

Iowa Governors Conference on LGBTQ Youth 2013

**THE EXPERIENCE OF LGBT  
STUDENTS IN IOWA SCHOOLS:  
RESEARCH IS LIMITED, RESULTS  
ARE ALARMING**

**JENNIFER FARLEY, PRESIDENT, CENSEO SOLUTIONS, INC.**




# Overview

- Introduction
- Sources of Data
- Bullying Data
- Health/Risk Data
- Challenges
- Small Group Discussions
- Large Group Discussions
- Voting and Next Steps



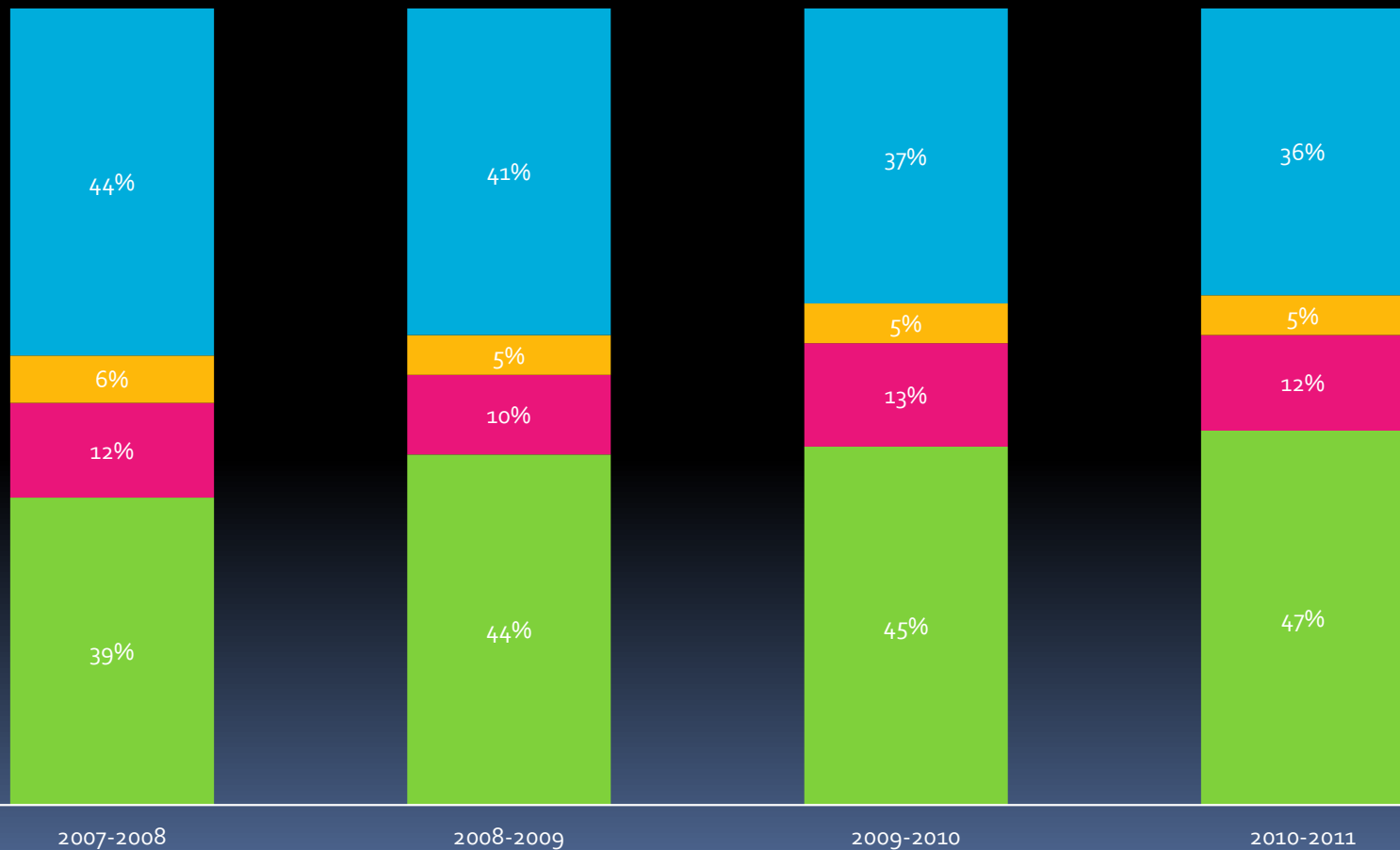
# Sources of Data

- Iowa Department of Education
    - Bullying Incident Data
  - Iowa Youth Survey
  - Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)
  - National School Climate Survey (2011) - GLSEN
  - Iowa School Climate Survey (2009) - Iowa Pride Network
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# Bullying Incident Data

## Iowa Bullying Incident Data

■ Physical Attributes ■ Real or Perceived Sexual Orientation ■ Race/Ethnicity ■ Other





# Bullying – Iowa Youth Survey

In the last 30 days, how many times have you been bullied at school in each of the following ways?

- Called Names, made fun of, or teased in a hurtful way – 21%
- Left out on purpose, excluded, completely ignored – 14%
- Hit, kicked, pushed, shoved around, locked indoors – 8%
- Told lies, spread false rumors about me, tried to make others dislike me – 17%

# Bullying and Harassment

2011 National School Climate Survey – GLSEN

- Outcomes – of the Iowa students surveyed:
  - 97% heard “Gay” used in a negative way
  - 93% heard homophobic remarks
  - 83% experienced verbal harassment based on sexual orientation,
  - 67% experienced verbal harassment based on their gender expression
  - 95% felt deliberately “left out” by peers
  - 88% had mean rumors or lies spread about them
  - 63% experienced cyberbullying

# Harassment and Cyber-Bullying

Iowa School Climate Survey (2009) – Iowa Pride Network

## ■ Outcomes

- 87.5% of LGBT survey participants reported being verbally harassed sometime in the last year (64.3% of straight students)
- 40.9% of LGBT survey participants report being physically harassed in the last year (17.4% of straight students)
- 46.6% of LGBT survey participants report being electronically harassed (17.4% of straight students)
- 80.7% of LGBT survey participants report having lies and rumors spread about them in the last year (61.7% of straight students)



# Education

## National School Climate Survey (2011) – GLSEN

- Outcomes – of the students surveyed across the US:
  - 28.8% skipped a class at least once in the last month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable
  - 31.8% missed at least one day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable
  - Students who experienced high levels of victimization in school, because of their sexual orientation or gender expression, were more than twice as likely to report that they did not plan to pursue any post-secondary education






# Education

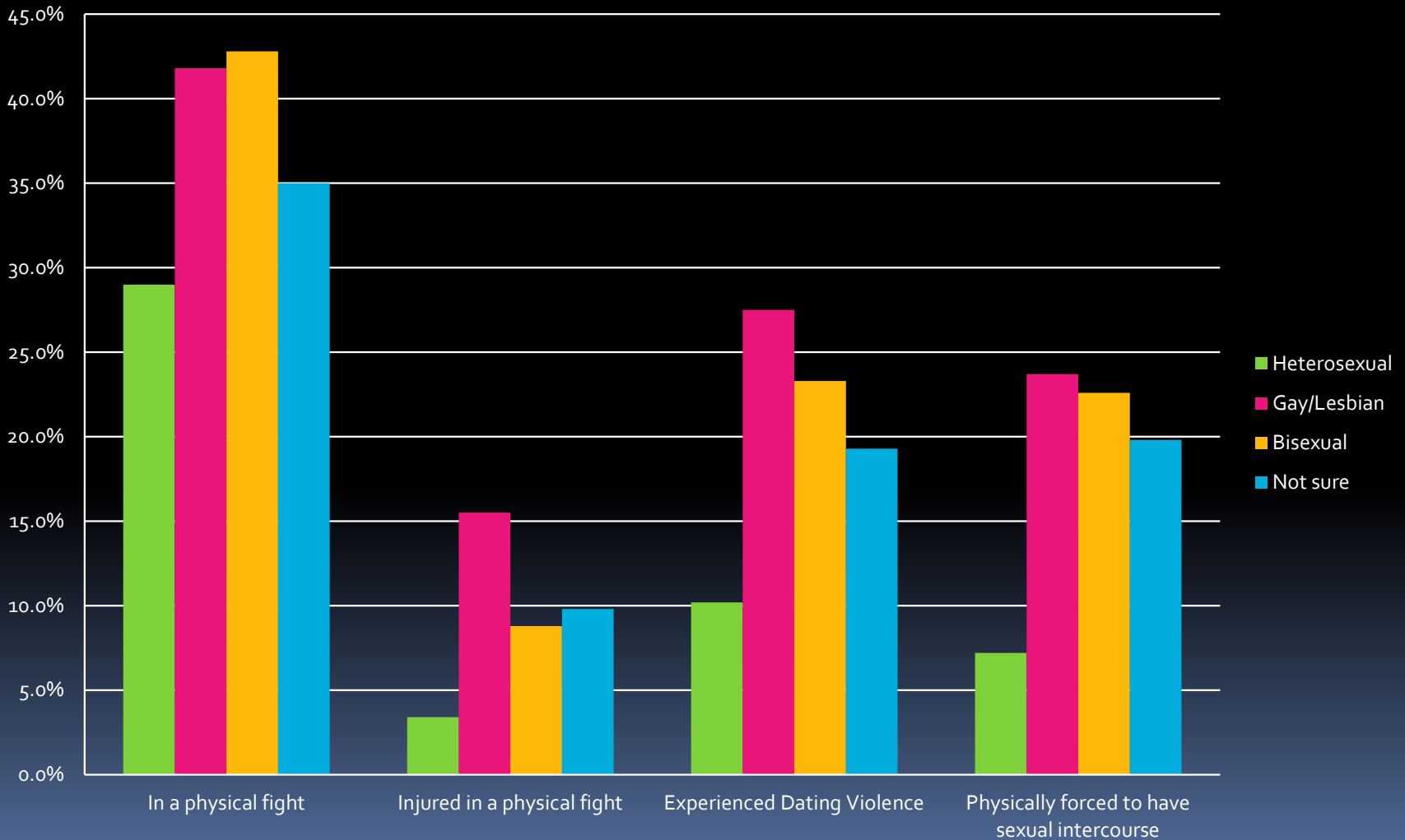
## Iowa School Climate Survey (2009) – IPN

- Outcomes

- 25% of LGBT students skipped class at least once in the last year because of feeling unsafe (8.7% of straight students)
  - 31.8% of LGVT students were absent once in the last year because of feeling unsafe (15.7% of straight students)
  - 54.5% of LGBT students reported looking forward to going to school (69.6% of straight students)
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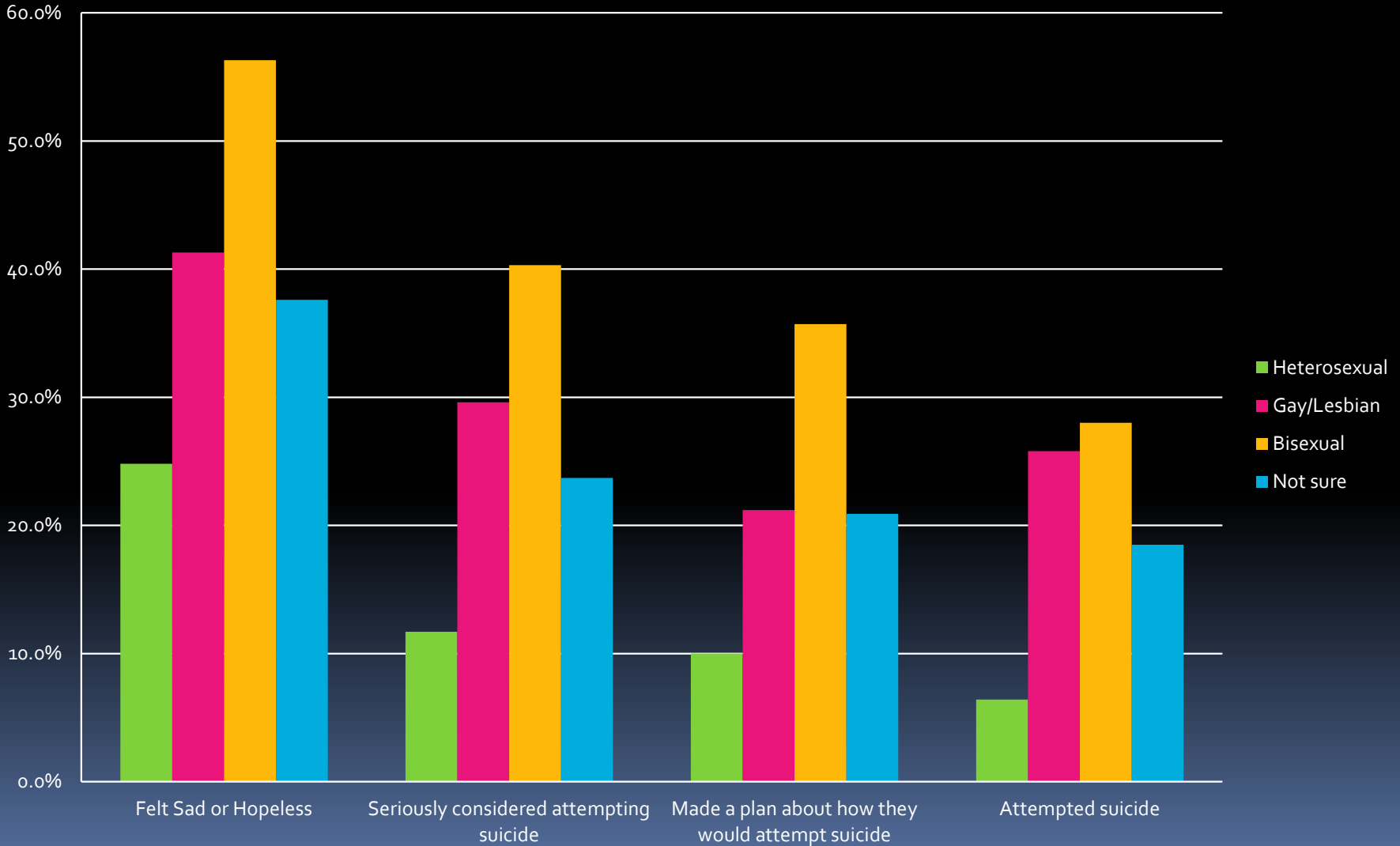
# Health Risks - YRBSS

## Physical Violence



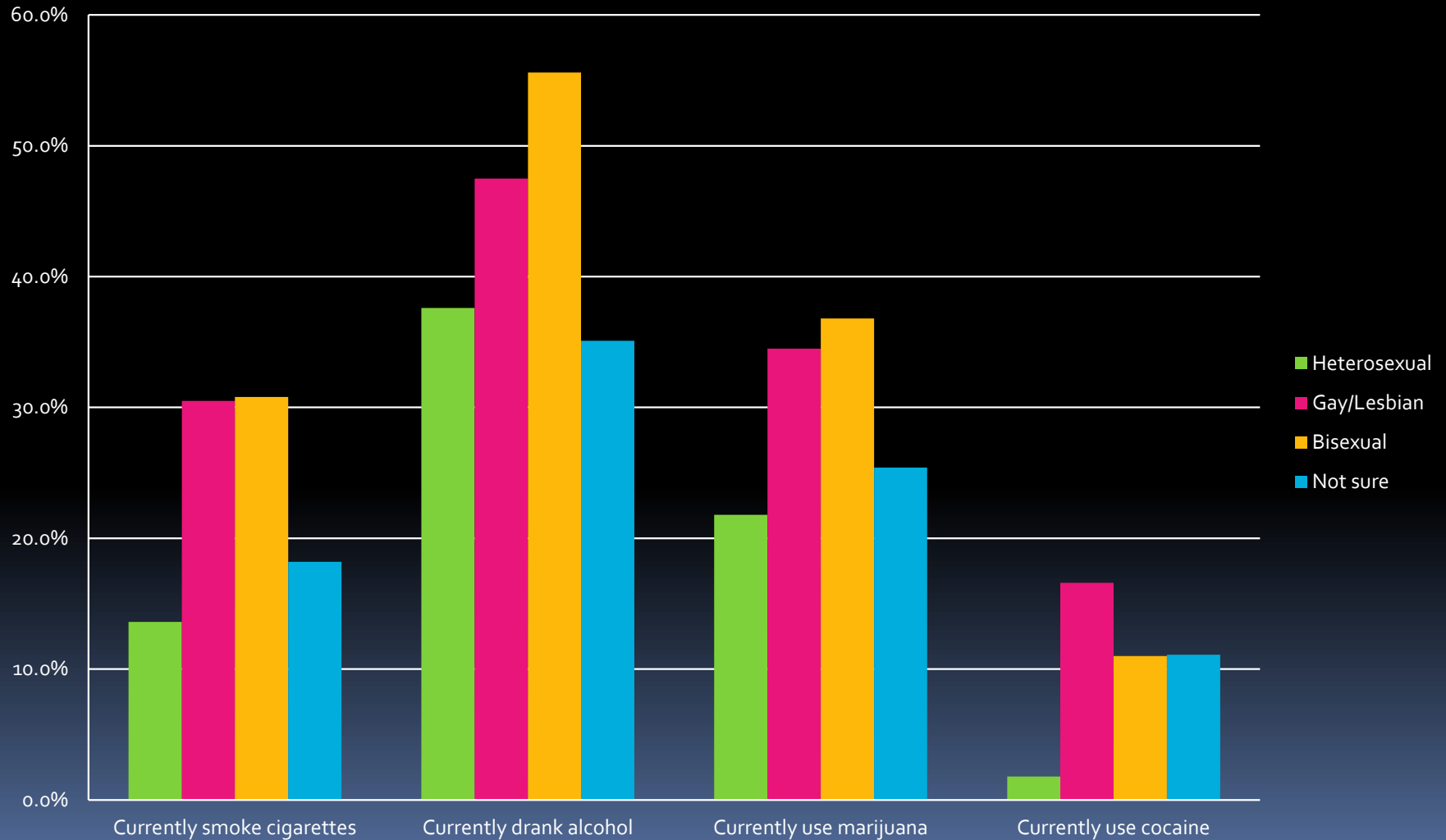
# Health Risks - YRBSS

## Suicide



# Health Risks - YRBSS


ATOD





# Health Risks

## National School Climate Survey (2011) – GLSEN

- Students who have been victimized based on their sexual orientation or gender expression had higher levels of depression than those who reported lower levels of victimization.
  - Students who experience higher levels of victimization based on their sexual orientation or gender expression had lower levels of self-esteem than those who reported lower levels of victimization.
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# Health Risks

Iowa School Climate Survey (2009) report from the Iowa Pride Network Outcomes

- 60.2% of LGBT students surveyed report having thought about suicide (40.9% of straight students)
- 22.7% of LGBT students report physical assault (7% of straight students)



# Challenges

- Limited data specific to students in Iowa
  - National School Climate Survey and Iowa School Climate Survey
- No national or state level comparison

*We don't know, what we don't know*



# Small Group Discussion

## 1. What we know

- What information surprised you?
- What information is supported by your own experience?

## 2. What we need to know

- Which data are missing?
- What information do you need to best support you?

## 3. Where do we go from here?

- What action steps are needed in order to know what “we need to know” (#2).





# Large Group Discussion

- What do we need to know?
  - Share your top three ideas
- Where do we go from here?
  - Share one action step associated with each idea



# Voting

- Review the list as a team and determine your top three priorities
- Each group will get a red, white and blue sticker
  - Place the red sticker on your top priority
  - Place the white sticker on your second priority
  - Place the blue sticker on your third priority



# Next Steps

- Others attending the conference will be asked to vote on the top five priorities of the group
  - The top five priorities will be determined by the sticker voting (weighting votes based on priority)
- Priorities and action steps will be written up and shared with Iowa Safe Schools



# Thank you

Contact Information:

Jennifer Farley

[jennifer@censeosolutions.com](mailto:jennifer@censeosolutions.com)