**WHAT’S IN A NAME?**

LGBTQ+ has commonly been used to represent the community of people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Gender Queer, Asexual, Transsexual, Androgynous, Intersex, Two-Spirit, Pansexual or other identities.

Since the goal is to be inclusive, and by using a list we may inadvertently exclude someone, we are using the term Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity/ expression (SOGI).

**VITAL DEFINITIONS**

Throughout this report you may see a mix of terms (LGBT, LGBTQ2, etc...) depending on who was included in the research. We hope the definitions below will help define who is included in the stat.

**LESBIAN** - A woman (or girl) who has an emotional or sexual attraction to other women.

**GAY** - A person who is attracted to people of the same sex or gender. This term is most often used for a man (or boy) who is attracted to other men.

**BISEXUAL** - A person who has an emotional or sexual attraction to men and women.

**TRANSGENDER** - An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from what is typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth. Some people may describe themselves using one or more of a wide variety of terms.

**QUEER** - A reclaimed term used by some people who identify as sexual and/or gender diverse and also used as a positive, inclusive term to describe communities and social movements.

**CISGENDER/CIS** - A person whose gender matches the sex they were assigned at birth; others identify as being transgender or gender diverse.

**GENDER IDENTITY** - A person’s deep-seated, felt sense of gender, or how a person feels on the inside, regardless of what their body looks like.

**SEX AT BIRTH (Sex)** - Refers to the categories people are typically assigned at birth. This often appears on identity documents.

**ALPHA** - A person who advocates for the human rights of sexual and gender diverse people by challenging discrimination and heterosexism.

**BINARY** - The idea that gender is strictly an either/or option - male or female. Non-binary refers to gender identities that are not exclusively male or female.

**ECF VITAL Work**

**THE RAINBOW FUND** at ECF supports registered charities that support, research, and enhance SOGI activities and initiatives in greater Edmonton and Northern Alberta. Go to Ecfoundation.org to make a donation.

**ECF VITAL Work**

**ARC FOUNDATION** received $38,000 in 2018 for SOGI 123 Alberta, to expand the capacity of Alberta’s educators to create inclusive schools for all K-12 students regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. SOGI 1 2 3 helps students of all sexual orientations and identities feel safe and welcome.

**WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SEX AND GENDER?**

**GENDER** - Social and cultural expectations of roles and presentation. For most people their gender matches the sex they were assigned at birth; others identify as being transgender or gender diverse.

**GENDER EXPRESSION** - Presentation of a person’s gender expressed through an individual’s name, pronouns, appearance, behaviour, or body characteristics. What society identifies as masculine or feminine changes over time and varies by culture.

**ECF VITAL Work**

**EDMONTON VITAL Signs** is an annual check-up conducted by Edmonton Community Foundation, in partnership with Edmonton Social Planning Council, to measure how the community is doing. This year we will also be focusing on individual issues, VITAL TOPICS, that are timely and important to Edmonton. Watch for these in each issue of Legacy in Action, and in the full issue of Vital Signs that will be released in October of this year.

Sources for these statistics are available at ecfoundation.org.
LIMITATIONS IN RESEARCH: It is important to note that statistics and data are most compiled in binary categories (male or female). Similarly, often it is assumed that there are gay or straight couples only.

**SAME-SEX COUPLES IN CANADA:**

- **1%** OF ALL COUPLES IN CANADA ARE SAME-SEX COUPLES
- **12%** OF SAME-SEX COUPLES IN CANADA HAVE CHILDREN LIVING WITH THEM. (51.4% OF OPPOSITE SEX COUPLES)
- **33%** OF SAME-SEX COUPLES IN CANADA ARE MARRIED

**FROM 2006-2016 SAME-SEX COUPLES DOUBLED IN EDMONTON**

**OF RESPONDENTS IDENTIFIED AS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, QUEER, OR TWO-SPRIT IN THE 2016 EDMONTON HOMELESS COUNT**

8% OF ALL RESPONDENTS IDENTIFIED AS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, QUEER, OR TWO-SPRIT

**Top reasons why LGBT youth are at risk/or homeless (multiple responses allowed):**

- **46%** RAN AWAY because of family rejection
- **43%** FORCED OUT by parents
- **32%** ABUSED physically, emotionally, or sexually

**HEALTH & WELL BEING**

Young LGBTQ Adults who experienced high levels of rejection were:

- **6x** LIKELY TO HAVE HIGH LEVELS OF DEPRESSION
- **8x** LIKELY TO HAVE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE
- **3x** LIKELY TO USE ILLEGAL DRUGS
- **3x** LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN UNPROTECTED SEX – INCREASING RISK OF STDs

**TRANS PEOPLE REPORT DIFFICULTY ACCESSING PRIMARY AND SPECIALIST CARE.**

**EDMONTON LGBTQ SENIORS HOUSING REPORT**

According to a needs assessment, compared to their heterosexual counterparts:

- LGBTQ2 older adults are often more likely to have a difficult time securing housing.
- Older adults are reluctant to be open about sexual orientation or gender identity due to lifetime experiences with discrimination.

**ACCEPTANCE & BELONGING**

**ALBERTA TRANS YOUTH SURVEY**
represents the experiences of 114 younger (14-18 years) and older (19-25 years) trans youth living in Alberta.

**KEY FINDINGS:**

- Safety, violence, and discrimination are major issues. 75% of youth under 18 report discrimination because of their gender
- 80%+ of trans youth (14-18) reported their family did not understand them
- Almost 70% of trans youth reported experiences of sexual harassment

**ECF VITAL Work**

**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA** received $7,700 for the Gender Program in 2018, for equipment to facilitate new group therapy sessions at the Gender Program (a multidisciplinary health program for transgender and gender diverse people).

**SENIORS**

Current research estimates that up to seven per cent of the senior population is openly LGBTQ.

**EDMONTON TWO-SPRIT**

An English-language ‘term’ to reflect and restore Indigenous traditions forcefully suppressed by colonization, honouring the fluid and diverse nature of gender and attraction and its connection to community and spirituality. It is used by some Indigenous people rather than, or in addition to, identifying as LGBTQ.

**TWO-SPRIT INDIVIDUALS ARE HELD IN HIGH HONOUR IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.**

**NEWCOMERS & REFUGEES**

Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers and the Pride Centre have partnered to support LGBTQ+ Newcomers in Edmonton. 43 individuals have accessed services between Sept 2017 and Mar 2018.

**BE AN ALLY – Words matter.** When talking with and about sexual and gender minority people, use inclusive language and avoid reinforcing stereotypes and assumptions of the gender of people who perform various roles.

For example: “spouse” instead of husband or wife. Ask a person’s pronouns and state yours, creating a safe space for others.

**Be an advocate.** Create a space for all voices to be heard.

Take action against discrimination or hate in your community.

**Educate yourself.** Learn the terms, definitions and language used. Never make assumptions. If you don’t know, ask. Check your privilege and do not assume to know the sexual orientation or gender identity of another person.

**Sources for these statistics are available at ecfoundation.org**