

Executive Summary

The Open Door Fund Advisory Committee, part of the Community Foundation serving Boulder County, conducted an online survey in the spring of 2010. LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) people who live or work in Boulder County were surveyed. The survey helps the Open Door Fund Advisory Committee, which will distribute \$35,000 this year for LGBT programs, know more about the local LGBT community and its needs.

The Boulder County LGBT community as represented by the roughly 300-person sampling is highly educated (73.9% have at least a bachelor's degree) and mostly white (87.7%). 57% of survey respondents live in Boulder and 43% live outside of the Boulder city limits. The median age of the sample is 42, and the age of respondents is well distributed from 14 to 80. 49.5% are male, 45.0% female, 2.9% transgender, and 3.6% other. 44.5% of respondents identify as gay men, 31.5% as lesbians, 14.9% as bisexual, 5.5% as other, and 3.6% as pansexual or omnisexual. Nearly just as many respondents report being single as do being in a committed monogamous relationship, and 73.1% report being "out" in their identity most everywhere.

Many needs are identified in the survey, but the most common are: social opportunities, networking, and connectedness with other LGBT people; greater awareness and visibility of LGBT organizations; counseling and therapy; health; and youth and elder services. The Open Door Fund will focus on funding these needs.

These needs are expressed by lesbians, gay men, bisexual people, and transgender people alike. It's also worth noting a number of differences in the experiences of transgender and bisexual persons. For example, a much larger percentage of transgender respondents (56.3%) report experiencing discrimination or harassment in the past year because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression than do male respondents (23.0%) or female respondents (16.8%). There is also a stark difference between the percentage of bisexual and pansexual/omnisexual respondents (36.4%) who are "out" most everywhere and the percentage of mostly out gay and lesbian respondents (82.1%). Additional differences exist based on other demographic factors such as age, race/ethnicity, and relationship status.

Although the survey does not purport to be statistically representative of the entire Boulder County LGBT population (all survey respondents had internet access, could read and write in English, and had some connection to the local LGBT community), it provides helpful data to understand what it's like for many people to be L, G, B, or T in Boulder County.