Drug addiction is a huge issue; an issue that is seen throughout all communities. Hate crimes are an issue that affects everyone, but there is one community that is most times more affected, this is the LGBT population. They have higher rates of alcohol and substance abuse than any other community by far. Alcohol and substance abuse are always a problem, but why is it more likely in the LGBT community than the heterosexual community?

The statistics are unbelievable for drug use among LGBT versus heterosexuals. According to American Progress, “25 percent of gay and transgender people abuse alcohol compared to the 5 to 10 percent of heterosexuals.” Another study from American Progress shows “20 to 30 percent of gay and transgender people abuse substances compared to the 9 percent of the rest of the world’s population.”

A study from American Progress shows that LGBT experience more stress in everyday life than heterosexuals. The same study says the stress comes from everyday discrimination in employment, health care and relationship recognition. Hate crimes truly take a toll on a human mentally and sometimes even physically. A study from Pflagnyc.org says, “Gay teens are 8.4 times more likely to have attempted suicide than heterosexual teens and 5.9 times more likely to have high levels of depression.”

LGBT youth who have reported family rejection during adolescence are 3 times more likely to use illegal drugs. Studies from the Pride Institute suggest the most common of drugs in this community are Crack, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, Xanax, Valium, Ecstasy and many more. It also shows gay and transgender people smoke tobacco up to 200 percent more than their heterosexual and non-transgender peers.”

It is not fair to hate someone because of the way they were born. Families should not be sending their kids to gay correctional camps because they cannot handle someone who is different. How can a mother and father abandon their child that the mother birthed, raised and cared for but their love is now gone because they are gay. You should not, you loved them before and you should love them after they come out. It’s what is in your heart. There should not have to be statistics about kids who are rejected and bullied every day because they are different. If a crime is committed for any reason, it should not be a hate crime. They were BORN
this way! Care about them the same you would any heterosexual. Being different is okay. Diversity is a part of us. Gay and transgender teens should not feel like they have to go to drugs for comfort because they cannot go to their family. They are dying from drug abuse and overdoses every day and we are doing nothing to get them help they need.

The LGBT youth are not safe in school either. A study from Pflagnyc.org says, “Thirty two percent of students 12 through 18 have experienced verbal or physical bullying during the school year and 90 percent of LGBT kids grades 6 through 12 have been verbally harassed and almost half have been physically harassed.” The statistics are wild, we need to help them to stand up for themselves or help them get the strength to tell someone.

What needs to happen for this to stop is simply teach our kids better. Fight off homophobia and accept diversity in our community. Stand up for the LGBT community when we see them getting harassed. Have a talk with our youth about being LGBT and how it is okay to be different. It is okay to be diverse and some people do not see that.

Drug addiction is a huge issue; an issue seen throughout all communities. Hate crimes are an issue that are seen in most communities, but these are most seen in the LGBT community. Stop this issue. Diversity is okay, and loving the same sex is okay.