

ELEVATE PROGRAM RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



Reframing substance abuse as a public health crisis so that students can access the support and resources that they need.

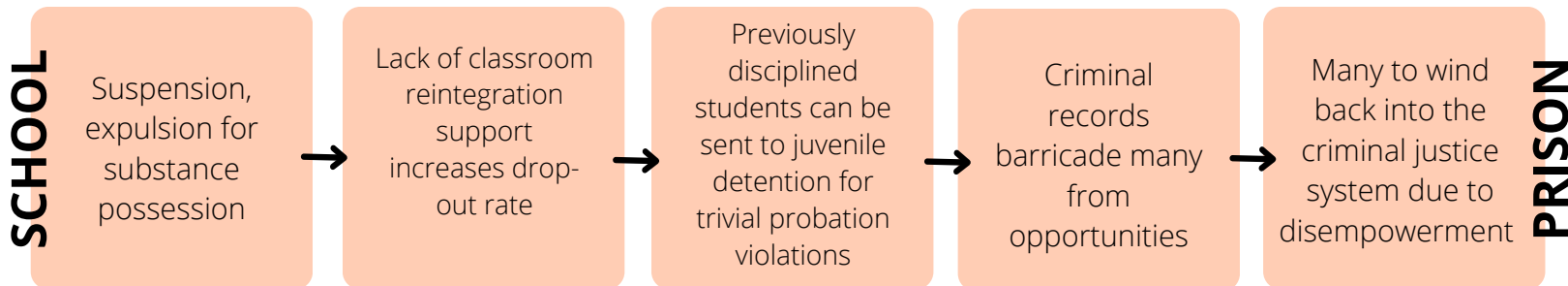
WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Restorative Justice guides people to recognize underlying causes of misbehavior. Everyone who is impacted is given the space to share their feelings, which allows all parties involved to see how their actions affect others in ways they might not have previously been aware of. This empowers folks to enter conversations of resolution from a more informed and empathetic standpoint, and promotes long-lasting solutions that significantly decrease chances of repeated offenses.

Schools currently treat substance abuse as a criminal justice issue, which is detrimental and pushes students out of the education system.

DETRIMENTAL IMPACTS OF ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICIES

The school-to-prison pipeline disrupts the lives of students who need more support. Oftentimes, youth from marginalized groups are affected at higher rates by these policies. Here's a glimpse into what zero-tolerance policies could lead to:



BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTATION¹



- Higher levels of peer attachment, positive peer relationships, school connectedness, and empathy; Less physical, cyber, and emotional bullying
- Significant decrease in suspensions and expulsions
- Considerably narrowed discipline gaps for marginalized groups
- Improved academic performance and graduation rates

CALLS TO ACTION

- Join local efforts to decriminalize substance use and reframe as a Public Health issue by implementing restorative justice policies in OC schools. Contact Manuel Antunez (manuel.antunez@lgbtqcenteroc.org) to get connected to the Elevate Program.
- Learn about local and national resources that are available to you to support and uplift the diverse needs of youth and students*
- Visit Elevate Youth California to learn more <https://elevateyouthca.org/about/>



FREE RESOURCES

To learn more about:

- Elevate Program
- Youth Leadership Opportunities
- Substance Use Prevention Advocacy
- Mental Health Counseling
- Tobacco Cessation Program

Please call the LGBTQ Center OC's front desk at (714) 953-5428



SOURCE

1. "Effectiveness of Restorative Justice in US K-12 Schools: a Review of Quantitative Research" by Sean Darling-Hammond, Trevor A. Fronius, Hannah Sutherland, Sarah Guckenbug, Anthony Petrosino, and Nancy Hurley

*<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/>



ELEVATE PROGRAM

WAR ON DRUGS

Discussing the implications of the War on Drugs on the popular implementation of zero-tolerance policies in schools, and revealing the reality of how it has negatively impacted minority groups.

OVERVIEW¹

On June 1971, President Nixon declared a "War on Drugs" leading to: Mandatory sentencing, no-knock warrants, halted scientific research on medical safety and efficacy on illicit drugs, and criminalizing minority groups.



STATS

- 25% of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) respondents in a survey reported police misconduct and harassment during their interaction.²
 - Only 49% of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) teens felt they could turn to an adult in their family compared to 79% of non-LGBTQ teens.³
 - LGBTQ children in the juvenile justice system are more than two times that of LGBTQ youth in the general population (7-9%); 85% are children of color.⁴
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RISK FACTORS⁵

Less family support, social oppression, targeted advertising, effects of minority stress overall as members of a marginalized group, and overrepresentation in experiences with major depressive episodes.

CALLS TO ACTION

- Connect youth and students to the Elevate Program
- Educate yourself and learn about the local and national resource that are available to you to support and uplift the diverse needs of youth and students
- Advocate for accessible education (multilingual, alt-text, etc.) on the War on Drugs for students, educators, parents, and school staff



RESOURCES

To learn more about:

- Elevate Program
- Youth Leadership Opportunities
- Substance Use Prevention Advocacy
- Mental Health Counseling
- Tobacco Cessation Program

Please call the LGBTQ Center OC's front desk at (714) 953-5428

SOURCES

1. DrugPolicy.org, *A Brief History of the Drug War*
2. Lambda Legal, *Protected and Served?*
3. Human Rights Campaign Foundation, *Preventing Substance Abuse Among LGBTQ Teens*
4. Children's Defense Fund, *The State of America's Children 2020*
5. DrugPolicy.org, *How the War on Drugs Harms LGBTQIA+ Community*



WAR ON DRUGS

Discussing the implications of the War on Drugs on the popular implementation of zero-tolerance policies in schools, and revealing the reality of how it has negatively impacted minority groups.

OVERVIEW¹

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STATS²

- Half of all drug arrests involving White youth result in formal processing while 75% of drug arrests involving Black youth are prosecuted.
- Black youth are 3x more likely than White youth to be admitted to an adult prison for a drug conviction.
- Latinx folks are arrested at nearly 4x the rate of white folks for marijuana, even though Latinx folks and White folks use marijuana at comparable rates.

RISK FACTORS^{3,4}



- Lack of culturally-informed, affordable, and accessible health and social services
- Higher incarceration rates of youth and people from lower income communities and communities of color in urban areas
- Effects of minority stress as members of a marginalized group

CALLS TO ACTION

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- Advocate for accessible education (multilingual, alt-text, etc.) on the War on Drugs for students, educators, parents, and school staff



RESOURCES

To learn more about:



- Elevate Program
- Youth Leadership Opportunities
- Substance Use Prevention Advocacy
- Mental Health Counseling
- Tobacco Cessation Program

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SOURCES

1. DrugPolicy.org, *A Brief History of the Drug War*
2. Break The Chains, *The War on Drugs Criminalizes Youth*
3. DrugPolicy.org, *Race and the Drug War*
4. DrugPolicy.org, *Latinxs and the Drug War*

ELEVATE PROGRAM MENTAL HEALTH

OVERVIEW



Not all youth currently have access to high-quality and culturally appropriate mental health care. Unfortunately, youth who experience the greatest mental health disparities—including youth living in poverty; youth with disabilities; Black, Indigenous, and other youth of color; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth—are more likely to have unmet mental health care needs.¹

MENTAL HEALTH & SCHOOLS

Students are **21 times** more likely to visit school-based health centers for mental health services than community mental health centers; improving health outcomes for students and school safety.²



62% of Black, Latinx LGBTQ youth and **60%** of Asian/Pacific Islander LGBTQ youth who wanted mental health care were not able to get it.¹

Schools must invest in more bi/multilingual, trauma-informed, and culturally competent mental health clinicians.³

CALLS TO ACTION



- Connect youth and students to the Elevate Program
- Educate yourself about the local/national resources that support and uplift the diverse needs of youth and students
- Advocate for translators and access to mental health staff that are multilingual to provide culturally relevant services to all students and families

FREE RESOURCES

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The LGBTQ Center OC receives support from Elevate Youth California, a program of the California Department of Health Care Services funded through Proposition 64. Learn more at elevateyouthca.org

CITATIONS

- 1.The Trevor Project, *Breaking Barriers to Quality Mental Health Care for LGBTQ Youth*
- 2.ACLU, *Cops and No Counselors How the Lack of School Mental Health Staff Is Harming Students*
- 3.Human Rights Campaign, *Black and African American Youth Report*

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND OTHER DRUGS

OVERVIEW

Compared to heterosexual & cisgender peers, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ+) young adults are:

- 1.3X More Likely to Engage in Heavy Alcohol Use¹
- 1.6X More Likely to Engage in Marijuana Use¹
- 2.9X More Likely to Engage in Injection Drug Use¹
- 3.3X More Likely to Engage in Cocaine Drug Use¹

Bisexual, transgender, or questioning have higher rates of substance use disorders.

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WHY?¹

- Due to Social Stigma
- Used as a Coping Strategy
- Bullying/Peer Pressure
- Lack Social Support (School & Home)
- ATOD advertising targeting BIPOC communities
- Homelessness



IF NOT ADDRESSED...

- May Lead to Addiction
- May Lead to Health Problems
- May Develop Mental Health Disorders
- May Cause Poor Performance in School
- May Lead to Repeated Offenses



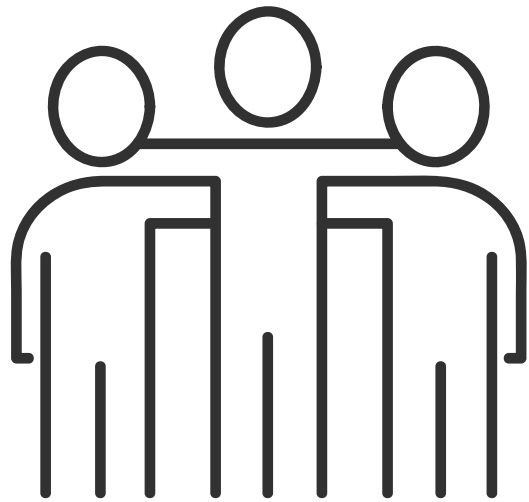


CALLS TO ACTION

- Get involved with the LGBTQ Center OC and refer youth and students to participate in the Elevate Program
- Educate yourself and learn about the local and national resources that are available to you to support and uplift the diverse needs of youth and students
- Advocate for accessible rehabilitation, counseling, and therapy programs and services that are inclusive of LGBTQ+ and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities

FREE RESOURCES

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- Substance Use Prevention Advocacy
- Mental Health Counseling
- Tobacco Cessation Program

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CITATIONS

1. Human Rights Campaign, *Preventing Substance Abuse Among LGBTQ Teens*
2. Healthline, *Why the Risk of Substance Use Disorders Is higher for LGBTQ People*