

## Snapshot Series: LGBTQI+ Lived Reality in Pennsylvania

### How safe is Pennsylvania for LGBTQI+ individuals?

The **F&M Global Barometers LGBTQI+ Perception Index (GBPI)** reveals that though Pennsylvania scores slightly above the national average (70%), not all identity and age groups feel equally protected. In general, younger Pennsylvanians report a worse lived human rights reality than older age groups. Additionally, respondents identifying as gay report a better lived reality than transgender women, queer and nonbinary respondents, who typically scored the lowest.

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, the GBPI asked six questions on safety, acceptance, fear, and discrimination. It 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.

**763**  
responses  
statewide

**71%**  
Average

**Pennsylvania**

"It is a risk to be openly gay in public as there are always homophobic people looking to attack or verbally assault you without provocation."  
- Bethlehem

"The movement of American society towards crazy right wing religious violence has me scared. We will soon be targeted."  
- Philadelphia



### GBPI At a Glance



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

#### 6 questions:

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



**14,000+ responses in**  
the United States  
from 44 states + D.C.

## Q1 Safety

**71%**

LGBTQI+ Pennsylvanians scored a C on the first question, which asked them to assess their sense of safety in the past 12 months. There is considerable variation among sub-categories: individuals identifying as nonbinary felt the least safe and those identifying as gay felt the most safe. Respondents under 25 averaged over ten percentage points lower than those over 55, showing that younger individuals felt less safe.

*NB: The identity categories "Trans Man" and "Intersex" were excluded from the breakdowns for all six questions as there were fewer than 30 respondents for both identities. Additionally, not all respondents answered every question, and scores were rounded up to the nearest whole number.*

### Identity

C	73%	Gay	N= 443
D	67%	Lesbian	N= 65
C	72%	Bisexual	N= 196
D	63%	Trans W	N= 37
D	65%	Queer	N= 85
D	62%	Nonbinary	N= 77

### Age

D	66%	Under 25	N= 174
C	71%	Between 25 and 35	N= 205
C	72%	Between 36 and 55	N= 236
C	77%	Over 55	N= 119

**66%**

## Acceptance Q2

### Identity

D	68%	Gay	N= 443
D	65%	Lesbian	N= 65
D	62%	Bisexual	N= 196
F	58%	Trans W	N= 37
D	61%	Queer	N= 85
F	59%	Nonbinary	N= 77

### Age

D	62%	Under 25	N= 174
D	64%	Between 25 and 35	N= 205
D	66%	Between 36 and 55	N= 236
C	73%	Over 55	N= 119

Pennsylvanians report the lowest average score (of the six questions) when asked how accepted they feel as members of the LGBTQI+ community. Respondents identifying as transgender women and/or nonbinary report the lowest levels of perceived acceptance, scoring an average in the F category. 65% of respondents identifying as transgender women report they felt "not accepted" or "neither/nor."

## Q3 Fear of Police

**72%**

LGBTQI+ Pennsylvanians scored one point higher than the national average when asked how fearful they were of police forces but one point lower than the Northeast regional average. People identifying as queer report the most fear of police while respondents identifying as gay report the least fear of police. Like the previous two questions, respondents over the age of 55 scored an average of ten percentage points higher than those under 25.

### Identity

C	75%	Gay	N= 443
C	72%	Lesbian	N= 65
D	69%	Bisexual	N= 196
D	64%	Trans W	N= 37
D	62%	Queer	N= 85
D	64%	Nonbinary	N= 77

### Age

D	68%	Under 25	N= 174
C	71%	Between 25 and 35	N= 205
C	71%	Between 36 and 55	N= 236
C	79%	Over 55	N= 119

## Q4 Violence

69%

Consistent with the national averages, the second-lowest scoring question asked respondents to assess the likelihood that they would be victims of violence. Respondents identifying as transgender women report they were most likely to be victims of violence. Over 50% of transgender women report they felt violence was "neither likely nor unlikely" or "likely."

### Identity

C	71%	Gay	N= 443
D	65%	Lesbian	N= 65
D	69%	Bisexual	N= 196
F	56%	Trans W	N= 37
D	62%	Queer	N= 85
D	63%	Nonbinary	N= 77

### Age

D	64%	Under 25	N= 174
D	69%	Between 25 and 35	N= 205
D	68%	Between 36 and 55	N= 236
C	77%	Over 55	N= 119

75%

## Safety in Gathering Q5

### Identity

C	77%	Gay	N= 443
C	73%	Lesbian	N= 65
C	74%	Bisexual	N= 196
C	72%	Trans W	N= 37
C	75%	Queer	N= 85
C	70%	Nonbinary	N= 77

### Age

C	73%	Under 25	N= 174
C	75%	Between 25 and 35	N= 205
C	75%	Between 36 and 55	N= 236
C	79%	Over 55	N= 119

The fifth question prompted respondents to report how safe they felt gathering in public with other LGBTQI+ individuals. Out of all six questions, Q5 had the highest overall average in PA, and the state scored one point above the national average on Q5.

## Q6 Discrimination

72%

The final question measures the frequency of discrimination. Respondents identifying as nonbinary report the highest likelihood of discrimination, and those identifying as gay report the lowest likelihood. Pennsylvania scored the same as the national average but one point below the Northeast regional average on Q6.

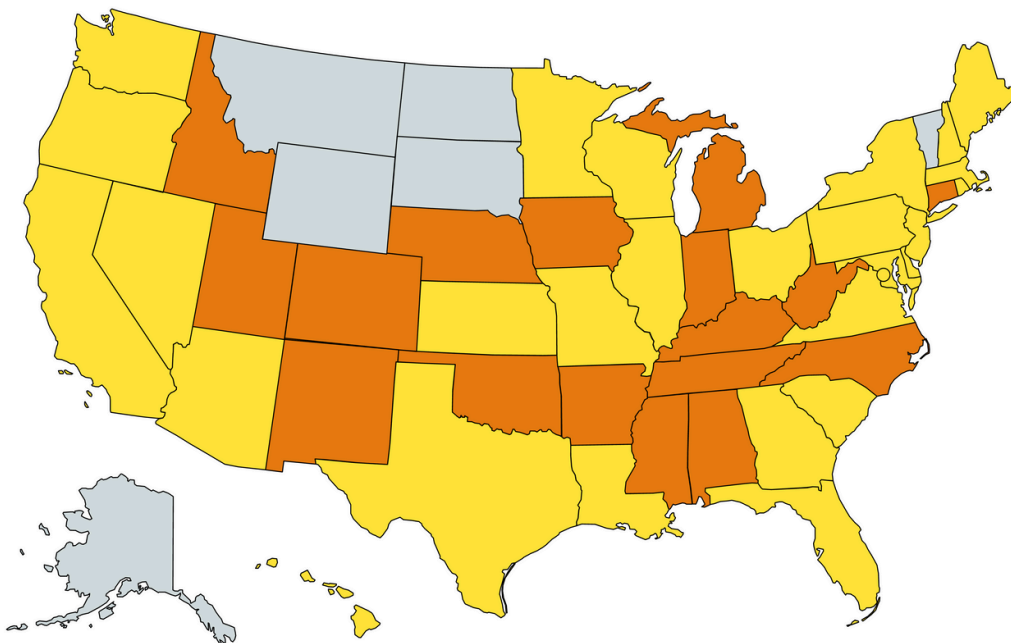
### Identity

C	74%	Gay	N= 443
C	73%	Lesbian	N= 65
C	72%	Bisexual	N= 196
D	66%	Trans W	N= 37
D	67%	Queer	N= 85
D	65%	Nonbinary	N= 77

### Age

D	67%	Under 25	N= 174
C	72%	Between 25 and 35	N= 205
C	72%	Between 36 and 55	N= 236
B	80%	Over 55	N= 119

## U.S. State Scores



N= 14,046

NB: States with fewer than 30 responses are omitted.

F	D	C	B	A
Negative	Somewhat Negative	Neither Positive Nor Negative	Somewhat Positive	Positive

- **Hawaii - 77%**
- **Maine - 75%**
- **Massachusetts - 75%**
- **D.C. - 72%**
- **Kansas - 72%**
- **New Hampshire - 72%**
- **Delaware - 71%**
- **Florida - 71%**
- **Illinois - 71%**
- **Louisiana - 71%**
- **Minnesota - 71%**
- **New Jersey - 71%**
- **New York - 71%**
- **Pennsylvania - 71%**
- **Rhode Island - 71%**
- **Washington - 71%**

- **Arizona - 70%**
- **California - 70%**
- **Georgia - 70%**
- **Maryland - 70%**
- **Missouri - 70%**
- **Nevada - 70%**
- **Ohio - 70%**
- **Oregon - 70%**
- **South Carolina - 70%**
- **Texas - 70%**
- **Virginia - 70%**
- **Wisconsin - 70%**
- **Alabama - 69%**
- **Colorado - 69%**
- **Connecticut - 69%**
- **Kentucky - 69%**

- **Michigan - 69%**
- **Mississippi - 69%**
- **Nebraska - 69%**
- **North Carolina - 69%**
- **Arkansas - 68%**
- **Indiana - 68%**
- **Iowa - 68%**
- **West Virginia - 68%**
- **New Mexico - 67%**
- **Oklahoma - 67%**
- **Tennessee - 67%**
- **Utah - 67%**
- **Idaho - 63%**

## PA LGBTQI+ Respondent Comments

“The climate is quite mixed. Evidently being pro-LGBTQ+ is considered an easy win when it comes to giving people the warm fuzzies through marketing campaigns, but just as evidently many people resent us and our acceptance... A stranger repeatedly called me a f\*gg\*t and threatened to beat me up less than 2 months ago in a neighborhood with rainbow signs in coffeeshop windows...” - Pittsburgh

“I personally know 14 LGBTQIA+ [people] who have become homeless just this year. People are lining river banks, putting up tents if they are lucky enough to have one.” - Stroudsburg

“I have reservations about the future due to recent SCOTUS decisions.” - Havertown

“It's not a good idea to tell your employers, at least not at a blue collar level. I am open about my sexuality if asked, at the same time I go out of my way to present straight.” - Lancaster

“In more urban and developed areas, I definitely feel safer, but since the economic issues impacting many people right now have forced me to relocate to the rural area where my family is from, I've noticed a substantial increase in general homophobia.” - Philadelphia

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