

# LGBTQ Youth

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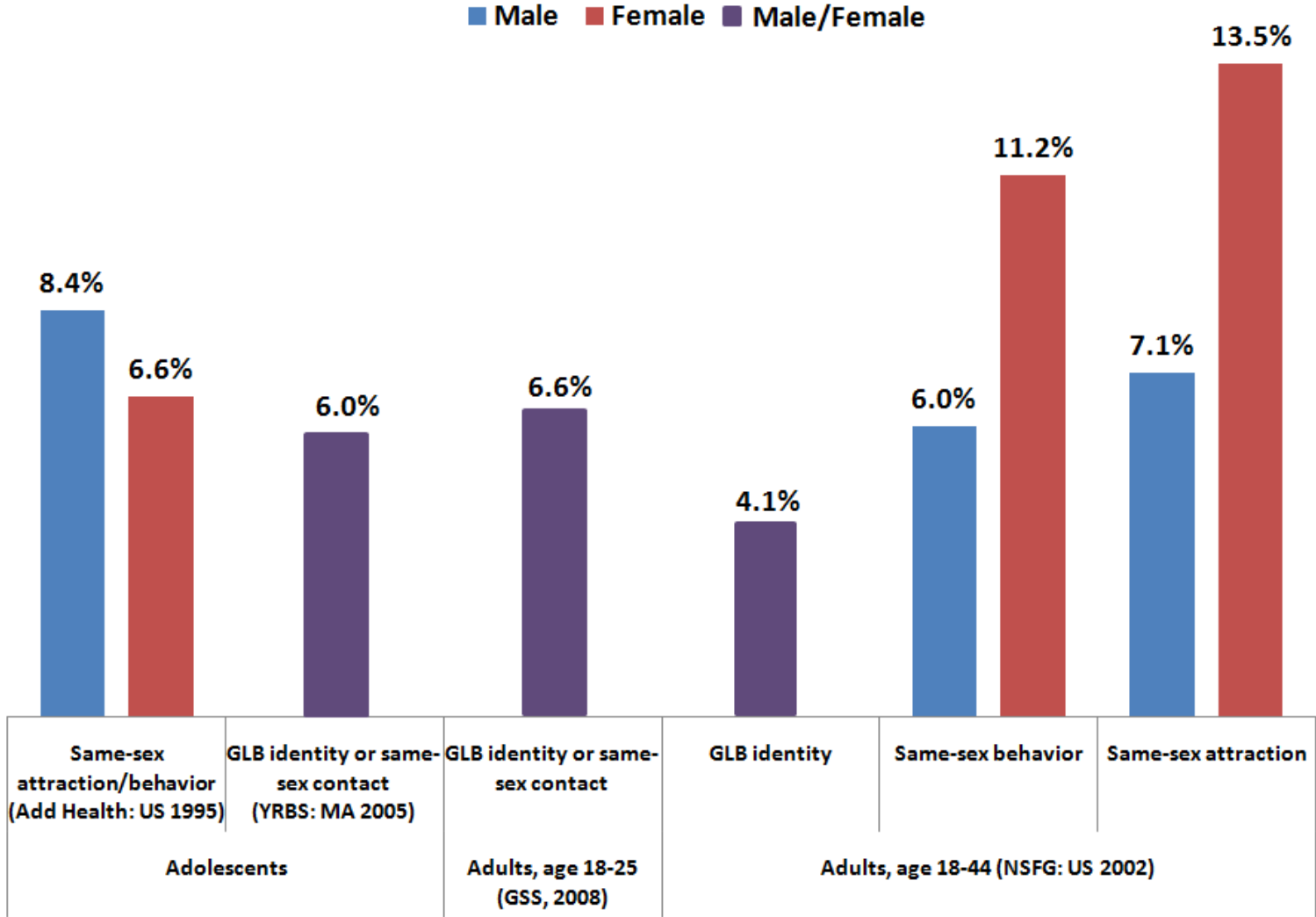
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*advancing critical thought in the field of sexual orientation law and public policy*

# Some definitions...LGBTQ?

- Lesbian/gay
  - ▣ Same-sex sexual orientation
- Bisexual
  - ▣ Sexual orientation that includes attraction/sexual behavior toward both sexes
- Transgender
  - ▣ Gender identity inclusive of a broad concept of gender non-conformity
- Questioning
  - ▣ Reflects uncertainty regarding gender and/or sexual orientation identity and non-conformity
- Another Q: Queer
  - ▣ Broad term that can imply gender and/or sexual orientation identity and non-conformity

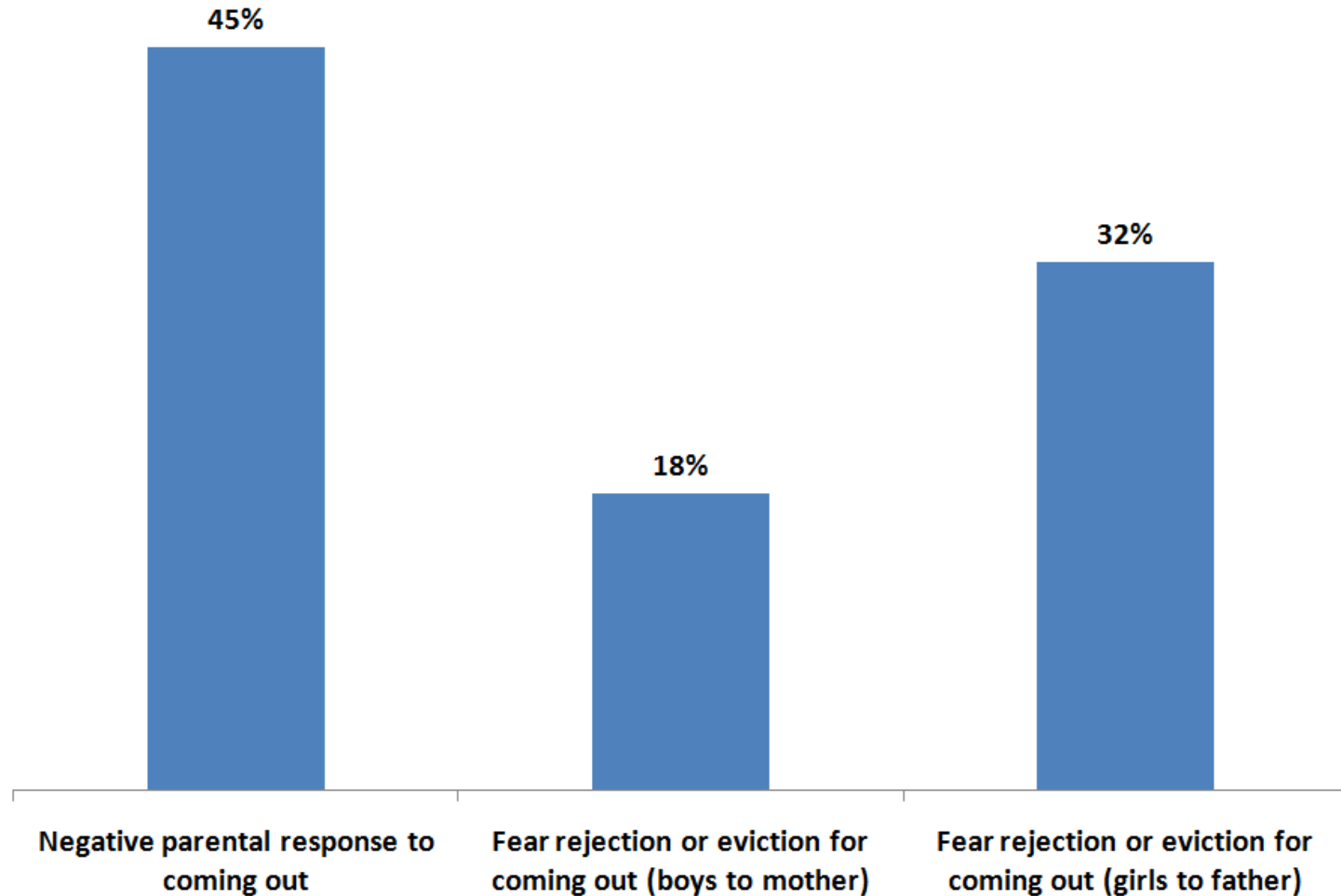
# How many LGBTQ youth are there?



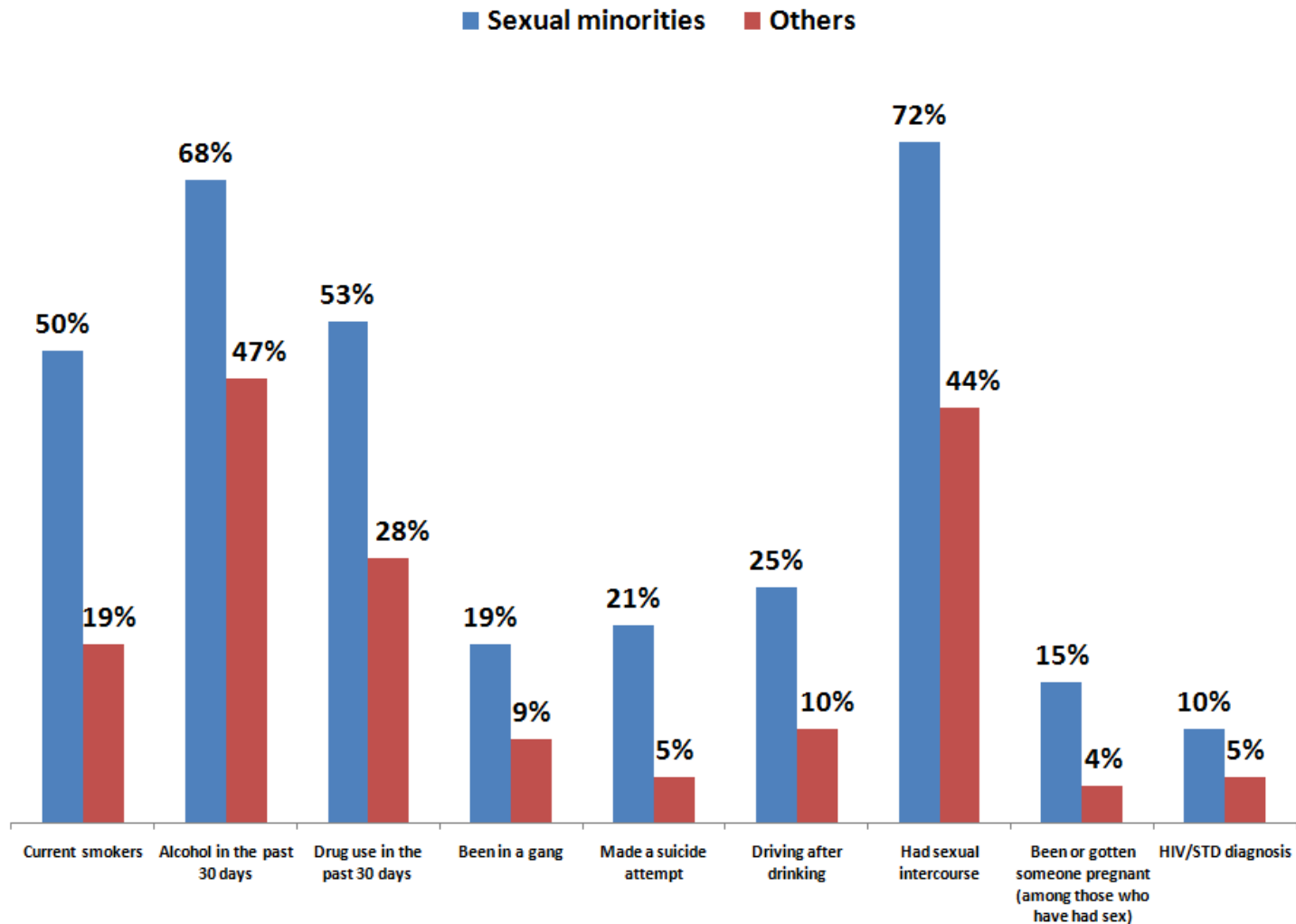
# Stigmatizing school environments for LGBTQ students

- Nearly 9 in 10 report verbal harassment
- More than 4 in 10 report physical harassment
- More than 2 in 10 report physical assault
- Of those who reported incidents to school authorities, a third report that nothing happened
  
- Not surprisingly, 6 in 10 feel unsafe in school

# Family environments are also stigmatizing

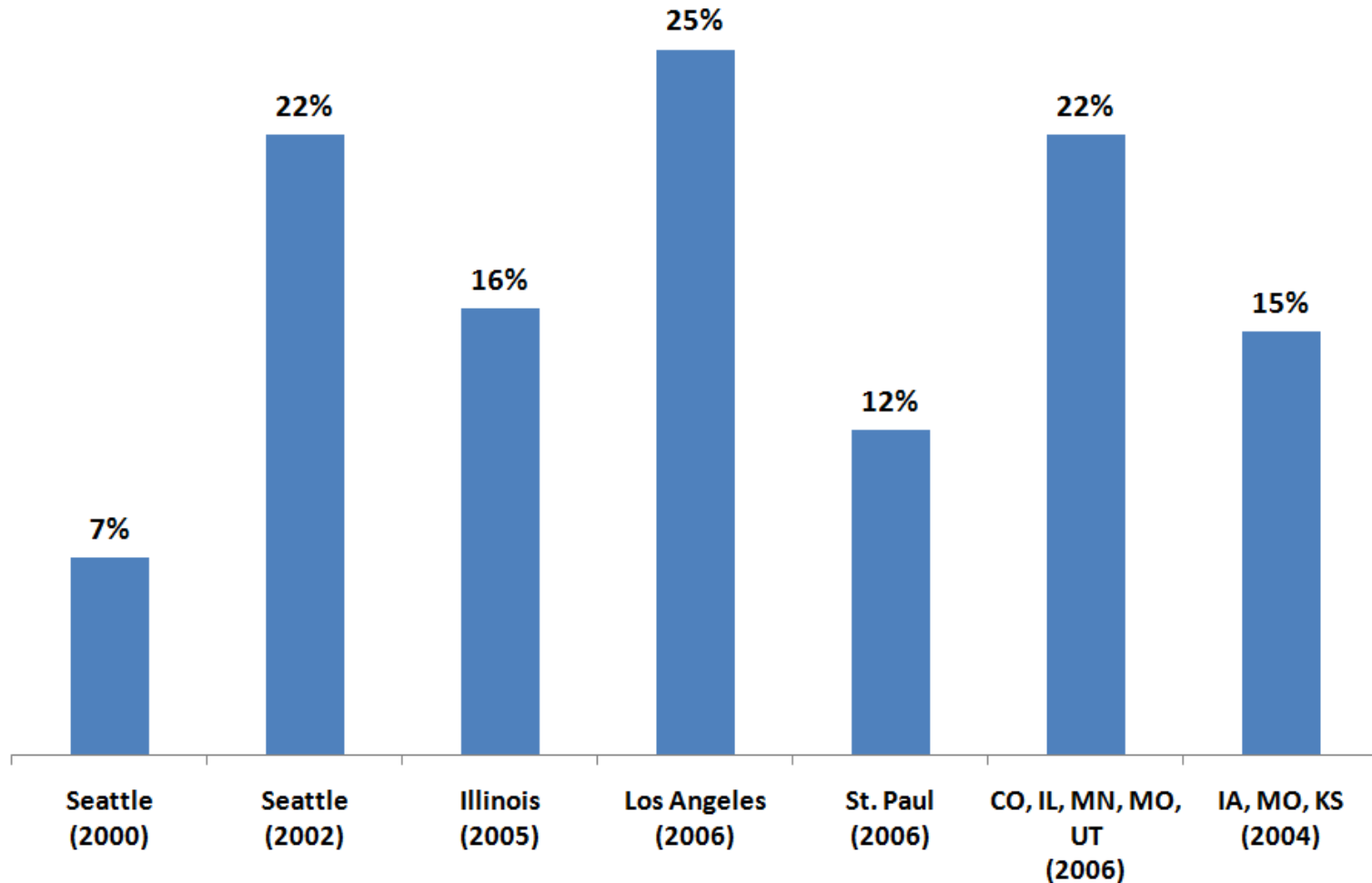


# Stigma leads to a wide array of psycho-social problems



Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2005

# LGBTQ over-represented among homeless youth



# Protective factors can reduce poor outcomes

## □ In schools

### ▣ Reduce victimization

- “...students with poor school climates who also were victimized had significantly worse achievement than those with poor school climates who were not victims”

Murdoch, TB & Bloch, MB. Risk And Protective Factors for Poor School Adjustment in Lesbian, Gay, And Bisexual (LGB) High School Youth: Variable and person-centered analyses. *Psychology in the Schools* 42(2), 2005.

### ▣ Support from teachers matters

- “Supportive teachers can help prevent school troubles of sexual minority youth; teachers need the awareness and training to help them be supportive of their sexual minority students.”

Russell, ST, Seif, H, Truong, NL. School outcomes of sexual minority youth in the United States: evidence from a national study. *Journal of Adolescence* 21, 2001.



# Protective factors can reduce poor outcomes

- In the home
  - “LGB young people from families with no or low levels of rejection are at significantly lower risk than those from highly rejecting families related to depression, suicidality, illicit substance use, and risky sexual behavior.”
  - “Early intervention to help educate families about the impact of rejecting behaviors is important to help maintain these youth in their homes.”

Ryan, C, Huebner, D, Diaz, RM, Sanchez, J. Family Rejection as a Predictor of Negative Health Outcomes in White and Latino Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young Adults. *Pediatrics* (123), 2009.