

LGBT Health in Canada



Who are we?

764,154

This is the number of LGBT people estimated to be living in Canada (this number is likely to be underreported). LGBT people have unique needs and circumstances that require a coordinated federal level of commitment to address the health challenges LGBT people face.^{1,2}

Cost to Canada

- Between 11% and 13% of gay and bi men report missing a career opportunity due to their sexuality.³
- The cost to the Canadian economy is anywhere from **1.9 to 9 billion dollars** annually because of healthcare costs or lost productivity due to gay suicide, smoking, alcohol abuse and depression. The same study further estimates that Canada has anywhere from **2300 to 5599** premature deaths annually because of gay suicide, smoking, alcohol and drug abuse.⁴

Cost to Well-Being

Lesbian and bisexual women are



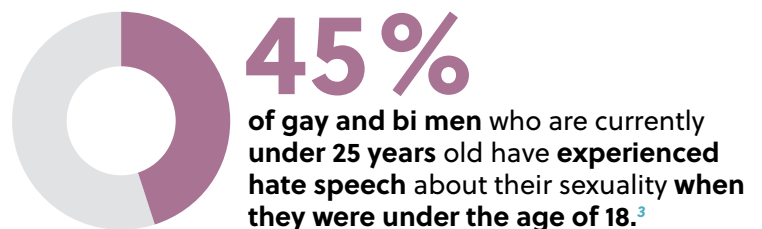
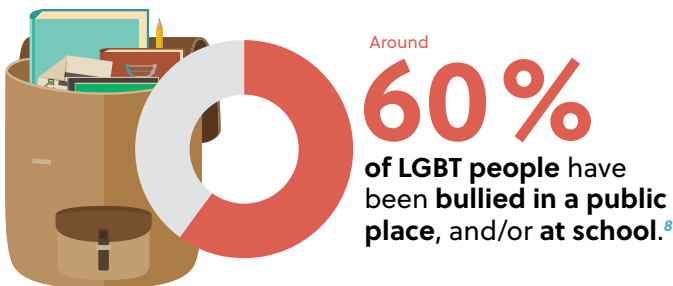
Gay and bisexual men are



64% of LGBT students report feeling unsafe in their school. This compares to 15% in the non-LGBT student population.⁶



Bullying



Cost of Where We Live

- Rural LGBT people face challenges that urban dwellers do not, including access to services that are commonly found only in cities. Rural sexual minority boys are more likely to report suicidal behavior and pregnancy involvement than compared to their urban counterparts.⁹
- Living in an area without social policies that protect LGB people results in increased likelihoods of mood and anxiety disorders such as depression or alcohol disorders, and are **4.76 times** more likely to have more than 2 disorders at once.¹⁰

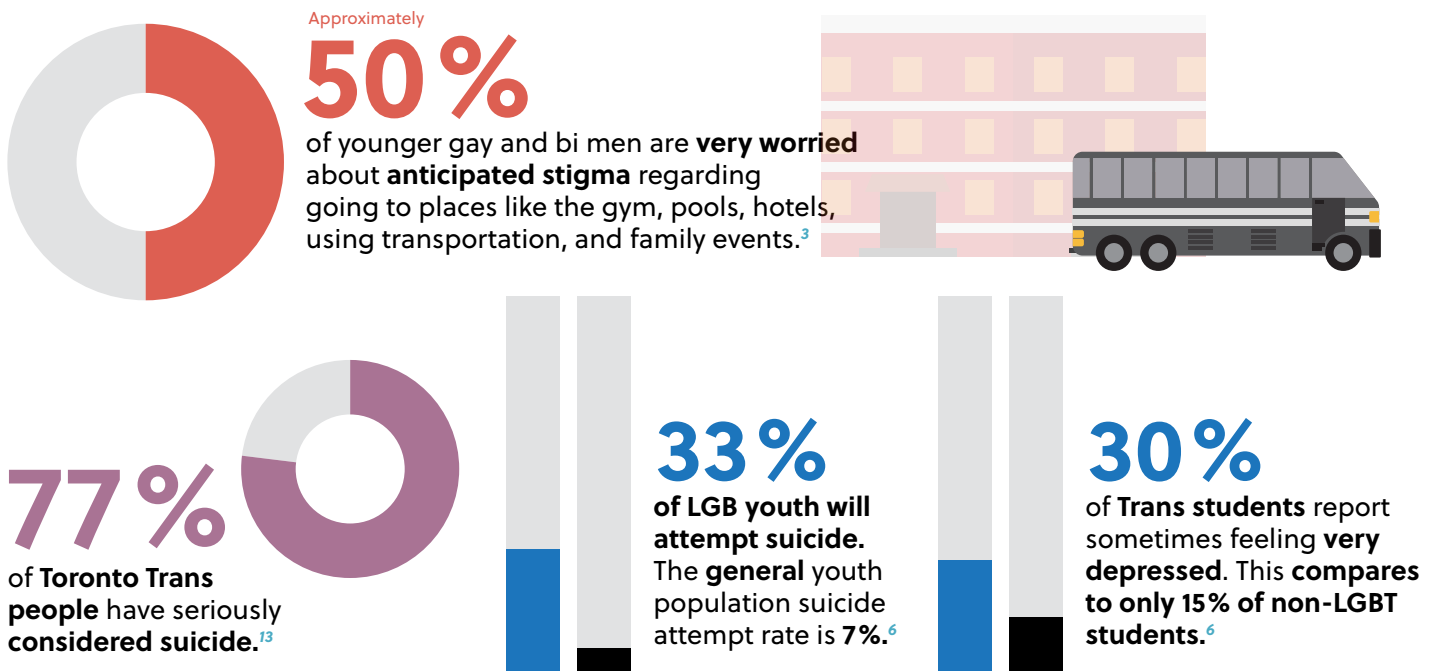
Accessing Healthcare

“The Public Health Agency of Canada acknowledges that a variety of factors including homophobia, geographic location, lack of confidentiality, knowledge and attitudes of healthcare providers can create burdens for gay, bi and other men who have sex with men wanting to access healthcare services. This can cause delays or discouragement in seeking STI/HIV testing, or treatment for sexually or blood transmittable diseases.”¹¹

- 15% of adults born between 1925 and 1964 report being fearful of accessing healthcare outside of the LGBT community.¹²
- Only 50% of gay and bi men under 25 are out to their doctor.³

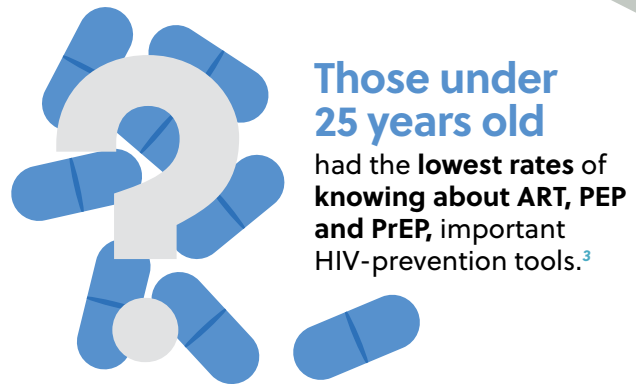
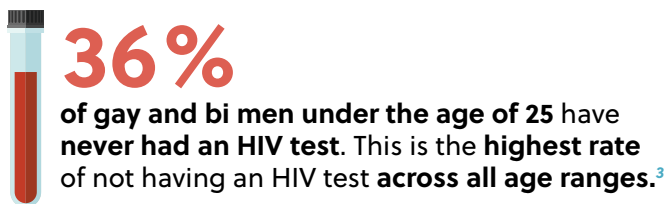
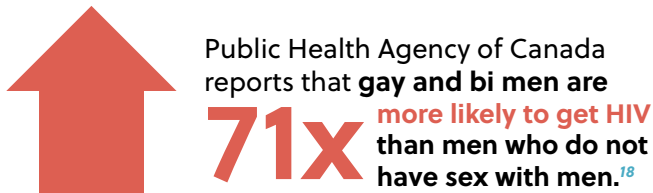
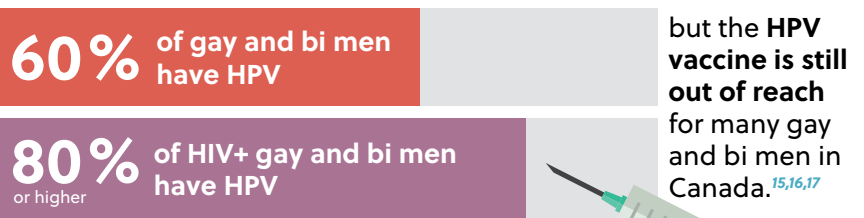
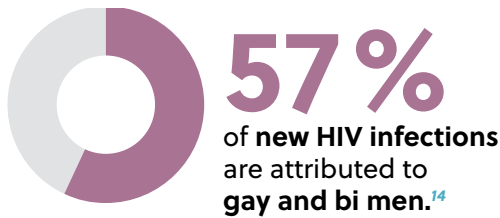
Mental Health and Suicide

Gay and bi men report **higher rates of depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, loneliness, and thoughts of suicide**. These mental health conditions can impact risk behaviour including condomless sex, and substance use.¹¹



It is estimated that **30% of all suicide in Canada is due to LGB suicide**. This is **6 times higher than the suicide rate of non-LGB people**.⁴

HIV and STIs

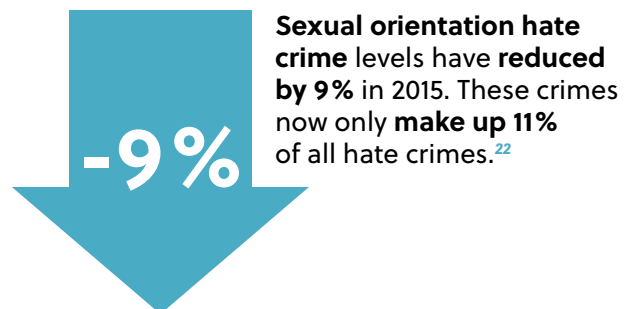
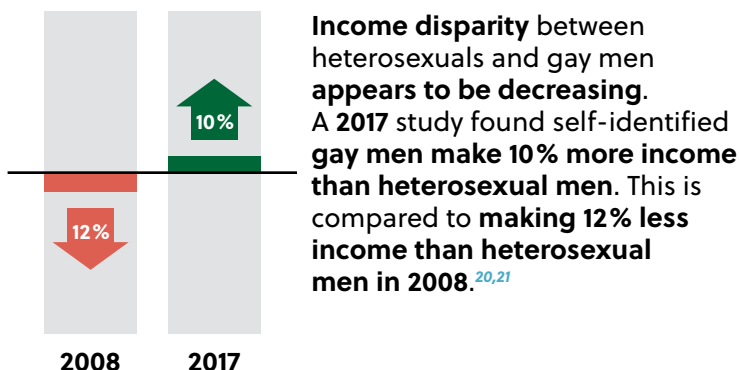


Opportunities for Improvement

- Only **9.7%** of Canadian research budgets are earmarked for grants for HIV prevention that targets gay and bisexual men. Increasing research funding is an opportunity to help prevent disease transmission and to save on lifelong medical treatment plans.¹⁹
- In 2011, Canadian medical schools only offered 4 hours of training relating to LGBT topics. Increasing the level of LGBT related training will help re-engage the LGBT population in healthcare, which can result in earlier detection and treatment of health issues.⁶

Despite all of this...

70% of all gay and bi men agreed that, "it feels great to be gay."⁴



The Research

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