**Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey 2017:**

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Students**

**3 percent** of Maine high school students identified as either transgender or not sure of their gender identity.

**15 percent** of Maine high school students identified as either gay/lesbian, bisexual, or not sure.

**LGBT students experience more violence and discrimination at school, at home, and in the community**

- LGBT students were significantly more likely to report being bullied at school in the past year.

- **33%** of all LGBT students reported offensive comments or attacks at school or on the way to school because of their perceived sexual orientation.

- **22%** of all LGBT students reported offensive comments or attacks at school or on the way to school because of their gender presentation (such as being seen as too masculine or too feminine).

- LGBT students were more than twice as likely to report feeling unsafe at school.

- LGBT students were three times as likely to report that they had been forced to have sexual contact in their lifetime.

- LGBT students were significantly more likely to report that violence in their home, or the threat of violence, made them consider leaving home.
Experiences of violence and discrimination have consequences for LGBT students' health behaviors...

- LGBT students were more than **twice as likely** to report **smoking cigarettes** in the past 30 days.
  - 7% Non-LGBT
  - 16% LGBT

- LGBT students were significantly **more likely** to report **using alcohol** in the past 30 days.
  - 22% Non-LGBT, 28% LGBT

- LGBT students were significantly **more likely** to report **using marijuana** in the past 30 days.
  - 18% Non-LGBT, 20% LGBT

- As compared to non-LGBT peers, LGBT students were:
  - **Twice as likely to have ever used heroin**
    - 3% Non-LGBT, 6% LGBT
  - **Twice as likely to have ever used cocaine**
    - 4% Non-LGBT, 8% LGBT
  - **Twice as likely to have ever used inhalants**
    - 6% Non-LGBT, 13% LGBT

...and their well-being

- LGBT students were almost **three times as likely** to feel **sad or hopeless** for two or more weeks in the past year.
  - 22% Non-LGBT, 62% LGBT

- LGBT students were almost **four times as likely** to have seriously **considered suicide** in the past year.
  - 41% LGBT, 11% Non-LGBT

What you can do to support health and well-being for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students in Maine:

- Create or support a Gay/Straight/Trans Alliance (GSTA) in your school. Resources for starting a GSTA are available through the Maine chapters of the Gay Lesbian & Straight Educators Network (GLSEN): www.glsen.org/chapters/southernme or www.glsen.org/chapters/downeastme.

- Create a welcoming and affirming environment in your school, organization, or community by actively reaching out to LGBT youth, and using inclusive language and programming.

- Provide LGBT youth with opportunities to connect with each other, and with supportive adults in your school or community.

- Educate yourself and your colleagues about how your school, organization, or community can better serve and support LGBT young people and their families.