



glaad 

2015 NETWORK RESPONSIBILITY INDEX



**NETWORK
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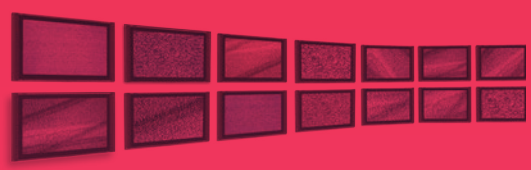
PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING
2006-2007



A SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION

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Primetime Programming 2007-2008



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2009-2010
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nri

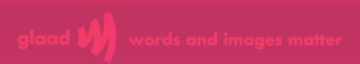
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**2014 NETWORK
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glaad.org/nri2013



The GLAAD *Network Responsibility Index (NRI)* is an evaluation of the quantity and quality of images of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people on television. The NRI is a key measurement for inclusive programming and spurs increased numbers of fair and accurate LGBT media representations, which is the core of GLAAD's work.

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2009-2010

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nri

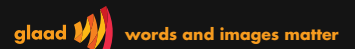


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A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF TELEVISION'S LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER IMAGES.



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From the Desk of Sarah Kate Ellis

When GLAAD's *Network Responsibility Index (NRI)* debuted in 2006, the television landscape was starkly different than it is today. Many of us could not have predicted the monumental change the *NRI* would ignite across the industry in such a short time, but looking back over nine editions of this report, it is clear how far we have come and where we still must go.

Nearly a decade after GLAAD debuted the *NRI*, this will be its final edition. As representation of LGBT people in popular media continues to flourish, pushing networks to make those representations more diverse is essential. And doing so now requires a different set of tools than the *NRI* provides, which is why in the years ahead GLAAD will shift focus to its annual diversity report – *Where We Are on TV*.

GLAAD's first *NRI* set a baseline that showed LGBT people were vastly underrepresented. These results were shared not only with the general public but also with the networks themselves in direct conversations that have continued year after year, and our efforts paid off. The majority of networks GLAAD has tracked since 2006 – on both broadcast and cable – showed significant increases in the rate of inclusion and quality of LGBT characters and stories, which mirrored increasing rates of acceptance toward LGBT people in the real world.

We know that's not a coincidence. Television has always had a reciprocal relationship with the society watching it – reflecting social attitudes while also shaping them – and that relationship has without a doubt helped the country move closer to full equality and accelerate acceptance for all its citizens.

But it's not enough to simply see more LGBT characters. We need to push media companies and creators to represent the full diversity and humanity of the LGBT community. No character should be reduced to a token. All of us live at the intersection of multiple identities and experiences making us much more than our sexual orientation or gender identity, and it is critically important we see that reality reflected in the media. Networks that continue to lag behind in diversity must hear the message that simply putting LGBT people onscreen isn't enough; there must be thought, care, and substance behind it.

This is a message that television networks may be better prepared to hear than ever before, thanks to the remarkable success of shows like *Empire*, *Orange Is the New Black*, and *How to Get Away With Murder*. It's our job to push networks to make diversity an institutional goal for their LGBT characters as well, and to keep that pressure on in the years to come. Until that happens, many of us are still being left out of the picture.

Sarah Kate Ellis
CEO and President, GLAAD

2,891.5

broadcast programming
hours researched

GLAAD analysts noted:



whether the
LGBT depiction
had a major or
minor presence



the sexual
orientation or
gender identity
of the depiction



the race or
ethnicity of the
depiction



any significant
discussion of
LGBT lives

2,299.5

cable programming
hours researched



Based on the overall quantity, quality, and diversity of LGBT representation, a grade is assigned to each network: Excellent, Good, Adequate, or Failing.

Methodology

For its ninth annual NRI report, GLAAD divided analysis into two sections: broadcast networks and cable networks. Only hours of original primetime programming were counted for both broadcast and cable. Repeat episodes, acquired (syndicated) series and films, as well as live sporting events, were not counted for any network, keeping the focus exclusively on network-generated original programming.

For broadcast, GLAAD researched original primetime programming hours on ABC, CBS, The CW, FOX and NBC from June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015. Total primetime programming hours researched: 2,891.5 hours. Primetime begins at 8:00 p.m. Eastern and Pacific (7:00 Central and Mountain) and ends at 11:00 p.m. Eastern and Pacific (10:00 Central and Mountain), Monday through Saturday. On Sunday, primetime begins at 7:00 p.m. Eastern and Pacific (6:00 Central and Mountain). FOX and The CW do not air network programming during the last hour of primetime, and The CW does not air programming on weekends. GLAAD does not track primetime broadcast hours programmed by local affiliate stations - only hours of national broadcast.

The 10 cable networks examined for the 2014 - 2015 NRI were ABC Family, A&E, FX, HBO, History, MTV, Showtime, TLC, TNT and USA. Networks were chosen based on a combination of Nielsen Media Research rankings, cultural and media recognition factors, and the diversity and breadth of

original programming. For the purposes of this study, news, sports, and children's networks are not counted. The original primetime programs on these 10 networks were examined from June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015. Total programming hours: 2,299.5 hours.

All programming content, on both broadcast and cable networks, was divided into four categories: drama series, comedy series, unscripted programming (i.e. reality and game shows), and newsmagazines/special event programming. Live sporting events were not counted as part of GLAAD's analysis. The categorization of programming hours was implemented so that analysts could understand where a network's strengths and weaknesses lie when it came to portraying LGBT people.

Each program was reviewed for on-screen inclusion of LGBT representations or content. GLAAD analysts noted whether the LGBT depictions had a minor or major presence in the story, as well as the orientation, gender identity and the race/ethnicity of those depicted. Any

significant discussion of issues pertaining to LGBT lives, whether in a scripted or newsmagazine setting, was also counted, though no characters could be counted and no race/ethnicity could be assigned.

For the purpose of this report, each representation of an LGBT person, or significant discussion of an LGBT issue, during the course of an hour counts as one 'impression.' If one LGBT character appeared on 12 episodes, for example, this character made 12 impressions.

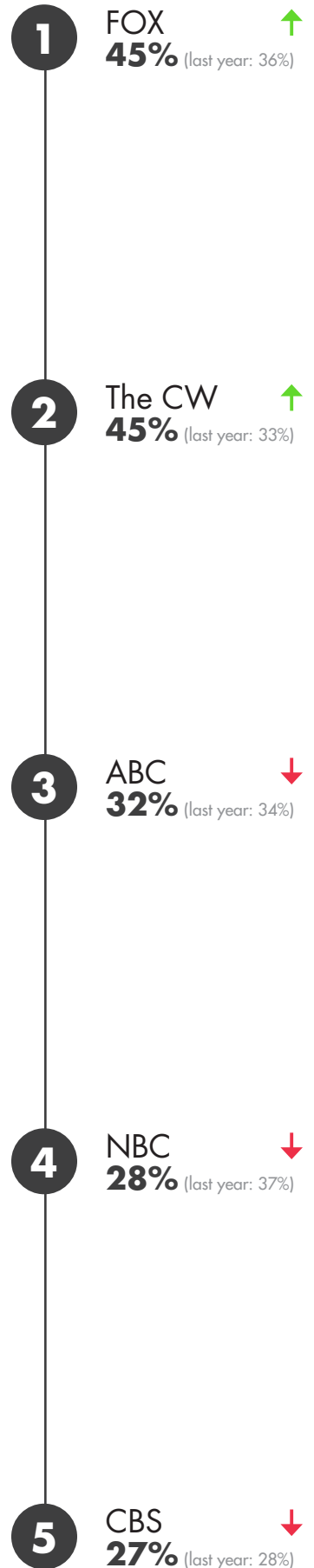
Based on the overall quantity, quality and diversity of LGBT representation, a grade was assigned to each network: Excellent, Good, Adequate, or Failing.

Note: Prior to 2014, GLAAD tracked both first-run and repeat episodes aired on broadcast networks during primetime. In 2014, the report began focusing only on first-run primetime programming hours for broadcast networks to bring them in line with how the NRI has always tracked primetime programming for cable networks.

■ *Opposite page, from upper left:*
 Ray Holt (Andre Braugher), FOX's *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*
 Callie Torres (Sara Ramirez), ABC's *Grey's Anatomy*
 Drew Alister (Brendan Fehr), NBC's *The Night Shift*
 Kalinda Sharma (Archie Panjabi), CBS' *The Good Wife*
 David Singh (Patrick Sabongui), The CW's *The Flash*

Summary of Broadcast Findings

- This year, **FOX** featured the highest percentage of LGBT-inclusive original programming hours, coming in at 45.4%, which is also the highest percentage GLAAD has tracked for a broadcast network since the inaugural NRI in 2006. Thanks to shows like *Empire*, the network also had the second most racially diverse representations on broadcast, with 36% of its LGBT impressions made by people of color.
- **The CW** was a close second to FOX by just a fraction of a percent, with 44.8% of its original programming hours including LGBT people. With shows like *America's Next Top Model* and *The Flash*, however, The CW led all broadcast networks in LGBT racial diversity, as 38% of its LGBT impressions were made by people of color.
- **ABC** produced not only the highest total number of original programming hours (812) of any broadcast network, but also the highest number of hours that included some kind of LGBT impression (258.5). That made 32% of its hours LGBT-inclusive, which is only slightly down from 34% in 2013-2014. But as good as those numbers are, the network still lags behind when it comes to racial diversity. Only 17% of the network's LGBT impressions were made by people of color, the lowest of any broadcast network.
- **NBC** saw a significant drop in its LGBT-inclusive original programming hours this year, from 37% to 28%. The racial diversity of NBC's LGBT impressions improved significantly, however, with LGBT people of color depictions rising from just 11% last year to 32% this year. NBC also included more transgender impressions than any other broadcast network, with 4.7% of its LGBT-inclusive hours featuring transgender people or characters, due in part to the drama series *American Odyssey*.
- As has often been the case, **CBS** came in last among the broadcast networks in LGBT-inclusive hours (27%) which is a slight decrease from last year (28%). Like in past years, the majority of its LGBT-inclusive hours (53%) came from unscripted or reality programming like *The Amazing Race* and *Big Brother*.







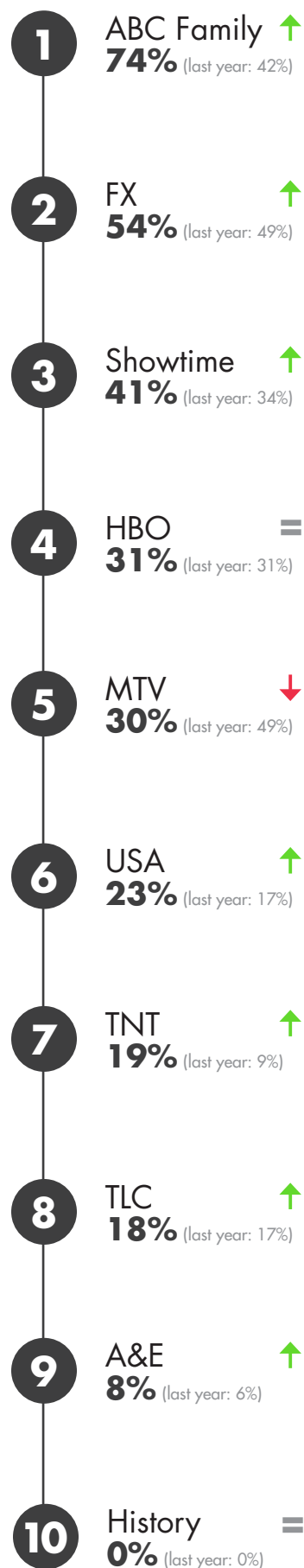
■ *Opposite page, from upper left:*
 Emily Fields (Shay Mitchell), ABC Family's *Pretty Little Liars*
 Richie Ventura (Raúl Castillo), HBO's *Looking*
 Laverne Cox, MTV's *Laverne Cox Presents: The T Word*
 Hank St. Clare (Kevin Daniels), USA's *Sirens*
 Adriana Mendez (Emily Rios), FX's *The Bridge*

Summary of Cable Findings

- Following a score of “Excellent” in two previous editions of GLAAD’s NRI, this year **ABC Family** posted the highest-ever percentage of LGBT-inclusive programming for any network tracked in the report before. Not only did an impressive 74% of its original programming hours include LGBT impressions, but thanks to programs like *The Fosters*, 79% of those were made by lesbian characters, 49% were made by people of color, and the network featured a transgender character played by a transgender actor. For its consistent inclusion of diverse LGBT characters, ABC Family has once again been awarded a score of “Excellent.”
- Of the 10 cable networks tracked, seven of them saw increases in their percentage of LGBT-inclusive original programming hours over last year: ABC Family, FX, Showtime, USA, TNT, TLC, and A&E. HBO and History saw no change, while MTV was the only cable network to post a decrease.
- Once again, the second-highest percentage of inclusive hours (54%) was on **FX**, which also featured the

highest percentage of inclusive comedy programming (39%) with shows like *Anger Management* and *Archer*. In third was **Showtime** (41%), which featured the highest percentage of bisexual content among its LGBT impressions (31%) due to programs like *Penny Dreadful* and *House of Lies*.

- Not surprisingly, the highest percentages of LGBT-inclusive dramas and unscripted shows were found on **TNT** and **TLC** respectively, as those genres are each network’s primary focus, respectively. TLC featured the highest percentage of gay men (93%) among its LGBT impressions, and the second-highest number of total inclusive hours on cable (87) behind ABC Family (91.5).
- Near the bottom, **A&E** was once again next to last with just 8% of its programming containing LGBT impressions, which is a slight increase from last year’s 6%. A&E’s low showing is still significantly better than **History**, which aired approximately 362.5 hours of original programming, none of which featured a single LGBT impression that GLAAD could identify.



Broadcast Networks

14	ABC
16	CBS
18	The CW
20	FOX
23	NBC

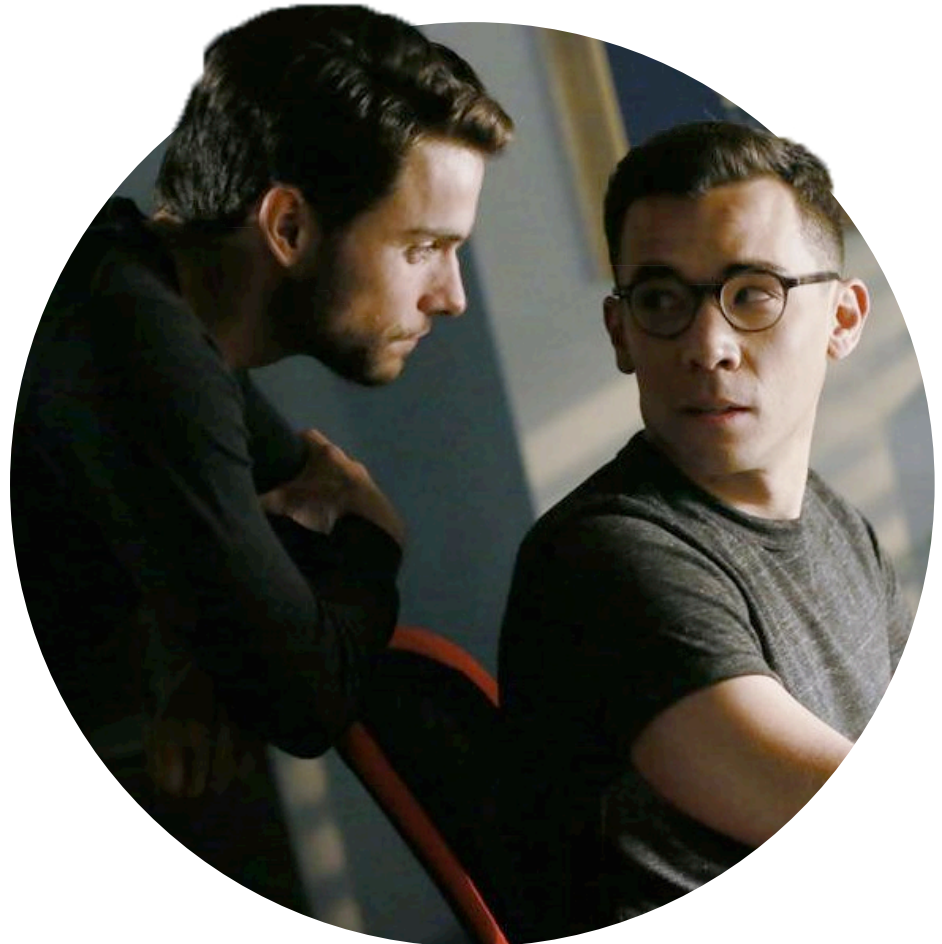


812

total hours of primetime programming

258.5 (32%)

LGBT-inclusive hours



■ Connor Walsh (Jack Falahee) and Oliver Hampton (Conrad Ricamora), *How To Get Away With Murder*

ABC

Disney-owned ABC has a long and distinguished history of including LGBT stories in its programming, offering up a number of television “firsts.” Although ABC’s LGBT history begins with Jodie Dallas on *Soap* back in 1977, perhaps the most notable moment came in the spring of 1997 when Ellen DeGeneres came out both off-screen and on-screen on her sitcom *Ellen*. Over the years, ABC has shown considerable commitment to including LGBT characters and storylines on its scripted series with programs such as *Ugly Betty*, *Brothers & Sisters*, *Grey’s Anatomy*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Modern Family*, and *Happy Endings*.

This year, GLAAD found that 32% of ABC’s original programming was LGBT-inclusive, which is only slightly down from the 34% GLAAD tracked last year. ABC’s shows remain consistently inclusive and still manage to produce some of the most groundbreaking LGBT storylines (such as *How to Get Away With Murder*) on television today. What has unfortunately also remained consistent is the lack of diversity among the LGBT characters featured in the network’s storylines, with the notable exception of shows from Shonda Rhimes.

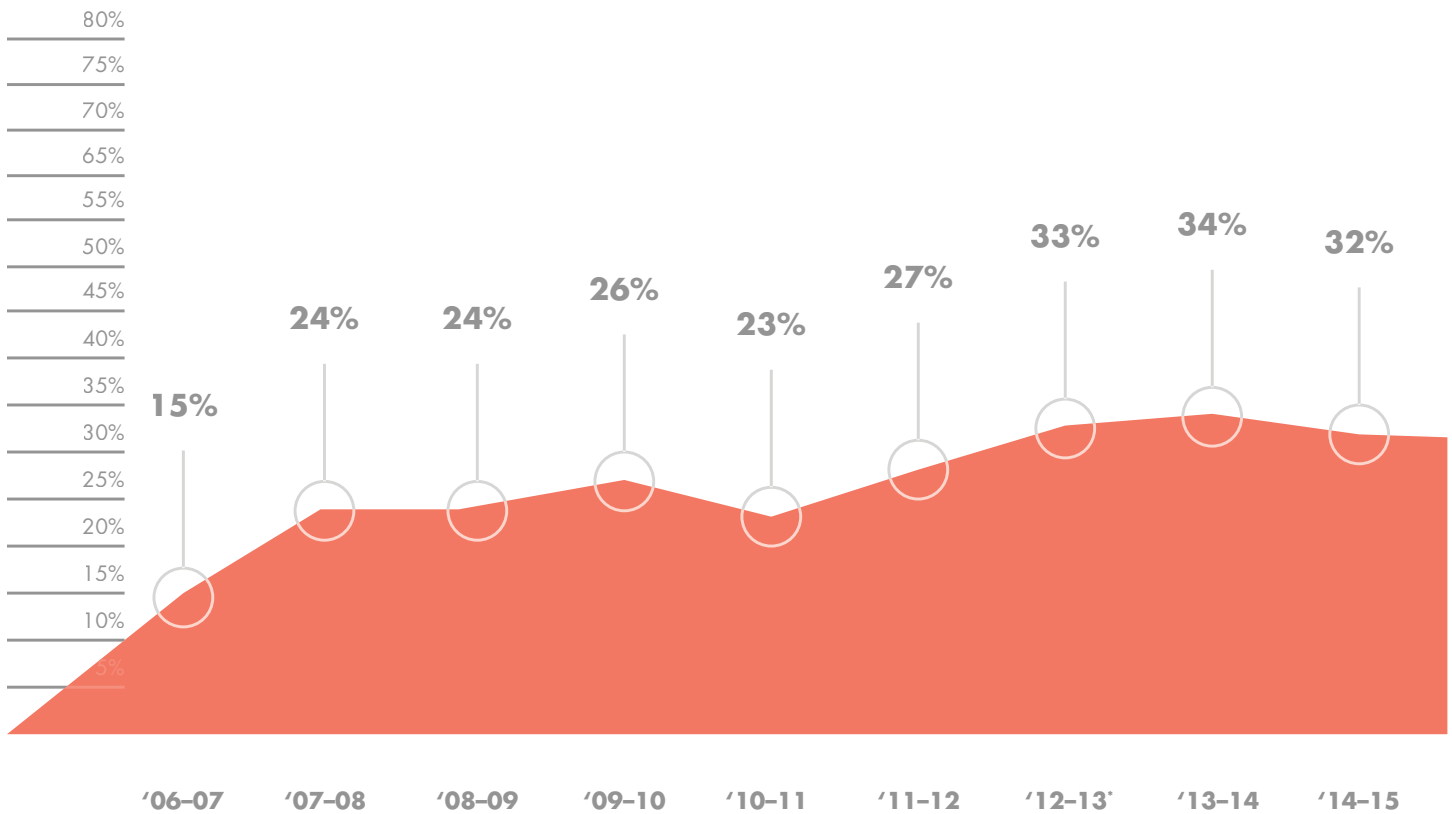
The 2014-2015 Season

- Collectively, there is probably no single person who oversaw more LGBT-inclusive hours of television than creator Shonda Rhimes, who had three hit, hour-long dramas on ABC this season. Same-sex couple Callie and Arizona continued to be a significant part of *Grey’s Anatomy*, though their ongoing relationship troubles resulted in a breakup soon after the season began. On *Scandal*, duplicitous White House Chief of Staff Cyrus was forced to marry a male sex worker to avoid his indiscretions becoming a story, and he lost his job in the season finale. And Rhimes’ newest offering, *How to Get Away with Murder*, introduced law student Connor, who gained notoriety both for his devious mind and onscreen sex scenes. *Murder’s* first season saw

Connor eventually fall for Oliver (an IT professional whom Connor initially used to win a case), and Oliver learn he was HIV-positive in the finale. The couple is expected to return in the fall, though happy endings aren’t assured for any of the show’s characters. All of the LGBT characters on Rhimes’ programs face the same dangers and exhibit the same flaws as their straight counterparts, just as they should.

- Thanks to multiple seasons of *Dancing With the Stars* and out judge Bruno Tonioli appearing in every episode, the long-running reality competition program was the single biggest source of ABC’s inclusive hours. Out football player Michael Sam was also a competitor during the show’s spring season.
- Long-running comedy *Modern Family* continued to feature gay couple Mitchell

LGBT-inclusive hours



*Previous years' broadcast network rankings were based on total primetime hours, and took episode repeats into account.

and Cameron, though their storyline was less momentous than in last year's season, which featured the pair's wedding. Cameron continued to serve as a local school football coach, while Mitchell lost his job. With the show's seventh season premiering in the fall, Mitch and Cam remain one of television's most enduring and popular gay couples.

- In other dramas, *Nashville* continued to give prominent stories to closeted country music star Will in a turbulent season that saw his wife almost die, the two of them divorce, and Will find new love with a songwriter, helping him to publicly come out in the season finale. On *Revenge's* final season, Nolan continued to assist Emily's schemes and had a brief relationship with another man. And on *Rookie Blue*, police officer Gail continued seeing forensic specialist Holly and decided to adopt an orphaned girl named Sophie on her own.
- In other reality programming, out host Richard Quest appeared in every episode of the series *500 Questions*, while bisexual pop singer Kesha served as a judge on the singing competition

Rising Star. The only consistently inclusive comedy on ABC was *Modern Family*, though gay teen Brad remained a recurring character on *The Middle* and *Fresh off the Boat* included gay and lesbian characters in several episodes.

- ABC aired a number of inclusive specials and award shows this year, many of which were hosted by out anchor Robin Roberts. The network aired Diane Sawyer's highly anticipated interview with Caitlyn Jenner during which the former Olympian revealed that she is transgender. The broadcast garnered huge ratings and featured transgender advocate Jenny Boylan among others. This was undoubtedly one of the biggest LGBT media moments of the year and certainly a major milestone in transgender visibility.

Suggested Areas of Improvement

- The continuing success of Shonda Rhimes' racially diverse television shows is hopefully a precursor to more diverse casting becoming the norm across networks as they look to replicate her

success. Indeed, that should result in more racially diverse LGBT roles as well, an area in which ABC remains weak with a whopping 83% of its LGBT characters this year portrayed as white. Looking back over ABC's track record, the network has often been a leader when it comes to telling stories about the LGBT community, from groundbreaking programs like *Ellen* to contemporary hits like *Modern Family*. We hope to soon see the network lead here as well.

2015

ADEQUATE

RATING

685

total hours of primetime programming

186.5 (27%)

LGBT-inclusive hours



■ Ronny McCarthy (Tyler Ritter),
The McCarthys

CBS

CBS premiered Norman Lear's classic series *All in the Family* in 1971 and almost immediately the show addressed sexual orientation with the episode "Judging Books by Covers." Classic episodes of *Maude* and *M*A*S*H* also dealt with orientation. Unfortunately, outside of those few socially conscious shows 40 years ago, LGBT scripted impressions on the network remained rare until recently.

Of all the broadcast networks, CBS has struggled the most when it comes to including LGBT people and stories in its programming. Last year, the network began closing the gap with a concerted effort to make its programs more inclusive. The network continued to do so this year in premiering *The McCarthys*, which was one of the few new shows on television to feature a gay lead character. Between that and a consistently inclusive slate of reality programming, CBS is in a much better place than when GLAAD first started tracking.

The 2014-2015 Season

- As has often been the case, the majority of CBS' LGBT representation was

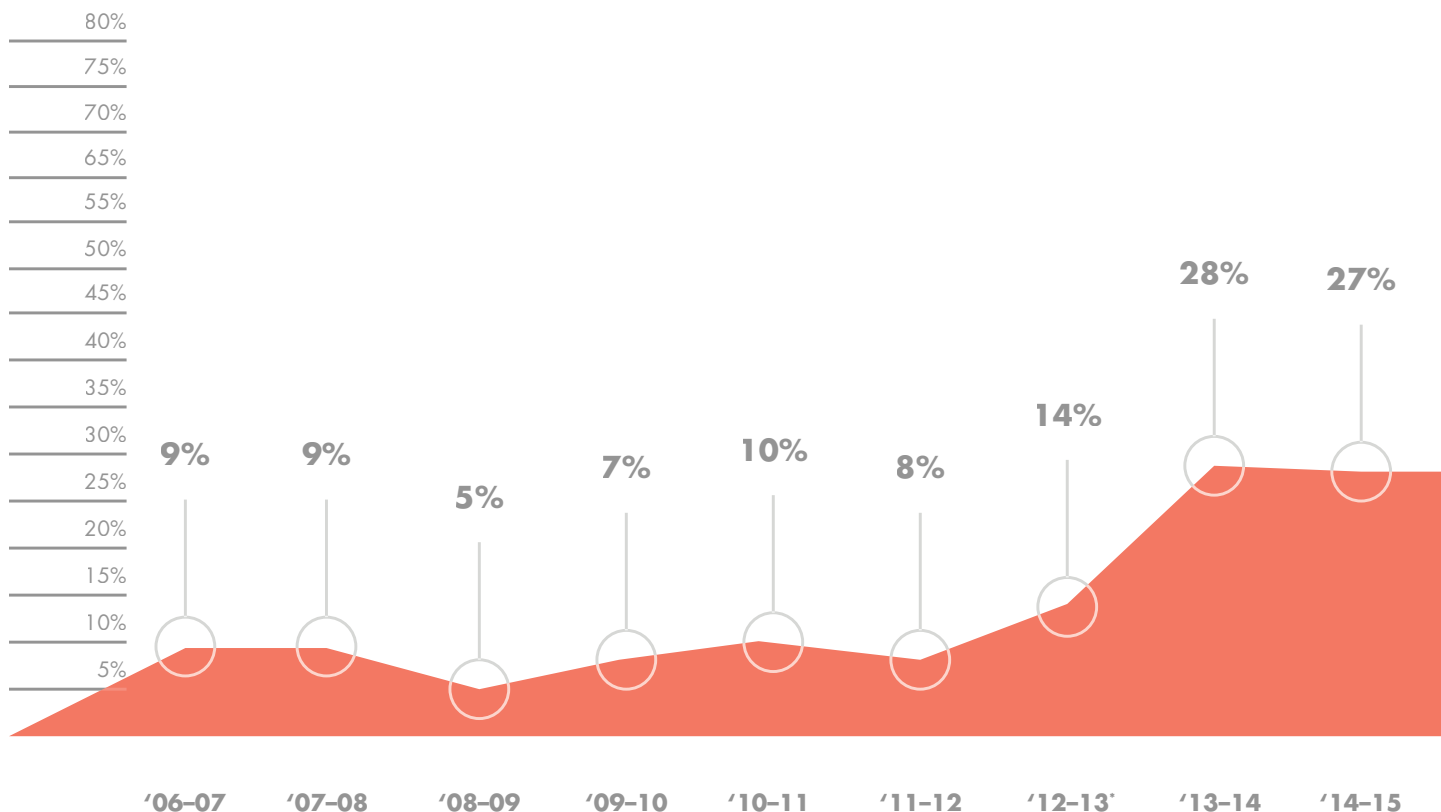
found in reality series like *Big Brother*, *Survivor*, and *The Amazing Race*, which made up 53% of the network's LGBT-inclusive programming hours, but only 21% of its total hours. *Big Brother* was the single largest contributor to this, thanks to the airing of multiple episodes every week and openly gay competitor Frankie Grande making it to the finale. On *The Amazing Race*, three different teams of gay men- including singer Jonathan Knight and his husband - were featured competitors on the winter or spring seasons, while *Survivor* included gay Christian couple Josh and Reed.

- CBS' most inclusive drama continued to be *The Good Wife*, which featured investigator Kalinda Sharma in her final season on the show. This year saw Kalinda cross paths with several women

from her past before her complicity in betraying a drug lord led her to leave town for good in the final episodes. Kalinda has been one of television's most unique characters since she first appeared - bisexual, a woman of color, tough and resourceful - and gained many ardent fans over the years. She will be missed.

- This year, CBS premiered the sitcom *The McCarthys*, which was one of the only new shows with a gay lead character. The show followed an openly gay man with a tight-knit Irish-Catholic family as he tried to assert more independence from them, though the show only lasted one season. Also ending this year is *The Millers*, which added Sean Hayes as a new gay regular character named Kip, and the long-running series *Two and a Half Men*, which featured an ongoing

LGBT-inclusive hours



*Previous years' broadcast network rankings were based on total primetime hours, and took episode repeats into account.

(and ill-advised) storyline about main characters Walden and Alan pretending to be a married gay couple so Walden could adopt a child. Additional CBS comedies *Mom*, *Mike and Molly*, and *2 Broke Girls* all featured LGBT characters in recurring roles. All in all, this year was a marked improvement over years past, which saw little to no LGBT representation on CBS comedies.

- The majority of CBS' original drama series are investigative procedurals like *CSI* and *NCIS* and often feature one or two stories per season with LGBT characters. That was true again this year, with LGBT characters making single-episode appearances on *CSI*, *NCIS*, *CSI: Cyber*, *Criminal Minds*, *Elementary*, *Hawaii Five-O*, *NCIS: New Orleans*, *Blue Bloods*, and *Stalker*. Sadly, the closest thing any of these shows has had to a recurring LGBT character – *NCIS*' Ned Dorneget – was killed off at the end of the season. However, this year the series *Person of Interest* revealed that two of its recurring female characters, Shaw and Root, had feelings for one another. Despite Shaw spending the latter half

of the season off screen, the pair will return in major roles. *Under the Dome* also featured lesbian character Carolyn in three episodes.

- Openly gay journalist Anderson Cooper made at least 15 appearances on *60 Minutes* in the past year, making the series a significant contributor to CBS' inclusive hours. The network also aired a variety of award shows that featured appearances by LGBT celebrities like Sam Smith and Brandy Clark, as well as the special *Home for the Holidays*, which highlighted a gay couple with a large foster family.

Suggested Areas of Improvement

- In recent years, CBS has demonstrated a real effort to make its programming more LGBT-inclusive, and the network deserves credit for that. The offensive content previously present in many of its sitcoms seemed noticeably less pervasive this year, though the faked gay relationship plotline on the now-finished *Two and Half Men* definitely won't be missed. We would still love

to see a regular LGBT character added to one of CBS' numerous investigative programs, as well as increased (and better overall) transgender representation.



274.5

total hours of primetime programming

123 (45%)

LGBT-inclusive hours



■ Clarke Griffin (Eliza Taylor) and Lexa (Alycia Debnam Carey), *The 100*

Launched at the start of the 2006-2007 TV season, The CW was created following a merger between the WB and UPN, two networks that held respectable track records in offering LGBT content. In the network's freshman year, The CW failed to incorporate LGBT characters into its scripted shows but was ultimately awarded a "Fair" grade in the inaugural Network Responsibility Index because 51 of The CW's 55 hours of LGBT content came from the highly LGBT-inclusive reality series *America's Next Top Model*. Since then, The CW has made significant improvements in its scripted programming as well.

When GLAAD released its annual *Where We Are on TV* report last September, we were surprised to find that The CW didn't have any regular LGBT characters slated to appear in the new fall season and worried that it might see a significant drop in the network's inclusive hours. Over the course of the year, however, the network made up for that quite well, including the reveal that the main character of the post-apocalyptic series *The 100* is bisexual. The CW also improved the overall racial diversity of its LGBT impressions, going from 23% of its representations being made by people of color last year to 38% this year, the highest among the broadcast networks.

The CW

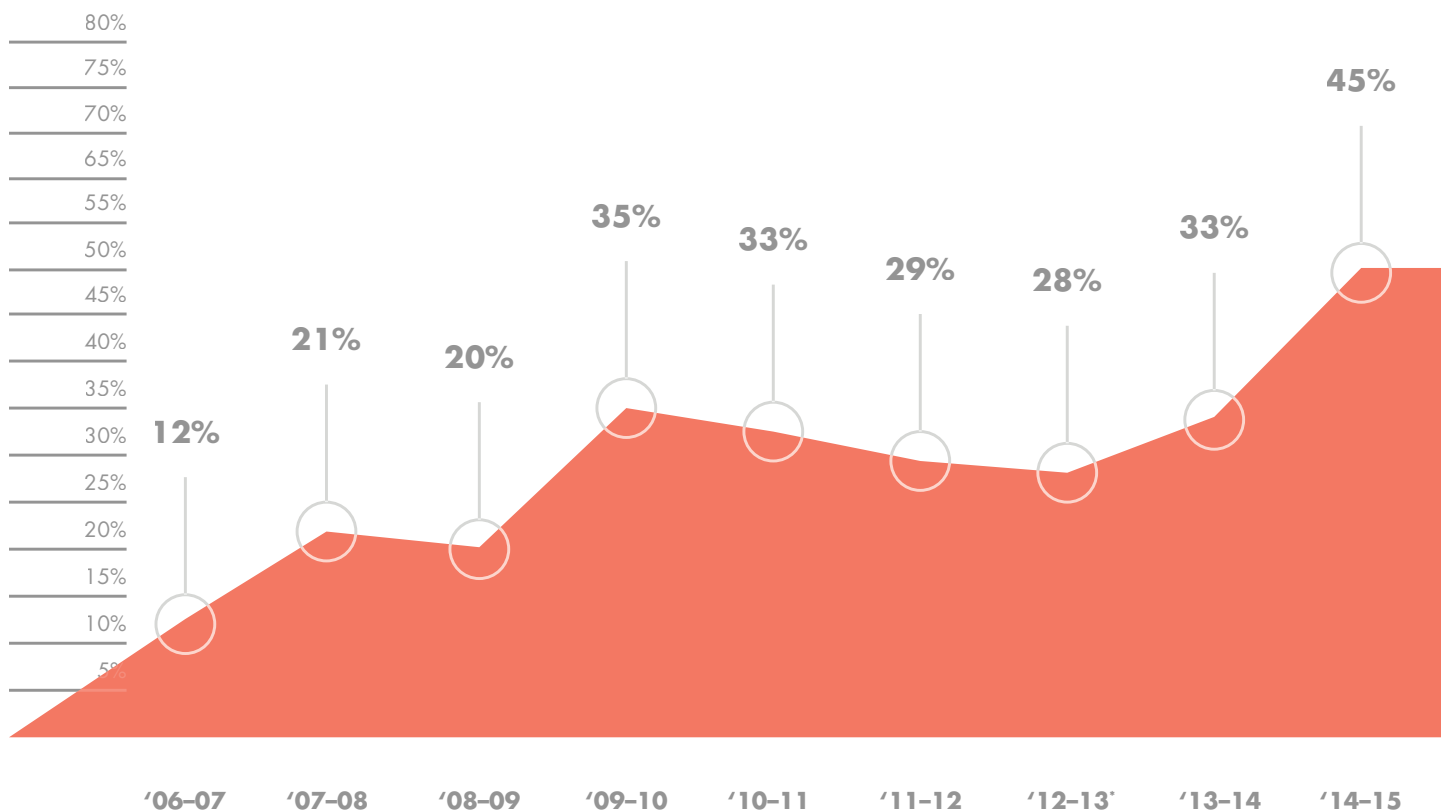
The 2014-2015 Season

- Despite the fact that the character of David Singh hadn't been considered a regular character on the new CW superhero show *The Flash* before the fall season began, the series' gay police captain appeared in nearly every episode. Though he was largely relegated to minor roles, Singh helped *The Flash* account for more of The CW's inclusive hours than any other program, as did appearances by gay super villain Pied Piper. *Flash* wasn't the only inclusive superhero series this year though, as *Arrow* also included numerous appearances by bisexual heroine Canary (Sara Lance) and her lover Nyssa. Canary died in the season premiere but continued to be a major presence through the season in flashbacks, while Nyssa ended up being incorporated into the show's overarching storyline in a significant

way. Unfortunately, lesbian and bisexual female characters on television still end up dead far too often, but thankfully the supernatural world that the DC comics source material provides will flip that trope on its head when Canary herself is mystically resurrected for the new CW superhero show, *DC's Legends of Tomorrow*.

- Though it came later in the season, the reveal that the main character Clarke of *The 100* is bisexual means that the show will be one of the few to feature an LGBT lead when it returns in the fall. Clarke is the (female) leader of a tribe of survivors in a post-apocalyptic world, as is Clarke's love interest Lexa, who leads a rival tribe. Both characters are expected to return in the show's third season.
- Another new CW program to feature significant LGBT content this season

LGBT-inclusive hours



*Previous years' broadcast network rankings were based on total primetime hours, and took episode repeats into account.

was the critically acclaimed *Jane the Virgin*, which was loosely based on a Venezuelan telenovela. The series follows a young woman named Jane who is accidentally artificially inseminated by her gynecologist, a lesbian named Luisa. In true telenovela fashion, Luisa has an exceptionally dramatic story arc in the show's first season, including being wrongfully committed to a mental hospital by Rose, who is both her former lover and her stepmother, and who also turns out to be a murderer and drug lord.

- Once again, *America's Next Top Model* was one of the most inclusive shows on The CW, thanks to its new and returning faces. Judge Miss J made a return to the show, which also added Yu Tsai as the new photoshoot consultant. The contestants included Will and Romeo, as well as several appearances by former contestant and finalist Cory Hindorff. Not only did the series feature numerous gay and bisexual individuals, but they were also racially diverse.
- In addition to its growing roster of superhero shows, The CW has also long featured numerous dramas about the supernatural, though it was a particularly

gruesome year for many gay and lesbian characters on the network. Gay warlock Luke returned to the long-running series *The Vampire Diaries* for a handful of episodes but died midseason. On *The Originals*, gay vampire Josh came back for the show's second season and fell for a new werewolf named Aiden who was also sadly killed. Perhaps the most controversial death was that of the popular recurring character Charlie on *Supernatural*, a lesbian hacker played by geek icon Felicia Day. Especially since her death seemed to serve no purpose other than to provide character development to one of the main male characters (often referred to as "fridging"), fan outcry over Charlie was particularly pronounced. We hope these shows' creators will follow *Legends of Tomorrow's* example and give some of these characters another shot at life.

- Other LGBT characters and impressions on The CW this year included recurring characters Cricket and Jaysene on *Hart of Dixie* and some minor characters on *Reign* and *iZombie*. TMZ head honcho Harvey Levin, who is openly gay, also appeared regularly on *Famous in 12*, which was

cancelled after just a few episodes.

Suggested Areas of Improvement

- The CW has long targeted younger demographics with its programming, so it's not surprising that it often has been one of the most LGBT-inclusive broadcast networks. What makes it unique is how much of the network's programming has become genre driven (such as dramas surrounding vampires or superheroes) and that it has started to consistently include lesbian, gay, and bisexual characters in those shows. For many years, inclusive genre shows were rare, so it's good to see The CW finally make real strides here. Where it still needs some improvement is in giving these characters more significant and ongoing roles, as about half the impressions GLAAD tracked on The CW were relatively minor. We also hope to see a transgender character make an appearance very soon.



423.5

total hours of primetime programming

196 (45%)

LGBT-inclusive hours



■ Jamal Lyon (Jussie Smollett), *Empire*

Founded in 1986, FOX's sensitivity to LGBT issues has frequently been called into question. *Melrose Place* may be considered a pioneer in early representations of gay men, but in 1994, GLAAD took FOX to task for censoring a kiss between two gay characters on the show. Since then, GLAAD has taken issue with FOX on a number of occasions, and the network received a "Failing" grade in the first NRI for its mere 6% of LGBT-inclusive content. When questioned about that grade in the press, then-FOX Entertainment President Kevin Reilly said it was "disheartening" and that the network "absolutely" has a responsibility to represent LGBT people. Since then, the network has certainly demonstrated that. Aside from a few years of minor decline, LGBT-inclusive programming on the network has steadily increased.

FOX set the previous benchmark for the broadcast networks in the NRI in 2013, when GLAAD found 42% of its programming to be LGBT-inclusive. After scoring 36% last year, it has risen substantially to 45%, and once again sets the highest bar among the broadcast networks. Thanks to its many significant and diverse LGBT characters and storylines, FOX is also now the first

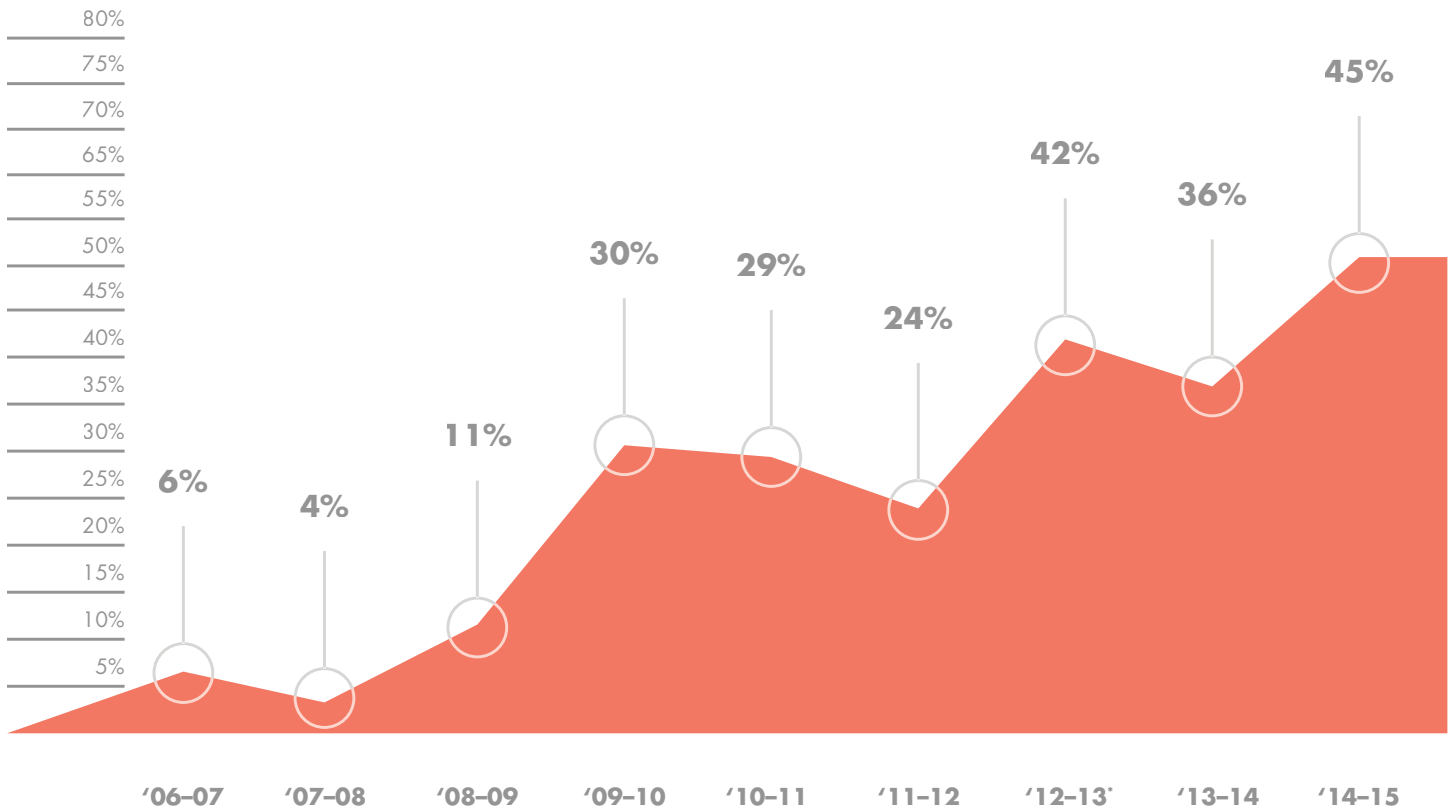
FOX

broadcast network to ever receive a score of "Excellent" in the NRI. The network's progress is a testament to intentional efforts towards inclusion and the evolution of the TV landscape on the whole.

The 2014-2015 Season

- One of the biggest TV success stories this year was the music industry drama *Empire*, which premiered to stunning ratings that grew higher week after week, thanks to the show's twisty plots and vibrant characters. Among the show's most popular characters is young gay musician Jamal, whose tempestuous relationship with his homophobic music producer father was loosely based on the personal experience of out show creator Lee Daniels. *Empire* featured two of Jamal's boyfriends and a bisexual musician named Tiana, all of whom were
- played by people of color. The success of shows like *Empire* and ABC's *How to Get Away with Murder* demonstrates that striving for diversity isn't just an admirable goal for TV networks, but a smart business decision.
- The sixth season of the musical comedy *Glee* was the final act of what has been one of TV's most important and groundbreaking LGBT-inclusive programs. Soon after their storyline began, Kurt and Blaine became one of TV's most popular couples, as did fellow lovebirds Brittany and Santana, so it's only fitting that both pairs were married in a double ceremony in the show's final episodes. This season also featured the character of Coach Beiste disclosing that he is transgender, which led to an episode featuring trans student Unique orchestrating a chorus of 200 trans people to show support as Coach Beiste returned to school.

LGBT-inclusive hours



*Previous years' broadcast network rankings were based on total primetime hours, and took episode repeats into account.

- Once again, most of FOX's LGBT-inclusive hours this year came from the reality competition *So You Think You Can Dance*, which featured multiple appearances by Adam Shankman and Jesse Tyler Ferguson in the revolving judge's seat. Gay guest choreographers/dancers Travis Wall, Louis Van Amstel, and Spencer Liff also made repeat appearances. Though their sexual orientation is rarely addressed, out professionals have become far more common on performance competition programs like this in recent years. This year, the show also featured its first same-sex partner dance performance.
- Season two of the hit comedy *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* continued to feature gay police Captain Ray Holt with occasional appearances by his husband Kevin. This season saw Holt tangling with his rival, Deputy Chief Wuntch, who eventually "promoted" him to a new position that took him away from the precinct he loves, though he is still expected to return next season. With his unique humor and consistent importance to the story, Holt remains one of our favorite gay characters currently on television.
- One disappointment this year was the comic book-based drama *Gotham*, which initially had announced that DC comics character Renee Montoya would be a regular on the show. In the source material, Montoya was a tough but flawed lesbian detective who overcame tragedy to become a hero in her own right, but on the show she's portrayed as a foil to the show's hero with designs on his wife, Barbara (who is also her ex). Not only does Montoya effectively disappear from the show after Barbara leaves her husband for her, but Barbara herself plays into some negative stereotypes about bisexual people, including being prone to cheating and self-destructive. By the end of the season, she was also a psychotic murderer and will allegedly find herself in a love triangle with a man and a woman when the show returns.
- The second largest source of inclusive hours on FOX was the investigative drama series *Bones*, which continued to feature bisexual forensic artist Angela. However, new viewers to the series may have no idea the character isn't straight given that she's been happily married to a male character on the show for several years now and her past romantic history isn't typically brought up in conversation. On other dramas, *The Following* featured FBI agent Gina Mendez and her wife Dawn in recurring roles, the new mystery series *Gracepoint* included a lesbian newspaper editor named Kathy, and *Red Band Society* featured a recurring gay nurse named Kenji and a pair of lesbian moms.
- The new comedy series *Backstrom* had initially described one of its characters as a lesbian in press materials, but she was later retooled into someone the show's creators described simply as "not straight." On the show, that character never seemed to indicate that she was anything other than straight, though *Backstrom* did also include a gay character named Gregory Valentine, the main character's half-brother and underworld connection. On other comedies, the sitcom *Mulaney* included an older gay neighbor who occasionally doled out advice, while *The Simpsons* continued to feature appearances by recurring characters Waylon Smithers and Patty Bouvier. And though she was not playing a character identified as transgender, Laverne Cox also made a guest appearance on *The Mindy Project*.

FOX (cont'd)

- In other reality programming, *American Idol* didn't feature any out contestants this season, though it did feature appearances by Adam Lambert, Boy George, and *Empire* star Jussie Smollett. However, *Hell's Kitchen* featured three out competitors – Nick, Meika, and T – while *Master Chef* included a lesbian competitor named Victoria.

Suggested Areas of Improvement

- In the first year GLAAD conducted research for the NRI, we found that FOX trailed every other broadcast network in including LGBT characters in its programming. Since then, it has not only made drastic improvements in that regard, but it has brought audiences groundbreaking shows like *Glee* and *Empire*. The network also featured one of the most diverse lineups of LGBT characters on television, with 36% of its LGBT impressions this year being made by people of color. Even the problematic humor on FOX's animated comedies has improved, though Seth MacFarlane's *Family Guy* remains a sore spot that looks more retrograde with each passing year. We hope the show will take a cue from fellow animated comedies like *Bob's Burgers* and learn how to incorporate LGBT characters in ways that don't regularly make them the punchline. When that gets cleared up, FOX's future will look even brighter.



■ Sheldon Beiste (Dot-Marie Jones), *Glee*

2015

ADEQUATE

RATING

688

total hours of primetime programming

193 (28%)

LGBT-inclusive hours

■ Jane Lynch, *Hollywood Game Night*

NBC's history of including LGBT characters as primetime series regulars or recurring characters dates back to the 1994 debut of *Friends*, which featured Carol and Susan, a lesbian couple who married on the show. Months after ABC cancelled *Ellen*, NBC made the bold decision to premiere *Will & Grace*, a sitcom featuring Will and Jack, two gay male lead characters. Despite initial criticism from conservative groups, *Will & Grace* went on to become one of TV's most successful series, winning 16 Emmys and running for eight seasons as a staple of NBC's "Must-See-TV" Thursday night lineup.

Last year marked a high point for NBC after steady improvement in GLAAD's *NRI*, though the network saw a decline this year with 28% of its original programming being LGBT-inclusive. In the inaugural *NRI*, however, GLAAD found just 7% of NBC's programming to be inclusive, so the network's progress remains significant. Thanks to shows like *American Odyssey*, this year it also posted the highest percentage of trans-inclusive programming hours (4.7%) among the broadcast networks and more than doubled the percentage of LGBT impressions made by people of color over last year from 11% to 32%.

NBC

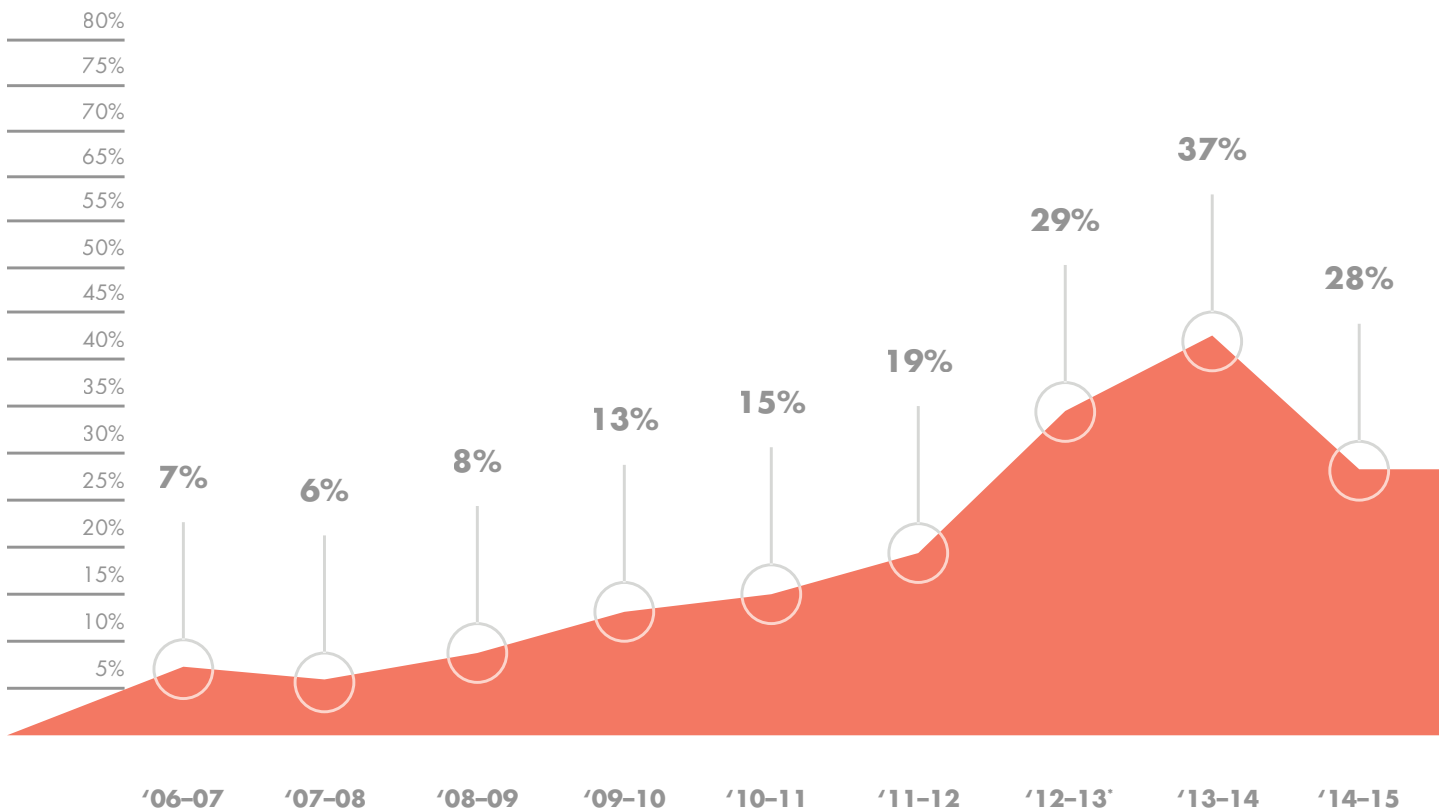
The 2014-2015 Season

- The single greatest source of LGBT-inclusive hours on NBC this year was the hospital drama, *The Night Shift*, which features gay military doctor Drew Alister in a regular role. This season was relatively light on storylines for Drew, but did see him break up with his military vet boyfriend Rick at the start of the season, only to reunite months later after an act of heroism outs him to the general public. The season ends with the happy couple looking to buy a house and get married.
- Thanks to openly gay trainer Bob Harper, *The Biggest Loser* is another of NBC's significant sources of LGBT-inclusive programming hours, though this season didn't feature any out contestants. *The Voice* featured several

appearances by lesbian singer Amanda Lee Peers, though she was eliminated after her third episode. Meanwhile, *Last Comic Standing* featured one of its most inclusive seasons to date, with a number of lesbian, gay, and bisexual comedians competing, one of whom (Nikki Carr) made it all the way to the finale. Additionally, Wanda Sykes made a handful of appearances as a mentor on *Last Comic Standing*, while Jane Lynch appeared as the host of every episode of *Hollywood Game Night*.

- The new comedy *Marry Me* only lasted one season, but it featured both an interracial gay couple who were parents to main character, Annie, and a black lesbian who was friends with that same character. From executive producer Ellen DeGeneres, the new sitcom *One Big Happy* was cancelled after just a

LGBT-inclusive hours



*Previous years' broadcast network rankings were based on total primetime hours, and took episode repeats into account.

NBC (cont'd)

few episodes, but focused on a lesbian and her straight male best friend who decided to have a baby together. Faring better was the sitcom *Undateable*, which featured gay bartender Brett and will return for another season.

- Many of NBC's other dramas featured LGBT characters in some capacity, though they were largely found in minor roles or just a few episodes. In the latter half of its first season, the new detective show *The Mysteries of Laura* revealed that police precinct intern Max Carnegie was gay, while the short-lived spy drama *Allegiance* featured out agent Michelle Prado. *Taxi Brooklyn* featured cab driver Ronnie in a recurring role, and the pirate drama *Crossbones* briefly featured a dangerous relationship between two female pirates, which ended in murder. One of the few transgender characters on a broadcast show appeared on the

Middle East-set *American Odyssey* in the form of talk show host Shakir Khan. Sadly, Khan was beaten to death in one of the show's last episodes, not because she was transgender, but because she had helped an American escape the country. Additional LGBT characters could be found in episodes of *The Slap*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago P.D.*, *Parenthood*, and *The Blacklist*, among others.

- A significant percentage of NBC's inclusive hours came from specials like award shows and telethons. NBC aired the Emmy Awards, the People Magazine Awards, the Golden Globes, Red Nose Day, and Stand Up to Cancer, each of which were several hours long and featured appearances by LGBT celebrities like Laverne Cox and Neil Patrick Harris.

Suggested Areas of Improvement

- Despite the network's slight decline in LGBT inclusion since last year, it's still in a much better place than where it started. Also much improved is the racial diversity of its LGBT characters this year, which we hope is a trend that will carry forward. Having brought historically important shows like *Will & Grace* to television, we hope NBC's future is as groundbreaking as its legacy.

Cable Networks

26	ABC Family
28	A&E
29	FX
31	HBO
33	History
34	MTV
36	Showtime
38	TLC
40	TNT
42	USA



124.5

total hours of primetime programming

91.5 (74%)

LGBT-inclusive hours



■ Jude Foster (Hayden Byerly) and Lena Foster (Sherri Saum), *The Fosters*

Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) was founded in 1977, but after changing hands and names a number of times, it underwent radical transformation after the network (which was then known as Fox Family) was sold to Disney in 2001 and became ABC Family. After a strategic revamp in 2006, the network began airing programming for teens and young adults that is now also very LGBT-inclusive. Bringing the network into the spotlight was the success of programs such as GLAAD Media Award nominees *Kyle XY* and *GREEK*, the latter of which was the network's first series to feature a regular gay character of color. Per the contract in Disney's acquisition of ABC Family, CBN requires that the channel continue to air Robertson's *The 700 Club*, which often serves as a platform for Robertson's anti-LGBT sentiments. However, the show is not affiliated with the network, and each telecast includes the disclaimer: "The following/preceding CBN telecast does not reflect the views of ABC Family."

This year, ABC Family posted the highest inclusive percentage of any network GLAAD has ever examined for the NRI. Of the almost 125 hours of original programming we tracked, approximately 74% included some

ABC Family

kind of LGBT impression(s), which were usually made by regular characters. What's more, ABC Family also featured one of the most diverse lineups of LGBT characters, with about 49% of those impressions made by people of color. Once again, ABC Family has demonstrated a commendable commitment to inclusivity and earned its third "Excellent" score in the NRI.

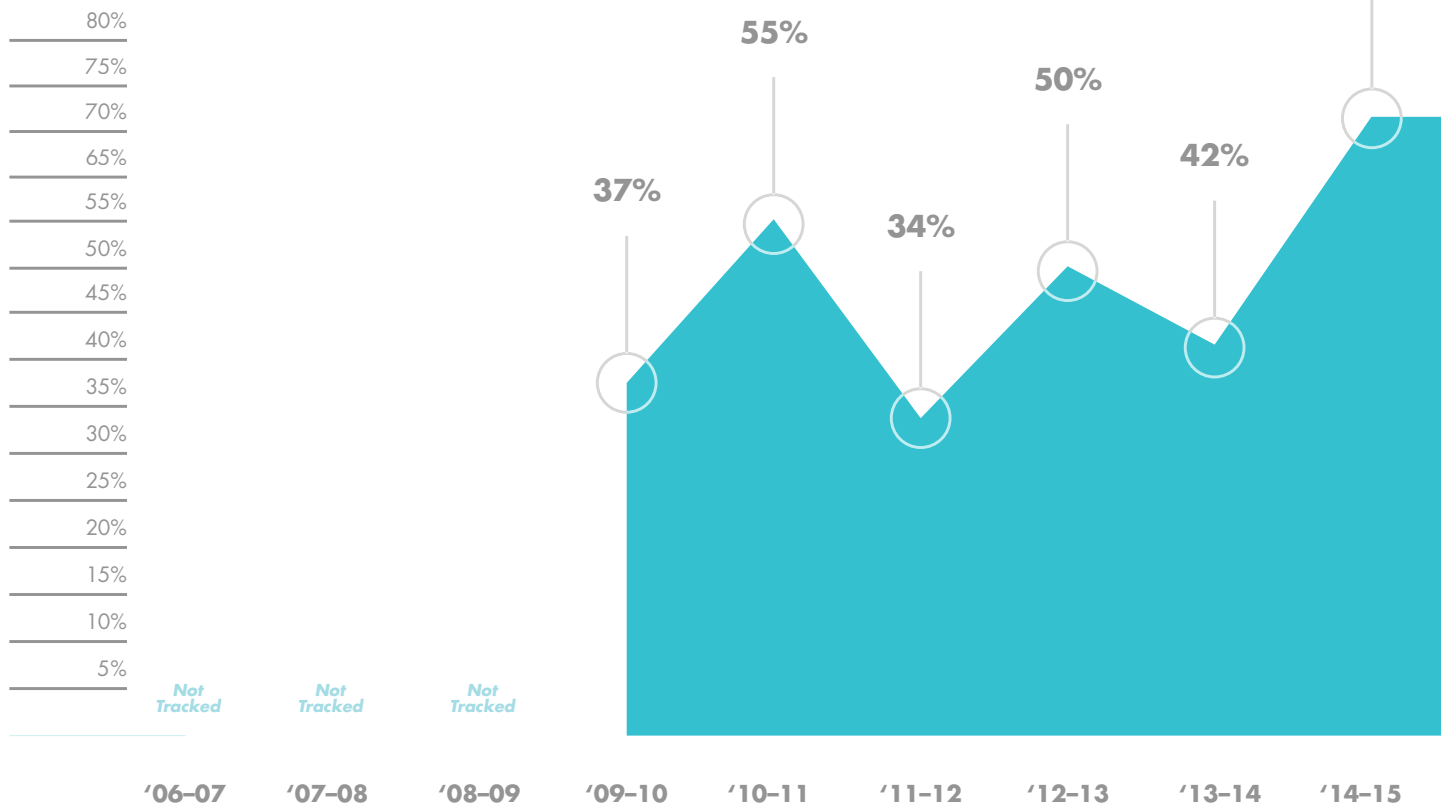
The 2014-2015 Season

- As has long been the case, most of ABC Family's inclusive hours came from the drama *Pretty Little Liars*, which aired its fifth season. Multiracial lesbian teen Emily Fields remained one of the show's co-leads, as she and her three best friends struggle to balance their personal lives with the ongoing web of mysteries surrounding them. In the season tracked by this report, Emily was left by her

girlfriend Paige, briefly dated an older woman, and ended up trapped with her friends in a terrifying underground compound.

However, we must also mention a major misstep on the show's part in the season that aired this summer. It happened outside this report's research period, otherwise it would have directly affected ABC Family's grade. After many years, *Pretty Little Liars* revealed that the mysterious antagonist "A" is a young transgender woman named Charlotte who spent much of her life in a mental hospital. In the season finale, Charlotte attempted to murder her entire family and the main cast. The show made some attempt to separate her transgender identity from her mental illness, but ultimately she was the latest in a long series of transgender women portrayed as psychotic killers in mainstream media. This decision was

LGBT-inclusive hours



extremely disappointing coming from a show that had done so well with its lesbian characters.

- **The Fosters** aired its second season and continued to follow the story of lesbian couple Lena and Stef, and their extended family of biological, adopted, and foster children. It was a particularly sad year for the couple, who suffered both a miscarriage and ongoing marital strife, while their son Jude fell in love with another boy named Connor, who was accidentally shot. The show also continued to touch on the stories of troubled kids living in a group home including trans teen Cole, who made several appearances. Touching on the stories of LGBT characters from different generations and backgrounds, *The Fosters* is certainly one of television's most inclusive shows.
- The new drama **Chasing Life** followed a young woman named April, whose life changes after she is diagnosed with cancer. Among the cast of characters is April's rebellious teenage sister Brenna, who eventually comes out to her family as bisexual and starts dating a classmate

named Greer. Also on the show for a few episodes was Jackson, a young gay man who was part of April's cancer support group. Like several other members of the group, Jackson passed away, but Brenna remains an important part of the show.

- Roughly half of the episodes of **Switched at Birth** were inclusive this year thanks to the show's growing cast of LGBT recurring characters. Among them are deaf teens Natalie and Matthew, book editor Lydia, and Renzo, who is friends with the mother of one of the main characters. One episode saw Natalie and her girlfriend Hilary fighting against a school dance's gender-normative dress code. For the most part though, these minor characters make up part of the background world in which the story unfolds.
- One of the regular characters of the comedy series **Young & Hungry** is Elliot, who works as a publicist for the millionaire who employs the main character, while a gay assistant named Nick showed up in a regular role on the sitcom **Mystery Girls**. Both of the roles were played by men of color, which helped give ABC Family one of the most diverse casts of LGBT characters.

Suggested Areas of Improvement

- It has often been television networks aimed at younger audiences, such as ABC Family and MTV that have produced some of the most groundbreaking LGBT stories and characters and served as examples for other networks to follow. This summer, ABC Family also aired **Becoming Us**, a new reality program that followed several transgender people and their families, demonstrating its commitment to diversifying the LGBT impressions it portrays. Unfortunately, the reveal that the villain "A" on *Pretty Little Liars* was a transgender woman didn't go over nearly as well with many of its viewers. We hope when the series returns next year, it makes an effort to further humanize Charlotte beyond being yet another psychotic trans stereotype.



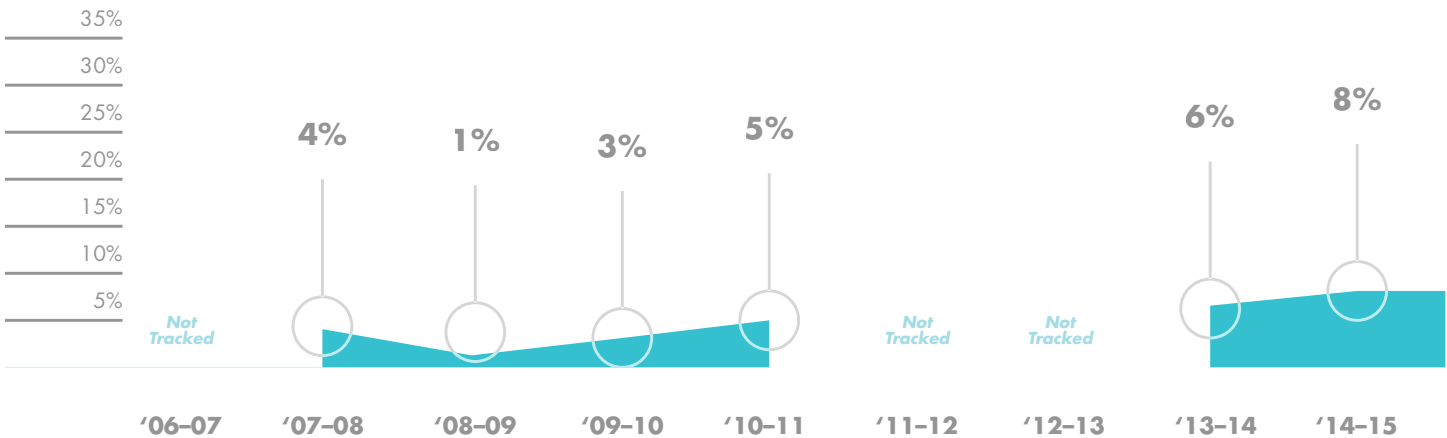
243.5

total hours of primetime programming

18.5 (8%)

LGBT-inclusive hours

LGBT-inclusive hours



Created in 1981, A&E was originally a primetime and late-night programming block on Nickelodeon called ARTS until it merged with The Entertainment Network in 1984, as part of a joint venture between NBCUniversal, Disney-ABC Television Group, and Hearst Corp. A&E produces one of the largest slates of original primetime series of any cable network, which consists mainly of reality programming.

A&E has never been a network with particularly inclusive programming, though there have been some slight improvements since GLAAD first tracked it back in 2008. At 8%, this is the highest percentage of inclusive programming GLAAD has ever found on A&E, though nowhere near most of the other networks tracked in the NRI.

The 2014-2015 Season

- The only show to consistently feature LGBT characters on A&E was *The Returned*, an English-language remake of a French show about a town in which deceased residents start showing up alive again. Among them are police officer Nikki and her former girlfriend, Julie. The pair remained broken up for the show's duration, but Julie and the mysterious child she took in were a significant part of the story.

A&E

Unfortunately, the show was cancelled after one season.

- Aside from *The Returned*, A&E's other LGBT content was relegated to several episodes of reality programming. *Beyond Scared Straight* returned to the "alternative lifestyle" wing of a prison in Georgia in two episodes, where troubled young people were introduced to LGBT inmates in an attempt to "scare" them out of a life of crime. One episode clearly fell into the old offensive territory of presenting the inmates as a cautionary freak show, while the second featured a troubled gay teen who got advice from a transgender inmate about dealing with his anger. The latter is the model the show should follow in the future if they make any return visits to prison wings housing LGBT inmates. Additionally, out singer Jonathan Knight made several appearances on

Wahlburgers and *Donnie Loves Jenny*, both of which star his New Kids on the Block bandmate Donnie Wahlberg.

Suggested Areas of Improvement

- There's no single area in which A&E should focus itself for improvement; rather, it's needed across the board. With more scripted shows on its schedule, we were pleased to see the network include several lesbian characters in *The Returned*, but it was just a first step. We hope to see more LGBT people appear on their reality shows who are not incarcerated on *Beyond Scared Straight*. On that show in particular, we also hope the network will also use greater care in how LGBT people are depicted.

2015

GOOD

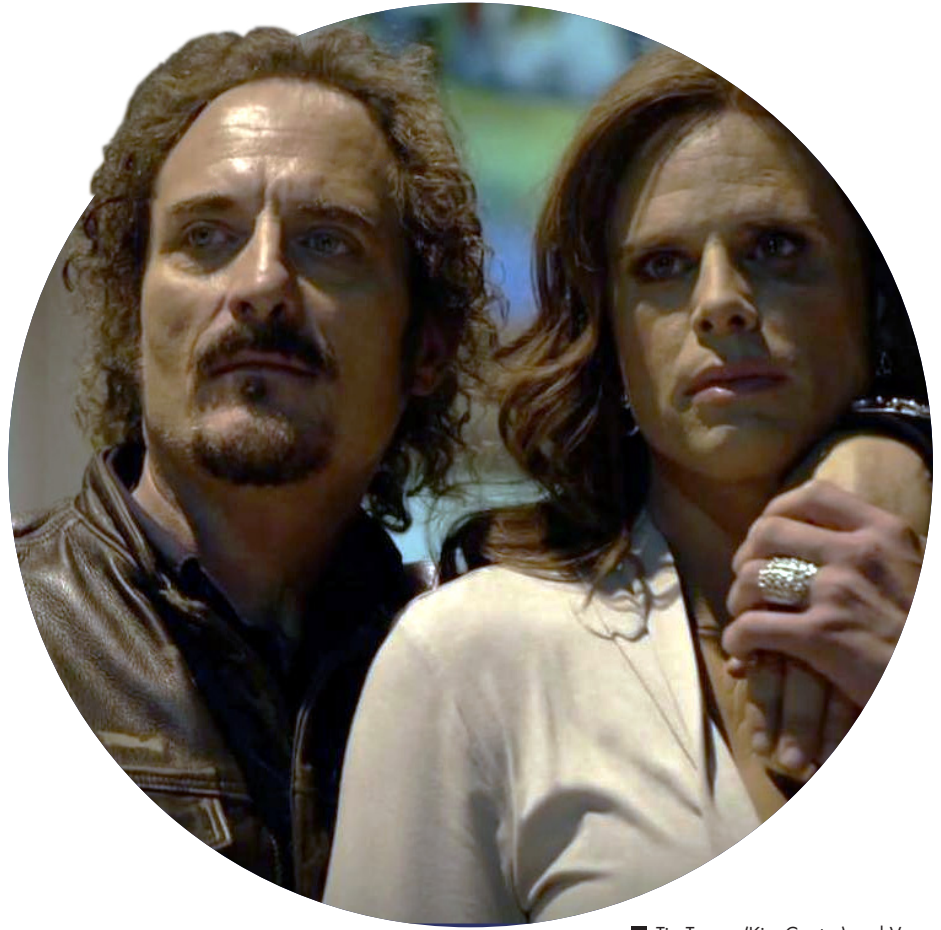
RATING

140.25

total hours of primetime programming

76 (54%)

LGBT-inclusive hours



■ Tig Trager (Kim Coates) and Venus Van Dam (Walton Goggins), *Sons of Anarchy*

Launched in 1994 by News Corporation's Fox Entertainment Group, FX was the first television network to feature programming distributed online. Despite a loyal following on the web, in 1997 executives scaled back and re-launched the network as "FX: Fox Gone Cable." The network later dropped the "Fox Gone Cable" tag and joined forces with NASCAR to serve as its cable provider. In 2002, FX premiered *The Shield*, and in 2003 premiered the smash-hit plastic surgery drama *Nip/Tuck*, which aired for six seasons. Today, the network is best known for hits like *Archer*, *Sons of Anarchy*, and *American Horror Story*.

FX as a network hasn't always correctly walked the line between "edgy" and "offensive," which GLAAD has cited as a problem in this annual analysis. Recently, it does seem as though FX is improving that track record. This year marks FX's highest percentage of inclusive hours ever at 54%.

The 2014-2015 Season

- Once again, most of FX's inclusive programming hours came from the comedy series *Anger Management*, which continued to feature gay therapy group member Patrick in a regular role and gay inmate Cleo in a recurring role. Patrick had

a storyline about marrying a female friend to help her claim her inheritance, while Cleo began assisting the show's main character with his study at the prison.

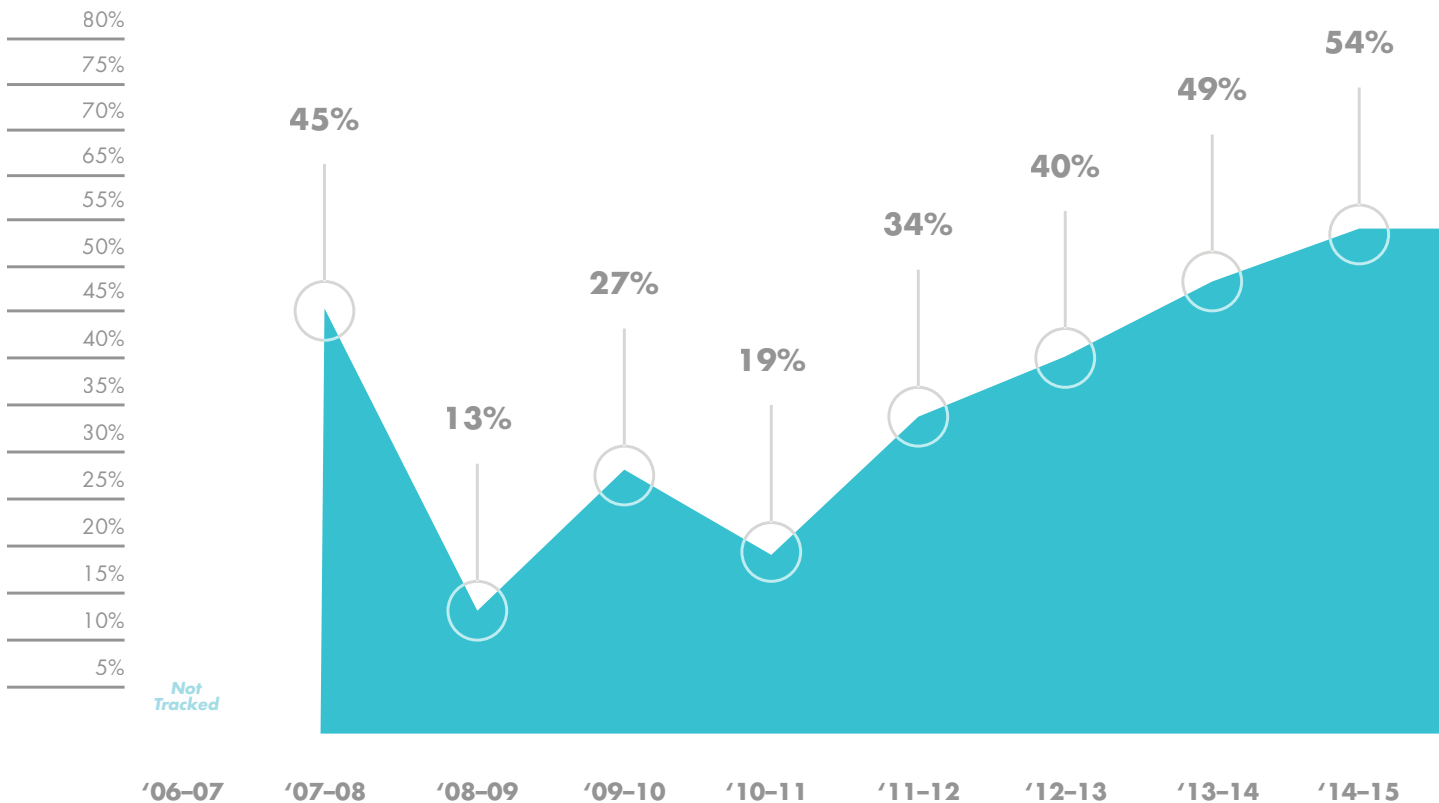
- The second biggest source of FX's inclusive hours was the final season of the motorcycle gang drama *Sons of Anarchy*, largely due to the main character's bisexual ex-wife Wendy. Though her sexual orientation wasn't addressed this season, the former drug addict did see her redemption arc come to completion when she is not only reunited with her son, but leaves to raise him and his half-brother in a peaceful life on a farm in the final episode. Also making her return was Venus Van Damme, whose first appearance was something of a clichéd stunt (recognizable male actor playing a trans sex worker), but who became much more dimensional in future

appearances through some humanizing storylines and a strong performance by the actor playing her. Though she only appeared in a few episodes, Venus was shown beginning a real relationship with one of the show's main characters, Tig, including a well-handled love scene and the couple ultimately ending up together in the final episode.

- The second and final season of *The Bridge* featured lesbian reporter Adriana in a regular role, as well as several appearances by her girlfriend, Lucy. Adriana and her colleague investigated the involvement of the CIA and DEA with a drug cartel, which resulted in her girlfriend being attacked and the two ultimately breaking up. It's unfortunate that FX opted not to give the show a third season, as Adriana was easily one of the best LGBT characters on the network this year.

FX

LGBT-inclusive hours



FX (cont'd)

- Ryan Murphy's ongoing anthology series *American Horror Story* returned for a fourth edition, which in this iteration centered on a 1950s traveling "freak show." This season featured several gay male characters in regular and recurring roles, including a circus strongman, a murderous conman, and a hustler. Each of those characters met a grisly end, though that's not a surprising outcome on this show.
- The satirical, animated spy-comedy *Archer* continued to feature bisexual HR director Pam and gay agent Ray in regular roles on the show, and threw all manner of brutal situations at them while keeping the main romantic storyline centered on their straight counterparts. The Middle East-set drama *Tyrant* featured the gay son of the main character (a reluctant dictator) and his budding relationship with a member of the palace security

staff, though neither character had a major role on the show. Finally, the comedy series *Partners* featured a regular character named Michael, a gay man that works as a paralegal for the two main characters.

Suggested Areas of Improvement

- With *The Bridge* cancelled and *Sons of Anarchy* coming to a close, FX has fewer LGBT characters in its drama lineup. Several new lesbian and bisexual characters have already been announced for the next installment of *American Horror Story*, but it's unlikely any of them would appear in subsequent seasons (even if they survive). We hope FX will introduce some new LGBT characters in ongoing shows as well.



207.5

total hours of primetime programming

64 (31%)

LGBT-inclusive hours



■ Bessie Smith (Queen Latifah), *Bessie*

In 1972, Home Box Office (HBO) was created to broadcast feature films and sports coverage to audiences across America. In 1983, HBO premiered its first original series, *Fraggle Rock*. That same year, HBO aired the first television movie ever made on a cable network, about Canadian athlete and amputee Terry Fox. Original films, specials, and scripted series followed with the network often featuring LGBT-inclusive content. The 1989 documentary *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt* and the 1993 film *And the Band Played On* highlighted LGBT experiences. Later, LGBT-inclusive series such as *Six Feet Under* and *True Blood* earned GLAAD Media Awards.

Not much changed on HBO in terms of inclusive hours this year, as the network remains at 31% following a small increase last year. Many of HBO's inclusive series like *Girls* and *Game of Thrones* continue to prove hits for the network, while the LGBT-focused *Looking* will not return for a third season. Given its track record in quality inclusive programming, however, there's no reason to fear HBO won't make up the difference.

The 2014-2015 Season

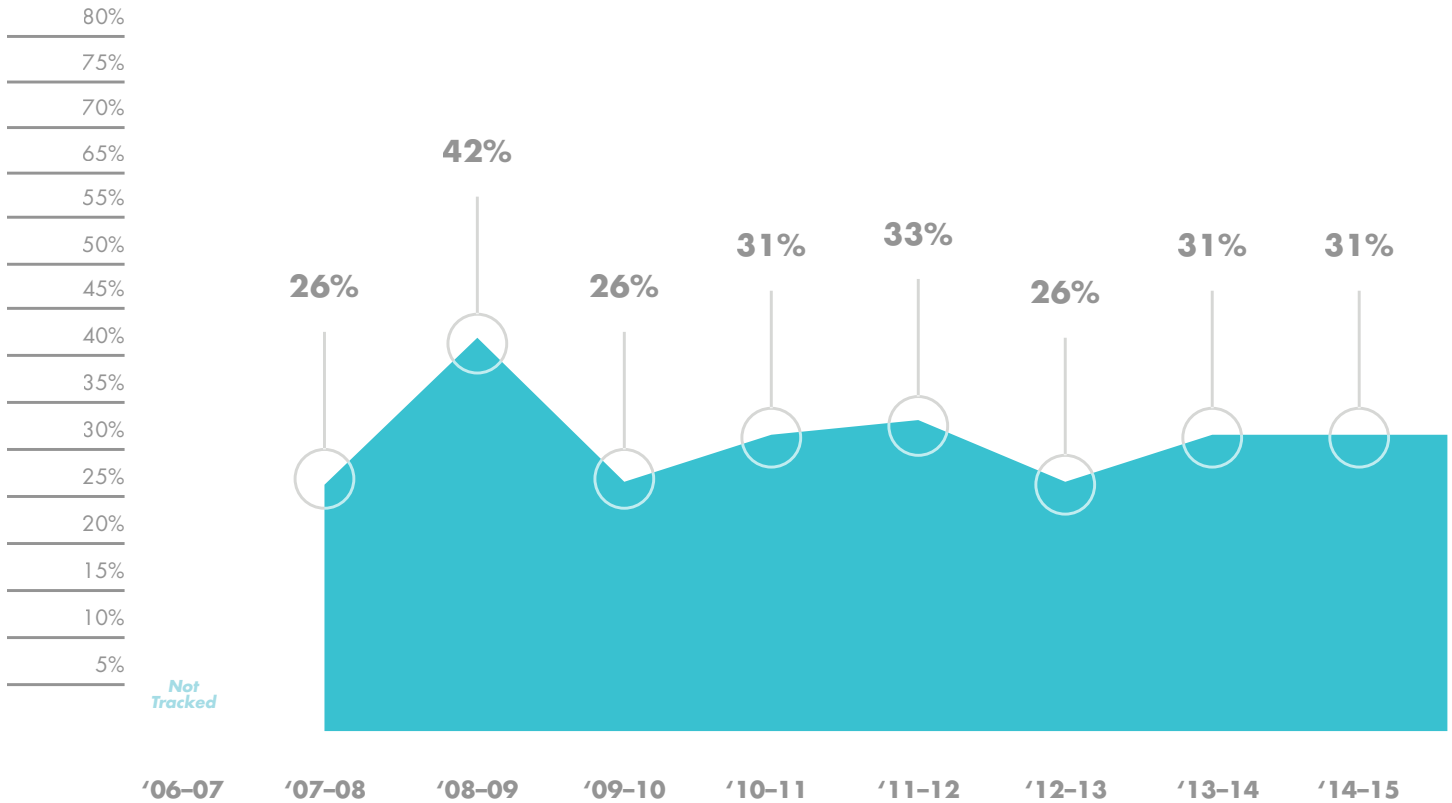
- The second season of the comic-drama

HBO

Looking ended up being its last, though it certainly left its mark with down-to-earth depictions of a group of gay men in San Francisco. This season largely continued storylines that kicked off in season one, though one of the most important new faces was Eddie, who began dating regular character Agustín. Eddie was one of just a handful of recurring or regular TV characters who have been depicted as HIV-positive, and his status prompted some important and authentic in-show conversations about HIV-related issues like PrEP and mixed-status couples. Eddie's work with a group of transgender teens at a youth center also allowed the show to expand its view beyond gay men, though the kids mainly stayed in the background. Thankfully, though the series is officially over, a *Looking* TV movie is in the works and should provide fans with some resolution.

- After seven seasons, the vampire drama *True Blood* came to an end last year, and remained one of the most LGBT-inclusive shows on TV. Lafayette got another chance at romance with a bisexual vampire named James, who began the season dating vampire Jessica. Pam spent most of the season chasing her sire Eric around, following the death of her girlfriend Tara, who only appeared in several brief scenes as a ghostly hallucination to her mother and Lafayette. It wasn't the strongest season for the show's lesbian and bisexual characters, but *True Blood's* legacy can be seen in every other genre show on television now including LGBT characters with regularity.
- Following the death of Oberon Martell last season, *Game of Thrones* lost one of its most unique and dynamic characters, not to mention one of the few bisexual male

LGBT-inclusive hours



HBO (cont'd)

characters ever depicted on such a high-profile show. His absence was certainly felt this season, as his (also bisexual) lover Ellaria Sand began a campaign of bloody vengeance that looks to continue next year. Meanwhile, gay knight Loras Tyrell continued an affair with brothel manager Olyvar, and was subsequently imprisoned by an army of religious zealots for it. That storyline, too, should continue next season.

- After nine years, satirical faux-reality series *The Comeback* made a return, and brought back Mickey, the personal hairdresser of main character Valerie Cherish. Though he was officially still in the closet in the first season (which was made a running joke), this time around Mickey was very much out. So was returning producer Jane, though we had never learned anything about her personal life in the show's first

season. The comedy series *Girls* also revealed a pre-existing character was gay when Hannah's father Tad came out to his family. Hannah's gay roommate/ex-boyfriend Elijah also appeared in the majority of this season's episodes. The Australian school-set comedy *Jonah from Tonga* featured a gay counsellor in a handful of episodes, but unfortunately the teenage boys and teacher the show centered on continually used anti-gay slurs.

- As it does every year, *Real Time with Bill Maher* had a number of notable LGBT guests, including Janet Mock, Zachary Quinto, Glenn Greenwald, and Nate Silver. HBO also aired quite a few LGBT-inclusive original movies and documentaries including the marriage equality doc *The Case Against 8*, the Bessie Smith biopic *Bessie*, and *Hunted: The War Against Gays in Russia*, among others.

Suggested Areas of Improvement

- When HBO premiered *Looking* early last year, it presented something quite different from even the LGBT-centric shows we've seen in the past: a story focused almost exclusively on the lives of gay men and told in a naturalistic style closer to independent film than to television. HBO is a network that has never been afraid to take chances on new things, and we hope they will continue to do so in the future with programming that not only puts LGBT lives front and center, but does so in ways we haven't seen before.



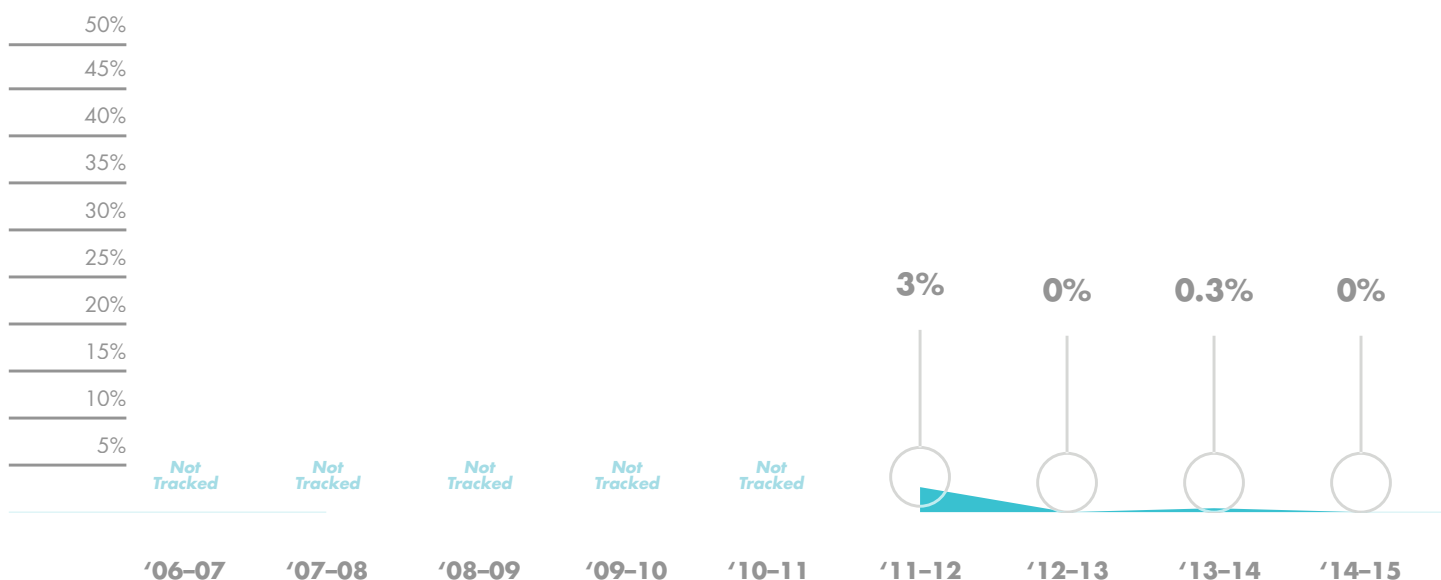
362.5

total hours of primetime programming

0 (0%)

LGBT-inclusive hours

LGBT-inclusive hours



History

The History Channel was launched in 1995 as a venture by A&E Television Networks. Its initial original programming was largely comprised of historical documentary series, with topics like World War II and conspiracy theories making the channel famous for predictable programming. That eventually changed when it began airing reality series about high-risk jobs like *Ice Road Truckers* and *Ax Men*, which were so successful for the network that those series began to greatly outnumber the documentary programming, and the channel eventually switched to the simpler name of History. The network recently started to produce scripted

content as well, such as the miniseries *Hatfields & McCoys* and the historical drama *Vikings*.

Last year, the only inclusive programming History aired was a special called *Bible Secrets Revealed* that contained scenes of experts discussing how the Bible had been used to justify old prejudices against LGBT people. This year GLAAD was unable to find even that much, despite the fact that History produces more original programming hours than nearly any other cable network tracked in the NRI. This is the fourth year in a row that the network has received a “Failing” grade.

Suggested Areas of Improvement

- Not all of History’s programming easily lends itself to more diverse casting or storylines, but there are certainly areas of opportunity. Many other networks air historical-based or period dramas that include LGBT characters, and we would urge History to keep these in mind for its original scripted series or miniseries like *Vikings* or *Texas Rising*.

2015

GOOD

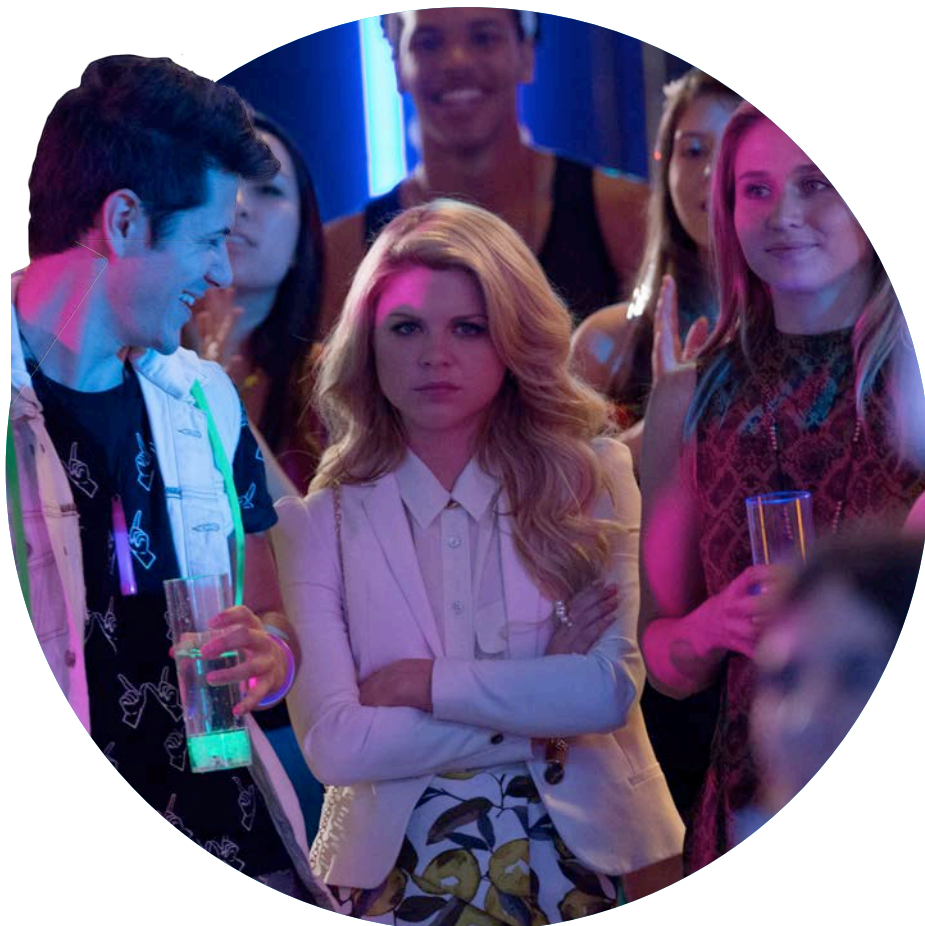
RATING

234.75

total hours of primetime programming

69.75 (30%)

LGBT-inclusive hours



■ Shane Harvey (Michael Willett), Lauren Cooper (Bailey De Young), and Amy Raudenfeld (Rita Volk), *Faking It*

MTV

MTV Networks is a division of the Viacom label with sister networks including MTV2, mtvU, VH1, BET, and Logo. Though the network originally aired music videos, a majority of MTV's current programming consists of reality or unscripted series. Its first reality smash hit, *The Real World*, offered a view into the lives of seven strangers living together. 1994's *The Real World: San Francisco* featured gay, HIV-positive Cuban American Pedro Zamora. Through his actions and relationship with Sean Sasser, he educated his housemates and Americans everywhere about the misconceptions of the LGBT community and gave a face to the AIDS crisis. The network has regularly featured LGBT participants in *The Real World*, *The Challenge*, *True Life*, and its other series.

After a significant increase last year in LGBT impressions on MTV, the network saw them significantly drop this year, from 49%

to 30%. This is mostly due to *The Challenge* not featuring any LGBT contestants this year, and the inclusive high school docu-series *Wait Till Next Year* not returning. On its scripted programming in particular, MTV remained consistently inclusive of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and intersex characters.

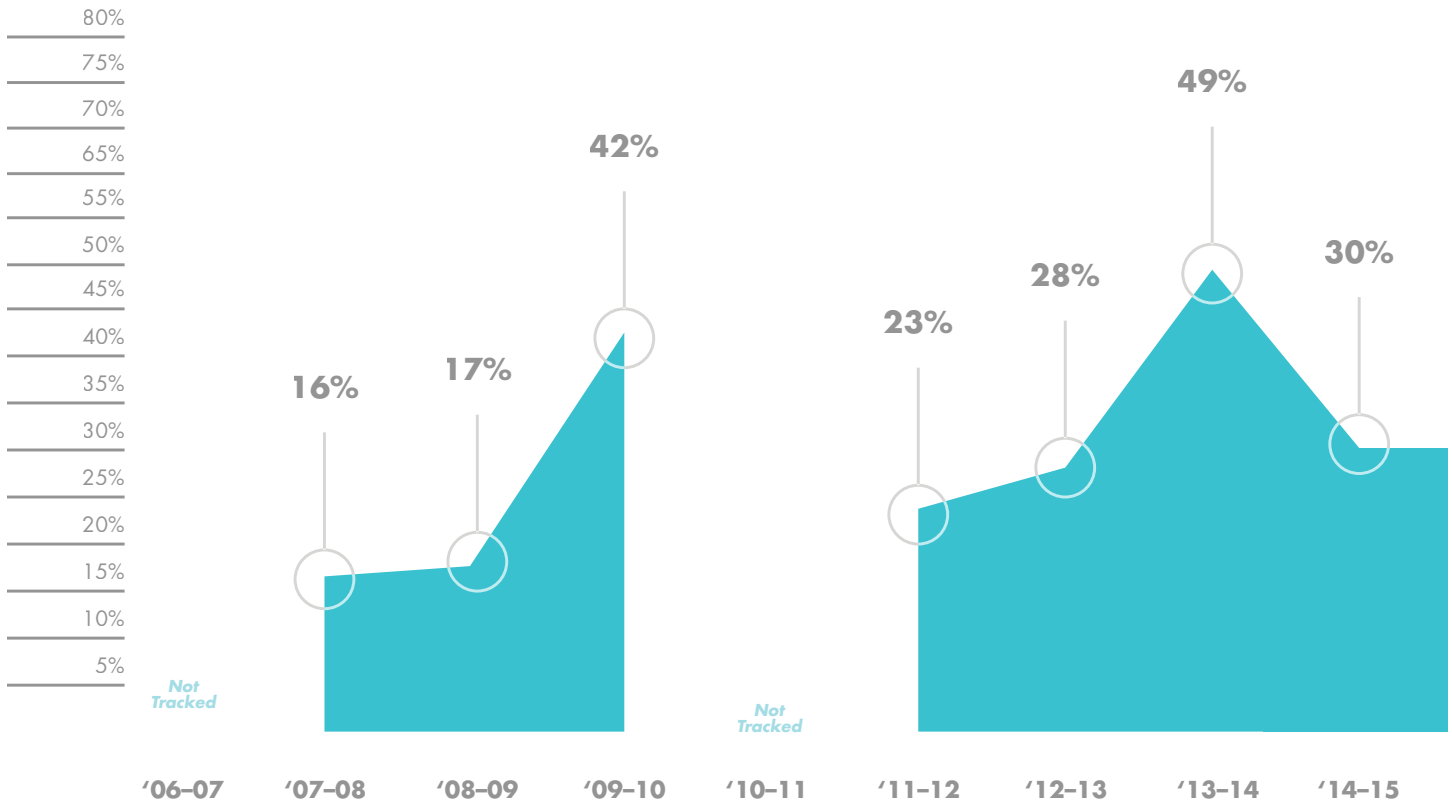
The 2014-2015 Season

- The second season of the comedy *Faking It* continued the story of high school best friends Amy and Karma playing out a fake lesbian relationship, and Amy's very real feelings for Karma, but expanded in some welcome ways. Instead of sitting around pining, Amy got an actual girlfriend in the character of Reagan, an activist and DJ who she met while Reagan was catering a party. Gay teen Shane also got more of a storyline this year, when he started

dating closeted MMA fighter Duke, who he ultimately had to break up with rather than hide their relationship. Perhaps the most unique storyline though was that of Amy's stepsister Lauren, who audiences learned was born intersex. Stories about intersex people are still remarkably rare in the media, and Lauren provided a groundbreaking opportunity to educate viewers and foster understanding. Transgender actress Laverne Cox also stopped by to guest star in a non-trans role as a drama teacher.

- Among the other inclusive scripted series on MTV this year was the new series *Eye Candy*; a thriller about a hacker on the trail of a serial killer. Helping the investigation is one of the main characters' friends, a gay reporter named Connor who thankfully survived

LGBT-inclusive hours



all the way to the end of the series. *Teen Wolf* returned for its fourth season, though this time without gay lacrosse player Danny or his werewolf boyfriend Ethan, but with a new gay lacrosse player named Mason who unfortunately didn't play a significant role. School gossips Theo and Cole continued to pop up regularly on the comedy series *Awkward.*, though neither had much in the way of a significant storyline either. And on *Finding Carter*, main character Carter's former best friend Madison came back into her life late in the season and started dating Carter's female friend Bird.

- *The Real World: Skeletons* brought together a diverse group of strangers to live together and address some of their longstanding personal issues and accounted for the single-biggest source of MTV's inclusive programming hours. Among them was a lesbian named Nicole who didn't get along with her family. The reality series *Catfish* accounted for the second biggest source of hours, and continued to "unmask" the real people taking part in online relationships, including quite a few

LGBT people found on both sides of the equation. And the final season of *Snooki and JWOWW* aired, which also brought back their group of gay friends known as "the Joeys."

- Though it didn't air during primetime, one of the standout programs on MTV this year was the Emmy-winning documentary special *Laverne Cox Presents: The T Word*, in which the actress and advocate profiled several transgender teens and young adults. The documentary provided a diverse group of young people a chance to speak directly to their peers, as did a post-show Trans Forum with several of the teens hosted by Cox that was streamed on MTV.com.

Suggested Areas of Improvement

- Last year, we hoped to see more significant transgender inclusion on MTV, which happened (to a degree) with the documentary *Laverne Cox Presents: The T Word*. Programs in which young trans people get to share their stories with people their own age

are still rare, but MTV's unique show formats easily lend themselves to it. We hope the network will consider adding transgender content in a more ongoing fashion -- perhaps another transgender housemate on *The Real World* or a new character on one of its scripted programs.

2015

GOOD

RATING

164.75

total hours of primetime programming

67 (41%)

LGBT-inclusive hours



■ Dorian Gray (Reeve Carney) and Angelique (Jonny Beauchamp), *Penny Dreadful*

Media giant Viacom expanded its service in 1976 when it debuted the premium subscription network Showtime. Showtime has played an important role in increasing LGBT visibility by showcasing original films such as *Losing Chase* (1996), Armistead Maupin's *More Tales of the City* (1998), and *Soldier's Girl* (2003). Showtime has also committed itself to LGBT-inclusive programming through groundbreaking original series like *Queer as Folk* (2000) and *The L Word* (2004), both of which never shied away from physical intimacy, while also addressing multiple facets of the LGBT community, like parenting, marriage, HIV and AIDS.

Though it didn't quite get back to the high point it reached in 2012, Showtime's inclusive programming increased significantly over the past two years, demonstrating the network is still a reliable place to find unique LGBT stories. It's been a while since Showtime put gay or lesbian characters at the very core of one of its shows, but the prominent characters found on programs like *Shameless* and *Penny Dreadful* are unlike any others found on television in terms of story and personality. That fact combined with the network's

Showtime

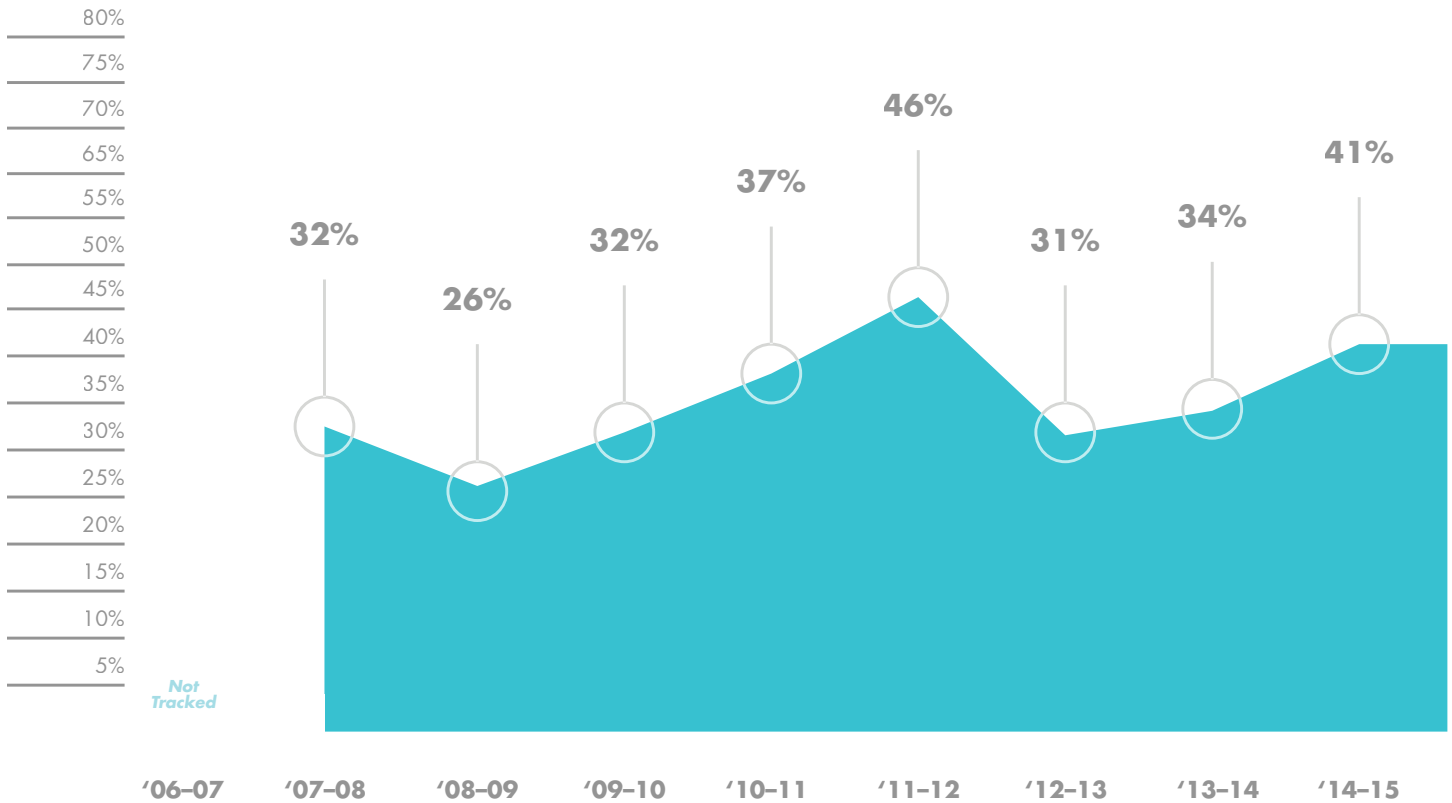
choice to air important LGBT documentaries make Showtime one of the most consistently inclusive networks on television.

The 2014-2015 Season

- *Shameless* aired its fifth season this year, which saw gay brother Ian and his boyfriend Mickey face perhaps their biggest challenges yet. Like his mother before him, Ian's bipolar disorder wrought havoc on his life, and ultimately broke up his relationship, led him to kidnap Mickey's baby, and landed him in an institution. Mickey didn't fare much better, as he not only lost his boyfriend, but also nearly killed a woman who later tried to shoot him in the season finale. The pair's future was left uncertain. Ian's sister Fiona was romantically pursued by a woman named Angela, and the Gallagher clan's bisexual mother Monica showed up for a few episodes.

- Last season, the Victorian horror series *Penny Dreadful* became one of Showtime's most inclusive shows following a passionate encounter between the show's rugged male lead, Ethan Chandler, and the immortal Dorian Grey. Though the world depicted in the show lacks contemporary notions of "gay" or "transgender," it's obvious the creators intend to demonstrate that LGBT people existed even in times when being true to oneself carried great risk. The show's second season introduced even more characters, including gay antiquities expert Ferdinand Lyle, and a transgender courtesan named Angelique, who began a relationship with Dorian. Sadly, Angelique was poisoned by the murderous Dorian after she learned his secret, but Ferdinand managed to survive to the end and could potentially return next season. As one of television's

LGBT-inclusive hours



most unique shows, it's good to see *Penny Dreadful* also provide some of the most unique LGBT characters.

- On *Masters of Sex*, former sex worker Betty was featured in a more substantial role this season when she became Masters and Johnson's office manager. She also rekindled an affair with a woman named Helen in a storyline set to continue playing out in the new season. Also making a few appearances was married gay man Barton Scully, who attempted suicide after being subjected to "conversion therapy," while another episode showed a couple learning their new baby is intersex and being advised against potentially destructive surgery by the main character.
- The comedy series *Episodes* has long featured the gay TV executive Andy Button in a minor role, but this season also introduced lesbian executive Helen Bash as the new head of development at the fictional TV network at which much of the show is set. Helen began a relationship with fellow executive Carol, one of the show's main characters who has a penchant for falling for every boss she has. Their relationship came to a bitter

end, which is also in keeping with Carol's established history.

- Lesbian assistant Lena remained a regular character on the drama series *Ray Donovan*, but she also remained relegated to a minor role in most episodes. That was also the case for Roscoe on *House of Lies*, where the bisexual teen started acting out at school so much he nearly got expelled. Thor fared somewhat better on *Nurse Jackie*, where he not only served as the nurses' union leader before a looming hospital shutdown, but also got married to his boyfriend Reuben.
- In addition to its many inclusive scripted shows, Showtime also aired several standout documentaries this year about LGBT people and issues. *The Real L Word: Mississippi* profiled several lesbians living in the Deep South dealing with issues like religious bigotry, racism, and poverty, and received a GLAAD Media Award earlier this year. Religious persecution was also the subject of *Kidnapped for Christ*, which profiled a gay man forced to attend a Christian-run camp in an attempt to "cure" him. The enduring legacy of The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt was the

subject of the documentary *The Last One*, which premiered on World AIDS Day. And lesbian comedian Tig Notaro starred in her own comedy special, *Knock Knock, It's Tig Notaro*.

Suggested Areas of Improvement

- In terms of the racial diversity of LGBT impressions on the network, little has changed since last year as only 15% of those were made by people of color, which is why the network didn't receive a score of "Excellent" in this year's NRI. This is an ongoing problem the network must address moving forward, or it risks looking increasingly behind the times. Thankfully, this year didn't see any outright defamatory depictions of transgender people on Showtime, though the one recurring transgender character who appeared (on *Penny Dreadful*) met a tragic fate. We hope this, too, is an area Showtime addresses with new characters.

2015

ADEQUATE

RATING

485.5

total hours of primetime programming

87 (18%)

LGBT-inclusive hours

■ Sam, *Style By Jury*

TLC was founded in 1972 by the U.S. Government and NASA as a means of providing education programming at no cost but was later privatized in 1980 when the network became known as The Learning Channel. For years, it focused on topics pertaining to science, history and current events. The network was eventually bought by Discovery Communications, of which it remains a part of today. TLC's focus has since shifted to more human-interest programming that emphasizes personal stories and mass appeal topics. Among its more well-known programs of late are *Here Comes Honey Boo Boo*, *19 Kids and Counting*, *Little People Big World*, *Toddlers & Tiaras*, and *Say Yes to the Dress*.

GLAAD first began tracking TLC two years ago and, considering its target audience, we were pleasantly surprised to find that 20% of the network's programming hours were LGBT-inclusive. Much of TLC's programming is designed to appeal to conservative audiences, highlighting Christian families, traditional ceremonies (like weddings), traditional gender roles, and odd human behavior. Despite that, LGBT impressions have appeared fairly consistently on the network, though

the representations are also sometimes problematic. That was the case this year with the network's airing of the special *My Husband's Not Gay*, which gave a national platform to proponents of dangerous and medically discredited anti-gay "therapy" practices.

The 2014-2015 Season

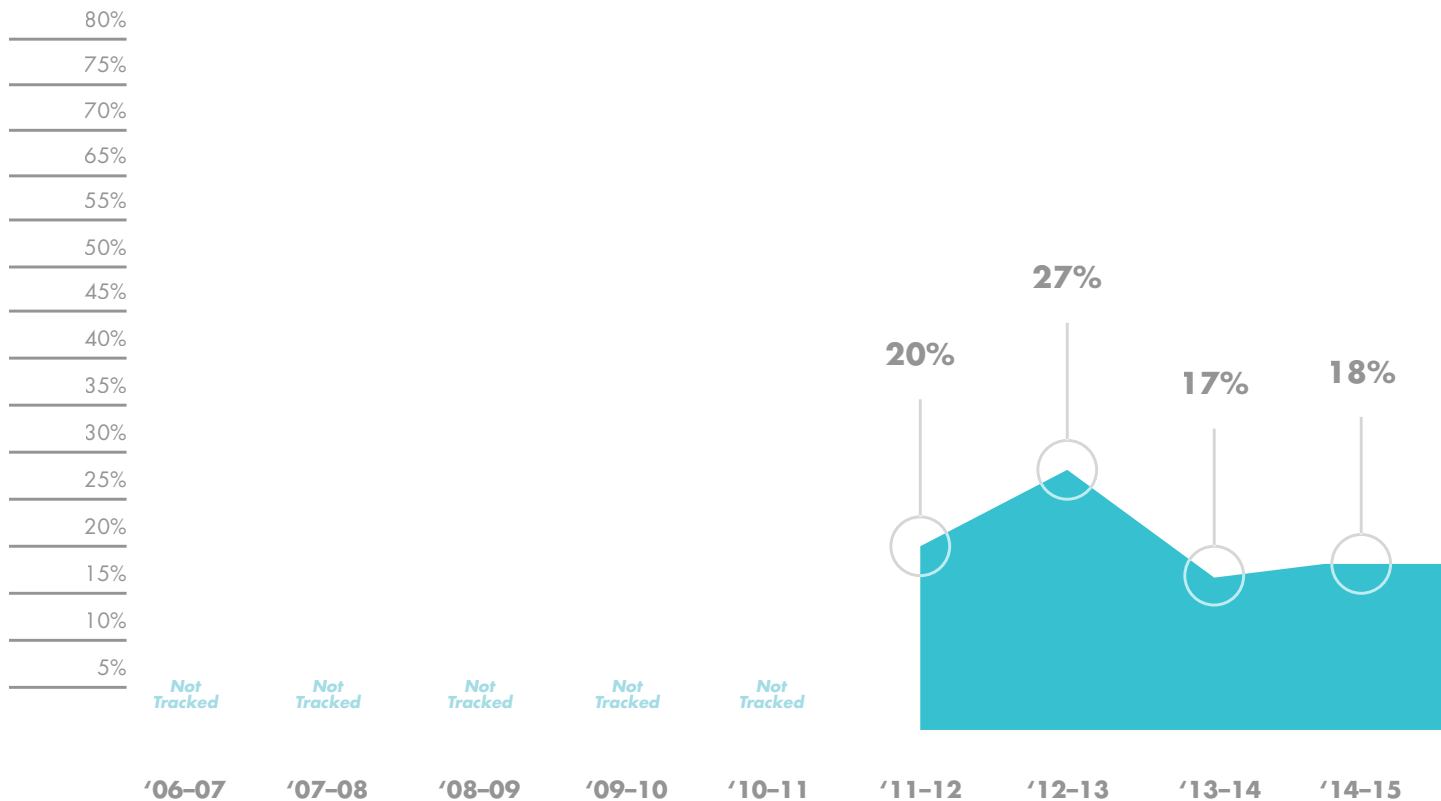
- Once again, most of TLC's LGBT impressions were found on shows in which gay men assist women in picking out clothes. This year, such programming included *Say Yes to the Dress* starring Randy Fenoli, and *Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta* with Monte Durham. One episode of *Style By Jury* also featured a lesbian who preferred to dress in "men's clothes," and who endured some terrible comments from a group of strangers assembled by the

show to rate her appearance. Thankfully, the hosts didn't try to force her into more gender-conforming outfits, but the scene stuck out for the prejudice clearly on display. These shows accounted for approximately 40% of TLC's inclusive hours, which is actually lower than in previous years.

- *Welcome to Myrtle Manor* continued to feature hairdresser and former drag queen Roy as one of several trailer park residents the show follows in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. This season, Roy took a job with a new salon in town, causing friction between him and his friend and business partner Gina. On the final season of *Here Comes Honey Boo Boo*, gay family member "Uncle Poodle" moved in, while the medium of *Angels Among Us* had a gay son named Frank. And the new show *My Big Fat Fabulous*

TLC

LGBT-inclusive hours



Life followed a plus size dance instructor named Whitney, who had both a gay dance partner and a gay best friend.

- One of the most problematic things to air on television this year was a special called *My Husband's Not Gay*, which followed four Mormon men who reject their sexual orientation because their faith is unaccepting of gay people. Several of the men were proponents of so-called "reparative therapy." The program was clearly designed to be a pilot for an ongoing show, and through its careless approach to the subject matter attempted to normalize a practice that the medical establishment has repeatedly described as highly destructive, and several states now ban outright. Thankfully, the show tanked in the ratings and never made it past a single episode, though GLAAD and other groups publicly condemned TLC for airing it in the first place.
- TLC continued to air episodes of the series *Who Do You Think You Are?* on which celebrities trace back their family lineage with the help of historians. The most recent seasons featured

episodes with Cynthia Nixon, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Sean Hayes, and Melissa Etheridge. The network also aired the competition series *Cake Boss: The Next Great Baker*, which featured a gay contestant named Jose. Other TLC series that aired LGBT-inclusive episodes this season were *My Strange Addiction*, *Sister Wives*, *Sex Sent Me to the ER*, *Long Island Medium*, *Leah Remini: It's All Relative*, *Four Weddings* (which included a lesbian couple's wedding), *Deck the Halls with Dr. Christmas*, and *Escaping Alaska*.

Suggested Areas of Improvement

- In addition to the scourge that was *My Husband's Not Gay*, it was also a tumultuous year for other TLC programs, with several of their subjects embroiled in public scandals bad enough for the network to pull the shows entirely. As of right now, *Here Comes Honey Boo Boo* and *19 Kids and Counting* – both big hits for TLC – have been cancelled. This is the time for TLC to more closely examine what and who it wants representing

its brand, but at least one new show is definitely a step in the right direction. This summer, TLC premiered the docuseries *I Am Jazz* about transgender teen Jazz Jennings and her family. The show appears to have done a solid job of simply letting Jazz be herself, while both highlighting the unique challenges she faces and showing how she is just a typical teenage girl. We hope to see more shows like this on TLC in the future.



219

total hours of primetime programming

40.5 (19%)

LGBT-inclusive hours



■ Alisha Granderson (Christina Elmore), *The Last Ship*

TNT

Launched in 1988 by media mogul Ted Turner, Turner Network Television (TNT) was originally the destination for live sporting events like NASCAR races and NBA and NFL games. When launched as a cable service, the network also aired movies and repeats of television shows. In 2001, TNT rebranded itself with the tagline “We Know Drama” to emphasize their acquisition of syndicated series like *Law & Order* and *Cold Case*. It featured a number of original drama series in the past year, though an even number of its original programming hours were actually from unscripted series.

This year marks an improvement in LGBT representation on TNT, as inclusive programming hours on the networks rose from 9% to 19%. That’s still not quite enough to bring it back to the 30% range it maintained for several years, but it’s a welcome change. Mostly, this was due to a single regular character coming out on *Major Crimes*.

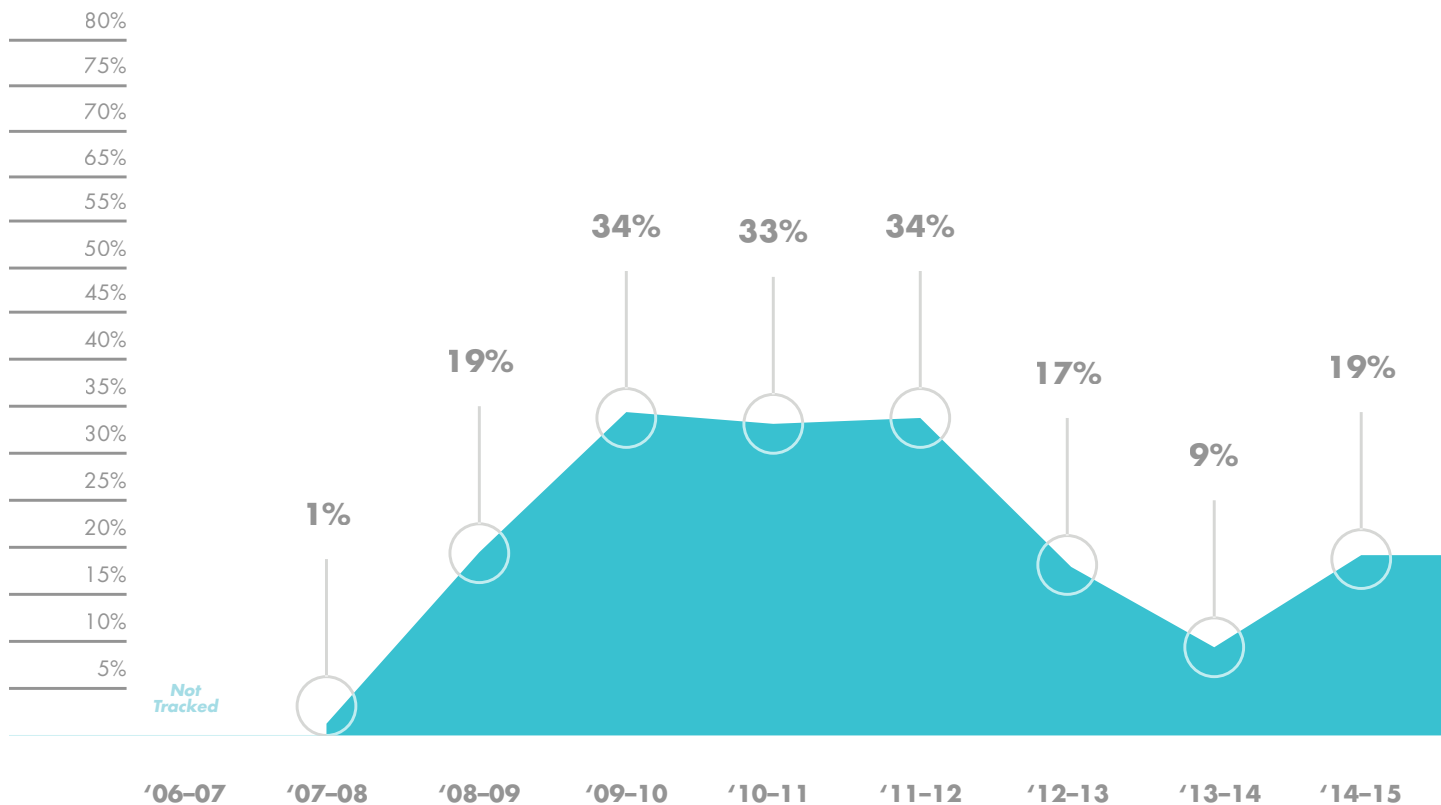
The 2014-2015 Season

- Now that Rusty has officially come out on the drama series *Major Crimes*, the show became nearly 50% of the LGBT-inclusive programming hours aired on TNT this year. Rusty had a significant role in nearly every episode. This was due in part to his being officially adopted by the show’s main character, which the bulk of his storylines centered around. He also found time to develop a serious crush on a coworker from the television show he started working on as a production assistant, but ended the season back in the crosshairs of the serial killer he previously helped put in prison. Gay medical examiner Dr. Morales also made minor appearances in the majority of episodes aired.
- The only other series on TNT to feature a regular out LGBT character this year was

The Last Ship, in which lesbian naval officer Alisha Granderson is part of a Navy crew trying to survive in a world where a plague has wiped out most of the population. Alisha was a regular fixture on the ship’s bridge, though she didn’t have much of a story role until the final episode of the first season when the crew arrives in Baltimore, where her mother is the mayor. Hopefully, she’ll be better utilized in future plotlines.

- Besides those two shows, *Murder in the First* featured a recurring lesbian tech expert who had a crush on a female detective and an episode of the real-life crime series *Cold Justice* focused on the murder of a closeted gay man. *Wake Up Call*, *On the Menu*, *The SAG Awards*, and the *AFI Tribute to Jane Fonda* all featured appearances by out TV personalities such as Lily Tomlin, Wanda Sykes, and Jillian Michaels.

LGBT-inclusive hours



Suggested Areas of Improvement

- Both *Major Crimes* and *The Last Ship* are returning for new episodes, but it will take more than that to get TNT back to the level of LGBT inclusion it reached several years ago. The network should consider adding a transgender character to one of its programs and find ways to incidentally include more LGBT characters in its procedurals by creating roles that don't simply portray LGBT people as victims or villains.

2015

ADEQUATE

RATING

117.5

total hours of primetime programming

26.5 (23%)

LGBT-inclusive hours

■ Golan Cohen (Ori Pfeffer), *Dig*

USA

USA Network started in 1977, when a New York City-based outlet was launched as the Madison Square Garden Network. Three years later, the channel was renamed USA Network to reflect its national reach. Among basic cable networks, USA boasts an enormous potential audience, since it's available in roughly 94 million homes as of 2008. USA has played host to a plethora of original programs, including shows like *Burn Notice*, *White Collar*, and *Psych*. The network also airs a number of syndicated hits like *House*, *Law & Order: SVU* and *NCIS*. With the slogan "Characters Welcome," USA is committed to a slate that focuses on strong personalities, but it has also shown an admirable commitment to partnering with progressive social causes with the "Characters Unite" campaign.

This year, USA reached the highest percentage of inclusive programming we've yet seen on the network at 23%, which

is a significant improvement over the 4% tracked in 2008. This was largely thanks to the new series *Dig*, and the second season of *Sirens*, both of which featured regular gay characters.

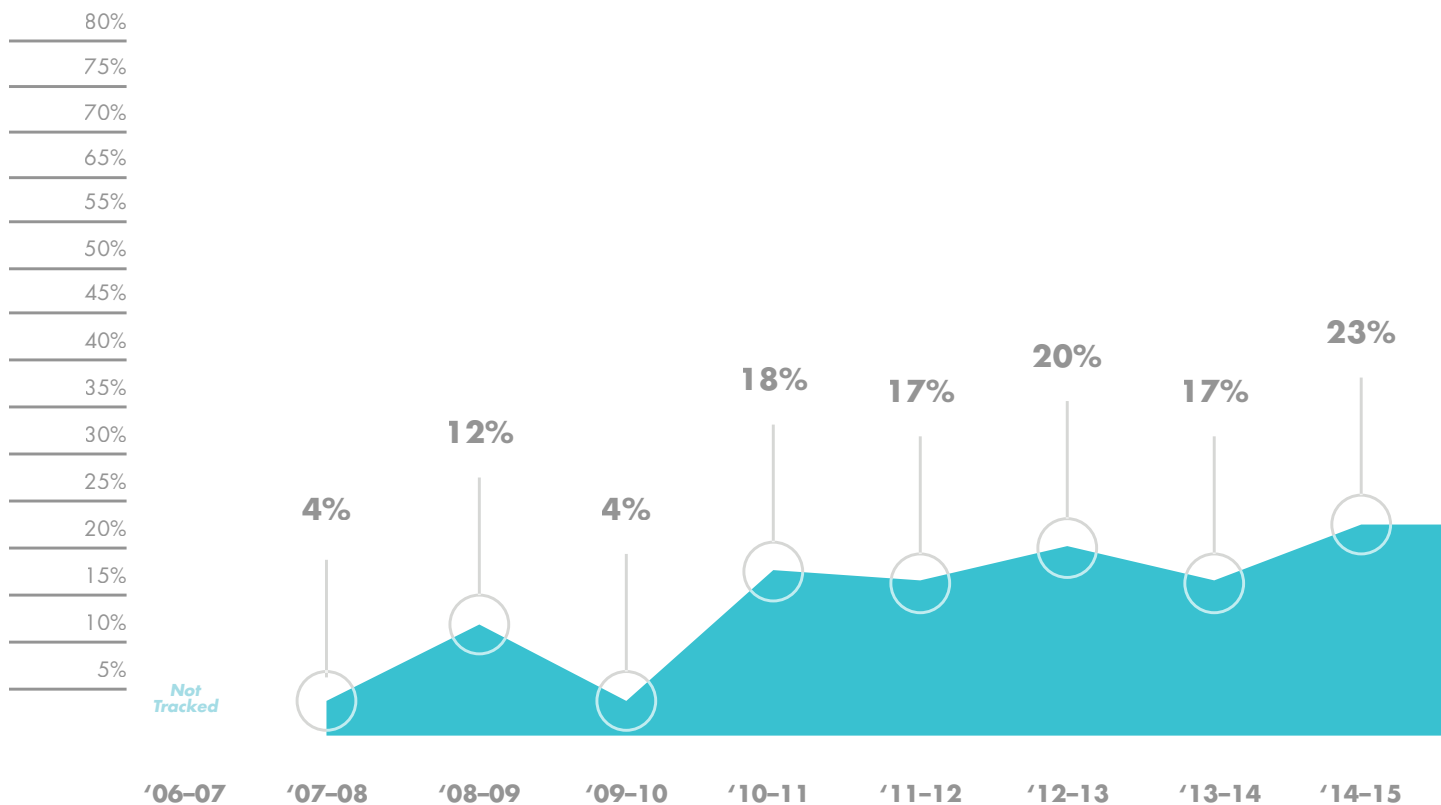
The 2014-2015 Season

- Most of USA's inclusive hours this year came from the new miniseries *Dig*, about an FBI agent investigating a murder in Jerusalem, who unearths an ancient conspiracy. Golan Cohen is one of the locals he works with, who is a gay detective with a boyfriend named Udi. Unfortunately, Golan was brutally murdered in the season finale, but he was an important character on the show while he was alive.
- Also coming to an end this year was the comedy series *Sirens* about three paramedics in Chicago. One of the three

was Hank, a gay, black man confident in his job and fully accepted by his friends and peers. This season Hank began dating the landlord of one of his coworkers, and tried to help a woman find a shopping-friendly gay best friend. It's still rare that gay characters are given equal footing in shows with predominantly straight casts, not to mention portrayed in close friendships with straight male characters.

- The third inclusive series to wrap up on USA this year was the long-running show *White Collar*, which featured lesbian FBI agent Diana Barrigan. Though she was absent for much of the previous season, this year she did at least appear in every episode, usually in a very minor capacity. In the final episode Diana moved to Washington, D.C. with her son.

LGBT-inclusive hours



- The drama series *Graceland* follows a group of government agents living together in a Southern California beach house, and gained a recurring gay character this season with the addition of the murderous son of a Mexican cartel leader, Carlito. One of the male agents used Carlito's attraction to him as a means of infiltrating the cartel, until his ruse was uncovered. One episode of the medical drama *Rush* also featured a gay couple trying to hide a collection of exotic animals in their home.

first time in several years, suggesting the network might see a precipitous drop in LGBT representation in the coming TV season. We hope it will recognize this and take proactive steps to maintain diversity in its upcoming programming, particularly since USA's own "Characters Unite" campaign emphasizes the importance of that.

Suggested Areas of Improvement

- With *Sirens*, and *White Collar* finished and Golan murdered on *Dig*, USA will be without a regular LGBT character for the

Additional Networks



Amazon

The world's largest online retailer hit the web in 1995 but didn't start producing its own original streaming content until 2013 through the Amazon Instant Video service. The Amazon original series *Transparent* – which tells the story of Maura (Jeffrey Tambor), a trans woman coming out to her family late in life – premiered last September and went on to win two Golden Globe Awards, including one for Tambor, as well as a GLAAD Media Award. The show includes several other lesbian, bisexual, and transgender characters and features performances by several trans actors who appear in recurring roles. *Alpha House* included two female legislative assistants, Julie and Katherine, who run out of their wedding after seeing the event turned into a political stunt. The series also featured recurring gay military Colonel Eugene Drake.

■ Maura Pfefferman (Jeffrey Tambor), *Transparent*



AMC

AMC (American Movie Classics) has long been a haven for cinephiles, though the network has gone through several format changes and upped its slate of original series over the past decade. Scripted drama *The Walking Dead* introduced couple Aaron and Eric who both work as recruiters for the Alexandria Safe-Zone and lesbian zombie hunter Tara Chambler continued to appear. The first season of 1980s-set *Halt and Catch Fire* saw protagonist Joe MacMillan in relationships with men and women. A previous lover of Joe's, Simon, was also introduced in an episode in which he disclosed to Joe that he is dying of AIDS.

■ Aaron (Ross Marquand), *The Walking Dead*



BBC America

Part of BBC Worldwide's media network, BBC America brings some of the UK's top programs to U.S. audiences. The network has a long history of LGBT-inclusive programming such as *Tipping the Velvet* and *Torchwood*. *Doctor Who's* fan-favorite mystery solving couple Madame Vastra and Jenny appeared in one episode as the newest Doctor was introduced. *Orphan Black* introduced clone Cosima's new love interest, Shay, and continued to include gay and bisexual characters Felix and Delphine, who was shot in the finale. The now-cancelled drama *Atlantis* included a relationship between Icarus and Pythagoras and *The Graham Norton Show* ran new episodes as well.

■ Cosima Niehaus (Tatiana Maslany), *Orphan Black*



Bravo

Bravo has a well-known history of producing highly inclusive reality series, including *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* and *Project Runway*. Last year, the network premiered its first scripted series, *Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce*, which featured main character Abby's brother, Max, and his husband Ford in several episodes. The long list of LGBT-inclusive reality series that ran new episodes this past year include the *Million Dollar Listing* franchise, *Shahs of Sunset*, *The People's Couch* and *Newlyweds: The First Year*.

■ Laura Leigh Abby and Samantha Abby, *Newlyweds: The First Year*



E!

E!, an NBCUniversal network, features celebrity news and unscripted programming. Out stylist George Kotsiopoulos continued to serve as a co-anchor for the celebrity fashion critique series *Fashion Police* in 2014, with out host Brad Goreski joining the show in 2015. Gay socialites E.J. Johnson and Jonny Drubel continued to be featured in the second season of *#RichKids of Beverly Hills*. The network also aired the special *Lance Loves Michael: The Lance Bass Wedding*. In July 2015, E! premiered the documentary series *I Am Cait* following Caitlyn Jenner as she shares her journey with millions, helping people understand what it means to be transgender and inspiring people to be their authentic selves.

■ Caitlyn Jenner, *I Am Cait*



HGTV

HGTV's programming focuses on issues of home buying, renovation, design, gardening and craft. The network was launched in 1994. The Ellen DeGeneres-executive produced reality design competition *Ellen's Design Challenge* premiered in January with DeGeneres making several appearances through the series' run. A second season will run in 2016. Though the personal lives of hosts, judges and contestants are rarely explored, HGTV often features same-sex couples looking for home-related assistance in programs such as *House Hunters* and *House Hunters International*.

■ Ellen DeGeneres, *Ellen's Design Challenge*



Hulu

Video streaming service Hulu launched for public access in 2008 as a joint venture between NBCUniversal, Fox Broadcasting Company, and Disney-ABC Television Group. The company introduced the subscription service Hulu Plus in 2010. The Hulu original series *East Los High* about teens at a Los Angeles high school aired its second season in 2014 and saw best friends Jocelyn and Camila begin a relationship. Animated original series *The Awesomes* includes gay hero Zip "Frantic" Danger who has super speed. Hulu also has U.S.-exclusive distribution rights for the inclusive British soaps *Coronation Street* and *Hollyoaks*.

■ Camila (Vannessa Vasquez) and Jocelyn Reyes (Andrea Sixtos), *East Los High*



Lifetime

Lifetime, owned by A&E Networks and established in 1982, has focused on programming for women since its beginning. In the last year, *Witches of East End* introduced Alex, a previous girlfriend of witch and Beauchamp family matriarch Joanna, and gay librarian Hudson returned for two episodes before he was killed. *Project Runway* and *Project Runway: All Stars* continued to be a big source of inclusion for the network and the reality series *True Tori* included appearances by several of Tori Spelling's gay friends.

■ Alex (Michelle Hurd), *Witches of East End*



Logo

Logo was the only basic cable network devoted to programming for LGBT people, though the network recently shifted its focus to programming for a broader audience. In the last year, Logo acquired U.S. distribution rights to the Russell T. Davies interconnected series *Banana* and *Cucumber*. Set in Manchester, England, *Cucumber* followed the end of a nine-year relationship between Henry and Lance, while *Banana* followed the lives and loves of Henry's younger friends with each episode focusing on a different character. Logo and MTV simulcast the Emmy-winning documentary *Laverne Cox Presents: The T Word*, and Logo also aired a special Trans Forum featuring Cox afterward. The network's inclusive unscripted offerings include *RuPaul's Drag Race* and *Secret Guide to Fabulous*.

■ Lance Sullivan (Cyril Nri), *Cucumber*



Netflix

Launched in 1997, Netflix began producing its own original series in 2012. The Tina Fey comedy *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, originally set for NBC, premiered on Netflix in March and saw Kimmy moving in with openly gay struggling actor Titus Andromedon. The original new comedy *Grace and Frankie* focuses on two frenemies who find their lives permanently entangled after their husbands announce they are in love with each other and plan to marry. The second season of *Orange is the New Black* featured several lesbian and bisexual inmates as well as trans woman Sophia Burset. The season included some of Poussey's romantic history with flashbacks of the girl she was dating while living with her family on an army base in Germany. Dramas *House of Cards* and *Hemlock Grove* and the animated series *BoJack Horseman* also included LGBT characters in recent seasons. The Lana and Andy Wachowski-created original series *Sense8* premiered with the globe-spanning story following eight strangers who learn they have a mysterious connection, and includes telenovela star Lito Rodriguez and his boyfriend Hernando, as well as blogger and hacker Nomi, who is a trans woman with a girlfriend named Amanita.

■ Nomi Marks (Jamie Clayton), *Sense8*



Oxygen

Oxygen, launched in 2000, is a subsidiary of NBCUniversal that features programming targeted at female audiences. In April, the network premiered the docuseries *The Prancing Elites Project*, which followed a gay and gender non-conforming black dance troupe in Mobile, Alabama, one of whom disclosed that he was HIV-positive during the season. Another new docuseries, *Living Different*, featured the stories of two queer women and a transgender man in the premiere episode. *Sisterhood of Hip Hop*, which premiered last summer, follows five female rappers trying to make their big break including out rapper Siya, and the similarly premised *Funny Girls* about female comedians featured out comic Scout Durwood.

■ The Prancing Elites, *The Prancing Elites Project*



PBS

The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) is a nonprofit network of stations around the country which provide content, often educational, to public broadcasting channels. Due to inconsistencies between markets, not all PBS stations air the same content, but during the past year, PBS continued to broadcast British drama *Downton Abbey*, which features duplicitous gay butler Thomas Barrow. The network added British import comedy *Vicious* about elderly gay couple Freddie and Stuart and aired the second season of *Last Tango in Halifax*, which features couple Kate and Caroline. Bisexual pop star Lady Gaga appeared on *Great Performances* in *Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga: Cheek to Cheek Live!* and the *Live from Lincoln Center* series featured a performance of *The Nance* starring Nathan Lane. PBS also premiered the LGBT-inclusive documentaries *The Homestretch*, *Kumu Hina*, and *American Masters: The Boomers List*.

■ Freddie Thornhill (Ian McKellen) and Stuart Bixby (Derek Jacobi), *Vicious*



Pivot

Pivot, owned by Participant Media, launched in 2013 as a new channel for millennials dedicated to programming that promotes social change. Pivot has U.S. distribution rights for the Australian comedy *Please Like Me*, from out writer Josh Thomas in which he plays a version of himself. The series also includes several love interests for Josh. Topical talk show *TakePart Live* included discussions on several LGBT issues before the series wrapped for good in December.

■ Josh (Josh Thomas), *Please Like Me*



Starz

Premium channel Starz was founded in 1994 as a sister network to Encore. The network didn't begin serious expansion of its original scripted programming until 2005. Pirate drama *Black Sails*, a prequel to the Treasure Island novel, revealed that pirate Captain Flint was previously in a relationship with the aristocratic Lord Thomas Hamilton when Flint was an officer in the British Royal Navy. The series also continued to include lesbian and bisexual characters Max, Eleanor, and Anne Bonny. The comedy *Survivor's Remorse* premiered last year, and follows newly-signed professional basketball player Cam Calloway and his family, including his out sister Mary Charles aka "M-Chuck." The competition docuseries *The Chair*, which challenged two directors to create their own film interpretations of the same script, was produced by and starred out actor Zachary Quinto. The show's winner - YouTube personality Shane Dawson - has since come out as bisexual. *Da Vinci's Demons* continued to ignore the famous inventor's relationships with men.

■ James Flint (Toby Stephens), *Black Sails*



Syfy

Syfy, an NBCUniversal network, specializes in science fiction, fantasy and paranormal programming. Syfy has made a concerted effort to include LGBT characters in many of its scripted series, miniseries and original TV movies. The network airs Canadian drama *Lost Girl* about bisexual succubus Bo, who is in an on-off relationship with scientist Lauren. Dramas *Defiance*, *Olympus*, and *Dominion* count several LGBT characters among ensemble casts. Reality competition series *Face Off* also included LGBT contestants on recent seasons.

■ Bo (Anna Silk), *Lost Girl*



VH1

VH1 was launched in 1985 to show music videos and appeal to a slightly older demographic than sister music channel MTV. The network has shifted to music-related programming and celebrity reality series, while branching out to scripted original content in recent years as well. The singing competition series *Make or Break: The Linda Perry Project* premiered last summer with queer alternative rock band Hunter Valentine among those competing for the ultimate prize. Reality series *Black Ink Crew* continued to include former shop manager Sassy. The basketball drama *Hit the Floor's* most recent season saw star player Zero hooking up with his agent and son of the team owner, Jude, and the two appearing to develop real feelings for each other amidst the drama.

■ Zero (Adam Senn), *Hit The Floor*

GLAAD's Entertainment Media Team

GLAAD's Entertainment Media Team not only works with entertainment-related media platforms to encourage fair, accurate, and inclusive representation of LGBT people, but also to combat problematic content and instances of defamation in these industries. This process may involve reading scripts, viewing rough cuts, pitching story ideas, consulting with writers and producers, working with talent to better inform them about portraying LGBT characters, and arranging entertainment-related events and panels. GLAAD also promotes LGBT-inclusive projects through GLAAD's newsroom, social media and the weekly LGBT TV listings, "Must-See LGBT TV," and through its annual GLAAD Media Awards.



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Entertainment Media Interns

GLAAD's Entertainment Media Interns join the Programs Team in researching and monitoring LGBT-inclusive content on television and in film. They conduct research for the *Studio Responsibility Index*, *Network Responsibility Index*, and contribute to GLAAD's newsroom.

Omar Rosales

California State
University at
Northridge
Class of 2015

Megan Walsh

Michigan
Technological
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Class of 2015

Cleo Anderson

Antioch University
Class of 2016

Jorge Molina

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Class of 2017



GLAAD rewrites the script for LGBT acceptance. As a dynamic media force, GLAAD tackles tough issues to shape the narrative and provoke dialogue that leads to cultural change. GLAAD protects all that has been accomplished and creates a world where everyone can live the life they love.

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