**A Needs Assessment of The Local LGBTQ+ Youth Community**

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Background: LGBTQ+ youth’s experiences vary greatly due to many factors, including geographic location, social support, and school environment1. LGBTQ+ teenagers are at a greater risk for mental health problems, suicide, violence, and harassment than other teens1. Positive role models, accurate information, and support groups promoting community can help LGBTQ+ youth cope with negative stereotypes and victimization2. LGBTQ+ focused community organizations, such as the LGBTQ Equality Alliance, can help to provide a sense of social support and community to improve outcomes for these youth.

 Objective: The purpose of this study was to determine the perceived levels of school and community support among LGBTQ+ youth in Chester County, PA.

Methods: N=45 adolescents (M=15.9) living in Chester County were recruited to complete an online survey to describe demographic variables, satisfaction, and their perception of LGBTQ+ community needs. Participants identified as LGBTQ+ (97.5%) or allies (2.4%). Qualitative responses were coded and analyzed.

Results: Over 44% of respondents experienced gender or sexuality-based bullying, and 67.6% have witnessed such bullying. Only 26% of students felt that their schools promoted LGBT+ diversity. Most respondents had not heard of the LGBT Equality Alliance (60.6%), and only 24% had attended an event hosted by the LGBT Equality Alliance.

Discussion: Results highlight the prevalence of bullying based on gender or sexuality and perceived lack of support for LGBTQ+ youth in the school setting. Increasing awareness about the existence LGBTQ+ focused community organizations can help to provide LGBTQ+ youth with a sense of community.