



# The Health of LGBTQ Youth: A Two-Year Analysis

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Opportunity Conference 2018 | [health.state.mn.us/divs/chs](http://health.state.mn.us/divs/chs)

# Minnesota Student Survey (MSS)

- One of the longest running youth surveys in the nation
- A triennial survey that began in 1989
- An anonymous statewide school-based survey
- Asks students about their activities, opinions, behaviors and experiences on school climate, bullying, out-of-school activities, health and nutrition, emotional and mental health, relationships, substance use and more.



# Minnesota Student Survey (MSS)

- Purpose

- Provide data for program planning, evaluation, and to meet state and federal reporting requirements
- Address relevant issues confronting students
- Involve schools/other educational settings statewide and provide data for local use
- Monitor trends over time



# Minnesota Student Survey (MSS)

- Partnership of 4 Minnesota state agencies:

- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Public Safety



# Survey Coordination and Administration

- Population-based survey for students in grades 5, 8, 9, 11 and in non-traditional learning settings
- Grades surveyed changed from the past, which had been grades 6, 9 and 12
  - Concerns about 12<sup>th</sup> grade data quality
- Maintains 3 year interval between grades
- Retains 9<sup>th</sup> grade for trending purposes



# Survey Coordination and Administration

- Building level choice of two modes of administration offered in 2016
  - Pencil-paper bubble survey – scanned
  - Online electronic survey
- Uniform instructions, checklist provided
- Schools/facilities administer the survey
- January-May administration
- Takes one class period to administer



# District Participation in the 2016 MSS

- District participation rate:
  - In 2016, 282 out of 330 public school districts participated statewide (85%)
- District participation over time:

1992	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
99%	92%	92%	91%	88%	91%	88%	84%	85%

# Student Participation in the 2016 MSS

- Regular public schools:

Statewide numbers of MSS participants and participation rates

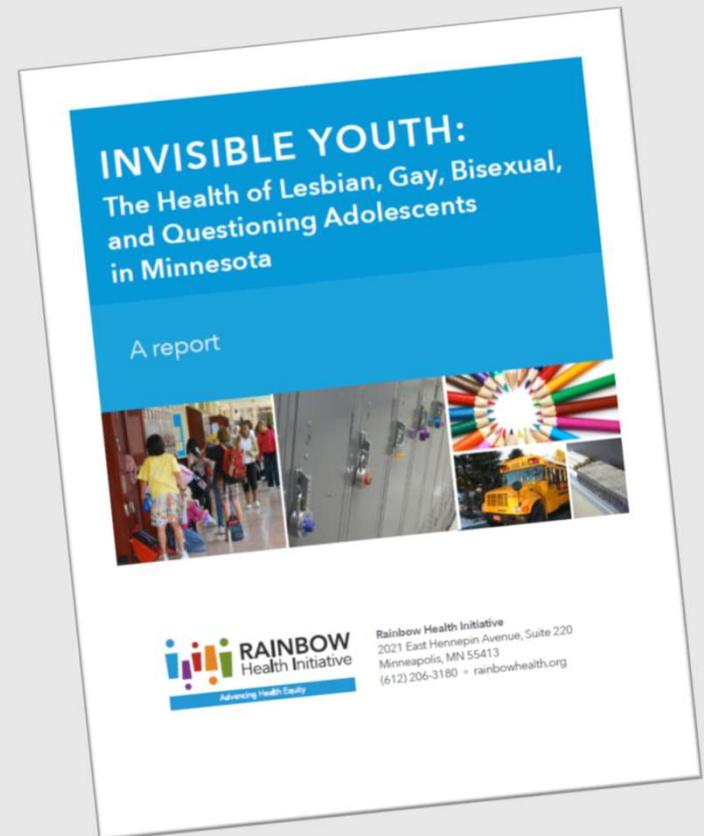
	<u># students (% of enrolled)</u>
5 <sup>th</sup> grade:	41,865 (66%)
8 <sup>th</sup> grade:	44,983 (73%)
9 <sup>th</sup> grade:	45,309 (71%)
11 <sup>th</sup> grade:	36,576 (61%)

# Non-Participation in the 2016 MSS

- Reasons for non-participation of districts in 2016
  - Staff turnover: No specific person to take the lead, or new staff unfamiliar with the survey and its value
  - Districts conducting their own surveys
- Reasons for student non-participation within participating districts
  - Voluntary survey: Student chose not to participate
  - Parents didn't allow
  - Student was out of school on that day or at that time
  - Drop out

# Rainbow Health Institute: Invisible Youth (2015)

- Numbers
- Socio/Economic Home Indicators
- Home Environment
- School Climate
- Education
- Community Engagement/Out of School Activities
- Mental Health
- Physical Health
- Behaviors



# Analysis for this Presentation

- 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders were asked the following question:
  - *“What is your biological sex?”*
- 2016 MSS was the first year students were asked:
  - *“Do you consider yourself transgender, genderqueer, genderfluid, or unsure about your gender identity?”*
- For the purposes of replication, these results only rely on biological sex



# Numbers

# Sexual Orientation

	2013	2016
<b>Straight</b>	72,798	72,305
	93.6%	89.7%
<b>Bisexual</b>	2,223	4,014
	2.9%	5.0%
<b>Gay/Lesbian</b>	655	1,027
	.8%	1.3%
<b>Questioning</b>	2,082	3,272
	2.7%	4.1%

# Sexual Orientation by Sex and Grade

	2013				2016			
	Grade 9		Grade 11		Grade 9		Grade 11	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Straight</b>	19,620	18,945	17,424	16,809	21,058	18,596	17,093	15,441
	95.1%	91.5%	95.1%	92.9%	94.0%	84.7%	94.0%	86.3%
<b>Bisexual</b>	262	955	245	761	417	1,769	424	1,393
	1.3%	4.6%	1.3%	4.2%	1.9%	8.1%	2.3%	7.8%
<b>Gay/Lesbian</b>	179	149	209	118	205	294	255	260
	.9%	.7%	1.1%	.7%	.9%	1.3%	1.4%	1.5%
<b>Questioning</b>	573	667	443	399	730	1,290	420	806
	2.8%	3.2%	2.4%	2.2%	3.3%	5.9%	2.3%	4.5%

# Sexual Orientation by Ethnicity

	2013			2016		
	Hispanic/Latino	Somali	Hmong	Hispanic/Latino	Somali	Hmong
<b>Straight</b>	4,804	624	2,039	6,153	1,170	2,084
	91.8%	83.8%	90.4%	87.3%	87.2%	87.5%
<b>Bisexual</b>	224	28	60	446	24	88
	4.3%	3.8%	2.7%	6.3%	1.8%	3.7%
<b>Gay/Lesbian</b>	67	27	29	104	19	36
	1.3%	3.6%	1.3%	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%
<b>Questioning</b>	136	66	127	346	129	173
	2.6%	8.9%	5.6%	4.9%	9.6%	7.3%

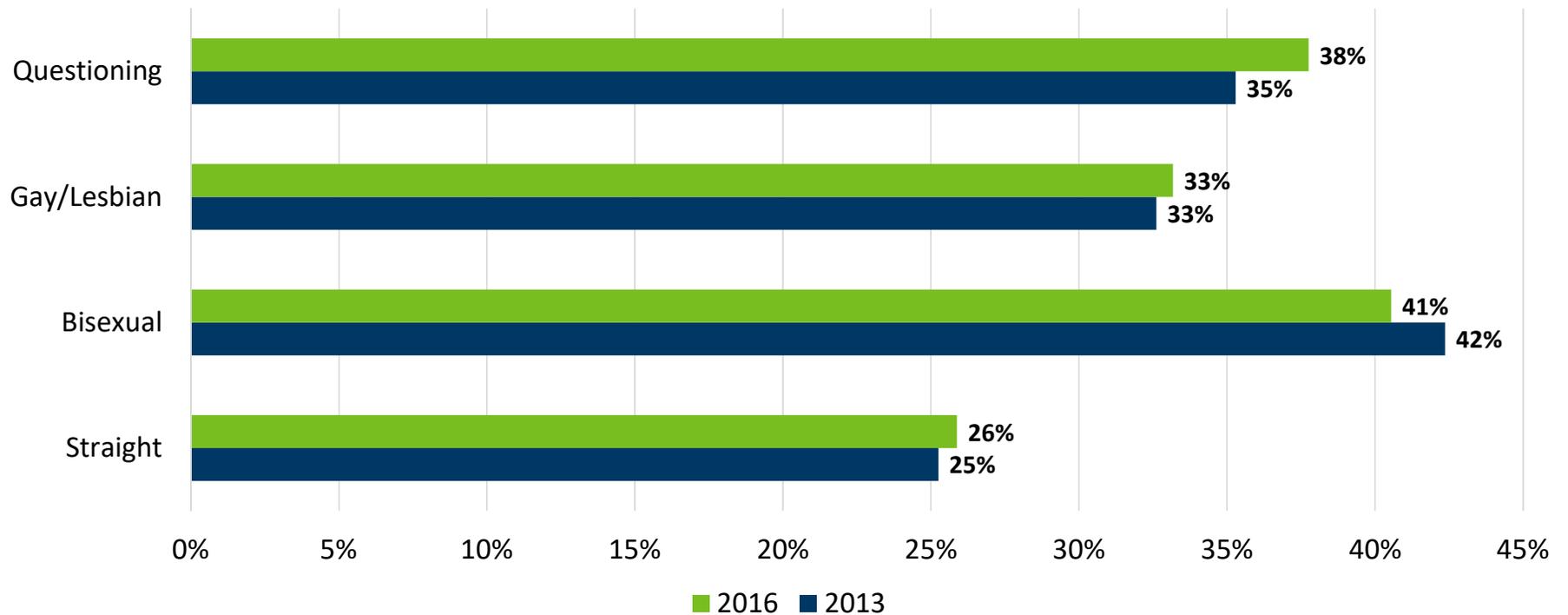
# Sexual Orientation by Ethnicity

	2013					2016				
	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian	Black, African or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian	Black, African or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White
<b>Straight</b>	3,426	4,925	5,698	667	60,868	3,645	5,536	6,381	710	59,515
	87.6%	90.5%	89.3%	84.1%	94.2%	83.2%	86.4%	86.3%	82.3%	90.3%
<b>Bisexual</b>	287	146	328	50	1,746	450	312	475	78	3,268
	7.3%	2.7%	5.1%	6.3%	2.7%	10.3%	4.9%	6.4%	9.0%	5.0%
<b>Gay/Lesbian</b>	56	73	113	24	474	72	99	133	24	806
	1.4%	1.3%	1.8%	3.0%	.7%	1.6%	1.5%	1.8%	2.8%	1.2%
<b>Questioning</b>	140	300	239	52	1,518	213	460	401	51	2,329
	3.6%	5.5%	3.7%	6.6%	2.3%	4.9%	7.2%	5.4%	5.9%	3.5%

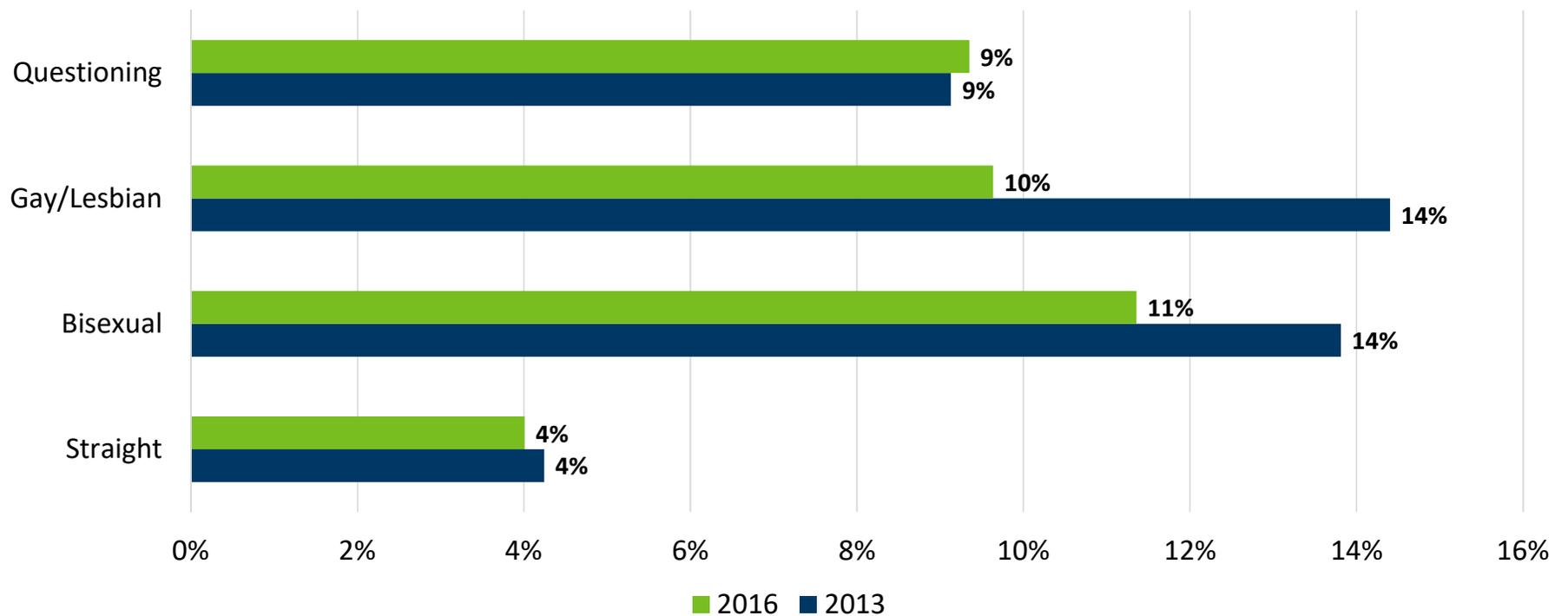


## Socio/Economic Home Indicators

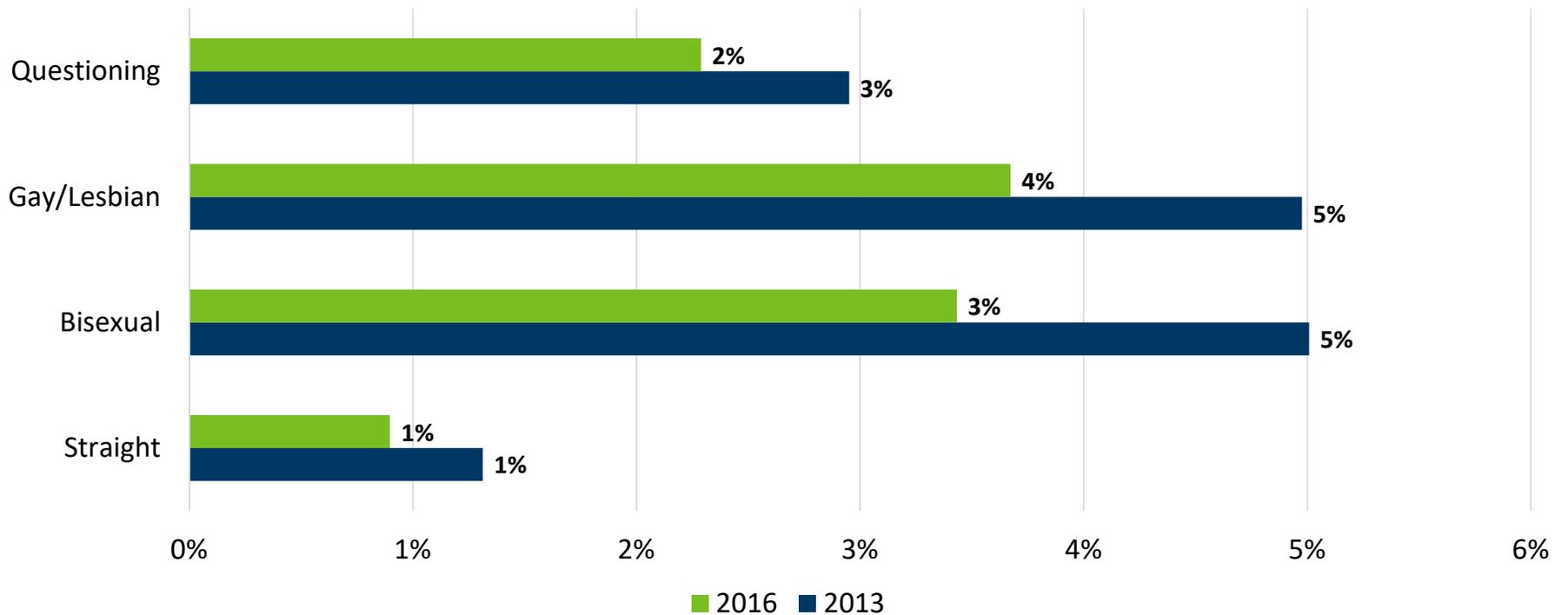
# Free or Reduced Price Lunch (Yes)



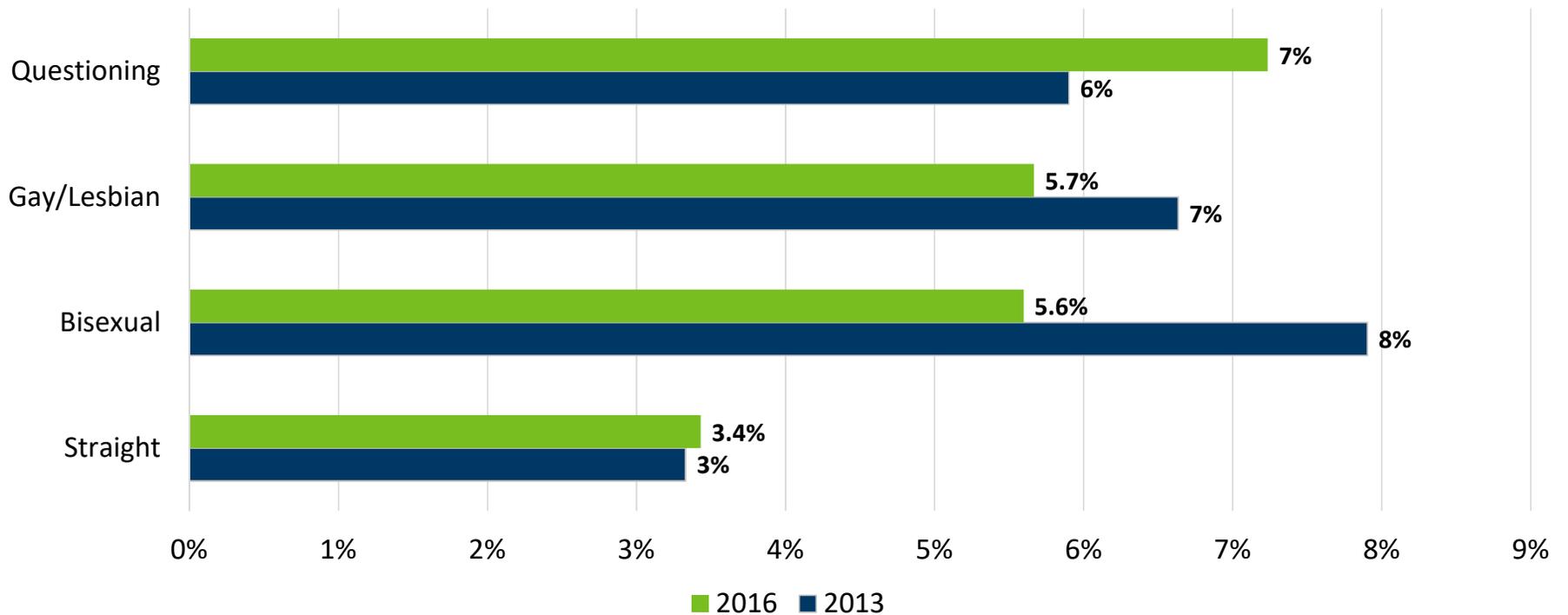
# During the last 30 days, have you had to skip meals because your family did not have enough money to buy food? (Yes)



During the past 12 months, have you stayed in a shelter, somewhere not intended as a place to live, or someone else's home because you had no other place to stay:  
On my own without any adult family members? (Yes)



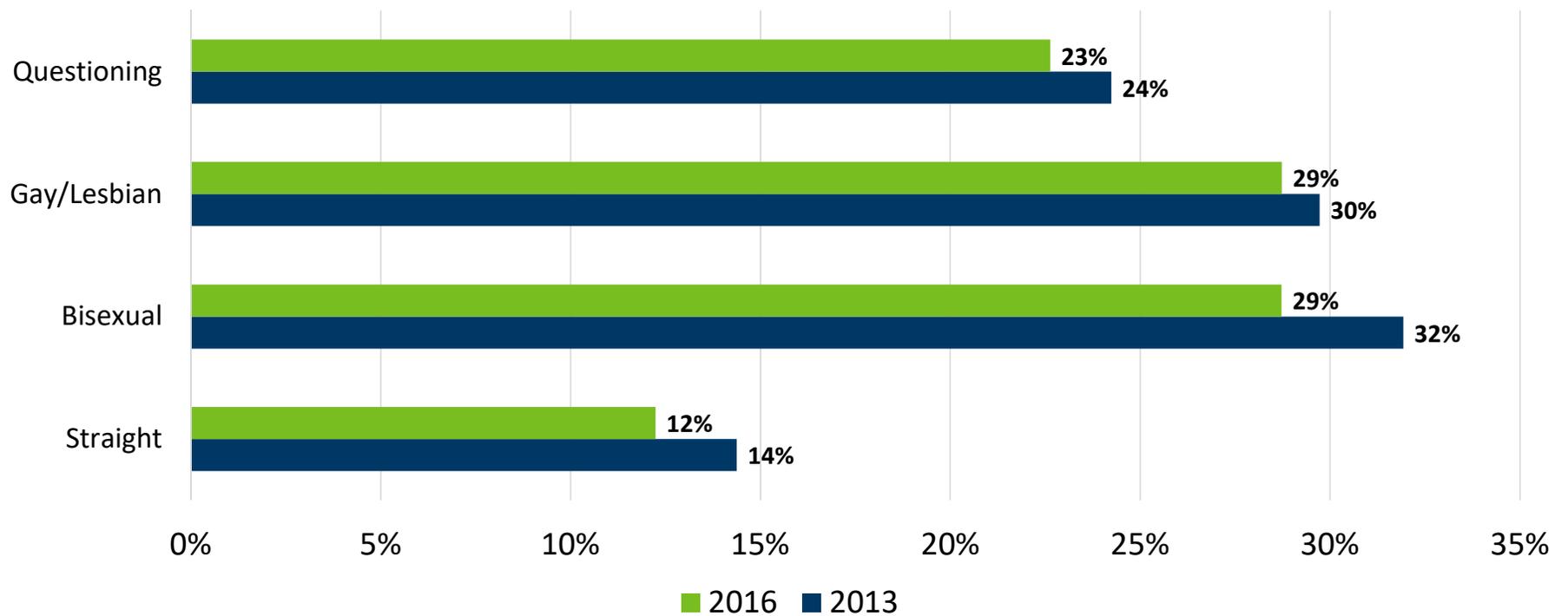
During the past 12 months, have you stayed in a shelter, somewhere not intended as a place to live, or someone else's home because you had no other place to stay:  
With my parents or an adult family member? (Yes)



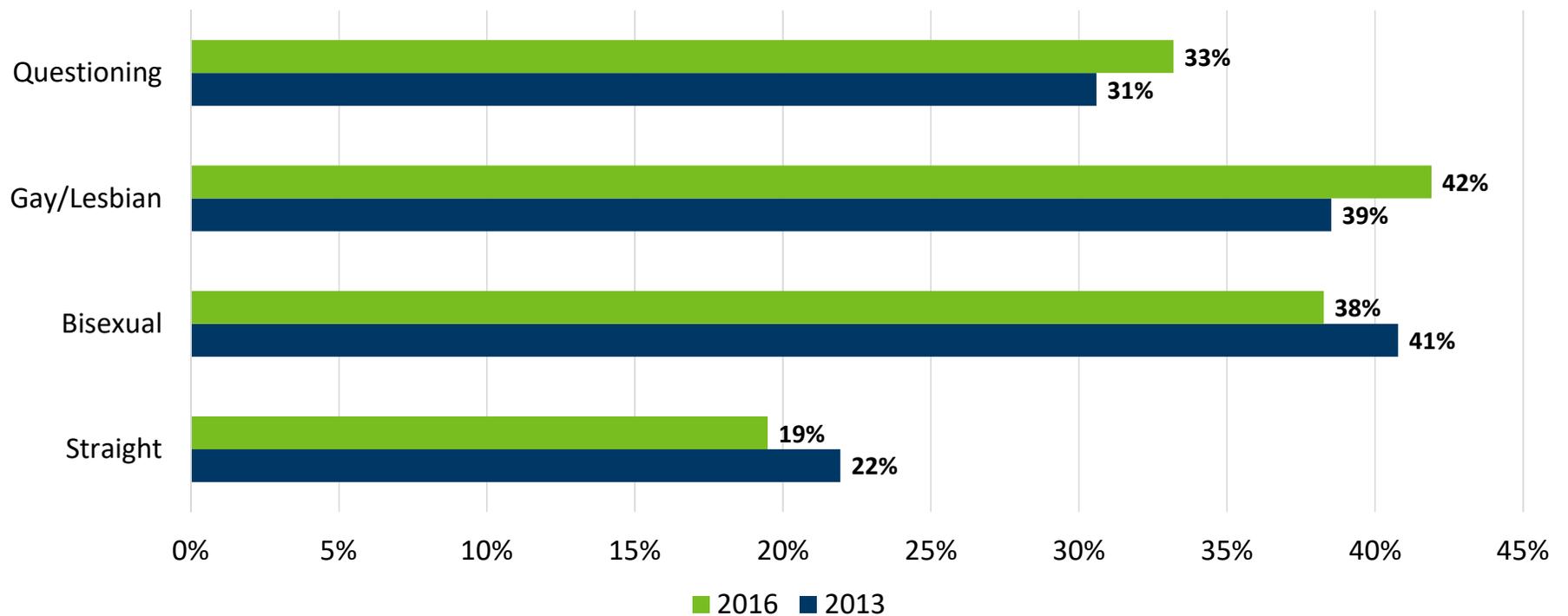


# Home Environment

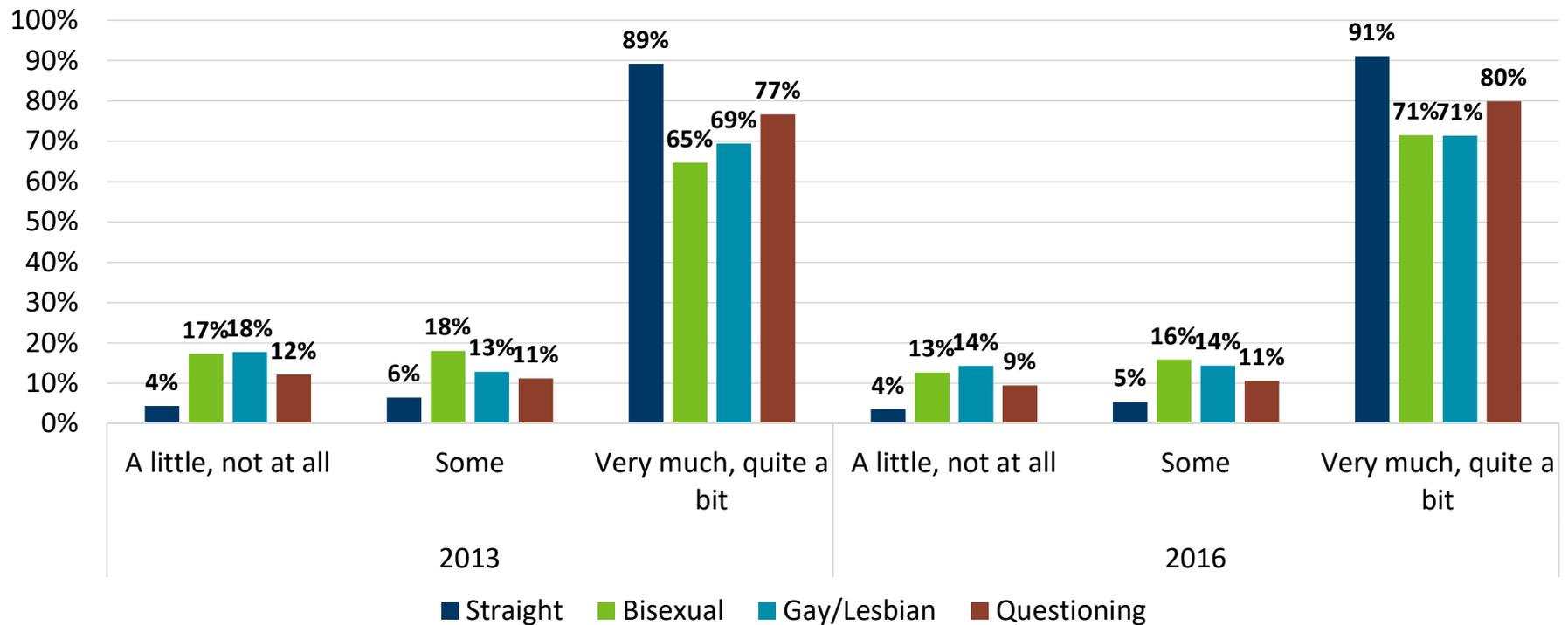
# Can you talk to your mother about problems you are having? (No, not at all/No, not very often)



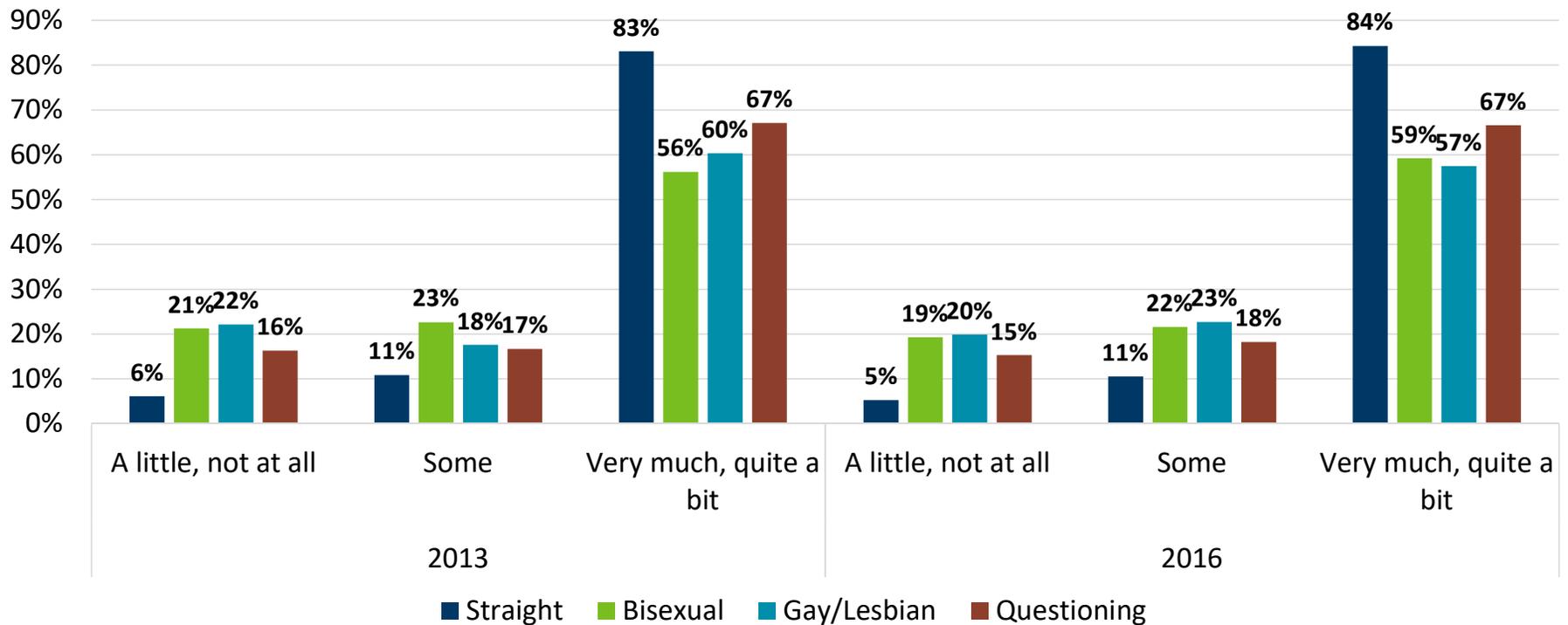
# Can you talk to your father about problems you are having? (No, not at all/No, not very often)



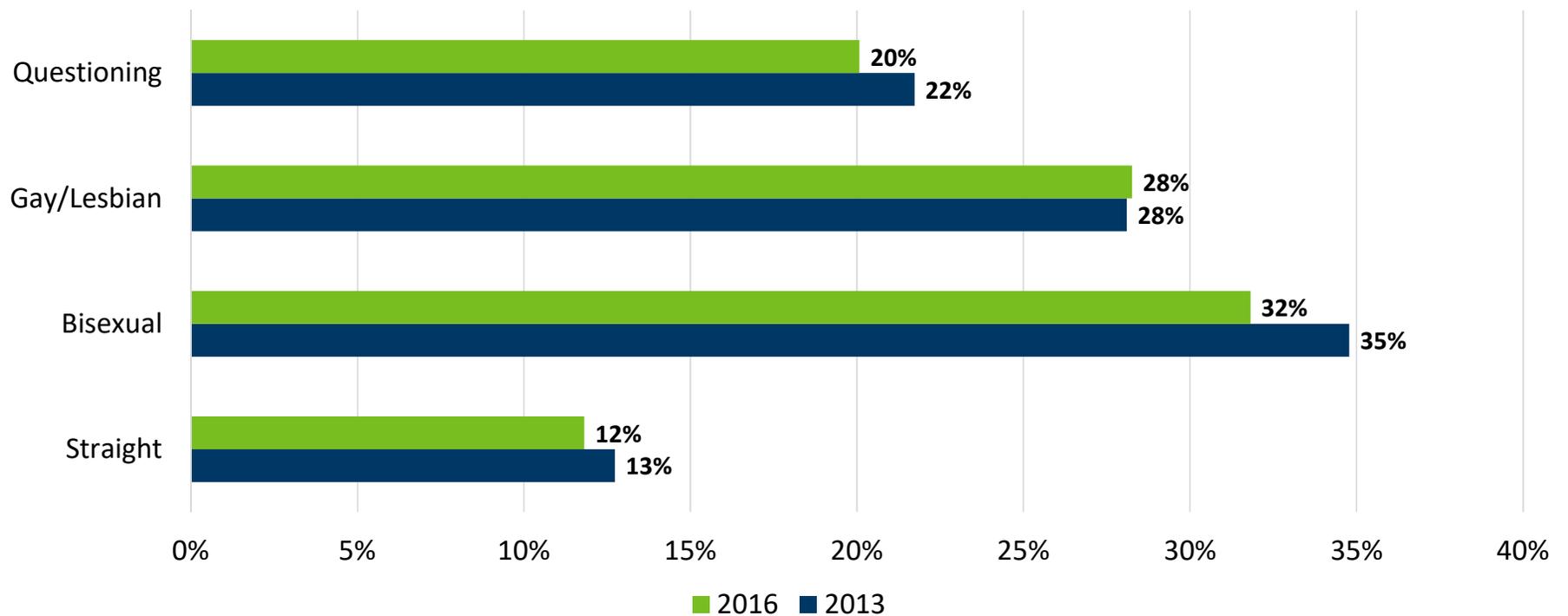
# How much do you feel your parents care about you?



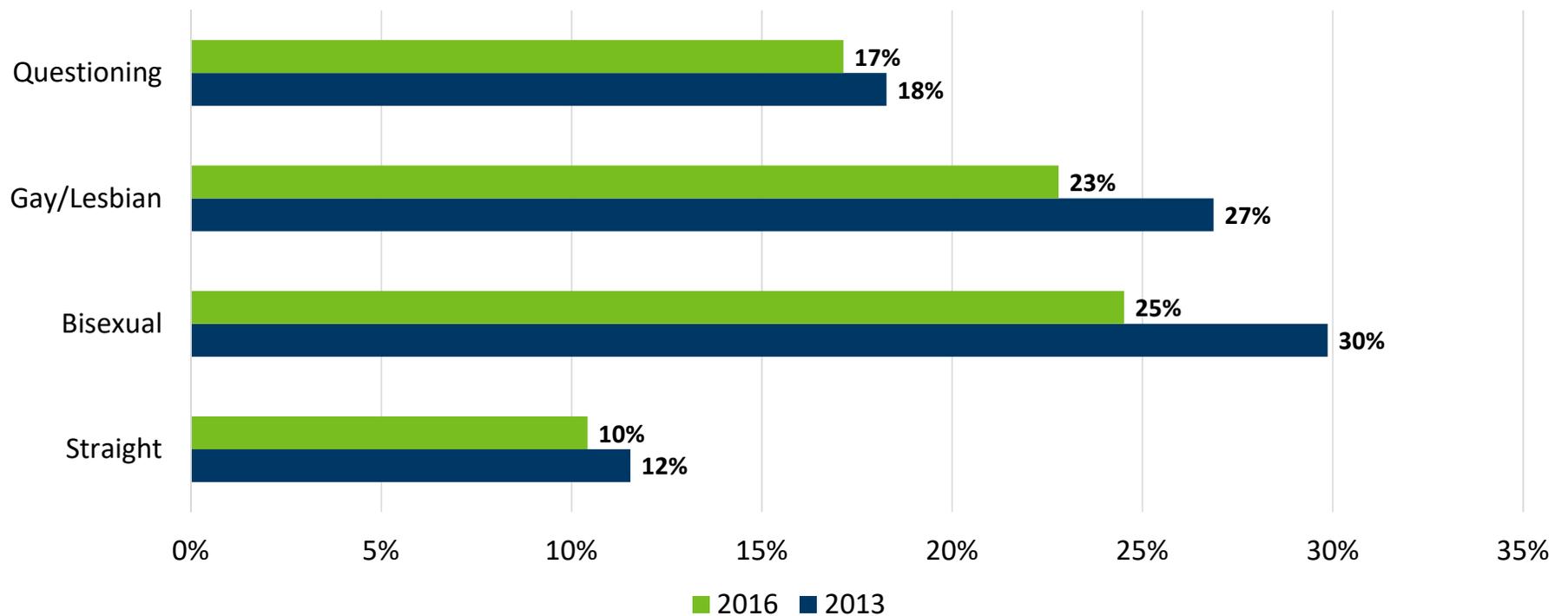
# How much do you feel other adult relatives care about you?



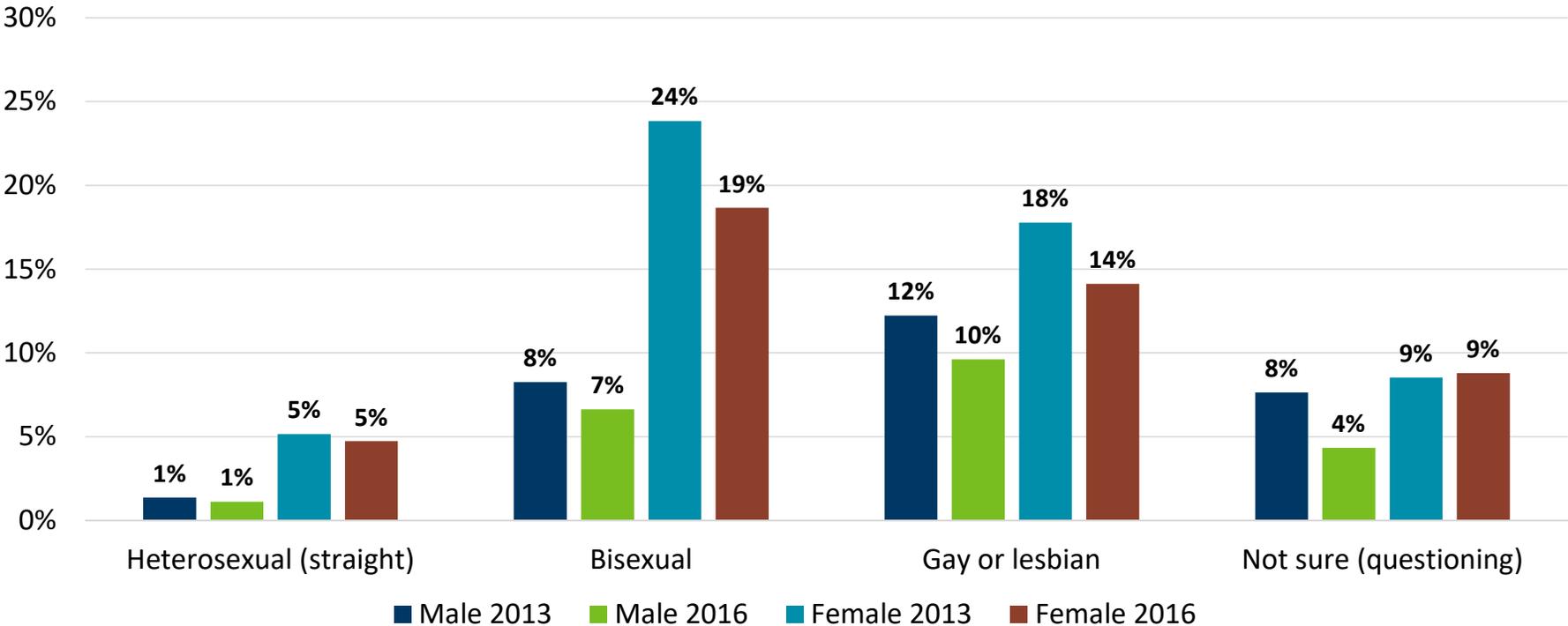
# Does a parent or other adult in your home regularly swear at you, insult you or put you down? (Yes)



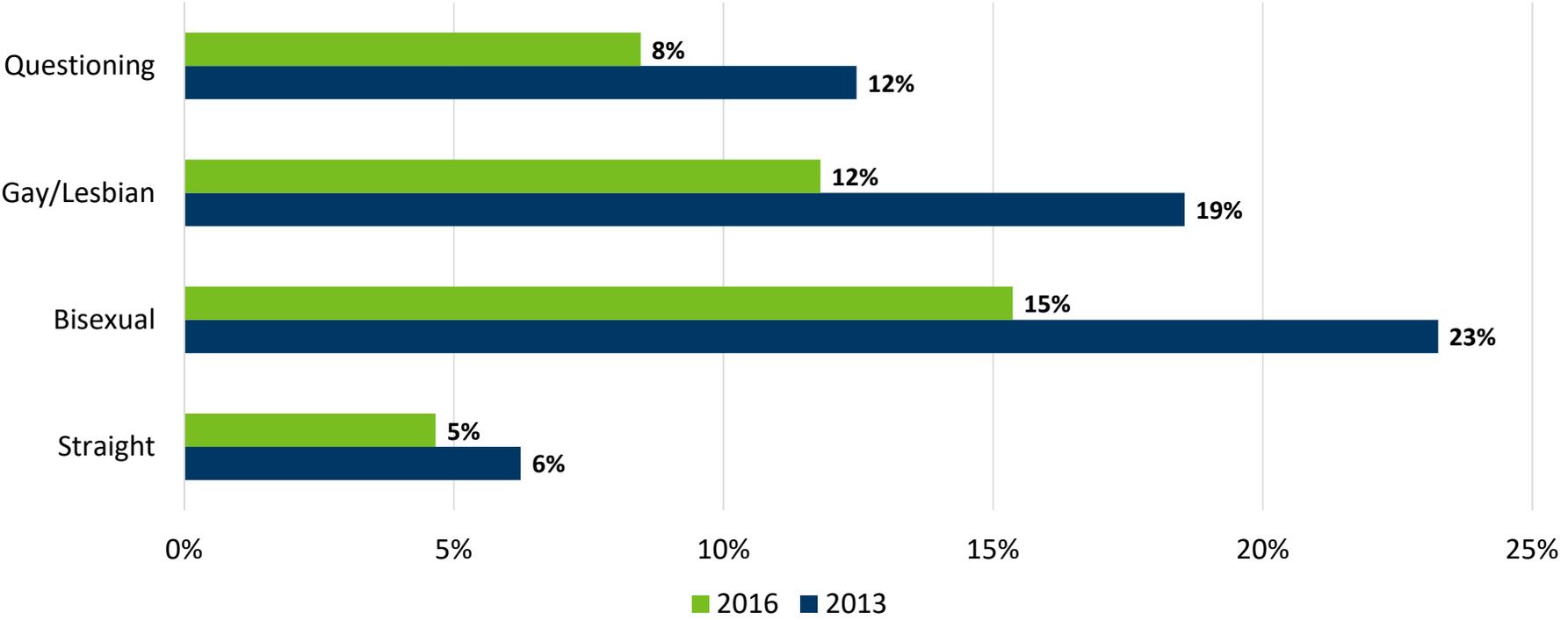
# Has a parent or other adult in your household ever hit, beat, kicked or physically hurt you in any way? (Yes)



# Has any adult or other person outside of the family ever touched you sexually against your wishes or forced you to touch them sexually? (Yes)



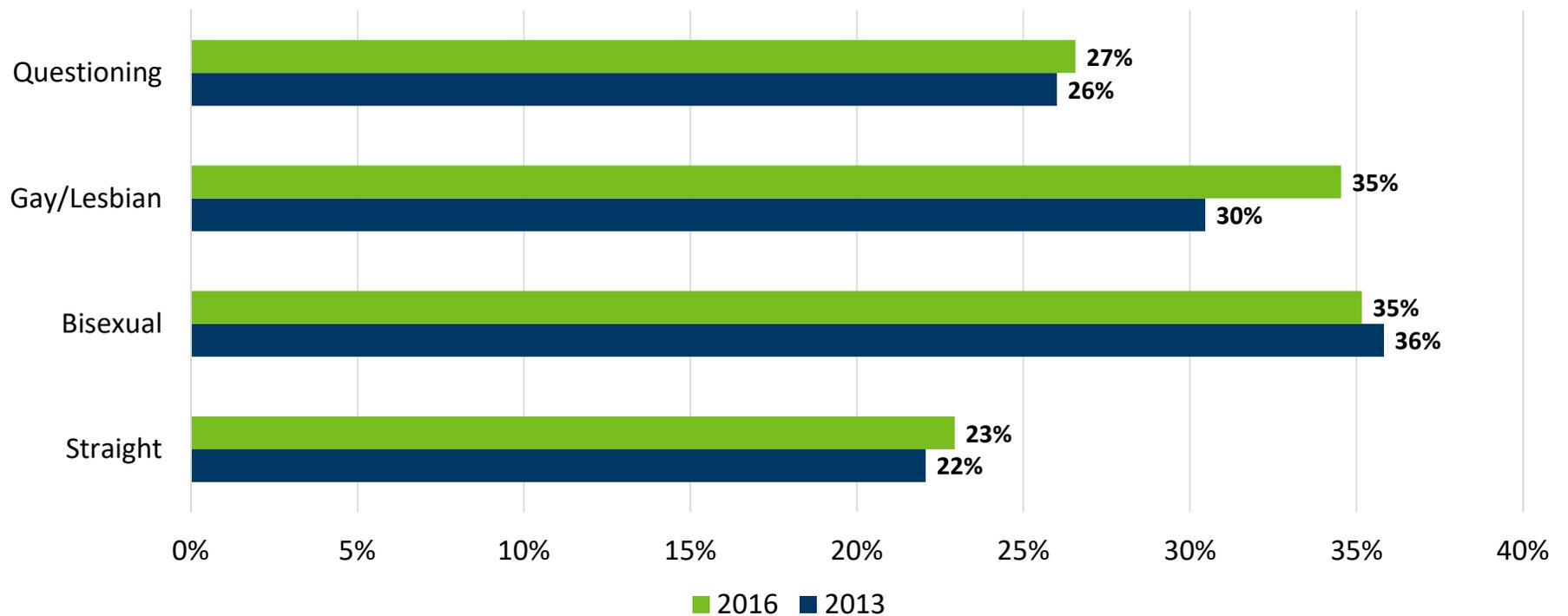
# During the last 12 months, how often have you run away from home? (Yes, One or more times)



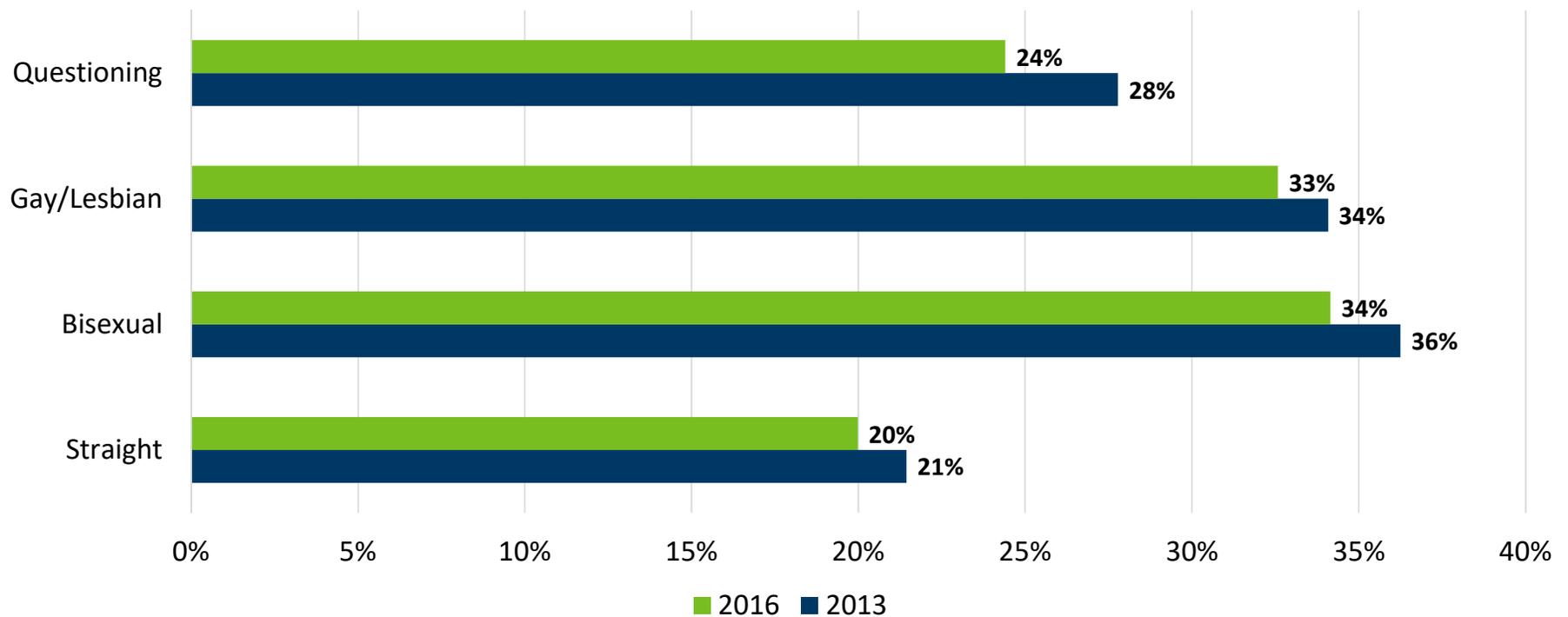


# School Climate

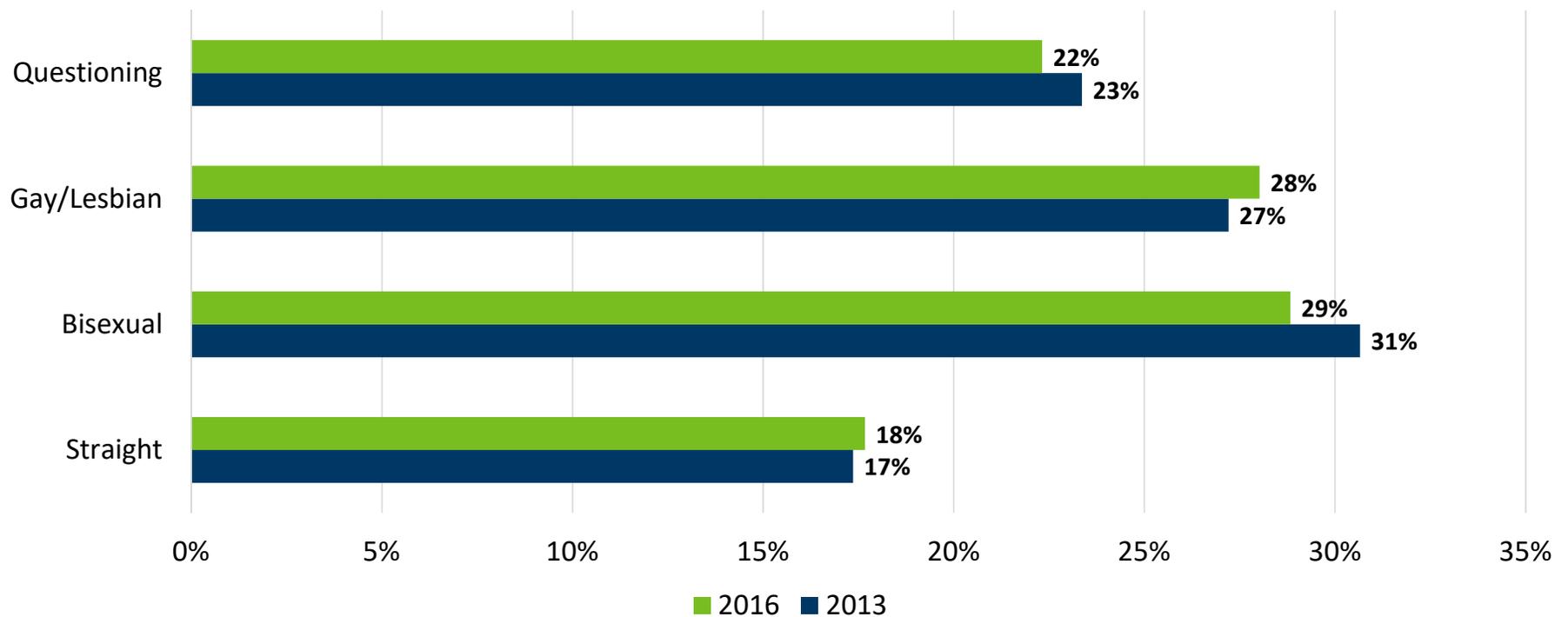
# The school rules are fair. (Disagree/Strongly Disagree)



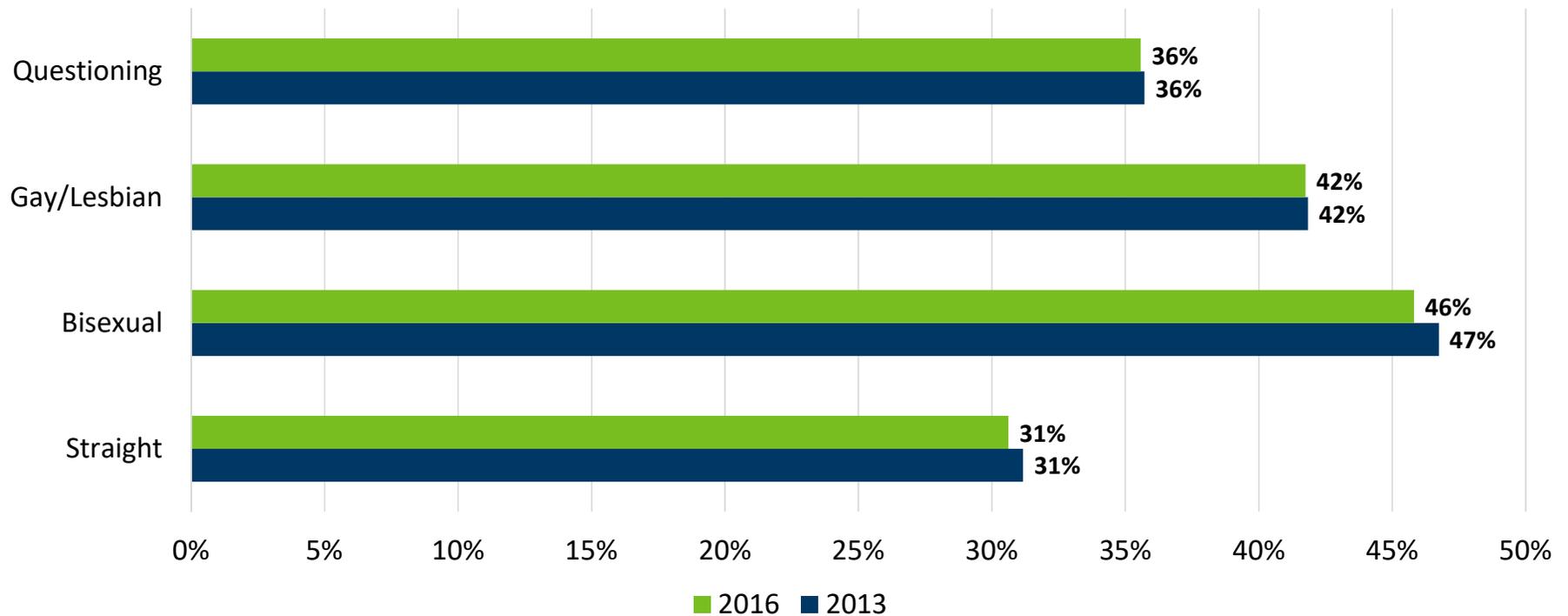
# Adults at my school listen to the students. (Disagree/Strongly Disagree)



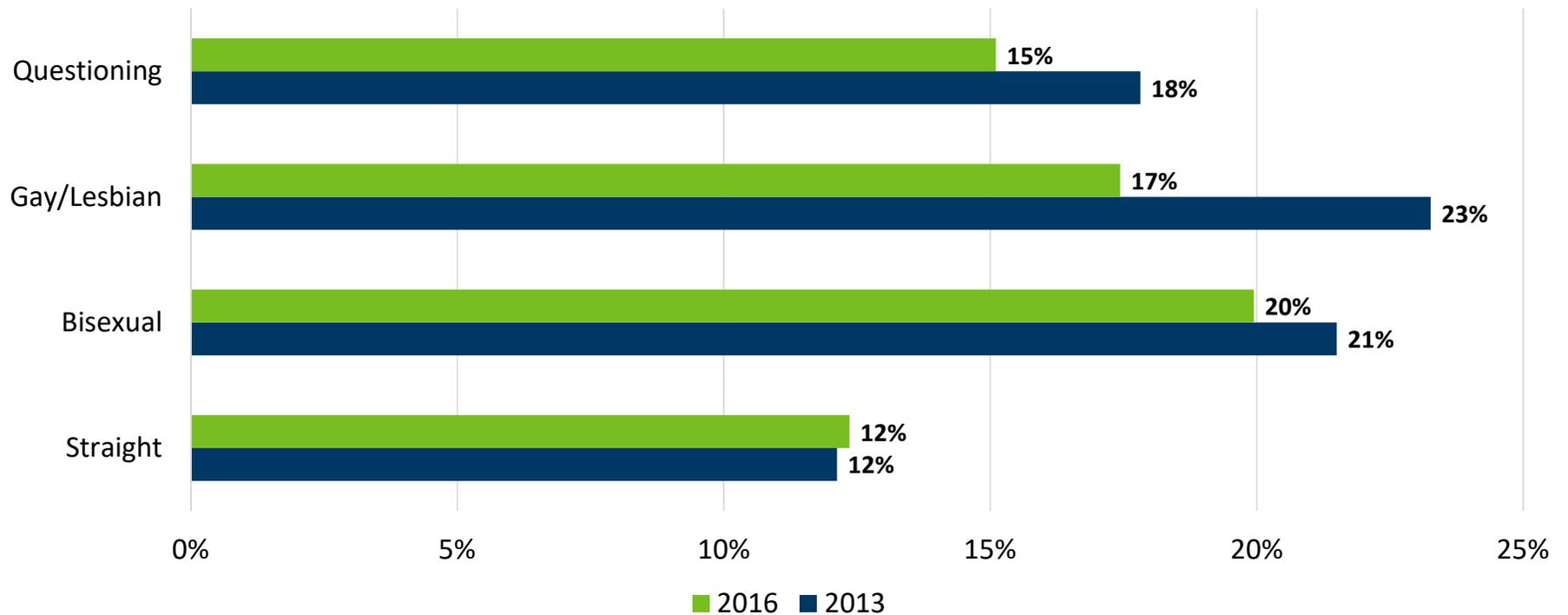
# Overall, adults at my school treat students fairly. (Disagree/Strongly Disagree)



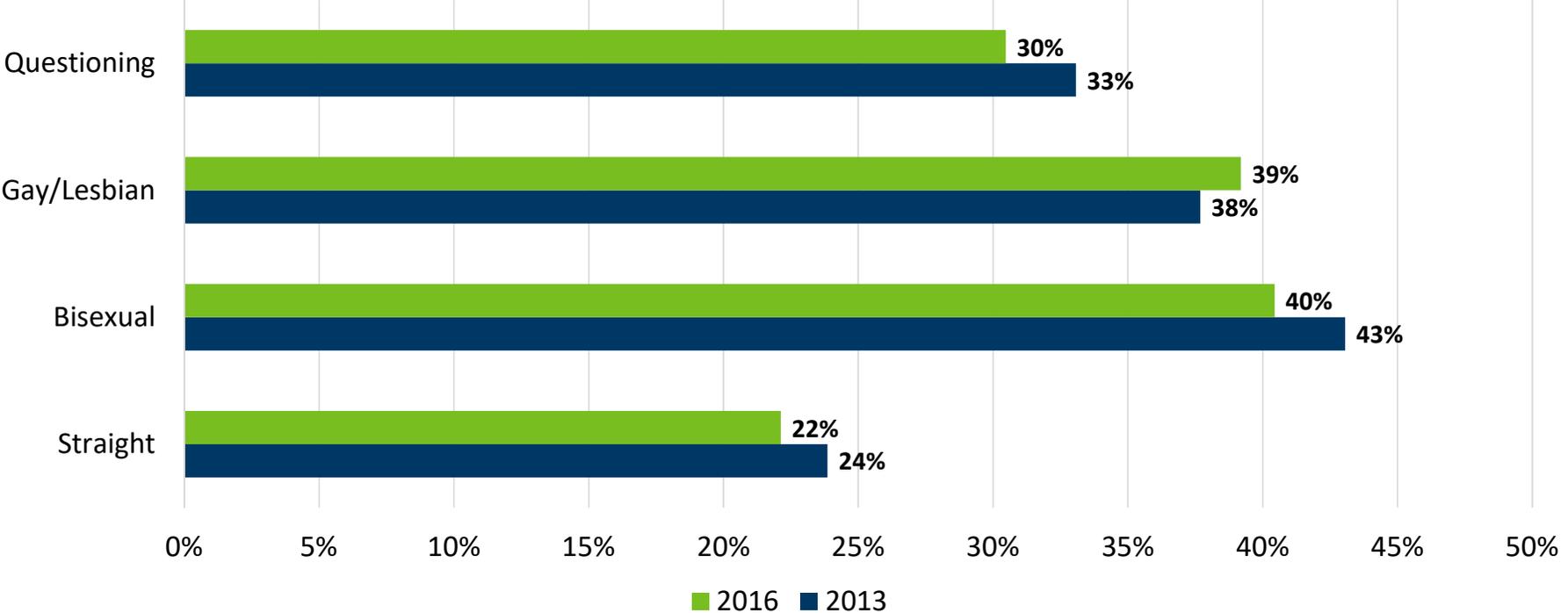
# Most teachers at my school are interested in me as a person. (Disagree/Strongly Disagree)



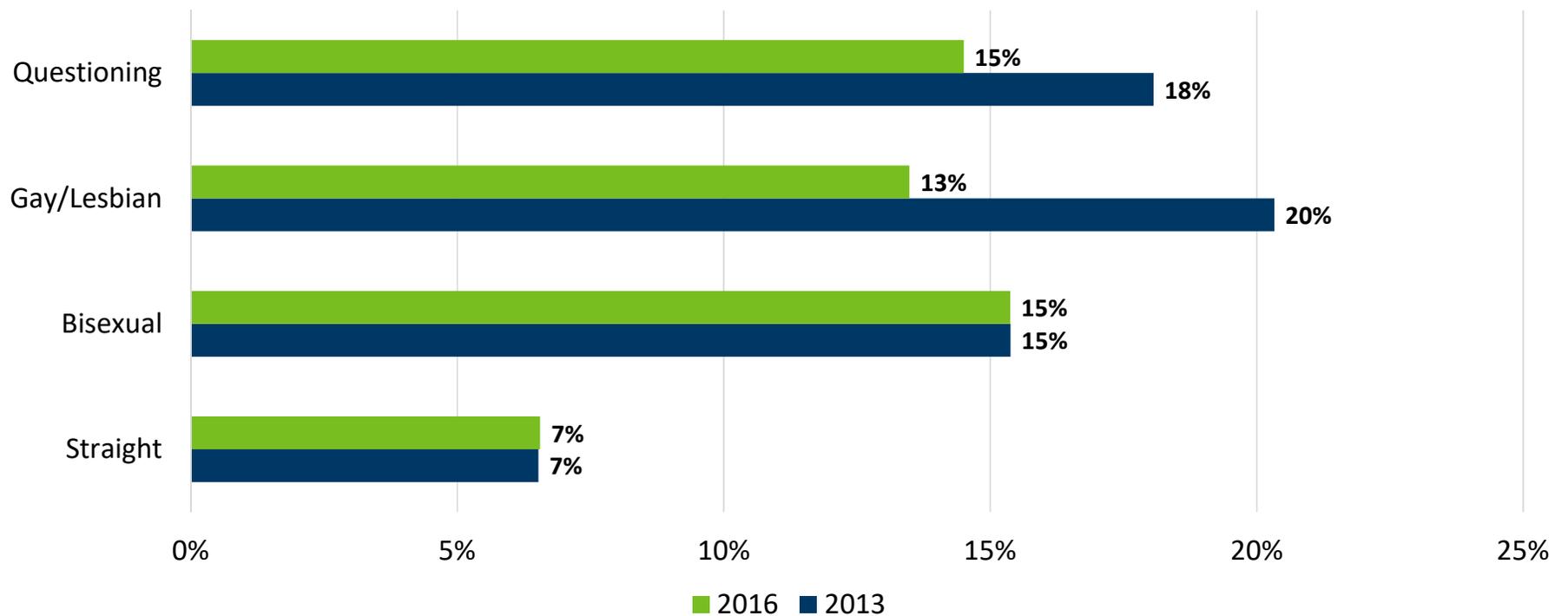
# At my school, teachers care about students. (Disagree/Strongly Disagree)



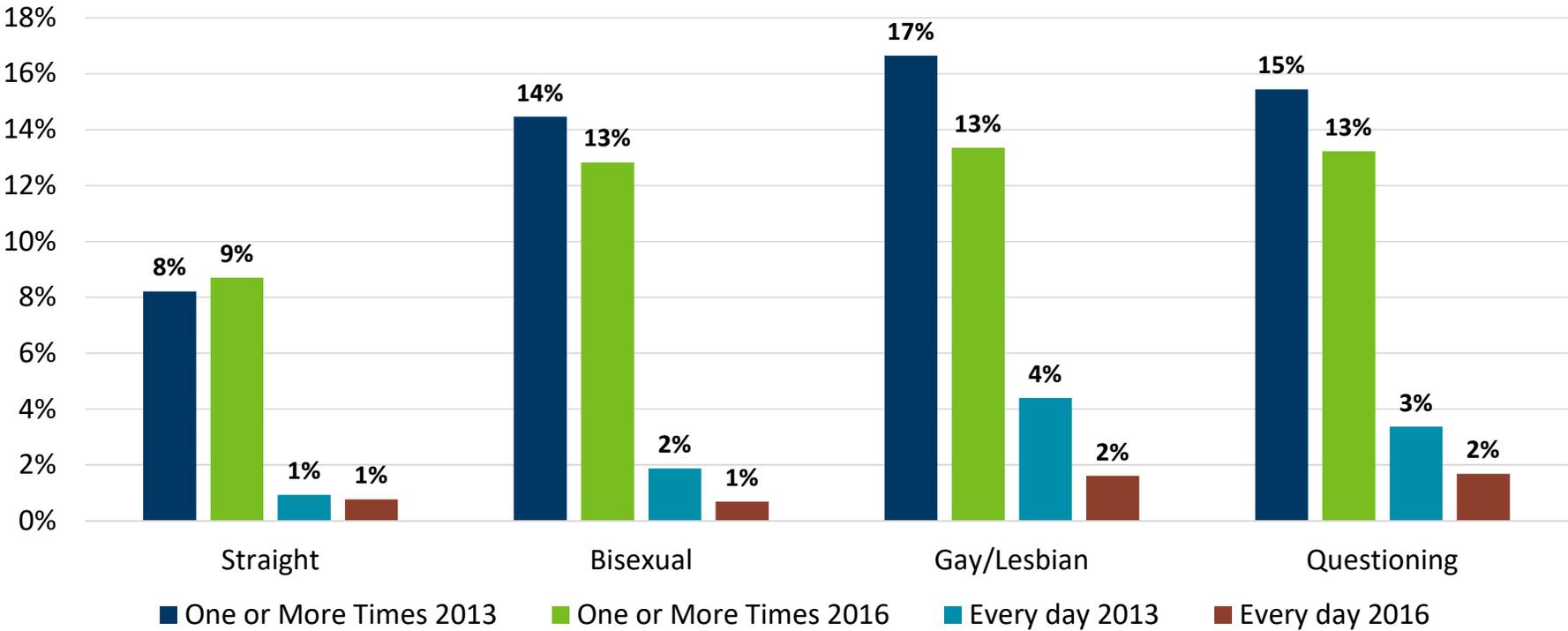
# How much do you feel teachers/other adults at school care about you? (A little/Not at all)



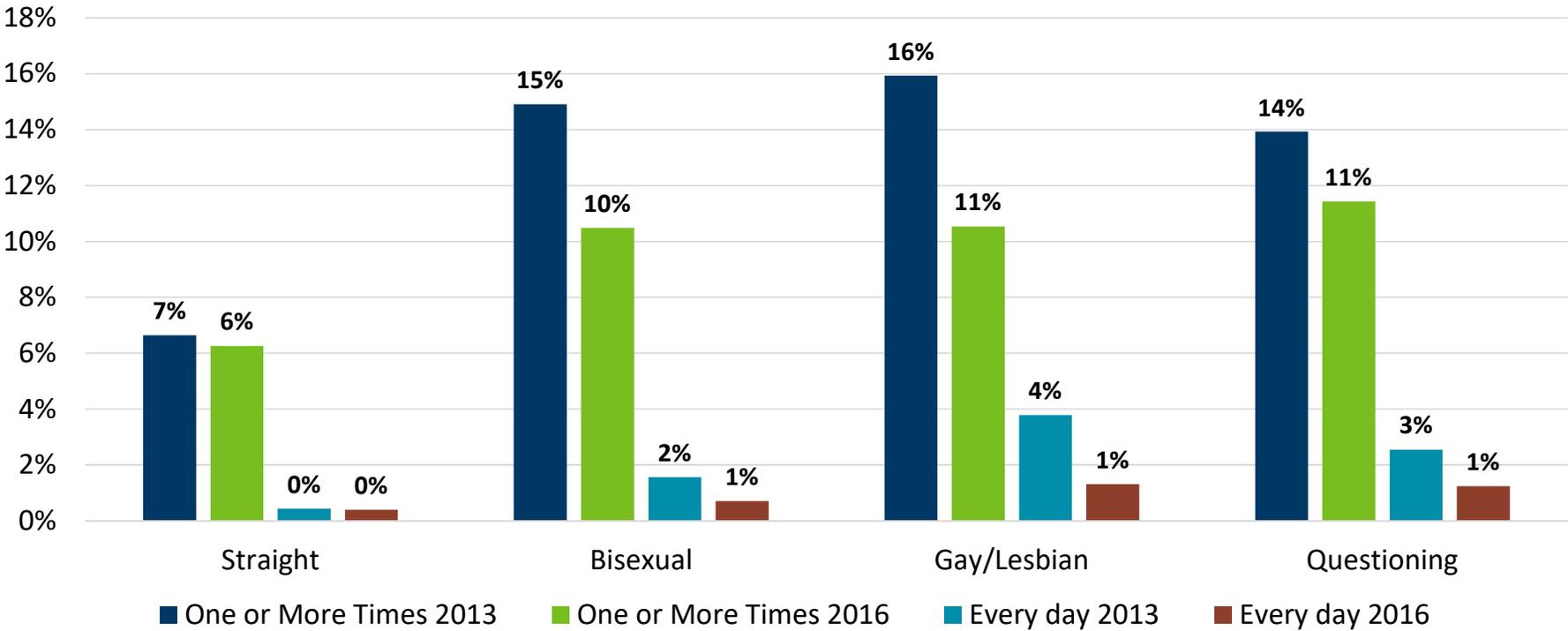
# How much do you feel friends care about you? (A little/Not at all)



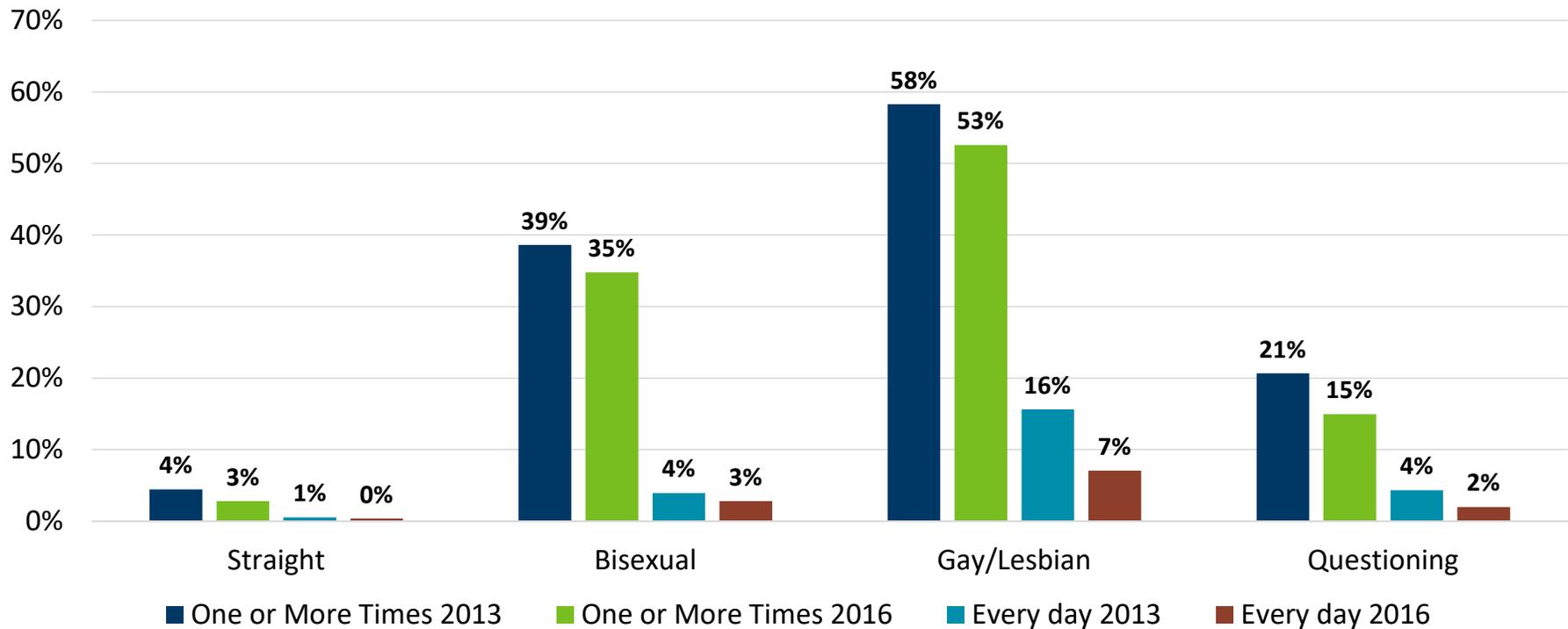
# During the last 30 days, how often have other students harassed or bullied you for any of the following reasons: Your race, ethnicity or national origin?



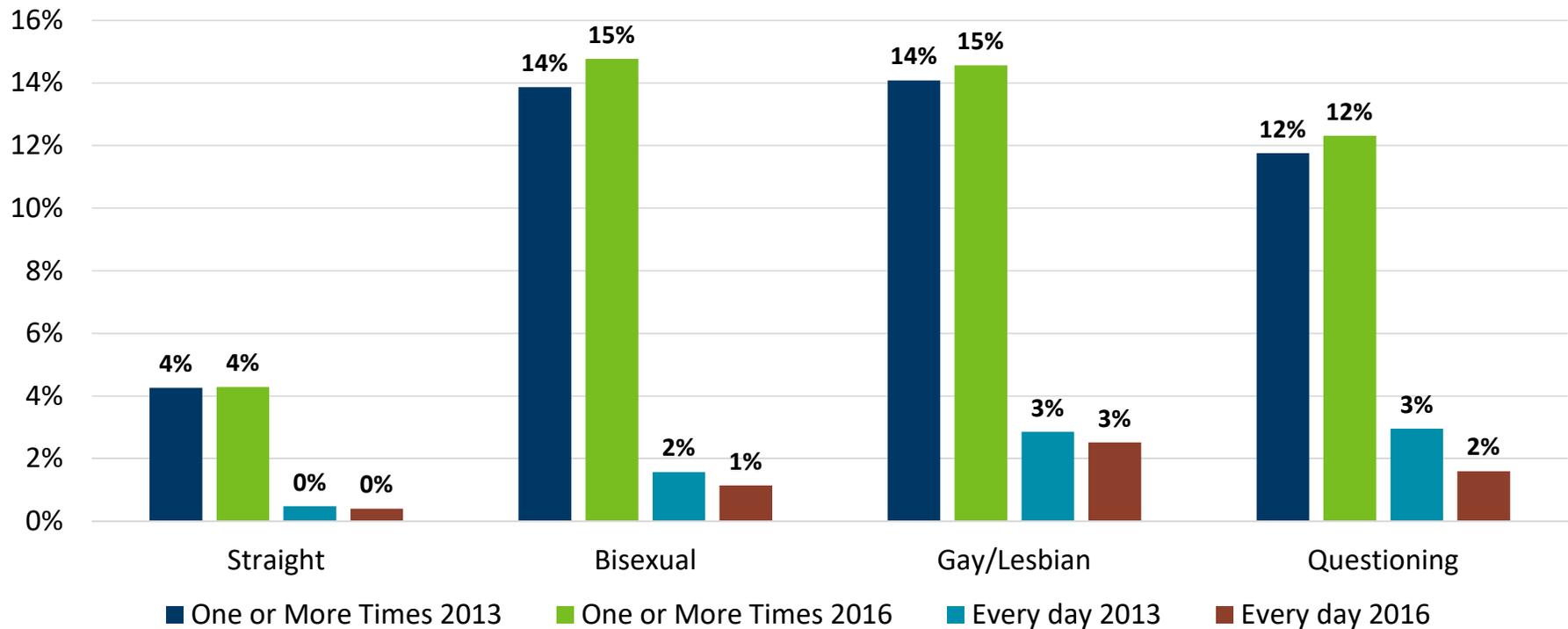
# During the last 30 days, how often have other students harassed or bullied you for any of the following reasons: Your religion? (One or more times)



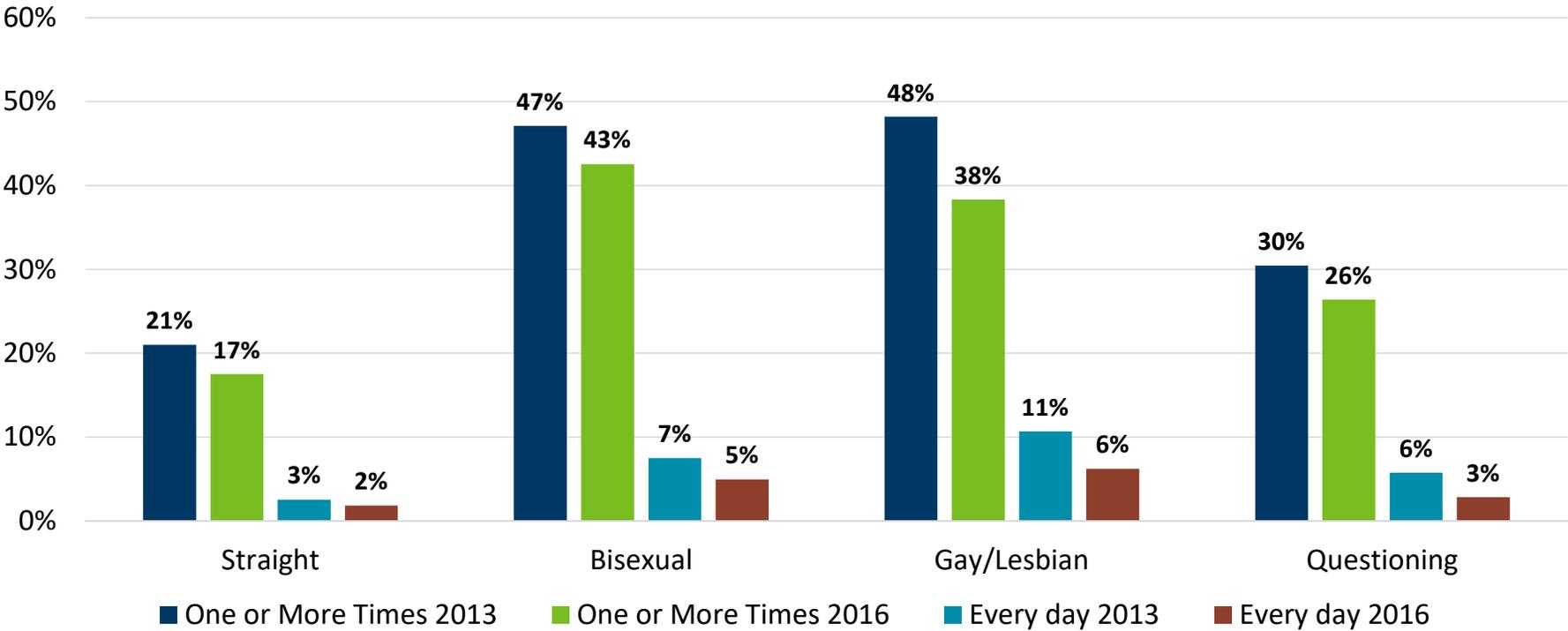
During the last 30 days, how often have other students harassed or bullied you for any of the following reasons: Because you are gay, lesbian, or bisexual or because someone thought you were? (One or more times)



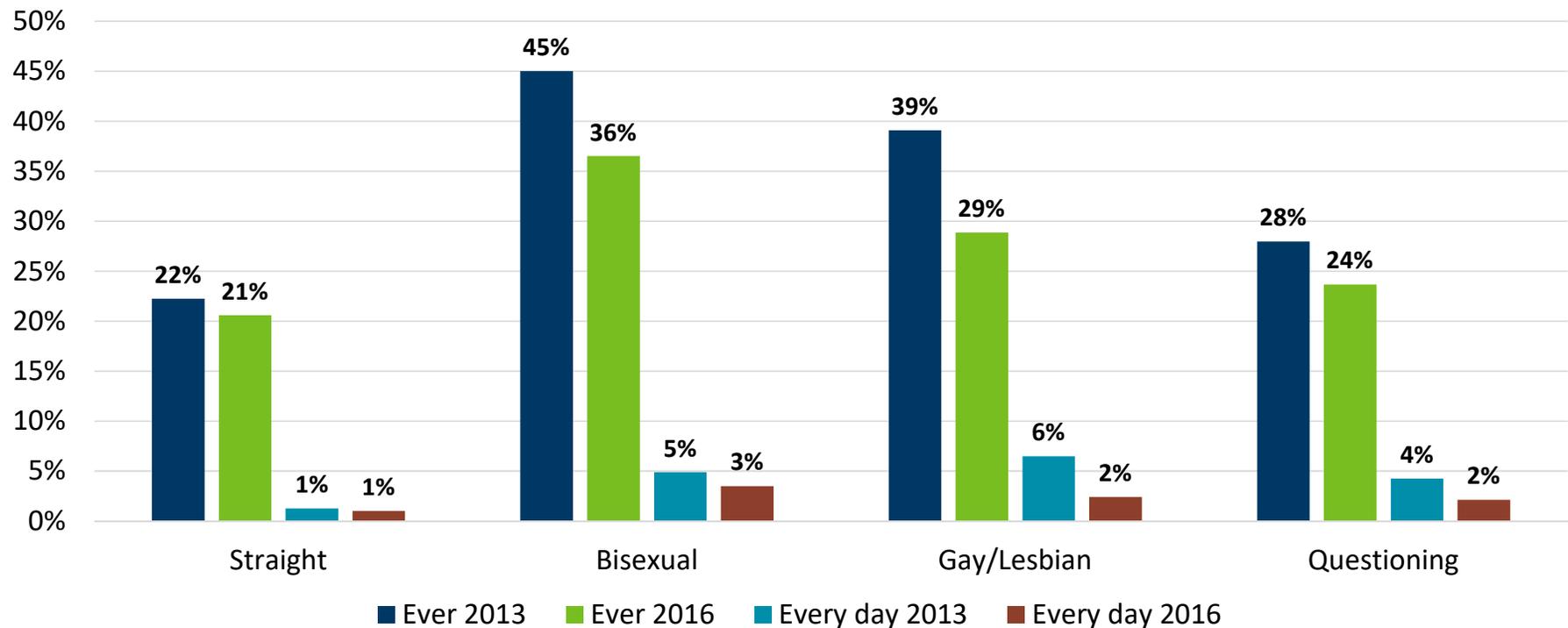
# During the last 30 days, how often have other students harassed or bullied you for any of the following reasons: A physical or mental disability? (One or more times)



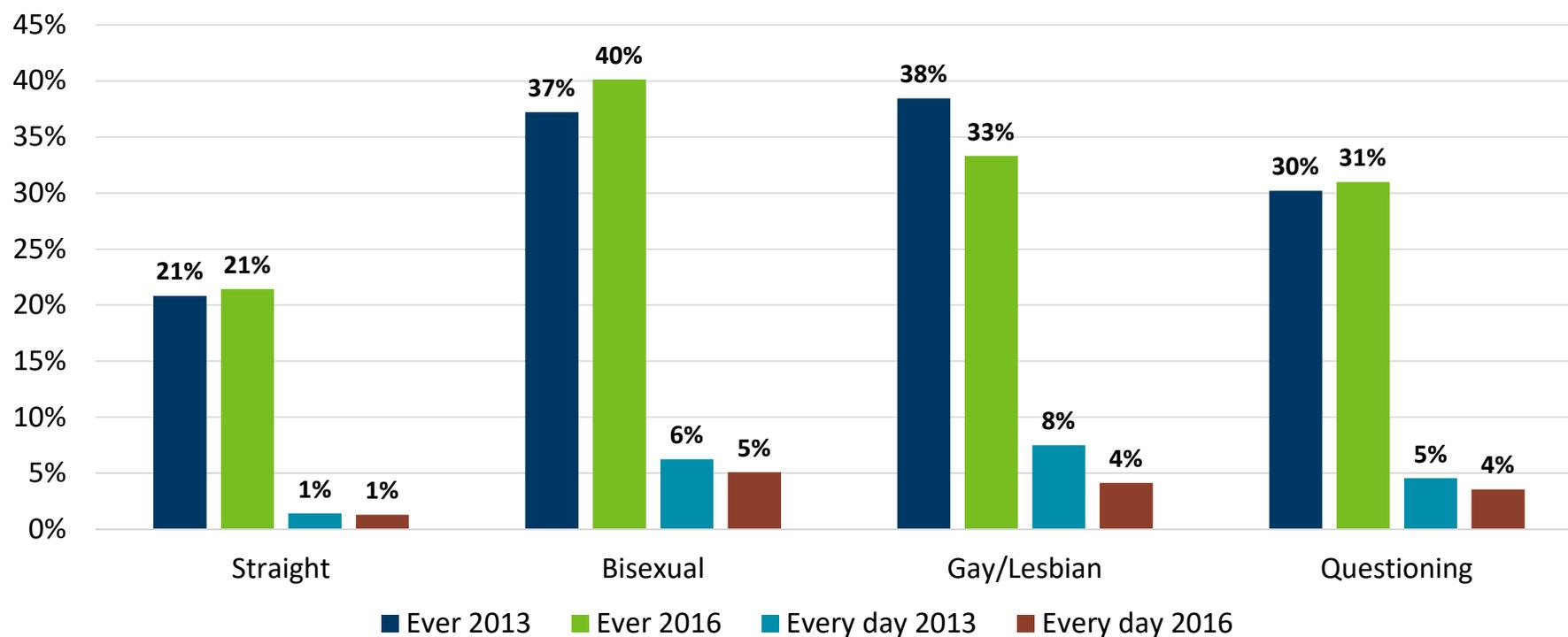
# During the last 30 days, how often have other students at school made sexual jokes, comments or gestures towards you? (One or more times)



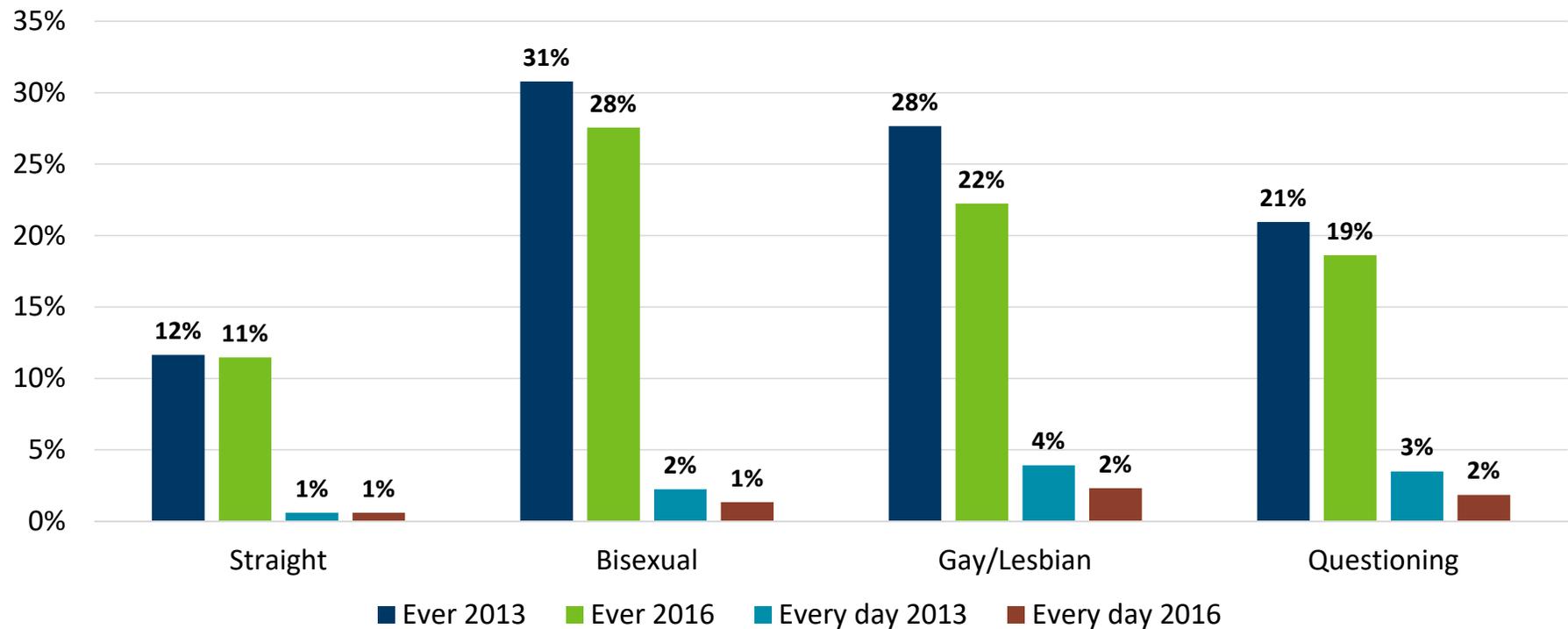
## During the last 30 days, how often have other students at school spread mean rumors or lies about you? (Ever)



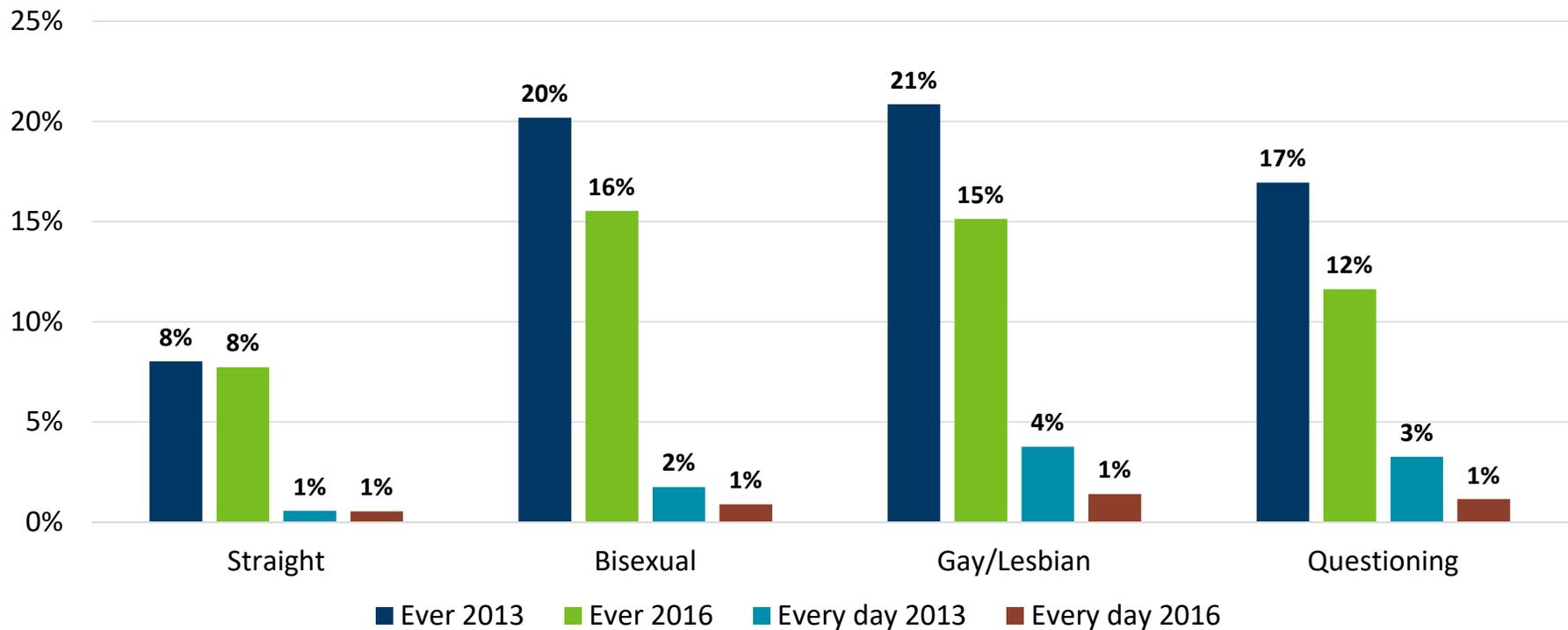
## During the last 30 days, how often have other students at school excluded you from friends, other students or activities? (Ever)



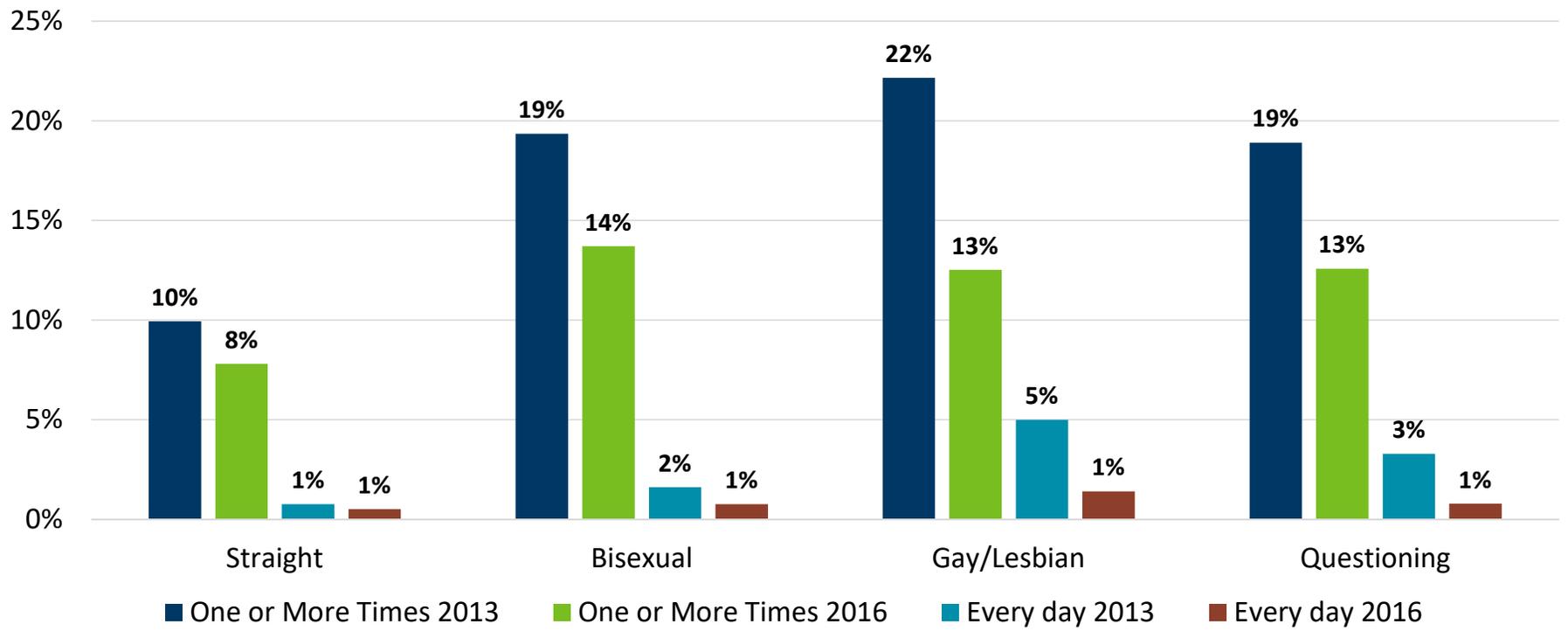
# During the last 30 days, how often have you been bullied through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites or texting? (Ever)



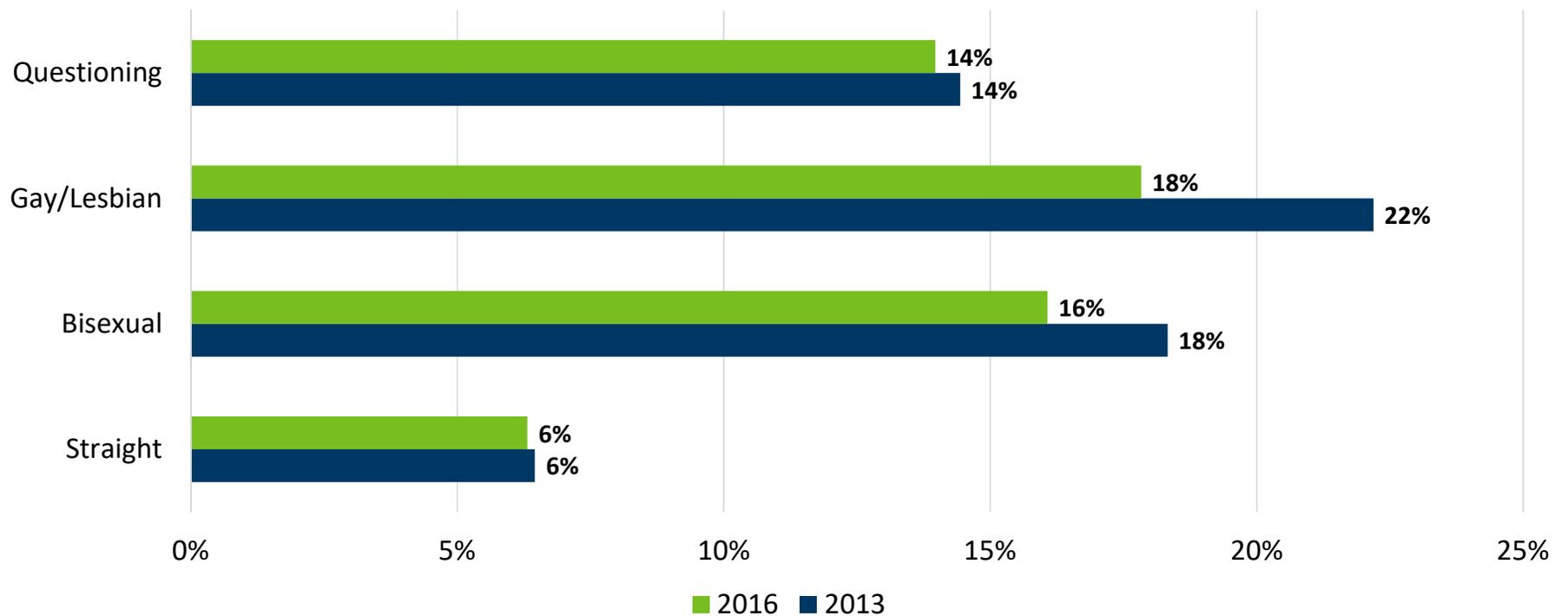
# During the last 30 days, how often have other students at school threatened to beat you up? (Ever)



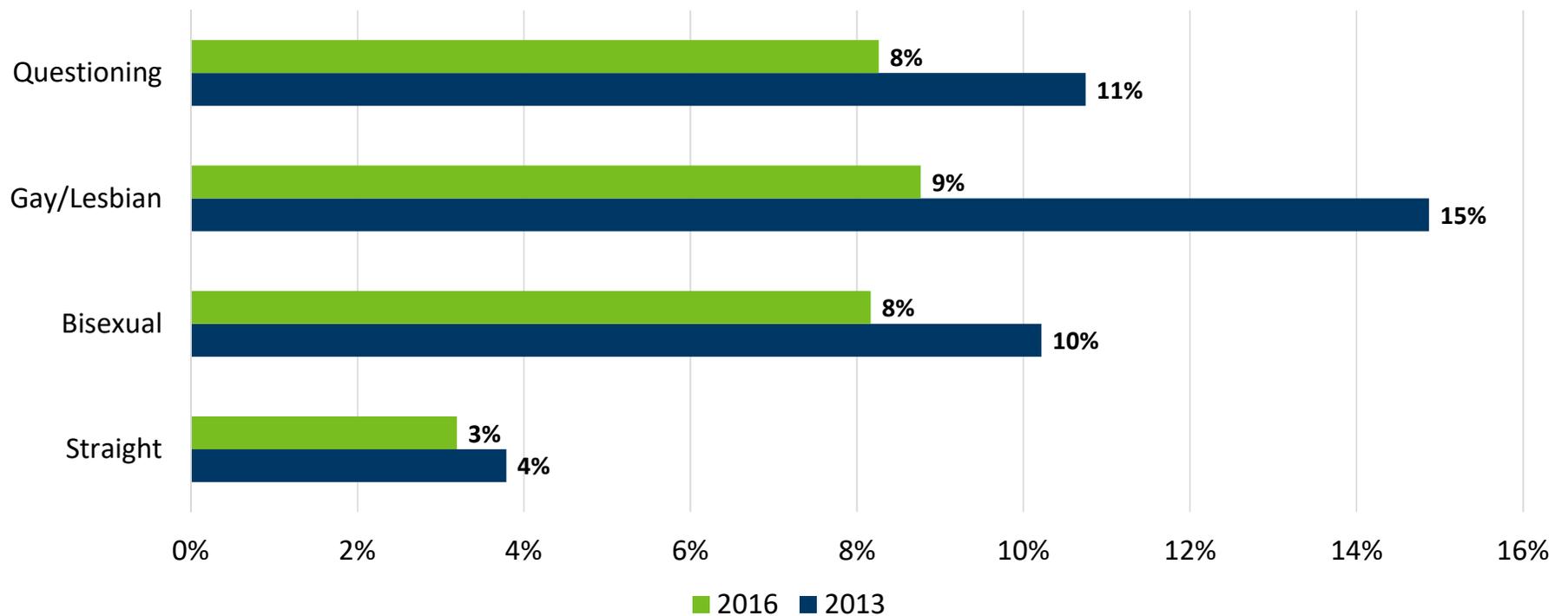
During the last 30 days, how often have other students at school pushed, shoved, slapped, hit or kicked you when they weren't kidding around? (One or more times)



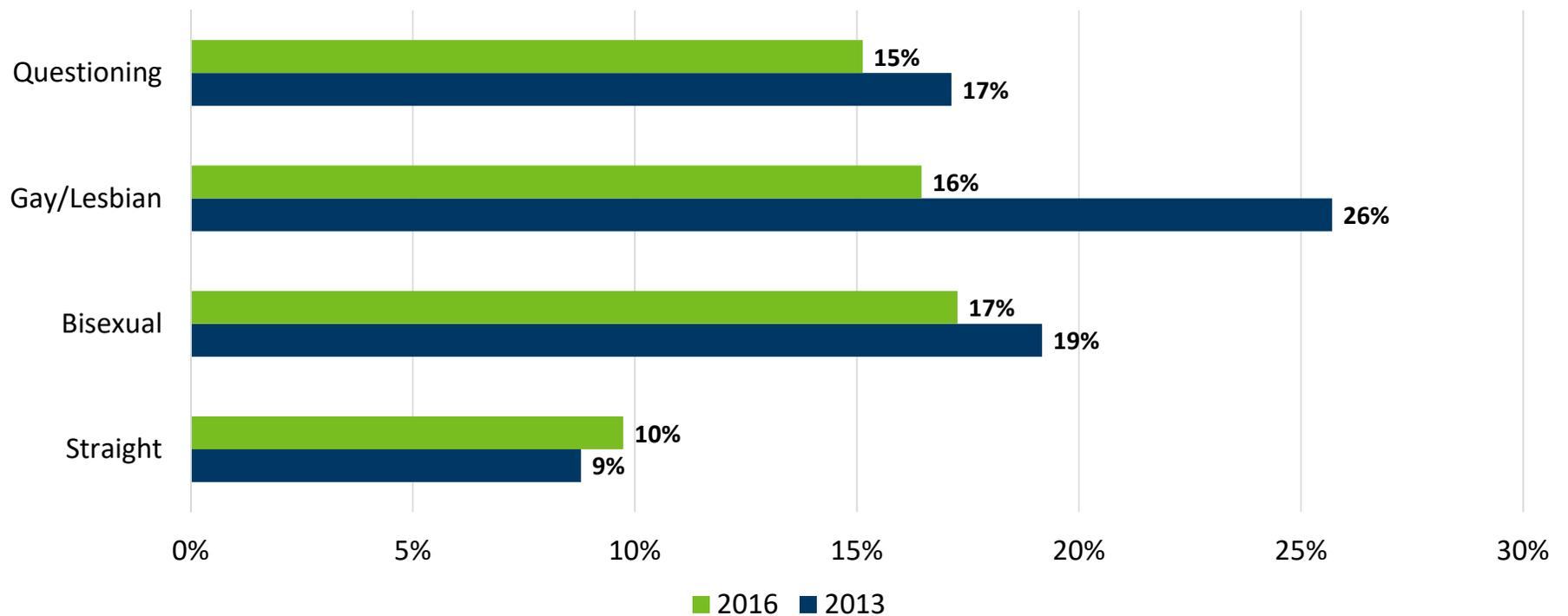
# I feel safe at school. (Disagree/Strongly Disagree)



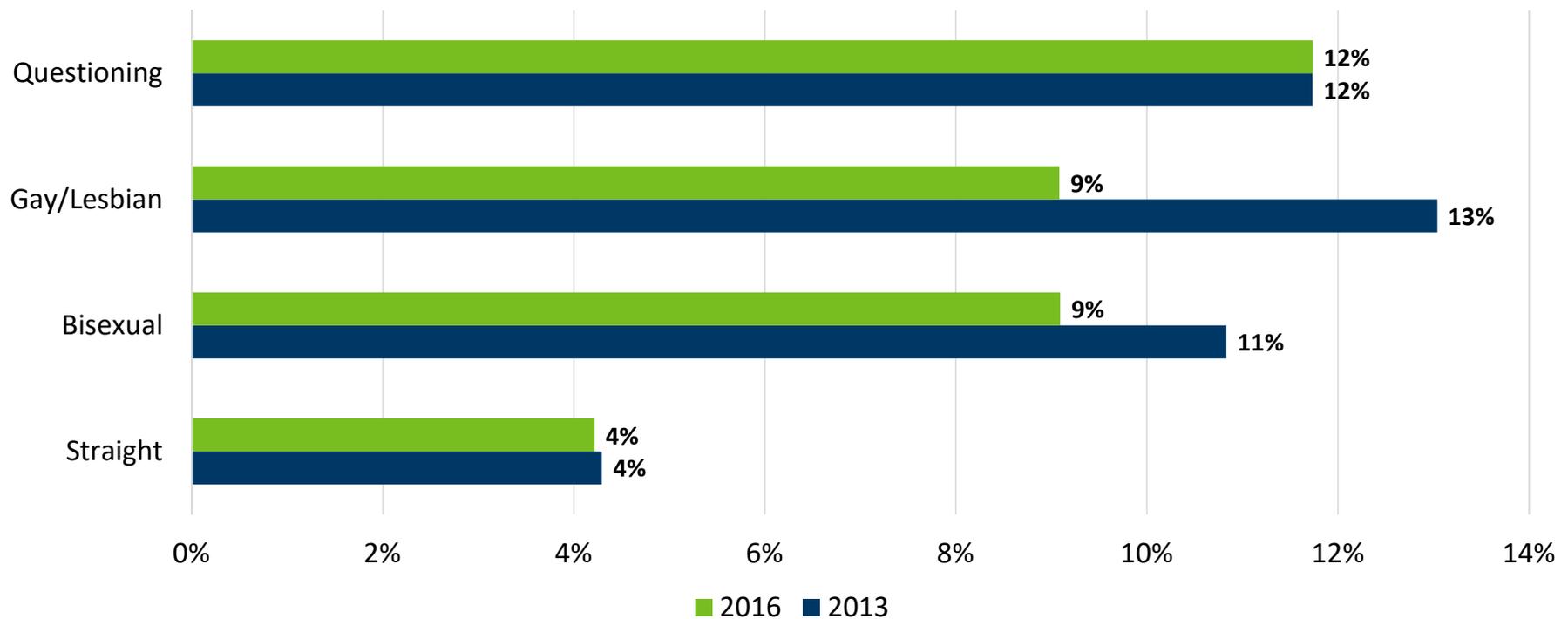
# I feel safe going to and from school. (Disagree/Strongly Disagree)



# During the last 30 days, how many times have you skipped school or cut a FULL day of school or classes, without being excused? (One or more times)



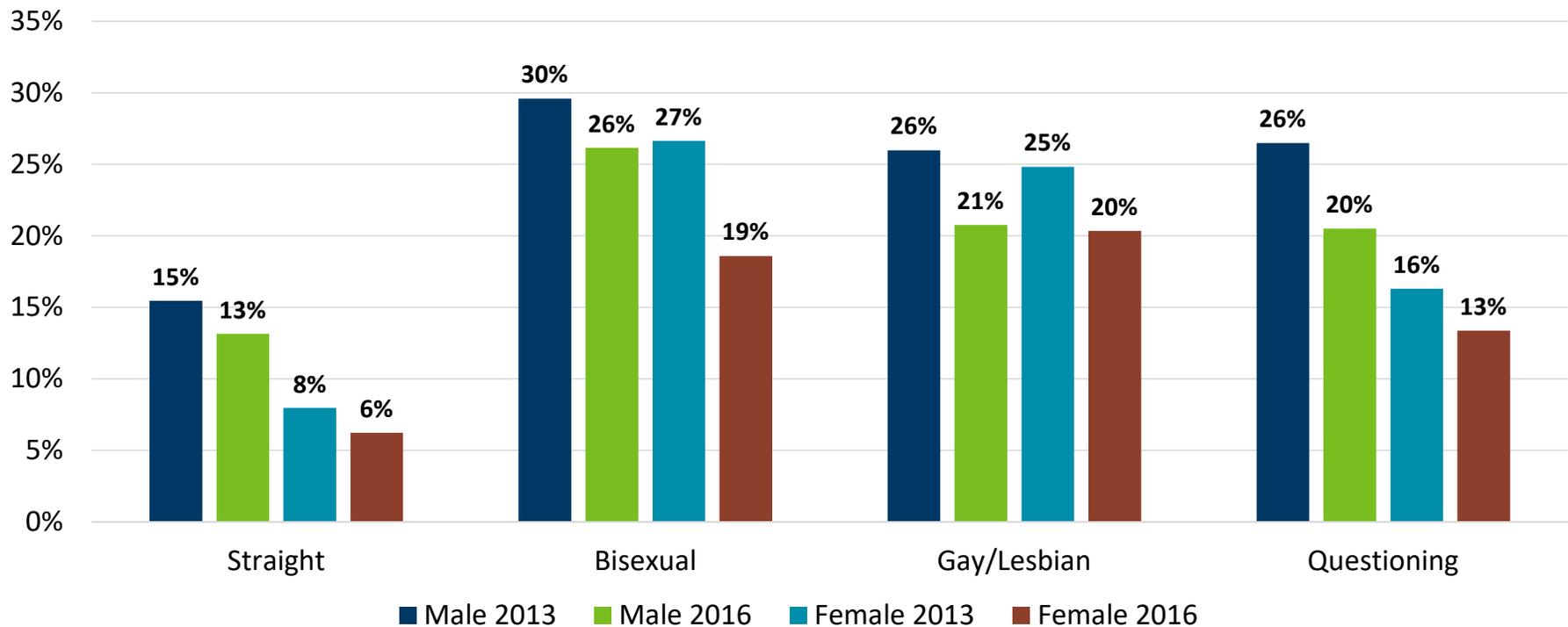
# Since the beginning of this school year, how many times have you changed schools? (One or more times)



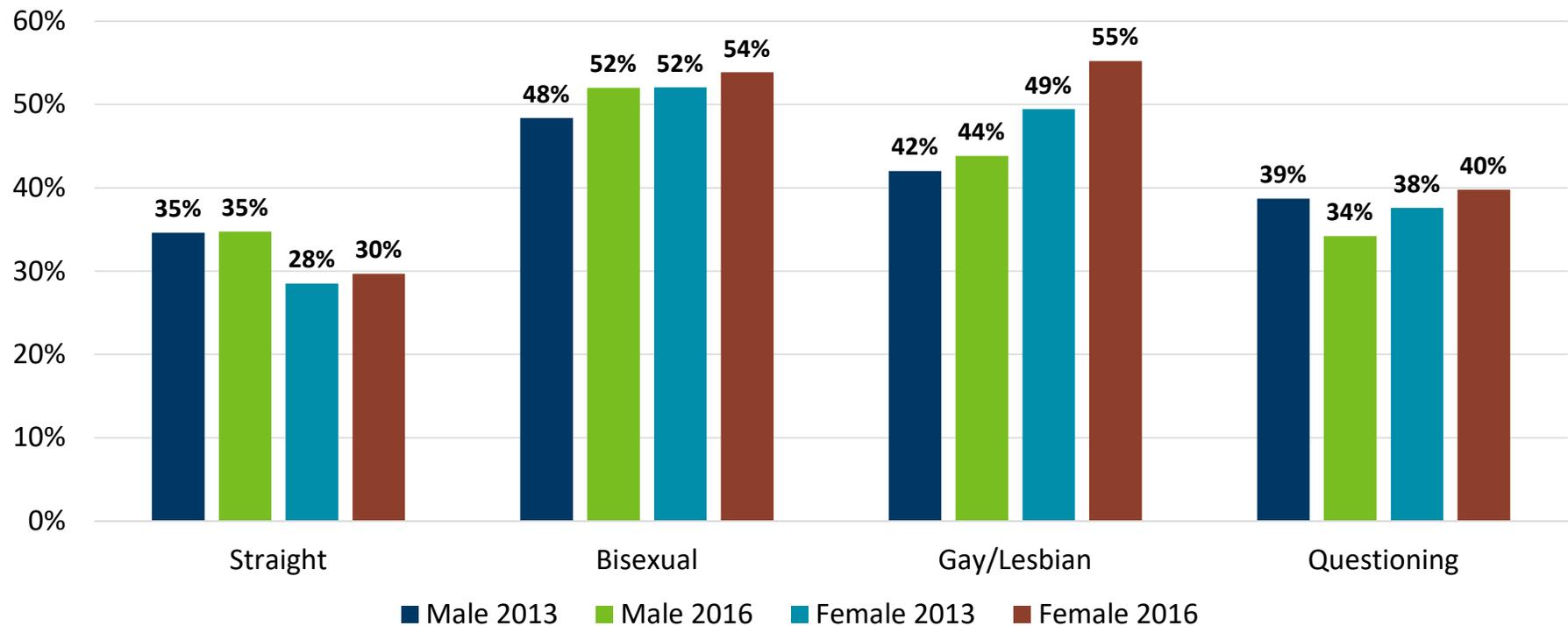


# Education

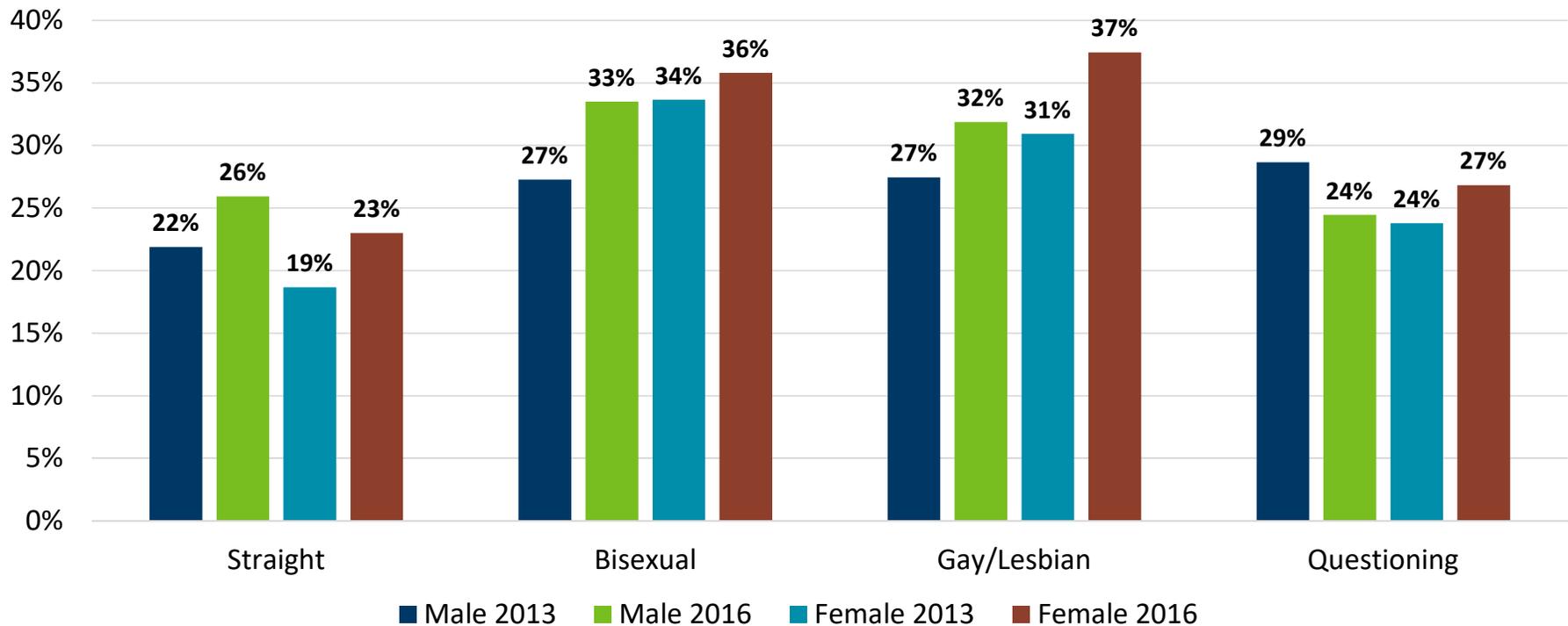
# How often do you care about doing well in school? (Some of the time/None of the time)



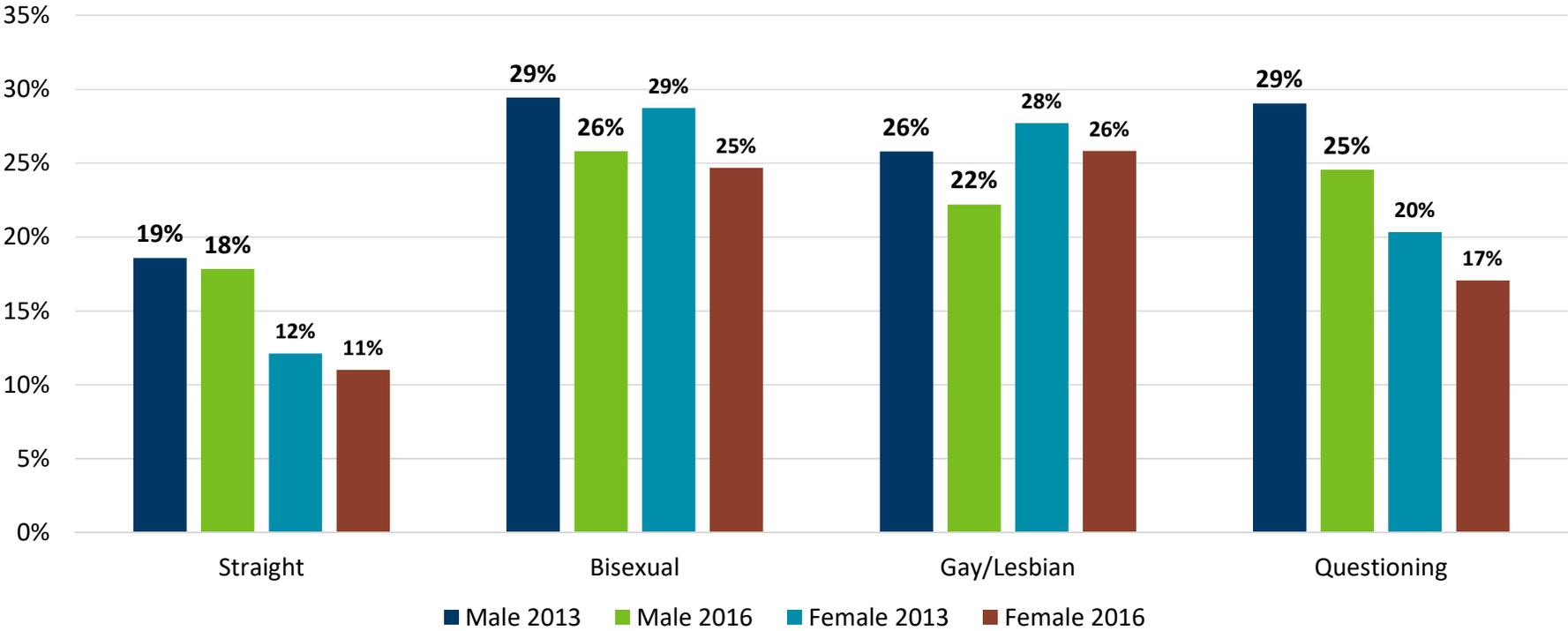
# Being a student is one of the most important parts of who I am. (Disagree/Strongly disagree)



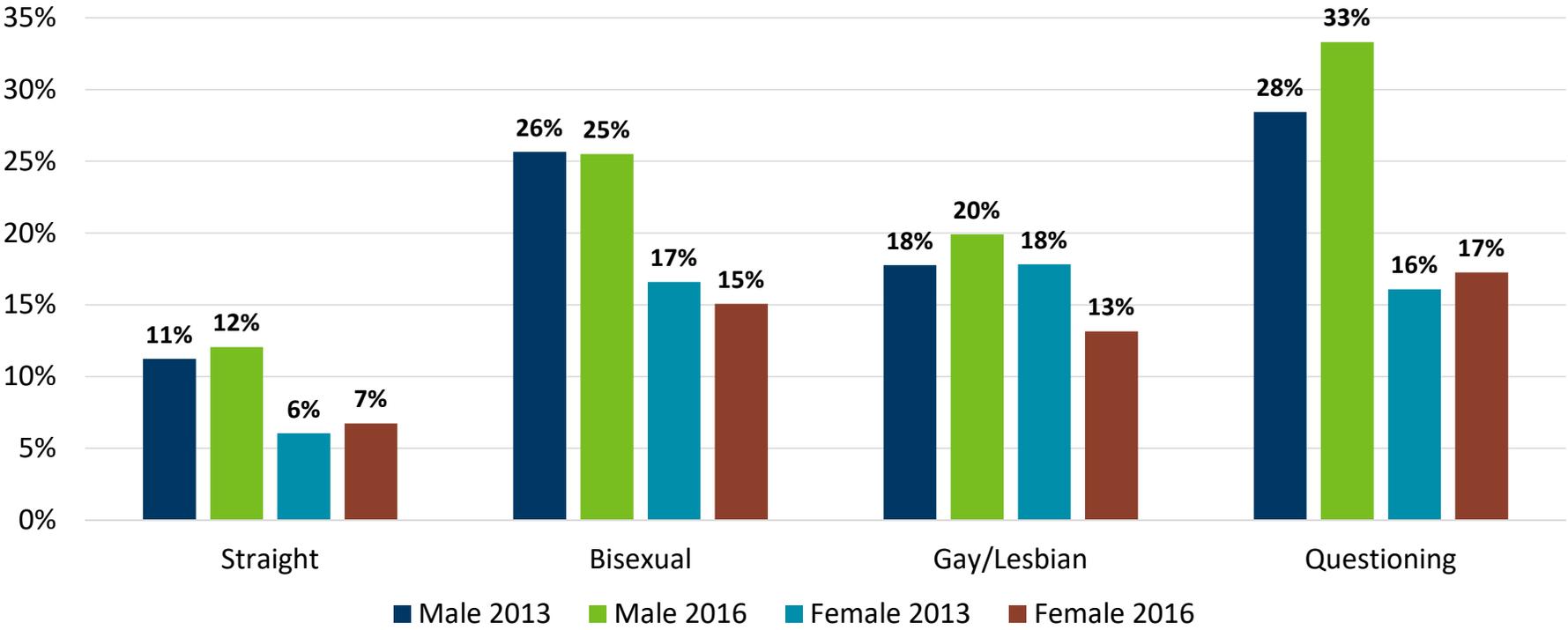
# I think things I learn in school are useful. (Disagree/Strongly disagree)



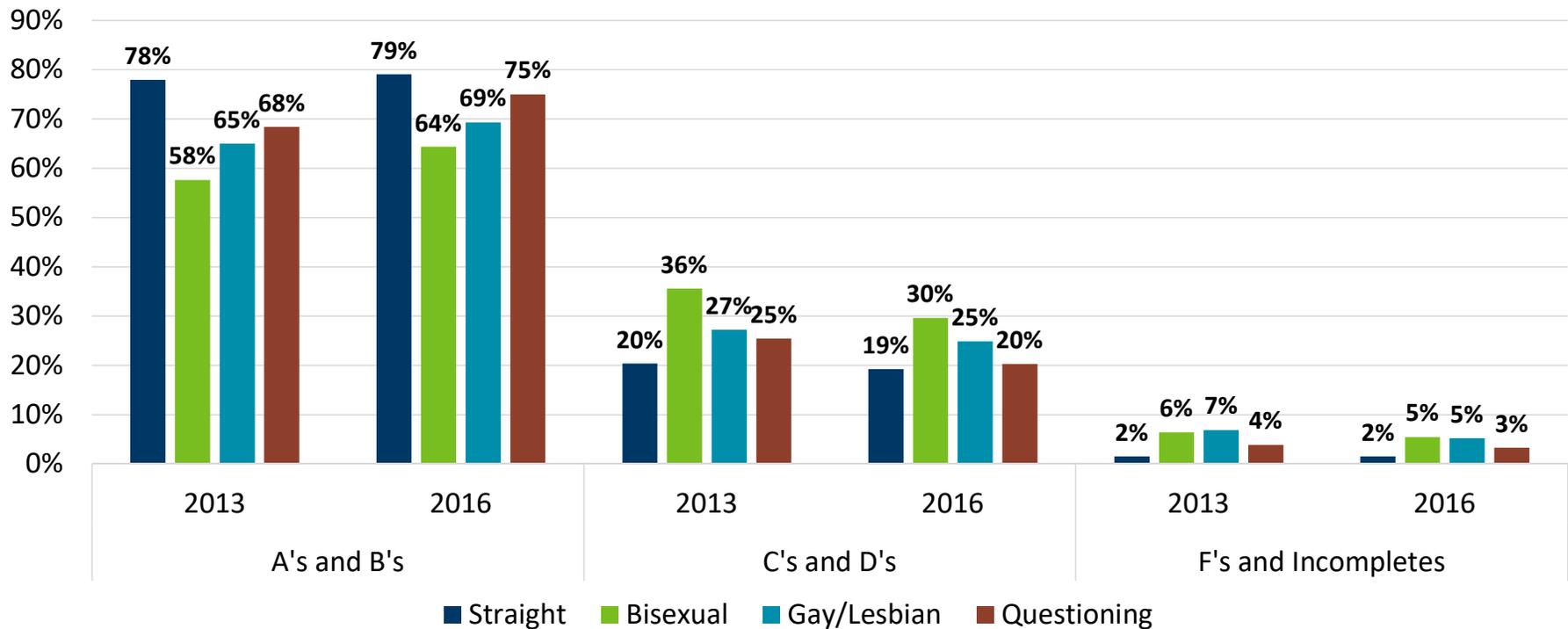
# How often do you pay attention in class? (Some of the time/None of the time)



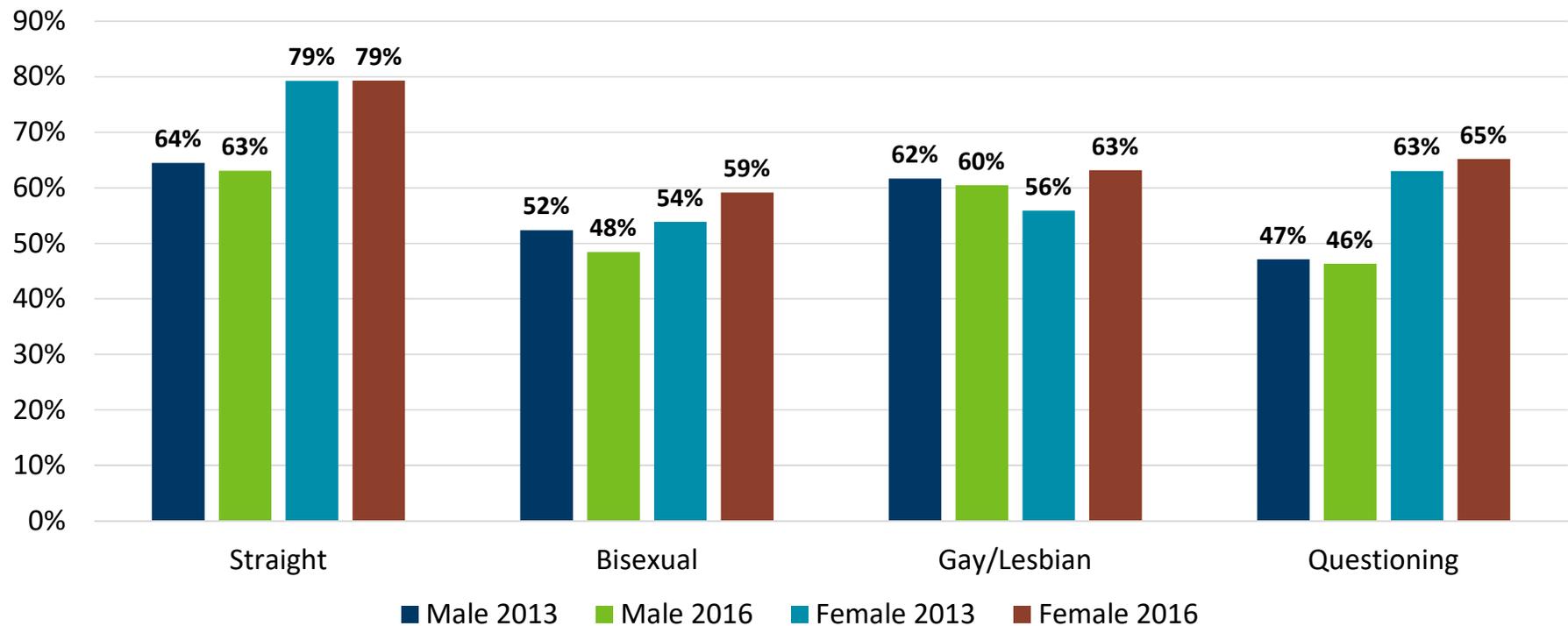
# Do you have an IEP or get special education services? (Yes)



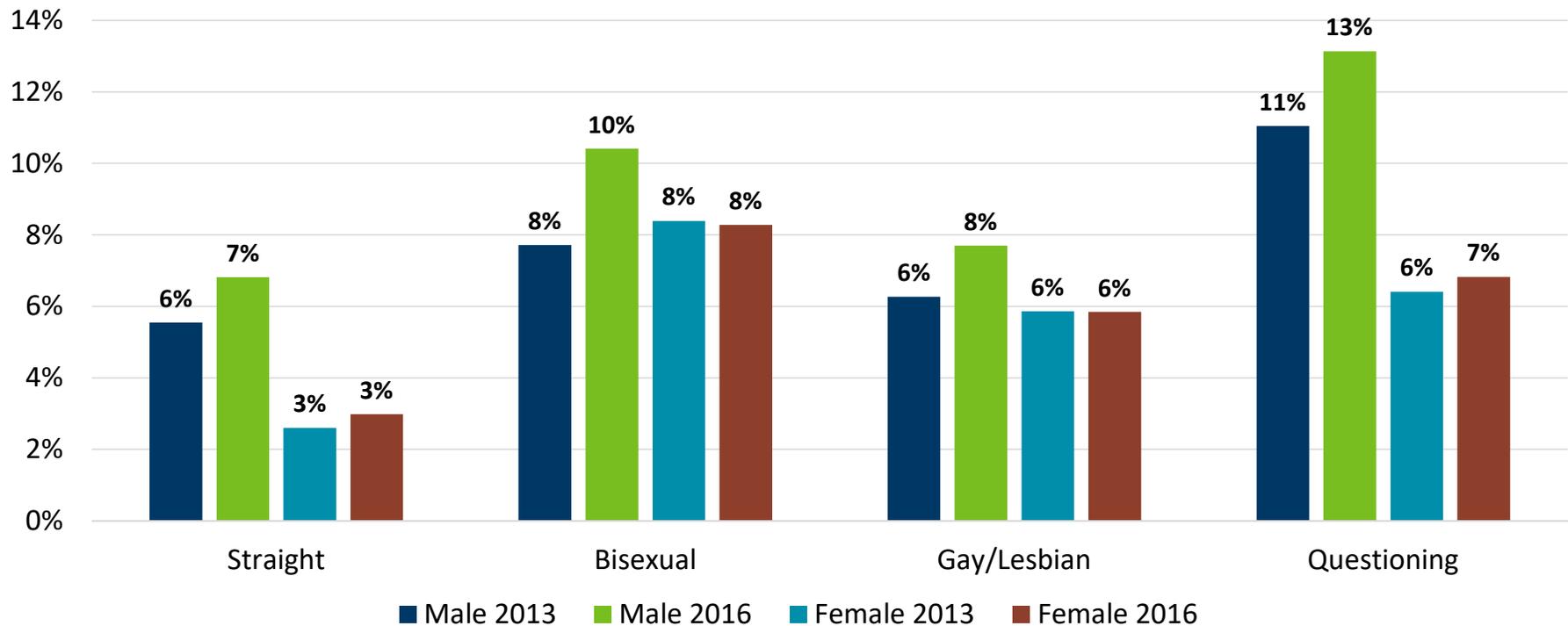
# How would you describe your grades this school year?



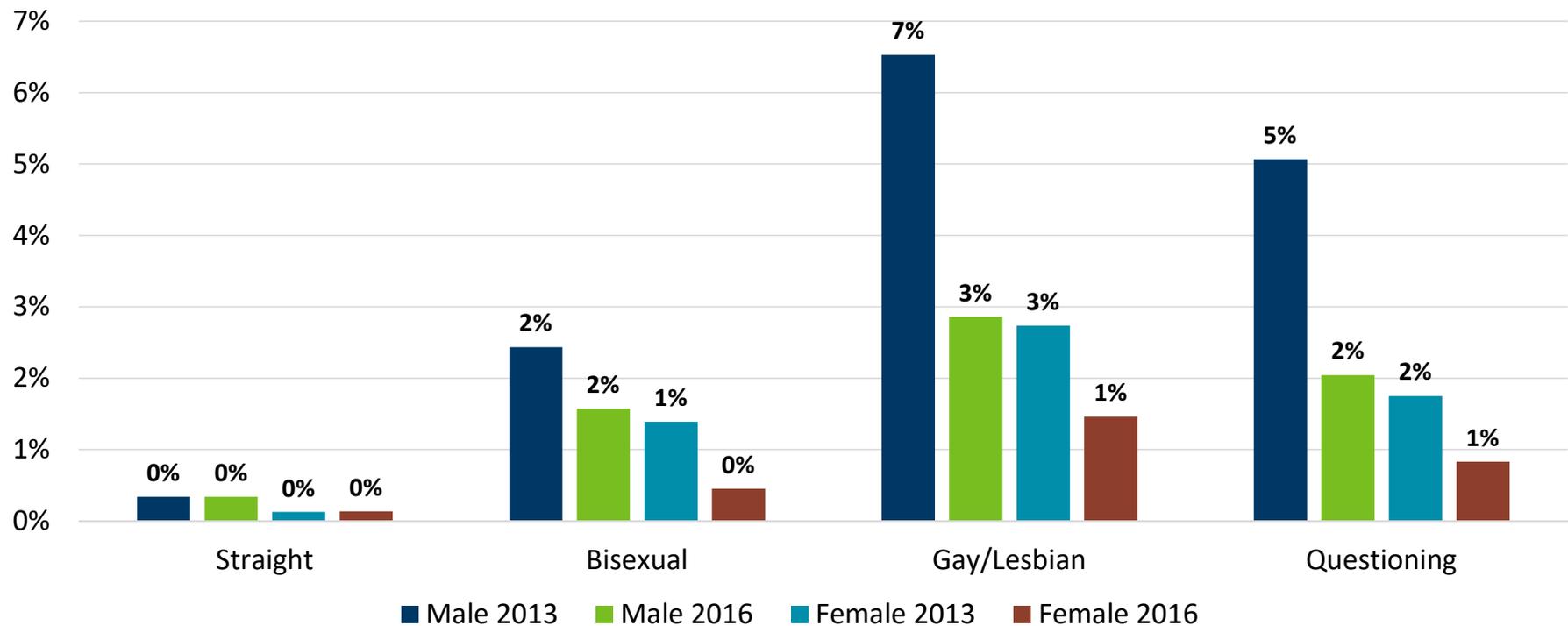
# What is the MAIN thing you plan to do right AFTER high school? (Go to a four-year college or university)



# What is the MAIN thing you plan to do right AFTER high school? (Work at a job)



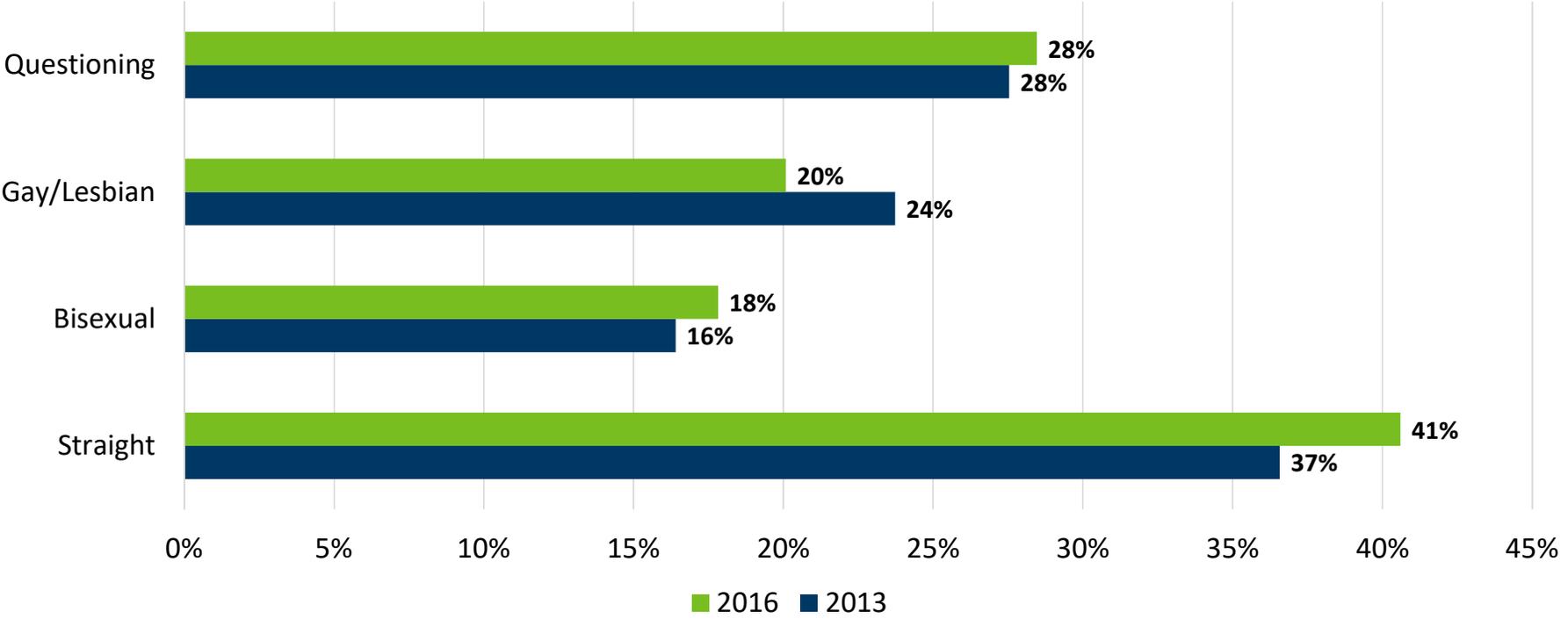
# What is the MAIN thing you plan to do right AFTER high school? (I don't plan to graduate from high school)



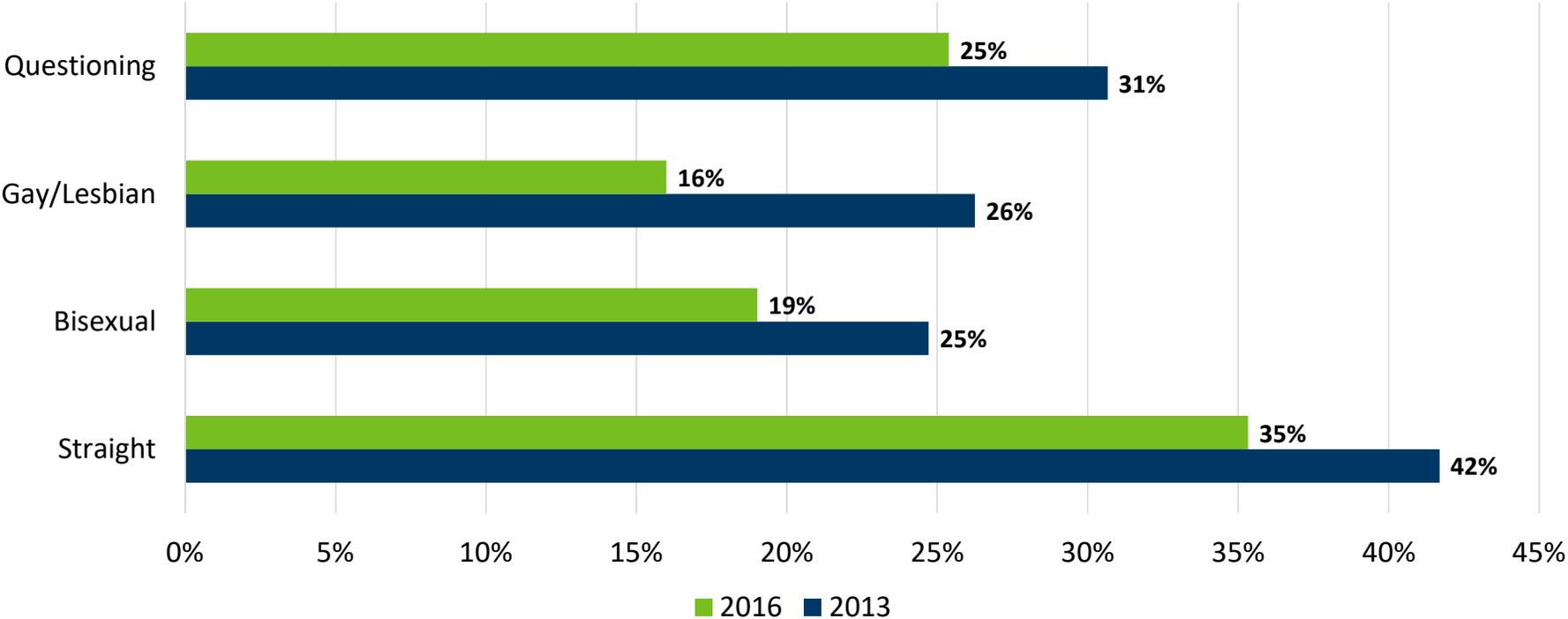


## Community Engagement/Out of School Activities

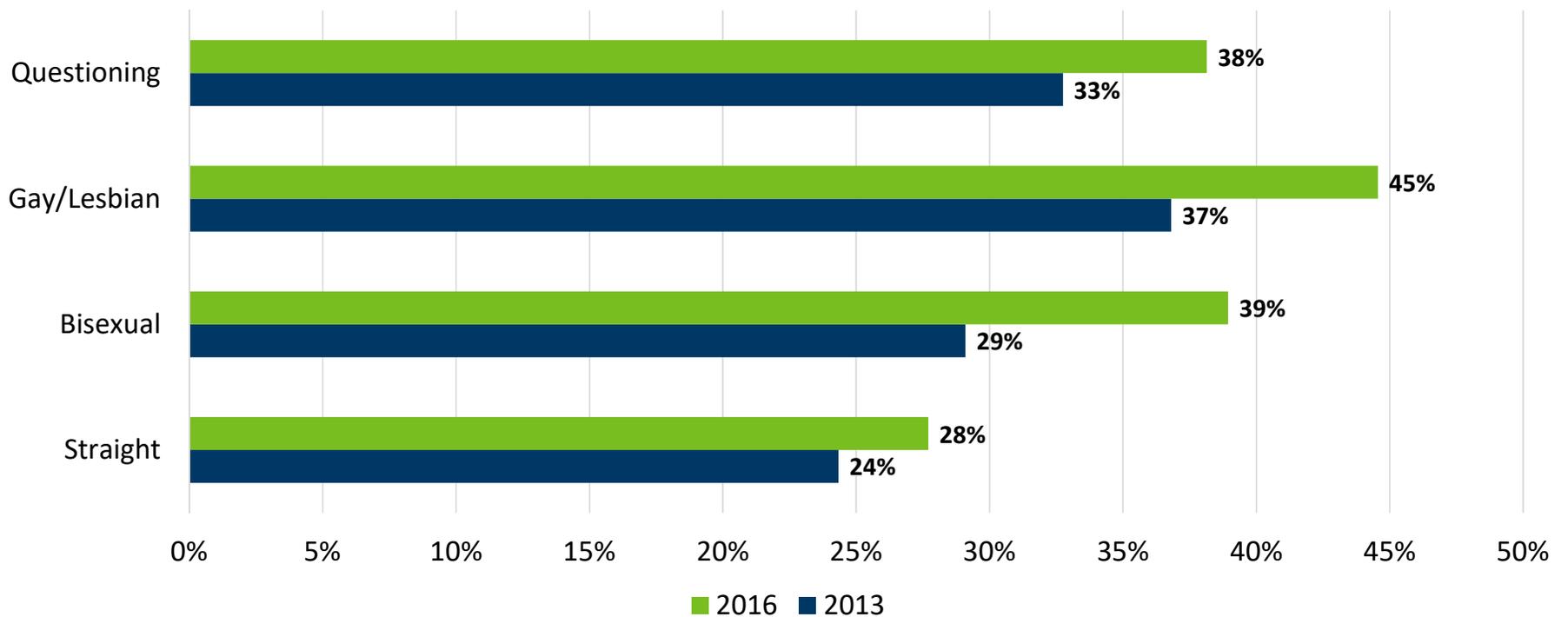
# How much do you feel adults in your community care about you? (Quite a bit/Very much)



During a typical week, how often do you participate in each of the following activities outside of the regular school day: Religious activities such as religious services, education or youth groups? (One or more days)



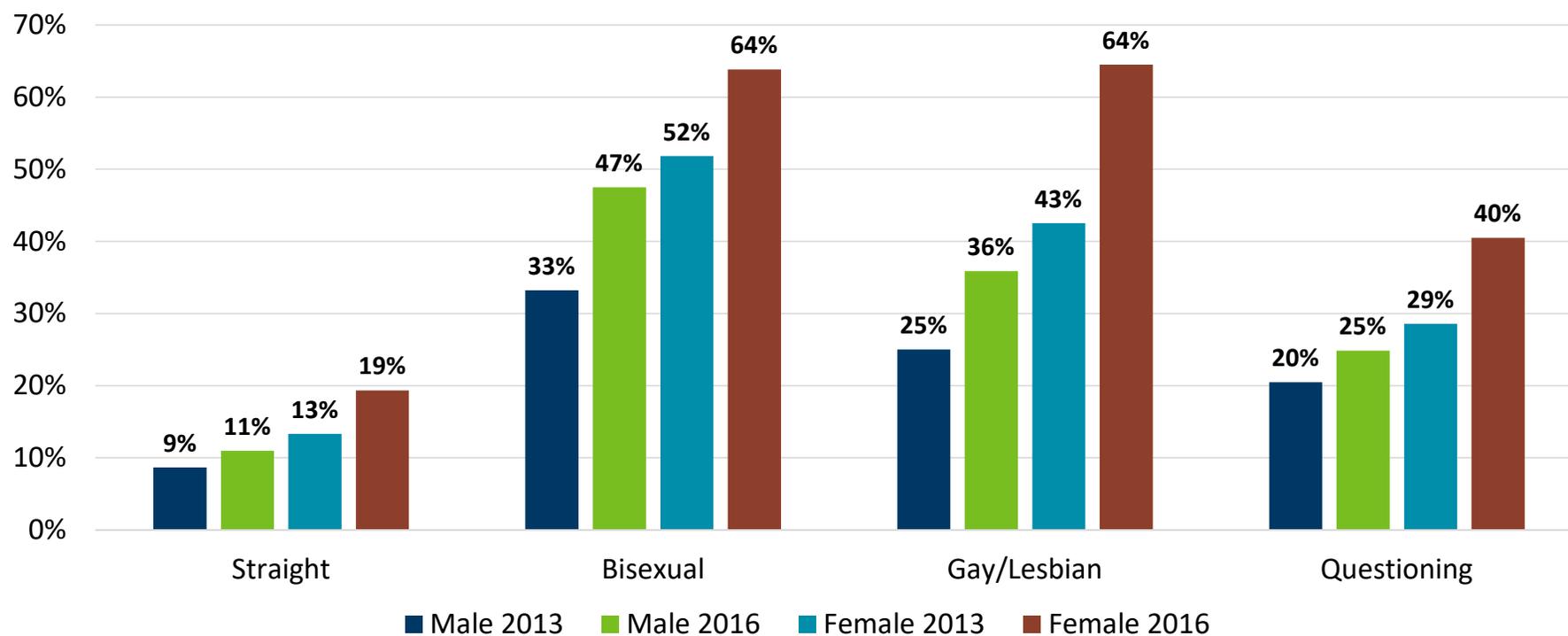
During a typical week, how often do you participate in each of the following activities outside of the regular school day: School sponsored activities or clubs that are not sports, such as drama, music, chess or science club? (One or more days)



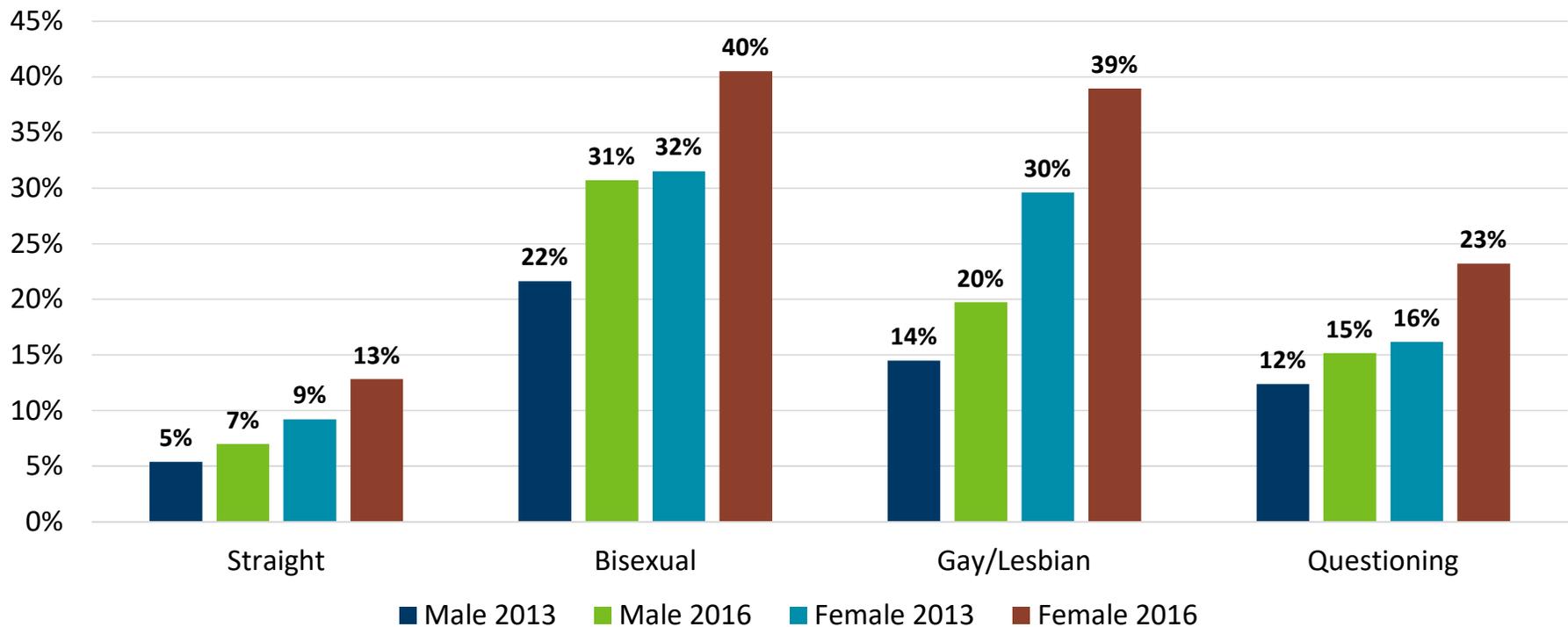


# Mental Health

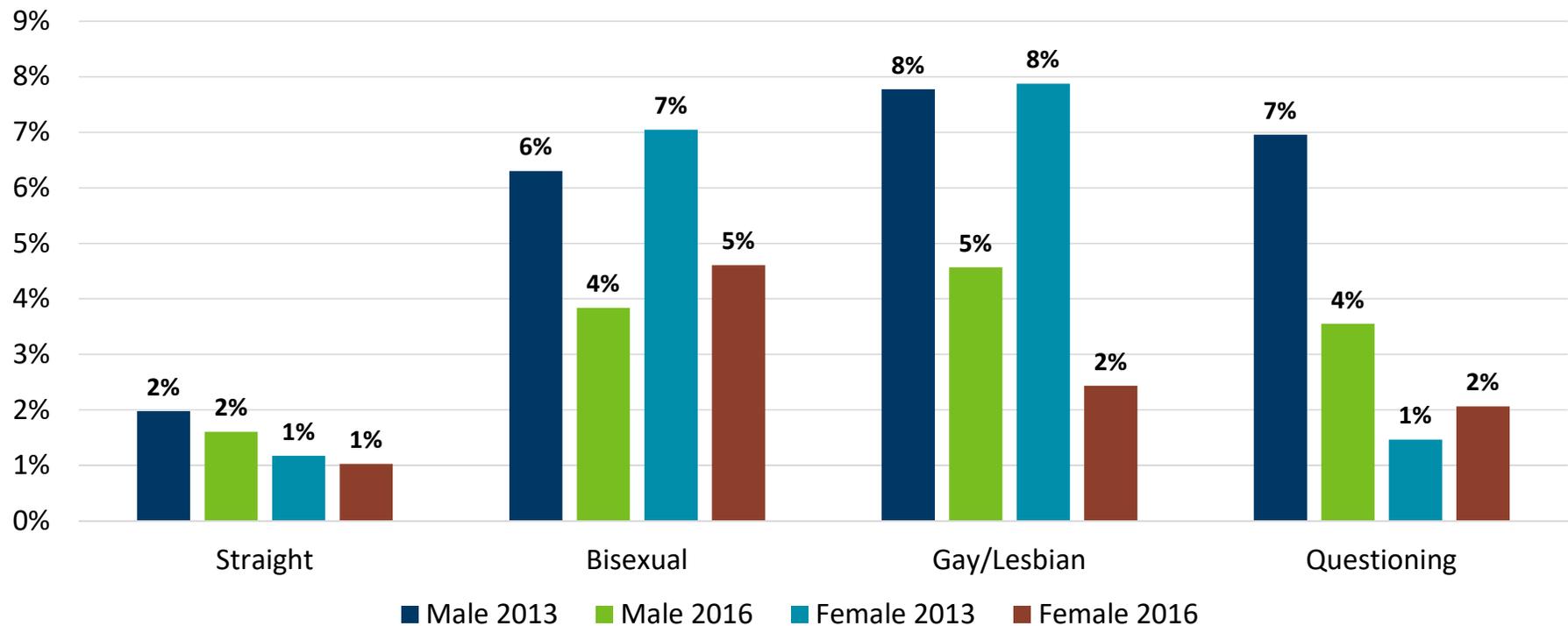
# Do you have any long-term mental health, behavioral or emotional problems? Long-term means lasting 6 months or more. (Yes)



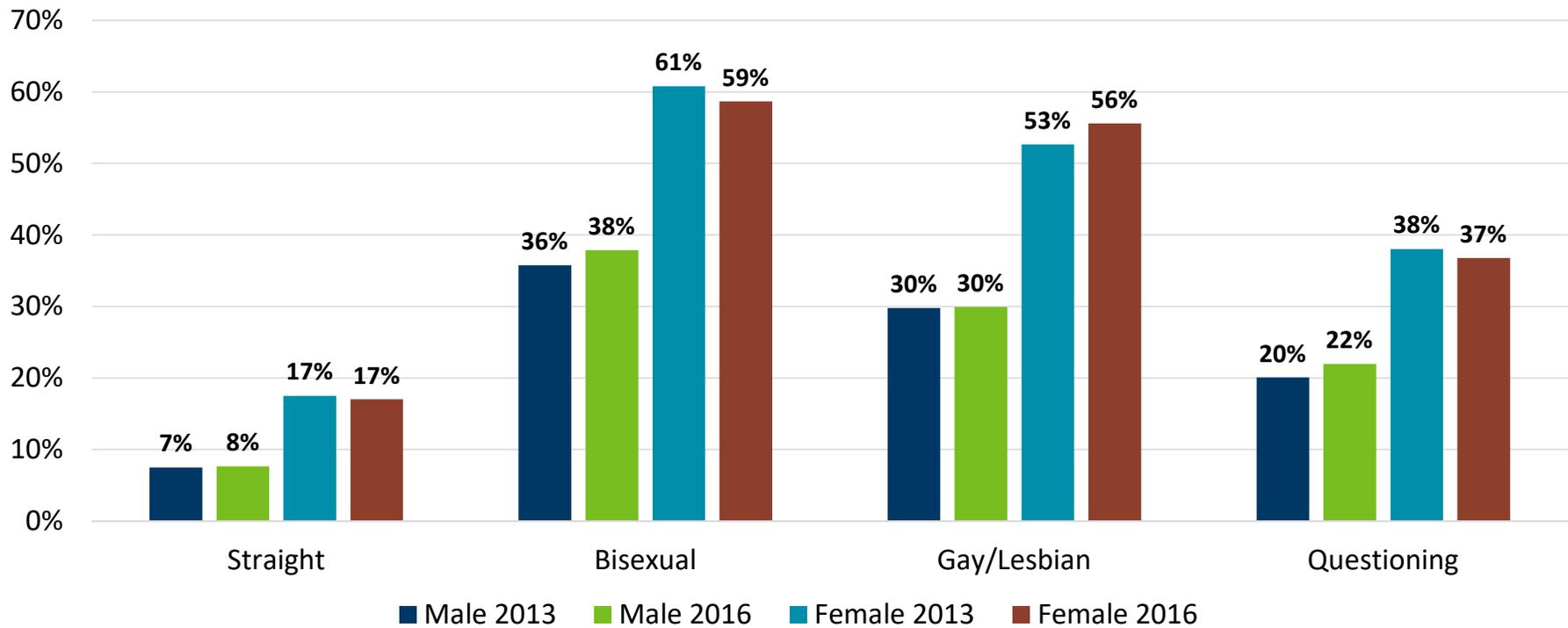
# Have you ever been treated for a mental health, emotional or behavioral problem? (Yes, during the last year)



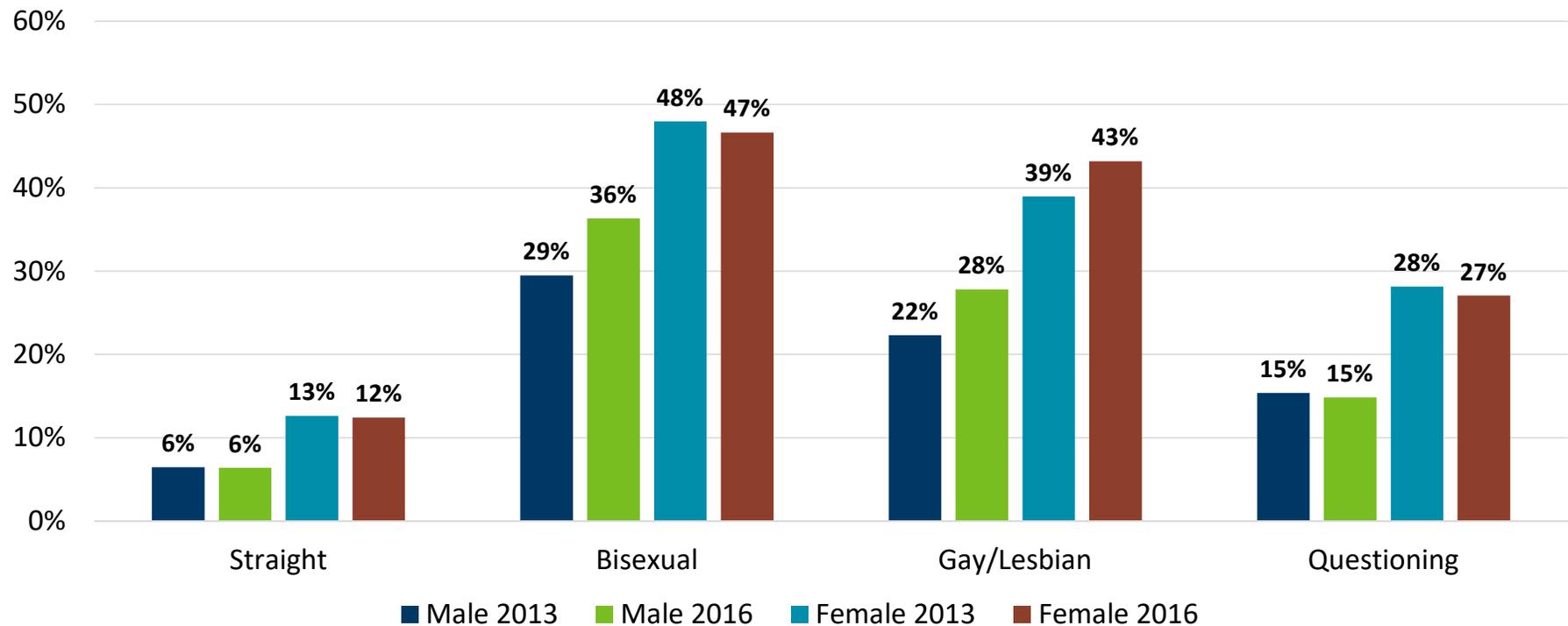
# Have you ever been treated for an alcohol or drug problem? (Yes, during the last year)



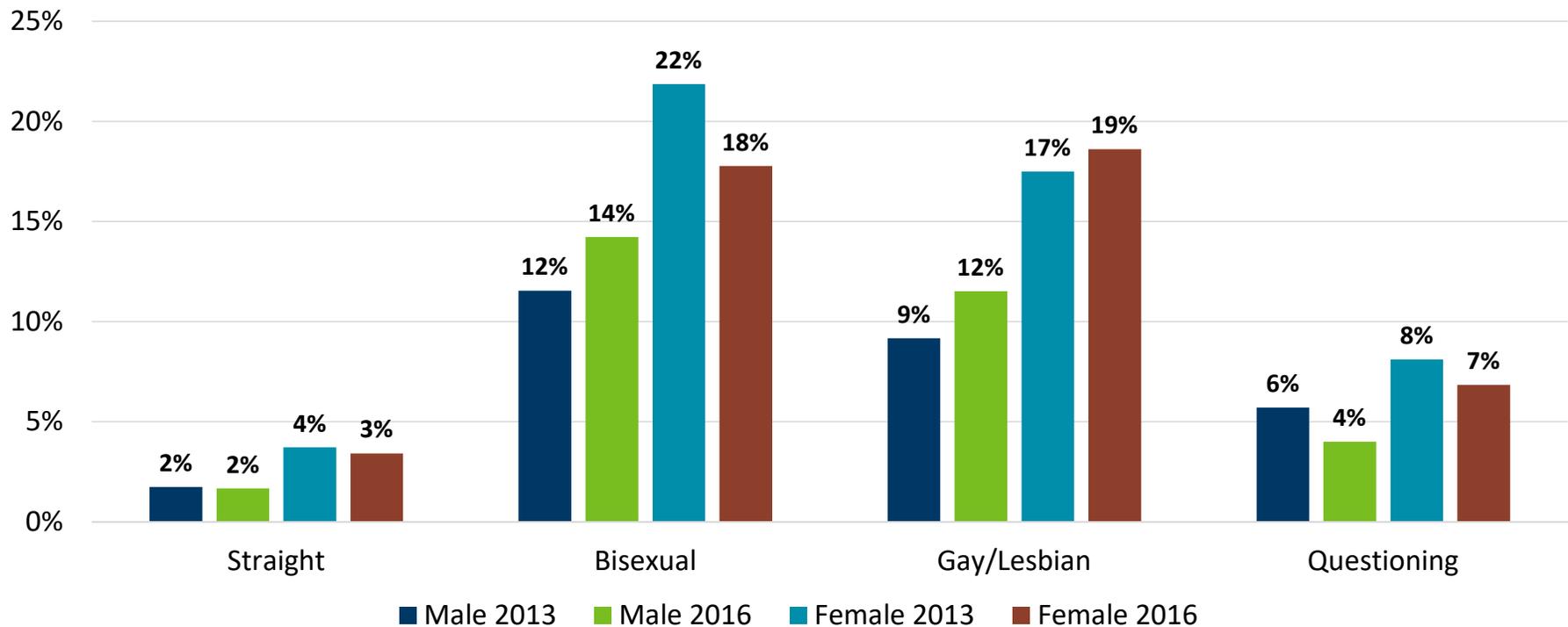
During the last 12 months, how many times did you do something to purposely hurt or injure yourself without wanting to die, such as cutting, burning, or bruising yourself on purpose? (One of more times)



# Have you ever seriously considered attempting suicide? (Yes, during the last year)



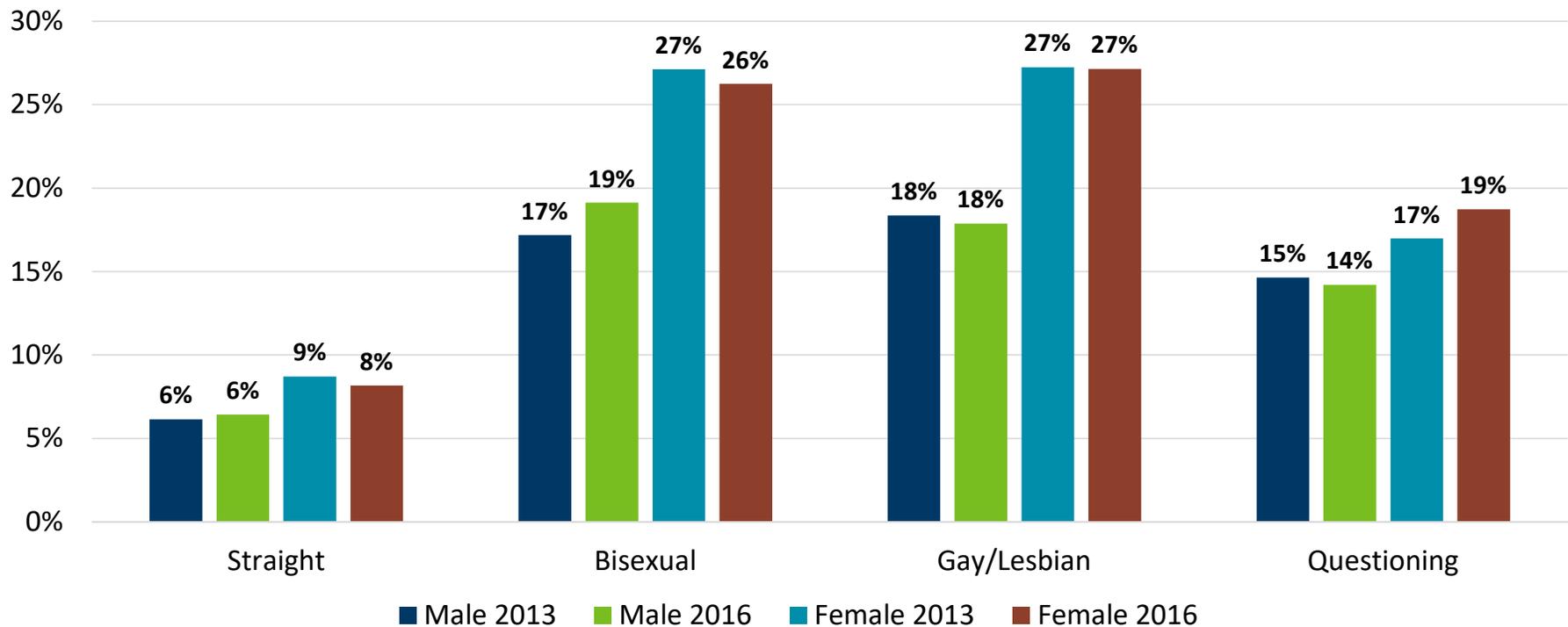
# Have you ever actually attempted suicide? (Yes, during the last year)



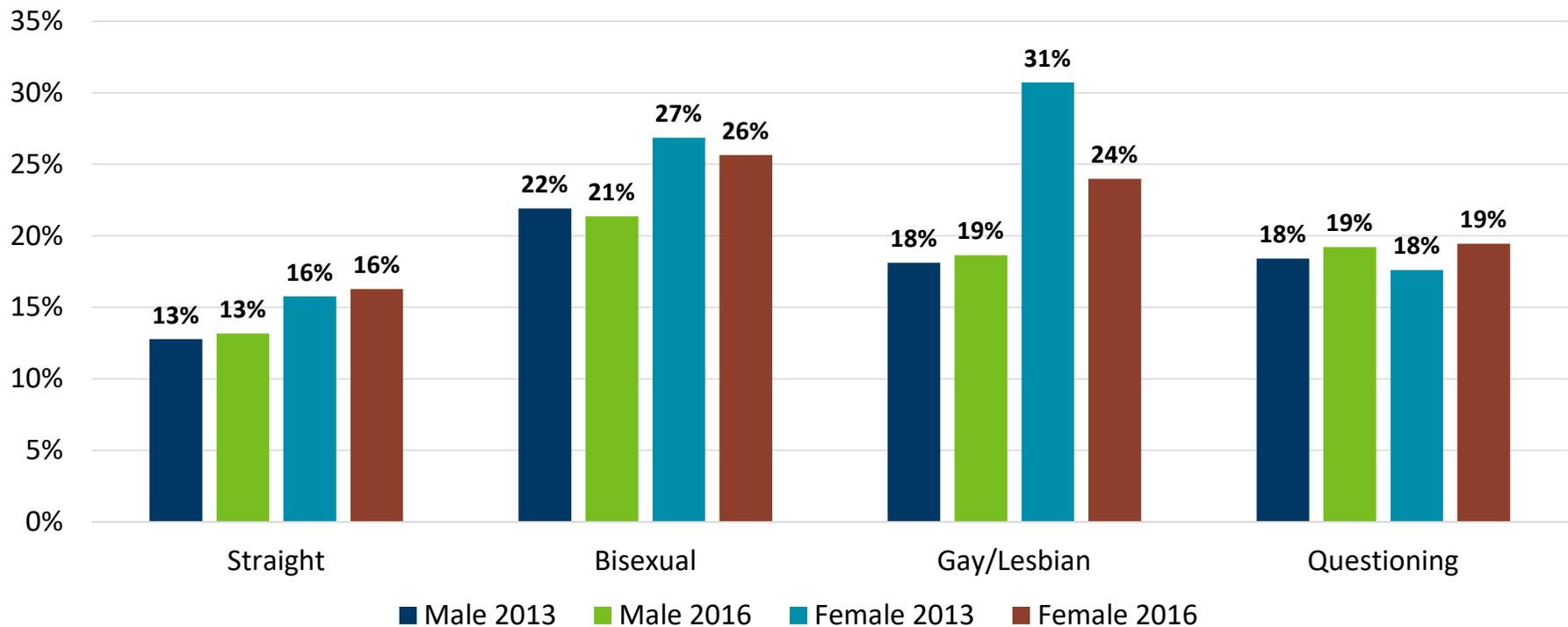


# Physical Health

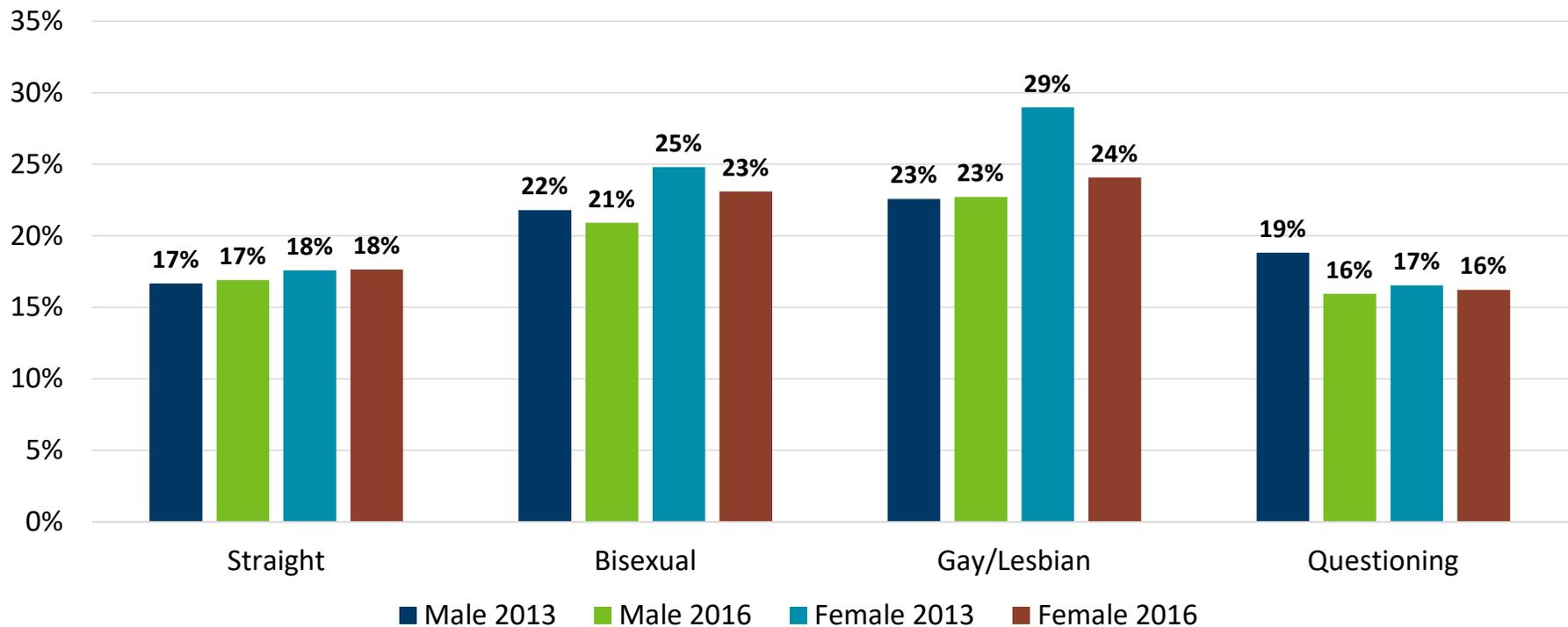
# How would you describe your health in general? (Fair/poor)



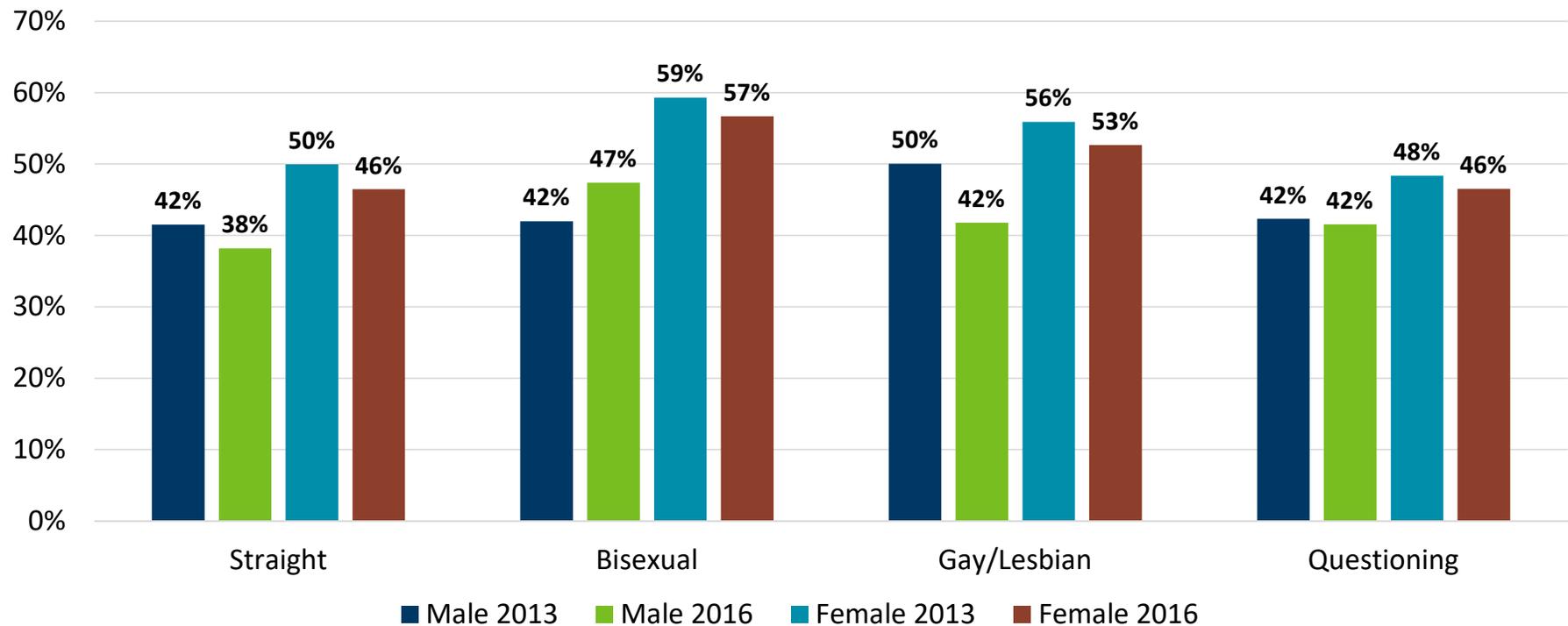
# Do you have any physical disabilities, or long-term health problems (such as asthma, cancer, diabetes, epilepsy or something else)? (Yes)



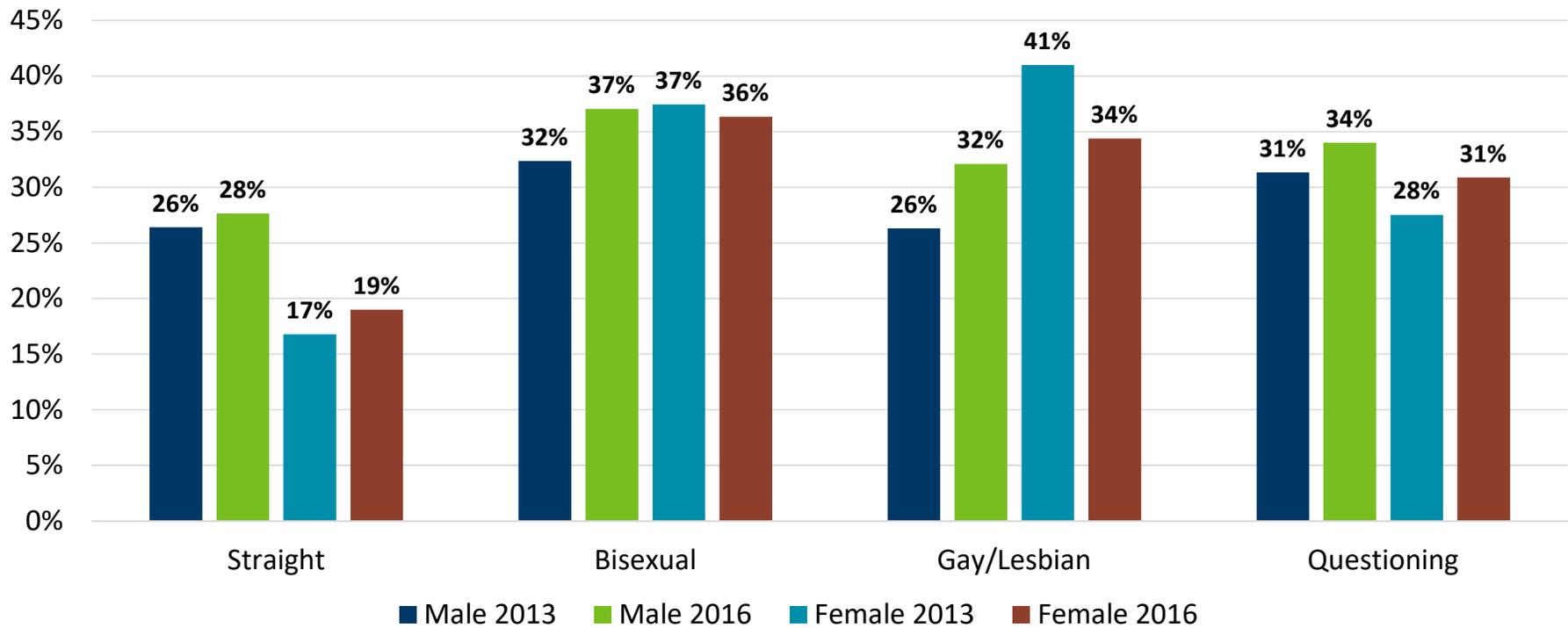
# Has a doctor or nurse ever told you that you have asthma? (Yes)



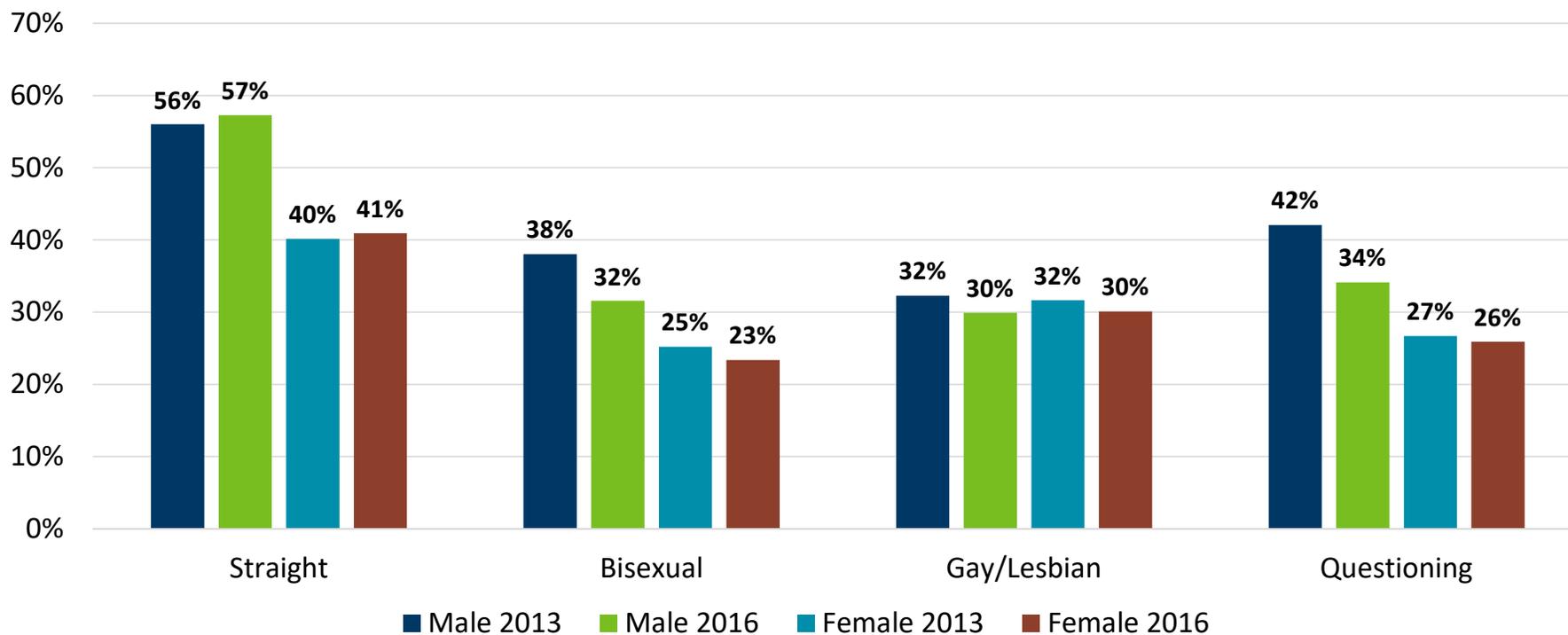
# During the last 30 days, how many times have you stayed home because you were sick? (One or more times)



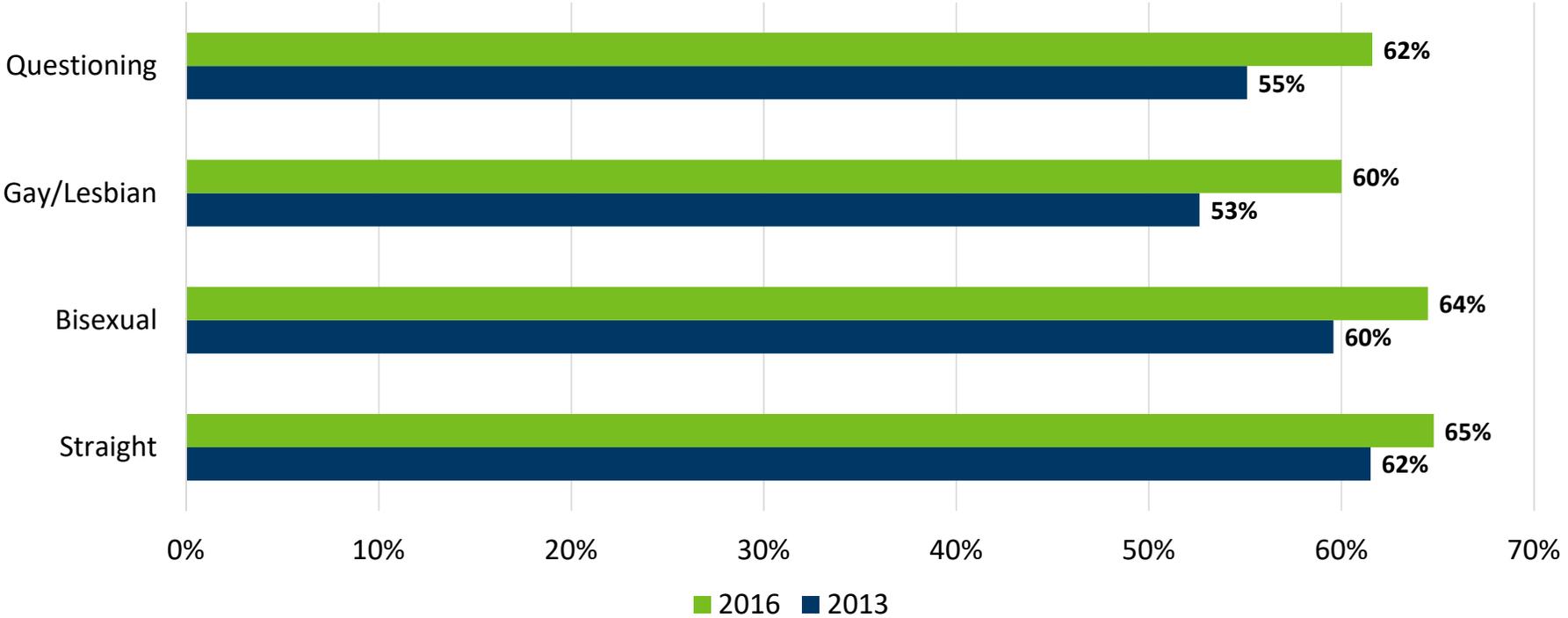
# Weight Status (Overweight/Obese)



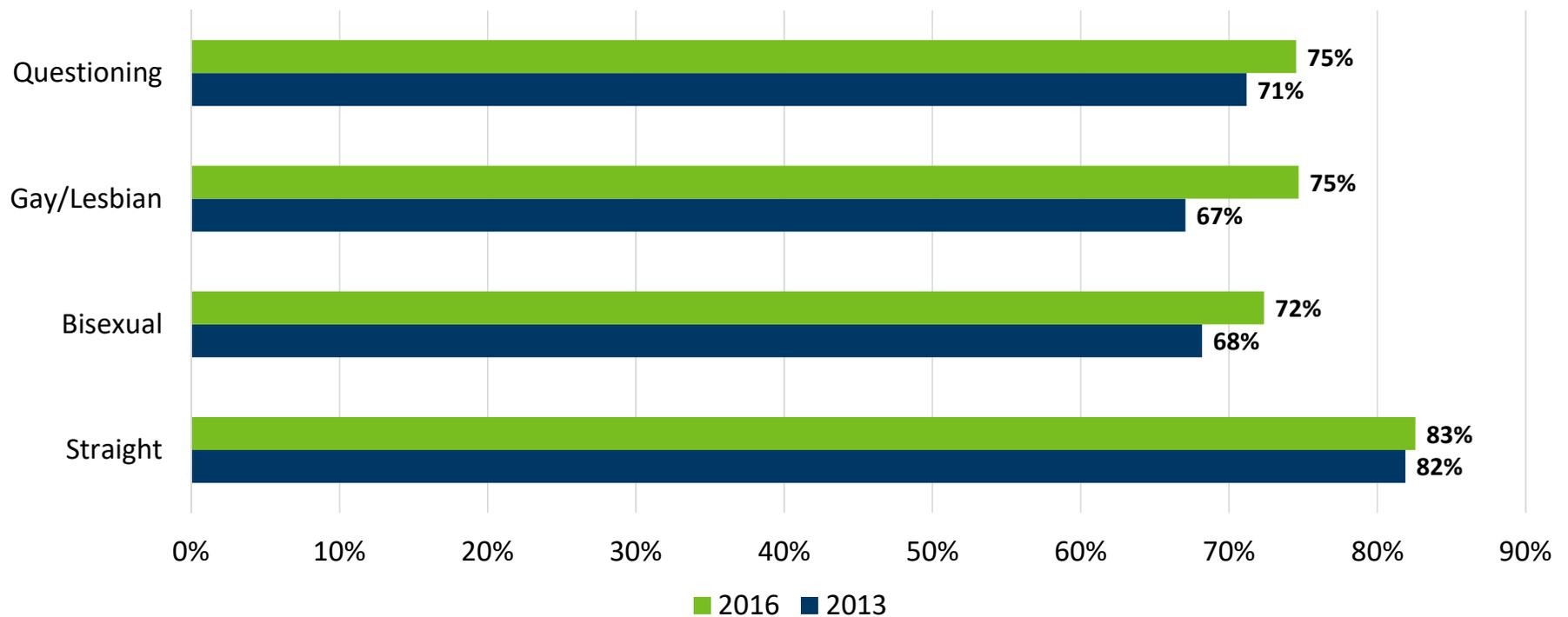
# During the last 7 days, on how many days were you physically active for a total of AT LEAST 60 MINUTES PER DAY? (Active 5 or more days)



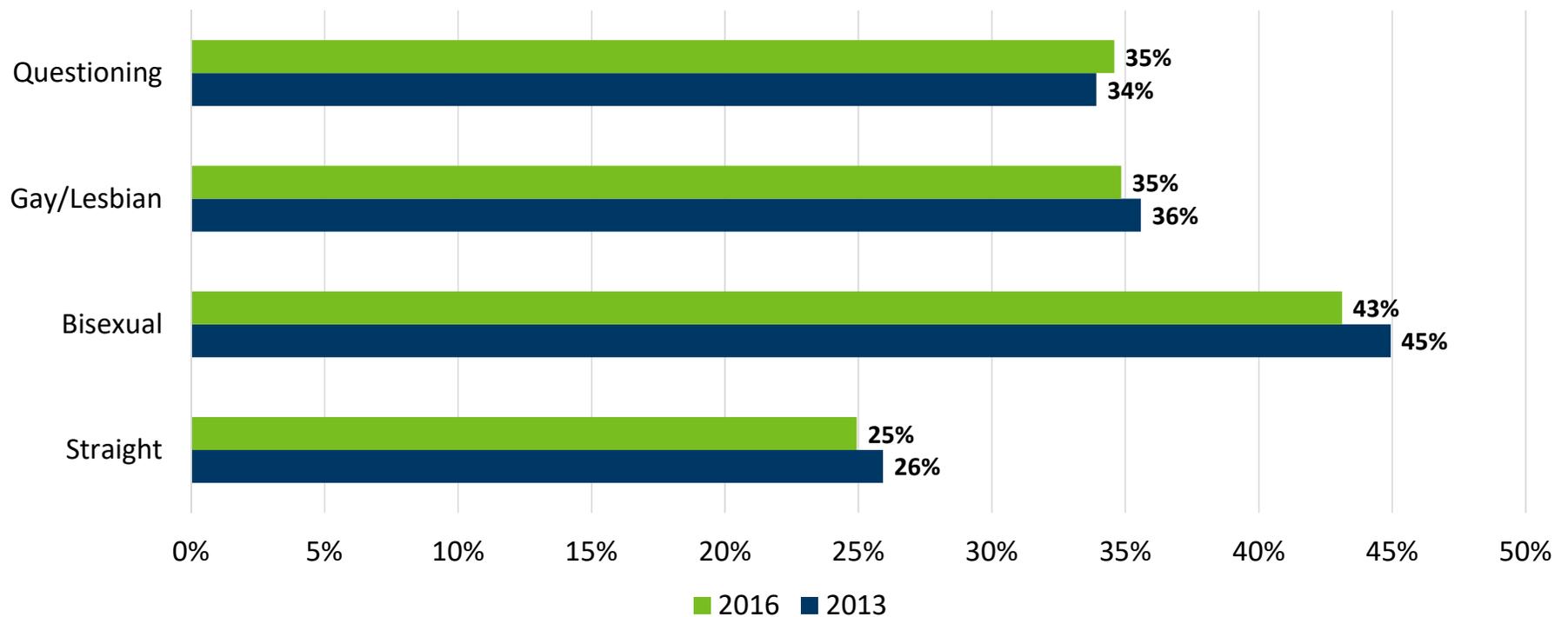
# When was the last time you saw a doctor or nurse for a check-up or physical exam when you were not sick or injured? (In the last year)



# When was the last time you saw a dentist or dental hygienist for a regular check-up, exam or teeth cleaning or other dental work? (In the last year)



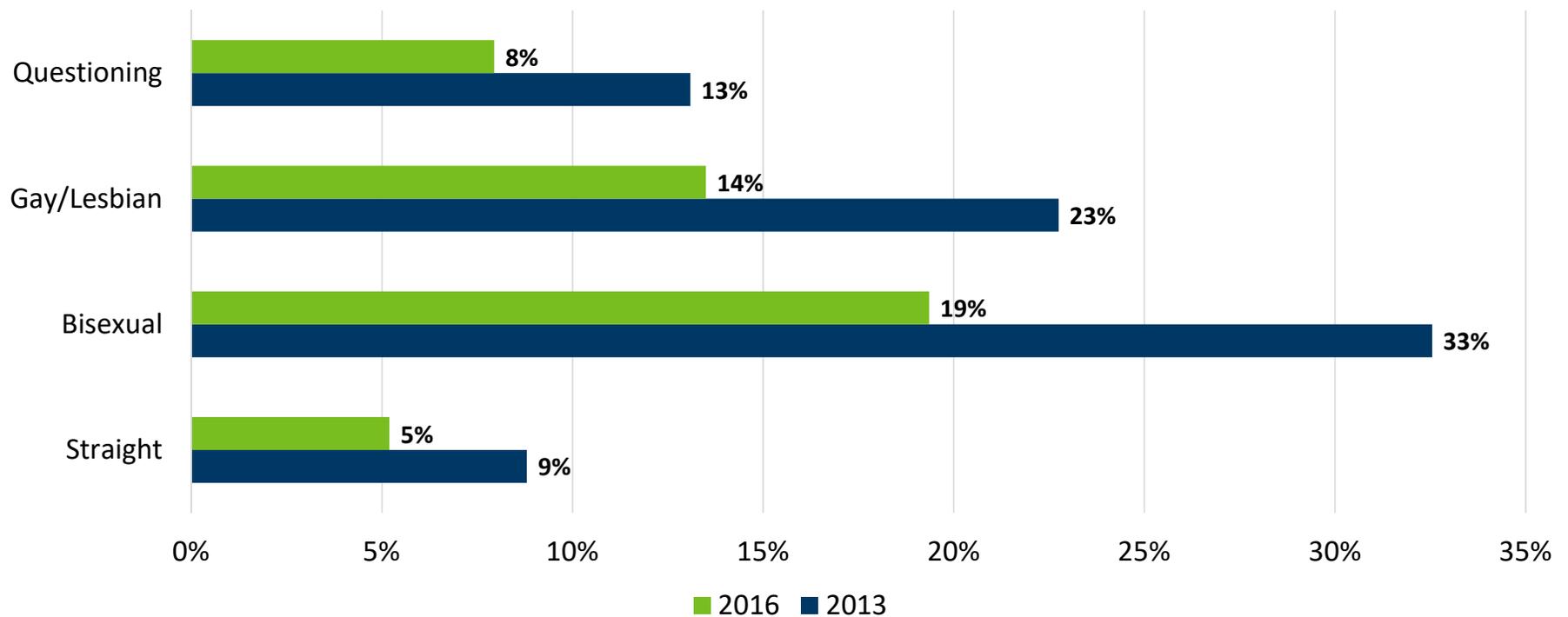
# During the last 30 days, how many times have you gone to the nurses office? (One or more times)



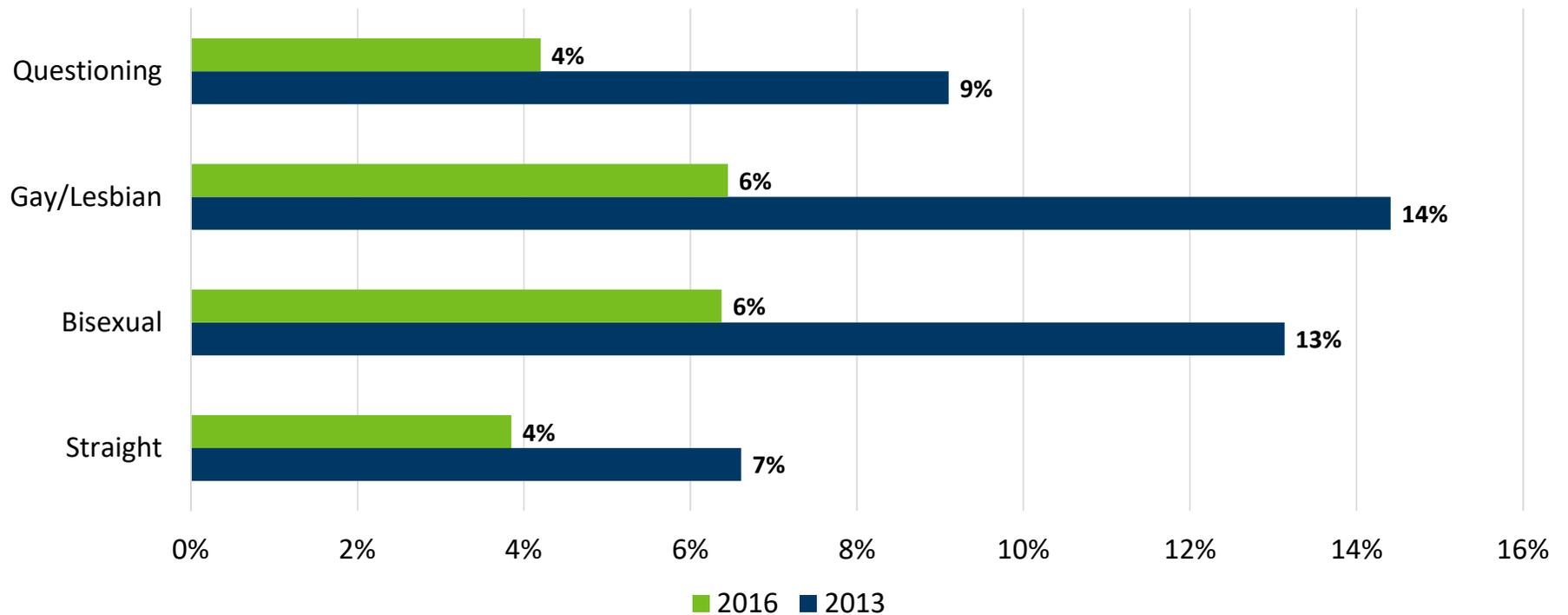


# Behavior

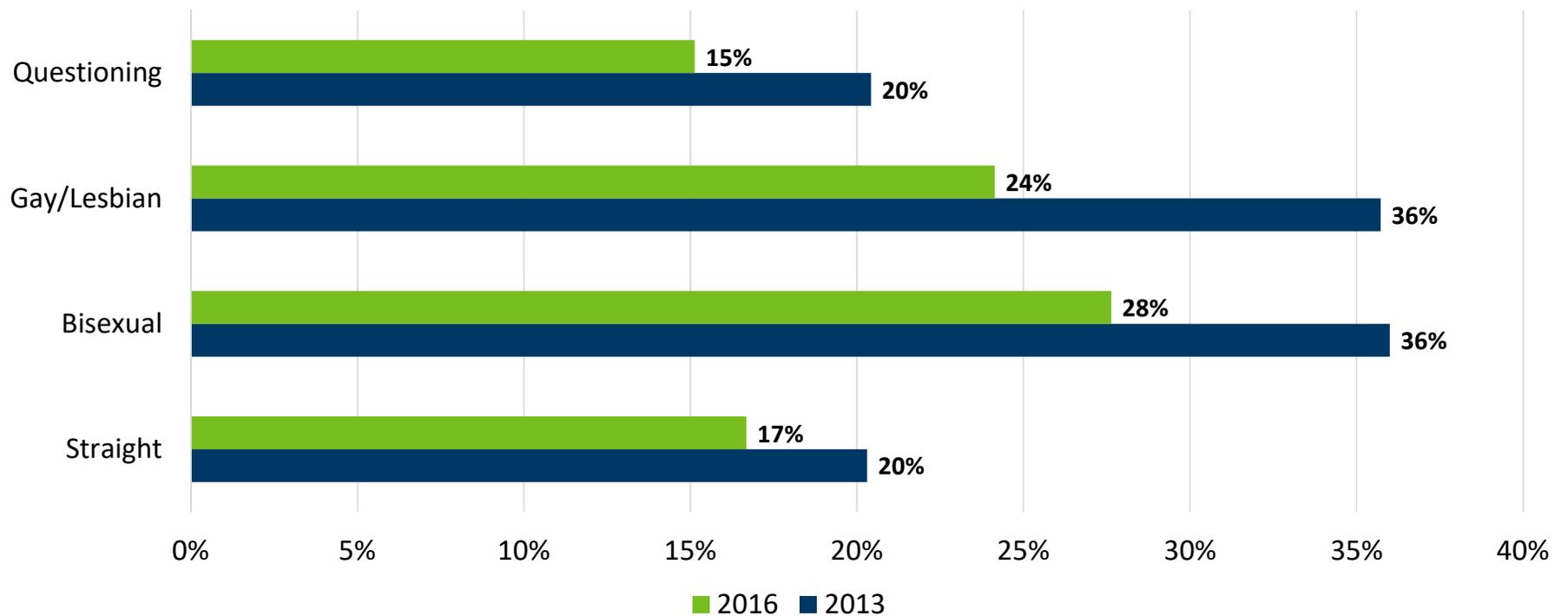
# During the last 30 days, on how many days did you smoke a cigarette? (One or more days)



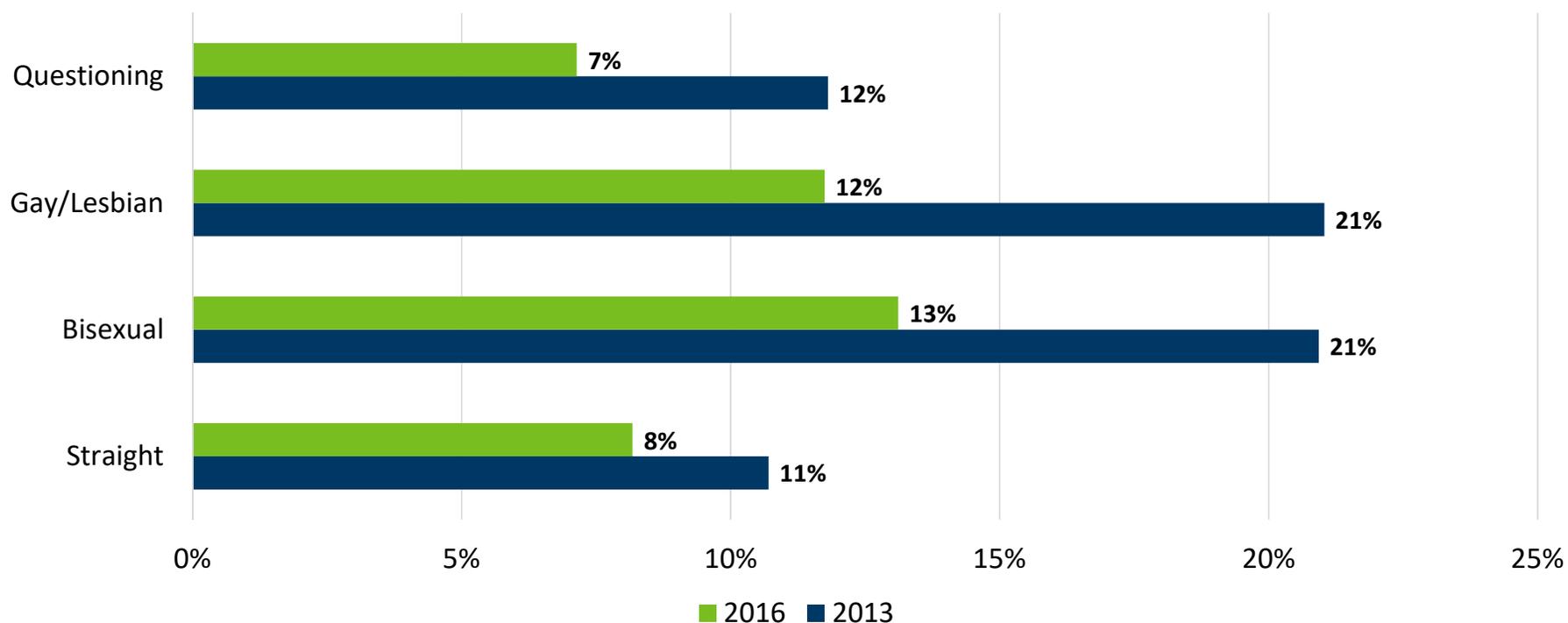
# Q: During the last 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigars, cigarillos or little cigars? (One or more days)



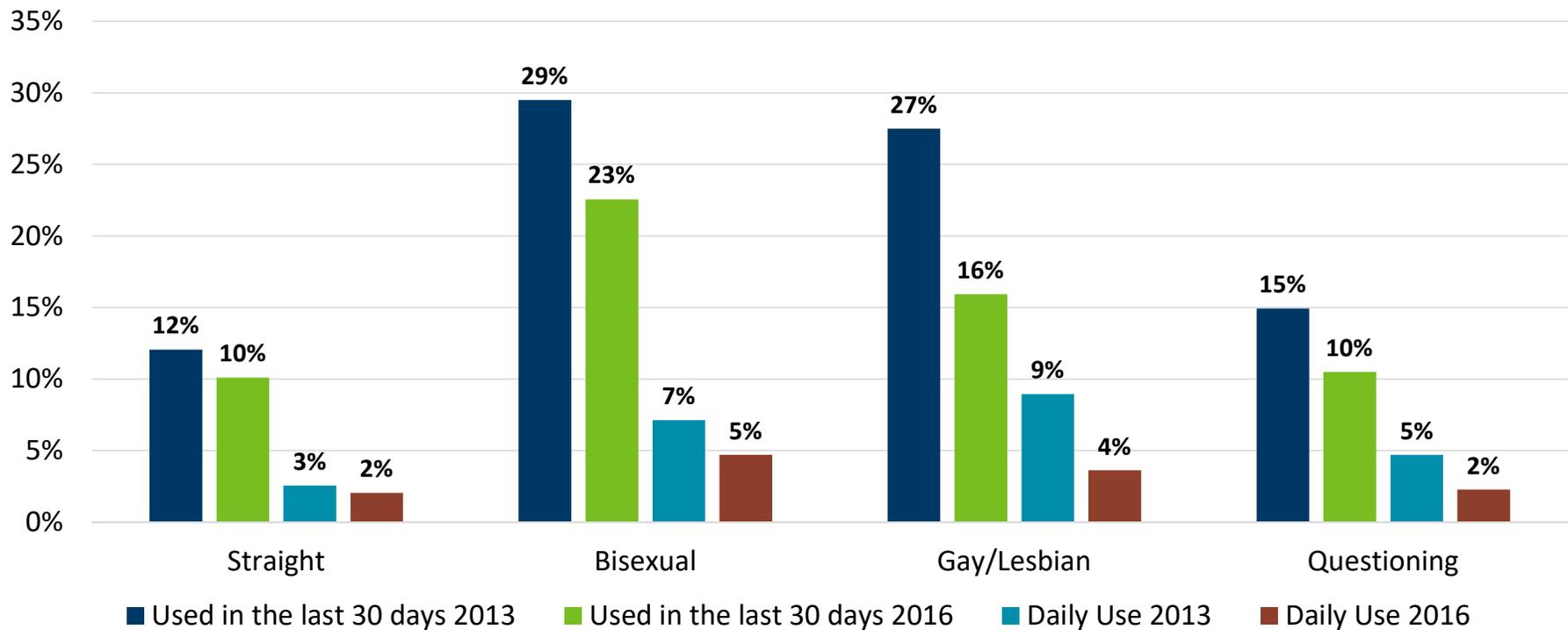
# During the last 30 days, on how many days did you drink one or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage? (One or more days)



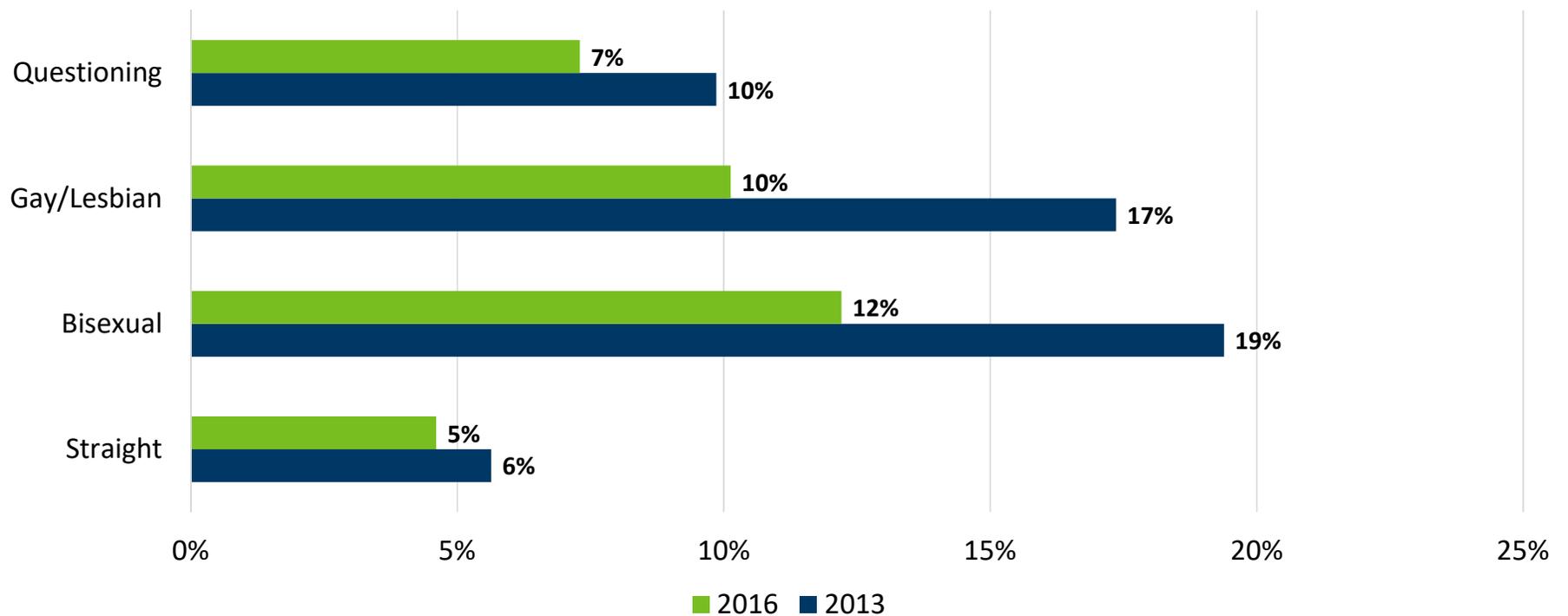
# During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have 5 or more drinks in a row, that is, within a couple of hours? (One or more days)



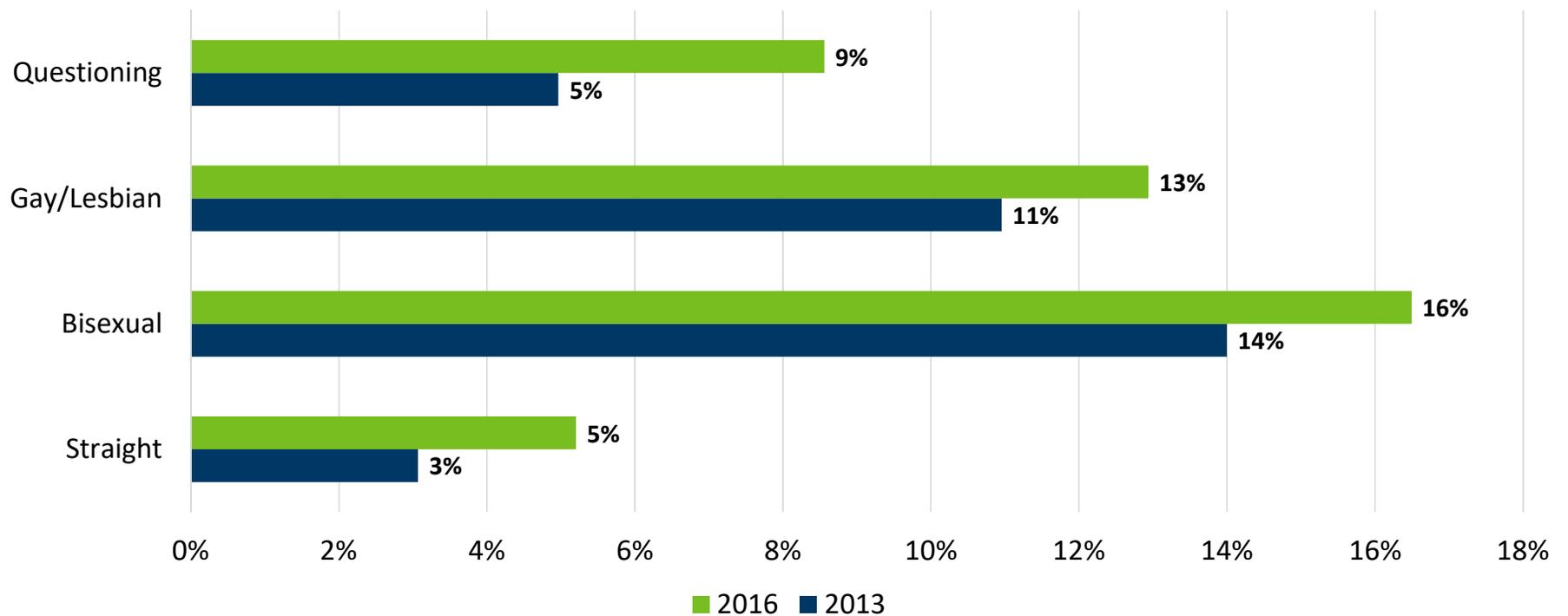
# During the last 30 days, on how many days did you use marijuana or hashish? (One or more times)



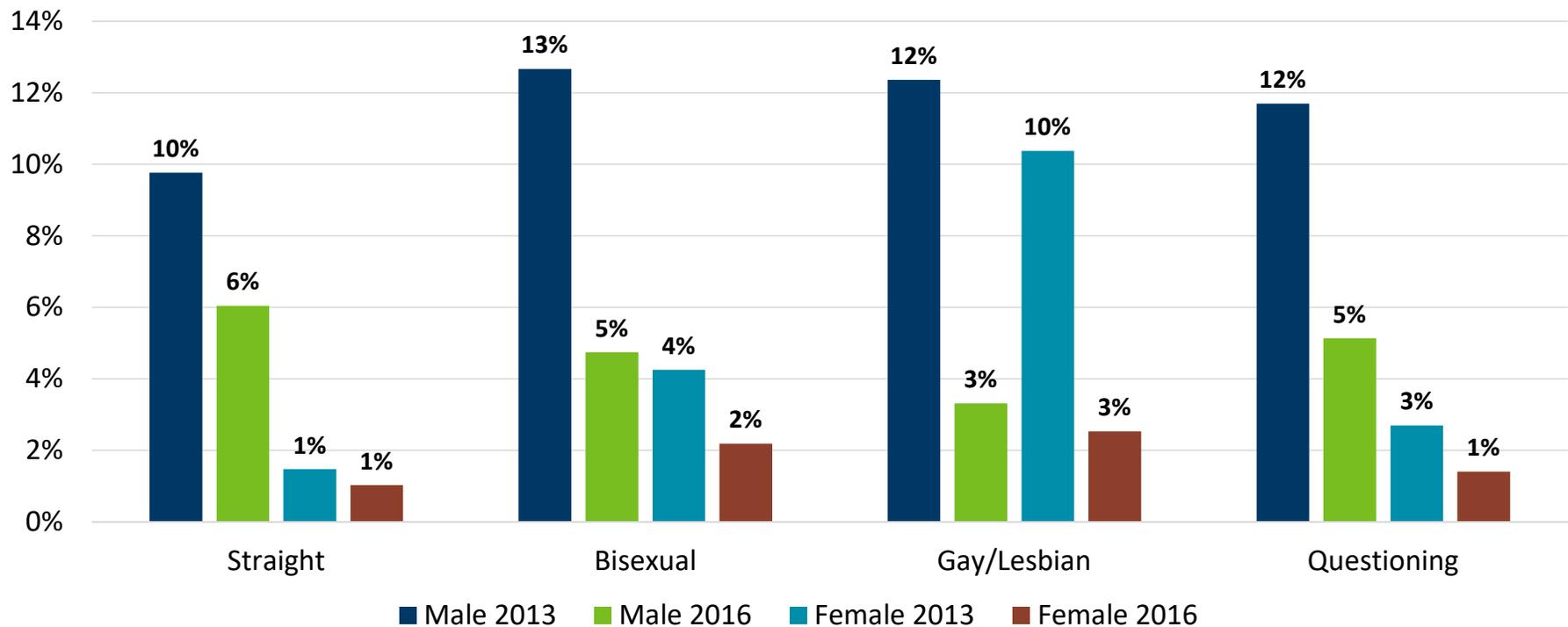
# During the last 30 days, on how many days did you use prescription drugs not prescribed for you? (One or more days)



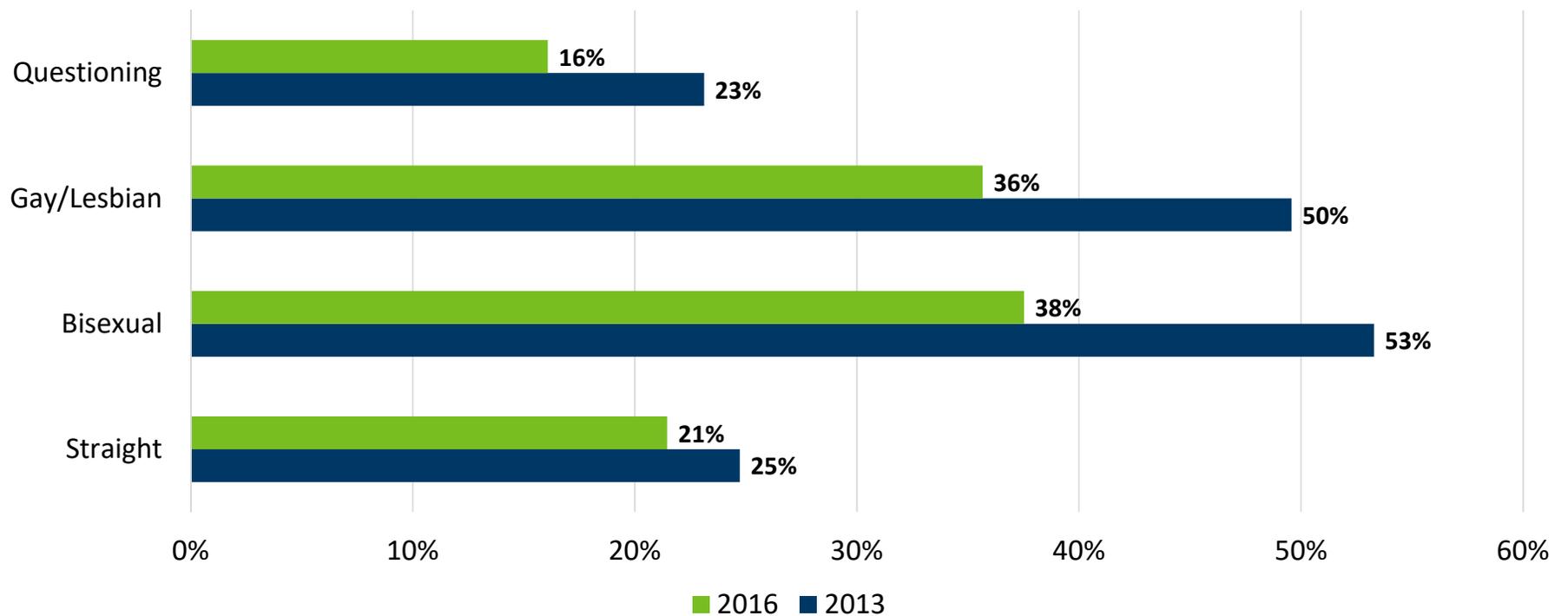
During the last 12 months, have you used any “other drugs” such as cocaine and crack, heroin, prescription drugs, stimulants, methamphetamine, MDMA (ecstasy), or LSD (acid)/ PCP, sniffing glue/breathing gases or contents of spray cans. (Yes)



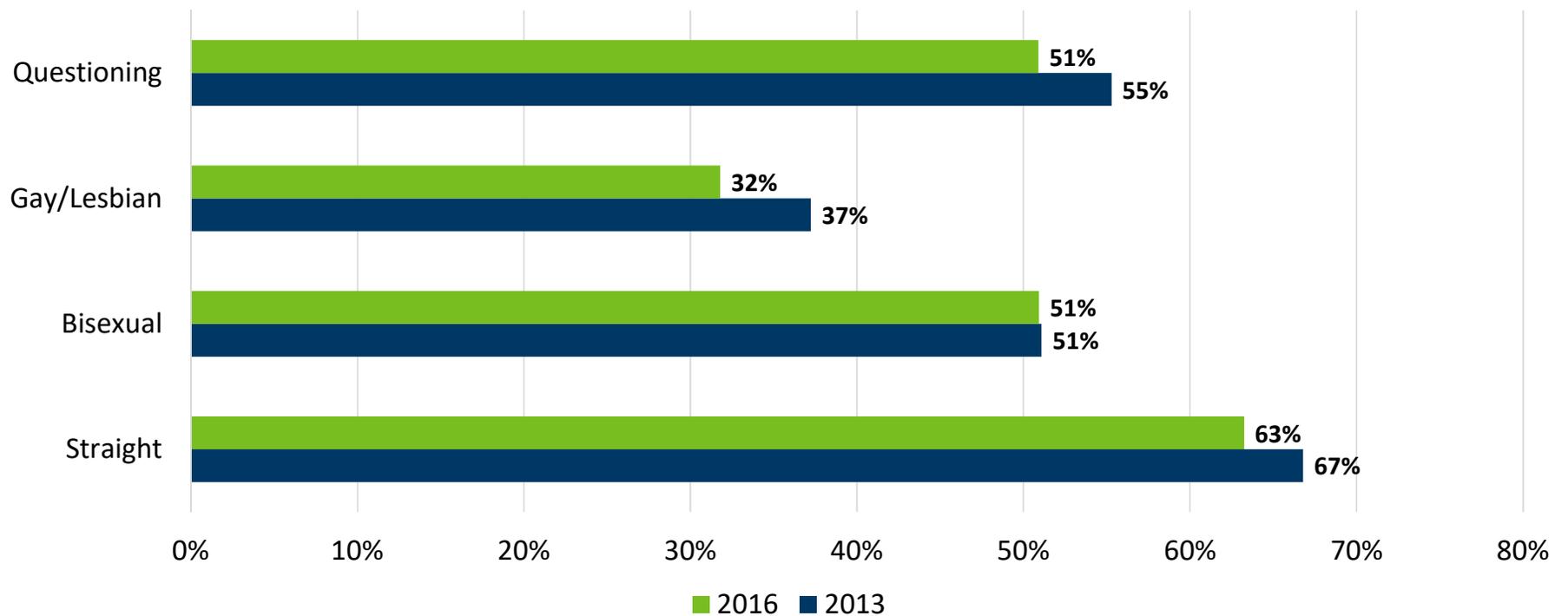
# During the last 30 days, on how many days did you use chewing tobacco, snuff or dip? (One or more days)



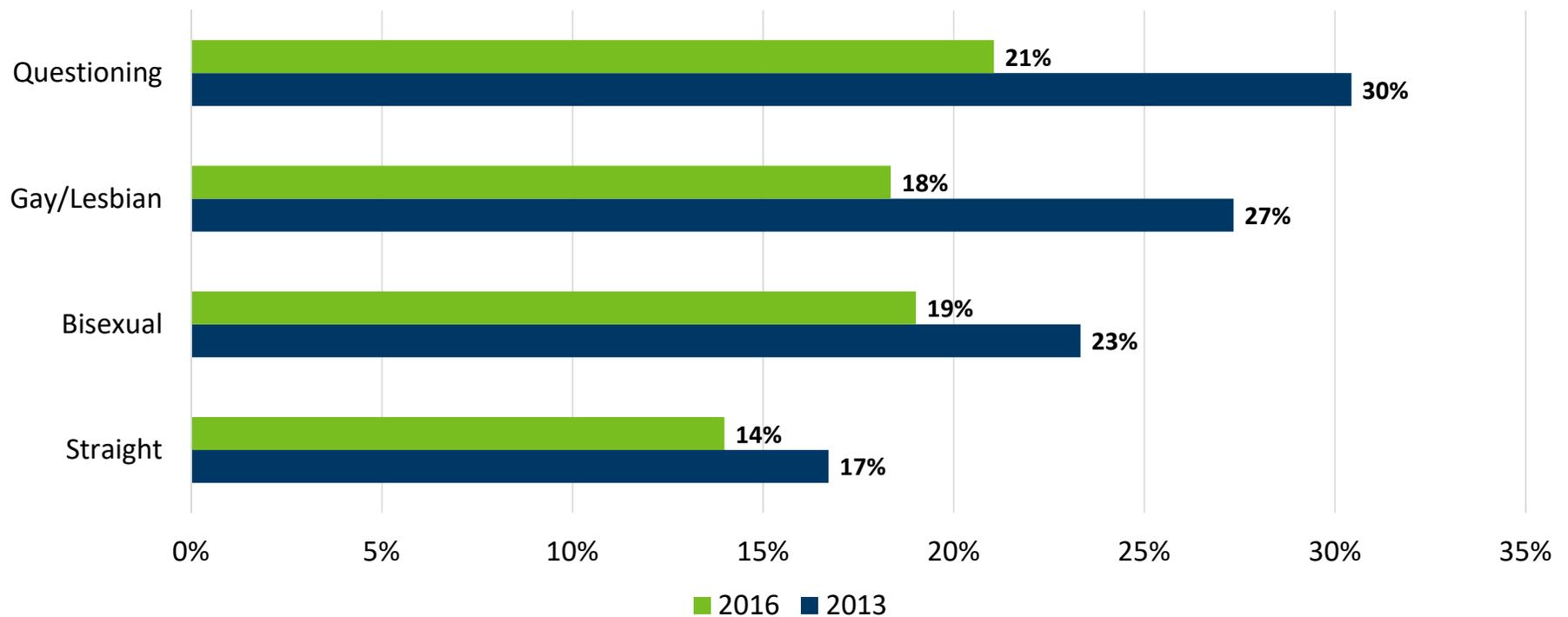
# Have you ever had sexual intercourse ('had sex')? (Yes)



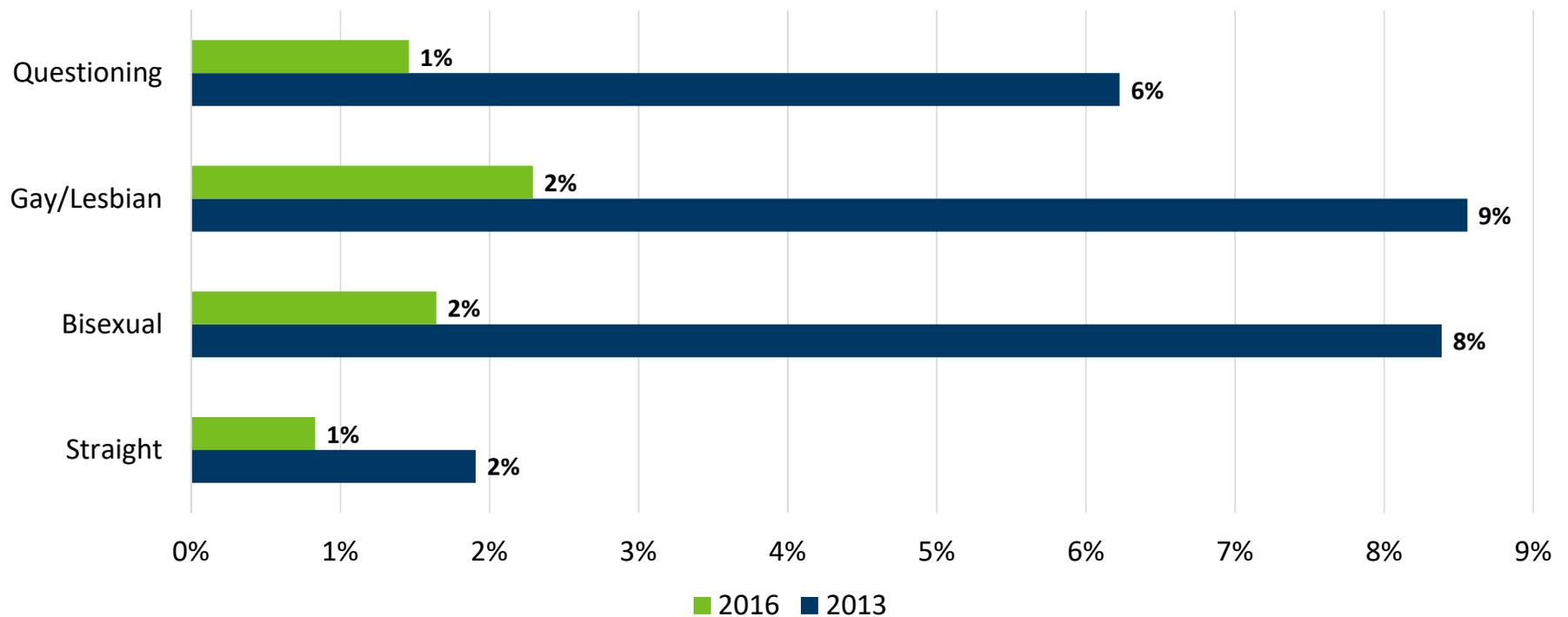
# The LAST time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom? (Yes)



# Did you drink alcohol or use drugs before you had sexual intercourse the LAST time? (Yes)



# How many times have you been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant? (One or more times/Not sure)



- Mental Health
  - LGBQ youth continue to report high rates of mental health problems
    - Especially long-term mental health
  - Treatment for mental health and alcohol is a difficult measure to interpret
- Physical Health
  - LGBQ youth show minimal improvement but still report lower rates of physical wellness than straight students
- Behavior
  - Almost across the board, LGBQ youth exhibit declining rates of risky behavior

# Conclusions

- By many measures, the environmental conditions of LGBQ youth are “improving”
  - These conditions are not reflected in their mental and physical health
  - They still trail the environmental experiences of straight students
- Many of the same recommendations found in *Invisible Youth* still apply
- We can, and WILL, work together to make the future a better place for LGBTQ youth, and all youth, in Minnesota

“All young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential.”

*- Harvey Milk*

# Resources for more MSS information

- Department of Education
  - [www.education.state.mn.us](http://www.education.state.mn.us)
- Department of Health
  - [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/mss/](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/mss/)
- Department of Human Services
  - [www.dhs.state.mn.us/mss](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/mss)
- Department of Public Safety
  - [www.dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp](http://www.dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp)

# Department of Education Data Analytics Page

- Allows for basic analysis by basic descriptors
- Provides results (only %'s) by one grade at a time

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Minnesota Department of Education's Data Analytics page. The page features the MDE logo and navigation menu. The main heading is "Minnesota Student Survey Reports 2013-2016". Below this, there are options to "Download" or "PDF" a report, and a "Select Download Format" dropdown menu. A paragraph of text explains the survey's history and purpose. At the bottom, there is a form with dropdown menus for "Level", "Name", "Year", "Category", "Report", "Grade", and "Demographics", along with a "Run Report" button.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Home About Students and Families Licensing Districts, Schools and Educators Data Center

MDE > Data Center > Data Reports and Analytics

Search Search

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The Minnesota Student Survey was developed in 1989 to monitor risk and protective behaviors among students. From 1989 through 2010, students in grades 6, 9, and 12 responded to the survey. Beginning in 2013, grade-levels changed to 5, 8, 9, and 11. While many categories remain consistent over time, others are adjusted to reflect current priority topics. Some categories include tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use; nutrition; physical activity; sexual behavior; school safety; mental health; and relationships. The survey is voluntary and anonymous. If a district-level table is not provided, either the district did not participate in the survey that year or the number of participating students was not large enough to provide an individual table. Read the list of questions included in each category and report for the [2013 survey](#) and the [2016 survey](#).

Level	State	▼
Name	Statewide	▼
Year	2016	▼
Category	Activities	▼
Report	ALL	▼
Grade	Grade 5	▼
Demographics	ALL	▼

Run Report



# Questions & Discussion

# Thank you!

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