Same or Both-Sex Attracted young people in Aotearoa/New Zealand

The results show that same or both-sex attracted young people face discrimination and stigma challenges in their environments, including higher rates of bullying and violence and barriers to seeking healthcare. These challenges are linked to health problems and risk taking behaviour. To change these statistics we need to create safe environments for sexuality and gender diverse young people.

In Youth 2000 all students were asked the question “Which are you sexually attracted to…?” with the response options: “the opposite sex”, “the same sex”, “both sexes”, “not sure”, or “neither”.

The Youth 2012 survey questions about sexuality and gender identity were answered by 8,166 secondary school students from 91 secondary schools.

The Youth 2000 data series is nationally representative and the largest dataset on the health and well-being of young people in New Zealand.

In 2001 the question related to sexuality has been asked since

Challenges
- 34% of same or both-sex attracted students come from a diverse range of places, ethnicities and gender identities.
- 43% of same or both-sex attracted young people have been hit or harmed by another person.
- 58% of same or both-sex attracted young people were afraid that they would be hurt or bullied.
- 35% have been unable to access healthcare when they wanted to.

Impacts
- 4x more likely to have attempted suicide in the last 12 months.
- 4x more likely to experience significant depressive symptoms.
- 59% are at least 59% more likely to have self-harmed in the last 12 months.
- 20% compared to 8% of opposite sex attracted young people have drunk alcohol at least weekly in the past month.

Positives
- 81% report that school is OK or better.
- 87% report that their parents care about them a lot.
- 2 out of 3 report that their friends care about them a lot.
- 53% report that their friends care about them a lot.
- 3% report that their friends care about them a lot.

References