2014 WHERE WE ARE ON TV
Following a decline last year, GLAAD has found an increase in the percentage of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) characters anticipated to appear on scripted primetime broadcast television in the coming year. The annual Where We Are on TV report forecasts the expected presence of LGBT characters for the upcoming 2014-2015 television season.

The analysis of characters for the 2014-2015 scripted primetime broadcast television schedule found that 3.9% of series regulars will be lesbian, gay, or bisexual characters. This is up from 3.3% last year but still down from the record high of 2012 when 4.4% of primetime broadcast scripted regular characters were LGBT. GLAAD also counted 33 recurring LGBT characters on primetime broadcast series. The number of LGBT characters on scripted primetime cable television continues to rise with an additional 22 regular characters, for a total of 64 in the 2014-2015 season, up from 42 last year. Additionally, GLAAD counted 41 LGBT recurring characters on scripted cable series.

This season marks the 19th year GLAAD has tracked the presence of LGBT characters on television by counting their numbers in scripted primetime programs on both the broadcast and cable networks. The creation of the Where We Are on TV report in 2005 has allowed GLAAD to track trends and compile statistics for series regular characters on broadcast television with regard to sexual orientation, gender identity and race/ethnicity. This information remains subject to change based on programming adjustments over the course of the television season. This year, the Where We Are on TV report counts characters on scripted series that started after May 31, 2014, and looks at anticipated casts for the upcoming 2014-15 season. At the end of the 2014-15 season, GLAAD will compile an in-depth analysis of the images presented on television in its ninth annual Network Responsibility Index (NRI).
FOX once again leads the way in terms of LGBT characters on broadcast television with 6.5% of primetime broadcast scripted regulars being lesbian, gay or bisexual; a significant increase from an already impressive 5.4% last year. The network features 10 LGBT characters among its 154 series regulars. ABC, which was tied for first with FOX last year is now in second place; 4.5% of primetime regular characters on the network are LGBT, or 9 out of 201 characters. NBC is jumping from last to third place. After a low last year (when only 1% of its primetime regular characters were LGBT), NBC has made significant efforts to rectify the lack and now boasts 3.8% LGBT regular characters; that represents seven of its 183 series regulars. CBS remains in fourth place but continues to make significant progress. The network is seeing an increase in the percentage of LGBT characters and is now at 3.2%, compared to 1.9% at the beginning of the last season. Six of CBS’ 186 primetime series regulars are LGBT. Sadly, in what is a tremendous step backwards, The CW has no regular LGBT characters out of 89 series regulars, despite 3% of its regular primetime characters being LGBT at the beginning of the last season.

Among the 813 series regulars counted this year across 115 primetime scripted television programs on the five broadcast networks (ABC, CBS, The CW, Fox and NBC), 32 are LGBT, an increase from last year’s 26, while 781 are not identified as LGBT (96%).
In collecting data on all of broadcast television’s regular primetime characters, GLAAD’s *Where We Are on TV* report also provides a timely picture of overall diversity on these networks. Women continue to lose visibility on broadcast primetime, making up just 40% of series regulars, compared to 43% last year and 45% the year prior. None of the regular characters on scripted primetime broadcast television are transgender.

On the flip side, ethnic and racial diversity on primetime is improving for some groups, as 13% of characters are Black (compared to 11% last year), 8% are Latino/a (compared to 5% last year), 4% are Asian-Pacific Islander (API), a drop from 6%, and 2% are counted as multi-racial (which remains steady). One of the largest discrepancies in representations remains the Latino/a community, whom the most recent U.S. census conducted in 2010, says makes up 16% of the U.S. population.

Additionally, 1.4% of series regulars are people with disabilities (PWD), a segment of the population that is often grossly underrepresented but continues to make slight improvements when it comes to primetime visibility on broadcast scripted series. Overall, representation on primetime broadcast television continues to not accurately reflect the diverse American population.
Despite reaching parity last year when it comes to gender diversity amongst LGBT characters, broadcast networks have taken a step back this year. Of the 65 LGBT regular and recurring characters counted on primetime broadcast scripted series, 37 (57%) are male and 28 (43%) are female. Gay men make up 54% of those characters, a big increase compared to 46% last year. The percentage of lesbian characters has slightly decreased from 30% last year to 28%, while bisexual representation also decreased from 22% to 18% (with most of those being women.) While last year a transgender character was amongst the primetime broadcast series regulars, this year there are none.

The ethnic and racial diversity of LGBT characters on primetime broadcast scripted series remained on par with the last season. This year 26% of LGBT characters are counted as people of color (POC), compared to 28% last year. Of those, 11% (7) are Black, 11% (7) are Latino/a, 5% (3) are Asian-Pacific Islander and none are counted as multi-racial.
When it comes to sexual orientation, this year will see some improvements among LGBT regular and recurring scripted characters on cable television. Gay men still represent the majority of LGBT characters on cable at 45% (a significant drop from 53% last year), while lesbians make up 25% of the LGBT characters (a figure similar to last season). Bisexual women make up 20% of LGBT characters on cable and bisexual men make up 10% (compared to 15% and 6% respectively last year).

Over on cable, the number of regular LGBT characters counted continues to increase, from 42 last year to 64 this year. The number of recurring characters counted also increased from 24 to 41. The gender divide among LGBT characters on cable is on par with the one for broadcast LGBT characters; 56% (59) of characters are male and 44% (46) are female. While once again on cable television, none of the regular characters announced so far are transgender, and only one of the recurring characters is a transgender man.
The number of inclusive primetime broadcast drama series increased significantly from 11 at the beginning of the last season to 26 this year. The number of inclusive comedy series also increased from 16 to 17.

On ABC, *How to Get Away with Murder* introduced a gay law student, Connor, who becomes involved with another gay character (this one recurring) named Oliver. This past summer, *Mistresses* saw the arrival of gay friend and business associate Mickey; *Scandal* will have a new recurring gay character, Michael; and when *Manhattan Love Story* premieres the show will introduce a literary editor, who is gay.

Several CBS comedies will include new out characters this coming season. *The McCarthys* are a Boston based tight-knit Irish Catholic family whose gay son, Ronny, wants to move away. When *The Millers* returns, it will introduce Kip Withers, a gay friend to one of the show’s main characters. Meanwhile on *Mom*, it was revealed during the past season that Chef Rudy is bisexual. Unfortunately, there aren’t any new LGBT characters on CBS’ dramas.
While none of the series on The CW feature regular LGBT characters, several of them have introduced or will introduce new recurring out characters. During the last season, returning drama *The Vampire Diaries* introduced Luke, a gay college student and witch, while spinoff series *The Originals* introduced a gay vampire named Josh. On *Hart of Dixie*, Crickett, the co-leader of the Belles, a local historian group, is a lesbian who is married to a man rumored to be gay. Sara and Nyssa are set to recur on the new season of *Arrow* when the show returns this fall, while new DC Comics drama *The Flash* will introduce two gay characters, David and another yet to be announced. *Jane the Virgin* will include a lesbian character, Luisa, a bisexual woman, Rose, and a gay man, Luca.

In addition to having the most LGBT regular and recurring characters of any broadcast network, FOX will introduce many new lesbian, gay and bisexual characters this season. *Empire*, a drama about the founder of a successful record label facing health problems and looking for his successor, will include his gay son Jamal and his recurring boyfriend Michael. *Gotham* will feature lesbian detective Renee Montoya as well as her bisexual ex-girlfriend Barbara Kean. The Portland Police Bureau’s Special Crimes Unit on *Backstrom* will feature both a gay and a bisexual character, Nicole and Gregory; while *Red Band Society*, a drama set in a pediatric ward, will have a recurring gay nurse named Kenji, and a patient with two moms. Earlier this year a lesbian recurring character was introduced on *The Following*, FBI agent Gina Mendez. On the comedy side, *Mulaney* will feature Oscar, a gay elderly neighbor to the main character; *The Mindy Project* will see the arrival of Dr. Jean Fishman who is a lesbian; and *Glee* will have a new recurring gay football player named Spencer.

During the past season NBC introduced several out characters to its primetime drama series. It was revealed that Dr. Drew Alister on *The Night Shift* is gay, *Crossbones* included lesbian pirate Nenna and bisexual sex worker Rose, while *Hannibal* also introduced a lesbian character named Margot. During the last season of long-running series *Parenthood* on NBC, it was revealed that Haddie started dating another woman while away at college. The network will introduce several new lesbian, gay or bisexual characters in its upcoming comedies as well. *One Big Happy* will feature Lizzy, a lesbian who decides to have a baby with her best friend through insemination; one of the lead characters on *Marry Me* will have two dads, Kevin 1 and Kevin 2; on *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, the lead character will live with a struggling gay Broadway actor, Titus. Meanwhile, *Undateable* features a shy gay man named Brett.
The number of LGBT characters on cable television continues to be on the rise with 64 regular characters, up from 42 last year. Recurring characters also increased significantly, from 24 to 41. Due to the lack of defined seasons for cable television, GLAAD includes programs that aired or will air between June 1, 2014 and May 31, 2015 and for which casting has been confirmed by networks.

SERIES WITH LEADING AND/OR SUPPORTING LGBT CHARACTERS ON CABLE TELEVISION

The Almighty Johnsons, Syfy
Anger Management, FX
Archer, FX
Banshee, Cinemax
Black Sails, Starz
The Bridge, FX
Broad City, Comedy Central
Brickleberry, Comedy Central
Chasing Life, ABC Family
Da Vinci’s Demons, Starz
Defiance, Syfy
Degrassi, TeenNick
Dominion, Syfy
Faking It, Syfy
The Fosters, ABC Family
Getting On, HBO
The Haves and the Have Nots, OWN
House of Lies, Showtime
The Last Ship, TNT
Looking, HBO
Lost Girl, Syfy
Love That Girl!, TV One
Major Crimes, TNT
Masters of Sex, Showtime
Mystery Girls, ABC Family
Nurse Jackie, Showtime
Orphan Black, BBC America
Partners, FX
Penny Dreadful, Showtime

PRIMETIME SCRIPTED SERIES ON CABLE NETWORKS

The number of LGBT characters on cable television continues to be on the rise with 64 regular characters, up from 42 last year. Recurring characters also increased significantly, from 24 to 41. Due to the lack of defined seasons for cable television, GLAAD includes programs that aired or will air between June 1, 2014 and May 31, 2015 and for which casting has been confirmed by networks.
Once again this year, GLAAD found HBO will be the most inclusive network on cable television with fifteen regular or recurring characters expected. The majority of those characters are found on *Looking*, which boasts the most out characters of any scripted series on the air. The network’s other out characters can be found on *Game of Thrones*; *True Blood*, whose last season saw Lafayette start a relationship with a vampire named James; *Girls*; and *Getting On*, which features Patsy, a nurse who recently came out. ABC Family and Showtime share second place this year with thirteen characters each. ABC Family introduced many lesbian, gay and bisexual characters this past summer including Brenna and Greer on *Chasing Life*, assistant Nick on *Mystery Girls*, publicist Elliot on *Young & Hungry*, and literary editor Lydia on *Switched at Birth*, on which recurring student Matthew was also revealed to be gay. ABC Family also includes the only regular or recurring trans character currently on television, Cole from *The Fosters*. On Showtime’s *Penny Dreadful* Dorian Gray and Ethan Chandler had a romantic encounter; while *Masters of Sex* featured secret couple Betty and Helen and gay Provost Scully. The network also included lesbian, gay and bisexual characters on *Shameless*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Episodes*, *Ray Donovan*, *House of Lies* and *Web Therapy*.

Syfy will include eleven lesbian, gay or bisexual characters, most of whom are on *Defiance* and *Dominion*. The network in the coming year will air the final season of the Canadian drama *Lost Girl*, which includes lead bisexual character Bo and is currently airing another inclusive import, *The Almighty Johnsons*, from New Zealand. FX will have ten lesbian, gay or bisexual characters, including Michael on *Partners*, Dutch on *The Strain*, and Abdul and Sammy on *Tyrant*. MTV, which has a long history of inclusivity, will have eight lesbian, gay or bisexual characters. Earlier this year the network premiered *Faking It*, in which lead character Amy realizes she’s in love with her best friend. The show also includes out teenager Shane and his boyfriend Pablo, and is set to introduce Reagan, a new lesbian character. The network is also scheduled to premiere its *Scream* adaptation this year with a bisexual lead. Out characters can also be found on *Awkward.* and *Teen Wolf*.

*Degrassi* (TeenNick) will continue to include four lesbian, gay and bisexual characters, while *Orphan Black* (BBC America) will have three. Starz will include four characters, including two new ones on *Black Sails*, while TNT and USA will have three characters each.

Other cable series that have introduced LGBT characters over the summer or will do so in an upcoming season include *Please Like Me* (Pivot), *Matador* (El Rey), *Broad City* (Comedy Central), *Witches of East End* (Lifetime), and *Hit the Floor* (VH1).

**SERIES WITH RECURRING LGBT CHARACTERS ON CABLE TELEVISION**

*Awkward.*, MTV  
*Episodes*, Showtime  
*Game of Thrones*, HBO  
*Girls*, HBO  
*Graceland*, USA  
*Hit the Floor*, VH1  
*Matron*, El Rey  
*Sons of Anarchy*, FX  
*South Park*, Comedy Central  
*The Strain*, FX  
*Switched at Birth*, ABC Family  
*Teen Wolf*, MTV  
*The Walking Dead*, AMC  
*Web Therapy*, Showtime  

Footnote: Due to some programs’ air dates and the research parameters of this report, some LGBT characters may have been included in this count regardless of whether or not they will return. In addition, some characters may not have been counted as the networks may not consider them to be recurring or do not yet know whether they will return.
This year, broadcast networks continue to take a step back when it comes to reflecting our country’s gender ratio, with 40% of series regulars on scripted primetime shows being female, down from 43% last year and 45% two years ago. Once again this year, when looking at each broadcast network individually, none featured an even or higher number of female series regulars compared to male regular characters. In fact, female representations have dropped on all the networks with the exception of NBC, on which they remained steady. ABC is once again in first place with 45% of regular characters on its broadcast primetime scripted series being female. The CW is in second place at 39%; FOX, NBC, and CBS are tied for last place at 38%.

SEX AND GENDER

Director Jennifer Siebel Newsom has used her acclaimed film *Miss Representation* to launch The Representation Project, a nonprofit organization that focuses on gender inequality in the media and larger culture, and raises awareness about the importance of showing images of women in leadership positions. Said Newsom regarding the state of female characters:

“While women continue to make great strides forward, it’s utterly backward that the number of female characters on television has dropped. Until broadcast networks wake up and realize the importance of portraying an increased and diverse number of women on-camera, we’re going to continue to see women underrepresented and marginalized in Hollywood and our broader culture.”
While last year, the gender divide for LGBT characters on primetime broadcast scripted television was equal, this year the networks are taking a step back with lesbians and bisexual women making up only 43% of the regular and recurring LGBT characters on primetime broadcast scripted series. Of the 65 LGBT characters counted, eighteen (28%) are lesbians and ten (15%) are bisexual women. The rest are composed of 35 (54%) gay men and 2 (3%) bisexual men.

At the beginning of the season there aren’t any expected regular or recurring transgender characters. Unique on *Glee* (FOX) was the only trans characters counted for primetime broadcast series at the beginning of the last season.

A few LGBT women have been added to existing shows since last year’s report, Haddie on *Parenthood* (NBC), Margot on *Hannibal* (NBC), Nenna and Rose on *Crossbones* (NBC), Nyssa and Sara on *Arrow* (The CW), Crickett on *Hart of Dixie* (The CW), Gina on *The Following* (FOX), and Dr. Fishman on *The Mindy Project* (FOX). In the new season, viewers will be introduced to new lesbian and bisexual female characters, including Lizzie on *One Big Happy* (NBC), Luisa and Rose on *Jane the Virgin* (The CW), Nicole on *Backstrom* (FOX), Renee Montoya and Barbara Kean on *Gotham* (FOX), as well as the two moms to a patient on *Red Band Society* (FOX).
On cable television, the LGBT gender divide has improved compared to last year. Of the 105 regular and recurring LGBT characters found on cable networks, 47 (45%) are lesbians or bisexual women, which is an increase from last year’s 39%. There are 26 lesbian characters on cable and 21 bisexual women. Many new lesbian and bisexual women have been added to scripted cable series in the past year or will be appearing in the upcoming season. Some of the most significant additions this year are Brenna and Greer on *Chasing Life* (ABC Family); Amy on *Faking It* (MTV) who this year will be joined by Reagan; Joanna, who was revealed to be bisexual on *Witches of East End* (Lifetime) as well as her ex-girlfriend Alex. Showtime brought back Betty in a regular capacity on *Masters of Sex* and introduced her secret girlfriend, Helen. Starz also brought two new bisexual female characters to the small screen, Eleanor and her ex-girlfriend Max on *Black Sails*. Other new out women introduced last year, or to be introduced in the upcoming season, include Lydia on *Switched at Birth* (ABC Family), Reyna Flores on *Matador* (El Rey), Dutch on *The Strain* (FX), Ellaria Sand on *Game of Thrones* (HBO), Audrey Jensen on *Scream* (MTV), M-Chuck on *Survivor’s Remorse* (Starz), Michele on *The Almighty Johnsons* (Syfy), Doc Yewll and Lev on *Defiance* (Syfy), Jack on *Degrassi* (TeenNick), and Lt. Alisha Granderson on *The Last Ship* (TNT).

As for male characters, gay men make up the majority of LGBT characters on cable again this year. Of the 105 regular or recurring LGBT characters on scripted cable television, 47 (45%) are gay men, while ten (10%) are bisexual males.

Cole on ABC Family’s *The Fosters* is the only transgender character.
After remaining nearly stagnant for three years in a row, overall racial and ethnic diversity on primetime broadcast scripted series is starting to improve with 27% of 813 series regulars being people of color (POC). FOX is again in first place with 32% of characters being POC, a figure similar to the last season. ABC is now in second place when it comes to racial diversity, as 30% of ABC’s primetime series regulars characters are POC this season, compared to 22% last year. NBC is now in third place but is still seeing some improvements, from 27% last year to 29% this year. The CW made some good improvements, going from 16% last season to 26% this year. CBS continues to lag behind at 20%, up from 17% last year.

Black representations among primetime broadcast series regulars have improved this season, from 11% last year to 13% this year. ColorofChange sees the increase in Black characters as a step in the right direction and wants to ensure those characters reflect the complexity and authenticity of Black people’s lives around the country. Said ColorofChange Executive Director Rashad Robinson:

“It is heartening to see an uptick in Black representations on primetime television, but it is key that we remain vigilant about improving the quality of those portrayals. Too often media outlets rely on one-dimensional, stereotypical images of Black people, instead of the dynamic, complex portrayals hit shows like *Scandal* suggest viewers actually want to see. ColorOfChange is committed to continuing to strive for a media landscape that presents authentic, humanizing images of Black people.”
The percentage of Latino/a characters has increased this year to 8%, compared to 5% last year. This segment of the population however continues to be drastically underrepresented in comparison to the estimated percentage of the Latino/a community living in the United States. The National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC) sees increase in Latino/a characters as a step in the right direction. Said NHMC President Alex Nogales:

“I am pleased that GLAAD’s Where We Are on TV is reporting an increase in Latino characters on television. While the road ahead to full inclusion is a long one still, television is beginning to better reflect the reality that Latinos are an integral part of the American social fabric. We will continue to work with the networks to ensure this progress continues upward -- by staffing more Latinos in back and front of camera to achieve balanced and accurate portrayals.”

The Asian-Pacific Islander (API) community saw an increase in representations last year but unfortunately the percentage of API characters dropped down this year, from 6% to 4%. While progress still needs to be made when it comes to inclusion of API characters, the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition (APAMC) is pleased to see API characters on ABC, CBS and FOX in lead roles this season. Said APAMC co-chair Daniel Mayeda:

“We are pleased that APIs are no longer being relegated to roles as the star’s side-kick or a lead character’s boss. We are especially excited about ABC’s new series Fresh Off the Boat, the first Asian American family sitcom in 20 years. That series will provide a glimpse into an immigrant family’s experience that we believe will be very relatable to many Americans.”

**SCRIPTED SERIES WITH LGBT PEOPLE OF COLOR ON BROADCAST TELEVISION**

- Bones, FOX
- Brooklyn Nine-Nine, FOX
- Crossbones, NBC
- Empire, FOX
- The Following, FOX*
- Glee, FOX*
- The Good Wife, CBS
- Gotham, FOX
- Grey’s Anatomy, ABC
- How to Get Away with Murder, ABC*
- Jane the Virgin, The CW*
- Marry Me, NBC

*denotes a recurring character

**SCRIPTED SERIES WITH LGBT PEOPLE OF COLOR ON CABLE TELEVISION:**

- The Mindy Project, FOX*
- Red Band Society, FOX*
- Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, NBC
- Under the Dome, CBS
- Anger Management, FX*
- Banshee, Cinemax
- The Bridge, FX
- Broad City, Comedy Central
- Defiance, Syfy
- Dominion, Syfy
- Faking It, MTV*
- The Fosters, ABC Family
- Game of Thrones, HBO*
- Getting On, HBO
- Graceland, USA*
- The Haves and the Have Nots, OWN
- House of Lies, Showtime
- The Last Ship, TNT
- Looking, HBO
- Love That Girl!, TV One
- Major Crimes, TNT*
- Matador, El Rey*
- Mystery Girls, ABC Family
- Pretty Little Liars, ABC Family
- Single Ladies, Centric
- Sirens, USA
- Survivor’s Remorse, Starz
- Switched at Birth, ABC Family*
- Teen Wolf, MTV*
- True Blood, HBO
- Tyrant, FX
- White Collar, USA
- Witches of East End, Lifetime*
- Young & Hungry, ABC Family

Additional character to be announced*

*denotes a recurring character
Despite improvements in representations of LGBT people of color during the past two seasons, racial diversity among lesbian, gay and bisexual characters on primetime broadcast scripted series has taken a step back. Last season, 28% of primetime scripted regular or recurring LGBT characters were people of color, this year they are at 26%. Of those characters, seven are Latino/a, three are Asian-Pacific Islander (API), and seven are Black. There are five new Black LGBT characters this season: Jamal Lyon, the gay son of a record label executive on *Empire* (FOX); lesbian pirate Nenna Ajanlekoko on *Crossbones* (NBC); struggling Broadway actor Titus on *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* (NBC); Dr. Jean Fishman on *The Mindy Project* (FOX); and Kevin 1, the gay father to one of the lead characters on *Marry Me* (NBC). There are also five new Latino/a LGBT characters this season: Michael, Jamal’s boyfriend on *Empire*; lesbian detective Renee Montoya on *Gotham* (FOX); Luisa on *Jane the Virgin* (The CW); FBI agent Gina Mendez on *The Following* (FOX); and nurse Kenji Gomez-Rejon on *Red Band Society* (FOX). The only new LGBT API character is Oliver on *How to Get Away with Murder* (ABC).
Racial and ethnic diversity among LGBT characters on cable television improved greatly this year. People of color make up 34% of all scripted regular or recurring LGBT characters on cable, which is a big increase from last year’s 29% and 21% two years ago. Of the 36 LGBT characters of color counted, eleven (10%) are Black, twelve (11%) are Latino/a, five (5%) are API, and eight (8%) are multi-racial. The majority of new LGBT characters of colors on cable are once again Latino/a, and include Jaime on Broad City (Comedy Central), Reagan and Pablo on Faking It (MTV), nurse Patsy De La Serda on Getting On (HBO), Nick on Mystery Girls (ABC Family), Reyna Flores on Matador (El Rey), and Carlito Solano on Graceland (USA). Three new characters are Black: M-Chuck on Survivor’s Remorse (Starz), Mason on Teen Wolf (MTV) and Lt. Alisha Granderson on The Last Ship (TNT). This season also brings four new API characters; Renzo on Switched at Birth (ABC Family), Elliot Park on Young & Hungry (ABC Family), Arika on Dominion (Syfy), and Abdul on Tyrant (FX). Tyrant also includes a new multi-racial character, Sammy Al-Fayeed. The other new multi-racial characters this season are Alex on Witches of East End (Lifetime), Ellaria Sand on Game of Thrones (HBO), and another character counted in this report but yet to be announced.
For the fifth year in a row, GLAAD also conducted a count of primetime broadcast scripted series regular characters that are depicted as people with disabilities (PWD). The U.S. Census Bureau’s 2012 American Community Survey’s 1-year estimates – that provide detailed social, economic, demographic and housing data for areas with populations of 65,000 or more – reports that 12% (37.6 million people) of U.S. non-institutionalized citizens report living with an apparent disability. In its count, GLAAD included characters who would be covered under the Americans Disabilities Act (ADA) which includes people living with non-apparent disabilities such as cancer or HIV/AIDS. Inclusion of those disabilities would greatly increase the figures found by the U.S. Census Bureau. Yet, scripted primetime broadcast television continues to fail to reflect the reality of this demographic.

This year the percentage and number of primetime broadcast series regulars with disabilities continues to slightly increase with, for the first time, each broadcast network including at least one regular character with a disability. Eleven characters (1.4%) will have a disability this upcoming season, compared to eight characters last season (1%). FOX is leading the way when it comes to characters with disabilities with seven regular characters (4.5%). The majority of the characters come from its new drama Red Band Society which is set in the pediatric ward of a hospital and includes a character in a coma, one with cystic fibrosis, another facing heart failure, and two living with reduced mobility. FOX will also introduce a lead character with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) on Empire, while a character living in a wheelchair will continue to be a regular presence on the last season of Glee. All the other broadcast networks will each have only one regular character with a disability. ABC’s Grey’s Anatomy includes Dr. Arizona Robbins who, following a plane crash, now uses a prosthetic leg. A character on CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (CBS) also uses prosthetic legs. On Parenthood (NBC) one of the characters has Asperger Syndrome which is a form of autism, while on The Flash (The CW) one of the characters uses a wheelchair.
“We’re basically seeing more appearances of series regulars and recurring roles with disabilities, but still very few actual performers with disabilities in those roles, which reduces the accuracy and authenticity of the characters and the stories. *Switched at Birth* continues to be the show that does the most justice with casting, hiring and writing to include performers and characters with disabilities. The number of canceled shows that attempted to include lead characters with disabilities but cast non-disabled actors, such as *Black Box, Growing Up Fisher* and *Ironside*, may well indicate that a lack of authenticity affects what viewers decide to watch. The truth of the matter is that we’re seeing a trend of many more people and performers with disabilities in reality TV and commercials/advertising than we are seeing reflected on scripted shows,” said Anita Hollander, chair of SAG-AFTRA’s National Performers with Disabilities Committee.

This year saw the arrival of a new LGBT character with a disability when Matthew on *Switched at Birth*, who is deaf, was revealed to be gay. He is now the second LGBT student at the Carlton school as Natalie Pierce continues to make frequent appearances, she is also deaf. Meanwhile, Thor Lundgren of *Nurse Jackie* who is diabetic and uses a prosthetic eye and Dr. Arizona Robbins from *Grey’s Anatomy* continue to tend to patients on their respective shows while representing the intersectionality of LGBT people and those with disabilities.

Footnote: This research was done in conjunction with the SAG-AFTRA National Performers with Disabilities Committee and the SAG-AFTRA EEO & Diversity department.
ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMMING

The casts of reality programs are not announced early enough to include in the Where We Are on TV report. The format, however, frequently features some of the most diverse representations of the LGBT community found on television.

In summer 2014, CBS featured gay contestant Frankie Grande on Big Brother and often includes lesbian, gay and bisexual competitors on hit reality programs The Amazing Race and Survivor, which returned this fall. NBC’s summer programming featured several out hosts and contestants on a variety of its alternative programming, including Get Out Alive with Bear Grylls and Hollywood Game Night. The network also has a history of including out contestants on its singing competition The Voice. The CW recently premiered another cycle of America’s Next Top Model which features several out contestants and an out judge; FOX in the last year has featured out contestants on its culinary reality programs as well as American Idol. As those shows return, their casts will hopefully remain diverse. On ABC, out judge Bruno Tonioli returned to Dancing with the Stars.

Cable television features many LGBT representations on a variety of reality programs. Bravo often includes LGBT cast members or guests on its shows, including the Top Chef and Million Dollar Listing franchises. HGTB has long been inclusive on the majority of its programs, some notable ones being Design Star and House Hunters. This past summer, Fuse aired a new season of Big Freedia: Queen of Bounce which follows New Orleans bounce music artists Big Freedia and Katey Red. On TV One’s R&B Divas: Atlanta Monifah and Terez got married; truTV’s Motor City Masters featured a gay automotive designer; VH1 premiered Make or Break: The Linda Perry Project about the out artist’s search for new talent; Lifetime continues to include many out designers on its Project Runway franchise; Oxygen includes rapper Siya on Sisterhood of Hip Hop; while TLC includes several out cast members on its many bridal shows.

DAYTIME TELEVISION

During the past year not much has changed for daytime dramas. Felix DuBois and Brad Cooper remain on General Hospital (ABC), and the series also brought back gay character Lucas Jones and the three of them have been involved in a love triangle. On Days of our Lives (NBC) Will and Sonny were married. Meanwhile, Karen continued to appear on The Bold and the Beautiful (CBS).

The only newcomer when it comes to the talk show format is Rosie O’Donnell, returning as a co-host on The View (ABC). Several out personalities also continue to be driving forces behind this format. Actress Sara Gilbert is a producer and co-host of The Talk (CBS), Ellen DeGeneres is one of daytime’s most recognizable faces with The Ellen DeGeneres Show (syndicated), and Clinton Kelly will continue as a co-host on The Chew (ABC).

Children’s programming has been slow to reflect the diversity its audience is experiencing in its daily life. While the show only has hinted to this on the air, a cast member on Adventure Time (Cartoon Network) confirmed that Princess Bubblegum and Marceline the Vampire Queen had been involved romantically in the past.
Judging by the number of inclusive programs we now see on the air, LGBT visibility on Spanish-language entertainment television seems to be on the rise. Telenovelas can have a big impact on their viewers as they air nightly and are often followed closely by large audiences. However, many of the characters on scripted telenovelas often were relegated to secondary roles last year.

Univision’s *Qué Pobres Tan Ricos*, a comedic novela from Mexico, featured gay couple Leonardo and Diego Armando. The show tackled family acceptance and showed the couple in a positive light but did not really challenge conventions when it came to portraying same-sex affection by excluding a kiss between the two. On Telemundo, the novelas *Santa Diabla* and *Marido en Alquiler* also included gay characters. Several MundoFox novelas included LGBT characters: *Los Reyes* had a transgender character played by a transgender actress, *Secretos del Paraíso* featured a gay man struggling to come out, and *El Día de la Suerte*, which is still airing, features a transgender character. The network will soon premiere *Rastros de Mentiras*, a novela that prompted a Twitter campaign, by viewers in Brazil, asking producers to let the male love interests share an on-screen kiss.

Representation continues to be strong on daytime shows, including Telemundo’s *Un Nuevo Día* which often addresses LGBT issues. Popular court room show *Caso Cerrado*, also on Telemundo and airing in Latin America as well, often touches on LGBT issues. On the Univision Network, Enrique Santos, who is gay, recently got his talk own show called *El Palenque de Enrique Santos*. The highly-rated morning show *Despierta América* (Univision) regularly includes gay stylist Samy Gicherman, who spoke this year about getting married. The show also features out personality Victor Florencio. Univision’s daytime talk show, *Casos de Familia*, frequently features legal cases that include LGBT people. Another Univision daytime talk show, ¿Quién Tiene La Razon? (a mix of talk show and court room show), includes an out gay man as one of the expert panelists who comments on the “cases” brought before the group, including cases that involve LGBT people.

Primetime television features several gay men. Telemundo’s new reality show, *Yo Soy El Artista*, includes well-known gay Venezuelan host, Boris Izaguirre. On Univision, *Sal y Pimienta* and *El Gordo y la Flaca* both feature out co-host Rodner Figueroa, and *Nuestra Belleza Latina* includes Jomari Goyso and Osmel Sousa as judges. Also on Univision, the competition show *Va Por Ti* included a gay contestant this past year.

Footnote: This research was done in conjunction with GLAAD’s Spanish Language & Latino Media team, Monica Trasandes and Janet Quezada.
Streaming content providers Amazon, Hulu and Netflix continue to make impressive strides in viewership and impact. In recent years these companies have both acquired foreign television series for a U.S. audience and developed original series exclusively for their subscribers. Netflix even received several Emmy Award nominations recently for some of its original programming.

Last year, Netflix premiered *Orange is the New Black*, which contains more lesbian, bisexual and transgender characters than nearly any broadcast or cable series currently on the air. Series lead Piper Chapman was formerly in a relationship with a woman who she now finds herself serving time with in prison. Several of the women she befriends during her stay in the prison are lesbians or bisexual. Among them is Sophia Burset, a trans woman of color serving time for credit card fraud. Netflix series *House of Cards, Hemlock Grove* and *Lilyhammer* also feature lesbian, gay and bisexual characters. Netflix is currently developing *Grace and Frankie*, a comedy about two nemeses whose husbands fall in love with each other. The series is scheduled to premiere in 2015

Hulu brought several British and Australian dramas to American audiences. Among those are *Coronation Street, Neighbours*, and *Hollyoaks* all of which include several out characters. Hulu’s original series *East Los High* features several LGBT characters, including former couple Camila and Jocelyn.

Last year, Amazon premiered *Alpha House*, which includes two female legislative assistants who are dating. *Transparent* which premiered this September, is a comedy about a parent transitioning later in life and her extended family. The show will also include several additional transgender, lesbian, bisexual and gay characters.
Five Year Trend

Broadcast Networks Scripted Series Regulars

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Series Regulars</th>
<th>Whites</th>
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<th>LGBT</th>
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<td>449</td>
<td>138</td>
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<td>2011-12</td>
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Five Year Trend

ABC Scripted Series Regulars

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**Five Year Trend**

**CBS**

**Scripted Series Regulars**

- **TOTAL SERIES REGULARS**
- **WHITES**
- **PEOPLE OF COLOR**
- **LGBT**

**The CW**

**Scripted Series Regulars**

- **TOTAL SERIES REGULARS**
- **WHITES**
- **PEOPLE OF COLOR**
- **LGBT**
Five Year Trend

FOX
Scripted Series Regulars

- TOTAL SERIES REGULARS
- WHITES
- PEOPLE OF COLOR
- LGBT

Five Year Trend

NBC
Scripted Series Regulars

- TOTAL SERIES REGULARS
- WHITES
- PEOPLE OF COLOR
- LGBT
Five Year Trend

Number of Regular and Recurring LGBT Characters on Broadcast Networks
(figures represent counts made at each season’s launch)

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Five Year Trend

Number of Regular and Recurring LGBT Characters on Cable Networks
(figures represent counts made at each season’s launch)

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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 blog, social media and the daily LGBT TV listings, “What to Watch on TV.”

MATT KANE
Director of Entertainment Media
mkane@glaad.org

Matt Kane is a GLAAD liaison to the entertainment industry, advocating for the inclusion of diverse LGBT stories in films, scripted television and reality programming and collaborating with film festivals to launch new LGBT voices. He helps shape GLAAD’s response to acts of anti-LGBT defamation in entertainment media, is the principal writer of the Studio Responsibility Index, Network Responsibility Index, and oversees the publication of Where We Are on TV. Prior to joining GLAAD, he worked for several television shows and film festivals and worked for GLAAD as a freelance programmer for the Queer Lounge at Sundance. He holds an M.F.A. in film studies from Boston University.

MAX GOUTTEBROZE
Strategist – Entertainment Media
mgouttebroze@glaad.org

Max Gouttebroze serves as an active member of the GLAAD Programs Team by identifying and monitoring LGBT representations, trends and developments in television and film. He is the lead writer of GLAAD’s Where We Are on TV report and conducts long-term research and data collection for the annually released Studio Responsibility Index and Network Responsibility Index. Max also serves on the GLAAD Media Awards Communications Team and is a frequent contributor to GLAAD’s blog. A graduate of the College of Charleston’s Communication Program, Max joined GLAAD in September 2010 as the Communications Intern. In December of that year, he became a part of GLAAD’s Digital Initiatives Team and moved into his current role in June 2011.

MEGAN TOWNSEND
Strategist – Entertainment Media
mtownsend@glaad.org

Megan Townsend serves on GLAAD’s entertainment team where she monitors LGBT-inclusive content on television and film and is a frequent contributor to GLAAD’s blog. She is the principal author of “What to Watch on TV,” GLAAD’s daily guide to LGBT-inclusive television programming, a contributing writer for GLAAD’s Network Responsibility Index and conducts long-term research for GLAAD’s Where We Are on TV and Studio Responsibility Index. A graduate of Central Michigan University, Megan joined GLAAD in January 2012.

ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA INTERNS

GLAAD’s Entertainment Media Interns assist the researching and monitoring of LGBT-inclusive content on television and in film. They conduct research for the Studio Responsibility Index, Network Responsibility Index and contribute to GLAAD’s blog.

CLEO ANDERSON
Antioch University – Class of 2015