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Sexual Behavior, Sexual Attraction, and Sexual Identity in the United States: Data From the 2006–2008 National Survey of Family Growth

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Abstract

Objective—This report presents national estimates of several measures of sexual behavior, sexual attraction, and sexual identity among males and females aged 15–44 years in the United States, based on the 2006–2008 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG). These data are relevant to demographic and public health concerns, including fertility and sexually transmitted infections among teenagers and adults. Data from the 2006–2008 NSFG are compared with data from the 2002 NSFG and other national surveys.

Methods—Data for 2006–2008 were collected through in-person interviews with a national sample of 13,495 males and females in the household population of the United States. The measures presented in this report were collected using audio computer-assisted self interviewing (ACASI), in which the respondent enters his or her own answers into the computer without telling them to an interviewer. The overall response rate for the 2006–2008 NSFG was 75%.

Results—Sexual behaviors among males and females aged 15–44 based on the 2006–2008 NSFG were generally similar to those reported based on the 2002 NSFG. Among adults aged 25–44, about 98% of women and 97% of men ever had vaginal intercourse, 89% of women and 90% of men ever had oral sex with an opposite-sex partner, and 36% of women and 44% of men ever had anal sex with an opposite-sex partner. Twice as many women aged 25–44 (12%) reported any same-sex contact in their lifetimes compared with men (5.8%). Among teenagers aged 15–19, 7% of females and 9% of males have had oral sex with an opposite-sex partner, but no vaginal intercourse. Sexual attraction and identity correlates closely but not completely with reports of sexual behavior. Sexual behaviors, attraction, and identity vary by age, marital or cohabiting status, education, and race and Hispanic origin.

Keywords: oral sex • anal sex • sexual orientation

Introduction

This report presents national estimates for several types of sexual behavior among men and women aged 15–44 years in the United States in 2006–2008, as well as measures of sexual attraction and identity for adults aged 18–44. These behaviors and characteristics are relevant to birth and pregnancy rates, as well as to the incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)—the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) (1–3). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that about 19 million new cases of STIs occur each year (2). About one-half of all STIs occur among persons aged 15–24, and the direct medical cost of these diseases for that age group alone was estimated at \$6.5 billion in the year 2000 (4). In 2008, CDC estimated that rates of chlamydia increased, and the largest numbers of reported cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea were among teenagers aged 15–19 (5). These recent data also suggest that there were significant racial disparities in the rates of reportable STIs in the United States in 2008, particularly



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among teens and young adults. Among women, black teenagers aged 15–19 had the highest rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea, followed by black women aged 20–24 (5).

With regard to HIV/AIDS, approximately 50,000 Americans are diagnosed with HIV each year (6), and over 1 million Americans are currently living with HIV (1). Although current HIV medications have substantially increased life expectancy (7), the medical costs are substantial, averaging approximately \$20,000 per year for each person in care (8). These infections not only affect HIV-positive individuals but may also be transmitted to spouses and partners, and among pregnant women, to their babies. Data for HIV/AIDS cases (in 37 states with confidential name-based reporting) in 2008 suggest that 54% of HIV cases diagnosed in 2008 were transmitted by same-sex sexual contact among males, and another 32% by heterosexual sexual contact. Therefore, approximately 86% of HIV cases were acquired through sexual behavior (1).

A previous report on sexual behavior and selected health measures used data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) to present national estimates of some basic statistics on certain types of sexual behavior, sexual identity, and sexual attraction in the United States that have public health significance (9). The present report contains more recent data from the 2006–2008 NSFG on the following topics:

- Numbers of opposite-sex sexual partners in the past year and in lifetime for persons aged 15–44 (Tables 1–4).
- Types of sexual behavior (including opposite-sex and same-sex partners) among persons aged 15–44 (Tables 5 and 6, and Figure 1).
- Types of sexual behavior (including opposite-sex and same-sex partners) among persons aged 15–24 (Tables 7 and 8, and Figure 2).
- Numbers of sexual partners (opposite-sex and same-sex) in the past year among persons aged 15–44 (Table 9).

- Same-sex sexual activity among persons aged 15–44 (Table 10).
- Sexual attraction and sexual identity among persons aged 18–44 (Tables 11–13).
- Association of sexual behavior, sexual attraction, and sexual identity (Tables 14 and 15).

Improvements were made in some of the questions in NSFG, and some new items have been collected on these topics to improve the utility of the data. Comparisons with Cycle 6 (2002) of NSFG and other national surveys (Table 16) are made to the extent possible to shed light on the reliability of the results and to suggest whether any marked trends have occurred.

Selected Previous Studies

In addition to NSFG, several nationally representative studies of sexual behavior have been conducted in the United States in the last two decades. These surveys were based on in-person interviews and used national probability samples. The surveys include:

- The National Survey of Men (10,11), conducted in 1991 with 3,321 men aged 20–39.
- The National Health and Social Life Survey (NHSLs), conducted in 1992 with 3,432 men and women aged 18–59 (12,13).
- The General Social Survey (GSS), which has included some questions on sexual behavior in its national samples of adults aged 18 and over since 1988 (14–17).

In addition, some surveys limited to teenagers have collected data on some aspects of sexual behavior, including CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey—a biennial school-based survey of high school students that included data on condom use, sexual intercourse, and numbers of sexual partners (18). The Urban Institute's National Surveys of Adolescent Males collected data on the sexual activity and contraceptive use of national samples of males aged 15–19 in 1988 and 1995 (19). In 2009, researchers at Indiana University

conducted the National Survey of Sexual Health and Behavior (NSSHB)—an Internet-based study of sexual behaviors among adolescents and adults called. NSSHB asked about behaviors in a sample of 5,865 men and women aged 14–94 (20). Other national studies that examined sexual behaviors in the general population are referenced in our previous report on sexual behavior (9).

Methods

Data source

NSFG has been conducted seven times by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS): in 1973 and 1976 with samples of married and formerly married women; in 1982, 1988, and 1995 with samples of women of all marital status categories; and in 2002 and 2006–2010 with national samples of both women and men aged 15–44. Each time, the interviews have been conducted in person by trained female interviewers in the selected persons' homes. The current report is based on the first data release from the 2006–2010 NSFG, specifically those interviews conducted from June 2006 through December 2008 and referred to as the 2006–2008 NSFG. The 2006–2008 NSFG is a nationally representative, multistage probability sample drawn from 85 areas across the United States. The sample is designed to produce national, not state, estimates. Large areas (counties and cities) were chosen first; within each large area or “primary sampling unit,” groups of adjacent blocks, called segments, were chosen at random. In each segment, addresses were listed and some addresses were sampled at random. The sampled addresses were visited in person, and a short “screening” interview was conducted to see whether anyone aged 15–44 lived there. If so, one person was chosen at random for the interview and was offered a chance to participate. To protect the respondent's privacy, only one person was interviewed in each selected household. In 2006–2008, as well as in 2002, teenagers and black and Hispanic adults were sampled at higher rates than others. The final sample for 2006–2008

consisted of 13,495 respondents aged 15–44—7,356 females and 6,139 males.

All respondents were given written and oral information about the survey and were informed that participation was voluntary. Adult respondents aged 18–44 were asked to sign a consent form but were not required to do so. For minors aged 15–17, signed consent was required first from a parent or guardian, and then signed assent was required from the minor; if either the parent or the minor declined to give written consent, the minor did not participate in the survey. Respondents were assured that the confidentiality of their information would be protected. The response rate for the 2006–2008 NSFG was 75% overall—76% for women and 73% for men.

Over the course of fieldwork in 2006–2010, about 100 female interviewers were hired and trained by the survey contractor, the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, under the supervision of NCHS. At any point in the data collection period, 40–45 interviewers were in the field conducting NSFG interviews. Respondents in the 2006–2010 survey were offered \$40 as a “token of appreciation” for their participation. NSFG questionnaires and materials were reviewed and approved by both the CDC/NCHS Research Ethics Review Board and the University of Michigan Institutional Review Board. The female questionnaire lasted an average of about 80 minutes, and the male questionnaire lasted about 60 minutes.

More detailed information about the methods and procedures of NSFG and its sample design, weighting, imputation, and variance estimation has been published (21,22). Results of the 2006–2008 NSFG on vaginal intercourse, contraceptive use, and childbearing experience of teenagers (23), and the contraceptive use of women aged 15–44 (24), have also been published. Forthcoming reports will show national estimates of HIV risk and testing for men and women aged 15–44, similar to what was published from the 2002 NSFG (25,26).

Use of audio computer-assisted self interviewing (ACASI)

Much of the data in the survey were collected by computer-assisted personal interviewing, or CAPI, in which the questionnaire was stored on a laptop computer and administered by an interviewer. Many of the variables described in this report were collected using ACASI. The ACASI portion of the NSFG interview was significantly expanded for the 2002 and 2006–2010 surveys in response to the need for reliable, general population-based national data on sexual and drug behavior related to HIV/AIDS and other STIs, as well as data on sexual identity measures (25,27–29). NSFG staff worked with CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, other collaborating agencies, and experts who had conducted surveys on closely related topics (10–14), to develop appropriate questions for this purpose. In ACASI the respondent listens to the questions through headphones, reads them on the screen, or both, and enters the response directly into the computer. This method avoids asking the respondent to give his or her answers to the interviewer, and it has been found to yield more complete reporting of sensitive behaviors (30). ACASI may also make it possible for persons with lower literacy to complete the self interview by listening to the questions instead of reading them. All data on sexual behavior shown in this report were collected using ACASI.

Demographic variables used in this report

The data on sexual behavior, attraction, and identity presented in this report are shown with respect to several key background or demographic characteristics—including age, marital or cohabiting status, educational attainment, and Hispanic origin and race. Age of respondent and educational attainment reflect status at time of interview. Educational attainment is shown based only on respondents aged 22–44 because large percentages of

those aged 15–21 are still attending school. Using the full 15–44 age range would potentially underestimate the percentage of persons with a college degree. The definition of marital or cohabiting status used in this report also reflects status at time of interview and includes only those relationships with opposite-sex spouses or partners, in keeping with the recoded variables that have been defined across all NSFG surveys to date. Although it is theoretically possible to construct a measure of same-sex cohabitation using the NSFG household roster information, the sample sizes reporting these relationships do not permit analyses for this population subgroup.

The definitions of Hispanic origin and race used in this report take into account the reporting of more than one race, in accordance with 1997 guidelines from the Office of Management and Budget. However, the 2006–2008 NSFG's sample does not include sufficient numbers of respondents of multiple-race or single-race groups other than black and white to be able to show more detail in the tables. For convenience in writing, the term “black” or “non-Hispanic black” will be used instead of the full phrase, “non-Hispanic black or African American, single race.” Similarly, the term “white” or “non-Hispanic white” will be used instead of the full phrase, “non-Hispanic white, single race.” The full forms of these category labels are shown in the tables. Further technical details and definitions of terms associated with the demographic variables used in this report can be found in earlier NSFG reports (23,24 and 31,32).

In this report, the term “intercourse” refers to heterosexual vaginal intercourse. The terms “sex” or “sexual contact” refer to all types of sexual activity, including vaginal intercourse, oral sex, and anal sex, either with opposite-sex or same-sex partners. All measures related to sexual behavior, attraction, and identity as used in this report are described in more detail in the following text.

Measurement of sexual behavior in NSFG ACASI

This section defines the sexual behaviors and related variables presented in this report, in part by showing the wording of the questions asking about them. NSFG is historically and primarily a study used to measure factors related to pregnancy and birth rates (24,32,33). For this purpose, much of the main part of the interview, administered by the interviewer, is focused on behaviors most closely related to birth and pregnancy rates—namely, heterosexual vaginal intercourse, contraceptive use, infertility, breastfeeding, and heterosexual marriage and cohabitation. The self-administered, or ACASI part of the interview, includes questions on a wider range of sexual activities—including oral and anal sex with opposite-sex partners and sexual contact with same-sex partners—to address more factors related to risk of HIV and other STIs.

The wording of the NSFG questions on sexual behaviors was based on wording used in previous studies, along with consultations with the directors of many of those studies and other experts. As described earlier, answering questions in ACASI means that respondents saw the question text on the computer screen, or heard the question through headphones, or both. They entered their responses directly into the laptop computer and were routed by the interview program to the next applicable question. Between Cycle 6 (2002) and the 2006–2008 NSFG, there were a few small changes made to the ACASI portion of the interview for males and females, such as improvements in routing, changes in question wording, and changes to response categories to improve clarity. The NSFG *User's Guide* Appendix 5, “Summary of NSFG Questionnaire Changes” provides a detailed list of these changes (33). The *User's Guide* supplement for the 2006–2008 ACASI data files also provides detail on the changes made from Cycle 6 (2002) (34).

Below is the question wording related to types of sexual behavior in the NSFG ACASI section for 2006–

2008. All of these questions were not asked in the actual sequence shown below. To see the questions in their full context, with intervening questions, please see the full questionnaires on the NSFG webpage (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>).

Types of sexual behavior for female respondents

The question on vaginal intercourse with a male partner was only asked in ACASI for those female respondents who did not provide clear evidence of intercourse in the interviewer-administered portion of the interview. Specifically, if the respondent had ever been married or cohabited with a male partner or if she had ever been pregnant, she was not asked again in ACASI about vaginal intercourse. The question wording for all other respondents was as follows:

Has a male ever put his penis in your vagina (also known as vaginal intercourse)?

All female respondents answered two questions on oral sex with male partners and one question on anal sex with male partners. The two questions on oral sex with a male partner are shown below, following a preface:

The next few questions are about oral sex. By oral sex, we mean stimulating the genitals with the mouth.

- *Has a male ever performed oral sex on you?*
- *Have you ever performed oral sex on a male? That is, have you ever stimulated his penis with your mouth?*

Below is the question female respondents were asked about anal sex with a male:

- *Has a male ever put his penis in your rectum or butt (also known as anal sex)?*

With regard to *same-sex* sexual partners, female respondents were asked up to three questions on sexual contact with female partners, following a preface:

The next questions ask about sexual experiences you may had with another female.

- *Have you ever performed oral sex on another female?*
- *Has another female ever performed oral sex on you?*

If the respondent answered “no” to both of the above questions on oral sex with a female partner, then she was asked the more general question that mirrors the single question that females were asked on same-sex experience in the 2002 NSFG.

- *Have you ever had any sexual experience of any kind with another female?*

A “yes” answer to any of these three questions was classified as “same-sex sexual behavior” for females. The more specific behavioral questions on oral sex with a female partner were added for the 2006–2008 NSFG due to concerns that the single question asked in 2002 was too vague to be interpretable and could not be compared with the male data on same-sex sexual experience.

Types of sexual behavior for male respondents

As for female respondents, the question on vaginal intercourse was only asked in ACASI for those male respondents who did not provide clear evidence of intercourse in the interviewer-administered portion of the interview. Specifically, if the respondent had ever been married or cohabited with a female partner or if he had ever fathered a pregnancy, he was not asked again in ACASI about vaginal intercourse. The question wording for all other respondents was as follows:

Have you ever put your penis in a female's vagina (also known as vaginal intercourse)?

All male respondents answered two questions on oral sex with female partners and one question on anal sex with female partners. The two questions on oral sex with a female partner are shown below, following a preface:

The next few questions are about oral sex. By oral sex, we mean stimulating the genitals with the mouth.

- *Has a female ever performed oral sex on you, that is, stimulated your penis with her mouth?*
- *Have you ever performed oral sex on a female?*

Below is the question male respondents were asked about anal sex with a female:

- *Have you ever put your penis in a female's rectum or butt (also known as anal sex)?*

With regard to same-sex sexual partners, male respondents were asked four questions on same-sex sexual contact with male partners, following a preface:

The next questions ask about sexual experiences you may have had with another male. Have you ever done any of the following with another male?

- *Have you ever performed oral sex on another male, that is, stimulated his penis with your mouth?*
- *Has another male ever performed oral sex on you, that is, stimulated your penis with his mouth?*
- *Has another male ever put his penis in your rectum or butt (anal sex)?*
- *Have you ever put your penis in his rectum or butt (anal sex)?*

A “yes” answer to any of these four questions was classified as “same-sex sexual behavior.” A “yes” to either of the oral sex questions was classified as “any oral sex with a male,” and a “yes” answer to either of the anal sex questions was classified as “any anal sex with a male.” Unlike the question series for female respondents in the NSFG’s ACASI, male respondents who answered “no” to all four of the specific behavioral questions were not asked a more general question about “any sexual experience of any kind with a male partner.”

Numbers of opposite-sex sexual partners

In the 2006–2008 NSFG ACASI, all respondents who reported ever having vaginal, oral, or anal sex with an opposite-sex partner were asked their total numbers of opposite-sex partners in

their lifetime (to time of interview) and in the last 12 months. These questions are shown in the following text as worded for females, and analogous questions were asked for males. The phrasing of the prefatory sentence is due to the placement of this question right after a series of questions about nonvoluntary vaginal intercourse.

Number of male (opposite-sex) partners in lifetime:

This next question is also about your male sex partners. This time, think about any male with whom you have had vaginal intercourse, oral sex, or anal sex—any of these.

Thinking about your entire life, how many male sex partners have you had? Please count every partner, even those you had sex with only once.

Number of male (opposite-sex) partners in last 12 months:

Thinking about the last 12 months, how many male sex partners have you had in the 12 months since [appropriate month/year filled in]? Please count every partner, even those you had sex with only once in those 12 months.

Numbers of same-sex sexual partners

All respondents who reported ever having any same-sex sexual experience were asked their total number of same-sex partners in their lifetimes and in the last 12 months. Again, these questions are shown below as worded for females, and analogous questions were asked for males.

Number of female (same-sex) partners in lifetime:

Thinking about your entire life, how many female sex partners have you had?

Number of female (same-sex) partners in last 12 months:

Thinking about the last 12 months, how many female sex partners have you had in the 12 months since [appropriate month/year filled in]? Please count every partner, even those you had sex with only once in those 12 months.

Please count every partner, even those you had sex with only once in those 12 months.

For one table in the report (Table 9), the total number of partners in the last 12 months was defined based on opposite-sex and same-sex partners. Because the numbers of respondents reporting more than one same-sex partner in the last year was too small to show separately, the table groups all those who reported any same-sex partners in the last year. Those who had no same-sex partners in the last year are broken down by their number of opposite-sex partners in the last year (one compared with two or more).

Measurement of sexual attraction and identity

In ACASI, all respondents were also asked questions on sexual attraction and sexual identity. Based on prior analyses with the 2002 NSFG (9) and NCHS cognitive lab testing results based on the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) (35), the sexual identity response categories were modified for 2006–2008 to include additional words that respondents may recognize more readily. The “heterosexual” category was reworded to say “heterosexual or straight.” The “homosexual” category was changed to say “homosexual or gay” for men and “homosexual, gay, or lesbian” for women.

For females, the questions were as follows:

People are different in their sexual attraction to other people. Which best describes your feelings? Are you. . .

- *Only attracted to males*
- *Mostly attracted to males*
- *Equally attracted to males and females*
- *Mostly attracted to females*
- *Only attracted to females*
- *Not sure*

Do you think of yourself as. . .

- *Heterosexual or straight*
- *Homosexual, gay, or lesbian*
- *Bisexual*
- *Something else*

For males, these questions were as follows:

People are different in their sexual attraction to other people. Which best describes your feelings? Are you. . .

- Only attracted to females
- Mostly attracted to females
- Equally attracted to females and males
- Mostly attracted to males
- Only attracted to males
- Not sure

Do you think of yourself as. . .

- Heterosexual or straight
- Homosexual or gay
- Bisexual
- Something else

Given the higher-than-expected percentages reporting “something else” in the 2002 NSFG (3.8%–3.9%), ACASI respondents who answered “something else” in the 2006–2008 NSFG were asked a follow-up question to clarify what they meant:

When you say “something else,” what do you mean? Please type in your answer.

Based on their verbatim, typed responses, a number of respondents who had answered “something else” could be unambiguously classified (or “back-coded”) into the provided response categories. Due to significantly lower levels of “something else” seen in the original, pre-back-coded data from 2006–2008, as well as the expense of administering and coding this follow-up question, the “something else” response option, along with the verbatim follow-up, was dropped beginning in July 2008. NSFG respondents interviewed after this point either chose one of the three response categories provided or chose “don’t know” or “refused,” as is allowed on any question in the survey. In this report, all respondents who chose “don’t know” or “refused” are grouped as “did not report.” For further information on NSFG’s measurement of sexual identity, see the Technical Notes section.

Strengths and limitations of the data

The data presented in this report are primarily from the 2006–2008 NSFG, which has a number of strengths for studying sexual behavior in the U.S. population:

- NSFG has a rigorous probability sampling design, so the estimates can be generalized to the national population.
- The response rate for NSFG was 75%, which is considered high in household survey research, and suggests that the data for most statistics can be generalized to the population with confidence.
- Questions asked on NSFG have undergone testing and review in an effort to make them understandable to persons participating in the survey. For example, a pretest was conducted before the Cycle 6 (2002) NSFG that included a number of randomized experiments to test ideas from the survey methodology literature to improve data collection (36). In addition, most of the ACASI questions used in this report were also asked in the 2002 NSFG, and some were refined as a result of that experience (34).
- Sensitive questions associated with sexual behavior, reproductive health, or drug abuse were collected using ACASI methods, which have been found to yield more complete reporting of sensitive behaviors, and they also avoid the large amounts of missing data often found due to routing mistakes through self-administered paper-and-pencil questionnaires (9,30).
- The questionnaire was administered in both English and Spanish; those who preferred to answer the interview in Spanish were interviewed by bilingual interviewers. The translation of the questionnaire into Spanish was done with particular attention to making it understandable and culturally appropriate for major Hispanic groups, including Mexican and Puerto Rican, and to recent

immigrants and those with limited education (37).

The data included in this report also have some limitations:

- As a household-based sample survey, NSFG excludes from the sampling frame those who are currently homeless, incarcerated or otherwise institutionalized, and those living on military bases in the United States. (The NSFG sample does include respondents with past experience with military service or incarceration who currently live in the household population, including respondents on active duty with the military, but not living on military bases.) To the extent that groups excluded from the NSFG sample may have different patterns of sexual behavior, the survey results cannot be generalized to those populations.
- As in any survey, nonsampling error could affect the results. NSFG makes use of extensive quality control procedures to try to minimize the effects of such errors (21,22).
- The results could be affected by underreporting of sensitive behaviors, although using ACASI has been found to yield more complete reporting of these items than other types of questionnaires (30).
- NSFG provides national estimates, but is not designed to provide state or local estimates of the behaviors described in this report.
- The age range of NSFG is 15–44 years. Therefore, it is not possible to measure the sexual behavior of those outside that age range.
- Given the sample size of the 2006–2008 NSFG, the numbers of men and women in the sample who have had sexual contact with same-sex partners, while larger than in most other studies, are still relatively small, so the sampling errors of percentages for these groups are larger than they are for larger groups. It also means that the amount of subgroup analysis (for example, by age, race or ethnicity, and other characteristics) that can be done for these populations is limited.

- The scope of this report is limited to a few measures of sexual behavior, attraction, and identity that could be studied within the sample sizes of the 2006–2008 NSFG. With the release of the larger 2006–2010 NSFG data, more detailed and statistically powerful subgroup analyses will be possible.

Statistical analysis

All estimates in this report are based on sampling weights that are designed to produce unbiased estimates for the approximately 124 million men and women aged 15–44 in the United States. The statistical package SAS, Version 9.2, was used to produce all estimates of percentages and numbers in this report (<http://www.sas.com>). SUDAAN software was used to estimate the sampling errors of the statistics; this software takes into account the use of weighted data and the complex design of the sample in calculating estimates of standard errors and significance tests (<http://www.rti.org/sudaan/>). Each table in this report includes standard errors as a measure of the precision of each point estimate, including all percentages and medians.

Significance of differences among subgroups was determined by standard two-tailed *t* tests using point estimates and their standard errors. For selected comparisons, chi-square tests of overall association were also performed within SUDAAN's Proc Crosstab. No adjustments were made for multiple comparisons. Terms such as “greater than” and “less than” indicate that a statistically significant difference was found. Terms such as “similar” or “no difference” indicate that the statistics being compared were not significantly different. Lack of comment regarding the difference does not mean that significance was tested and ruled out.

In the description of the results in the following text, when the percentage being cited is below 10%, the text will cite the exact percentage to one decimal point. To make reading easier and to remind the reader that the results are based on samples and subject to sampling error, percentages above 10%

will generally be shown rounded to the nearest whole percent. Readers should pay close attention to the sampling errors for small groups, such as subgroups of teenagers or persons who report same-sex sexual behavior. In this report, percentages are not shown if the denominator is less than 100 cases, or the numerator is less than five cases. When a percentage or other statistic is not shown for this reason, the table contains an asterisk signifying that the “statistic does not meet standards of reliability or precision.” For most statistics presented in this report, the numerators and denominators are much larger.

Results

Numbers of opposite-sex sexual partners in the last 12 months and in lifetime among persons aged 15–44 (Tables 1–4)

Tables 1–4 give numbers of opposite-sex sexual partners involving vaginal, oral, or anal sex, as reported by selected groups of men and women aged 15–44. The first two tables describe numbers of partners in the past 12 months, and the latter two tables summarize numbers of partners in lifetime (defined as “to this point in their lives” or “by time of interview”). Each table also compares the percent distribution in 2006–2008 with what was seen in Cycle 6 (2002). While it is recognized that social network and structural factors are also important in explaining disparities across population subgroups, studies have documented the correlation of higher numbers of sexual partners with increased risk and prevalence of STIs (1,2,9,12,28,38).

Among women aged 15–44 in the 2006–2008 NSFG, 11% had never had any form of sexual activity with a male partner in their lives, 6.1% had sex in their lifetime but had no opposite-sex sexual activity in the past 12 months, and 69% had one male partner in the past 12 months. Nearly 8% had two partners in the past year, and about 5% had three or more partners in the past

year. These percentages were all similar to the distribution of numbers of partners seen in 2002. Given that sexual experience is associated with age, Table 1 also shows the distribution by numbers of partners for women aged 25–44. Among women aged 25–44, 1.6% never had any form of sexual activity with a male partner, 6.6% have had sex with a male but not in the past year, and 82% had one partner in the past year. Having one partner in the past 12 months was more common at older ages, presumably because more of these women are married. Having one partner in the past year was significantly more common among married (97%) or cohabiting (86%) women than those in other groups. No significant difference was seen by educational attainment in the percentages reporting one partner in the past year. However, women aged 22–44 with less than a high school diploma were nearly twice as likely (13%) to have had two or more partners in the past 12 months as women with a bachelor's degree or higher (7%). No difference was seen by race and Hispanic origin in the percentages reporting four or more partners in the past year; however, non-Hispanic black women were significantly less likely to report one partner in the past year (60%) relative to Hispanic women (71%) and non-Hispanic white women (70%). This difference in distribution appears related to higher percentages of black women reporting two partners in the past year (12%) compared with Hispanic (5.9%) and white women (7.3%).

Among men aged 15–44 shown in Table 2, the percentage distribution by numbers of partners in the past year was similar to the distribution for women in 2006–2008, and also for men in the 2002 survey. About 11% had no sexual contact of any kind with a female partner, 6.6% had no opposite-sex contact in the past year, 63% had one partner, 8.6% had two partners, and roughly 10% had three or more partners. Among men aged 25–44, similar percentages as seen for women 25–44 had never had sexual contact with a female (2.3%) or had sex in their lifetime but not in the past year (6.3%).

A lower percentage of men aged 25–44 (75%) than women aged 25–44 (82%) reported having one partner in the past year, likely due to the higher percentages of men reporting higher numbers of partners overall for the past year. In general, the associations with age, marital or cohabiting status, education, and race and Hispanic origin were also similar to what was seen for women in 2006–2008. Of note, somewhat lower percentages of men in all race and Hispanic origin groups had one partner in the past year—65% of non-Hispanic white men, 61% of Hispanic men, and 53% of non-Hispanic black men, compared with 70%, 71%, and 60% of their female counterparts.

Tables 3 and 4 show the total numbers of opposite-sex sexual partners of any type reported by men and women to this point in their lives (called “lifetime” number here). These data from 2006–2008 show little change since the 2002 NSFG. Among women aged 15–44, the median number of male partners is 3.2 and in 2002 it was essentially the same at 3.3. For men aged 15–44, the median number of female partners was 5.6 in 2002 and remained similar at 5.1 in 2006–2008. As in 2002 when 23% of men and 9% of women reported 15 or more partners in their lifetimes, men were more likely than women to report 15 or more partners in 2006–2008 (21% of men and 8% of women). This is likely to explain, in part, the higher median number of partners for males. These results are consistent with prior findings from surveys in the United States and other countries, which all show that men on average report higher numbers of opposite-sex sexual partners than do women of the same age range (9,12,14,31,32). Several explanations for this ubiquitous finding have been suggested and all play some role in the NSFG results presented here:

- The possibility that survey respondents are reporting sexual partners outside the sample frame of NSFG, such as:
 - Partners outside the age range of 15–44, which would be quite plausible given typical age gaps

between sexual partners or spouses.

- Partners outside the general U.S. household population (for example, prison, military, homeless, commercial sex workers, partners in other countries).
- The occurrence of extreme values in the reporting of numbers of sexual partners—for example, a small proportion of men or women may be reporting extremely high numbers, and these values will skew the means and possibly the median values if the proportions of men reporting higher numbers of partners are sufficiently large compared with women—as seen in the 2002 and 2006–2008 NSFG.
- Variations in what different groups of respondents may include in their counts of sexual partners, perhaps defined by the type of sexual activity involved, the duration or type of relationship, and concurrency with other partners (38–43).
- Overreporting by men and underreporting by women may accentuate the gender disparity despite all efforts to improve the accuracy of this self-reported, sensitive information.

Despite variation in the self-reported numbers of sexual partners reported among men and women, number of partners in lifetime has been shown to be consistently reported in NSFG and other nationally representative household surveys (44), and, in the general household population, remains correlated with HIV (45) and other STIs (1,2,9,12,38,46–50).

As expected, current age is the strongest correlate shown in Tables 3 and 4 for numbers of partners in lifetime. With regard to marital or cohabiting status, formerly married, noncohabiting men and women, followed by current cohabitators, were more likely to report 15 or more opposite-sex partners and to have higher median numbers than those in the other groups. For women more so than for men, higher educational attainment was associated with lower percentages with

15 or more partners in lifetime. While 11%–12% of women with lower levels of education reported 15 or more partners, 6.8% with bachelor’s degrees or higher reported 15 or more partners. For men (Table 4), the disparity by college education was smaller but still apparent.

Although men were more likely than women to report higher numbers of opposite-sex sexual partners in their lifetimes, men and women showed a similar pattern of association between numbers of opposite-sex partners and race and Hispanic origin. Among women, Hispanic women were less likely to have had 15 or more partners (4.4%) than were non-Hispanic white (8.9%) and non-Hispanic black (11.3%) women. Among men, the comparable figures with 15 or more partners were 19% for Hispanic, 21% for white, and 30% for black men. These differences by race and origin may relate to differences in marital or cohabiting status, age at marriage, education, and age distributions. Future NSFG data sets with larger numbers of interviews will allow more detailed subgroup analyses.

Types of sexual behavior with opposite-sex and same-sex partners among persons aged 15–44 (Tables 5 and 6)

Tables 5 and 6 show percentages of men and women who ever had the specified types of sexual contact with opposite-sex and same-sex partners. Several studies have documented that oral and anal sex can transmit HIV and certain STIs, such as gonorrhea, chlamydia, genital herpes, chancroid, and syphilis (51–54). Indeed, an increasing proportion of cases of genital herpes in the United States are being attributed to oral sex (50). Although risk of HIV transmission is lower for oral sex than for vaginal intercourse or anal sex, HIV transmission through oral sex is known to occur (54). Some groups may also be at elevated risk of HIV transmission through oral sex, including men who have sex with men and certain drug users (52). For opposite-sex partners, the percentages that ever had

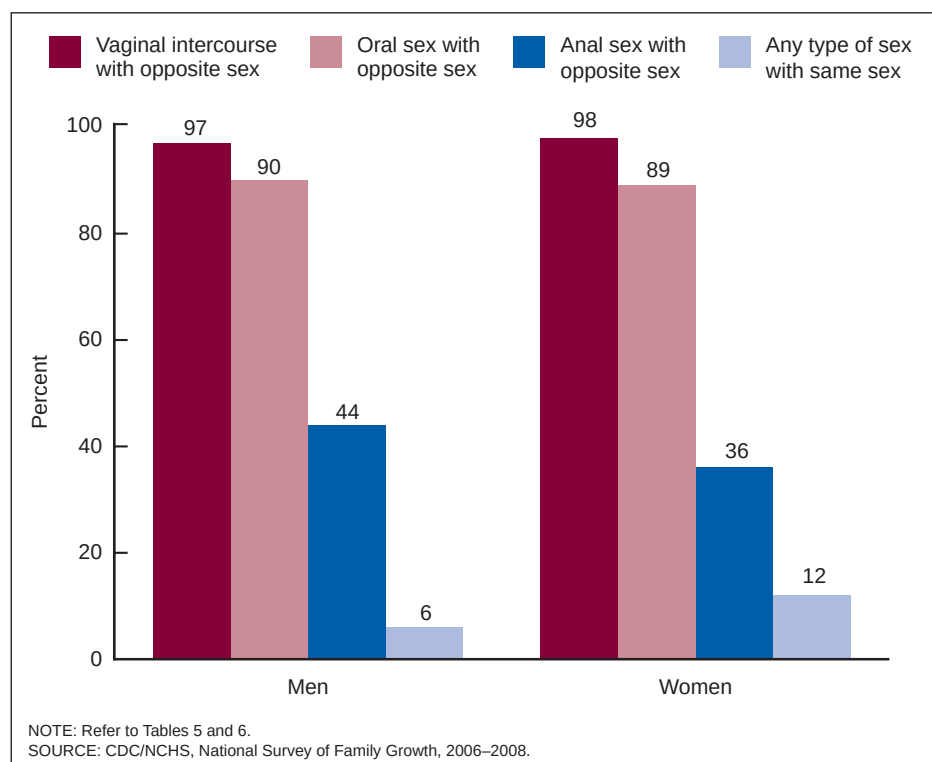


Figure 1. Sexual behavior in lifetime among men and women aged 25–44 years: United States, 2006–2008

vaginal, oral, and anal sex are presented separately. (More detail for younger people is shown in [Tables 7 and 8](#), and more detail for same-sex partners is shown in [Table 10](#).) Comparable percentages of men and women have had *any* opposite-sex sexual contact, vaginal intercourse, and oral sex with opposite-sex partners. Somewhat higher percentages of men (36%) than women (31%) report ever having had anal sex. Given that percentages reporting specific types of sexual experience may increase with age and level off in adulthood, [Figure 1](#) shows the percentages of men and women aged 25–44 who reported different types of sexual behavior. As in the 2002 NSFG, nearly all men and women aged 25–44 (97% of men and 98% of women) have had vaginal intercourse; 90% of men and 89% of women have had oral sex with opposite-sex partners. Anal sex with opposite-sex partners was reported by 36% of women and 44% of men aged 25–44. Some form of same-sex sexual behavior was reported by twice as many women aged 25–44 (12%) as men aged 25–44 (5.8%).

With regard to opposite-sex partners, no clearcut patterns by educational attainment were seen in the reporting of anal sex among men or women aged 22–44. Among both men and women aged 22–44, oral sex was reported more often by those with bachelor's degrees or higher (91% of women and 90% of men) than those with no high school diploma or GED (75% of women and 83% of men). Oral sex with an opposite-sex partner was reported more often by non-Hispanic white men and women (85%) than by those in other Hispanic origin and race groups shown. More Hispanic men (77%) reported opposite-sex oral sex experience than did Hispanic women (70%).

Looking at same-sex sexual experience, men showed no significant differences by educational attainment, but women with bachelor's degrees or higher were less likely to report same-sex sexual behavior than women in the other education categories. Hispanic women (6.3%) were less likely than either non-Hispanic white (15%) or

non-Hispanic black (11%) women to report same-sex sexual behavior. Among men, non-Hispanic white men were more likely than either Hispanic men or non-Hispanic black men to report such behavior.

Types of sexual behavior with opposite-sex and same-sex partners among persons aged 15–24 (Tables 7 and 8)

[Table 7](#) presents similar information on sexual behavior as shown in [Tables 5 and 6](#), but focused on teens and young adults, and includes an additional column for those who have never had any sexual contact with another person, male or female. This focused look at oral and anal sex among teens and young adults is prompted by concerns that some young people may engage in other types of sexual contact before they have vaginal intercourse, to avoid the risk of pregnancy; in addition to placing themselves at risk of STIs, some studies have documented that engaging in these other types of sexual contact may hasten young people's initiation of vaginal intercourse (9,55–60). [Table 7](#) shows that 27% of boys aged 15 and 23% of girls aged 15 have ever had oral sex with an opposite-sex partner. At ages 18–19, those percentages are 70% for boys and 63% for girls. Among those aged 15–17, 6.2% of boys and 7.0% of girls have had anal sex with an opposite-sex partner. Any same-sex sexual behavior was reported by nearly 2% of boys and 10% of girls aged 15–17. Compared with data from the 2002 NSFG, a higher percentage of males and females aged 15–24 in 2006–2008 have had no sexual contact with another person. In 2002, 22% of young men and women aged 15–24 had never had any sexual contact with another person, and in 2006–2008, those figures were 27% for males and 29% for females.

Given the public health concern about young people potentially placing themselves at risk for STIs even though they may abstain from vaginal intercourse (55–61), [Table 8](#) classifies young people aged 15–24 by the type of

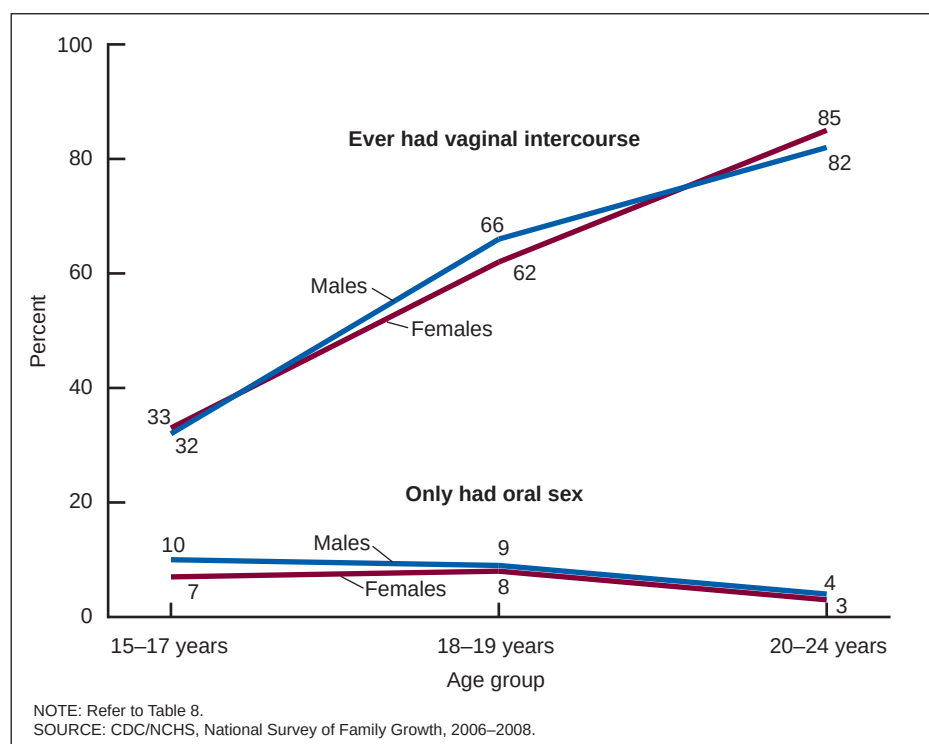


Figure 2. Vaginal and oral sex experience with an opposite-sex partner among males and females aged 15–24 years: United States, 2006–2008

sexual behavior they have engaged in with an opposite-sex partner. Those who have had vaginal intercourse at all are shown in the first column of percentages, followed by those who have never had vaginal intercourse but have had oral sex. The 2006–2008 NSFG data indicate that 6.8% of males

aged 15–24 and 4.9% of females aged 15–24 have had oral sex but no vaginal intercourse. As depicted in Figure 2, the percentages of young people who have only had oral sex but not vaginal intercourse are very low and decline with age as they begin to have vaginal intercourse, but these percentages reflect

just part of the subgroup of young people who may potentially be placing themselves at risk of STIs or HIV before they are ever at risk of pregnancy. Some proportion of young people in the upper lines of Figure 2, those who have had vaginal intercourse, may also have had oral sex before their first intercourse.

To address this gap in the data, in 2007 (year 2 of the 2006–2008 NSFG), a new question was added to the female and male questionnaires to determine the relative timing of oral sex and vaginal intercourse for all those aged 15–24 who reported both types of sexual contact. For females, this “TIMING” question read,

Thinking back to when you had oral sex with a male for the first time, was it before, after, or on the same occasion as your first vaginal intercourse with a male?

An analogous question was asked of males about sex with females. The respondent could choose one of the following responses:

- *Before first vaginal intercourse.*
- *After first vaginal intercourse.*
- *Same occasion.*

The Table below gives the percentages of males and females aged 15–24 who had oral sex before they ever had

Table. Percentage who had first oral sex before first vaginal intercourse among males and females aged 15–24 years who ever had oral sex, by selected characteristics: United States, 2007–2008

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Percent who had first oral sex before first vaginal intercourse ¹	(Standard error)
All persons aged 15–24 who ever had oral sex ²	27,266	50.9	(2.05)
Sex			
Male	13,384	49.8	(2.29)
Female	13,883	51.9	(3.32)
Age at first vaginal intercourse			
17 years or under	18,423	41.4	(2.35)
18–19 years	4,396	56.0	(4.25)
20–24 years	1,577	70.1	(5.70)
Hispanic origin and race			
Hispanic or Latino	4,679	39.0	(4.91)
Not Hispanic or Latino:			
White, single race	17,319	56.6	(2.17)
Black or African American, single race	3,772	39.4	(4.24)

¹The question on the timing of oral sex relative to vaginal intercourse was asked starting in 2007. Those who never had vaginal intercourse but had oral sex are classified as having had oral sex before vaginal intercourse.

²Includes those of other or multiple race and origin groups not shown separately.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2008.

vaginal intercourse. These percentages include those who either responded “before first vaginal intercourse” on the TIMING question in ACASI or who had not yet had vaginal intercourse but have had oral sex. About one-half of males and females aged 15–24 in 2006–2008 who ever had oral sex reported they had oral sex before their first vaginal intercourse. Among those who have had vaginal intercourse, older age at first intercourse was associated with higher percentages having had oral sex first: 41% of young people aged 15–24 who had first vaginal intercourse at age 17 or under had oral sex before first vaginal intercourse, compared with 70% of those who had first intercourse at age 20 or over. Non-Hispanic black and Hispanic males and females aged 15–24 were about two-thirds as likely as non-Hispanic white youth to have had oral sex before first vaginal intercourse or to have only had oral sex (39% compared with 57%).

Distribution of number of sexual partners in the past year (including opposite-sex and same-sex partners)

Table 9 gives the percent distribution of all males and females aged 15–44 by the sex and number of their partners in the last 12 months, including sexual behavior with opposite-sex and same-sex partners. Unlike Tables 1 and 2 that looked solely at numbers of opposite-sex partners in the past year, Table 9 combines opposite-sex and same-sex partners to describe overall sexual experience in the past year for persons aged 15–44. Due to small sample sizes in the 2006–2008 data, it was not possible to subdivide those with any same-sex experience by their numbers of partners, nor was it possible to show the percentages that had both male and female partners in the past year. Roughly three in five men or women had one opposite-sex partner in the last 12 months, and 16% reported no partners at all. The distributions for men and women differed for two categories: twice as many men as women (18% compared with 9.4%)

reported two or more opposite-sex partners in the last 12 months, and nearly three times as many women as men reported any same-sex partners in the past 12 months (12% compared with 4.3%).

For women aged 22–44, no clear pattern was seen by educational attainment in the sex and number of sexual partners in the past year, but those with a bachelor’s degree or higher were less likely to report any recent same-sex partners than those in the other education groups (9.4% compared with 13%–15%). Among men aged 22–44, a somewhat opposite association with education was seen, with higher reports of recent same-sex partners for men in higher education groups. For both men and women, the data indicate higher reports of “no partners in the last 12 months” for persons with some college but no bachelor’s degree, relative to the other education groups.

With regard to Hispanic origin and race, higher percentages of non-Hispanic black men and women reported “two or more opposite-sex partners” in the past year, compared with the other Hispanic origin and race groups shown. Non-Hispanic black men (31%) were twice as likely as non-Hispanic black women (16%) to report two or more opposite-sex partners in the past year.

Black men (2%) were less likely to report recent same-sex partners than white men (4.8%), but no difference was seen between black and Hispanic men (3.5%). Hispanic women were less likely than either non-Hispanic white or non-Hispanic black women to report recent same-sex partners.

Same-sex sexual activity among persons aged 15–44 (Table 10)

Further detail on same-sex sexual activity “in lifetime” (or to this point in their lives) is shown in Table 10 for males and females aged 15–44. As noted in Tables 5 and 6, twice as many women as men report having had any same-sex sexual contact in their lifetimes (13% of women and 5.2% of men). When the 2002 NSFG data on this topic were

published (9), there had been speculation that the questions on same-sex sexual activity were not sufficiently comparable or specific for females, and that this may draw into question any male-female difference seen. As a result, more behaviorally specific questions were added to the 2006–2008 NSFG ACASI (see the Methods section of the present report) to ask female respondents about oral sex with a female partner, and only those who did not report oral sex with a female partner were asked the more general question about *any* sexual contact with a female. The 2006–2008 data show that 12.5% of women aged 15–44 reported any same-sex sexual experience with a female partner, and 9.3% reported they ever had oral sex with a female partner. This indicates that most of the reporting (about 75%) of same-sex experience among females is accounted for by oral sex, rather than the more general question about “any sexual experience.” This figure of 9.3% of women reporting oral sex with a female partner is still higher than the 5.2% of men reporting any oral or anal sex with a male partner, and it may be the more comparable figure because it is based on specific behaviors. Looking at the different characteristics shown in Table 10, similar patterns of association were seen with both “any same-sex experience” and “any oral sex” with a female partner. As noted in Methods, men who answered “no” to the specific same-sex behavioral questions were not asked, as were women, the more general question about “any sexual experience with a male partner.” It is therefore unknown whether asking such a question would have increased reports of same-sex experience among men to the levels seen among women or possibly narrowed the gender gap.

Marital or cohabiting status showed a somewhat different association with same-sex experience for men and women. Married (3.5%) or cohabiting men (3.2%) reported lower levels of same-sex experience than never-married (7.2%) or formerly married men (6.4%), while for women lower percentages of same-sex experience were seen for

currently married (8.3%) or never-married (13%) women compared with formerly married women (20%) or cohabiting women (21%). Similar patterns by marital or cohabiting status were seen among women reporting oral sex with female partners as among women reporting *any* same-sex experience. (As was noted in Methods, NSFG classifies as “cohabiting” only those who are cohabiting with an opposite-sex partner so this difference does not reflect misreporting or misclassification of same sex cohabitations.) Education also showed a different association with same-sex experience by sex. Women aged 22–44 with a bachelor’s degree or higher were less likely to report same-sex experience than those in the other education groups (9.9% compared with 14%–15%). Similar patterns were seen among women specifically reporting oral sex with female partners. For men, the pattern was less clearcut, but higher educational attainment was associated with *higher* reports of same-sex experience.

Table 10 also shows same-sex experience according to numbers of *opposite-sex* partners in lifetime. For men the prevalence of same-sex experience does not correlate closely with numbers of opposite-sex partners, but for women, those who reported four or more opposite-sex partners in their lifetimes were more likely to report any same-sex experience (20%) or same-sex oral sex (16%) than those with fewer or none. With regard to Hispanic origin and race, the associations with same-sex experience are again somewhat different between men and women. Non-Hispanic white men (6%) were more likely to report any oral or anal sex with a male partner than were non-Hispanic black men (2.4%), and this appears to be driven by differences in both oral and anal sex. No difference in reporting was seen between Hispanic men and non-Hispanic white men. Among women, Hispanic women were less likely than either non-Hispanic white or black women to report same-sex experience, including same-sex oral sex.

Sexual attraction and sexual identity among persons aged 18–44 (Tables 11–13)

The measures of sexual attraction and identity are shown in this report only for adults aged 18–44 to facilitate comparisons with other surveys, and also because these characteristics may not yet be known or accurately reported among teenagers 15–17 (62). Sexual attraction and identity as stated at the time of interview are presented here as important risk *markers* for HIV and STIs. They are not intended to substitute for actual behavioral risk *factors* such as same-sex sexual behaviors presented earlier in this report, but are correlated with reports of same-sex behavior to show the extent to which their use as risk markers may be warranted.

Table 11 shows the full distribution of men and women aged 18–44 by their sexual attraction. Women in 2006–2008 were less likely than men to report they are attracted “only to the opposite sex”—83% of women compared with 94% of men—and this pattern is similar to patterns seen in 2002. However, when the “only to opposite sex” and “mostly to opposite sex” categories are summed, no difference is seen between men and women. To address concerns that socioeconomic factors or language barriers may play a role in the reporting (or misreporting) of sexual attraction and identity, Tables 11–13 show these variables tabulated by education, Hispanic origin and race, and the language in which ACASI was conducted. Among men, no clear-cut patterns in sexual attraction were seen by education, Hispanic origin and race, or ACASI language, but among women some differences were seen in Table 11. Non-Hispanic white women (81%) were less likely than Hispanic women (89%) and black women (86%) to say they are attracted “only to the opposite sex.” Women who completed ACASI in Spanish (95%) were more likely than other women (82%) to say they are attracted “only to the opposite sex.”

In both Tables 12 and 13, the distribution by sexual identity reported by women and men aged 18–44 in 2006–2008 was similar to that seen in

2002. The primary change from 2002 in the distribution by sexual identity relates to the significantly lower percentages reporting “something else.” As described in Methods and in Technical Notes, the decrease in reporting of “something else” is mainly attributable to the addition of clearer terms in the response categories for the 2006–2008 NSFG’s question on sexual identity. Those fewer cases in the 2006–2008 NSFG who reported their sexual identity as “something else” were asked a follow-up question, as described in Methods. Based on what the respondents typed into the computer, 37 of 87 women and 20 of 39 men who reported “something else” were unambiguously classified into one of the preexisting categories of heterosexual, homosexual, and “don’t know.” As shown in Technical Notes, this reclassification or “back-coding” did not significantly alter the overall distribution by sexual identity for adults aged 18–44 in the 2006–2008 NSFG. In addition, the percentages did not change from 2002 to 2006–2008 for those who responded “don’t know” or “refused,” which are labeled in Tables 12 and 13 as “did not report.” The question wording change, along with the small amount of back-coding, also appear to have resulted in an increase in the percentages reporting “heterosexual or straight”—94% of women in 2006–2008 compared with 90% in 2002 and 96% of men in 2006–2008 compared with 90% in 2002.

Age appeared more closely associated with sexual identity for women than for men. Women at the upper end of the 18–44 age range were more likely to report themselves as heterosexual and less likely to report themselves as bisexual. Among men aged 18–44, no such pattern was seen. Looking at marital or cohabiting status, which is itself correlated strongly with age, 2.1% of currently married women and 0.4% of currently married men report themselves as bisexual. Among current cohabitators, 6.2% of women and 0.5% of men report themselves as bisexual. Among those men and women aged 18–44 who have never married and are not cohabiting, 2.8% of women and

4.4% of men report themselves as homosexual; 4.6% of never-married women and 2.1% of never-married men report themselves as bisexual.

As in Table 11 on sexual attraction, Tables 12 and 13 show sexual identity tabulated by education, Hispanic origin and race, and the language in which ACASI was conducted. For women and men aged 22–44, those with less than a high school diploma were more likely (3.2% of women and 3.9% of men) to say “don’t know” or “refused” (that is, “did not report”) on sexual identity than those with at least a high school education. With respect to race and Hispanic origin, Hispanic women (4.1%) and men (3.9%) were more likely not to report sexual identity than those in other race and origin groups shown. Some evidence of a language barrier was suggested by the fact that 7.9% of women and 8.5% of men who completed ACASI in Spanish did not report sexual identity compared with less than 1% of men and women who completed it in English.

Association of sexual behavior, sexual attraction, and sexual identity (Tables 14 and 15)

Table 14 presents percentages of women and men aged 18–44 who reported different types of sexual activity with opposite-sex and same-sex partners, according to their sexual attraction and sexual identity. These figures show the extent to which sexual attraction and identity correlate with reports of sexual behavior, with both opposite-sex and same-sex partners. Women who said they are “mostly attracted to the opposite sex” (55%) rather than “only attracted to the opposite sex” (30%) were more likely to have had anal sex with an opposite-sex partner. Women “mostly attracted to the opposite sex” (47%) were also more likely than women “only attracted to the opposite sex” (5%) to have had any same-sex sexual experience with a female partner. Among men, no such difference was seen by sexual attraction for anal sex with opposite-sex partners, but those who were “mostly attracted to

the opposite sex” were more likely to have ever had same-sex sexual contact with a male partner (21%) compared with men who were “only attracted to the opposite sex” (3%). Among those men and women who self-identify as heterosexual, 9% of women and 3.2% of men have ever had same-sex sexual experience. Conversely, among those who report themselves as homosexual or bisexual, 15% of women (100% minus 85%) and 12% of men have never had same-sex sexual experience. A higher percentage (92%) of homosexual or bisexual women have ever had an opposite-sex sexual partner compared with 70% of homosexual or bisexual men who have had such experience.

Looking at specific types of sexual experience with opposite-sex partners, some interesting differentials were seen. Close to one-third of heterosexual women have ever had anal sex with an opposite-sex partner compared with 48% of homosexual or bisexual women. In contrast, anal sex with an opposite-sex partner was more likely to be reported by heterosexual men (40%) compared with homosexual or bisexual men (24%). For oral sex with an opposite-sex partner, no difference was seen by sexual identity for women, but for men, those who reported themselves as homosexual or bisexual (65%) were less likely than heterosexual men (88%) to have ever had oral sex with an opposite-sex partner.

Table 15 shows the association of sexual attraction and sexual identity among adults aged 18–44. Nearly all (99%) women and men who reported being attracted only to the opposite sex gave their sexual identity as heterosexual or straight. Among those attracted mostly to the opposite sex, 87% of women and 90% of men were heterosexual or straight. Due to small sample sizes, all other categories of sexual attraction were collapsed, including those who were equally attracted to both sexes, mostly attracted to the same sex, and only attracted to the same sex. This group labeled “all other” showed a different distribution by sexual identity for women and men. Women in the “all other” group were twice as likely as men to report

themselves as bisexual (42% compared with 21%) or heterosexual (27% compared with 13%). Men in the “all other” group for sexual attraction were twice (16%) as likely as women (7.5%) not to report their sexual identity. These results suggest that these measures of sexual attraction and identity are closely associated but not identical and that different patterns of association may exist for women and men.

Comparisons with other data

Table 16 compares 2006–2008 NSFG data on number of opposite-sex partners, same-sex sexual experience in lifetime, and sexual identity from the 2006–2008 NSFG with data from the 2002 NSFG; NHANES 1999–2002, 2007–2008, and 2001–2006; the 2009 NSSHB; and the 2004 and 2008 GSS. Age ranges for the statistics presented are shown in the table. For NHANES, data on sexual behavior and identity are from three sources. Published data on opposite-sex partners were available for 1999–2002 (63), and two recent articles show the prevalence of same-sex behavior for males and females using 2001–2006 data (64,65). Weighted frequencies of sexual identity based on the NHANES 2007–2008 public-use data were also included in the table (66). Similarly, information on sexual identity was first collected in the 2008 GSS (67), and other data on sex and number of partners are from a published report using the 2004 GSS (68). The comparisons between NSFG and these other surveys are not always direct because the surveys were conducted in different years and their age ranges, question wording, and response rates differ. Therefore, differences among these surveys do not always reflect trends or differences in behavior; they may reflect, at least in part, sampling error and differences in survey questions or procedures.

Despite those potential limitations, the survey results are fairly similar across several of these indicators of sexual behavior. The median number of opposite-sex partners in lifetime for males ranges between five and seven, with three to four opposite-sex partners

in lifetime among females. About 17%–19% of males had two or more female partners in the last 12 months, compared with 8%–15% of females who had two or more male partners. About 4%–6% of males ever had same-sex contact. For females, the percentage who have ever had same-sex contact ranges from about 4% in the GSS, to 11%–12% in the 2002 and 2006–2008 NSFG. The percentage reporting their sexual identity as homosexual ranged from 2% to 4% of males, and about 1% to 2% of females. The percentage reporting their sexual identity as bisexual is between 1% and 3% of males, and 2% to 5% of females. As was described previously, the proportion reporting “something else” was significantly lower in the 2006–2008 NSFG than in the 2002 NSFG due in part to question wording changes that were made in the 2006–2008 NSFG (also see Technical Notes).

Conclusions

This report was intended to provide updated national estimates of some basic statistics related to certain types of sexual behavior, attraction, and identity for men and women aged 15–44 in the household population of the United States, in order to (a) measure the populations at risk of STIs and (b) to provide insights about factors related to birth and pregnancy rates. The results presented here are based on a large national sample ($n = 13,495$), interviewed in person with the most reliable self-administered technique, and a good response rate (75%). The results reported here are generally similar to those in our report based on the 2002 NSFG (9). But the current report also presented improved NSFG measures for sexual identity, female-female sexual activity, and the relative timing of first vaginal and oral sex among those aged 15–24. Further, more detailed subgroup analyses will be possible when the next report is released, in about a year, with a national sample of over 22,000 men and women. The current report does, however, have limitations: the results are national, not state, estimates, and they are limited to the household

population of the United States aged 15–44. They do not cover persons who are currently homeless, incarcerated, living on military bases, or persons under age 15 or over age 44. Nevertheless, the data should prove useful for planning programs to prevent the spread of STIs and to prevent unintended pregnancy among men and women aged 15–44 in the United States.

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Table 1. Number of opposite-sex sexual partners in the 12 months prior to interview among females aged 15–44 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2002 and 2006–2008

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	Never had sexual contact with opposite sex	Had sex with opposite sex but not in last 12 months	Number of opposite-sex (male) sexual partners in last 12 months ¹				
					1	2	3	4 or more	Did not report
2002			Percent distribution (standard error)						
All females aged 15–44 years ²	61,561	100.0	8.3 (0.4)	6.9 (0.4)	68.2 (0.9)	7.6 (0.4)	3.0 (0.2)	4.1 (0.3)	1.9 (0.2)
2006–2008									
All females aged 15–44 years ²	61,865	100.0	11.0 (1.3)	6.1 (0.4)	69.0 (1.2)	7.6 (0.5)	2.5 (0.3)	2.9 (0.3)	0.8 (0.2)
Age:									
15–19 years	10,431	100.0	46.8 (2.7)	5.9 (0.9)	27.7 (2.3)	9.8 (1.1)	3.4 (0.5)	5.3 (0.9)	1.2 (0.6)
15–17 years	5,833	100.0	60.3 (2.7)	5.1 (1.0)	19.1 (2.0)	7.8 (1.3)	3.0 (0.7)	3.8 (1.0)	1.1 (0.7)
18–19 years	4,598	100.0	29.7 (4.8)	6.9 (1.4)	38.6 (4.4)	12.3 (1.9)	4.0 (0.7)	7.3 (1.5)	1.3 (1.0)
20–24 years	10,140	100.0	12.3 (3.4)	4.7 (0.9)	57.8 (2.5)	14.1 (2.2)	5.1 (1.0)	4.6 (0.9)	1.3 (0.6)
25–44 years	41,294	100.0	1.6 (0.4)	6.6 (0.5)	82.3 (0.9)	5.4 (0.4)	1.7 (0.3)	1.9 (0.3)	0.6 (0.2)
25–29 years	10,250	100.0	3.4 (1.1)	5.6 (0.8)	75.8 (1.7)	8.2 (1.1)	3.6 (0.7)	2.7 (0.5)	0.7 (0.3)
30–34 years	9,587	100.0	1.9 (0.6)	4.6 (0.8)	82.8 (1.7)	5.5 (0.7)	1.7 (0.4)	2.9 (1.2)	0.7 (0.4)
35–39 years	10,475	100.0	0.9 (0.4)	6.7 (1.0)	86.2 (1.5)	4.3 (0.8)	0.9 (0.3)	0.7 (0.3)	0.4 (0.2)
40–44 years	10,982	100.0	0.3 (0.1)	9.1 (1.3)	84.2 (1.6)	3.9 (0.8)	0.6 (0.2)	1.2 (0.6)	0.6 (0.3)
Marital or cohabiting status:									
Currently married	27,006	100.0	–	0.7 (0.3)	96.5 (0.6)	1.4 (0.3)	0.2 (0.1)	0.6 (0.4)	0.5 (0.2)
Currently cohabiting	6,821	100.0	–	0.8 (0.3)	85.9 (1.7)	8.3 (1.4)	3.0 (0.9)	1.3 (0.4)	0.7 (0.4)
Never married, not cohabiting	22,847	100.0	29.8 (3.1)	11.2 (0.9)	35.4 (2.0)	12.2 (1.0)	4.8 (0.6)	5.6 (0.6)	1.1 (0.4)
Formerly married, not cohabiting	5,190	100.0	–	19.2 (2.1)	51.6 (3.2)	19.1 (2.3)	3.8 (0.9)	5.0 (1.1)	1.3 (0.8)
Number of opposite-sex (male) partners in lifetime:									
Never had sex with a male	6,752	100.0	100.0	–	–	–	–	–	–
1	13,395	100.0	...	9.0 (1.1)	90.7 (1.1)	–	–	–	*
2	6,485	100.0	...	8.3 (1.1)	80.1 (1.7)	11.6 (1.6)	–	–	*
3	6,054	100.0	...	7.8 (1.5)	77.1 (2.5)	10.5 (1.9)	4.5 (1.1)	–	*
4 or more	27,744	100.0	...	4.7 (0.5)	72.5 (1.4)	11.7 (0.8)	4.6 (0.5)	6.4 (0.7)	*
Education ³ :									
No high school diploma or GED	6,210	100.0	0.8 (0.3)	6.4 (1.2)	78.5 (2.3)	8.7 (1.5)	2.5 (0.5)	1.4 (0.4)	1.8 (0.8)
High school diploma or GED	11,793	100.0	1.2 (0.5)	6.2 (0.7)	80.2 (1.6)	6.7 (0.9)	2.0 (0.5)	3.1 (0.8)	0.7 (0.3)
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,537	100.0	4.5 (2.0)	7.3 (1.0)	75.1 (2.2)	7.6 (1.0)	2.3 (0.5)	2.9 (0.8)	0.3 (0.1)
Bachelor's degree or higher	15,543	100.0	4.0 (1.2)	6.0 (0.8)	82.8 (1.7)	4.3 (0.8)	1.2 (0.3)	1.3 (0.3)	0.5 (0.2)
Hispanic origin and race:									
Hispanic or Latina	10,377	100.0	10.5 (1.0)	5.5 (0.7)	71.4 (1.5)	5.9 (0.8)	2.4 (0.6)	2.6 (0.5)	1.8 (0.6)
Not Hispanic or Latina:									
White, single race	37,660	100.0	11.6 (1.8)	5.5 (0.5)	70.3 (1.7)	7.3 (0.7)	2.1 (0.3)	2.9 (0.4)	0.4 (0.1)
Black or African American, single race	8,452	100.0	9.7 (1.4)	9.5 (1.2)	59.5 (2.1)	12.0 (1.4)	4.6 (0.9)	3.2 (0.4)	1.6 (0.7)

— Quantity zero.

... Category not applicable.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Includes male partners with whom she had any type of sexual contact (vaginal, oral, or anal sex) as reported in the audio computer-assisted self interview (ACASI).²Includes females of other or multiple race and origin groups and females with missing data on number of lifetime partners, not shown separately.³Limited to females aged 22–44 years at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. "Did not report" includes "don't know" and "refused" responses, as well as responses that were not ascertained due to interview breakoffs before these ACASI questions.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2002 and 2006–2008.

Table 2. Number of opposite-sex sexual partners in the 12 months prior to interview among males aged 15–44 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2002 and 2006–2008

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	Never had sexual contact with opposite sex	Had sex with opposite sex but not in last 12 months	Number of opposite-sex (female) sexual partners in last 12 months ¹				
					1	2	3	4 or more	Did not report
2002					Percent distribution (standard error)				
All males aged 15–44 years ²	61,147	100.0	10.0 (0.6)	6.4 (0.4)	62.7 (1.1)	8.0 (0.5)	4.1 (0.4)	6.8 (0.4)	2.0 (0.4)
2006–2008									
All males aged 15–44 years ²	62,199	100.0	11.2 (1.0)	6.6 (0.5)	62.5 (1.2)	8.6 (0.7)	3.9 (0.3)	6.0 (0.5)	1.3 (0.2)
Age:									
15–19 years	10,777	100.0	41.6 (2.3)	8.2 (1.0)	25.6 (2.0)	11.1 (1.5)	5.0 (0.7)	5.6 (0.8)	3.0 (0.8)
15–17 years	6,643	100.0	52.4 (2.9)	7.7 (1.3)	20.4 (2.7)	8.5 (1.3)	3.6 (0.8)	3.7 (0.8)	3.7 (1.2)
18–19 years	4,134	100.0	24.1 (2.9)	9.0 (1.7)	33.9 (3.3)	15.1 (2.8)	7.4 (1.4)	8.7 (1.7)	1.7 (0.6)
20–24 years	10,404	100.0	14.3 (3.1)	5.9 (0.9)	49.8 (2.2)	12.2 (1.7)	6.8 (1.1)	9.5 (1.5)	1.5 (0.9)
25–44 years	41,019	100.0	2.3 (0.3)	6.3 (0.7)	75.4 (1.3)	7.0 (0.7)	2.9 (0.4)	5.2 (0.6)	0.9 (0.2)
25–29 years	10,431	100.0	3.8 (0.8)	5.6 (1.2)	68.6 (2.1)	9.7 (1.2)	4.0 (0.9)	7.5 (1.2)	0.8 (0.3)
30–34 years	9,575	100.0	3.1 (0.8)	4.8 (0.8)	77.4 (2.4)	6.2 (1.0)	2.4 (0.6)	5.1 (1.2)	0.9 (0.3)
35–39 years	10,318	100.0	1.3 (0.5)	5.7 (0.9)	77.2 (2.0)	7.3 (1.4)	3.4 (0.8)	4.4 (1.3)	0.7 (0.3)
40–44 years	10,695	100.0	1.2 (0.3)	9.1 (1.8)	78.6 (2.5)	4.7 (1.7)	1.7 (0.4)	3.6 (0.8)	1.0 (0.6)
Marital or cohabiting status:									
Currently married	24,763	100.0	—	1.5 (0.5)	93.8 (0.9)	2.0 (0.5)	0.6 (0.3)	1.3 (0.3)	0.8 (0.3)
Currently cohabiting	7,301	100.0	—	0.7 (0.3)	83.6 (2.1)	6.6 (1.4)	2.5 (0.9)	6.0 (1.8)	0.6 (0.3)
Never married, not cohabiting	27,012	100.0	25.7 (2.0)	11.7 (1.0)	30.6 (1.5)	14.1 (1.2)	6.7 (0.6)	9.1 (0.8)	2.2 (0.5)
Formerly married, not cohabiting	3,123	100.0	—	16.2 (2.8)	39.9 (3.3)	17.7 (3.0)	9.6 (1.8)	16.4 (3.1)	*
Number of opposite-sex (female) partners in lifetime:									
Never had sex with a female	6,906	100.0	100.0	...	—	—	—	—	—
1	9,072	100.0	...	13.4 (1.8)	86.1 (1.8)	—	—	—	0.6 (0.2)
2	4,570	100.0	...	15.4 (2.3)	70.8 (2.6)	13.7 (2.1)	—	—	*
3	4,231	100.0	...	9.9 (1.7)	68.9 (2.9)	14.0 (2.4)	7.2 (1.4)	—	—
4 or more	35,700	100.0	...	4.2 (0.6)	67.9 (1.3)	11.4 (1.0)	5.9 (0.5)	10.3 (0.8)	0.4 (0.3)
Education ³ :									
No high school diploma or GED	8,530	100.0	1.2 (0.5)	6.4 (1.4)	73.3 (3.0)	7.2 (1.6)	3.4 (0.8)	5.9 (1.5)	2.5 (1.2)
High school diploma or GED	12,278	100.0	3.0 (0.8)	6.5 (1.3)	71.8 (2.2)	7.5 (1.1)	3.7 (0.7)	6.7 (0.9)	0.8 (0.2)
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,521	100.0	6.8 (2.6)	6.9 (1.3)	69.4 (2.6)	7.2 (1.1)	3.8 (0.8)	5.5 (1.2)	0.5 (0.2)
Bachelor's degree or higher	13,112	100.0	5.0 (1.0)	5.7 (1.0)	74.7 (2.3)	7.9 (1.8)	2.4 (0.5)	3.4 (0.8)	0.8 (0.3)
Hispanic origin and race:									
Hispanic or Latino	11,724	100.0	7.6 (0.7)	7.9 (1.2)	60.5 (2.0)	9.8 (1.2)	4.3 (0.5)	7.4 (1.2)	2.5 (0.7)
Not Hispanic or Latino:									
White, single race	37,374	100.0	11.5 (1.6)	6.5 (0.6)	65.2 (1.6)	7.9 (0.9)	3.1 (0.4)	5.1 (0.6)	0.8 (0.2)
Black or African American, single race	7,186	100.0	9.2 (1.7)	4.7 (0.8)	52.7 (2.8)	13.9 (1.7)	7.5 (1.3)	10.8 (1.2)	1.2 (0.4)

— Quantity zero.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

... Category not applicable.

¹Includes female partners with whom he had any type of sexual contact (vaginal, oral, or anal sex) as reported in the audio computer-assisted self interview (ACASI).²Includes males of other or multiple race and origin groups and males with missing data on number of lifetime partners, not shown separately.³Limited to males aged 22–44 years at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. "Did not report" includes "don't know" and "refused" responses, as well as responses that were not ascertained due to interview breakoffs before these ACASI questions.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2002 and 2006–2008.

Table 3. Number of opposite-sex sexual partners in lifetime among females aged 15–44 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2002 and 2006–2008

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Number of opposite-sex (male) partners in lifetime ¹							Median number ²
		Total	0	1	2	3–6	7–14	15 or more	
2002			Percent distribution (standard error)						
All females aged 15–44 years ³	61,561	100.0	8.6 (0.4)	22.5 (0.8)	10.8 (0.4)	32.6 (0.8)	16.3 (0.7)	9.2 (0.4)	3.3 (0.1)
2006–2008									
All females aged 15–44 years ³	61,865	100.0	11.3 (1.3)	22.2 (1.2)	10.7 (0.7)	31.6 (1.2)	16.0 (0.9)	8.3 (0.6)	3.2 (0.2)
Age:									
15–19 years	10,431	100.0	48.1 (2.8)	22.7 (1.8)	8.2 (1.0)	15.7 (1.4)	4.1 (0.9)	1.1 (0.4)	1.4 (0.2)
20–24 years	10,140	100.0	12.6 (3.4)	24.5 (1.7)	12.5 (1.6)	31.6 (2.8)	11.7 (1.2)	7.2 (1.2)	2.6 (0.2)
25–44 years	41,294	100.0	1.6 (0.4)	21.4 (1.6)	10.9 (0.9)	35.6 (1.3)	20.1 (1.2)	10.4 (0.8)	3.6 (0.2)
25–29 years	10,250	100.0	3.4 (1.1)	20.0 (1.9)	12.4 (1.5)	31.0 (2.3)	20.4 (2.0)	12.8 (1.7)	3.6 (0.3)
30–34 years	9,587	100.0	1.9 (0.6)	20.9 (2.5)	10.6 (1.6)	31.9 (2.1)	21.3 (2.4)	13.4 (1.9)	4.2 (0.4)
35–39 years	10,475	100.0	0.9 (0.4)	22.2 (2.1)	9.9 (1.3)	38.3 (2.8)	20.8 (2.4)	7.9 (1.2)	3.5 (0.3)
40–44 years	10,982	100.0	0.4 (0.1)	22.4 (2.6)	10.8 (1.9)	40.5 (3.0)	18.0 (1.9)	8.0 (1.1)	3.4 (0.3)
Marital or cohabiting status:									
Currently married	27,006	100.0	–	32.2 (2.3)	12.3 (1.1)	34.4 (1.7)	15.0 (1.4)	6.1 (0.8)	2.5 (0.2)
Currently cohabiting	6,821	100.0	–	12.8 (2.1)	11.6 (1.8)	37.0 (2.8)	24.9 (3.0)	13.7 (1.8)	4.6 (0.4)
Never married, not cohabiting	22,847	100.0	30.5 (3.1)	16.4 (1.1)	9.1 (0.9)	25.2 (1.6)	11.9 (1.0)	6.9 (0.7)	3.2 (0.2)
Formerly married, not cohabiting	5,190	100.0	–	6.8 (1.6)	8.7 (1.9)	37.7 (3.0)	28.0 (2.8)	18.8 (2.1)	5.3 (0.5)
Education ⁴ :									
No high school diploma or GED	6,210	100.0	0.8 (0.4)	22.2 (2.9)	12.5 (2.0)	36.4 (3.0)	16.4 (2.3)	11.7 (1.9)	3.2 (0.4)
High school diploma or GED	11,793	100.0	1.2 (0.5)	16.6 (2.0)	10.1 (1.1)	38.3 (2.4)	22.2 (1.9)	11.6 (1.4)	4.1 (0.3)
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,537	100.0	4.5 (2.0)	17.8 (1.7)	11.8 (1.4)	33.3 (2.2)	20.5 (1.9)	12.2 (1.5)	4.1 (0.3)
Bachelor's degree or higher	15,543	100.0	4.0 (1.2)	27.7 (2.5)	10.9 (1.6)	32.9 (2.5)	17.7 (1.6)	6.8 (0.9)	2.9 (0.3)
Hispanic origin and race:									
Hispanic or Latina	10,377	100.0	10.7 (1.0)	35.0 (1.8)	16.7 (1.4)	26.6 (2.0)	6.6 (0.8)	4.4 (0.7)	1.6 (0.1)
Not Hispanic or Latina:									
White, single race	37,660	100.0	11.7 (1.9)	19.2 (1.4)	9.7 (0.8)	31.4 (1.7)	18.9 (1.3)	8.9 (0.8)	3.7 (0.2)
Black or African American, single race	8,452	100.0	10.5 (1.5)	12.3 (1.5)	8.3 (1.1)	40.9 (2.2)	16.7 (1.4)	11.3 (1.4)	4.4 (0.2)

– Quantity zero.

¹Includes male partners with whom she had any type of sexual contact (vaginal, oral, or anal sex). “In lifetime” refers to time of interview.²Excludes those who have never had vaginal, oral, or anal sex with a male partner.³Includes females of other or multiple race and origin groups, not shown separately.⁴Limited to females aged 22–44 years at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCES: Reference 9 and CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2008.

Table 4. Number of opposite-sex sexual partners in lifetime among males aged 15–44 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2002 and 2006–2008

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	Number of opposite-sex (female) partners in lifetime ¹						
			0	1	2	3–6	7–14	15 or more	Median number ²
2002			Percent distribution (standard error)						
All males aged 15–44 years ³	61,147	100.0	9.6 (0.6)	12.5 (0.8)	8.0 (0.6)	27.2 (1.0)	19.5 (0.9)	23.2 (1.0)	5.6 (0.2)
2006–2008									
All males aged 15–44 years ³	62,199	100.0	11.4 (1.0)	15.0 (1.0)	7.6 (0.6)	26.5 (1.2)	18.1 (0.8)	21.4 (1.1)	5.1 (0.2)
Age:									
15–19 years	10,777	100.0	43.3 (2.4)	21.2 (1.9)	9.4 (1.1)	17.6 (1.5)	5.4 (1.0)	3.1 (0.6)	1.8 (0.2)
20–24 years	10,404	100.0	14.4 (3.1)	19.1 (2.8)	8.0 (1.3)	26.1 (2.9)	18.1 (2.6)	14.2 (2.3)	4.1 (0.6)
25–44 years	41,019	100.0	2.4 (0.4)	12.3 (1.0)	7.0 (0.7)	28.9 (1.3)	21.5 (1.3)	27.9 (1.6)	6.1 (0.3)
25–29 years	10,431	100.0	3.8 (0.8)	11.8 (1.5)	8.9 (1.4)	29.5 (2.3)	22.9 (2.1)	23.1 (1.6)	5.7 (0.3)
30–34 years	9,575	100.0	3.1 (0.8)	14.2 (1.8)	6.1 (1.0)	26.6 (3.0)	21.7 (2.4)	28.3 (3.1)	6.4 (1.0)
35–39 years	10,318	100.0	1.4 (0.5)	13.3 (2.4)	5.6 (0.9)	29.7 (2.4)	19.6 (2.2)	30.6 (3.0)	6.2 (0.9)
40–44 years	10,695	100.0	1.3 (0.3)	10.3 (1.7)	7.2 (1.2)	29.7 (2.5)	21.6 (2.8)	30.0 (2.8)	6.4 (0.8)
Marital or cohabiting status:									
Currently married	24,763	100.0	–	19.1 (1.9)	7.5 (0.9)	30.7 (2.0)	20.7 (1.6)	22.1 (2.0)	4.9 (0.3)
Currently cohabiting	7,301	100.0	–	10.3 (3.0)	7.6 (1.6)	24.4 (3.0)	25.9 (2.5)	31.8 (2.9)	7.3 (0.8)
Never married, not cohabiting	27,012	100.0	26.3 (2.0)	14.1 (0.9)	8.2 (0.8)	23.6 (1.6)	12.9 (1.0)	14.9 (1.2)	4.1 (0.2)
Formerly married, not cohabiting	3,123	100.0	–	1.4 (0.8)	2.2 (1.0)	23.9 (2.7)	25.1 (3.3)	47.4 (3.5)	11.9 (1.3)
Education ⁴ :									
No high school diploma or GED	8,530	100.0	1.2 (0.5)	9.9 (1.9)	9.8 (2.3)	31.2 (4.5)	21.5 (2.2)	26.4 (3.2)	5.8 (0.5)
High school diploma or GED	12,278	100.0	3.1 (0.9)	12.2 (2.3)	5.2 (0.8)	27.5 (2.2)	23.3 (2.1)	28.8 (2.3)	6.7 (0.8)
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,521	100.0	6.9 (2.7)	10.3 (2.5)	5.2 (0.8)	29.6 (3.0)	19.3 (2.1)	28.8 (2.7)	6.4 (0.8)
Bachelor's degree or higher	13,112	100.0	5.1 (1.0)	18.9 (1.7)	8.4 (1.3)	26.4 (1.9)	20.0 (2.1)	21.2 (2.2)	4.8 (0.4)
Hispanic origin and race:									
Hispanic or Latino	11,724	100.0	7.9 (0.7)	12.5 (1.1)	10.2 (1.5)	32.6 (2.5)	17.8 (1.6)	19.1 (1.7)	4.6 (0.3)
Not Hispanic or Latino:									
White, single race	37,374	100.0	11.6 (1.7)	16.1 (1.5)	7.3 (0.7)	25.7 (1.6)	18.4 (1.2)	20.9 (1.6)	5.1 (0.3)
Black or African American, single race	7,186	100.0	9.6 (1.8)	8.3 (1.3)	5.0 (1.0)	25.6 (2.0)	21.6 (2.3)	30.0 (2.1)	6.9 (0.8)

– Quantity zero.

¹Includes female partners with whom he had any type of sexual contact (vaginal, oral, or anal sex). "In lifetime" refers to time of interview.²Excludes those who have never had vaginal, oral, or anal sex with a female partner.³Includes males of other or multiple race and origin groups, not shown separately.⁴Limited to males 22–44 years of age at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCES: Reference 9 and CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2008.

Table 5. Sexual behavior with opposite-sex and same-sex partners among females aged 15–44 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2002 and 2006–2008

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Opposite-sex sexual behavior				Any same-sex sexual behavior ²
		Any ¹	Vaginal intercourse	Oral sex	Anal sex	
2002		Percent (standard error)				
All females aged 15–44 years ³	61,561	91.7 (0.4)	89.2 (0.5)	82.0 (0.6)	30.0 (0.7)	11.2 (0.5)
2006–2008						
All females aged 15–44 years ³	61,865	89.0 (1.3)	86.8 (1.3)	80.1 (1.4)	30.7 (1.3)	12.5 (0.8)
Age:						
15–19 years	10,431	53.0 (2.7)	45.6 (2.5)	44.6 (2.5)	10.5 (1.2)	11.0 (1.0)
15–17 years	5,833	39.7 (2.7)	33.0 (2.2)	30.2 (2.3)	7.0 (1.2)	10.3 (1.3)
18–19 years	4,598	70.0 (4.8)	61.7 (4.7)	62.9 (4.7)	14.9 (2.1)	11.9 (1.8)
20–24 years	10,140	87.7 (3.4)	85.0 (3.6)	81.1 (3.3)	30.2 (2.4)	15.8 (1.8)
25–44 years	41,294	98.4 (0.4)	97.6 (0.4)	88.8 (0.8)	36.0 (1.6)	12.0 (0.9)
25–29 years	10,250	96.6 (1.1)	95.2 (1.0)	88.5 (1.6)	38.5 (2.4)	15.0 (1.5)
30–34 years	9,587	98.1 (0.6)	97.6 (0.7)	88.6 (1.5)	34.8 (2.4)	14.2 (1.7)
35–39 years	10,475	99.1 (0.4)	98.5 (0.8)	89.7 (1.2)	38.3 (3.1)	11.5 (2.5)
40–44 years	10,982	99.7 (0.1)	99.2 (0.4)	88.6 (1.4)	32.4 (2.7)	7.9 (1.4)
Marital or cohabiting status:						
Currently married	27,006	100.0	100.0	91.0 (0.8)	33.7 (2.1)	8.3 (1.1)
Currently cohabiting	6,821	100.0	100.0	90.2 (1.7)	44.6 (3.0)	20.5 (2.0)
Never married, not cohabiting	22,847	70.1 (3.1)	64.1 (3.0)	61.7 (2.8)	20.1 (1.3)	13.4 (1.0)
Formerly married, not cohabiting	5,190	100.0	100.0	91.1 (1.9)	43.3 (3.3)	19.6 (2.6)
Education ⁴ :						
No high school diploma or GED	6,210	99.2 (0.3)	99.2 (0.3)	75.1 (3.0)	32.2 (2.6)	15.2 (2.1)
High school diploma or GED	11,793	98.8 (0.5)	98.6 (0.5)	87.4 (1.7)	38.9 (2.5)	14.2 (1.8)
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,537	95.5 (2.0)	94.4 (2.0)	89.9 (1.9)	37.3 (2.4)	13.8 (1.4)
Bachelor's degree or higher	15,543	96.0 (1.2)	94.4 (1.2)	91.2 (1.6)	34.0 (2.8)	9.9 (1.3)
Hispanic origin and race:						
Hispanic or Latina	10,377	89.5 (1.0)	88.9 (0.9)	69.8 (1.4)	24.7 (1.7)	6.3 (0.9)
Not Hispanic or Latina:						
White, single race	37,660	88.4 (1.8)	85.7 (1.8)	84.8 (2.0)	34.3 (2.0)	14.6 (1.1)
Black or African American, single race	8,452	90.2 (1.4)	88.6 (1.5)	74.2 (2.3)	24.6 (1.4)	11.3 (1.4)

¹Includes vaginal, oral, or anal sex. See Methods section for description of all questions on sexual behavior used in this report.²Includes oral sex or any sexual experience. See Methods section for description of all questions on sexual behavior used in this report.³Includes females of other or multiple race and origin groups, not shown separately.⁴Limited to females 22–44 years of age at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Respondents could report whatever types of sexual contact they have had, with either opposite-sex or same-sex partners.

SOURCES: Reference 9 and CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2008.

Table 6. Sexual behavior with opposite-sex and same-sex partners among males aged 15–44 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2002 and 2006–2008

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Opposite-sex sexual behavior				Any same-sex sexual behavior ²
		Any ¹	Vaginal intercourse	Oral sex	Anal sex	
2002		Percent (standard error)				
All males aged 15–44 years ³	61,147	90.8 (0.6)	87.6 (0.7)	83.0 (0.8)	34.0 (1.1)	6.0 (0.5)
2006–2008						
All males aged 15–44 years ³	62,199	88.8 (1.0)	85.6 (1.1)	81.3 (1.1)	35.8 (1.4)	5.2 (0.5)
Age:						
15–19 years	10,777	58.0 (2.3)	44.8 (2.5)	48.4 (2.1)	10.2 (1.2)	2.5 (0.7)
15–17 years	6,643	46.8 (2.9)	31.8 (3.1)	35.0 (2.3)	6.2 (1.1)	1.7 (0.7)
18–19 years	4,134	75.8 (2.9)	65.6 (3.5)	69.8 (2.9)	16.6 (2.8)	3.8 (1.2)
20–24 years	10,404	85.7 (3.1)	81.5 (3.6)	80.1 (3.3)	31.9 (3.3)	5.6 (1.1)
25–44 years	41,019	97.7 (0.3)	97.3 (0.4)	90.4 (0.8)	43.5 (1.7)	5.8 (0.6)
25–29 years	10,431	96.2 (0.8)	95.6 (0.9)	90.5 (1.5)	42.5 (2.4)	5.2 (1.1)
30–34 years	9,575	96.9 (0.8)	96.7 (0.8)	89.4 (1.6)	45.2 (2.7)	4.0 (0.9)
35–39 years	10,318	98.7 (0.5)	98.4 (0.5)	90.6 (2.1)	45.0 (3.5)	5.7 (0.9)
40–44 years	10,695	98.8 (0.3)	98.5 (0.4)	90.8 (1.6)	41.7 (3.4)	8.1 (1.6)
Marital or cohabiting status:						
Currently married	24,763	100.0	100.0	92.5 (0.9)	42.5 (2.2)	3.5 (0.6)
Currently cohabiting	7,301	100.0	100.0	89.8 (2.7)	47.7 (3.1)	3.2 (0.9)
Never married, not cohabiting	27,012	74.2 (2.0)	66.8 (2.2)	67.2 (2.0)	23.5 (1.4)	7.2 (0.9)
Formerly married, not cohabiting	3,123	100.0	100.0	97.0 (1.0)	62.1 (4.1)	6.4 (1.3)
Education ⁴ :						
No high school diploma or GED	8,530	98.8 (0.5)	98.7 (0.5)	82.8 (2.2)	40.7 (2.7)	3.6 (1.0)
High school diploma or GED	12,278	97.0 (0.8)	96.6 (0.9)	89.9 (1.5)	44.1 (2.2)	5.1 (0.9)
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,521	93.2 (2.6)	91.8 (3.0)	89.3 (2.9)	46.7 (3.5)	8.0 (1.5)
Bachelor's degree or higher	13,112	95.0 (1.0)	94.1 (1.1)	90.4 (1.4)	36.7 (2.6)	6.7 (0.9)
Hispanic origin and race:						
Hispanic or Latino	11,724	92.4 (0.7)	89.7 (0.8)	76.9 (1.5)	38.6 (1.7)	3.8 (0.6)
Not Hispanic or Latino:						
White, single race	37,374	88.5 (1.6)	84.8 (1.8)	84.7 (1.9)	38.0 (2.0)	6.0 (0.7)
Black or African American, single race	7,186	90.7 (1.7)	87.9 (1.7)	78.4 (2.6)	26.9 (2.3)	2.4 (0.5)

¹Includes vaginal, oral, or anal sex. See Methods section for description of all questions on sexual behavior used in this report.²Includes oral or anal sex. See Methods section for description of all questions on sexual behavior used in this report.³Includes males of other or multiple race and origin groups, not shown separately.⁴Limited to males 22–44 years of age at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Respondents could report whatever types of sexual contact they have had, with either opposite-sex or same-sex partners.

SOURCES: Reference 9 and CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2008.

Table 7. Sexual behavior with opposite-sex and same-sex partners among females and males aged 15–24 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2002 and 2006–2008

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Opposite-sex sexual behavior							
		Any opposite-sex sexual contact ¹	Vaginal intercourse	Oral			Anal sex	Any same-sex behavior ²	No sexual contact with another person
				Any oral sex	Gave oral sex	Received oral sex			
2002		Percent (standard error)							
All females aged 15–24 years ³	19,674	77.3 (1.1)	70.2 (1.3)	68.6 (1.3)	59.8 (1.2)	64.9 (1.3)	20.3 (1.0)	12.4 (0.9)	21.9 (1.1)
All males aged 15–24 years ³	20,091	77.4 (1.3)	68.1 (1.7)	68.5 (1.5)	55.4 (1.6)	65.6 (1.6)	21.7 (1.3)	5.0 (0.5)	21.9 (1.3)
2006–2008									
All females aged 15–24 years ³	20,570	70.1 (2.8)	65.1 (2.7)	62.6 (2.6)	55.8 (2.6)	59.2 (2.6)	20.2 (1.5)	13.4 (1.1)	28.6 (2.8)
Age:									
15–19 years	10,431	53.0 (2.7)	45.6 (2.5)	44.6 (2.5)	37.5 (2.5)	40.6 (2.4)	10.5 (1.2)	11.0 (1.0)	45.0 (2.8)
15–17 years	5,833	39.7 (2.7)	33.0 (2.2)	30.2 (2.3)	25.1 (2.0)	26.8 (2.2)	7.0 (1.2)	10.3 (1.3)	58.2 (2.7)
15 years	2,147	32.3 (5.1)	23.2 (4.0)	22.7 (4.2)	16.0 (3.2)	20.3 (4.1)	4.6 (1.6)	11.0 (3.0)	64.1 (5.2)
16 years	1,830	39.4 (3.7)	33.6 (3.9)	32.4 (3.5)	29.2 (3.4)	29.2 (3.6)	5.4 (1.6)	7.3 (1.5)	60.4 (3.8)
17 years	1,856	48.5 (4.1)	43.6 (3.9)	36.7 (4.0)	31.4 (3.6)	32.0 (3.7)	11.2 (2.5)	12.5 (2.6)	49.2 (3.9)
18–19 years	4,598	70.0 (4.8)	61.7 (4.7)	62.9 (4.7)	53.2 (5.1)	58.2 (4.5)	14.9 (2.1)	11.9 (1.8)	28.0 (4.9)
20–24 years	10,140	87.7 (3.4)	85.0 (3.6)	81.1 (3.3)	74.6 (3.4)	78.4 (3.3)	30.2 (2.4)	15.8 (1.8)	11.9 (3.3)
Hispanic origin and race:									
Hispanic or Latina	3,517	70.3 (3.1)	69.0 (2.9)	58.0 (3.0)	50.4 (3.8)	51.7 (2.8)	19.5 (2.6)	8.8 (1.6)	28.1 (3.1)
15–19 years	1,812	50.3 (3.7)	48.2 (3.4)	41.1 (3.1)	32.9 (4.4)	37.5 (3.1)	10.7 (2.1)	8.3 (1.7)	46.7 (3.7)
20–24 years	1,705	91.9 (2.1)	91.2 (2.2)	76.4 (4.4)	69.4 (4.6)	67.8 (4.2)	29.0 (4.6)	9.4 (2.5)	8.1 (2.1)
Not Hispanic or Latina:									
White, single race	12,309	67.8 (3.7)	61.2 (3.5)	64.7 (3.5)	59.8 (3.8)	61.6 (3.4)	19.8 (1.7)	14.7 (1.7)	31.0 (3.7)
15–19 years	6,186	51.8 (3.6)	42.0 (3.1)	47.7 (3.5)	42.6 (3.6)	43.0 (3.2)	10.1 (1.3)	12.1 (1.4)	46.3 (3.6)
20–24 years	6,122	84.0 (4.7)	80.6 (5.0)	81.8 (4.7)	77.0 (5.2)	80.3 (4.7)	29.6 (3.6)	17.3 (3.0)	15.7 (4.7)
Black or African American, single race	3,047	75.8 (3.1)	72.1 (3.2)	59.1 (3.2)	43.1 (3.7)	57.3 (3.2)	19.5 (2.4)	13.2 (2.3)	22.6 (3.1)
15–19 years	1,606	59.1 (5.6)	53.1 (5.1)	38.2 (4.9)	22.5 (3.7)	35.4 (4.7)	8.8 (2.0)	10.0 (2.8)	39.2 (5.4)
20–24 years	1,440	94.0 (2.0)	93.4 (2.0)	81.7 (3.9)	66.0 (5.3)	81.0 (3.9)	31.4 (4.3)	16.7 (3.8)	4.4 (1.6)
All males aged 15–24 years ³	21,181	71.7 (2.0)	62.9 (2.1)	64.0 (2.1)	52.2 (2.1)	61.9 (2.2)	20.9 (1.6)	4.0 (0.7)	27.2 (2.1)
Age:									
15–19 years	10,777	58.0 (2.3)	44.8 (2.5)	48.4 (2.1)	34.9 (1.9)	46.7 (2.1)	10.2 (1.2)	2.5 (0.7)	41.1 (2.3)
15–17 years	6,643	46.8 (2.9)	31.8 (3.1)	35.0 (2.3)	22.5 (1.9)	33.4 (2.3)	6.2 (1.1)	1.7 (0.7)	52.6 (2.8)
15 years	2,250	34.0 (3.3)	20.6 (3.1)	26.5 (3.4)	16.6 (2.8)	24.7 (3.4)	2.8 (1.0)	*	65.6 (3.4)
16 years	2,328	46.3 (4.8)	31.5 (4.9)	31.6 (4.0)	16.8 (2.8)	30.0 (3.9)	5.0 (1.6)	2.2 (1.5)	53.4 (4.8)
17 years	2,065	61.4 (4.6)	44.4 (4.7)	48.0 (4.7)	35.2 (4.2)	46.8 (4.8)	11.4 (2.9)	*	37.4 (4.5)
18–19 years	4,134	75.8 (2.9)	65.6 (3.5)	69.8 (2.9)	54.8 (3.3)	67.9 (2.9)	16.6 (2.8)	3.9 (1.2)	22.9 (2.9)
20–24 years	10,404	85.7 (3.1)	81.5 (3.6)	80.1 (3.3)	70.0 (3.5)	77.6 (3.6)	31.9 (3.3)	5.6 (1.1)	13.0 (3.4)
Hispanic origin and race:									
Hispanic or Latino	3,796	79.4 (1.9)	71.4 (2.2)	69.0 (1.9)	52.4 (4.5)	66.6 (2.2)	30.8 (2.8)	2.3 (0.6)	20.4 (1.8)
15–19 years	1,891	63.0 (3.2)	47.9 (3.6)	52.5 (3.7)	34.4 (3.9)	49.1 (3.8)	12.4 (2.4)	2.6 (0.8)	36.7 (3.2)
20–24 years	1,905	95.5 (1.7)	94.6 (1.8)	85.6 (3.4)	70.6 (5.5)	84.2 (3.5)	49.2 (4.0)	2.0 (1.0)	4.3 (1.6)
Not Hispanic or Latino:									
White, single race	12,878	70.8 (3.2)	60.9 (3.1)	65.3 (3.4)	57.9 (3.5)	63.1 (3.6)	20.1 (2.4)	4.1 (0.8)	28.2 (3.2)
15–19 years	6,208	56.3 (3.4)	42.0 (3.5)	49.4 (3.0)	40.7 (2.8)	48.0 (3.0)	10.3 (1.7)	2.2 (0.7)	42.8 (3.3)
20–24 years	6,671	84.2 (5.0)	78.5 (5.2)	80.0 (5.3)	73.9 (5.9)	77.1 (5.7)	29.1 (4.6)	5.9 (1.5)	14.7 (5.1)

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 7. Sexual behavior with opposite-sex and same-sex partners among females and males aged 15–24 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2002 and 2006–2008—Con.

Characteristic	Opposite-sex sexual behavior								
	Number in thousands	Any opposite-sex sexual contact ¹	Vaginal intercourse	Oral				Any same-sex behavior ²	No sexual contact with another person
				Any oral sex	Gave oral sex	Received oral sex	Anal sex		
Black or African American, single race	2,799	79.0 (3.7)	72.2 (3.5)	62.8 (4.5)	38.4 (3.2)	61.4 (4.4)	17.2 (3.1)	2.5 (0.9)	20.7 (3.7)
15–19 years	1,558	71.5 (5.6)	60.1 (5.2)	48.2 (5.4)	21.4 (3.7)	47.6 (5.4)	9.6 (2.8)	*	28.1 (5.7)
20–24 years	1,241	88.3 (3.7)	87.1 (3.6)	81.0 (5.9)	59.8 (5.7)	78.6 (5.9)	26.6 (5.4)	4.5 (1.8)	11.7 (3.7)

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Includes vaginal, oral, or anal sex. See Methods section for description of all questions on sexual behavior used in this report.

²For females, includes oral sex or any sexual experience. For males, includes oral or anal sex with male partners. See Methods section for description of all questions on sexual behavior used in this report.

³Includes those of other or multiple race and origin groups, not shown separately.

NOTES: Respondents reported all types of sexual contact they may have had. As a result, percentages reporting specified types of sex with opposite-sex partners may add to more than the percentage reporting any opposite-sex sexual contact. Similarly, the percentages reporting no sexual contact with another person may be larger than the difference from 100% of the sum of the percentages reporting opposite-sex and same-sex partners because respondents could report contact with both opposite-sex and same-sex partners.

SOURCES: Reference 9 and CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2008.

Table 8. Type of sexual behavior with an opposite-sex partner among females and males aged 15–24 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2002 and 2006–2008

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Type of sexual behavior with opposite-sex partners				
		Total	Vaginal intercourse	Oral sex, but no vaginal intercourse	No vaginal intercourse or oral sex, but other sexual contact	Never had opposite-sex sexual contact
2002		Percent distribution (standard error)				
All females aged 15–24 years ¹	19,674	100.0	70.1 (1.3)	7.2 (0.7)	–	22.7 (1.1)
All males aged 15–24 years ¹	20,091	100.0	67.9 (1.6)	8.0 (0.8)	1.6 (0.3)	22.6 (1.3)
2006–2008						
All females aged 15–24 years ¹	20,570	100.0	65.2 (2.7)	4.9 (0.7)	–	29.9 (2.8)
Age:						
15–19 years	10,431	100.0	45.9 (2.5)	7.1 (1.2)	–	47.0 (2.7)
15–17 years.	5,833	100.0	33.0 (2.2)	6.7 (1.6)	–	60.3 (2.7)
18–19 years.	4,598	100.0	62.3 (4.7)	7.6 (1.8)	–	30.0 (4.8)
20–24 years	10,140	100.0	85.1 (3.6)	2.6 (0.7)	–	12.3 (3.4)
Hispanic origin and race:						
Hispanic or Latina	3,517	100.0	69.0 (2.9)	1.4 (0.6)	–	29.7 (3.1)
15–19 years.	1,812	100.0	48.2 (3.4)	2.0 (0.9)	–	49.8 (3.7)
20–24 years.	1,705	100.0	91.2 (2.2)	*	–	8.1 (2.1)
Not Hispanic or Latina:						
White, single race	12,309	100.0	61.2 (3.5)	6.6 (0.9)	–	32.2 (3.7)
15–19 years	6,186	100.0	42.1 (3.1)	9.8 (1.6)	–	48.2 (3.6)
20–24 years	6,122	100.0	80.6 (5.0)	3.4 (1.0)	–	16.0 (4.7)
Black or African American, single race	3,047	100.0	73.2 (3.0)	2.5 (1.3)	–	24.3 (3.1)
15–19 years.	1,606	100.0	54.6 (5.0)	4.5 (2.3)	–	40.9 (5.6)
20–24 years.	1,440	100.0	93.6 (2.0)	*	–	6.0 (2.0)
All males aged 15–24 years ¹	21,181	100.0	62.9 (2.1)	6.8 (0.8)	1.9 (0.5)	28.3 (2.0)
Age:						
15–19 years	10,777	100.0	44.9 (2.5)	9.4 (1.1)	3.8 (0.9)	42.0 (2.3)
15–17 years.	6,643	100.0	31.9 (3.1)	9.8 (1.5)	5.2 (1.4)	53.2 (2.9)
18–19 years.	4,134	100.0	65.6 (3.5)	8.7 (1.5)	1.6 (0.5)	24.2 (2.9)
20–24 years	10,404	100.0	81.5 (3.6)	4.2 (1.0)	–	14.3 (3.1)
Hispanic origin and race:						
Hispanic or Latino	3,796	100.0	71.4 (2.2)	6.2 (1.3)	1.7 (0.6)	20.7 (1.9)
15–19 years.	1,891	100.0	47.9 (3.6)	11.6 (2.6)	3.5 (1.1)	37.0 (3.2)
20–24 years.	1,905	100.0	94.6 (1.8)	0.9 (0.4)	–	4.5 (1.7)
Not Hispanic or Latino:						
White, single race	12,878	100.0	61.0 (3.1)	7.8 (1.1)	2.1 (0.7)	29.2 (3.2)
15–19 years	6,208	100.0	42.1 (3.5)	10.0 (1.5)	4.3 (1.3)	43.7 (3.4)
20–24 years	6,671	100.0	78.5 (5.2)	5.7 (1.4)	–	15.8 (5.0)
Black or African American, single race	2,799	100.0	72.2 (3.5)	4.9 (1.3)	2.0 (0.8)	21.0 (3.7)
15–19 years	1,558	100.0	60.1 (5.2)	7.8 (2.2)	3.6 (1.4)	28.5 (5.6)
20–24 years	1,241	100.0	87.1 (3.6)	1.3 (1.0)	–	11.7 (3.7)

— Quantity zero.

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Includes those of other or multiple race and origin groups, not shown separately.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCES: Reference 9 and CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2008.

Table 9. Number of sexual partners in the past 12 months, including same-sex and opposite-sex partners, among females and males aged 15–44 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2002 and 2006–2008

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Total	Sexual partners in last 12 months ¹				
			No partner in last 12 months	Any same-sex partners	One opposite-sex partner, but no same-sex partners	Two or more opposite-sex partners, but no same-sex partners	Did not report
Percent distribution (standard error)							
All females aged 15–44 years ²	61,865	100.0	15.9 (1.3)	11.7 (0.7)	61.3 (1.2)	9.4 (0.6)	1.7 (0.4)
Age:							
15–19 years	10,431	100.0	51.3 (2.6)	9.5 (0.8)	24.2 (2.0)	13.5 (1.1)	1.6 (0.6)
20–24 years	10,140	100.0	15.8 (3.3)	15.2 (1.8)	49.5 (2.1)	17.7 (2.5)	1.8 (0.8)
25–44 years	41,294	100.0	7.0 (0.6)	11.4 (0.8)	73.6 (1.1)	6.3 (0.5)	1.8 (0.5)
25–29 years.	10,250	100.0	7.6 (1.3)	14.3 (1.5)	65.1 (2.1)	10.6 (1.4)	2.4 (1.4)
30–34 years.	9,587	100.0	5.2 (0.9)	13.6 (1.7)	73.8 (2.0)	6.0 (0.7)	1.5 (0.5)
35–39 years.	10,475	100.0	6.8 (1.1)	10.8 (2.4)	76.2 (2.8)	4.2 (0.8)	2.0 (1.0)
40–44 years.	10,982	100.0	8.3 (1.2)	7.1 (1.4)	79.0 (2.2)	4.5 (0.8)	1.1 (0.4)
Education ³ :							
No high school diploma or GED	6,210	100.0	6.7 (1.2)	14.5 (2.1)	68.1 (2.3)	7.5 (1.1)	3.2 (1.0)
High school diploma or GED	11,793	100.0	6.1 (0.8)	13.4 (1.8)	70.6 (2.1)	7.7 (0.9)	2.2 (1.0)
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,537	100.0	10.6 (2.3)	13.0 (1.3)	66.3 (2.1)	9.3 (1.2)	0.8 (0.4)
Bachelor's degree or higher	15,543	100.0	8.4 (1.4)	9.4 (1.3)	75.5 (1.9)	5.2 (0.8)	1.5 (0.7)
Hispanic origin and race:							
Hispanic or Latina	10,377	100.0	14.9 (0.9)	5.6 (0.9)	67.7 (1.7)	8.4 (0.8)	3.5 (1.0)
Not Hispanic or Latina:							
White, single race	37,660	100.0	16.0 (1.8)	13.9 (1.1)	60.8 (1.6)	8.4 (0.8)	0.9 (0.4)
Black or African American, single race	8,452	100.0	17.6 (1.8)	10.6 (1.3)	53.9 (2.2)	15.9 (1.5)	2.1 (0.7)
All males aged 15–44 years ¹	62,199	100.0	16.0 (1.2)	4.3 (0.4)	60.2 (1.3)	17.6 (0.8)	2.0 (0.3)
Age:							
15–19 years	10,777	100.0	48.9 (2.6)	1.5 (0.4)	25.1 (1.9)	21.2 (1.7)	3.3 (0.9)
20–24 years	10,404	100.0	18.3 (3.8)	4.6 (1.0)	48.0 (2.3)	27.2 (2.8)	1.9 (0.9)
25–44 years	41,019	100.0	6.8 (0.7)	4.9 (0.5)	72.4 (1.4)	14.2 (0.9)	1.7 (0.3)
25–29 years.	10,431	100.0	7.6 (1.5)	4.8 (1.0)	65.7 (2.2)	20.3 (1.6)	1.6 (0.5)
30–34 years.	9,575	100.0	6.6 (1.2)	3.6 (0.8)	75.3 (2.6)	13.0 (1.6)	1.4 (0.4)
35–39 years.	10,318	100.0	5.1 (0.9)	5.0 (0.9)	73.7 (2.0)	14.2 (1.9)	2.0 (0.8)
40–44 years.	10,695	100.0	7.7 (1.7)	6.2 (1.0)	75.2 (2.4)	9.3 (1.8)	1.6 (0.6)
Education ² :							
No high school diploma or GED	8,530	100.0	6.9 (1.4)	2.6 (0.7)	71.3 (3.2)	15.4 (2.4)	3.8 (1.2)
High school diploma or GED	12,278	100.0	7.4 (1.4)	4.4 (0.9)	69.2 (2.5)	17.3 (1.5)	1.7 (0.4)
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,521	100.0	12.1 (3.0)	6.2 (1.1)	65.5 (3.0)	15.2 (1.7)	1.0 (0.5)
Bachelor's degree or higher	13,112	100.0	7.5 (1.1)	6.4 (0.9)	71.7 (2.5)	13.0 (1.9)	1.4 (0.4)
Hispanic origin and race:							
Hispanic or Latino	11,724	100.0	14.3 (1.1)	3.5 (0.6)	58.7 (2.0)	20.1 (1.5)	3.4 (0.9)
Not Hispanic or Latino:							
White, single race	37,374	100.0	16.2 (1.7)	4.8 (0.6)	62.4 (1.8)	15.5 (1.2)	1.2 (0.3)
Black or African American, single race	7,186	100.0	13.0 (2.0)	2.0 (0.5)	52.0 (2.7)	31.0 (2.3)	2.0 (0.5)

¹Includes vaginal, oral, or anal sex. See Methods section for description of all questions on sexual behavior used in this report.²Includes those of other or multiple race and origin groups, not shown separately.³Limited to persons aged 22–44 years at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2002 and 2006–2008.

Table 10. Sexual activity with same-sex partners in lifetime among females and males aged 15–44 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2002 and 2006–2008

Characteristic	Females			Males			
	Number in thousands	Any sexual experience	Any oral sex	Number in thousands	Any oral or anal sex	Any anal sex	Any oral sex
2002	Percent (standard error)			Percent (standard error)			
All persons aged 15–44 years ¹	61,561	11.2 (0.5)	- - -	61,147	6.0 (0.5)	3.7 (0.4)	5.7 (0.5)
2006–2008							
All persons aged 15–44 years ¹	61,865	12.5 (0.8)	9.3 (0.6)	62,199	5.2 (0.5)	2.9 (0.3)	5.0 (0.5)
Age:							
15–19 years	10,431	11.0 (1.0)	7.1 (0.8)	10,777	2.5 (0.7)	1.2 (0.4)	2.2 (0.5)
15–17 years	5,833	10.3 (1.3)	5.4 (1.0)	6,643	1.7 (0.7)	1.1 (0.6)	1.3 (0.5)
18–19 years	4,598	11.9 (1.8)	9.3 (1.6)	4,134	3.9 (1.2)	1.5 (0.5)	3.7 (1.2)
20–24 years	10,140	15.8 (1.8)	11.2 (1.3)	10,404	5.6 (1.1)	2.5 (0.7)	5.6 (1.1)
25–44 years	41,294	12.0 (0.9)	9.3 (0.8)	41,019	5.8 (0.6)	3.4 (0.5)	5.7 (0.6)
25–29 years	10,250	15.0 (1.5)	11.3 (1.2)	10,431	5.2 (1.1)	2.6 (0.6)	5.1 (1.1)
30–44 years	31,044	11.1 (1.0)	8.7 (0.9)	30,588	6.0 (0.8)	3.7 (0.6)	5.8 (0.8)
Marital or cohabiting status:							
Currently married	27,006	8.3 (1.1)	5.8 (0.9)	24,763	3.5 (0.6)	1.1 (0.2)	3.3 (0.6)
Currently cohabiting	6,821	20.5 (2.0)	16.7 (2.0)	7,301	3.2 (0.9)	0.6 (0.3)	3.1 (0.9)
Never married, not cohabiting	22,847	13.4 (1.0)	9.5 (0.8)	27,012	7.2 (0.9)	5.0 (0.7)	7.0 (0.9)
Formerly married, not cohabiting	5,190	19.6 (2.6)	16.8 (2.5)	3,123	6.4 (1.3)	3.3 (1.1)	6.3 (1.3)
Education ² :							
No high school diploma or GED	6,210	15.2 (2.1)	12.9 (1.9)	8,530	3.6 (1.0)	1.1 (0.3)	3.5 (1.0)
High school diploma or GED	11,793	14.2 (1.8)	12.3 (1.7)	12,278	5.1 (0.9)	2.8 (0.7)	4.9 (0.9)
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,537	13.8 (1.4)	11.4 (1.3)	13,521	8.0 (1.5)	4.2 (1.1)	7.8 (1.5)
Bachelor's degree or higher	15,543	9.9 (1.3)	5.5 (0.8)	13,112	6.7 (0.9)	4.4 (0.8)	6.6 (0.9)
Number of opposite-sex partners in lifetime:							
None	6,752	4.9 (1.1)	2.9 (0.8)	6,906	7.5 (1.5)	5.1 (0.9)	7.5 (1.5)
1	13,395	3.5 (0.6)	2.2 (0.4)	9,072	4.4 (1.0)	1.6 (0.4)	4.4 (1.0)
2	6,485	9.0 (1.7)	6.9 (1.5)	4,570	6.8 (1.6)	6.2 (1.6)	6.7 (1.6)
3	6,054	8.5 (2.5)	5.5 (2.0)	4,231	2.6 (0.8)	1.9 (0.7)	2.6 (0.8)
4 or more	27,744	20.3 (1.1)	15.6 (1.0)	35,700	5.1 (0.7)	2.4 (0.5)	4.9 (0.7)
Hispanic origin and race:							
Hispanic or Latino	10,377	6.3 (0.9)	4.9 (0.9)	11,724	3.8 (0.6)	2.4 (0.4)	3.7 (0.6)
Not Hispanic or Latino:							
White, single race	37,660	14.6 (1.1)	10.6 (0.9)	37,374	6.0 (0.7)	3.2 (0.5)	5.8 (0.7)
Black or African American, single race	8,452	11.3 (1.4)	9.6 (1.3)	7,186	2.4 (0.5)	1.5 (0.5)	2.2 (0.5)

--- Data not available from 2002 NSFG.

¹Includes persons of other or multiple race and origin groups and persons with missing information on types of same-sex activity, not shown separately.²Limited to those aged 22–44 years at the time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

NOTE: See Methods section for description of all questions on sexual behavior used in this report.

SOURCES: Reference 9 and CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2008.

Table 11. Sexual attraction among women and men aged 18–44 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2002 and 2006–2008

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Sexual attraction						
		Total	Only opposite sex	Mostly opposite sex	Equally to both	Mostly same sex	Only same sex	Not sure
2002		Percent distribution (standard error)						
All women aged 18–44 years ¹	55,742	100.0	85.7 (0.6)	10.2 (0.5)	1.9 (0.2)	0.8 (0.1)	0.7 (0.1)	0.8 (0.1)
All men aged 18–44 years ¹	55,399	100.0	92.2 (0.6)	3.9 (0.4)	1.0 (0.1)	0.7 (0.1)	1.5 (0.2)	0.7 (0.2)
2006–2008								
All women aged 18–44 years ¹	56,032	100.0	83.3 (1.1)	11.9 (0.9)	2.8 (0.2)	0.6 (0.1)	0.8 (0.2)	0.7 (0.1)
Age:								
18–19 years	4,598	100.0	82.4 (2.3)	9.4 (1.8)	4.8 (1.1)	0.9 (0.5)	1.3 (0.8)	1.2 (0.8)
20–24 years	10,140	100.0	77.6 (2.3)	16.7 (1.9)	3.7 (0.9)	0.8 (0.3)	0.8 (0.3)	0.4 (0.2)
25–29 years	10,250	100.0	81.4 (1.8)	12.9 (1.4)	3.8 (0.9)	0.5 (0.2)	1.1 (0.4)	0.4 (0.2)
30–34 years	9,587	100.0	81.4 (2.3)	13.0 (2.1)	2.8 (0.6)	0.7 (0.3)	0.9 (0.4)	1.2 (0.5)
35–44 years	21,457	100.0	87.9 (1.4)	9.1 (1.4)	1.4 (0.3)	0.4 (0.2)	0.5 (0.1)	0.6 (0.2)
Education ² :								
No high school diploma or GED	6,210	100.0	84.1 (1.8)	8.7 (1.4)	5.2 (1.3)	*	0.5 (0.2)	1.4 (0.6)
High school diploma or GED	11,793	100.0	85.4 (1.6)	9.6 (1.5)	2.8 (0.7)	0.4 (0.2)	1.2 (0.4)	0.6 (0.2)
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,537	100.0	82.4 (1.6)	13.1 (1.5)	1.9 (0.4)	1.0 (0.4)	0.7 (0.2)	1.0 (0.4)
Bachelor's degree or higher	15,543	100.0	83.7 (1.8)	13.1 (1.5)	1.8 (0.5)	0.4 (0.2)	0.8 (0.3)	*
Hispanic origin and race:								
Hispanic or Latina	9,272	100.0	89.1 (1.1)	6.4 (0.9)	2.1 (0.6)	0.5 (0.2)	0.8 (0.3)	1.2 (0.4)
Not Hispanic or Latina:								
White, single race	34,410	100.0	81.1 (1.4)	14.3 (1.2)	3.0 (0.4)	0.6 (0.2)	0.7 (0.2)	0.3 (0.1)
Black or African American, single race	7,520	100.0	86.4 (1.7)	7.6 (1.2)	2.5 (0.7)	0.8 (0.5)	1.1 (0.4)	1.5 (0.6)
ACASI language ³ :								
English	51,754	100.0	82.4 (1.2)	12.5 (1.0)	2.9 (0.3)	0.6 (0.1)	0.9 (0.2)	0.7 (0.2)
Spanish	4,118	100.0	94.8 (1.1)	3.3 (0.8)	1.4 (0.9)	*	*	*
All men aged 18–44 years ¹	55,556	100.0	93.5 (0.5)	3.7 (0.3)	0.5 (0.2)	0.7 (0.2)	1.2 (0.2)	0.4 (0.1)
Age:								
18–19 years	4,134	100.0	91.7 (1.8)	5.7 (1.6)	*	0.7 (0.4)	1.1 (0.5)	0.6 (0.3)
20–24 years	10,404	100.0	91.3 (1.7)	5.8 (1.2)	1.1 (0.6)	0.5 (0.3)	0.7 (0.3)	0.7 (0.5)
25–29 years	10,431	100.0	94.3 (0.9)	3.1 (0.7)	0.3 (0.1)	0.7 (0.4)	1.3 (0.5)	0.4 (0.2)
30–34 years	9,575	100.0	95.3 (0.9)	2.7 (0.6)	*	0.5 (0.3)	0.8 (0.2)	0.4 (0.3)
35–44 years	21,013	100.0	93.6 (0.8)	3.1 (0.6)	0.4 (0.2)	0.9 (0.3)	1.7 (0.4)	0.2 (0.1)
Education ² :								
No high school diploma or GED	8,530	100.0	94.9 (1.0)	3.6 (0.8)	*	*	0.6 (0.3)	0.6 (0.3)
High school diploma or GED	12,278	100.0	93.5 (1.3)	2.9 (0.7)	1.1 (0.6)	0.7 (0.4)	0.9 (0.3)	0.9 (0.5)
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,521	100.0	95.0 (0.7)	3.0 (0.6)	0.5 (0.2)	0.4 (0.2)	1.0 (0.3)	0.2 (0.1)
Bachelor's degree or higher	13,112	100.0	91.8 (1.2)	4.0 (0.8)	0.4 (0.2)	1.4 (0.5)	2.4 (0.6)	0.1 (0.1)
Hispanic origin and race:								
Hispanic or Latino	10,618	100.0	93.0 (0.8)	5.0 (0.7)	0.3 (0.1)	0.7 (0.3)	0.7 (0.2)	0.4 (0.2)
Not Hispanic or Latino:								
White, single race	33,573	100.0	93.8 (0.6)	3.3 (0.4)	0.6 (0.2)	0.6 (0.2)	1.4 (0.3)	0.2 (0.1)
Black or African American, single race	6,208	100.0	95.9 (1.0)	2.6 (0.8)	*	*	0.8 (0.3)	0.4 (0.2)
ACASI language ³ :								
English	51,263	100.0	93.5 (0.5)	3.5 (0.4)	0.5 (0.2)	0.7 (0.2)	1.3 (0.2)	0.4 (0.1)
Spanish	4,277	100.0	93.3 (1.7)	6.3 (1.6)	*	*	*	*

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Includes those of other or multiple race and origin groups and missing information on sexual attraction, not shown separately.²Limited to those aged 22–44 years of age at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.³ACASI is audio computer-assisted self interviewing.

NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. See Methods section for description of all questions used in this report.

SOURCES: Reference 9 and CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2008.

Table 12. Sexual identity among women aged 18–44 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2002 and 2006–2008

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Sexual identity					
		Total	Heterosexual or straight	Homosexual, gay, or lesbian	Bisexual	Something else ¹	Did not report
2002		Percent distribution (standard error)					
All women aged 18–44 years ²	55,742	100.0	90.3 (0.4)	1.3 (0.2)	2.8 (0.2)	3.8 (0.3)	1.8 (0.2)
2006–2008							
All women aged 18–44 years ²	56,032	100.0	93.7 (0.5)	1.1 (0.2)	3.5 (0.3)	0.6 (0.1)	1.1 (0.2)
Age:							
18–19 years	4,598	100.0	90.1 (1.5)	1.9 (0.9)	5.8 (1.2)	*	*
20–24 years	10,140	100.0	90.4 (1.6)	1.3 (0.4)	6.3 (1.1)	0.9 (0.3)	1.2 (0.8)
25–29 years	10,250	100.0	91.9 (1.2)	1.2 (0.4)	5.4 (1.0)	0.6 (0.2)	0.9 (0.3)
30–34 years	9,587	100.0	94.4 (0.9)	1.1 (0.5)	2.9 (0.6)	0.8 (0.3)	1.0 (0.4)
35–44 years	21,457	100.0	96.6 (0.5)	0.7 (0.2)	1.1 (0.2)	0.2 (0.1)	1.3 (0.3)
Marital or cohabiting status:							
Currently married	26,983	100.0	96.1 (0.6)	*	2.1 (0.4)	0.3 (0.1)	1.4 (0.4)
Currently cohabiting.	6,789	100.0	90.4 (1.4)	*	6.2 (1.0)	1.7 (0.8)	1.3 (0.6)
Never married, not cohabiting.	5,190	100.0	91.2 (1.1)	2.8 (0.6)	4.6 (0.7)	0.6 (0.2)	0.7 (0.2)
Formerly married, not cohabiting.	17,070	100.0	94.2 (1.0)	1.0 (0.4)	3.8 (0.8)	0.6 (0.3)	0.4 (0.2)
Education ³ :							
No high school diploma or GED	6,210	100.0	90.0 (1.3)	0.4 (0.2)	5.3 (0.9)	1.0 (0.4)	3.2 (0.9)
High school diploma or GED	11,793	100.0	94.4 (0.8)	1.4 (0.4)	3.1 (0.6)	0.4 (0.2)	0.7 (0.2)
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,537	100.0	94.2 (0.8)	1.1 (0.3)	3.6 (0.6)	0.3 (0.2)	0.8 (0.3)
Bachelor's degree or higher.	15,543	100.0	96.5 (0.6)	1.0 (0.3)	1.5 (0.3)	0.4 (0.2)	0.6 (0.2)
Hispanic origin and race:							
Hispanic or Latina	9,272	100.0	92.1 (1.2)	0.9 (0.3)	2.2 (0.5)	0.7 (0.3)	4.1 (1.2)
Not Hispanic or Latina:							
White, single race	34,410	100.0	94.2 (0.7)	0.9 (0.2)	4.1 (0.5)	0.5 (0.2)	0.4 (0.1)
Black or African American, single race	7,520	100.0	93.3 (1.0)	1.6 (0.5)	3.0 (0.8)	1.5 (0.4)	0.7 (0.2)
ACASI language ⁴ :							
English.	51,754	100.0	94.1 (0.5)	1.1 (0.2)	3.7 (0.4)	0.6 (0.1)	0.6 (0.1)
Spanish	4,118	100.0	88.9 (2.6)	*	1.1 (0.4)	1.3 (0.5)	7.9 (2.6)

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹This category was only offered in years 1 and 2 of the 2006–2008 data collection. See Methods section and Technical Notes for further details.²Includes women of other or multiple race and origin groups and those missing on ACASI language, not shown separately.³Limited to those aged 22–44 years at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.⁴ACASI is audio computer-assisted self interviewing.

NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. "Did not report" includes "don't know" and "refused" responses, as well as responses that were not ascertained due to interview breakoffs before these ACASI questions.

SOURCES: Reference 9 and CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2008.

Table 13. Sexual identity among men aged 18–44 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2002 and 2006–2008

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Sexual identity					
		Total	Heterosexual or straight	Homosexual or gay	Bisexual	Something else ¹	Did not report
2002		Percent distribution (standard error)					
All men aged 18–44 years ²	55,399	100.0	90.2 (0.7)	2.3 (0.4)	1.8 (0.3)	3.9 (0.5)	1.8 (0.3)
2006–2008							
All men aged 18–44 years ²	55,556	100.0	95.7 (0.5)	1.7 (0.2)	1.1 (0.2)	0.2 (0.1)	1.3 (0.3)
Age:							
18–19 years	4,134	100.0	96.6 (0.8)	1.6 (0.6)	1.1 (0.5)	*	0.6 (0.2)
20–24 years	10,404	100.0	95.1 (1.4)	1.2 (0.4)	2.0 (0.9)	0.4 (0.2)	1.3 (0.9)
25–29 years	10,431	100.0	96.3 (0.8)	1.7 (0.6)	0.8 (0.3)	0.5 (0.2)	0.8 (0.4)
30–34 years	9,575	100.0	96.2 (0.9)	1.5 (0.5)	0.6 (0.3)	*	1.8 (0.7)
35–44 years	21,013	100.0	95.2 (0.7)	2.1 (0.4)	1.0 (0.3)	0.2 (0.1)	1.5 (0.4)
Marital or cohabiting status:							
Currently married	24,763	100.0	97.7 (0.5)	*	0.4 (0.2)	*	1.8 (0.5)
Currently cohabiting	7,292	100.0	98.1 (0.6)	*	0.5 (0.2)	*	1.0 (0.5)
Never married, not cohabiting	3,123	100.0	92.2 (0.9)	4.4 (0.5)	2.1 (0.5)	0.4 (0.1)	1.0 (0.5)
Formerly married, not cohabiting	20,379	100.0	96.9 (1.2)	1.3 (0.8)	1.5 (0.7)	*	0.0 (0.0)
Education ³ :							
No high school diploma or GED	8,530	100.0	93.7 (1.4)	1.3 (0.4)	0.8 (0.3)	*	3.9 (1.4)
High school diploma or GED	12,278	100.0	95.2 (1.0)	1.2 (0.3)	1.8 (0.8)	0.4 (0.2)	1.5 (0.5)
Some college, no bachelor's degree	13,521	100.0	96.8 (0.6)	1.3 (0.3)	1.1 (0.3)	0.2 (0.1)	0.6 (0.3)
Bachelor's degree or higher	13,112	100.0	95.2 (0.9)	3.1 (0.6)	0.9 (0.4)	*	0.7 (0.4)
Hispanic origin and race:							
Hispanic or Latino	10,618	100.0	93.4 (0.8)	1.2 (0.3)	0.9 (0.3)	0.6 (0.3)	3.9 (0.9)
Not Hispanic or Latino:							
White, single race	33,573	100.0	96.6 (0.5)	1.8 (0.3)	1.1 (0.3)	0.1 (0.1)	0.4 (0.1)
Black or African American, single race	6,208	100.0	97.8 (0.5)	1.2 (0.4)	*	*	0.4 (0.2)
ACASI language ⁴ :							
English	51,263	100.0	96.2 (0.4)	1.8 (0.2)	1.1 (0.2)	0.2 (0.1)	0.7 (0.2)
Spanish	4,277	100.0	89.3 (2.0)	0.7 (0.3)	1.1 (0.7)	*	8.5 (2.3)

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

0.0 Quantity greater than zero but less than 0.05.

¹This category was only offered in years 1 and 2 of the 2006–2008 data collection. See Methods section and Technical Notes for further details.²Includes men of other or multiple race and origin groups and those missing on ACASI language, not shown separately.³Limited to those aged 22–44 years at time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.⁴ACASI is audio computer-assisted self interviewing.

NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. "Did not report" includes "don't know" and "refused" responses, as well as responses that were not ascertained due to interview breakoffs before these ACASI questions.

SOURCES: Reference 9 and CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2008.

Table 14. Sexual attraction, sexual identity, and selected sexual behavior indicators among women and men aged 18–44 years: United States, 2006–2008

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Any opposite-sex sexual contact ¹	Any vaginal intercourse with opposite-sex partner	Any oral sex with opposite-sex partner	Any anal sex with opposite-sex partner	Any same-sex sexual contact ¹
Percent (standard error)						
All women aged 18–44 years ²	56,032	94.1 (1.3)	92.4 (1.3)	85.3 (1.4)	33.2 (1.5)	12.7 (0.8)
Sexual attraction:						
Only to opposite sex	46,144	94.0 (1.5)	92.2 (1.5)	84.7 (1.6)	29.6 (1.6)	4.6 (0.6)
Mostly to opposite sex	6,567	97.6 (0.5)	96.0 (0.8)	94.1 (1.3)	54.8 (2.7)	47.4 (2.9)
All other ³	2,857	89.2 (2.6)	87.6 (2.8)	75.3 (3.4)	40.9 (3.3)	65.8 (3.6)
Sexual identity:						
Heterosexual	52,070	94.3 (1.4)	92.6 (1.4)	85.7 (1.4)	32.7 (1.5)	9.0 (0.7)
Homosexual or bisexual	2,536	91.6 (2.2)	89.2 (2.5)	86.0 (2.6)	47.5 (3.5)	84.5 (2.8)
All men aged 18–44 years ²	55,556	93.8 (0.9)	92.0 (1.0)	86.9 (1.0)	39.3 (1.5)	5.6 (0.5)
Sexual attraction:						
Only to opposite sex	51,362	94.9 (0.9)	93.3 (1.0)	88.3 (1.0)	40.0 (1.6)	2.8 (0.5)
Mostly to opposite sex	2,056	88.0 (3.2)	84.1 (3.6)	77.6 (4.4)	41.5 (5.4)	20.6 (3.0)
All other ³	1,863	69.4 (4.1)	64.6 (4.4)	55.8 (1.1)	15.5 (4.3)	73.5 (3.3)
Sexual identity:						
Heterosexual	52,886	94.5 (0.9)	92.8 (1.1)	87.9 (1.1)	40.0 (1.6)	3.2 (0.5)
Homosexual or bisexual	1,543	69.8 (4.6)	64.7 (4.7)	64.8 (4.7)	24.0 (4.9)	88.4 (2.9)

¹Any sexual contact with opposite-sex partners includes vaginal, oral, or anal sex. Any sexual contact with same-sex (female) partners includes oral sex or any sexual experience. For males, it includes oral or anal sex with male partners. See Methods section for description of all questions on sexual behavior used in this report.

²Includes those with missing information on sexual attraction, sexual identity, or sexual contact with opposite-sex or same-sex partners.

³Includes those responding “equally attracted to both sexes,” “mostly to same sex,” and “only to same sex.”

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2008.

Table 15. Sexual identity and sexual attraction among women and men aged 18–44 years: United States, 2006–2008

Characteristic	Number in thousands	Sexual identity					
		Total	Heterosexual or straight	Homosexual or gay	Bisexual	Something else ¹	Did not report
2002		Percent distribution (standard error)					
All women aged 18–44 years	56,032	100.0	93.7 (0.5)	1.1 (0.2)	3.5 (0.3)	0.6 (0.1)	1.1 (0.2)
Sexual attraction:							
Only to opposite sex	46,144	100.0	98.8 (0.3)	*	0.11 (0.4)	0.2 (0.6)	0.79 (0.2)
Mostly to opposite sex	6,567	100.0	86.8 (1.8)	0.0	10.5 (1.4)	2.1 (0.8)	0.5 (0.3)
All other ²	2,857	100.0	27.2 (3.8)	19.7 (2.6)	42.1 (3.5)	3.4 (1.4)	7.5 (2.0)
All men aged 18–44 years	55,556	100.0	95.7 (0.5)	1.7 (0.2)	1.1 (0.2)	0.2 (0.1)	1.3 (0.3)
Sexual attraction:							
Only to opposite sex	51,362	100.0	98.9 (0.3)	0.1 (0.1)	0.1 (0.1)	0.1 (0.1)	0.8 (0.2)
Mostly to opposite sex	2,056	100.0	90.0 (2.1)	*	6.9 (1.8)	*	*
All other ²	1,863	100.0	13.2 (3.2)	47.5 (4.5)	20.8 (4.6)	2.7 (1.3)	15.9 (3.7)

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

¹This category was only offered in years 1 and 2 of the 2006–2008 data collection. See Methods section and Technical Notes for further details.

²Includes those responding “equally attracted to both sexes,” “mostly to same sex,” and “only to same sex.”

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2008.

Table 16. Comparison of selected National Survey of Family Growth measures of sexual behavior and sexual identity with selected other nationally representative surveys

Characteristic	NSFG, 2006–2008	NSFG, 2002	NHANES, 1999–2002, 2001–2006, and 2007–2008	NSSHB, 2009	GSS, 2004 and 2008
	Age range of respondents for reported statistics				
	18–44 years	18–44 years	1999–2002: 20–59 years 2001–2006: 18–59 years 2007–2008: 20–44 years	14–94 years	18 years and over
Females					
Sex with opposite-sex partners:					
Median number of male partners in lifetime	3.2	3.3	3.7	...	...
Percent with two or more male partners in last 12 months ¹ . . .	13.0	14.7	10.0	...	8.0
Sex with same-sex partners:					
Ever had same-sex sexual contact ²	12.5	11.2	7.1	...	4.3
Sexual identity ³ :					
Homosexual	1.1	1.3	1.5	0.9	1.8
Bisexual	3.5	2.8	4.9	3.6	1.5
Something else	0.6	3.8	0.8	2.3	...
Males					
Sex with opposite-sex partners:					
Median number of female partners in lifetime	5.1	5.6	6.8	...	...
Percent with two or more female partners in last 12 months ¹ . . .	18.5	18.9	16.7	...	16.7
Sex with same-sex partners:					
Ever had same-sex sexual contact ²	5.2	6.0	5.2	...	5.1
Sexual identity ³ :					
Homosexual	1.7	2.3	2.0	4.2	1.5
Bisexual	1.1	1.8	1.3	2.6	0.7
Something else	0.2	3.9	0.3	1.0	...

... Data not available.

¹GSS contains questions that allow the respondent to specify whether sex partners in the last 12 months were exclusively male or female, or both. However, the sex of the partners in the last 12 months was not specified in the report used for this comparative table.

²GSS asks about any same-sex partners since age 18.

³Sexual identity estimates from NHANES were run using public-use data from 2007–2008.

NOTE: NSFG is National Survey of Family Growth; NHANES is National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys; NSSHB is National Survey of Sexual Health and Behavior; GSS is General Social Survey. See Methods section for description of all NSFG questions on sexual behavior used in this report.

SOURCES: CDC/NCHS, NSFG 2006–2008; CDC/NCHS, NSFG 2002; NHANES references 63–66; NSSHB reference 20; and GSS references 67 and 68.

Technical Notes: The National Survey of Family Growth's Measurement of Sexual Identity

Basic information on NSFG's measurement of sexual identity was provided in the Methods section. Below, further detail is provided on the changes made to the sexual identity question since the 2002 NSFG and the effects these changes have had on the results. In 2002 and 2006–2008 of NSFG, the question on sexual identity directly followed the sexual attraction question in ACASI, and both of these items followed all ACASI questions on sexual behavior with opposite-sex and same-sex partners. In 2002, the sexual identity question was worded as follows, for both males and females:

Do you think of yourself as...

- *Heterosexual*
- *Homosexual*

- *Bisexual*
- *Something else*

As shown in Tables 12 and 13 of the report based on 2002 NSFG data (8), 3.8% of females aged 18–44 and 3.9% of males aged 18–44 reported “something else.” For some population groups, such as Hispanic and non-Hispanic black persons, the percentages reporting “something else” were higher than the percentages reporting “homosexual” or “bisexual.” To understand and potentially reduce the percentages reporting “something else,” two changes were made to the sexual identity question at the start of interviewing for the 2006–2008 NSFG:

1. More commonly known terms for sexual identity were added to the response categories. Instead of “heterosexual,” the response was changed to “heterosexual or straight” for both men and women. Instead of “homosexual,” men were offered “homosexual or gay,” and

women were offered “homosexual, gay, or lesbian.”

2. Those who reported “something else” were asked a follow-up question:

When you say “something else,” what do you mean? Please type in your answer.

The verbatim text they typed in was reviewed by NSFG staff and coded, where possible and unambiguous, into the preexisting categories.

Based on analyses with the 2006–2008 NSFG data, the first change had by far the larger impact on reporting of “something else.” Table I shows that even before the verbatim responses were examined for “something else” responses, the unweighted numbers and the weighted percentages reporting “something else” were significantly smaller than those found with the 2002 NSFG. In 2002, there were 294 women aged 18–44 and 175 men aged 18–44 who responded “something else,” and as was noted

Table I. Sexual identity reported as “something else” among women and men aged 18–44 years: United States, 2002 and 2006–2008

NSFG sexual identity variable	Women			Men		
	Unweighted number	Change from original reporting	Weighted percentage	Unweighted number	Change from original reporting	Weighted percentage
2002 NSFG sexual identity variable						
Original reports of “something else” ¹	294	...	3.8	175	...	3.9
2006–2008 NSFG sexual identity variable						
Original reports of “something else”	87	...	1.0	39	...	0.7
Remaining “something else” after coding of verbatim responses ²	50	...	0.6	19	...	0.2
Original sexual identity variable (before back-coding):						
Heterosexual or straight	6,023	...	92.8	4,997	...	95.0
Homosexual, gay (or lesbian)	93	...	1.0	132	...	1.6
Bisexual	274	...	3.5	69	...	1.1
Something else	87	...	1.0	39	...	0.6
Not ascertained	28	...	0.8	27	...	0.5
Refused	44	...	0.6	47	...	1.0
Don't know	20	...	0.4	12	...	0.3
Sexual identity variable after back-coding:						
Heterosexual or straight	6,043	20	92.9	5,007	+10	95.2
Homosexual, gay (or lesbian)	97	4	1.1	138	+6	1.7
Bisexual	274	0	3.5	69	0	1.1
Something else	50	-37	0.6	19	-20	0.2
Not ascertained	28	0	0.8	27	0	0.5
Refused	44	0	0.6	47	0	1.0
Don't know	33	13	0.5	16	+4	0.3

... Category not applicable.

¹No follow-up question was included for “something else” responses in the 2002 NSFG.

²The difference between the original reports and those remaining “something else” consisted of 37 women aged 18–44 and 20 men aged 18–44 who gave information in their verbatim responses that could be used to classify them in one of the preexisting response categories (i.e., back-coding).

NOTE: NSFG is National Survey of Family Growth.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2002 and 2006–2008.

earlier, these unweighted numbers represented nearly 4% (weighted) of men and women aged 18–44 in 2002. Meanwhile, in the 2006–2008 NSFG, many fewer men and women aged 18–44 originally reported “something else”—87 women and 39 men, yielding weighted percentages of 1.0% of women and 0.7% of men aged 18–44. After the verbatim responses were examined from the follow-up question, 37 of 87 women and 20 of 39 men provided information that could readily classify them into one of the provided categories (that is, the responses were able to be back-coded). This back-coding was done conservatively, only editing responses that used words expressly contained in the provided response categories such as “straight” or “gay,” or responses that

directly stated the respondent’s sexual preference such as men saying “I only like women” and women saying “I only like men.” Among the 50 women and 19 men whose verbatim responses yielded no codable information, a few had entered only blank spaces, presumably to get past the question, and the remainder gave ambiguous or unrelated comments that could not be used to code sexual identity. [Table I](#) also shows the full distribution of sexual identity before and after the back-coding of 37 women and 20 men; no significant change was seen in any of the categories shown.

To describe the net effects of both of these question changes on the reporting of sexual identity, [Table II](#) shows the percentages reporting

“something else” in the 2002 and 2006–2008 NSFG. Also shown are percentages that “did not report” sexual identity, a category which consists of those who responded “don’t know” or “refused” and those who terminated their ACASI interviews before the sexual identity question. Given the differentials seen in the percentages reporting “something else” by Hispanic origin and race in 2002 and 2006–2008, the percentages are also shown by educational attainment and ACASI language. While no significant difference was seen in the “did not report” percentages between 2002 and 2006–2008, [Table II](#) documents that the overall reduction in “something else” reporting for all men and women aged 18–44 was mirrored in every subgroup

Table II. Percentage of women and men aged 18–44 years who reported “something else” as their sexual identity or did not report sexual identity, by selected characteristics: United States, 2002 and 2006–2008

Characteristic	Sexual identity reporting					
	2002			2006–2008		
	Number in thousands	Something else	Did not report	Number in thousands	Something else	Did not report
		Percent			Percent	
All women aged 18–44 years ¹	55,742	3.8	1.8	56,032	0.6	1.1
Hispanic origin and race:						
Hispanic or Latina	8,194	6.1	4.1	9,272	0.7	4.1
Not Hispanic or Latina:						
White, single race	35,936	2.3	1.2	34,410	0.5	0.4
Black or African American, single race	7,399	6.5	2.0	7,520	1.5	0.7
Education ² :						
No high school diploma or GED	5,617	10.2	4.9	6,210	1.0	3.2
High school diploma or GED	14,247	5.4	3.0	11,793	0.4	0.7
Some college, no bachelor’s degree	14,279	1.9	0.6	13,537	0.3	0.8
Bachelor’s degree or higher	13,526	0.6	0.9	15,543	0.4	0.6
ACASI language ³ :						
English	52,216	3.6	1.5	51,754	0.6	0.6
Spanish	3,468	5.9	6.7	4,118	1.3	7.9
All men aged 18–44 years ¹	55,399	3.9	1.8	55,556	0.2	1.3
Hispanic origin and race:						
Hispanic or Latino	9,336	7.3	3.5	10,618	0.6	3.9
Not Hispanic or Latino:						
White, single race	35,154	2.3	0.7	33,573	0.1	0.4
Black or African American, single race	6,127	7.5	3.2	6,208	*	0.4
Education ² :						
No high school diploma or GED	6,355	9.5	3.2	8,530	*	3.9
High school diploma or GED	15,659	6.3	2.4	12,278	*	1.5
Some college, no bachelor’s degree	13,104	1.3	0.4	13,521	0.2	0.6
Bachelor’s degree or higher	11,901	1.3	*	13,112	*	0.7
ACASI language ³ :						
English	51,301	3.6	1.8	51,263	0.2	0.7
Spanish	4,098	8.1	3.9	4,277	*	8.5

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Total includes those for whom ACASI language was not ascertained.

²Limited to those aged 22–44 at the time of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

³ACASI is audio computer-assisted self interviewing.

NOTES: The “something else” category was only offered in years 1 and 2 of the 2006–2008 data collection (June 2006–June 2008). See Methods and Technical Notes sections for further details. “Did not report” includes “don’t know” and “refused” responses, as well as responses that were not ascertained due to interview breakoffs before these ACASI questions.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2002 and 2006–2008.

shown. For Hispanic origin and race, the 2002 data had shown significantly higher levels of “something else” for Hispanic and non-Hispanic black men and women, relative to non-Hispanic white women and men. Those differentials were no longer seen in 2006–2008 for reports of “something else,” but instead Hispanic women (4.1%) and men (3.9%) were more likely not to report sexual identity than the other race and origin groups.

To address concerns that language barriers or educational attainment may impact reporting of “something else” on sexual identity or increase the chances of nonresponse, [Table II](#) shows these percentages by educational attainment and the language in which ACASI was conducted. In most education groups shown, the levels of both “something else” and “did not report” fell in 2006–2008 for both women and men aged 22–44. Women (3.2%) and men (3.9%) with less than a high school education continued to show higher percentages not reporting sexual identity than those in other education groups. In both 2002 and 2006–2008, those completing ACASI in Spanish were significantly more likely not to report sexual identity. For example, nearly 8% of women aged 18–44 in 2006–2008 who completed ACASI in Spanish did not report sexual identity compared with 0.6% of women who completed it in English. For percentages reporting “something else” on sexual identity, the differentials by ACASI language were more striking in 2002 (for example, 8.1% of men completing it in Spanish compared with 3.6% of men completing it in English) than in 2006–2008, but given the significant reduction overall in the numbers and percentages responding “something else” in 2006–2008, the ACASI language variable no longer shows a significant association.

In summary, the changes made to the sexual identity question between the 2002 NSFG and the 2006–2008 NSFG appear to have had a significant impact on the percentages reporting “something else” as well as on the percentages who “did not report” sexual identity. The majority of reduction in “something else” reporting since the 2002 NSFG is

attributable to the addition of several commonly known terms to the heterosexual and homosexual response categories for the 2006–2008 NSFG. While some back-coding was done based on the “something else” follow-up question’s verbatim responses, this affected a fairly small fraction of cases in the overall 2006–2008 NSFG sample because less than 1% of men and women aged 18–44 originally reported “something else,” and did not significantly alter the overall distribution by sexual identity. As a result of the significantly reduced levels of “something else” reporting in 2006–2008 and the survey costs associated with the follow-up question, the “something else” response option and follow-up question were deleted beginning in July 2008, year 3 of the 2006–2010 NSFG.

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