

# STOP CONVERSION THERAPY IN CANADA



**Conversion therapy practices continue to occur throughout Canada; eliminating it requires knowing where it is taking place.**

## WHAT IT IS

Conversion therapy is an umbrella term for treatments, practices, or sustained efforts designed to change, deny or discourage;

- Feelings of sexual attraction to members of the same gender,
- LGBQ identities,
- Non-conforming gender expressions,
- Gender identities that differs from sex assigned at birth.

## WHO IT IMPACTS

LGBTQ/2S/+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/ Two-Spirit\*/+) is an acronym used to describe the diverse communities of people who are not heterosexual and/or cisgender.

## EFFORTS TO STOP CONVERSION THERAPY

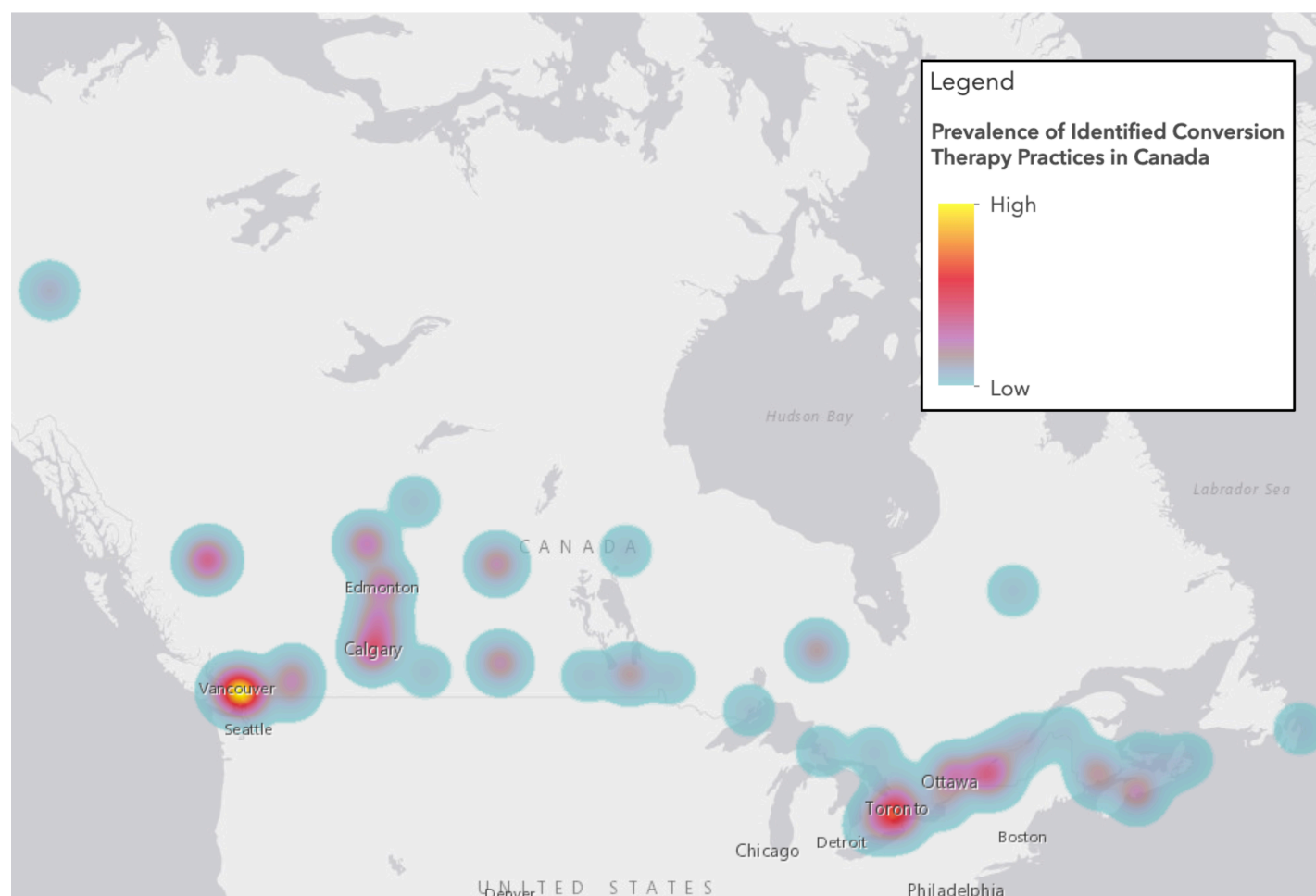
On October 1, 2020, the Government of Canada reintroduced Bill C-6 to ban conversion therapy practices. Although criminal law reform is an important step towards LGBTQ/2S/+ equality, it may unintentionally drive some conversion therapy practices underground.

## WHY IT MATTERS

Conversion therapy negatively impacts and stigmatizes LGBTQ/2S/+ persons, leading to many lifelong psychological and social struggles. There is no credible scientific research that proves conversion therapy is effective or psychologically safe.

## NEXT STEPS

This research project includes a geospatial analysis of the locations of conversion therapy practices reported by people with direct and indirect experience with conversion therapy in Canada. Findings will help inform policies and new approaches to eliminate these harmful practices in Canada.



A total of 127 reports of ongoing or historical practices are based on data from a 2020 anonymous survey of people living in Canada who have direct or indirect experience with conversion therapy.

*\*Meet the Methods Series: "What and who is Two-Spirit?" in Health Research  
Created by Amrit Tiwana, undergraduate student, Department of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University.  
Study led by Dr. Travis Salway, Research Scientist, Centre for Gender and Sexual Health Equity & Assistant Professor, Simon Fraser University.  
For more information, visit [bit.ly/sogiece](http://bit.ly/sogiece)*

