



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## LGBT Tech Releases First-of-Its-Kind Survey on Digital Lives of LGBTQ+ Adults

*New research unveils critical insights into internet access, device usage, and online experiences of members of the LGBTQ+ community.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — May 30, 2024 — LGBT Tech, in collaboration with Data for Progress, has released a comprehensive survey revealing the digital access, usage patterns, and online experiences of LGBTQ+ adults across the United States.

Amid rising concerns about digital equity and inclusion, this research underscores the critical need for ensuring robust digital access and safe online spaces for LGBTQ+ individuals. The research, titled “ctrl-alt+lgbt,” illustrates the profound impact of digital connectivity on the LGBTQ+ community’s daily life, communication, health, education, and employment.

---

### Key Findings from the Survey Include:

**Internet and Device Access.** An overwhelming 96% of LGBTQ+ adults use the internet daily. Smartphones are the primary device for internet access (93%), followed by laptops (69%), tablets (44%), and desktop computers (37%).

**Home Internet Access.** 89% of LGBTQ+ households subscribe to an internet service provider, with cable internet being the most common service (63%). Younger LGBTQ+ adults aged 18-24 are twice as likely to use fixed wireless providers (35%) compared to the overall LGBTQ+ population (17%).

**Community Center Access.** LGBTQ+ community centers are crucial spaces for connectivity, with nearly half (45%) of LGBTQ+ adults having relied on them, a number that grows to 67% for transgender adults, 64% for Black LGBTQ+ adults, and 63% for Latine LGBTQ+ adults.

**Healthcare, Education, and Employment.** A substantial majority utilize the internet for essential services. 87% search for health information online, 61% access telehealth services, and 44% find LGBTQ+-friendly healthcare providers. Over 70% engage in online education and use digital libraries, while 78% use the internet for job searches and professional networking.

**Social Media and Online Platforms.** LGBTQ+ adults are active users of social media and other online platforms, with nearly 80% using social networking sites and video streaming services. A significant number joined social media before age 18 to connect with friends and family, explore new ideas, and access LGBTQ+ resources.

**Online Identity and Expression.** Online spaces are vital for self-expression and identity exploration, with 74% reporting that these spaces have significantly impacted their understanding of their LGBTQ+ identity. This impact is especially pronounced among transgender adults (90%).



***Online Harassment and Misinformation.*** Many LGBTQ+ adults face harassment and misinformation online, with 50% of LGBTQ+ adults and 80% of transgender adults experiencing anti-LGBTQ+ hate or harassment. Despite these challenges, 75% feel somewhat or very safe in online spaces.

---

*“This survey shines a light on the indispensable role digital spaces play in the daily lives of LGBTQ+ individuals, highlighting both the opportunities and challenges they face online,”* says Chris Wood, Executive Director of LGBT Tech. *“As society continues to build and govern the technologies of tomorrow, it is crucial that innovators are inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community by engaging civil society organizations (like LGBT Tech), that legislators truly know how their bills can impact communities like out, and that we continue advocating for equitable internet access and fostering safe online environments for the LGBTQ+ community.”*

The report was generated following a survey of more than 1,300 LGBTQ+ adults in the United States, and while findings from this survey mark a significant step towards better understanding digital needs, this is just the beginning. LGBT Tech hopes this research will pave the way for more in-depth and sustained efforts to explore and address the unique digital challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community.

---

#### **About LGBT Tech**

*LGBT Tech is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that works to bridge the technology gap for LGBTQ+ individuals through partnerships with tech companies, nonprofit groups, policy makers, scholars, and innovators. Grounded in empirical research, we develop programs and resources that support LGBTQ+ communities and work to educate on the unique needs LGBTQ+ individuals face when it comes to tech.*