

## Health and Safety of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Youth (LGB) in California Public Schools

<i>Data are drawn from responses from students in 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades taking the California Health Kids Survey (CHKS)</i>	2013-2015 California		2015-2017 California		2017-2019 California		2019-2021 California	
	LGB	Non-LGB	LGB	Non-LGB	LGB	Non-LGB	LGB	Non-LGB
	5.0%	95.0%	6.9%	93.1%	7.2%	92.8%	8.8%	91.2%
<b>Attendance</b>								
How many times did you skip school or cut class in the past 12 months? (more than once a week)	7.0%	2.5%	7.8%	2.6%	4.7%	2.1%	4.7%	2.1%
Missed school because you felt very, sad, hopeless, anxious, stressed, angry? (past 30 days)	35.9%	10.9%	27.9%	8.4%	20.3%	6.2%	22.3%	8.8%
Missed school because you didn't feel safe at school? (past 30 days)	7.3%	1.1%	6.7%	1.7%	16.5%	7.1%	1.8%	0.7%
<b>Safety</b>								
How safe do you feel when you are at school? (unsafe or very unsafe)	15.9%	4.9%	15.5%	6.4%	14.6%	8.0%	12.4%	6.9%
Have you been in a physical fight? (past 12 months)	22.2%	9.7%	19.5%	11.1%	15.5%	11.3%	13.2%	10.5%
Have you carried a gun at school? (past 12 months)	5.6%	1.6%	8.3%	2.1%	4.0%	1.7%	2.7%	1.6%
Did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?(past 12 months)	50.0%	16.7%	45.5%	13.5%	44.7%	14.1%	42.2%	12.1%
Did you ever feel sad or hopeless almost everyday for two weeks or more that you stopped doing some usual activities?(past 12 months)	61.4%	28.2%	61.5%	26.2%	65.1%	29.7%	69.8%	33.2%
<b>Bullying and harassment</b>								
<b>In the past 12 months on school property have you...</b>								
• Been pushed, shoved, slapped, hit, kicked by someone 1 or more times	30.8%	20.9%	31.9%	20.9%	28.2%	20.4%	24.7%	18.3%
• Been afraid of being beaten up?	24.4%	12.5%	27.0%	12.8%	25.6%	13.5%	25.3%	13.6%
• Had rumors/lies spread about you?	54.9%	37.5%	51.5%	33.0%	49.5%	32.7%	44.4%	29.5%
• Had sexual jokes, comments, or gestures made to you?	58.8%	36.1%	54.3%	28.4%	49.8%	26.5%	46.1%	23.1%
• Been made fun of because of your looks or way you talked?	49.8%	31.6%	50.0%	29.5%	47.5%	28.8%	44.7%	26.6%
• Been threatened with harm or injury?	25.2%	10.0%	20.8%	8.5%	16.4%	7.9%	14.8%	7.2%

• Been made fun of, insulted, or called names?	55.4%	39.3%	52.3%	33.2%	48.2%	30.2%	45.0%	27.3%
• Were harassed or bullied for your race, ethnicity, or national origin?	19.3%	12.8%	24.6%	14.2%	21.1%	13.5%	18.3%	12.0%
• Were harassed or bullied for your religion?	14.7%	8.8%	15.1%	7.0%	10.3%	6.2%	8.3%	5.4%
• Were harassed or bullied for your gender?	22.0%	6.7%	25.8%	7.1%	21.4%	6.4%	19.3%	5.0%
• Were harassed or bullied because you are gay or lesbian or somebody thought you were?	47.2%	5.9%	43.1%	5.9%	42.5%	6.3%	39.6%	5.3%
• Were harassed or bullied because physical or mental disability?	13.7%	4.0%	16.7%	3.8%	13.8%	4.0%	12.9%	4.0%
• Were harassed or bullied for any other reason?	36.1%	20.6%	35.4%	16.8%	33.2%	16.8%	29.1%	14.5%

	2013-2015 California		2015-2017 California		2017-2019 California		2019-2021 California	
	LGB	Non-LGB	LGB	Non-LGB	LGB	Non-LGB	LGB	Non-LGB
<b>Protective Factors</b> % responding “disagree” or “strongly disagree”								
I feel close to people in this school.	19.4%	10.3%	23.3%	13.1%	21.8%	13.5%	22.4%	14.0%
I am happy to be at this school.	28.3%	11.9%	24.8%	13.6%	24.7%	14.9%	22.9%	14.4%
I feel like I am part of this school.	26.2%	13.7%	28.8%	15.7%	28.0%	16.6%	27.0%	16.2%
Teachers at this school treat students fairly.	17.9%	13.3%	24.3%	16.7%	20.8%	16.1%	17.8%	14.4%
I feel safe at my school.	18.4%	10.2%	20.7%	11.2%	20.9%	12.6%	18.8%	11.4%
I do interesting activities at my school.	21.2%	13.2%	25.5%	17.3%	23.3%	18.3%	22.7%	17.9%
I do things that make a difference at school.	40.1%	25.2%	39.2%	28.6%	39.7%	31.3%	41.4%	32.3%
<b>Caring relationship</b> % responding “not at all true” to: At my school there is a teacher or some other adult								
...who really cares about me.	16.5%	9.2%	17.7%	11.2%	14.4%	11.3%	14.7%	11.6%
...who tells me when I do a good job.	15.9%	6.1%	15.5%	8.6%	13.3%	9.1%	12.5%	8.6%
...who notices when I am not there.	20.8%	11.8%	22.5%	13.8%	20.9%	14.4%	20.9%	14.4%
...who always wants me to do my best.	11.7%	4.0%	11.4%	5.7%	8.3%	5.5%	7.3%	5.2%
...who listens when I have something to say.	17.2%	7.1%	17.2%	9.6%	14.4%	9.6%	14.3%	9.2%
...who believes that I will be a success.	14.3%	8.1%	16.2%	8.5%	13.5%	8.8%	13.6%	8.8%

	2013-2015 California		2015-2017 California		2017-2019 California		2019-2021 California	
	LGB	Non-LGB	LGB	Non-LGB	LGB	Non-LGB	LGB	Non-LGB
<b>Lifetime Substance Use</b>								
Cigarettes	25.7%	8.6%	22.1%	7.3%	13.6%	4.9%	8.1%	3.2%
Tobacco	6.7%	3.6%	11.4%	4.1%	6.5%	3.2%	3.8%	2.3%
Alcohol	53.7%	29.1%	47.0%	25.2%	39.0%	22.0%	30.8%	17.1%
Marijuana	43.1%	19.7%	37.8%	17.5%	33.1%	16.5%	24.9%	12.5%
Inhalants	14.9%	4.9%	15.8%	4.7%	10.5%	3.8%	8.2%	3.3%
Cocaine/Methamphetamine	8.5%	3.0%	12.3%	3.9%	7.0%	3.0%	4.3%	2.1%
Ecstasy	12.6%	4.5%	14.8%	5.0%	9.7%	4.0%	7.9%	3.6%
Prescription Painkillers	25.4%	11.6%	23.6%	10.5%	15.5%	7.1%	9.6%	5.0%
Diet Pills	12.1%	5.0%	15.2%	5.6%	9.3%	4.2%	7.2%	3.5%
Ritalin or Adderall	9.5%	4.1%	14.1%	5.2%	9.6%	4.2%	7.5%	3.5%
Cold Medicine	45.8%	38.6%	38.0%	30.6%	13.8%	7.8%	11.3%	7.3%
Other Drug	18.7%	7.3%	26.8%	13.6%	10.8%	3.9%	7.4%	3.1%
<b>Past 30 Day Substance Use</b>								
Cigarettes	12.7%	3.4%	12.9%	3.4%	9.2%	3.1%	3.7%	1.4%
Tobacco	3.4%	1.5%	8.1%	2.0%	4.0%	1.5%	2.1%	1.1%
Alcohol (One Drink)	32.0%	15.5%	28.7%	13.7%	20.5%	9.9%	14.3%	8.9%
Alcohol (Five or More Drinks)	18.3%	7.9%	17.6%	6.9%	11.4%	5.1%	7.5%	4.0%
Marijuana	25.6%	10.2%	24.7%	9.7%	21.0%	9.6%	14.1%	6.6%
Inhalant	6.5%	1.7%	10.0%	2.3%	6.0%	1.9%	3.6%	1.5%
Prescription Painkillers	10.1%	3.4%	13.5%	4.4%	6.9%	2.6%	4.0%	1.7%
Other Drugs	8.8%	2.2%	11.8%	2.9%	6.9%	2.1%	4.0%	1.6%
Two or More Drugs	13.7%	5.4%	14.9%	5.4%	10.9%	4.4%	7.5%	3.5%

**California Participant Demographics 2013 - 2015, 2015 - 2017, and 2017 - 2019**

**2013 - 2015**

**N = 630,6780**

M = 48.1%

F = 51.9%

7<sup>th</sup> grade = 32.9%

9<sup>th</sup> grade = 35.2%

11<sup>th</sup> grade = 31.9%

Asian/Pacific Islander	8.2%
American Indian	1.0%
Black	3.0%
White	27.3%
Multiracial	11.1%
Hispanic/Latino	50.3%

**2015 - 2017**

**N= 1,043,714**

M = 50.6%

F = 49.4%

7<sup>th</sup> grade = 33.8%

9<sup>th</sup> grade = 33.7%

11<sup>th</sup> grade = 31.4%

Asian/Pacific Islander	14.0%
American Indian	4.3%
Black	5.6%
White	32.5%
Multiracial	43.6%
Hispanic/Latino	51.1%

**2017 - 2019**

**N= 1,089,343**

M = 50.5%

F = 49.5%

7<sup>th</sup> grade = 35.5%

9<sup>th</sup> grade = 33.5%

11<sup>th</sup> grade = 27.8%

Asian	12.3%
American Indian	4.1%
Black	4.9%
White	31.0%
Multiracial	45.9%
Hispanic/Latino	52.1%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	01.7%

**2019 - 2021**

**N= 911,449**

M = 49.4%

F = 49.0%

Non-binary = 2.1%

Something else = 1.3%

7<sup>th</sup> grade = 35.7%

9<sup>th</sup> grade = 28.6%

11<sup>th</sup> grade = 26.2%

Missing = 9.5%

Asian	14.3%
American Indian	4.1%
Black	5.1%
White	30.4%
Multiracial	44.4%
Hispanic/Latino	49.9%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	01.7%

Race/Ethnicity data are only for the 2019-2020 school year. Nonbinary data are for 2020-2021.

Administration of the 2019-2021 CHKS took place during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of this on survey responses has yet to be determined.

**Methods:** The data presented in this fact sheet were collected as part of the California Healthy Kids Survey in the 2013-2015, 2015-2017, 2017-2019 and 2019-2021 academic years at middle and high schools throughout California. The data were collected using a paper and pencil survey, or online survey, administered by school sites and reported to and compiled by WestEd. The data were analyzed running Chi-Square tests using SPSS statistical software.

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For **Further information** about this Fact Sheet, contact:

**John Elfers, PhD**  
[John.Elfers@sofia.edu](mailto:John.Elfers@sofia.edu)

**Katherine Soule**  
[kesoule@ucanr.edu](mailto:kesoule@ucanr.edu)



**Central Coast  
Coalition for  
Inclusive Schools**

**SOFIA**  
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