



Using Research to Support Gender Expansive Students

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STRENGTH IN NUMBERS
CONSULTING GROUP

Agenda

- Introductions
- Gender Expansive Youth and YRBSS Data
- GLSEN National Research
- Student Video Vignettes
- Data Collection and Advocacy
- Q&A



"The first order of business is to set a timetable to plan an outline for the agenda."

Introductions

We invite you to share your pronouns in this space.

The pronoun or set of pronouns that a person would like others to call them by, when their proper name is not being used.

Some examples include “she/her/hers” or “he/him/his” or gender-neutral pronouns, such as “ze/hir/hirs,” or “they/them/theirs”.
Some people prefer no pronouns at all.

Organizations

GLSEN

GLSEN is the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

GLSEN envisions a world in which every child learns to respect and accept all people.

Advocates for Youth

Advocates for Youth champions efforts that help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Advocates believes it can best serve the field by boldly advocating for a more positive and realistic approach to adolescent sexual health.

Advocates for Youth envisions a society that views sexuality as normal and healthy and treats young people as a valuable resource.

All Students Count Coalition

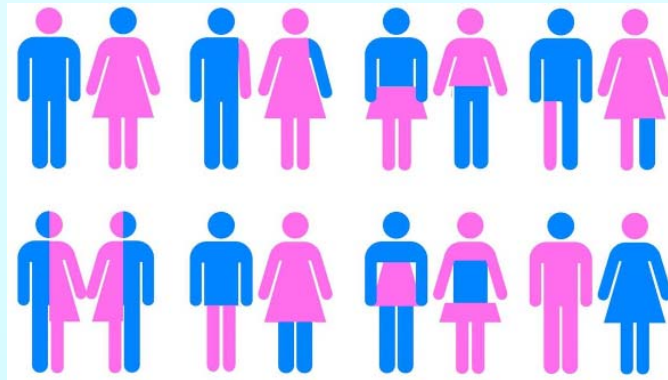
Membership

- Advocates for Youth
- GLSEN
- Center for American Progress
- Human Rights Campaign
- The Trevor Project
- PFLAG
- Other advocacy organizations

Vision

We believe by collecting data of young people's sexuality and gender, states and municipalities along with their community partners will be better able to meet the needs of LGBTQ youth in promoting health and academic success.

Gender Expression Data



Who Are Gender Expansive Youth?

- Youth whose gender expression does not fit traditional roles based on their assigned sex at birth.
 - Other terms include “gender diverse,” “gender nonconforming,” “nonbinary,” or “genderqueer.”
- Gender expansive young people experience disparate health risk behaviors compared to other young people.
 - Very limited population-based data for research.

What We Know

Gender nonconformity is associated with:

- Bullying and harassment
- Rejection by peers
- Poor relationships with parents
- Sexual harassment
- Abuse

This victimization has negative health consequences, including:

- Higher rates of drug and alcohol use
- Decreased educational outcomes
- Increased depression and suicidality
- Increased post-traumatic stress


YRBSS Background




- Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) or Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).
- National survey, administered by the CDC which takes place in 47 states, about 20 large school districts, and also territories.
- Looks at “risk behaviors” including drug and alcohol use, smoking, violence, bullying, suicidality, weight, inactivity, and nutrition.
- Consists of a “core” survey and optional question list.
- Each site determines what questions will be used.
- Two sexual orientation questions are part of the core survey.
- There is no approved question regarding trans youth.

YRBSS Gender Expression Question

Optional questions pertaining to sexual orientation for years, but there is a gap regarding gender minority youth.



All Students Count Coalition worked with CDC and researchers to identify appropriate questions for transgender and gender nonconforming youth.



GLSEN performed cognitive and pilot testing on relevant questions.

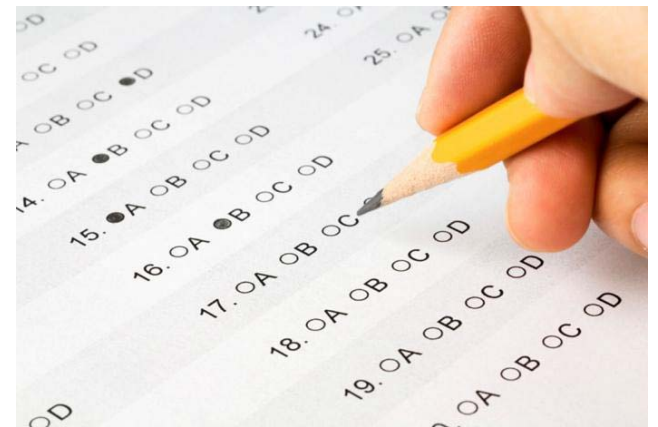


Based on testing and existing research, CDC approved the gender expression question in 2013.

YRBSS Gender Expression Question

A person's appearance, style, dress, or the way they walk or talk may affect how people describe them. How do you think other people at school would describe you?

- Very feminine
- Mostly feminine
- Somewhat feminine
- Equally feminine and masculine
- Somewhat masculine
- Mostly masculine
- Very masculine

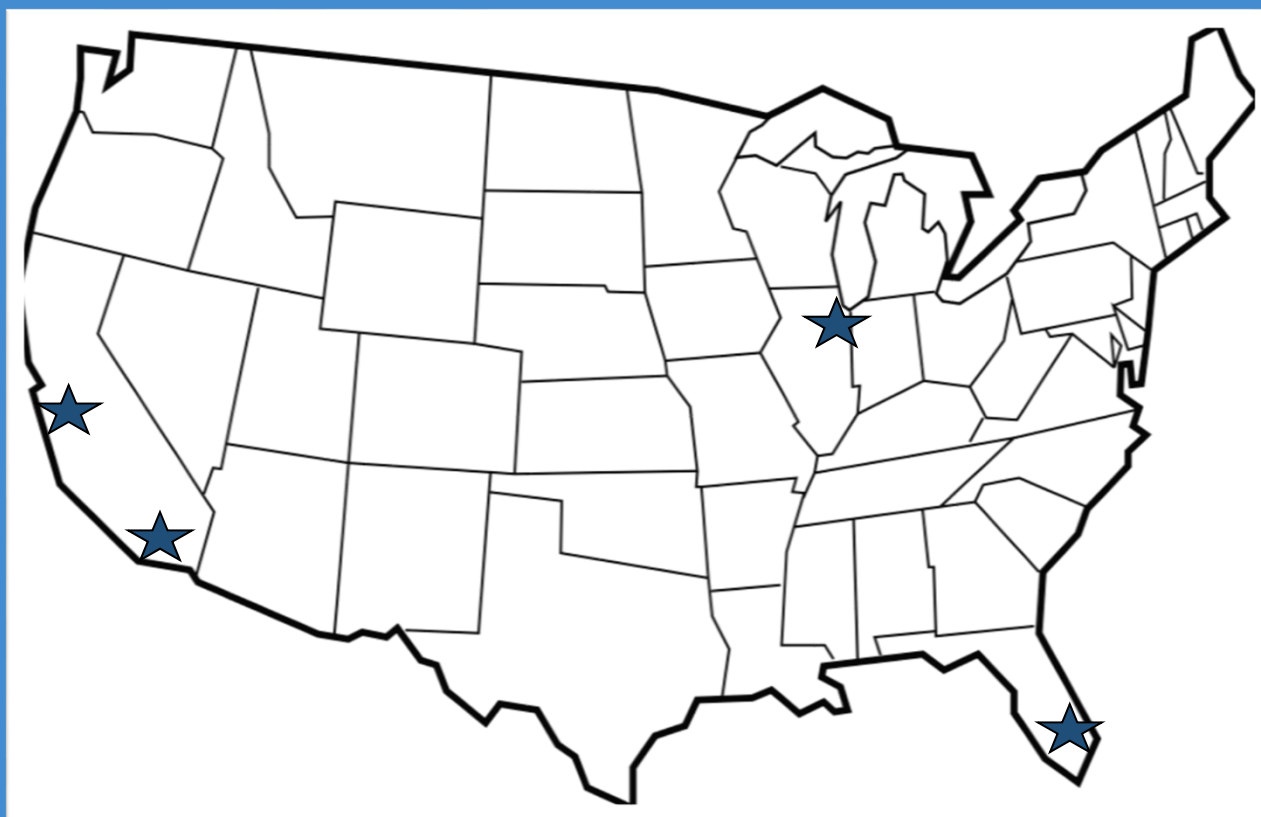


Socially Assigned Gender Expression Construct

The gender expression item looks at socially assigned gender expression, not internal self-perceptions.

- Victimization due to gender expression is due to how others perceive a person's gender.
- Good results based on cognitive and pilot testing.
- Analogous to similar questions about race sometimes used on population surveys.

YRBSS Gender Expression Question



- Available for use as an optional question in 2013 and 2015.
- Sites used:
 - Broward County, Florida
 - Chicago, Illinois
 - Los Angeles, California
 - San Diego, California
- Data has not been thoroughly analyzed until this new report.

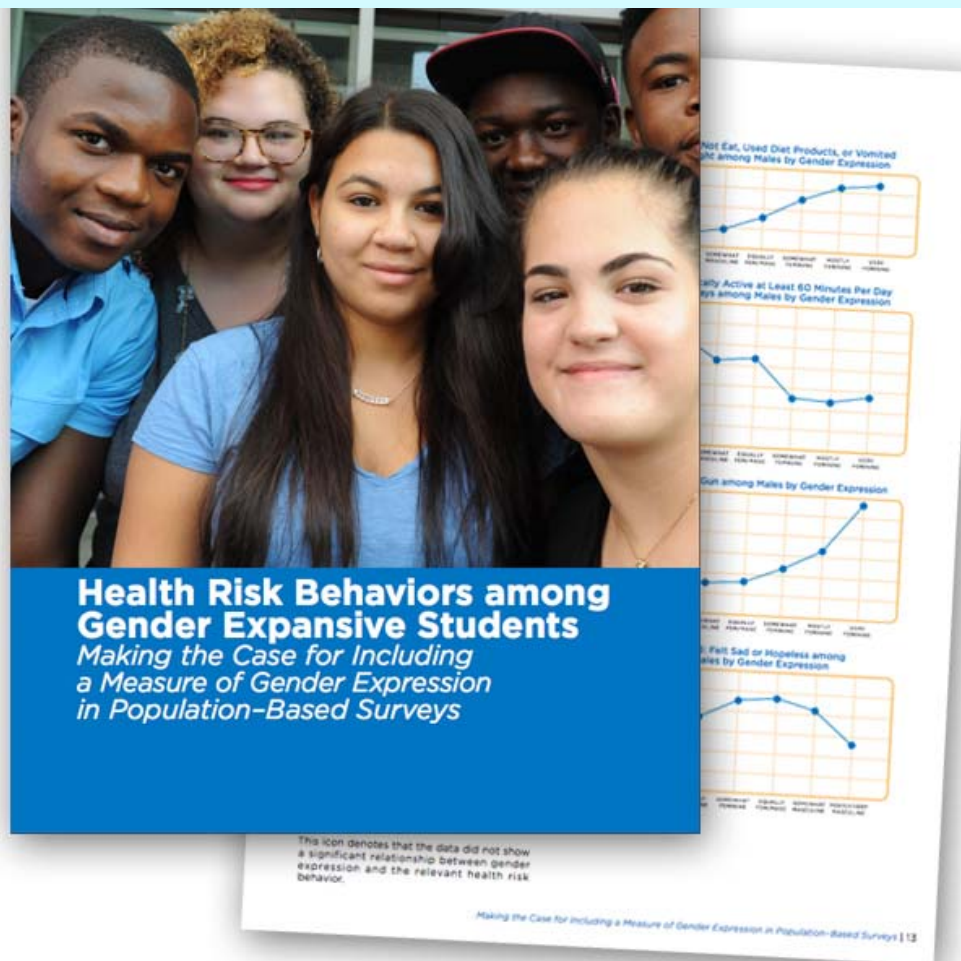
YRBSS & Transgender Youth

Why has a transgender inclusive question not been adopted?

- Very low prevalence, just 0.6% among adults. Not enough to produce report data for most YRBSS sites.
- Several questions have been used by various sites which have not performed well.
- Existing sex question on YRBSS limits options.

CDC has provided a ***non-approved, untested*** question to sites who desire to use a trans question.

New Report Released September 2016!



Available on Advocates for Youth's site:

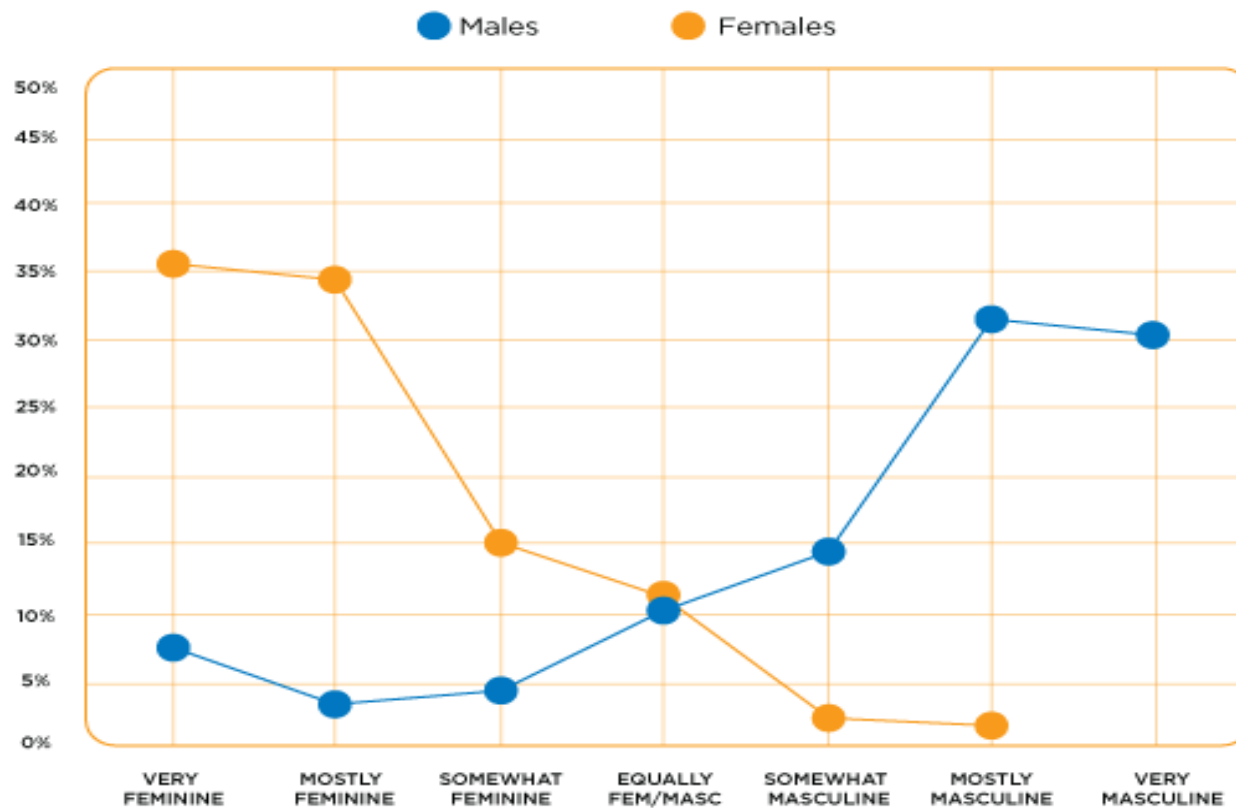
<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/publications-a-z/2686-genderexpressionyrbss>

Demographics of Combined Data Set

- Used available data from 2013 and 2015. Report combined six data sets with responses from over 9,000 students.
- Higher percentage of gender nonconforming males (14.3%) than females (3.7%). About 10% of males and females are in the middle of the range (“androgynous”).
- Racial Breakdown: Hispanic/Latino (24.6%), White (24.5%), Black (23.7%), or Asian/Pacific Islander (19.1%).
- Sexual minority students comprise 12.4% of the combined sample.

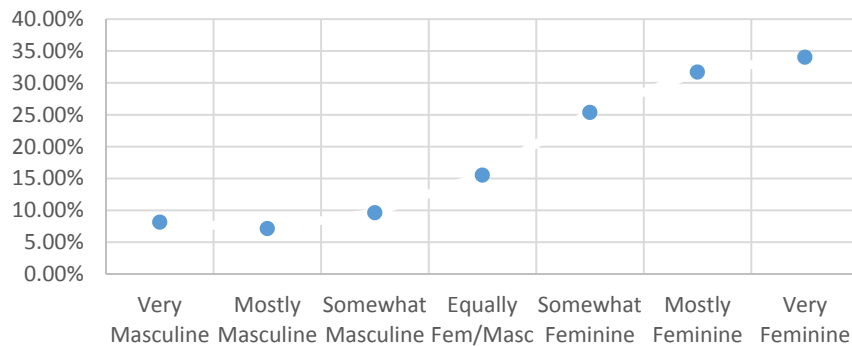
Gender Expression Among All Males and Females

Gender Expression Among All Males and Females

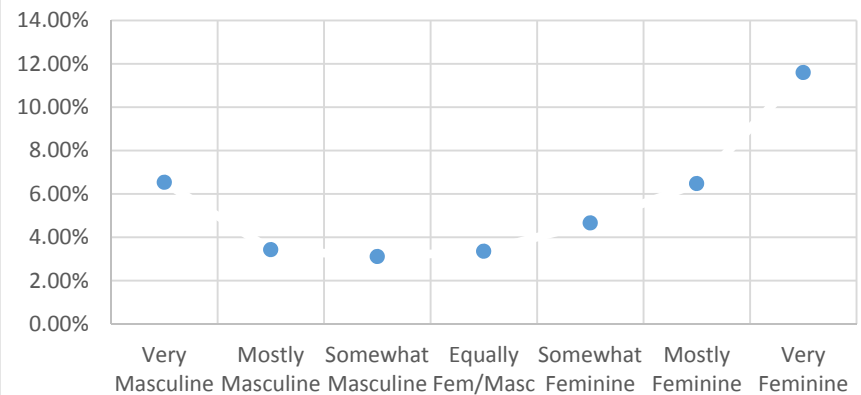


Example Associations by Gender Expression

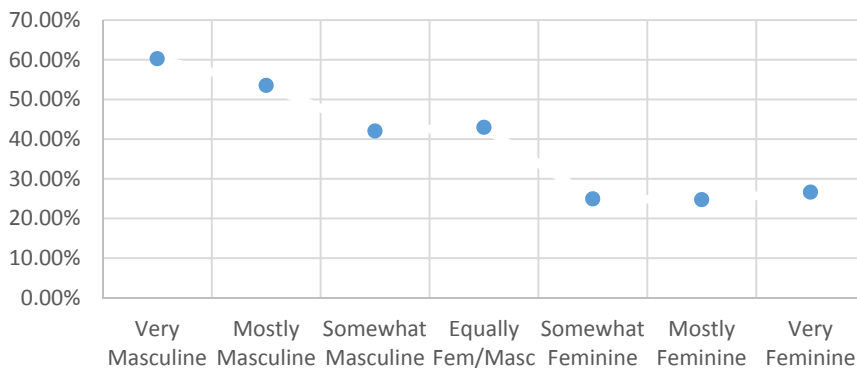
Did Not Eat, Used Diet Products or Vomited to Lose Weight among Males by Gender Expression



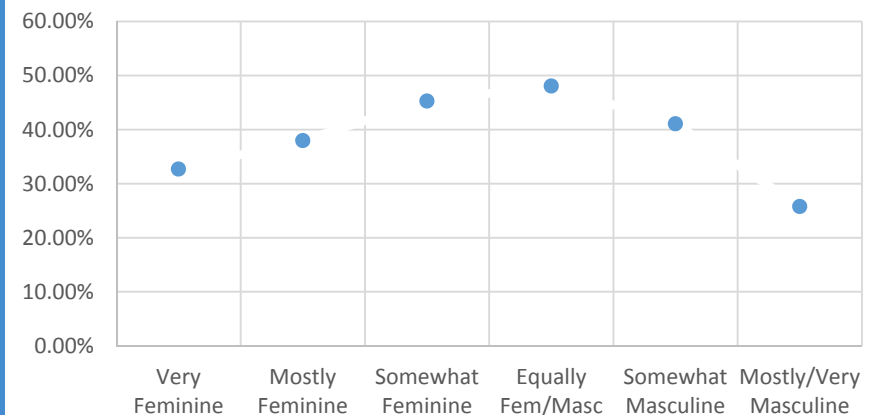
Carried a Gun among Males by Gender Expression



Physically Active at Least 60 Minutes Per Day on 5 or More Days among Males by Gender Expression

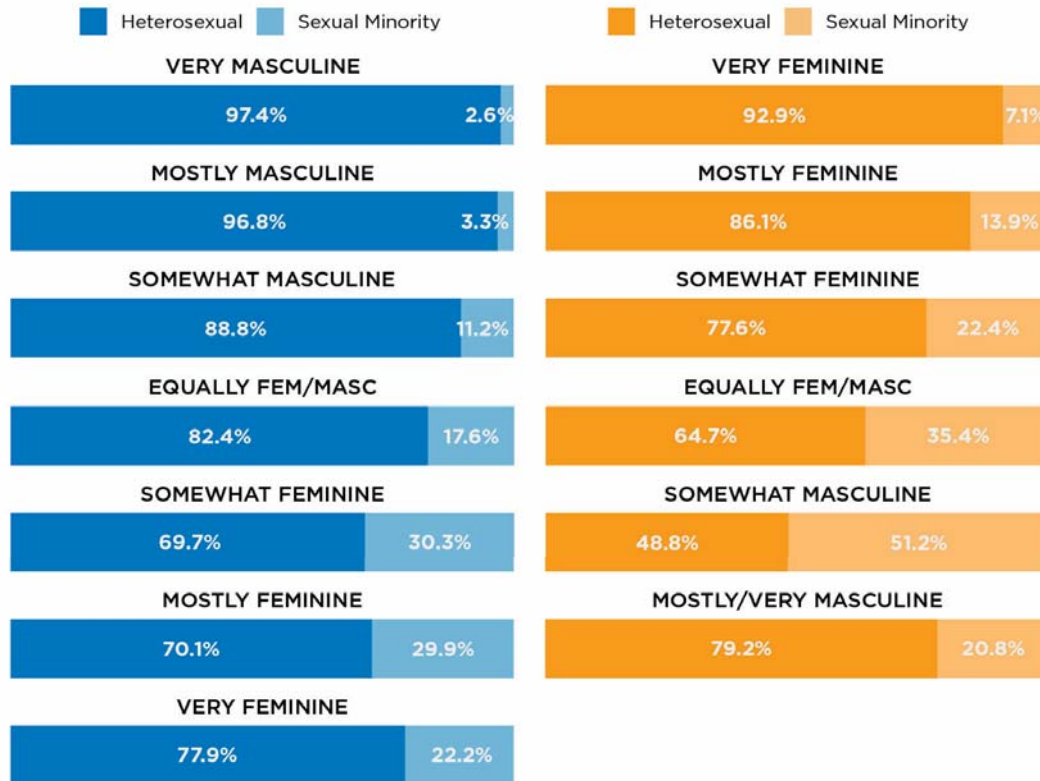


Felt Sad or Hopeless among Females by Gender Expression



Sexual Orientation and Gender Expression

Sexual Orientation by Gender Expression Among Males and Females



- Majority of gender expansive youth are heterosexual.
- Gender expression is a predictor of health risks independent of sex and sexual orientation.

Selected Stats for Feminine Males

Feminine Males are:

- 3X more likely to miss school because they feel unsafe
- 3X more likely to have been electronically bullied
- 3X more likely to attempt suicide
- 2X more likely to have had sexual intercourse before age 13
- 4X more likely to have used amphetamines
- 4X more likely to have been physically forced to have sexual intercourse

Compared to Masculine Males

Selected Stats for Masculine Females

Masculine Females are:

- 7X more likely to have carried a weapon on school property
- 4X more likely to have used heroin
- 4X more likely to have had sexual intercourse before age 13
- 2X more likely to have had sexual intercourse with four or more persons
- 4X more likely to have smoked at school
- 5X more likely to currently use smokeless tobacco

Compared to Feminine Females

Selected Stats for Androgynous Females

Androgynous Females are:

- 1.5X more likely to be physically forced to have sexual intercourse
- 1.5X more likely to seriously consider attempting suicide
- 1.5X more likely to conduct nonsuicide self-injury
- 2X more likely to have been electronically bullied
- 2X more likely to have had sexual intercourse before age 13

Compared to Feminine Females

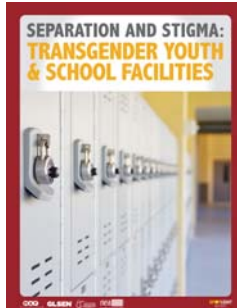
Key Takeaways



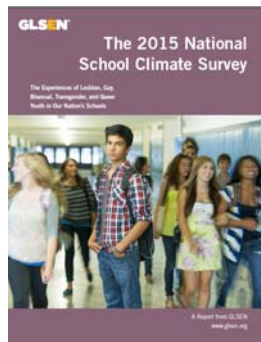
- We found no relationship between gender expression and age or race.
- While gender nonconformity is associated with sexual orientation, the majority of gender expansive students are heterosexual. Gender expression is predictor independent of sexual orientation.
- Gender expansive students are at higher risk for the majority of health risk behaviors analyzed, including bullying, drug use, and suicidality. Because of this, they are less likely than their peers to succeed academically.
- For some risk behaviors, androgynous students are at greater risk.

GLSEN National Research

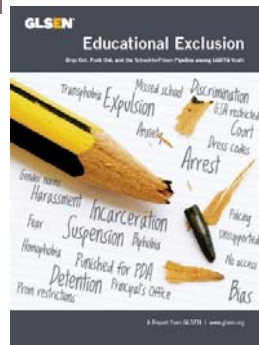
Research on LGBTQ Students Comes From . . .



- *Separation and Stigma: Transgender Youth and School Facilities*

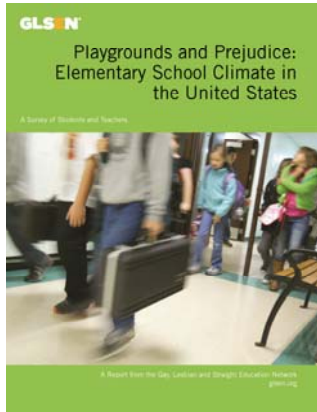


- *2015 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth in Our Nation's Schools*

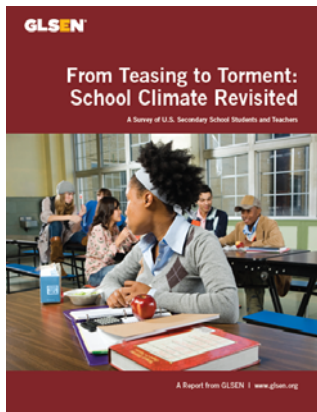


- *Educational Exclusion: The Experiences of Transgender Youth in Our Nation's Schools*

Research on General Population of Students and Teachers Comes From . . .

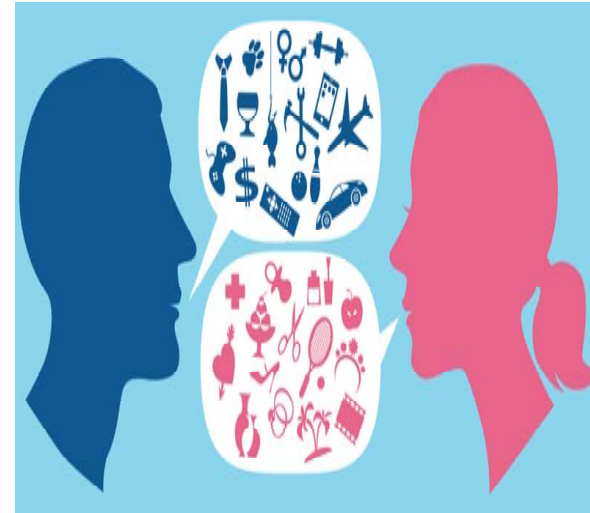
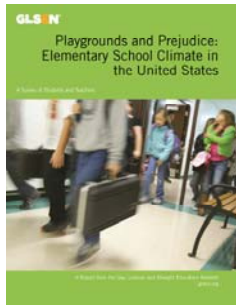


- *Playgrounds and Prejudice: Elementary School Climate in the United States*



- *From Teasing to Torment Revisited: A Survey of U.S. Secondary School Students and Teachers*

Remarks about Gender Stereotypes Are Frequently Heard



Students

Hear others make remarks about how boys should act or look (38%)

Hear others make remarks about how girls should act or look (33%)

Teachers

Hear comments about a male acting or looking “too feminine” (25%)

Hear comments about a female acting or looking “too masculine” (15%)

Compared to Other Students, Gender Nonconforming Students:

↑ Called names, made fun of or bullied

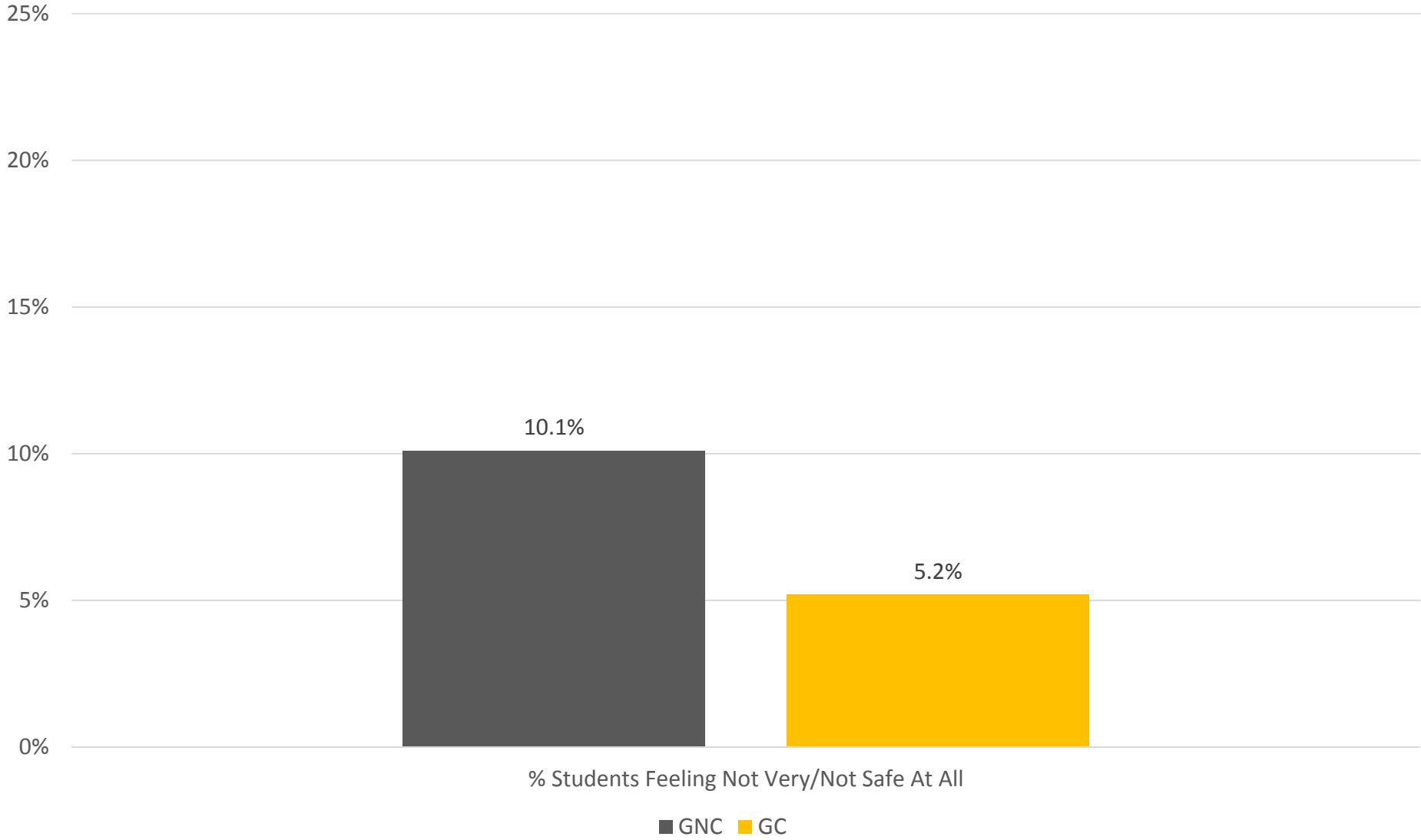
↑ Have mean rumors or lies spread about them

↓ Feel very safe at school

↑ Miss school for safety reasons



Student Safety

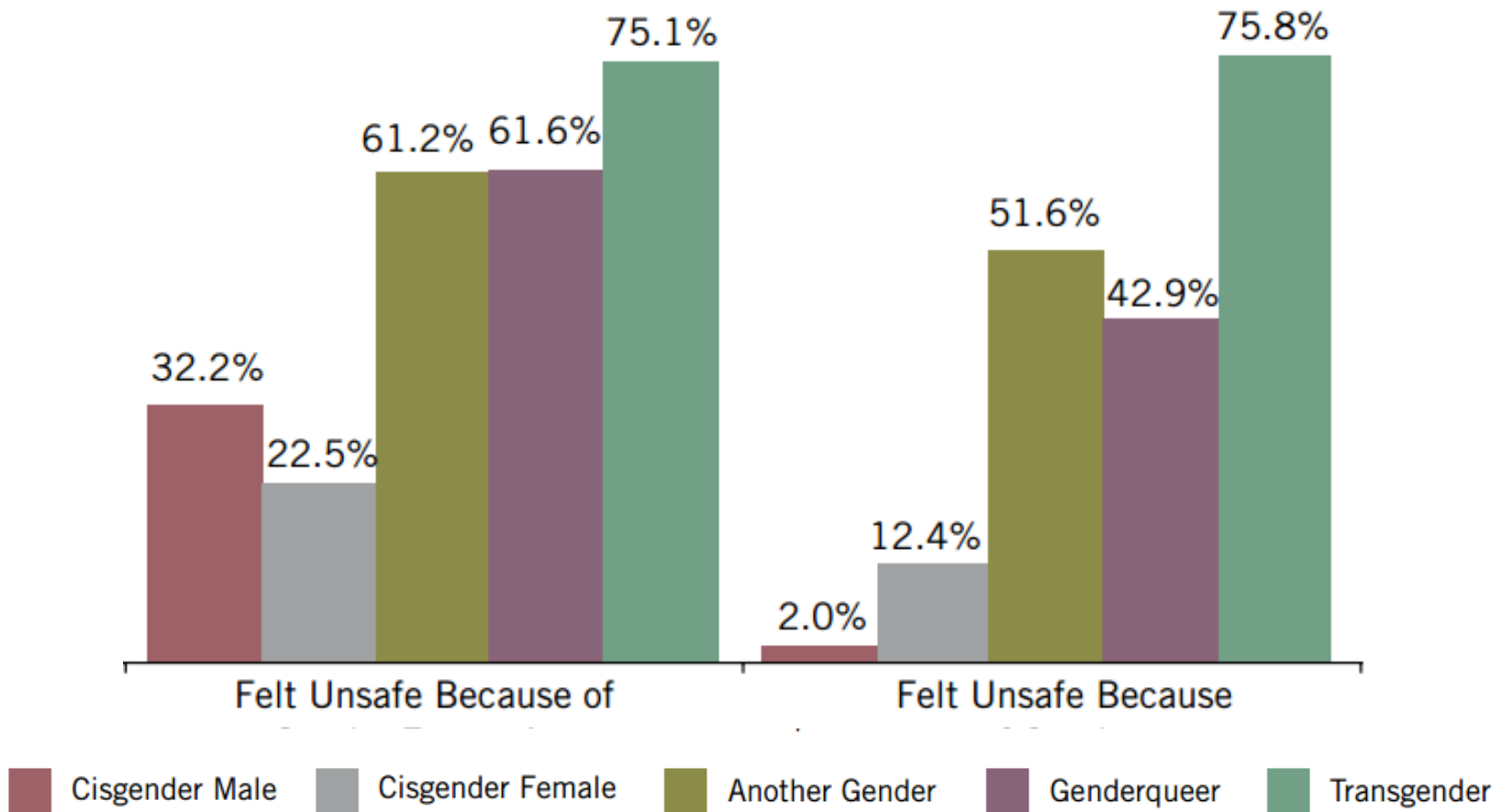



Educational Outcomes

	GNC	GC
% Students Missed At Least One Day of School	34.3%	15.9%
% Students Who Do Not Plan to Finish H.S.	3.1%	0.5%
% Students w/o Postsecondary Education Plans	12.6%	4.2%
% Students Who Experienced School Discipline	55.2%	45.9%

Gender and Student Safety

Feeling Unsafe at School by Gender Identity





School-based supports improve school climates for LGBTQ students.

Supportive
Student Clubs

Supportive
Educators

Comprehensive
Anti-bullying Policies

LGBT-inclusive
Curriculum

LEARN MORE: glsen.org/nsos

GLSEN's 2015 National School Climate Survey

GLSEN[®]

Student Video Vignettes

What LGBTQ Students Want You to Know



"I'm a 17-year-old Chicana lesbian and intersectional feminist living in Houston, Texas."



I use they/them pronouns and identify as genderfluid. I'm passionate about gender eradication and POC movements.



"I'm a 15-year-old transgender guy. I am asexual and panromantic, which means that I take the phrase 'hearts not parts' very literally."

- <https://www.facebook.com/GLSEN/videos/10154604851656016/>

Gender Terminology

GLSEN

GENDER TERMINOLOGY



GENDER ATTRIBUTION
HOW YOUR GENDER IS PERCEIVED BY OTHERS



SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH
WHAT THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY LABELS YOU



GENDER IDENTITY
HOW YOU IDENTIFY (SEE YOURSELF)



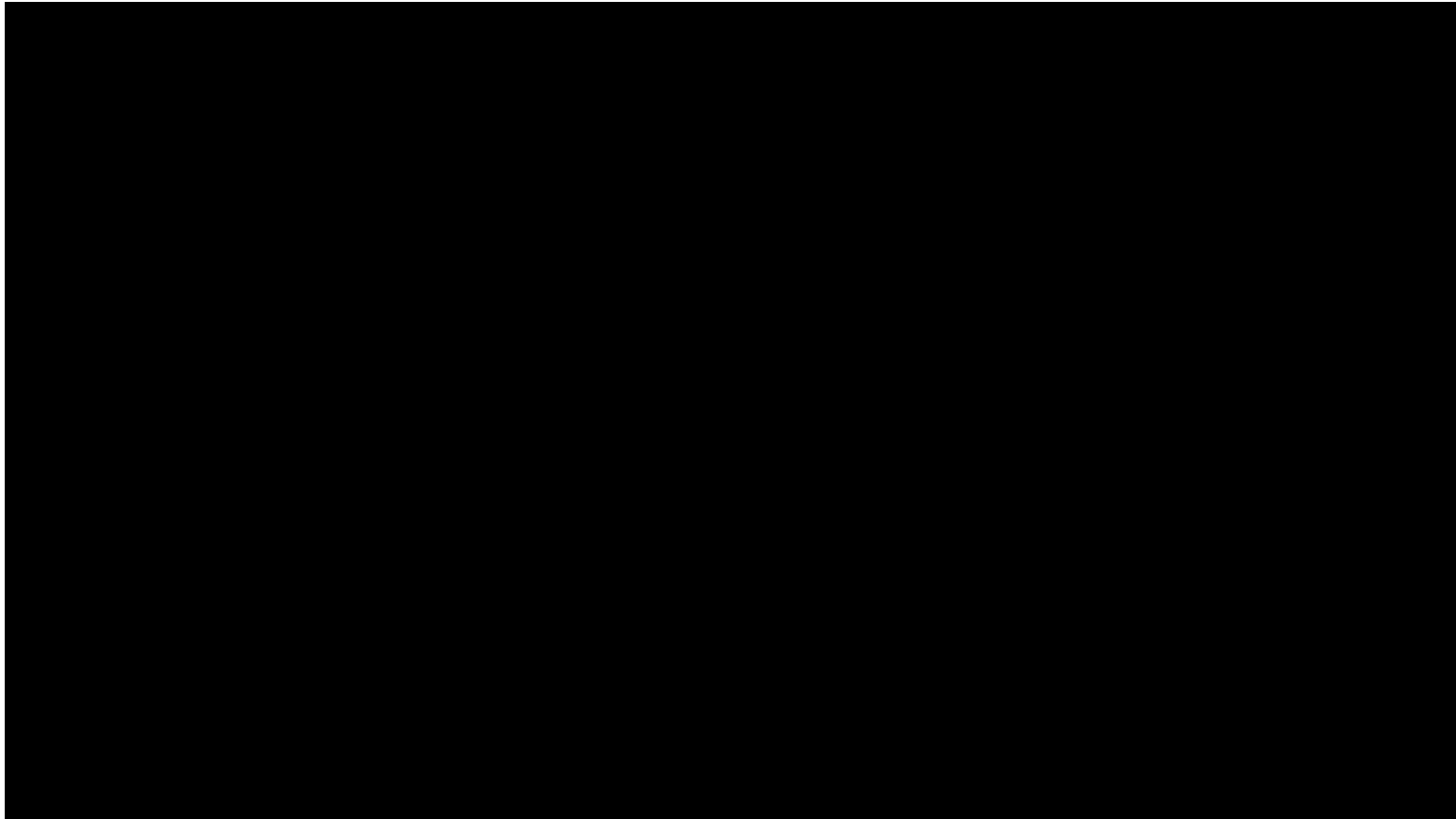
GENDER EXPRESSION
HOW YOU WANT TO DISPLAY YOUR GENDER

GLSEN Resources for Trans Students

glsen.org/students/tsr

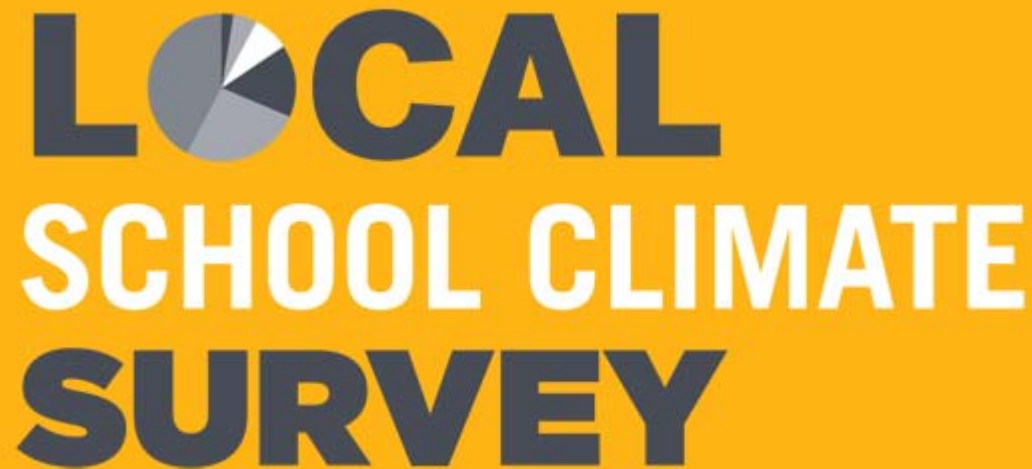
- [Pronouns: A Resource on Gender Neutral Language](#)
- [Be a Better Ally to Trans and GNC Youth](#)
- [Know Your Rights: A Guide for Transgender and GNC Students](#)
- Video on [genderfluidity](#) by one of GLSEN's National Student Council members
- [Blogs](#) on nonbinary identity and transgender binary-privilege, and by trans educators
- [Make your GSA more Trans and GNC Inclusive](#)
- Gender Visual and [Discussion Guide](#): Gender Studies are for Everyone!

What Does it Mean to be Genderfluid?



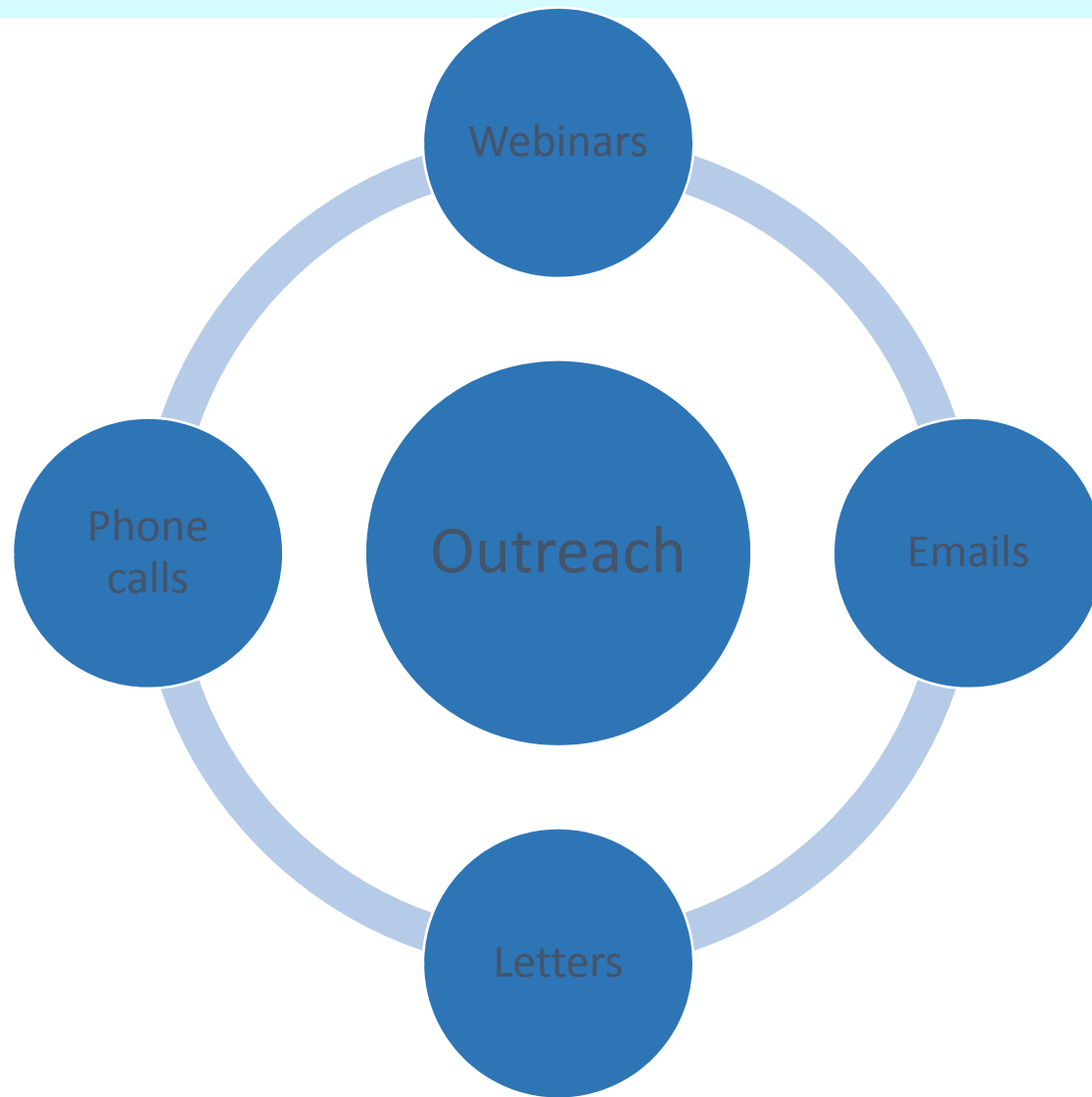
Data Collection & Advocacy

Local School Climate Survey



The Local School Climate Survey (LSCS) is a tool developed by GLSEN's Research Department for students, educators and advocates to assess the safety and overall environment of their local schools or communities using surveys of students.

Outreach to YRBSS Coordinators



Understanding Obstacles

- Survey decisions finalized by Fall 2016
- Process varies widely by site
- Political/process limitations
- Lack of understanding why this is helpful
- Limited # of questions on survey
- May not understand why they need both a gender expression question and sexual orientation questions
- Gender expression question may be competing with unapproved gender identity question
- Lack of ability to analyze question

Moving Forward with Advocacy

- Tell YRBSS coordinator this is important to you and address their concerns
- Look for opportunities for public comment
- Reach out to relevant contacts at Health/Education Departments
- Ask Health, Education, and Youth partners to reach out as well – put together sign-on letter if helpful
- Speak to lawmaker contacts to see if they can move process forward

Preliminary Outcomes

In 2013 and 2015, only 4 municipal sites used the optional GE question.

- In 2017, we believe at least **16** sites will be using the question, include **8** states.

Moreover, **15** sites will use the trans question provided by the CDC:

Some people describe themselves as transgender when their sex at birth does not match the way they think or feel about their gender. Are you transgender?

A. No, I am not transgender

B. Yes, I am transgender

C. I am not sure if I am transgender

D. I do not know what this question is asking

Resources

Stay connected! Sign up for GLSEN's Educator Network at www.glsen.org/educators.

Trans Student Rights – www.glsen.org/students/tsr

Advocates for Youth – YRBSS Resources:
<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/topics-issues/youth-risk-behavior-surveys>

Questions?

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