The Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Sexual Minority Youth in Wisconsin 2007-2011

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Overview

1. National and state climate
2. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
3. Sexual minority demographics
4. Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 (HW2020)
5. Data by HW2020 health focus area
6. Implications
7. Questions
Acknowledgments

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Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey Analysis Team
1. NATIONAL AND STATE CLIMATE
Suicides on the rise among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) youth

Bullying contributes to suicides

Celebrities offer support to LGBTQ youth

Institute of Medicine (IOM) report recommends increased data collection to address **incomplete information on LGBT health**
IOM LGBT Research Agenda

5 priority research areas

Figure 1: Research Agenda

- Minority Stress
- Life Course
- Intersectionality
- Social Ecology
- Priority Research Areas
  - Demographic Research
  - Social Influences
  - Health Care Inequities
  - Intervention Research
  - Transgender-specific Health Needs

Frameworks for understanding LGBT health disparities

More complete understanding of LGBT health

IOM Frameworks for Understanding

» the *minority stress model* calls attention to the chronic stress that sexual and gender minorities may experience as a result of their stigmatization

» the *life course perspective* looks at how events at each stage of life influence subsequent stages

» the *intersectionality perspective* examines an individual’s multiple identities and the ways in which they interact

» the *social ecology perspective* emphasizes that individuals are surrounded by spheres of influence, including families, communities, and society

*Source: Institute of Medicine (2011). The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People*

IOM Recommendations

“Data on sexual and gender minorities should be included in the battery of demographic information that is collected in federally funded surveys, in the same way that race and ethnicity data are collected.”

“…should be collected in electronic health records”

“…questions about sexual orientation and gender identity on federally funded surveys should be standardized”

“NIH [National Institutes of Health] should support…innovative ways to conduct research with small populations”

“NIH [should] encourage researchers to include sexual and gender minorities explicitly in their samples, using the NIH policy on the inclusion of women and racial and ethnic minorities in clinical research as a model”

State Climate

reports that as of 2012,

— **1 in 3** (140) Wisconsin high schools had a Gay-Straight Alliance

The *Wisconsin Research Brief* based on GLSEN’s 2009 National School Climate Survey found that:

— **55%** of schools had LGBT library resources

— **24%** had comprehensive bullying/harassment policy

— **18%** had inclusive curriculum

“Students attending schools with these resources and supports report lower victimization and absenteeism and higher academic achievement”

Source: Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)
2. YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS) AND LGBT DATA COLLECTION
Youth Risk Behavior Survey

• Coordinated every other year by
  – Administered at state & local levels
  – Middle and high schools participate
  – Core set of questions asked by all states
  – States can add optional questions to identify sexual minorities

• In 2011 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released

  Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Risk Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9-12 – Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, Selected Sites, United States, 2001-2009
  http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss60e0606a1.htm
“Sexual Minority” an umbrella term for…

1. Behavior
   •  *Men who have sex with men (MSM), women who have sex with women (WSW)*

2. Attraction
   •  *Attracted to same-sex or both sexes*

3. Sexual identity
   •  *Lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, or questioning (LGBQ)*

4. Gender identity
   •  *Transgender* (Born male, identify as female or born female, identify as male)
   •  *Genderqueer* (Identify as neither female nor male)

**During your life, with whom have you had sexual contact?**

1. I have never had sexual contact
2. Females
3. Males
4. Females and males

**Which of the following best describes you?**

1. Heterosexual (straight)
2. Gay or lesbian
3. Bisexual
4. Not sure

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
# Sexual Minority Questions

## Wisconsin High School YRBS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sexual Minority item(s) asked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Behavior + Sexual identity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Gender identity not currently asked in any state
- Adding sexual minority questions was a collective effort between Diverse & Resilient, Inc., DPI, and DHS
2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Sexual Minority Questions in 15 States, 10 Districts

YRBS asks about:

- LGB identity (1 SEAs, 1 LEA)
- Same-sex sexual behavior (4 SEA, 1 LEA)
- Both behavior and identity (10 SEAs, 8 LEAs)

SEA – State Education Agency   LEA – Local Education Agency

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3. SEXUAL MINORITY DEMOGRAPHICS IN THE YRBS
Sexually-active students with same-sex contact, Wisconsin YRBS, 2007-2011
N=4,288

Opposite-sex contact only 90.1%

Same-sex contact* 9.9%

2007-2011

Same-sex contact by year
2007: 8.6% (111/1292)
2009: 9.9% (138,1393)
2011: 11.1% (177/1599)
2007-2011: 9.9% (428/4288)

Same-sex contact by race/ethnicity
White: 8% (253/3,045)
Asian: 10% (14/126)
Hispanic/Latino: 11% (16/145)
African American: 12% (53/426)
Multi-racial: 17% (73/433)
American Indian: 23% (11/47)

Note: 4,288 / 7,571 (60%) of students from combined 2007-2011 surveys were sexually active

*Students with same-sex contact may also have had opposite-sex contact.
Source: Wisconsin YRBS
Sexually-active students with same-sex contact, Milwaukee YRBS, 2007-2011
N = 3,708

Note: 3,708 / 5,418 (69%) of students from combined 2007-2011 surveys were sexually active

* Students with same-sex contact may also have had opposite-sex contact.
Source: Milwaukee YRBS
Sexual orientation, Wisconsin YRBS, 2011
N=2,707

8.6% identify as LGB or unsure

LGB or unsure identity by race/ethnicity
- White: 7% (116/1,716)
- Asian: 7% (9/133)
- African American: 10% (33/328)
- Hispanic/Latino: 12% (18/155)
- Multi-racial: 15% (48/313)
- American Indian: 28% (7/25)

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
Sexual orientation, Milwaukee YRBS, 2011
N = 1,823

- Heterosexual: 85%
- Bisexual: 9%
- Lesbian/Gay: 3%
- Not sure: 3%

15% identify as LGB or unsure

Source: Milwaukee YRBS
4. HEALTHIEST WISCONSIN 2020
Ten year plan with two major goals:
1. Improve health across the lifespan
2. Reduce disparities

12 Health Focus Areas*:
1. Alcohol and Drug Use
2. Injury and Violence Prevention
3. Mental Health
4. Nutrition and Healthy Foods
5. Physical Activity
6. Reproductive and Sexual Health
7. Tobacco Use and Exposure
8. Chronic Disease Prevention and Management
9. Communicable Disease
10. Environmental and Occupational Health
11. Healthy Growth and Development
12. Oral Health

*The YRBS asks questions related to the 7 bolded items

Healthiest Wisconsin 2020

Priority population groups

- Race and ethnicity
- Sexual orientation and gender identity
- Socioeconomic status
- Disability status
- Geography
5. SEXUAL MINORITY DATA BY HW2020 HEALTH FOCUS AREA

1. Alcohol and Drug Use
2. Injury and Violence
3. Mental Health
4. Nutrition and Healthy Foods
5. Physical Activity
6. Reproductive and Sexual Health
7. Tobacco Use

*Protective Factors
*Academic Achievement
Methods

Software: SAS 9.2

Sample: 2007-2011 - Behavior - Students who report sexual contact (N=4,288)
2011 - Identity - All students (N=2,707)

Analysis: 1) Weighted percent
- Accounts for sampling so results can be generalized to all high school students in WI

2) Adjusted Odds Ratio (OR)
- Reference group (the majority) has an odds ratio of 1
  2007-2011 – Opposite-sex sexual contact only (heterosexual behavior)
  2011 – Heterosexual-identified (heterosexual identity)
- The further from 1 the odds ratio for sexual minority, the greater the disparity

- We controlled for any difference that might occur related to grade in school and sex (male or female) for an adjusted odds ratio.

- An odds ratio of less than 1 means the item is less likely for sexual minorities
- For risk behavior questions, odds ratios greater than 1 indicate greater risk
- For protective factor questions, odds ratios less than 1 indicate greater risk
1. Alcohol and Drug Use

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
1. Alcohol and Drug Use

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
2. Injury & Violence

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI*

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
2. Injury & Violence

Figure 4. Adjusted odds ratios of school safety among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

- Skip school, unsafe*: 2.7
- Threatened or injured with weapon*: 3.0
- In fight, injured*: 4.9
- Hit, kicked, punched*: 2.0
- Rarely/never safe from harm*: 1.9

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS

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Figure 5. Sexual and relationship violence among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
2. Injury & Violence

*Figure 6. Adjusted odds ratios of intimate partner violence among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011*

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI*

Source: Wisconsin YRBS

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Figure 7. Depression and suicide risk among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
3. Mental Health

Figure 8. Adjusted odds ratios of depression and suicide risk among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
4. Nutrition

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
4. Nutrition

Figure 10. Adjusted odds ratios of nutrition and obesity among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
5. Physical activity

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Figure 11. Physical activity among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

**Source:** Wisconsin YRBS
5. Physical Activity

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
6. Reproductive and Sexual Health

Figure 13. Sexual risk behaviors among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
6. Reproductive and Sexual Health

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
7. Tobacco Use

Figure 15. Tobacco use among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
7. Tobacco Use

Figure 16. Adjusted odds ratio of alcohol and drug use among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
Figure 17. Protective factors among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
Protective Factors

Figure 18. Adjusted odds ratio of support and belonging among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS

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**Academic Achievement**

*Figure 19.* Academic achievement among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Figure 20.* Adjusted odds ratios of academic achievement among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

- Earn mostly A's and B's: 58% for same-sex youth, 67% for opposite-sex youth
- Adjusted Odds Ratio: 0.6 for same-sex youth

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI*

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
Early initiation of risk

Figure 21. Risk behaviors before age 13 among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
Sexual Identity findings, 2011

Figure 22. Mental health among students who identify as LGB or unsure vs. heterosexual, 2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with LG, B, or unsure and heterosexual identity with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
Figure 23. Adjusted odds ratios of mental health among students who identify as LGB or unsure vs. heterosexual, 2011

*Statistically significant difference between students with LG, B, or unsure and heterosexual identity with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS
**School Safety and Bullying**

*Figure 16. School safety and bullying among same-sex and LGB students, 2011*

*Statistically significant difference between students with lesbian, gay, or bisexual and heterosexual identity with 95% CI*

*Source: Wisconsin YRBS*
Key Findings

10% of sexually-active students statewide report same-sex contact (13% in MKE)
9% of all students statewide identified as L,G,B or unsure in 2011 (15% in MKE)

Same-sex youth had...

5 times the odds of attempting suicide and being injured in a fight
4 times the odds of having sex before the age of 13
3 times the odds of skipping school because they feel unsafe
2 times the odds of smoking cigarettes
½ the odds of feeling they belong at school
6. IMPLICATIONS
Implications

1. Significant disparities exist for sexual minority youth both by behavior and identity

2. School violence, mental health, and suicide risk among sexual minority youth must be addressed

3. Protective factors should also be addressed
Recommendations

Schools, families, and communities
 ► Address stigma, discrimination, family disapproval, social rejection, and violence

Agencies and schools
 ► Adopt policies and practices to create a safe and supportive environment
   ► Gay-Straight Alliance
   ► Safe Zones
   ► Comprehensive bullying/harassment policy
   ► LGBT library resources

Staff at schools and community agencies
 ► Undergo training so they understand the needs and can implement effective programs/services

Source: http://www.cdc.gov/Features/SexualMinorityYouth/
Existing Resources

www.gsafewi.org/

www.diverseandresilient.org

Rainbow Alliance for Healthy Youth
Program of Diverse & Resilient that works with youth leaders throughout the state

www.journey2accept.org/

http://community.pflag.org
For More Information

Wisconsin DHS LGBT Health website
– www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lgbthealth

Wisconsin DPI LGBT website

CDC Sexual Minority Youth website
– www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/disparities/smy.htm

CDC LGBT Youth Resources
– www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth-resources.htm

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7. QUESTIONS?

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