

Queer demography

Queer expectations: Estimates of the number of queer kin in the United States

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The queer family demography literature has largely centered the nuclear family, emphasizing same-sex couples and parents while giving limited attention to extended family networks. We extend this work by providing a more comprehensive picture of the experience of having queer kin in the United States, focusing specifically on aunts and uncles, cousins, siblings, nieces, children, and grandchildren. Combining demographic kinship modeling techniques with survey data that directly identifies sexual minorities, we generate novel period estimates of both the expected number of queer kin at the individual level and the share of the population with at least one queer kin. Findings indicate that the number and composition of queer kin are shaped jointly by age- and sex-specific patterns of queer identification, kinship age and sex structure, and past fertility and mortality regimes that determined kinship network size. We find substantial cohort differences: younger cohorts have more queer aunts and uncles, cousins, and siblings, whereas older cohorts have more queer nieces, children, and grandchildren. A significant share of the population has one or more queer kin, which is driven by the greater number of extended kin. Beyond providing estimates in a context where no comparable data exist, this study advances a queer kinship demography that situates queer people as integral members of extended family networks.

Who are pansexual young people? Findings from a French survey

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For several years, statistical surveys from various countries have highlighted the growing presence of sexual minorities among young people. This rise in sexual minorities has been accompanied by a diversification of the associated identities. In particular, pansexuality has emerged alongside homosexuality and bisexuality. However, knowledge of pansexuality remains limited, as survey questionnaires have only recently begun to include questions on the subject. Whilst pansexuality is often likened to, or even confused with, bisexuality, the aim of our paper is to clarify the socio-demographic, sexual and relationship characteristics associated with this identity. Four hypotheses guide our analysis:

H1: Pansexuality, like other multisexual identities, is more common among non-binary people and women than among men.

- H2: Pansexual people have different socio-demographic characteristics from heterosexual and homosexual people, as well as bisexual people, particularly in terms of age and social class.
- H3: Pansexual people have sexual and relationship histories that differ from those of heterosexual and homosexual people, but are more similar to those of bisexual people.
- H4: Pansexual people hold more liberal views and norms of sexuality and relationships than other sexual minorities.

We draw on data from the Survey on the Emotional Lives of Young Adults (Envie, INED, 2023). Based on a representative sample, this survey interviewed 10,021 young adults aged 18 to 29 living in France. The survey explores new sexual identities, including pansexuality; the number of non-heterosexual young people (n=1,376) is large enough to allow for in-depth statistical analysis.

“People are being abused every day”: making visible the sex lives of gay, bisexual, and queer men in Ghana

Joe Strong - Queen Mary University of London

Little is known about the sexual and reproductive lives of gay, bisexual, and queer (GBQ) men. Where research does exist, it frequently focuses on GBQ men as public health ‘risks’ in the context of HIV and other STIs. In Ghana – where there is a parliamentary bill to criminalise queer lives – interrogating GBQ men’s experiences exposes the systemic and structural factors that shape their health, rights, and wellbeing.

Thirty-two men were invited to participate in body mapping interviews in two urban areas in Ghana.

Discussions focused on their sexual and reproductive lives. Interview transcripts and body map artwork were iteratively, thematically analysed; results will present both quotes from men as well as images of the body map artwork produced.

For GBQ men, sex and relationships were embedded in a complex assessment of risk. This went far beyond simply the 'risk' of disease that is often the focus of research. Privacy and social safety were key drivers of men's behaviours and practices, which in turn were nested in contextual politics, capitalism, and homophobia. Distance from dominant masculine norms, particularly acting 'femme', compounded these experiences. It resulted in social rejection, violence, and risk of murder. GBQ men lost economic opportunity, which impacted their access to private housing and therefore the ability to have and maintain relationships. They faced stigma in health settings that impacted their access to care. The intersecting axes of discrimination shaped the ways that GBQ men were able to seek pleasure, relationships, sex, and family formation.