

Sexual Minority Representation in U.S. Jails and Prisons¹

- 3.5% of men and women in U.S. population identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual
- The incarceration rate of self-identified lesbian, gay, or bisexual persons is more than 3x that of the U.S. adult population
- LGB vs. U.S. adults incarceration rate: 1,882 vs. 612 per 100k
- Male sexual minority representation in jails is 6.2% and in prisons is 9.3%
- Female sexual minority representation in jails is 35.7% and in prisons is 42.1%
- Sexual minority status may be an indicator of potential risk of negative outcomes:
 - More likely to receive prison terms exceeding 20 years
 - More likely to have spent time in solitary confinement or disciplinary segregation
 - More likely to be sexually victimized while incarcerated
- 29.3% of gay and bisexual men have experienced serious psychological distress, compared to 13.6% of straight men
- 24.7% of lesbians and bisexual women have experienced serious psychological distress, compared to 18.8% of straight women

¹ The term sexual minority is an umbrella term that includes both those who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB), and those with same-sex partners but who do not identify as LGB