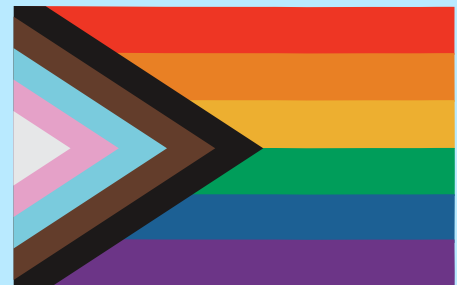


Studies show that LGBTQIA2S+ youth are overrepresented in the child welfare system and often face higher rates of placement instability, homelessness, mental health challenges, and discrimination.

NFYI believes that every young person in foster care deserves a placement where they are supported, respected, and free to be themselves.



Key Statistics

LGBTQIA2S+ youth are disproportionately represented in child welfare.

- National studies show 30–34% of youth in foster care identify as LGBTQIA2S+, compared to about 11% of youth nationally.
- One study found that 78 percent of LGBTQ+ youth were removed or ran away from foster placements because of the caregiver's hostility toward their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Placement instability is significantly higher for LGBTQIA2S+ youth.

- LGBTQIA2S+ foster youth experience higher rates of placement disruption, including moves caused by rejection, discrimination, or lack of affirming caregivers.
- They are more likely to experience congregate care placements because of difficulty finding affirming foster homes.

More risks for an extremely vulnerable population.

- LGBTQIA2S+ youth aging out of foster care face disproportionate rates of homelessness, with some studies showing rates as high as 40% among those experiencing homelessness.
- LGBTQIA2S+ foster youth are significantly more likely to experience depression, substance use, and to attempt suicide than their peers.

Affirming placements improve outcomes.

- Research shows that LGBTQIA2S+ youth placed with affirming caregivers have better mental health outcomes, greater housing stability, and stronger long-term educational and career trajectories.
- Training caregivers to provide affirming care can significantly reduce risks of depression, suicidality, and runaway episodes.