



IMPACT REPORT FY 2019

Released June 2020

A program of
LGBT

TECH

Program support

STRAIGHT
BUT NOT
NARROW



A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The PowerOn Program grew from an idea, informed by research and the voices of our LGBTQ+ communities to meet the overwhelming need of community through connectivity. Five years ago, we began the journey of building the PowerOn Program by distributing 25 cell phones with data, talk and text to test the theories outlined in our initial research.

The program you see today is the result of countless hours of additional research and hours of listening to our PowerOn grantees and our LGBTQ+ communities using PowerOn technology. Simply put, we meet our digitally disconnected communities across the country where they are and empower them with our technology donations to help them blossom through connectivity.

PowerOn has connected thousands of brilliant LGBTQ+ minds, allowing them, in the words of Apple CEO Tim Cook, to “become the pebble in the pond that creates the ripples for change.”

Thank you to the supporters of the PowerOn Program. It is because of you that we’ve been able to build this one-of-a-kind program empowering the LGBTQ+ community across the country.

Christopher B. Wood
Executive Director, LGBT Tech

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report is intended to share the impact of the PowerOn program across the United States, both socially and environmentally. The data collected supports LGBT Technology Institute’s research showing that access to technology can have a life-changing effect on the LGBTQ+ community.

The following information in the 2019 Annual PowerOn Impact Report was collected from participating 2019 PowerOn centers between January 17, 2020 and February 7, 2020 based on numbers recorded during the 2019 calendar year. PowerOn program grantees submit annual demographic and impact data; all data was self-reported by centers from prompts and questions from an electronic LGBT Technology Institute survey. The data was analyzed and organized by LGBT Technology Institute staff throughout March and April 2020. Information regarding recycling and environmental impact is provided by LGBT Technology Institute.

PowerOn LEADERSHIP



ELLIE BESSETTE Program Manager

With a background in fundraising, Ellie empowers LGBTQ+ individuals by providing hardware (computers, tablets, laptops and cell phones), technology education, and information about low cost broadband to LGBTQ+ centers across the country. Through regular communications with PowerOn centers and recycling partners, Ellie ensures that e-waste and donated technology are doing the most good for the LGBTQ+ individuals we serve. Ellie also manages the marketing and development operations for the program and oversees the application process for new LGBTQ+ centers to join PowerOn.

JOSEPH KAPP Partnerships & Research

Joe Kapp is the co-founder of LGBT Tech. He has continued to help foster the growth of the organization by advising the LGBT Tech team on public policy issues, technical requirements and assisting with the development and growth of the PowerOn Program. Kapp is a serial entrepreneur, having started and sold his first business in college. He has over 10 years’ experience working in the technology industry, having advised companies like GE, Johnson & Johnson, and other Fortune 500 corporations on the use and implementation of new and emerging Salesforce and CRM technologies.



CARLOS GUTIERREZ General Counsel



Deputy Director and General Counsel to LGBT Tech, Mr. Gutierrez is an attorney with extensive experience in both business and legal affairs. His in-depth understanding of technology, telecommunications and long-term strategic planning stems from his successful career in telecommunications, both for the public and private sector organizations including the Federal Communications Commission and Discovery Communications. Mr. Gutierrez served as a Legal Associate at the Washington, D.C. law firm of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo.

DEE WILLIAMS Content Coordinator

Growing up, coming out, and transitioning in an area with limited resources for LGBTQ+ people illustrated for Dee the importance of connecting LGBTQ+ communities with the tech that helps not only to survive but thrive. As a member of LGBT Tech and PowerOn, she is committed to helping those working constantly to expand technological access to LGBTQ+ communities. She helps organize social media, create graphic and visual materials, and maintain LGBT Tech and PowerOn’s websites.



THE PROGRAM



Program Overview

PowerOn works with LGBTQ+ organizations across the country to serve LGBTQ+ communities at the local level. We support at-risk and underserved LGBTQ+ individuals by providing them technology at no cost through local partner centers. PowerOn is a one-of-a-kind program that distributes technology hardware to homeless, isolated, and disadvantaged LGBTQ+ individuals across the country to close the digital divide. Through this technology we empower them to obtain critical access to healthcare, housing, education and job opportunities. In addition, connection allows these individuals to maintain contact with family, friends and other support systems, thereby reducing incidences of isolation and suicide. We believe giving individuals tech directly gives them the tools to take charge of their circumstances.



Social Impact

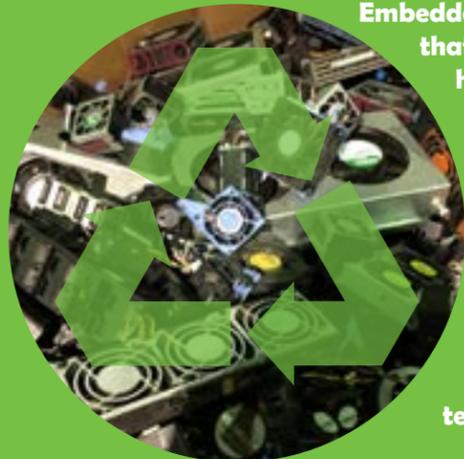
PowerOn works directly with LGBTQ+ centers and organizations working with LGBTQ+ individuals. Equipment can be used in the organization's building or be distributed to a qualified person who has completed programs and other requirements as established by the organization. Devices that are most commonly provided are USB drives, portable power banks, smartphones, tablets, laptop computers, and desktop computers.

Through our grant partnerships, PowerOn meets LGBTQ+ individuals where they feel comfortable and safe, offering them an opportunity and resources to take control of their future.



Environmental Impact

Embedded in today's technology are significant environmental contaminants that, when disposed of in landfills, can pollute community ground water and have other negative environmental impacts. These contaminants include arsenic, lead, mercury, and cadmium. In addition to removing harmful contaminants, metal recycling helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions by lowering the demand for metal mining and avoiding contributing to methane generated by landfills. As a result, and in concert with our partners, PowerOn works to sustainably recycle technology to ensure that these contaminants are diverted from landfills and waterways to decrease negative environmental impacts. PowerOn accepts donations of used and unwanted technology, wipes them of all sensitive data, refurbishes them, and recycles or resells them to fund the purchase of new technology for our partner centers.



WHY TECHNOLOGY IS IMPORTANT FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY



40% OF LGBTQ+ ELDERS rely on the internet as their primary source of information on aging.¹

73% OF LGBTQ+ YOUTH say they are more honest about themselves online than in the real world.²



2.9-3.8M LGBTQ+ PEOPLE live in rural U.S. communities with little or no access to LGBTQ+ resources outside the internet.³

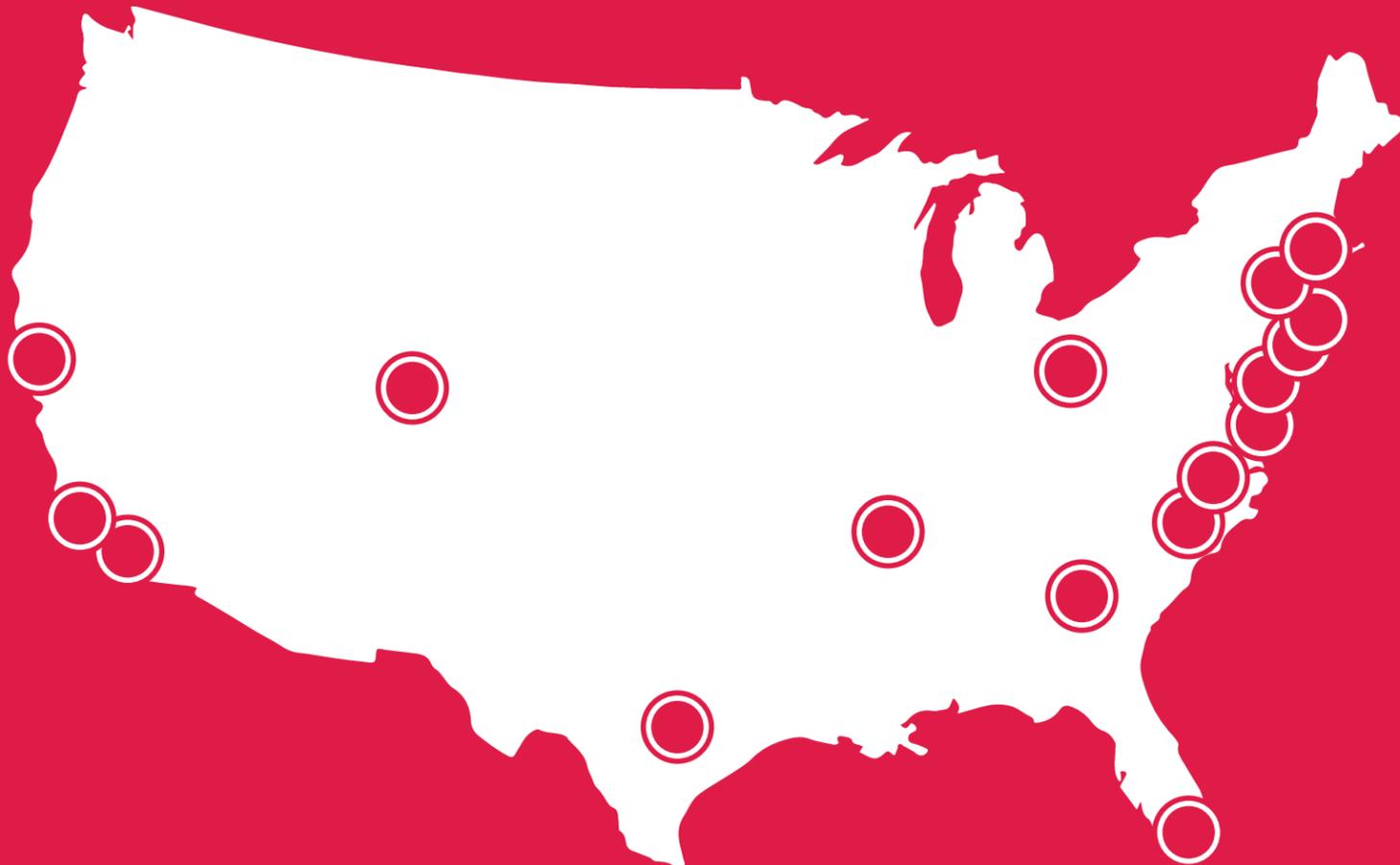
HOW PowerOn WORKS



WHERE WE WORK



18 PowerOn Locations Across 13 States



PowerOn Partner Centers as of February 2020

Bradbury Sullivan LGBT Community Center,
Allentown, PA

Brooklyn Community Pride Center, Brooklyn, NY
Fostering Change For Children, Brooklyn, NY
Inside/Out Youth Services, Colorado Springs, CO
Kaleidoscope Youth Center, Columbus, OH
The LGBTQ Center Long Beach, Long Beach, CA
Los Angeles LGBT Center, Los Angeles, CA
Lost-n-Found Youth, Atlanta, GA
OUT Memphis, Memphis, TN

QWELL Community Foundation, Austin, TX
Sacramento LGBT Community Center,
Sacramento, CA

SAGE, Brooklyn and Bronx, NY
Shenandoah LGBTQ Center, Staunton, VA
SMYAL, Washington, DC
SunServe Youth, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Triangle Community Center, Norwalk, CT
Youth OUTright, Asheville, NC

WHO WE SERVE

Though born out of youth-based research, PowerOn has long recognized that youth are not the only LGBTQ+ age demographic to face unique struggles and challenges. Access to technology connects LGBTQ+ people of all ages through social media apps, email access, video chat platforms, and more.



See Appendices for additional program demographics.

HISTORY & GROWTH

Program Centers & Tech Distribution

Since 2015, PowerOn has grown exponentially, from two partner centers with a potential reach of a few thousand people, to eighteen locations (and counting!) in 2019 with a potential reach of 1,300 each month. Interest in the program has grown as well, with an exponentially increasing number of applications each year.

As the number of participating centers has grown, so has the amount of technology required to fulfill their needs. To date, the program has distributed over 1,000 devices. In 2019 PowerOn distributed over \$50,000 of technology to the 18 partner centers, consisting of everything from USB drives to All-In-One desktop computers.

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019



Environmental Advances

Since its early days, PowerOn has accepted donations of used and unwanted technology for recycling and refurbishing. In the past, centers typically received refurbished devices. Over the years, however, PowerOn has changed its policies and procedures around recycling and refurbishment to ensure the greatest impact for our partner centers. We no longer provide refurbished devices due to the ever increasing pace of technological advancement. In order to best serve our centers and their clients, we now exclusively distribute new devices to centers while recycling all donated devices.

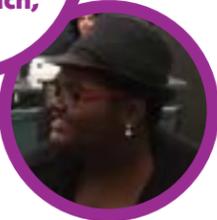
PowerOn has also increased its partnerships with corporations around the country, which has led to a significant increase in the number of recyclable devices we receive. A single client in 2019 provided over 5,000 lbs of used technology to PowerOn's recycling efforts. As of 2019, PowerOn contracts all tech recycling to an e-Stewards certified recycling facility, using the highest industry standards for disposing of tech assets. In 2019, PowerOn recycled over 8,000 lbs. of technology, preventing more than three tons of greenhouse gases from being emitted into the atmosphere.

335
PEOPLE

**APPLIED FOR
A JOB USING
POWERON
TECH**

"Internet is too expensive, my parents just can't afford it. I try to get all my homework done at school since most of it is online. Having a Wi-Fi hotspot means I can do my homework at home, and it will benefit my whole family to have internet access."

Mai,
The LGBTQ
Center,
Long Beach,
CA



100
PEOPLE

**USED
POWERON
TECH TO
COMPLETE
HOMEWORK**

48
PEOPLE

**APPLIED
FOR SCHOOL /
EARNED THEIR
GED USING
POWERON
TECH**

"Knowing I have access to technology at TCC motivates me to stay in school because I know I will have a place to get my work done. PowerOn has made it possible for me and other LGBT youth to achieve greatness."

Emmett,
Triangle
Community
Center,
Norwalk, CT



"The greatest achievement for all of the young folks at KYC that received PowerOn technology is that they found connection. They were able to connect with potential employers, connect with their doctors and schedule appointments, and connect with each other when they were in need of peer or mentor support."

Jen Kuhn,
Development &
Marketing Manager,
Kaleidoscope Youth
Center, Columbus,
OH



257
PEOPLE

**USED
POWERON
TECH TO
FIND STABLE
HOUSING**

THE IMPACT WE MAKE



A Night to Remember

On September 27, 2019, PowerOn celebrated its very first Annual Awards Ceremony. Hosted by Hogan Lovells in Washington, DC, the PowerOn Awards ceremony celebrated individuals and centers at every level of the program for their dedication to LGBTQ+ communities across the country.



2019 AWARDS CEREMONY



Awards

- Visionary Award Klayton Fennell
- Role Model Award Emmett Burns
- Change Agent Award FCC Comm. Jessica Rosenworcel
- Superstar Center Award Fostering Change for Children

Sponsors

Presenting	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Comcast NBCUniversal	Charter Communications Crown Castle Verizon	AT&T Facebook	Hogan Lovells



OUR SUPPORTERS

Apple
The Arcus Foundation
AT&T
Call One
Charter Communications
Comcast NBCUniversal
Crown Castle
Facebook
The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America
Hogan Lovells
Verizon
Kelli & Jacques van Gool

SUPPORTERS MAKE



POSSIBLE

GET INVOLVED



Donate to PowerOn



Donors like you help us connect LGBTQ+ communities around the country with life-changing tech. Whether it's a smartphone for a homeless youth or desktops for a community center, your donations to PowerOn help make that possible.

Sponsor the PowerOn Awards Ceremony

Sponsors help make our PowerOn Award Ceremony the celebration that it is. Our tiered sponsorship program allows individuals and companies to donate according to their ability. Learn how you or your organization can support the PowerOn Awards Ceremony by contacting Ellie Bessette.



Host a Corporate Tech Drive



Does your organization have used or unwanted tech? Donate it to PowerOn! Hosting a tech drive ensures your tech will be recycled in a safe, secure, and sustainable manner that benefits LGBTQ+ communities across the country. To learn more and to apply, go to our website: <https://www.poweronlgbt.org/get-involved>.

Centers, Partner With Us!

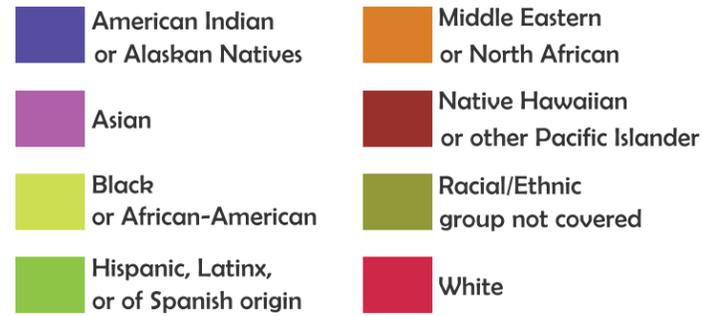
Once a year, we publish an AFP (Application for Partnership), for LGBTQ+ centers interested in partnering with PowerOn. If you're an LGBTQ+ center that's looking to connect your clients with technology, this program is for you! Applications open annually from mid-February to mid-March.



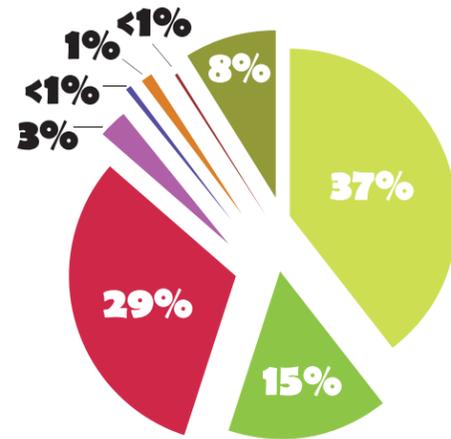
For more information, contact:
Ellie Bessette, Program Manager
ebessette@lgbttech.org

APPENDIX A

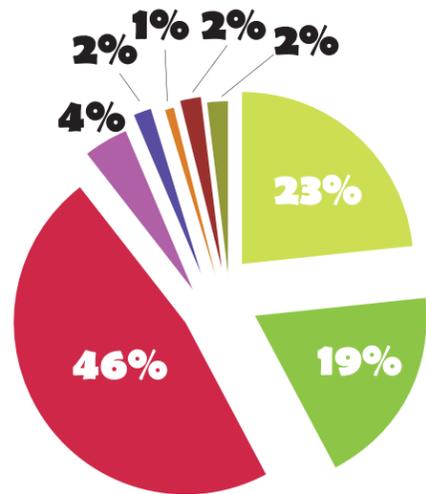
Race/Ethnicity



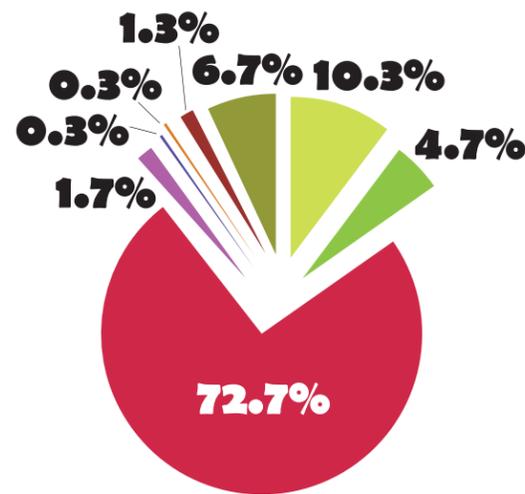
Youth (0-25)



General Population (26-64)

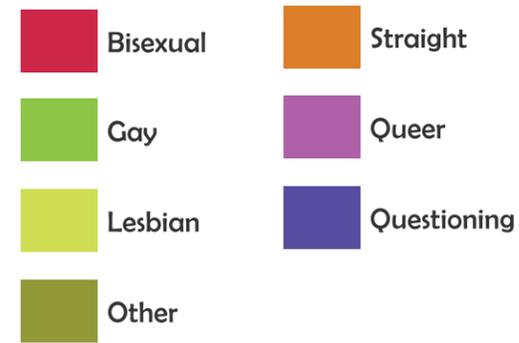


Elders (65+)

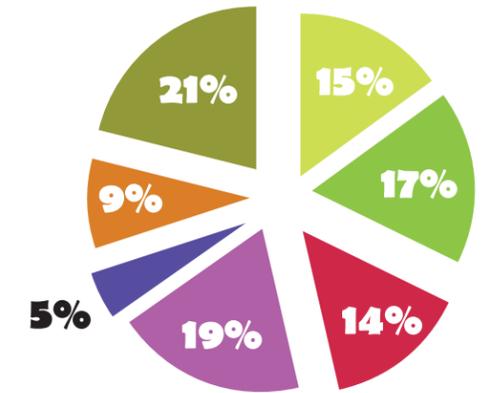


APPENDIX B

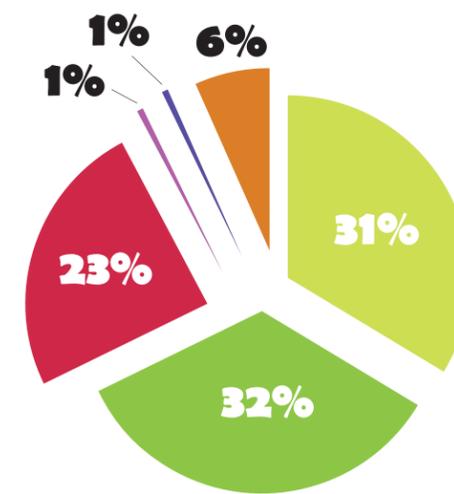
Sexual Orientation



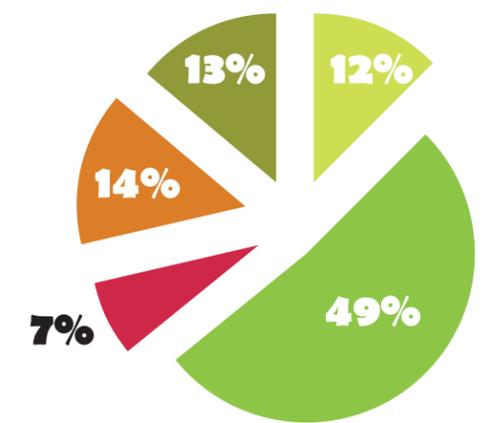
Youth (0-25)



General Population (26-64)



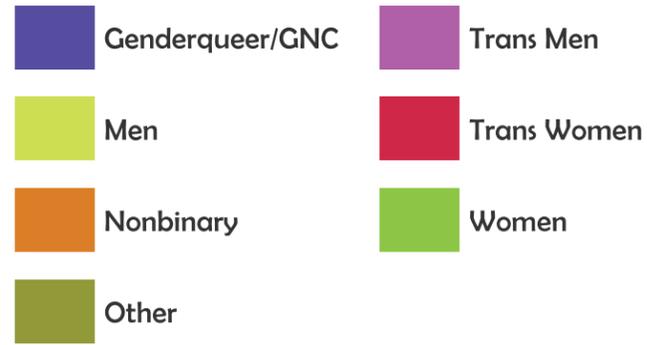
Elders (65+)



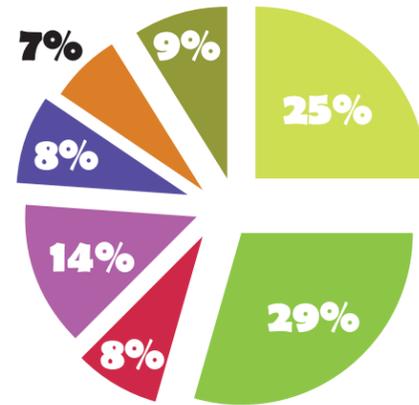
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APPENDIX C

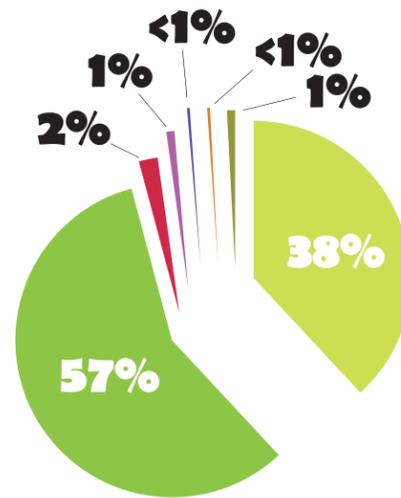
Gender Identity



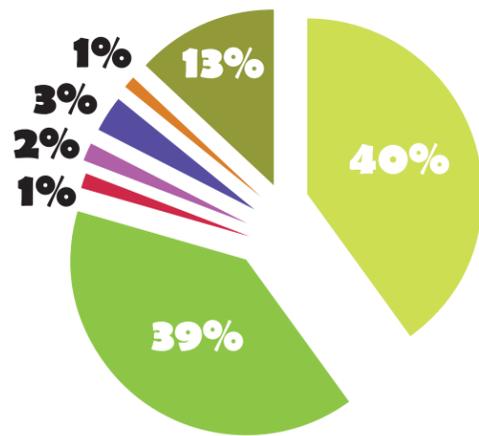
Youth (0-25)



Elders (65+)



General Population (26-64)



Sources

¹ Movement Advancement Project and SAGE. *Understanding Issues Facing LGBT Older Adults*. 2017.

² Human Rights Campaign. *Growing up LGBT in America: HRC Youth Survey Report Key Findings*. 2018.

³ Movement Advancement Project. *Where We Call Home: LGBT People In Rural America*. 2019.

⁴ Movement Advancement Project and SAGE. *Understanding Issues Facing LGBT Older Adults*. 2017.

⁵ Movement Advancement Project and SAGE. *Improving the Lives of LGBT Older Adults*. 2010.

⁶ LGBT Tech and the National Cyber Security Alliance. *Data Privacy Is Crucial for the LGBT Community*. 2018.

⁷ Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. *Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America*. 2017.

⁸ LGBT Tech and the National Cyber Security Alliance. *Data Privacy Is Crucial for the LGBT Community*. 2018.

⁹ Trevor Project. *Research Brief: Data on Transgender Youth*. 2019.

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LGBT

TECH

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