

# Tobacco use in youth higher among sexual minorities

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(HealthDay)—The prevalence of tobacco use is higher for sexual

minorities, with significant differences seen by sex, according to a study published online March 27 in *Pediatrics*.

Hongying Dai, Ph.D., from Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo., used data from the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey to compare use of various [tobacco](#) products according to sex and distinct sexual identities (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and unsure). Data were included for 14,703 respondents, including 88.8 percent heterosexual/straight, 2.0 percent lesbian or gay, 6.0 percent bisexual, and 3.2 percent unsure of their sexual identity.

Dai found that the prevalence of tobacco use was higher for [sexual minorities](#) versus their heterosexual/straight counterparts. The disparities of tobacco use were significantly affected by sex. The odds of reporting current use of any tobacco product, cigarettes, cigars, and e-cigarettes was higher for lesbian and bisexual girls than for straight girls, while similar smoking behaviors were seen for sexual minority versus straight boys. There was a significant correlation for substance use, including marijuana use, drinking, and [binge drinking](#), with any tobacco use.

"Heterogeneity of tobacco use across distinct sexual identity groups underscores the need to develop evidence-based tobacco control strategies for sexual minority youth," Dai writes.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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