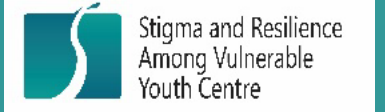




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Sexual behaviours among sexual minority migrant adolescents in Western Canada over 20 years

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Territorial Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge that the land on which we work and learn is the unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) Nation.

I would also like to acknowledge the many First Nations on whose land this work took place.



Background

- Canada is recognized as a prominent destination for immigrants across the globe.
- Over one third of newcomers to Canada are young people who arrive during adolescence.



Objective

In this study, we examined 20-year trends and disparities in sexual health behaviours among migrant LGB+ adolescents in Western Canada vs heterosexual peers.



Methods

Data source and sampling

- A secondary data analysis of BC Adolescent health survey (BC AHS) 2003, 2008, 2013, 2018 and 2023.
- Details of the BC AHS methods were previously explained.
- Data was filtered for schools that had participated in the survey at least three times.
- Migrant: youth who had not been born in Canada



Variables

Variables

Predictor: sexual orientation

- Gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual (LGB+)
- Mostly heterosexual (Mostly HET)
- Heterosexual (including questioning, no attraction and unsure) HET



Variables

Outcomes:

- sexual health behaviors:
 - ever having sex,
 - ever having oral sex,
 - sex with multiple partners (2+),
 - first sex before age 16,
 - first sex with a partner aged 19+,
 - use of alcohol before sex,
 - condom use



Sample

Weighted N

Mean age

LGB+

Girls: 9,448 Boys: 5,063

LGB+

Girls: 15.7 Boys: 15.8

Mostly HET

Girls: 11,673 Boys: 5,832

Mostly HET

Girls: 15.7 Boys: 15.5

HET

Girls: 107,882 Boys: 121,509

HET

Girls: 15.2 Boys: 15.2



Data analysis

- All analyses used SPSS complex samples module to account for sample weights, strata, and clustering effects.

1. Cross tabs with chi-square test for prevalence

2. Age-adjusted logistic regressions with year as predictor for trends over time in sexual health by orientation (LGB+, Mostly HET, HET).

3. Logistic regression models assessed the disparities (the gap) in health outcomes for LGB+ youth compared to HET peers.

4. Testing trends in the gaps with an interaction of year X sexual orientation



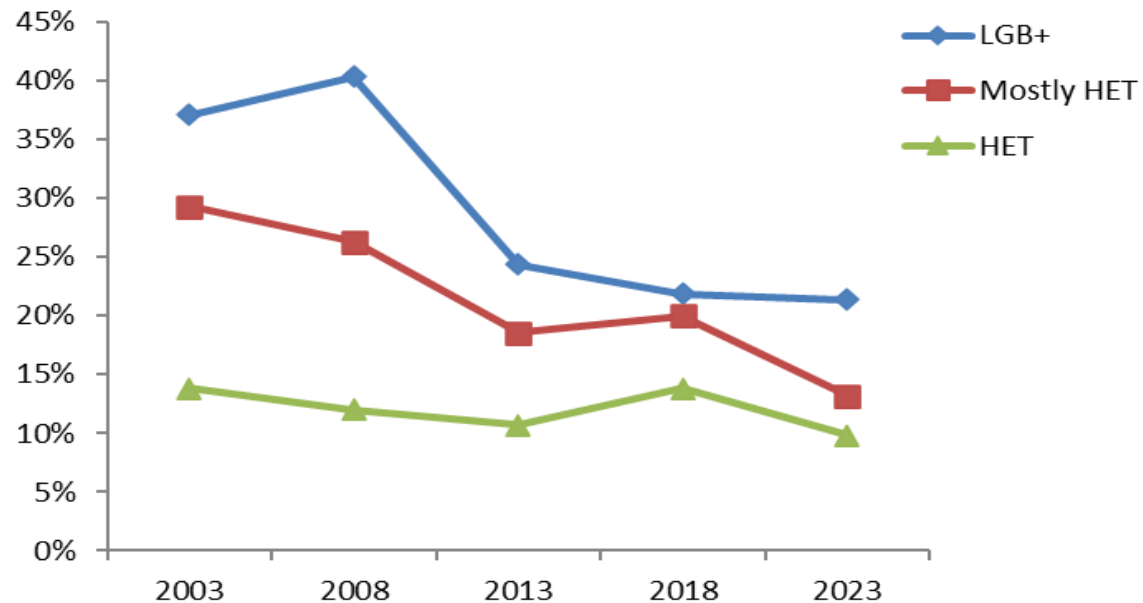
Trends in Sexual behaviors among LGB+, Mostly HET and HET adolescents

- There were declining trends in most sexual behaviors among migrant adolescents of all sexual orientations:
 - Ever having sex and oral sex
 - Early sex initiation (before age 16)
 - First sex with older partner
 - Sex with multiple partners



Trends in Sexual behaviors among LGB+, Mostly HET and HET adolescents

Proportion of migrant adolescent girls who ever had sex



Significant declines from 2003 to 2023:

- LGB+ girls: from 37% to 21% ($p < 0.05$)
- Mostly HET: from 29% to 13% ($p < 0.001$)
- HET: from 14% to 10% ($p < 0.01$)

Trends in Sexual behaviors among LGB+, Mostly HET and HET adolescents

- % migrant adolescent boys who had sex with multiple partners decreased from 2008 to 2023
- LGB+ boys: from 70% to 41% ($p < 0.001$)
- Mostly HET: from 51% to 35% ($p < 0.05$)
- HET: from 47% to 29% ($p < 0.001$)



Trends in Sexual behaviors among LGB+, Mostly HET and HET adolescents

- Condom use at last sex significantly increased among LGB+ and Mostly HET adolescents in 2023 compared to previous years.
 - From 47% in 2003 to 77% in 2023 ($p < 0.01$) among Mostly HET girls
 - From 37% in 2003 to 68% in 2023 ($p < 0.001$) among Mostly HET boys
 - From 29% in 2013 to 51% in 2023 ($p < 0.05$) among LGB+ girls
- LGB+ and Mostly HET boys reported significant increase in alcohol use before sex in 2008, and notable decline afterwards.



Disparities in sexual behaviors by orientation

- LGB+ boys were significantly 2x more likely to have sex than same age HET peers.
- LGB+ girls were up to 4x more likely to have sex than HET peers:
 - 2003 aOR: 3.22 p < 0.01
 - 2008 aOR: 4.52 p < 0.001
 - 2013 aOR: 2.12 p < 0.05
 - 2018 aOR: 1.50 p < 0.05
 - 2023 aOR: 2.44 p < 0.001



Disparities in sexual behaviors by orientation

- LGB+ boys and girls were 2x to 3x more likely to report oral sex vs HET peers.
- LGB+ boys were more likely to engage in sex with an older partner.
- LGB+ girls were more likely to report early sexual debut (before age 16) in 2023 compared to their HET counterparts (aOR: 1.87; $p < 0.05$) .



Disparities in sexual behaviors between sexual orientation groups

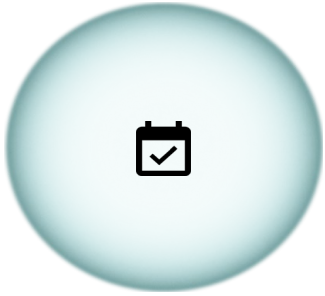
- LGB+ boys and girls were about 3x and 5x more likely to have multiple sexual partners in 2008 than their HET counterparts.
- LGB+ girls were less likely to use condom compared to HET girls.

Are the gaps widening or narrowing? Interactions by orientation and year

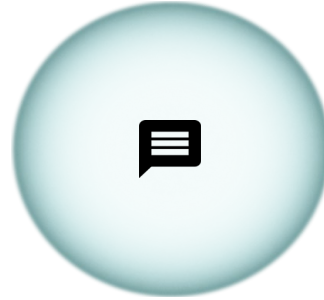
- Gaps between LGB+ and HET peers narrowed or remained unchanged in recent years.
- However, the gap observed re sex with multiple partners widened in 2023 for LGB+ migrant adolescent girls.



Discussion



Promising improvements in sexual behaviours among LGB+ migrant adolescents vs peers over time, yet gaps still exist.



LGB+ migrant adolescents may not be well-served by school sexual education and excluded from both migrant communities and LGBTQ+ groups.



We need intersectional, culturally responsive, and gender-sensitive sexual health interventions that address the unique needs of LGB+ migrant adolescents.

Acknowledgements

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Thank You



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