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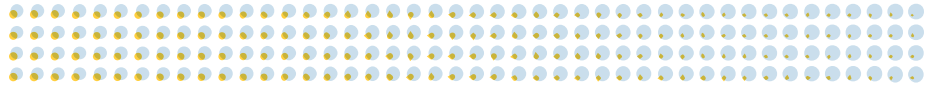
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LGBT YOUTH POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES

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FACT SHEET / SEPTEMBER 2020

Table 1. Estimated number of LGBT youth ages 13-17 in the US and by state

| | LGBT (Total) | LGB (Total) | LGB (Cisgender) | LGB (Trans) | TRANSGENDER (Total) | TRANSGENDER (Straight/Other) | TRANSGENDER (LGB) |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| US | 1,994,000* | 1,924,000 | 1,844,000 | 80,000 | 149,750 | 69,000 | 80,000 |
| Alabama | 30,000 | 29,000 | 28,000 | 1,300 | 2,500 | 1,200 | 1,300 |
| Alaska | 5,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 200 | 350 | 200 | 200 |
| Arizona | 44,000 | 43,000 | 41,000 | 2,000 | 3,650 | 1,700 | 2,000 |
| Arkansas | 19,000 | 18,000 | 17,000 | 800 | 1,450 | 700 | 800 |
| California | 244,000 | 234,000 | 222,000 | 11,900 | 22,200 | 10,300 | 11,900 |
| Colorado | 34,000 | 33,000 | 32,000 | 1,000 | 1,800 | 800 | 1,000 |
| Connecticut | 22,000 | 21,000 | 21,000 | 500 | 950 | 400 | 500 |
| Delaware | 6,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 200 | 400 | 200 | 200 |
| D.C. | 3,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 200 | 300 | 100 | 200 |
| Florida | 114,000 | 110,000 | 105,000 | 4,900 | 9,050 | 4,200 | 4,900 |
| Georgia | 69,000 | 67,000 | 64,000 | 2,700 | 4,950 | 2,300 | 2,700 |
| Hawaii | 8,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 500 | 850 | 400 | 500 |
| Idaho | 12,000 | 12,000 | 11,000 | 400 | 700 | 300 | 400 |
| Illinois | 80,000 | 77,000 | 74,000 | 3,100 | 5,700 | 2,600 | 3,100 |
| Indiana | 43,000 | 42,000 | 40,000 | 1,800 | 3,350 | 1,600 | 1,800 |
| Iowa | 19,000 | 19,000 | 18,000 | 400 | 800 | 400 | 400 |
| Kansas | 19,000 | 18,000 | 18,000 | 700 | 1,300 | 600 | 700 |
| Kentucky | 27,000 | 26,000 | 25,000 | 1,000 | 1,850 | 900 | 1,000 |
| Louisiana | 29,000 | 28,000 | 27,000 | 1,300 | 2,350 | 1,100 | 1,300 |

| | LGBT (Total) | LGB (Total) | LGB (Cisgender) | LGB (Trans) | TRANSGENDER (Total) | TRANSGENDER (Straight/Other) | TRANSGENDER (LGB) |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Maine | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 200 | 450 | 200 | 200 |
| Maryland | 36,000 | 35,000 | 34,000 | 1,200 | 2,300 | 1,100 | 1,200 |
| Massachusetts | 39,000 | 38,000 | 36,000 | 1,200 | 2,150 | 1,000 | 1,200 |
| Michigan | 61,000 | 59,000 | 57,000 | 2,100 | 3,950 | 1,800 | 2,100 |
| Minnesota | 35,000 | 33,000 | 32,000 | 1,600 | 3,000 | 1,400 | 1,600 |
| Mississippi | 19,000 | 19,000 | 18,000 | 900 | 1,600 | 700 | 900 |
| Missouri | 37,000 | 36,000 | 35,000 | 1,300 | 2,500 | 1,200 | 1,300 |
| Montana | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 200 | 300 | 100 | 200 |
| Nebraska | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 400 | 750 | 300 | 400 |
| Nevada | 18,000 | 18,000 | 17,000 | 700 | 1,300 | 600 | 700 |
| New Hampshire | 8,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 200 | 450 | 200 | 200 |
| New Jersey | 55,000 | 53,000 | 51,000 | 2,100 | 3,850 | 1,800 | 2,100 |
| New Mexico | 13,000 | 13,000 | 12,000 | 600 | 1,200 | 600 | 600 |
| New York | 113,000 | 108,000 | 103,000 | 5,200 | 9,750 | 4,500 | 5,200 |
| North Carolina | 63,000 | 61,000 | 58,000 | 2,500 | 4,650 | 2,200 | 2,500 |
| North Dakota | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 100 | 200 | 100 | 100 |
| Ohio | 72,000 | 70,000 | 66,000 | 3,200 | 5,900 | 2,700 | 3,200 |
| Oklahoma | 25,000 | 24,000 | 23,000 | 1,100 | 2,100 | 1,000 | 1,100 |
| Oregon | 23,000 | 23,000 | 22,000 | 900 | 1,700 | 800 | 900 |
| Pennsylvania | 74,000 | 71,000 | 69,000 | 2,800 | 5,250 | 2,400 | 2,800 |
| Rhode Island | 6,000 | 6,000 | 5,000 | 200 | 400 | 200 | 200 |
| South Carolina | 30,000 | 29,000 | 28,000 | 1,200 | 2,150 | 1,000 | 1,200 |
| South Dakota | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 200 | 300 | 100 | 200 |
| Tennessee | 41,000 | 39,000 | 38,000 | 1,700 | 3,150 | 1,500 | 1,700 |
| Texas | 195,000 | 188,000 | 181,000 | 7,400 | 13,800 | 6,400 | 7,400 |
| Utah | 24,000 | 23,000 | 23,000 | 800 | 1,400 | 600 | 800 |
| Vermont | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 100 | 250 | 100 | 100 |
| Virginia | 50,000 | 49,000 | 46,000 | 2,200 | 4,150 | 1,900 | 2,200 |
| Washington | 43,000 | 41,000 | 40,000 | 1,700 | 3,100 | 1,400 | 1,700 |
| West Virginia | 10,000 | 10,000 | 9,000 | 600 | 1,150 | 500 | 600 |
| Wisconsin | 35,000 | 34,000 | 33,000 | 1,000 | 1,850 | 900 | 1,000 |
| Wyoming | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 100 | 200 | 100 | 100 |

* This estimate represents 9.5% of the population of youth ages 13-17 in the United States.

Note: Due to rounding, estimates for subgroups (i.e., LGB cisgender, LGB transgender) will not always add up to the total (i.e., all LGB youth). Similarly, due to rounding, the sum of state estimates do not equal the total estimated number of LGBT youth in the US.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

To estimate the number of youth ages 13-17 that identify as LGBT, we used information from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey, estimates from the Williams Institute reported in [Age of Individuals Who Identify as Transgender](#) in the United States, and 2017 population estimates produced by the US Census Bureau. Estimates derived from different measures of sexual orientation and gender identity will yield different results.

LGBT (Total): To estimate the number of LGBT youth ages 13-17 (column 1), nationally and by state, the estimated number of LGB youth ages 13-17 (column 2) and transgender youth ages 13-17 who are straight/other (column 7) was added together. Estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000. This approach avoids double-counting transgender youth who are not LGB-identified in estimates of the total number of LGBT-identified youth. Estimates were rounded to the nearest 1,000.

% LGB: To estimate the percentage of youth age 13-17 who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) (9.2%; 95% confidence interval 8.3%, 10.1%), in response to the question, "which of the following best describes you?," we averaged estimates from the national 2015 (8.0%) and 2017 (10.4%) Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBS), a nationally representative sample of school-enrolled high school students in grades 9-12. See Kahn et al. 2016 and 2018 at <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/ss/pdfs/ss6509.pdf> and <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/2017/ss6708.pdf>.

We used national percentages versus state-specific percentages because state-level information about youth sexuality is not uniformly available. Some states do not include a sexual orientation identity question on their YRBS. In addition, state specific LGB percentages, where available, often have wide confidence intervals due to small sample sizes in many states (e.g., in 2017, Michigan n=1,626, South Carolina n=1,501, Texas n=2,113), and thus, are somewhat unstable. In contrast, the national YRBS sample size is large (approximately 15,000 students) which makes the percentage LGB estimate is more stable. The US percentage LGB is similar to the median (9.6%, 10.7%) percentage LGB across the 25-30 states that have collected sexual orientation identity data in 2015 or 2017, respectively. See <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/ss/pdfs/ss6509.pdf> and <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/2017/ss6708.pdf>.

LGB (Total): To estimate the number of LGB youth ages 13-17, nationally and by state, the estimated percentage of high school youth who identify as LGB (column 2) was applied to 2017 population estimates produced by the US Census Bureau (based on projections from the 2010 Census) for youth ages 13-17 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."

LGB range: To provide lower and upper bound estimates of the number of LGB youth, nationally and by state, the lower and upper 95% confidence intervals for the weighted percentage LGB was applied to the population estimates produced by the US Census Bureau as described above. 95% confidence interval = % LGB \pm (1.96 * % LGB_{STANDARD 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.

LGB (Cisgender): To estimate the number of LGB youth ages 13-17 who are cisgender (i.e., do not identify as transgender), the estimated number of transgender youth ages 13-17 who identify as LGB (column 8) was subtracted from the estimated number of LGB youth ages 13-17 (column 2). Estimates were rounded to the nearest 1,000. This estimate excludes all transgender youth—including those who identify as LGB.

Table 2. Upper and lower bound estimates of the number of LGB youth, national and by state

| | LGB (Total) | RANGE |
|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| US | 1,924,000 | 1,736,000, 2,113,000 |
| Alabama | 29,000 | 26,000, 32,000 |
| Alaska | 4,000 | 4,000, 5,000 |
| Arizona | 43,000 | 38,000, 47,000 |
| Arkansas | 18,000 | 16,000, 20,000 |
| California | 234,000 | 211,000, 256,000 |
| Colorado | 33,000 | 30,000, 36,000 |
| Connecticut | 21,000 | 19,000, 23,000 |
| Delaware | 5,000 | 5,000, 6,000 |
| D.C. | 2,000 | 2,000, 3,000 |
| Florida | 110,000 | 99,000, 121,000 |
| Georgia | 67,000 | 60,000, 73,000 |
| Hawaii | 7,000 | 7,000, 8,000 |
| Idaho | 12,000 | 10,000, 13,000 |
| Illinois | 77,000 | 70,000, 85,000 |
| Indiana | 42,000 | 38,000, 46,000 |
| Iowa | 19,000 | 17,000, 21,000 |
| Kansas | 18,000 | 17,000, 20,000 |
| Kentucky | 26,000 | 24,000, 29,000 |
| Louisiana | 28,000 | 25,000, 31,000 |
| Maine | 7,000 | 6,000, 8,000 |
| Maryland | 35,000 | 32,000, 38,000 |
| Massachusetts | 38,000 | 34,000, 41,000 |
| Michigan | 59,000 | 54,000, 65,000 |
| Minnesota | 33,000 | 30,000, 37,000 |
| Mississippi | 19,000 | 17,000, 21,000 |
| Missouri | 36,000 | 33,000, 40,000 |
| Montana | 6,000 | 5,000, 6,000 |
| Nebraska | 12,000 | 11,000, 13,000 |
| Nevada | 18,000 | 16,000, 19,000 |
| New Hampshire | 7,000 | 7,000, 8,000 |
| New Jersey | 53,000 | 48,000, 58,000 |
| New Mexico | 13,000 | 12,000, 14,000 |
| New York | 108,000 | 98,000, 119,000 |
| North Carolina | 61,000 | 55,000, 67,000 |
| North Dakota | 4,000 | 4,000, 4,000 |
| Ohio | 70,000 | 63,000, 76,000 |
| Oklahoma | 24,000 | 22,000, 27,000 |
| Oregon | 23,000 | 20,000, 25,000 |
| Pennsylvania | 71,000 | 64,000, 78,000 |
| Rhode Island | 6,000 | 5,000, 6,000 |
| South Carolina | 29,000 | 26,000, 32,000 |
| South Dakota | 5,000 | 5,000, 6,000 |

| | LGB (Total) | RANGE |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Tennessee | 39,000 | 36,000, 43,000 |
| Texas | 188,000 | 170,000, 207,000 |
| Utah | 23,000 | 21,000, 26,000 |
| Vermont | 3,000 | 3,000, 4,000 |
| Virginia | 49,000 | 44,000, 53,000 |
| Washington | 41,000 | 37,000, 45,000 |
| West Virginia | 10,000 | 9,000, 11,000 |
| Wisconsin | 34,000 | 31,000, 38,000 |
| Wyoming | 3,000 | 3,000, 4,000 |

LGB (Trans): To estimate the number of LGB youth who are transgender, the estimated number of transgender youth (column 6), was multiplied by the percentage of transgender youth estimated to identify as LGB (53.7%). The US estimate was rounded to the nearest 1,000; state estimates were rounded to the nearest 100.

The percentages of transgender youth ages 13-17 who identify as LGB and those who 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 for more information about the BRFSS; the optional sexual orientation and transgender status (SOGI) module was 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). Transgender respondents ages 18-24 (the youngest age group in the BRFSS sample) who selected “lesbian or gay” or “bisexual” in response to the question “Do you consider yourself to be...?” were categorized as LGB (53.7%). Respondents who selected “straight” or who told the interviewer “other” were categorized as straight/other (46.3%).

Transgender (Total): The estimated number of youth ages 13-17 who identify as transgender, nationally and by state, as reported in Herman et al., 2017, Age of Individuals Who Identify as Transgender in the United States. The estimated national percentage of youth ages 13-17 who identify as transgender is 0.73% (95% confidence interval; 0.54%, 1.00%); percentages by state can be found in tables 1 and A1 of the Herman et al. report.

Transgender (Straight/Other): To estimate the number of transgender youth ages 13-17 who do not identify as LGB, the estimated number of transgender youth ages 13-17 reported in Herman et al. (2017) (column 6) was multiplied by the estimated percentage of transgender youth ages 13-17 who did not identify as LGB (i.e., identified as “straight” or “other”) in unpublished analyses of 2015-2017 BRFSS data (46.3%). See # LGB (Trans) above for more details. For example, the estimated percentage of US youth who are transgender (0.73%) and identify as straight/ other (46.3% * 0.73%) is 0.34%. The US estimate was rounded to the nearest 1,000; state estimates were rounded to the nearest 100.

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

% LGBT Youth (US) (not shown in table): The estimated percentage of US youth who are LGB (9.2%) or transgender (straight/other) (0.34%) is 9.54%.

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