

For more information or to discuss professional development and youth organizing activities for your school, please contact: The Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, Shannon Sullivan, 312/368.9070 x12, ssullivan@mhai.org

**Chicago Public High Schools
Differential Risk Factors for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Identified Students
2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results**

The Chicago Public Schools Youth Risk Behavior Survey (CPS YRBS) is conducted every two years by the Chicago Public Schools Department of Specialized Services in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The survey monitors behaviors of high school students that are related to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among youth and adults in the United States.

The 2005 CPS YRBS was conducted in 22 randomly selected public high schools. In total 941 students in grades 9-12 participated in this voluntary and anonymous survey. Because of the high student and school response rates, the results of this survey can be generalized to apply to public high school students across the city of Chicago. The sample consisted of equal numbers of females (52.5%) and males (47.3%) The sample was predominantly African-American/Black (52.6%) and Latino (26.8%) with the remainder of the students identifying as White (9.5%), Asian (3.2%) and other (7.9%).

Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Students

The CYRBS found that:

- 4.2 percent of students surveyed described themselves as lesbian, gay, or bisexual.
- 2.5 percent reported that they were unsure of their sexual orientation
- 8.8 percent of students surveyed described themselves as lesbian, gay, or bisexual and/or reported same-sex sexual contact.

Within the students who identified as LGB, the sample was comprised of slightly more males (53.4%) than females (41.4%), with 5% of the students not identifying a gender. The sample was predominantly African-American/Black (39.4%) and Latino (30.3%) with the remainder of the students identifying as White (15.2%), Asian (3.0%) and other (12.1%).

Differential Risk Factors for LGB Youth

While students identifying as lesbian, gay, or bisexual did **not** differ from other student on a number of factors including being in a physical fight in the past month on or off school property, carrying a gun, or use of marijuana, they were significantly more likely than their peers to report having been threatened at school, being injured in a physical fight, depression, suicide attempts, and drug use. They were not more likely, however, to report early onset of alcohol or drug use suggesting that these become risk factors for LGB identified students during adolescence.

When compared to other students, lesbian, gay, and bisexual students were:

- Two times more like to **be threatened at school**
- Two to four times more likely to **report being treated for an injury resulting from a fight**
- Two to four times more likely to **report being the victim of sexual assault**
- Three to four times more likely to report **attempting suicide in the past year**

	Lesbian or Gay	Bisexual	Heterosexual
being threatened at school	16.7	20	8.1
Being treated for an injury resulting from a physical fight	23.1	10.5	4.2
sexual assault	16.7	36.8	8
depression	53.8	57.9	27.8
Making a suicide plan	33.3	35	9.7
attempted suicide	27.3	33.3	7.5

*All differences between LGB students and other students are statistically significant at $p < .05$.