

Summary of Actionable Data from Youth Survey San Mateo County

Sense of Belonging- Positive Messages About Being LGBTQI in Our County

- Youth ranked as most positive: the internet, peers, and GSAs
- Youth ranked as least positive: teacher-student groups, community leaders, and the faith community
- Youth almost always disclosed their sexual orientation selectively— just over half (51%) reported being out to their teachers yet only a handful reported being out to their religious or spiritual groups, coaches, or counselors
- While most youth reported that their schools had a GSA, only half said they were active in their school’s GSA
- Very few middle schools have a GSA and approximately X% of public high schools in the county have a GSA

School Safety

- 60% felt safe at school
(as compared to 55.5% of LGBT students felt unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation, and 37.8% because of their gender expression in a national survey)
- 42% avoided gender-segregated bathrooms because they felt unsafe
(as compared to 35.4% in a national survey)
- 43% avoided school functions or extracurricular activities because they felt unsafe or unwelcome
(as compared to 68% school functions and 61% extracurricular activities in a national survey)
- 21% skipped at least one day of school in the last month because they felt unsafe
(as compared to 30.3% of LGBT students in a national survey)

Anti-LGBT Remarks at School

- 94% of LGBT students heard “gay” used in a negative way (e.g., “that’s so gay”)
(as compared to 71.4% of LGBT students in a national survey)
- 83% heard other homophobic remarks (e.g., “dyke” or “faggot”)
(as compared to 64.5% in a national survey)

Harassment and Assault at School

- 53% of LGBT students were verbally harassed (e.g., called names or threatened) in the past year because of their sexual orientation (as compared to 74.1% in a national survey).
- 16% were physically assaulted (e.g., punched, kicked, injured with a weapon) in the past year because of their sexual orientation (as compared to 16.5% in a national survey)
- 29% reported harassment, assault or other discrimination to school authorities and school staff did nothing in response. (National survey responses below:
 - 56.7% of LGBT students who were harassed or assaulted in school did not report the incident to school staff, most commonly because they doubted that effective intervention would occur or the situation could become worse if reported.
 - 61.6% of the students who did report an incident said that school staff did nothing in response.)

Healthcare

- 67% did not know where to go to get LGBTQI friendly healthcare
- 41% reported that their school's sex education classes had information about LGBTQI dating and ranked these classes as second to the internet to learn about safe sex; most of the youth surveyed looked to the internet, friends, and social media to learn about safe sex, and 8 said that they didn't know of anywhere they could go for this information.

Mental Health

- A. 74% of youth considered harming themselves in the past 12 months
- B. 63% of youth reported they felt stress quite a bit or very much (stress was defined as when a person feels tense, restless, nervous, or anxious, or is unable to sleep at night because his/her mind is troubled all the time)
- C. 74% of youth reported that that they stopped doing some usual activities during the past 12 months, because they felt so sad, hopeless or anxious almost every day for two weeks or more in a row (usual activities were defined as not seeing friends, skipping meals, skipping school or an after-school activity, and not doing homework)