



Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Newsletter



It's officially Pride Month:

Here's everything you should know about the global LGBTQ celebration

Pride Month is celebrated annually in June to honor the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community. It traces its roots back to the 1969 Stonewall riots.

Here are the answers to some of the most common questions about LGBTQ Pride Month, annual LGBTQ Pride parades and the iconic 1969 Stonewall uprising. Learn more and get involved: Parents and caregivers can use the CDC's [Learn the Signs, Act Early](#) program to monitor children's development and know when there might be a concern; the [brief checklist of milestones](#) provides a child development baseline.

What is LGBTQ Pride Month?

LGBTQ Pride Month is a commemoration of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community that is part celebration and part protest. It is often associated with massive parades and parties that honor the community's joys and accomplishments. But the rallies, marches and political actions can be just as important to draw attention to the issues still facing the community.



How did LGBTQ Pride Month start and why is it in June?

LGBTQ Pride Month traces its roots back to the [1969 Stonewall riots](#), which started on June 28, 1969. The first Pride marches started the following year, on June 28, 1970, to commemorate the multiday riots, and these one-day celebrations eventually evolved into a full month of LGBTQ pride.

According to a search of Newspapers.com, an online archive of more than 26,000 newspapers, the first mention of "Pride Month" was in a June 5, 1972, issue of Pennsylvania's Delaware County Daily Times. In the article, gay activist Byrna Aronson talks about the gay rights rallies popping up across the country and shortly after says, "We call it Gay Pride week and Gay Pride Month, the whole month of June."

The first time The New York Times mentioned Pride Month, according to its online archive, was in a [1989 article](#) about Mayor Ed Koch being heckled as he "proclaimed the month of June as Lesbian and Gay Pride and History Month" at a ceremony in Greenwich Village.

What are the Stonewall riots?

In the early-morning hours of Saturday, June 28, 1969, members of the New York City Police Department staged a raid at the Stonewall Inn, a mafia-run gay bar in Manhattan's Greenwich Village neighborhood. While such raids were not uncommon at NYC gay bars at the time, what was unique on this night is that the patrons had decided to fight back.

The [Stonewall riots](#), also known as the Stonewall uprising and the Stonewall rebellion, lasted several days and are credited as the spark that ignited the modern-day LGBTQ rights movement.

In June 2016, President Barack Obama designated the Stonewall Inn and the surrounding area a national monument, making it the [first national monument honoring LGBTQ rights](#).



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When was the first LGBTQ Pride march?

The first Pride marches in the U.S. took place on June 28, 1970, exactly one year after the start of the 1969 Stonewall riots. In New York, organizers dubbed their event the Christopher Street Liberation Day March. In a New York Times article the following day, the paper wrote: “Thousands of young men and women homosexuals from all over the Northeast marched from Greenwich Village to the Sheep Meadow in Central Park yesterday proclaiming ‘the new strength and pride of the gay people.’” The same day as the NYC march, Los Angeles held a “Christopher Street West” celebration on Hollywood Boulevard that drew thousands. According to LGBTQ historian Lillian Faderman, there were also two “very small marches” in San Francisco and Chicago that year, but New York City’s was the largest by far.

What are the biggest LGBTQ Pride marches in the world?

New York City continues to be a global hub for Pride celebrations, drawing millions of people to its annual Pride March in June, which extends from midtown Manhattan to Greenwich Village.

Both [São Paulo](#) and New York City have drawn crowds of [about 4 million people](#) to their Pride celebrations, making them the largest events in the world. Cities like Madrid, Toronto and San Francisco also regularly draw hundreds of thousands, and sometimes millions, of revelers.

When was the rainbow Pride flag created?

The rainbow Pride flag, the most enduring symbol of the LGBTQ rights movement, was created by seamster [Gilbert Baker](#) nearly half a century ago for the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade in June 1978, which drew hundreds of thousands of revelers.

“Up until the rainbow flag in 1978, the pink triangle had really functioned as kind of the symbol of homosexuality and gay rights, but it was designed by Hitler. It was put on us in the same way that they used the Star of David against Jews. It was a whole code of symbols that were used to oppress people,” Gilbert told NBC News in 2016. “So we needed something that was from us.”

Gilbert liked the idea of a flag because “flags are about power,” he said, adding: “I knew right away that the rainbow would be the perfect fit for us.”



“It expressed our diversity in terms of our gender, our race, our ages — all the ways we’re different, yet connected,” he said of the rainbow. “And then using something from nature, taking the rainbow, one of the most beautiful, magical, spiritual parts of nature and making that a symbol for our sexuality, for our human rights.”



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When did the U.S. government first recognize LGBTQ Pride Month?

President Bill Clinton was the first to declare a [Gay and Lesbian Pride Month](#) in June 1999, the 30th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. In his proclamation, Clinton drew attention to recent violent attacks against the LGBTQ community, likely referring to the [murder of Matthew Shepard](#) in October 1998.

“We cannot achieve true tolerance merely through legislation; we must change hearts and minds as well. Our greatest hope for a just society is to teach our children to respect one another, to appreciate our differences, and to recognize the fundamental values that we hold in common,” Clinton wrote in the proclamation.

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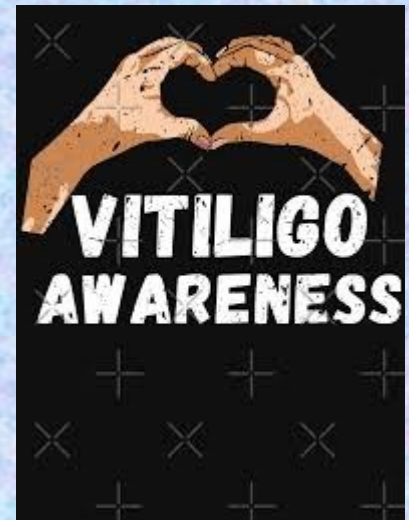
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VITILIGO AWARENESS MONTH:

WHAT IS VITILIGO?

Vitiligo (pronounced vit-i-LIE-go) is an autoimmune disorder that manifests in depigmentation of the skin. In honor of June being Vitiligo Awareness Month, we're here to help you learn about this disorder so that those affected may lead better, healthier lives.



What is Pigmentation?

Skin, hair, and the irises of your eye are colored with a pigment called melanin. Melanin is produced by specialized skin cells. Higher amounts of melanin mean darker skin, while lower amounts dictate lighter skin. Melanin helps the human body regulate exposure to UV radiation: light waves produced by the sun that cause cancer and other diseases. Skin with more melanin offers more protection against UV radiation (even so, individuals with darker skin should still wear sunscreen!)

It is possible for the skin to suffer from depigmentation. One such disorder is vitiligo.

Vitiligo: The Basics

Vitiligo is generally classified as an autoimmune disorder: a disorder in which the body's immune system attacks its own cells or organs. Researchers suspect that, in cases of vitiligo, the immune system is attacking the melanin-producing cells, resulting in a loss of pigmentation.

The most common symptom of vitiligo is patches of depigmented skin. For some, sections of hair will turn white, or their eyes will lose color. Although some people are born with it, others can develop it; the average onset age is in the mid-twenties.

There is no cure, but there are treatments for vitiligo that can be prescribed by a dermatologist. Cosmetics such as makeup and self-tanner can be used in order to make one's vitiligo less visible.



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Topical medicines can be prescribed for small areas of depigmentation that will add color to the skin. There are also light treatments, in which patients sit in a lightbox (for widespread vitiligo) or receive excimer laser treatments (for small patches) 2-3 times a week for several weeks. PUVA light therapy is a more intensive form of this treatment. Lastly, there are surgical options if conservative methods do not work, in which skin with your natural color is removed and placed where color is needed.

While the exact cause of vitiligo is not yet known, it is confirmed that vitiligo is neither contagious nor life-threatening. There is speculation that because vitiligo patients tend to have autoimmune disorders in their family medical history, it could be tied to genetics, but there is no hard evidence to confirm this hypothesis.

While vitiligo does not cause pain, loss of function, or otherwise damage the body, that does not mean it has no impact on one's quality of life. Because it can greatly affect one's appearance, many with vitiligo experience low self-esteem.



What Can We Do?

It is our job as dermatologists to spread information regarding this disorder in order to alter any negative perception of those with vitiligo. As Dr. Hamzavi from the [American Academy of Dermatology](#) explains, "when you see someone with Vitiligo, don't be afraid to touch them; don't be afraid to engage with them. Those with vitiligo are just as special as others in your life." We want to make our society a safe and healthy place for everyone, regardless of appearance.

We hope that you take this month to continue to educate yourself and your family on this disorder. Education is one of the best ways to help those with Vitiligo live happy, healthy, and full lives, without fear of stares or scorn. You can visit the [American Academy of Dermatology pages on Vitiligo](#) for more information.



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Resources & Articles

LGBTQ Resources

[A Brief History on LGBTQ Flags](#)

[LGBTQ History](#)

[Everything You Should Know About Pride Month](#)

[Pride Month History](#)

Vitiligo Awareness Month

[Vitiligo Awareness Month: What is Vitiligo?](#)

[World Vitiligo Day](#)

[Vitiligo: Oregon Medical Research Center](#)

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