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LGBTQ YOUTH & TOBACCO

A dangerous liaison



Scout, MA, PhD

Acting Deputy Director, National LGBT Cancer Network. Project Director for the CDC funded LGBTQ tobacco-related cancer disparity network. Assistant Professor, Boston University.



PRETEST



WEBINAR OUTLINE



DATA ON LGBTQ TOBACCO USE



LARGER HEALTH PICTURE



STRATEGIES TO RESPOND



QUESTIONS

But please don't wait until the end to ask questions, type them in as we go!



WEBINAR GOALS



AT THE END OF THIS WEBINAR, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO...

Accurately identify the smoking rate for LGBTQ youth.



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Accurately identify the smoking rate for LGBTQ youth.

List three risk factors for LGBTQ youth smoking.



AT THE END OF THIS WEBINAR, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO...

Accurately identify the smoking rate for LGBTQ youth.

List three risk factors for LGBTQ youth smoking.

Identify three strategies you can use to counter it.

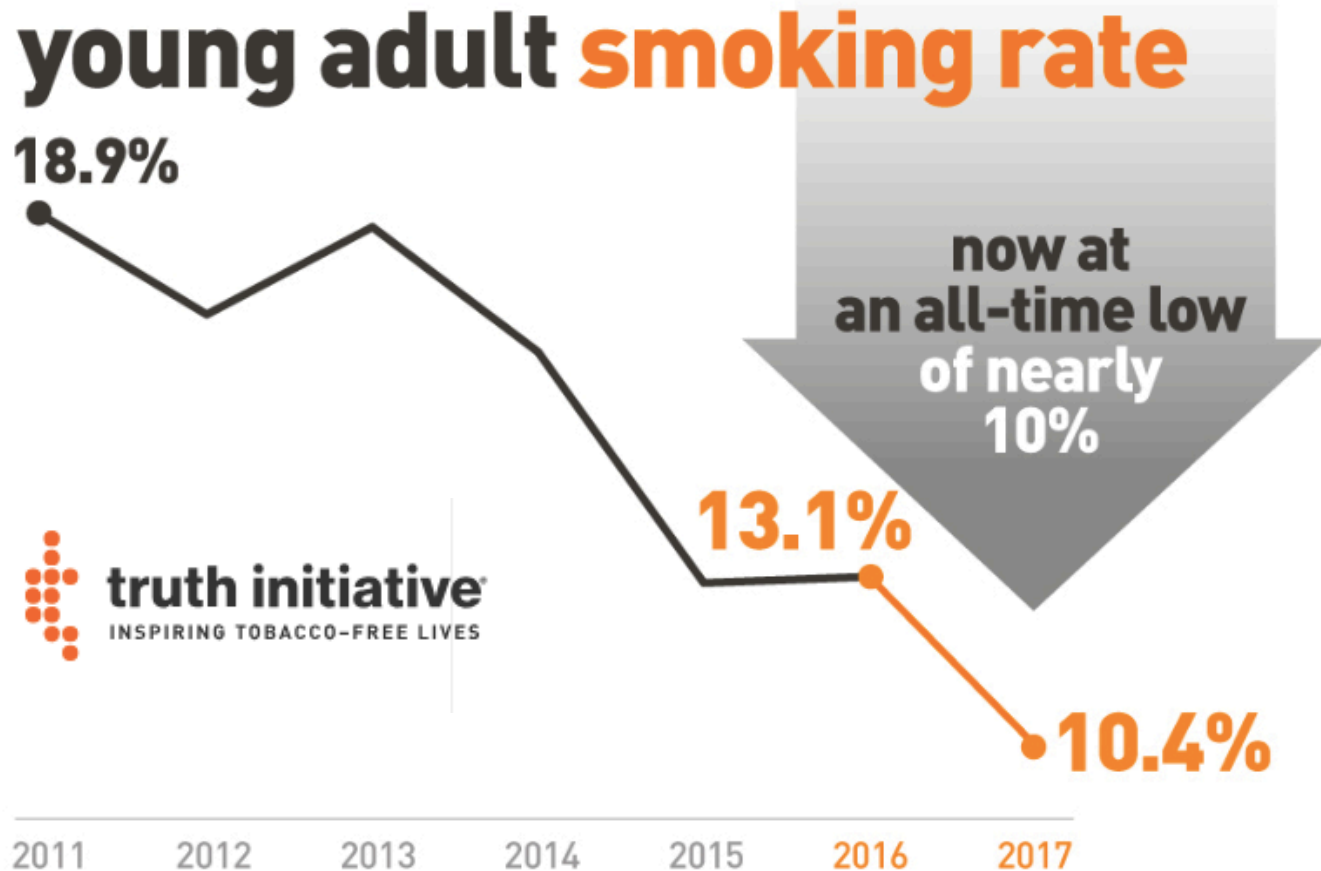


**PLEASE ASK
QUESTIONS
ANYTIME**



DATA ON LGBTQ TOBACCO USE

FIRST, WHAT'S THE GOOD NEWS?



SO WHEN DO WE START?

According to Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the peak ages to start tobacco use are...



SO WHEN DO WE START?

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Ages 11-13



SO WHEN DO WE START?

According to 2017 HRCF Youth Survey, the peak ages youth realize they are queer are ...



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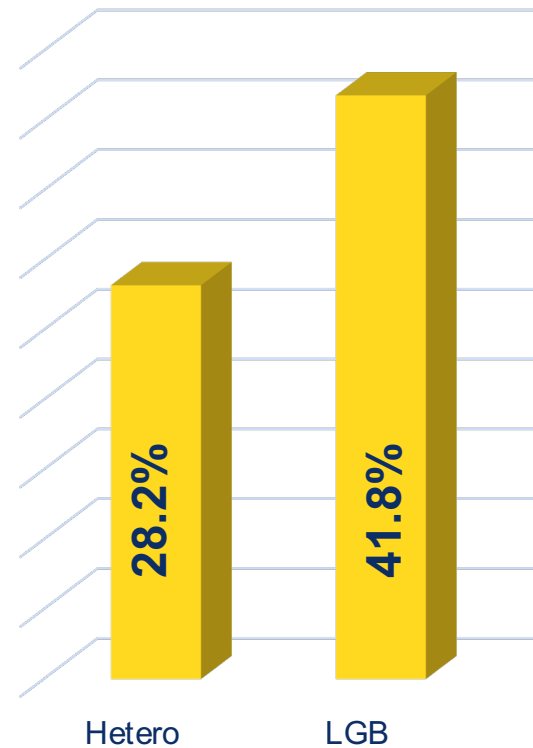


REMEMBER TOBACCO COMPANIES ARE TRYING TO ENTICE YOUTH



LGBTQ YOUTH SMOKING RATES

**Ever tried
Cigarettes?**



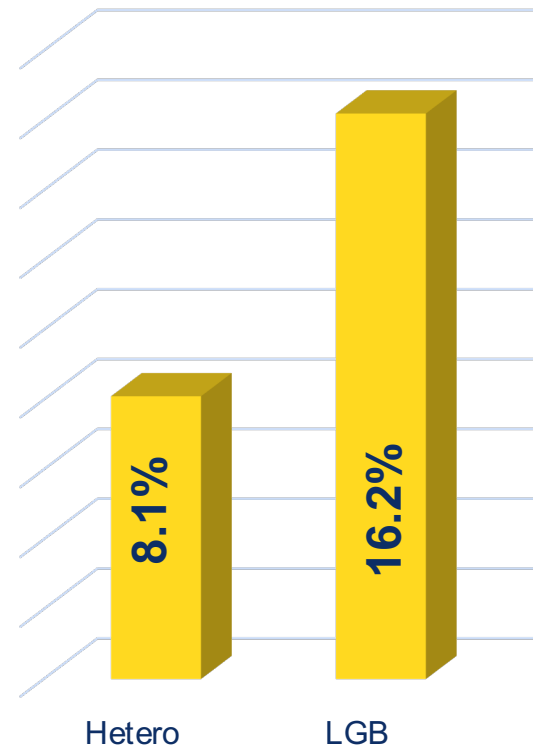
2017 YRBS



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LGBTQ YOUTH SMOKING RATES

**Current
cigarette
smoking?**



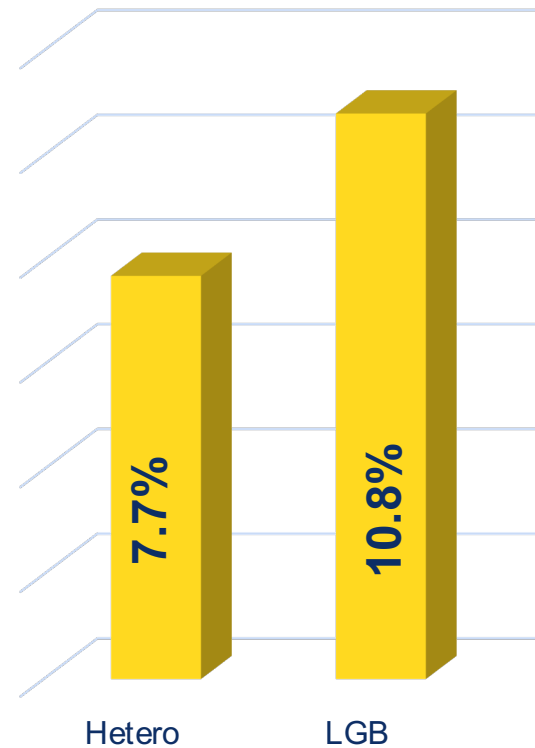
2017 YRBS



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LGBTQ YOUTH SMOKING RATES

**Current
cigar, little
cigar, or
cigarillo
use?**



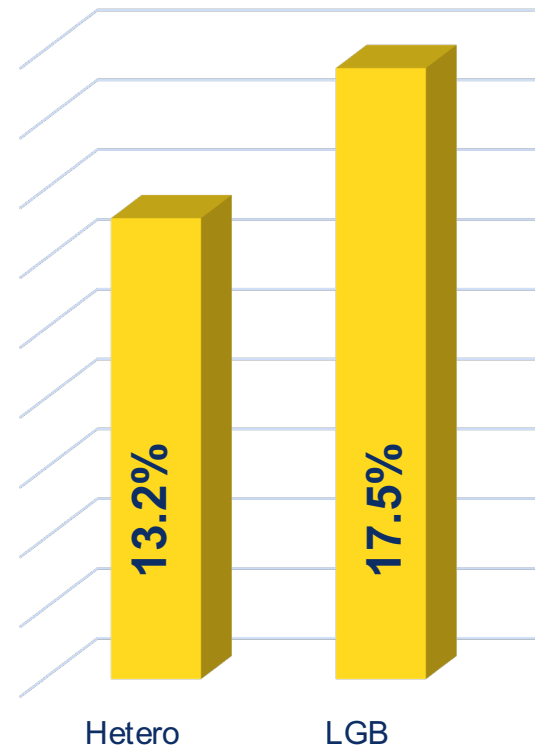
2017 YRBS



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LGBTQ YOUTH SMOKING RATES

**Current
vape use?**



2017 YRBS



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TRANS & GENDER VARIANT YOUTH

2017 LGBTQ Youth survey
shows us **trans** smoking
rates are...



32%

higher than those of LGB
youth.

Youth self-describing as
non-binary also had
statistically significant
higher smoking rates.



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RACIAL DISPARITIES

Tobacco use rates are highest for

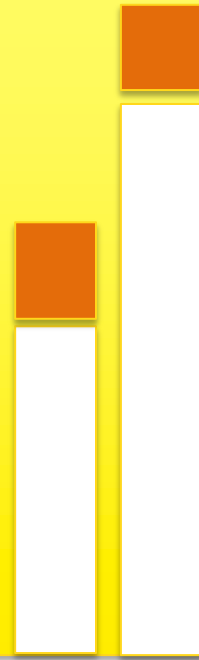
- 1. Native American Youth**
- 2. White Youth**
- 3. Biracial Youth**



IN SUMMARY

2x

LGBTQ youth smoke
at rates **up to 2x as
high** as cis/het youth.



THE LARGER HEALTH PICTURE



A SMALL CASE STUDY



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ANTONIO GARZA

- Hot new YouTube sensation.
- 15 years old.
- Has 1.2 million subscribers after only 19 videos.
- Is popular for makeup tutorials.
- Lives in Austin, TX.
- Female presenting, assigned male at birth.
- Antonio is living what many teens would consider a dream... so how's it going?



ANTONIO GARZA

- Antonio is living what many teens would consider a dream... so how's it going?
- We are going to watch the very end of the makeup video she did for her first day of school.
- <https://youtu.be/TeiCquYbsgk?t=7m36s>



WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

A young person who is
from a population that
experiences discrimination

...



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WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

A young person who is
from a population that
experiences discrimination
...

often grows up in a family
that can help them build
skills to navigate that
discrimination and find
accepting spaces.



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WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

A young queer person ...



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WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

A young queer person ...

rarely has adults that can help them navigate discrimination and find accepting spaces.



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WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

School often isn't safe
either...



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WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

School often isn't safe
either...



85%

of LGBTQ youth report
harassment at school for
their LGBTQ status.



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WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

Do educators provide a lifeline for struggling LGBTQ youth?



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WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

Do educators provide a lifeline for struggling LGBTQ youth? Youth say...

My school counselor is very liberal and I know he cares about the LGBTQ+ students at school, so I trust him.



WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

Do educators provide a lifeline for struggling LGBTQ youth? Youth say...

I'm afraid that my counselor won't help me get into college if I tell her about my identity.

My school counselor is very liberal and I know he cares about the LGBTQ+ students at school, so I trust him.



WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

Do educators provide a lifeline for struggling LGBTQ youth? Youth say...

My school threatened me on multiple occasions with referrals for holding hands, kisses etc.

I'm afraid that my counselor won't help me get into college if I tell her about my identity.

My school counselor is very liberal and I know he cares about the LGBTQ+ students at school, so I trust him.



WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

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I'm afraid that my counselor won't help me get into college if I tell her about my identity.

[After disclosing to my school counselor he...] forcibly called my parents and told them I was gay over the phone.

My school counselor is very supportive. I know he cares about LGBTQ+ students at school, so I trust him.



WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

Do educators provide a lifeline for struggling LGBTQ youth? Youth say...

My school threatened me on multiple occasions with harassment.

My school counselor knows he is homophobic and has harassed students.

A stranger, even a school counselor, is very dangerous to LGBTQ+ people and children. They can ruin your entire life, get you kicked out of your home by your parents, or make other teachers treat you awfully and make your school experience miserable.

I'm afraid that my counselor won't help me get into college if I tell her about my identity.

My school counselor told my parents and told the phone.



WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

Do educators provide a lifeline for struggling LGBTQ youth? Youth say...

My school threatened me on multiple occasions with harsh punishments if I tell her about my identity.

I'm afraid the school counselor won't help me.

A stranger, the school counselor, is very homophobic to LGBTQ+ people and children. They can ruin your life, get you kicked out of school, get you kicked out of your home by your parents, or make your teachers treat you awfully and make your school experience miserable.

School counselor told my parents and told me phone.

My school counselor told my parents, or make your teachers treat you awfully and make your school experience miserable.

Lifeline? Not often enough.



WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

What about mental health issues?

**like you're
not worth it**



https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=56&v=pP2EvEbjdn8



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WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

What about other addictive behaviors?



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WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

What about other addictive behaviors?



39%

of LGBTQ 12th graders
report trying marijuana.



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WHY COULD ANTONIO NOT BE THRIVING?

What about other addictive behaviors?



39%

of LGBTQ 12th graders report trying marijuana.

66%

of LGBTQ 12th graders report trying alcohol.



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RISK FACTORS FOR LGBTQ YOUTH SMOKING

Discrimination.

Isolation.

Stress.

Smoking is a socially transmitted disease.



STRATEGIES TO RESPOND

TWO TYPES OF STRATEGIES TO RESPOND.

Reduce LGBTQ youth risks.

Tailor tobacco control activities to LGBTQ youth.



TWO TYPES OF STRATEGIES TO RESPOND.

Reduce LGBTQ youth risks.

Tailor tobacco control activities to LGBTQ youth.



REDUCE LGBTQ YOUTH RISKS

How do we build more welcoming environments for LGBTQ youth?



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REDUCE LGBTQ YOUTH RISKS

Take this quiz: when
LGBTQ youth come
to your agency,
school, or practice...

how do they know
they are welcome?



REDUCE LGBTQ YOUTH RISKS



Do you:

- ☐ Have a nondiscrimination policy visible?
- ☐ Advertise it on your website?
- ☐ Have tailored services, programming, &/or resources?
- ☐ Encourage and value youth disclosure?



REDUCE LGBTQ YOUTH RISKS

Do you:

- ☐ Mark office doors with safe space stickers?
- ☐ Value openly LGBTQ adult employees?
- ☐ Have an LGBTQ resource group or gay straight alliance?
- ☐ Enforce a zero tolerance policy for anti-LGBTQ speech?



REDUCE LGBTQ YOUTH RISKS



Do you:

- ☐ Have policies to help youth transition with support?
- ☐ Require staff to have sensitivity training?
- ☐ Have options for an all-gender bathroom (+ locker room)?

One example of a public health focused all-gender bathroom sign is coming next.



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WHATEVER
JUST WASH YOUR HANDS



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TWO TYPES OF STRATEGIES TO RESPOND.

Reduce LGBTQ youth risks.

Tailor tobacco control activities to LGBTQ youth.



TAILORING TOBACCO CONTROL

We need to educate LGBTQ youth on this tobacco disparity... because many LGBTQ people don't even know it exists.

36%

of LGBTQ people in a recent survey think we use tobacco more than other people.



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TAILORING TOBACCO CONTROL

How can you get resources to help educate LGBTQ youth?

1. Make your own
2. Truth Initiative
3. FDA LGBTQ young adult campaign:-
This Free Life



TAILORING TOBACCO CONTROL



lgbt history month: why are smoking rates higher in lgbt communities?

lgbt marketing sexual/gender identity

<https://truthinitiative.org>



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TAILORING TOBACCO CONTROL



tobacco use in lgbt communities

2.5x

Lesbian, gay and bisexual adults **smoke at rates up to 2.5 times higher** than straight adults.



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TAILORING TOBACCO CONTROL



LGBT

The **LGBT** community is disproportionately impacted by tobacco.

2x

LGBT YOUNG ADULTS



STRAIGHT

LGBT

aged 18-24 are nearly twice as likely to smoke as their straight peers.



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TAILORING TOBACCO CONTROL



This Free Life is a **\$35M FDA campaign** funded by tobacco taxes that tailors tobacco control messaging to the LGBTQ youth and young adult communities.

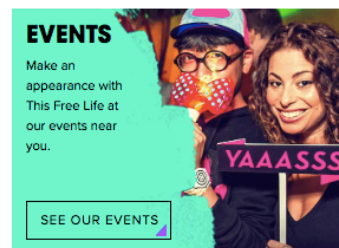
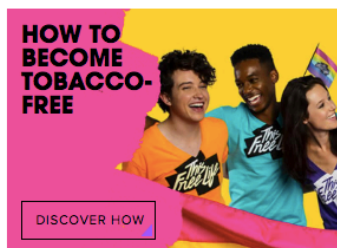
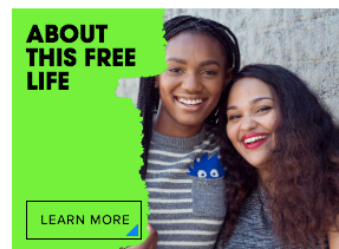
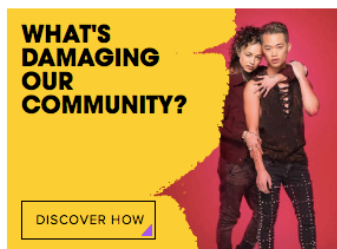
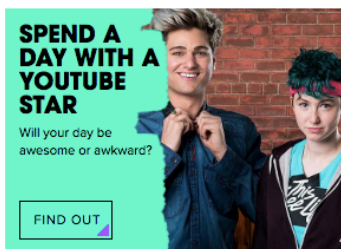
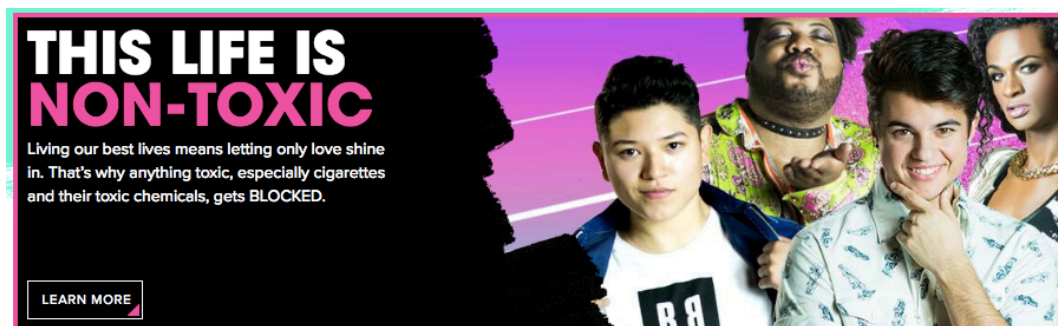
This Free Life is heavily social media based, they have a wide variety of videos, shareables, and text based tweets that can be shared as part of your own education campaign.

<https://thisfreelife.betobaccofree.hhs.gov/>



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TAILORING TOBACCO CONTROL



TAILORING TOBACCO CONTROL



<https://thisfreelife.betobaccofree.hhs.gov/non-toxic>

TO REVIEW: TWO TYPES OF STRATEGIES TO RESPOND.

Reduce LGBTQ youth risks.

Tailor tobacco control activities to LGBTQ youth.



TO REVIEW: TWO TYPES OF STRATEGIES TO RESPOND.

Reduce LGBTQ youth risks.

Tailor tobacco control strategies to LGBTQ youth.

Be a lifeline & educate.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



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all children all families

**Achieving Safety, Permanency and Well-Being by
Improving Practice with LGBTQ Youth and Families**

Sign up for our children, youth, and families
newsletter at: <http://eepurl.com/dJDIFY>.

For more information, contact
sula.malina@hrc.org.



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QUESTIONS?



POSTTEST



**THANK YOU
FOR HELPING
FIGHT TOBACCO
USE IN LGBTQ
YOUTH**

