

LGBTQ Plus More

Aaliyah Mais



Recommendation & Conclusion

Introduction and Purpose

There are many ways for an individual to identify—whether through racial identity, ethnic, identity, or sexual identity. For most people, racial and ethnic identity are commonly shared with those around them; however, it is still challenging for individuals to share their sexual identity. Openly identifying as a member of the LGBTQ+ community can have both positive and negative outcomes.

This paper will demonstrate why it's important that society allow the LGBTQ+ community to broadcast their many qualities proudly and fluidly, instead of having to choose which identities to share. Current cases will be shared and a thoughtful analysis of how each person in our society contributes to this phenomenon will be presented. Together, all voices can be heard equitably and proudly, no matter who is speaking."

According to Martos et al. (2017), the term LGBTQ+ is really the collective community that houses these identities, sexual minorities, transgender and non-gender conforming individuals. Thus, it has transcended the limited terminologies of yester years. Similarly, early literature from the 1950s, has shown that the attitude towards this group has changed over time.

- Furthermore, support from allies is an important factor for LGBTQ individuals. Being an ally can give them the opportunity in finding their voice so that they can be seen in society.
- Case studies, such as the Wade Family, show a prime example of allyship. Basketballer Dwayne Wade and wife, Gabrielle Union, openly supported Zaya, coming out as a transgender girl at the age of 12 years old. TV personalities, such as Ellen DeGeneres and Caitlyn Jenner, are both advocates in equality for the American LGBTQ community, and they use their platform to promote visibility.
- In sum, the results of the data provided by GLAAD displayed a steady decline in LGBTQ acceptance among Americans in the 18-34 age range. One can even question as to what influenced this. President and CEO of GLAAD, Sarah Kate Ellis, once stated in an interview that, "When you have a country and a culture that is normalizing hate and discrimination, you will see [people] move from an allied position to become detached supporters," (Suleman, TIME).

GLAAD

- GLAAD, formerly known as "Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamations," is an organization that produces national surveys that studies the way in which Americans view LGBTQ+ members. Their acronym was later dropped to expand to transgender individuals in an effort to promote more equality.
- Comparing data over the years presents a discouraging picture:

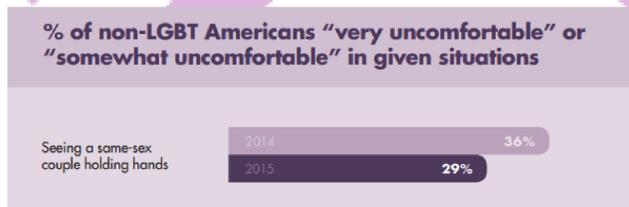


Figure 1: Results of 2015-2016 GLAAD Accelerating Acceptance Index: % of Non -LGBTQ Feeling uncomfortable

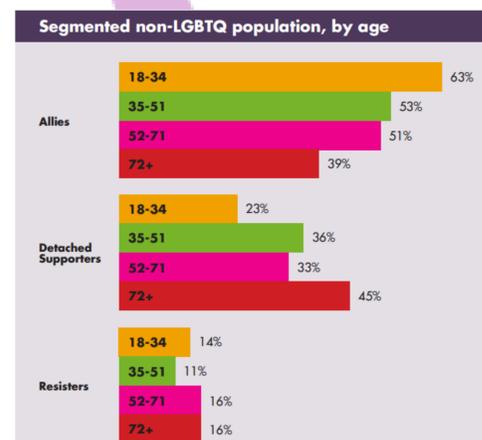


Figure 2: Results of 2017 GLAAD Accelerating Acceptance Index: 63% of Allies are 18-43 years old

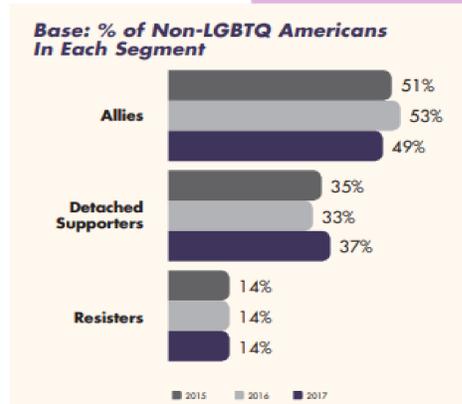


Figure 3: Results of 2018 GLAAD Accelerating Acceptance Index: Allies decreased to 49%

Ellen DeGeneres

About: Gay TV Personality
Contribution: Used her platform to raise LGBTQ+ awareness in America
The Importance: She was awarded the Medal of Freedom for LGBTQ+ rights and voices



Caitlyn Jenner

About: Transgender TV Personality and Former Male Olympic Gold Medalist
Contribution: Speaks out against discrimination against transgender people
The Importance: She advocates for transgender visibility



Kimberly Mutcherson

About: First Black, Gay Female Dean at Rutgers Law School, NJ
Contribution: Founded Rutgers' first Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Student Organization (OUTLaws)
The Importance: She wants to be known for her professionalism, not her personal life



Dwayne Wade

About: Professional basketball player; father to Zaya, transgender child
Contribution: Ally to transgender youth
The Importance: More people need to be supportive of people in the LGBTQ+ community

