

LGBT ADULTS IN LARGE US METROPOLITAN AREAS

AUTHORS:
Kerith J. Conron
Winston Luhur
Shoshana K. Goldberg

BRIEF / MARCH 2021

Table 1. Estimated number of US LGBT adults in large metropolitan statistical areas (MSA)

STATE	MSA ABBREVIATED NAME	% LGBT	# LGBT (Total)	RANGE
Arizona	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	4.3%	146,000	135,000, 158,000
	Tucson, AZ	4.7%	37,000	33,000, 43,000
California	Los Angeles, CA	5.1%	523,000	499,000, 548,000
	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	4.0%	133,000	122,000, 145,000
	Sacramento, CA	4.4%	77,000	69,000, 85,000
	San Diego, CA	4.5%	115,000	105,000, 126,000
	San Francisco/Bay Area, CA	6.7%	247,000	232,000, 262,000
	San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	3.8%	58,000	51,000, 67,000
	Denver, CO	4.8%	103,000	95,000, 112,000
Connecticut	Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	4.6%	44,000	38,000, 51,000
District of Columbia	Washington, DC (DC-MD-VA)	4.5%	209,000	197,000, 222,000
Florida	Miami, FL	4.5%	214,000	199,000, 230,000
	Jacksonville, FL	4.2%	47,000	41,000, 54,000
	Orlando, FL	5.0%	93,000	84,000, 103,000
	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	4.8%	113,000	104,000, 123,000
Georgia	Atlanta, GA	4.6%	194,000	182,000, 207,000
Illinois	Chicago, IL (IL-IN-WI)	4.1%	298,000	280,000, 316,000
Indiana	Indianapolis, IN	4.6%	68,000	61,000, 76,000
Kentucky	Louisville, KY (KY-IN)	4.2%	42,000	36,000, 48,000
Louisiana	New Orleans, LA	4.7%	46,000	40,000, 53,000

STATE	MSA ABBREVIATED NAME	% LGBT	# LGBT (Total)	RANGE
Maryland	Baltimore, MD	4.1%	89,000	81,000, 98,000
Massachusetts	Worcester, MA (MA-CT)	4.5%	33,000	28,000, 39,000
	Boston, MA (MA-NH)	4.9%	186,000	174,000, 198,000
Michigan	Detroit, MI	3.9%	131,000	119,000, 143,000
Minnesota	Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN (MN-WI)	4.2%	112,000	103,000, 121,000
Missouri	St. Louis, MO (MO-IL)	3.7%	79,000	71,000, 88,000
	Kansas City, MO (MO-KS)	3.8%	60,000	53,000, 67,000
Nebraska	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE (NE-IA)	3.4%	23,000	20,000, 27,000
Nevada	Las Vegas, NV	5.1%	82,000	73,000, 92,000
New Mexico	Albuquerque, NM	4.4%	31,000	27,000, 36,000
New York	Albany, NY	4.0%	28,000	24,000, 33,000
	Buffalo, NY	4.1%	37,000	32,000, 42,000
	Rochester, NY	4.3%	37,000	32,000, 43,000
	New York, NY (NY-NJ-PA)	4.5%	706,000	681,000, 733,000
North Carolina	Raleigh, NC	3.3%	32,000	27,000, 37,000
	Charlotte, NC (NC-SC)	4.0%	74,000	66,000, 83,000
Ohio	Cleveland, OH	3.8%	62,000	54,000, 70,000
	Columbus, OH	4.4%	67,000	60,000, 76,000
	Cincinnati, OH (OH-KY-IN)	3.6%	60,000	53,000, 67,000
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City, OK	3.8%	39,000	34,000, 45,000
	Tulsa, OK	4.1%	30,000	26,000, 35,000
Oregon	Portland, OR (OR-WA)	6.0%	112,000	104,000, 121,000
Pennsylvania	Pittsburgh, PA	3.3%	63,000	57,000, 70,000
	Philadelphia, PA (PA-NJ-DE-MD)	4.2%	198,000	185,000, 212,000
Rhode Island	Providence, RI (RI-MA)	4.5%	58,000	51,000, 65,000
Tennessee	Nashville, TN	3.7%	52,000	46,000, 59,000
Texas	Austin-Round Rock, TX	5.9%	90,000	82,000, 99,000
	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	4.0%	211,000	197,000, 226,000
	Houston, TX	3.5%	169,000	156,000, 183,000
	San Antonio, TX	4.4%	78,000	70,000, 88,000
Utah	Salt Lake City, UT	4.7%	39,000	35,000, 45,000
Virginia	Richmond, VA	4.1%	40,000	35,000, 47,000
	Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA	4.1%	55,000	48,000, 62,000
Washington	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	5.2%	152,000	141,000, 163,000
Wisconsin	Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	3.5%	42,000	37,000, 48,000

Note: Population estimates accompany the Williams Institute's MSA series.

Top 10 metropolitan areas in the US by LGBT population

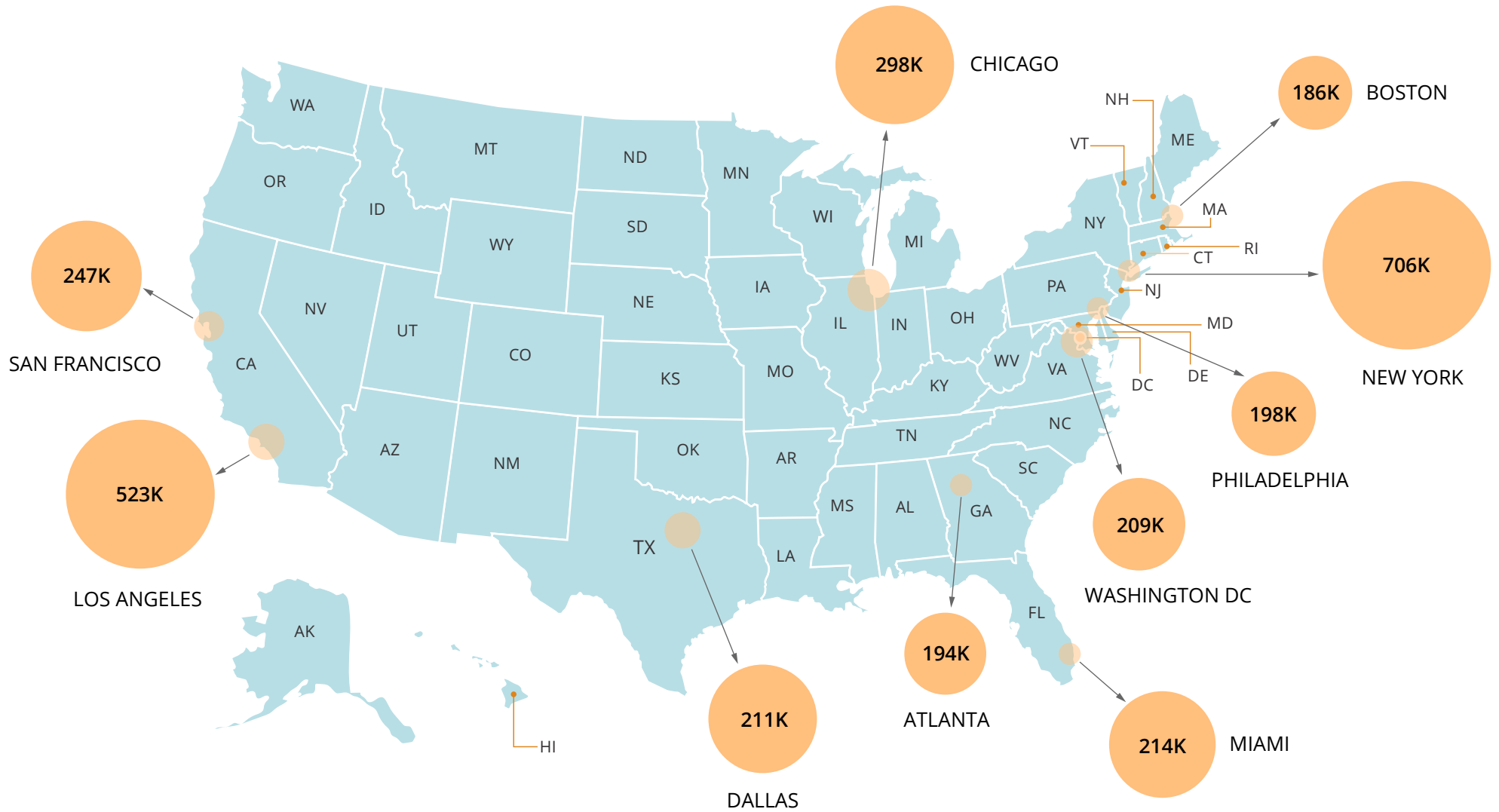


Table 2. Metropolitan areas ranked by LGBT population

RANK by LGBT #	MSA FULL NAME	MSA ABBREVIATED NAME	# LGBT (Total)	RANGE	% LGBT (Total)
1	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area	New York, NY (NY-NJ-PA)	706,000	681,000, 733,000	4.5%
2	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area	Los Angeles, CA	523,000	499,000, 548,000	5.1%
3	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area	Chicago, IL (IL-IN-WI)	298,000	280,000, 316,000	4.1%
4	San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA Metro Area	San Francisco/Bay Area, CA	247,000	232,000, 262,000	6.7%
5	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area	Miami, FL	214,000	199,000, 230,000	4.5%
6	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	211,000	197,000, 226,000	4.0%
7	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	Washington, DC (DC-MD-VA)	209,000	197,000, 222,000	4.5%
8	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area	Philadelphia, PA (PA-NJ-DE-MD)	198,000	185,000, 212,000	4.2%
9	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Alpharetta, GA Metro Area	Atlanta, GA	194,000	182,000, 207,000	4.6%
10	Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area	Boston, MA (MA-NH)	186,000	174,000, 198,000	4.9%
11	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	Houston, TX	169,000	156,000, 183,000	3.5%
12	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	152,000	141,000, 163,000	5.2%
13	Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ Metro Area	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	146,000	135,000, 158,000	4.3%
14	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	133,000	122,000, 145,000	4.0%
15	Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	Detroit, MI	131,000	119,000, 143,000	3.9%
16	San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad, CA Metro Area	San Diego, CA	115,000	105,000, 126,000	4.5%
17	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	113,000	104,000, 123,000	4.8%
18	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area	Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN (MN-WI)	112,000	103,000, 121,000	4.2%
19	Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area	Portland, OR (OR-WA)	112,000	104,000, 121,000	6.0%
20	Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area	Denver, CO	103,000	95,000, 112,000	4.8%
21	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area	Orlando, FL	93,000	84,000, 103,000	5.0%
22	Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Metro Area	Baltimore, MD	89,000	81,000, 98,000	4.1%
23	St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area	St. Louis, MO (MO-IL)	79,000	71,000, 88,000	3.7%
24	San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	San Antonio, TX	78,000	70,000, 88,000	4.4%
25	Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area	Charlotte, NC (NC-SC)	74,000	66,000, 83,000	4.0%

Top 10 metropolitan areas in the US by LGBT percentage

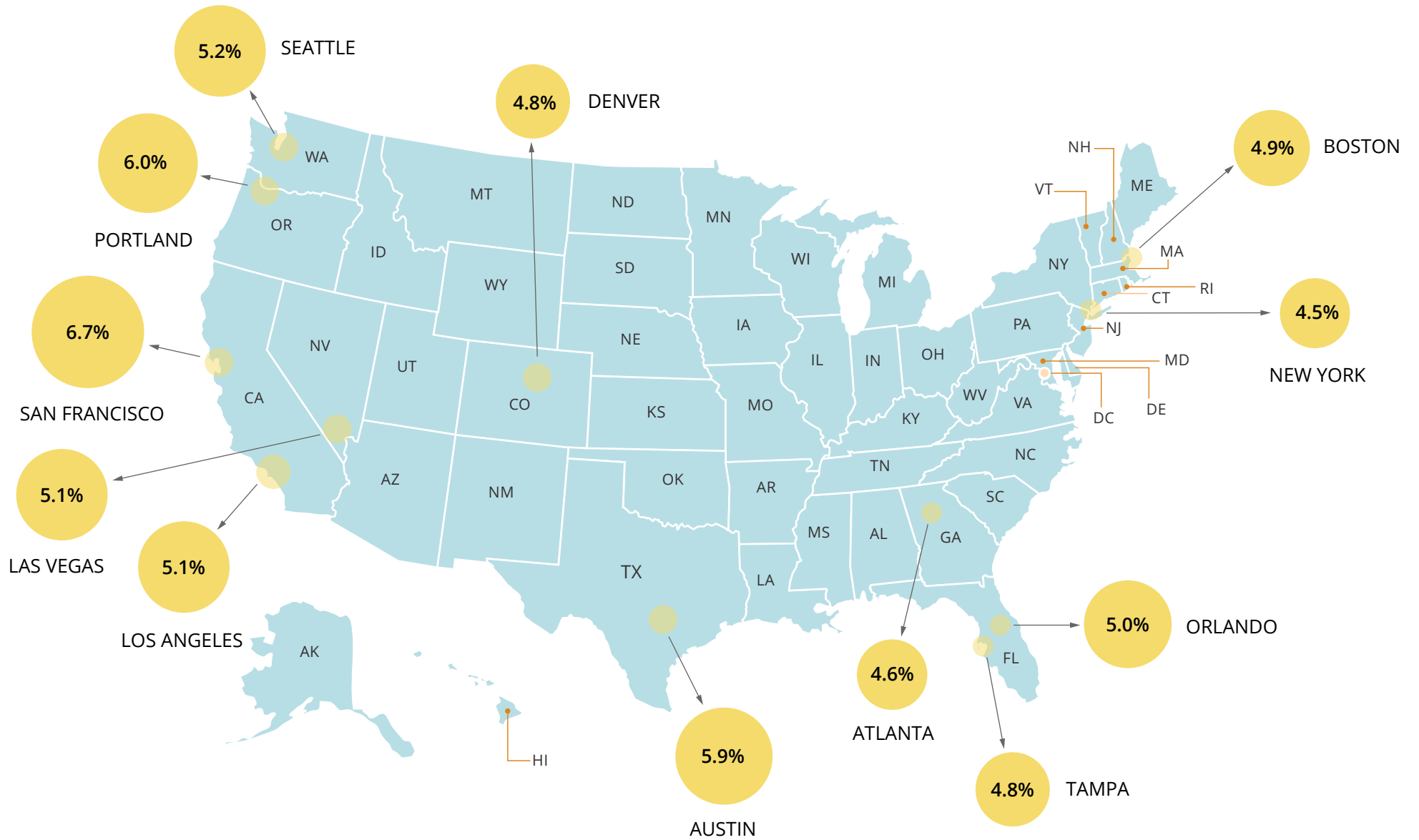


Table 3. Metropolitan areas ranked by LGBT percentage

RANK by LGBT %	MSA FULL NAME	MSA ABBREVIATED NAME	# LGBT (Total)	RANGE	% LGBT (Total)
1	San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA Metro Area	San Francisco/Bay Area, CA	247,000	232,000, 262,000	6.7%
2	Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area	Portland, OR (OR-WA)	112,000	104,000, 121,000	6.0%
3	Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, TX Metro Area	Austin-Round Rock, TX	90,000	82,000, 99,000	5.9%
4	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	152,000	141,000, 163,000	5.2%
5	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area	Los Angeles, CA	523,000	499,000, 548,000	5.1%
6	Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV Metro Area	Las Vegas, NV	82,000	73,000, 92,000	5.1%
7	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area	Orlando, FL	93,000	84,000, 103,000	5.0%
8	Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area	Boston, MA (MA-NH)	186,000	174,000, 198,000	4.9%
9	Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area	Denver, CO	103,000	95,000, 112,000	4.8%
10	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	113,000	104,000, 123,000	4.8%
11	Tucson, AZ Metro Area	Tucson, AZ	37,000	33,000, 43,000	4.7%
12	New Orleans-Metairie, LA Metro Area	New Orleans, LA	46,000	40,000, 53,000	4.7%
13	Salt Lake City, UT Metro Area	Salt Lake City, UT	39,000	35,000, 45,000	4.7%
14	Hartford-East Hartford-Middletown, CT Metro Area	Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	44,000	38,000, 51,000	4.6%
15	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Alpharetta, GA Metro Area	Atlanta, GA	194,000	182,000, 207,000	4.6%
16	Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson, IN Metro Area	Indianapolis, IN	68,000	61,000, 76,000	4.6%
17	San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad, CA Metro Area	San Diego, CA	115,000	105,000, 126,000	4.5%
18	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	Washington, DC (DC-MD-VA)	209,000	197,000, 222,000	4.5%
19	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area	Miami, FL	214,000	199,000, 230,000	4.5%
20	Worcester, MA-CT Metro Area	Worcester, MA (MA-CT)	33,000	28,000, 39,000	4.5%
21	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area	New York, NY (NY-NJ-PA)	706,000	681,000, 733,000	4.5%
22	Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metro Area	Providence, RI (RI-MA)	58,000	51,000, 65,000	4.5%
23	Sacramento-Roseville-Folsom, CA Metro Area	Sacramento, CA	77,000	69,000, 85,000	4.4%
24	Albuquerque, NM Metro Area	Albuquerque, NM	31,000	27,000, 36,000	4.4%
25	Columbus, OH Metro Area	Columbus, OH	67,000	60,000, 76,000	4.4%

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 may yield different results.

Aggregated data collected from June 1, 2012 (when the LGBT identity question was first added to the Gallup survey) through December 31, 2017 were used to estimate the percentage of the population that is LGBT-identified in select US Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA). MSAs are defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as “at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties.” MSAs were last delineated July 15, 2015 in OMB Bulletin No. 15-01; MSAs that changed boundaries since were aggregated together (e.g. the “Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA” MSA from 2012-2013 was aggregated with the “Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell” 2014-2017 MSA into a single Atlanta area MSA). Within Gallup, respondents’ MSA name and code are pre-populated based on their ZIP code. All percentages are weighted using Gallup post-stratification MSA sampling weights that account for differences in 2017 survey sampling fractions, allowing estimates to be representative of the full MSA population.

MSA were selected for the MSA brief series if the aggregated Gallup sample included at least 200 LGBT-identified respondents – a sample size large enough to produce stable prevalence estimates. In general, the selected MSA are also the largest MSA in the US.

LGBT (Total): To estimate the number of LGBT adults age 18 and older by MSA, the weighted percentage of LGBT Gallup Daily Tracking respondents was applied to 2017 MSA population estimates produced by the US Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) for adults ages 18 and up and then rounded to the nearest 1,000. ACS population estimates by MSA were obtained via the data explorer on the Census Bureau website, in table DP05 “ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates” column 0021E “SEX AND AGE > Total population > 18 years and over” under 2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles.

Range: To provide lower and upper bound estimates of the number of LGBT adults by MSA, 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.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Conron, K.J., Lohur, W., & Goldberg, S.K. Estimated number of US LGBT adults in Large Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA). (December 2020). The Williams Institute, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This fact sheet builds on a rich history of population estimation by the Williams Institute, led by Dr. Gary Gates, former Research Director.

ABOUT THE WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

The Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law advances law and public policy through rigorous, independent research and scholarship, and disseminates its work through a variety of education programs and media to judges, legislators, lawyers, other policymakers and the public. These studies can be accessed at the Williams Institute website.

For more information

The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law
Box 951476
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1476
Phone: (310) 267-4382
Email: williamsinstitute@law.ucla.edu
Website: <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu>