Victimization and the Experiences of LGBT Students in School

“"I was walking the same way and another group of boys screamed out, ‘Oh, you dirty faggot!’ And I was like, wow, this just happened last week but it was for being Latino. Now it’s for me being gay. And it was so hard, now, a double whammy. I was gay, now I’m a Latino, now everybody knows. Now everybody’s going to bring it up, use it against me. And it was so hard, I wanted to stop going to school, I wanted to drop out. I just didn’t want to go back to school, I didn’t feel safe. I thought when you go to school, it’s supposed to be a safe environment where you are just there to learn and just get your education and it wasn’t a safe space for me at all, I felt threatened.”
— Roberto, 11th grade

“He was calling me ‘Latino lesbian’ because... I stand out. There’s not a lot of gay people in my school and there’s not a lot of Hispanic people in my school, so he took the two things that I stand out as and put them into one and he was using it as if it were funny. And I am Latina and I am a lesbian, but when you say it offensively or as if that’s a bad thing, it bothers me because it’s not supposed to be an offensive thing. It’s what I am.”
— Ximena, 9th grade

“I feel like a lot of people were bullying me for both targets…and definitely a lot of people tried to go at it because oh, ‘he’s black but he’s also gay so if we can’t pick on the black part, we’re going to pick on the gay part more.’”
— Dontaee, 12th grade

Student quotes from GLSEN’s LGBTQ Youth Vignettes (2012)

Data Source: Kosciw et al. (2012). The 2011 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in Our Schools

Educational Aspirations
School Belonging
Academic Achievement

Victimization
Victimization and the Experiences of LGBT Students in School

“Victimisation and the Experiences of LGBT Students in School”

“Depression”

“Missing School”

“Educational Aspirations”

“School Belonging”

“Academic Achievement”

“Because of their Sexual Orientation”

“1 in 5 Students Were Physically Assaulted (18.3%)”

“2 in 5 Students Were Physically Harassed (38.3%)”

“4 in 5 Students Were Verbally Harassed (81.9%)”

“Because of their Gender Expression”

“1 in 8 Students Were Physically Assaulted (12.4%)”

“1 in 3 Students Were Physically Harassed (27.1%)”

“2 in 3 Students Were Verbally Harassed (63.9%)”

Data Source: Kosciw et al. (2012). The 2011 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in Our Schools

Student quotes from: GLSEN’s LGBTQ Youth Vignettes (2012); Kosciw et al. (2012)
GSAs and the Experiences of LGBT Students in School

“Several students attempted to start a Gay/Straight Alliance at my school and weren’t allowed to, despite the existence of other social or political clubs, such as a Pro-Life club. When pressed, the school board insisted that the school either allow the GSA to be instated or to disband all non-academic clubs; the school elected to disband all non-academic clubs rather than allow the GSA.”

— Anonymous Student, 12th grade

"Due to the formation of the GSA about four months ago, the overall LGBTQ-acceptance has steadily risen. A lot of people aren't educated enough."

— Anonymous Student, Grade unknown

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Data Source: Kosciw et al. (2012). The 2011 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in Our Schools

Student quotes from: www.cb4youspeak.com
LGBT-Related Curricular Resources and the Experiences of LGBT Students

 “[A friend and I were doing a report on equal rights and we wanted to do some research on the school computer but we couldn’t access anything with the word gay or homosexual in it.”
— Anonymous Student, 12th grade

“There is no LGBT material allowed in the library. There were two books in there last year and the school board had them banned and removed.”
— Anonymous Student, 12th grade

“This year in my U.S. History class, my teacher used a textbook [that] actually did mention LGBT rights during the civil rights movement of the 60s, along with Harvey Milk, Stonewall Riots, etc. — that made me happy!”
— Anonymous Student, Grade unknown

“My English teacher discussed LGBT issues often in class (in a positive light) and it felt really good to know that she was open and accepting, and if I had any major issues then I could go to her.”
— Anonymous Student, Grade unknown

Data Source: Kosciw et al. (2012). The 2011 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in Our Schools
Student quotes from: Kosciw et al. (2012)
School Anti-Bullying/Harassment Policies and the Experiences of LGBT Students in School

“I’ve been lucky. I’ve grown up in a very accepting community. My school district has a very strict no-bullying policy, and nearly every single classroom has a minimum of one poster reminding all students that homophobic remarks will not be tolerated, or proclaiming the classroom a “safe place.””

— Anonymous Student, 11th grade

“Our school is very insensitive towards harassment issues towards GLBTIQ youth. I once tried to talk to our principal about the homophobic language rampant in our schools but he said he couldn’t help because it would be too controversial.”

— Anonymous Student, 11th grade

“The Discrimination and Bullying policy doesn’t state sexual orientation, and when we ask why, their answer is because ‘it’s not important, we don’t have gays in our school district and nobody gets harassed about it here.’”

— Anonymous Student, 11th grade

“It happens every day. It wears on the mind, and it’s very hard for there to be any punishment for the student since there’s no policy for sexual orientation or gender identity at our school.”

— Anonymous Student, 11th grade

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Data Source: Kosciw et al. (2012). The 2011 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in Our Schools

Student quotes from: Kosciw et al. (2012)
Supportive School Staff and the Experiences of LGBT Students in School

“Teachers and staff are not educated when it comes to a transgender student and therefore do nothing about it, and most of the time they also question my gender and make me embarrassed, and everyone thinks I’m a freak of nature.”

— Anonymous Student, 11th grade

“Teachers can be more of that figure you look up to. And when they are accepting of you, it means the world to you. To know that you’re ok and that they are there for you.”

— Ximena, 9th grade

Data Source: Kosciw et al. (2012). The 2011 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in Our Schools

Student quotes from: GLSEN’s LGBTQ Youth Vignettes (2012); Kosciw et al. (2012)