

Info supplied by Mel Goldsipe, Arlington Rainbow Commission for School Committee 10/25/18

From the 2017 National School Climate Survey conducted by GLSEN

(<https://www.glsen.org/article/2017-national-school-climate-survey-1>):

- 44.6% of LGBT students felt unsafe at school because of because of their gender expression, and 35.0% because of their gender.
- 34.8% of LGBTQ students missed at least one entire day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable.
- Approximately 4 in 10 students avoided gender-segregated spaces in school due to safety concerns (bathrooms: 42.7%; locker rooms: 40.6%).
- 94.0% of LGBTQ students heard negative remarks about gender expression; 62.2% heard these remarks often or frequently.
- 87.4% of LGBTQ students heard negative remarks specifically about transgender people; 45.6% heard them often or frequently.
- 71.0% of students reported hearing negative remarks about gender expression from teachers or other school staff.
- 42.1% of transgender and gender nonconforming students had been prevented from using their name or pronoun.
- 46.5% of transgender and gender nonconforming students had been required to use a bathroom matching the gender assigned at birth.
- 43.6% of transgender and gender nonconforming students had been required to use a locker room matching the gender assigned at birth.
- LGBTQ students who experienced higher levels of victimization because of their gender expression:
  - Were more likely to have missed school in the past month than those who experienced lower levels (61.6% vs. 23.2%);
  - Had lower GPAs (2.9 vs. 3.3);
  - Were twice as likely to report that they did not plan to pursue any post-secondary education (9.6% vs. 4.9%);
  - Were more likely to have been disciplined at school (52.1% vs. 30.8%); and
  - Had lower self-esteem and school belonging and higher levels of depression.
- Compared to LGBTQ students with no supportive school staff, students with many (11 or more) supportive staff at their school:
  - Were less likely to feel unsafe because of their gender expression (34.8% vs. 51.0%);
  - Were less likely to miss school because they felt unsafe (20.1% vs. 48.8%);
  - Had higher GPAs (3.3 vs. 3.0);
  - Were less likely to say they might not graduate high school and more likely to plan on pursuing post-secondary education; and
  - Felt greater belonging to their school community.
- Students who had seen a Safe Space sticker or poster in their school were more likely to identify school staff who were supportive of LGBTQ students and more likely to feel comfortable talking with school staff about LGBTQ issues.

- LGBTQ students in middle school had more hostile school experiences than LGBTQ students in high school, including experiencing higher rates of biased language, victimization, and anti-LGBTQ discriminatory school policies and practices.
- LGBTQ middle school students were less likely than high school students to have access to LGBTQ-related school resources, including GSAs, supportive educators, LGBTQ-inclusive curricular resources, and inclusive policies.
- Transgender students were more likely than other students to report having changed schools because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable; and
- Four times more likely than cisgender LGBTQ students to report that they were not planning to complete high school or were not sure if they would complete high school

A study published by the American Academy of Pediatrics

(<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2018/09/07/peds.2017-4218>) recently reported:

- Nearly 14% of adolescents of all genders reported a previous suicide attempt
- Trans males reported the highest rate of attempted suicide (50.8%)
- those who were nonbinary (41.8%)
- trans females (29.9%)
- those who were gender-questioning (27.9%)
- cis females (17.6%),
- and cis males (9.8%).

Facts About Suicide from The Trevor Project, the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ people under 25

(<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/preventing-suicide/facts-about-suicide/>):

- Each episode of LGBT victimization, such as physical or verbal harassment or abuse, increases the likelihood of self-harming behavior by 2.5 times on average.

News report: <https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/transgender-students-face-higher-rates-substance-abuse-study-finds-n795016> (Aug. 30, 2017)

- A study published in the Journal of School Health found transgender students were 2.5 times more likely than non-transgender students to use cocaine and methamphetamines in their lifetime and twice as likely to report the misuse of prescription pain medication.
- Kris T. De Pedro, an assistant professor of educational studies at Chapman University and the study's lead author, explained that gender identity is not the cause of increased substance abuse among transgender students, but rather, discrimination is.

"When it comes to transgender teens, it's the transphobia that impacts [their drug use], not being transgender," De Pedro said.

"In order to reduce the likelihood of a kid to resort to drugs as a means to cope, there has to be some sort of social support mechanism," De Pedro continued. "We have these drug prevention programs in schools that are for everybody, but we really need to fill a fundamental need for [transgender] kids, and that's the need to feel accepted and affirmed."

From Trevor Project website:

#### FACTS ABOUT SUICIDE

- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among young people ages 10 to 24.<sup>1</sup>
- LGB youth seriously contemplate suicide at almost three times the rate of heterosexual youth.<sup>2</sup>
- LGB youth are almost five times as likely to have attempted suicide compared to heterosexual youth.<sup>2</sup>
- Of all the suicide attempts made by youth, LGB youth suicide attempts were almost five times as likely to require medical treatment than those of heterosexual youth.<sup>2</sup>
- Suicide attempts by LGB youth and questioning youth are 4 to 6 times more likely to result in injury, poisoning, or overdose that requires treatment from a doctor or nurse, compared to their straight peers.<sup>2</sup>
- In a national study, 40% of transgender adults reported having made a suicide attempt. 92% of these individuals reported having attempted suicide before the age of 25.<sup>3</sup>
- LGB youth who come from highly rejecting families are 8.4 times as likely to have attempted suicide as LGB peers who reported no or low levels of family rejection.<sup>4</sup>
- 1 out of 6 students nationwide (grades 9–12) seriously considered suicide in the past year. [5]
- Each episode of LGBT victimization, such as physical or verbal harassment or abuse, increases the likelihood of self-harming behavior by 2.5 times on average.<sup>6</sup>

#### SOURCES:

[1] CDC, NCIPC. *Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. (2010) {2013 Aug. 1}. Available from:www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars.*

[2] CDC. (2016). *Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Risk Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9-12: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*

[3] James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016). *The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality.*

[4] Family Acceptance Project™. (2009). *Family rejection as a predictor of negative health outcomes in white and Latino lesbian, gay, and bisexual young adults. Pediatrics. 123(1), 346-52.*

[5] CDC. (2016). *Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Risk Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9-12: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*

[6] IMPACT. (2010). *Mental health disorders, psychological distress, and suicidality in a diverse sample of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youths. American Journal of Public Health. 100(12), 2426-32.*