



Hunger & Poverty Facts Among The LGBTQIA+ Community

HUNGER & POVERTY FACTS AMONG THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY

Includes Most Recent Data Available as of May 2023

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Source: UCLA Williams Institute. Food Insufficiency Among LGBT Adults. April 2022.

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGBT-Food-Insufficiency-Apr-2022.pdf>

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According to a study conducted by the *Williams Institute*:

- **12.7 percent** of LGBTQIA+ people reported sometimes or often not having enough to eat in the last seven days. This is **63 percent higher** than non-LGBTQIA+ adults (7.8 percent).
 - **17.3 percent** of LGBTQIA+ people of color sometimes or often did not have enough to eat in the prior week as compared to **11.9 percent** of non-LGBTQIA+ people of color, **10.1 percent** of LGBTQIA+ White people and **5.6 percent** of non-LGBTQIA+ White people.
 - **22.6 percent** of LGBTQIA+ adults with a high school degree or less reported sometimes or often not having enough to eat in the last seven days. This is **79 percent higher** than non-LGBTQIA+ adults with a high school degree or less (12.6 percent).
 - **More than one in five, or 21.7 percent** of LGBTQIA+ adults reported an income below the federal poverty level. This is **41 percent higher** than non-LGBTQIA+ adults (15.4 percent).
 - **More than one third, or 34.7 percent** of LGBTQIA+ adults reported difficulty paying for household expenses such as food, rent or mortgage, car payments, medical expenses, student loans, etc. This is **33 percent higher** than non-LGBTQIA+ adults (26.0 percent).
 - **6.7 percent** of LGBTQIA+ adults reported recent use of charitable food resources such as free groceries. This is **nearly 18 percent higher** than non-LGBTQIA+ adults (5.7 percent).
 - **15.8 percent** of LGBTQIA+ adults reported using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This is **37 percent higher** than non-LGBTQIA+ adults (11.5 percent).
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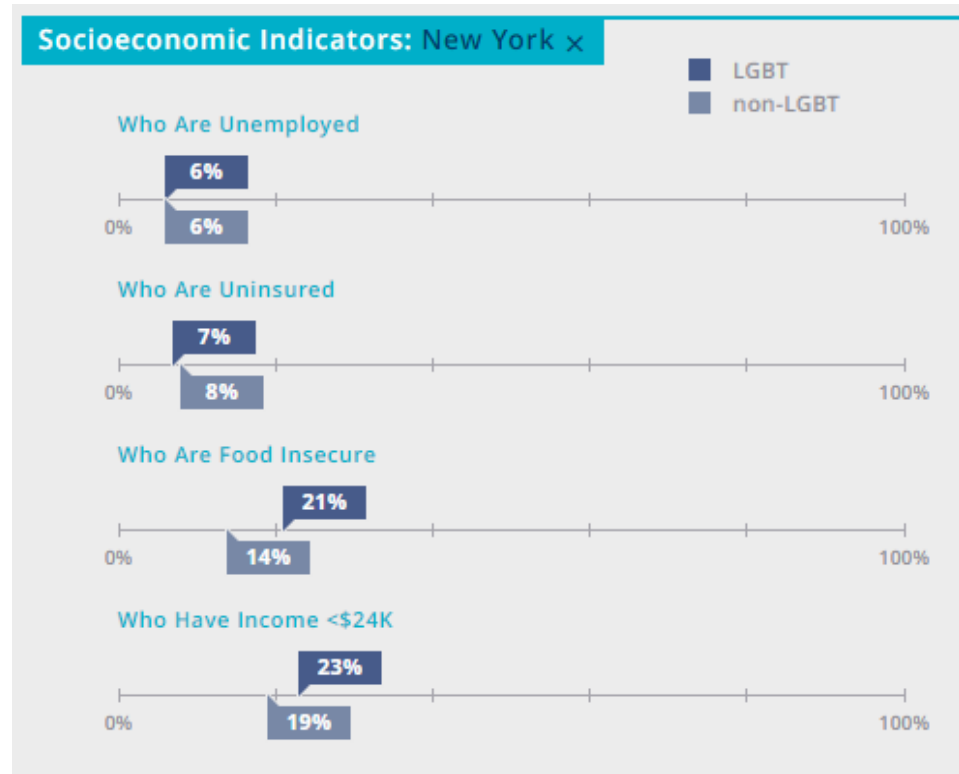
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New York State

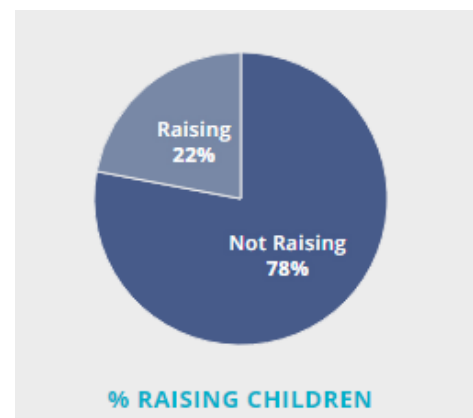
Source: LGBT Demographic Data Interactive. (January 2019). The Williams Institute, UCLA.

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/visualization/lgbt-stats/?topic=LGBT&area=36#about-the-data>

- **21 percent or more than 1 in 5** LGBTQIA+ individuals living in New York State were food insecure in 2019, right before the pandemic.
- **23 percent or more than 1 in 4** LGBTQIA+ individuals living in New York State were living in poverty, right before the pandemic.
- LGBTQIA+ individuals consist of **5.1 percent** of the NYS total population. This is approximately **1 million (991,950)** LGBTQIA+ individuals.



- **22 percent or more than 1 in 5** LGBTQIA+ individuals living in New York State are raising children.



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Source: The Office of New York City Comptroller. Results of a Survey of LGBTQ New Yorkers.

https://comptroller.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/documents/Results_of_a_Survey_of_LGBTQ.pdf

New York City

The Office of New York City Comptroller undertook a survey to better understand challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ New Yorkers when it comes to economic security and issues related to discrimination in the workplace and beyond.

Results of the survey showed that LGBTQIA+ in New York City face hardship and discrimination because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

- **Over 1 in 5 or 21 percent** of survey respondents reported that they have been denied a promotion, not hired, or been fired or forced to resign from a job due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. Respondents who identified as transgender or gender non-conforming reported such an experience at much higher rates (**42 percent**).
 - Relatively high rates of food insecurity and usage of food assistance programs have been well documented in the LGBTQIA+ community overall. In the survey, **nearly 1 in 5 or 18 percent** of respondents stated that they had **utilized a food assistance program** in the last five years, making food assistance the most frequently utilized public program among LGBTQIA+ New Yorkers.
 - While **18 percent** of respondents reported experiencing homelessness, those respondents also identifying as Black, Hispanic, or transgender or gender non-conforming were much more likely (**over 60 percent**) to say they had been homeless at one time.
 - **90 percent** of survey respondents who relied on New York City shelters at least once, reported feeling unsafe due to other shelter residents and shelter staff.
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