



2023

Sexual and Gender  
Minority  
Documentation

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## Introduction

This document details the methodology for sexual and gender minority data collection. For each dataset, we provide the Survey Variable Name, the Survey Text, and the HHDW Health Indicator Names (for those who are submitting a data request).

## Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

### BRFSS Methodology

BRFSS asks questions about sexual orientation and transgender status. These are used to create the following dimensions: Sexual Orientation, Sexual Orientation by Sex, Transgender, and Sexual or Gender Minority.

### BRFSS Sexual Orientation 2018-2021

**Survey Variable Name(s):** SOFEMALE, SOMALE

**Survey Text:** “Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself?”

**HHDW Health Indicator Name:**

- SEXORIENTAD (Sexual Orientation)
- SEXORIENTGEND (Sexual Orientation by Sex)

Source	Sexual Orientation	Sexual Orientation by Sex	
		If Male	If Female
Straight, that is, not gay	Straight	Straight	Straight
Lesbian or gay	Gay or lesbian	Gay, bisexual or something else	Lesbian, bisexual or something else
Bisexual	Bisexual		
Something else	Something else		
I don't know the answer/ Respondent does not understand the question	Removed from the denominator	Removed from the denominator	Removed from the denominator
Refused			

## BRFSS Sexual Orientation 2014-2017

**Survey Variable Name(s):** SXORIENT

**Survey Text:** “We ask this question in order to better understand the health and health care needs of people with different sexual orientations. Do you consider yourself to be...” (Respondent can answer with either the number or the text/word.)

**HHDW Health Indicator Name:**

- SEXORIENTAD (Sexual Orientation)
- SEXORIENTGEND (Sexual Orientation by Sex)

Source	Sexual Orientation	Sexual Orientation by Sex	
		If Male	If Female
Straight	Straight	Straight	Straight
Lesbian or gay	Gay or lesbian	Gay, bisexual or something else	Lesbian, bisexual or something else
Bisexual	Bisexual		
Other	Something else		
Don't know/Not sure	Removed from the denominator	Removed from the denominator	Removed from the denominator
Refused			

## BRFSS Sexual Orientation 2011-2013

**Survey Variable Name(s):** SEXORIENT

**Survey Text:** “Because the Department of Health wants to ensure that this survey reflects the diversity of the state, I'd like to ask you about your sexual orientation. Please respond with the number that best indicates what is true for you.”

**HHDW Health Indicator Name:**

- SEXORIENTAD (Sexual Orientation)
- SEXORIENTGEND (Sexual Orientation by Sex)

Source	Sexual Orientation	Sexual Orientation by Sex	
		If Male	If Female
Heterosexual or straight (attracted to opposite sex)	Straight	Straight	Straight
Homosexual or gay/lesbian	Gay or lesbian	Gay, bisexual or	Lesbian, bisexual

Source	Sexual Orientation	Sexual Orientation by Sex	
		If Male	If Female
(attracted to same sex)		something else	or something else
Bisexual (attracted to men and women)	Bisexual		
Something else	Something else		
Not sure	Removed from the denominator	Removed from the denominator	Removed from the denominator
Don't know			
Refused			

## BRFSS Transgender 2014-2021

**Survey Variable Name(s):** TRNSGNDR

**Survey Text:** “Do you consider yourself to be transgender?”

**HHDW Health Indicator Name:**

- TRANSGNDR (Transgender)

Source	Transgender
Yes, transgender, male-to-female	Yes
Yes, transgender, female-to-male	Yes
Yes, transgender, gender nonconforming	Yes
No	No
Don't know/Not sure	Removed from the denominator
Refused	

## BRFSS Sexual or Gender Minority 2014-2021

This indicator is based on the responses to the sexual orientation and transgender questions combined.

**HHDW Health Indicator Name:**

- SEXGENMINORITY (Sexual or Gender Minority)

Source	Sexual or Gender Minority
Yes, transgender, male-to-female	Yes
Yes, transgender, female-to-male	Yes
Yes, transgender, gender nonconforming	Yes
<i>OR IF</i>	
Gay or Lesbian	Yes
Bisexual	Yes
Something else	Yes
Straight and not transgender	No
If don't know, not sure or refused to both questions	Removed from the denominator

## Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

No sexual or gender minority data collected.



## Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

### Methodology

YRBS Sexual Orientation 2021 High School and 2021 Middle School\*

**Survey Variable Name(s):**

- Q65 (HS), Q48 (MS)

**Survey Text:** “Which of the following best describes you?”

**HHDW Health Indicator Names:**

- SEXORIENT5 (Sexual Orientation)
- SEXORIENTGEND1 (Sexual Orientation by Sex 2021+)

Source	Sexual Orientation 2021+	Sexual Orientation by Sex 2021+	
		If Male	If Female
Heterosexual (straight)	Straight	Straight	Straight
Gay or lesbian	Gay or lesbian	Gay, bisexual or other	Lesbian, bisexual or other
Bisexual	Bisexual		
I describe my sexual identity some other way	Something else		
I am not sure about my sexual identity (questioning)	Questioning	Questioning	Questioning
I do not know what this question is asking	Remove from the denominator	Remove from the denominator	Remove from the denominator

*\*This data is available from the warehouse upon request. It will be released into the HHDW.org Build Your Own Report system (powered by IBIS) with the 2023 data in accordance with HHDW protocols requiring 2 years of data for new indicators.*

## YRBS Sexual Orientation 2011-2019 High School and 2017-2019 Middle School

**Survey Variable Name(s):**

- High School: Q130 (2011), Q106 (2013), Q8 (2015), Q67 (2017), Q66 (2019)
- Middle School: Q75 (2017), Q51 (2019)

**Survey Text:** “Which of the following best describes you?”

**HHDW Health Indicator Names:**

- SEXORIENT4 (Sexual Orientation)
- SEXORIENTGEND (Sexual Orientation by Sex)

Source	Sexual Orientation	Sexual Orientation by Sex	
		If Male	If Female
Heterosexual (straight)	Straight	Straight	Straight
Gay or lesbian	Gay or lesbian	Gay or bisexual	Lesbian or bisexual
Bisexual	Bisexual		
Not sure	Not sure	Not sure	Not sure

## YRBS Transgender 2017-2021 High School and 2019-2021 Middle School

**Survey Variable Name(s):**

- High School: Q99 (2017), Q91 (2019), Q89 (2021)
- Middle School: Q52 (2019), Q49 (2021)

**Survey Text:** “Some people describe themselves as transgender when their sex at birth does not match the way they think or feel about their gender. Are you transgender?”

**HHDW Health Indicator Name:**

- TRANSGENDER (Transgender)

Source	Transgender
No, I am not transgender	No
Yes, I am transgender	Yes
I am not sure if I am transgender	Not sure
I do not know what this question is asking	Removed from the denominator

## YRBS Sexual or Gender Minority 2021 High School and Middle School\*

This indicator is based on the responses to the sexual orientation and transgender questions combined.

**HHDW Health Indicator Name:**

- SEXGENMINORITY1 (Sexual or Gender Minority)

Source	Sexual or Gender Minority
Yes, I am transgender	Yes
I am not sure if I am transgender	Yes
<i>OR IF</i>	
Gay or lesbian	Yes
Bisexual	Yes
I describe my sexual identity some other way	Yes
I am not sure about my sexual identity (questioning)	Yes
Straight and not transgender	No
If don't know what this question is asking or skipped both questions	Removed from the denominator

*\*This data is available from the warehouse upon request. It will be released into the HHDW.org Build Your Own Report system (powered by IBIS) with the 2023 data in accordance with HHDW protocols requiring 2 years of data for new indicators.*

## YRBS Sexual or Gender Minority 2017-2019 High School

This indicator is based on the responses to the sexual orientation and transgender questions combined.

**HHDW Health Indicator Name:**

- SEXGENMINORITY

Source	Sexual or Gender Minority
Yes, I am transgender	Yes
I am not sure if I am transgender	Yes
<i>OR IF</i>	
Gay or lesbian	Yes
Bisexual	Yes
Not sure	Yes
Straight and not transgender	No
If don't know what this question is asking or skipped both questions	Removed from the denominator

## Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)

### Methodology

YTS Sexual Orientation 2017-2019

**Survey Variable Name(s):** HIR4

**Survey Text:** “Which of the following best describes you?”

**HHDW Health Indicator Name:**

- SEXORIENT4 (Sexual Orientation)
- SEXORIENTGEND (Sexual Orientation by Sex)

Source	Sexual Orientation	Sexual Orientation by Sex	
		If Male	If Female
Heterosexual (straight)	Straight	Straight	Straight
Gay or lesbian	Gay or lesbian	Gay or bisexual	Lesbian or bisexual
Bisexual	Bisexual		
Not sure	Not sure	Removed from the denominator	Removed from the denominator

## YTS Transgender 2017-2019

**Survey Variable Name(s):** HIR5

**Survey Text:** “Some people describe themselves as transgender when their sex at birth does not match the way they think or feel about their gender. Are you transgender?”

**HHDW Health Indicator Name:**

- TRANSGENDER (Transgender)

Source	Transgender
No, I am not transgender	No
Yes, I am transgender	Yes
I am not sure if I am transgender	Not sure
I do not know what this question is asking	Removed from the denominator

## YTS Sexual or Gender Minority 2017-2019

This indicator is based on the responses to the sexual orientation and transgender questions combined.

**HHDW Health Indicator Name:**

- SEXGENMINORITY (Sexual or Gender Minority)

Source	Sexual or Gender Minority
Yes, I am transgender	Yes
I am not sure if I am transgender	Yes
<i>OR IF</i>	
Gay or lesbian	Yes
Bisexual	Yes
Not sure	Yes
Straight and not transgender	No

## Vital Statistics

No sexual or gender minority data collected.