

Health and Safety of LGBT Youth

IN BUTTE COUNTY

The California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) has collected health information from middle and high school students for over 20 years. The survey questions cover a wide range of health-related topics, including physical activity, nutrition, drug use, bullying, mental health, and protective factors at school. Beginning with the 2013 administration of the survey, students were asked to self-identify as heterosexual, gay, lesbian, or bisexual. Students were also asked to self-identify as male, female, or transgender. These two questions allow for the comparison of health-related behaviors and experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth (LGBT) with those students who do not identify as LGBT.

Chapman University in conjunction with the ACLU of Southern California has analyzed the data from the 2016 administration of the CHKS to better understand the health-related status of LGBT youth in Butte County.

How Many LGBT Youth?

In 2014, 5.0% of California middle and high school students identified as lesbian, gay, or bisexual, with 95% of students identifying as heterosexual. In Butte County, the number of students identifying as LGB was 4.8% in 2016. Based on enrollment for schools in Butte County for the 2015/2016 school year this percentage translates to approximately 687 students identifying as LGB in this age group.

Also in 2014, the percentage of middle and high school students identifying as transgender was 0.8% in California. In Butte County, the number of students identifying as transgender was 0.9% in 2016. Based on enrollment for schools in Butte County for the 2015/2016 school year this percentage translates to approximately 129 students identifying as transgender in this age group. The following are some of the highlights from the Butte County CHKS 2016 administration.

Attendance

LGB Youth were almost 4 times more likely (5.7%) than their non-LGB peers (1.7%) to miss school in the previous 30 days because they did not feel safe at school. Transgender youth were also more likely (4.8%) to miss school than non-transgender students for the same reason (1.9%).

Safety

Transgender youth were more likely than their non-transgender peers to report not feeling safe at school (16.7% versus 6.2%). For LGB youth, 10.6% admitted to not feeling safe at school compared with 6.0% for their non-LGB peers. Transgender youth (28.6%) were twice as likely to report being afraid of being beaten up than their non-transgender peers (15.9%). The same is true for LGB youth (30.0% versus 15.3%).

*Butte County Middle School and
High School Youth*
687 LGB 129 Transgender

Bullying

Transgender youth were more likely (33.3%) to report having been pushed, shoved, slapped, hit, kicked by someone 1 or more times on a school campus than their non-transgender peers (24.7%). LGB youth were also more likely to report the same (30.1% versus 24.5%).

LGB youth were more likely to report having sexual jokes, comments, or gestures directed at them at school (60.9% versus 33.8%). Transgender youth reported similar experiences with 48.8% reporting being the target of sexual jokes, comments, or gestures at school versus 35.0% for non-transgender students.

Almost half (47.4%) of self-identified LGB youth report being bullied because they were lesbian, gay, bisexual or someone thought they were. Fewer non-LGB youth (7.7%) report being bullied because someone thought they were lesbian, gay or bisexual. Among transgender youth, 31.0% were bullied for the same reason versus 9.4% among non-transgender youth.

Alcohol and Drug Use

Looking at lifetime use of alcohol and other drugs across grades 7 through 12, there were noticeable differences. Lifetime use measures the number of youth who have ever used a particular drug. Lifetime use of alcohol was higher for LGB youth (54.4%) than for their non-LGB peers (30.6%). Transgender youth also showed a higher rate

(47.6%) than non-transgender youth (31.6%).

Lifetime use of marijuana was 47.4% for LGB youth and 21.9% for youth identifying as non-LGB. A similar disparity was evident for transgender youth (40.5% versus 23.0%).

LGB youth reported a higher use of methamphetamine and cocaine during their lifetime than their non-LGB peers (7.9% versus 3.3%) with transgender youth reporting a similar disparity (10.8% versus 3.5%).

Mental Health

The 2015 data revealed indicators of mental health challenges for LGBT youth. When asked *Did you miss school because you felt very sad, hopeless, anxious, stressed, or angry during the past thirty days?* 32.0% of LGB responded in the affirmative, compared with 10.3% of their non-LGB peers. Transgender youth reported similar experiences with 28.6% having missed school because they felt very sad, hopeless, anxious, stressed, or angry versus 11.2% of non-transgender youth.

When asked *Did you seriously consider attempting suicide during the past 12 months?* 61.4% of LGB youth reported that they had seriously considered attempting suicide versus 17.0% of their non-LGB peers. Similar results were found for transgender youth, with 54.1% admitting to having seriously considered suicide versus 19.3% of non-transgender youth. When translated into real numbers, this indicates that in one year in Butte County approximately 491 middle school and high school LGBT youth seriously considered attempting suicide.

Protective Factors

Protective factors are the conditions and structures at a school that help to shield students from potential harmful outcomes. These are the human relationships and programs at a school site that “protect” against the risk factors already mentioned here.

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Youth Engagement and Connection to School

LGB youth were more likely to say that they *did not feel close to people at this school* than did their non-LGB peers (20.6% versus 12.1%). Transgender-identified students were also less likely to report feeling close to people at school (14.3%) in comparison to non-transgender students (12.5%).

In an average class of 30 students in Butte County, two of those students will identify as LGBT

When presented with the statement *I feel like I am a part of this school*, LGB youth were less likely to agree with the statement (27.3%) when compared with non-LGB peers (14.1%). Transgender youth were more than twice as likely to say that they did not feel like they were a part of their school (31.0%) as compared to non-transgender students (14.5%).

Responding to the statement *Teachers at my school treat students fairly*, 15.4% of LGB identified students were just as likely to disagree with the statement compared to 15.3% of their non-LGB peers. Transgender students were more likely to disagree with the statement than non-transgender students (28.6% versus 15.1%).

Moving Forward

The results of the CHKS survey responses highlight the importance of increasing positive connections and protective factors as a way to create safe and inclusive environments for our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth. These protective factors should:

- Guarantee that all youth—and especially LGBT identified youth—have caring and supportive adults to speak with and to mentor them.
- Create school environments that are safe, supportive, and inclusive of all.
- Implement policies, programs, and resources that promote health equity among LGBT youth.
- Create opportunities for LGBT youth to engage in meaningful participation in schools and communities.



The California Health Kids Survey was developed by WestEd under contract to the California Department of Education. The data analysis was prepared by Kris DePedro, PhD, and John Elfers, PhD, in conjunction with the ACLU of California and Chapman University. CONTACT: Kris DePedro, PhD depedro@chapman.edu

Health and Safety of Transgender Youth in Butte County Public Schools with California Comparisons

Chapman University

<i>Data are drawn from responses from students in 7th, 9th, and 11th grades taking the California Health Kids Survey (CHKS)</i>	2015-2016 Butte County		2014-2015 California	
	Trans	Non-Trans	Trans	Non-Trans
	0.9%	99.1%	0.8%	99.2%
Attendance				
How many times did you skip school or cut class in the past 12 months? (more than once a week)	4.8%	2.6%	14.8%	2.8%
Missed school because you felt very sad, hopeless, anxious, stressed, angry? (past 30 days)	28.6%	11.2%	18.2%	12.0%
Missed school because you didn't feel safe at school? (past 30 days)	4.8%	1.9%	3.6%	1.4%
Safety				
How safe do you feel when you are at school? (unsafe or very unsafe)	16.7%	6.2%	27.3%	5.1%
Have you been in a physical fight? (past 12 months)	19.5%	12.3%	23.5%	10.1%
Have you carried a gun at school? (past 12 months)	17.1%	1.3%	18.5%	1.6%
Did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide? (past 12 months)	54.1%	19.3%	31.8%	18.5%
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)	54.8%	30.1%	49.5%	29.8%
Bullying and harassment				
In the past 12 months on school property have you...				
• Been pushed, shoved, slapped, hit, kicked by someone 1 or more times	33.3%	24.7%	32.7%	21.2%
• Been afraid of being beaten up?	28.6%	15.9%	21.8%	13.0%
• Had rumors/lies spread about you	45.2%	39.2%	32.7%	38.4%
• Had sexual jokes, comments, or gestures made to you?	48.8%	35.0%	36.4%	37.2%
• Been made fun of because of your looks or way you talked?	47.6%	33.9%	36.4%	32.4%
• Been threatened with harm or injury?	24.4%	12.7%	29.1%	18.5%

• Been made fun of, insulted, or called names?	52.4%	41.5%	43.6%	40.0%
• Were harassed or bullied for your race, ethnicity, or national origin?	14.3%	12.1%	32.7%	12.8%
• Were harassed or bullied for your religion?	16.7%	8.6%	16.7%	9%
• Were harassed or bullied for your gender?	33.3%	9.6%	32.7%	7.2%
• Were harassed or bullied because you are gay or lesbian or somebody thought you were?	31.0%	9.4%	32.7%	7.3%
• Were harassed or bullied because physical or mental disability?	14.3%	4.5%	16.4%	4.3%
• Were harassed or bullied for any other reason?	42.9%	22.8%	30.2%	21.2%

	2015-2016 Butte County		2014-2015 California	
	Trans	Non-Trans	Trans	Non-Trans
Protective Factors % responding “disagree” or “strongly disagree”				
I feel close to people in this school.	14.3%	12.5%	23.4%	12.7%
I am happy to be at this school.	38.1%	13.2%	28.5%	13.1%
I feel like I am part of this school.	31.0%	14.5%	32.5%	16.5%
Teachers at this school treat students fairly.	28.6%	15.1%	32.1%	17.3%
I feel safe at my school.	29.3%	10.8%	25.4%	10.5%
I do interesting activities at my school.	19.0%	14.8%	25.2%	16.6%
I do things that make a difference at school.	38.1%	25.6%	39.4%	29.0%
Caring relationship % responding “not at all true” to: At my school there is a teacher or some other adult				
...who really cares about me.	14.6%	8.9%	21.2%	10.8%
...who tells me when I do a good job.	16.7%	6.9%	18.5%	7.9%
...who notices when I am not there.	29.3%	11.7%	24.9%	13.5%
...who always wants me to do my best.	11.9%	4.3%	15.3%	5.3%
...who listens when I have something to say.	24.4%	8.5%	21.6%	9.6%
...who believes that I will be a success.	14.3%	7.2%	20.6%	8.3%

California Participant Demographics 2014-2015

N = 630,678

M = 48.1%

F = 51.9%

7th grade = 32.9%

9th grade = 35.2%

11th grade = 31.9%

Asian/Pacific Islander	8.2%
American Indian	1.0%
Black	3.0%
White	27.3%
Multiracial	11.1%
Latino	50.3%

Butte County Participant Demographics 2015-2016

N = 4,716

M = 51.3%

F = 48.7%

7th grade = 34.1%

9th grade = 31.8%

11th grade = 28.4%

Asian/Pacific Islander	8.1%
American Indian	4.2%
Black	2.2%
White	57.4%
Multiracial	28.1%
Latino	24.5%

Methods: The data presented in this fact sheet were collected as part of the California Healthy Kids Survey in the 2013-2014 and 2015-2016 academic years at middle and high schools across Butte County and throughout California. 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 requested the dataset from WestEd and the data were analyzed running Chi-Square tests using SPSS statistical software. All differences reported here are statistically significant.

Acknowledgements: 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 for Chapman University and John Elfers, PhD for Sofia University. These data were acquired through funds provided by the College of Educational Studies at Chapman University.

For **Further information** about this Fact Sheet, contact: **Kris De Pedro, Ph.D.** depedro@chapman.edu



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

<i>Data are drawn from responses from students in 7th, 9th, and 11th grades taking the California Health Kids Survey (CHKS) in the 2015-2016 school year.</i>	LGB	Non-LGB	Trans	Non-Trans
	4.8%	95.2%	0.9%	99.1%
Attendance				
How many times did you skip school or cut class in the past 12 months? (more than once a week)	4.8%	2.5%	4.8%	2.6%
Missed school because you felt very, sad, hopeless, anxious, stressed, angry? (past 30 days)	32.0%	10.3%	28.6%	11.2%
Missed school because you didn't feel safe at school? (past 30 days)	5.7%	1.7%	4.8%	1.9%
Safety				
How safe do you feel when you are at school? (unsafe or very unsafe)	10.6%	6.0%	16.7%	6.2%
Have you been in a physical fight? (past 12 months)	16.4%	12.2%	19.5%	12.3%
Have you carried a gun at school? (past 12 months)	2.6%	1.3%	17.1%	1.3%
Did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide? (past 12 months)	61.4%	17.0%	54.1%	19.3%
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)	66.2%	28.6%	54.8%	30.1%
Bullying and harassment				
In the past 12 months on school property have you...				
• Been pushed, shoved, slapped, hit, kicked by someone 1 or more times	30.1%	24.5%	33.3%	24.7%
• Been afraid of being beaten up?	30.0%	15.3%	28.6%	15.9%
• Had rumors/lies spread about you?	54.6%	38.5%	45.2%	39.2%
• Had sexual jokes, comments, or gestures made to you?	60.9%	33.8%	48.8%	35.0%
• Been made fun of because of your looks or way you talked?	52.6%	33.1%	47.6%	33.9%
• Been threatened with harm or injury?	24.4%	12.2%	24.4%	12.7%
• Been made fun of, insulted, or called names?	59.2%	40.7%	52.4%	41.5%
• Been threatened or injured with a weapon (gun, knife, club, etc.)?	11.9%	5.3%	17.1%	5.5%
• Have other students spread mean rumors or lies about you on the Internet?	28.6%	23.0%	37.2%	22.4%
• Were harassed or bullied for your race, ethnicity, or national origin?	16.7%	11.9%	14.3%	12.1%
• Were harassed or bullied for your religion?	13.6%	8.5%	16.7%	8.6%
• Were harassed or bullied for your gender?	31.3%	8.7%	33.3%	9.6%
• Were harassed or bullied because you are gay or lesbian or somebody thought you were?	47.4%	7.7%	31.0%	9.4%
• Were harassed or bullied because physical or mental disability?	13.7%	4.1%	14.3%	4.5%
• Were harassed or bullied for any other reason?	47.1%	21.8%	42.9%	22.8%

	LGB	Non-LGB	Trans	Non-Trans
Protective Factors				
% responding “disagree” or “strongly disagree”				
I feel close to people in this school.	20.6%	12.1%	14.3%	12.5%
I am happy to be at this school.	17.2%	13.3%	38.1%	13.2%
I feel like I am part of this school.	27.3%	14.1%	31.0%	14.5%
Teachers at this school treat students fairly.	15.4%	15.3%	28.6%	15.1%
I feel safe at my school.	15.9%	10.7%	29.3%	10.8%
I do interesting activities at my school.	22.5%	14.5%	19.0%	14.8%
I do things that make a difference at school.	39.9%	25.0%	38.1%	25.6%
Caring relationship				
% responding “not at all true” to:				
At my school there is a teacher or some other adult				
...who really cares about me.	15.0%	8.6%	14.6%	8.9%
...who tells me when I do a good job.	10.5%	6.8%	16.7%	6.9%
...who notices when I am not there.	21.4%	11.4%	29.3%	11.7%
...who always wants me to do my best.	8.4%	4.1%	11.9%	4.3%
...who listens when I have something to say.	14.5%	8.3%	24.4%	8.5%
...who believes that I will be a success.	12.3%	7.0%	14.3%	7.2%

Participant Demographics

N = 4,716

M = 51.3%

F = 48.7%

7th grade = 34.1%

9th grade = 31.8%

11th grade = 28.4%

Asian/Pacific Islander

8.1%

American Indian

4.2%

Black

2.2%

White

57.4%

Multiracial

28.1%

Latino

24.5%

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 Butte 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.

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Health and Safety of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Youth (LGB) in Butte County Public Schools with California Comparisons

Chapman University

<i>Data are drawn from responses from students in 7th, 9th, and 11th grades taking the California Health Kids Survey (CHKS)</i>	2015-2016 Butte County		2014-2015 California	
	LGB	Non-LGB	LGB	Non-LGB
	4.8%	95.2%	5.0%	95.0%
Attendance				
How many times did you skip school or cut class in the past 12 months? (more than once a week)	4.8%	2.5%	7.0%	2.5%
Missed school because you felt very, sad, hopeless, anxious, stressed, angry? (past 30 days)	32.0%	10.3%	35.9%	10.9%
Missed school because you didn't feel safe at school? (past 30 days)	5.7%	1.7%	7.3%	1.1%
Safety				
How safe do you feel when you are at school? (unsafe or very unsafe)	10.6%	6.0%	15.9%	4.9%
Have you been in a physical fight? (past 12 months)	16.4%	12.2%	22.2%	9.7%
Have you carried a gun at school? (past 12 months)	2.6%	1.3%	5.6%	1.6%
Did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide? (past 12 months)	61.4%	17.0%	50.0%	16.7%
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)	66.2%	28.6%	61.4%	28.2%
Bullying and harassment				
In the past 12 months on school property have you...				
• Been pushed, shoved, slapped, hit, kicked by someone 1 or more times	30.1%	24.5%	30.8%	20.9%
• Been afraid of being beaten up?	30.0%	15.3%	24.4%	12.5%
• Had rumors/lies spread about you?	54.6%	38.5%	54.9%	37.5%
• Had sexual jokes, comments, or gestures made to you?	60.9%	33.8%	58.8%	36.1%
• Been made fun of because of your looks or way you talked?	52.6%	33.1%	49.8%	31.6%
• Been threatened with harm or injury?	24.4%	12.2%	25.2%	10.0%

• Been made fun of, insulted, or called names?	59.2%	40.7%	55.4%	39.3%
• Were harassed or bullied for your race, ethnicity, or national origin?	16.7%	11.9%	19.3%	12.8%
• Were harassed or bullied for your religion?	13.6%	8.5%	14.7%	8.8%
• Were harassed or bullied for your gender?	31.3%	8.7%	22.0%	6.7%
• Were harassed or bullied because you are gay or lesbian or somebody thought you were?	47.4%	7.7%	47.2%	5.9%
• Were harassed or bullied because physical or mental disability?	13.7%	4.1%	13.7%	4.0%
• Were harassed or bullied for any other reason?	47.1%	21.8%	36.1%	20.6%

	2015-2016 Butte County		2014-2015 California	
	LGB	Non-LGB	LGB	Non-LGB
Protective Factors				
% responding “disagree” or “strongly disagree”				
I feel close to people in this school.	20.6%	12.1%	19.4%	10.3%
I am happy to be at this school.	17.2%	13.3%	28.3%	11.9%
I feel like I am part of this school.	27.3%	14.1%	26.2%	13.7%
Teachers at this school treat students fairly.	15.4%	15.3%	17.9%	13.3%
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I do interesting activities at my school.	22.5%	14.5%	21.2%	13.2%
I do things that make a difference at school.	39.9%	25.0%	40.1%	25.2%
Caring relationship				
% responding “not at all true” to:				
At my school there is a teacher or some other adult				
...who really cares about me.	15.0%	8.6%	16.5%	9.2%
...who tells me when I do a good job.	10.5%	6.8%	15.9%	6.1%
...who notices when I am not there.	21.4%	11.4%	20.8%	11.8%
...who always wants me to do my best.	8.4%	4.1%	11.7%	4.0%
...who listens when I have something to say.	14.5%	8.3%	17.2%	7.1%
...who believes that I will be a success.	12.3%	7.0%	14.3%	8.1%

California Participant Demographics 2014-2015

N = 630,678

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7th grade = 32.9%

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Asian/Pacific Islander	8.2%
American Indian	1.0%
Black	3.0%
White	27.3%
Multiracial	11.1%
Latino	50.3%

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