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## First information on sexual orientation

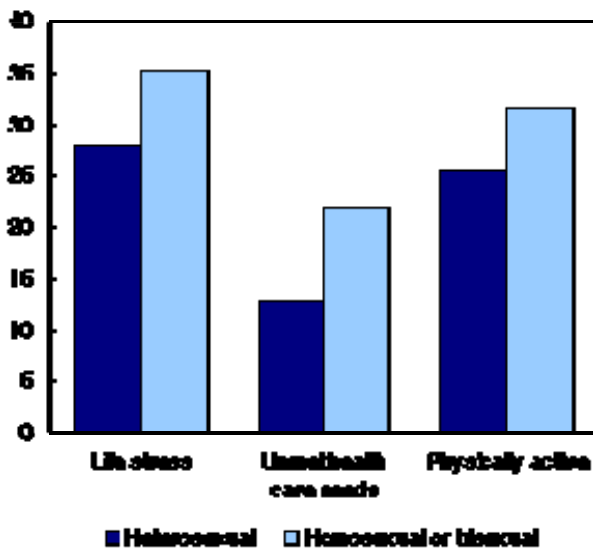
CCHS Cycle 2.1 is the first Statistics Canada survey to include a question on sexual orientation. This information is needed to understand differences in health-related issues between the homosexual (gay or lesbian), bisexual and heterosexual populations. These issues include determinants of health, such as physical activity, mental health issues, including stress, and problems accessing health care.

Among Canadians aged 18 to 59, 1.0% reported that they consider themselves to be homosexual and 0.7% considered themselves bisexual.

About 1.3% of men considered themselves homosexual, about twice the proportion of 0.7% among women. However, 0.9% of women reported being bisexual, slightly higher than the proportion of 0.6% among men.

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**Differences in health-related measures for heterosexual, homosexual and bisexual**



There are no comparable Canadian data on sexual orientation. The results are similar to those obtained in the United States using the concept of identity.

The results indicate that, for some health-related measures, there are important differences between the heterosexual population and the gay, lesbian and bisexual population.

Among individuals aged 18 to 59, for example, 21.8% of homosexuals and bisexuals reported that they had an unmet health care need in 2003, nearly twice the proportion of heterosexuals (12.7%). Homosexuals and bisexuals are more likely than heterosexuals to find life stressful.

In addition, 31.4% of homosexuals and bisexuals reported that they were physically active in 2003, compared with 25.4% of heterosexuals.

## Sexual orientation, 2003

	Homosexual or bisexual	
	Number	% of total population
<b>Total</b>	<b>316,800</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	4,100 <sup>E</sup>	1.3 <sup>E</sup>
Prince Edward Island	F	F
Nova Scotia	5,900 <sup>E</sup>	1.1 <sup>E</sup>
New Brunswick	7,200 <sup>E</sup>	1.6 <sup>E</sup>
Quebec	103,400	2.3
Ontario	107,200	1.5
Manitoba	9,600 <sup>E</sup>	1.5 <sup>E</sup>
Saskatchewan	6,600 <sup>E</sup>	1.2 <sup>E</sup>
Alberta	23,400 <sup>E</sup>	1.2 <sup>E</sup>
British Columbia	47,700	1.9
Male	172,600	1.8
Female	144,300	1.5
18-34	139,200	2.0
35-44	101,900	1.9
45-59	75,700	1.2

<sup>E</sup> Use with caution.

<sup>F</sup> Suppressed due to high sampling variability.