

2011 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey

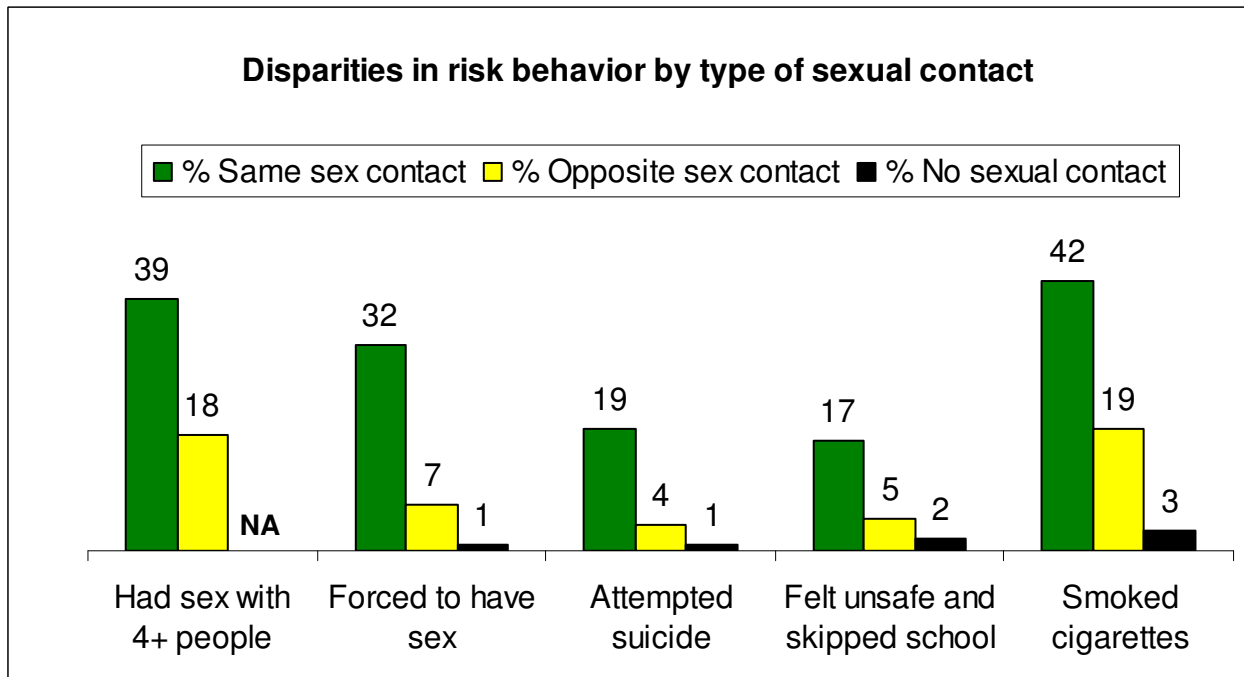
Data Brief: August 2012

Gender of Sexual Contact and Risk Behavior - Vermont High School Students

According to a Surveillance Summary from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): “Sexual minority students, particularly gay, lesbian, and bisexual students and students who had sexual contact with both sexes, are more likely to engage in health-risk behaviors than other students.”¹

From 1995 to 2011, the Vermont High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) asked students, in grades 9-12 “During your life, with whom have you had sexual contact?” In 2011, 45% of students reported no sexual contact, 50% of students reported opposite sex sexual contact and 5% of students reported same sex sexual contact.

We analyzed 22 common risk behaviors in the 2011 YRBS. Vermont students who had sexual contact with same sex partners had significantly higher prevalence for all 22 measures (see table on reverse page).



The Vermont analysis did not cover all of the risk behaviors reported by the CDC, however, a similar conclusion can be reached: **there are significant differences in the prevalence of risky behavior in sexual minority students compared to other students in Vermont.** Of note, historical analysis has shown that while many risk behaviors have decreased over time for the whole student population, students who have same sex sexual contact have had significantly higher prevalences of risk behaviors over time.

For more information, contact Shayla Livingston, MPH (shayla.livingston@state.vt.us; 802-863-6337). For the YRBS Data Brief Archive, visit: http://www.healthvermont.gov/research/yrbs/data_briefs.aspx

¹Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Risk Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9-12 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, Selected Sites, United States, 2001-2009. Surveillance Summaries, June 10, 2011. Kann L, Olsen EO, McManus T, Kinchen S, Chyen D, Harris W, Wechsler H. Division of Adolescent and School Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

2011 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey - Grades 9-12 - Risk Behavior by Type of Sexual Contact

Risk Behavior	Opposite sex contact	Same sex contact		No sex contact	
	Yes (%)	Yes (%)	Significantly Different ^a	Yes (%)	Significantly Different ^a
Never or rarely used safety belt	9	16	Greater	2	Less
Skipped school because of feeling unsafe on route to or at school, past 30 days	5	17	Greater	2	Less
Bullied ^b , past 30 days	18	40	Greater	14	Similar
Bullied electronically, past 12 months	18	40	Greater	9	Less
Physically fought, past 12 months	30	41	Greater	13	Less
Threatened or injured with a weapon at school, past 12 months	7	21	Greater	2	Less
Hit or slapped by boyfriend or girlfriend, past 12 months	9	24	Greater	2	Less
Physically forced to have sex, during lifetime	7	32	Greater	1	Less
Smoked cigarettes, past 30 days	19	42	Greater	3	Less
Binge drank, past 30 days	31	45	Greater	7	Less
Used Marijuana, past 30 days	36	49	Greater	8	Less
Used Inhalants, during lifetime	10	32	Greater	3	Less
Used Cocaine, past 30 days	4	19	Greater	<1	Less
Used Heroin, during lifetime	3	16	Greater	<1	Less
Skipped meals to control weight, past 30 days	20	43	Greater	15	Less
Felt sad for two weeks or more, past 12 months	22	52	Greater	12	Less
Attempted suicide, past 12 months	4	19	Greater	1	Less
Had sex with 4+ people, during lifetime	18	39	Greater	NA	NA
Used alcohol or drugs at last sexual encounter ^c	22	34	Greater	NA	NA
Used a condom at last sexual encounter ^c	65	44	Less	NA	NA
Tested for HIV	14	30	Greater	2	Less

^aSame sex sexual contact and no sexual contact are both compared to opposite sex sexual contact. **To interpret, use the following example:** "Students who have **same sex sexual contact** have a **greater** prevalence of being bullied in the past 30 days than students who have opposite sex sexual contact. Students who have **no sexual contact** have a **similar** prevalence of being bullied in the past 30 days to students who have opposite sex sexual contact." Statistical significance was determined comparing 95% confidence intervals.

^bBullying was defined as occurring when, on many occasions, a student or group of students say or do unpleasant things to another student to make fun of, tease, embarrass, or scare him/her; or purposefully exclude him/her. Bullying can occur before, during, or after the school day; on school property, a school bus, or at a school-sponsored activity. It is not bullying when two students of about the same strength and power argue or fight or when teasing is done in a friendly way.

^cPercent of students out of those who responded "yes" to having sex within the past 3 months.