



COUNCIL ON LGBTQIA2S+  
MINNESOTANS

# Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans

MNQT



# About MNQT

The Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 2023 under Minn. Stat. § 15.0147 to work for the implementation of economic, social, legal, and political equality for Minnesota's community of people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender expansive, queer, intersex, asexual, and/or two-spirit.



# MNQT Staff and Council

## MNQT Staff:

- 2 permanent FTE (Executive Director and Senior Operations Specialist)
- 3 temporary FTE through FY25 (Community Engagement, Research and Policy, Communication and Outreach)



**Emma McBride**  
(She/Her)  
Executive Director



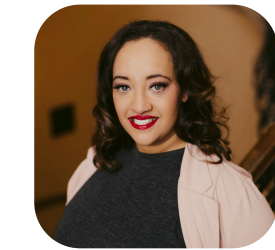
**Angelica Gentile**  
(She/Her)  
Senior Operations Specialist



**Mars Kamenski**  
(He/They)  
Community Engagement Specialist



**Kelsey Waits**  
(She/They)  
Research and Policy Specialist



**Brittany Wallman**  
(She/Her)  
Communication and Outreach Specialist

## The Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans

- Up to 12 Governor-appointed public voting members
- Up to 4 appointed legislators



**Phil Duran**  
(He/Him)  
Chair



**KB Brietzke**  
(They/Them)  
Vice Chair



**Dr. Jess Garcia**  
(She/Her)  
Treasurer



**Bibi Black**  
(She/Her)  
Secretary



**Rep. Brion Curran**  
(They/She)



**Rep. Leigh Finke**  
(She/Her)



**Sen. Lindsey Port**  
(She/Her)



**Theo Casio**  
(They/He)



**Ogichidaakwe [Selena Garza]**  
(They/She)



**Mounkoka Francesca Goma**  
(She/Her)



**Max Hall**  
(He/Him)



**Dr. Jonathan Poquiz**  
(He/Him)



**Kat Rohn**  
(They/She)



**Randy J. Stillday**  
(He/Him)

# Core Functions and Statutory Purpose

MNQT's work is guided by its statutory purpose of ensuring that LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans are represented in state government and officials have expert advice on LGBTQIA2S+ issues. Core functions include:



**Advocacy:** Advising policymakers on legislative and administrative actions that impact LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, with a focus on equity and inclusion.



**Research:** Conducting studies and needs assessments to understand the experiences of LGBTQIA2S+ communities and provide data-driven insights.



**Engagement:** Serving as a liaison between the state and LGBTQIA2S+ communities to amplify voices, build partnerships, and foster dialogue.



**Public Awareness:** Promoting understanding of LGBTQIA2S+ issues through education, outreach, and strategic communication.



# LGBTQIA2S+ Landscape and Demographics

## LGBTQIA2S+ individuals represent a diverse and growing population in Minnesota

- Household Pulse Survey, conducted by U.S. Census Bureau (March 2024)
  - More than 460,000 LGBTQ+ Minnesota adults or about 11% of adults in the state.
  - Minnesotan LGBTQ+ adults were about twice as likely as their non-LGBTQ+ counterparts to report experiencing depression or anxiety symptoms.
- Minnesota Student Survey (2022)
  - 24% identified their sexual orientation as something other than “straight”
  - 13% identified as something other than cisgender (such as nonbinary, transgender, genderfluid, etc.).
  - 31% percent of LGBTQ+ students report being bullied weekly, compared to 17% of non-LGBTQ+ students.
  - 44% of LGBTQ+ students report feeling down, depressed, or hopeless more than half of days, compared to 15% of non-LGBTQ+ students.

# 2024 Recap

In 2024, MNQT focused on laying the groundwork for a sustainable and impactful organization.

- **Infrastructure Development:** Drafting and adopting bylaws, establishing an Executive Committee, and defining governance structures to ensure accountability and transparency.
- **Strategic Planning:** One-to-one council member interviews, full-day retreat, and focus groups.
- **Staffing:** Recruiting critical personnel to support MNQT's administrative and strategic functions and temporary specialists to advance MNQT's community engagement, communication, and research objectives.
- **Community Engagement:** Conducting the Pride Survey to identify pressing issues, engaging stakeholders to refine the Council's priorities, and partnering with MNclusive for Trans Day of Remembrance
- **State Agency Conversations:** Working with Management Analysis and Development (MAD), MNQT began conversations with state agencies to increase collaboration and identify any gaps or challenges.
- **Collaboration:** Joined working groups on key legislative, administrative, and policy initiatives.

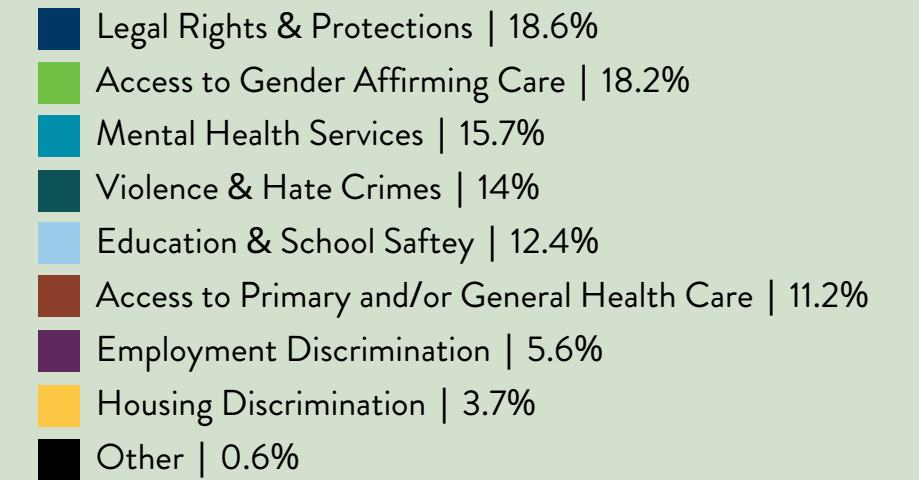
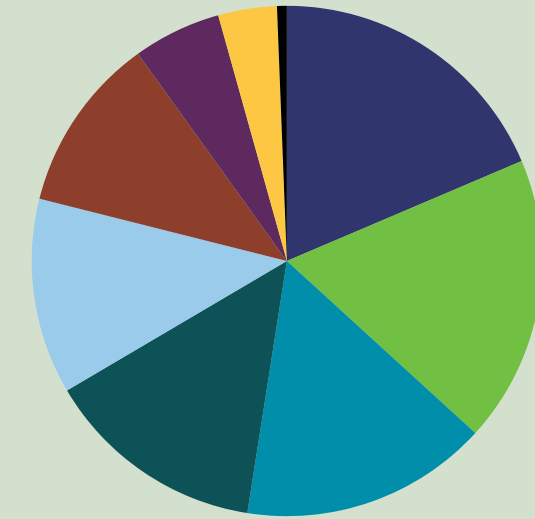


# LGBTQIA2S+ Landscape and Demographics: Pride Survey

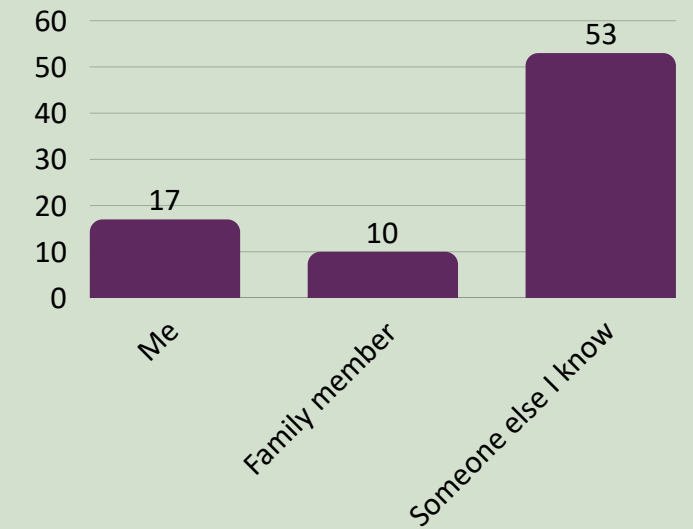
The Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans partnered with MNclusive Employee Resource Group to design and distribute a survey during Twin Cities Pride on June 29-30, 2024

- Participants were asked three multiple choice questions and one opened ended question.
- Responses were collected from 167 participants.
- The top assumptions and takeaways include:
  - Respondents noted legal rights & protections, access to gender-affirming care, and mental health services as the top three most pressing issues.
  - 44.9% of survey respondents have been impacted by Minnesota's Trans Refuge policy, either by self, family, or other connection.
  - 67.1% of respondents have experienced discrimination or harassment in the last year. Public spaces, workplace, and online were the most common settings for maltreatment.

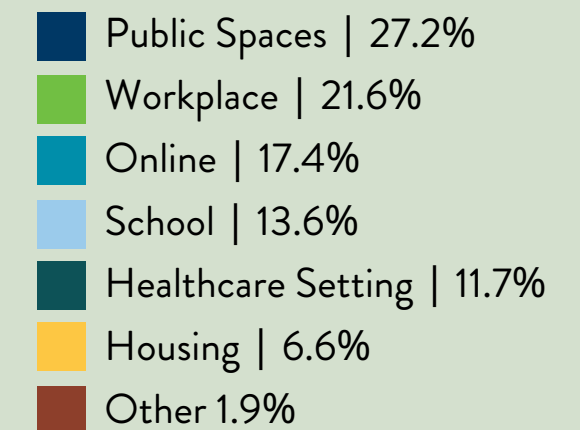
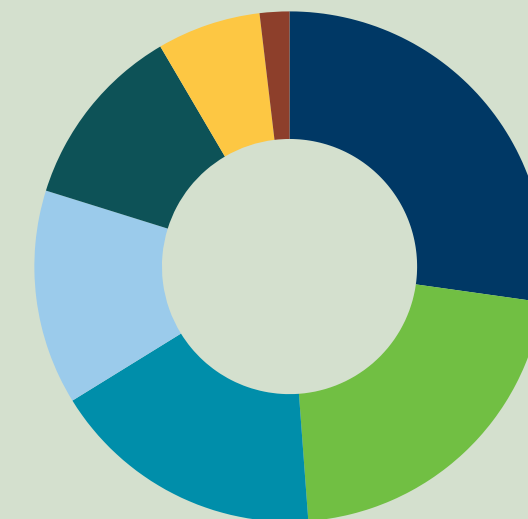
## 1. What are the most pressing issues facing the LGBTQIA2S+ community today?



## 2. Have you or someone you know moved to Minnesota in the last two years to seek safety as an LGBTQIA2S+ person?



## 3. If you've Experienced discrimination or harassment in the past year, where did it occur?



# Strategic Planning

Strategic planning has been the cornerstone of the Council's work to align its efforts with the pressing needs of LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans.

## Emerging Strategic Priorities

- **Conduct Research**
  - Position the Council as a key resource for policymakers through data-driven insights.
  - Undertake research to analyze the impacts of legislation on LGBTQIA2S+ communities and identify opportunities for improvement.
  - Partner with academic and research organizations to enhance the credibility and scope of studies.
- **Engage Community**
  - Serve as a bridge between the community and legislators by gathering and utilizing community perspectives.
  - Focus on underserved groups, including but not limited to transgender, rural, and BIPOC LGBTQIA2S+ populations.
  - Create feedback loops to report back to the community on the impact of their input.
- **Advance Community Interest**
  - Actively advocate for policies that address LGBTQIA2S+ priorities within state government.
  - Collaborate with advocacy groups to amplify diverse voices and avoid duplicating efforts.
  - Use the Council's platform to support legislative initiatives that align with community needs.





# Strategic Planning

**Emerging Issue Priorities:** The Council identified the following issue areas as critical for advancing LGBTQIA2S+ equity

- **Support for Transgender Youth**
  - Advocate for increased protections and access to education, healthcare, and mental health services, with a focus on gender-affirming care.
- **Equity for LGBTQIA2S+ People in Rural Areas**
  - Improve access to services and community support networks for rural populations through targeted legislation and funding.
- **Addressing Racial Disparities within the LGBTQIA2S+ Community**
  - Center the experiences of BIPOC LGBTQIA2S+ individuals by addressing systemic barriers in healthcare, housing, and employment.
- **Support for Aging LGBTQIA2S+ Communities**
  - Enhance access to inclusive senior services, affordable housing, and targeted healthcare for elderly LGBTQIA2S+ individuals.
- **Economic Development**
  - Promote equitable access to economic opportunities through workforce development and support for LGBTQIA2S+ small businesses.
- **State Funding for Community**
  - Advocate for increased funding to expand critical services like mental health support, crisis intervention, and legal assistance.
- **Access to Mental and Physical Healthcare**
  - Expand access to affordable, culturally competent care tailored to LGBTQIA2S+ needs, particularly in mental health.

# 2025 Initiatives

Leveraging rolled-over funds that expire June 30, 2025, the Council is implementing research and community engagement initiatives that will advance the Council's three Emerging Strategic Priorities:

**Conduct  
Research**

**Engage  
Community**

**Advance  
LGBTQIA2S+  
Interests**

1. **Statewide Survey:** Collect insights on experiences, priorities, and challenges of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals in Minnesota. Survey will be accessible online and promoted through partners, media, and events.
2. **Community Conversations:** Host focused discussions with underrepresented groups such as transgender and gender expansive individuals, BIPOC communities, people with disabilities, and those in Greater Minnesota.
3. **Organizational Scan:** Assess strengths, gaps, and challenges among organizations serving LGBTQIA2S+ communities.
4. **State Agency Conversations:** Connect with state agency staff to better understand how Minnesota is serving the LGBTQIA2S+ community and make actionable recommendations for improvement and collaboration.
5. **Research Agenda and Partnerships:** Develop a 3-5 year research agenda and build partnerships with academic and research institutions.



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# Thank You!

Connect with us: [mn.gov/lgbtqia2s/](https://mn.gov/lgbtqia2s/)



