

# LGBQ\* Youth in Delaware



## Sexual Orientation

When asked about their sexual orientation, approximately **1 in 4 students (26% of 8th graders and 23% of 11th graders) reported they identify as gay or lesbian, bisexual, other, or unsure.<sup>a</sup>**



## Substance Use

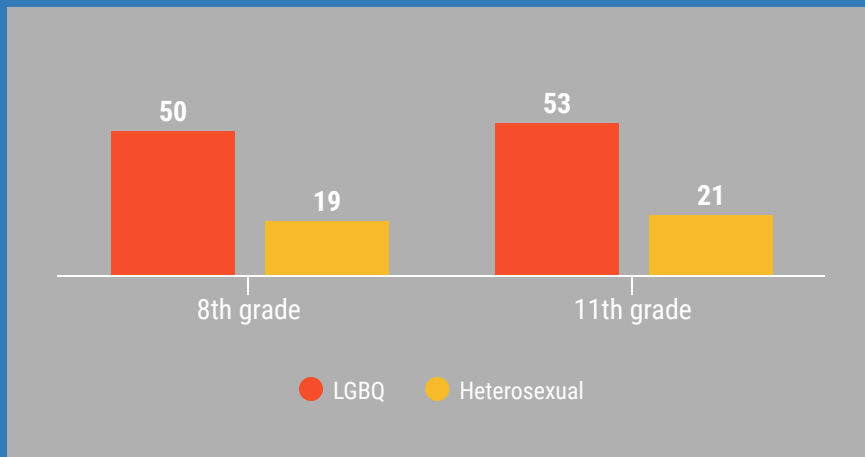
Students who identified as **LGBQ were more likely to report alcohol, marijuana, and vaping use and misuse of prescription drugs** than students who identified as heterosexual.<sup>a</sup>



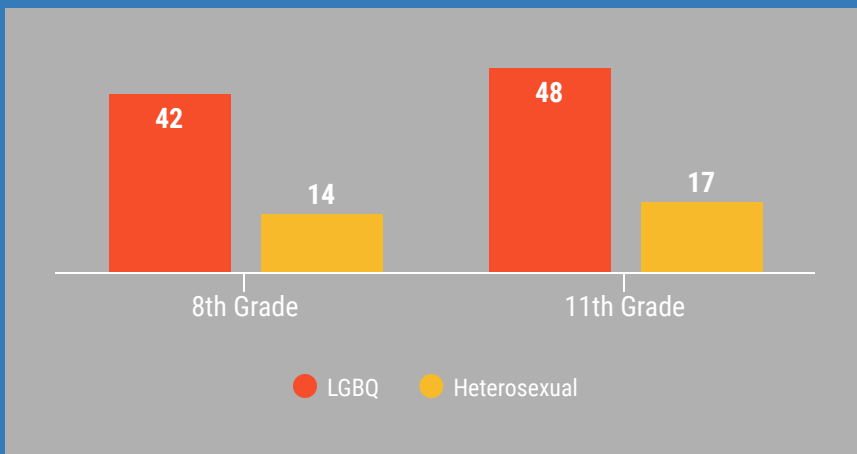
## Risk Factors

According to the 2021 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, high school **students who identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual are also more likely to report being bullied and experiencing dating violence.<sup>b</sup>**

## Feelings of Anxiety (%)



## Feelings of Depression (%)



LGBQ students in Delaware in both 8th and 11th grades were much more likely to report feelings of anxiety and depression<sup>^</sup> than their heterosexual peers.<sup>a</sup>

\*LGBQ includes students who identify their sexual orientation as gay or lesbian, bisexual, other, or not sure.

<sup>^</sup>Anxiety is reported here as students who responded that they have felt very nervous or anxious on more than half of the days in the past two weeks. Depression is reported here as students who responded that they have been bothered by feeling down, depressed, or hopeless on more than half of the days in the past two weeks.

Source(s):

<sup>a</sup> Center for Drug & Health Studies (2021). Delaware School Survey: Secondary [Annual Survey]. University of Delaware.

Note: Delaware School Survey data is unweighted.

<sup>b</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1991-2019 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data.