Gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth are at increased risk for cigarette, alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drug use

Gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth have a higher prevalence of past 30 day use of cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs (taken without a prescription) compared to their heterosexual counterparts. In the case of cigarettes and prescription drugs, the prevalence of past 30 day use among gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth is twice that of heterosexual youth. These data come from the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey and were presented in the Delaware State Epidemiological Report (https://www.cdhs.udel.edu/seow/reports-and-products). These data highlight a greater risk of substance use among non-heterosexual youth and thus should be considered a priority for intervention strategies.

*Prescription drugs taken without a prescription. This includes stimulants, depressants, and opioids.