

## » Youth Sexuality 9th Iteration

# The Sexual Orientation of Young People in Germany

The Federal Centre for Health Education's (BZgA) representative study Youth Sexuality 9th Iteration is a representative repeat survey. A large-scale survey of young people, their parents and young adults was launched for the ninth time in the summer of 2019. It follows on from predecessor studies conducted between 1980 and 2014. The goal of the study is to acquire reliable data about the attitudes and behaviours of young people in the Federal Republic of Germany with regards to sexuality and contraception.

The central topic of this fact sheet is the sexual behaviour, sexuality education and discrimination experience in relation to young people's sexual orientation. The fact sheet contextualises the term 'sexual orientation' and compares the findings with other relevant German and European studies.

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## Classification

## Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

In sexology, the term 'sexual orientation' describes whether a person is attracted to a different sex/gender and to which one or which ones. For most people sexual orientation is a central aspect of their personality and therefore their sexual identity. It does not just describe whether and to whom a person is attracted, it also encompasses personal experience, a person's sexual behaviour and personal feelings. In addition, a person's sexual orientation is also relevant to other people and societally, since sexual orientation is often associated with assumptions, value judgements and potentially also with prejudices.

Traditionally, a distinction is made between different sexual orientations:

- Homosexuality: a person is attracted to members of the same sex
- Heterosexuality: a person is attracted to members of the opposite sex
- Bisexuality: a person is sexually attracted to both men and women
- Pansexuality: a person is sexually attracted to others, regardless of their sex or gender
- Asexuality: a person feels no sexual attraction, regardless of other people's sex

People who reject the social norms of heterosexuality and bisexuality, i.e. the limitation of gender to the two categories 'man' or 'woman', often describe themselves as queer.

These definitions capture the most commonly used terms in order to describe sexual orientation. However, two caveats have to be made: firstly, sexual orientation is individual, especially with regard to the how it relates to a person's identity so that other definitions are also possible or that other terms other than those listed above are used by individuals to describe themselves. Secondly, sexual orientation encapsulates very different areas – sexual behaviour, romantic attraction, self-identification, other-identification, etc. – and these do not have to match up: it is possible for a person to identify as heterosexual while only having homosexual sexual contacts. For ease of understanding and the nature of the questions in the Youth Sexuality Study, this fact will not be addressed further in what follows. The focus of the evaluation lies on the individuals who generally feel attracted to their own sex/gender or to men and women or who have not provided a response to this question (see Figure 1).

Sexual orientation must be distinguished from gender identity, which addresses personal perception and feelings with regard to membership to the own or opposite sex. This is usually connected to the sex assigned at birth by a third party: for trans\* people the sex assigned at birth does not correlate with their gender identity, for cis\* people it does. Others reject the strict classification to a specific sex or they feel temporarily male or female. It needs to be emphasised here that the identity-giving aspect is individual so that other definitions are also possible and that (these) terms are not necessarily used by individuals to describe themselves.

It is key that sexual orientation and gender identity are conceptually different and are not connected to each other. Gender identity says nothing about sexual orientation and vice versa. For that reason and because of the methodological design of the study this fact sheet presents results to do with the topic of sexual orientation of young people in Germany, but not their gender identity.

See BZgA's website  
[www.liebesleben.de/fuer-alle/geschlechtsidentitaet/geschlechtsidentitaet-und-geschlechtliche-vielfalt/](http://www.liebesleben.de/fuer-alle/geschlechtsidentitaet/geschlechtsidentitaet-und-geschlechtliche-vielfalt/)



Result 1

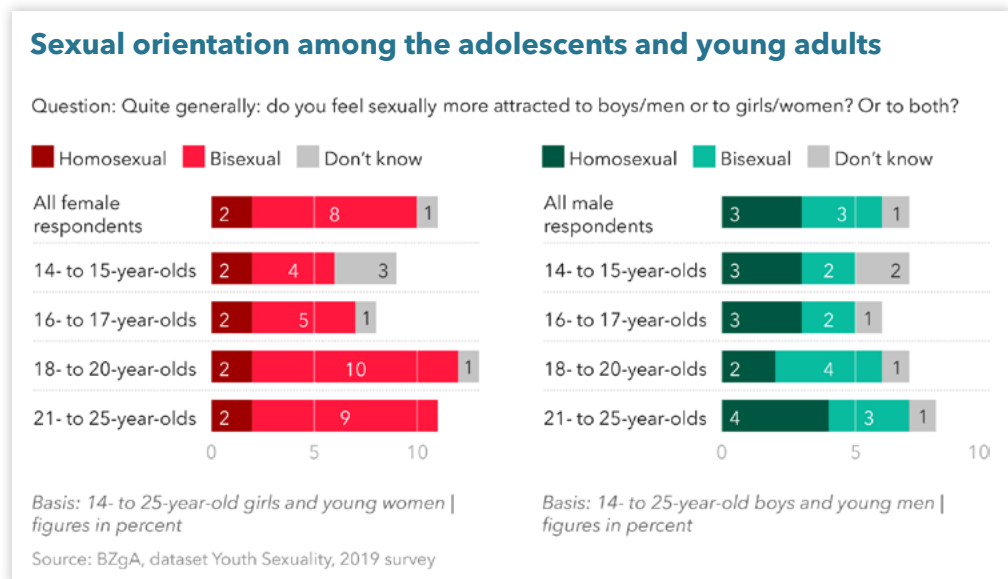
## Nine percent of the 14- to 25-year-olds describe themselves as not exclusively heterosexual.

The results of the current - ninth - survey on Youth Sexuality reveal that heterosexuality is most widespread among adolescents and young adults in Germany. 89 percent of the female respondents said they were heterosexual, and 93 percent of the male respondents said the same (see Table 1).

The female respondents were more likely than the male respondents to put forward an orientation other than heterosexuality (10% compared to 6%, see Figure 1). The focuses also differed: 2 percent of the girls and young women expressed a clear preference for the same sex, and a further 8 percent said they were both attracted to boys/men and girls/women. Among the male adolescents and young adults 3 percent said they were homosexual and the same amount said they were bisexual.

Especially women aged 18 and older were more likely to be bisexual than the men in this same age group: at 9 percent, the percentage of 18- to 25-year-old women was three times as high as the percentage for the young men of the same age (3%).

Figure 1



There are also differences among the different age groups, especially among the female respondents and among them especially in the area of bisexuality. While 3 percent of the 14-year-old girls said they were attracted to more than one sex, this percentage increases steadily to 12 percent among the 19-year-olds. Among the subsequent age groups between 20 and 25 the value remains at a constant 7 to 11 percent.

When asked about their sexual orientation, 1 percent of the respondents was uncertain, choosing the response 'don't know'. In rare cases (less than 1 percent) no answer was given.

The cases where there was no explicit evaluation (don't know, no answer) are included here in the group of adolescents and young adults who are not exclusively opposite-sex attracted. The terms used in this fact sheet - bisexual, homosexual and uncertain sexual orientation - include the respondents who were unable or unwilling to provide information about their sexual orientation.

Note

## Result 2

## A look at Europe: the sexual orientation of the adult population in Germany, Great Britain and Denmark is similarly distributed.

In addition to the data from the current Youth Sexuality survey, there are several comparable studies available that look at Germany or other European countries. Noteworthy here are the German Health and Sexuality Survey (GeSiD, Germany), Natsal-3 (Great Britain) and the project SEXUS (Denmark), which look at the question of sexual orientation primarily from the perspective of the country's adult population (see the bibliography for the study sources).

## Note

A limitation caveat should be noted here from a methodological perspective: these studies are based on different survey methods and cover different age groups and survey periods and the questions asked also differ in their phrasing. Nevertheless, looking at different countries provides an opportunity to contextualise the results of the Youth Sexuality survey in Germany.

**Self-assessment of sexual orientation looking at three comparison studies**

Table 1

Comparison studies	Youth Sexuality (GER) (14- to 25-year-olds)		GeSiD (GER) 18- to 75-year-olds		NATSAL (UK) (16- to 74-year-olds)		SEXUS (DEN) (15- to 89-year-olds)	
	girls/ young women	boys/ young men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Heterosexual	89	93	96	97	97	97	90	93
Homosexual	2	3	1	2	1	2	1	2
Bisexual	8	3	2	1	1	1	3	2
Other	1	1	1	<1	<1	<1	6	3

Figures in percent

Source: BZgA, dataset Youth Sexuality, 2019 survey and [https://gesid.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/GeSiD\\_Zwischenbericht-200706\\_Einzel\\_RGB.pdf](https://gesid.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/GeSiD_Zwischenbericht-200706_Einzel_RGB.pdf)

The international comparison reveals similar percentages for people with homosexual and bisexual orientations. In all studies both the women and the men predominantly expressed an exclusively heterosexual orientation. However, the differences based on age group for the German studies are interesting. The Youth Sexuality data finds that more women than men class themselves as bisexual (8 %, see Table 1). According to the results of the German GeSiD study, the percentage of women and men in the overall sample - 18- to 75-year-olds - who said their sexual orientation was something other than exclusively heterosexual is much lower (4 % and 3 % respectively).

One figure in the Danish study, Project SEXUS, stands out: it contains a comparatively large number of respondents expressing a 'different' sexual orientation (6 % and 3 %). This category includes asexual individuals as well as people who are wholly opposed to having a label placed on their sexual orientation and who therefore did not pick a category.

## Result 3

## Half of the bisexual, homosexual or uncertain respondents have had same-sex experiences.

Sexual intercourse experiences with men are also widespread among the bisexual and homosexual girls and women between the ages of 14 and 25 and those who are uncertain about their sexual orientation (70%). Among the boys and young men who are not exclusively heterosexual, 43 percent – far fewer – said they had had sexual intercourse with women.

Around half of the adolescents and young adults (51%) who said they were attracted to the same sex or to both men and women or who were uncertain reported having had same-sex sexual encounters that went beyond kissing and stroking. 30 percent, however, said that they did not go beyond kissing and stroking with the same-sex partner. Among the 14- to 17-year-olds 34 percent did not 'go further' (adolescents: 29%).

At 31 percent, the percentage of respondents under the age of 18 who said they had not yet had any physical sexual contact with a member of the same sex was particularly high. The same was only true for 14 percent of the women aged 18 and up. The comparison figures among the heterosexual respondents who had not yet had any sexual encounters were lower: among the 14- to 17-year-olds it was 25 percent and among the 18- to 25-year-olds it was 5 percent.

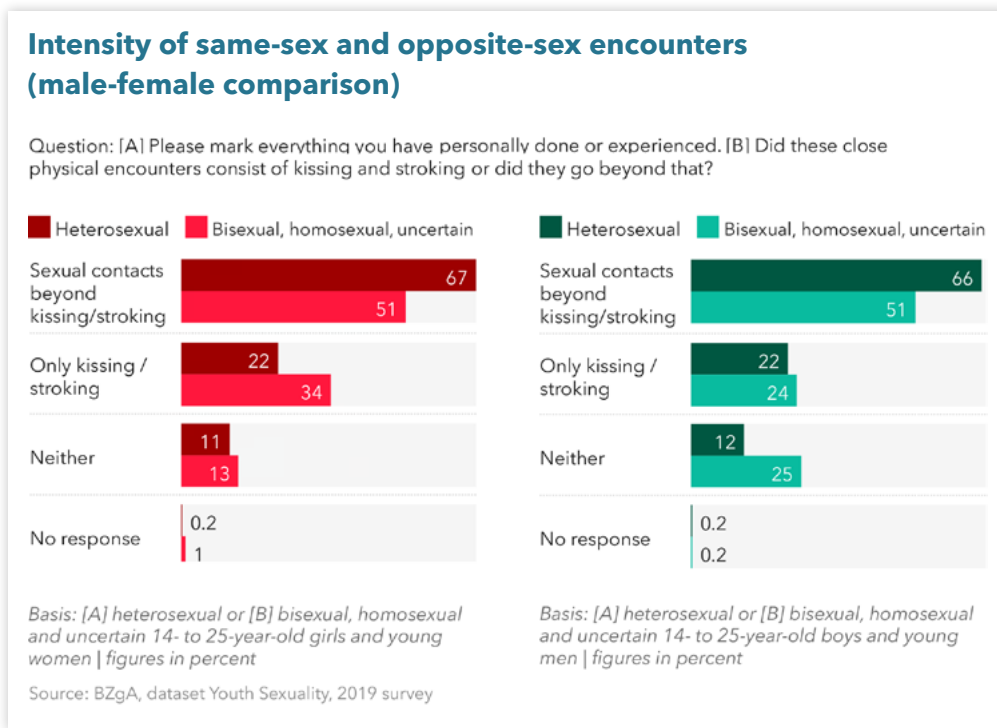
Figure 2 depicts the result of the question about sexual encounters between the ages of 14 and 25.

[See Youth Sexuality 9th Iteration - Fact Sheet 'Sexual Experiences in Adolescence'](#)





Figure 2



Boys and young men who are bisexual, homosexual or uncertain about their sexual orientation are more likely than girls and young women to have not yet had intense physical encounters (25 % compared to 13 %). Among girls and young women the encounters are more likely to stop with kissing and/or stroking than among the boys and young men (34 % compared to 24 %).

The data gives the impression that adolescents and young adults who are bisexual, homosexual or uncertain about their sexual orientation are equally as sexually active as the heterosexual respondents. What does become clear, however, is that the sexual encounters that correspond to their sexual orientation are expressed less assertively compared to their heterosexual peers and that they behave comparatively timidly. To compare: of the exclusively heterosexual adolescents and young adults, 66 percent said they had already had sexual intercourse (only kissing/stroking: 22 %; neither: 12 %).

## Result 4

## The number of sexual partners varies based on sex and sexual orientation.

Ignoring the aspect of sexual orientation, around half of the 14- to 17-year-old sexually active girls have had just one sexual partner to date (46%). The same is true for a slightly smaller percentage of the boys (38%). Among the young adult age bracket (18 to 25), the limitation to one sexual partner is much smaller (16%). The majority of young adults have had sexual intercourse with at least three people. The figure is substantially higher here for the young men than for the young women (70% compared to 61%).

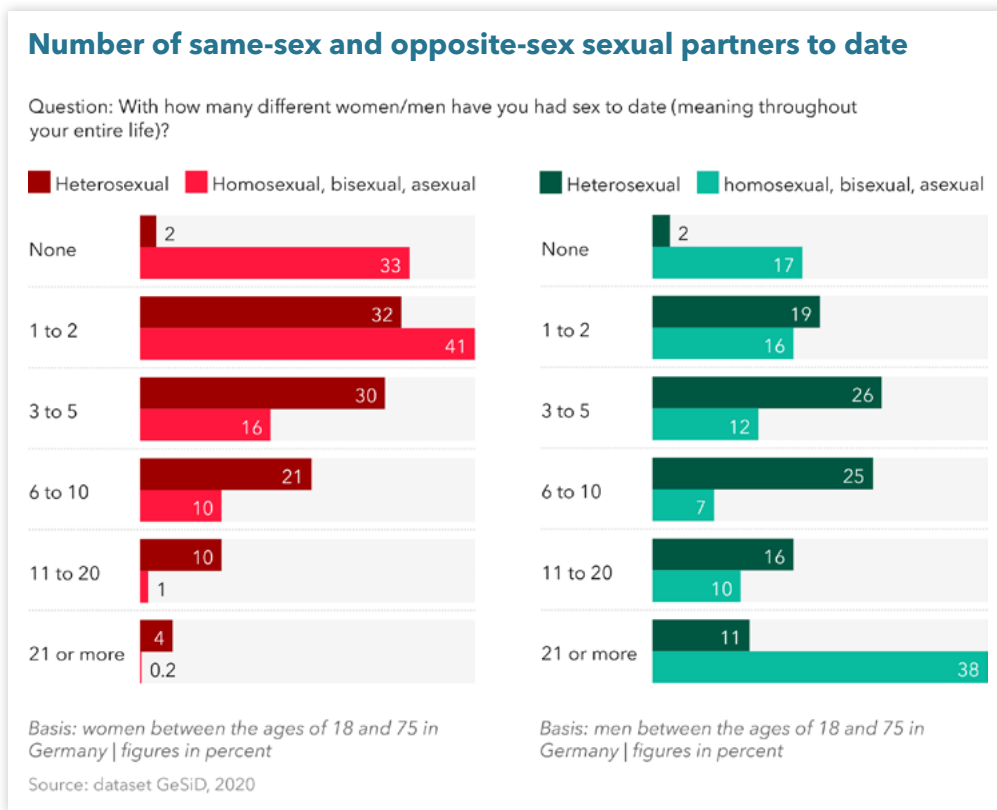
[See Youth Sexuality 9th Iteration - Fact Sheet 'Sexual Experiences in Adolescence'](#)



Based on the current data, the sexual behaviour of the respondents who are attracted to their own sex or to more than one sex/several genders or who are uncertain about their sexual orientation can only be described in a rough outline and care must be taken with any interpretation. For one thing, the question about the number of sexual partners did not make a distinction between the sex of the sexual partner. For another, the comparatively small number of interviews with young bisexual, homosexual and uncertain young people does not permit a closer analysis based on the respondents' age or sex. There is a fundamental statement that can be made: adolescents and young adults with a bisexual, homosexual or uncertain sexual orientation have just as active sex lives as their heterosexual peers. At 72 percent, more of them report having had at least three sexual partners than their exclusively heterosexual counterparts (60%).

The picture can be completed when the results from the GeSiD study are included (see Figure 3). This study asked adult women and men in Germany between the ages of 18 and 75 about the number of sexual partners, including the sex of these partners so that a distinction can be made both based on sexual activity and sexual orientation.

Figure 3



What is striking is that homosexual, bisexual and asexual women and men are much more likely to report not having had any sexual encounters to date than the heterosexual respondents. This difference is most prominent among the women (33 % versus 2 %).

Furthermore, there is a comparatively large number of respondents among the homosexual and bisexual men who have had a particularly large number of sexual partners (21 % and more: 38%). This can be traced back to a large number of one-time sexual encounters, which - according to the authors of the GeSiD study - does not necessarily correlate with a stronger sexual risk-taking behaviour (Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf, 2020).

## Result 5

## One in two young bisexual, homosexual and uncertain respondents reported experiences of non-physical sexualised violence.

The topic of sexualised violence has been greatly expanded in the Youth Sexuality current trend survey. The survey has found that bisexual and homosexual adolescents and young adults, as well as those who are uncertain about their sexual orientation are generally much more likely to experience non-physical sexualised violence than their exclusively heterosexual peers (see Figures 4 and 5).

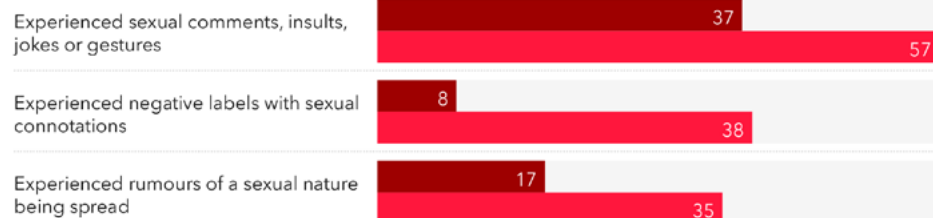
Figure 4

### Experiences of non-physical sexualised violence by sexual orientation (female respondents)

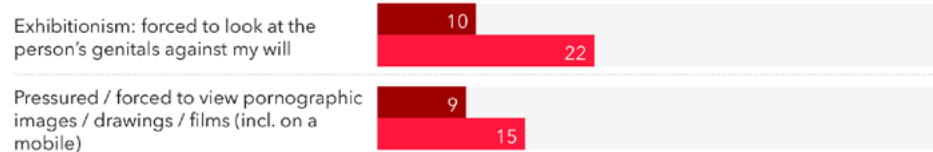
Question: It is possible to have unpleasant experiences or to be put under pressure. Have you experienced that or something similar?

■ Heterosexual ■ Bisexual, homosexual, uncertain

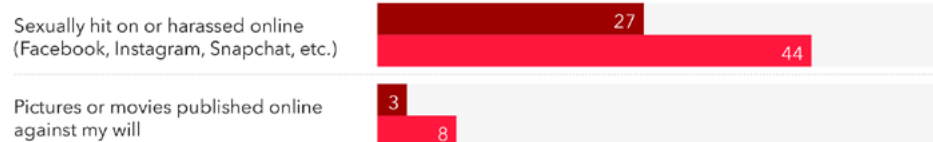
#### Verbal, in writing



#### Confrontation with sexual acts



#### Online victimisation



Basis: 14- to 25-year-old girls and young women | multiple responses possible | figures in percent | question based on the SPEAK! study (Maschke, Stecher, 2017)

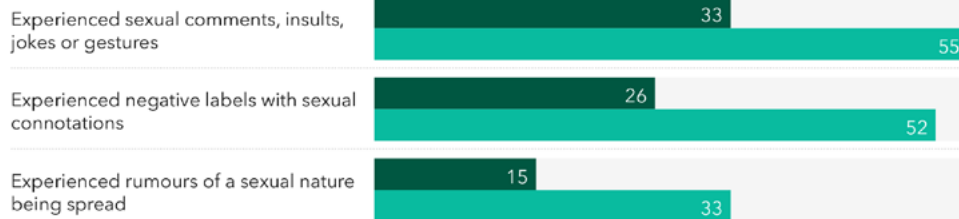
Source: BZgA, dataset Youth Sexuality, 2019 survey

### Experiences of non-physical sexualised violence by sexual orientation (male respondents)

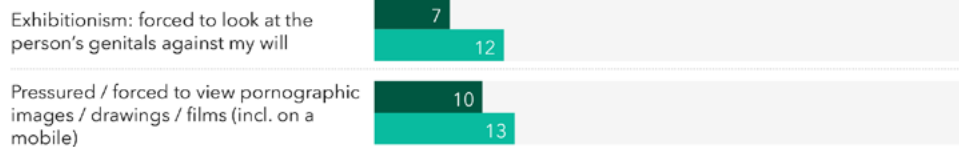
Question: It is possible to have unpleasant experiences or to be put under pressure. Have you experienced that or something similar?

■ Heterosexual ■ Bisexual, homosexual, uncertain

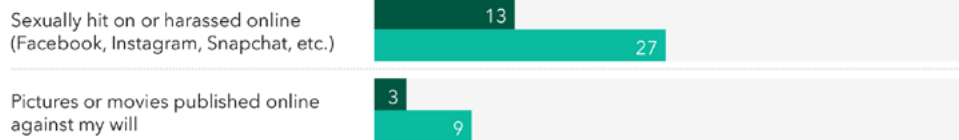
#### Verbal, in writing



#### Confrontation with sexual acts



#### Online victimisation



Basis: 14- to 25-year-old boys and young men | multiple responses possible | figures in percent | question based on the SPEAK! study (Maschke, Stecher, 2017)

Source: BZgA, dataset Youth Sexuality, 2019 survey

Figure 5

Among the bisexual and homosexual girls and young women, as well as those who are uncertain about their sexual orientation, 57 percent of the girls and young women and 55 percent of the boys and young men said they had been exposed to verbal and non-verbal sexual harassment - that is at least 20 percentage points more in both cases than among the heterosexual adolescents and young adults.

[See Youth Sexuality 9th Iteration - Fact Sheet 'Prevalence of Sexualised Violence'](#)



One striking difference between the sexes occurs with regard to negative labels that have a sexual meaning - i.e. being called 'gay' or 'lesbian' in a negative way. Boys and young men, regardless of their sexual orientation, are substantially more affected by this than girls and young women (28 % versus 11 %); and among the male bisexual and homosexual individuals as well as those who are uncertain about their sexual orientation it is even one in two of the respondents (52 %). When it comes to experiences of violence in the digital realm ('sexually hit on', 'harassed'), be it in private chats or publicly, with the corresponding reputational harm, girls and young women are affected twice as much as their male peers (29 % versus 14 %). Here too it is girls and young women who are bisexual, homosexual or uncertain about their sexual orientation who are particularly affected; among this cohort 44 percent - almost one in two - reported such experiences.

Those who are not (exclusively) interested in a different sex, but are (also) same-sex attracted or uncertain about their sexual orientation are at greater risk of physical sexualised violence. Among the girls and young women in this group the percentage who have experienced such violence lies at 34 percent, among the boys and young men it is 11 percent. Both values are roughly twice as high as those in the comparison group of individuals who are exclusively opposite-sex attracted (16 % and 5 % respectively).

These findings align with the results of the GeSiD study, where the 18- to 75-year-old women and men in Germany who had a different sexual orientation than an exclusively heterosexual one were also asked about their experiences with discrimination (Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf, 2020, p. 33f.). According to that study, at 63 percent it was the younger men up to the age of 35 who were particularly likely to have experienced disadvantage or discrimination because of their sexual orientation. However, even among the older homosexual, bisexual and asexual men the percentage was high, at 35 percent. Self-reportedly, the women who were not exclusively heterosexual were less affected (up to 35 years old: 20 %; older: 14 %).

Result 6

## Good trust structures in a person’s environment are less common among bisexual, homosexual and uncertain young people than among their heterosexual peers.

Adolescents and young adults between the ages of 14 and 25 who have a bisexual or homosexual orientation or who are uncertain about their sexual orientation are almost as likely as their heterosexual peers to have access to a confidant/e for sexual questions (85 % compared to 88 %). When minors (under the age of 18) already know that they are not (exclusively) attracted to the opposite sex/other genders, there were also more frequent reports that a confidant/e was missing. Of this cohort, only 75 percent said they had someone with whom they could talk openly about sexual questions (peers with a heterosexual orientation: 86 %); (see Figure 6). Regardless of sexual orientation, this confidant/e is usually the best friend.

Figure 6



[See Youth Sexuality 9th Iteration - Fact Sheet 'Sexuality Education and Contraceptive Advice at Home'](#)



Parents are among the most important confidants, but for bisexual, homosexual and uncertain individuals this is somewhat less true than for heterosexual adolescents and young adults (34% compared to 40%). When asked in more detail about the trust situation in the home, there are slight differences. The respondents who are (also) attracted to their own sex or who are uncertain about their sexual orientation were somewhat less likely to be able to talk to their parents 'about all intimate question' (a difference of 6 percentage points). Among the respondents under the age of 18 there is a gap of the same magnitude (also 6 points).

Adolescents under the age of 18 were also asked to what extent they felt 'taken seriously at home'. 83 percent of the heterosexual adolescents agreed they were taken seriously. At 74 percent, the majority of the bisexual, homosexual and uncertain adolescents still agreed they felt taken seriously, but to a noticeably lesser degree.



## Sexual orientation plays almost no role when it comes to the level of the respondents' sexuality education.

Around eight in ten adolescents between the ages of 14 and 17 felt they had received sufficient information about sexual questions (79 %). Those who at this age said they were not definitely heterosexual were not generally more likely to think they were not sufficiently educated about sexual questions - in this group the figure was 75 percent, only marginally fewer.

There were also hardly any differences when asked about the key individuals who played a role in the respondents' sexuality education. Regardless of sexual orientation it was predominantly best friends, parents and teachers who were the most relevant in this regard. The biggest differences can be found with regard to the respondents' own parents (7 percentage points): 56 percent of the heterosexual adolescents saw their own parents as key individuals for sexuality education. Among the bisexual, homosexual and uncertain respondents, this figure was slightly lower, at 49 percent.

The picture is similar when it comes to sexuality education received via media resources and school: adolescents cite school classes most often, regardless of their sexual orientation (heterosexual: 70 %; bisexual, homosexual, uncertain: 65 %); in addition, the internet plays a universally important role (59 % compared to 57 %).

### Result 7

[See Youth Sexuality 9th Iteration - Fact Sheet 'Sexuality Education and Contraceptive Advice at Home'](#)



[See Youth Sexuality 9th Iteration - Fact Sheet 'Sexuality Education at School'](#)



## Result 8

## Homosexuality is addressed as part of sexuality education in schools more commonly today than in the past.

[See Youth Sexuality 9th Iteration - Fact Sheet 'Sexuality Education at School'](#)



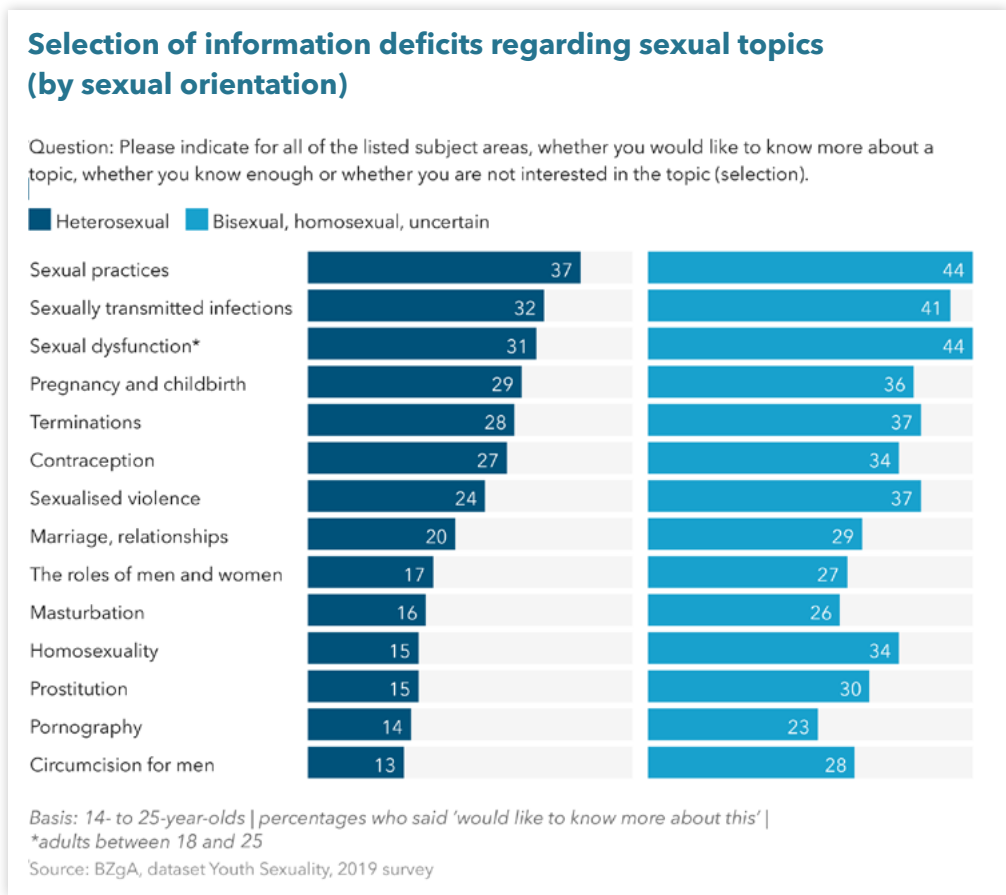
The sexuality education curriculum most commonly addresses the sex organs and physical development, conception and contraception as well as pregnancy and childbirth, according to the statements made by the 14- to 17-year-old adolescents. Other areas - including also the subject of homosexuality (47 %) - are cited by far fewer girls and boys who received sexuality education in school as topics that were addressed there. Looking at the long-term trend, it becomes clear that the development is substantially positive: in 1996 only 27 percent of the respondents said that the topic of homosexuality was addressed in school. Since then, there has been a continuous increase.

Result 9

## Bisexual, homosexual and uncertain young people are sexually educated, but some questions remain open for them.

The fact that the respondents across the board were similarly positive about their own level of sexuality education does not mean that bisexual, homosexual and uncertain adolescents and young adults did not express a need for specific information about their own sexual orientation – quite on the contrary. As part of the current Youth Sexuality Study, the 14- to 25-year-olds interviewed were given a list of 19 individual topics to do with sexuality and were asked to what extent they ‘would like to know more’ about them, they ‘are already known enough’ or were not interested in further information. For the majority of topics listed, young bisexual, homosexual and uncertain respondents were more likely to want further information than their heterosexual peers (see Figure 7).

Figure 7



The differences are particularly significant for the central topic of homosexuality. Regardless of sexual orientation, more than half of the respondents said they needed no further information on the subject. Around a third of the bisexual, homosexual and uncertain adolescents and young adults reported information deficits however (34 %); among the girls and young women in this group 37 percent said they wanted more information on the topic of homosexuality. Among the heterosexual adolescents the figure here was less than half that (15 %). For the other areas too, the bisexual, homosexual and uncertain respondents expressed a generally higher level of demand for information than their heterosexual peers.

## When it comes to questions about sexuality, the internet is relevant, regardless of sexual orientation.

If there is a knowledge deficit with regard to sexual topics, what source would adolescents and young adults like to use for additional information? There are no noteworthy differences here based on sexual orientation: the uncontested first place as a desired source of information goes to the internet (69 %, difference based on orientation: 2 percentage points in both cases). More than two thirds of the 14- to 25-year-olds reported having learned something important about sexuality online (heterosexual: 70 %; bisexual, homosexual, uncertain: 75 %).

Adolescents and young adults who are (also) interested in their own sex or who are uncertain about their sexual orientation said more often than average that they had received important information via chats with other private individuals or also via sex films online (11 or 9 percentage point difference depending on sexual orientation). However, for the most important online sources - Wikipedia as well as sexuality education and advice sites online - the differences disappear (38 % to 42 %; maximally 3 points difference based on orientation).

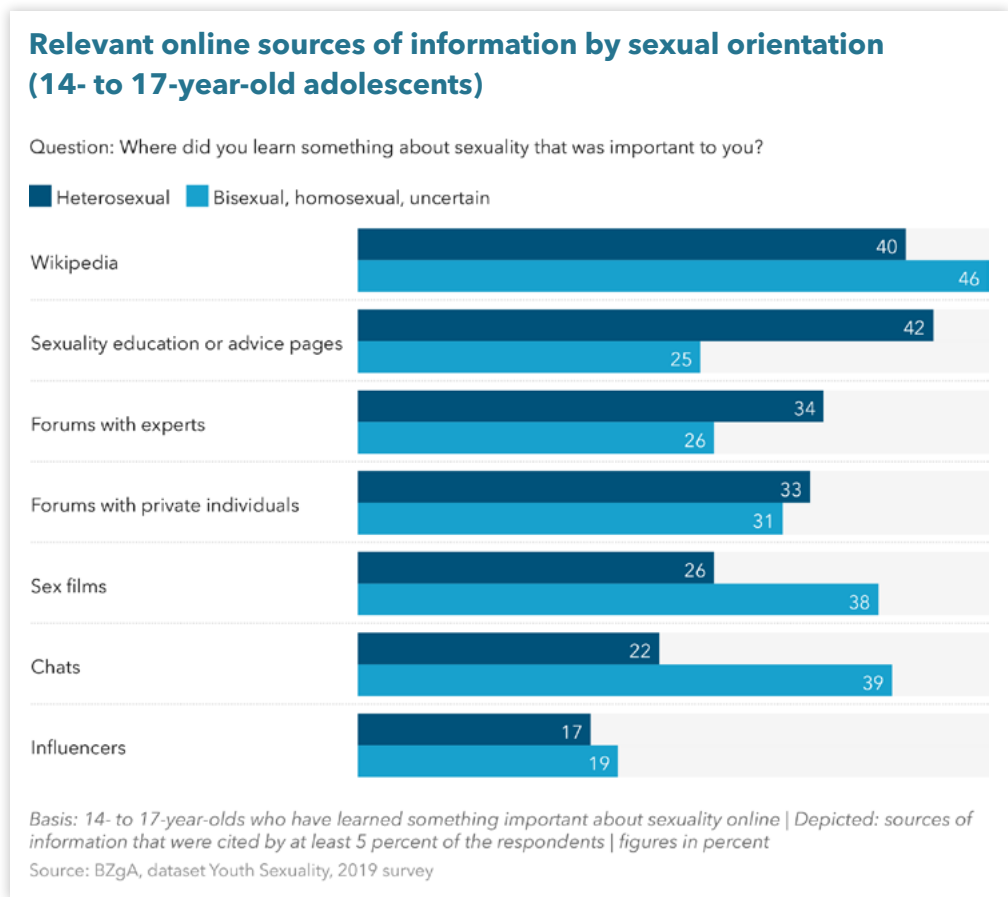
The situation is different when looking at just the 14- to 17-year-old adolescents, who have obtained important information about sexuality online (see Figure 8).

Result 10

[See Youth Sexuality  
9th Iteration - Fact Sheet  
'Media of Sexuality  
Education'](#)



Figure 8



Overall, the most-cited online source, Wikipedia, is similarly significant for everyone, regardless of sexual orientation (a difference of 6 percentage points). The same is true for online forums and influencers (both difference of 2 percentage points). However, bisexual, homosexual and uncertain adolescents are less commonly reached than their heterosexual peers by sexuality education and advice websites (difference: 17 percentage points). Similar differences can be found regarding internet forums where experts are available for questions (8-point difference). As was the case for the young adults, adolescents who are uncertain about their sexual orientation or those who are bisexual or homosexual are disproportionately likely to cite online chats with other private individuals and sex films (a difference of 17 and 12 points respectively).

Aside from online sources of information, a good percentage of the adolescents and young adults cite books and free sexuality education brochures (cited by 23 % to 34 %), again relatively unanimously. Larger differences exist when we look at the adolescents, i.e. those under the age of 18: free sexuality education brochures strike much more of a chord among the heterosexual adolescents (27 %) than among the 14- to 17-year-olds who are (also) attracted by their own sex / gender or who feel uncertain about their sexual orientation (18 %).

The 14- to 17-year-olds, where two in ten said they did not feel sufficiently informed about sexual matters, were also asked whether there were people from whom they would like to receive further information on sexual topics. By far the most commonly-cited group here were peers - irrespective of sexual orientation (heterosexual: 54 %; bisexual, homosexual, uncertain: 49 %). Parents came second at 39 percent and 38 percent respectively.

## Result 11

## Young bisexual, homosexual and uncertain people report a greater level of demand for specific advice.

[See Youth Sexuality 9th Iteration – Fact Sheet 'In Focus: Advice Centres'](#)



Experts in recognised advice centres are among the preferred sources of information of as yet unanswered sexual questions for around one in five of the adolescents and this is equally true for the heterosexual adolescents (19%) and those with a bisexual or homosexual orientation or those who are uncertain (18%).

Respondents who said they were (also) attracted to their own sex or who said they were uncertain about their sexual orientation were much more likely to have taken advantage of services offered by advice centres than their heterosexual peers. This can already be seen in the 14- to 17-year-old cohort, where the number of those with a bisexual or homosexual orientation and those who were uncertain who had been to an advice centre was twice as high as the number for their heterosexual peers (21% compared to 11%). Among the 18- to 25-year-olds the difference persists but to a slightly lesser degree (28% compared to 18%).

The background to many of these visits to advice centres becomes clear when the young people are asked about the nature of the services they sought out. The motivations of the heterosexual respondents were broadly scattered across almost all subject areas, but among the bisexual, homosexual and uncertain respondents who had sought out an advice centre, two topics stand out: sexually transmitted infections (42%) and questions about sexual orientation (38%). The comparison values among the heterosexual respondents were much lower in both cases (31% and 9% respectively).



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## Notes on the data

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- As the percentages shown has been rounded to whole numbers, it is possible that they may not add up to 100 percent.
- For the same reason the combined categories (e.g. 'very satisfied' and 'mostly satisfied') can deviate from the sum of the individual categories depicted.
- For questions where the respondents were able to pick several answers, the total figure can exceed 100 percent.
- Where data is available from previous surveys, the survey results are shown in a trend comparison. Because of how the samples were done it is possible to see the long-term trend covering almost 40 years for boys and girls between 14 and 17 without a migrant background.
- Participants are deemed to have a migrant background if they themselves or at least one parent was born without German citizenship; this definition is also used by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany (Statistisches Bundesamt, 2021).
- The level of education is determined by the (desired) qualifications the study participants were/are seeking at school based on the education system in Germany. Low: 9 years of school, most are around 15 years old when they leave (e.g. Hauptschule) Moderate: 10 years of school, most are around 16 years old when they leave (e.g. mittlere Reife). High: 12 to 13 years of school, most are 18 to 19 years old when they leave (e.g. Abitur).
- Because of the methodological design of the Youth Sexuality Study a further non-binary differentiation of gender has had to be left out. For this same reason, the term 'sex' (biological aspects, assigned by birth) continues to be used (in contrast to 'gender' in the sense of social construction, gender identity as personal internal perception of oneself) to enable statements on long-term trends (see also Census UK, 2019). This decision is purely a methodological necessity and not based on a lack of awareness of diversity here.

## Imprint

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## The Research Project: Background, Research Team, Methodology

The Federal Centre for Health Education's (BZgA) representative study Youth Sexuality 9th Iteration is a repeat survey. In the summer of 2019 the ninth large-scale survey of young people, their parents and young adults began. A total of 6,032 interviews were conducted nationwide. Since 1980, the BZgA has been investigating the attitudes and behaviour of young people in the Federal Republic of Germany with regard to sexuality education, sexuality and contraception. This current study follows on from the previous years' studies with the explicit aim of illustrating trends.

### Project profile

<b>Client</b>	Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA)
<b>Project lead</b>	Angelika Hessling, BZgA
<b>Survey institute</b>	Kantar GmbH
<b>Survey population</b>	Adolescents and young adults between the ages of 14 and 25
<b>Survey method</b>	Computer-supported combined oral-written survey; for the more intimate questions the questionnaire was to be filled out by the respondents without the interviewers being able to see.
<b>Selection method</b>	A disproportionately selected quota sample with regards to sex, age and migrant background
<b>Sample of young people</b>	6,032 interviews of which 3,556 were with adolescents between the ages of 14 and 17 and 2,476 with young adults between 18 and 25
<b>Sample: parents</b>	In the households of the 14- to 17-year-old adolescents without a migrant background one parent was also surveyed (2,422 interviews)
<b>Weighting</b>	All the data shown underwent a representative weighting in order to remove the sample's disproportionalities caused by the design.
<b>Survey period</b>	May to October 2019



### More information about the study Youth Sexuality 9th Iteration Central results and further fact sheets

<https://www.sexualaufklaerung.de/en/english/projects/detail/youth-sexuality-9th-iteration/>