

# District of Columbia 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth (LGBTQ)

**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?** Nationwide, 86% of LGBTQ students report verbal harassment at school and 60% of those students harassed or assaulted at school did not report it to school staff. Physical and verbal abuse in school increased LGBTQ students' chances for truancy, poor grades, and school dropout. LGBTQ youth are at higher risk than their heterosexual peers for homelessness and risk taking associated with increased morbidity and mortality rates.



### Key Findings

- Nearly 25% of gay, lesbian, or bisexual (GLB) identified middle school students report bullying at school because someone thought they were gay.
- Nine percent (9%) of GLB high school students report missing 4 or more days of school in the past 30 days; 1.8% of heterosexual students report the same.
- GLB students are more likely than their heterosexual peers to fast for at least 24 hours to lose weight.
- Twenty-nine percent (29%) of GLB high school and middle school students have attempted suicide.
- GLB high school students report higher illicit substance use than their heterosexual peers; 12.3% have used cocaine vs. 3% of peers, 14.8% have used methamphetamines vs. 2.7% of peers.
- Fifty-eight percent (58%) of GLB middle school students have not had sex as compared to 78% of their heterosexual peers.

With whom have you had sexual contact?

	2007 High School				2009 High School*			
	Never had sex	Males	Females	Males & Females	Never had sex	Males	Females	Males & Females
Males	31.8	4.9	61.4	2.0	24.3	3.6	68.3	3.8
Females	42.9	48.3	5.2	3.6	37.5	51.3	3.4	7.7

\*2009 DC YRBS results are population estimates derived by unweighted data which will be biased because some subgroups of the survey population are under- or over-represented in the respondent group.

Which of the following best describes you?

	2007 High School				2009 High School*			
	Heterosexual	Gay or Lesbian	Bisexual	Not Sure	Heterosexual	Gay or Lesbian	Bisexual	Not Sure
Males	90.0	3.0	4.1	3.0	90.9	5.0	1.8	2.4
Females	86.8	3.6	6.3	3.3	85.5	5.4	6.3	2.8

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Office of the State Superintendent of Education  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

For more information on the DC YRBS please go to [www.osse.dc.gov](http://www.osse.dc.gov) and click on Wellness and Nutrition Services/Healthy Youth Development Team.

	2009 Middle School			
	Heterosexual	Gay or Lesbian	Bisexual	Not Sure
Males	92.6	2.3	1.1	4.0
Females	89.5	2.5	3.4	4.5

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### Gender Identity Table

The 2009 YRBS asked high school students two questions to identify their sex (biologically at birth; Question 2: *What is your sex?*) and their gender (what they feel; Question 72: *Which of the following best describes you?*). According to CDC standards, the respondent size is invalid and thus this information cannot be generalized to all students in DC, nor should analysis be conducted.

	Frequency	Percent of Students Surveyed
<b>Transgender Females*</b>	67	
<i>Self-identified**</i>	13	0.7
<i>Non self-identified**</i>	54	2.8
<b>Transgender Males*</b>	72	
<i>Self-identified**</i>	13	0.7
<i>Non self-identified**</i>	59	3.1
<b>Not Sure</b>	22	1.1

\*Female and male, as self-identified in question 2 (*What is your sex?*).

\*\*Self-identified transgendered students answered question 72 (*Which of the following best describes you?*) with the selection “transgendered.” Non self-identified students selected different answers to question 2 and question 72. That is, a student who selected their sex as male selected their identity as female, or vice versa.

### Effective Strategies and Best Practices in DC

- The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) health education standards outline learning standards on sexuality, reproduction, and health that are medically accurate, comprehensive, and age appropriate. <http://osse.dc.gov>
- The Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL) is a youth service organization solely dedicated to supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. [www.smyal.org](http://www.smyal.org)
- The DC Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs provides constituent services and information to the GLBT community through outreach and public education activities. <http://glbt.dc.gov>

