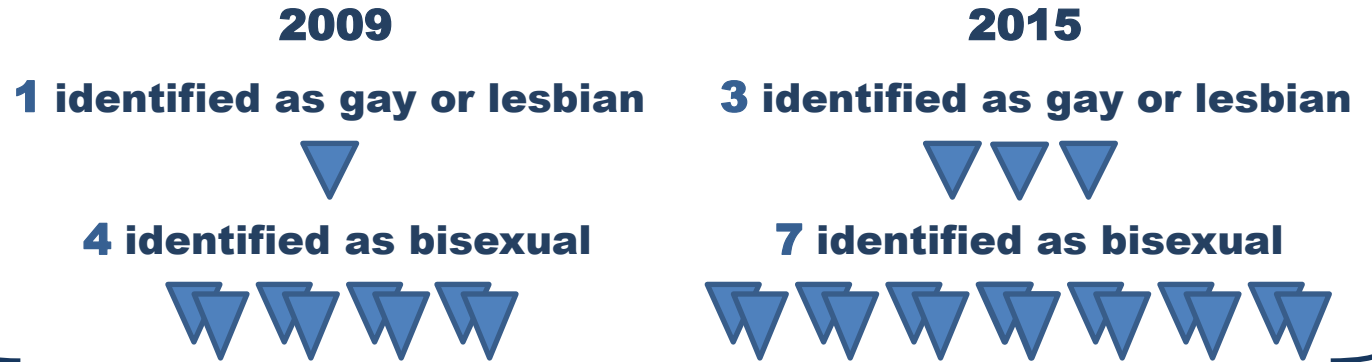


The number of Illinois high school students who identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB)* doubled from 2009 to 2015

Out of Every 100 Illinois High School Students**

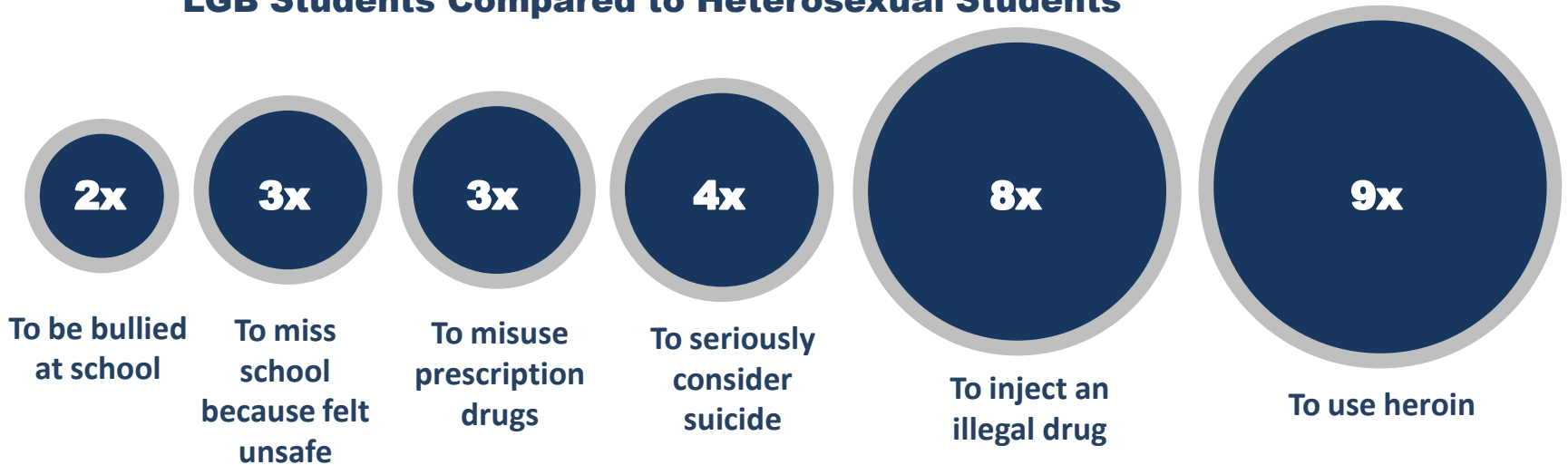


*No data available for students who identify as transgender
 **Illinois Youth Risk Behavioral Survey, 2009–2015
 ^IDPH unpublished analyses

Although most LGB students reported healthy behaviors, compared to heterosexual students, LGB students were more likely to have had negative experiences at school, considered suicide, and abused drugs

LGB Students Compared to Heterosexual Students**

Heterosexual Students



Substance abuse can increase the risk of infectious disease transmission and death due to a drug overdose



In Illinois, the overall number of heroin overdose deaths increased by 40% and prescription opioid drug overdose deaths increased by 63% from 2013–2015[^]



Rates of Hepatitis C infection among young adults aged 16–30 years in Illinois doubled from 2009–2015[^]

How can you support LGBT Youth?

Schools can:

Create and enforce anti-bullying policies

Create and enforce policies that prevent discrimination

Build an inclusive school climate & consider establishing a gay straight alliance club

Educate students about risks of misusing prescription pain killers & injecting drugs

Health Care Providers can:



Ask adolescents how they self-identify. Respect and use this language when talking to patients.



Include LGBT-friendly brochures and posters in waiting rooms and offices



Provide supportive counseling and connect youth with LGBT community resources and programs



Screen LGBT youth for mental illness and substance use, and intervene as appropriate

Families can:



Support your child's LGBT identity and advocate for your child if mistreated



Connect your child with an LGBT adult role model to show positive options for the future



Bring your child to LGBT events and welcome your child's friends to family events

Resources:

<https://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/PEP14-LGBTKIDS/PEP14-LGBTKIDS.pdf>

http://ncc.georgetown.edu/documents/LGBT_Brief.pdf

<http://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth-resources.htm>