

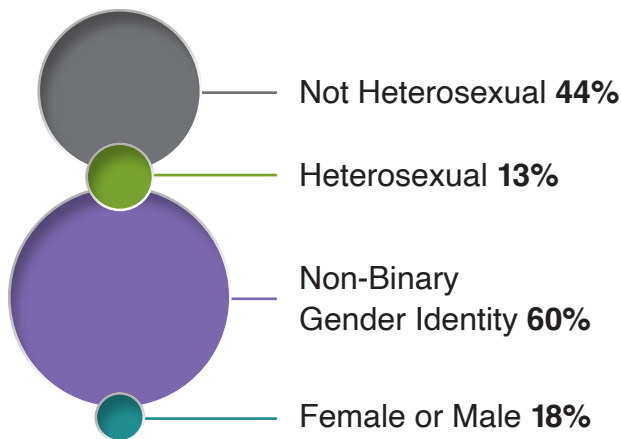
Health Equity

Addressing **pandemic impacts** on children and youth

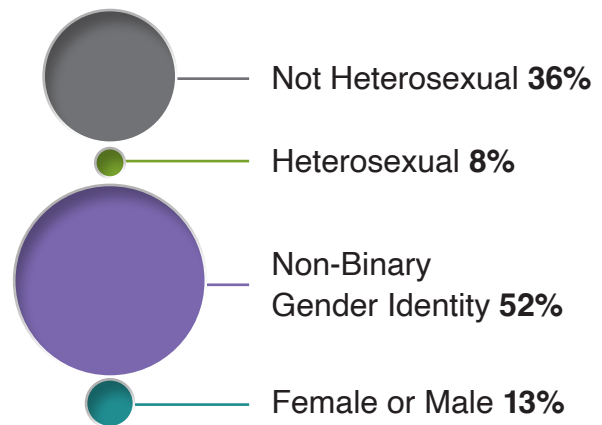
What is the Problem?

In the 2022 Well-Being and Health Youth (WHY) Survey, some of the largest increases in the self-harm and suicide indicators were reported in the sexual orientation and gender identity sociodemographic sub-groups.¹

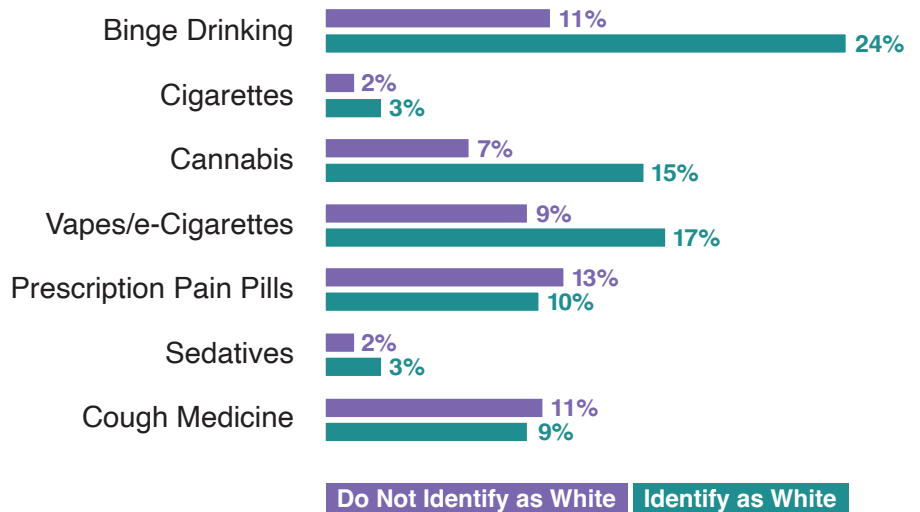
Harmed themselves in the past 12 months*



Thoughts of suicide in the past 12 months*



When looking at ethno-racial identity, more students* who do not identify as white reported using prescription pain pills without a prescription and cough medicine to get high in the past 12 months. Double the proportion of students* who identify as white reported binge drinking, cannabis use and e-cigarette use compared to students who do not identify as white.



When looking at urban/rural geographic location, **more rural students compared to urban students** reported using substances in 2022 when compared to 2019.

The largest differences were seen in binge drinking:



Rural Students*



Urban Students*

Three Recommendations to Address the Problem

1. **Develop campaigns, resources, communication materials and education** in partnership with the school boards and community organizations to address the health inequities highlighted in the data and through engagement with youth advisory groups.
2. **Work with community partners** that currently serve the groups of children and youth experiencing health inequities to ensure that the health promotion campaigns, resources, communication materials and education are tailored to meet their needs.
3. **Grow the data collection and reporting of sociodemographic sub-groups** in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph children and youth, particularly on disabilities, racism and discrimination, to better address health equity in our community.

* Percent of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph students (grades 7-12).

References

1. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health. BH.01.MAR0123.R08 – WHY Survey Update [Internet]. 2023 [cited 2023 July 12]. Available from: https://wdgpublichealth.ca/sites/default/files/bh.01.mar0123.r08_-_why_survey_update.pdf

