The LGBTQ Community in Central Alabama has a lot in common with our neighbors. We are family oriented, we care about others, and we serve our country.

Many of these statistics come from “Living LGBTQ in Central Alabama”, the LGBTQ Funds survey of the LGBTQ population in Jefferson, Shelby, Walker, Blount, and St.Clair counties. Read the full survey at www.cfbham.org/lgbtfund.

LGBTQ couples in middle American are more likely to be raising children. (williams institute)

LGBTQ individuals serve our country.

of the US military identify as LGBTQ: 85,000 individuals.

we are 3.8% of the general population

Percentage of income given to charity

LGBTQ community gives 2.5%

general population 2.2%

Individuals living on less than $24,000 per year in the south

LGBTQ Population 33%

General Population 27%

Individuals report not having enough money for food

LGBTQ Population 29%

General Population 20%

But the LGBTQ community faces many challenges due to discrimination, a lack of family support, and a lack of preparedness in schools and other institutions to work with LGBTQ individuals and issues.

75.9% of education professionals feel that they have limited training and resources on LGBTQ issues. These professionals report encountering students facing violence and rejection in disturbing numbers.

LGBTQ individuals have a wide variety of family experiences. Too many are not safe and supported in their own homes. LGBTQ individuals report the following experiences.

Lack of family support 70.7%

Violence at home 19%

Forced to leave home 27.6%

Isolated or rejected by peers 48.3%

Teased or yelled because I’m LGBTQ

Physically hurt because I’m LGBTQ

Someone stopped talking to me because I’m LGBTQ

Kicked out of my house because I’m LGBTQ

47.2% 16.5% 47%

59.3% 16.9% 62.7%

Access to high-quality, compassionate healthcare is one of the greatest challenges facing the LGBTQ community.

39% of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual respondents have delayed getting healthcare. 67% of Transgender individuals have delayed getting healthcare. Here are some common concerns expressed by those delaying care.

- I didn’t know any place where I felt comfortable. 59% LGB, 77% Trans/gender-non conforming
- I could not afford to pay for care: 74% LGB, 80% Trans/gender-non conforming
- I didn’t think that the doctors knew how to help me: 32% LGB, 88% Trans/gender-non conforming
- I don’t trust doctors: 25% LGB, 49% Trans/gender-non conforming

LGBTQ individuals face serious mental health concerns

- Feeling really sad or depressed for a long period of time 58% LGB and 70% Trans/gender-non conforming
- Feeling anxious or panicked for a long time 56% LGB and 74% Trans/gender-non conforming
- Had thoughts you didn’t like but couldn’t stop 48% LGB and 74% Trans/gender-non conforming
- Feeling like you wished you were dead 30% LGB and 62% Trans/gender-non conforming
- Thought about killing yourself 24% LGB and 52% Trans/gender-non conforming
- Used drugs or alcohol to block out bad feelings 38% LGB and 53% Trans/gender-non conforming
- Feeling like your gender is not right for you LGB and 67% Trans/gender-non conforming
- Feeling confused about sexual orientation 16% LGB and 43% Trans/gender-non conforming
- I have experienced one or more of these concerns 72% LGB and 94% Trans/gender-non conforming
- I have experienced any of these AND sought care 52% LGB and 56% Trans/gender-non conforming

Limited resources prevent individuals from getting the care that they need.

Report significant financial constraints on healthcare in the South

- LGBTQ Population: 28%
- General Population: 20%

Lack Insurance in the south

- LGBTQ Population: 24%
- General Population: 16%

Even though this data is a great cause for concern, we know that the statistics are understated because many individuals fear identifying as LGBTQ and do not respond openly to surveys.

Health care and social service professionals want to do a better job serving the LGBTQ population. Our survey indicated a desire for more information on the following topics

- What does it mean to be LGBTQ: 64%
- What does it mean to be gender non-conforming or transgender: 84%
- How can we separate our personal beliefs about LGBTQ issues from our actions as professionals: 72%
- How can we establish rapport and communicate support to LGBTQ people: 80%
- How can we help family members accept LGBTQ individuals: 87%
- How can we intervene when LGBTQ people experience bullying and violence: 84%
- How can we meet the healthcare needs of LGBTQ individuals: 92%
- How can we meet the healthcare needs of transitioning transgender individuals: 88%
- How can we recognize and intervene in mental health crises: 84%