LBQ WOMEN: RESEARCH AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS
Methods Note

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No one data source with information about LBQ women and girls covers the breadth of topics addressed in this report. Therefore, we used multiple data sources to provide information about the demographics, experiences of stigma and discrimination, economic insecurity, health, system involvement, and resilience of LBQ women and girls in the United States. We list the data source under each table or chart in the report. The data sources include the following:

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2017-2019. The BRFSS is a national survey that provides nationally-representative estimates of health conditions, behaviors, and service usage among adults aged 18 or older in the U.S. It is funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and administered at the state level. Interviews are conducted over the phone using a random-digit-dialing method. Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) questions are part of an optional module that states can choose to include. In 2017, 27 states[1] included the SOGI module, in 2018, 29 states[2] and in 2019, 30 states[3] included the SOGI module in their BRFSS surveys. For more information on BRFSS, please see https://www.cdc.gov/brfss. In this report, most variables on mental and physical health status and behaviors, as well as socioeconomic status, among adults are from BRFSS.

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[1] 2017 BRFSS states with SOGI module: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

[2] 2018 BRFSS states with SOGI module: Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

[3] 2019 BRFSS states with SOGI module: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Generations (Baseline study, 2016-2017) and TransPop (2016-2018) Study. The Generations Study is a national probability study of three generations of non-transgender sexual minorities who came of age at different times that are important in LGBT modern history. The survey measures the health, stress, and wellbeing of LGBQ+ adults in the U.S. The Generations Study is a longitudinal study, surveying the same respondents across three years. Data were collected between 2016-2019 with measures about family formation and foster home experience being asked in the second year of the study and political involvement questions being added in the third year of the study. The TransPop Study is the first national probability study of transgender adults in the U.S. and includes a cisgender sample. Survey questions included measures of demographics, health, stress, and for respondents in the transgender-identified sample, questions about experiences unique to transgender adults. For transgender respondents, data were collected April-August 2016 and June 2017-December 2018. For cisgender respondents, data were collected in February 2018 and November-December 2018. For more information about the studies, please see www.generations-study.com and www.transpop.org. Measures on stressors, experiences with stigma, discrimination, and victimization, resilience, and other LGBTQ unique experiences are from the Generations and TransPop datasets.

Los Angeles Foster Youth Survey (LAFYS), 2014. LAFYS was a one-time telephone interview survey of 786 randomly selected youth between the ages 12-21 who were currently in the Los Angeles County foster care system. It is the first representative study of LGBTQ youth in the foster care system. Survey measures included questions about sexual orientation, wellbeing, and foster care experiences. Detailed information about LAFYS can be found https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/SGM-Youth-in-Foster-Care-Aug-2014.pdf. Experiences related to foster care system placement for LBQ girls are from the LAFYS dataset.

National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), 2017-2019. This is a nationally representative survey of women and men ages 15—49. The survey measured reproductive health, including infertility and use of contraception, family formation, and pregnancy and birth histories. Data are collected by in-person interview. NSFG is conducted by the CDC with support from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For more information about this dataset, please see https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/about_nsfg.htm. In this report, most variables about cisgender women's reproductive health are from this dataset and reported for survey respondents ages 18-49.

National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC-2), 2012. The NSYC-2 is part of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) National Prison Rape Statistics Program to collect data on the prevalence of sexual assault in juvenile facilities under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA). The NSYC-2 collected data on older and younger youth on demographics, sexual orientation, and history of any forced sexual contact. Data on youth girls' experiences in juvenile centers is from this data source. The data included here were partialy included in a published peer-reviewed article by the first author and colleagues: https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/sexual-minority-youth-custody/

National Inmate Survey (NIS-3), 2011-2012. This survey was also conducted under the BJS PREA act. It includes a probability sample of 106,532 U.S. inmates. Data was collected between February 2011-May 2012 using computer assigned personal interviewing mechanism. For more information on NIS-3 please see https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5227944/.

U.S. Transgender Survey (USTS), 2015. USTS is the largest survey conducted to assess the lives and experiences of transgender people in the U.S., which was conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality. To find out more about the U.S. Transgender Survey, visit http://www.ustranssurvey.org/reports. Analyses for this report were conducted with the standard survey weight applied. It measures health, healthcare access, experiences with

employment, education, housing, law enforcement, and public accommodation. In this report, USTS measures were used in the demographics section to describe characteristics of transgender identified adults by sexual orientation.

Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS), 2019. YRBSS is a CDC-managed national survey providing representative data on youth in grades 9-12 in U.S. public and private schools. The survey is conducted every two years and measures school-related experiences such as bullying, alcohol, drug, and tobacco use, sexual behaviors, and wellbeing through diet and activity. In 2019, 34 states included a question about sexual orientation in their YRBS; of these, 14 states also included a question about transgender status. For more information on YRBS, please see https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/overview.htm. Most measures provided about youth experiences in this report use the data from the YRBS.

The following table lists how the various data sources used in this report measured gender identity and sexual orientation. This table also shows how "LBQ women" and "LBQQ girls" categories were defined across data sources. For a full list of variables from each data source, see the Appendix tables.

DATA SOURCES AND DEFINITIONS			
DOMAIN	**QUESTION**	**RESPONSE OPTIONS**	**HOW WERE LBQ WOMEN/GIRLS DEFINED?**
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2017-2019			
Sex	Format 1 question: What is your sex?	Format 1 response (Do not read unless otherwise noted): 1 Male 2 Female Do not read: 7 Don't know/not sure 9 Refused	LBQ Women = Adults who identified as lesbian or gay, or bisexual AND Identified as transgender women (transgender male to female) OR Said "no" to identifying as transgender AND identified as female
	Format 2 question: What was your sex at birth? Was it male or female?	Format 2 response (Read): 1 Male 2 Female 7 Don't know/not sure 9 Refused	
Gender Identity	Do you consider yourself to be transgender?	1 Yes, Transgender, male-to-female 2 Yes, Transgender, female to male 3 Yes, Transgender, gender nonconforming 4 No 7 Don't know/not sure 9 Refused	
Sexual Orientation	Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself?	(If male) 1 = Gay 2 = Straight, that is not gay 3 = Bisexual 4 = Something else 7 = I don't the answer 9 = Refused (If female) 1 = Lesbian or Gay 2 = Straight, that is not gay 3 = Bisexual 4 = Something else 7 = I don't the answer 9 = Refused	

DATA SOURCES AND DEFINITIONS			
DOMAIN	QUESTION	RESPONSE OPTIONS	HOW WERE LBQ WOMEN/GIRLS DEFINED?
Generations/TransPop Studies, 2016-2017			
Sex	What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?	1 Female 2 Male	LBQ Women = Adults identified as lesbian, or bisexual, or queer, or same-gender loving or another non-heterosexual identity AND Reported assigned sex at birth as female and did not identify as transgender (included people who identified as both women and as non-binary/genderqueer OR Identified as women or transgender women (MTF) and were assigned male sex at birth
Gender Identity	If you had to choose only one of the following terms, which best describes your current gender identity?	1 Woman 2 Man 3 Transgender Woman/Male-to-Female (MTF) 4 Transgender Man / Female-to-Male (FTM) 5 Non-binary/Genderqueer	
Sexual Orientation	Which of the following best describes your current sexual orientation?	1 Straight/heterosexual 2 Lesbian 3 Bisexual 4 Queer 5 Same-gender loving 6 Other _____	
Los Angeles Foster Youth Survey, 2014			
Sex	What sex were you assigned at birth (what did the doctor put on your birth certificate?) (Check one)	1 Male 2 Female 3 Decline to answer	LBQQ Girls = Youth identified as gay or lesbian, bisexual, or not sure yet (Questioning) AND Reported assigned sex at birth as female and identified currently as a girl OR Identified as girl or transgender and were assigned male sex at birth
Gender Identity	When you think of how you see yourself now, which of the following terms best fits how you describe your gender? ?	1 Girl or young woman 2 Boy or young man 3 Trans or transgender 4 I am not sure yet; or 5 I don't know what this question means	
Sexual Orientation	Do you consider yourself to be	1 Straight or heterosexual; 2 Gay or lesbian; 3 Bisexual; 4 I am not sure yet; or 5 I don't know what this question means	

DATA SOURCES AND DEFINITIONS			
DOMAIN	QUESTION	RESPONSE OPTIONS	HOW WERE LBQ WOMEN/GIRLS DEFINED?
National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), 2017-2019			
Sex	Participants are identified as male or female during the initial screening interview at the first phase of the household sampling process: exact question is unknown	1 Male 2 Female	LBQ Women = Participants in the dataset listed for "female respondents" who identified as homosexual, gay, or lesbian, or bisexual
Gender Identity	Not asked		
Sexual Orientation	Do you think of yourself as...	1 Heterosexual or straight; 2 Homosexual, gay, or lesbian 3 Bisexual 4 Not ascertained 5 Refused 6 Don't know	
National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC-2), 2012			
Sex	Do you think of yourself as...	1 Male 2 Female 3 Something else 8 Refused 9 Don't know	LBQQ Girls = Youth identified as bisexual or mostly gay or totally gay AND Identified as female
Sexual Orientation	Which of these best fits how you think of yourself?	1 Totally straight (heterosexual) 2 Mostly straight but kind of attracted to people of your own sex 3 Bisexual—that is attracted to males and female equally 4 Mostly gay (homosexual) but kind of attracted to people of the opposite sex 5 Totally gay (homosexual)	
National Inmate Survey (NIS-3), 2011-2012			
Gender Identity	Are you male, female, or transgender?	1 Male 2 Female 3 Transgender	LBQ Women = Adults who identified as bisexual or homosexual/lesbian AND Identified as female Note: Serious data concerns with transgender data and not used for this study
Sexual Orientation	Do you consider yourself to be heterosexual or 'straight', bisexual, or homosexual or gay[or lesbian, for women]?	1 Heterosexual or 'straight' 2 Bisexual 3 Homosexual or gay [or lesbian for women]	

DATA SOURCES AND DEFINITIONS			
DOMAIN	QUESTION	RESPONSE OPTIONS	HOW WERE LBQ WOMEN/GIRLS DEFINED?
U.S. Transgender Survey (USTS), 2015			
Sex	What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?	1 Female 2 Male	LBQ Women = Adults who identified as any sexual orientation other than heterosexual or asexual exclusively AND Identified as women or trans women (MTF)
Gender Identity	If you had to choose only one of the following terms, which best describes your current gender identity? (Please choose only one answer)	1 Cross-dresser 2 Woman 3 Man 4 Trans women (MTF) 5 Trans man (FTM) 6 Non-binary/genderqueer	
Sexual Orientation	What best describes your current sexual orientation?	1 Asexual 2 Bisexual 3 Gay 4 Heterosexual/straight 5 Lesbian 6 Same-gender loving 7 Pansexual 8 Queer 9 A sexual orientation not listed above (please specify)_____	

DATA SOURCES AND DEFINITIONS			
DOMAIN	**QUESTION**	**RESPONSE OPTIONS**	**HOW WERE LBQ WOMEN/GIRLS DEFINED?**
Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS), 2019			
Sex	What is your sex?	A Female B Male	LBQQ Girls = Youth who identified as gay or lesbian, or bisexual, or "not sure" AND Identified as female Note: Specific gender identity was not collected on YRBS and so the LBQQ girls category includes youth who are transgender, cisgender, and nonbinary by default LGBQQ Trans Youth = Youth who identified as gay or lesbian, or bisexual, or "not sure" AND Identified as transgender or "not sure" about their gender identity Note: Specific gender identity that distinguished between trans girls and trans boys was not collected on YRBS and so the LGBQQ youth girls category includes youth who are trans binary boys and girls and nonbinary youth by default
Gender Identity	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?	A No, I am not transgender B Yes, I am transgender C I am not sure if I am transgender D I do not know what this question is asking	
Sexual Orientation	Which of the following best describes you?	A Heterosexual (straight) B Gay or lesbian C Bisexual D Not sure	

ANALYSIS

We provide estimates for LBQ women, heterosexual women, heterosexual men, and GBQ men (and the youth equivalents) for all measures where the data are available. Whenever possible, "men" and "women" categories are inclusive of cisgender and transgender respondents. Prevalences and means were estimated via marginal prediction, in which a regression model of the outcome is run, and the estimated outcome for a particular group is obtained by averaging the model-predicted outcomes when assuming everyone in the sample belongs to that group. Marginal predictions for most variables related to physical health and socioeconomic status were adjusted for age and survey wave when the sample included adult respondents. In the appendix tables, we also provide proportions, means, and 95% confidence intervals for all measures for these same groups, as well as data stratified by sexual identity (lesbian or gay and bisexual, queer, and pansexual) race/ethnicity (white women and women of color), and age (under age 50 and 50 and older) for LBQ women. We conducted linear, logistic, and ordinal logistic

regression analyses for continuous, binary, and ordinal outcome variables, respectively, to assess differences between LBQ women and each of heterosexual women, heterosexual men, and GBQ men when possible. Regression group comparisons were adjusted for age and survey wave for the same variables that used age to adjust the marginal predictions.

All analyses were weighted with sampling weights and incorporated the source survey's complex sampling design features as appropriate.

For variables from the Generations and TransPop datasets, we used 95% confidence intervals to assess differences between LBQ women and heterosexual men and women because the populations are in different datasets and not comparable using regression analysis.

POPULATION ESTIMATE

We multiplied the percentage of LBQ women calculated from BRFSS 2017-2019 with the 2019 population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau for adults aged 18 or above and for youth ages 13-17.