

Health and Safety of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Youth (LGB) in California Public Schools

Chapman University

<i>Data are drawn from responses from students in 7th, 9th, and 11th grades taking the California Health Kids Survey (CHKS)</i>	2013-2015 California		2015-2017 California	
	LGB	Non-LGB	LGB	Non-LGB
	5.0%	95.0%	6.9%	93.1%
Attendance				
How many times did you skip school or cut class in the past 12 months? (more than once a week)	7.0%	2.5%	7.8%	2.6%
Missed school because you felt very, sad, hopeless, anxious, stressed, angry? (past 30 days)	35.9%	10.9%	27.9%	8.4%
Missed school because you didn't feel safe at school? (past 30 days)	7.3%	1.1%	6.7%	1.7%
Safety				
How safe do you feel when you are at school? (unsafe or very unsafe)	15.9%	4.9%	15.5%	6.4%
Have you been in a physical fight? (past 12 months)	22.2%	9.7%	19.5%	11.1%
Have you carried a gun at school? (past 12 months)	5.6%	1.6%	8.3%	2.1%
Did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide? (past 12 months)	50.0%	16.7%	45.5%	13.5%
Did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost everyday for two weeks or more that you stopped doing some usual activities? (past 12 months)	61.4%	28.2%	61.5%	26.2%
Bullying and harassment				
In the past 12 months on school property have you...				
• Been pushed, shoved, slapped, hit, kicked by someone 1 or more times	30.8%	20.9%	31.9%	20.9%
• Been afraid of being beaten up?	24.4%	12.5%	27.0%	12.8%
• Had rumors/lies spread about you?	54.9%	37.5%	51.5%	33.0%
• Had sexual jokes, comments, or gestures made to you?	58.8%	36.1%	54.3%	28.4%
• Been made fun of because of your looks or way you talked?	49.8%	31.6%	50.0%	29.5%
• Been threatened with harm or injury?	25.2%	10.0%	20.8%	8.5%

• Been made fun of, insulted, or called names?	55.4%	39.3%	52.3%	33.2%
• Were harassed or bullied for your race, ethnicity, or national origin?	19.3%	12.8%	24.6%	14.2%
• Were harassed or bullied for your religion?	14.7%	8.8%	15.1%	7.0%
• Were harassed or bullied for your gender?	22.0%	6.7%	25.8%	7.1%
• Were harassed or bullied because you are gay or lesbian or somebody thought you were?	47.2%	5.9%	43.1%	5.9%
• Were harassed or bullied because physical or mental disability?	13.7%	4.0%	16.7%	3.8%
• Were harassed or bullied for any other reason?	36.1%	20.6%	35.4%	16.8%

	2013-2015 California		2015-2017 California	
	LGB	Non-LGB	LGB	Non-LGB
Protective Factors				
% responding “disagree” or “strongly disagree”				
I feel close to people in this school.	19.4%	10.3%	23.3%	13.1%
I am happy to be at this school.	28.3%	11.9%	24.8%	13.6%
I feel like I am part of this school.	26.2%	13.7%	28.8%	15.7%
Teachers at this school treat students fairly.	17.9%	13.3%	24.3%	16.7%
I feel safe at my school.	18.4%	10.2%	20.7%	11.2%
I do interesting activities at my school.	21.2%	13.2%	25.5%	17.3%
I do things that make a difference at school.	40.1%	25.2%	39.2%	28.6%
Caring relationship				
% responding “not at all true” to:				
At my school there is a teacher or some other adult				
...who really cares about me.	16.5%	9.2%	17.7%	11.2%
...who tells me when I do a good job.	15.9%	6.1%	15.5%	8.6%
...who notices when I am not there.	20.8%	11.8%	22.5%	13.8%
...who always wants me to do my best.	11.7%	4.0%	11.4%	5.7%
...who listens when I have something to say.	17.2%	7.1%	17.2%	9.6%
...who believes that I will be a success.	14.3%	8.1%	16.2%	8.5%

	2013-2015 California		2015-2017 California	
	LGB	Non-LGB	LGB	Non-LGB
Lifetime Substance Use				
Cigarettes	25.7%	8.6%	22.1%	7.3%
Tobacco	6.7%	3.6%	11.4%	4.1%
Alcohol	53.7%	29.1%	47.0%	25.2%
Marijuana	43.1%	19.7%	37.8%	17.5%
Inhalants	14.9%	4.9%	15.8%	4.7%
Cocaine/Methamphetamine	8.5%	3.0%	12.3%	3.9%
Ecstasy	12.6%	4.5%	14.8%	5.0%
Prescription Painkillers	25.4%	11.6%	23.6%	10.5%
Diet Pills	12.1%	5.0%	15.2%	5.6%
Ritalin or Adderall	9.5%	4.1%	14.1%	5.2%
Cold Medicine	45.8%	38.6%	38.0%	30.6%
Other Drug	18.7%	7.3%	26.8%	13.6%
Past 30 Day Substance Use				
Cigarettes	12.7%	3.4%	12.9%	3.4%
Tobacco	3.4%	1.5%	8.1%	2.0%
Alcohol (One Drink)	32.0%	15.5%	28.7%	13.7%
Alcohol (Five or More Drinks)	18.3%	7.9%	17.6%	6.9%
Marijuana	25.6%	10.2%	24.7%	9.7%
Inhalant	6.5%	1.7%	10.0%	2.3%
Prescription Painkillers	10.1%	3.4%	13.5%	4.4%
Other Drugs	8.8%	2.2%	11.8%	2.9%
Two or More Drugs	13.7%	5.4%	14.9%	5.4%

California Participant Demographics 2013 - 2015 and 2015 - 2017

2013 - 2015

N = 630,678

M = 48.1%

F = 51.9%

7th grade = 32.9%

9th grade = 35.2%

11th grade = 31.9%

Asian/Pacific Islander	8.2%
American Indian	1.0%
Black	3.0%
White	27.3%
Multiracial	11.1%
Hispanic/Latino	50.3%

2015 - 2017

N= 1,043,714

M = 50.6%

F = 49.4%

7th grade = 33.8%

9th grade = 33.7%

11th grade = 31.4%

Asian/Pacific Islander	14.0%
American Indian	4.3%
Black	5.6%
White	32.5%
Multiracial	43.6%
Hispanic/Latino	51.1%

Methods: The data presented in this fact sheet were collected as part of the California Healthy Kids Survey in the 2013-2015 and 2015-2017 academic years at middle and high schools across throughout California. The data were collected using a paper and pencil survey administered by school sites and reported to and compiled by WestEd. Kris De Pedro, Ph.D. at Chapman University requested the dataset from WestEd and the data were analyzed running Chi-Square tests using SPSS statistical software. All differences reported here are statistically significant.

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