

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs

Effects on LGBTQ+ Youth in Orange County

Overview:

Compared to heterosexual & cisgender peers, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ+) young adults are:

1.3X More Likely to Engage in **Heavy Alcohol Use**

1.6X More Likely to Engage in **Marijuana Use**

2.9X More Likely to Engage in **Injection Drug Use**

3.3X More Likely to Engage in **Cocaine Drug Use**



Why?

Due to **Social Stigma**

Used as a **Coping Strategy**

Bullying/Peer **Pressure**

Lack of **Social Support** (School & Home)

ATOD **advertising targeting** BIPOC

communities

Homelessness



If not addressed...

May Lead to **Addiction**

May Lead to **Health Problems**

May Develop **Mental Disorders**

May Cause **Poor Performance** in
School

May Lead to **Repeated Offenses**



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Calls To Action

Get involved with the LGBTQ+ Center OC

Educate yourself and learn about the local and national resources that are available to you and others

Advocate for accessible rehabilitation, counseling, and therapy programs and services that are inclusive of LGBTQ+ and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities

Free Resources

To **learn** more about:

- Elevate Program
- Youth Leadership Opportunities
- Substance Use Prevention Advocacy
- Mental Health Counseling
- Tobacco Cessation Program

**Please call the
LGBTQ Center OC's
front desk at (714)
95-5428**

The Lasting Effects of the War on Drugs

How it Negatively Impacts the
LGBTQ+ Community and
Minority Groups



The Statistics

- 25% of **LBGT individuals** in a survey reported **police misconduct** and **harassment** during their interaction
- Latinx folks are **arrested at 4x the rate of white folks** for **marijuana** even though **both use marijuana at comparable rates**
- Black youth are **3x more likely than white youth** to be **admitted to an adult prison** for a **drug conviction**
- 85% of **LGBTQ+ children** in the **juvenile justice system** are **people of color** and **represent more than 2x that of LGBTQ+ youth** in the **general population (7-9%)**



Risk Factors

- **Higher incarceration rates** of youth, people from lower income areas, and communities of color
- **Targeted advertising, social oppression**, and overrepresentation in experiences with **major depressive episodes**
- Effects of **minority stress** as members of a marginalized group





Calls to Action

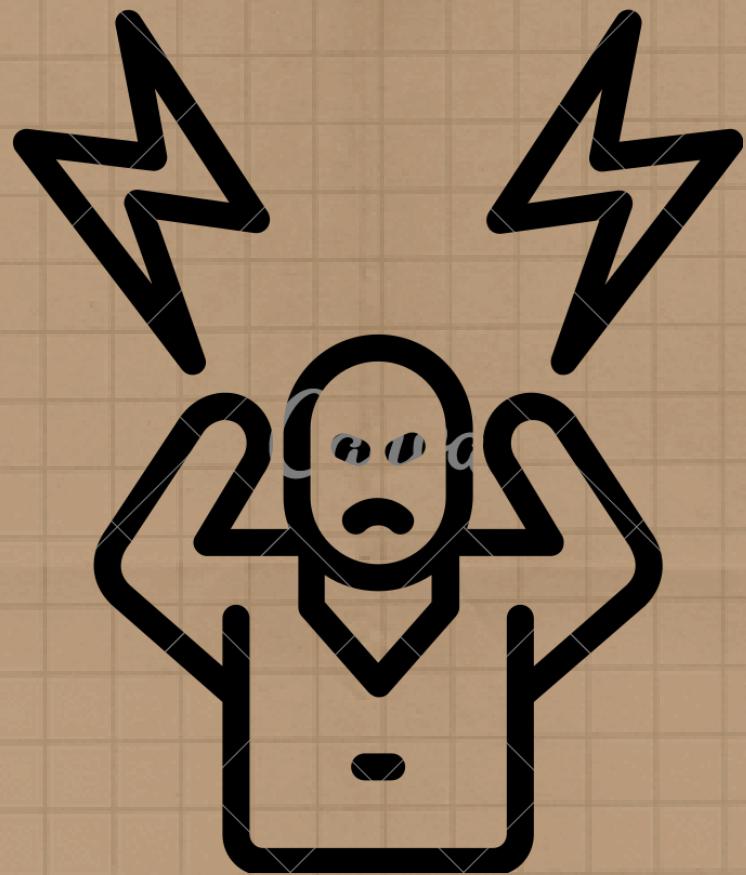
- Connect youth and students to the Elevate Program
- Educate yourself and learn about the local and national resources that are available
- Advocate for accessible education on the War on Drugs





Mental Health

**What factors affect queer
youth's Mental health?**



Restorative Justice

What is it?

Aims to repair harm and guide people to recognize underlying causes of behavior.



Benefits of Implementation

Higher levels of positive peer relationships, school connectedness, and empathy.



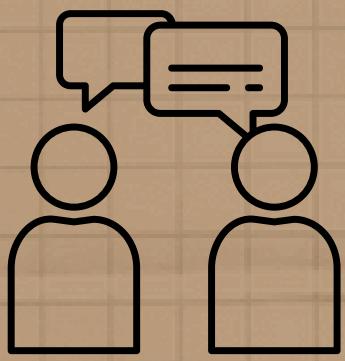
Detrimental Impacts of Zero-Tolerance Policies

The school-to-prison pipeline disrupts the lives of students from marginalized communities.





What is it?



- It aims to repair harm and guide people to recognize the underlying causes of behavior.
- Everyone who is impacted is given the space to share their feelings, which allows all parties involved to see how their actions affect others.
- This empowers folks to enter conversations of resolution from a more informed and empathetic standpoint.

The issue at hand is when students are caught with drugs on school campuses, they are more likely to be suspended or expelled without being offered any support.



The school system currently treats substance abuse as a criminal justice issue, which is detrimental and pushes students out of the education system.



Detimental Impacts



- 1. The school-to-prison pipeline disrupts the lives of students who need more support.**
- 2. Youth from marginalized communities are affected at higher rates by these policies.**

School: Suspension, expulsion for substance possession.

- Lack of classroom reintegration support increases the drop-out rate.**
- Previously disciplined students can be sent to juvenile detention for trivial problem violations.**
- Criminal records barricade many from future opportunities.**



Prison: Many enter back into the criminal justice system due to disempowerment.



Benefits of Implementation

- Higher levels of positive peer relationships, school connectedness, and empathy;
- Less physical, cyber, and emotional bullying
- Improved academic performance and graduation rates

"Restorative Justice implementation caused a 16% reduction in days lost to suspensions, which was statistically significant ... among certain student subgroups, including Black, low-income, female, and special needs students" (WestEd Justice & Prevention Research Center, 2019).

Thank
You!