

# **Developing survey questions on sexual identity:**

## **Review of international organisations' experiences of administering questions on sexual identity/orientation**

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## 1 Executive Summary

This review was part of the exploratory stage of a programme of research to develop a question on sexual orientation for inclusion on social surveys conducted by the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS). There is an increasing need to collect data on sexual identity in order to meet current and future legislative requirements (Wilmot, 2007). The purpose of the current review was to learn from the experiences of organisations worldwide who had asked about sexual orientation on general population surveys. A separate review covered UK-based surveys (Betts, 2008).

Nineteen relevant surveys were identified, all of which were conducted in the USA or Canada. Statistics Norway are embarking on a programme of research in this area but as yet have no data. The fact that there is no European precedence for asking about sexual orientation emphasises the importance of the ONS Sexual Identity project.

All surveys were household-based and employed a stratified random sample design using addresses or telephone numbers. The primary purpose of all the surveys was to collect health-related data.

The sexual orientation question was only ever asked of respondents over the age of 18. Some surveys also chose to apply an upper age limit varying from 44 to 64 years of age.

In most surveys, the sexual orientation question was asked using CATI<sup>1</sup>. Where surveys were conducted face-to-face, the question was often asked by audio-CASI<sup>2</sup> to enhance privacy, although in one survey the question was asked directly by the interviewer (CAPI<sup>3</sup>). None of the surveys used postal self-completion.

It was difficult to make comparisons between estimates from the different surveys because some presented the proportions who responded whereas others presented the proportions of missing data along with substantive responses. The proportion self-identifying as lesbian/gay/bisexual (LGB) ranged from 0.9% to 4.9%. In a report by Betts (2008), UK-based surveys found the proportion self-identifying as LGB to be 0.3% to 3%.

The question appeared around the middle or end of the interview, and was either placed in a demographic section or with questions on sexual behaviour. There was no evidence to indicate which the optimum position was.

Although the question sometimes included a preamble introducing the term 'sexual orientation', this term was never actually included in the question stem. The most common wording of the question was 'Do you consider yourself to be...' or 'Do you think of yourself as...'. The precise terminology of the response options varied slightly although all presented the options of 'heterosexual', 'gay/lesbian', 'bisexual'

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<sup>1</sup> Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing

<sup>2</sup> Audio-Computer Assisted Self Interviewing in which the respondent hears the question through audio equipment and then enters their response using a keyboard or other electronic device.

<sup>3</sup> Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing

in that order. Most used the terms 'gay' and 'lesbian' alongside or instead of 'homosexual'. They generally also included an 'other' category. Some provided definitions and these were either in terms of sexual attraction, behaviour or both.

## **2 Introduction**

This review was part of the exploratory stage of a programme of research by the ONS to develop a question on sexual orientation for inclusion on social surveys. There is an increasing need to collect data on sexual identity in order to meet current and future legislative requirements. More information about this programme of research can be found in Wilmot, 2007.

The purpose of the review was to draw on experiences of organisations outside the United Kingdom (UK), which have collected information about sexual orientation on general population surveys. Due to cultural and language differences, the findings in these other countries cannot be assumed to be directly applicable to the UK. However, it was hoped that this review would generate ideas which would inform the development and testing of a question in the UK.

A separate review covering UK-based surveys was also conducted (Betts, 2008).

### **2.1 Scope of the review**

This review only includes surveys which:

- included a question on sexual orientation (and not just aspects such as sexual behaviour or desire);
- were conducted outside of the UK;
- covered a whole country or, in the United States, a state. Studies which covered just a single city are not included. For example, it was believed that a study based in San Francisco alone would not give generalisable results because of the large LGB population there, and;
- covered a general population i.e. not conducted with only the lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) community;
- included only an adult population (aged over 16).

### **2.2 Methodology**

Four strategies or resources were used to identify relevant studies:

- The United States-based website [www.gaydata.org](http://www.gaydata.org), produced by Professor Randall Sell, was consulted. This resource is aimed at those doing research about the LGB community. The section on data sources lists surveys which aim to collect data on the size of the LGB community.
- Boslaugh (2006) wrote a review paper on sources of information about the LGB population. This paper was also consulted in case it listed data sources which were omitted by [www.gaydata.org](http://www.gaydata.org).

- An email was sent to National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) throughout Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand enquiring whether they had any experience in administering questions on sexual identity.
- The Guardian newspaper (14 April 2007) contained a list of countries which were accepting of homosexuals as defined by at least recognising common-law marriage between same-sex couples. A number of these countries were outside Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand and thus not covered by any of the previous strategies. A further effort was made to investigate whether any of these countries had conducted studies relevant to the current review, by accessing their NSI website and by performing standard internet searches. These countries were Argentina, Brazil, Israel, Mexico and South Africa.

Where a relevant study was identified, the detailed information was usually taken from the survey website. Where this was not available, an email enquiry was sent to the named survey contact.

### **2.3 Surveys reviewed**

The first two sources (Gaydata.org and Boslaugh, 2006) only referred to studies conducted in the United States (US) and Canada. There was considerable overlap in the studies mentioned by these two sources.

The email enquiries to NSIs failed to identify further studies. The New Zealand NSI responded that some research had been conducted in preparation for their 2006 Census, although not in the form of a quantitative survey. Norway are currently embarking on a programme of research to develop a question on sexual orientation but to date had not produced any relevant results. Of the remaining 11 European NSIs who responded, none had done any work in this area. Indeed, in Belgium there is no legislation in place to support the collection of such information.

The fourth strategy, searching for studies in countries which were cited by The Guardian as being accepting of homosexuals, revealed no further research in this area.

Nineteen surveys were identified and are shown in Appendix 1. Annual surveys within a survey series are shown on separate rows.

Ten were part of the US Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) which is sponsored by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. These contain core questions which must be asked in every state, plus optional modules which states can add if they wish. Sexual orientation is an optional module which North Dakota, Oregon and Vermont have all, at some time, included. Other states have collected information on similar topics such as same-sex desire but this is out of the scope of the report.

The Californian Health Interview Survey (CHIS) is run every two years and has included a question on sexual orientation since 2001. The survey is sponsored by UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Department of Health Services, and The Public Health Institute.

The National Health and Nutritional Examination Survey (NHANES) is run every two years and has included a question on sexual orientation since 2001. This survey is sponsored by National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States Department of Health and Human Services.

The National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) is conducted throughout the US by the National Center for Health Statistics. It included questions on sexual orientation in 2002 only.

The National Health and Social Life Survey (NHSLs) (1992) was carried out by the National Opinion Research Center and collected information on sexual practice throughout the US.

The only relevant Canadian survey was the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) in 2003 and 2005.

The primary purpose of all these surveys was to collect health-related data.

### **3 Survey designs**

This section provides information on sample designs and modes of administering the sexual orientation question.

#### **3.1 Sample designs and population coverage**

All surveys included in this review were household surveys in which one household member was selected at random for interview. The sample for the BRFSS surveys and the CHIS were drawn through a random digit dialling procedure in which all households in the state had a chance of being selected. The NHANES, NSFG and NHSLs all used an address-based sample frame from which they selected households at random using a stratified, multistage probability technique. The CCHS used a combination of address and telephone-based sample frames.

The sexual orientation question was not asked of respondents under the age of 18 on any survey. This may reflect the fact that the age of consent in many parts of the US and Canada is 18. Some of the surveys also had an upper age limit, for example 59 on the NHANES and NHSLs, and 64 on the CHIS.

#### **3.2 Modes and methods of administration**

The BRFSS and CHIS conducted the whole interview using CATI<sup>4</sup>. Most of the NSFG and NHANES interviews were conducted using CAPI<sup>5</sup> but sensitive questions,

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<sup>4</sup> Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing

<sup>5</sup> Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing

including sexual orientation, were asked using Audio-CASI<sup>6</sup>, allowing the respondent to key the response themselves after hearing the question through headphones. In the NHLS the respondent completed a paper questionnaire during the CAPI interview. The CCHS employed CAPI as its preferred method of data collection. However, where this was impossible due to travelling distances or respondent choice, the interview was conducted by telephone.

## 4 Analysis

### 4.1 Estimates from the surveys

Overall survey response rates varied considerably – from 50% to 84%.

In most studies, the proportion of item non-response (that is missing data, refusals and ‘don’t knows’) was shown along with actual responses to the question. The CHIS, however, only presented data on those who responded, making comparisons difficult. Information about missing data is important because it is a measure of reliability.

In those studies which presented responses and missing data, the estimates ranged as follows:

Heterosexual:	86.4% – 96.7%
Lesbian/gay:	0.3% – 2.8%
Bisexual:	0.4% – 2.3%
Other:	0.2% – 3.8%
Total identifying as LGB:	0.9% – 4.9%
Total who gave a response:	93.3% – 99.4%
Total missing data:	0.7% – 6.8%

In the CHIS studies, which presented actual responses only, the estimates ranged as follows:

Heterosexual:	96.0% - 96.6%
Lesbian/gay:	1.6% - 3.4%
Bisexual:	1.0% – 1.2%
Other:	0.8% – 0.9%
Total identifying as LGB:	2.6% – 3.4%

The NHLS and the NSFG used the same question, in which only the options ‘heterosexual’, ‘homosexual’, ‘bisexual’ and ‘something else’ were presented, without any colloquial terms (such as ‘straight’, ‘gay’ or ‘lesbian’) or definitions to aid comprehension. This may explain why a high proportion of respondents selected ‘something else’ in each of these studies. In the NHLS, of 221 respondents who gave the response ‘something else’ to the sexual identity question, 196 described themselves as ‘normal’ or ‘straight’. These were recoded into the heterosexual category which boosted the proportion in this category to 96.5%. Such recoding was not performed in the NSFG, and the proportion identifying as ‘something else’

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<sup>6</sup> Audio-Computer Assisted Self Interviewing in which the respondent hears the question through audio equipment and then enters their response using a keyboard or other electronic device.



remains high and the proportion identifying as 'heterosexual' remains relatively low. The lower proportion of heterosexuals identified in the NSFG may also be due to the fact that the sample was younger than in other surveys (age 18-44), and this cohort may be more likely to identify as LGB.

In the 2006 North Dakota BRFSS, significantly more people responded that they were heterosexual (96.4%) than they did in 2005 (94.8%), and significantly fewer people said they were lesbian/gay (0.3%) or 'other' (0.7%) than they did in 2005 (0.7% and 1.3% respectively). There were changes made to the question stem, the format and the answer categories between 2005 and 2006, as shown in Table 1, and this is likely to have caused the change to responses. One plausible explanation is that in 2004 and 2005, the option 'other' was read to respondents whereas in 2006 it became 'spontaneous only' giving rise to more people choosing 'heterosexual' than 'other'. This finding emphasises the importance of standardising the question.

## **4.2 Location in questionnaire**

On the North Dakota BRFSS, sexual orientation was the very last question and appeared in a section which included questions on sexual behaviour. The 2003 CHIS, NHANES, NSFG and NHLS also asked about sexual orientation within a set of questions on sexual behaviour around the middle of the interview.

In contrast, the CHIS in 2001 asked about sexual orientation within a demographic section so that it appeared between questions on childcare and questions on education. In the CCHS it also appeared within the demographic section but after questions on ethnicity. In the Oregon BRFSS, it was placed in a demographic section around the middle of the interview.

## **4.3 Question wording and format**

The questions are shown in Table 1.

### **4.3.1 Preambles to and explanations of the question**

In a few surveys there was a preamble. The 2001 and 2003 CHIS, and the Oregon BRFSS simply introduced the topic, "*This next question is about your sexual orientation..*", and "*Now I'm going to ask you about your sexual orientation*" respectively. The CHIS then reminded respondents about confidentiality, although in slightly different ways. In 2001, "*...and I want to remind you again that your answers are completely confidential*" and in 2003, "*All answers will be kept private.*"

### **4.3.2 Question stem**

The majority of the surveys simply asked "*Do you consider yourself to be...*" or "*Do you think of yourself as ...*" followed by the list of response options. However, the 2006 North Dakota BRFSS and the 2001 CHIS differed. In the 2006 North Dakota BRFSS the interviewer, having already read out the options, then re-read the list "*as I read the list again, please stop me when I get to the term that best describes how you think of yourself.*" The 2001 CHIS split the question into two parts. They firstly asked a question which would identify all non-heterosexuals. The second question then clarified whether the non-heterosexuals were gay, lesbian, bisexual or other. The

results they present only give the proportions of all non-heterosexuals. In the subsequent rounds of the survey, in 2003 and 2005, they adopted the more conventional single-question format but achieved almost identical results.

None of the surveys actually used the terms 'sexual orientation' in the question stem.

### **4.3.3 Response categories**

Although the precise terminology varied, all surveys presented the options of heterosexual, homosexual/lesbian/gay and bisexual in that order. Most surveys used the term 'straight' alongside heterosexual with the exception of the Vermont BRFSS, CCHS, NSFG and the NHSLs (which provided a definition). Similarly they almost always included the terms 'gay' or 'lesbian' alongside the term 'homosexual' with the exception of the Vermont BRFSS, the NSFG and the NHSLs. The 2001 CHIS only used the terms 'gay' and 'lesbian' and not 'homosexual'. None of the surveys used another term for 'bisexual' although the NHANES and the CCHS did provide a definition. There was an 'other' option in all surveys except for the CCHS. 'Other' and 'not sexual/ celibate/ none' were spontaneous-only categories in the 2003 and 2005 CHIS and the 2006 North Dakota BRFSS and were not actually read out to the respondents. 'Other' was labelled 'something else' in the NHANES, the NSFG and the NHSLs.

### **4.3.4 Definitions provided**

The questions often included definitions of the terminology – either to be presented to all respondents, or provided to interviewers in case requested by respondents. Where definitions were presented they were either in terms of attraction or behaviour as listed below:

Defined in terms of attraction: NHANES.

Defined in terms of behaviour: CCHS

Defined in terms of attraction and behaviour: Vermont BRFSS; CHIS 2003.

The fact that these surveys are measuring different concepts means that their findings are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Sexual orientation questions used on the different surveys

Survey	Question	Answer categories <i>(Bold typeface indicates that the option is always read out, or visually presented, to respondents.)</i>
<p>North Dakota Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, 2004, 2005</p> <p><a href="http://www.health.state.nd.us/brfss/">http://www.health.state.nd.us/brfss/</a></p>	<p>Do you consider yourself to be heterosexual or straight, homosexual or gay (lesbian), bisexual or other?</p>	<p><b>1 Heterosexual or straight</b>  <b>2 Homosexual or gay [if male] lesbian [if female]</b>  <b>3 Bisexual, or</b>  <b>4 Other</b>            7 Don't know/ not sure            9 Refused</p>
<p>North Dakota Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, 2006</p> <p><a href="http://www.health.state.nd.us/brfss/">http://www.health.state.nd.us/brfss/</a></p>	<p>Now I will read you a list of terms people sometimes use to describe themselves: Heterosexual or straight, Homosexual or gay/lesbian, Bisexual.            As I read the list again, please stop me when I get to the term that best describes how you think of yourself.</p>	<p><b>1 Heterosexual or straight</b>  <b>2 Homosexual or gay [if male] lesbian [if female]</b>  <b>3 Bisexual, or</b>  <b>4 Other</b>            7 Don't know/ not sure            9 Refused</p>
<p>Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Survey 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006</p> <p><a href="http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/chs/brfss.cfm">http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/chs/brfss.cfm</a></p>	<p>Now I'm going to ask you about your sexual orientation.</p> <p>Do you consider yourself to be:</p> <p>(‘other’ not an option in 2002)</p>	<p><b>1 Heterosexual or straight</b>  <b>2 Homosexual or gay [if male] lesbian [if female]</b>  <b>3 Bisexual, or</b>  <b>4 Other</b>            7 Don't know/ not sure            9 Refused</p>
<p>Vermont Behavioral Risk Factor Survey 2000, 2001, 2002</p> <p><a href="http://www.healthvermont.gov/research/brfss/brfss.aspx">http://www.healthvermont.gov/research/brfss/brfss.aspx</a></p>	<p>Do you consider yourself to be heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or other?</p> <p>Interviewers are given these definitions:            “Heterosexual: A person who has sex with and/or is strongly attracted to people of the opposite sex”; “Homosexual: A person who has sex with and/or is strongly attracted to people of the same sex”; “Bisexual: A person who has sex with and/or is strongly attracted to people of either sex”</p>	<p><b>1 Heterosexual,</b>  <b>2 Homosexual,</b>  <b>3 Bisexual OR</b>  <b>4 Other?</b>            7 Don't know/ not sure</p>
<p>CCHS 2003, 2005</p> <p><a href="http://www.statcan.ca/english/concepts/health/">www.statcan.ca/english/concepts/health/</a></p>	<p>Do you consider yourself to be:            Heterosexual (sexual relations with people of the opposite sex), Homosexual, that is lesbian or gay (sexual relations with people of your own sex), Bisexual (sexual relations with people of both sexes)?</p>	<p><b>1 Heterosexual</b>  <b>2 Homosexual, that is lesbian or gay</b>  <b>3 Bisexual</b>            4 Don't know            5 Refusal</p>

<p>California Health Interview Survey 2001  <a href="http://www.chis.ucla.edu">www.chis.ucla.edu</a></p>	<p>This next question is about your sexual orientation and I want to remind you again that your answers are completely confidential.</p> <p>Are you gay {, lesbian,} or bisexual?</p>	<p><b>1 Yes</b>  <b>2 No</b>  3 Refused  4 Don't know</p>
	<p>(If yes) Is that {gay/lesbian} or bisexual?</p>	<p><b>1 Gay</b>  <b>2 Lesbian</b>  <b>3 Bisexual</b>  <b>4 Other</b>  5 Refused  6 Don't know</p>
<p>California Health Interview Survey 2003; 2005  <a href="http://www.chis.ucla.edu">www.chis.ucla.edu</a></p>	<p>The next question is about sexual orientation. All answers will be kept private.</p> <p>Do you think of yourself as straight or heterosexual, as gay {, lesbian} or homosexual, or bisexual?</p> <p>[IF NEEDED, SAY: "Straight or Heterosexual people have sex with, or are primarily attracted to people of the opposite sex, Gay {and Lesbian} people have sex with or are primarily attracted to people of the same sex, and Bisexuals have sex with or are attracted to people of both sexes".]</p>	<p><b>1 Straight or heterosexual</b>  <b>2 Gay, lesbian or homosexual</b>  <b>3 Bisexual</b>  4 Not sexual/ Celibate/ None  5 Other (specify)  -7 Refused  -8 Don't know</p>
<p>NHANES 2001-2002 / 2003-2004  <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm">http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm</a></p>	<p>Do you think of yourself as . . . Heterosexual or straight (that is, sexually attracted only to women/men); homosexual or gay (that is, sexually attracted only to men/women); bisexual (that is, sexually attracted to men and women); something else; or you're not sure?</p>	<p><b>1 Heterosexual or straight</b>  <b>2 Homosexual or gay (lesbian)</b>  <b>3 Bisexual</b>  <b>4 Something else, or</b>  <b>5 Not sure?</b>  6 Refused  7 Don't know</p>
<p>NSFG 2002  <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm">http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm</a></p>	<p>Do you think of yourself as heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or something else?</p>	<p><b>1 Heterosexual</b>  <b>2 Homosexual</b>  <b>3 Bisexual</b>  <b>4 Or something else?</b>  99 Missing</p>
<p>NHSLs 1992  <a href="http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/index.html">www.icpsr.umich.edu/index.html</a> (see study #6647)</p>	<p>Do you think of yourself as heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or something else?</p>	<p><b>1 Heterosexual</b>  <b>2 Homosexual</b>  <b>3 Bisexual</b>  <b>4 Or something else? (Specify)</b>  97 Refusal  98 DK  99 Missing</p>

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## **6 Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Summaries of non-UK surveys which ask about sexual orientation

Survey	KEY: n/a = not applicable; dk = no data		Question stem	Response Categories	Survey response rate %	Substantive categories %						Missing values (inc. presented) %			
	Mode of administration	Sample				Heterosexual/straight	Homosexual/gay/lesbian	Bisexual	Other (or similar)	Additional categories	Total % in substantive categories	DK	Ref/no answer (int code)	Unanswered on SC	Total % missing values
North Dakota BRFSS (2004)	CATI	Randomly selected adult (over 18) within randomly selected household (random telephone number).	Do you consider yourself to be:	Heterosexual (straight); homosexual (gay or lesbian); bisexual; other (specify)	60.6% (3045 interviews)	94.1	0.4	0.6	1.1		96.2	1.6	2.2		3.8
North Dakota BRFSS (2005)	CATI	Randomly selected adult (over 18) within randomly selected household (random telephone number).	Do you consider yourself to be:	Heterosexual (straight); homosexual (gay or lesbian); bisexual; other (specify)	57.7% (4010 interviews)	94.8	0.7	0.4	1.3		97.2	1.3	1.5		2.8
North Dakota BRFSS (2006)	CATI	Randomly selected adult (over 18) within randomly selected household (random telephone number).	Please stop me when I get to the term that best describes how you think of yourself.	Heterosexual (straight); homosexual (gay or lesbian); bisexual; other (specify)	60% (4499 interviews)	96.4	0.3	0.6	0.7		98.0	0.9	1.2		2.1
Oregon BRFSS (2002)	CATI	Randomly selected adult (over 18) within randomly selected household (random telephone number).	Do you consider yourself to be:	Heterosexual (straight); homosexual (gay or lesbian); bisexual; other (specify)	56.7% (3075 interviews)	94.2	0.9	1.3			96.4	1	2.7		3.7
Oregon BRFSS (2003)	CATI	Randomly selected adult (over 18) within randomly selected household (random telephone number).	Do you consider yourself to be:	Heterosexual (straight); homosexual (gay or lesbian); bisexual; other (specify)	51.6% (4016 interviews)	93.8	1.1	1.2	0.2		96.3	1.4	2.3		3.7
Oregon BRFSS (2005)	CATI	Randomly selected adult (over 18) within randomly selected household (random telephone number).	Do you consider yourself to be:	Heterosexual (straight); homosexual (gay or lesbian); bisexual; other (specify)	51.5% (12,015 interviews)	94.7	1.4	1.0	0.4		97.5	0.9	1.6		2.5
Oregon BRFSS (2006)	CATI	Randomly selected adult (over 18) within randomly selected household (random telephone number).	Do you consider yourself to be:	Heterosexual (straight); homosexual (gay or lesbian); bisexual; other (specify)	52.0% (9853 interviews)	95.3	1.3	1.0	0.2		97.8	0.8	1.5		2.3
						unweighted									
Vermont BRFSS (2000)	CATI	Randomly selected adult (over 18) within randomly selected household (random telephone number).	Do you consider yourself to be:	Heterosexual (straight); homosexual (gay or lesbian); bisexual; other (specify)	50.3% (3307 interviews)	89.9	1.7	1.2	1.1		93.9	1.4	4.7		6.1
Vermont BRFSS (2001)	CATI	Randomly selected adult (over 18) within randomly selected household (random telephone number).	Do you consider yourself to be:	Heterosexual (straight); homosexual (gay or lesbian); bisexual; other (specify)	52.1% (4624 interviews)	88.2	2.2	2.3	1.7		94.4	1.2	4.6		5.8
Vermont BRFSS (2002)	CATI	Randomly selected adult (over 18) within randomly selected household (random telephone number).	Do you consider yourself to be:	Heterosexual (straight); homosexual (gay or lesbian); bisexual; other (specify)	58.6% (4239 interviews)	86.4	2.8	1.8	2.3		93.3	1.2	5.6		6.8
CCHS (2003)	Face to face and telephone CAPI	multistage stratified cluster design using address and telephone frame ; household; 1 randomly selected person over 12 (sex id question for those over 18 only)	Do you consider yourself to be:	Heterosexual ; homosexual, that is lesbian or gay; bisexual.	80.9% (135,573 interviews)	96.7	0.9	0.6			98.2	0.7	1		1.7

Appendix 1 - Summaries of non-UK surveys which ask about sexual orientation

Survey	KEY: n/a = not applicable; dk = no data		Question stem	Response Categories	Survey response rate %	Substantive categories %						Missing values (inc. presented) %			
	Mode of administration	Sample				Heterosexual/straight	Homosexual/gay/lesbian	Bisexual	Other (or similar)	Additional categories	Total % in substantive categories	DK	Ref/no answer (int code)	Unanswered on SC	Total % missing values
CCHS (2005)	Face to face and telephone CAPI	multistage stratified cluster design using address and telephone frame ; household; 1 randomly selected person over 12 (sex id question for those over 18 only)	Do you consider yourself to be:	Heterosexual ; homosexual, that is lesbian or gay; bisexual.	78.9% (132,947 interviews)	96.4	1.2	0.8			98.4	0.7	0.9		1.6
CHIS(2001)	CATI	random digit-dial;geographically stratified; household; 1 randomly selected adult (age 18-64);	Are you gay (lesbian) or bisexual	Yes; No	63.7% (55,428 interviews)	96.6	3.4				?				?
CHIS(2003)	CATI	random digit-dial;geographically stratified; household; 1 randomly selected adult (age 18-64);	Do you think of yourself as straight or heterosexual, as gay (lesbian) or homosexual, or bisexual	Straight or heterosexual; gay, lesbian, or homosexual; bisexual; not sexual/celebrate/none	60.0% (42,044 interviews)	96.5	1.6	1.0		Not sexual/celebrate/none/other = 0.9%	?				?
CHIS(2005)	CATI	random digit-dial;geographically stratified; household; 1 randomly selected adult (age 18-64);	Do you think of yourself as straight or heterosexual, as gay (lesbian) or homosexual, or bisexual	Straight or heterosexual; gay, lesbian, or homosexual; bisexual; not sexual/celebrate/none	54.0% (43,020 interviews)	96.0	2.0	1.2		Not sexual/celebrate/none/other = 0.8%	?				?
NHANES (2001-2002) (Whole US)	Audio-CASI in private room in mobile examination centre	stratified, multistage probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalised US population. 1 person in hh selected at random. Sex id questions for 18-59 year olds only.	Do you think of yourself as...	Heterosexual or straight; homosexual or gay; bisexual; something else; or you're not sure?	84% (11,039 interviews)	94.6	1	1.7	0.3	Not sure (1.4)	99	0.8	0.2		1
NHANES (2003-2004) (Whole US)	Audio-CASI in private room in mobile examination centre	stratified, multistage probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalised US population. 1 person in hh selected at random. Sex id questions for 18-59 year olds only.	Do you think of yourself as...	Heterosexual or straight; homosexual or gay; bisexual; something else; or you're not sure?	79% (10,122 interviews)	94.4	1.7	1.4	0.2	Not sure (1.7)	99.4	0.5	0.2		0.7
NSFG (2002) (Whole US)	Audio-CASI in home	stratified, multistage probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalised US population. 1 person(aged 15-44) in hh selected at random. Sex id questions for 18-44 year olds only.	Do you think of yourself as...	... heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, or something else?	79% (12571 interviews)	90.3	1.8	2.3	3.8		98.2			1.8	1.8
NHLS (1992) (Whole US)	Self-completion questionnaire	Multistage area probability sampling design. Randomly selected adult selected in each household (age 18-59).	Do you think of yourself as...	... heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, or something else?	79% (3432 interviews)	96.5	1.1	0.6	0.7		98.9	0.4	0.1	0.5	1