## LGBTQ+ Youth in Juvenile Justice Special Programs



New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department | June 2023

In New Mexico, there are 16,000+ Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual and 5,000+ Transgender, Gendergueer, or Genderfluid high school students.

2021 New Mexico High School Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey

#### LGBTQ+ youth are overrepresented in the Juvenile Justice System (JJS). Here's why:

Foster care Family Rejection Running away Arrest for non-violent crimes Bullying Skipping / dropping out of school Detention due to lack of family Harsh school discipline Homelessness support Abuse / neglect Selling sex or drugs for survival Isolation to avoid peer harassment Drug use School & Outcomes Community Involvement These JJS Special Programs served 49 unique LGBTQ+ youth since July 2020: Receiving, Reporting, and Assessment Centers 31 Jnique LGBTQ+ youth served Gender-specific Programs 19 Hispanic Mentoring **Diversion Programs** 18 Life Skills 16 in rural areas **Restorative Justice** Strengthening Families Case Management

10 to 17 years old June 2021 June 2022 April 2023 Experiencing Homelessness JJS Involvement Involved 21% Cisgender Heterosexual LGBTQ+ At Risk 79% 8%

Education

### What can JJS and partners do to better serve LGBTQ+ clients?

- Ask youth their preferred pronouns and names Ensure confidentiality
- Educate family members
- Implement non-discrimination policies
- Seek alternatives to detention
- Make appropriate sex-segregated placement

- Refer to LGBT-competent programs
- Train staff
- Model respectful communication to youth peers
- Refer to gender-affirming medical treatment
- Invite LGBTQ+ youth to committee meetings

#### Resources



#### Special Programs Descriptions | Website

https://www.cyfd.nm.gov/juvenile-justice/special-programs/grant-management-unit/

#### New Mexico Genders and Sexualities Alliance Network | Website

https://themountaincenter.org/services/nm-gender-and-sexualities-new-mexico/

#### Glossary of Terms | Website

https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-ofterms?utm\_campaign=&utm\_content=&utm\_medium=email&utm\_name=&utm\_source=spotlig htonjune22

#### Mentoring LGBTQ+ Youth | Recorded Training | 1.25 hours

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwW0gqLP4NY

#### LGBTQ2S+ Justice Involved Youth | Recorded Training | 0.75 hours

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftx1s7eglmY

# Creating Agency Policies for an Equitable System | Recorded Training | 1 hour https://youtu.be/GvvdKyu9ouc

Building an Equitable System with Data, Training, and Policy | Recorded Training | 1 hour https://youtu.be/HeG-SCrFJC4

#### Safe Zone Training | Live Virtual Training | 2.75 hours

https://centerofinnovationnm.org/forms/safe-zone-registration/

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in the Juvenile Justice System | Report https://assets.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/AECF-lesbiangaybisexualandtransgenderyouthinjj-2015.pdf

#### Perspectives from Youth with Lived Experience | Report

https://youthmovenational.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/YMCI-WHWH-Trans-Non-Binary-Tipsheet-v1.2.pdf

#### Helping Families to Support their LGBT Children | Report

https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/d7/priv/pep14-lgbtkids.pdf

#### Best Practices for the Management and Treatment of LGBTQI Youth in JJS | Report

https://fenwayhealth.org/policy-briefs/emerging-best-practices-for-the-management-and-treatment-of-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-questioning-and-intersex-youth-in-juvenile-justice-settings-pdf/