

Student Survey of Middle and High School Students

ATTITUDES ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY: THE GAY, LESBIAN & TRANSGENDER ISSUE AT YOUR SCHOOL

by Linda Harvey

1. Student's first name only _____. Your age_____
2. Your grade_____
3. Check one: female male
4. Name of your school _____
Town, State: _____
5. Has the subject of homosexuality or gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues been discussed in classes at your school? yes no
If yes, in what subjects? Check all that apply:
 Language class Sex/health education
 History or social studies Math
 Political science/civics Science (chemistry, biology, etc.)
 Foreign language Art
 Drama Music
 Other (please explain):

6. Do you feel that the lesbian/gay issue should be discussed in your school? yes no
7. Select best answer:
 - a. I feel the subject of homosexuality is not discussed enough at my school.
 - b. I feel the subject of homosexuality is discussed at about the appropriate level in my school.
 - c. I feel the subject of homosexuality is given way too much time in my school.
8. Is there a gay club in your school? yes no
9. I have seen other kids "pick on" students at my school who are, or are believed to be, homosexual or transgender. yes no
10. I have not seen kids "pick on" students who are or were believed to be homosexual or transgender, but I have heard from reliable sources that it has happened. yes no
11. My opinion about bullying of gay, lesbian or transgender students is: (choose the best one answer)
 - a. It happens and I am opposed to it because I feel sad for these kids.
 - b. It happens and I have participated in it because I don't like these kids.
 - c. It has happened to me, because I am sympathetic to/ participate in homosexuality and transgender behavior.
 - c. It happens sometimes and I'm opposed but I think it is exaggerated by some people to draw attention to themselves and their cause.
 - d. It doesn't happen much at all in my school.
 - e. It happens and the teachers/staff take care of it by punishing those responsible, just like they would in the case of bullying for any reason.

12. We have had gay/lesbian events/publicity at my school. yes no

If yes, check all that have taken place:

- Gay History Month October "Coming Out" Day
- Diversity Day June Gay Pride Month
- April Day of Silence Special assemblies
- Classroom speakers Films
- Gay prom Pro-gay articles in school paper
- Posters/flyers

13. Has there been any event at your school where a view objecting to homosexuality was presented? yes no not sure

If yes, check all that have occurred:

- Marriage and Family Day
- Abstinence speakers/assembly that included homosexual issues
- Speaker talking about health, moral and religious concerns
- Ex-homosexual speaker
- Debate between pro-gay and conservative speakers
- Other (explain): _____

14. Have you studied tolerance or diversity in a class where homosexuality was a part of those lessons? yes no

If yes, please check the answer that best describes these lessons:

- a. I believe they were trying to teach us that homosexuality is something that should be accepted, no matter what.
- b. I think they were trying to tell us it's okay to believe homosexuality is wrong, but that people should be nice to one another.
- c. I believe they were trying to say that there is a lot of violence against homosexuals and that people don't have the right to say anything against homosexuality.
- d. I believe it was propaganda for gays/lesbians and that any other viewpoint is not tolerated at all.

15. During your years in school, have you ever heard any of the following topics mentioned in a class?

- a. Homosexuality has high health risks. yes no
- b. There is not valid scientific research showing homosexuality is genetic.
 yes no
- c. Anal sex is practiced by most gay males. yes no
- d. Anal sex is responsible for two- thirds to three-fourths of all HIV cases in the U.S. yes
 no
- e. Homosexuals have much higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases than the general population. yes no
- f. There are much higher rates of child sexual abuse in the past experiences of homosexuals than in the general population. yes no
- g. It is a crime for an adult 18 or older to have heterosexual or homosexual sex with a child or young teenager. yes no
- h. There are thousands of people in the U.S. who are ex-homosexuals. yes no
- i. Homosexuals have higher rates of domestic violence than the general population. yes
 no

16. As a student, do you feel it is important to be given all the facts about homosexuality, in order to make decisions yourself and to be able to talk with friends?

yes no

17. Have you ever experienced or seen anyone who, not in a bullying or rude way, spoke up against homosexuality, and was mocked or treated in an intolerant manner at your school?

yes no

If yes, was this: by students? by teachers/staff? by both?

18. Answer the following with the one best answer:

- a. I feel gays and lesbians could be treated more fairly at my school.
- b. I feel that our school is very unfair and intolerant of those who don't agree with homosexuality.
- c. I feel the teachers/ administrators at my school give more time and sympathy to the gay/lesbian/transgender issue than it deserves.
- d. I feel that the gays/lesbians are practically in charge of the school, and the school does whatever they demand.

19. How do you personally feel about students you know or believe are involved in homosexuality, or are transgendered?

Check the one best answer:

- a. I don't hate anyone, but I disagree with their behavior/lifestyle.
- b. I personally feel quite a bit of hostility toward them, and I know I need to work on this attitude.
- c. I am totally in sympathy with these students and feel they are always treated unfairly.

20. Have you ever tried to speak out about the risks of homosexuality in a responsible way at your school?

yes no If yes, check the following that best reflects your experience:

- a. I have tried to speak out about the problems with homosexuality in a responsible way, and have been treated very intolerantly by other students, but the teachers/staff were fine.
- b. I have tried to speak out about the problems with homosexuality, and was treated very intolerantly by teachers or staff, although the other students were fine.
- c. I tried to speak with my opinion, and was treated intolerantly by both students and teachers/staff.
- d. I have experienced intolerance by students who themselves are transgendered or involved in homosexuality/bisexuality.
- e. I spoke up with my opinion against homosexuality and I was treated politely.

21. If you answered (c) or (d) above, did this intolerance become outright harassment? yes

no

If yes, was it physical or verbal? Was it punished by teachers or staff? yes no

22. Have you ever heard of any "straight" students who were harassed in a sexual manner by a homosexual student? yes no

If yes, please explain (names should not be given.)

23. Have students in your school who are sympathetic to the gay/lesbian issue talked with members of the media in your town? yes no not sure

If yes, check all that apply:

- a. I feel the news stories done about our school and this issue were totally one-sided and pro-homosexual.
- b. I feel the news stories done on this issue were not fair to gays/lesbians at our school.
- c. I feel the students are going around the school and trying to put pressure on the school through the media.
- d. I believe the gay/lesbian students at our school are being helped by outside adult pro-homosexual organizations.
- e. I feel the news stories were pretty balanced with both opinions.

24. Do you know students who are opposed to homosexuality in your school?

yes no

If yes, please check the one best statement:

- a. The students I know who are opposed to homosexuality are responsible people and are not "violent" like the gays/lesbians sometimes say.
- b. The students I know who oppose homosexuality are always ready to be bullies and treat the gay students terribly.
- c. Some students do bully the gay students, but most who are against homosexuality are not bullies.

25. Please answer the following, which is just for classification purposes:

I consider my religious affiliation to be:

- I do not have a strong religious faith.
- I am a strong believer in the following faith:
 - Christian Jewish
 - Mormon Muslim
 - Hindu Buddhist
 - Other _____

I am not a strong believer but sometimes attend a church of the following faith:

For adult survey administrator only...An adult must sign off on this survey
for it to be counted.

Your name_____

Street address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

e-mail_____

Thank you for administering this important survey! Please return all surveys to:
Mission America, PO Box 21836, Columbus, OH 43221

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