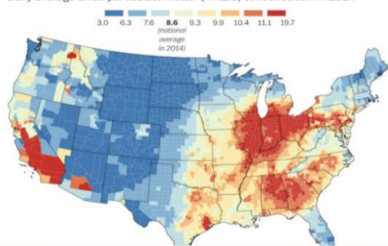


GEOGRAPHIC INEQUALITY IN LGBTQ+ HOMELESSNESS

The map of American air pollution
Daily average small particulate matter (PM2.5) concentration in 2014



THIS MAP SHOWS LEVELS OF FINE-PARTICLE AIR POLLUTION, OR PM2.5, ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. THESE MICROSCOPIC AIRBORNE PARTICLES CAN BE INHALED AND ABSORBED INTO THE BLOODSTREAM, RESULTING IN DAMAGE TO THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM, DECREASED LIFE EXPECTANCY, BRAIN DAMAGE, AND INCREASED RISKS FOR EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS (WASHINGTON POST, 2019). LGBTQ+ POPULATIONS FACE INCREASED EXPOSURE TO PM2.5, AS THEY'RE AT INCREASED RISK FOR HOMELESSNESS. THIS INCREASED RISK PUTS STRAIN ON EXISTING COMMUNITY RESOURCES WHO ARE WORKING TO SERVICE THIS POPULATION. HERE, WE LOOK AT FOUR STATES AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL RISK TO LGBTQ+ POPULATIONS. IN 2014, THE AVERAGE PM 2.5 WAS 8.6, WHICH WILL BE THE STANDARD FOR THIS COMPARISON.

New York State:

1. Percent of population that identifies as LGBTQ+: 5.1%/800,000 adults
2. Number of LGBTQ+ centers: 2 per 100,000/ 18 centers total
3. Percent of homeless population that identifies as LGBTQ+: 20-40% or between 320,000-400,000 gay and transgender youth who face homelessness each year
4. Percent of homeless population that identifies as Transgender: 11%

New York State's PM 2.5 is primarily under the national average, however New York City (NYC) and Long Island (LI) sit between 8.6-9.9. This state has a rather large LGBTQ+ population; those in NYC/LI are at a higher environmental risk than the rest of the state.

Alabama:

1. Percent of population that identifies as LGBTQ+: 3.1%/ 117,000 adults
2. Number of LGBTQ+ centers: 4 per 100,000/ 5 centers total
3. Percent of homeless population that identifies as LGBTQ+: 20-40%
4. Percent of homeless population that identifies as Transgender: 10%

This state's average is between 9.9 and 19.7, the highest in this comparison. It is likely due to coal mining fumes, and puts LGBTQ+ individuals at one of the highest risks for environmental hazards.

Vermont:

1. Percent of population that identifies as LGBTQ+: 5.2%/26,000 adults
2. Number of LGBTQ+ centers: 12 per 100,000/3 total
3. Percent of homeless population that identifies as LGBTQ+: N/A
3. Percent of homeless population that identifies as Transgender: 1%

The state of Vermont has PM 2.5 levels that rest below the national average. Therefore, LGBTQ+ populations are at a lower risk for environmental hazards.

Pennsylvania:

1. Percent of population that identifies as LGBTQ+: 4.1%/ 416,000 adults
2. Number of LGBTQ+ centers: 5 per 100,000 / 22 total
3. Percent of homeless population that identifies as LGBTQ+: 1 in 4, 1,500 total
4. Percent of homeless population that identifies as Transgender: 1%

The range of air pollution in this state goes from below the national average (7.6) to the highest number on this scale (19.7). LGBTQ+ individuals on the New York State border are at the lowest risk for environmental hazards, which increases

Transgender Community
Between 2016 and 2020, the rate of homeless transgender individuals went up 88%

1. 63% of transgender adults are living unsheltered, vs 55% of cisgender adults.
2. Unsheltered transgender adults are highly likely to experience health and behavioral health issues, including (but not limited to):
 - a. Trimorbid (co-occurring physical, mental and substance use disorders)
 - b. Mental health issues
 - c. Chronic health issues
 - d. Legal issues
 - e. Avoiding medical treatment

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