

## QUIZ

### LGBT YOUTH: REALITY TODAY

1. We have all heard lgbt youth face a greater risk of suicide. How much higher is the risk for lgbt youth than their straight counterparts?

3 times higher    5 times higher    10 times higher    14 times higher

2. Which of the following contribute to a greater risk of suicide for lgbt youth?

- Discrimination
- Violence
- Family rejection
- Homelessness
- Internalized homophobia
- All of the above

3. What percentage of lgbt high school students report having been verbally harassed about their gender expression?

10%            26%            55%            74%

4. “That’s so gay” – what percentage of students hear this frequently in school?



## Workshop # 10 - Discrimination, Bullying and Harassment of GLBT Youth and Workers

### HANDOUT 1

---

10%                      30%                      50%                      70%

5. What percentage of lgbt students feel unsafe at school?

12%                      36%                      64%                      73%

6. LGBT youth of colour share the same experiences as their Caucasian counterparts?

True                      False

7. Physical harassment or assault is too common for lgbt students.  
What proportion have been physically harassed or assaulted?

1 out of 2    1 out of 3    1 out of 5    1 out of 10

8. "Safe schools" policies are as effective in supporting lgbt youth as policies with a specific anti-homophobia component.

True                      False

9. What is the reaction of non-LGBTQ youth to homophobic comments?

Indifferent              Amused              Upset

# HANDOUT 1

---

10. What factors contribute to positive mental health for young lgbt people?

- Support from friends
- Supportive workplaces and neighbourhoods
- Positive responses to coming out
- Association with the lgbt community
- Acceptance by family
- All of the above

## Answers and References

### LGBT YOUTH: REALITY TODAY

1. **14%** higher according to a study by Rainbow Health Ontario in partnership with CAMH (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health)

“LGBT youth have an increased risk of suicide, substance abuse and experiencing sexual abuse. A Canadian study estimated that the risk of suicide among LGB youth is 14 times higher than for their heterosexual peers.”

“A large statistically representative study of trans people in Ontario found that **77%** had seriously considered suicide, and **45%** had attempted suicide. Trans youth were at greatest risk of suicidality, as were those who had experienced physical or sexual assault.”

2. According the Rainbow Health Ontario/CAMH study, **all of the above factors** can contribute to an increased risk of suicide and mental health issues.

3. Three of these answers are correct according to Egale’s major study: “Every Class in Every School: Key Findings, School Climates in Canada Today” (2011)

“**74%** of trans students, **55%** of sexual minority students, and **26%** of non-LGBTQ students reported having been verbally harassed about their gender expression.”

## HANDOUT 2

---

4. “**70%** of all participating students, reported hearing expressions such as “that’s so gay” every day in school and almost half (48%) reported hearing remarks such as “faggot”, “lezbo”, and “dyke” every day in school.” (Egale study)
5. “Almost two thirds (**64%**) of LGBTQ students and **61%** of students with LGBTQ parents reported that they feel unsafe at school.” (Egale study)
6. “Youth of colour ... are far less likely to know of any out LGBTQ students (**67%** compared to **81%** of Caucasian and **87%** of Aboriginal youth) ... or to know of any teachers or staff members who are supportive of LGBTQ students (**48%** know of none, compared to **38%** of Aboriginal and **31%** of Caucasian youth).

“Youth of colour, both LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ, reported the lowest rates of being comfortable discussing LGBTQ matters with anyone at all, including their coaches, their teachers, their classmates, their parents, and even with a close friend.”

“This high degree of isolation for youth of colour with regard to LGBTQ matters suggests that serious attention needs to be paid to finding means of reaching out to youth in ways that are appropriate and informed about cultural issues and taboos surrounding LGBTQ matters.” (Egale study)

7. “More than one in five (**21%**) LGBTQ students reported being physically harassed or assaulted due to their sexual orientation.”

Students are also harassed based on perceived sexual orientation or gender identity: **20%** of LGBTQ and almost **10%** of non-LGBTQ

### HANDOUT 2

---

students reported such harassment. Trans students reported higher levels of harassment and assault at **37%**. (Egale study)

8. “Generic safe school policies that do not include specific measures on homophobia are **not effective** in improving the school climate for LGBTQ students. LGBTQ students from schools with anti-homophobia policies reported significantly fewer incidents of physical and verbal harassment due to their sexual orientation.”

“**80%** of LGBTQ students from schools with anti-homophobia policies reported never having been physically harassed versus only **67%** of LGBTQ students from schools without anti-homophobia policies.”

There is also less verbal harassment: **46%** were never verbally harassed due to their sexual orientation at schools with anti-homophobia policies versus **40%** at schools without. (Egale study)

9. **Upset!** “One of the most striking findings of our study is that **58%** of non-LGBTQ youth find homophobic comments upsetting. This finding suggests that there is a great deal of potential solidarity for LGBTQ-inclusive education among heterosexual students.”
10. According the Rainbow Health Ontario/CAMH study, **all of the above factors** can contribute positive mental health outcomes for lgbt youth.

(The studies are found at: [www.RainbowHealthOntario.ca](http://www.RainbowHealthOntario.ca) and [www.egalecanada.ca](http://www.egalecanada.ca) )

## Group 1:

### Union support for GSAs

*"When communities support their gay young people, and schools adopt anti-bullying and anti-discrimination policies that specifically protect lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, the risk of attempted suicide by all young people drops, especially for LGB youth."*

"The results of this study are pretty compelling," said study author Mark Hatzenbuehler of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health in New York City.

In your group, please develop five key points explaining why the union supports the establishment of Gay/Straight Alliances at local high schools based on the points raised earlier, and talking about how important it is for lgbt workers to belong to a union. For example, you may want to talk about why it is important that their union supports the self-organization of lgbt members.

Your task:

- Use the points to prepare an article for the local community paper explaining why the union supports GSAs.

## Group 2:

Working with PSAC youth and other equity committees on glbt youth issues

*“Delegates approved a resolution to create regional youth committees that would be open to members 30 years of age and under. These committees will provide young members with a forum to build solidarity, share knowledge and develop skills and to discuss the impact of current issues on young workers.”* (News report from PSAC Convention)

Your task:

- Develop five key points for a proposal to launch a joint campaign with your regional PSAC youth committee, focusing on lgbt youth. Please look at the issues facing youth in general, and include the particular implications for young people from equality-seeking communities.
- Draft a resolution for joint work, incorporating the five points into the resolution.





## Group 3:

Incorporating lgbt youth issues into the PSAC's We Are All Affected Campaign

*"Our union, along with concerned Canadians in communities across the country, has been working hard to save services and protect jobs.*

*Not only are public services under fire in the name of austerity and deficit reduction, we are now facing potential restrictions on our union's right to collect dues from our members and how the union and our members decide to use those dues." (PSAC statement launching the "We Are All Affected" campaign)*

Your task:

- Develop five key points emphasizing the importance of unions and defending public services for young workers and for young lgbt people in particular.
  
- Draft a pro-union article for the local glbt community paper.