



# Elephant in The Room Q & A

Summer 2020

**\*\*This document can also be accessed at <https://www.bloom365.org/faqs>**

### Resources:

*\*For additional resources, please visit [bloom365.com/resources](https://www.bloom365.com/resources)\**

<p><b>BLOOM365 Advocacy Line and Support Groups</b></p>	<p><b>Text or call a BLOOM365 advocate for free, confidential support.</b>  <b>Text/Call: 1-888-606-HOPE (4673)</b>  <b>Advocacy Line Hours of Operation:</b>  <b>Monday-Friday from 3PM-9PM (MST)</b></p> <p><b>To reach a specific advocate directly, please feel free to contact our advocacy line and tell us who you would like to speak to.</b></p> <p><b>Join us on Monday, Tuesday, and/or Thursday evenings for one of our drop-in support groups (Holidays excluded)! Visit <a href="https://www.bloom365.org/peersupport">bloom365.org/peersupport</a> for specific dates and times.</b></p>
<p><b>Teen Lifeline</b></p>	<p><b>Text or call 602-248-TEEN (8336) for free, confidential support 24/7 relating to suicide, depression, bullying, or relationships.</b></p>
<p><b>National Teen Dating Violence Hotline</b></p>	<p><b>Text "LOVEIS" to 22522 24/7</b></p>
<p><b>National Domestic Violence Hotline</b></p>	<p><b>1-800-799-SAFE (7233)</b></p>
<p><b>National Sexual Assault Hotline</b></p>	<p><b>1-800.656.HOPE (4673)</b></p>
<p><b>Suicide Prevention Lifeline</b></p>	<p><b>1-800-273-TALK (8255)</b></p>

**Q: Student**  
**A: BLOOM365 Advocate**

**Q: How do I come out to my family?**

**A:** Thank you for being brave enough to share this with us and reaching out for help. Coming out can be a scary process for many people. You aren't alone if you're feeling worried, anxious, or afraid. Remember that there's no wrong way or right time to come out. It's your decision, and no one else's. There are many positives to coming out to the people around us. It can let people in your life know about an important part of you, and help you to feel less alone by allowing you to meet new friends or even finding someone to date. However, there are also some risks to coming out, especially if you worry that your friends and family might not be accepting. Coming out may be a process and can take time. Some great resources that you may find helpful are the Trevor Project's "[Coming Out As You](#)" guide and "[Coming Out Constellation](#)." The most important thing is for you to stay safe, and know that any negative reactions your friends or parents might have are not your fault. You can also always reach out to a BLOOM365 Advocate at the number above to discuss this situation or chat online at [bloom365.org](http://bloom365.org) for more support.

**Q: Could you guys come to my school? We could use stuff like this.**

**A (Avi):** We are glad that you want to bring bloom365 and what we do to your school. Depending on your school policies and where your school is located, there are a few different ways in which you can help bring bloom365's curriculum to your school. I brought bloom365's curriculum to my high school and my main tip is to find someone who supports you and the curriculum that you want to bring. At my school, it was the dance teacher. Although they may not be the class that receives the presentation, it's always nice to have someone who can support you. If you can't find anyone, reach out to us at bloom365 and we will support you. If you are interested, feel free to reach out to [teens@bloom365.org](mailto:teens@bloom365.org) or fill out this [form](#) to schedule an information session.

**Q: I think the unwanted sexual coercion statistics were not taken well. I heard that that study was not taken well and the data is unreliable. I think it hurts the argument to use stats that are mostly viewed as unreliable by the public.**

**A:** We are sorry to hear that you heard one of our sources and data from them are unreliable. We are assuming that you are talking about the data mentioned in Dose 4 from the Centers for Disease Control relating to Unwanted or Coerced Sexual Contact that states, "1 in 4 girls, 1 in 6 boys, and 1 in 10 LGBTQ people have experienced sexual violence. 12% of those arrested for sex crimes are under the age of 18 and the most common age is 14 years old." The document we obtained this information from was the 2017 release of [The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey - State Report](#). By clicking the link, you can read up on all the data provided there, and also how the researchers gathered and compiled the data.

We do recognize that the survey has its limitations in the ways in which it has contacted people. However, population-based public health surveys that use lots of behaviorally specific questions continue to be an important source of information on sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence. This is in part because they can capture victimization that may not be viewed as a crime by the

victim, or may not require health-care treatment. Also, as we know that sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence are underreported due to a variety of reasons, the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey is the best source of data we have currently on these issues. If you are still unsure of the data we used or are worried that we are using incorrect data, please contact us at [info@bloom365.org](mailto:info@bloom365.org).