

Beyond 'LGB'

Sexual Orientation Identity Diversity Among Sexual and Gender Minority Youth in the U.S.



Background

In 2022 the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) recommended the following item for the routine measurement of sexual orientation identity; however, the response categories may not sufficiently represent the diverse identities among sexual and gender minority youth (SGMY).

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RECOMMENDATION 2: The panel recommends that National Institutes of Health use the following question for assessing sexual orientation identity:

Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself? [Select ONE]:

- ☐ Lesbian or gay
- ☐ Straight, that is, not gay or lesbian
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ [If respondent is AI/AN]: Two-Spirit
- ☐ I use a different term [free-text]
- ☐ (Don't know)
- ☐ (Prefer not to answer)

Hypothesis

H1: A significant percentage (>25%) of SGMY will not be captured by the NASEM sexual orientation identities (SOIs)
H2: Transgender/Gender non-binary youth will be less likely to be captured by NASEM SOIs compared to cisgender youth.

Research Questions

RQ1: What are the most reported SOIs not captured by the NASEM SOI categories?

RQ2: What demographic groups are mostly likely to be underrepresented by the NASEM SOI categories?

Many sexual and gender minority youth are not adequately represented by the NASEM sexual identity response categories supporting

Results

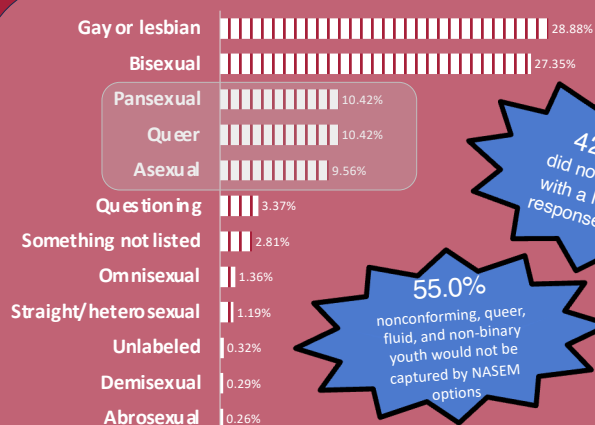
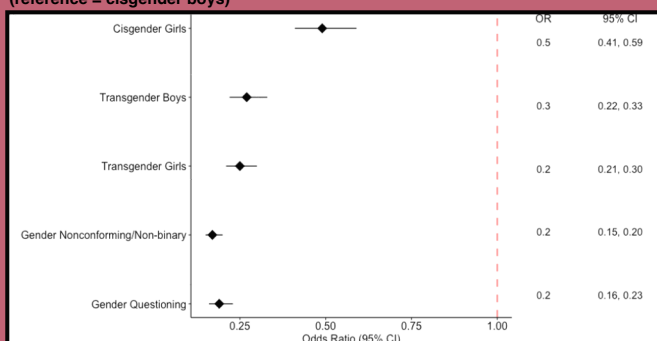


Figure 1. Responses to sexual identity item with expanded response categories (N = 10,098)

Table 1. Adjusted odds of identifying with a NASEM response category (reference = cisgender boys)



About the Study

Data were from the 2022 LGBT National Teen Survey (N=10,028). All respondents identified as SGMY, were aged 13-18, and resided in the U.S. Community-based recruitment was done with the assistance of the Human Rights Campaign. SOI was coded as a NASEM response option (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Straight) vs. non-NASEM identity (all other SOIs). Multiple logistic regression was used to test H2 and RQ2.



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Conclusion

- ✓ H1: >25% were not captured by NASEM sexual orientation identity categories
- ✓ H2: Transgender/Gender non-binary youth were less likely than cisgender boys to be captured by NASEM sexual orientation identity categories
- ✓ RQ1: The most common non-NASEM SOIs were (1) pansexual, (2) queer, and (3) asexual.
- ✓ RQ2: Non-Hispanic (independent of race) and younger SGMY were also underrepresented by NASEM response options.

References

1. LGBTQ+ Youth Report, HRC Foundation, August 2023
2. Ryan J. Watson, Antonia E. Caba, Samantha E. Lawrence, Benton M. Renley, Peter S. McCauley, Christopher W. Wheldon, Lisa A. Eaton, Stephen T. Russell, and Marla E. Eisenberg. Examining Mental Health and Bullying Concerns at the Intersection of Sexuality, Gender, Race, and Ethnicity Among a National Sample of Sexual and Gender Diverse Youth. *LGBT Health*.

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