

# Health and School Safety among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Youth in Alameda County Schools

| <i>Data are drawn from responses from students in 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades taking the California Health Kids Survey (CHKS) in the 2015-2016 school year.</i> | <b>LGB</b> | <b>Non-LGB</b> | <b>Trans</b> | <b>Non-Trans</b> |
|--|------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
|  | 6.1%       | 93.9%          | 0.8%         | 99.2%            |
| <b>Attendance</b>  |            |                |              |                  |
| How many times did you skip school or cut class in the past 12 months? (more than once a week)   | 4.7%       | 2.3%           | 6.8%         | 2.4%             |
| Missed school because you felt very, sad, hopeless, anxious, stressed, angry? (past 30 days)   | 26.0%      | 7.6%           | 33.1%        | 8.5%             |
| Missed school because you didn't feel safe at school? (past 30 days)   | 3.7%       | 1.4%           | 10.1%        | 1.4%             |
| <b>Safety</b>  |            |                |              |                  |
| How safe do you feel when you are at school? (unsafe or very unsafe)   | 11.4%      | 5.6%           | 23.8%        | 5.8%             |
| Have you been in a physical fight? (past 12 months)  | 12.1%      | 10.4%          | 20.0%        | 10.4%            |
| Have you carried a gun at school? (past 12 months)   | 2.3%       | 1.3%           | 12.3%        | 1.3%             |
| Did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide? (past 12 months)   | 40.4%      | 10.5%          | 50.0%        | 12.4%            |
| 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)  | 58.4%      | 22.7%          | 55.1%        | 24.6%            |
| <b>Bullying and harassment</b>   |            |                |              |                  |
| <b>In the past 12 months on school property have you...</b>  |            |                |              |                  |
| • Been pushed, shoved, slapped, hit, kicked by someone 1 or more times   | 25.6%      | 19.8%          | 27.9%        | 20.1%            |
| • Been afraid of being beaten up?  | 21.5%      | 11.8%          | 35.4%        | 12.2%            |
| • Had rumors/lies spread about you?  | 47.7%      | 30.3%          | 47.9%        | 31.3%            |
| • Had sexual jokes, comments, or gestures made to you?   | 52.5%      | 26.4%          | 51.0%        | 27.8%            |
| • Been made fun of because of your looks or way you talked?  | 46.1%      | 27.3%          | 51.7%        | 28.3%            |
| • Been threatened with harm or injury?   | 14.1%      | 7.6%           | 24.5%        | 7.9%             |
| • Been made fun of, insulted, or called names?   | 41.9%      | 31.9%          | 55.1%        | 32.8%            |
| • Been threatened or injured with a weapon (gun, knife, club, etc.)?   | 6.7%       | 3.2%           | 12.9%        | 3.4%             |
| • Have other students spread mean rumors or lies about you on the Internet?  | 25.9%      | 16.0%          | 32.4%        | 16.5%            |
| • Were harassed or bullied for your race, ethnicity, or national origin?   | 19.1%      | 14.2%          | 21.6%        | 14.5%            |
| • Were harassed or bullied for your religion?  | 8.6%       | 6.5%           | 19.0%        | 6.5%             |
| • Were harassed or bullied for your gender?  | 21.2%      | 7.0%           | 43.2%        | 7.6%             |
| • Were harassed or bullied because you are gay or lesbian or somebody thought you were?  | 37.5%      | 5.1%           | 45.3%        | 6.8%             |
| • Were harassed or bullied because physical or mental disability?  | 12.3%      | 2.9%           | 27.7%        | 3.3%             |
| • Were harassed or bullied for any other reason?   | 29.6%      | 15.7%          | 38.5%        | 16.4%            |

|  | LGB   | Non-LGB | Trans | Non-Trans |
|--|-------|---------|-------|-----------|
| <b>Protective Factors</b>                                  |       |         |       |           |
| <b>% responding “disagree” or “strongly disagree”</b>      |       |         |       |           |
| I feel close to people in this school.                     | 18.9% | 11.6%   | 30.6% | 11.9%     |
| I am happy to be at this school.                           | 21.2% | 12.6%   | 35.1% | 13.0%     |
| I feel like I am part of this school.                      | 21.5% | 13.1%   | 33.3% | 13.4%     |
| Teachers at this school treat students fairly.             | 17.7% | 15.2%   | 26.0% | 15.3%     |
| I feel safe at my school.                                  | 16.2% | 10.7%   | 27.2% | 10.9%     |
| I do interesting activities at my school.                  | 21.0% | 13.9%   | 27.0% | 14.2%     |
| I do things that make a difference at school.              | 33.6% | 24.7%   | 37.8% | 25.1%     |
| <b>Caring relationship</b>                                 |       |         |       |           |
| <b>% responding “not at all true” to:</b>                  |       |         |       |           |
| <b>At my school there is a teacher or some other adult</b> |       |         |       |           |
| ...who really cares about me.                              | 10.7% | 7.9%    | 11.5% | 8.1%      |
| ...who tells me when I do a good job.                      | 10.0% | 5.8%    | 12.2% | 6.0%      |
| ...who notices when I am not there.                        | 14.3% | 10.0%   | 16.4% | 10.3%     |
| ...who always wants me to do my best.                      | 5.7%  | 3.9%    | 10.9% | 3.9%      |
| ...who listens when I have something to say.               | 9.7%  | 7.0%    | 14.3% | 7.1%      |
| ...who believes that I will be a success.                  | 9.7%  | 6.1%    | 11.5% | 6.3%      |

### Participant Demographics

**N = 18,577**

M = 51.1%

F = 48.9%

7<sup>th</sup> grade = 44.4%

9<sup>th</sup> grade = 28.4%

11<sup>th</sup> grade = 26.6%

Asian/Pacific Islander 25.0%

American Indian 2.0%

Black 13.8%

White 27.2%

Multiracial 32.0%

Latino 34.8%

**Methods:** The data presented in this fact sheet were collected as part of the California Healthy Kids Survey in the 2015-2016 academic year at middle and high schools across Alameda County. 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, the ACLU of California, and John Elfers, Ph.D. at Sofia University requested the dataset from WestEd. The data were analyzed running Chi-Square tests using SPSS statistical software. All differences reported here are statistically significant. The California Healthy Kids Survey was developed by WestEd under contract to the California Department of Education. This fact sheet was prepared by Kris DePedro, PhD at Chapman University in collaboration with the Central Coast Coalition for Inclusive Schools and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of California.

For **Further information** about this Fact Sheet, contact: Kris De Pedro, Ph.D. at [depedro@chapman.edu](mailto:depedro@chapman.edu)

