Sexual Orientation Results from the National Health Interview Survey

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National Center for Health Statistics

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Disclaimer

- This presentation does not represent official opinions or statistics of the National Center for Health Statistics or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Overview

- Quick recap of final NHIS field test of sexual orientation question / audio computer-assisted self interviewing (ACASI)

- Initial results from the 2013 NHIS
  - Sexual orientation response distributions
  - Select health indicators by sexual orientation

- Past, Present, and Future Research
Sexual Orientation Question

Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself?

1. Gay
2. Straight, that is, not gay
3. Bisexual
4. Something else
5. I don't know the answer

Also, you can enter something else as:

Something Else
Don't Know
Other
Final Field Test
Final Field Test

- **Goals:**
  - Conduct full dress rehearsal
  - Obtain prevalence estimate of sexual minorities
  - Split-ballot of ACASI (n=3,000) vs. CAPI (n=2,000)
    - Compare prevalence estimates, item nonresponse rates, break-offs
  - Compare CAPI/ACASI test cases to production interviews
    - Explore context effects; impacts on trends

- **Plans/Procedures:**
  - Data collection began August 1 and concluded September 30 (October 15th for select areas)
  - Nationally-representative sample
  - ~470 Census interviewers
  - Two one-day classroom trainings
Final Field Test: Summary of Results

- No significant difference in estimates of sexual minority (gay or lesbian, bisexual) by mode
  - CAPI=2.4%; ACASI=2.2%

- Very few differences in item nonresponse rates by mode
  - Out of 28 questions, 3 significantly higher rates in ACASI and 4 significantly higher rates in CAPI

- Survey breakoff rate was higher in ACASI (3.2%) compared to CAPI (1.0%)

- Due to transition/practice questions, ACASI took longer to administer
Initial Results from the 2013 NHIS
Sexual Orientation Response Distribution

- 33,784 sample adults (18+) received the sexual orientation question:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual Orientation</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gay/lesbian</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight</td>
<td>96.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisexual</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Something else</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t know the answer</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Majority of results presented here can be found in:

### Sexual Orientation among U.S. Adults Aged 18 and Over, by Sex and Race/Ethnicity: NHIS, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% Straight</th>
<th>% Gay or Lesbian</th>
<th>% Bisexual</th>
<th>% Missing¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall</strong></td>
<td>96.6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>96.7</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>96.6</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race/Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>96.7</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic white</td>
<td>96.7</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic black</td>
<td>96.4</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic other</td>
<td>96.5</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Missing includes responses of “something else,” I don’t know the answer,” and refused.
# Sexual Orientation among U.S. Adults Aged 18 and Over, by Education and Age Group: NHIS, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% Straight</th>
<th>% Gay or Lesbian</th>
<th>% Bisexual</th>
<th>% Missing&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall</strong></td>
<td>96.6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; HS/GED</td>
<td>97.1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS/GED</td>
<td>97.1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college/AA</td>
<td>96.4</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s +</td>
<td>96.3</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age group</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-44</td>
<td>96.0</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>96.7</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>98.1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>*0.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup> Missing includes responses of “something else,” I don’t know the answer,” and refused.

* Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 30% and less than or equal to 50%.
Health Behavior Indicators
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual Orientation</th>
<th>All Adults</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Straight</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gay/lesbian</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisexual</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pattern fill indicates a significant difference (p < .05) from adults identifying as straight.
Met Federal Guidelines for Aerobic Physical Activity by Sexual Orientation and Sex, among Adults Aged 18-64: NHIS, 2013

Pattern fill indicates a significant difference (p < .05) from adults identifying as straight.
Health Status Indicators
Health Described as Excellent or Very Good by Sexual Orientation and Sex, among Adults Aged 18-64: NHIS, 2013

Pattern fill indicates a significant difference (p < .05) from adults identifying as straight.
Obese by Sexual Orientation and Sex, among Adults Aged 20-64: NHIS, 2013

Pattern fill indicates a significant difference (p < .05) from adults identifying as straight.
Health Care Service and Utilization Indicators
Received Influenza Vaccination during Past Year by Sexual Orientation and Sex, among Adults Aged 18-64: NHIS, 2013

Pattern fill indicates a significant difference (p < .05) from adults identifying as straight.
Ever Been Tested for HIV by Sexual Orientation and Sex, among Adults Aged 18-64: NHIS, 2013

Plaid fill indicates a significant difference (p < .05) from adults identifying as straight, and a significant difference between adults identifying as gay or lesbian and adults identifying as bisexual.
Health Care Access Indicators
Has a Usual Place to Go for Medical Care by Sexual Orientation and Sex, among Adults Aged 18-64: NHIS, 2013

Pattern fill indicates a significant difference (p < .05) from adults identifying as straight.
Failed to Obtain Needed Medical Care in the Past Year Due to Cost by Sexual Orientation and Sex, among Adults Aged 18-64: NHIS, 2013

Pattern fill indicates a significant difference (p < .05) from adults identifying as straight.

* Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 30% and less than or equal to 50%.
Currently Uninsured by Sexual Orientation and Sex, among Adults Aged 18-64: NHIS, 2013

Pattern fill indicates a significant difference (p < .05) from adults identifying as straight.
* Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 30% and less than or equal to 50%.
Publications/Research

- Publications using the 2013 data:


Gates, GJ. 2014. LGB/T Demographics: Comparisons among population-based surveys. Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law.
Publications/Research, cont.

- **Forthcoming:**

- **Under construction:**
  Ward BW and Joestl SS. Prevalence of Select Chronic Conditions among U.S. Adults, by Sexual Identity: National Health Interview Survey, 2013,

  Dahlhamer JM, Galinsky AM, Joestl SS, and Ward BW. Sexual Identity and Barriers to Healthcare.

- **Development of the sexual orientation question:**
Thank You!

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