



# Equality and Equity

Advancing the LGBT Community in Massachusetts

BOSTON INDICATORS  
MEASURING WHAT WE VALUE

 THE FENWAY INSTITUTE

**The Equality Fund**  
At The Boston Foundation

# Today's exploration

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## Demographic overview

Our state's LGBT community is...

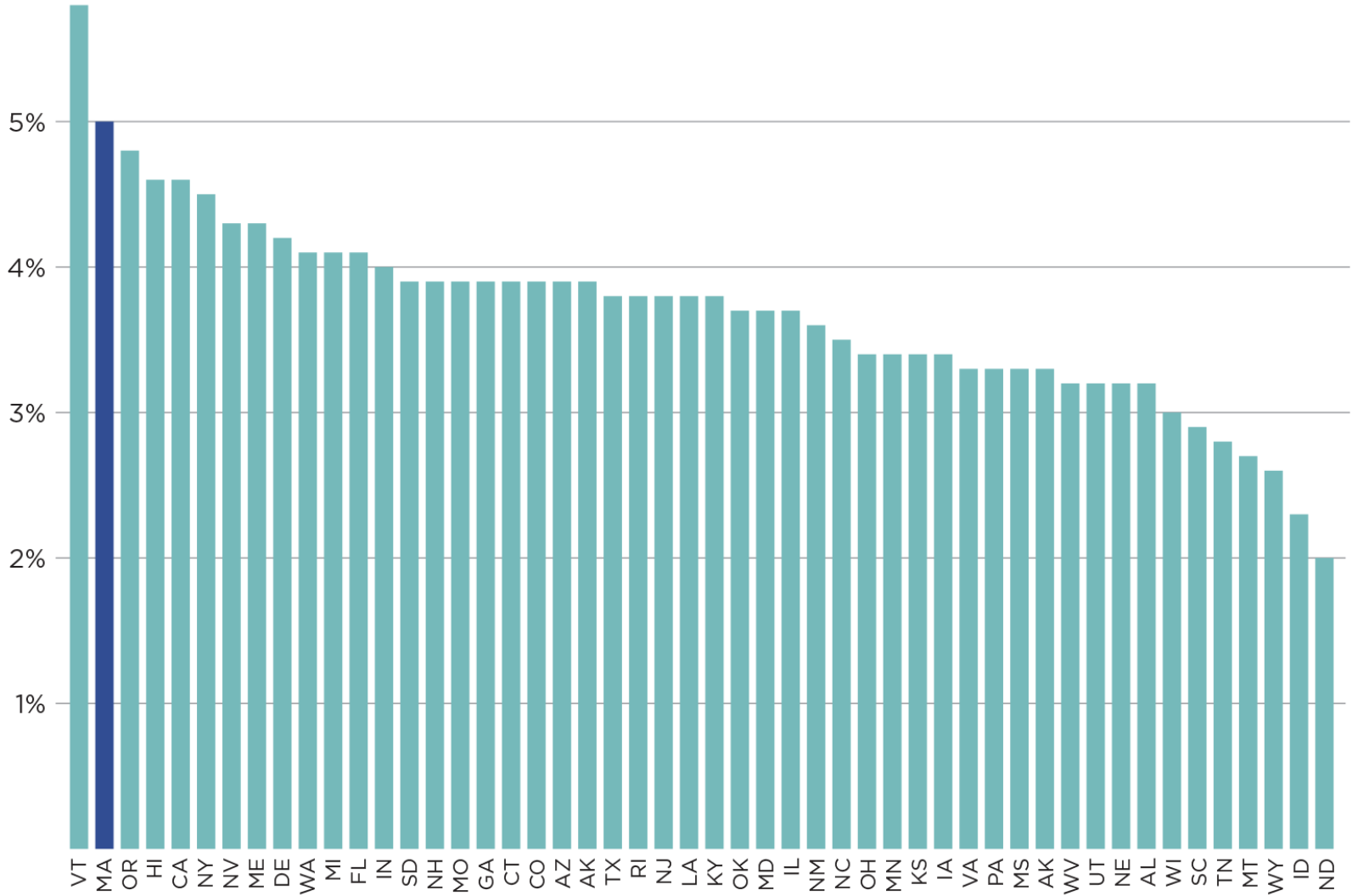
- Large
- Growing
- Diverse

## Progress to date & areas for action

- Youth & youth of color
- Transgender people
- Older adults
- Data

# Massachusetts has the second highest share of population that identifies as LGBT.

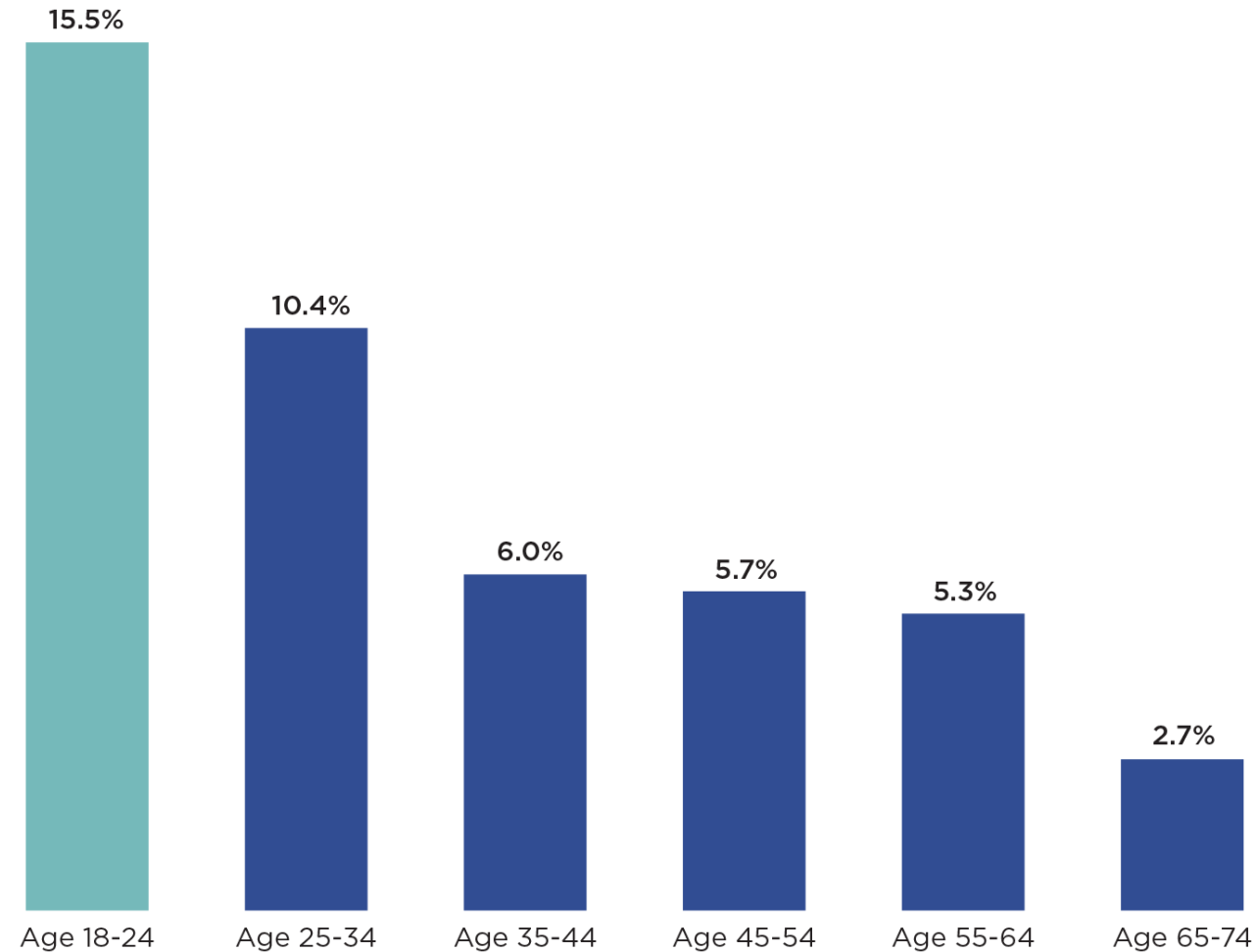
Share of total state population identifying as LGBT. Massachusetts. Tracking poll, July 2017.



Source: Gallup Daily Tracking Survey. The Williams Institute. UCLA.

## Younger people in Massachusetts are more likely to identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or something else.

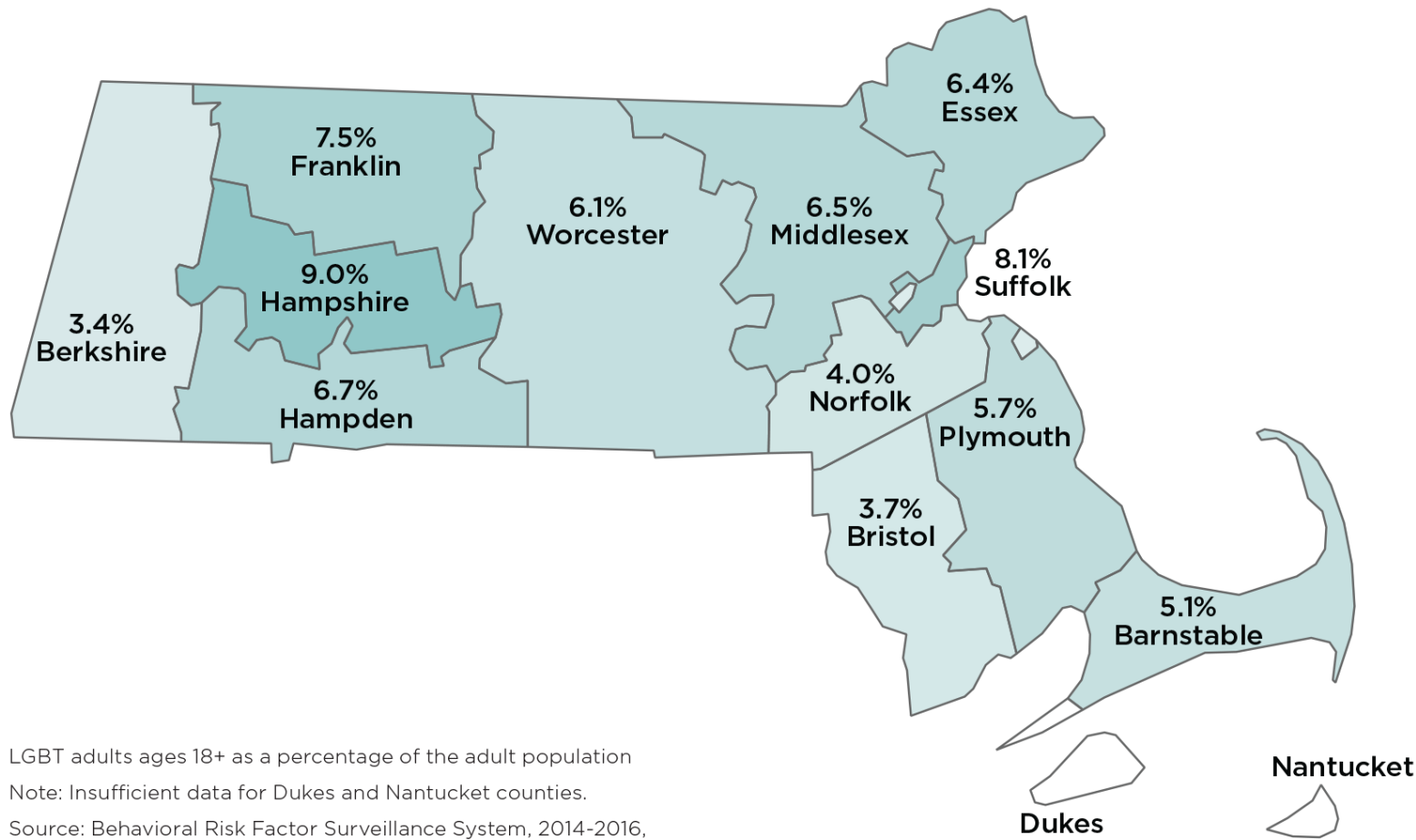
Share of population identifying as gay, lesbian, bisexual or something else. By age. Massachusetts. 2016.



Source: 2016 Massachusetts BRFSS.

# Massachusetts' LGBT population is rural, suburban and urban.

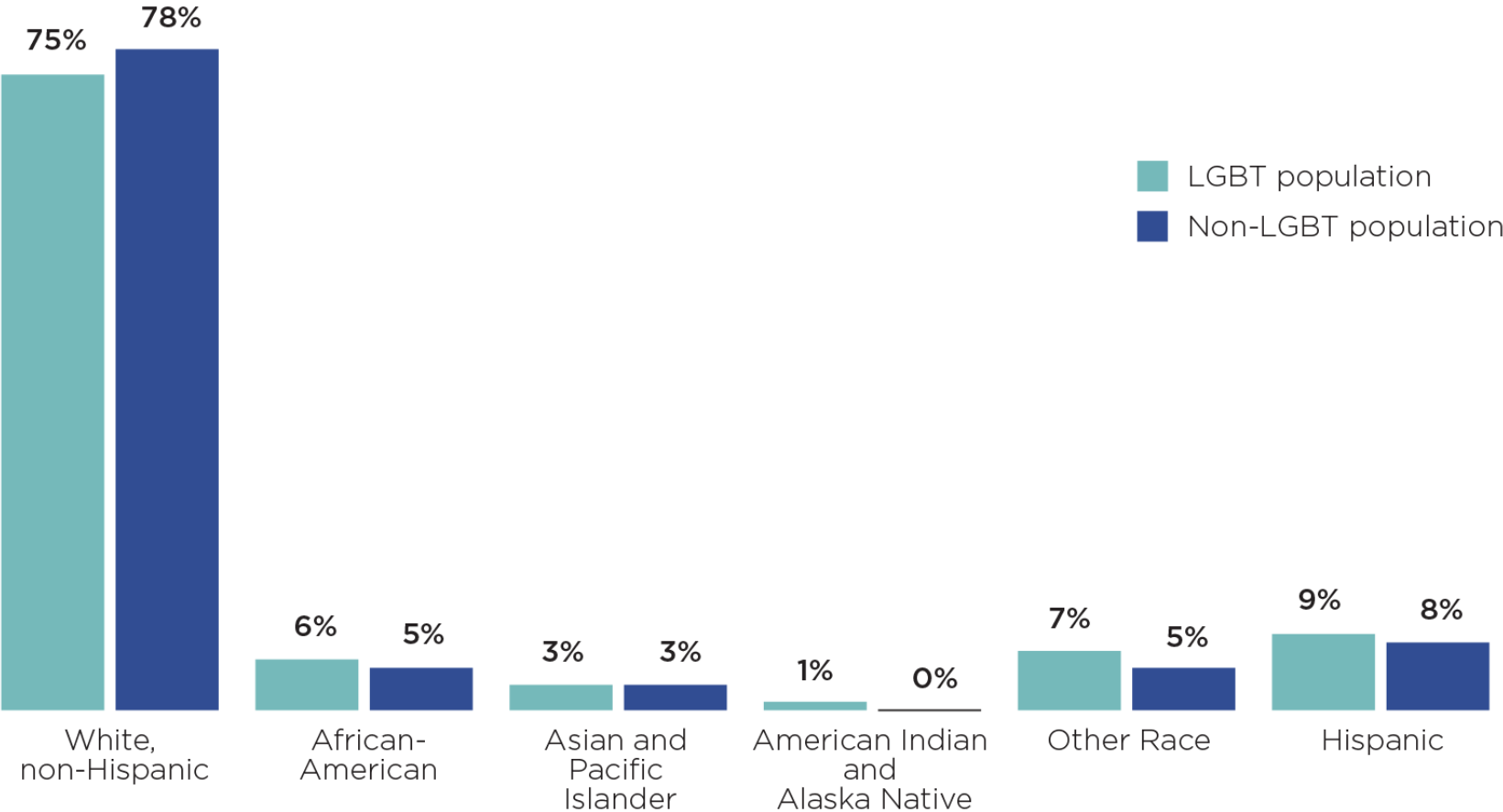
LGBT adults 18+ as share of total population. By county. 2014–2016.



LGBT adults ages 18+ as a percentage of the adult population  
Note: Insufficient data for Dukes and Nantucket counties.  
Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2014-2016, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Data from Maria McKenna, PhD, Massachusetts DPH. Map designed by Dana King.

# The racial and ethnic makeup of the LGBT population mirrors that of the state population.

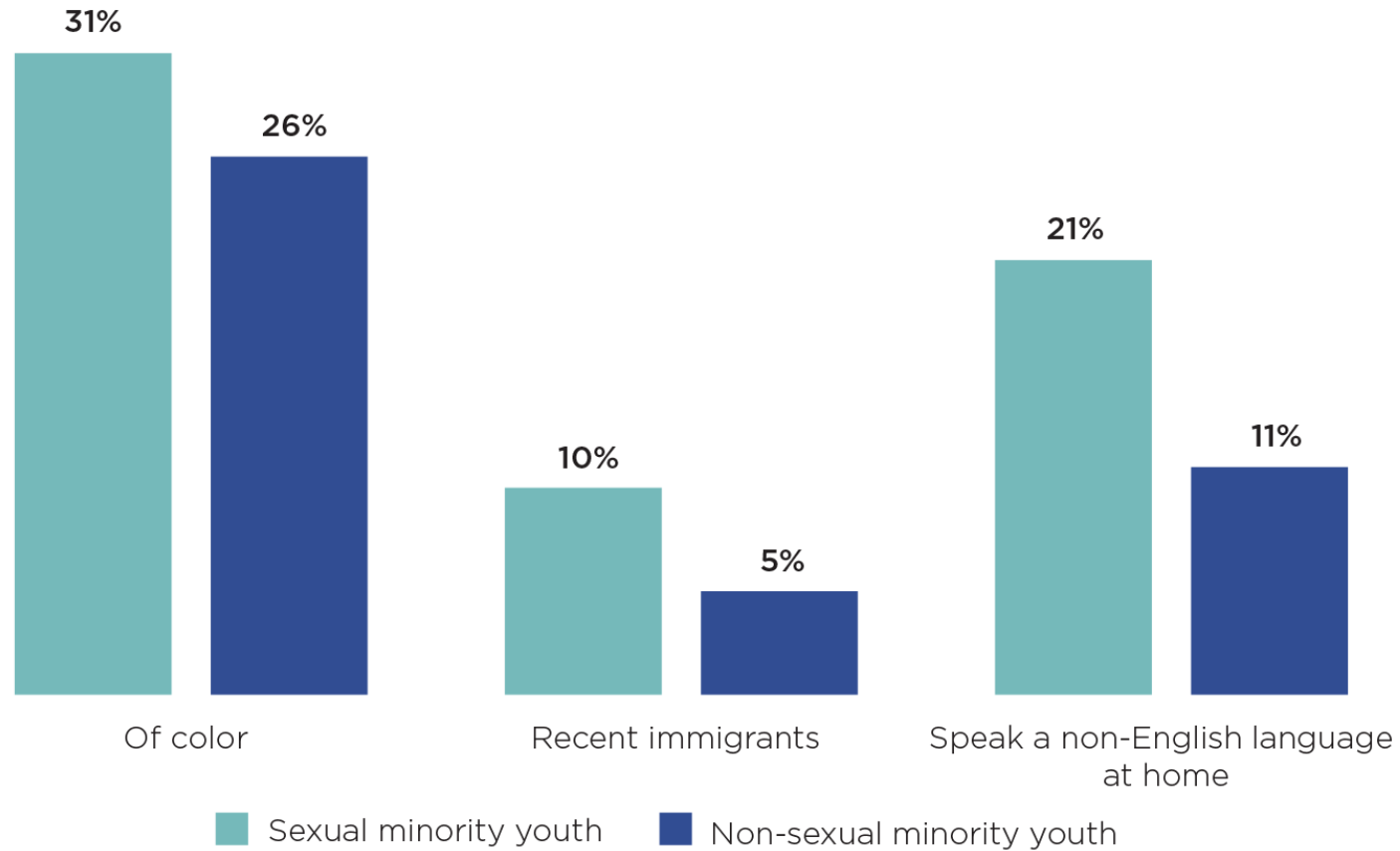
Race and ethnicity. LGBT population and non-LGBT population. Massachusetts. 2017.



Source: Gallup Daily Tracking Survey. The Williams Institute. UCLA, July 2017. Please note this is Gallup Daily Tracking Survey data, which may provide different numbers than other sources.

# Sexual minority youth are particularly racially, ethnically and linguistically diverse.

Race, ethnicity and language spoken at home. Sexual minority youth and non-sexual minority youth. Massachusetts. 1995-2009



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# Some key advances

## **1960s:**

Boston chapter of the Mattachine Society was active.

## **1969 & 1970:**

Chapters of the Daughters of Bilitis, the Homophile Union of Boston and the Student Homophile League were formed.

## **1971:**

Boston was one of the first cities in the U.S. to organize a gay and lesbian liberation march. This eventually became LGBT Pride.

## **1971:**

Fenway Community Health Center formed.

## **1973:**

Gay Community News formed.

## **1978:**

Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders formed.

## **1980:**

Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth formed.

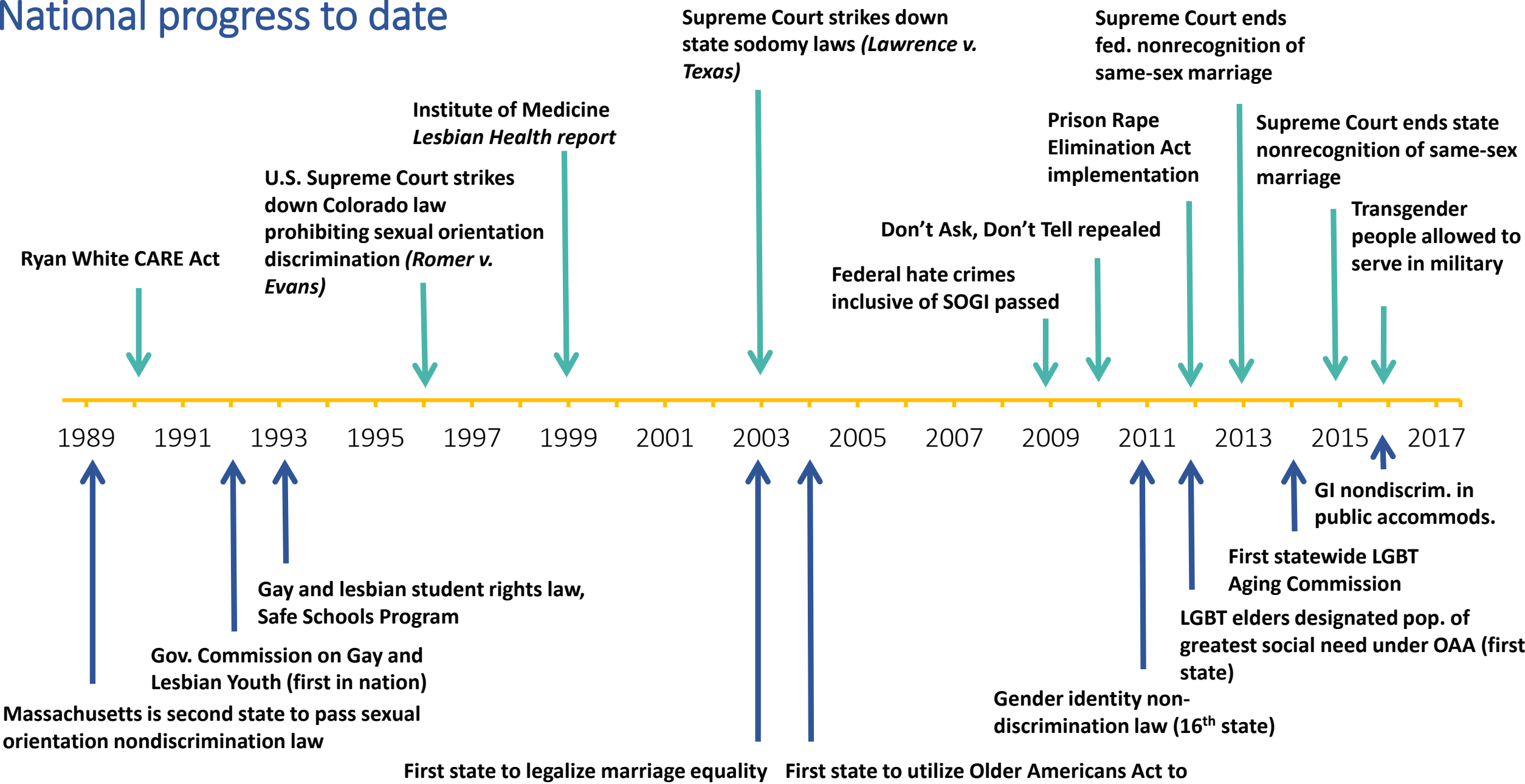
## **1983:**

AIDS Action Committee formed.

## **1989:**

Multicultural AIDS Coalition was formed.

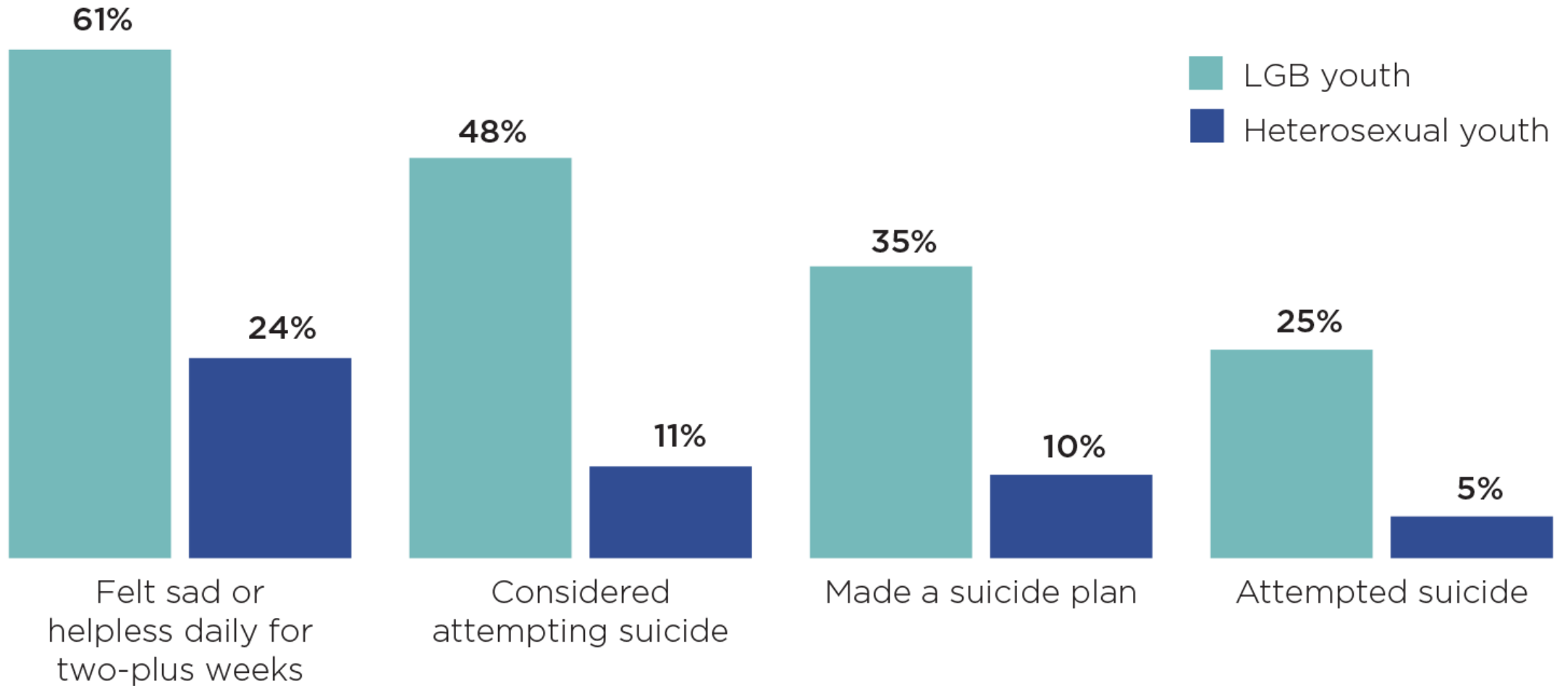
# National progress to date



# Massachusetts progress to date

## LGB youth are at increased risk of depressive symptoms.

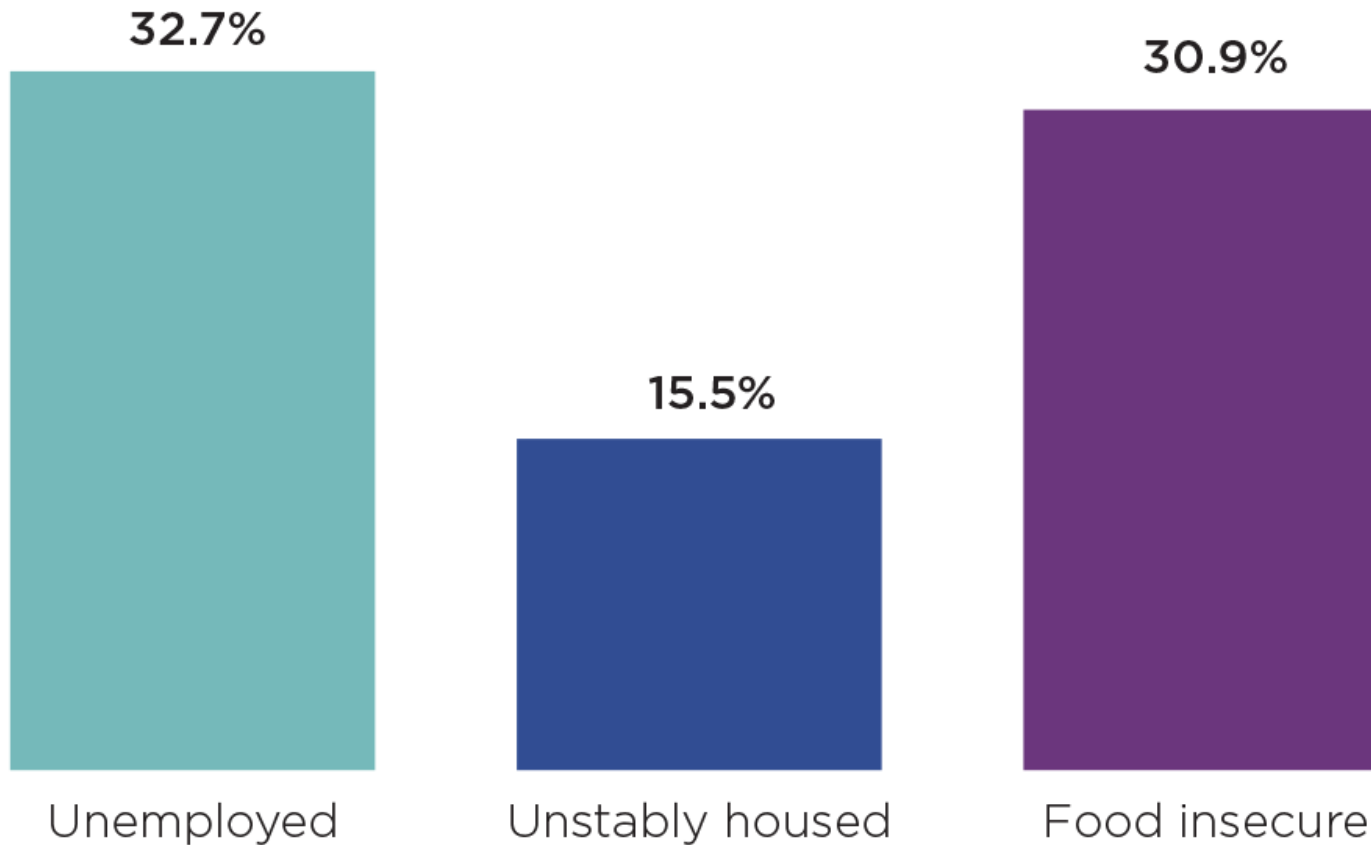
Share of population experiencing depressive symptoms. LGB and heterosexual youth. Massachusetts. 2015.



Source: Massachusetts YRBS, 2015.

# A large share of LGBTQ youth of color live with economic, housing and food insecurity.

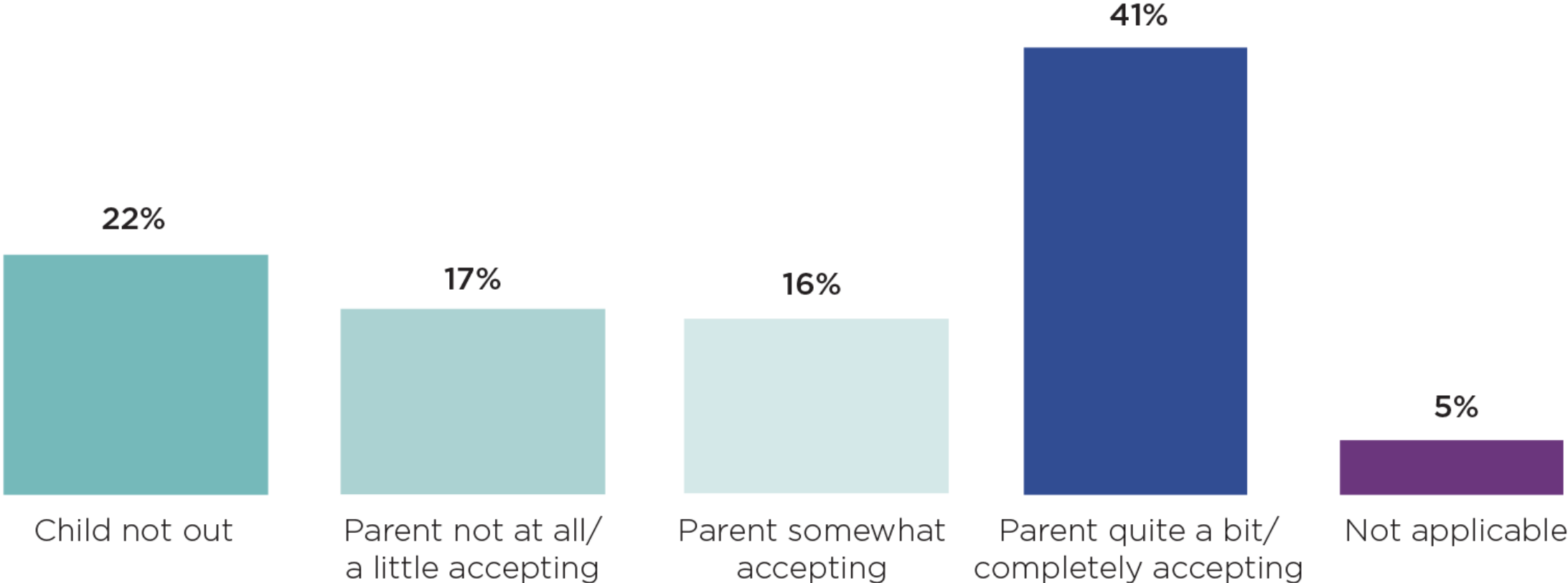
Unemployment, housing stability, and receipt of public assistance. LGBTQ youth of color.  
Greater Boston. 2014. n=294.



Source: Conron K, Wilson J, Cahill S, Flaherty J, Tamanaha M, Bradford J (2015). *Our health matters: Mental health, risk, and resilience among LGBTQ youth of color who live, work, or play in Boston*. Boston: Fenway Institute, BAGLY, Boston GLASS.

# More than half of LGBTQ youth of color struggle with maternal acceptance or are not out.

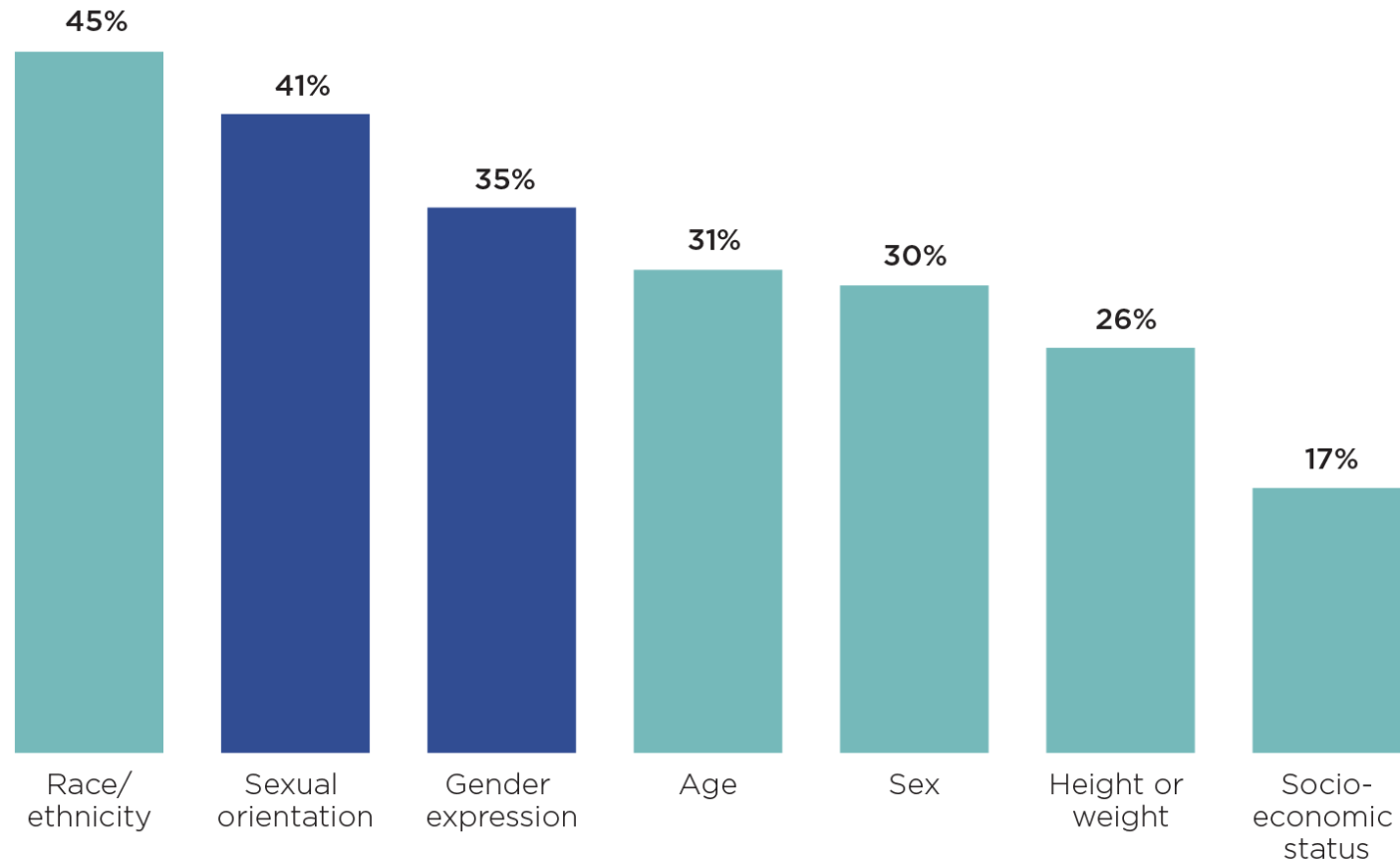
Current maternal acceptance. LGBTQ youth of color. Greater Boston. 2014. n=294.



Source: Conron K, Wilson J, Cahill S, Flaherty J, Tamanaha M, Bradford J (2015). *Our health matters: Mental health, risk, and resilience among LGBTQ youth of color who live, work, or play in Boston*. Boston: Fenway Institute, BAGLY, Boston GLASS.

# Sexual orientation and gender expression discrimination are among the most common forms of discrimination faced by LGBTQ youth of color.

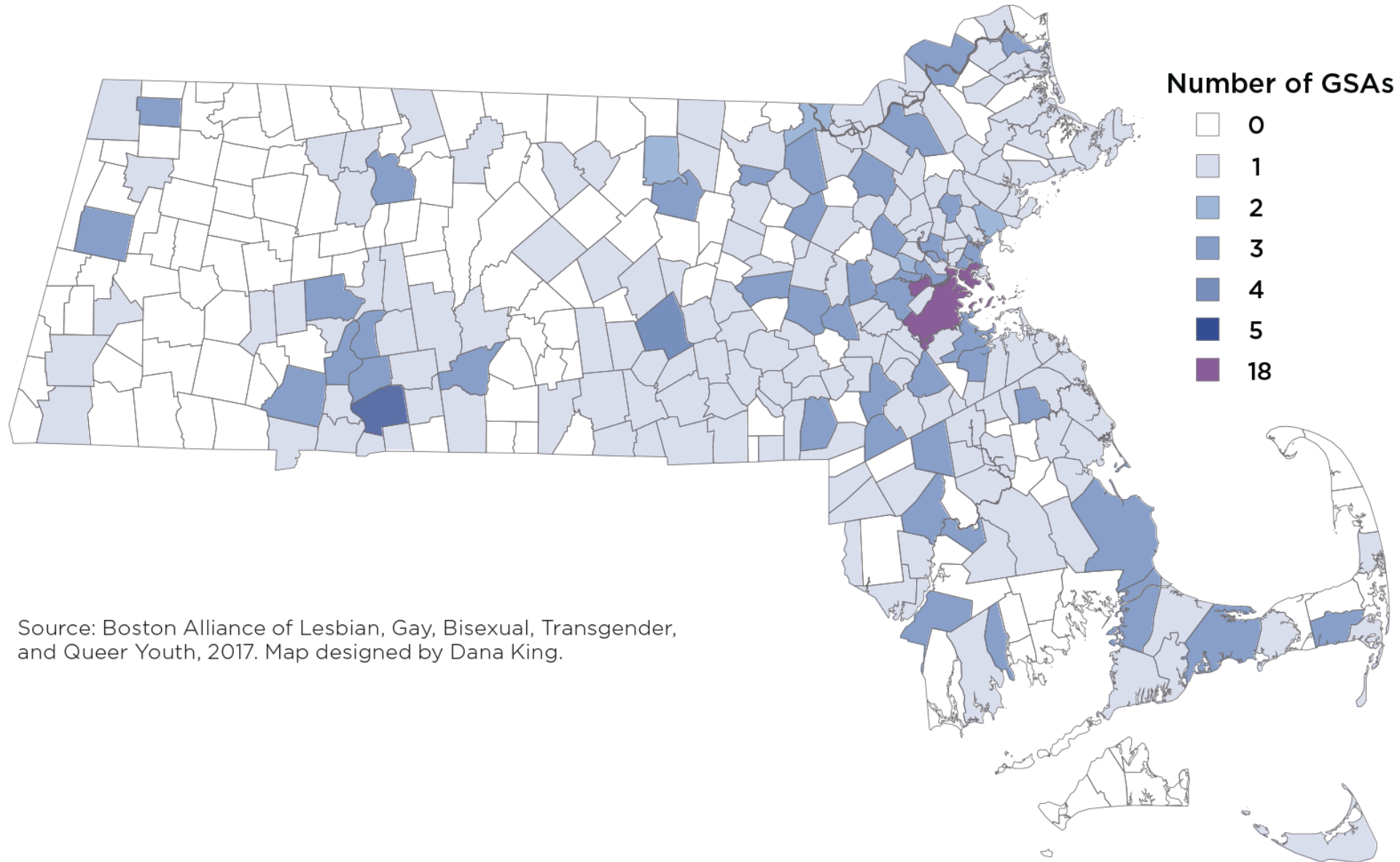
Share of LGBTQ youth of color population experiencing discrimination yearly.  
By number of types of everyday discrimination. Greater Boston. 2014.



Source: Conron et al. 2015. *Our Health Matters: Mental Health, Risk, and Resilience Among LGBTQ Youth of Color Who Live, Work, or Play in Boston*. The Fenway Institute

# Gender and Sexuality Alliances (GSAs) by city or town.

Number of GSAs per city or town, 2017



Source: Boston Alliance of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Youth, 2017. Map designed by Dana King.

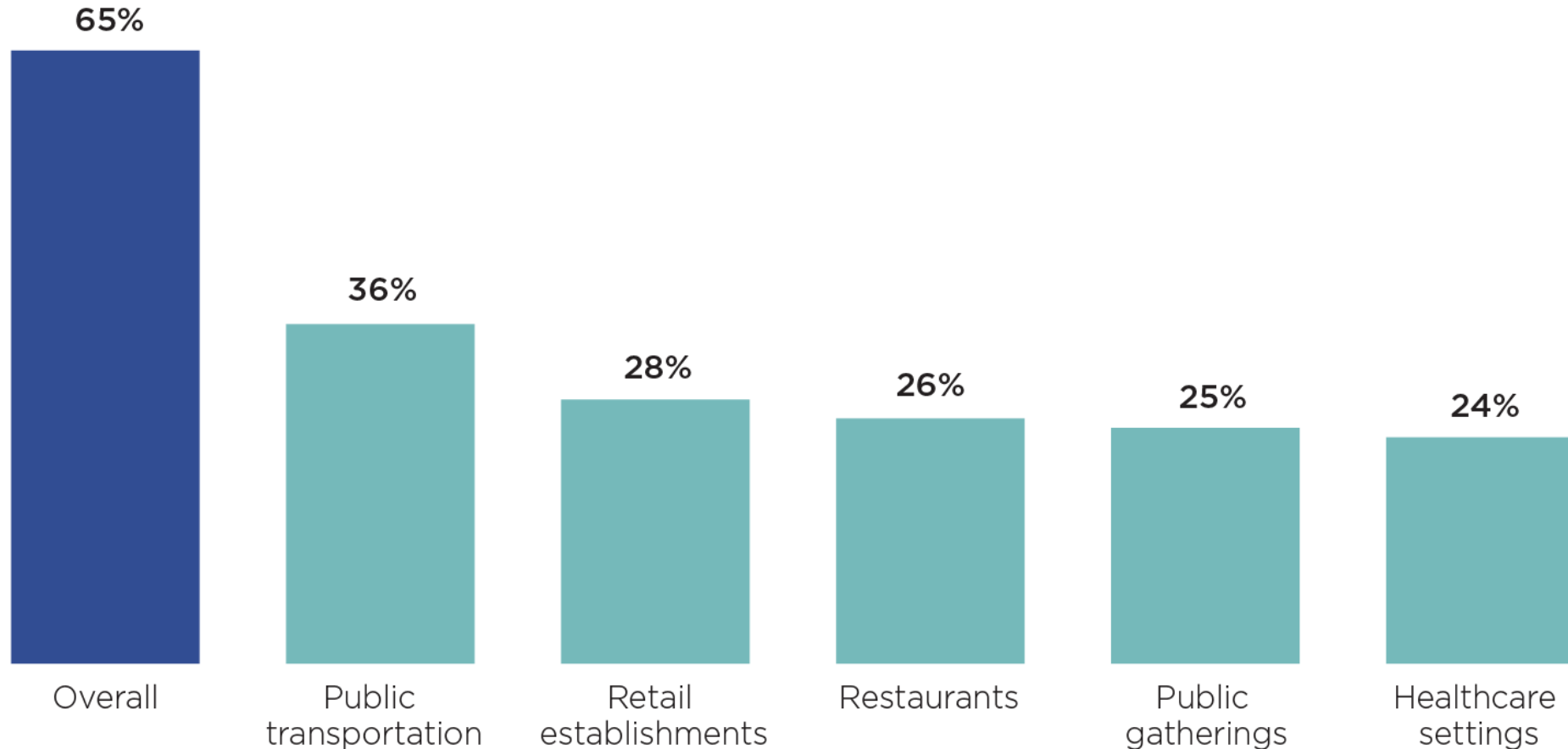
# The House and Ball Community





## The transgender community experiences pervasive discrimination.

Share of Mass. transgender population experiencing discrimination in past year. By public space. 2014



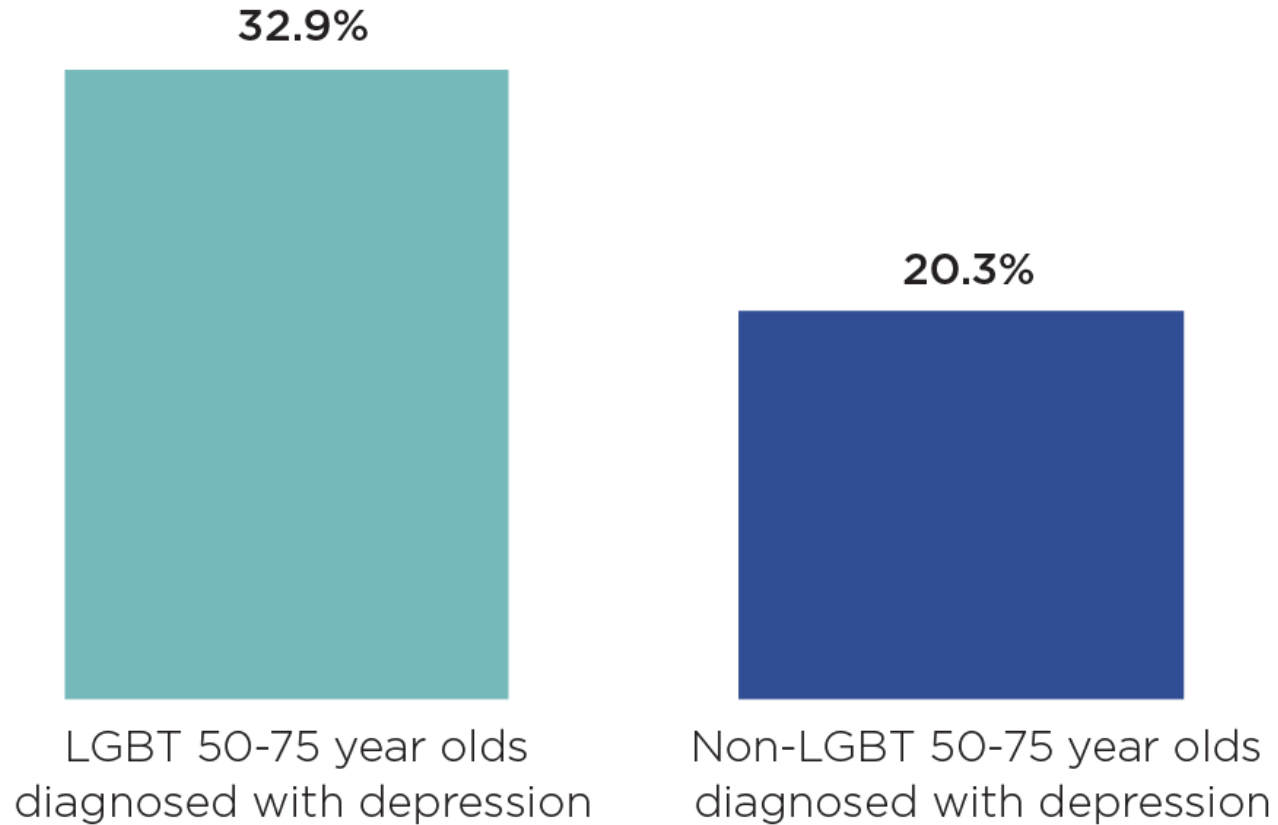
Source: Reisner SL, White JM, Dunham E, Heflin K, Begenyi J, Coffey-Esquivel J, Cahill S. (2015). Legal protections in public accommodations settings: A critical public health issue for transgender and gender non-conforming people. *Milbank Quarterly*. 93(3): 484-515.

“From education to employment, from housing to health care from physical safety to mental health, **discrimination can touch every facet of a transgender person’s life.** Many of these effects are further compounded by the economic hardship experienced by transgender people.

“In Massachusetts, a greater share of transgender people are unemployed (7 percent) than cisgender people (4.8 percent). A greater share of transgender people are also living in poverty (17 percent) than cisgender people (11.5 percent).”

# Middle aged and older LGBT people are more likely to be diagnosed with depression.

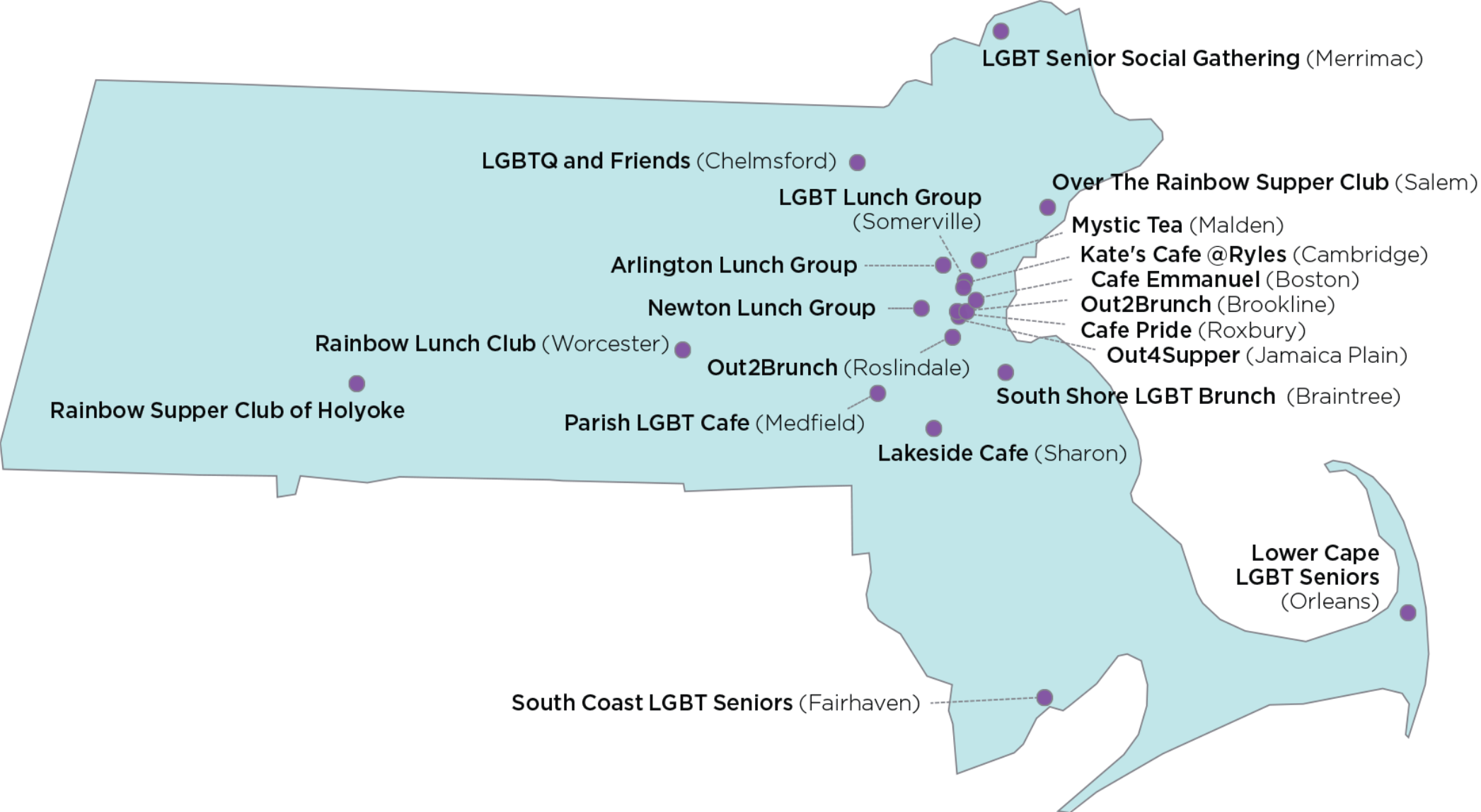
Percentage of 50- to 75-year-olds reporting a depression diagnosis, Mass. BRFSS, 2014-2016.



Source: Analysis of 2014-2016 Massachusetts BRFSS data by Maria McKenna, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, November 2017.

# Massachusetts LGBT Meal Site Location.

As of April 2018



# Older adult congregante meal programs



# Improving data collection & reporting

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- Report on and make available existing SOGI data that state, local agencies are collecting
- Add SOGI questions to existing surveys
- Oversample small populations
  - E.g. transgender people, Asian Pacific Islander LGBT people
- Pool several years of data to examine racial/ethnic differences, other differences

# Big takeaways

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- The LGBT community is **large, growing and diverse**
- Some key areas for action are supporting:
  - Programming that provides mental, emotional and social support for LGBT communities
  - Programming that responds to the housing and employment needs of LGBT people
  - Trainings that develop mainstream service providers' capacity to effectively serve LGBT people
  - Policies that protect against discrimination and create a more welcoming environment for all LGBT people
  - Organizations and leaders that advocate for and serve the LGBT community
  - Expanding data collection and reporting on the LGBT population