



Facts and Statistics

How many people are LGBTIQ in Europe?

- There is no exact and binding number of LGBTIQ people in Europe from a scientific perspective, rather, there are only estimates which are quite unreliable.
- Many of these estimates assume that about 5-10% of the population are thought to be LGBTIQ
- “LGBTIQ” seems to be a topic, which is still often related to with uncertainty and also fears. This presents enormous difficulties for research in this field.

Why are some people LGBTIQ?

Contrary to the assumption of some people that particular parenting styles, or the education through LGBTIQ-parents have a (profound) effect on the emergence of sexual orientation or gender identity, the vast majority of scientific assumption states that homosexuality (and presumably also BTIQ) is conditioned by the complex interaction of genetic factors in combination with diverse environmental influences. Thus, being LGBTIQ is nothing you learn, it is not a biological defect, not an illness nor an issue of will power.

Why is it so important to address the topic of LGBTIQ-people in sports?

- In a wide variety of sports, the topic of LGBTIQ is still a huge taboo, which makes it difficult to identify the numbers of LGBTIQ people in sports. Some people even deny that there might be any LGBTIQ people in sports and especially in male football.
- LGBTIQ people often feel unwelcome or even discriminated against, which was recently shown in an international report on homophobia in team sports (Out On The Fields), focusing on the experiences of gay, lesbian and bisexual people :
 - 62% of all participants and even 73% of the

homosexual men believed that homophobia is a more severe problem in team sports than it is in other parts of society.

- 73% of the participants thought that LGB-people are not safe or welcome in youth sports
- More than half of the homosexual (54%) and bisexual (60%) men and nearly half (48%) of the homosexual and 29% of the bisexual women in the study stated that they experienced homophobia in their sports.
- 44% of the homosexual men and 29% of the homosexual women in the study were afraid their team mates would rejected them if they came out.
- Athletes who came out reported that the most valuable support for their ‘coming-out’ was a trusted/supportive person in their team, along with a team culture that promoted diversity.
- A French study with 363 athletes showed that homophobia is still very common in professional football, especially in male youth players, where 50% of the players show a negative or very negative attitude towards homosexuality.

What are the possible consequences of homophobia, bi-phobia and trans-phobia in sports and football?

Homophobia, bi-phobia and trans-phobia in sports, football, and in wider society, presents various possible negative consequences for LGBTIQ people. The following list outlines some of the most important ones. With this in mind, the significance of diversity and the creation and promotion of a safe, welcoming and accepting environment to include everyone, is even more necessary. Some of the negative consequences of discrimination and the lack of acceptance are identified below:



For individuals

- Experiencing distance, repressive and ostracising behaviours from the social environment
- Higher incidences of stress and negative impacts on mental health
- Low self-confidence and self-esteem
- A negative impact on their career

For sports and football

- Higher drop-out rates
- An increasing culture of thoughtlessness and exclusion
- Unused potential of social responsibility



Selected Literature

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