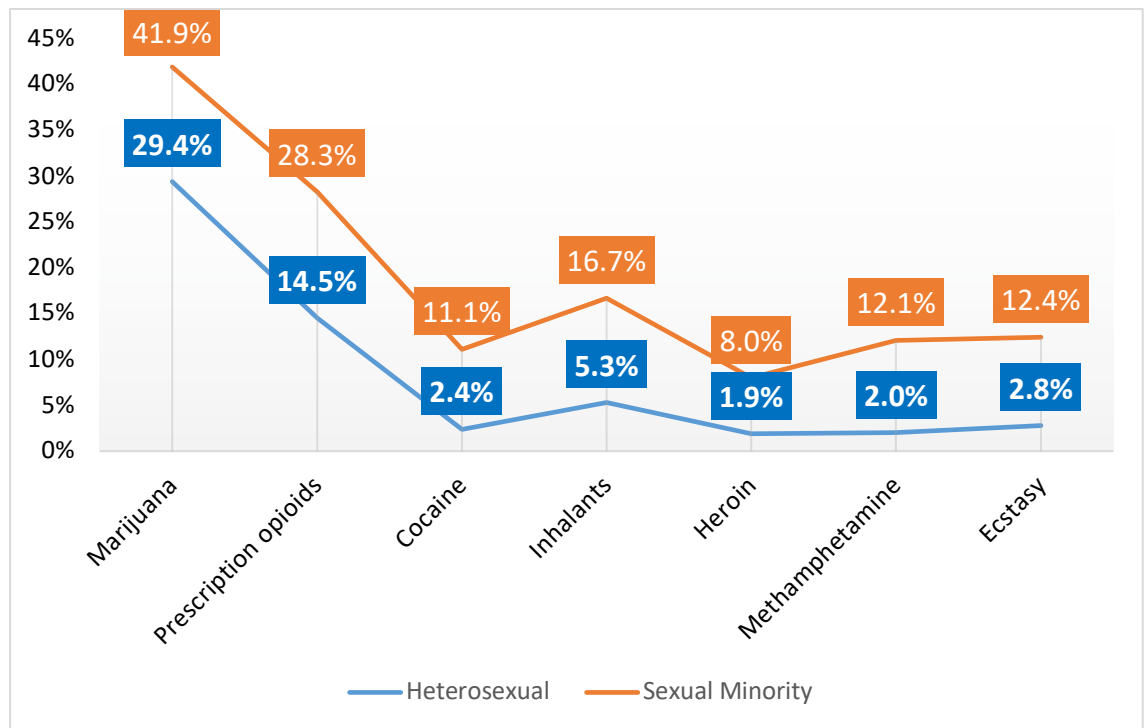


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Differences in Lifetime Substance Use by Sexual Orientation among Broward County High School Students

Newly released data from the CDC's biennial Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) survey indicates that Broward County high school students identifying as gay, lesbian, or bisexual report greater lifetime use of drugs, compared to their peers. These differences are statistically significant, and reveal that sexual minority youth are



using prescription opioids at more than twice the rates of other students. In addition, other substances, including cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine are being used by sexual minorities at five times the rates of their peers. These results have remained largely consistent since 2013 when the YRBSS began collecting sexual orientation data. Thus, greater substance use among sexual minority youth in the county appears to be an ongoing problem. These data suggest that specific prevention, intervention, and treatment efforts must be targeted toward gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth in the county.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1991-2019 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data. Available at <http://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/>. Accessed August 26, 2020; <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fasd/features/teen-substance-use.html>.

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