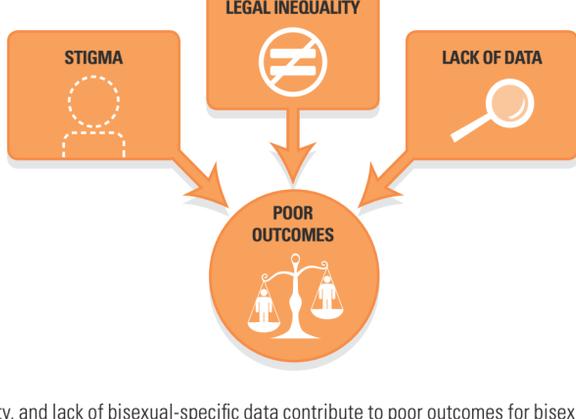


# SNAPSHOT: BISEXUAL IN AMERICA

an infographic presented by



Stigma, legal inequality, and lack of bisexual-specific data contribute to poor outcomes for bisexual people in the United States. This infographic explores these three factors and their impact on bisexual peoples' health, safety, employment, and economic security.

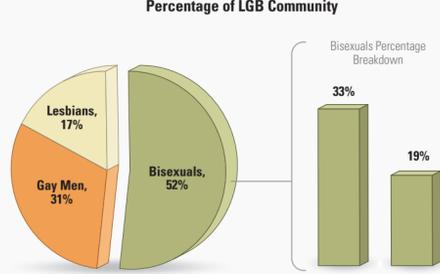


## STIGMA

The term *bisexual* (or *bi*) describes people who have the capacity for emotional, romantic and/or physical attraction to more than one sex or gender. Read more about bisexual people in [Understanding Issues Facing Bisexual Americans](#).

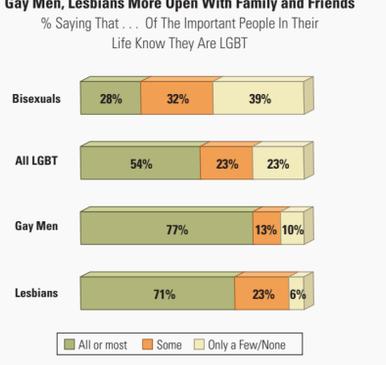
Despite comprising more than half of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual population, bisexual people often face pervasive stereotypes and myths. For example, when people come out as bisexual, it is often assumed that they are "confused" about or hiding their "real" sexual orientation. These stereotypes and myths can lead to discrimination, invisibility, or a lack of acknowledgement that bisexual people exist. For example, people may assume a bisexual person is heterosexual or gay based on the gender of their current partner, or may intentionally refer to the "gay" community in order to exclude bisexual people.

### Percentage of LGB Community



Source: Gary J. Gates, "How many people are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender?" *The Williams Institute*, April 2011, <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Gates-HowMany-People-LGBT-Apr-2011.pdf>.

### Gay Men, Lesbians More Open With Family and Friends



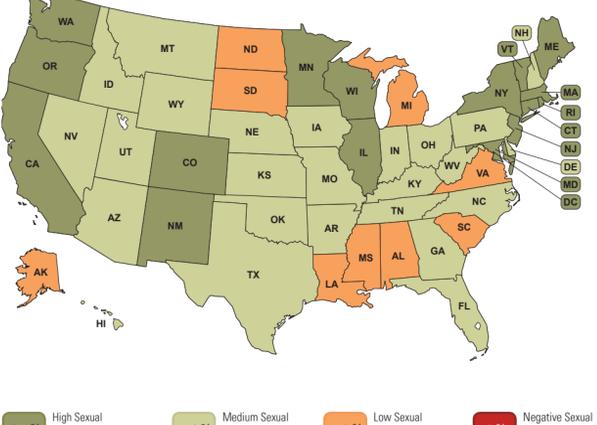
Source: PewResearch, "A Survey of LGBT Americans," July 13, 2013, <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/06/13/a-survey-of-lgbt-americans/>.



## LEGAL INEQUALITY

Sexual orientation includes bisexuality; states with laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation also protect bisexual people. Likewise states with laws that permit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation leave bisexual people vulnerable. Visit MAP's [Equality Maps](#) to learn more.

### SEXUAL ORIENTATION POLICY TALLY BY STATE



SEXUAL ORIENTATION TALLY	
High	11 to 19
Medium	4 to 10.99
Low	0 to 3.99
Negative	-5 to -0.01

SEXUAL ORIENTATION TALLY BREAKDOWN	
Marriage and Relationship Recognition	3
Adoption and Parenting Laws	7
Non-Discrimination Laws	4
Safe Schools Laws	2
Health and Safety Policies	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>

NOTE: This tally includes laws that explicitly mention sexual orientation. The term "sexual orientation" is loosely defined as a person's pattern of romantic or sexual attraction to people of the opposite sex or gender, the same sex or gender, or more than one sex or gender. Laws that explicitly mention sexual orientation primarily protect or harm lesbian, gay, and bisexual people. That said, transgender people who are lesbian, gay or bisexual can be affected by laws that explicitly mention sexual orientation.

For detailed tallies of each state's policies and to find out more about the laws and policies in this infographic, please visit [www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps](http://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps).



## LACK OF DATA

There is conclusive data showing that bisexual people experience poverty, workplace discrimination, negative health outcomes, and violence at higher rates than lesbian, gay, and heterosexual Americans. But more data is needed to understand the particular vulnerabilities and needs of bisexual people.

### DATA COLLECTION DO'S

- Distinguish between gay and lesbian and bisexual people
- Distinguish between bisexual behavior and identity

### DATA COLLECTION DON'TS

- Conflate data for gay, lesbian, and bisexual people
- Conflate bisexual behavior and identity

Bi-Inclusive Terminology		
Terms to Use	Usage Examples	Terms to Avoid
bisexual (adj.) or bi (adj.)	"She's bisexual." / "He is bi." "bisexual people"	Always try to use the term that someone identifies with.
lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (if needed for clarity)	"laws that protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people"	"LGBT" (when talking with those who are not yet strong supporters)
openly bisexual, openly bi	"She is openly bi."	"She admitted/claimed to be bi."

Source: Movement Advancement Project and GLAAD, "An Ally's Guide to Terminology," <http://www.lgbtmap.org/files/allys-guide-to-terminology.pdf>.

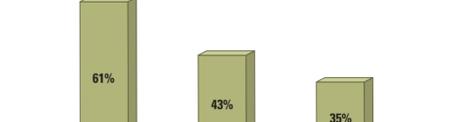


## POOR OUTCOMES

### VIOLENCE

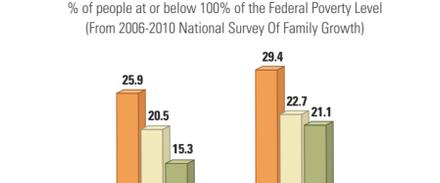
Bisexual people experience higher rates of sexual and intimate partner violence than gay, lesbian, and straight people. Bisexual survivors of violence are 2.3 times more likely to have an act of violence against them classified as a "hate crime." When bisexual survivors interact with police, however, they are three times more likely to experience police violence than people who are not bisexual. Read more about violence facing bisexual people in [Understanding Issues Facing Bisexual Americans](#).

### Women Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence



Source: M.L. Walters, J. Chen, and M. J. Breiding, "The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation," *National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, 2013.

### Percent of Poor Heterosexual, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Men and Women



Source: M.V. Lee Badgett, Laura E. Durso, & Alyssa Schneebaum, "New Patterns of Poverty in the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Community," *The Williams Institute*, June 2013, <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGB-Poverty-Update-Jun-2013.pdf>.

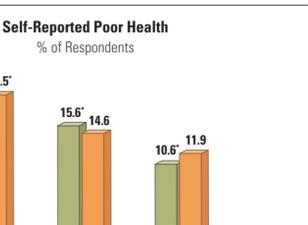
### ECONOMIC INSECURITY

Bisexual people in the United States face reduced earning and higher costs due to three primary failures in the law. First, lack of nationwide protection from discrimination means that bisexual people can be fired, denied housing, and refused medically-necessary healthcare simply because they are bisexual. Second, despite recent wins, bisexual people who are part of a same-sex couple face barriers accessing the same benefits afforded to non-LGBT families when it comes to health insurance, vital safety-net programs, and parental recognition. Third, failure to adequately protect LGBT students means that bisexual people and their families often face a hostile, unsafe, and unwelcoming environment in local schools, as well as discrimination in accessing financial aid and other support. Read more about the economic insecurity of LGBT people in MAP's [Unfair Price](#) reports.

### HEALTH

Bisexual people have higher rates of poor or fair physical health, hypertension smoking, and risky drinking than heterosexuals, lesbians, or gay men. Bisexuals also have higher rates of attempted suicide: one study found bisexuals were four times more likely and lesbian and gay were two times more likely to report attempted suicide than heterosexual adults. Read more about the health of bisexual people in [Understanding Issues Facing Bisexual Americans](#).

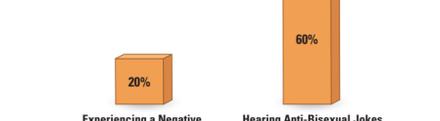
### Self-Reported Poor Health



\* Statistically significant to p < .01

Source: Bridget K. Gorman, Justin T. Denney, Hilary Dowdy, and Rose Anne Medeiros, "A New Piece of the Puzzle: Sexual Orientation, Gender, and Physical Health Status," July 1, 2015, DOI 10.1007/s13524-015-0406-1.

### Workplace Discrimination



Source: Ann E. Tweedy and Karen Yesavage, "Employment Discrimination Against Bisexuals: An Empirical Study," July 24, 2013, accessed July 30, 2014, <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2297924>.

### EMPLOYMENT

Bisexual people face pervasive discrimination in the workplace. Nearly half of bisexual people report that they are not out to any of their coworkers (49%), compared to just 24% of lesbian and gay people. Read more about employment discrimination in [A Broken Bargain](#).

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Read more about the lives of bisexual Americans in the following resources:

- Overview: [Understanding Issues Facing Bisexual Americans](#)
- Economic Insecurity: [Paying an Unfair Price: The Financial Penalty for Being LGBT in America](#)
- Employment and Employment Discrimination: [A Broken Bargain: Discrimination Fewer Benefits, and More Taxes for LGBT Workers](#)
- Laws and Policies: [Mapping LGBT Equality in America](#)

