Sexual Minority Youth in Wisconsin: Reported Health Behaviors and Protective Factors, 2007-2011
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ABSTRACT
We used data from the 2007, 2009, and 2011 high school Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) to identify health behaviors and protective factors among sexual minority youth in Wisconsin. We narrowed our analysis to the health focus areas identified in the state health plan, Healthiest Wisconsin 2020. Significant disparities exist between sexual minority youth and sexual majority youth for all health focus areas. Improving protective factors is one way to potentially reduce risk behaviors.

METHODS
► We combined three years of data (2007, 2009, 2011, N=7,571) to look at risk behaviors for youth with same-sex sexual contact
► Only youth who reported sexual contact (N=4,288) were included in the combined 2007-2011 analysis
► All youth (N=2,707) were included in the 2011 sexual identity analysis
► We used SAS 9.2 to create weighted frequencies and adjusted odds ratios comparing behaviors among sexual minority youth to sexual majority youth controlling for grade in school and sex

RESULTS
10%* of sexually active high school students in WI report same-sex sexual contact
9%** of high school students in WI identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or unsure

Students with same-sex sexual contact have...
5 times greater odds of attempting suicide and getting injured in a fight
4 times greater odds of having sex before the age of 13
3 times greater odds of skipping school because they feel unsafe
2 times greater odds of using marijuana or smoking cigarettes
½ the odds of feeling they belong at school

*13% and **15% in Milwaukee

What is Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 (HW2020)?
A ten-year state health plan with two goals:
1. To improve health across the lifespan
2. To reduce health disparities among:
   - Racial and ethnic minorities
   - People with disabilities
   - People of low socio-economic status
   - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals

For more information, see http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hw2020

Recommendations:
► Schools, families, and communities should address stigma, discrimination, family disapproval, social rejection, and violence that many sexual minority youth face
► Agencies and schools should adopt policies and practices to create a safe and supportive environment for sexual minority youth (e.g., Gay-Straight Alliance, Safe Zones, comprehensive bullying/harassment policy, and LGBT library resources)
► Staff at schools and community agencies should be trained so they understand the needs and concerns of sexual minority youth and can implement effective programs and services
   Source: http://www.cdc.gov/Features/SexualMinorityYouth/

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For more information, see http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lgbthealth or contact anneke.mohr@dhs.wisconsin.gov

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