

# **Chillicothe High School**

Chillicothe, Ohio

## **2008 School Climate Survey Results**

Key Facts and Resources

Compiled and published by:  
Chillicothe Gay-Straight Alliance  
President Richard Walsh

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## Method

On the dates of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008, random staff at Chillicothe High School distributed and collected a total of 91 School Climate surveys, courtesy of GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network). Chillicothe Gay-Straight Alliance then analyzed the surveys carefully and produced the results defined in this summary.

## About the Survey

The survey that was distributed to students contained questions about the respondent, Chillicothe High School, the respondent's comfort level at CHS, and their bias against GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning) students, female students, and students of color. The results show how comfortable students of different backgrounds are at CHS, how common offensive and hate-based language is in our hallways, and how common other types of harassment is. The surveys were completed anonymously – students were not asked for their name. Surveys that were incomplete (one or more sections were blank) were removed from the results.

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## Demographics

Table 1. Demographics of Survey Participants			
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>		<b>Age</b>	
White or European American	80.00%	13	1.11%
African American or Black	11.11%	14	18.89%
Hispanic or Latino/Latina	7.78%	15	22.22%
Asian or Pacific Islander	2.22%	16	28.89%
Native American	6.67%	17	24.44%
Other	2.22%	18	4.44%
<b>Gender</b>		<b>Grade</b>	
Male	43.33%	Ninth	32.22%
Female	56.67%	Tenth	22.22%
Other	1.11%	Eleventh	22.22%
		Twelfth	24.44%
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>			
Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual	8.88%		
Straight / Heterosexual	92.22%		
Questioning	6.67%		

As shown by the table above, the survey reached a wide variety of students at Chillicothe High School. Statistics in the Race and Ethnicity and Sexual Orientation ranges exceed 100% because students were given the ability to select more than one option to describe themselves.

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## Homophobia and Homophobic Remarks

Key facts regarding homophobia and homophobic remarks were identified within the results of the 2008 School Climate Survey given to 91 students at Chillicothe High School in October 2008.

- Over 85% (86%) of students hear the expression “That's so gay,” or “You're so gay” frequently or often at CHS. 2% of students reported rarely or never hearing the expressions.
- When asked how often they have heard other homophobic remarks, such as “faggot,” “dyke,” “queer,” etc, 75% of students reported hearing them frequently or often, while only 4% reported rarely or never hearing them in school.
- 78% of the respondents hear these remarks from other students frequently or often, while 7% hear them rarely or never from other students.
- 52% reported hearing homophobic remarks from staff.
- Students feel that the staff, when present, intervene only some of the time or never (77%). When asked how often students intervene, the results were similar in that students intervene only some of the time or never (90%).
- The most common place that students hear homophobic remarks is in the hallways, followed by the cafeteria, school yard or school grounds, on buses, on the athletic field or gym, in the locker rooms, in classrooms, and in restrooms, respectively.

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## Racism and Racist Remarks

Key facts regarding racism and racist remarks were identified within the results of the 2008 School Climate Survey given to 91 students at Chillicothe High School in October 2008.

- When asked how often they have heard racist remarks, such as “nigger,” “kike,” “spic,” “gook,” etc, 45% of students reported hearing them frequently or often, while 27% reported rarely or never hearing them in school.
- 43% of the respondents hear these remarks from other students frequently or often, while 25% hear them rarely or never from other students.
- 19% reported hearing racist remarks from staff.
- 50% of students feel that the staff, when present, intervene only some of the time or never. When asked how often students intervene, 55% said some of the time or never.
- The most common place that students hear racist remarks is in the hallways, followed by the cafeteria, school yard or school grounds, in classrooms, on the athletic field or gym, on buses, in locker rooms, and in the restrooms, respectively.

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## Sexism and Sexist Remarks

Key facts regarding sexism and sexist remarks were identified within the results of the 2008 School Climate Survey given to 91 students at Chillicothe High School in October 2008.

- When asked how often they have heard sexist remarks, such as someone being called a “bitch” or comments about girls' bodies or talk of girls being inferior to boys, 83% of students reported hearing them frequently or often, while 1% reported rarely or never hearing them in school.
- 80% of the respondents hear these remarks from other students frequently or often, while 4% hear them rarely or never from other students.
- 40% reported hearing sexist remarks from staff.
- 54% of students feel that the staff, when present, intervene only some of the time or never. When asked how often students intervene, 85% said some of the time or never.
- The most common place that students hear sexist remarks is in the hallways, followed by the cafeteria, in classrooms, school yard or school grounds, on buses, in the restrooms, in locker rooms, and on the athletic field or gym, respectively.

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## Gender Expression

Key facts regarding Gender Expression were identified within the results of the 2008 School Climate Survey given to 91 students at Chillicothe High School in October 2008.

- When asked how often they have heard comments about students not acting “masculine” enough, 42% of students reported hearing them frequently or often, while 30% reported rarely or never hearing them in school.
- When asked how often they have heard comments about students not being “feminine” enough, 36% of students reported hearing them frequently or often, while 38% reported rarely or never hearing them in school.
- 36% of the respondents hear these remarks from other students frequently or often, while 32% hear them rarely or never from other students.
- 48% reported hearing comments about gender expression from staff.
- 79% of students feel that the staff, when present, intervene only some of the time or never. When asked how often students intervene, 91% said some of the time or never.
- The most common place that students hear comments about gender expression is in the hallways, followed by the cafeteria, in classrooms, school yard or school grounds, on the athletic field or gym, on buses, in locker rooms, and in the restrooms, respectively.

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## Comfort Level

Key facts about students' Comfort Level were identified within the results of the 2008 School Climate Survey given to 91 students at Chillicothe High School in October 2008.

### 1. Absenteeism

- In the course of one month, 4% of the respondents skipped a class because they felt unsafe.
- In the course of one month, 6% of the respondents did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to school.

### 2. Sexual Orientation

- 3% of students feel unsafe at CHS because of their sexual orientation.
- In the last year, 18% of students have been verbally harassed (name calling, threats, etc.) at CHS because of their sexual orientation.
- In the last year, 11% of students have been physically harassed (shoved, pushed, etc.) at CHS because of their sexual orientation.
- In the last year, 5% of students have been physically assaulted (punched, kicked, injured with a weapon) at CHS because of their sexual orientation.

### 3. Race or Ethnicity

- 3% of students feel unsafe at CHS because of their race or ethnicity.
- In the last year, 28% of students have been verbally harassed (name calling, threats, etc.) at CHS because of their race or ethnicity.
- In the last year, 17% of students have been physically harassed (shoved, pushed, etc.) at CHS because of their race or ethnicity.
- In the last year, 5% of students have been physically assaulted (punched, kicked, injured with a weapon) at CHS because of their race or ethnicity.

#### 4. Gender

- 2% of students feel unsafe at CHS because of their gender.
- In the last year, 29% of students have been verbally harassed (name calling, threats, etc.) at CHS because of their gender.
- In the last year, 18% of students have been physically harassed (shoved, pushed, etc.) at CHS because of their gender.
- In the last year, 4% of students have been physically assaulted (punched, kicked, injured with a weapon) at CHS because of their gender.

#### 5. Gender Expression

- 5% of students feel unsafe at CHS because of their gender expression.
- In the past year, 22% of students have been verbally harassed (name calling, threats, etc.) at CHS because of their gender expression.
- In the past year, 10% of students have been physically harassed (shoved, pushed, etc.) at CHS because of their gender expression.
- In the past year, 6% of students have been physically assaulted (punched, kicked, injured with a weapon) at CHS because of their gender expression.

#### 6. Religion

- 9% of students feel unsafe at CHS because of their religion.
- In the past year, 29% of students have been verbally harassed (name calling, threats, etc.) at CHS because of their religion.
- In the past year, 12% of students have been physically harassed (shoved, pushed, etc.) at CHS because of their religion.
- In the past year, 5% of students have been physically assaulted (punched, kicked, injured with a weapon) at CHS because of their religion.

7. Disability or Assumed Disabilities

- 2% of students feel unsafe at CHS because they have a disability or because people think they have a disability.
- In the past year, 13% of students have been verbally harassed (name calling, threats, etc.) at CHS because they have a disability or because people think they have a disability.
- In the past year, 9% of students have been physically harassed (shoved, pushed, etc.) at CHS because they have a disability or because people think they have a disability.
- In the past year, 6% of students have been physically assaulted (punched, kicked, injured with a weapon) at CHS because they have a disability or because people think they have a disability.

8. Sexual Harassment

- 46% of students have been sexually harassed (sexual remarks towards their bodies or someone touching them inappropriately) at CHS.
- 15% are sexually harassed frequently or often.

9. Rumors

- 69% of students have had mean rumors or lies spread about them in school.

10. Property Stolen or Damaged

- 49% of students have had their property stolen or deliberately damaged, such as their car, clothing or books.

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## Resources

To make CHS a better place for all, everyone must give the effort. Listed below are a few resources which can be obtained online or from the school.

1. **American Civil Liberties Union.** [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org).
2. **Center for Research on Education, Diversity, and Excellence.** [www.crede.org](http://www.crede.org).
3. **Diversity Web – An interactive resource hub for higher education.** [www.diversityweb.com](http://www.diversityweb.com).
4. **Equality Ohio.** [www.equalityohio.org](http://www.equalityohio.org).
5. **GLSEN.** The Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network. [www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org).
6. **Intercultural Email Classroom Connection.** [www.iecc.org](http://www.iecc.org).
7. **NAACP.** National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. [www.naacp.org](http://www.naacp.org).
8. **National Multicultural Institute.** [www.nmci.org](http://www.nmci.org)
9. **Ohio Educator's Guide to GLBTQ Resources: A guide for Creating Safe Schools for All youth.** Current copies of this document may be downloaded in PDF format from [www.glsen.org/northeastoh](http://www.glsen.org/northeastoh) or a hard copy may be obtained by contacting Richard Walsh.
10. **Southern Poverty Law Center.** [www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org).
11. **Teaching Tolerance Magazine.** These quarterly magazines may be checked out of the High School Library. You may also find lesson plans and other useful resources at [www.teachingtolerance.org](http://www.teachingtolerance.org).

## Glossary and Acronym List

**Bisexual** – People who are sexually and/or romantically attracted to both males and females.<sup>1</sup>

**Bitch** – A vulgar noun used to describe a female person.

**CHS** – Acronym for Chillicothe High School.

**Dyke** – Traditionally a pejorative term used to indicate a butch or masculine lesbian.<sup>1</sup>

**Faggot** – A pejorative term for a homosexual man in the the United States, which has spread to some other English-speaking countries.<sup>1</sup>

**Feminine** – A gender that refers chiefly (but not exclusively) to females or to objects classified as female.<sup>1</sup>

**Gay** – The adjective used to describe people whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional, and/or spiritual attraction is to the same sex.<sup>1</sup>

**Gender Expression** – External manifestation of one's gender identity, usually expressed through “masculine” or “feminine” behavior, clothing, haircut, voice or body characteristics.<sup>1</sup>

**GLBTQ** – Acronym for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning.

**GLSEN** – Acronym for Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network.

**Gook** – An offensive slur used to describe a person of Asian descent or background.

**GSA** – Acronym for Gay-Straight Alliance

**Heterosexual** – A person whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional, and/or spiritual attraction is to the opposite sex.<sup>1</sup>

**Homophobia** – Prejudice against (fear or dislike of) homosexual people and homosexuality.

**Homophobic** – Prejudiced against homosexual people.

**Kike** – An offensive slur used to describe a Jew.

**Lesbian** – The adjective used to describe women whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional, and/or spiritual attraction is to other women.<sup>1</sup>

**Masculine** – A gender that generally, but not excessively, refers to males or to objects classified as male.<sup>1</sup>

**NAACP** – Acronym for National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

**Nigger** – Extremely offensive name for a Black person.

**Queer** – Traditionally a pejorative term, “queer” has been appropriated by some GLBT people to describe themselves. It is not universally accepted and should be avoided unless quoting someone who self-identifies in that way.<sup>1</sup>

**Questioning** – Unsure of one's sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.<sup>1</sup>

**Racism** – The prejudice that members of one race are intrinsically superior to members of other races.

**Racist** – Discriminatory especially on the basis of race or religion.

**Sexism** – Discriminatory or abusive behavior towards members of the opposite sex.

**Sexist** – Discriminatory on the basis of sex.

**Spic** – An offensive slur used to describe someone who is of Latin American descent or background.

**Straight** – Heterosexual.

**Transgender** – A term used to describe people who's gender identity and/or gender expression differs from that assigned at birth.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ohio Educator's Guide to GLBTQ Resources: A Guide for Creating Safe Schools for ALL Youth, 2007.



