
Census Bureau Survey Explores Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity



New Household Pulse Survey Data Reveals Differences between LGBT and Non-LGBT Respondents During COVID-19 Pandemic

November 4, 2021

Written by: Lydia Anderson, Thom File, Joey Marshall, Kevin McElrath, and Zachary Scherer

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT) respondents to the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey (HPS) were more likely than non-LGBT respondents to experience economic and mental health hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In July 2021

[<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/08/household-pulse-survey-updates-sex-question-now-asks-sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity.html>], the Census Bureau began collecting information on the sexual orientation and gender identity of respondents to its Household Pulse Survey [<https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/household-pulse-survey.html>].

Now, a new visualization [</library/visualizations/interactive/sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity.html>] explores respondents' answers across four cycles of pooled HPS data from July 21 to September 13.

The HPS asks questions about sex at birth, current gender identity, and sexual orientation. Combined, the responses to these three questions help provide some insight into the nation's LGBT adult population [<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/08/lgbt-community-harder-hit-by-economic-impact-of-pandemic.html>].

America Counts Story

LGBT Community Harder Hit by Economic Impact of Pandemic

August 11, 2021

LGBT adults report higher rates of food and economic insecurity than non-LGBT respondents to the new Phase 3.2 of the Household Pulse Survey.

[</library/stories/2021/08/lgbt-community-harder-hit-by-economic-impact-of-pandemic.html>]

America Counts Story

Census Survey Now Asks about Sexual

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A larger share (38.2%) of LGBT respondents than non-LGBT respondents (16.1%) experienced depression for more than half of the days in a week.

The first part of the visualization explores the sex assigned at birth, gender identity, and sexual orientation questions separately, as well as in combination.

In addition, the visualization shows how the LGBT and non-LGBT populations compare across demographic and economic characteristics:

- Nearly a quarter (24.6%) of LGBT respondents were 18-24 years old, compared to 7.3% of non-LGBT respondents.
- A higher share (21.3%) of LGBT respondents than non-LGBT (15.9%) respondents were Hispanic.
- Over half (59.4%) of LGBT respondents were never married, compared to 22.7% of non-LGBT respondents.

The final section of the visualization shows how the COVID-19 pandemic affected the economic well-being and mental health of both populations:

- 13.5% of LGBT respondents lived in a household that experienced food insecurity compared to 7.4% of non-LGBT respondents.
- Nearly a quarter (21.6%) of LGBT respondents reported the loss of employment income in their household compared to 16% of non-LGBT respondents.
- Nearly half (47.9%) of LGBT respondents reported experiencing anxiety for more than half of the days in a week compared to 23.5% of non-LGBT respondents.
- A larger share (38.2%) of LGBT respondents than non-LGBT respondents (16.1%) experienced depression for more than half of the days in a week.

Orientation, Gender Identity

August 05, 2021

Phase 3.2 of the Household Pulse Survey now includes questions on sexual orientation and gender identity, vaccinations of children and the new Child Tax Credit.

[/library/stories/2021/08/household-pulse-survey-updates-sex-question-now-asks-sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity.html]

America Counts Story

Both in Gay Partnerships More Likely to Work than Opposite-Sex Ones

December 29, 2020

The American Community Survey shows the impact of age, children and marital status on the employment of same-sex couples compared to opposite-sex couples.

[/library/stories/2020/12/same-sex-couples-more-likely-than-opposite-sex-couples-to-have-both-members-working.html]

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Yes



No



Defining LGBT

Survey respondents are categorized as LGBT if they:

- Report a sex at birth that does not align with their current gender identity.
- Report a sexual orientation of gay, lesbian or bisexual.
- Currently identify as transgender.

Respondents whose sex at birth aligns with their current gender identity and who select *Straight* on the sexual orientation question are categorized as “non-LGBT.”

Respondents who select *None of these* on the current gender question and either *Something else, I don't know* or *Straight* on the sexual orientation question are categorized as “other.”

Additionally, respondents whose sex at birth aligns with their current gender identity but who select either *Something else* or *I don't know* on the sexual orientation question are also categorized as “other.”

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 Yes  No

Near Real-Time Data From HPS

The HPS is designed to provide near real-time data on how the pandemic has affected people’s lives. Information on the methodology and reliability of these estimates can be found in the source and accuracy statements [<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey/technical-documentation.html>] for each data release.

Data users interested in state-level sample sizes, the number of respondents, weighted response rates, and occupied housing unit coverage ratios can consult the quality measures file, available at the same location.

The table below shows the number of invitations sent, number of responses, and weighted response rate for each collection period.

Table.
Sample Size, Number of Respondents at the National Level and Weighted Response Rates for Data Collection: Weeks 34–37

Data collection period	Number of invitations sent	Number of responses	Weighted response rate (percent)
Week 34 (July 21-August 2)	1,042,642	64,562	6.1
Week 35 (August 4-August 16)	1,043,137	68,799	6.5
Week 36 (August 18-August 30)	1,043,555	69,114	6.5
Week 37 (September 1-September 13)	1,043,950	63,536	6.0

U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, Phase 3.2 Source and Accuracy Statements.

[/content/dam/Census/library/stories/2021/11/census-bureau-survey-explores-sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity-table-1.jpg]

Part of the Census Bureau’s Experimental Data Product [<https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products.html>] series, the HPS was designed to have low respondent burden, provide quick turnaround on product releases and produce estimates that meet urgent public needs.

Survey questions related to sexual orientation and gender identity aim to understand the impact of the coronavirus pandemic across different subpopulations.

Because the HPS is designed to rapidly produce experimental estimates, caution should be exercised when using these survey questions as standalone markers of the prevalence of LGBT adults in the general population. All estimates discussed here were calculated from a public-use microdata file.

Data highlighted in this story were collected during Phase 3.2 of the HPS, which ran from July 21 to October 11, 2021. Data collection for Phase 3.3 of the survey is currently scheduled to begin in December 2021 and the SOGI questions will continue to be included.

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 Yes  No

When the survey resumes, the HPS will continue to be sent to about one million households every two weeks. If selected, you will receive an email from **COVID.survey@census.gov** or a text message from 39242. Additional information is available on the HPS respondent website [<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey.html>].

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LGBTQIA+ Pride Month: June 2024

June 2024

The 2022 American Community Survey estimated there were 1.3M same-sex couple households in the U.S., and of them, 58% (740,523) were married couples.



[\[/newsroom/stories/lgbt-pride-month.html\]](#)

Advancing Equity with Data

The Census Bureau is committed to producing data that depict an accurate portrait of America, including its underserved communities.



[\[/about/what/data-equity.html\]](#)

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