This year, GLAAD has found a decrease in the percentage of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) characters expected 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 2013-2014 television season.

Following a record high last season, the analysis of characters for the 2013-2014 scripted primetime broadcast television schedule found that 3.3% of series regulars will be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender characters. This is down from 4.4% in 2012, but still higher than the 2.9% recorded in 2011. Of the LGBT characters counted on broadcast networks, the gender divide is equal between men and women, showing an effort from networks to diversify storylines beyond the white gay male narrative most commonly seen on television. The number of LGBT characters on scripted primetime cable television continued to rise this year with an additional seven regular characters, for a total of 42 in the 2013-2014 season.

This season marks the 18th year GLAAD has tracked the presence of LGBT characters and the visibility of the community they portray 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. At the time of printing, the information found in this report is accurate, but it 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, 2013, and looks at anticipated casts for the upcoming 2013-2014 season. At the end of the 2013-2014 season, GLAAD will compile an in-depth analysis of the images presented on television in its eighth annual Network Responsibility Index (NRI).

Among the 796 series regulars counted this year across 109 primetime scripted television programs on the five broadcast networks (ABC, CBS, The CW, Fox and NBC), 26 are LGBT, (a decrease from last year’s 31), while 770 are non-LGBT (97%).
“Last season marked a significant benchmark for LGBT representations on primetime television. The sheer number and prominence of the characters the networks brought to small screens across the country coincided with a stellar year of advances for the LGBT movement,” said GLAAD’s Wilson Cruz. “Networks can lead the way in affecting culture change when it comes to LGBT equality. When green-lighting pilots, executives should keep in mind that the diversity they present in their characters can have a great impact on our society’s understanding and acceptance of the LGBT community, not only here but in every country where these shows are broadcast.”

Two of the five broadcast networks have a higher percentage of regular LGBT characters among their primetime scripted series than they did last year. ABC and Fox are the only networks to demonstrate improvement compared to last year, both leading the way for LGBT representations on broadcast television with 5.4% of primetime series regulars being LGBT. An increase from 5.2% for ABC and 5.1% for Fox. ABC will have 11 LGBT characters out of 203 series regulars while Fox will have 7 out of 129. The CW remains in third place at 3% (3 out of 100), a drop from 4.9%. Despite a drop, CBS is no longer ranked in last place, as 1.9% (3 out of 161) of its regular characters are LGBT, compared to 2.8% last year. Instead, NBC posted the lowest percentage of LGBT characters with a drop from 4.2% to 1% (2 out of 203 characters).

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. Not only are there fewer LGBT characters represented, but women will make up a smaller percentage of regular characters as well; 43% compared to 45% last year. However, one of those characters will also be a transgender woman, giving a much needed boost to transgender visibility on television.
Ethnic diversity on primetime has remained largely the same, as once again 77% of regular broadcast characters are White, while 11% are Black (compared to 12% last year), 5% are Latino (compared to 4% last year), 6% are Asian-Pacific Islander (compared to 5% last year), and 2% are counted as multi-racial or “other” (compared to 1% last year). According to the most recent U.S. census conducted in 2010, only 72% of the population is white. The largest discrepancy is in regards to the Latino community, who the Census says makes up 16% of the U.S. population.

Additionally, 1% of series regulars will be people with disabilities (PWD), which is a slight increase from last year. Overall, representation on primetime broadcast television continues to not accurately reflect the diverse American population.

In regards to sexual orientation, of the 796 series regulars on primetime broadcast television, 771 are counted as straight (97%), including the previously mentioned straight transgender character.
When it comes to portraying diversity amongst LGBT characters, broadcast networks actually reached an important milestone. For the first time since GLAAD began this report, the number of regular and recurring male LGBT characters expected on TV this season is equal to the number of female LGBT characters. Gay men make up 46% of those characters, compared to 61% last year. Conversely, the percentage of lesbian characters has increased drastically from 20% last year to 30%, while bisexual representation also increased from 18% to 22% (with most of those being women.) As mentioned before, there will also be a transgender character counted as a series regular (Unique on Glee), who was upgraded from a recurring role last year.

Last year saw a big improvement in regards to the ethnic diversity of LGBT characters on primetime broadcast scripted series, but this year shows a slight decline. This year 28% of LGBT characters are counted as people of color (POC), compared to 30% last year. Of those, 11% (5) are Black, 4% (2) are Latino/a, 7% (3) are Asian-Pacific Islander and 7% (3) are counted as multi-racial or “other.”
Over on cable, the number of regular LGBT characters counted continued to increase, from 35 last year to 42 this year. The number of recurring characters counted decreased from 26 to 24. Compared to broadcast, the gender divide among LGBT characters on cable is unfortunately less equitable; 61% of characters are male and 39% are female. Cable also does not include any transgender women, though GLAAD did count one transgender male character (Adam Torres on Degrassi) who while unfortunately died on the show during the summer (the character is counted as he appeared in a regular capacity during the research perimeters of this report).

In terms of racial and ethnic diversity, LGBT characters on scripted cable series are now pretty much on par with their broadcast counterparts as diversity has significantly improved compared to last year’s report; 71% are White (compared to 79% last year), 15% (10) are Black, 8% (5) are Latino/a, 2% (1) are Asian-Pacific Islander and 5% (3) are considered multi-racial.

When it comes to sexual orientation, this year there is far less diversity among LGBT regular and recurring scripted characters on cable television than on broadcast. Gay men still represent the majority of LGBT characters on cable at 53%, while lesbians make up less than half as much at 24%. Bisexual women make up 15% of LGBT characters on cable and bisexual men make up 6%.
**Dramatic Series with Leading and/or Supporting LGBT Characters on Broadcast Television:**

- Bones, Fox
- The Carrie Diaries, The CW
- Chicago Fire, NBC
- Downton Abbey, PBS*
- The Good Wife, CBS
- Grey’s Anatomy, ABC
- Last Tango in Halifax, PBS*
- Nashville, ABC
- Revenge, ABC
- Rookie Blue, ABC
- Scandal, ABC
- Under the Dome, CBS

**Comedic Series with Leading and/or Supporting LGBT Characters on Broadcast Television:**

- American Dad!, Fox
- Back in the Game, ABC
- Brooklyn Nine-Nine, Fox
- Glee, Fox
- Modern Family, ABC
- Sean Saves the World, NBC
- Seed, The CW
- Suburgatory, ABC
- Super Fun Night, ABC
- Two and a Half Men, CBS

**Dramatic Series with Recurring LGBT Characters on Broadcast Television:**

- Mistresses, ABC

*Although PBS is a public access network, due to inconsistencies between regional markets the network was not tracked by GLAAD for this report.*
This year, GLAAD found that 16 primetime broadcast scripted comedy series will be LGBT inclusive; compared to the 17 counted at the beginning of the last season. The number of drama series remained consistent with last year at 11.

All the networks will showcase at least one new LGBT character this year, and many have upgraded recurring roles or revealed established characters as LGBT. On ABC, Nashville revealed that hopeful country star Will Lexington found himself attracted to other men, and has made his character a regular on the drama’s second season. Detective Gail Peck on the Canadian acquired cop drama Rookie Blue explored a newfound attraction to the same gender, she went on a date with new recurring character Holly. On ABC’s comedies, it was revealed last season that Dalia on Suburgatory used to date a woman. New show Super Fun Night will feature a character named Marika who seems to have a strong attraction for the series lead; her female roommate. Back in the Game will also include an out character, Michael, a Little League Baseball hopeful.

This summer, CBS premiered an adaptation of the science fiction novel Under the Dome, and added an interracial lesbian couple, Caroline and Alice.

The upcoming season of The Good Wife will introduce new recurring character Holly, who will be a love interest for bisexual investigator Kalinda. The CBS comedy Mike & Molly saw a recurring character come out this past season, when Harry announced he is gay following a failed date with a woman. On How I Met Your Mother, Barney’s gay brother James will appear in a recurring capacity for the show’s final season. Two and a Half Men will also feature a new regular LGBT character this season when the long-lost bisexual daughter of the former lead will move into her deceased father’s house.

Returning drama The Carrie Diaries on The CW introduced a recurring love interest for Walt this past season, (Interview columnist Bennett Wilcox) and will soon also include the bisexual Sex and the City character Samantha Jones. The network also recently acquired the Canadian comedy Seed, which follows a sperm donor who gets involved in the lives of some of his offspring, with one of them being the son of lesbian couple Michelle and Zoey.

There aren’t any new characters on the Fox dramas, however on the comedy side, Unique was upgraded to a regular role on Glee, making her the only regular transgender character on a broadcast series. The network also premiered Brooklyn Nine-Nine which includes a major gay character of color, Captain Ray Holt, who is the new commanding officer of the 99th precinct.

NBC is also not introducing any new LGBT characters in its drama series this season, but will in comedy. Over the summer, the network premiered Camp, a comedy about a group of campers and their counselors. One of the campers has two dads, Raffi and Todd, who are an interracial couple and appear in a recurring capacity. The network will also premiere Sean Saves the World this season about a gay dad whose 14-year-old daughter moves in with him full-time.
PRIMETIME SCRIPTED SERIES ON CABLE NETWORKS

Series with Leading and/or Supporting LGBT Characters on Cable Television:

- Anger Management, FX
- Archer, FX
- Awkward., MTV
- Brickleberry, Comedy Central
- Chozon, FXX
- Da Vinci’s Demons, Starz
- Defiance, Syfy
- Degrassi, Teennick
- Devious Maids, Lifetime
- The Fosters, ABC Family
- The Haves and the Have Nots, OWN
- House of Lies, Showtime
- Looking, HBO
- Lost Girl, Syfy
- Nurse Jackie, Showtime
- Orphan Black, BBC America
- Please Like Me, Pivot
- Portlandia, IFC
- Pretty Little Liars, ABC Family
- Ray Donovan, Showtime
- Shameless, Showtime
- Single Ladies, VH1
- Sirens, USA
- Teen Wolf, MTV
- True Blood, HBO
- Warehouse 13, Syfy
- White Collar, USA

Series with Recurring LGBT Characters on Cable Television:

- Being Human, Syfy
- The Bridge, FX
- Californication, Showtime
- Episodes, Showtime
- Game of Thrones, HBO
- Girls, HBO
- The Killing, AMC
- Major Crimes, TNT
- Necessary Roughness, USA
- Royal Pains, USA
- Sons of Anarchy, FX
- South Park, Comedy Central
- Suits, USA
- Switched at Birth, ABC Family
- Web Therapy, Showtime
Despite the drop in characters on broadcast television, LGBT characters continue to thrive on cable television with the number of out regular characters rising sharply to 42, compared to 35 last year. GLAAD also counted 24 recurring characters. Due to the lack of defined seasons for cable television, GLAAD includes programs that aired or will air between June 1, 2013 and May 31, 2014 and for which casting has been confirmed by networks.

In the upcoming year, GLAAD found HBO will be the most inclusive network on cable television with eleven regular or recurring characters expected. The network will premiere Looking this year, which centers around three gay men in San Francisco, and will also feature several LGBT recurring characters. In second place, Showtime will feature eight characters, including lesbian PR agent Lena on Ray Donovan.

ABC Family has regularly introduced new LGBT characters and this summer scored a big hit when they introduced an interracial lesbian couple at the center of a family of biological and foster children on new series The Fosters. During the past year, the network also introduced viewers to Natalie Pierce, a deaf, lesbian student on Switched at Birth. USA is also diversifying its character roster with Sirens; a comedy series about emergency medical technicians on which one of the lead EMTs will be gay. During Necessary Roughness’ last season, a football quarterback came out as gay and will return in a recurring capacity. The network also introduced recurring gay characters in the previous seasons of Suits and Royal Pains.

BBC America recently premiered Orphan Black and introduced the lead character’s gay brother Felix, and two bisexual scientists named Cosima and Delphine. The newly launched network Pivot started strong as far as LGBT representations go with the airing of the Australian comedy Please Like Me, in which lead character Josh comes out as gay and begins dating a new boyfriend.

Syfy recently premiered Defiance, a series set in the future in which humans and extraterrestrials entities cohabit, and features two bisexual women as major characters.

Other cable series that have introduced LGBT characters over the summer or will do so in an upcoming season include The Killing (AMC), The Bridge (FX); Chozen (FXX) which will feature a gay rapper as a lead, Devious Maids (Lifetime), Teen Wolf (MTV), The Haves and the Have Nots (OWN), Portlandia (IFC), and Da Vinci’s Demons (Starz). GLAAD’s count also includes a supporting character on a drama that has not been publicly revealed as of this report’s release.

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 have taken a step back when it comes to reflecting our country’s gender ratio, with 43% of series regulars on scripted primetime shows being female, down from the 45% counted last year and on par with what was counted two years ago. Once again this year, none of the broadcast networks featured an even or higher number of female series regulars than male regular characters. ABC and The CW feature 48% female series regulars, while CBS and Fox are at 41%, and NBC is in last place with 37%.

Director Jennifer Siebel Newsom has used her acclaimed film Miss Representation to launch a campaign specifically targeting gender inequality in the media, and raising awareness about the importance of showing images of women in leadership positions (missrepresentation.org). Said Newsom regarding the state of female characters:

“Unfortunately, we are not seeing progress for women in the way we’d like to. And we are no longer looking solely at the number of women in primary roles but also the quality of both their roles and the roles of the men they play against. Specifically, does the female role revolve primarily around men at the expense of the woman’s own life and ambitions? We want to see the male roles truly support these women rather than simply reinforce outdated stereotypes and gender norms.”
For the first time this year, the gender divide for LGBT characters on primetime broadcast scripted television is equal, with lesbian, bisexual and trans female characters making up 50% of LGBT representations; a big improvement from last year’s 34%. Of the 46 LGBT regular or recurring characters counted on scripted broadcast primetime television, fourteen (30%) are lesbians, eight (17%) are bisexual women and one (2%) is a transgender woman. The rest are composed of 21 (46%) gay men and 2 (4%) bisexual men.

Transgender teen Unique on Glee (Fox) has been upgraded to a regular role this season, which is a very welcome development. There hasn’t been a regular trans character on primetime broadcast television since the 2008-2009 season, when ABC featured transgender characters on Ugly Betty and Dirty Sexy Money.

A few LGBT women have been added to existing shows since last year’s report. It was revealed last season that Dalia on ABC’s Suburgatory used to date a woman, while on Rookie Blue Gail discovered her attraction for newcomer Holly. On The Carrie Diaries (The CW), Samantha Jones will be recurring this upcoming season, on Glee (Fox) Santana will have a new love interest, Dani, and on Two and a Half Men (CBS), a new bisexual character has been added to the regular cast. This summer viewers were introduced to interracial lesbian couple Carollyn and Alice on Under the Dome (CBS) and will be introduced to another interracial lesbian couple, Michelle and Zoey, later this season on The CW’s Seed.

Also a newcomer this year is Marika on Super Fun Night (ABC).

On cable television, the LGBT gender divide is not as balanced as it was last season. Of the 66 regular and recurring LGBT characters found on cable networks, 26 (39%) are lesbians or bisexual women, which is a decrease from last year’s
42%. There are 16 lesbian characters on cable and ten bisexual women. The most significant additions this year are lesbian moms Lena and Stef on the ABC Family drama The Fosters. The network also added a lesbian deaf character to Switched at Birth, Natalie, as well as a recurring character on Pretty Little Liars, Shana. BBC America introduced two bisexual women on its new drama Orphan Black, Cosima and Delphine. Syfy also brought two new bisexual female characters to the small screen, Kenya and Stahma on Defiance. Other new out women introduced over the summer included Bullet on The Killing (AMC), Adriana on The Bridge (FX), and Lena on Ray Donovan (Showtime).

As for male characters, gay men make up the majority of LGBT characters on cable again this year. Of the 66 regular or recurring LGBT characters on scripted cable television, 35 (53%) are gay men, while four (6%) are bisexual males.

Teen Nick’s Degrassi also includes the only regular transgender male character, Adam Torres, who was counted based on the research period for this report but unfortunately died in an episode this past summer.
Scripted Series with LGBT People of Color on Broadcast Television:

- Back in the Game, ABC
- Bones, Fox
- Brooklyn Nine-Nine, Fox
- Camp, NBC*
- Glee, Fox
- The Good Wife, CBS
- Grey’s Anatomy, ABC
- How I Met Your Mother, CBS*
- Seed, The CW
- Suburgatory, ABC*
- Under the Dome, CBS

Scripted Series with LGBT People of Color on Cable Television:

- Anger Management, FX*
- The Bridge, FX*
- Defiance, Syfy
- Devious Maids, Lifetime
- The Fosters, ABC Family
- The Haves and the Have Nots, OWN
- House of Lies, Showtime
- Looking, HBO
- Major Crimes, TNT*
- Pretty Little Liars, ABC Family
- Single Ladies, VH1
- Sirens, USA
- Switched at Birth, ABC Family*
- Teen Wolf, MTV*
- True Blood, HBO
- White Collar, USA

*denotes a recurring character
For the third year in a row, overall racial and ethnic diversity on primetime broadcast scripted series remains largely the same with 23% of 796 series regulars being people of color (POC). After an alarming drop in racial diversity last year, Fox is now in first place with 32% of characters being POC. NBC is now in second place when it comes to racial diversity, as 27% of NBC’s primetime series regulars characters are POC this season. ABC is now in third place with a drop from 23% to 22% this year, while CBS and The CW continue to lag behind at 17% and 16% respectively.

Black representations among primetime broadcast series regulars have fallen slightly this season from 12% last year to 11% this year. ColorofChange sees an opportunity for those characters to counterbalance some of the stereotypes too often seen on television. Said ColorofChange Executive Director Rashad Robinson:

“While the percentage of Black characters in primetime continues to hover just above the 10 percent mark, the quality of those representations remain a serious cause for concern. Although shows like Scandal and Suits feature complex, multi-dimensional Black characters -- characters that we root for or who challenge us and whose motivations we understand -- too often viewers are exposed to portrayals of Black people that are dehumanizing and inaccurate. In a media landscape where viewers perceptions of Black women and men are shaped by low-budget reality shows and the nightly news, scripted series offer a special opportunity for networks to create well-rounded Black characters.”

Compared to the estimated percentage they make up of the U.S. population, the Latino/Hispanic community remains one of the most underrepresented ethnic populations in American media. Their numbers have only increased slightly this year to 5%, compared to 4% in 2012. The National Hispanic Media Coalition sees the inclusion of dynamic Latino characters as an important instrument for public education around the Latino community. Said NHMC President Alex Nogales:

“While I am pleased that GLAAD’s Where We Are On TV is reporting an increase in Latino characters on television compared to last year, our work is far from over. The results of an NHMC-commissioned national poll showed that non-Latinos primarily learn about our community from what they see on television. In other words, television has a large role to play in building an understanding that Latinos are an integral part of the American fabric. For this reason I urge the networks to continue striving for greater inclusion until television starts to look more like the actual U.S. demography, and networks must staff more Latinos in back of camera to achieve balanced and accurate portrayals.”

The Asian-Pacific Islander (API) community saw an increase in representations this year, now at 6%, which is up from 5% last year. The Asian Pacific American Media Coalition welcomed this increase
in representations but also prominence given to API characters. Said APAMC co-chair Daniel Mayeda:

“The Asian Pacific American Media Coalition is encouraged that both the number and quality of the roles played by Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders on prime time television generally has increased in the past few years. We continue to advocate for television series in which we are the main star as that would provide the potential for the greatest impact on viewers’ perceptions of Asian Americans. We note that several of the networks have development deals for series in which Asian Americans would play lead roles and we look forward to continued progress in this area.”

In regards to LGBT people of color, racial diversity greatly improved last year and that improvement was largely maintained. Last season 30% of primetime scripted regular or recurring LGBT characters were people of color, this year they are at 28%. Of those characters, two are Latino/a, three are Asian-Pacific Islander (API), five are Black and three are multi-racial or “other.” The majority of new LGBT characters of color are Black, and include Captain Ray Holt on Brooklyn Nine-Nine (Fox), Carolyn Hill on Under the Dome (CBS), Raffi on Camp (NBC), as well as James Stinson on How I Met Your Mother (CBS) who has appeared on the series before but never in a recurring capacity. There will be two new multi-racial characters, Michelle Jones on Seed (The CW) and Michael on Back in the Game (ABC). There aren’t any new Latino/a or API characters.

Racial and ethnic diversity among LGBT characters on cable television improved this year and is now on par with LGBT characters on broadcast television. LGBT people of color make up 29% (19) of all scripted regular or recurring LGBT characters on cable, which is a significant increase from last year’s 21%. Of the 19 LGBT characters of color counted, ten (15%) are Black, five (8%) are Latino/a, one (2%) is API, and three (5%) are multi-racial. The majority of new LGBT characters of colors on cable are Latino/a, and include Alejandro Rubio on Devious Maids (Lifetime), Augustin on Looking (HBO), Natalie Pierce on Switched at Birth (ABC Family) and Adriana Mendez on The Bridge (FX). Three new characters are Black: Shana Cruz on Pretty Little Liars (ABC Family), Hank St. Claire on Sirens (USA) and Jeffrey Harrington on The Haves and the Have Nots (OWN). This season also brings two new multi-racial characters, Stahma Tarr on Defiance (Syfy) and Lena Adams Foster on The Fosters (ABC Family).
For the fourth 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 2011 American Community Survey’s 1-year estimates – which provides detailed social, economic, demographic and housing data for areas with populations of 65,000 or more – reports that 12% (37.2 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 a disability increased after a dip last year. Eight characters (1%) will have a disability this upcoming season, compared to four characters last season (0.6%). NBC is leading the way when it comes to this demographic with five regular characters with disabilities, three of them being leads. *Ironside* revolves around a Chief of Detectives who uses a wheelchair. The *Michael J. Fox Show* features a news anchor who returns to the work force after a one year hiatus following his Parkinson’s disease diagnosis. On *Parenthood*, one of the characters has breast cancer while another has Asperger Syndrome which is a form of autism, and on *Growing Up Fisher*, the dad is blind.
ABC, CBS and Fox continue to only feature one character with a disability each while PWD remain invisible on The CW. ABC’s Grey’s Anatomy includes Dr. Arizona Robbins who, following a plane crash, now uses a prosthetic leg. CBS features a character on CSI: Crime Scene Investigation who also uses prosthetic legs while a major character on Fox’s Glee uses a wheelchair.

Increased representation of PWDs on scripted television is good for the PWD community but the casting of these characters is an issue that SAG-AFTRA, the union representing actors, sees as needing improvement. “When it comes to broadcast television, characters with disabilities are mostly represented by the non-disability community, while casting for disability roles on cable television is certainly more progressive: at least half of all scripted characters on cable with disabilities are portrayed by performers with disabilities,” said Anita Hollander, chair of the SAG-AFTRA National Performers with Disabilities Committee. “For those scripted characters who are both LGBT and PWD, two of the three actually are played by performers with disabilities and, no surprise, they are both on cable programs.”

Last year Thor Lundgren of Nurse Jackie (who is diabetic and uses a prosthetic eye) and Dr. Arizona Robbins were the only LGBT characters who were also PWD. This year they are joined by newcomer Natalie Pierce who attends the Carlton School for the Deaf on Switched at Birth.

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

This past summer, CBS featured a gay contestant on Big Brother while “villain” Colton Cumbie returned with his fiancé on this fall’s new season of Survivor. NBC’s summer programming featured several out hosts and contestants on a variety of its alternative programming, including America’s Got Talent, Get Out Alive with Bear Grylls and Hollywood Game Night. This upcoming year, the network will premiere a new competition series, American Dream Builders, which brings Nate Berkus back to the small screen. The CW’s Capture was this summer’s most inclusive alternative program on broadcast television with three out contestants and a gay host. On ABC this fall, out judges and coaches will return Dancing with the Stars and The Biggest Loser.

Cable television features many LGBT representations on a variety of reality programs. Bravo often includes LGBT members or guests on its shows, including The Real Housewives of New Jersey, the Top Chef franchise, Million Dollar Listing, Flipping Out, and Tabatha Take Over. Other notable inclusive alternative programs include HGTV’s Design Star, AMC’s Small Town Security, Oxygen’s I’m Having Their Baby, the Sundance Channel’s Push Girls, Logo’s RuPaul’s Drag Race, and Lifetime’s Project Runway and Project Runway All Stars, which will soon feature returning trans contestant Ari S
During the past year there’s only been two additional LGBT character introduced to daytime dramas; Felix DuBois, a nurse, and Brad Cooper, a lab manager on General Hospital (ABC), who are also the only LGBT characters of color in the daytime drama genre. On Days of our Lives (NBC) Will and Sonny had a tumultuous year with the birth of Will’s child following a one night stand with his ex-girlfriend. Meanwhile, Karen and Danielle continue to appear on The Bold and the Beautiful (CBS) with Karen recently becoming the main stakeholder in Spencer Publications.

Several out personalities continue to be driving forces in the daytime talk show format. Actress Sara Gilbert remains 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) while Clinton Kelly is set to co-host a second season of the ABC food-related talk show The Chew. VH1’s The Gossip Table features two gay co-hosts.
Once again this year, GLAAD has incorporated a Spanish-language media chapter into the Where We Are on TV report. With more frequent changes in programming lineups among Spanish-language networks, it can be challenging to make an accurate character count for the fall season. While LGBT inclusion on broadcast and cable news programming has increased, entertainment programming has unfortunately lagged behind.

Telenovelas or novelas are particularly important because they air nightly over several months, giving their characters a real opportunity to impact viewers. While we are not seeing the relatively high number of novela characters as in the past, some networks did feature inclusive storylines in their novelas and daytime talk shows.

This past season, Univision aired its first ever same-sex wedding on the Mexican novela Amores Verdaderos, where couple Estefano and Jean Marie have remained significant characters. Telemundo premiered Marido en Alquiler this summer, a remake of a Brazilian novela, which features Ro Flores, a gay personal assistant to one of the series’ lead characters.

Univision’s alternative programs have begun including more LGBT people in the past year. On Nuestra Belleza Latina, a very highly-rated beauty competition, the contestants vie to become an Univision personality. This past season featured lesbian competitor Karina Hermosillo, whose personal story was prominently featured in the broadcasts. During the past season of Mira Quién Baila, a dancing competition featuring celebrities, out stylist to the stars Sammy danced to raise money for a non-profit organization.

Telemundo’s court room show Caso Cerrado continues to frequently include cases involving LGBT people. The show enjoys very high ratings and is seen both in the United States and Latin America.

Footnote: This research was done in conjunction with Monica Trasandes, GLAAD’s Director of Spanish-Language Media.
Streaming content providers 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 their original series exclusively for their subscribers. Netflix even received several Emmy Award nominations recently for some of its original programming.

This past summer, 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. In the past year, Netflix also premiered House of Cards; a drama in which it is revealed the lead character had a relationship with a man in the past, while their horror series Hemlock Grove featured a Black lesbian investigator. While both those series are scheduled to return, no date has been announced yet.

Hulu meanwhile, has brought back the inclusive daily drama All My Children following its broadcast cancellation, and the groundbreaking lesbian character Bianca Montgomery continues to be a strong presence in the town of Pine Valley. Hulu also brought the British drama Coronation Street to American audiences, which includes gay characters Sean and Todd, and recently acquired the British comedy Fresh Meat featuring Vod, who is believed to be bisexual.

Amazon is currently developing several original series of their own, including Alpha House, which is slated to include a character presumed to be gay. However, they have yet to announce a premiere date.
Five Year Trend:
CBS Scripted Series Regulars

Five Year Trend:
The CW Scripted Series Regulars
Five Year Trend: Number of Regular and Recurring LGBT Characters on Broadcast Networks
(figures represent counts made at each season’s launch)

Five Year Trend: Number of Regular and Recurring LGBT Characters on Cable Networks
(figures represent counts made at each season’s launch)
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**  
Associate Director of Entertainment Media - Kane@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.

**Megan Townsend**  
Enterertainment and Operations Coordinator

Megan Townsend serves on GLAAD’s Entertainment Media 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, and a contributing researcher for GLAAD’s Studio Responsibility Index, Network Responsibility Index and Where We Are on TV. She also serves on the Operations Team as the coordinator of GLAAD’s internship program. A graduate of Central Michigan University, Megan joined GLAAD in January 2012 as the Entertainment Media Fellow and moved into her current role in March 2013.

**Max Gouttebroze**  
Enterertainment Media Strategist – Gouttebroze@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.

**Entertainment Media Interns**

GLAAD’ 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, Where We Are on TV and contribute to GLAAD’s blog.

Renée Fabian – University of Southern California, Graduate School – Class of 2014