LGBTQ YOUTH IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

LGBTQ YOUTH ARE OVERREPRESENTED IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM
Some LGBTQ youth experience family rejection and family instability. Research finds LGBTQ youth are more likely to be involved in the child welfare system.

- **Percent of Youth Identifying as LGBTQ**
  - Of Youth in Los Angeles County Out-of-Home Care: 19%
  - Of Youth in United States: 7-9%

LGBTQ YOUTH EXPERIENCE HARASSMENT & VIOLENCE
In the child welfare system, LGBTQ youth experience discrimination, harassment, and violence from peers and staff. This includes attempts to “change” their sexual orientation through the use of conversion therapy or refuse to acknowledge their gender identity.

- **Percent of LGB Youth in New York City Who Ran Away from Foster Care Because It Was Unsafe**: 56%

LGBTQ YOUTH MORE LIKELY TO ENTER JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS
LGBTQ youth are 120% more likely to experience homelessness and are more likely to “crossover” to the juvenile justice system. Nearly all LGBTQ youth in the juvenile justice system are youth of color (85%). LGBTQ youth are more likely to be detained and to experience sexual assault in juvenile justice facilities than their peers.

- **Percent of Youth Who Are LGB**
  - Of All Youth Nationwide: 7-9%
  - Of All Youth in Juvenile Justice Facilities: 20%
  - Of Boys in Juvenile Justice Facilities: 3.2%
  - Of Girls in Juvenile Justice Facilities: 39.4%
