

Gender identity and sexual orientation differences by generation

Fewer younger Americans say they are only attracted to the opposite sex when compared to older cohorts

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, February 23, 2021

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between February 22-23, 2021. For this survey, a sample of 1,005 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire:

Full Annotated Questionnaire

1. How much, if anything, have you heard about the following...

At Least Heard Of Summary

	Total (N=1,005)	Gen Z (N=104)	Millennials (N=268)	Gen X (N=287)	Boomers + (N=346)
Asexuality	68%	77%	77%	63%	62%
Pansexuality	58%	82%	68%	56%	45%
Omnisexuality	34%	47%	44%	29%	25%

a. Pansexuality

	Total	Gen Z	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers +
A great deal	8%	13%	16%	6%	1%
A fair amount	15%	36%	21%	13%	6%
Not very much	16%	18%	17%	17%	15%
Heard of but know nothing about	19%	15%	14%	20%	24%
Never heard of	31%	9%	19%	30%	48%
Don't know	9%	6%	11%	11%	6%
Prefer not to say	2%	4%	3%	3%	1%
At least heard of (Net)	58%	82%	68%	56%	45%





b. Omnisexuality

	Total	Gen Z	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers +
A great deal	5%	6%	11%	3%	1%
A fair amount	7%	7%	12%	7%	3%
Not very much	12%	21%	12%	11%	11%
Heard of but know nothing about	9%	13%	9%	7%	11%
Never heard of	54%	40%	41%	58%	66%
Don't know	10%	10%	13%	11%	8%
Prefer not to say	2%	4%	2%	3%	1%
At least heard of (Net)	34%	47%	44%	29%	25%

c. Asexuality

	Total	Gen Z	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers +
A great deal	10%	19%	19%	7%	2%
A fair amount	19%	22%	29%	16%	12%
Not very much	20%	20%	13%	18%	27%
Heard of but know nothing about	19%	17%	16%	21%	21%
Never heard of	22%	10%	12%	25%	32%
Don't know	7%	9%	8%	8%	5%
Prefer not to say	3%	4%	3%	4%	1%
At least heard of (Net)	68%	77%	77%	63%	62%

2. How do you currently describe yourself?

	Total	Gen Z	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers +
Male	47%	51%	49%	45%	44%
Female	52%	45%	49%	54%	55%
Transgender	1%	2%	2%	0%	0%
In another way	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Prefer not to say	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%





3. Which, if any, of the following, best describes how you think of your sexual orientation?

	Total	Gen Z	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers +
Only attracted to the same sex	8%	7%	9%	10%	7%
Mostly attracted to the same sex	3%	7%	4%	3%	1%
Equally attracted to both sexes	6%	21%	7%	2%	3%
Mostly attracted to the opposite sex	8%	11%	13%	7%	4%
Only attracted to the opposite sex	72%	52%	60%	76%	84%
Don't know	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%
Prefer not to say	2%	1%	4%	1%	1%
Attracted to the same sex (Net)	12%	14%	14%	13%	7%
Attracted to the opposite sex (Net)	80%	63%	73%	83%	88%

4. And which, if any, of the following would you identify as?

	Total	Gen Z	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers +
Heterosexual	82%	54%	74%	90%	91%
Bisexual	6%	15%	8%	2%	4%
Gay	2%	3%	2%	3%	1%
Asexual	2%	9%	1%	1%	0%
Lesbian	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%
Pansexual	1%	3%	1%	0%	0%
Omnisexual	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%
Other	2%	5%	3%	1%	0%
Don't know	2%	4%	1%	2%	1%
Prefer not to say	3%	5%	6%	1%	1%





About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between February 22-23, 2021. For this survey, a sample of 1,005adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 104 Generation Z respondents, 268 millennial respondents, 287 Generation X respondents, and 346 baby boomer or older respondents.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see <u>link</u> for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see <u>link</u> for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2018 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,005, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-5.0 percentage points).

The poll has a credibility interval or plus or minus 11.0 percentage points for Generation Z respondents, plus or minus 6.8 percentage points for millennial respondents, plus or minus 6.6 percentage points for Generation X respondents, and plus or minus 6.0 percentage points for baby boomer or older respondents.

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