The LGBTQ Wealth Gap

In 2019, 1-in-4 LGBTQ Americans reported experiencing financial challenges based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. On average, LGBTQ workers earn less than heterosexual and cisgendered peers. In 2017:
- Lesbians earned 11% less than heterosexual women.
- Gay men made 32% less than heterosexual men.
- Bisexual women earned 30% less than heterosexual peers; bisexual men earned slightly more.
- Trans people were 4x more likely to earn less than $10,000 a year than the gen. pop. (1.5% vs. 4%) (in separate reporting).

Nearly half of Americans in 2019 wrongly believed LGBTQ people were protected by U.S. civil rights laws. But LGBTQ people still in-fact live without explicit protection under federal civil rights laws.

Without federal protection, LGBTQ Americans rely upon a “patchwork” of state and municipal laws to protect themselves, but few can. For example:
- 71% of LGBTQ Americans (~10.5M people) live in the 36 states with no state protection against discrimination in credit transactions.
- And, in 4-of-14 states with such laws, religious exemption law can be used as a defense to that state’s anti-discrimination law.