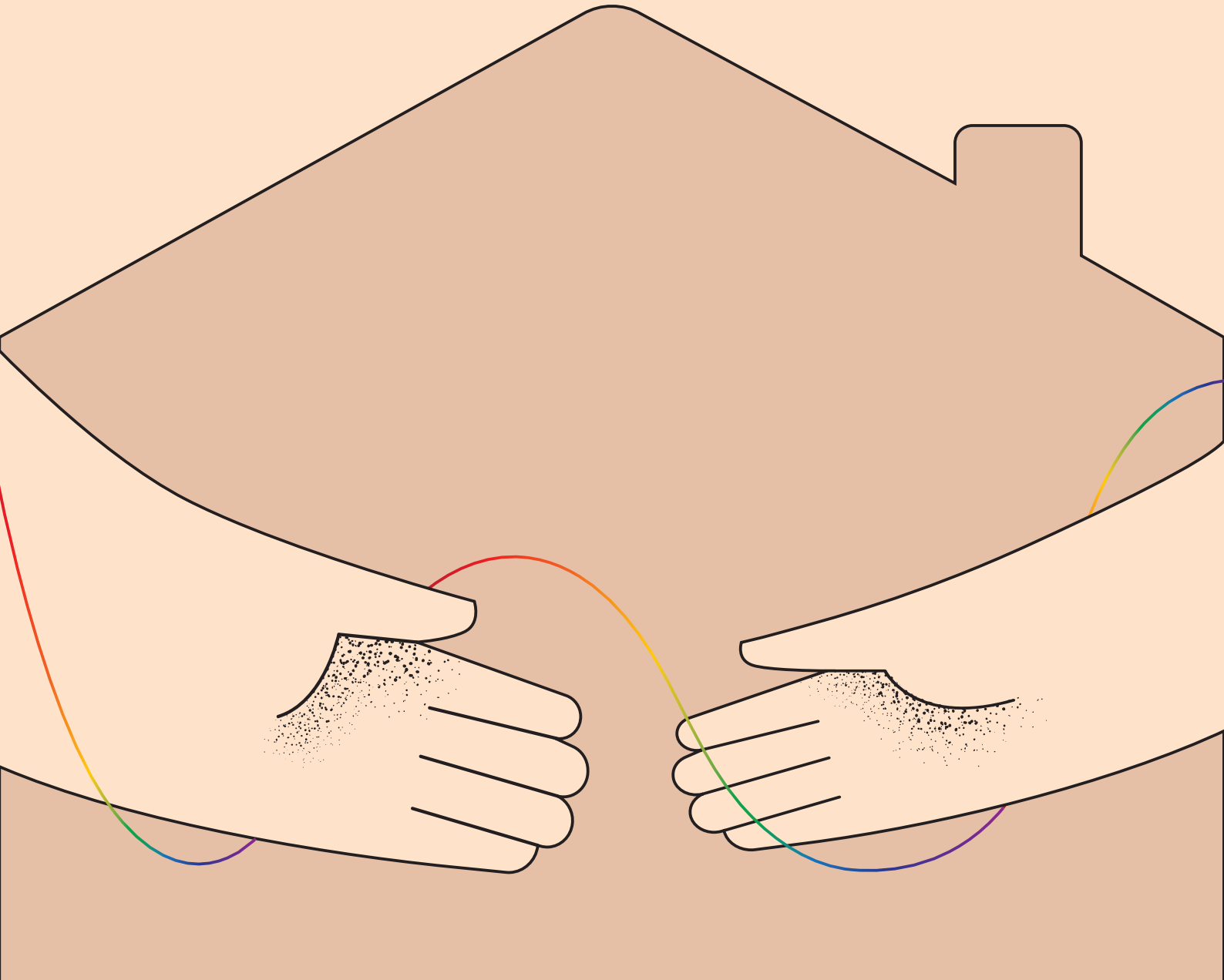
ICS

ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION, CONNECTIVITY AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF PARENTS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF LGBTI+ PEOPLE



INTRODUCTION

This document summarises key takeaways from the research Assessment of the situation, connectivity and development needs of parents, families and friends of LGBTI+ people, conducted in the second half of 2023 in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and online spaces. The study collected and synthesised information through 114 online survey participants, 09 participants in in-depth interviews and 08 participants in 02 group discussions in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi City.

The research results provide a preliminary picture of the presence, current challenges, and opportunities of ally groups and individuals across Vietnam after 12 years of participating in the LGBTI+ rights movement. The research report also provides recommendations for activities to be more adaptive to the current economic, political, and social context and available resources from relevant stakeholders in the current movement.

ALLIES - PRESENCE AND NEEDS

Within the scope of this study, we will use the terms "allied parents" or "allied relatives" to refer to those with children, relatives, and friends in gender and sexual minority communities. We will also use the term PFLAG Vietnam when referring to a community organisation established in 2011 whose members include parents with LGBTI+ children and is currently active in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and several other provinces in Vietnam.

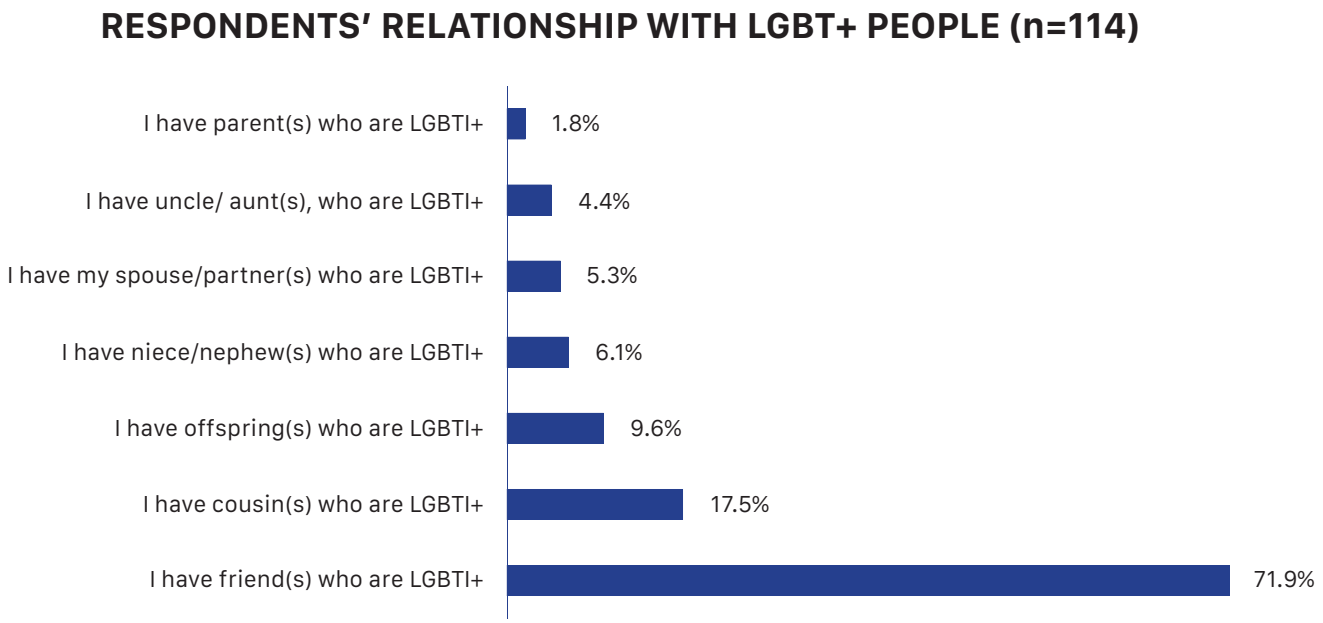


Figure 1: Respondents' relationship with LGBTI+ people

In the sample, 72% were LGBTI+ friends, 18% had LGBTI+ siblings, and 9.6% were parents of LGBTI+ children. The majority of respondents live and work in Ho Chi Minh City. HCMC, Hanoi, Can Tho, An Giang, and small percentages scattered throughout central and southern Vietnam.

Provinces	Amount
Quang Ninh	1
Hai Phong	2
Hanoi	29
Thanh Hoa	1
Nghe An	1
Da Nang	3
Gia Lai	1
Dak Lak	1
Khanh Hoa	1
Dong Nai	1
Ba Ria - Vung Tau	4
Ho Chi Minh City	59
Tay Ninh	2
Ben Tre	1
Dong Thap	1
Can Tho	4
An Giang	2

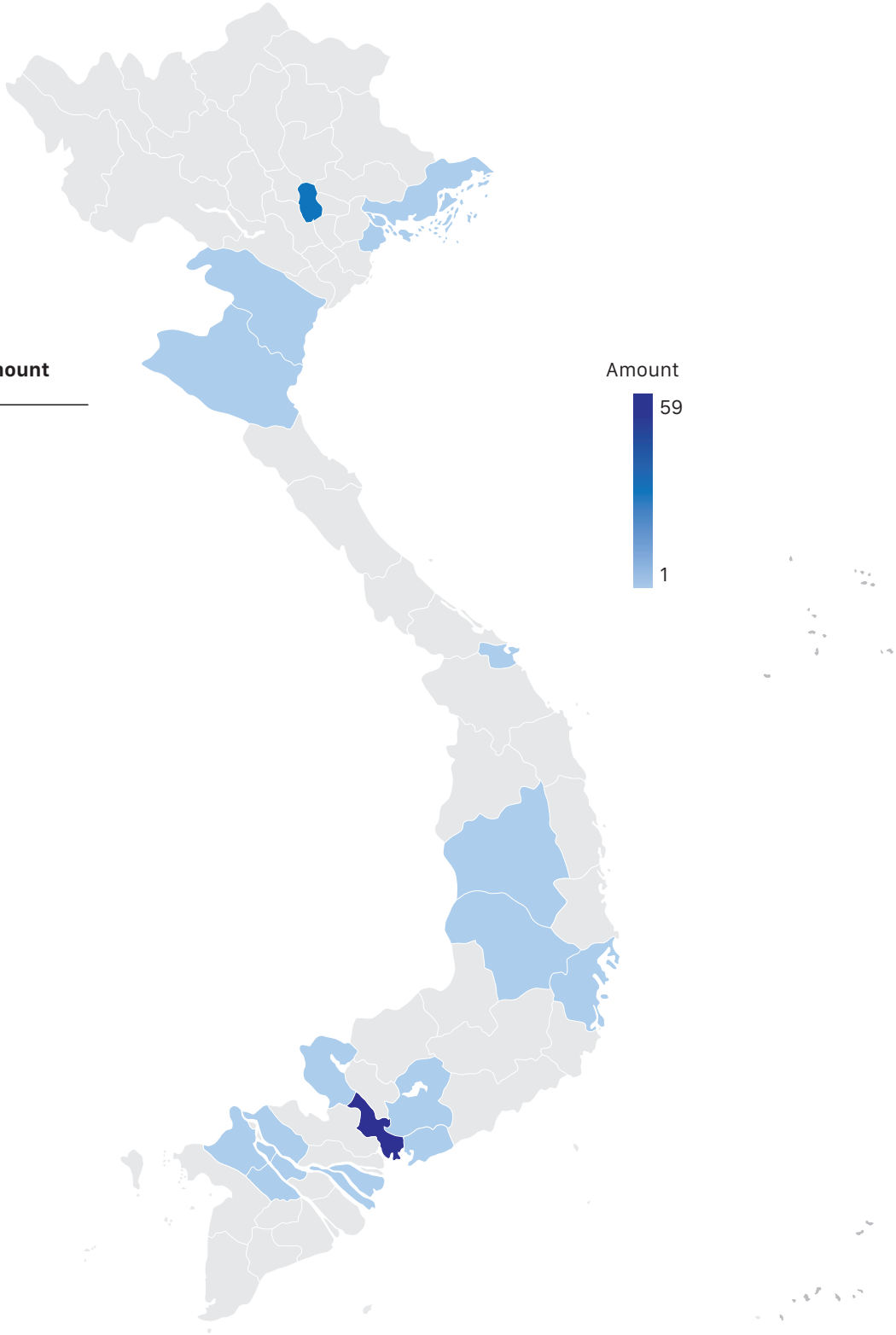


Figure 2: Distribution of respondents by province

Parents, relatives, and friends who are involved in organising awareness and advocacy activities for LGBTI+ people play various roles, such as hosting and planning. They also participate in small-scale activities and provide support within their financial capacity and social resources.

LGBTI+ people's parents, relatives, and friends are motivated to participate in community activities because they love and sympathise with their friends and family members. Moreover, with their efforts and contributions, they also want their families and society to have a more accurate and positive view of the LGBTI+ community, therefore helping their loved ones have better lives.

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATING IN LGBTI+ MOVEMENT

• Parents often encounter **psychological challenges**, particularly when engaging in activities that require media coverage. Nonetheless, while most parents express a desire to understand their children, they may not necessarily want to actively participate in the LGBTI+ movement.

• The activities of parents, friends and relatives often **lack the pioneering role of LGBTI+ youth** and are dependent on the relevant civil society organisations' programming and budgets.

• The lack of **legitimacy, limited resources, and organisational capacity** pose significant challenges to the sustainability of Ally's organisations' participation in the social movement.

• Personal finances, health, and limited time are also barriers that limit the participation of parents, relatives and friends in activities that support the LGBTI+ community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

• Develop a practical and sustainable organisational structure and operating mechanism for Ally's organisations in Vietnam.

• Broaden the understanding of Allyship to be more inclusive to parents, family members, relatives, friends and teachers of LGBTI+ people. At the same time, localise relevant jargon to be friendlier and familiar to the community.

• Maintain the pioneering role of LGBTI+ youth in activities for parents, relatives and friends.

• Recognise the allies, who are parents, relatives, and friends, as direct beneficiary groups, mobilise them for consultation, and provide capacity training for this group to assist their participation in the current LGBTI+ rights movement.

• Maintain a structured and systematic plan for gatherings or meetings for this community. This plan should include action plans for building capacity, developing resources, and implementing appropriate procedures. This will create safe spaces for parents, relatives, and friends who are allies of the LGBTI+ community to discuss their experiences and become more comfortable with social advocacy in their homes and workplaces. Once these allies have taken this step, they will be more committed to participating in the movement.

ICS

ICS CENTER
EMPOWERING VIETNAMESE LGBTI+ COMMUNITIES TOWARD PRIDE AND EQUALITY
www.ics.org.vn | info@ics.org.vn

The study was conducted by ICS Center, independent consultants Nguyen Bich Phuong and Hoang Ngoc An, with support and input from the Vietnam Women's Academy - Ho Chi Minh City Campus and other community partners.

Access the full version of the report at:
https://thuvien.lgbt/

*For internal circulation only