

LGBT Health Awareness Week: March 25th–30th, 2019

LGBTQ+ Health Disparities Fact Sheet

Risk of Suicide Attempts Among LGBT Youth

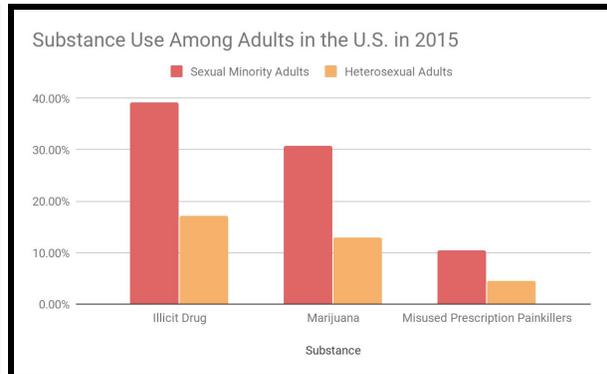
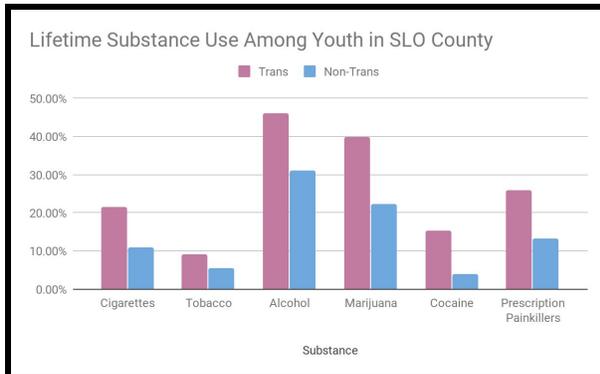
A recent study done regarding the risk of suicide attempts among a sample of youth, researchers found that:

- ❖ LGB youth were **3.9 times** more likely to report a suicide attempt than their heterosexual peers
- ❖ Youth who were questioning or unsure of their sexuality were **2.5 times** more likely to report a suicide attempt

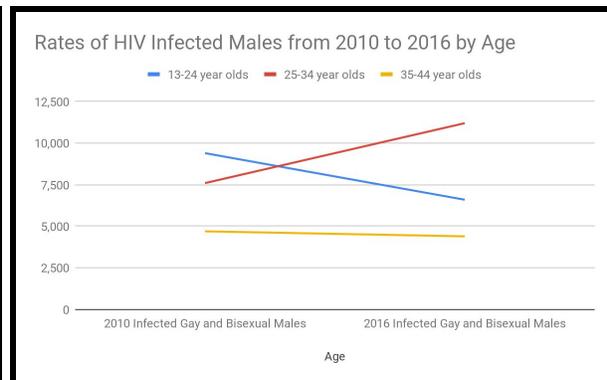
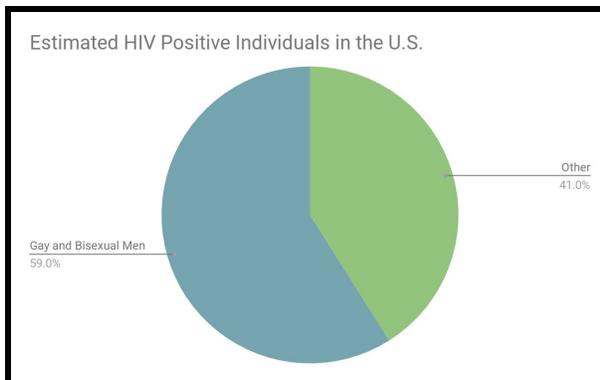
In San Luis Obispo County specifically, the Healthy Kids survey from 2015–2016 reported that:

- ❖ **46% of Transgender youth** in San Luis Obispo County have seriously considered attempting suicide in the previous 12 months in comparison to **16.6% of Non-Transgender youth**

Substance Use



HIV Rates Among Gay and Bisexual Males



General Trends In LGBTQ+ Health

According to Healthy People 2020:

- ❖ LGBT youth are more likely to be homeless
- ❖ Lesbians are less likely to get preventative services for cancer
- ❖ Gay men are at higher risk of HIV and other STDs, especially among communities of color
- ❖ Lesbians and bisexual females are more likely to overweight or obese
- ❖ Transgender individuals have a high prevalence of HIV/STDs, victimization, mental health issues, and suicide
- ❖ Transgender individuals are less likely to have health insurance than heterosexual or LGB individuals
- ❖ Elderly LGBT individuals face additional barriers to health because of isolation and a lack of social services and culturally competent providers
- ❖ LGBT populations have the highest rates of tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use
- ❖ LGBT populations reported having lower rates of mammography and Pap smear screening

What needs to be done:

- ❖ Collection of nationally representative data on LGBTQ+ Americans
- ❖ Prevention of violence and homicide towards the LGBTQ+ community
- ❖ Programs that focus on LGBTQ+ elder health and well-being
- ❖ Opportunities for youth to explore sexual and gender identities
- ❖ Development of an LGBTQ+ wellness model
- ❖ Recognition of transgender health needs as medically necessary

This is a small list of actions that need to be taken to improve the health disparities experienced by LGBTQ+ populations in the U.S. This issue is complex and needs to be addressed from many different directions in order to ensure the inclusion of many individuals and to make services accessible to all communities across the U.S.

For more information contact:



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