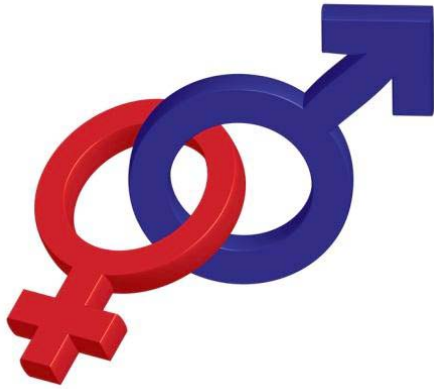


District of Columbia 2010 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? Nationwide 86% of LGBTQ students report verbal harassment at school and 61% of those students harassed or assaulted at school did not report it to school staff. Physical and verbal abuse in school increased LGBTQ students' chances for truancy, poor grades, and school dropout. LGBTQ youth are at higher risk than their heterosexual peers for homelessness and risk taking associated with increased morbidity and mortality rates.¹



The Local Picture

- ☑ Nearly 35% of gay, lesbian, or bisexual (GLB) identified middle school students report being bullied at school and 20% report being bullied electronically
- ☑ GLB students are more likely than their heterosexual peers to fast for at least 24 hours to lose weight
- ☑ 21% of GLB high school and 34% of GLB middle school students have attempted suicide
- ☑ GLB high school students report higher illicit substance use than their heterosexual peers: 8.5% have used cocaine vs. 2.9% of peers, 9.9% have used ecstasy vs. 3.1% of peers, 18.5% have taken prescription drugs without prescription vs. 5.1% of peers
- ☑ 41% of GLB middle school students have had sex as compared to 20% of their heterosexual peers

With whom have you had sexual contact?

Percentage of DC students who have had sexual contact with

	2007 High School				2010 High School*			
	Never had sex	Males	Females	Males & Females	Never had sex	Males	Females	Males & Females
Males	31.8	4.9	61.4	2.0	24.2	2.8	70.3	2.7
Females	42.9	48.3	5.2	3.6	34.8	49.0	4.2	12.0

*2010 DC YRBS results are population estimates derived using only DCPS student data. The 2007 data includes both DCPS and Public Charter Schools.

Which of the following best describes you?

Percentage of DC students who identify as

	2007 High School				2010 High School*			
	Heterosexual	Gay or Lesbian	Bisexual	Not Sure	Heterosexual	Gay or Lesbian	Bisexual	Not Sure
Males	90.0	3.0	4.1	3.0	91.0	3.6	2.6	2.8
Females	86.8	3.6	6.3	3.3	80.4	6.3	10.6	2.8

*2010 DC YRBS results are population estimates derived using only DCPS student data. The 2007 data includes both DCPS and Public Charter Schools. Column totals may exceed 100% due to rounding.

¹ Kim, R., D., & Holcomb, S. (2009). *A Report on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender People in Education: Stepping Out if the Closet, Into the Light*. National Education Association, Washington, D.C.

	2010 Middle School*			
	Heterosexual	Gay or Lesbian	Bisexual	Not Sure
Males	90.0	1.3	1.8	6.9
Females	83.7	1.4	6.6	8.3

*2010 DC YRBS results are population estimates derived using only DCPS student data. The 2007 data includes both DCPS and Public Charter Schools.

Gender Identity

The 2010 YRBS asked high school students two questions to identify their sex (biologically at birth; Question 2: *What is your sex?*) and their gender (what they feel; Question 99: *Which of the following best describes you?*).

According to CDC standards the response rate was not large enough and thus this information cannot be generalized to all students in DC nor should analysis be conducted.

Effective Strategies and Best Practices in DC

- The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) outlines learning standards on sexuality, reproduction, and health that are medically accurate, comprehensive, and age appropriate. <http://osse.dc.gov/dc-educational-standards>
- The Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL) is a youth service organization solely dedicated to supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. www.smyal.org
- The DC Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs provides constituent services and information to the GLBT community through outreach and public education activities. <http://glbt.dc.gov>