



# Sexual Health & LGBTQ Youth

- LGBTQ students often lack the knowledge or resources to make safe, healthy, and informed sexual health choices
- According to a nation-wide study only 19% of high school sex education curricula were inclusive of LGBTQ individuals
- Fewer than 5% of LGBTQ students reported seeing positive representation of LGBTQ individuals in their health classes
- Sexual health education is not required in Massachusetts public schools, and schools that do teach sex ed are not required to ensure that their curriculum is medically accurate or inclusive of LGBTQ students

## Resources

- Use the **LGBTQ Resource Map's** "Health" filter to find resources near you - <https://ma-lgbtq.org/>
- **Kennedy Community Health Center** in Worcester provides LGBTQ youth focused healthcare <https://www.kennedychc.org/services/lgbt-information>
- **Scarleteen** is an online, youth centered, LGBTQ inclusive sex ed resource - <http://www.scarleteen.com/article/sexuality>
- The **MA Department of Public Health's** list of locations providing Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP -<https://www.mass.gov/hiv-pre-exposure-prophylaxis-prep/locations>
- **Safe Homes MA** - drop in hours with support groups, counseling, HIV testing services <http://www.safehomesma.org/services/>
- **AIDS Project Worcester** - healthcare for LGBTQ individuals, HIV prevention services, and other services for LGBTQ youth - <http://www.aidsprojectworcester.org/>
- **SWAGLY** - Supporters of Worcester Area GLBT Youth - programming and drop in hours
- **Planned Parenthood** - sexual and reproductive healthcare services that are inclusive of LGBTQ youth

# Get the facts

LGBTQ youth are more likely to:

- Have multiple sexual partners
- Not use a condom during sex
- Have sex under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Begin having sex at a younger age
- Experience unwanted pregnancy
- Contract HIV or other STIs, particularly for gay and bisexual men and transgender individuals

These risks are especially high for **LGBTQ youth of color**, as homophobia and racism intersect resulting in greater discrimination

LGBTQ youth are **more likely** to be homeless than heterosexual youth

Homeless LGBTQ youth report relying on **sex work** to fulfill basic needs at higher rates, and higher rates of sexual assault

## HIV Prevention and PrEP

- Gay and bisexual men and transgender women contract HIV at higher rates than heterosexual individuals
- The rate of new infection is highest for black and Latinx individuals
- Approximately 50% of young people with HIV do not know that they have the virus
- PrEP or Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis is a pill that can reduce the risk of contracting HIV if taken consistently
- PrEP must be prescribed by a doctor and has been approved for young people at risk for HIV
- Learn more at : <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/prep.html>