

Statistics Concerning LGBTQ+ Students in Schools

- LGBTQ+ youth report overwhelming “rejection and harassment” from “families, schools, religious institutions, and community or neighborhood (Higa et al., 2014, para. 33).”
- LGBTQ+ youth are 2-7 TIMES more likely to attempt suicide than students who identify as heterosexual (Youth.gov, n.d.).
- The mental health risks faced by LGBTQ+ youth are most associated with experiencing “discrimination, negative interactions, harassment, and bullying” - especially from peers and adults at school (Swanson & Gettinger, 2016).
- Even though 85% of LGBTQ+ youth experience harassment and bullying at school each year, according to one study 57% opted not to report the incident to a teacher or administration, and, of those who did report the incidents, 62% stated that nothing was done (Sinclair & Reece, 2016; Swanson & Gettinger, 2016).
- Transgender youth are at a significantly greater risk of some types of harassment or maltreatment than their gay peers. These include being scorned, physically attacked, and being kicked out of their homes (Sutherland, 2019).
- 42 percent of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth (Youth.gov, n.d.).
- 25% of transgender youth have attempted suicide (Swanson & Gettinger, 2016).
- LGBTQ students were more than 2x as likely to have been physically assaulted at school than their non-LGBTQ peers (Underhill, 2017).
- 57.6% of LGBTQ students stated that they feel unsafe because of their sexual orientation. 43.3% said they feel unsafe due to their gender expression (Hannah, 2017).
- LGBTQ+ students who experienced school-based harassment and victimization had lower grade point averages than their non-LGBTQ+ peers (Sinclair & Reece, 2016, p. 110). In fact, LGBTQ students who have suffered bullying and harassment are 3x more likely than their non-LGBTQ peers to miss school, and 2x more likely to reject the concept of attending college (Hannah, 2017).
- 75% of non-LGBTQ+ youth identify as supportive of LGBTQ+ youth, yet 92% of LGBTQ+ youth report receiving negative messaging about their sexual and/or gender identities at school. When the majority of non-LGBTQ+ youth are vocal supporters, school-wide LGBTQ+ negativity decreases (Underhill, 2017).
- 95% of LGBTQ youth report hearing negative remarks about their sexual orientation and gender expression (Hannah, 2017).
- 16% of LGBTQ of color, and 8% of white LGBTQ youth are homeless (Youth.gov, n.d.).
- Some LGBTQ students have reported hearing statements hostile to the LGBTQ+ community from school staff, faculty, and administration (Stonefish & Lafreniere, 2015).
- All students in schools with Gay Straight Alliances are more accepting and inclusive of all forms of diversity - not only in terms of gender and sexuality, but diversity of religious beliefs, race, and ethnicity (Mayo, 2013).

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