use in writing legislation that bans the gay and trans panic defense. Our model guided the Illinois General Assembly as it drafted its ban, which went into effect in January 2018.



ILLINOIS IS THE SECOND STATE TO BAN THE GAY AND TRANS PANIC DEFENSE.

5



STIGMA CAN HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THE LGB COMMUNITY

Amici Brief in Masterpiece Cakeshop Case

In October 2017, Williams Institute scholars submitted an amici brief to the US Supreme Court in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, explaining how stigma and discrimination can have negative effects on the health and well-being of the LGB community. In the majority opinion, Justice Anthony Kennedy underscored this point saying that putting "up signs saying 'no goods or services will be sold if they will be used for gay marriages' ... would impose a serious stigma on gay persons."

6

Global Acceptance Index

In March, the Williams Institute introduced a groundbreaking new measure of LGBT inclusion around the world, called the Global Acceptance Index. The GAI, which ranked 141 countries, represents the first time a single score has been applied to a nation's relative level of social acceptance of LGBT people and their rights. The score and its underlying methodology provide a foundation for future research that examines the social standing of LGBT people around the globe.



ICELAND RANKS NUMBER 1 IN THE WORLD FOR LGBT ACCEPTANCE.

1 Iceland



2 Netherlands



3 Sweden

The Williams Institute
UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW