



**UNITING THE  
WHOLE COMMUNITY**  
*Preventing LGBTQ Bullying*

# WHY WE FORMED?

## *PUBLIC HEALTH WAKE UP CALL*

- 2010 there were 4 suicides (nationally) in the month of September alone
- All 4 suicides were teenagers (ages 13-18) and all were gay or perceived to be gay.
- Reinforced need for cultural shift and mechanisms to generate shift
- Recognition that LGBTQ bullying prevention **training, policies, and programs DID NOT EXIST** in our region (Greater Cincinnati, Ohio).



# WHO ARE WE?

## CROSS SECTOR CONNECTORS

- **Family Violence Prevention Project** (*convener*)
- **Council on Child Abuse of Southwestern Ohio** (*bullying prevention*)
- **YWCA of Greater Cincinnati** (*prevention & victim services*)
- **GLSEN** (Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network) of Greater Cincinnati (*LGBT bullying prevention*)
- **HRC** (Human Rights Campaign) of Greater Cincinnati (*LGBT rights*)
- **Talbert House** (*mental/behavioral health*)
- **Cincinnati Children's Hospital** (*physical & mental health*)
- **Ohio Department of Health** (*funder*)
- **HealthPath Foundation of Ohio** (*funder*)
- **TriHealth** (*funder*)



# SCHOOL & PEERS

2X

LGBT youth are more than two times as likely as non-LGBT youth to say they have been verbally harassed and called names at school. Among LGBT youth, half (51%) have been verbally harassed at school, compared to 25% among non-LGBT students.

2X

LGBT youth are twice as likely as their peers to say they have been physically assaulted, kicked or shoved at school. Among LGBT youth, 17% report they have been physically attacked often while 10% of their peers say the same.

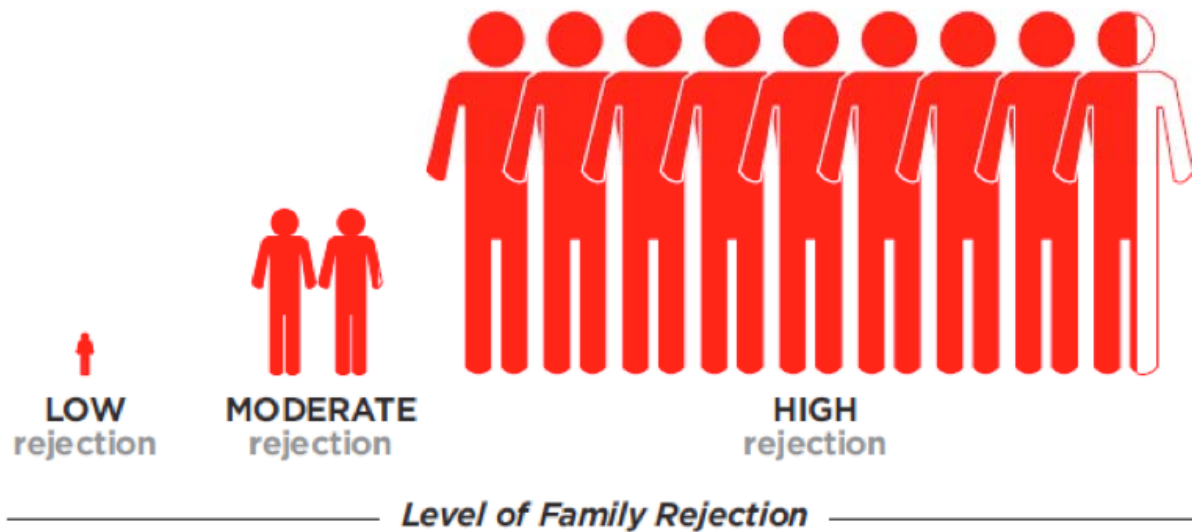
2X

LGBT youth are about twice as likely as non-LGBT youth to say they have been excluded by their peers because they are different. Among LGBT youth, 48% say they have been excluded often while 26% of their peers say the same.

# Family Acceptance Project

## Lifetime Suicide Attempts for Highly Rejected LGBT Young People

*(One or more times)*



Ryan, Family Acceptance Project, 2009

# STARTLING RESEARCH: *DISPROPORTIONATE HEALTH OUTCOMES*

- 5.6 X more likely to attempt suicide
- 2 X more likely to be clinically depressed
- 2 X more likely to have sexually transmitted diseases



# **THE SPECTRUM OF PREVENTION**

**Influencing Policy and Legislation**

**Changing Organizational Practices**

**Fostering Coalitions and Networks**

**Educating Providers**

**Promoting Community Education**

**Strengthening Individual Knowledge and Skills**



## Coalitions & Networks

- Cross-Sector

## Individual Knowledge

- 3 Annual Summits

## Community Education

- Community Forum
- Social & Press Media Campaign





## Educating Providers

- 22 School Districts
- Policymakers & funders
- Cross-sector social service agencies

## Organizational Practices

- Implementing LGBT bullying prevention best practice programming into schools (Welcoming Schools)

## Policy Change

- Advocacy! Major school district (Cincinnati Public Schools) enumerated bullying policy
- Impacts 55 schools & 33,000+ students

# NEXT STEPS

- Focusing efforts on increased policy changes
- Creating Policy Toolkit and advocacy strategies for 6 new identified districts
  - Range from urban, suburban, to rural
  - Leverage success of Cincinnati Public Schools
- Increase technical assistance to schools, especially on focus of inclusion and diversity yields to positive health impacts
  - Increased academic achievement
  - Increased mental health and physical health outcomes
  - Increased social health outcomes



# REMEMBER: POLICY IS CRITICAL TO HEALTHY PUBLIC HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR ALL

- **Enumeration improves mental health and behavioral health outcomes of students.**
  - Schools that have enumerated policies have students who experience lower rates of suicide, depression, alcohol and drug use, particularly for LGBT students.
- **Enumerated policies help create safe schools.**
  - Students experience significantly lower severities of victimization related to their sexual orientation or gender expression compared to students with a non-enumerated policy.

