

# Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Questioning Participants in Treatment Court

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# DISCLOSURE

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Points of views or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

## Why this session? To help you:

1. Identify where **disparities** occur with LGBTQ individuals in court and treatment.
2. **Define** sexual orientation.
3. Explain the **difference between sexual orientation and gender identity**.
4. Identify several **treatment needs** of LGBTQ participants.
5. Recognize **specific barriers** to meeting the needs of LGBTQ participants
6. Identify **specific strategies** to overcoming the barriers to LGBTQ success.

## Let's Check-In

1) My name is \_\_\_\_\_

2) My pronouns are \_\_\_\_\_

3) For me, it's important to understand the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Questioning Participants in Treatment Court because \_\_\_\_\_

# Understanding LGBTQ Terminology

**An umbrella term used by some to include people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning)**

- a) Sexual Orientation
- b) Queer
- c) LGBTQ
- d) Rainbow alphabet



Photo by [Eye for Ebony](#) on [Unsplash](#)

# Understanding LGBTQ Terminology

**Who a person is physically, emotionally, psychologically and sexually attracted to**

- a) Sexual Orientation
- b) Sexual Identity
- c) LGBTQ
- d) Gay



Photo: Unsplash

# Understanding LGBTQ Terminology

**An umbrella term used by some to describe people who consider their sexual orientation or gender identity as outside of societal norms.**

- a) Sexual Orientation
- b) Queer
- c) LGBTQ
- d) Cisgender

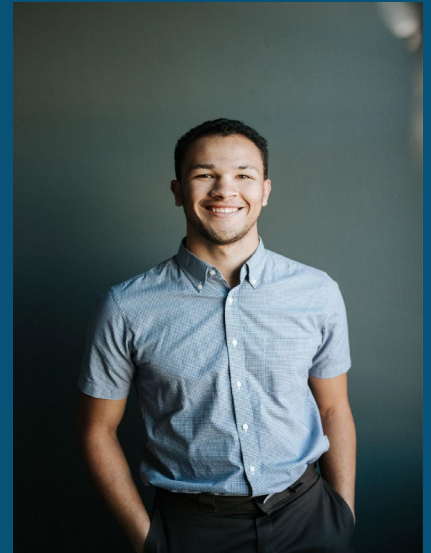


Photo by Ben Parker. Unsplash

# LGBQ+

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## Sexual Orientation & Sexual Identity

Lesbian, **G**ay, **B**isexual, **Q**ueer,  
**Q**uestioning, **P**olysexual, **P**ansexual,  
**A**sexual

## Gender Identity

Transgender  
**G**ender Non-conforming  
**N**on-binary  
**Q**ueer



Photo:  
[genderspectrum.vice.com](https://www.genderspectrum.vice.com)



<b>Say this:</b>	<b>Instead of saying this:</b>
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Sexual preference or sexual choice</b>
<b>Gay lives/Lesbian Lives</b>	<b>Gay lifestyle or homosexual lifestyle</b>
<b>Gay (adj.), Lesbian (n.)</b>	<b>Homosexual (n. or adj.)</b>
<b>Out</b>	<b>Admitted homosexual or avowed homosexual; openly gay</b>
<b>Relationship or Couple</b>	<b>Homosexual relations/relationship, homosexual couple</b>
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Gay sex, lesbian sex, homosexual sex</b>
<b>Transgender Person/People</b>	<b>Transgender, transgenders, or transgendered</b>
<b>Intersex person</b>	<b>Hermaphrodite</b>
<b>LGBT Rights or Inclusion</b>	<b>Gay agenda, homosexual agenda</b>
<b>Equal rights or equal protections</b>	<b>Special rights</b>

Source: Perry, J.R. (2016). DOHMH LGBTQ Training Curriculum: Providing Affirming Services for LGBTQ New Yorkers (Training Curriculum). New York City, NY: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. © 2016 New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. We encourage, and grant permission to, reproduction and distribution of this publication in whole or in part, provided that it is done so with attribution. Further written permission is not required.

**“I don’t care who  
you sleep with.  
What people do in  
their  
bedrooms is none  
of my business!”**

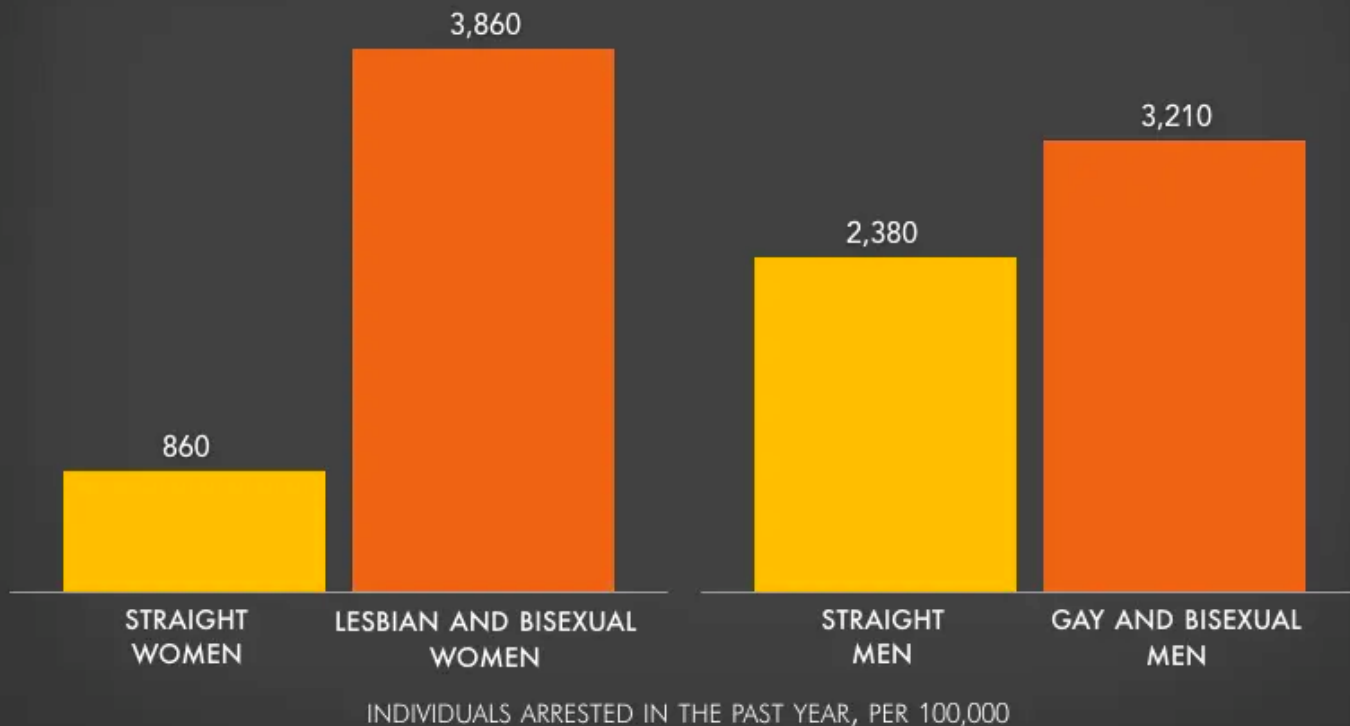
**=**

**“I don’t see color. I  
treat everyone the  
same.”**

# LGBQ People and the Criminal Justice System

# Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people are much more likely to be arrested than straight people

Number of straight versus lesbian or bisexual women, and straight versus gay or bisexual men, who report being arrested in the past year, per 100,000 people in each category



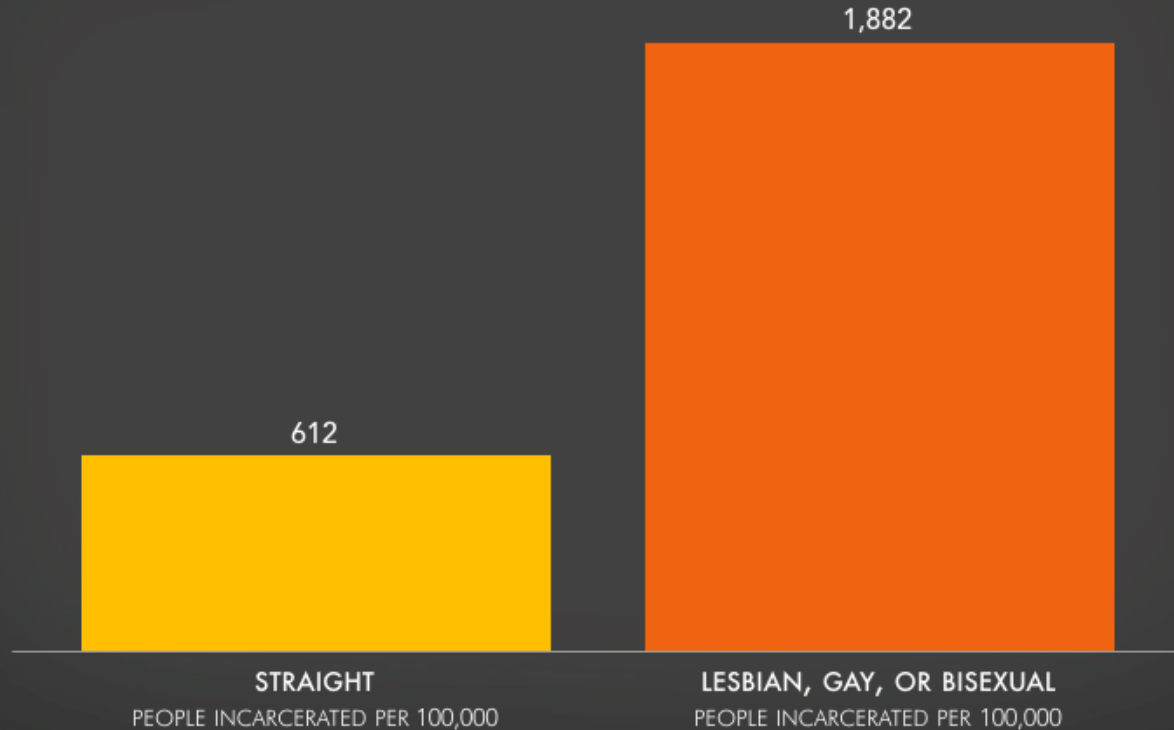
## Poll

**Lesbian, gay and bisexual people are incarcerated at \_\_\_\_ times the rate of straight or hetero people**

- a) 2x
- b) 3x
- c) 5x
- d) 10x

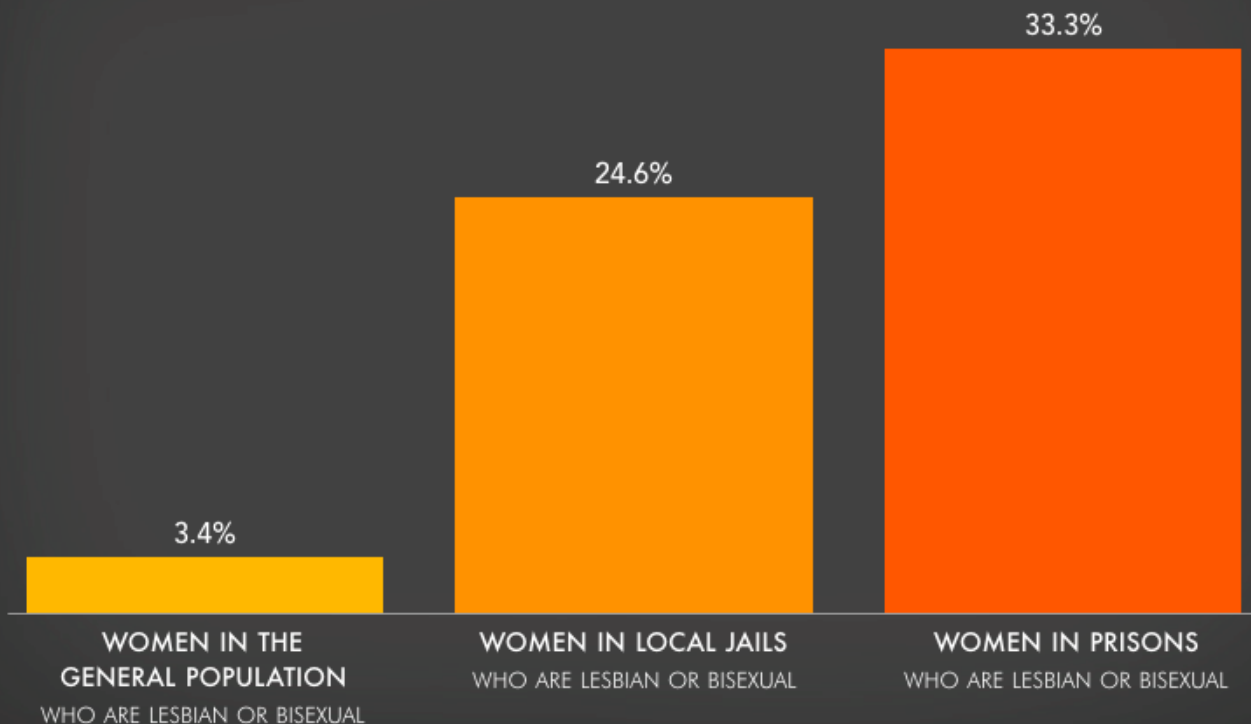
# Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people are incarcerated at three times the rate of straight people

Number of straight people, per 100,000, who are incarcerated, compared to the number of lesbian, gay, or bisexual people, per 100,000, who are incarcerated



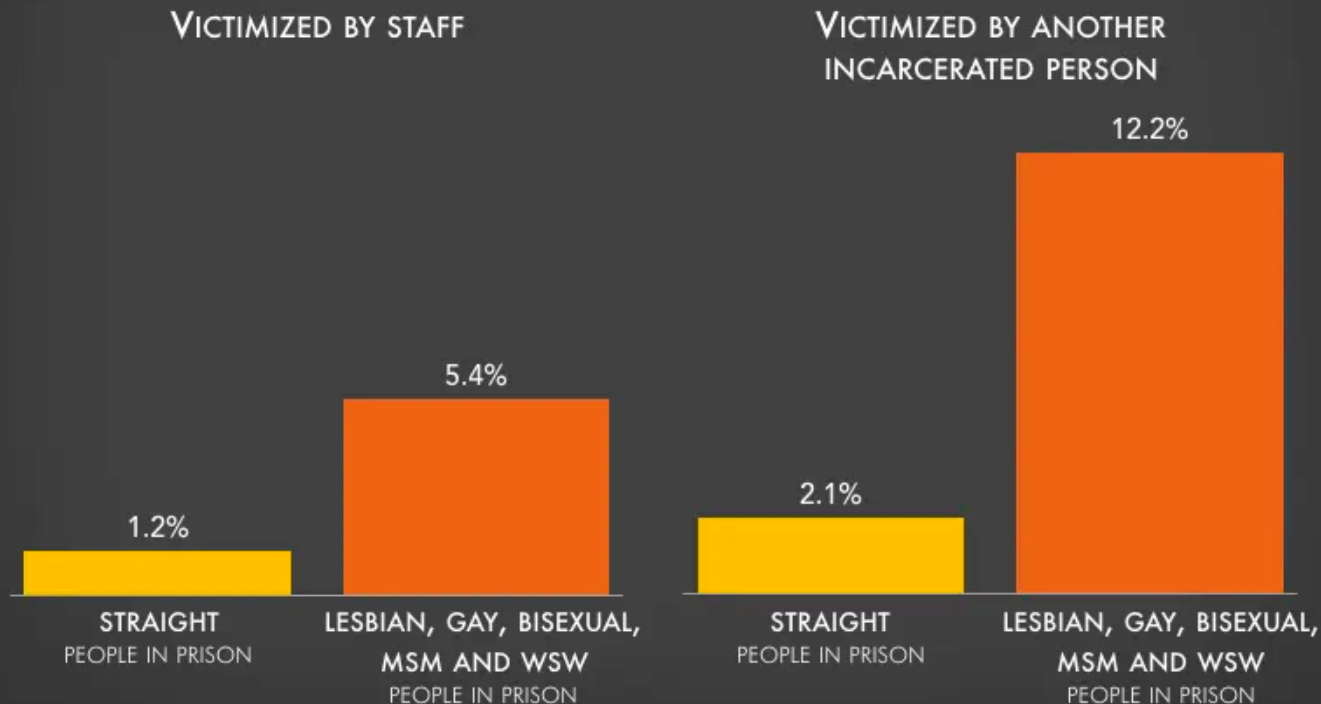
# Lesbian and bisexual women are overrepresented in prisons and local jails

Percentage of women who identify as lesbian or bisexual in the general population compared to women in local jails and state or federal prisons



# In prison, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and other non-straight people are sexually victimized at much higher rates than straight people

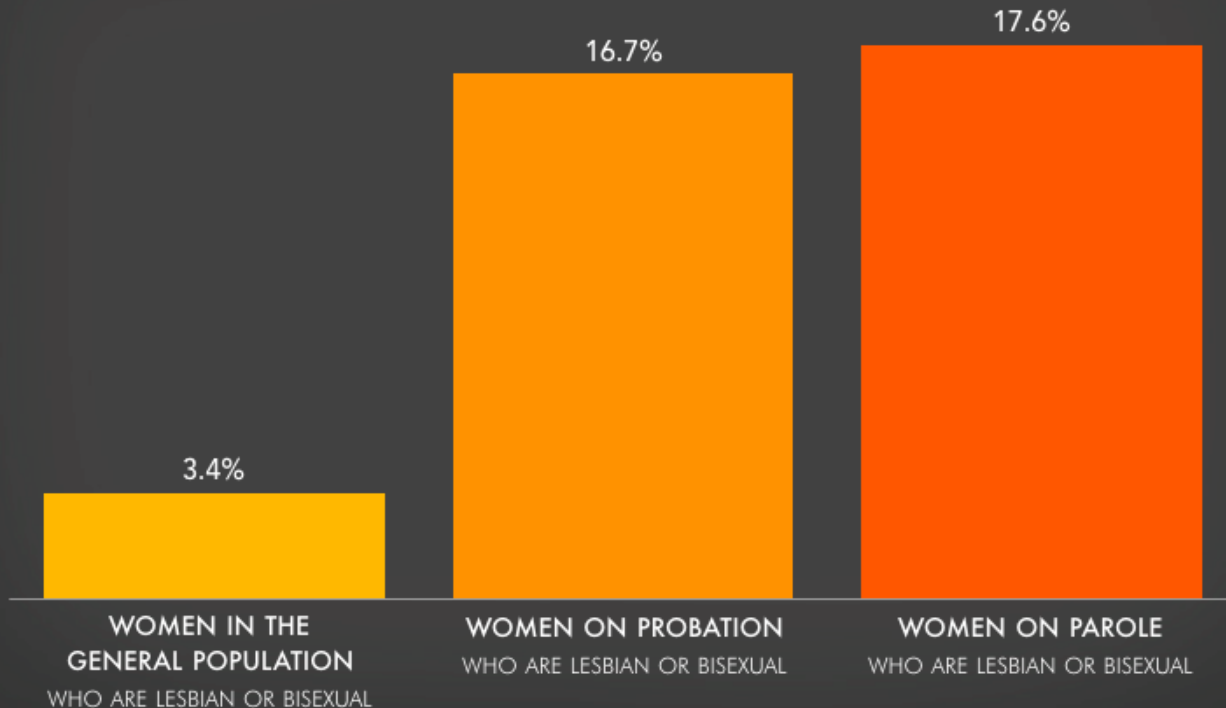
Percentage of straight people sexually victimized in state and federal prisons compared to incarcerated people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, men who have sex with men (MSM) or women who have sex with women (WSW)





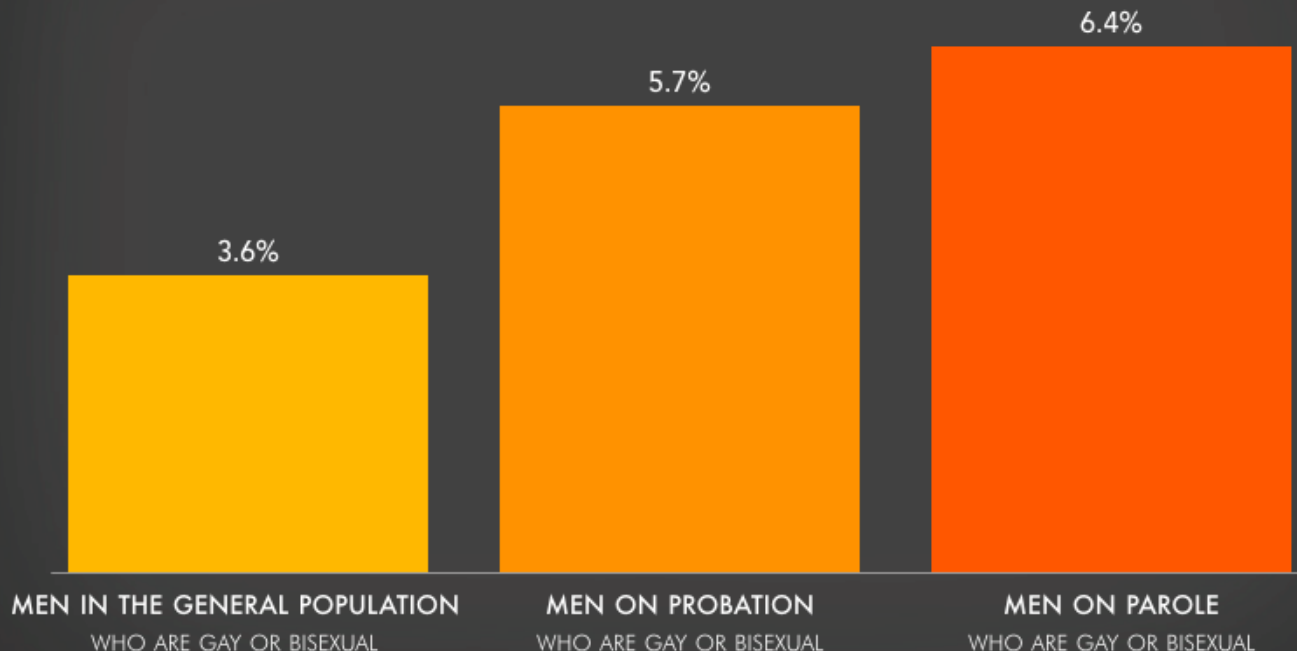
# Lesbian and bisexual women are overrepresented on probation and parole

Percentage of women who identify as lesbian or bisexual in the general population compared to women who report being on probation or parole in the past year



# Gay and bisexual men are overrepresented on probation and parole

Percentage of men who identify as gay or bisexual in the general population compared to men who report being on probation or parole in the past year



# LGBQ People and Substance Use

***“You want to walk into a place and just be loved”***



**Video: Holler If You Hear Me: Black and Gay in the Church - Part 4**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sFfvIS5nU34>

The LGBTQ community experience higher rates of substance use due to:

- Discrimination or stigmatization
  - Hate crimes, threats
  - Emotional abuse
  - Public humiliation, ridicule
  - Isolation, loneliness
- 
- **Intersectionality (racial & sexual identities compounds oppression)**
  - **Rejection or shame from family, friends, religious institutions**

Source: <https://www.addictioncenter.com/addiction/lgbtq/>

Source: Green KE, Feinstein BA. Substance use in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: an update on empirical research and implications for treatment. Psychol Addict Behav. 2012 Jun;26(2):265-78.

# Common Co-Occurring Disorders LGBTQ Participants are managing:

- Minority Stress
- Clinical depression
- Generalized anxiety disorder
- Suicidal attempts
- Self-harming tendencies

Source: <https://www.addictioncenter.com/addiction/lgbtq>

Source: Meyer IH. Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: conceptual issues and research evidence. Psychol Bull. 2003;129(5):674-697.

***“You want to walk into a place and just be loved”***

**How does your treatment court show LGBTQ people love?**



Photo by [Robin Ooode](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Photo by [No Revisions](#) on [Unsplash](#)



# Meeting the needs of LGBTQ participants in Treatment Courts

- Share your **pronouns**, invite participants to share theirs
- Use their pronouns (**practice saying they/theirs *before*** participants shares their pronouns)
  
- Use **gender neutral language**
  
- **Do a program audit**
  - ◆ at every interaction point, how can this be safe for LGBTQ participants?

# Meeting the needs of LGBQ participants in Treatment Courts

- Focus on the **strengths** and **unique needs** of LGBQ people
- Connect with LBGQ supports in the community
- Make it safe for LGBQ people to be out
  - ◆ -collect info during intake, use storytelling, have images, make flags visible
- Ask LGBQ folks what do they need



Law Offices of Los Angeles County  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER**

## LGBTQ-Plus Court Launched



*Bill Tarkanian, program developer of LA Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (L.A. CADA) treatment provider, at his office in Santa Fe Springs.*



Thank you!

Image source: [Pride Flags](#)

May the LGBTQ+ participants in your treatment  
court  
feel seen and supported