



# ADULT LGBT POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES

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FACT SHEET / JULY 2020

Table 1. Estimated number of LGBT adults in the US and by state

	% LGBT	LGBT (Total)	LGB (Total)	LGB (Cisgender)	LGB (Trans)	TRANSGENDER (Total)	TRANSGENDER (Straight/Other)	TRANSGENDER (LGB)
US	4.5%	11,343,000	10,338,000	9,946,000	392,000	1,397,150	1,005,000	392,000
Alabama	3.1%	117,000	101,000	95,000	6,000	22,500	16,000	6,000
Alaska	3.7%	21,000	19,000	18,000	1,000	2,700	2,000	1,000
Arizona	4.5%	242,000	220,000	212,000	9,000	30,550	22,000	9,000
Arkansas	3.3%	76,000	66,000	62,000	4,000	13,400	10,000	4,000
California	5.3%	1,615,000	1,458,000	1,397,000	61,000	218,400	157,000	61,000
Colorado	4.6%	200,000	185,000	179,000	6,000	20,850	15,000	6,000
Connecticut	3.9%	111,000	102,000	99,000	3,000	12,400	9,000	3,000
Delaware	4.5%	34,000	31,000	30,000	1,000	4,550	3,000	1,000
D.C.	9.8%	56,000	45,000	41,000	4,000	14,550	10,000	4,000
Florida	4.6%	772,000	700,000	672,000	28,000	100,300	72,000	28,000
Georgia	4.5%	356,000	316,000	301,000	16,000	55,650	40,000	16,000
Hawaii	4.6%	52,000	46,000	43,000	2,000	8,450	6,000	2,000
Idaho	2.8%	36,000	32,000	31,000	1,000	4,750	3,000	1,000
Illinois	4.3%	426,000	390,000	376,000	14,000	49,750	36,000	14,000
Indiana	4.5%	229,000	209,000	202,000	8,000	27,600	20,000	8,000
Iowa	3.6%	87,000	82,000	79,000	2,000	7,400	5,000	2,000
Kansas	3.3%	73,000	66,000	63,000	3,000	9,300	7,000	3,000
Kentucky	3.4%	117,000	104,000	99,000	5,000	17,700	13,000	5,000
Louisiana	3.9%	139,000	124,000	119,000	6,000	20,900	15,000	6,000

	% LGBT	LGBT (Total)	LGB (Total)	LGB (Cisgender)	LGB (Trans)	TRANSGENDER (Total)	TRANSGENDER (Straight/Other)	TRANSGENDER (LGB)
Maine	4.9%	53,000	49,000	48,000	2,000	5,350	4,000	2,000
Maryland	4.2%	198,000	182,000	175,000	6,000	22,300	16,000	6,000
Massachusetts	5.4%	296,000	275,000	267,000	8,000	29,900	22,000	8,000
Michigan	4.0%	311,000	288,000	279,000	9,000	32,900	24,000	9,000
Minnesota	4.1%	175,000	158,000	151,000	7,000	24,250	17,000	7,000
Mississippi	3.5%	79,000	70,000	66,000	4,000	13,650	10,000	4,000
Missouri	3.8%	180,000	162,000	155,000	7,000	25,050	18,000	7,000
Montana	2.9%	24,000	22,000	21,000	1,000	2,700	2,000	1,000
Nebraska	3.8%	55,000	51,000	49,000	2,000	5,400	4,000	2,000
Nevada	5.5%	127,000	118,000	114,000	4,000	12,700	9,000	4,000
New Hampshire	4.7%	51,000	48,000	46,000	1,000	4,500	3,000	1,000
New Jersey	4.1%	288,000	266,000	258,000	8,000	30,100	22,000	8,000
New Mexico	4.5%	72,000	64,000	60,000	3,000	11,750	8,000	3,000
New York	5.1%	800,000	744,000	722,000	22,000	78,600	57,000	22,000
North Carolina	4.0%	319,000	287,000	274,000	13,000	44,750	32,000	13,000
North Dakota	2.7%	16,000	14,000	14,000	<1,000	1,650	1,000	<1,000
Ohio	4.3%	389,000	361,000	349,000	11,000	39,950	29,000	11,000
Oklahoma	3.8%	113,000	100,000	95,000	5,000	18,350	13,000	5,000
Oregon	5.6%	183,000	169,000	163,000	6,000	19,750	14,000	6,000
Pennsylvania	4.1%	416,000	384,000	372,000	12,000	43,800	32,000	12,000
Rhode Island	4.5%	38,000	35,000	34,000	1,000	4,250	3,000	1,000
South Carolina	3.5%	137,000	122,000	116,000	6,000	21,000	15,000	6,000
South Dakota	3.0%	20,000	18,000	17,000	1,000	2,150	2,000	1,000
Tennessee	3.5%	182,000	160,000	151,000	9,000	31,200	22,000	9,000
Texas	4.1%	858,000	768,000	733,000	35,000	125,350	90,000	35,000
Utah	3.7%	80,000	75,000	73,000	2,000	7,200	5,000	2,000
Vermont	5.2%	26,000	24,000	23,000	1,000	3,000	2,000	1,000
Virginia	3.9%	257,000	233,000	223,000	10,000	34,500	25,000	10,000
Washington	5.2%	300,000	276,000	267,000	9,000	32,850	24,000	9,000
West Virginia	4.0%	58,000	53,000	52,000	2,000	6,100	4,000	2,000
Wisconsin	3.8%	171,000	158,000	152,000	5,000	19,150	14,000	5,000
Wyoming	3.3%	15,000	14,000	13,000	<1,000	1,400	1,000	<1,000

Note: Population estimates accompany the Williams Institute's [LGBT Demographic Data Interactive](#). Due to rounding, estimates for subgroups (i.e., LGB cisgender adults, LGB transgender adults) will not always add up to the total (i.e., all LGB adults). As detailed in the methodological notes below, % LGBT draws upon 2017 data for the US estimate and from 2015-2017 or 2012-2017 aggregated data for state estimates. This means that the sum of all state estimates will not equal the total estimated number of US adults.

## METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

**% LGBT:** The estimated percentages of adults age 18 and older who identify as LGBT is derived from the Gallup Daily Tracking Survey. The Gallup Daily Tracking survey is an annual list-assisted random digit dial (70% cell phone, 30% landline) survey, conducted in English and Spanish, of approximately 350,000 U.S. adults ages 18 and up who reside in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

LGBT identity is based on response to the question, “Do you, personally, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender?” Respondents who answered “yes” were classified as LGBT. Respondents who answered “no” were classified as non-LGBT. Estimates derived from other measures of sexual orientation and gender identity will yield different results.

National estimates of the percentage of the population that is LGBT-identified use 2017 Gallup data, while state estimates use 2015-2017 data unless otherwise noted. Due to small overall population sizes, 2012-2017 data were aggregated for the following states: Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming. All percentages correspond to those reported in the Williams Institute’s [LGBT Demographic Data Interactive](#).

**LGBT (Total):** To estimate the number of LGBT adults age 18 and older, nationally and by state, the weighted percentage of LGBT Gallup Daily Tracking respondents was applied to 2017 population estimates produced by the US Census Bureau (based on projections from the 2010 Census) for adults ages 18 and up and rounded to the nearest 1,000. Census estimates were obtained via American FactFinder Table PEPSYASEX, “Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for the United States, States, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017.”

**Range:** To provide lower and upper bound estimates of the number of LGBT adults, nationally and by state, the lower and upper 95% confidence intervals for each weighted percentage were applied to the population estimates produced by the US Census Bureau as described above. 95% confidence interval = % LGBT + (1.96 \* % LGBTSTANDARD ERROR). Ranges reflect the natural imprecision (due to sampling error) in percentages and estimates that are based upon survey samples rather than a census count.

**Table 2. Upper and lower bound estimates of the number of LGBT adults, national and by state**

	# LGBT (Total)	RANGE
US	11,343,000	11,091,000, 11,595,000
Alabama	117,000	106,000, 132,000
Alaska	21,000	17,000, 24,000
Arizona	242,000	226,000, 264,000
Arkansas	76,000	64,000, 85,000
California	1,615,000	1,585,000, 1,676,000
Colorado	200,000	187,000, 217,000
Connecticut	111,000	100,000, 125,000
Delaware	34,000	29,000, 41,000
D.C.	56,000	49,000, 64,000
Florida	772,000	738,000, 822,000
Georgia	356,000	332,000, 380,000

	# LGBT (Total)	RANGE
Hawaii	52,000	44,000, 61,000
Idaho	36,000	31,000, 41,000
Illinois	426,000	396,000, 456,000
Indiana	229,000	209,000, 250,000
Iowa	87,000	77,000, 97,000
Kansas	73,000	64,000, 84,000
Kentucky	117,000	107,000, 131,000
Louisiana	139,000	125,000, 154,000
Maine	53,000	45,000, 61,000
Maryland	198,000	183,000, 216,000
Massachusetts	296,000	280,000, 318,000
Michigan	311,000	288,000, 335,000
Minnesota	175,000	163,000, 193,000
Mississippi	79,000	68,000, 91,000
Missouri	180,000	166,000, 199,000
Montana	24,000	21,000, 28,000
Nebraska	55,000	48,000, 62,000
Nevada	127,000	113,000, 141,000
New Hampshire	51,000	44,000, 57,000
New Jersey	288,000	267,000, 309,000
New Mexico	72,000	64,000, 82,000
New York	800,000	769,000, 832,000
North Carolina	319,000	295,000, 335,000
North Dakota	16,000	12,000, 19,000
Ohio	389,000	362,000, 416,000
Oklahoma	113,000	101,000, 128,000
Oregon	183,000	170,000, 199,000
Pennsylvania	416,000	385,000, 436,000
Rhode Island	38,000	33,000, 44,000
South Carolina	137,000	122,000, 153,000
South Dakota	20,000	16,000, 24,000
Tennessee	182,000	167,000, 203,000
Texas	858,000	817,000, 900,000
Utah	80,000	72,000, 89,000
Vermont	26,000	23,000, 30,000
Virginia	257,000	238,000, 271,000
Washington	300,000	282,000, 317,000
West Virginia	58,000	49,000, 68,000
Wisconsin	171,000	153,000, 185,000
Wyoming	15,000	12,000, 18,000

**LGB (Cisgender):** To estimate the number of LGB adults age 18 and older who are cisgender (i.e., do not identify as transgender), the estimated number of transgender adults (column 6) was subtracted from the estimated number of LGBT adults (column 2). Estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000. This estimate excludes all transgender adults—including those who identify as LGB, as well as those who do not.

**LGB (Trans):** To estimate the number of LGB adults age 18 and older who identify as transgender, the estimated number of transgender adults (column 6) was multiplied by the percentage of transgender adults estimated to identify as LGB.

The percentages of transgender adults who identify as LGB and do not identify as LGB are derived from unpublished analyses of the 2015-2017 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data conducted by the Williams Institute. See [www.cdc.gov/brfss](http://www.cdc.gov/brfss) for more information about the BRFSS and the optional sexual orientation and transgender status (“SOGI”) questions included on the BRFSS survey conducted by 34 states and the territory of Guam in 2015 or 2017.

BRFSS respondents who selected “yes, transgender, male-to-female”, “yes, transgender, female-to-male,” or “yes, transgender, gender-nonconforming” as responses to the question “Do you consider yourself to be transgender?” were categorized as transgender; those answering “no” were categorized as non-transgender (i.e., cisgender). Respondents who selected “lesbian or gay” or “bisexual” were categorized as LGB in response to the question “Do you consider yourself to be..?” Respondents who selected “straight” or who told the interviewer “other” were categorized as straight/other.

In the pooled 2015-2017 BRFSS data, 28.1% of transgender BRFSS respondents, identified as “lesbian or gay” (9.9%) or “bisexual” (18.1%), while 72.0% selected “straight” (64.9%) or said “other” (7.1%) as their sexual orientation. Due to rounding, percentages may not total to 100%.

**Transgender (Total):** The estimated percentage and number (rounded to the nearest 50) of adults ages 18 and older who identify as transgender are reported in: Flores, A. R., Herman, J. L., Gates, G. J., & Brown, T. N. T. (2016). [How Many Adults Identify as Transgender in the United States?](#) Los Angeles: Williams Institute.

**Transgender (Straight/Other):** To estimate the number of transgender adults who do not identify as LGB, the estimated number of transgender adults reported in Flores et al. (2016) was multiplied by the estimated percentage of transgender adults who did not identify as LGB (i.e., identified as “straight” or “other”) in unpublished analyses of 2015-2017 BRFSS data (column 5).

**Transgender (LGB):** See LGB (Trans) above, which details calculations used to determine the estimated number of adults who identify as both LGB and transgender.

## SUGGESTED CITATION

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