

LGBT+ Stats

By Dan Jensen (2023)

(In order to fully benefit from this essay, I recommend reading through my “works for beginners” first. They can be found on my website.)

Before I plow into this essay, I do want to first clarify a key point. And that is the fact, as I have written in some of my other works, that my normal practice is to only use the acronym for this community as I did in the title to this essay. By doing so, I mean no disrespect to the community at large or to any individual within it. I hope you can understand that in my estimation that “+” needs to be enough. I have been told and I have seen people insist on the full acronym of LGBTQIA2S+. And with respect, there is no sign of the acronym ceasing to grow as time goes on. Hence, I have to say that the acronym is long enough and the “+” will have to imply the rest.

The focus of this essay will be the misleading way that many (and not just those in this community) often use stats in regard to this community. There is a massive push in our culture right now to say that heteronormativity is a myth. If most of our society turns out to be LGBT+, then heteronormativity is shown to be just that. And the primary argument behind this push is the stats that are coming out showing that more and more younger people are joining and identifying as being part of this community.

Let us now look at some of these very stats. Many, many studies could be pointed to in order to highlight the massive uptick in LGBT+ identity among young Americans. But, we will look at the recent Gallup study.¹ Gallup is a highly credible source and even many of those pushing the argument and ideology discussed above have cited it. As will be seen, I am not really challenging the stats and the studies behind them. There is

¹ Jeffrey M. Jones, “U.S. LGBT Identification Steady at 7.2%,” *Gallup*, accessed Jul 12, 2023, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/470708/lgbt-identification-steady.aspx>.

indeed a whopping uptick. I am challenging the interpretations and applications of these studies from a philosophical standpoint. Further, this study is very, very recent (Feb 22nd of this year), and therefore all the more pertinent to our discussion.

The study shows that LGBT+ identity across the board in our nation actually did not grow in the last year. It held steady at 7.2% as the title of the article suggests. However, the article also makes clear that this percentage is double what it was when Gallup first started measuring LGBT+ identity 10 years ago. So, the huge uptick over the past generation is very real. Again, I am not disputing that fact. Most importantly, the article goes on to point out that almost 20% of Gen Z identifies as LGBT+. Millennials clock in at 11%. The argument is incessantly made that this shows an undeniable upward trajectory that proves that once heteronormativity is no longer forced down the throats of citizens, far more people will come out as their true selves.

For the sake of argument, let us say that this is true. Before fully doing so though, let me say that very strong arguments can be made for the social contagion factor here. Further, very strong arguments can be made for the fact that most of those claiming to be bisexual are not really bisexual or are only slightly attracted to the same-sex. As just one piece of evidence of this latter point, in the 90's when I was a teenager, it was common to hear about how many women were heterosexual, but were at least open to other sexual experiences. They were not classified as bisexual back then. Today, most in this vein, would not only claim to be bisexual, they would be classified as such. Again though, let us say that I am wrong here for the sake of argument.

Let us say that Gen Z is more reflective of people deep down. According to this study, 13% of Gen Z claims bisexual status. That means that only 7% of Gen Z could not be reasonably expected to enter into a traditional heterosexual relationship. You can defend adultery and fornication all you want, but that is not the issue here in this essay. The issue is the argument that we as orthodox Christians are allegedly asking a massive portion of the population to enter into relationships that would be impossible for them. No we are not. We are only saying that less than 7% of the population should be

celibate according to God's law. Even Gen Z cannot fully escape the obvious heteronormativity. Whether you want to ascribe that to God or evolution, the fact of heteronormativity remains the undeniable reality for the human race.

Even if the numbers continue to climb, and we have already seen that this is a dubious conclusion, one can be pretty much guaranteed that the category that will see the most monumental growth will be the bisexual category. This is shown in this study by looking at the growth rates for identity between the different generations. The lesbian category went from .2% (Silent Gen), to .7 (Boomer Gen), to .5 (Gen X), to 1.5 (Millennials), to 2.2 (Gen Z). Solid rate of growth to be sure. The gay category went from .8, to 1.0, to .8, to 1.9, to 3.4. Also a very solid rate of growth. The transgender category went from less than .1, to .2, to .3, to 1.0, to 1.9. Also a very high rate of growth. The other LGBT category followed almost the exact same trajectory as the transgender category and ended at 1.5. But, the bisexual category went from .6, to .7, to 1.6, to 6.9, to 13.1. At one point, that is almost a 4.5x increase. Even if most Americans are/were keeping their full sexual identity a secret for most of our history, none of this changes the fact that the overwhelming vast majority of adults are sexually attracted to the opposite sex. That is heteronormativity no matter how high the numbers end up getting.

Another way of looking at this is by looking at another hypothetical way of conducting the survey. This could be done by asking 4 simple questions. The first would be: Do you consider yourself to be Other LGBT? And it could be explained to people what this means as that category is defined by Gallup. The second question would be: Are you Cisgender? The final two questions could then only be asked of those that answered no to the first question and yes to the second. The third question would be: Are you sexually attracted to the same sex? And the final question would be: Are you sexually attracted to the opposite sex.

Doing things this way, and for the sake of argument using Gen Z as the correct template, this would yield the following results:

- 1.) 1.5% of the population is Other LGBT
- 2.) 1.9% of the population is Transgender
- 3.) 18.7% of the population is Cisgender and sexually attracted to the same sex
- 4.) 93.4% of the population is Cisgender and sexually attracted to the opposite sex

In any other area, we would rightly and immediately recognize the dominance of the final category. Very few areas of human life ever see this level of dominance. That is almost 95% of the population that is Cisgender and sexually attracted to the opposite sex. And that is going by the most extreme test case. We all know deep down that Gen Z has become enamored with LGBT+ ideology. Heteronormativity is a fact of human life. No one has the right to deny facts. And by *fact* here, philosophically speaking, I mean an absolute fact and not a functional fact. Please see my discussion of this point in my *The Idolatry of Progressive Christianity: A Response to Randal Rauser* (pages 50-52), if you are confused by that. It can be found on my website.

I recently heard that at Brown University, the current student body claims to be 40% LGBT+. Let us say that this is true and is indicative of the future, although we all know it won't be the case. Based on the rate of growth between generations in the bisexual category, which is plainly fueling most of the overall growth of the LGBT+ community, we would have to say that the bisexual category would have to be at least doubled. More than likely to get a number as high as 40%, the bisexual category would have to be much higher than that. But, let's give them the benefit of the doubt. Let's put it as low as 20%, which is extremely generous based on the trends. To make up for that other 20%, let's double the number of lesbians and those identifying as gay, and let's triple both the transgender category and the other LGBT category. That would give us 4.4 for lesbian; 6.8 for gay; 5.7 for transgender; and 3 for other LGBT. That would give us 19.9 and so let's give the transgender category .1 more at 5.8.

Going by those very generous stats, if we asked the same basic 4 questions I discussed earlier, we would still end up with the following results:

- 1.) 3% of the population is Other LGBT
- 2.) 5.8% of the population is Transgender
- 3.) 31.2% of the population is Cisgender and sexually attracted to the same sex
- 4.) 80% of the population is Cisgender and sexually attracted to the opposite sex

The last category still dwarfs the rest of the categories and I think we all know that the Brown example (especially with my very generous estimates towards my opponents) is quite extreme. Again, heteronormativity is a fact.

Now, at this point many of my detractors will object that I don't really understand the meaning of the concept of heteronormativity. They will object that it is not really about how many people are LGBT+ or not, it is about having a worldview that promotes heterosexuality as the moral norm for a society. I understand this perfectly. But, you can't have your cake and eat it too. If the argument is that heteronormativity is false because we are discovering how much of the population is not exclusively heterosexual, then plainly it is actually true if we discover that heterosexual attraction is by far and away the dominant attraction of our species. I agree that the moral question is a distinct question. But, if you are going to try to tie the two things together, you can't object when we play by your own rules. If you are going to say that it does not matter if only 1% of the population is LGBT+, they should be allowed to be their authentic selves, then surely if that is true it does not matter if 40% are LGBT+ or not either.

We can just as easily argue that the effects of the fall may be getting worse as we get closer to the return of Christ. Hence, we can argue that this shift in culture is no surprise. You can say, "No, it is because people did not feel comfortable in the past," all you want, but you have no way of proving that today. It is a sheer naked assumption based on an already entrenched acceptance of LGBT+ ideology. Now, if my opponents wish to say that they are only using these stats as supportive, supplementary, and confirmatory evidence, that is fine. But, then it does not in any way reflect a failure to understand the basic definition of heteronormativity when I seek to do the same based upon all that I presented in this essay. I assert, not as absolute proof, but as supportive,

supplementary, and confirmatory evidence, that what I have presented in this essay makes perfect sense in light of the fact that God created people to be heterosexual, and that all unfortunate desires that go against this are a part of the fall.

My opponents may at this point wonder what I suggest doing with the small percentage of the population that is not attracted to the opposite sex, or has gender dysphoria, or is intersex, etc. Biblically, they are to be celibate. I fully understand how unpopular that answer is, but that is the biblical answer. And I am not advocating the government enforcing this either. I am merely saying what is permissible before God or not. If someone in that state wishes to follow Christ, he or she should be celibate. This is in no way, shape, or form to say that such a journey will be easy or perfect. I know from people who are on this journey that it is extraordinarily difficult and is fraught with sinful failings and shortcomings. But, that is the Christian life. The Christian life is not about having your best life now. It is not about sex or fulfilling our sexual desires. I understand that is the Pagan worldview. But, you don't get to simply assume that worldview with me. You have to prove it to me, and I do not believe you have done so. God blesses such Christians in countless other ways that He does not bless the bulk of Christians who are married.

Many may object that I am projecting my own celibacy onto others. I am not. Because of my age and health condition, I no longer struggle with sexual desire the way I once did. I am not saying it is entirely gone, but it is not the battle it once was by a long shot. I know that for younger Christians trying to be celibate, their experience will be nothing like my experience of being celibate at this point of my life. My celibacy has nothing to do with the argument. The argument is that part and parcel to the Christian worldview is intense suffering. Hence, when people point out how hard it is for younger people to be celibate, we certainly have immense sympathy, but it does not disprove our worldview in any manner. It is like telling a Muslim that Ramadan is bad because Ramadan is hard. Most Muslims would just look at you like you are a very confused individual indeed.

With all of this made clear, it has been shown that the oft-cited LGBT+ stats do not actually support the contention that heteronormativity is not in keeping with reality after all. I have proven Christianity through my many apologetic works. Anyone is welcome to email me and challenge that assessment. Christianity teaches heteronormativity. Hence, whether the concept is looked at through a philosophical/religious lens, or a sociological one, it is fact.