

Community LGBTQ supportiveness may reduce substance use among sexual minority adolescents

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A new research study provides novel insights into community-level predictors of lifetime substance use among a sample of 2678 sexual minority adolescents. Community LGBTQ supportiveness was found to

be associated with lower odds of lifetime illegal drug use for sexual minority boys and girls and lower odds of lifetime marijuana use and smoking for girls. Living in a large population center was related to lower odds of lifetime alcohol use for boys. However, a progressive political climate was related to higher odds of lifetime marijuana use for girls. The importance of community contexts for substance use among sexual minority adolescents is investigated in an article published in *LGBT Health*.

The article, "Associations Between Community-Level LGBTQ-Supportive Factors and Substance Use Among Sexual Minority Adolescents," was authored by Ryan J. Watson, Ph.D., University of Connecticut (Storrs) and colleagues from The University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada), the University of Maryland (College Park), San Diego State University (CA), and the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis). British Columbia Adolescent Health Survey data and primary community-level data were used to examine associations between community and school LGBTQ supportiveness, as well as [population size](#) and political climate of the communities surrounding the schools, and [lifetime](#) substance use (alcohol, [illegal drugs](#), marijuana, non-medical use of prescription drugs, and smoking).

"The study suggests that the availability of a variety of LGBTQ community resources lowers the odds of substance use for sexual minority adolescents by creating a climate of greater acceptance. It adds to accumulating evidence linking community openness and inclusiveness to LGBTQ health," states *LGBT Health* Editor-in-Chief William Byne, MD, Ph.D., Columbia University, New York, NY.

More information: Ryan J. Watson et al, Associations Between Community-Level LGBTQ-Supportive Factors and Substance Use Among Sexual Minority Adolescents, *LGBT Health* (2020). [DOI: 10.1089/lgbt.2019.0205](https://doi.org/10.1089/lgbt.2019.0205)

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