



CONCLUSIONS

SUMMARY: WATERLOO REGION NON-LGBTQ2+ PERCEPTION SURVEY

This report represents a summary of the major findings from the analysis done on data collected as part of our survey to assess non-LGBTQ2+ perception of LGBTQ2+ people in the Region of Waterloo. With the assistance of community members and partners, SPECTRUM received 367 qualifying responses to the survey over the three-week period between April 26th and May 14th.

For more detail about any of the findings presented in this report, or for data concerning open-ended responses, see the complete report for more details.

SELECTION ERROR AND BIAS

Because SPECTRUM is a group created by and for LGBTQ2+, there was an unavoidable level of selection bias in that respondents were more likely to already be aware of or connected with SPECTRUM, which would tend to bias responses toward more favorable perceptions.

The restrictions of the pandemic also made it impossible to avoid a level of selection error. Because we were restricted to conducting and promoting the survey entirely online, it wasn't possible to make people aware of the survey through in-person promotion of the survey. This selection error is reflected in respondent underrepresentation of people under 24 and a complete lack of any respondents 76+.

Lastly, it is critical to note that non-white people were underrepresented in the survey data. Out of a pool of 367 respondents, we should have received 70 responses from non-white people in order to reflect the 19% of Waterloo Region's population that was recorded as visible minorities on the 2016 census. We received 36 responses from Mixed or non-white backgrounds, and another 4 responses from people who did not wish to identify their racial background. As such, it must be noted that this data skews noticeably white.

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

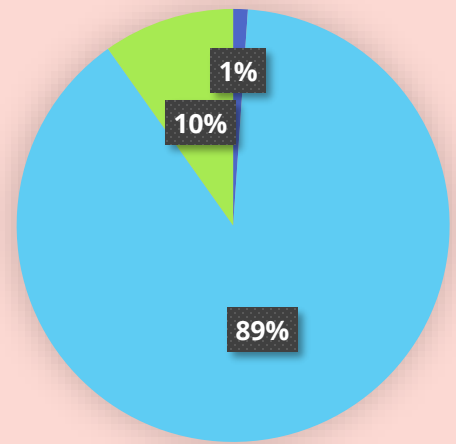
327 respondents identified themselves as white, with the remaining respondents who chose to answer identifying themselves as either non-white or Mixed.

In comparing the breakdown of respondent age to baseline data from the 2016 census, certain groups were greatly under-represented, while others were overrepresented:

- 10% of respondents identified themselves as non-white, as compared to 19% of the population of Waterloo Region
- People 18-24 were slightly underrepresented, people 76+ were somewhat underrepresented, and people 18 or under were greatly underrepresented.

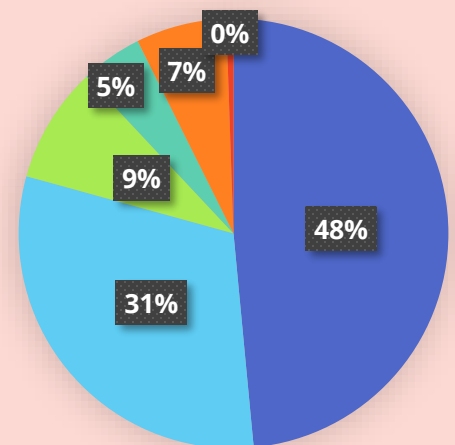
In looking at the breakdown of respondent residency, responses to our survey were relatively close to the population breakdown of the Region as reported in 2019.

- Slightly overrepresented in our data were Kitchener (48% of respondents versus 42% of 2019 population) and Wilmot (5% of responses versus 3% of population).
- There was no significant difference with other local communities (7% of respondents versus 8% of population).
- Cambridge was greatly underrepresented in our results (9% of respondents versus 23% of population), with most of the difference coming from moderate overrepresentation of Kitchener (48% of respondents versus 42% of population) and larger overrepresentation of Waterloo (31% of respondents versus 24% of population).



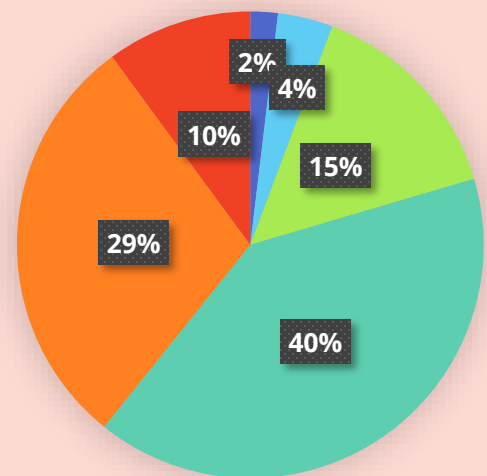
■ Don't want to say
 ■ White
 ■ Non-white / Mixed non-white

Respondent Location



■ Kitchener ■ Waterloo
 ■ Cambridge ■ Wilmot
 ■ Other Local ■ Don't want to say

Survey Respondents by Age



■ under 18 ■ 18-24 ■ 25-30 ■ 31-45
 ■ 46-59 ■ 60-75 ■ 76+



CONNECTIONS WITH LGBTQ2+ PEOPLE

The number of respondents who said that they were at least Somewhat Knowledgeable of LGBTQ2+ identities and issues (72.2%) was close to the number of respondents who had LGBTQ2+ friends or family (78%).

Respondents were much less likely to be familiar with transgender and/or non-binary people specifically. Only 31% of respondents had trans and/or non-binary friends or family, while 39% had trans and/or non-binary acquaintances. **Nearly a third of respondents said that they did not know any transgender and/or non-binary people.**

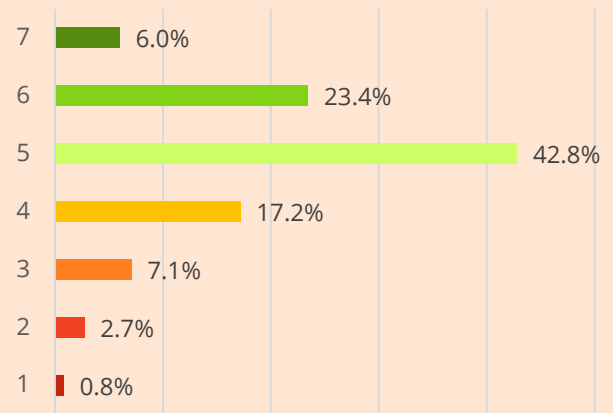
While there were issues with wording of our question makes it difficult to judge the scope, **there is significant unwillingness among respondents to consider transgender and/or non-binary people as potential romantic partners.** These results mirror other recent studies that have shown that an overwhelming majority of straight people will not consider transgender and/or non-binary people as romantic partners.

87% of respondents said either that they were an ally or that they hoped to be an ally. A slightly smaller number of respondents (83%) said that they were interested in learning to be a better ally. Another 10% said they either probably weren't (4%) or were not allies (6%). The remaining 3% made other responses to the question.

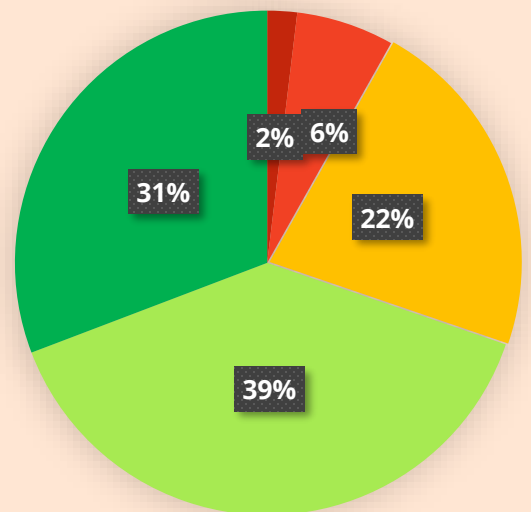
There was deep ambivalence among respondents about the question of whether society is becoming more inclusive of LGBTQ2+ people. While only 5% of respondents Disagreed that society was becoming more inclusive, nearly two thirds (64%) only Somewhat Agreed or felt Neutral about the question.



How knowledgeable are you about LGBTQ2+ issues and identities?

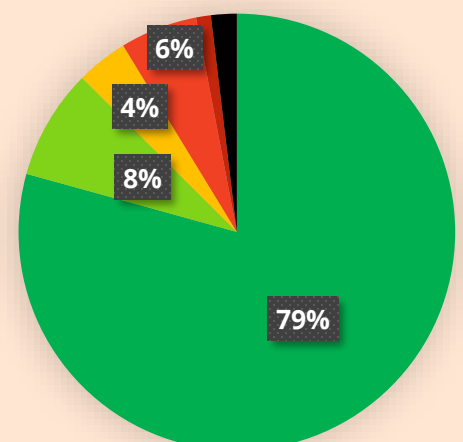


Are You Familiar with Trans/NB People?



- I don't know what this means
- I rarely or never encounter trans/nb people
- I have seen trans/nb people but do not know them personally
- I have trans/nb acquaintances
- I have personal friends and/or family who are trans/nb

Do you consider yourself to be an ally?



PEOPLE UNDER 25

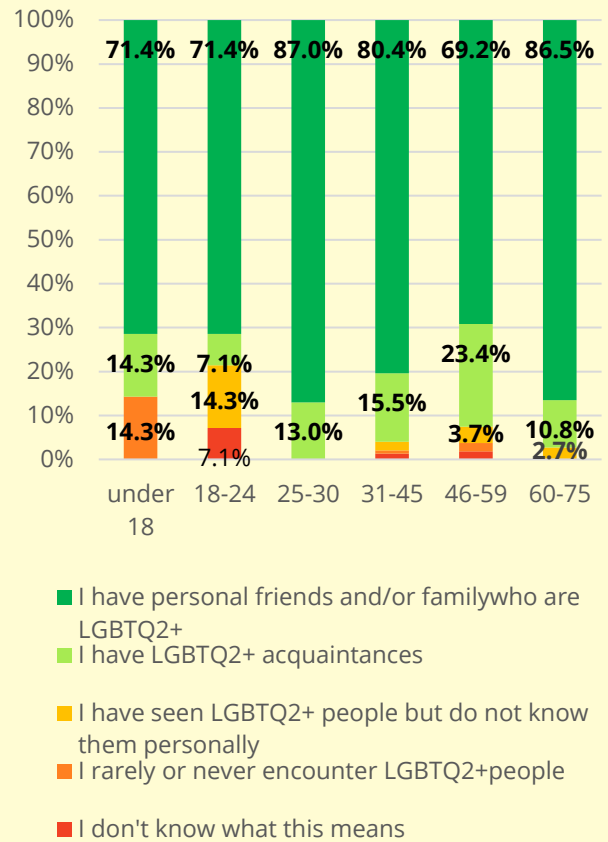
It was predicted that younger people would be the most knowledgeable of LGBTQ2+ issues and the most familiar with LGBTQ2+ people. However, the opposite turned out to be true.

- **People under 18 were the least likely to have LGBTQ2+ friends, family, or acquaintances.** They were also several times more likely to say either that they rarely or never had contact with LGBTQ2+ people or that they didn't know what the question meant.
- More than a quarter of respondents 18-24 didn't know anybody who was transgender or non-binary. Respondents 18-24 were two and a half times more likely to not know what "transgender and/or non-binary" meant than respondents aged 60-75.
- There was a curious polarization in which people under 18 were the most likely to have transgender and/or non-binary friends, family, or acquaintances, but were also several times more likely to not know what the question meant. Additionally, people 18-24 were the second-least likely to have trans and/or non-binary friends, family, or acquaintances.

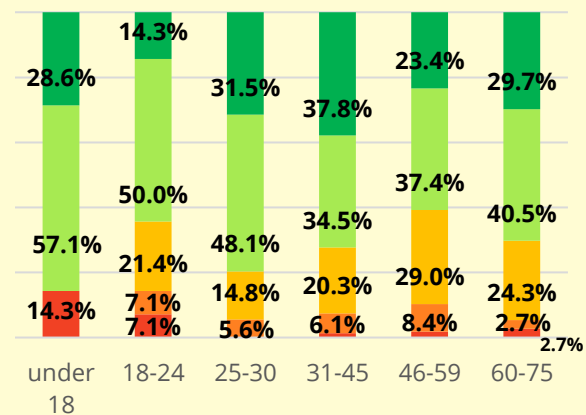
People under 25 people were also the most likely to rate themselves as Not At All Knowledgeable about LGBTQ2+ identities and issues.

Younger people were much less likely to respond either that they were an ally or that they hoped they were an ally. Only 57% of people under 25 agreed that they were an ally, and nearly half (43%) of people under 18 said that they were not allies.

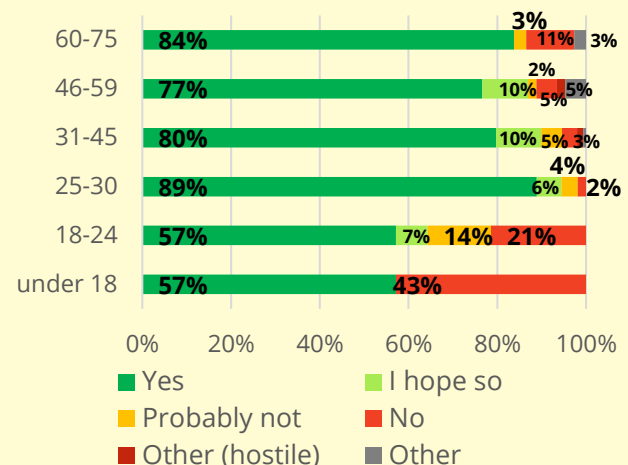
LGBTQ2+ Familiarity v Respondent Age



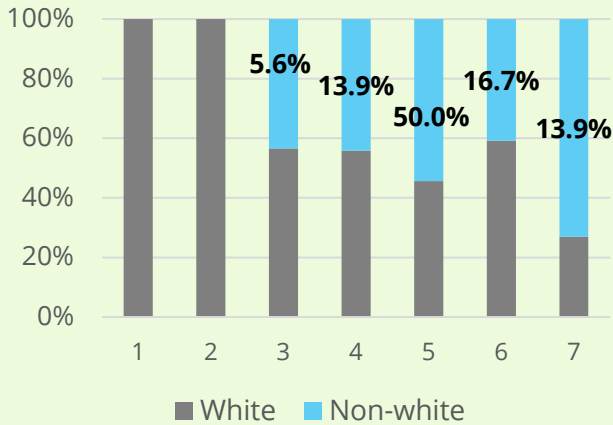
Trans/NB Familiarity v Respondent Age



"Do you consider yourself an ally?" answers by age



Knowledgeability by white vs. nonwhite respondents

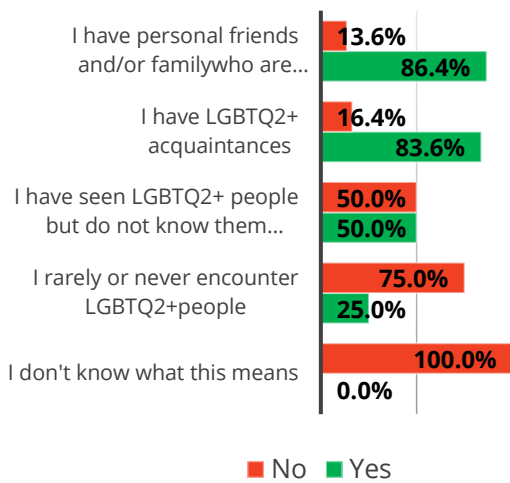


Other demographic trends

All of the 13 respondents who assessed their level of knowledge as Not Knowledgeable (2) or Not At All Knowledgeable (1) were white. Additionally, non-white respondents were much more likely to rate themselves as Very Knowledgeable.

Racial background did not have a significant effect on respondents' desire to be a better ally. Racial background also did not have a significant effect on prevalence of hostile beliefs.

Familiarity with LGBTQ2+ v. Desire to be a better ally

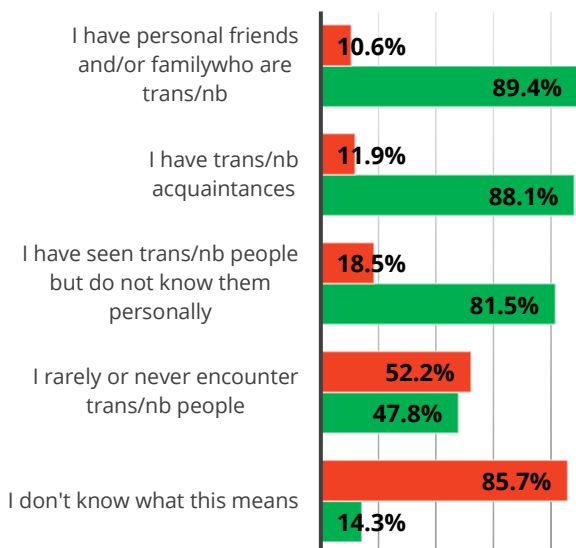


Allyship

A clear majority of respondents with LGBTQ2+ friends, family, or acquaintances said that they were interested in being a better ally. On the other hand, three quarters of respondents who rarely or never encountered LGBTQ2+ people were not interested in becoming a better ally. People who saw LGBTQ2+ people but did not know any personally were split fifty/fifty on their desire to be a better ally.

100% of respondents who identified themselves as Not At All Knowledgeable also said that they were not interested in becoming better allies. However, people who rated themselves as the most knowledgeable were not the *most* likely to want to be better allies. The group that most desired to be better allies were people who rated themselves as 2 or Not Knowledgeable, at 90%.

Familiarity with Trans/NB v. Desire to be a better ally



Overall, as knowledgeability increased people became more likely to say that they either were allies or hoped that they were allies. However, there was a sharp drop-off among people who rated themselves as Very Knowledgeable; only 78% said that they were or hoped that they were allies, and nearly a quarter either said that they were not allies or made other hostile responses.

Common themes among ally responses about what allyship meant included: advocacy, support, education and understanding, action, acceptance and empathy, using privilege, and communication and construction of community.

HOSTILE BELIEFS ABOUT LGBTQ2+ PEOPLE

The most commonly-held hostile beliefs were those pertaining to the supposed dangers posed to children by LGBTQ2+ people. 7.4% of respondents at least Somewhat Agreed that children should not be taught about LGBTQ2+ identities and issues. A nearly equal number (7.1%) Agreed that they were uncomfortable exposing children to LGBTQ2+ people.

The least commonly-held hostile beliefs were those pertaining to discomfort in having personal and/or professional interactions with LGBTQ2+ people.

While the prevalence of each hostile belief that was tested was low, 16.1% of respondents held at least one hostile belief about LGBTQ2+ people. Most respondents agreed with only 1 or 2 hostile beliefs, while more than a fifth of respondents with hostile beliefs agreed with three or more hostile beliefs.

Respondents who rated their knowledgeability as Neutral were the least likely to agree with beliefs hostile to LGBTQ2+ people (10%). As knowledgeability decreased below Neutral, respondents grew increasingly likely to hold hostile beliefs.

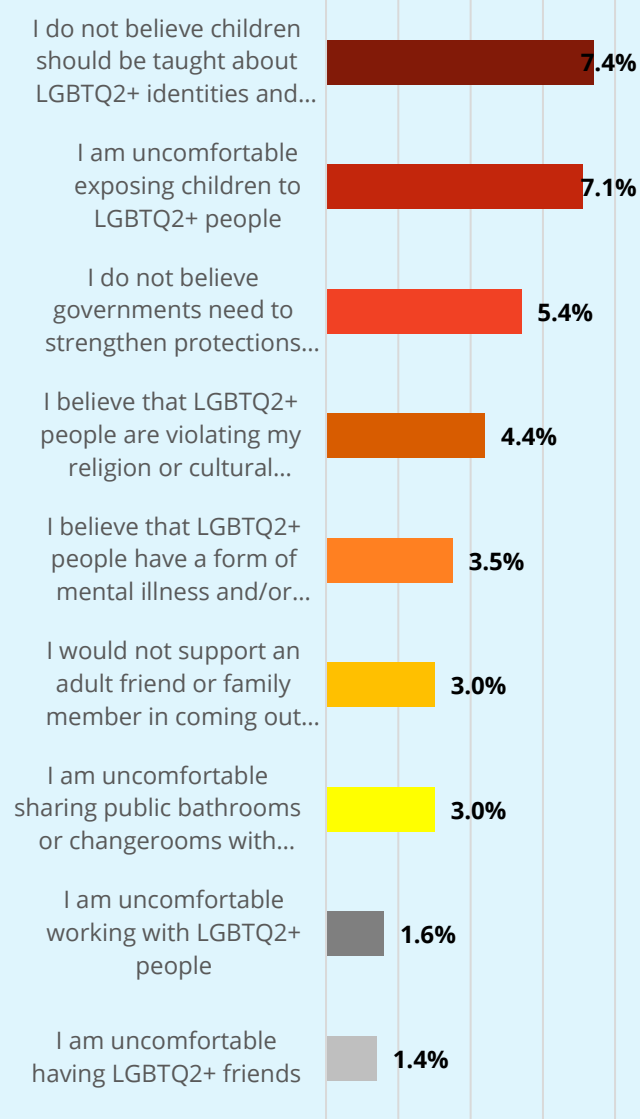
The age group most likely to hold hostile beliefs about LGBTQ2+ people was people 18-24, with nearly half of that age group (43%) agreeing with at least one hostile belief.

People with hostile beliefs were more than 20% less likely to identify themselves as allies, and were also less likely to say that they hoped they were allies. People with hostile beliefs were three times more likely to say that they were probably not allies, and more than three times as likely to say that they were not allies.

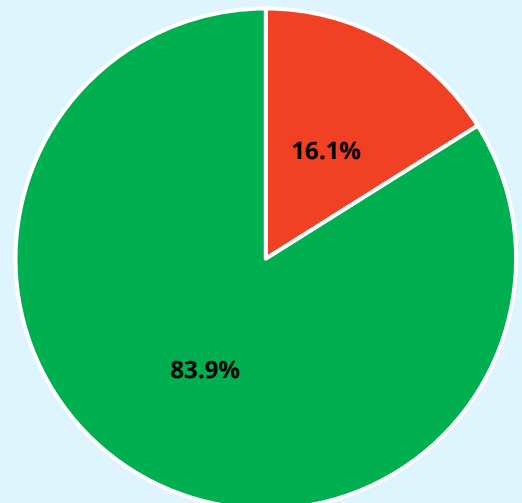
Some hostile beliefs about LGBTQ2+ have a much stronger correlation with unwillingness to be a better ally than others.



Agreement with hostile beliefs



Respondents who agreed with hostile beliefs about LGBTQ2+ people



- At least one hostile belief
- No hostile beliefs

Discomfort in having personal or professional interactions with LGBTQ2+ people were the least commonly agreed with hostile beliefs but was among the most toxic, with 100% of people who agreed with those beliefs saying that they did not want to be a better ally.

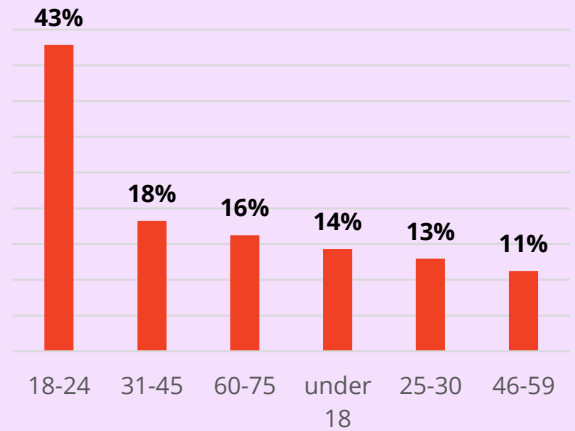
Lack of agreement that governments need to enact stronger protections for LGBTQ2+ people was the third-most popular hostile belief but was just as toxic as discomfort in sharing interactions. 100% of people who disagreed with the need for stronger government protections for LGBTQ2+ people also disagreed that they were interested in being better allies.

Common themes among non-ally open-ended included: concerns about children, wanting to silence discussions of inequity, excusing religious or cultural intolerance, bigotry, and bigoted dog-whistles.

For more detail about any of the findings presented in this report, or for data concerning open-ended responses, see the Complete Survey Report for more details.



Age groups by % of hostile beliefs



Knowledgeability versus % of respondents with hostile beliefs

