

Support Services for LGBTQ Youth

In 1990, SFUSD's Board of Education established Support Services for LGBTQ Youth. The goal is to provide school site resources and district support to meet the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth and families. Today, **Support Services for LGBTQ Youth** is the only completely integrated school based program of its size and collaborates with both other SFUSD programs, and community based organizations, to make schools safer for all students, including LGBTQ students.

Chart 1. Sexual orientation populations at SFUSD

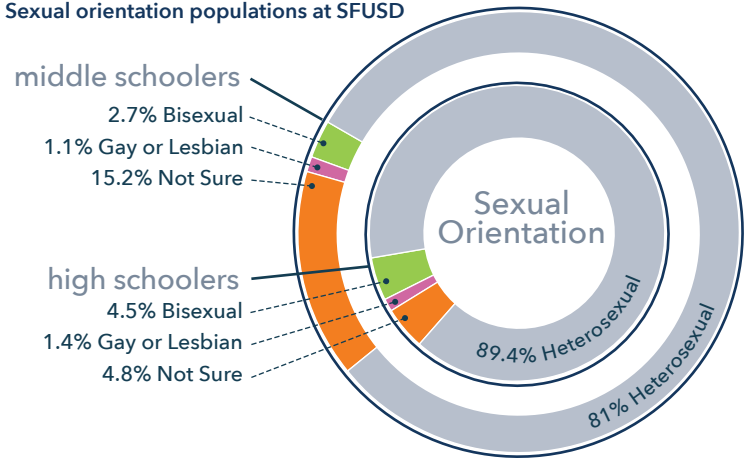
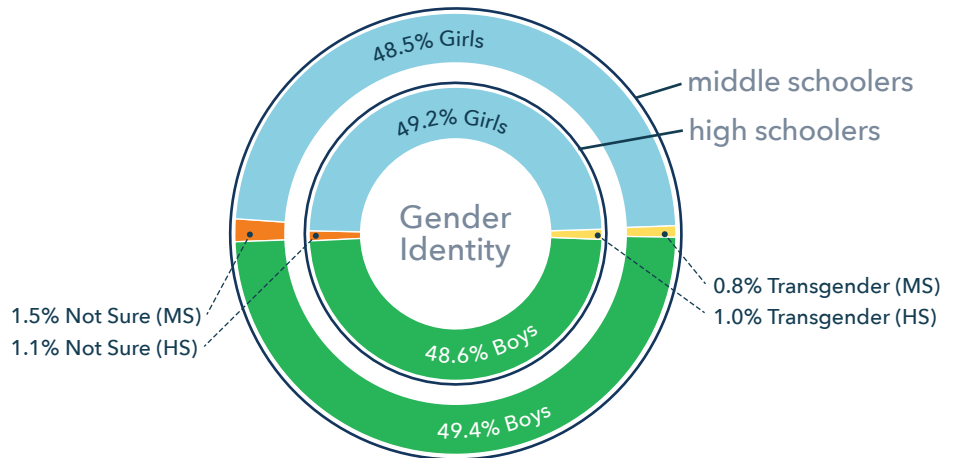


Chart 2. Gender identity populations at SFUSD



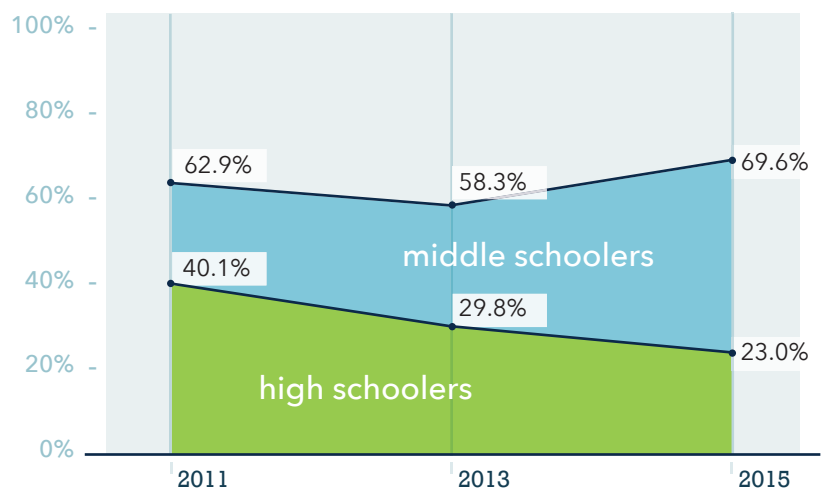
LGBTQ students are
 african-american
 multiracial hawaiian/
 other pacific islander
 hispanic/latino filipino
 chinese other asian
 american indian/
 alaska native
 white

LGBTQ students come from all race/ethnic groups tracked by the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

One of the critical outcomes focused on by Support Services for LGBTQ Youth is the reduction of anti-LGBTQ slurs in our schools. On the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, we ask students to tell us if they have ever heard other students at school make harassing statements based on sexual orientation, such as faggot, dyke, and "that's so gay," during the past 12 months. The trends over the last four years are represented in Chart 3.

The data shows that our efforts to eliminate the use of anti-LGBTQ slurs are successful at the High School level, but that much work needs to be done at the Middle School level.

Chart 3. Anti-LGBTQ slurs at SFUSD

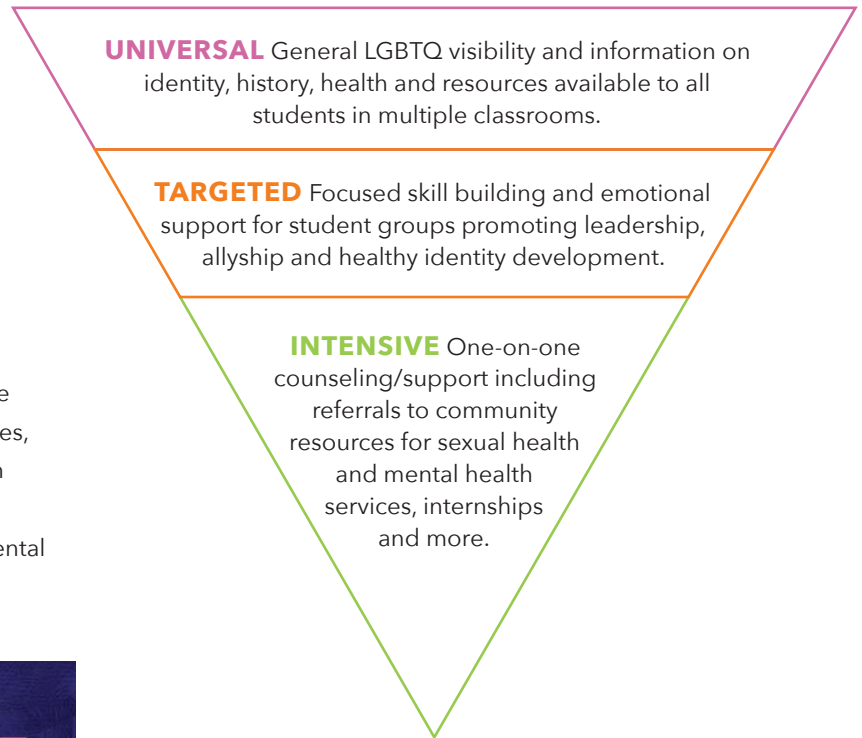


LGBTQ Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

A comprehensive approach to creating safe and supportive environments recognizes **the needs of LGBTQ youth are connected to, but distinct from, the needs of (straight) ally students.** Our approach promotes educational opportunities, and emotional supports through three tiers: universal, targeted, and intensive (Chart 4).

Features of our comprehensive approach include: LGBTQ-inclusive education, LGBTQ pride and safe space posters, faculty training, Genders and Sexualities Alliances, confidential LGBTQ support groups, young men’s health groups, peer education, restorative practices to address bullying, and referrals to LGBTQ-inclusive sexual and mental health services and programs in the community.

Chart 4. LGBTQ tiered systems of support at SFUSD



Support Services for LGBTQ Youth

Outreach Events

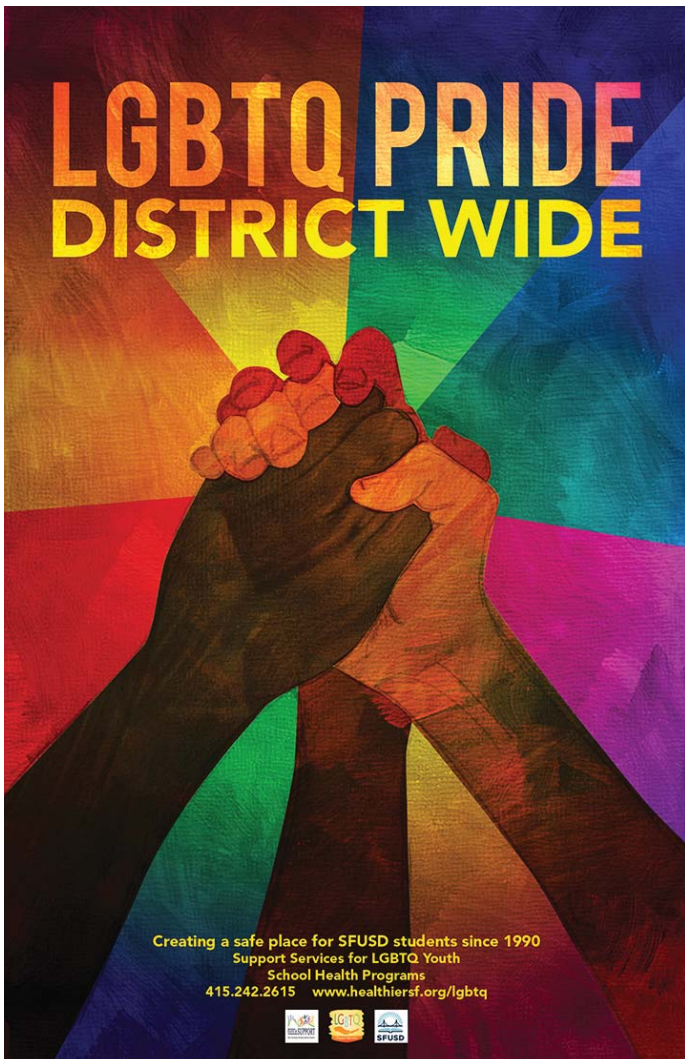
LGBTQ Awareness & Sexual Diversity Events reached 13,528 students.

Classroom Presentations

Youth Outreach Workers conducted 47 classroom presentations on LGBTQ Awareness & HIV Prevention.

LGBTQ Liaisons & GSA Clubs

All middle and high schools held regular Genders and Sexualities Alliances, which provide a safe place for all students to meet, support each other, and work to end homophobia and transphobia.



Young Men's Health Groups

Our Young Men's Health Groups (YMHG) were shown to significantly improve participants' sense of connection to their school environment and improve feelings of allyship.

71% of YMHG group students are sexually active

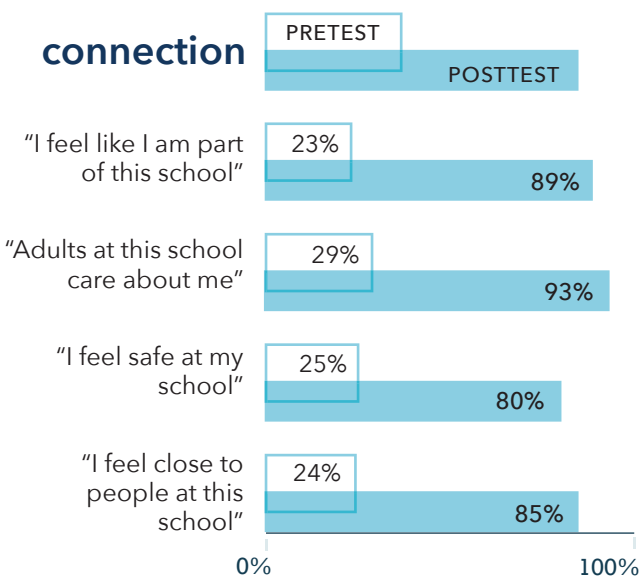
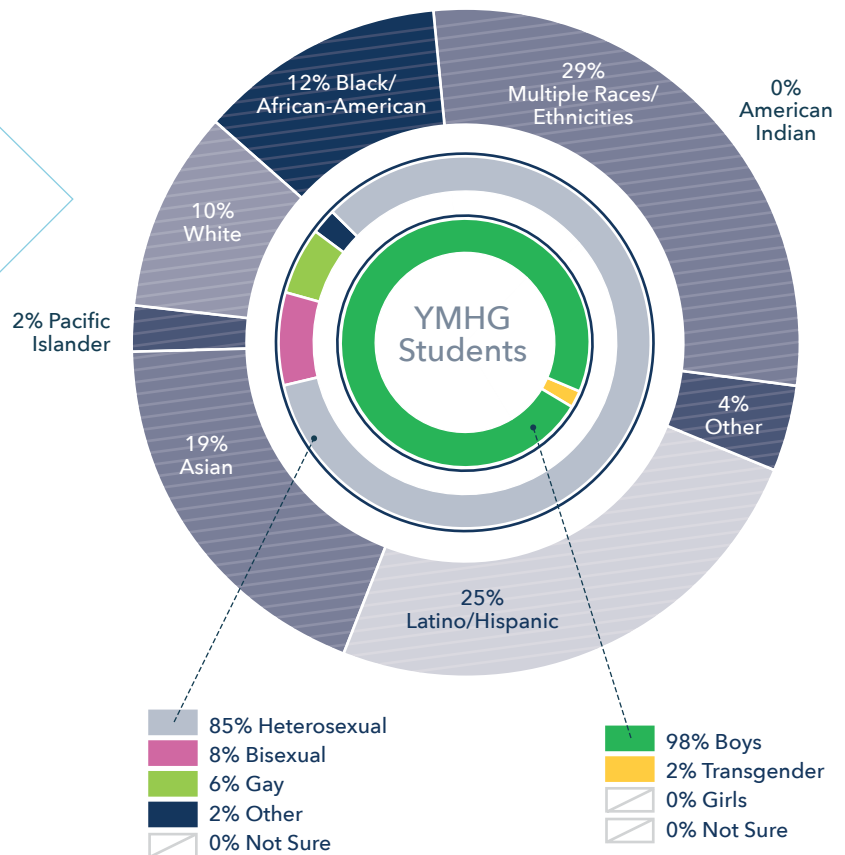


Chart 4. Young Men's Health Groups demographics



10-fold increase in RESPECT

"I respect people who have different sexual orientations than mine"

PRETEST 9% | POSTTEST 94%

More than tripled:

"I am confident I can reduce my risk for HIV transmission."



"I know where to get free condoms"



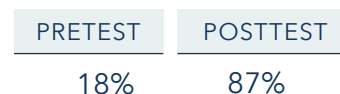
Quadrupled:

"I know what it means to be in a healthy relationship."



Quintupled (nearly):

"I would feel comfortable seeking services at my school's Wellness Center or Health Clinic."



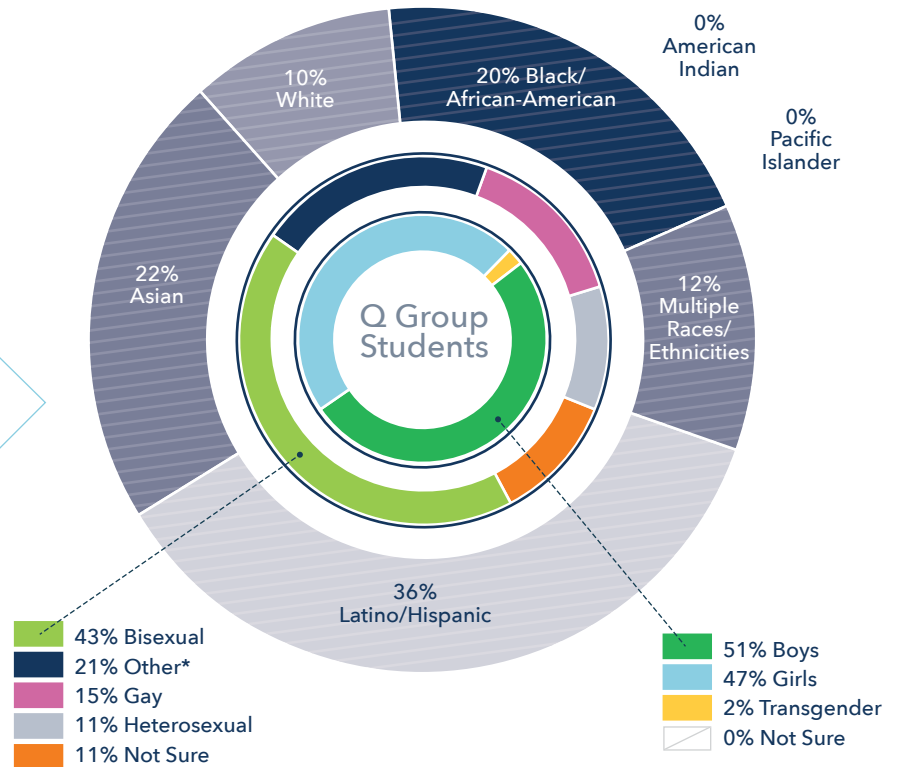
Q Groups

Our Q Groups for LGBTQ students were found to significantly increase the proportion of students who “knew where to get free condoms”, “knew how to correctly use a condom” and were “confident they could discuss condom use with any partner”.

71%
of Q group students are
sexually active

**Other Included: Asexual, Demisexual, Just Me, Pansexual, Pansexual Maybe, and Polyandry/Polyamorous*

Chart 5. Q Group demographics



By the end of the group sessions:



98% said “There are adults at my school I can talk to about HIV/STI testing in my community.”

81% said “I know of a place in my community that provides free or low-cost HIV/STI testing to LGBTQ people my age.”

96% said “I know how to correctly use a condom.”

95% said “I am confident I can discuss condom use with any partner I might have.”



92% said “If my partner didn’t want to use a condom during intercourse, I could talk them into using a condom.”

What did you like best about the group?

“Everyone was very willing to share some really incredible things.”

“Being able to feel understood and comfortable with how I feel.”

“The sense of community and safe space to talk.”

Contact Information

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