

CONNECTICUT LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY SURVEY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of the LGBTQ+ Community Survey (the Survey)?

The Survey aims to 1) enhance our understanding of the number of people that identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community in our State and 2) identify the needs of the LGBTQ+ Community in Connecticut. Specifically, the Survey asks community members questions related to their service needs, service access, and experiences of discrimination related to their: *basic needs, safety, housing, health, mental health, legal services, social support, and community engagement.*

Is the LGBTQ+ Community Survey anonymous?

This survey is completely anonymous and confidential. You will not be asked for your name and your responses cannot be identified individually.

How did the LGBTQ+ Community Survey come about?

In 2018, members of the advocacy group **CT Equality** traveled around the state to listen to members of the LGBTQ+ community talk about their experiences living in Connecticut. A central theme that emerged from these conversations was a need for additional local LGBTQ+ services and programs to support the diverse needs of the LGBTQ+ population. These conversations moved the Connecticut legislature's Human Service Committee, to create a bill for a **LGBTQ+ Health and Human Services Network (The Network)**. The bill also calls for the Network to conduct a CT LGBTQ Needs Assessment.

What is the LGBTQ+ Health and Human Services Network (The Network)?

The Network was created and is administered by the Legislature through the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity (CWCECO) and consists of representatives from more than a dozen health and human service non-profit agencies as well as some State agencies; most representatives are also part of the LGBTQ+ community themselves. The purpose of the Network is to make recommendations to the State about how to work toward a safer and healthier environment for the LGBTQ+ community.



FAQs CONTINUED...

Are there any other partners involved in the Survey?

The Network is collaborating with the Connecticut Department of Public Health Office of Health Equity. Both groups hired The Consultation Center at Yale to support the development and administration of the Survey.

What will be done with the results of the Survey?

Once the community's needs are identified, the Network will make recommendations to the state around how to support a safer and healthier environment for the LGBTQ+ community. More specifically, the results from the survey will help funders and government entities in Connecticut make funding decisions to strengthen LGBTQ+ related services, supports, and policies. Additionally, LGBTQ+ organizations in Connecticut can use the results of the Survey to assist with grant writing efforts that support their programming. Last, the data will be made available to the public to raise awareness about issues affecting the CT LGBTQ+ population.

Why is a survey of this kind needed in Connecticut?

Connecticut is home to a diverse and vibrant lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community. As individuals and as a community, we have great strength, resiliency, and resourcefulness. At the same time, our community continues to be disproportionately affected by a range of safety, medical, behavioral health, economic, social, legal, and political issues, as well as personal and systemic discrimination. Without this Survey, Connecticut lacks sufficient data to identify the scale and diversity of needs of the community. Limited data also means that organizations in the state often struggle to secure adequate funding to provide LGBTQ+ services and supports.

Has a survey of this kind ever been done in Connecticut?

No, this is the first survey of its kind to be conducted in Connecticut. Although, in the past, important efforts have explored the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in Connecticut, most were implemented within a specific city, town or region. Additionally, these past efforts often looked at a specific sub-population of the LGBTQ+ population (e.g. gay men), and explored one facet of needs within the community (for example, needs related to healthcare). This Survey will be the first of its kind to have a state-wide focus and explore the *broad-scale* needs of the *entire* LGBTQ+ community. Connecticut will also represent one of the first States in the USA to implement a survey of this kind.