Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey 2017:
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Students

MIYHS Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey

Gay/Lesbian ■ Bisexual ■ Not Sure ■ Heterosexual

Transgender ■ Not Sure ■ Don't Understand ■ Not Transgender
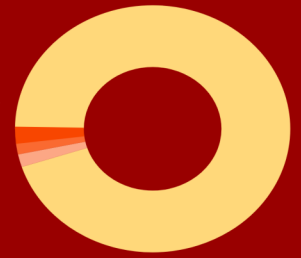
3 percent of Maine high school students identified as either transgender or not sure of their gender identity

15 percent of Maine high school students identified as either gay/lesbian, bisexual, or not sure.

LGBT students experience more violence and discrimination at school, at home, and in the community
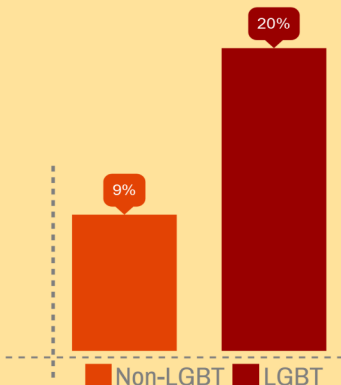
37%
20%

Non-LGBT   LGBT
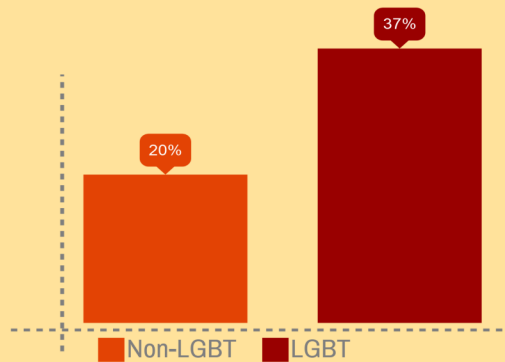
LGBT students were significantly **more likely** to report being **bullied at school** in the past year

Non-LGBT   LGBT students

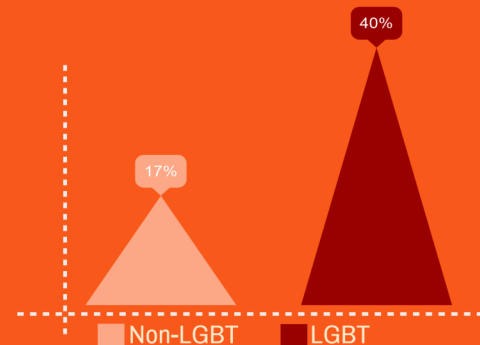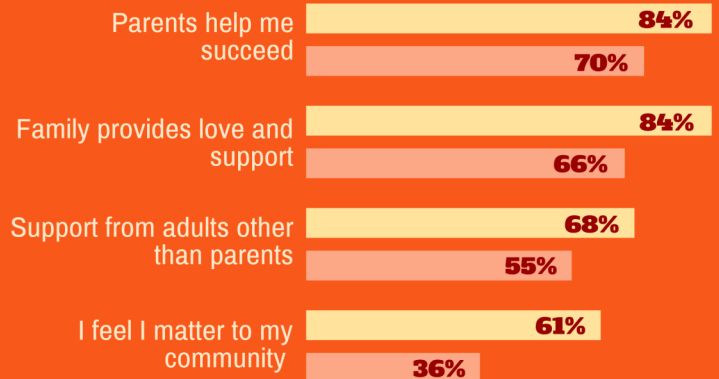|	
Parents help me succeed	84%
	70%
Family provides love and support	84%
	66%
Support from adults other than parents	68%
	55%
I feel I matter to my community	61%
	36%

33% of all LGBT students reported **offensive comments or attacks** at school or on the way to school because of their perceived sexual orientation

22% of all LGBT students reported **offensive comments or attacks** at school or on the way to school because of their gender presentation (such as being seen as too masculine or too feminine)
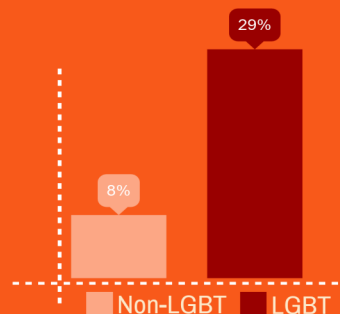
40%
17%

Non-LGBT   LGBT

LGBT students were significantly **more likely** to report that **violence** in their home, or the threat of violence, made them consider leaving home

20%
9%

Non-LGBT   LGBT

LGBT students were more than **twice** as likely to report feeling **unsafe at school**
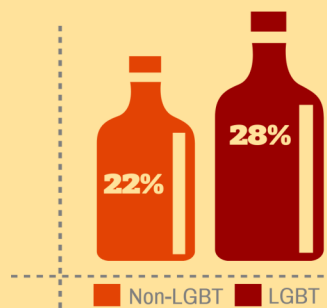
29%
8%

Non-LGBT   LGBT

LGBT students were **three times** as likely to report that they had been **forced have sexual contact** in their lifetime

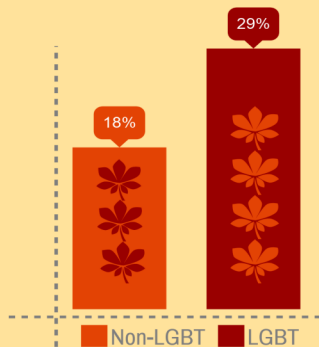# Experiences of violence and discrimination have consequences for LGBT students' health behaviors...

7% Non-LGBT

16% LGBT

LGBT students were more than **twice as likely** to report **smoking cigarettes** in the past 30 days

22% **28%**

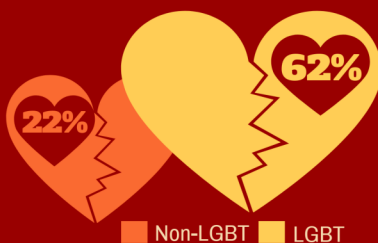LGBT students were significantly **more likely** to report **using alcohol** in the past 30 days

■ Non-LGBT ■ LGBT

29%

18%

LGBT students were significantly **more likely** to report **using marijuana** in the past 30 days

■ Non-LGBT ■ LGBT

As compared to non-LGBT peers, LGBT students were:

3%
6%
Twice as likely to have ever used **heroin**

4%
8%
Twice as likely to have ever used **cocaine**

6%
13%
Twice as likely to have ever used **inhalants**
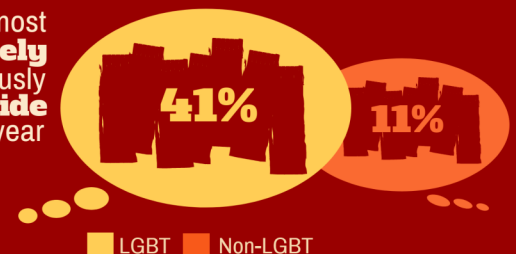
■ Non-LGBT ■ LGBT
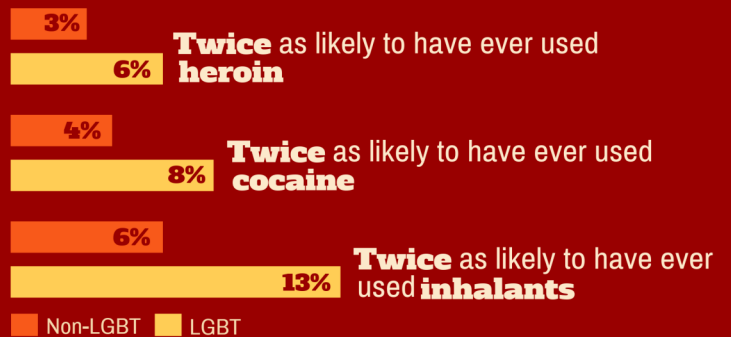
...and their well-being

22% **62%**

LGBT students were almost **three times as likely** to feel **sad or hopeless** for two or more weeks in the past year

■ Non-LGBT ■ LGBT

LGBT students were almost **four times as likely** to have seriously **considered suicide** in the past year

41% **11%**

■ LGBT ■ Non-LGBT

What you can do to support health and well-being for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students in Maine:

- Create or support a Gay/Straight/Trans Alliance (GSTA) in your school. Resources for starting a GSTA are available through the Maine chapters of the Gay Lesbian & Straight Educators Network (GLSEN): www.glsen.org/chapters/southernme or www.glsen.org/chapters/downeastme.

- Create a welcoming and affirming environment in your school, organization, or community by actively reaching out to LGBT youth, and using inclusive language and programming.

- Provide LGBT youth with opportunities to connect with each other, and with supportive adults in your school or community.

- Educate yourself and your colleagues about how your school, organization, or community can better serve and support LGBT young people and their families.