



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

REAL WORLD SAMPLES: YMCA OF THE ROCKIES

This August 2010 communication from the YMCA of the Rockies Outreach & Inclusion Team was created by Gail Albers, Program Director at the Estes Park Center, to help staff and volunteers better understand the needs and demographics for those served by this exceptional camp and conference center. This information appears on the YMCA of the Rockies' Outreach and Inclusion section of its website:

<http://www.ymcarockies.org/home/about-us/OIymcarockies>

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Information Based on a 2008 Survey of staff, guests and Camp Chief Ouray (CCO) families at both YMCA of the Rockies Centers

- 5% of current staff – year-round, seasonal and volunteers – identified themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender
- 3% of alumni staff identified themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender
- 1% of current CCO families identified themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender
- 4% of previous CCO families identified themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender
- 2% of YMCA of the Rockies members identified themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender
- 6% of Estes Park Center (EPC) group leaders from the past 3 years identified themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender
- 3% of Snow Mountain Ranch (SMR) group leaders from the past 3 years identified themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender
- 3% of EPC non-member guests from the past 3 years identified themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender
- 2 % of SMR non-member guests from the past 3 years identified themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender

Information from the 2009 Annual Report of The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of Colorado

- The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs reports that 2,424 victims reported anti-LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) violence in 2008, a 26 percent increase over a two-year period
- Nearly two-thirds of youth surveyed by The Center report they have been bullied at school because of their perceived sexual orientation



Information from a 2010 poll of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Coloradans by the new gay-rights organization One Colorado

- Only 50 percent of LGBT Coloradans are out about their sexuality to extended family members.
- 57 percent report being harassed on the street within the past year. But of those who were abused, 87 percent did not report verbal abuse and 65 percent did not report physical abuse. Safety is clearly an important issue: Respondents ranked ensuring safe schools for LGBT youth their number-one priority.
- 53 percent live with a partner, and 22 percent are parents.
- 27 percent of gay men and lesbians report employment discrimination. Transgender folks report having a hard time finding good-paying jobs, and 25 percent earn less than \$10,000 a year.
- 15 percent have no health insurance. But of those insured, 42 percent say their employer also offers benefits to their partner.
- Of those who attend religious services, 31 percent say their congregation isn't inclusive.

2000 was the first year that US Census questionnaires gathered data about households with "unmarried partners." The vast majority identified themselves as opposite-sex partners, but 1% (nearly 600,000) identified themselves as same-sex partners.

Kaiser Family Foundation, 2000

In the fall of 2000, the Kaiser Family Foundation conducted two national public opinion surveys: one, to gather information on the experiences of self-identified lesbians, gays and bisexuals; and a second to gauge the general public's attitudes toward this group and their views on key policy issues related to sexual orientation.

Findings:

- A large majority of self-identified lesbians, gays and bisexuals believe there is more acceptance of lesbians and gays today compared to a few years ago.
- At the same time, they have experienced a significant amount of prejudice and discrimination. Nearly three-quarters have been the targets of verbal abuse, and nearly one-third have been the target of physical violence based on sexual orientation.
- Although a large majority are now open about their sexual orientation to friends, family members and co-workers, one third say that their family or a family member have refused to accept them because of their sexual orientation.
- In fact, the majority of lesbians, gays and bisexuals believe they are the group in America most likely to experience prejudice and discrimination and least likely to be protected by the government
- A large majority of the general public now know someone who is lesbian, gay or bisexual.
- In the policy arena, there is significant public support for many, though not all, policy measures identified as important by lesbians, gays and bisexuals, though levels of support vary across demographic groups.
- Many anti-discrimination measures – including those related to housing, employment, domestic partner benefits and hate crimes – enjoy broad public support.
- Family policy issues – such as the legal sanctioning of marriage, domestic partnerships and adoption – are more controversial, though support for such issues has increased over time.