



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 6, 2025
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LGBTQ+ Youth in North Dakota Experience Higher Trauma, Says New Report

A new State of the State Report report finds that LGBTQ+ youth are at more risk and often at exponentially more risk in North Dakota.

“Not only are their experiences of trauma higher, but they are often less likely to have access to fundamental needs like food, housing, and love,” says Faye Seidler, report author and North Dakota suicide prevention advocate. “Our state has no direct intervention for support and, at times, is hostile to helping these kids out.”

The new report finds that LGBTQ+ students in North Dakota are more likely to self harm and have suicidal ideations. They are also at higher risk for substance abuse, more likely to go hungry at home, and less likely to have stable housing.

“My hope is that policymakers, educators, and community members, read the report and consider how they can support our LGBTQ+ youth,” says Seidler. “Even one trusted and supportive adult can make a big impact.”

Read the full state of the state report at fayeseidlerconsulting.com/state-data.html.

The comprehensive report analyzes the data compiled through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, which North Dakota conducts in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. North Dakota students in grades 7-8 and 9-12 are administered a voluntary, anonymous survey questionnaire in odd-numbered years. Schools, teachers, public health professionals, community leaders, and policymakers in North Dakota use the survey data for decision making, evaluation, and planning.

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Faye Seidler is a North Dakota suicide prevention advocate who specializes in LGBTQ+ populations. Her work involves educating others, making connections, researching outcomes, writing grants, developing resources, publicly speaking, breaking barriers, de-siloing services, and ultimately doing everything she can to build hope. [Sign up for her newsletter.](#)