

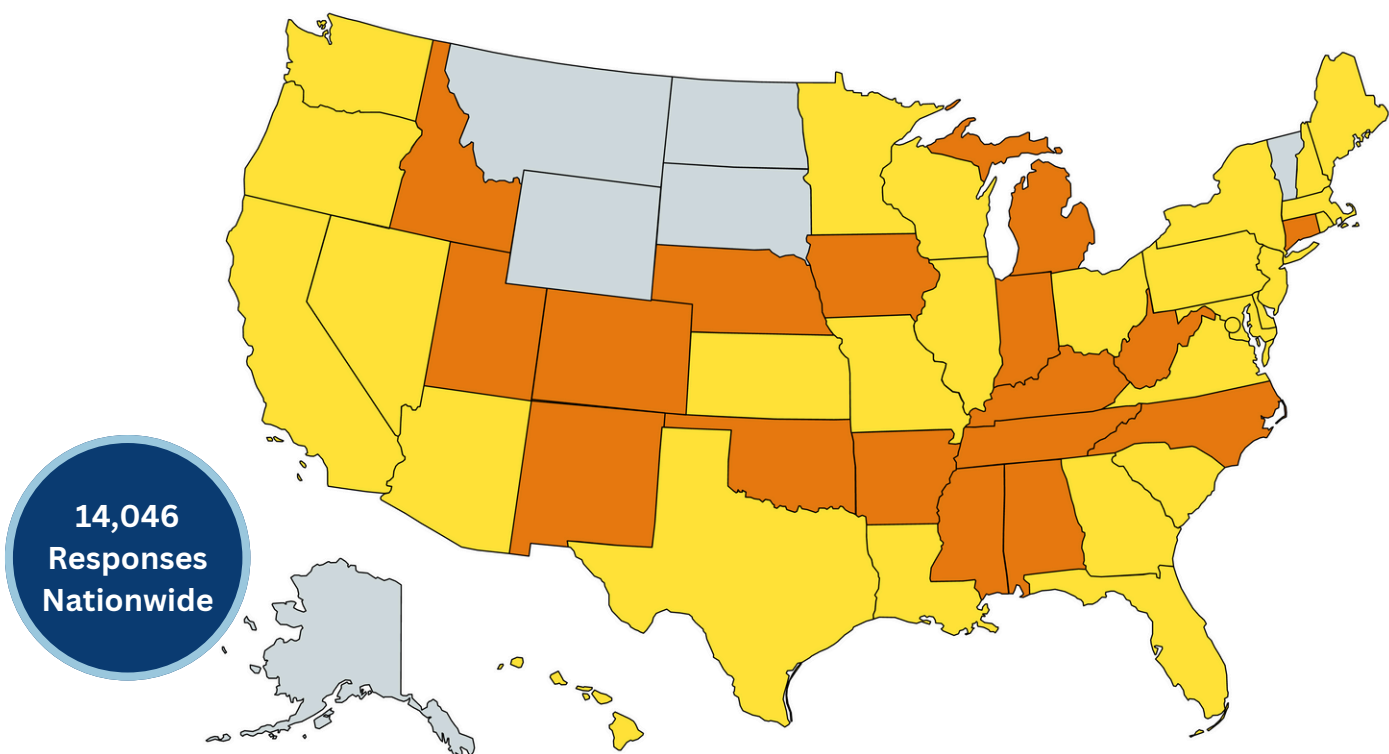
## Snapshot Series: The Lived Realities of LGBTQI+ Americans

The recent wave of anti-LGBTQI+ legislation sweeping across the United States begs the question:  
**Are there any safe places to identify as LGBTQI+ in the United States?**

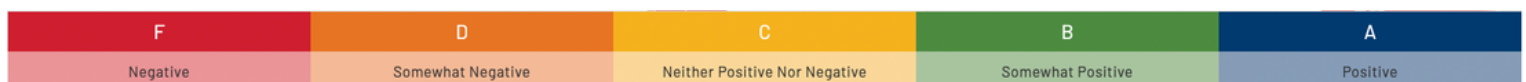
According to the results of the **F&M Global Barometers LGBTQI+ Perception Index (GBPI)**, the answer is yes, in **Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Kansas**. These states reported the highest or most positive lived realities for LGBTQI+ Americans in 2022. Conversely, **Idaho, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Utah and Tennessee** reported the worst lived realities for LGBTQI+ Americans.

Created by the F&M Global Barometers, in partnership with the Council for Global Equality, the GBPI is a **groundbreaking survey** that gauges the lived human rights reality of the global LGBTQI+ community. Launched on the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in June 2022, and live until the end of September 2022, the GBPI asked six questions on safety, acceptance and discrimination and was available in four languages: Arabic, English, French and Spanish. Based on the responses, each country or state is assigned a letter grade (A-F) and assessed on a scale of 0-100% where A (100%) is the highest and F (0%) is the lowest.

The **14,046 responses** paint a complicated picture of LGBTQI+ rights in the U.S. At the national level, the United States scored a C (70%) on the GBPI, but results varied by state with much of the Southeast, Southwest, and Midwest scoring lower than the national average.



NB: States with fewer than 30 responses are omitted.



## GBPI At a Glance



**167,000+ responses  
worldwide from 136  
countries**

### 6 questions:

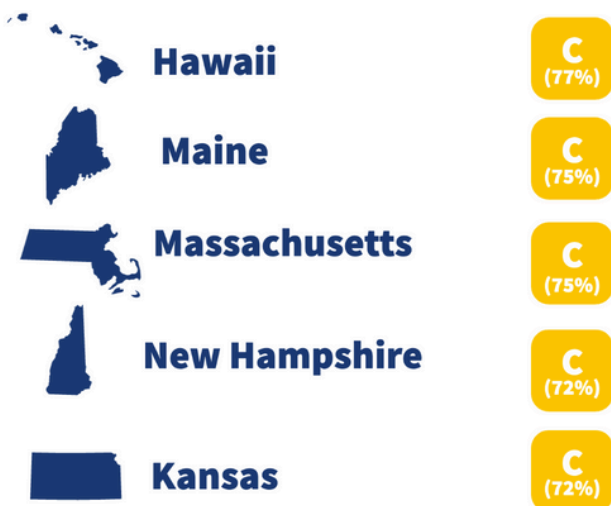
1. **Safety**
2. **Acceptance**
3. **Fear**
4. **Violence**
5. **Safety in Gathering**
6. **Discrimination**



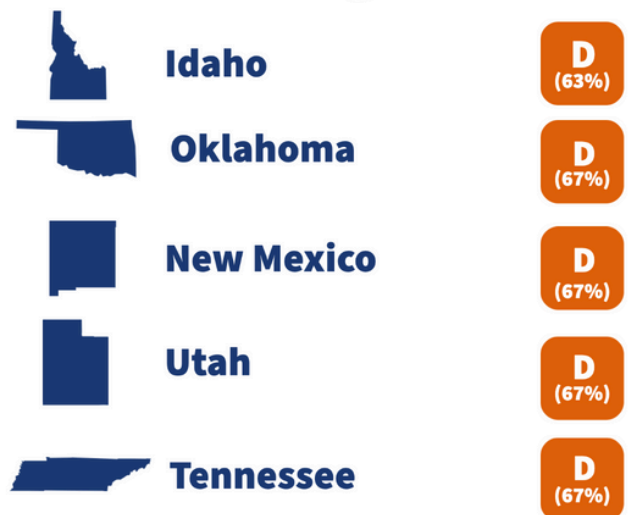
**14,000+ responses  
from the United  
States from 44  
states**

Globally, the United States ranks 31st out of 136 countries for lived LGBTQI+ human rights reality, scoring behind France, Vietnam, and Hong Kong. However, a clearer picture emerges when the data is disaggregated by location, indicating this score is an amalgamation of highly diverse realities by state. The range of state scores spans over ten percentage points, with the highest and lowest states listed below. On every question, the Northeast region had the highest average, while the Southwest, Southeast and Midwest fall behind. In general, younger age brackets reported the poorest lived LGBTQI+ human rights reality, as did individuals identifying as transgender and/or intersex. Examining demographic variation and respondents' comments reveals the nuances of LGBTQI+ lived realities.

### Highest Scoring U.S. States



### Lowest Scoring U.S. States



# Q1 Safety

71%

72% Highest-Scoring Region

Northeast

80% Highest-Scoring State

Hawaii

61% Lowest-Scoring State

Idaho

## Identities

C	73%	Gay	N= 7,873
D	65%	Lesbian	N= 1,030
C	71%	Bisexual	N= 3,581
F	57%	Trans M	N= 785
F	58%	Trans W	N= 385
F	59%	Intersex	N= 82
D	62%	Queer	N= 1,531
D	60%	Nonbinary	N= 1,177

## Age

D	66%	Under 25
C	70%	Between 25 and 35
C	72%	Over 35
C	73%	Between 36 and 55
C	75%	Over 55
D	66%	Prefer not to answer

In the United States, the first question on safety had an average score of 71% or a C. The majority of respondents answered that they felt "neither safe nor unsafe" in their state. However, this response varied widely by state, region and demography. The highest-scoring region was the Northeast, in which all states scored at least 70% or higher. In the lowest-scoring region, the Southwest, only 3/4 of the region scored 70% or higher. Respondents identifying as "Gay" had the highest response rate and the highest average score. Out of each age category, people over the age of 55 also reported the highest levels of safety.

66%

# Acceptance Q2

## Identities

D	68%	Gay	N= 7,873
D	63%	Lesbian	N= 1,030
D	64%	Bisexual	N= 3,581
F	54%	Trans M	N= 785
F	55%	Trans W	N= 385
F	56%	Intersex	N= 82
F	59%	Queer	N= 1,531
F	57%	Nonbinary	N= 1,177

## Age

D	62%	Under 25
D	65%	Between 25 and 35
C	70%	Over 35
D	67%	Between 36 and 55
C	71%	Over 55
D	62%	Prefer not to answer

Highest-Scoring Region 68%

Northeast

Highest-Scoring State 72%

New Hampshire

Lowest-Scoring State 58%

Idaho

The second question on acceptance had the lowest national average, and the majority of respondents reported that they felt neither accepted nor unaccepted. Only four states scored over a D: Maine, D.C., Hawaii and New Hampshire. Again, people identifying as "Gay" reported higher levels of acceptance, as did respondents over the age of 55. People reporting the lowest levels of acceptance identified as transgender men, and were either under the age of 25 or preferred not to give their age. Idaho, Arkansas, West Virginia, Mississippi and Tennessee scored the worst on acceptance; individuals felt the least accepted in these five states.



## Q3 Fear of Police

71%

**73% Highest-Scoring Region**

**Northeast**

**77% Highest-Scoring State**

**Maine**

**64% Lowest-Scoring State**

**New Mexico**

### Identities

C	73%	Gay	N= 7,873
D	66%	Lesbian	N= 1,030
C	71%	Bisexual	N= 3,581
D	61%	Trans M	N= 785
D	60%	Trans W	N= 385
D	65%	Intersex	N= 82
D	65%	Queer	N= 1,531
D	62%	Nonbinary	N= 1,177

### Age

D	67%	Under 25
D	68%	Between 25 and 35
C	75%	Over 35
C	73%	Between 36 and 55
C	76%	Over 55
D	67%	Prefer not to answer

Question 3, fearfulness of police forces, had a national average of a low C. The majority of individuals reported either feeling "not fearful" or "not fearful at all," but this changed depending on demography and location. For instance, the majority of both transgender men and transgender women responded they were neither fearful nor not fearful of police forces in the United States. Transgender women felt the most fearful, with 40% either feeling "fearful" or "very fearful." The states where individuals felt the most fearful of police were New Mexico, Idaho, Utah, Oklahoma and Iowa. The states where individuals felt the least fearful of police were Maine, Massachusetts, Hawaii, Kansas and Rhode Island.

69%

## Violence

Q4

### Identities

C	70%	Gay	N= 7,873
D	63%	Lesbian	N= 1,030
C	70%	Bisexual	N= 3,581
F	56%	Trans M	N= 785
F	57%	Trans W	N= 385
D	63%	Intersex	N= 82
D	63%	Queer	N= 1,531
D	60%	Nonbinary	N= 1,177

### Age

D	65%	Under 25
D	67%	Between 25 and 35
C	72%	Over 35
C	71%	Between 36 and 55
C	74%	Over 55
D	65%	Prefer not to answer

**Highest-Scoring Region** 70%

**Northeast**

**Highest-Scoring State** 75%

**Hawaii**

**Lowest-Scoring State** 59%

**New Mexico**

Question 4, likeliness to experience violence due to LGBTQI+ identity, garnered the second to lowest national average of all six questions. Twenty percent of transgender women, twenty percent of nonbinary individuals, and twenty-five percent of transgender men felt that violence toward them was "likely." The trend of younger individuals reporting lower scores remained, with those under the age of 25 having a national average of almost ten fewer percentage points than those over the age of 55. The states where individuals reported the highest likelihood of violence were Idaho, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah and Iowa. Notably, none of the regions scored above 70 percent (C) on this question.



## Q5 Safety in Gathering

74%

**75% Highest-Scoring Region**

**Northeast**

**84% Highest-Scoring State**

**Hawaii**

**65% Lowest-Scoring State**

**Arkansas**

### Identities

C	75%	Gay	N= 7,873
C	72%	Lesbian	N= 1,030
C	74%	Bisexual	N= 3,581
D	69%	Trans M	N= 785
C	71%	Trans W	N= 385
D	68%	Intersex	N= 82
C	73%	Queer	N= 1,531
C	71%	Nonbinary	N= 1,177

### Age

C	71%	Under 25
C	73%	Between 25 and 35
C	77%	Over 35
C	75%	Between 36 and 55
C	77%	Over 55
C	71%	Prefer not to answer

Question 5, which asked individuals to report how safe they felt gathering in public with other LGBTI people, had the highest national average. All regions had a score over 70% (C), and 84% of states also scored over 70%. Only Arkansas and Iowa scored a D. The majority of respondents reported that they felt "safe" in gathering with other LGBTI individuals. This question was the only one which saw all age groups averaging 70% or above. Transgender men and intersex individuals reported the lowest levels of safety in gathering, relative to all other identity categories.

72%

## Discrimination

Q6

### Identities

C	73%	Gay	N= 7,873
D	67%	Lesbian	N= 1,030
C	72%	Bisexual	N= 3,581
D	62%	Trans M	N= 785
D	61%	Trans W	N= 385
D	63%	Intersex	N= 82
D	67%	Queer	N= 1,531
D	64%	Nonbinary	N= 1,177

### Age

D	68%	Under 25
C	70%	Between 25 and 35
C	75%	Over 35
C	73%	Between 36 and 55
C	77%	Over 55
D	68%	Prefer not to answer

**Highest-Scoring Region** 73%

**Northeast**

**Highest-Scoring State** 78%

**Maine**

**Lowest-Scoring State** 63%

**Idaho**

The final question, which asked LGBTQI+ individuals about the frequency of discrimination towards them, had the second-highest national average. Transgender men and transgender women reported the highest frequency of discrimination. Lesbians, transgender men and women, intersex, queer and nonbinary individuals reported they felt higher levels of discrimination than individuals that identify as gay or bisexual. The Northeast averaged the highest score, meaning that individuals reported the lowest frequency of discrimination, while the Midwest and Southwest reported the highest frequency of discrimination. Those under 25 reported the highest frequency of discrimination, while those over 55 reported the lowest frequency of discrimination. The states where individuals reported the highest frequency of discrimination were Idaho, Oklahoma, New Mexico, North Carolina and South Carolina.



## U.S. State Scores

- Alabama - 69%
- Arizona - 70%
- Arkansas - 68%
- California - 70%
- Colorado - 69%
- Connecticut - 69%
- D.C. - 72%
- Delaware - 71%
- Florida - 71%
- Georgia - 70%
- Hawaii - 77%
- Idaho - 63%
- Illinois - 71%
- Indiana - 68%
- Iowa - 68%
- Kansas - 72%
- Kentucky - 69%
- Louisiana - 71%
- Maine - 75%
- Maryland - 70%
- Massachusetts - 75%
- Michigan - 69%
- Minnesota - 71%
- Mississippi - 69%
- Missouri - 70%
- Nebraska - 69%
- Nevada - 70%
- New Hampshire - 72%
- New Jersey - 71%
- New Mexico - 67%
- New York - 71%
- North Carolina - 69%
- Ohio - 70%
- Oklahoma - 67%
- Oregon - 70%
- Pennsylvania - 71%
- Rhode Island - 71%
- South Carolina - 70%
- Tennessee - 67%
- Texas - 70%
- Utah - 67%
- Virginia - 70%
- Washington - 71%
- West Virginia - 68%
- Wisconsin - 70%

*NB: States with fewer than 30 responses are omitted.*

## Respondents' Comments

### From New Mexico:

*"The local neighborhood watch is made up of extremist Christian fundamentalists. They are targeting me saying my lifestyle is not appropriate for communities where there are families with children. They feel they must protect their children."*

### From Oklahoma:

*"I'm not out. Live in the Bible belt. Would be disowned by my family. And would fear for my well-being on a constant basis."*

### From New Hampshire:

*"I live in a major city in the Northeast. I think my answers would have consistently reflected feeling less safe, accepted, included and more threatened if I lived in a less educated, less liberal part of the United States. I am very concerned about such a powerful segment of the population succeeding in eroding human rights."*

### From Hawaii:

*"Hawaii is safer than most states and even though we are safer...we fear for our future."*

### From Florida:

*"I live in Florida and feel my safety living in this state is compromised."*

## Visit/Contact Us:



[www.lgbtqi perceptionindex.org](http://www.lgbtqi perceptionindex.org)



[gbgr@fandm.edu](mailto:gbgr@fandm.edu)



[@fandmglobalbarometers](https://www.instagram.com/fandmglobalbarometers)



[@FMBarometers](https://twitter.com/FMBarometers)



[@fmgbgr](https://www.facebook.com/fmgbgr)



[@fmgbgr](https://www.linkedin.com/company/fmgbgr)

