

Intersections

Diving into the FRA LGBTI II Survey Data

Youth briefing

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**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Intersectional analysis from findings of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) 2nd LGBTI survey on LGBTI people in the EU and North Macedonia and Serbia (2019)

Introduction

A significant number of EU citizens continue to experience discrimination, inequalities and violence based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics (SOGIESC). These problems undermine fundamental EU values and show how some Member States have failed to effectively protect the rights of all citizens.

In 2019, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) conducted the second round of the LGBTI Survey which shows how LGBTI people experience their human and fundamental rights in daily life across Europe.¹ For the first time, the survey included the experiences of LGBTI people under 18, and determined that young people (aged 15-24) experience some of the highest levels of discrimination across all age groups included in this research.

This briefing, and other briefings in the *Intersections*² series, seeks to elaborate on existing analysis of the FRA LGBTI Survey II, and summarises the most relevant data about the experiences of LGBTI youth in Europe. To understand the challenges faced by young people, we created sub-populations of respondents aged 15-24, 15-17 and 18-24, and compared them with all respondents to the survey.

The methodology and background information on the survey are available in Annex 1.

Recommendations

Based on this analysis, ILGA-Europe and IGLYO recommend that States and institutions:

- Collect data about LGBTI youth and their experiences and to do targeted analyses on these groups;
- Prohibit discrimination against LGBTI people, including children and young people, in all areas of life – including in education, healthcare, housing, and social protection. Closely monitoring cases of violence and discrimination against youth and children specifically will allow for implementation of policies and accompanying measures that ensure all non-discrimination legislation will also improve the lives of young people and children;
- Implement comprehensive responses to SOGIESC-based violence and discrimination in schools based on international standards to address and prevent this type of violence.³

Results and discussion

Respondents to the FRA LGBTI II Survey were asked questions about their identities and demographic information, socioeconomic status, parenthood, experiences with discrimination, violence, and harassment, and life satisfaction. In this briefing, we highlight key findings from the cross tabulation regarding the lived experiences of LGBTI youth.

The full disaggregated data analysis is available in table form at this link:

<https://www.ilga-europe.org/files/uploads/2022/08/FRA-LGBTI-Survey-II-data-disaggregation-tables.pdf>

Demographic information

¹ FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) (2020), A long way to go for LGBTI equality, Luxembourg, Publications Office. Available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/eu-lgbti-survey-results>

² Available from: <https://www.ilga-europe.org/report/fra-lgbti-report-2019-intersections/>

³ For a comprehensive overview of internationally-recognised principles to combat SOGIESC-based school bullying and harassment, read UNESCO's summary at

<https://en.unesco.org/themes/school-violence-and-bullying/homophobic-transphobic-violence>

The total number of respondents of the FRA LGBTI II Survey was 139,799. From those responses, 13.36% were from people aged 15-17 and 35.59% from people aged 18-24.

The survey asked respondents if they were a trans person, and stated that “the term trans is used in this survey as a broad umbrella term that includes all those who are transgender, non-binary, gender variant, polygender, agender, gender-fluid, cross dressers, transsexual, or men and women with a transsexual past, and other terms”. Most youth (81.90%) identified with the gender they were assigned at birth (cis), while a 18.10% identified with a different gender (trans men, trans women, non-binary, genderqueer, gender-fluid, agender, polygender, or other). However, compared to other age groups, there are more young people identifying as trans (14.51% of all respondents indicated that they are trans). There were also more youth respondents that were women or girls or non-binary compared to all respondents of the survey (Table 1).

Table 1. Answers to the question “How would you describe yourself today?”, by age group⁴

	All respondents	Youth, age 15-24	Youth, age 15-17	Youth, age 18-24
Woman/girl	37.81%	45.24%	55.25%	41.52%
Man/boy	51.36%	43.02%	30.44%	47.70%
Trans woman/girl	1.84%	1.12%	1.07%	1.14%
Trans man/boy	1.90%	2.80%	4.41%	2.21%
Non-binary, etc.	6.22%	7.20%	8.07%	6.88%
Do not identify as any of these	0.86%	0.61%	0.76%	0.56%

When asked about their sexual orientation, respondents could describe it as “gay”, “lesbian”, “bisexual”, “heterosexual/straight”, “other”, or “unknown”. While overall responses from all age groups shows that 38.9% of respondents were bisexual, this number is much higher for young people aged 15-17 (59.7%) and 18-24 (50.39%) (Table 2).

Table 2. Answers to the question “In terms of sexual orientation, we can only use a limited number of categories for our analysis. So we would like to ask you which group best matches your sexual orientation. Select the answer that best matches your sexual orientation.”, by age group

	All respondents	Youth, age 15-24	Youth, age 15-17	Youth, age 18-24
Don’t know	0.06%	0.09%	0.14%	0.07%
Lesbian	19.86%	16.40%	17.29%	16.07%
Gay	36.96%	26.12%	17.23%	29.42%
Bisexual	38.90%	52.92%	59.71%	50.39%
Heterosexual/straight	1.59%	1.02%	1.06%	1.01%
Other	2.63%	3.45%	4.57%	3.04%

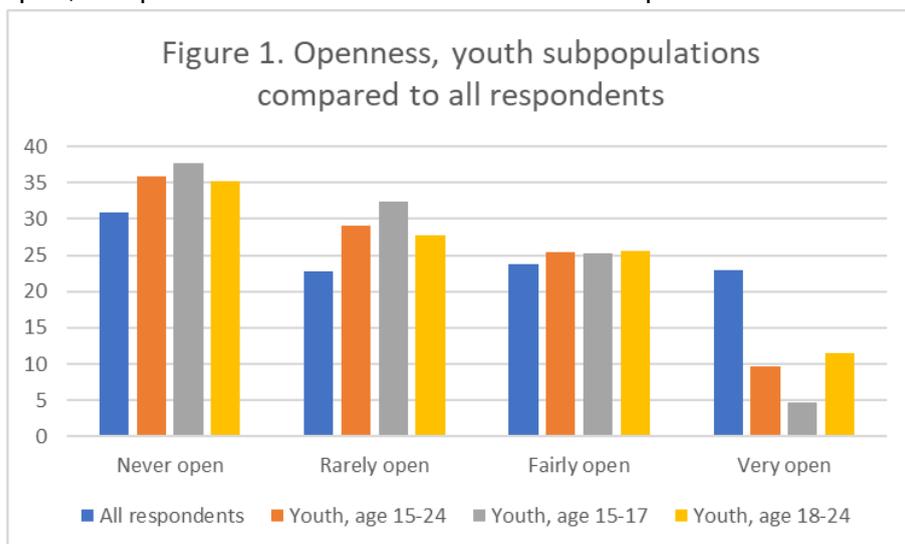
⁴ Note that not all trans women and girls or men and boys selected “trans woman or girl” or “trans man or boy” for their identities; the majority selected “woman or girl” or “man or boy”, respectively, from the options available on this question.

Respondents were also asked if they were intersex; 3.25% of youth aged 15-24 indicated that they are, compared to 2.45% of all LGBTI respondents to the survey - a somewhat higher percentage.

Out of all young respondents, 8.48% said they considered themselves as being part of an ethnic minority (including of a migrant background), compared to 7.71% of all LGBTI respondents. Likewise, 5.03% said they considered themselves as a “minority in terms of disability”, compared to 5.18% of all LGBTI respondents. In this briefing, we have used these variables to show differences in some results.

Openness

Overall, young LGBTI people, and particularly LGBTI people between the ages of 15 and 17, are less open about their SOGIESC than their older counterparts (see Figure 1). While less than a quarter of all respondents say that they are very open about being LGBTI (22.94%), this number is even lower for young respondents: only 4.64% of respondents aged 15-17 and 11.46% of respondents aged 18-24 are very open. By contrast, 37.78% of respondents aged 15-17 and 35.17% of respondents aged 18-24 are never open, compared with the 30.84% of all LGBTI respondents.

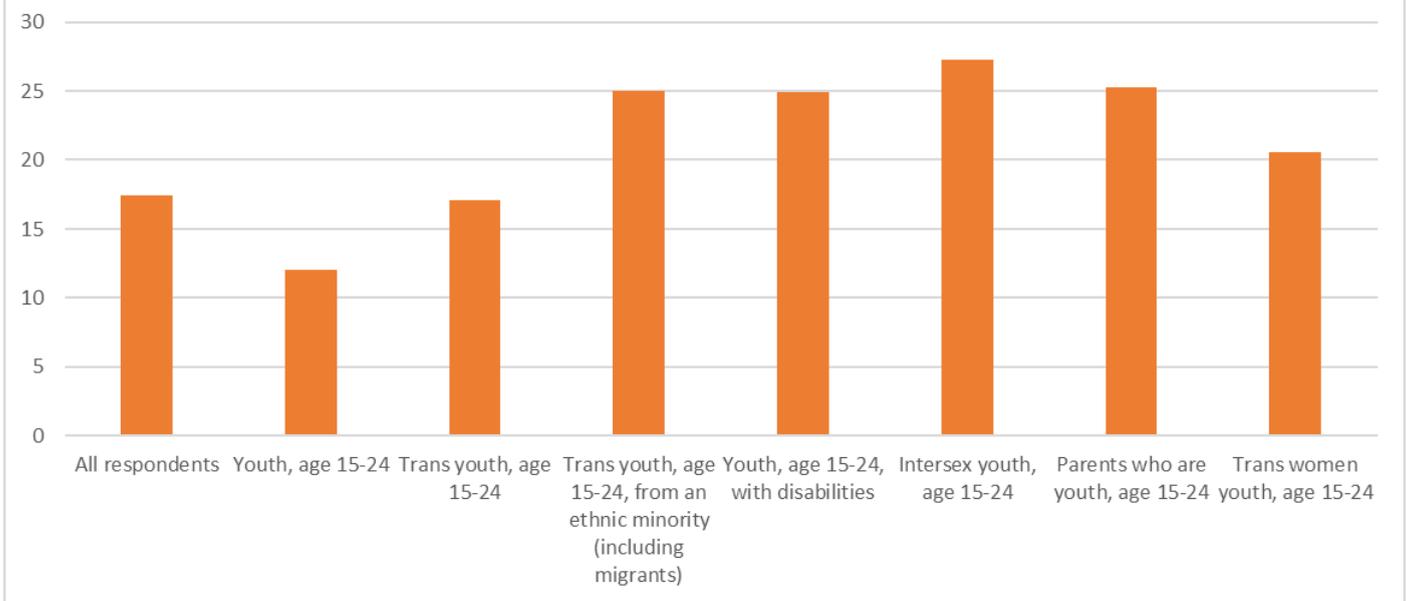


Socioeconomic status

The survey asked respondents several questions pertaining to their socioeconomic status. When asked if their household total income met their needs, more than 1 in 10 young respondents ages 15-24 said they had “difficulty” or “great difficulty” (11.95%). This share was higher for young respondents from an ethnic minority (including of migrant background) (15.57%), especially those of an ethnic minority who were also not cis (19.28%); young respondents with disabilities (18.86%); non-binary young respondents (14.38%); trans men (17.83%); and trans women (18.96%).

When asked about their experiences of homelessness, 12.05% of young people have experienced housing difficulties (Figure 2). This number is higher for trans respondents (17.11%), especially trans women (20.57%) and trans respondents from ethnic minorities and/or migrant backgrounds (24.98%). The number was also higher for respondents with disabilities (24.95%), respondents that were parents (25.23%) and intersex respondents (27.24%). Most young people who had experiences of homelessness (81.68%) had to stay with friends or relatives, although a significant percentage needed to stay in an emergency shelter (13.56%) or sleep outside (7.43%).

Figure 2. Respondents who have experienced housing difficulties, disaggregated

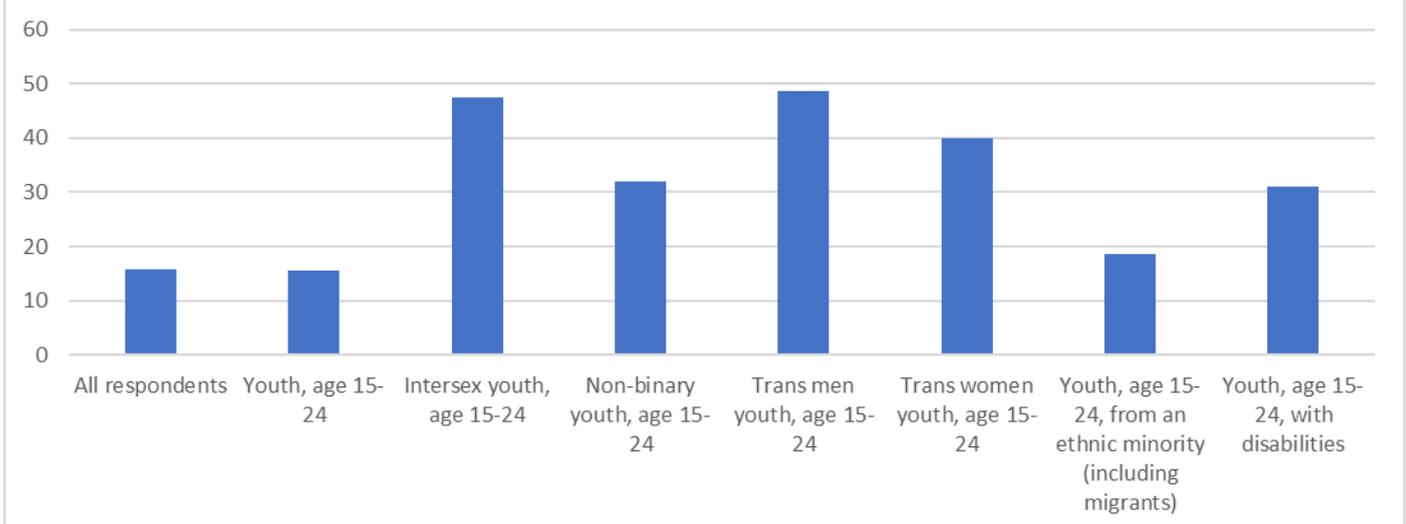


Experiences of discrimination

The survey asked respondents if they felt discriminated against for being LGBTI in several areas of life, during the last 12 months.

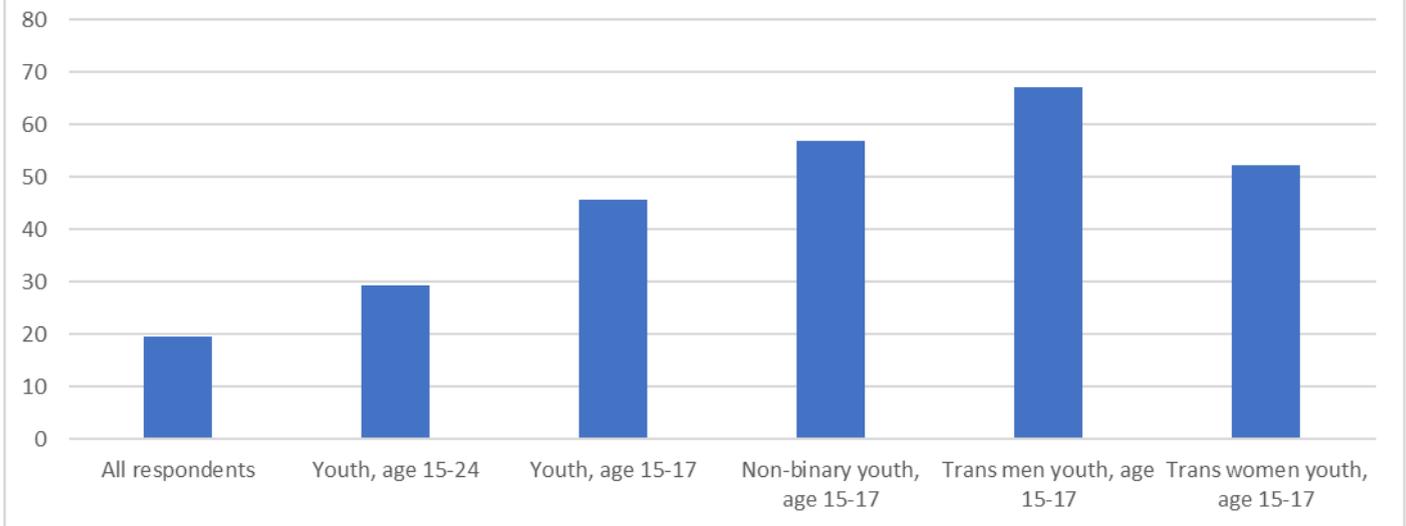
The share of young respondents that felt **discriminated against by healthcare or social services personnel** (Figure 3) is 15.60%. This share is much higher for intersex youth (47.54%), trans men youth (48.57%), trans women youth (39.92%) and non-binary youth (32.06%).

Figure 3. Percentage of respondents stating they felt discriminated against in healthcare or social services in the last 12 months



Over a quarter (29.36%) of young respondents felt discriminated against by **school or university personnel** (Figure 4), with almost half of respondents aged 15-17 (45.65%) feeling discriminated against by school staff. Within this age group, the share is strikingly higher for trans men (67.22%), trans women (52.12%) and non-binary respondents (56.86%).

Figure 4. Percentage of respondents stating they felt discriminated against by school or university personnel in the last 12 months



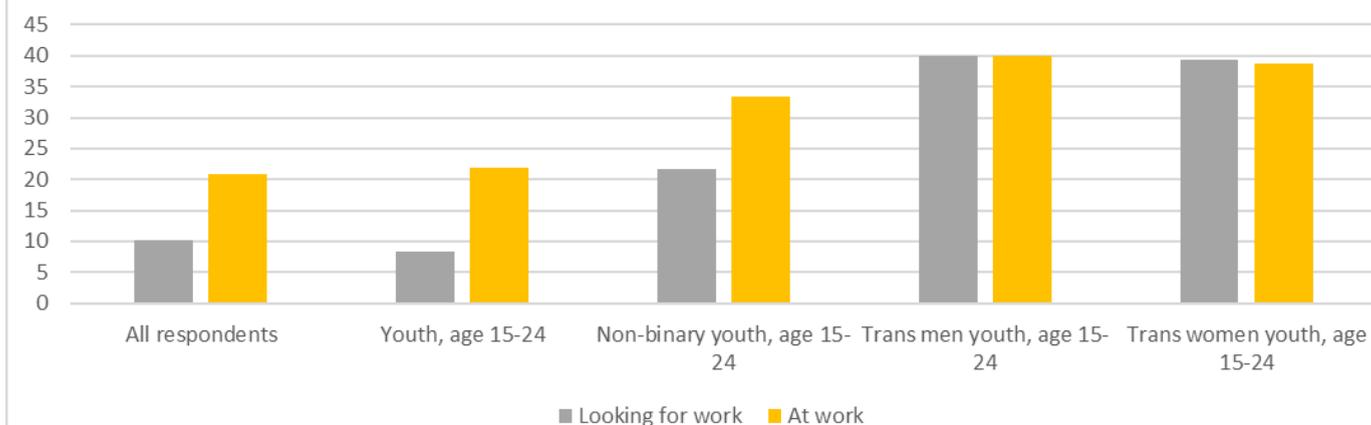
As shown in Table 3, youth who were more open about being LGBTI were less likely to feel discriminated against by school or university personnel. This may indicate the reverse: that youth who had less of an exposure to discrimination were more likely to be open about being LGBTI in their lives.

Table 3. Percentage of youth, age 15-24, respondents who experienced discrimination at school, disaggregated by their openness

	All respondents	Youth, age 15-24	Never open	Rarely open	Fairly open	Very open
School	19.51%	29.36%	33.65%	30.56%	26.09%	21.24%

The survey asked respondents if they felt discriminated against when **looking for work and when at work** (Figure 5). The share of young respondents that felt discriminated against when looking for a job is 8.36%. This share is much higher for trans men (40.05%), trans women (39.30%) and non-binary respondents (21.73%). The situation was more severe at work, with 21.98% of youth, age 15-24, experiencing discrimination. This share is much higher for trans men (40.05%), trans women (38.65%) and non-binary respondents (33.33%).

Figure 5. Percentage of respondents stating they felt discriminated against when looking for work or at work in the last 12 months



The share of respondents that felt discriminated against at a **café, restaurant or bar** (27.07%) or in a shop (14.53%) is similar for youth and respondents from all age groups. However, while most young people did not feel discriminated against when showing their ID (5.92%, see Table 4), the share is higher for intersex youth (34.76%) and non-binary respondents (23.37%), and very high for trans men (56.44%) and trans women (35.46%).

Table 4. Percentage of respondents stating they felt discriminated against in the last 12 months, by age group

	All respondents	Youth, age 15-24	Intersex youth, age 15-24	Non-binary youth, age 15-24	Trans men youth, age 15-24	Trans women youth, age 15-24
Showing ID	4.66%	5.92%	34.76%	23.37%	56.44%	35.46%

Youth experiences of discrimination and child friendly anti-discrimination approaches in the EU

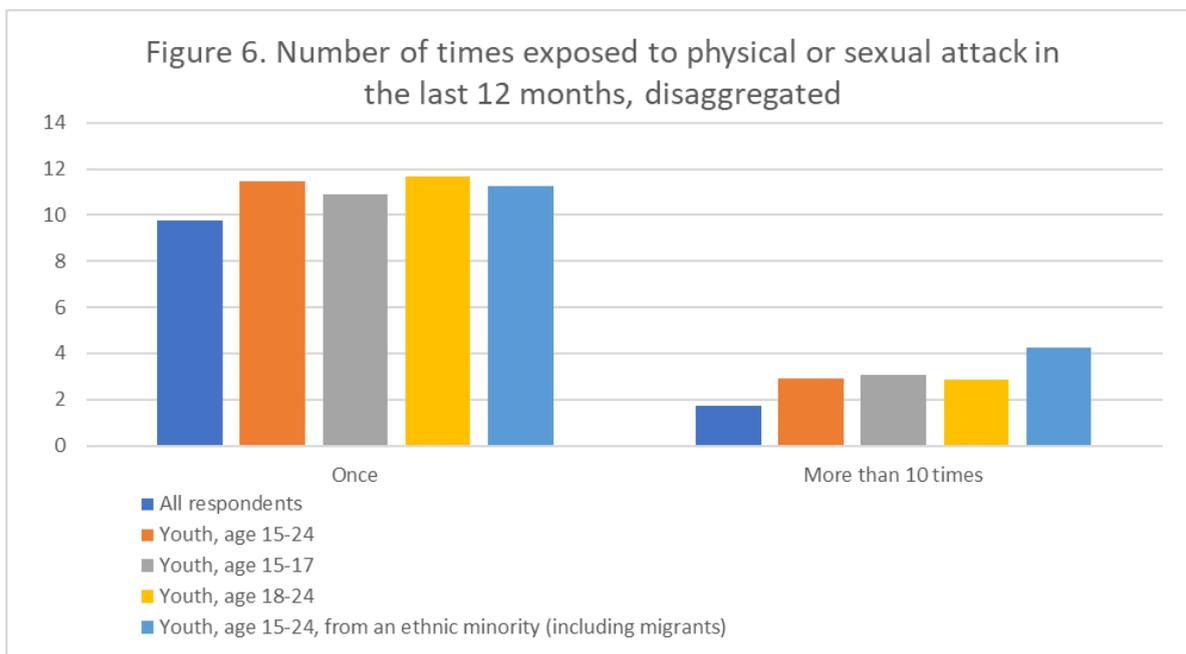
EU Member States should take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect children from all forms of discrimination, as outlined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. As shown in this section, LGBTI children and young people currently face widespread discrimination and exclusion in several areas of life across the EU. This discrimination is particularly prevalent for trans and intersex youth, youth from an ethnic minority and/or migrant background, and youth with disabilities (and especially high for those respondents experiencing discrimination based on the intersection of several grounds, such as trans youth from an ethnic minority).

EU Member States should monitor to what extent LGBTI children and youth are discriminated against based on their identities in all contexts - including education, healthcare, housing and employment. SOGIESC-based anti-discrimination legislation and policies need to be designed with a child-friendly perspective, and Member States should support judicial training providers and all relevant professionals' bodies to address the rights of LGBTI children and young people.

Experiences of hate-motivated violence and harassment

The survey asked respondents whether they had been physically or sexually attacked in the last 5 years. As noted in "A long way to go for LGBTI equality", experiencing hate-motivated physical or sexual attack is

most common among young people.⁵ Almost a third of young respondents (32.35%) indicate that they have ever been physically or sexually attacked, compared to 24.55% of all LGBTI respondents. While young people were only slightly more likely to be exposed to attacks once in the last 12 months (Figure 6), youth, and particularly youth from an ethnic minority (including with a migrant background), were much more likely to be exposed to an attack more than 10 times in the last year than all LGBTI respondents.

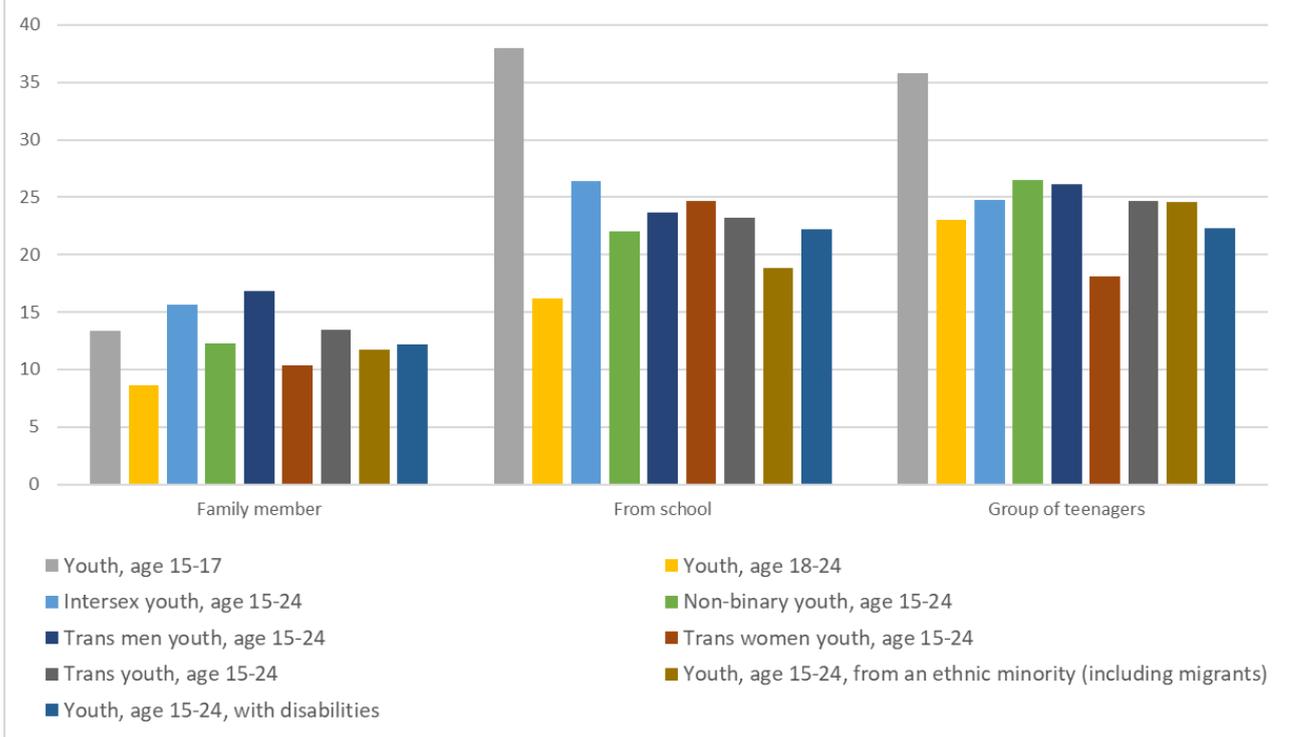


Within this exposure to attack, 33.03% of attacks experienced by youth age 18-24 involved a sexual component (either being a “sexual attack” or a “physical and sexual attack”), compared to 28.42% of all LGBTI respondents, meaning that the exposure to sexual violence is somewhat higher for youth than for older LGBTI populations. This is further exacerbated for ethnic minority youth (including from a migrant background) (36.88%), intersex youth (37.47%), trans women youth (42.88%), and youth with disabilities (45.43%).

When asked who attacked them, many young respondents aged 15-17 said that the attacker was someone from school (38.02%), a group of teenagers (35.76%), or a family member (13.32%). For respondents aged 18-24, nearly half were attacked by someone unknown (47.86%), and many by a group of teenagers (22.99%) or someone from school or university (16.17%) (Figure 7). Exposure to attack from a family member was particularly striking: while, 9.70% of all youth (and 6.31% of all age groups) had a family member perpetrate an attack, youth experiencing intersectional marginalisation were much more likely to have familial perpetrators, with 10.35% of trans women youth, 11.72% of ethnic minority youth (including from migrant background), 12.22% of youth with disabilities, 15.61% of intersex youth, and 16.79% of trans men youth reporting being attacked by a family member.

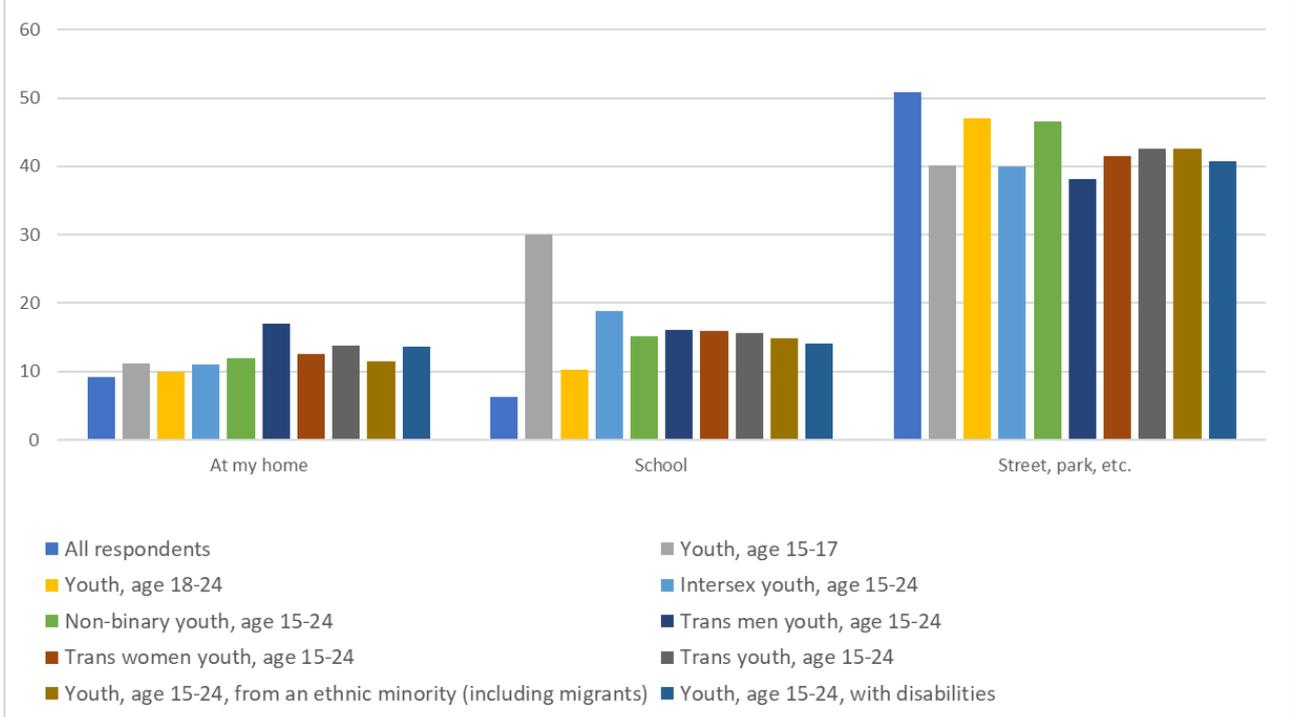
⁵ FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) (2020), A long way to go for LGBTI equality, Luxembourg, Publications Office. Available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/eu-lgbti-survey-results>

Figure 7. Responses to "Who attacked you?" for attacks in the last 12 months, disaggregated



In most cases, the attack happened either in a street or a park (47.00% for 18-24, and 40.20% for 15-17), or in the school (10.26% for 18-24, and 30.03% for 15-17). More than 1 in 10 young respondents (10.25%) said the attack happened at home (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Responses to "Where did it happen?" for attacks in the last 12 months, disaggregated



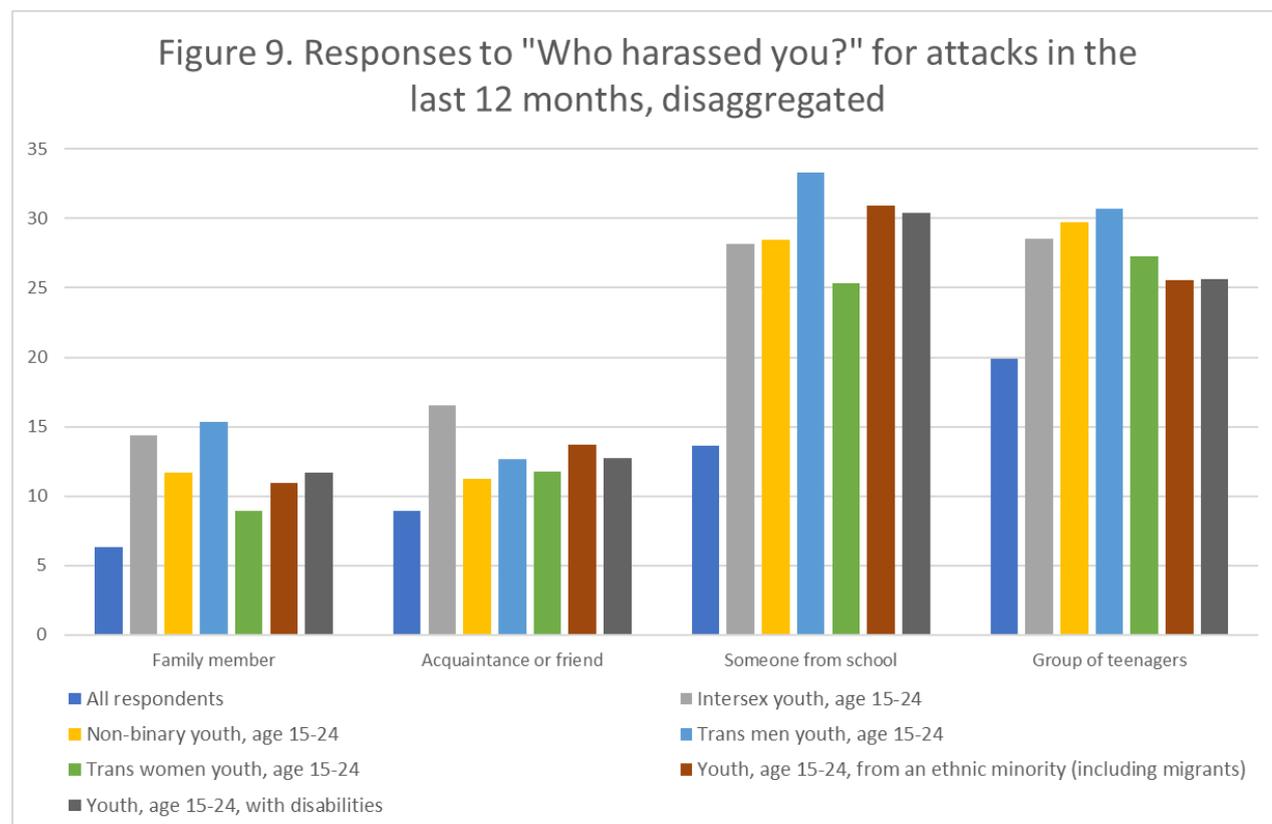
When asked if they had reported the attack, most young respondents (84.69%) had not reported it. Only 9.41% had reported it to the police (although respondents aged 15-17 were even less likely to do so, 7.58%).

In addition to questions about attacks, respondents were also asked about experiences of harassment. When asked who harassed them, the most common responses for young respondents aged 15-17 were someone from school (51.60%), a group of teenagers (38.51%), an acquaintance or a friend (17.03%) or a family member (10.12%). For respondents aged 18-24, the most common responses were a group of teenagers (24.77%), someone from school (22.40%), an acquaintance or a friend (11.24%) or a family member (7.95%). Table 5 shows this breakdown of selected response options.

Table 5. Answers to the question "Who harassed you?" from those who were attacked because of being LGBTI, selected responses by age group

	All respondents	Youth, age 15-24	Youth, age 15-17	Youth, age 18-24
Family member	6.30	8.54	10.12	7.95
Acquaintance or friend	8.95	12.81	17.03	11.24
Someone from school	13.63	30.34	51.60	22.40
Group of teenagers	19.87	28.51	38.51	24.77

Intersex youth, trans youth, youth from an ethnic minority (including from a migrant background), and youth with disabilities had even more stark exposure to harassment from these kinds of people (Figure 9).



Out of all age groups participating in the survey, young people experienced higher rates of hate-motivated violence (including attacks and harassment). The data confirm that for most young people, this violence happens either in schools or is perpetrated by school peers. The rates of violence are especially alarming for trans and intersex children and young people.

These numbers are startling, especially considering their underestimation of the true rate. A study conducted by IGLYO⁶ shows similar rates of violence and states that most learners (58%) never report what happened to them. When asked about the reasons for not reporting their experiences of violence, many either said that school staff had not done anything in previous situations or that they feared that school staff would do nothing. The study also shows that LGBTQI learners experienced high rates of harassment online (20.5% respondents had been the target of cyberbullying frequently).

UNESCO⁷, and other international institutions such as the Council of Europe⁸, have shown that a comprehensive school approach is most effective to prevent and address bias-motivated school violence on grounds of SOGIESC. While many EU Member States (21) have implemented anti-discrimination laws or action plans, only 6 EU countries provide most of the measures of the comprehensive school approach (including actions like inclusive curricula, teacher training, or support for victims of school violence).⁹ By contrast, some EU Member States have implemented or pushed for legislation that prohibits the dissemination of information about SOGIESC to young people, which makes it very difficult for LGBTI youth to receive affirming information about their identities, bodies, and experiences, and reinforces the discrimination and violence they face.

Experiences of school

The survey also included some questions about people’s experiences of school, both in the section about living openly and daily life, and in the section about discrimination.¹⁰ When asked about whether they were open in school, only 9% of youth, aged 15-17, and 8% of youth, aged 18-24, said that they were “very open”. By contrast 30% and 43%, respectively, were “never open”. Respondents were also asked to say whether their schools addressed LGBTI issues. As shown in Table 6, most people either did not receive any information, or received negative information.

Table 6. Answers to the question “Did your school education address at any point LGBTI issues?” for young respondents

	Youth, age 15-17	Youth, age 18-24
Yes, in a positive way	13%	9%
Yes, in a neutral and balanced way	19%	15%
Yes, both in a negative and positive way	10%	8%
Yes, in a negative way	10%	8%

⁶ IGLYO (2019) LGBTQI Inclusive Education Survey. Available at:

<https://www.iglyo.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/D20-Inclusive-Education-Study.pdf>

⁷ UNESCO (2016) Out in the open: education sector responses to violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity/expression: summary report. Available at: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000244652>

⁸ Council of Europe (2018). Safe at school: tackling homophobic and transphobic bullying. Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/prems-125718-gbr-2575-safe-at-school-a4-web/16809024f5>

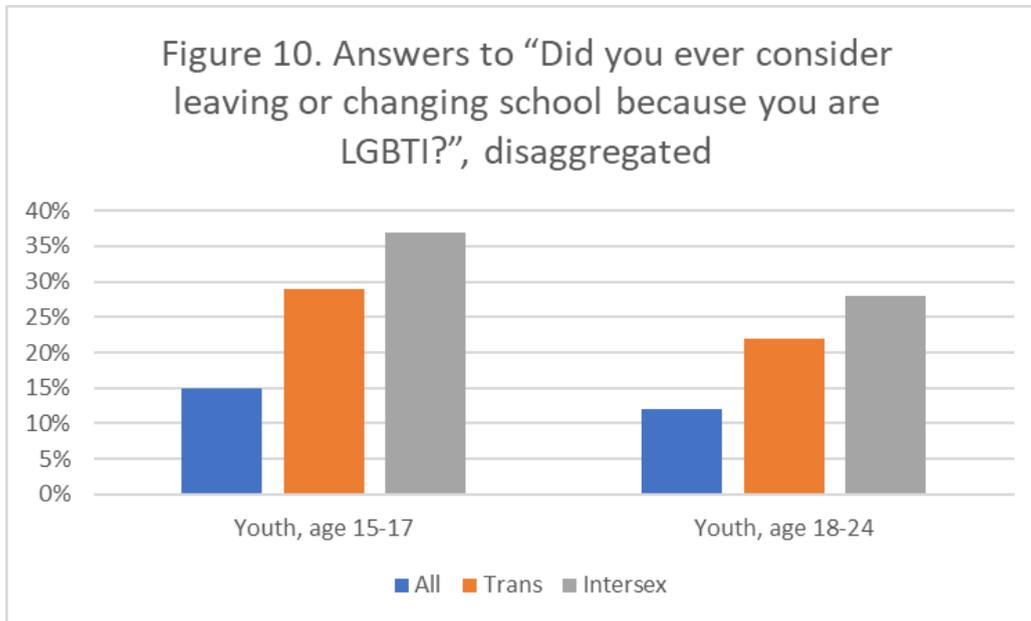
⁹ IGLYO (2022) LGBTQI Inclusive Education Report. Available at:

<https://www.education-index.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/IGLYO-LGBTQI-Inclusive-Education-Report-2022-v3.pdf>

¹⁰ This section shows data without any comparison with other age groups, which were gathered from the FRA LGBTI Survey Data Explorer is available from: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/data-and-maps/2020/lgbti-survey-data-explorer>

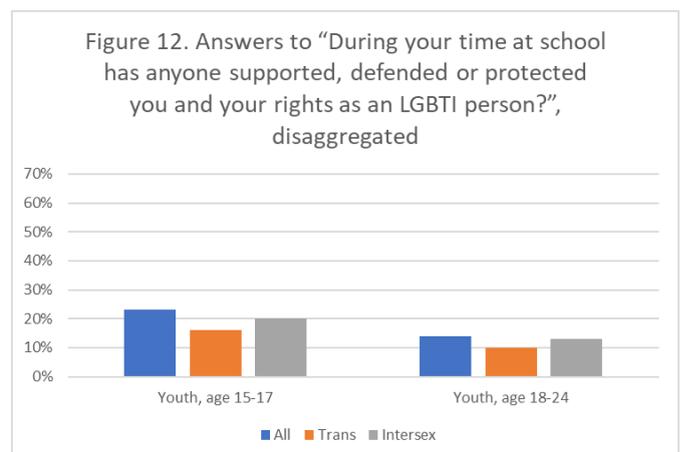
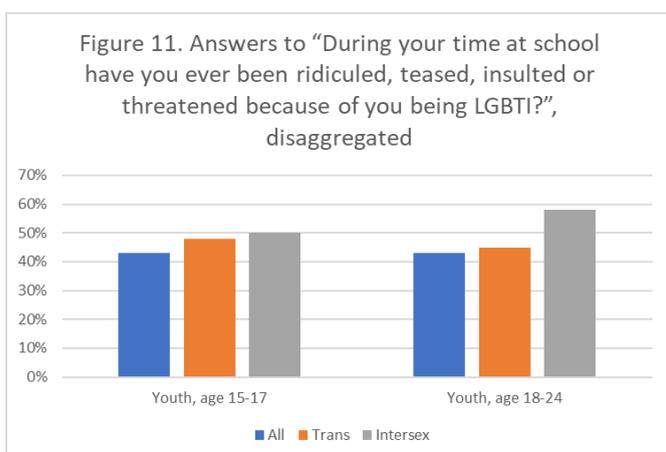
No	47%	59%
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The survey also asked respondents if they had considered leaving or changing school “because of being LGBTI”. 15% of youth, aged 15-17, and 12% of youth, aged 18-24, had considered leaving or changing their school. As shown in Table 7, the share is significantly high for trans and intersex youth of the same age groups.



In the section about discrimination, the survey also asked respondents if they had seen or heard negative comments or conduct at school because a schoolmate was perceived to be LGBTI; two thirds of youth (67% of youth, aged 15-17, and 66% of youth, aged 18-24) said that they has seen it “always” or “often”.

Finally, when asked about their experiences of bullying, 43% of both age groups said that they had experienced bullying when they were at school. These numbers are even higher for trans and intersex respondents, reaching up to 58% in the case of intersex youth aged 18-24. However, when asked if they experienced defence or protection from anyone at school, only 23% of youth, aged 15-17, and 14% of youth, aged 18-24, said that they always received support. These numbers are even lower for trans (16% and 10%, respectively) and intersex youth (20% and 13%, respectively).



LGBTI youth and their experiences of school

As shown by the survey, LGBTI young people are still often at a very high risk of experiencing school-bullying, or seeing how their LGBTI peers receive negative remarks based on their sexual

SOGIESC. This information is in line with other surveys carried out by international organisations such as UNESCO or IGLYO.¹¹

At the same time, most LGBTI learners are likely to either not receive information about SOGIESC, or receive hostile information. This is likely to affect the well-being of young LGBTI people, with a significant percentage of them wanting to drop-out or change school. IGLYO's LGBTQI Inclusive Education map¹² also shows that only 10 EU Member States have developed and implemented inclusive curricula nationally, and some of them have implemented measures that make it impossible for teachers to talk about SOGIESC issues.

Overall teachers and school staff also lack access to adequate training to prevent and address SOGIESC-based violence or to include LGBTI content in their lessons.¹³ Mandatory teacher training is rarely implemented across EU Member States¹⁴, which translates into an important barrier to creating an inclusive environment for all learners.

¹¹ UNESCO & IGLYO (2021) Don't look away: No place for exclusion of LGBTI learners. Available at: <https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/LGBTIdontlookaway>

¹² IGLYO (2022) LGBTQI Inclusive Education Report. Available at: <https://www.education-index.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/IGLYO-LGBTQI-Inclusive-Education-Report-2022-v3.pdf>

¹³ FRA (2016). *Professionally Speaking: Challenges for achieving equality for LGBT people*. Available at: https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2016-lgbt-public-officials_en.pdf

¹⁴ IGLYO (2022) LGBTQI Inclusive Education Report. Available at: <https://www.education-index.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/IGLYO-LGBTQI-Inclusive-Education-Report-2022-v3.pdf>

Annex 1: Methodology and survey background information

Background: FRA LGBTI II Survey 2019

The statistics used to write this brief come from the 2019 EU LGBTI II Survey conducted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. The survey was open to individuals who were 15 years of age or older who self-identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and/or intersex. The survey was conducted online in 27 EU Member States, the UK, Serbia and North Macedonia between May and July of 2019. The respondents were asked a series of questions about their lived experiences, including information about their experiences of discrimination, harassment, violence, openness about their sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics, experiences in education and at work, their relationships and parenting, health, housing difficulties, living conditions and socio-economic status.

Representativeness of the results used in the report

The survey was available to LGBTI people who had access to the internet. As such, the survey did not provide a random sampling of LGBTI people, which would have made it representative of the LGBTI community in Europe. However, the weighting scheme developed by FRA (2019)¹⁵, which adjusts the response numbers to better represent the LGBTI population as a whole across participating Member States, was applied to the data in this analysis so the results presented in the report are as representative of the population as possible.

Sample

This briefing provides information on youth, which was a subset from the entire sample of respondents resulting in a sample size of 68,442 (48.96% of the total respondent population of 139,799 respondents), which includes 18,681 respondents aged 15-17 (13.36% of total respondent population) and 49,761 respondents aged 18-24 (35.59% of the total respondent population). The subsetting process followed a procedure of removing the answers of respondents who were aged over 24.

Statistical methods

The report is based on descriptive statistics extracted from the survey. The primary method used is cross tabulations, which is used to quantitatively analyse the relationship between multiple variables.

¹⁵ FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) (2020), A long way to go for LGBTI equality – Technical Report, Luxembourg, Publications Office. Available from:

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-lgbti-equality-technical-report_en.pdf