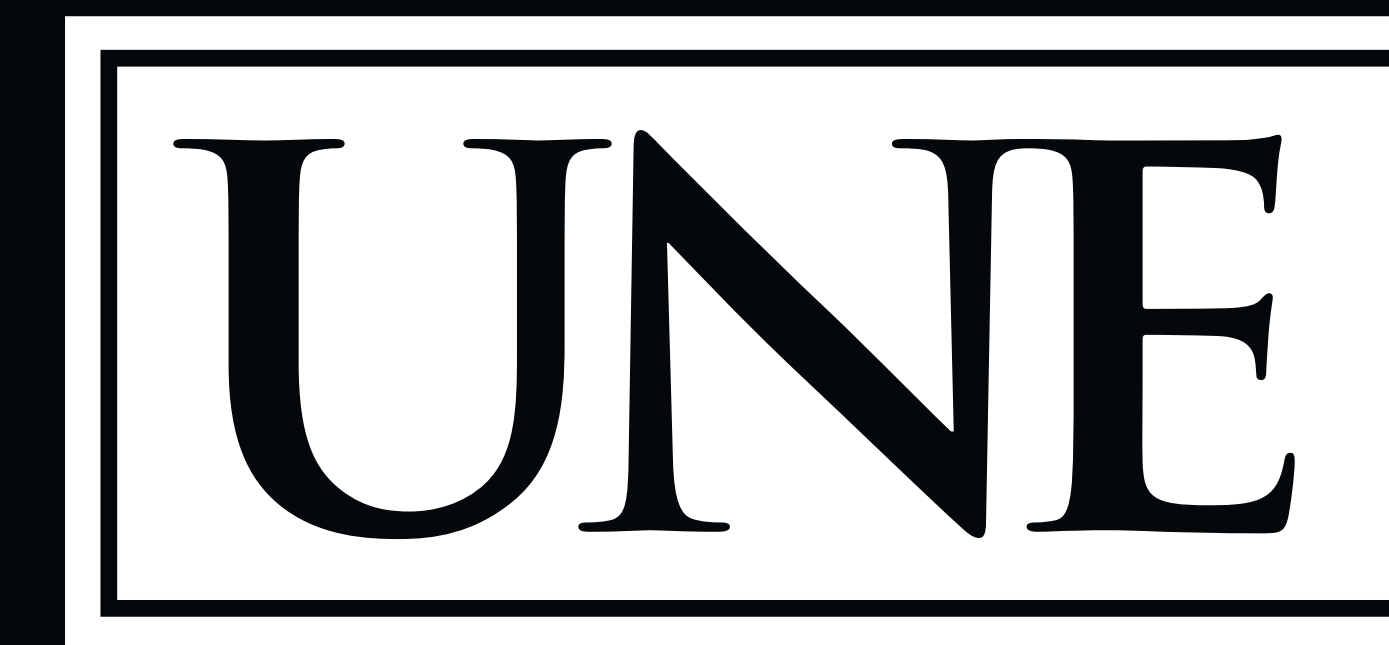


Out & Allied



addverb
PRODUCTIONS
www.une.edu/addverb

How can theatre be used in faith-based communities to support LGBTQ youth?

Add Verb Productions is a program of the University of New England. Headquartered in Portland Maine, Add Verb Productions provides **health and wellness education** through provocative **theatre performances**. The ultimate goal is to build stronger, healthier **communities** and effectively **engage bystanders**.



A Youthful Perspective

93% of young adults feel that talking about sexual issues and concerns is helpful and appropriate to do in church settings; only 39% of older adults agree with that view.¹

Young adults are almost three times as likely as older adults (81% versus 28%) to feel that homosexuality is not a sin and to feel that homosexuality is not something that people “choose” but rather that some people simply “are” homosexual.¹

Growth

Churches who welcome and affirm LGBT people can expect to see growth in many categories including:

- Those who are family members of LGBT people want to be a part of a faith community in which their loved ones are fully accepted.
- Those who are young adults and have a more accepting view of the LGBT people. Such young adults may be more open to invitations to participate in welcoming and accepting church.
- Those of any age who are accepting of LGBT people and who want to be in a faith community that is accepting of them.¹

Safety

In the “Faith Matter” study, **a third of 11th and 12th grade girls reported unwanted sexual experiences**. Instances of sexual abuse of children, youth, and adults are of deep concern to all of us. While there is no single action that can keep people completely safe, **sexuality education can provide knowledge and skills to help people be safer.**²

LGBTQ youth are at a significantly higher risk than heterosexual youth to behave in ways that contribute to unintentional injuries, violence, and related to attempted suicide, including drug use, sexual behaviors, dietary behaviors, and weight management.²

According the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, the prevalence of these **behaviors in gay and lesbian youth is, on average, 63.8% higher than among heterosexual youth.**²

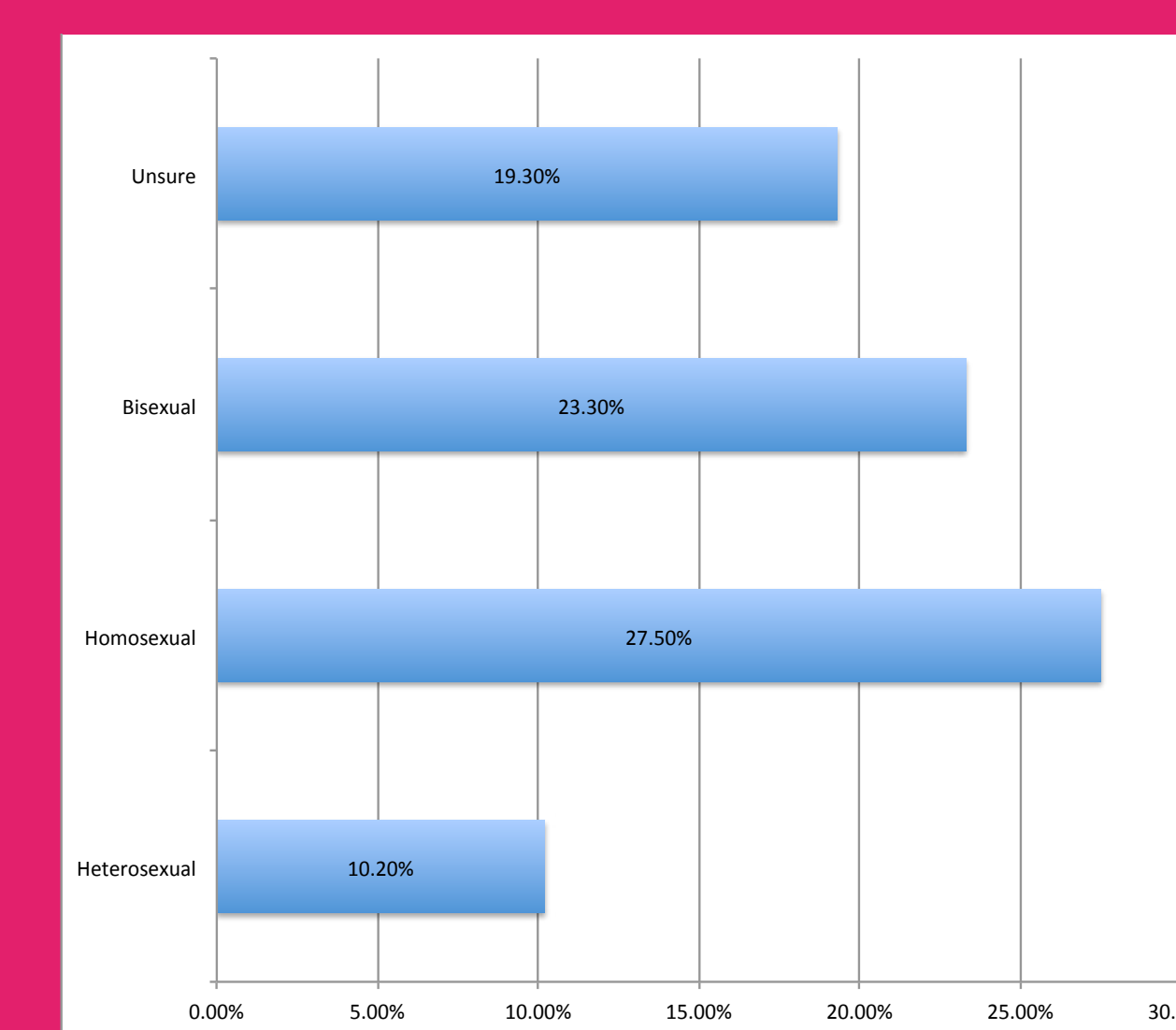
The prevalence in Bisexual youth is **76% higher.**²

How to find and develop the best stories:³

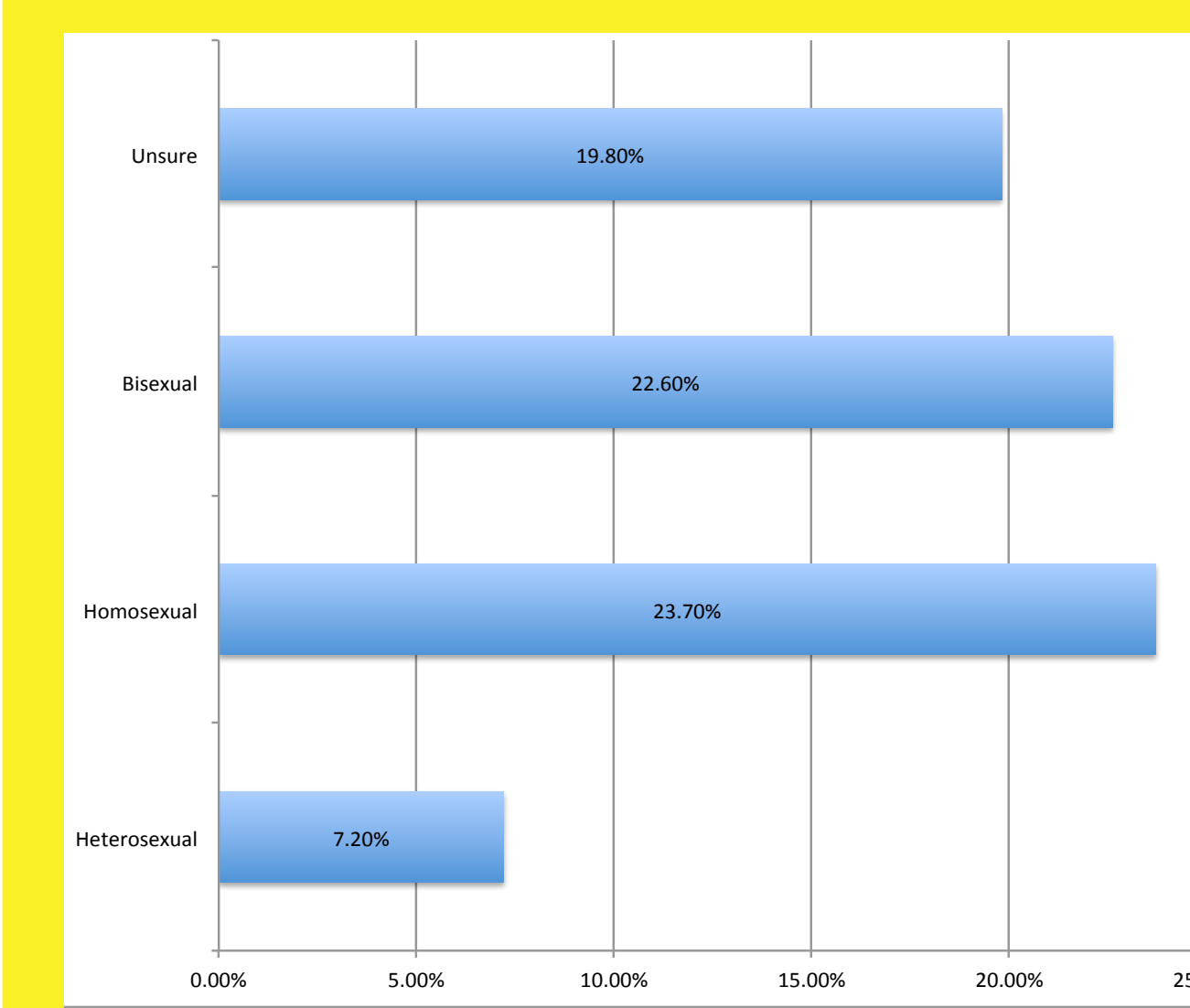
1. Find
2. Interview
3. Develop
4. Test
5. Refine



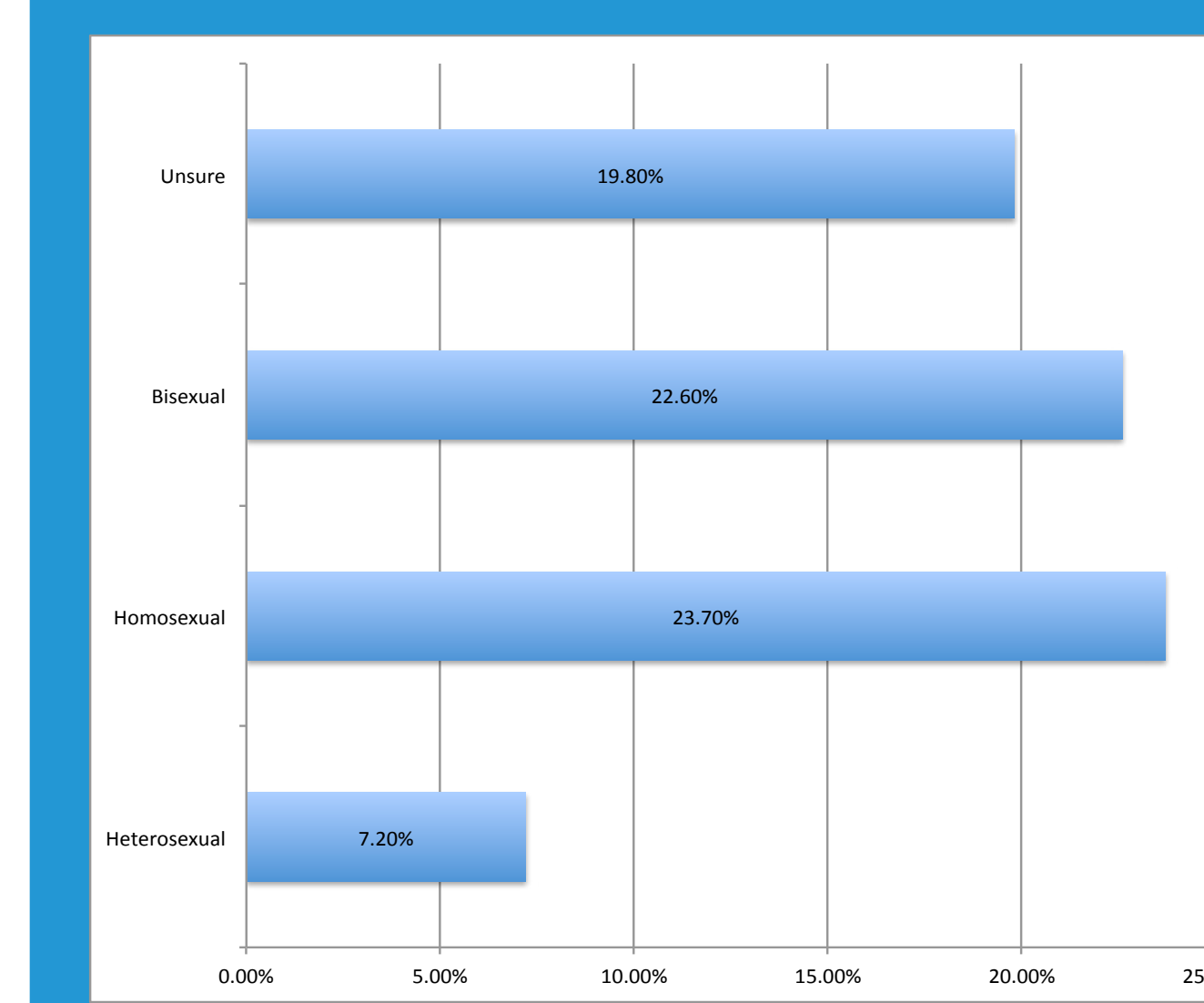
Victim of Dating Violence



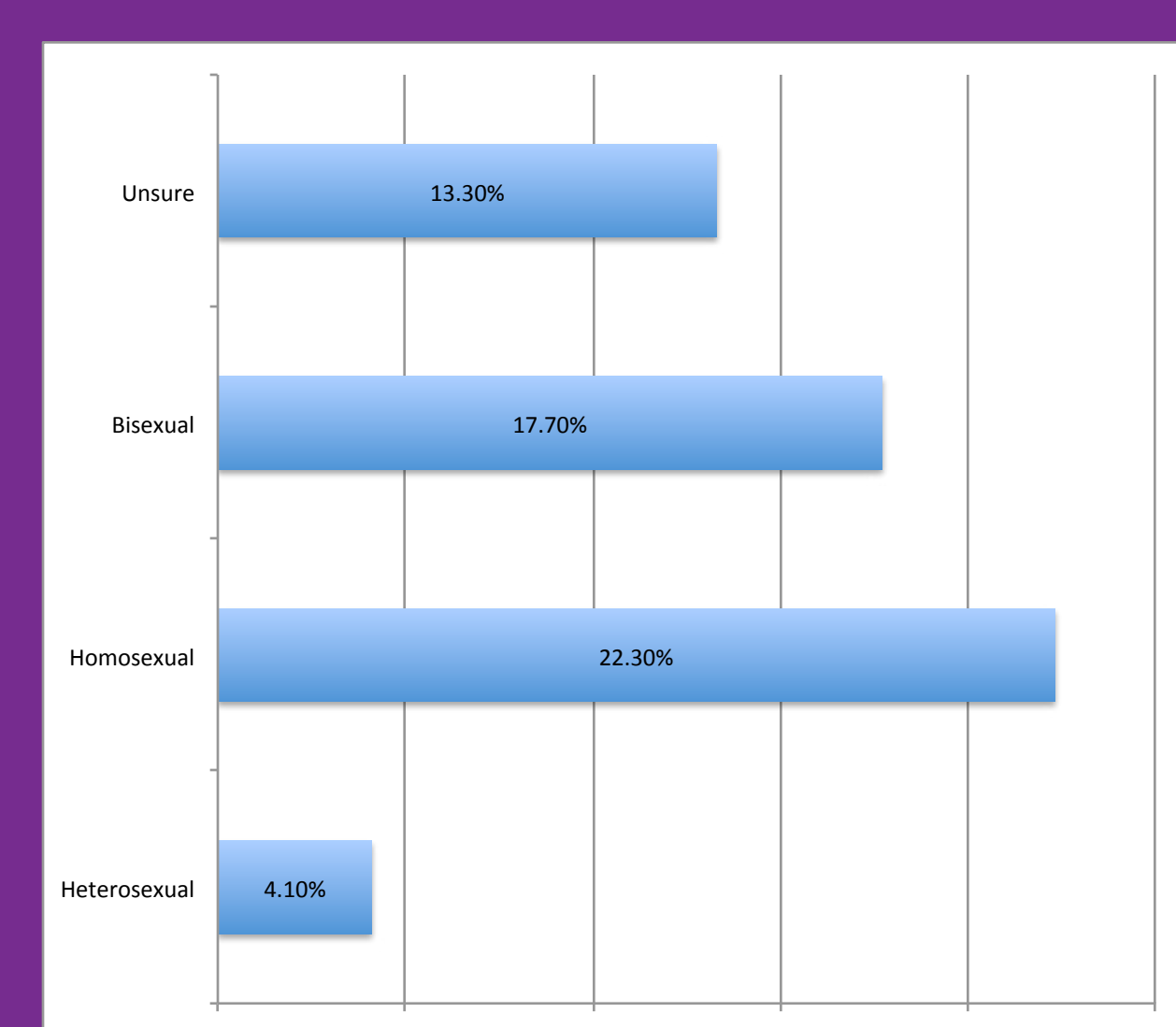
Forced to Have Sex



Attempted Suicide



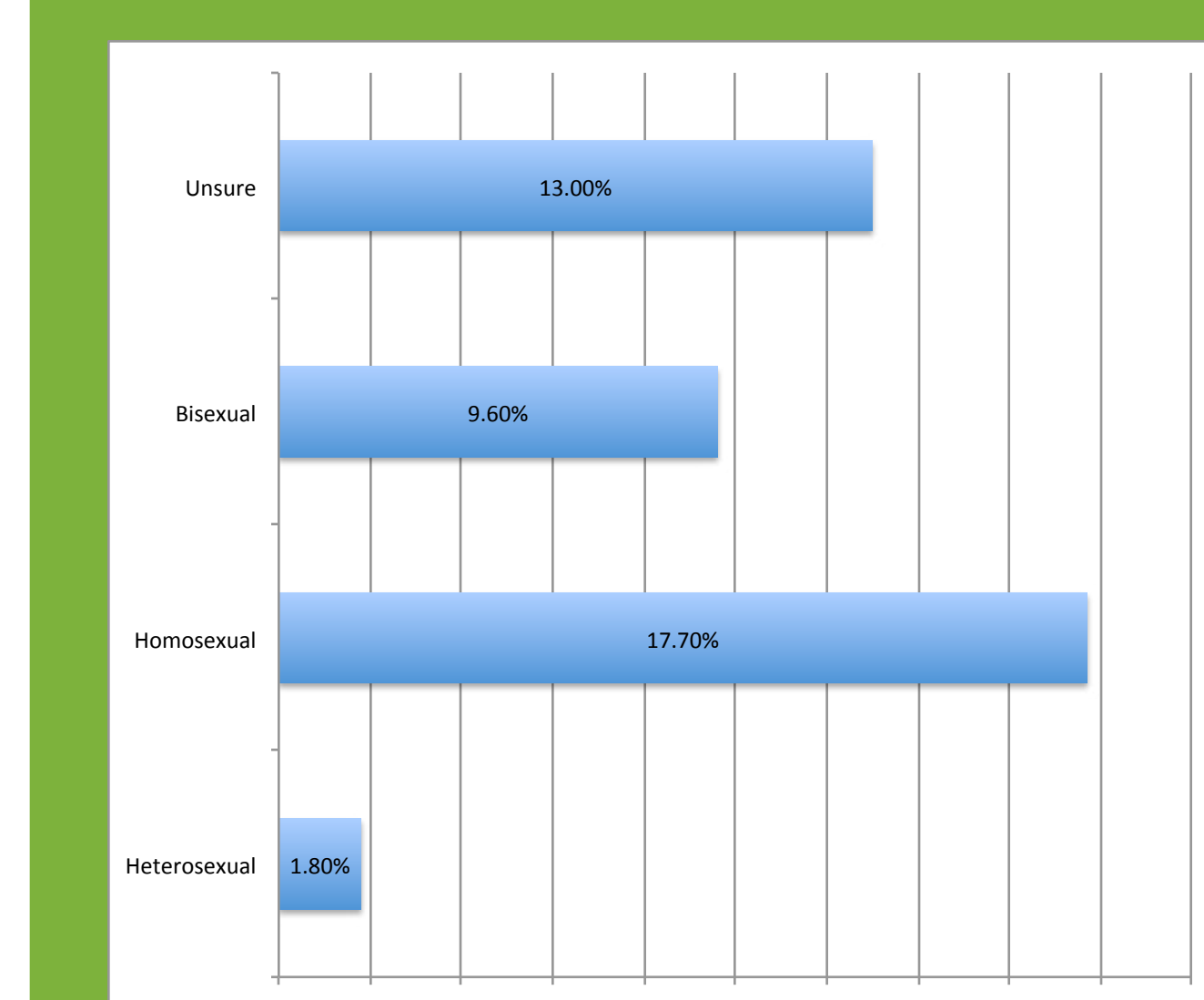
Ever Used Cocaine



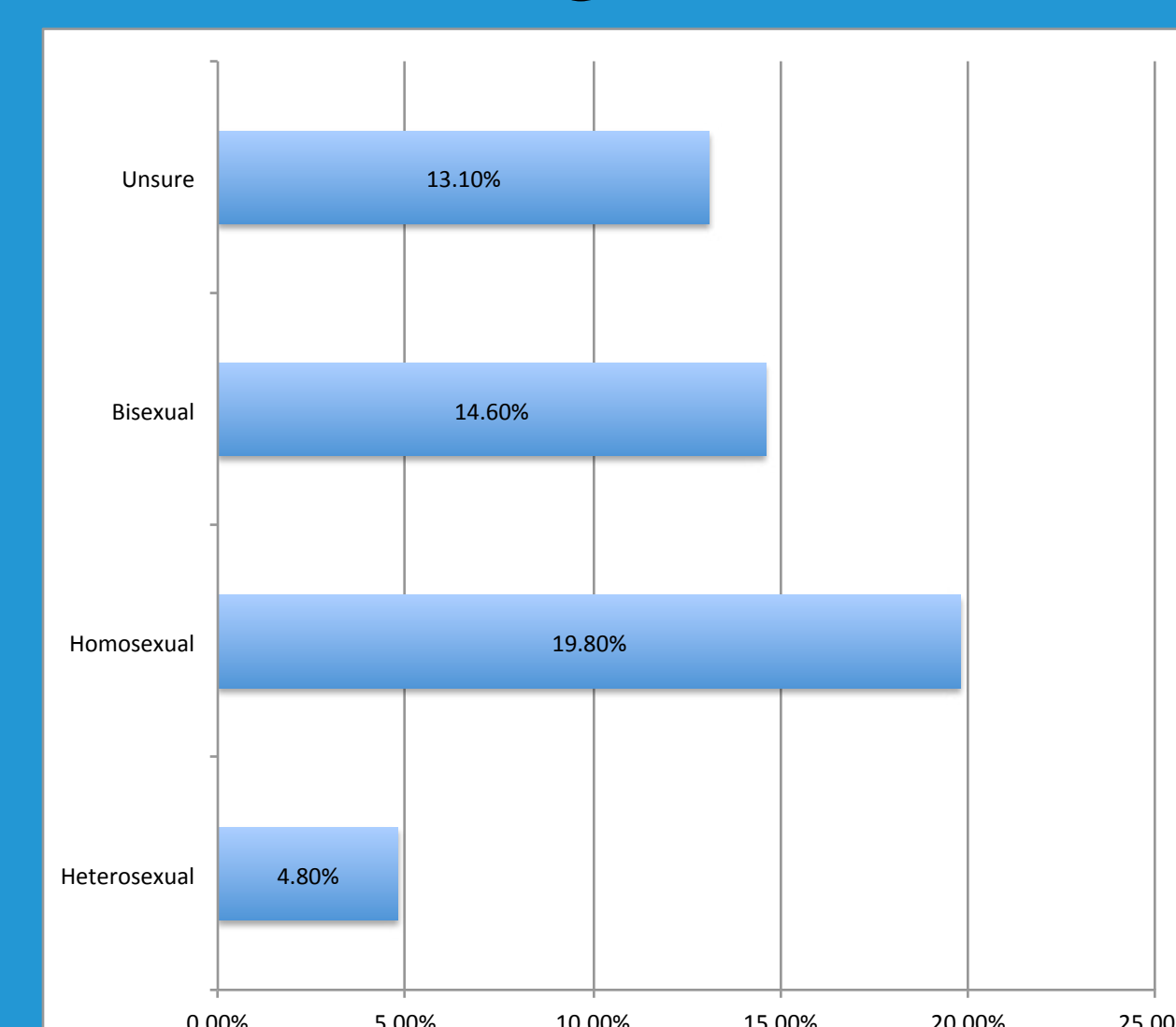
“The performance by Add Verb Productions brought home the message of the **searing pain of discrimination that LGBT people face, and that made this continuing education program very powerful. It was really the best one I’ve ever attended.**”
-N.A.S.W Maine Chapter

“For me I really enjoyed being able to tell my “story” in a safe productive environment. I wanted for the other girls out there, who’ve been that girl in the locker room to have a voice. This is just a rewarding process to have experienced and been a part of.”
-Mikayla Welch, Bonny Eagle H.S. Student

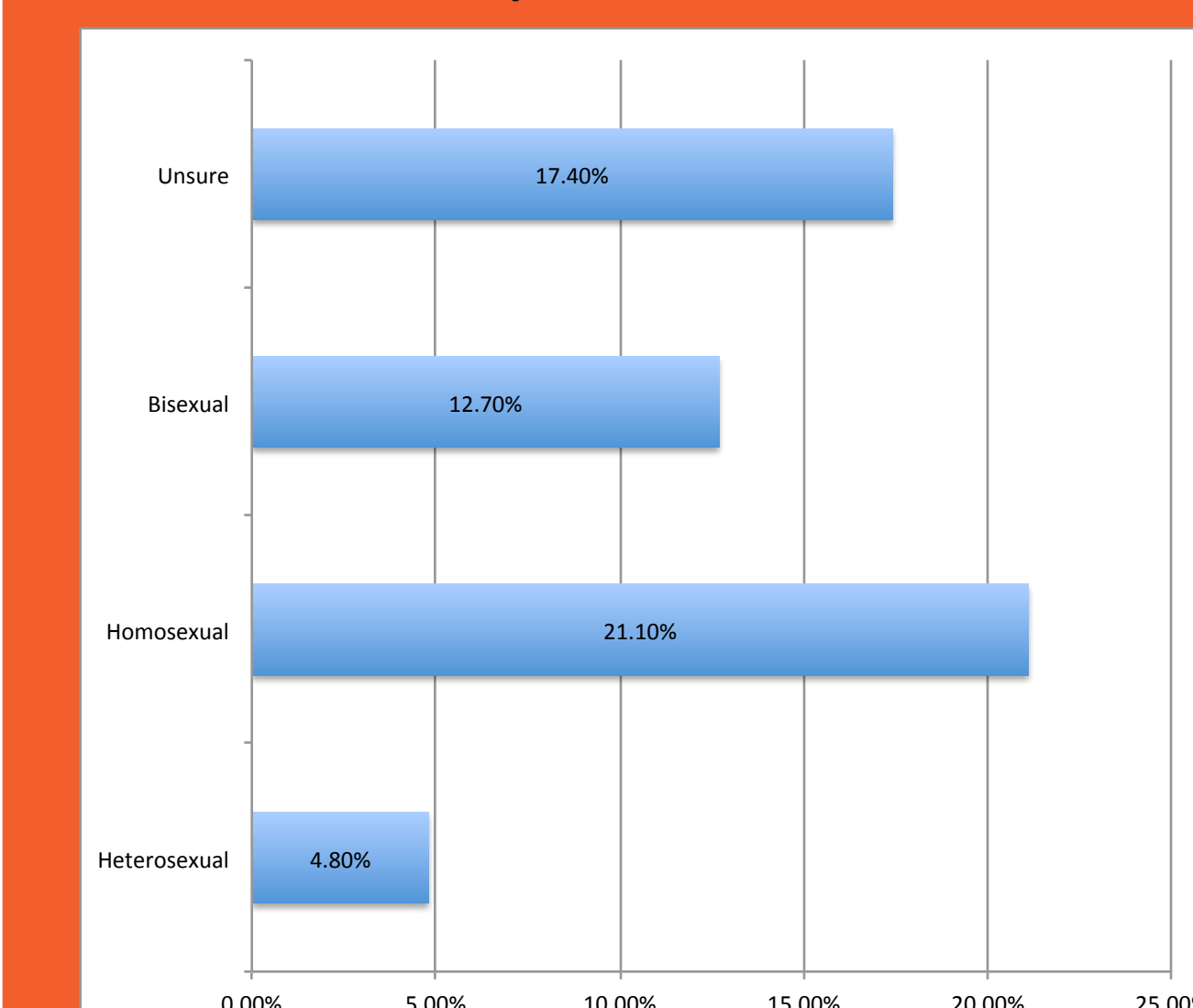
Ever Used Heroin



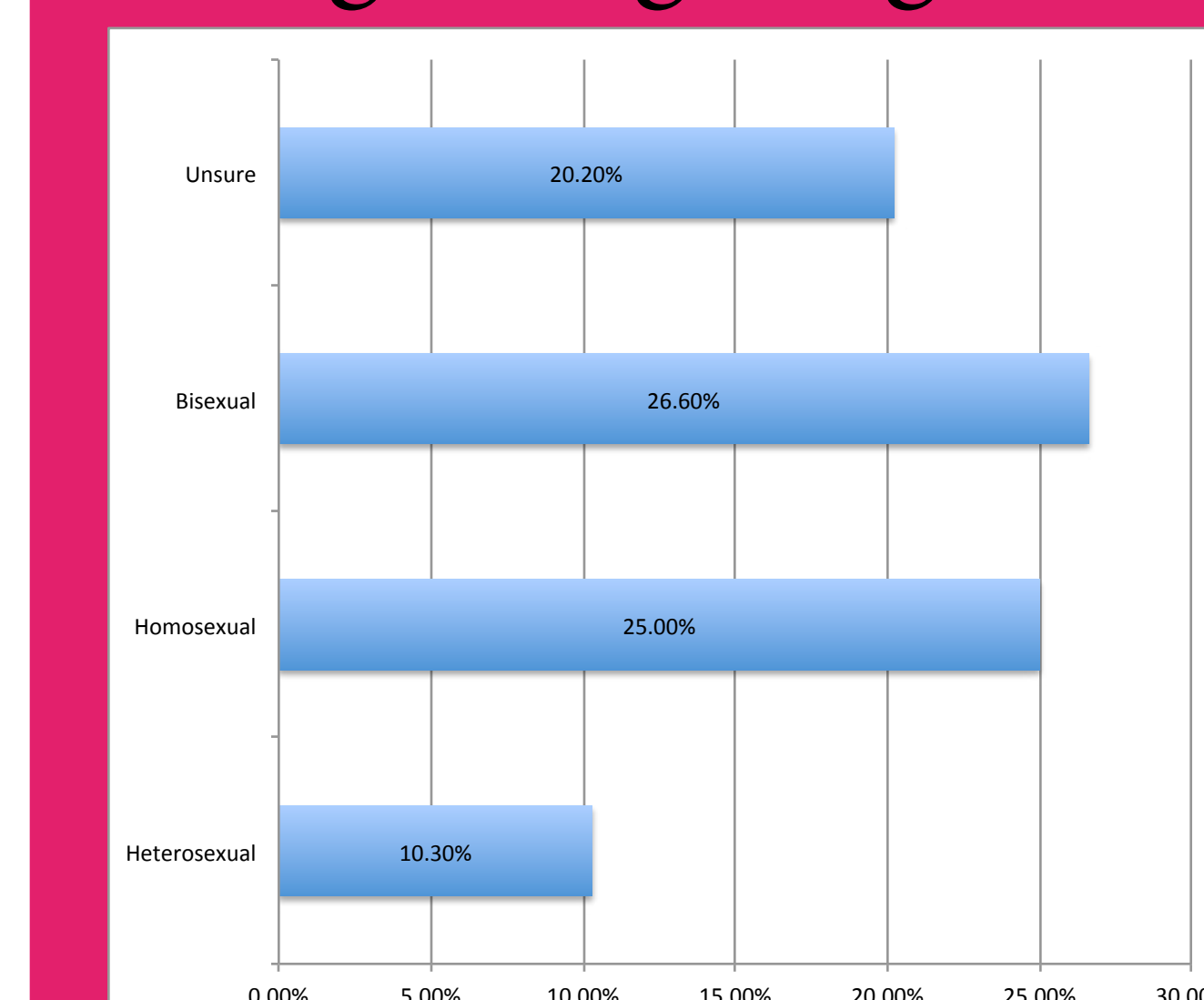
Had first Sexual Intercourse before the age of 13



Did not go to school because of safety concerns



Did not eat for 24 or more hours to lose weight or keep from gaining weight



¹ Taking a new look. Why congregations need LGBT members. Lifesquest publications, 2008

² Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Risk Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9–12 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, Selected Sites, United States, 2001–2009. (2011, June 6) MMWR: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 48(43), 996-998. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/>

³ My Mind Was Changed—a communications toolkit. by Auburn, Fenton and Goodwin Simon (www.auburnseminary.org, www.fenton.com, www.goodwinsimon.com)