Physical and Mental Health Disparities Among Sexual Minority Youth in Wisconsin 2007-2011

Safe Schools, Safe Communities
State Superintendent’s Conference on LGBT Youth
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Overview

1. National and state climate
2. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
3. Sexual minority demographics
4. Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 (HW2020)
5. Data by HW2020 health focus area
6. Implications
7. Questions
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- **Ron Gangon**, Assistant Professor, UW School of Medicine & Public Health
- **Michigan YRBS Analysis Team**
1. NATIONAL AND STATE CLIMATE
National Climate

- Suicides on the rise among LGBTQ youth
- Bullying contributes to suicides
- Celebrities offer support to LGBTQ youth
State Climate

The *Wisconsin Research Brief* based on GLSEN’s 2009 National School Climate Survey found that:

– **55%** of schools had a Gay-Straight Alliance

– **55%** had LGBT library resources

– **24%** had comprehensive bullying/harassment policy

– **18%** had inclusive curriculum

“*Students attending schools with these resources and supports report lower victimization and absenteeism and higher academic achievement*”

*Source: Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)*

2. YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS) AND LGBT DATA COLLECTION
Youth Risk Behavior Survey

• Coordinated every other year by
  – Administered at state & local level
  – Middle and high schools

• States can add optional questions to identify sexual minorities

• In 2011 the CDC released

  Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Risk Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9-12 – Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, Selected Sites, United States, 2001-2009
  http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss60e0606a1.htm
“Sexual Minority” an umbrella term for…

1. Behavior
   • *Men who have sex with men (MSM), women who have sex with women (WSW)*

During your life, with whom have you had sexual contact?
   1. Females
   2. Males
   3. Females and males

2. Attraction
   • *Attracted to same-sex, opposite-sex only, or both sexes*

3. Sexual identity
   • *Lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, or questioning (LGBQ)*

Which of the following best describes you?
   1. Heterosexual (straight)
   2. Gay or lesbian
   3. Bisexual
   4. Not sure

4. Gender identity
   • *Transgender* (Born male, identify as female or born female, identify as male)
   • *Genderqueer* (Identify as neither female nor male)
### Sexual Minority Questions
**Wisconsin High School YRBS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sexual Minority item(s) asked</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Behavior + Sexual identity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Gender identity not currently asked in any state
- Adding sexual minority questions was a collective effort between Diverse & Resilient, DPI, and DHS
2009: Sexual Minority Questions on YRBS in 12 States, 6 Districts

YRBS asks about:

- Same-sex sexual behavior (3 SEAs, 1 LEA)
- LGB identity (2 SEAs, 1 LEA)
- Both behavior and identity (6 SEAs, 4 LEAs)
- Same-sex attraction (1 SEA)

SEA – State Education Agency   LEA – Local Education Agency
2011: Sexual Minority Questions on YRBS in 15 States, 10 Districts

YRBS asks about:
- Same-sex sexual behavior (4 SEAs, 1 LEA)
- LGB identity (1 SEA, 1 LEA)
- Both behavior and identity (10 SEAs, 8 LEAs)

SEA – State Education Agency  LEA – Local Education Agency
3. SEXUAL MINORITY DEMOGRAPHICS IN THE YRBS
Percent of sexually-active students who have had same-sex contact, Wisconsin YRBS, 2007-2011

- **Same-sex contact**: 9.9%
- **Opposite-sex contact only**: 90.1%

2007-2011:
- 2007: 8.6% (111/1292)
- 2009: 9.9% (138,1393)
- 2011: 11.1% (177/1599)
- 2007-2011: 9.9% (428/4288)

*Students with same-sex contact may also have had opposite-sex contact.*

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
Students who have had same-sex contact, by sex of respondent and partners, Wisconsin YRBS, 2007-2011

* Students with same-sex contact may also have had opposite-sex contact.

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
Percent of sexually-active students who have had same-sex contact, Milwaukee YRBS, 2007-2011

* Students with same-sex contact may also have had opposite-sex contact.

Source: Milwaukee YRBS
Sexual orientation, Wisconsin YRBS, 2011

n=2,707

- Heterosexual: 92%
- Bisexual: 5%
- Not sure: 2%
- Lesbian/Gay: 1%

8% identify as LGB or unsure

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
Sexual orientation by sex of respondent, Wisconsin YRBS, 2011
n=232

64% (148/232)

36% (84/232)

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
Sexual orientation, **Milwaukee YRBS, 2011**

n = 1,823

- Heterosexual: 85%
- Bisexual: 9%
- Lesbian/Gay: 3%
- Not sure: 3%

15% identify as LGB or unsure

**Source:** Milwaukee YRBS
4. HEALTHIEST WISCONSIN 2020
Healthiest Wisconsin 2020

Ten year plan with two major goals:
1. Improve health across the lifespan
2. Reduce disparities

12 Health Focus Areas*:
1. Alcohol and Drug Use
2. Injury and Violence Prevention
3. Mental Health
4. Nutrition and Healthy Foods
5. Physical Activity
6. Reproductive and Sexual Health
7. Tobacco Use and Exposure
8. Chronic Disease Prevention and Management
9. Communicable Disease
10. Environmental and Occupational Health
11. Healthy Growth and Development
12. Oral Health

*The YRBS asks questions related to the 7 bolded items
Vulnerable population groups

- Race and ethnicity
- Sexual orientation and gender identity
- Socioeconomic status
- Disability status

+ Geography
5. SEXUAL MINORITY DATA BY HW2020 HEALTH FOCUS AREA

1. Alcohol and Drug Use
2. Injury and Violence Prevention (Bullying)
3. Mental Health
4. Nutrition and Healthy Foods
5. Physical Activity
6. Reproductive and Sexual Health
7. Tobacco Use

Bonus: Protective Factors
Methods

Software: SAS 9.2

Sample: 2007-2011 - Behavior - Students who report sexual contact
       2011 - Identity - All students

Analysis: 1) Weighted percent
          - Accounts for sampling to make results generalizable to population

          2) Unadjusted Odds Ratio (OR)
          - Based on sample only, not adjusted to generalize to population

          - Reference group (the majority) has an odds of 1
            2007-2011 - Opposite sex
            2011 - Heterosexual

          - The further from 1 the OR for sexual minority, the greater the disparity

          - An OR of <1 means the item is less likely for sexual minorities
1. Alcohol and Drug Use

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Source: Wisconsin YRBS*
1. Alcohol and Drug Use

**Figure 2.** Unadjusted odds ratio of alcohol and drug use among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

- Alcohol: 1.1
- Marijuana* 2.1
- Cocaine* 3.2
- Inhalant* 3.8
- Methamphetamine* 3.9
- Ecstasy* 3.0

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact

**Source:** Wisconsin YRBS
2. Injury & Violence Prevention

Figure 3. School safety among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
2. Injury & Violence Prevention

Figure 4. Unadjusted odds ratios of school safety among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
2. Injury & Violence Prevention

Figure 5. Intimate partner violence among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
2. Injury & Violence Prevention

Figure 6. Unadjusted odds ratios of intimate partner violence among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

- Unadjusted Odds Ratio

- *Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
3. Mental Health

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact*

Source: Wisconsin YRBS

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
3. Mental Health

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact*  

Figure 8. Unadjusted odds ratios of depression and suicide risk among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mental Health</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depressed*</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicidal ideation*</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide plan*</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide attempt*</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide attempt w/ injury*</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
4. Nutrition

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact*

*Source: Wisconsin YRBS*
4. Nutrition

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact*

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
5. Physical activity

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
5. Physical Activity

Figure 12. Unadjusted odds ratios of physical activity among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
6. Reproductive and Sexual Health

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact*

Source: Wisconsin YRBS

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
6. Reproductive and Sexual Health

Figure 14. Unadjusted odds ratios of sexual risk among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
7. Tobacco Use

*Figure 15. Tobacco use among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011*

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact*

**Source:** Wisconsin YRBS

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
7. Tobacco Use

Figure 16. Unadjusted odds ratio of alcohol and drug use among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
**Figure 17.** Protective factors among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact*

**Source:** Wisconsin YRBS

**Wisconsin Department of Health Services**
**Bonus: Protective Factors**

*Figure 18.* Unadjusted odds ratio of support and belonging among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact*

**Source:** Wisconsin YRBS

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*Unadjusted Odds Ratio*

- **Odds for same-sex youth:**
  - Loved by family*: 0.4
  - Teachers care*: 0.7
  - Belong at school*: 0.5

*Odds for opposite-sex youth*
Early initiation of risk

Figure 19. Risk behaviors before age 13 among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
2011 YRBS Data
Sexual Identity Findings
Sexual Identity findings, 2011

Figure 20. Mental health among students who identify as LGB or unsure vs. heterosexual, 2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with LG, B, or unsure identity and heterosexual identity

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
Figure 20. Mental health among students who identify as LGB or unsure vs. heterosexual, 2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with LG, B, or unsure identity and heterosexual identity

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
Sexual Identity findings, 2011

Figure 21. School safety and bullying among same-sex and LGB students, 2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with LG, B, or unsure identity and heterosexual identity

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
5. IMPLICATIONS
Key Stats

10% of sexually-active students statewide report same-sex contact (13% in MKE)

8% of all students statewide identified at L,G,B or unsure in 2011 (15% in MKE)

Same-sex youth were...

6 times as likely to attempt suicide with injury
5 times as likely to be in a fight and get injured
4 times as likely to be forced into sexual activity
3 times as likely to skip school because they feel unsafe
2 times as likely to be a daily smoker
½ as likely to feel they belong at school

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Implications

1. Significant disparities exist for sexual minority youth both by behavior and identity

2. School violence, mental health, and suicide risk among sexual minority youth must be addressed

3. Protective factors should also be addressed
6. QUESTIONS?

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