

Fact Sheet: Sexual Health of LGBTQ Youth in Minnesota

Currently, one of the largest sources of information on lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in Minnesota is the Minnesota Student Survey (MSS). 2013 was the first year that the MSS asked a question about sexual orientation. After significant advocacy work by LGBTQ advocates and allies, the 2016 survey also included questions about gender identity and gender expression.

In 2016, approximately 10% of 9th and 11th grade high school students identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or questioning. Approximately 2.5% considered themselves transgender, genderqueer, genderfluid, or were unsure about their gender identity.

While questioning students were slightly less likely to have ever had sex (16%) than straight students (21%), lesbian and gay (36%) and bisexual students (38%) are more likely to have ever had sex. Transgender students (32%) are also more likely to have had sex.

Of students who have ever had sex, straight students (63%) reported using a condom the last time they had sex at higher rates than lesbian and gay (32%), bisexual (51%), questioning (51%) students, and transgender students (49%).

14% of cisgender students drank alcohol or used drugs before the last time they had sexual intercourse, while 21% of transgender students drank alcohol or used drugs before the last time they had sexual intercourse.

LGBTQ students go to the nurse's office at school at higher rates than their straight cisgender peers. In 2016 35% of questioning students, 35% of gay and lesbian students, 43% of bisexual students, and 41% of transgender students went to the nurse's office at least once in the past 30 days, compared to approximately 25% of straight cisgender students.

JustUs Health combines the full range of prevention, education, advocacy, and support services for people at risk of or affected by HIV, developed by Minnesota AIDS Project, with the innovative research and education programs of Rainbow Health Initiative and Training to Serve. Together, we envision a Minnesota where people from diverse gender, sexual, and cultural communities experience health and wellness in powerfully inclusive environments. Learn more about us at www.justushealth.mn

¹ The Minnesota Student Survey, an anonymous triennial survey, is a partnership between the Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and Department of Public Safety. It asks students about their opinions, behaviors and experiences with school climate, bullying, activities, health and nutrition, emotional and mental health, relationships, substance use and more.

¹ Minnesota Student Survey Reports 2013-2016. Retrieved from <http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/DataTopic.jsp?TOPICID=242>