

The LGBTQ+ Experience

Why Generational Differences Matter

“Coming out” as LGBTQ+ is a very personal experience, and it can be impacted by everything from the community someone lives in to family beliefs. In a recent episode of the Pride 365+ podcast, we explore how generational differences also play a big role in the lived experience of LGBTQ+ individuals. A quick look at what each generation may have experienced in their teens/20s may help us understand why.



5.6%
of U.S. adults identify as LGBTQ+¹

Silent Generation

born 1928–1945² | 1.3% identify as LGBTQ+¹

“

To get a job and have friends in my community, I had to hide a big part of myself. I eventually came out, but now that I live in a nursing home, I'm back in the closet.”



1962

Illinois becomes the first state to decriminalize homosexuality.³

1952

The American Psychiatric Association lists homosexuality as a sociopathic personality disturbance.³

1953

President Dwight Eisenhower signs Executive Order 10450, banning LGBTQ+ people from working for the federal government or any of its private contractors.³

“

When I was in high school, no one was openly gay. I kept quiet about my sexual orientation, but I was bullied with words like ‘queer’ anyway.”

46%

of LGBTQ+ people have experienced discrimination at work.⁴

Baby Boomers

born 1946–1964² | 2.0% identify as LGBTQ+¹

1969

A three-day riot at Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village sparks a turning point in America's modern LGBTQ+ rights movement.³



1973

The American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses.³

~17%

of LGBTQ+ people have experienced homelessness.⁶

40%

of LGBTQ adults have experienced rejection from a family member or close friend.⁵

86%

of LGBTQ youth reported being harassed or assaulted at school.⁵

Generation X

born 1965–1980² | 3.8% identify as LGBTQ+¹

1981

The AIDS epidemic begins.³

1982

Wisconsin becomes the first state to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.³



“

We started a gay/straight alliance in our high school, but it wasn't easy. I felt so much more comfortable when I moved to a bigger city.”

1993

The military launches the “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” policy.³

1996

President Clinton signs the Defense of Marriage Act into law, prohibiting same-sex marriage.³

LGBTQ+
teens are 6x as likely to experience depression.⁷

“

I grew up seeing other LGBTQ+ people in my community, so it didn't feel like something I had to hide.”



Millennials

1981–1996² | 9.1% identify as LGBTQ+¹

2000

Vermont becomes the first state in the U.S. to legalize same-sex partnerships.³

LGBTQ+
people are 2x as likely to have a mental health disorder in their lifetime.⁸

~8%

of LGB people say they've been denied health care.⁷

2004

Massachusetts becomes the first state to legalize same-sex marriage.³

2010

The Senate repeals “Don't Ask, Don't Tell.”³



“

Even as a kid, I knew other LGBTQ+ people. It didn't seem like a big deal, but now with all the anti-trans bills and ‘bathroom bills,’ I'm really scared we're going backwards.”

27%

of transgender people say they've been denied health care.⁷

Generation Z

1997–2012² | 15.9% identify as LGBTQ+¹

2021

More than 250 anti-LGBTQ bills are introduced in state legislatures.⁹

2015

The U.S. Supreme Court declares same-sex marriage legal in Obergefell v. Hodges.³

2022

Nearly 240 anti-LGBTQ bills are filed in first the three months of the year.¹⁰

Want to learn more about generational differences and why they matter?

Visit pride365plus.com to listen to the Pride 365+ podcast and check out other great resources.



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