



Idaho Safe Schools Coalition
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Summary Report of Idaho High School Graduates: Perceptions of LGBTQ* Harassment and Discrimination

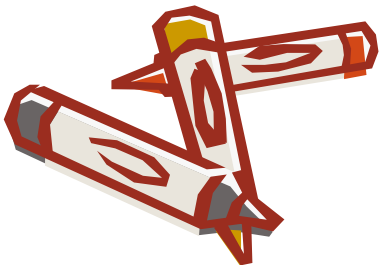
April, 2009

Initial Report Prepared by:
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Boise State University

*lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer / questioning

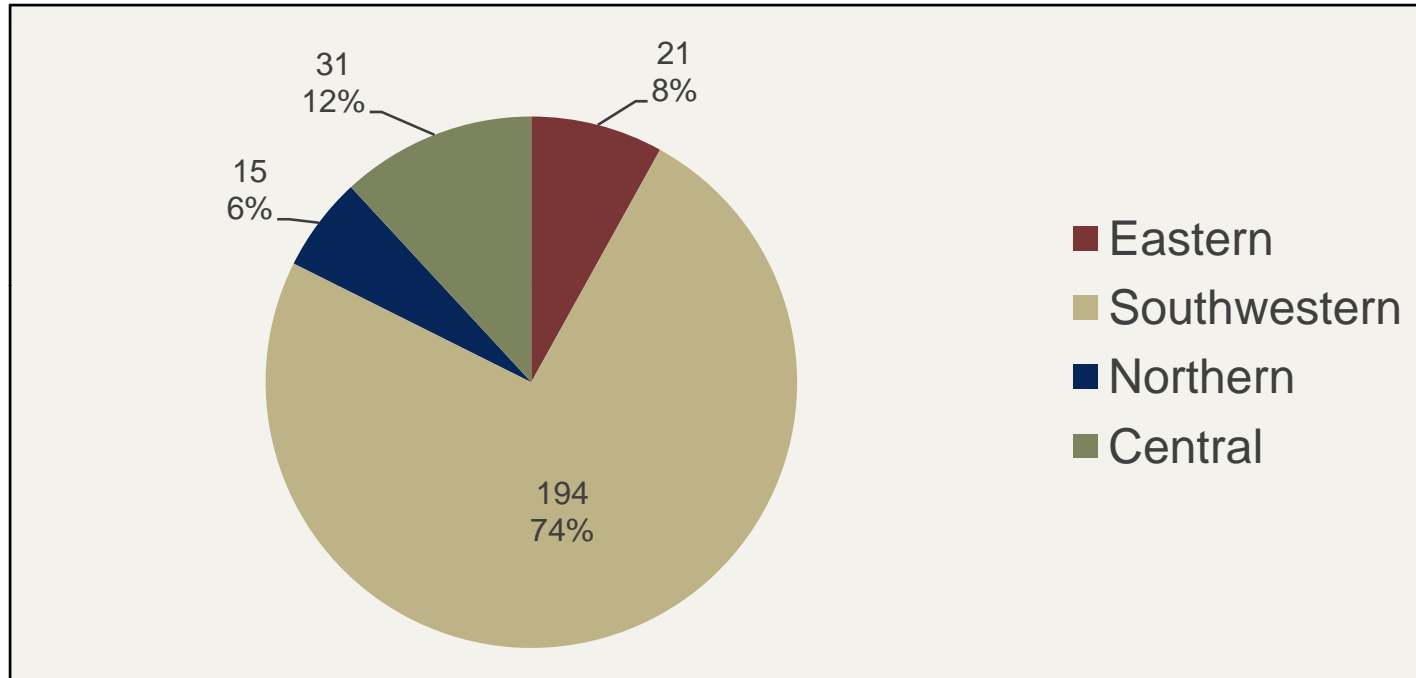
Methodology

- An online, 60 question survey was introduced at selective Boise State University classes during the 2008 fall semester
- Boise State students were asked about their experiences with discrimination and harassment while in high school
- 366 students completed the survey; of these, 266 graduated from a high school in Idaho
- For the purposes of this report, only data from the 266 Idaho graduates was used

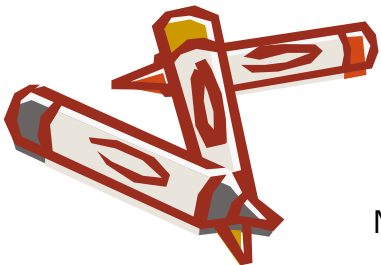


For more information, contact the **Idaho Safe Schools Coalition**
IdahoSSC@gmail.com

Where did you go to high school (region of Idaho)?

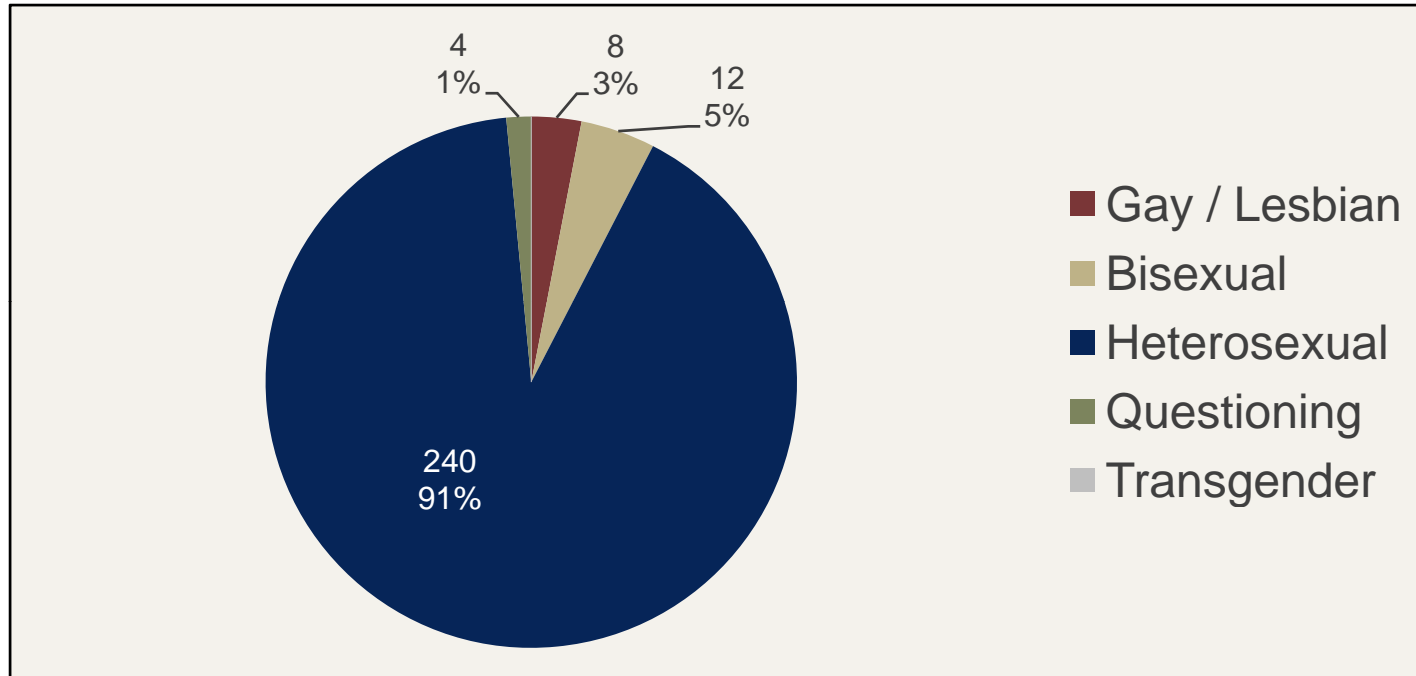


- Students went to high schools from across the state
- Nearly 75% of respondents went to high school in Southwestern Idaho



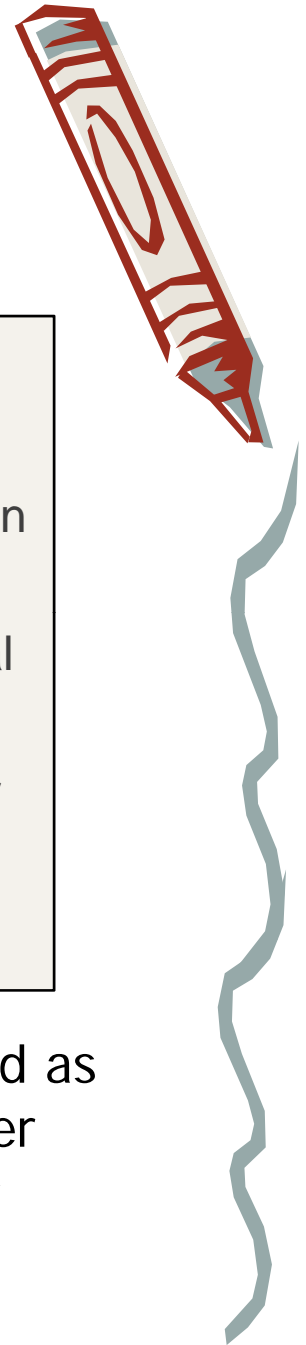
Note: Numbers by graph indicate number of responses and % of total

I describe myself as...

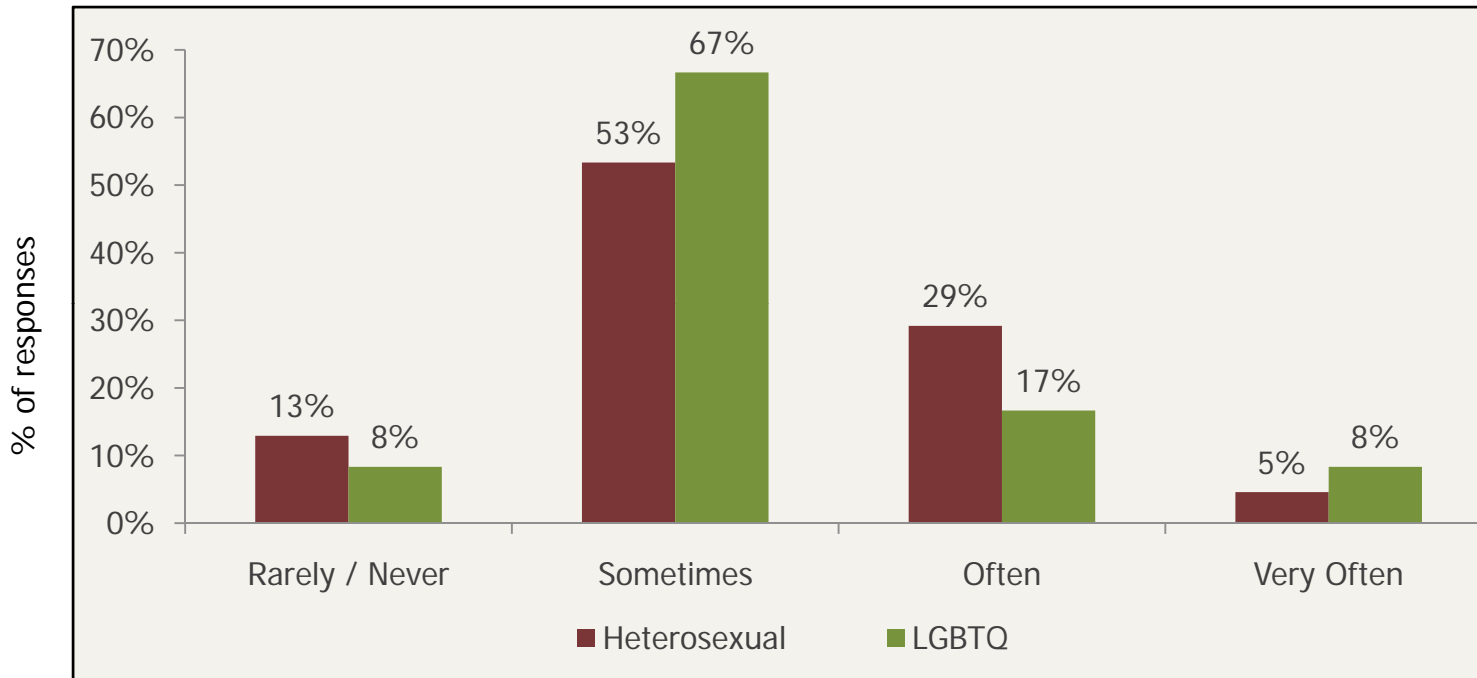


- 9% of respondents, or 24 people, self-identified as LGBTQ, although none identified as transgender
- The remaining 91% self-identified as straight / heterosexual

Note: Numbers by graph indicate number of responses and % of total

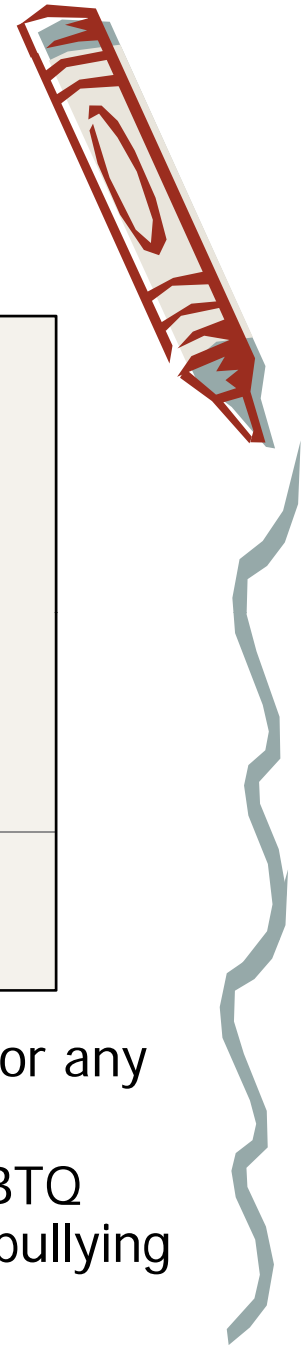
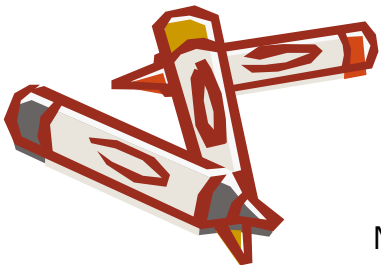


While you were in high school, how often did you witness others being harassed or bullied for any reason?

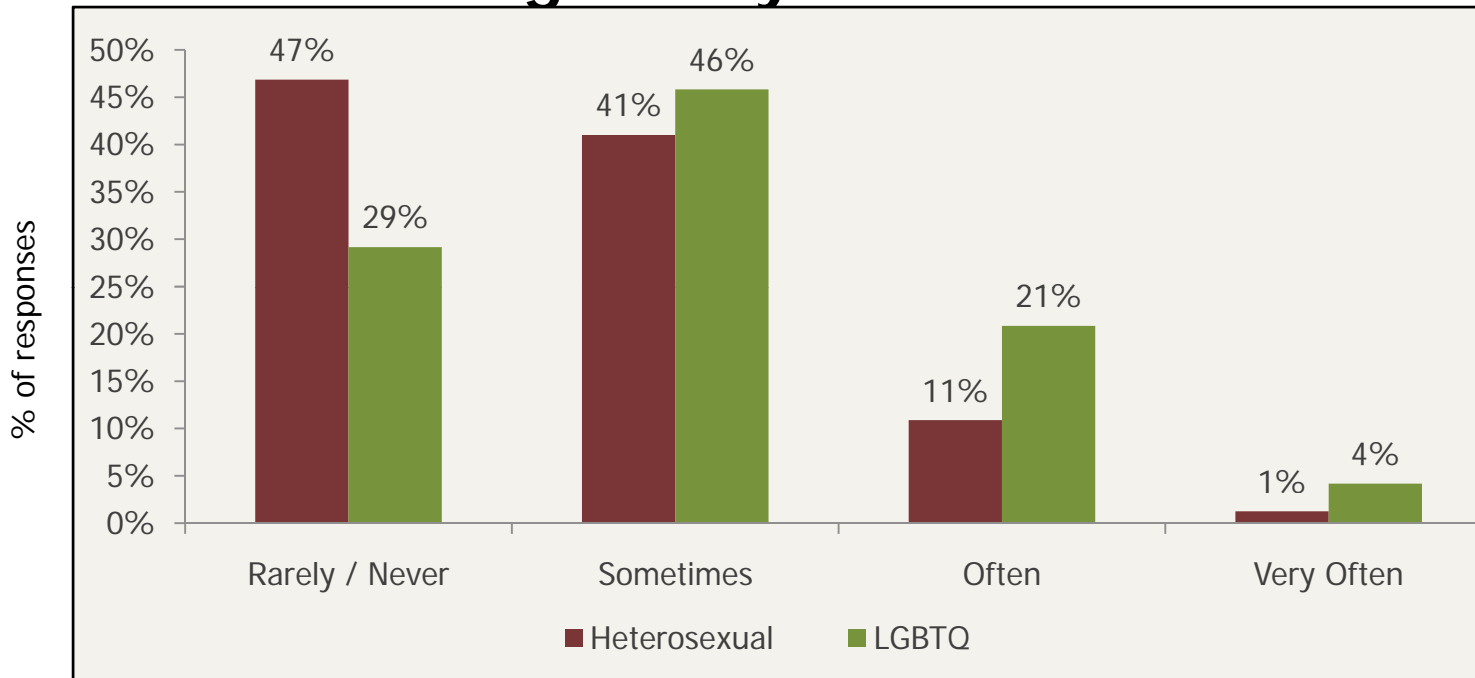


- Students witnessing bullying and harassment for any reason was common across both groups
- 87% of heterosexual students and 92% of LGBTQ students witness some type of harassment or bullying

Note: Heterosexual (N=240), LGBTQ (N=24)

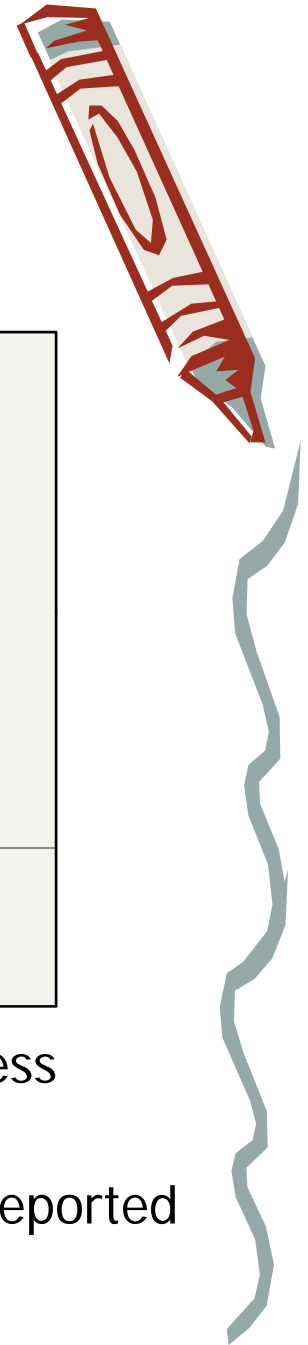


While you were in high school, how often did you **witness** others being harassed or bullied on school property **because they were LGBT or someone thought they were?**



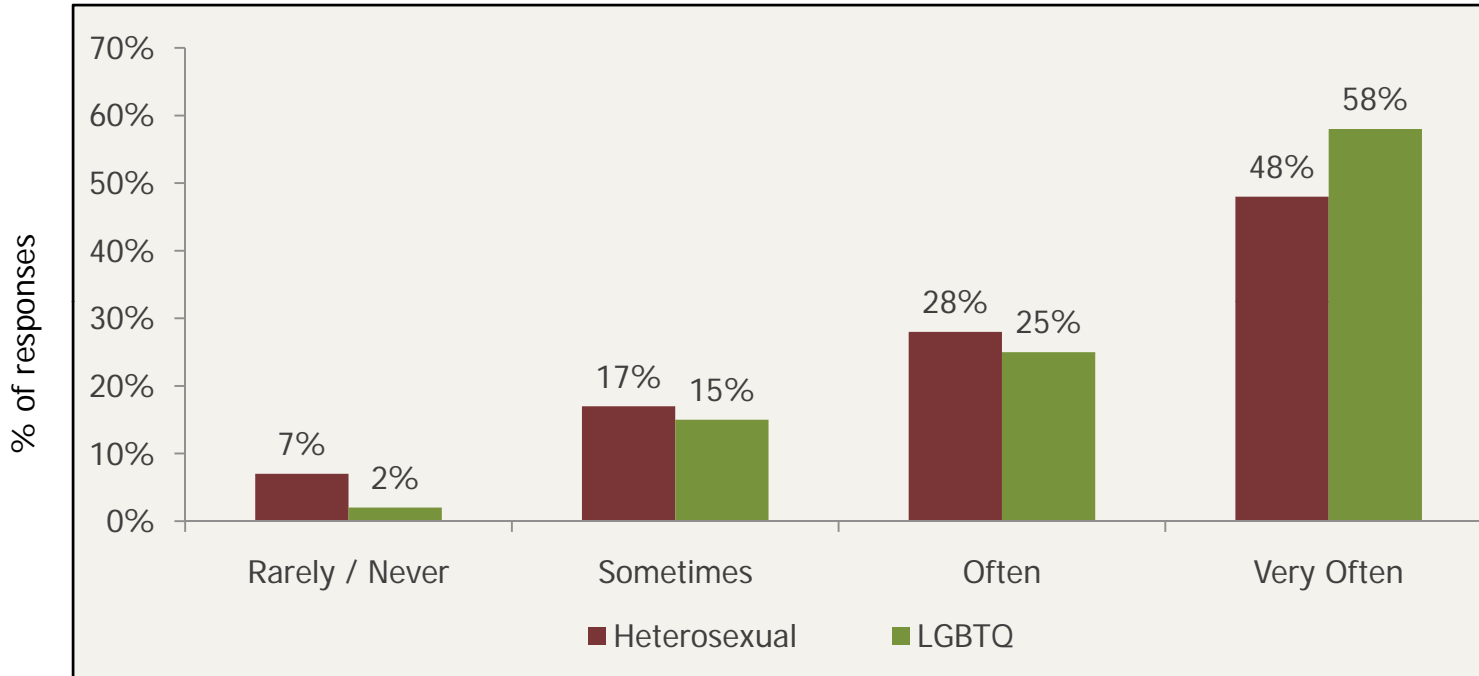
- Almost 75% of LGBTQ students reported witness bullying or harassment due to LGBT reasons
- Whereas, only 53% of heterosexual students reported witnessing bullying or harassment

Note: Heterosexual (N=240), LGBTQ (N=24)



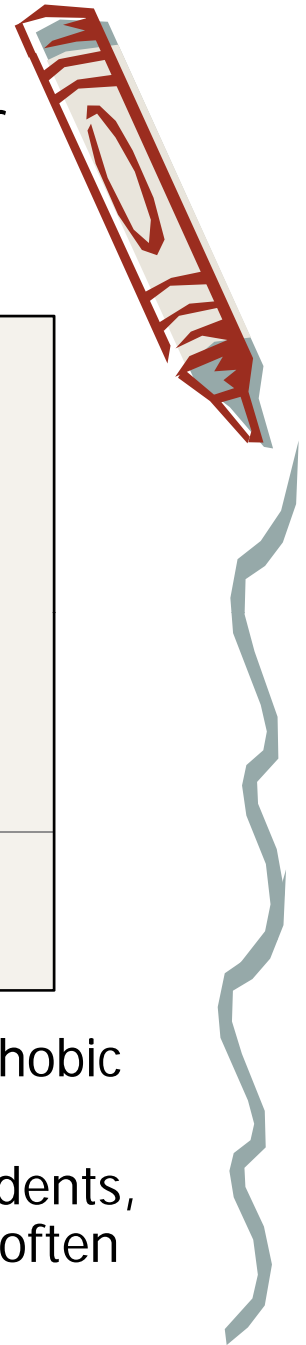
While you were in high school, how often did you hear homophobic comments or anti-LGBT slurs at school?

(Homophobic comments include "that's so gay" or "you're so gay" or "fag")

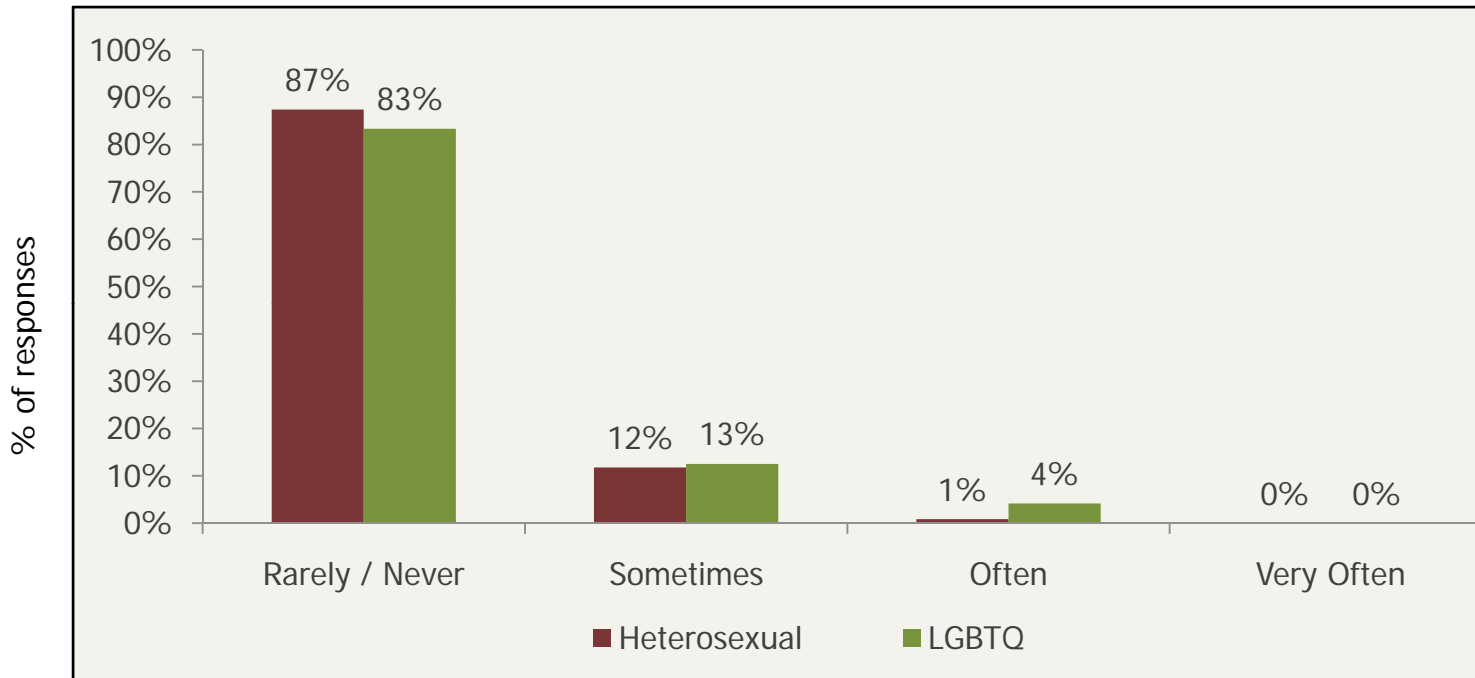


- Unfortunately, almost all students hear homophobic comments or anti-LGBT remarks at school
- 58% and 48% of LGBTQ and heterosexual students, respectively, reported hearing comments very often

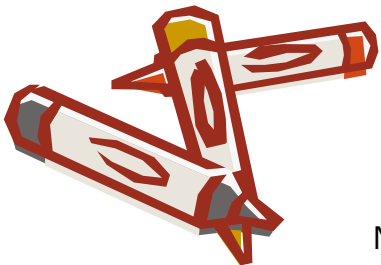
Note: Heterosexual (N=240), LGBTQ (N=24)



How often did you hear teachers or staff make homophobic remarks at your high school?

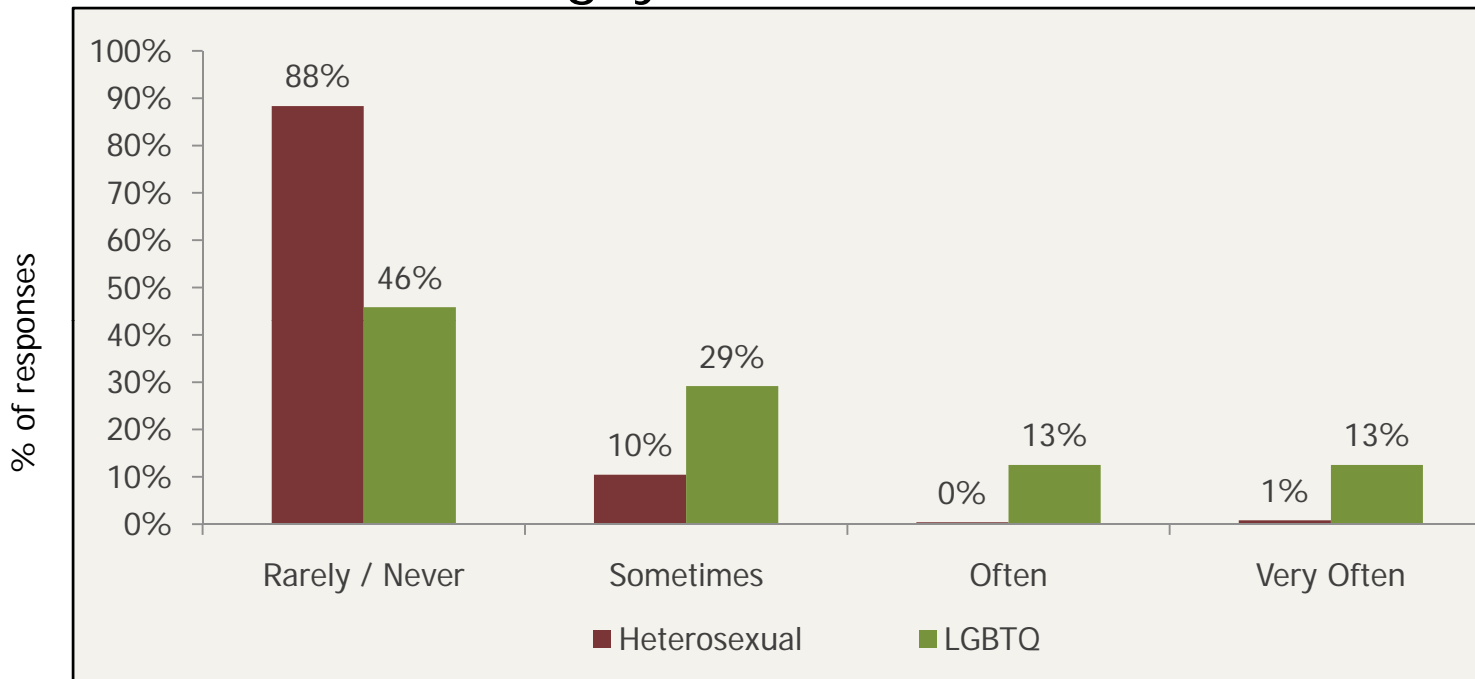


- Fortunately, only 17% of LGBTQ students and 13% of heterosexual students hear their teachers make homophobic remarks at school



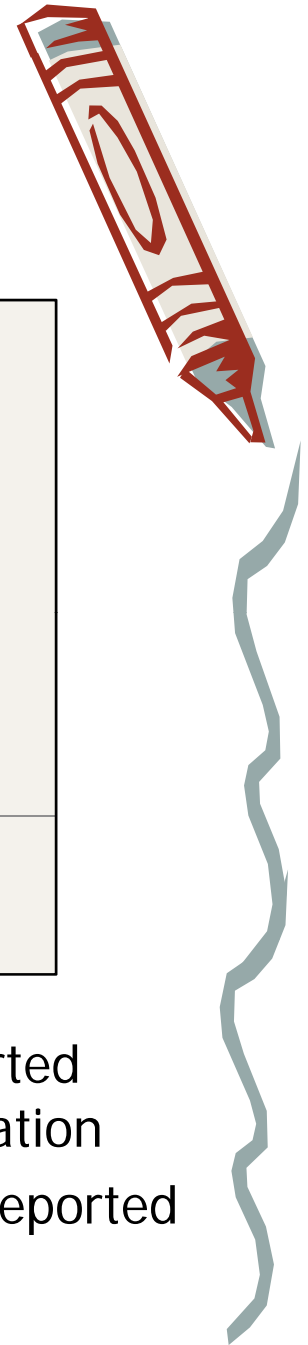
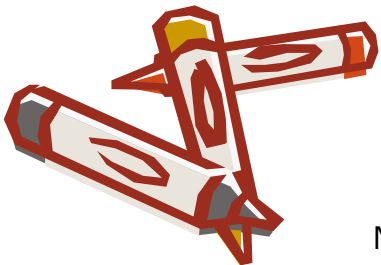
Note: Heterosexual (N=240), LGBTQ (N=24)

While you were in high school, how often were you harassed because someone thought you were gay or lesbian?

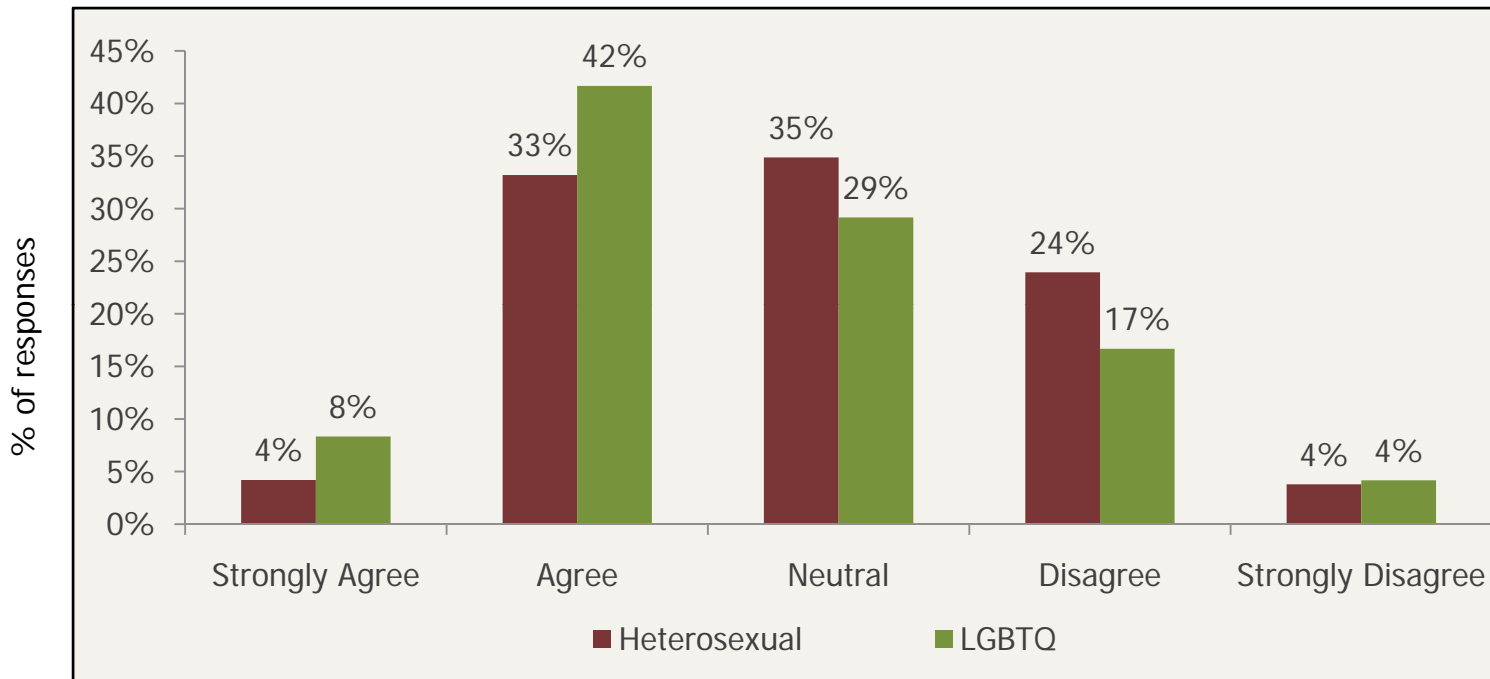


- More than half, 54%, of LGBTQ students reported being harassed due to perceived sexual orientation
- Whereas, only 12% of heterosexual students reported similar harassment

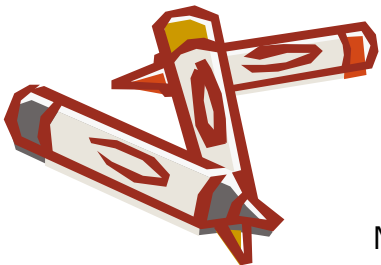
Note: Heterosexual (N=240), LGBTQ (N=24)



At my high school, it was okay for girls to be masculine.

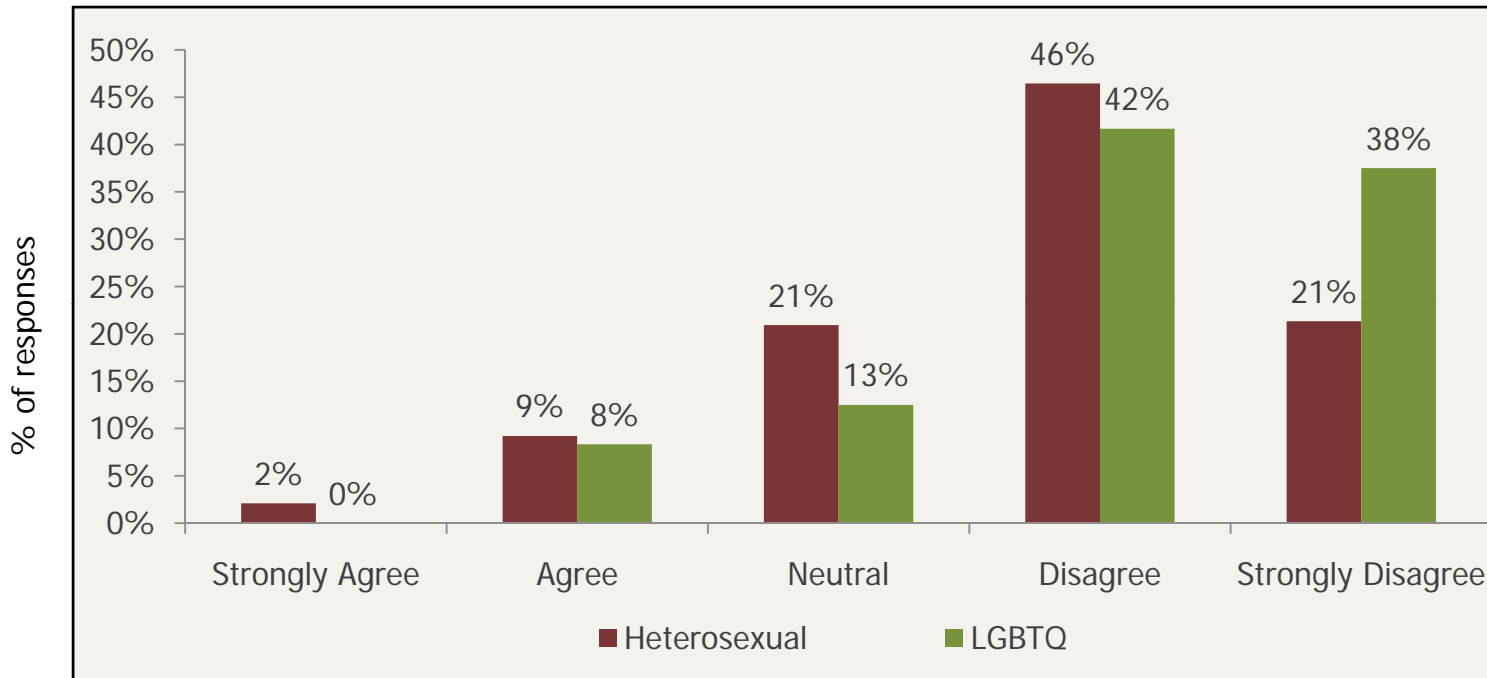


- A significant portion of both groups were unsure or neutral about this statement
- However, 50% of LGBTQ students, but only 37% of heterosexual students, agree with this statement



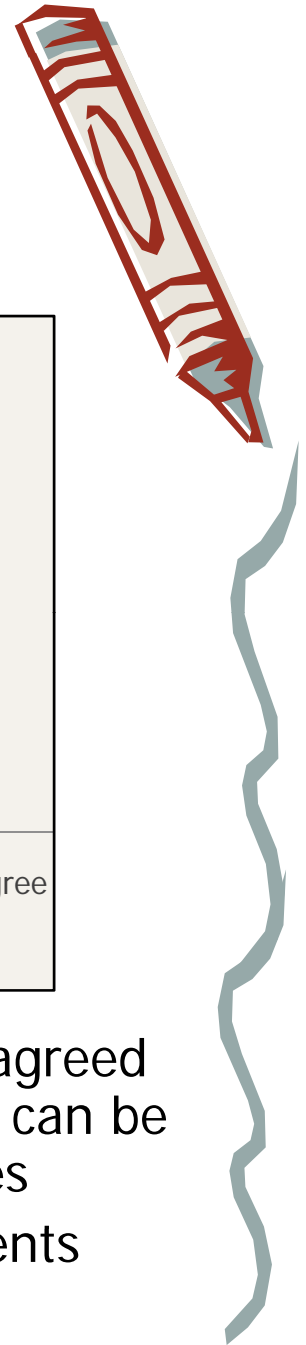
Note: Heterosexual (N=240), LGBTQ (N=24)

At my high school, it was okay for boys to be feminine.

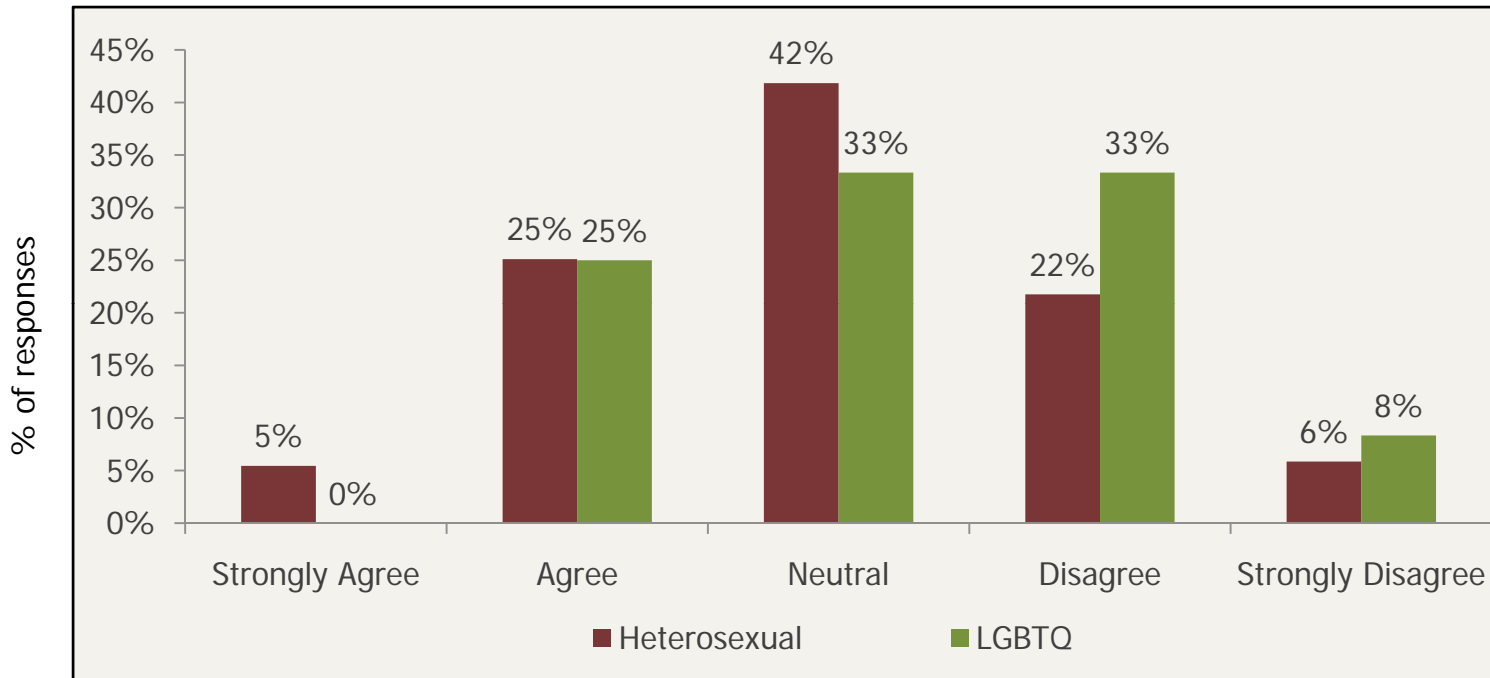


- Interestingly, more queer than straight youth agreed girls can be masculine but disagreed that boys can be feminine, implying gender stereotypes or biases
- 80% of LGBTQ and 68% of heterosexual students disagreed with this statement

Note: Heterosexual (N=240), LGBTQ (N=24)



I felt my high school was a safe place for LGBT students and staff.

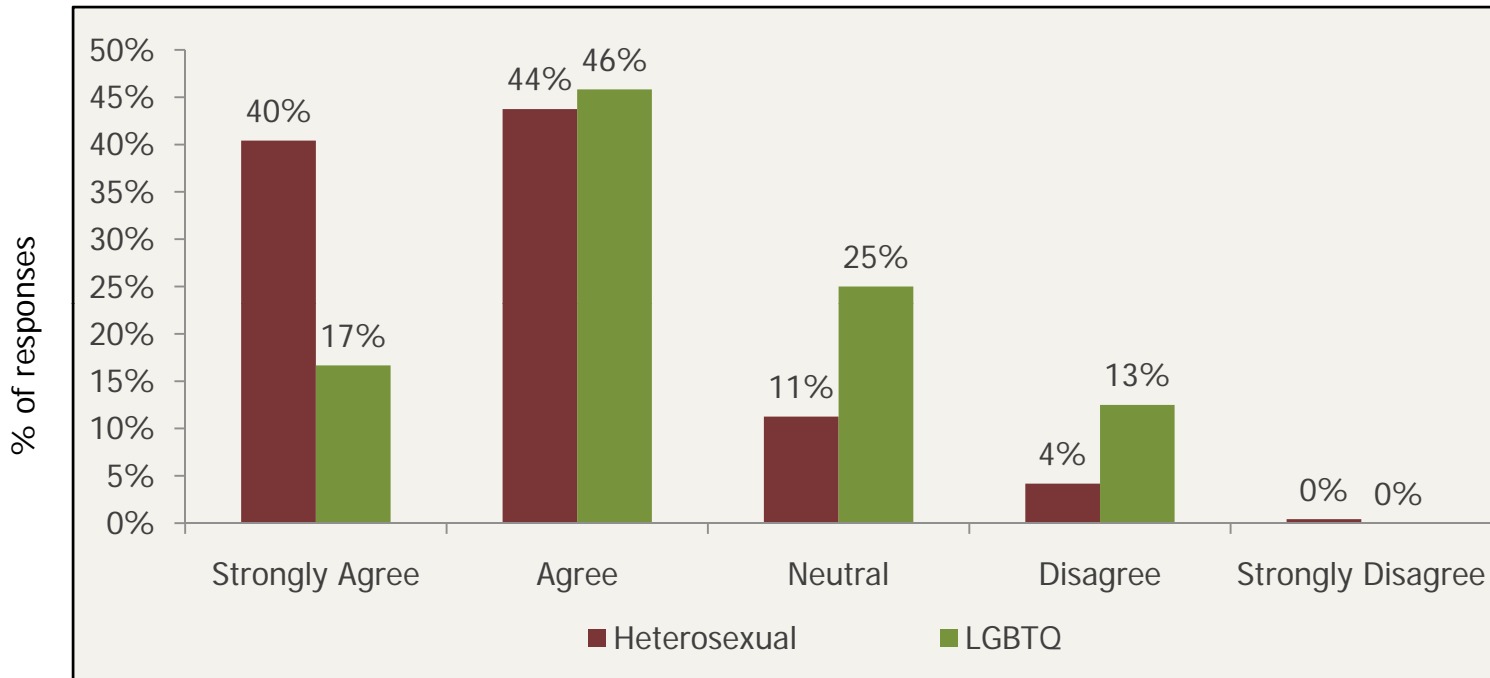


- 42% of LGBTQ youth disagreed with this statement that their school is a safe place
- Whereas, only 28% of heterosexual students indicated it would not be safe for LGBT students



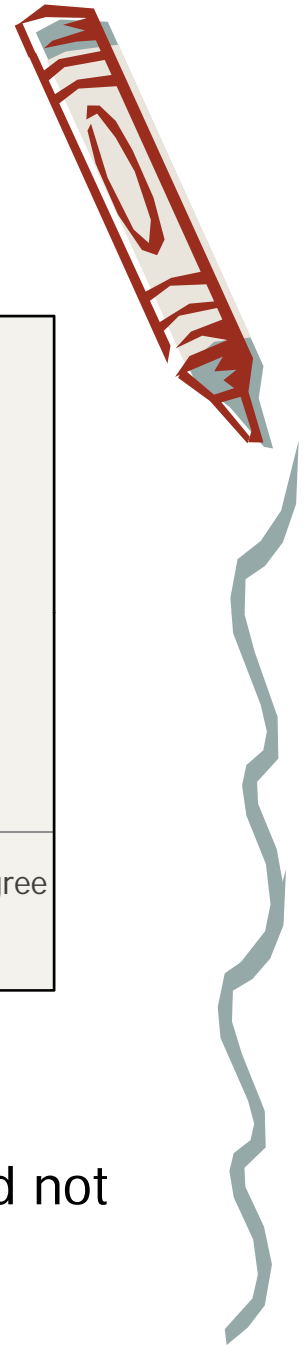
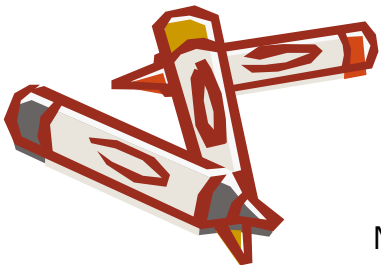
Note: Heterosexual (N=240), LGBTQ (N=24)

I felt safe at my high school.

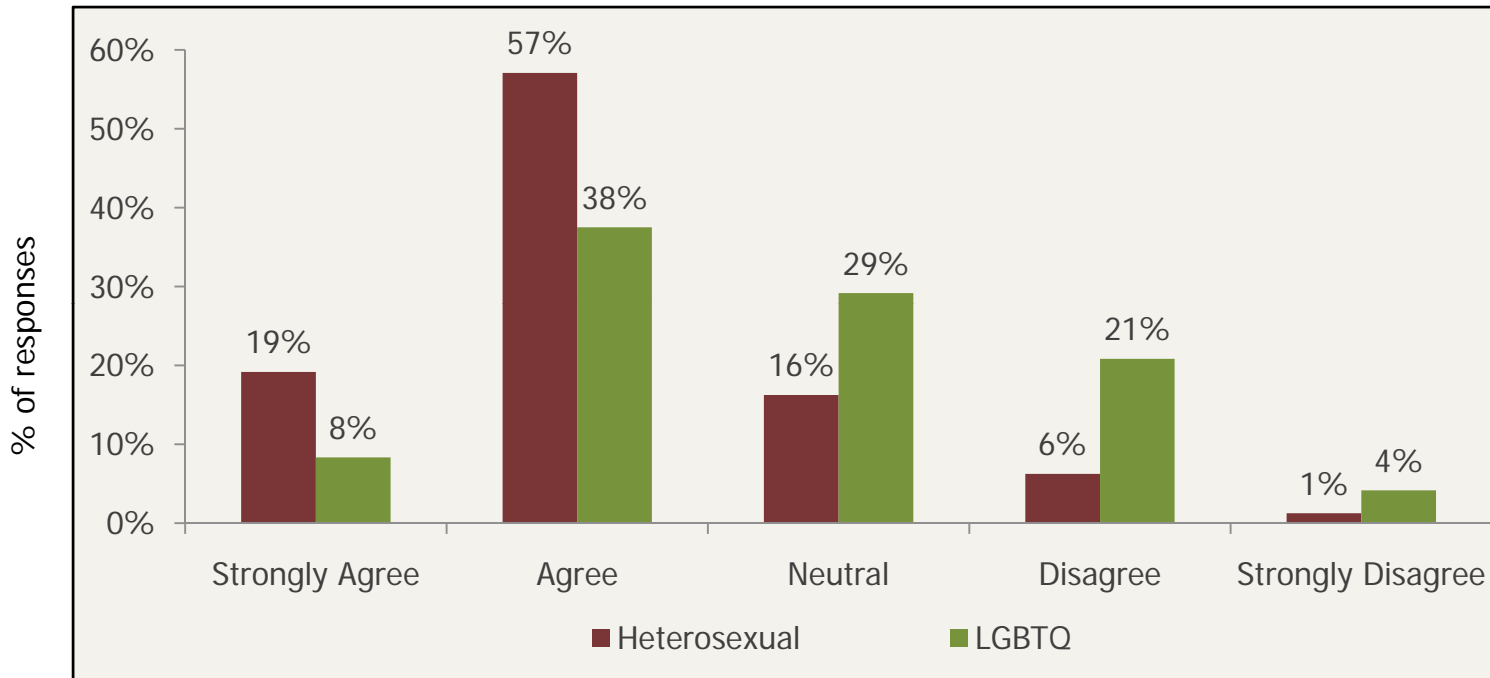


- Overwhelmingly more heterosexual students strongly agree with this statement
- More than a third, 37%, of LGBTQ students did not agree with the statement

Note: Heterosexual (N=240), LGBTQ (N=24)

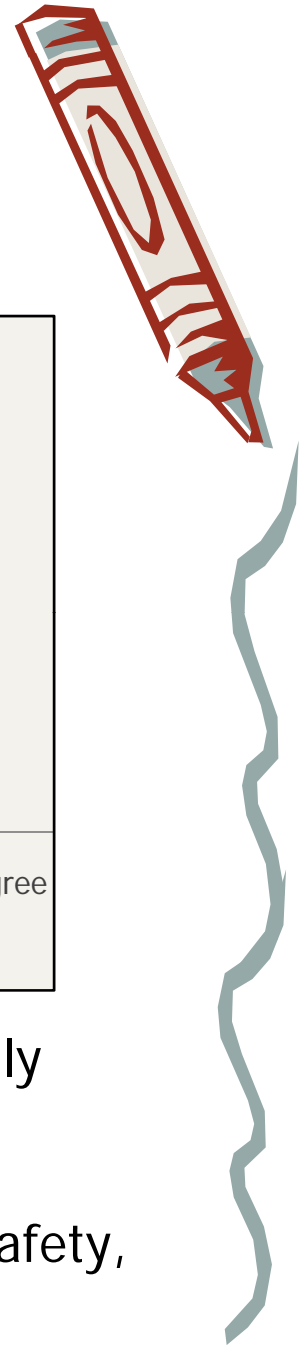


The teachers and administrators tried to prevent harassment at my high school.

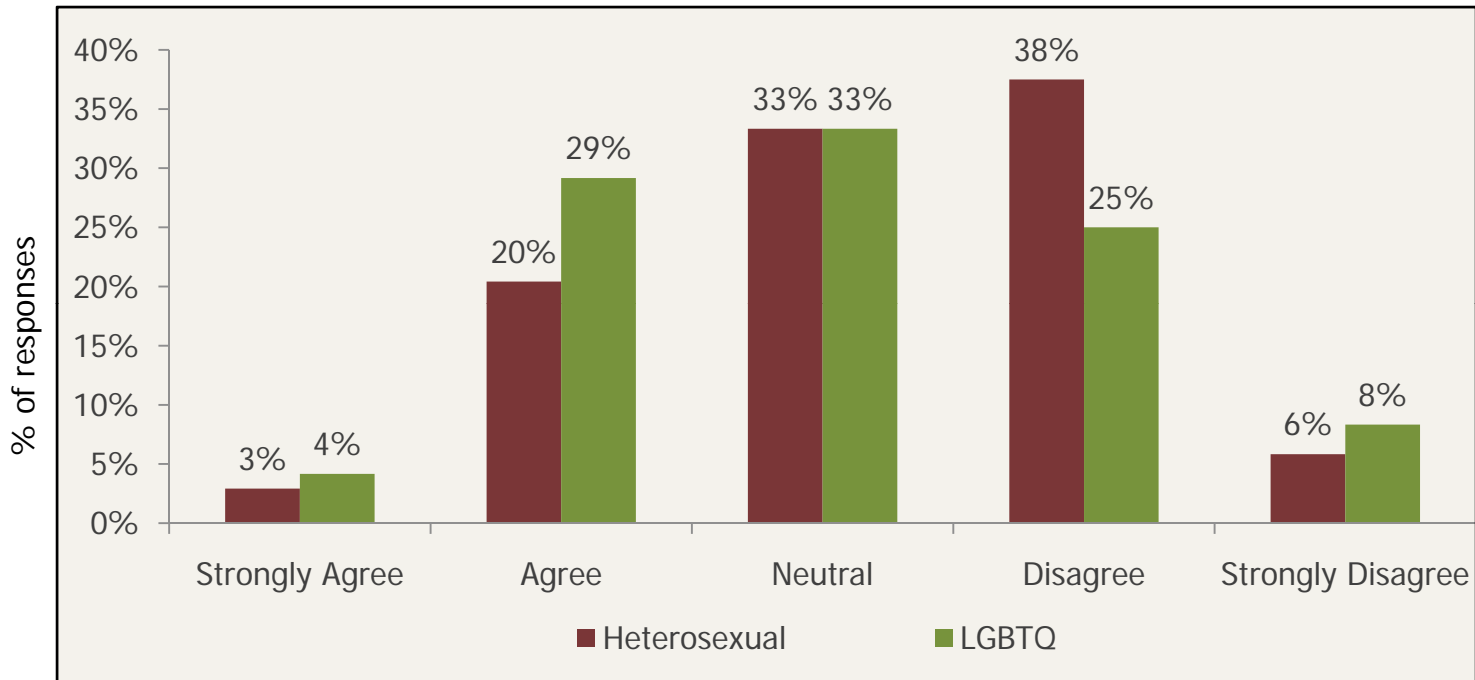


- Only 46% of LGBTQ students agreed or strongly agreed with this statement, whereas, 76% of heterosexual students agreed
- Indicates difference in perceptions regarding safety, support and policy

Note: Heterosexual (N=240), LGBTQ (N=24)

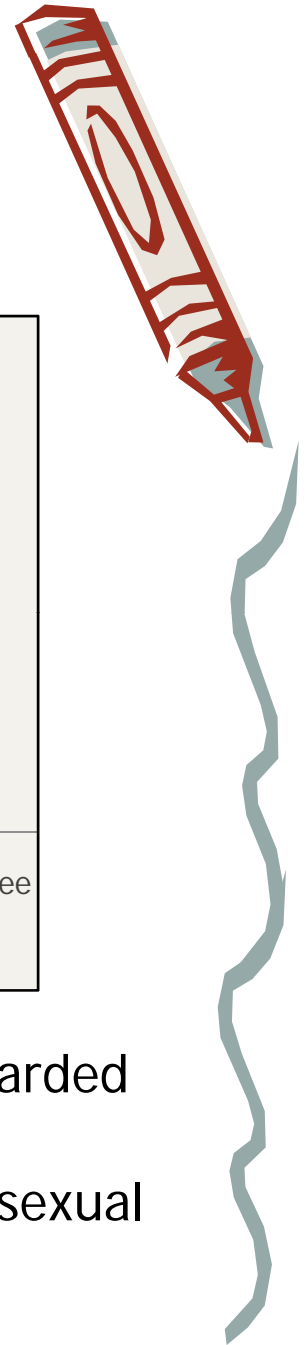


Bullying / name-calling / harassment was a serious problem at my high school.

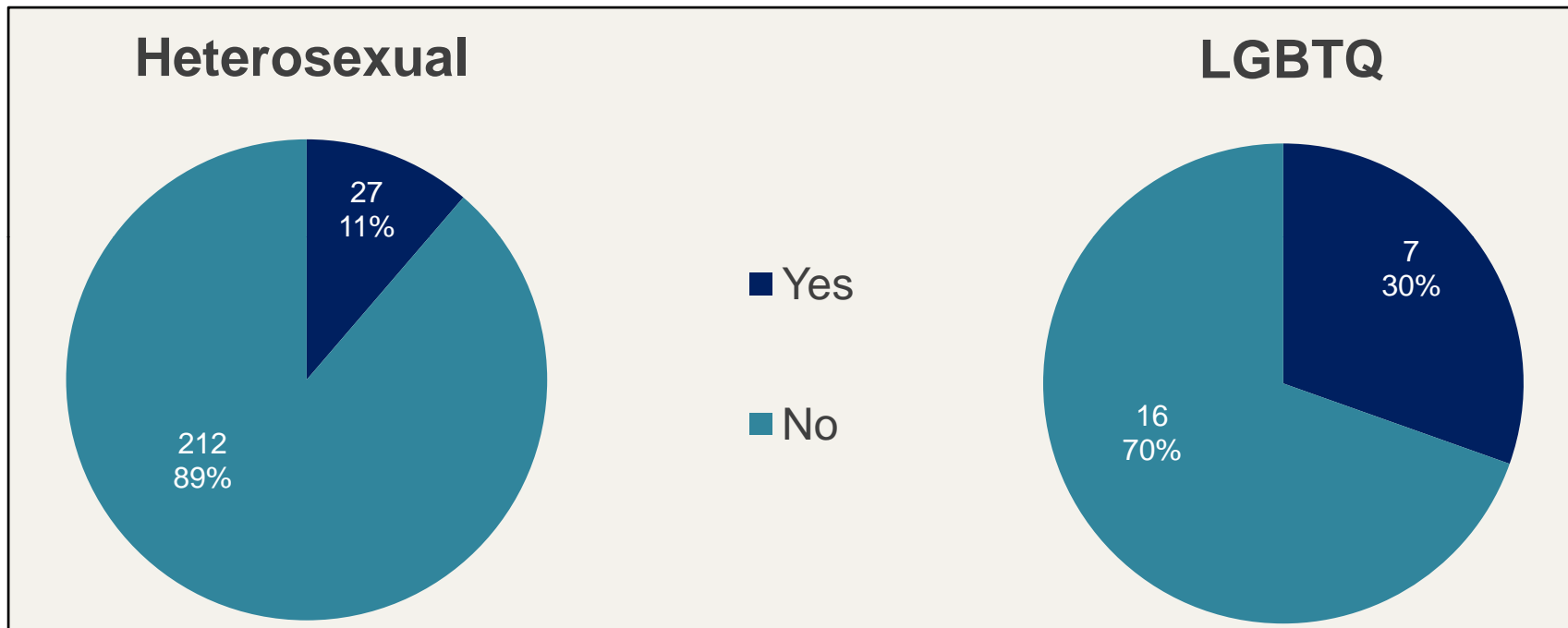
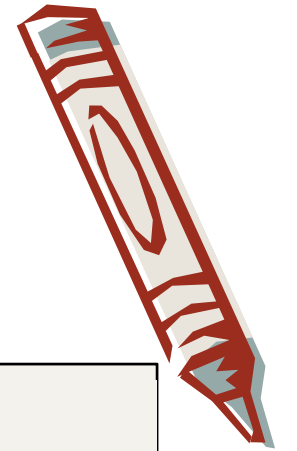


- As expected, bullying and harassment was regarded as a bigger problem for LGBTQ students
- 33% of LGBTQ students versus 23% of heterosexual students agreed with this statement

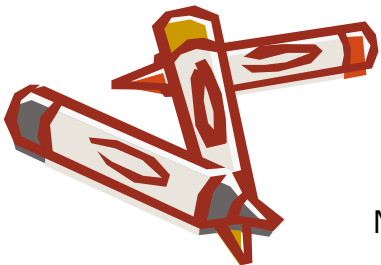
Note: Heterosexual (N=240), LGBTQ (N=24)



Did you know of any vandalism or graffiti being directed against students thought to be LGBT at your high school?

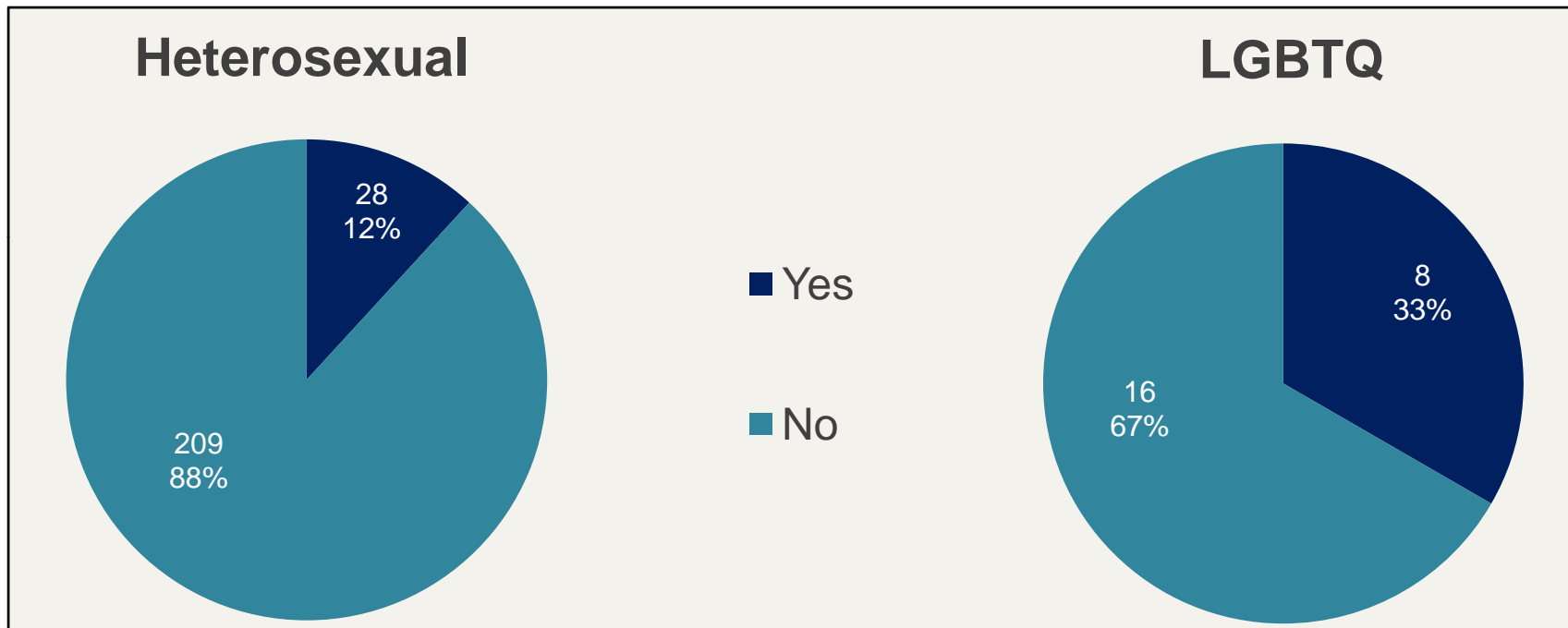
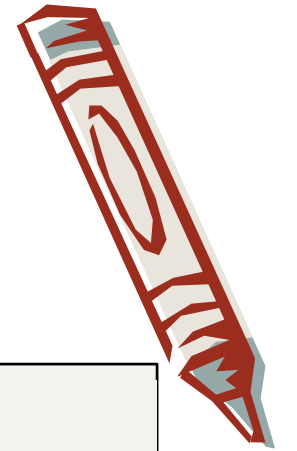


- 30% of LGBTQ students, compared to only 11% of heterosexual students, were aware of vandalism directed for LGBTQ reasons



Note: Numbers by graph indicate total number of responses and % of total

Did you know of any physical attacks occurring against students thought to be LGBT at your high school?

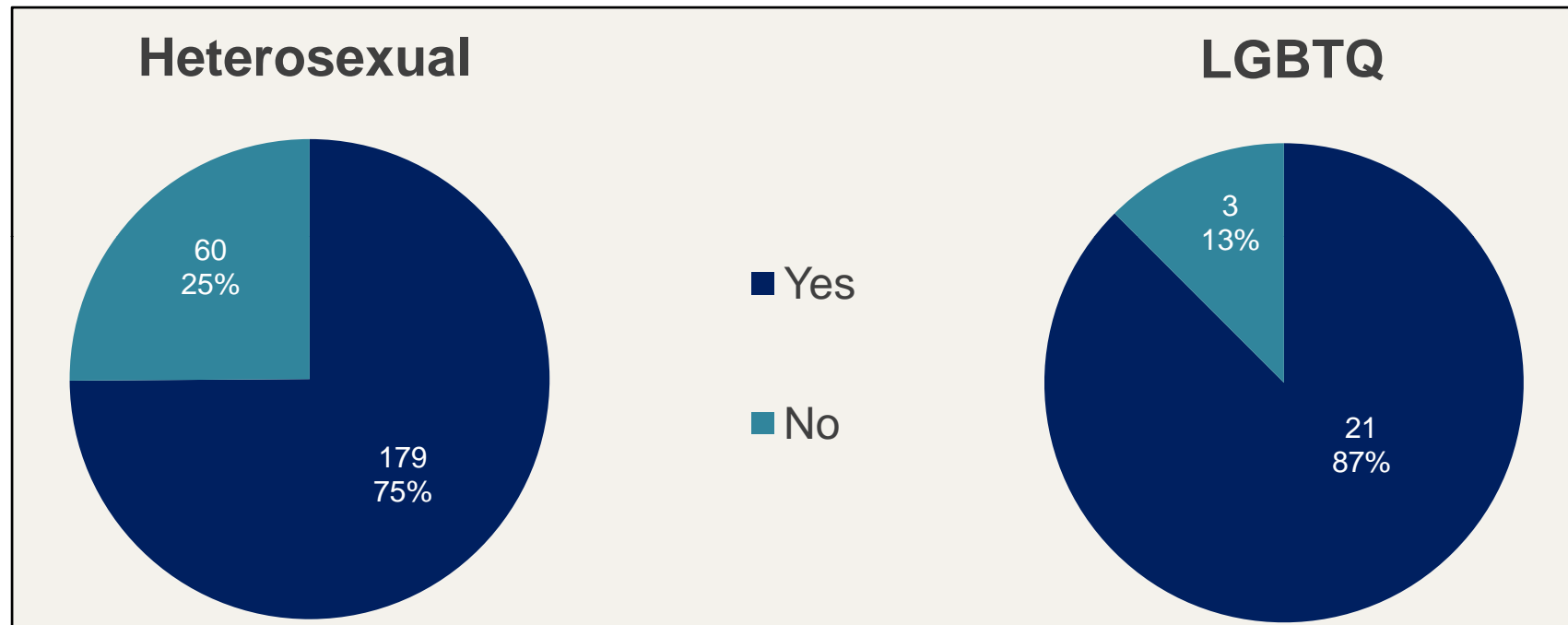


- 1 in 3, 33%, of LGBTQ students, compared to only 12% of heterosexual students, were aware of physical attacks against LGBTQ (or perceived LGBTQ) students at their high school



Note: Numbers by graph indicate total number of responses and % of total

Did you know of **students who openly identified as LGBT** at your high school?

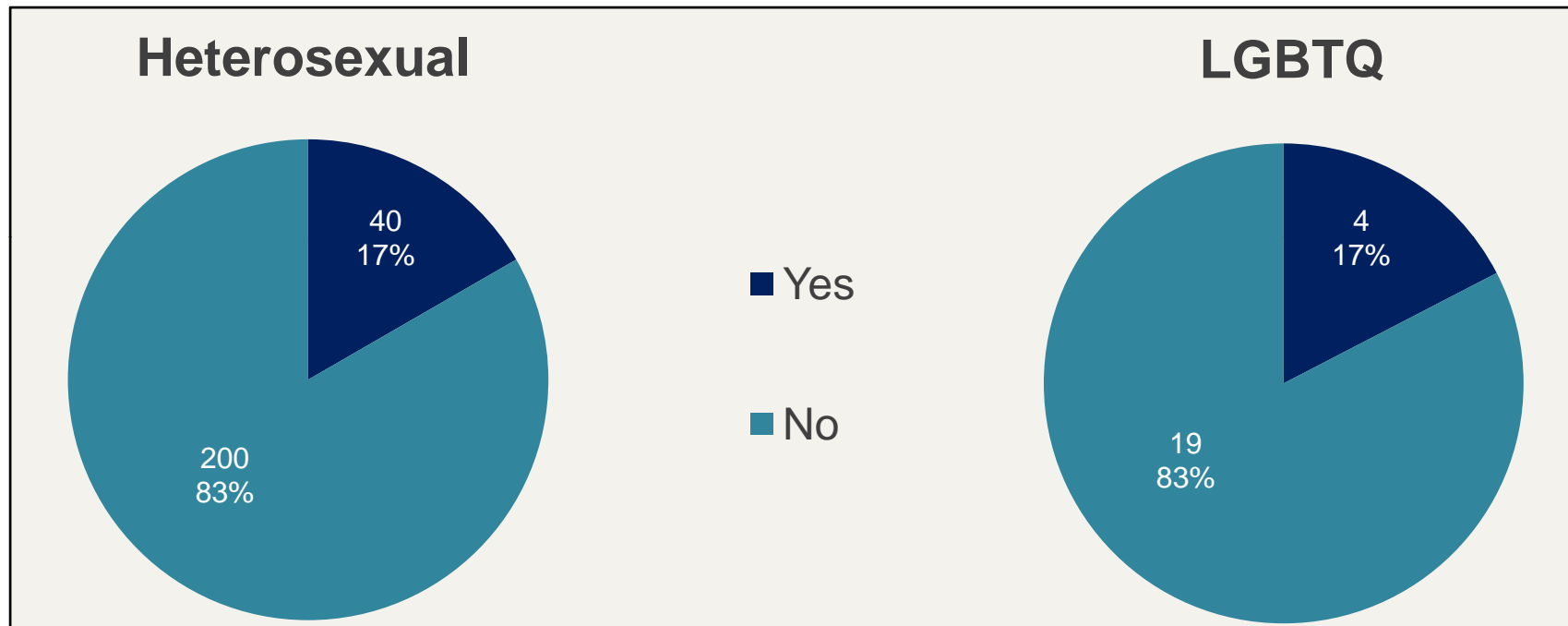
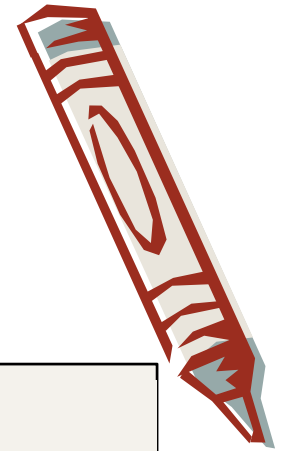


- A positive indicator, overwhelmingly students report they knew other students who openly identified as LGBT



Note: Numbers by graph indicate total number of responses and % of total

Did you know of **teachers or staff who openly identified as LGBT** at your high school?

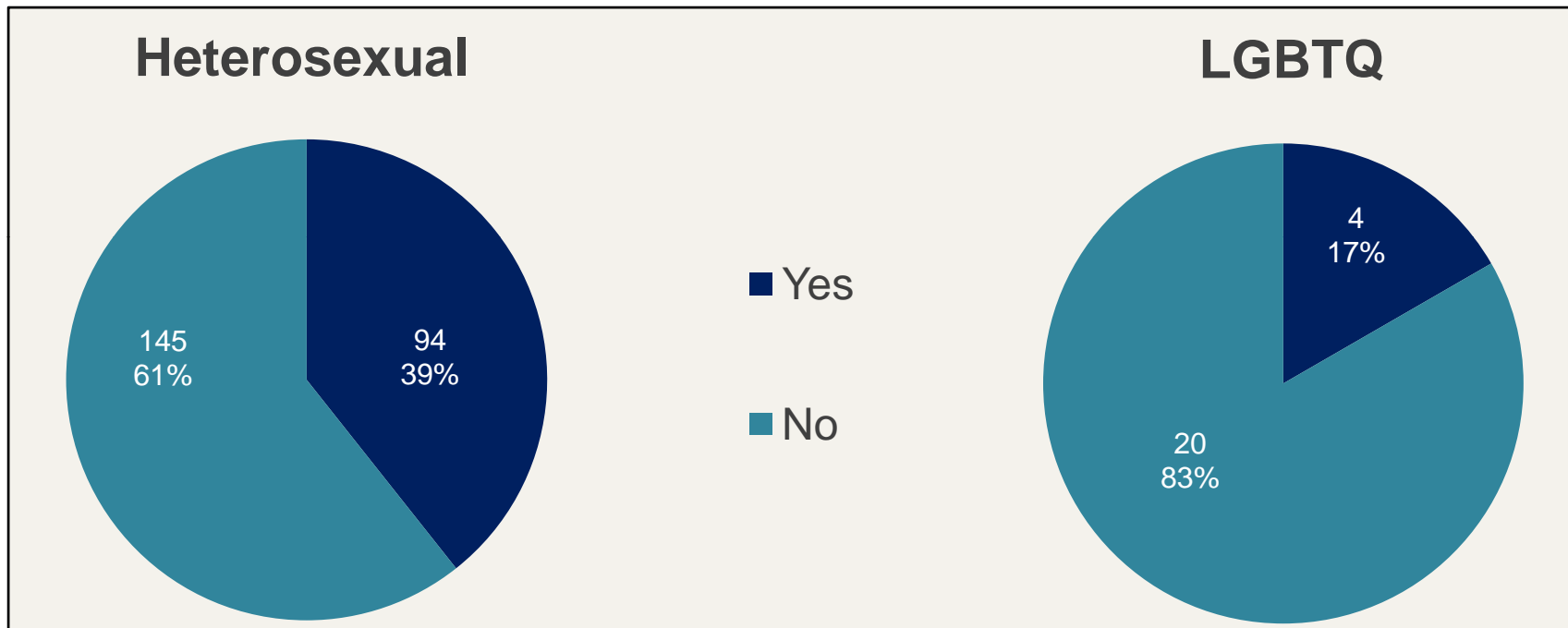
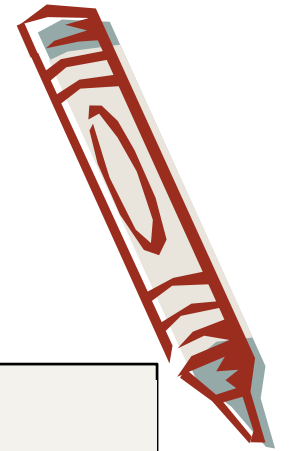


- Openly LGBTQ-identified teachers and/or staff are much less common than students
- 17% of both LGBTQ and heterosexual students reported knowing an openly LGBT-identified staff



Note: Numbers by graph indicate total number of responses and % of total

If you wanted information and/or support about sexual orientation or gender identity, did you know where at your high school to go?

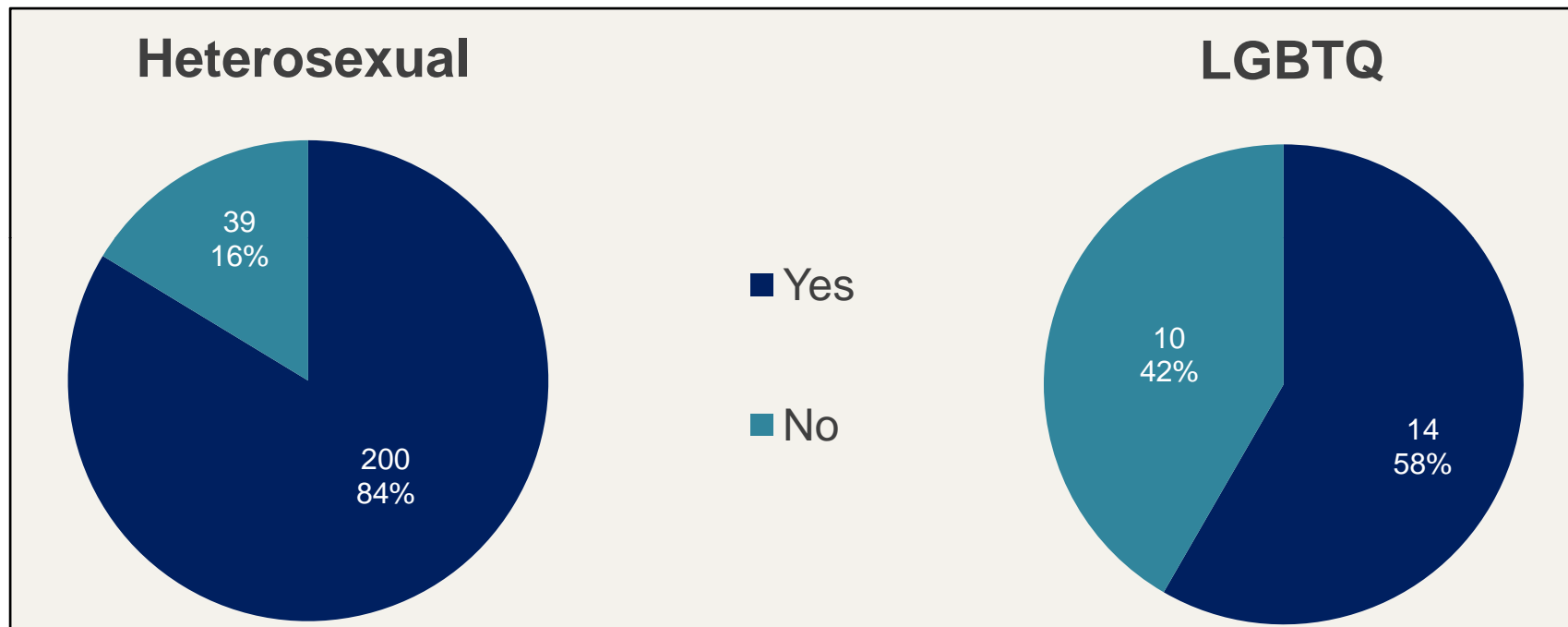
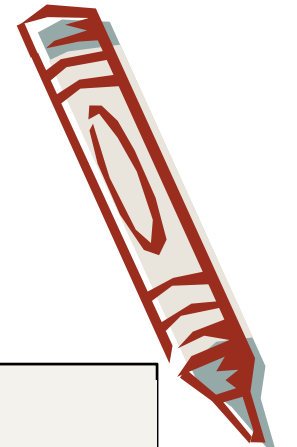


- Unfortunately, students report they do not know where to get resources and/or support for gender identity or sexual orientation issue
- Over 83% of LGBTQ students did not have resources



Note: Numbers by graph indicate total number of responses and % of total

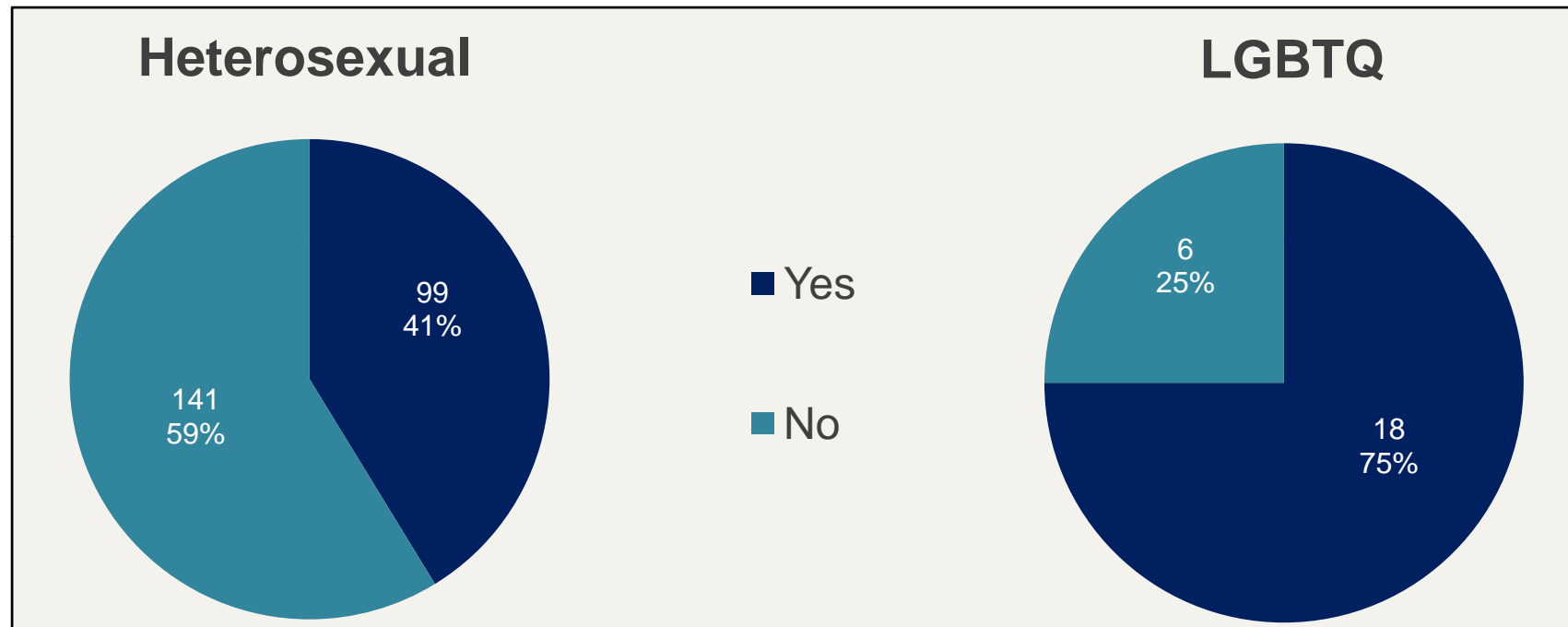
Did you feel that you had a teacher or staff member that you could go to if you felt targeted, teased, or harassed at your high school?



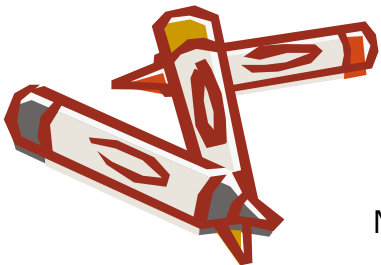
- Fortunately, students report they do have support from an adult if they were being harassed or targeted
- However, LGBTQ youth only reported yes 58% of the time, compared to 84% for heterosexual youth

Note: Numbers by graph indicate total number of responses and % of total

At your high school, did you **experience** any form of verbal or physical harassment or assault?

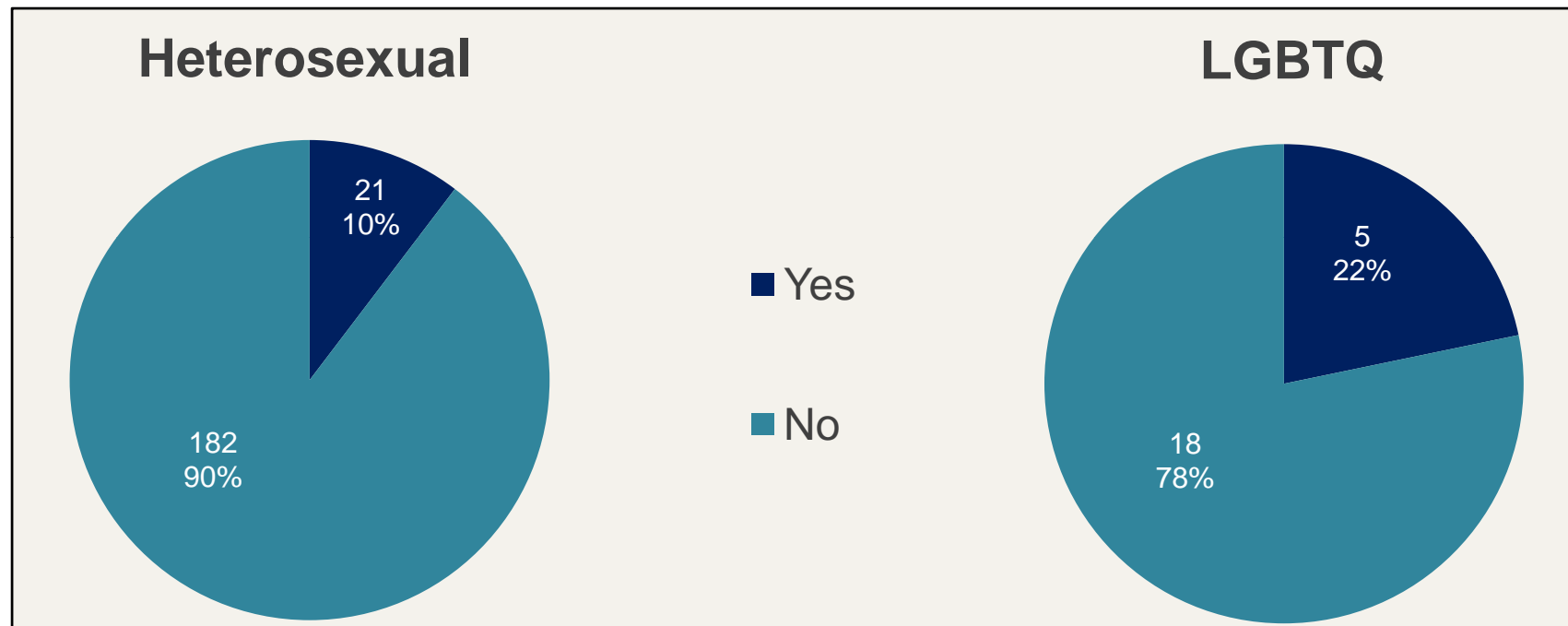


- 75% of LGBTQ youth experienced harassment or assault in high school, compared to only 41% of heterosexual students



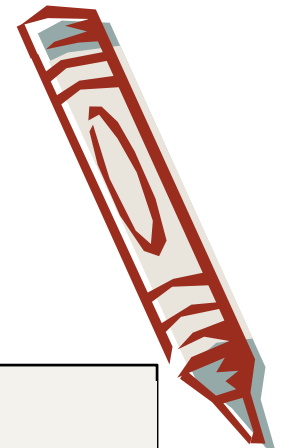
Note: Numbers by graph indicate total number of responses and % of total

If so, did you report it to a teacher, principal or other staff member?

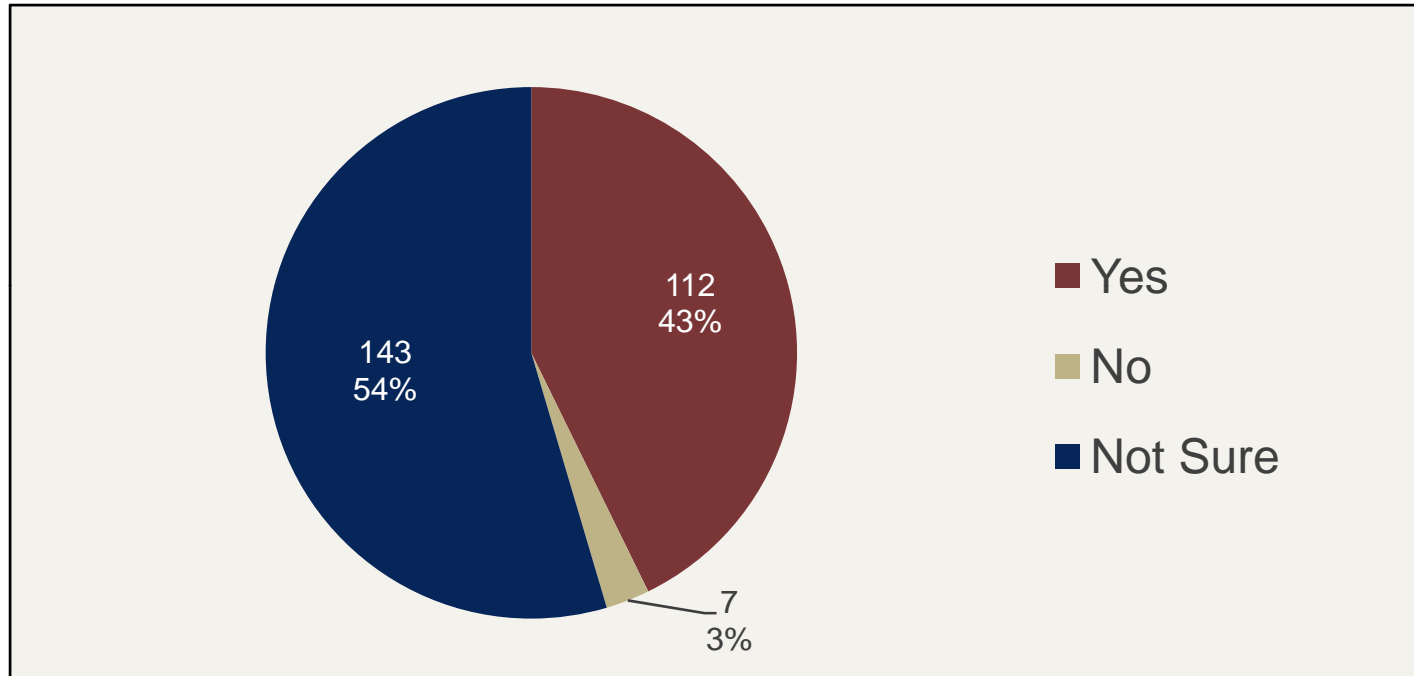


- Few cases of harassment are reported, with LGBTQ youth claiming they report 22%
- Heterosexual youth claim they only report 10% of the incidences of bullying or harassment

Note: Numbers by graph indicate total number of responses and % of total

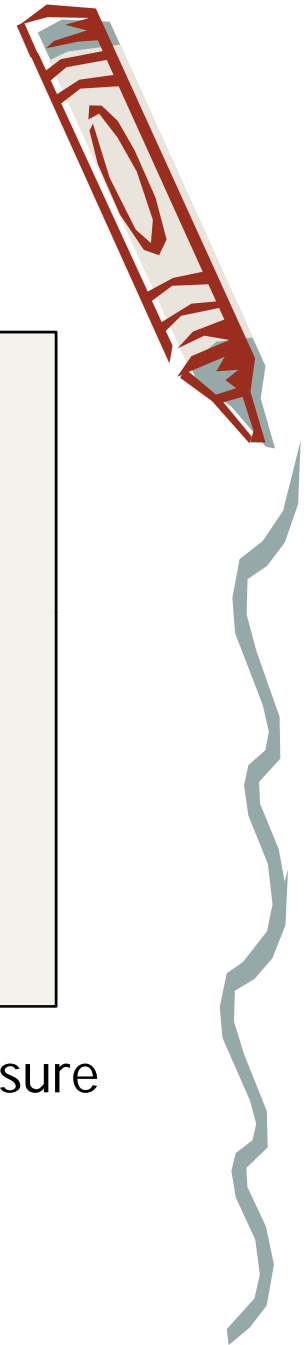
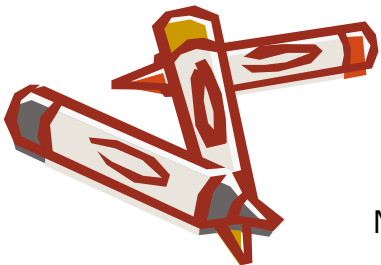


Did your high school have a policy for reporting incidents of harassment or assault in school?

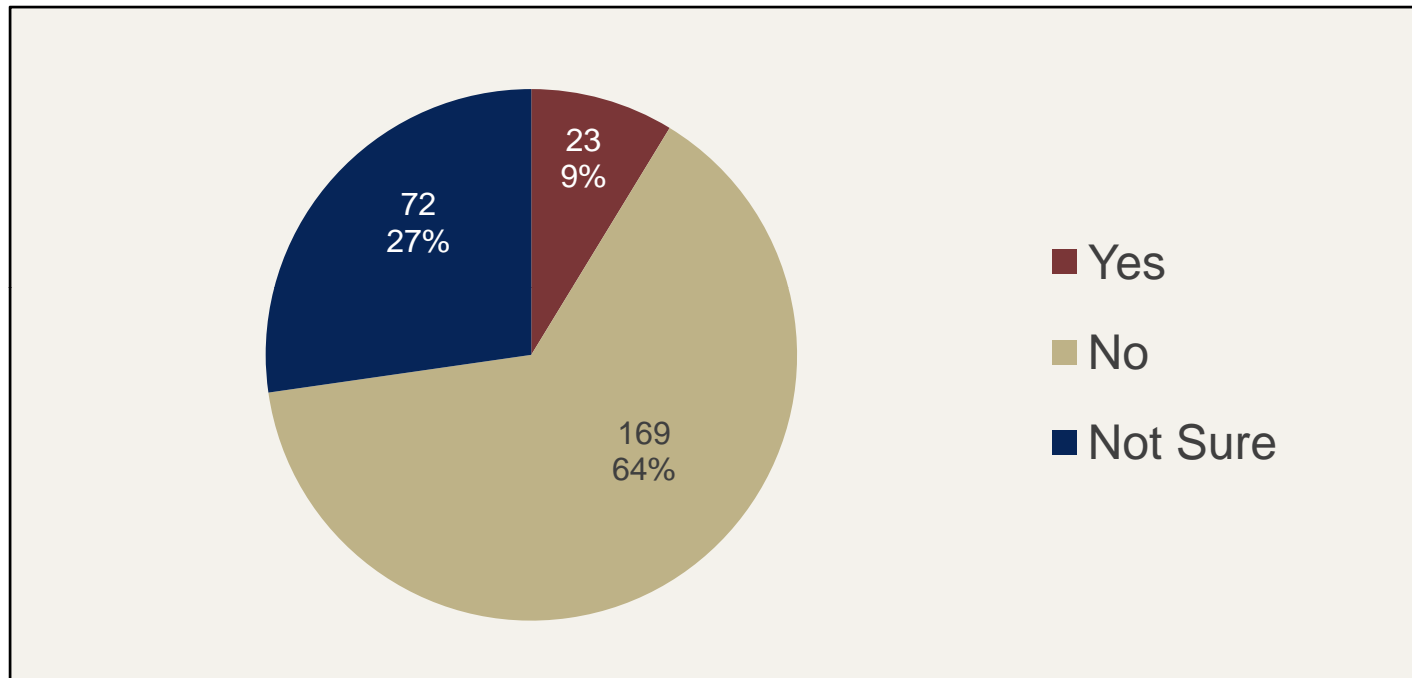


- Less than half, 43%, of the respondents were sure there school even has a policy for reporting harassment or assault
- Most students, 54%, were not sure

Note: Numbers by bars indicate total number of responses and % of total

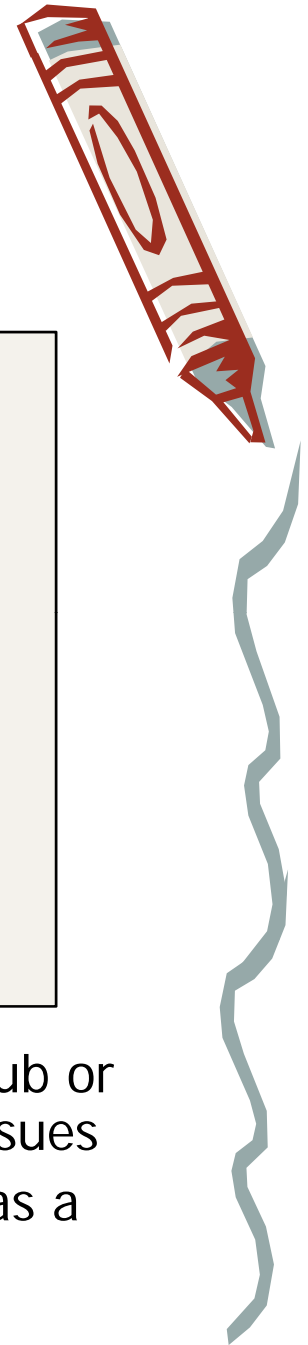


Did your high school have a supportive organization such as a Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) or other clubs that addressed LGBT student issues?

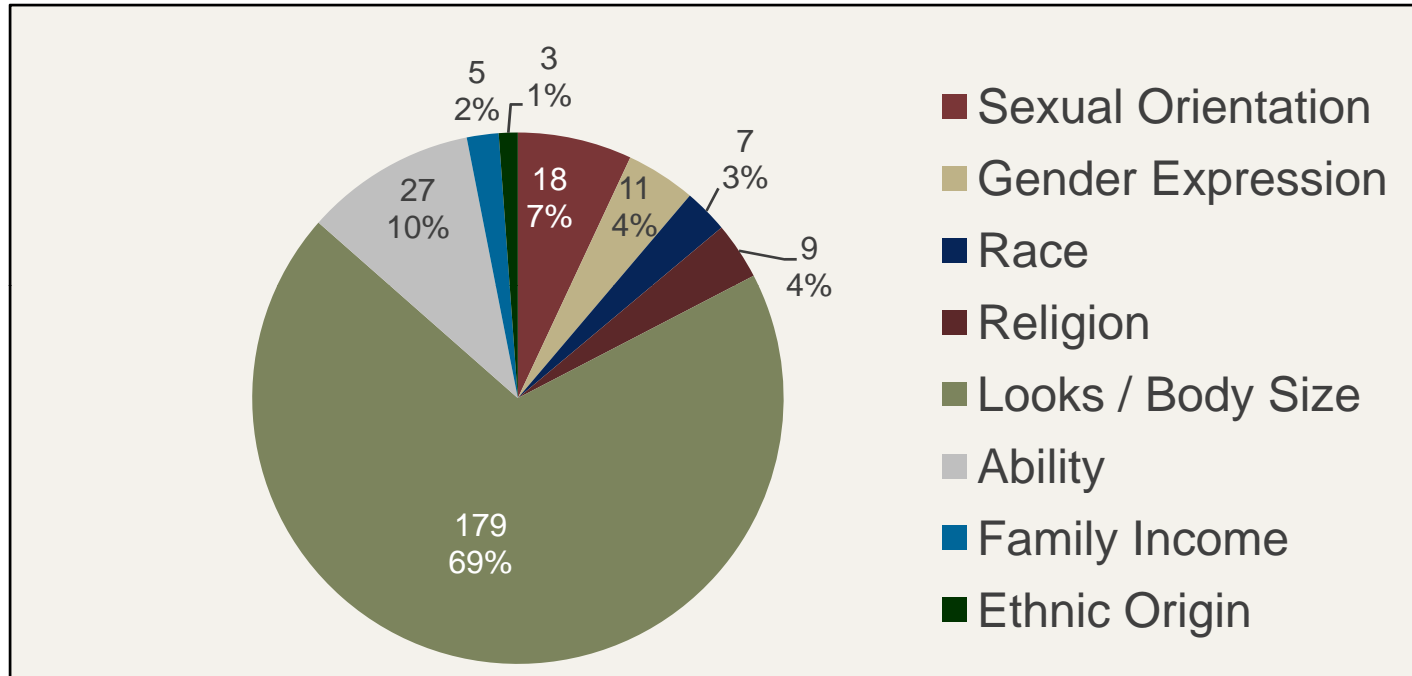


- 64% of the students indicated there was no club or organization directed for LGBTQ students or issues
- Surprisingly, 9% of students reported there was a GSA at their school

Note: Numbers by bars indicate total number of responses and % of total



What was the main reason why someone was bullied, called names, or harassed at your high school?



- The vast majority of the harassment or bullying was due to looks / body size with 70%
- Sexual orientation and gender expression together were the next top reason at 7% and 4%, respectively



Note: Numbers by bars indicate total number of responses and % of total