



A Survey to Understand the Health and Social Support Service Needs of LGBTQ+ Youth and Families in Box Elder County, Utah

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Working with communities to build knowledge through research

This **needs assessment survey** is part of a community-engaged research project facilitated by the USU Transforming Communities Institute in collaboration with community partners in Box Elder and Cache counties and the USU Department of Social Work.

LGBTQ+ youth experience **significant health disparities** as a group impacted by misinformation, intolerance, and discrimination. As a result, their service needs are poorly understood in rural Utah communities. The goal of this research is to respond to needs identified by local service providers **to understand gaps** in health and social support services available to LGBTQ+ youth and families in rural Box Elder County, Utah and use these findings to develop solutions.



In a 2023 national survey by The Trevor Project, **41% of LGBTQ+ young people** reported seriously considering suicide in the past year.¹



In the same national survey, **56% of LGBTQ+ young people** who wanted mental health care were not able to get it.¹



In the 2023 Utah SHARP Survey, **61% of transgender students in Utah** reported seriously considering suicide in the past year.²

Key survey findings

The online survey was completed in June 2023 with responses from LGBTQ+ young adults (ages 18-25, n=21), parents and caregivers of LGBTQ+ youth and young adults (n=14), and service providers (n=53) in Box Elder County.

Top 3 Issues³

Top 3 Solutions³

LGBTQ+ young adult respondents

1. Bullying
2. Family acceptance
3. Depression AND Religious exclusion

LGBTQ+ young adult respondents

1. Access to gender-affirming healthcare
2. Affordable healthcare
3. Living wage/employment opportunities

Parent and caregiver respondents

1. Anxiety
2. Depression
3. Bullying

Parent and caregiver respondents

1. Support groups
2. Safe spaces to gather
3. Crisis support services

Service provider respondents

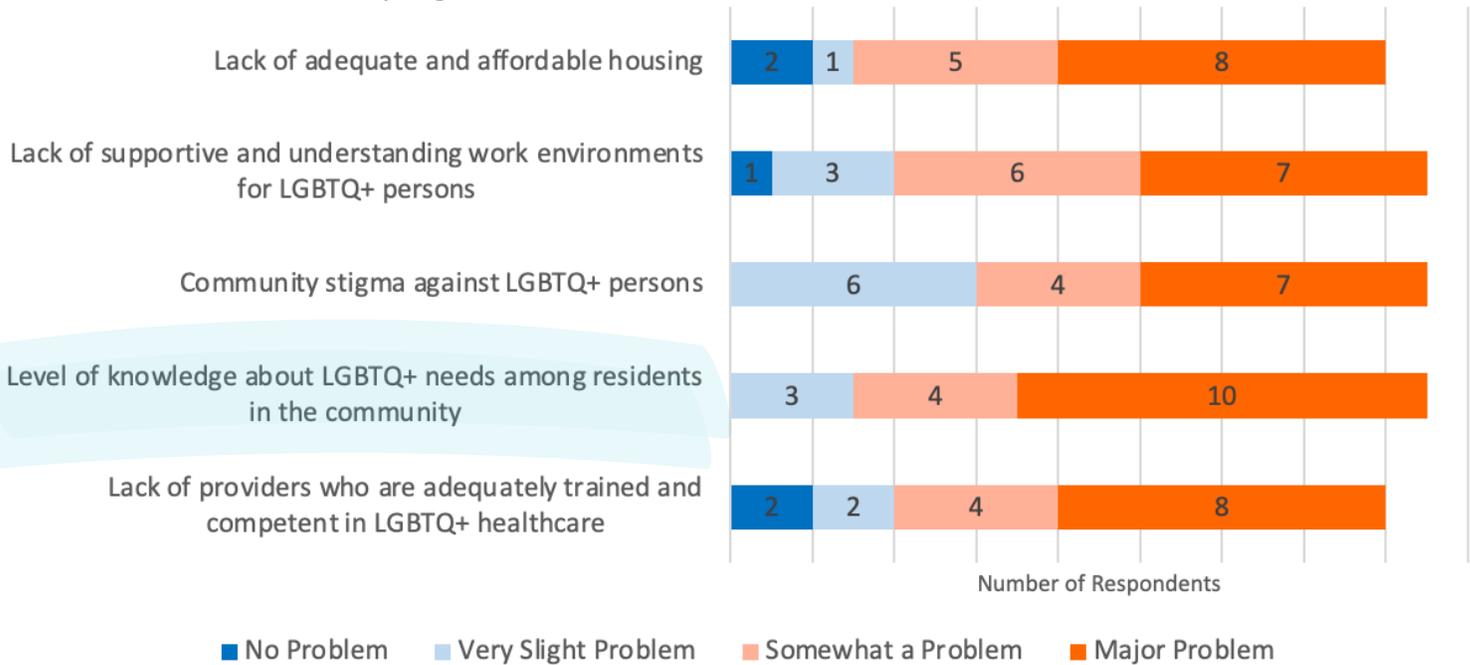
1. Bullying
2. Family acceptance
3. Depression

Service provider respondents

1. Support groups
2. Safe school policies
3. Safe spaces to gather

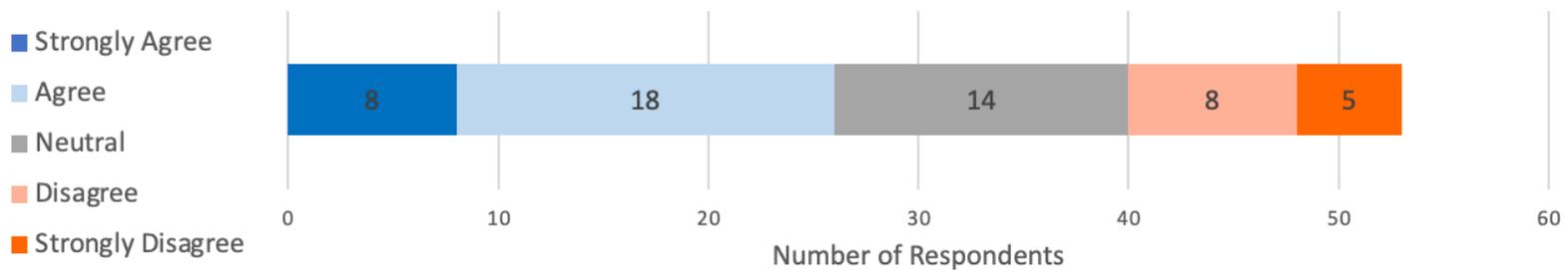
▶ Leading barriers to services for LGBTQ+ young adult respondents ⁴⁻⁵

LGBTQ+ young adult respondents identified **level of community knowledge** about LGBTQ+ needs as the **leading barrier** to health and social support services for LGBTQ+ youth and families in Box Elder County. Other leading barriers are related to concerns about housing, work environment, LGBTQ+ competent healthcare, and community stigma.



▶ My organization is LGBTQ+ friendly.

Nearly half (46%, n=26) of service provider respondents felt that their organization was LGBTQ+ friendly.



Respondent priorities

- All survey respondent groups shared concerns about **bullying, mental health, and family acceptance.**
- LGBTQ+ young adult respondents prioritized solutions related to **healthcare services and work opportunities.**
- There is more overlap in priority solutions among caregivers and service providers, including **support groups and safe spaces.**
- All respondent groups identified **safe school policies** as an important solution.

Key limitations include a small sample size for two groups and nonresponse to survey questions.

» Next steps

- ▶ **Hold a community forum in Brigham City** to share research findings, increase community knowledge about the service needs of LGBTQ+ youth and families in Box Elder County, and identify solutions to improve services.
- ▶ The USU Transforming Communities Institute and Logan Pride Foundation are building a **new regional coalition to address LGBTQ+ health equity and inclusion issues across the Bear River region** of northern Utah, including Box Elder, Cache, and Rich counties.