

Contact Information

Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research “Demography of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity: Building a Foundation for Research in Japan”

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Preliminary Results from the “Survey on Diversity of Work and Life, and Coexistence among the Residents of Osaka City”

One of the largest random sampling surveys on sexual and gender minorities in Japan shows that 3.3% of the respondents fall into one of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and asexual (LGBT/A) categories and that more than 85% of the respondents are in favor of various initiatives in Osaka City regarding sexual and gender minorities such as LGBT people

*Note that the meaning of these numbers needs to be further analyzed.

The “Survey on Diversity of Work and Life, and Coexistence among the Residents of Osaka City,” conducted between January and February 2019, has completed. We appreciate the cooperation of the residents of Osaka City, and release the preliminary results.

Highlights of the Survey Findings

1. The questionnaire was sent by mail to 15,000 people aged 18 to 59, who were randomly sampled from the Basic Resident Register of Osaka City. The number of valid responses was 4,285, and the valid response rate was 28.6%.
2. In this survey, we introduced demographic questions to capture sexual and gender minorities. The following are the responses by sexual orientation and gender identity. [Figure 1]
 - 1) Among the 4,285 respondents, 31 people (0.7%) answered “lesbian, gay, homosexual,” and 62 people (1.4%) answered “bisexual.” The number of people that answered “asexual,” i.e., not having sexual/romantic feelings for anyone, was 33 (0.8%), and the number of people who answered “don’t want to decide, haven’t decided” was 222 (5.2%).
 - 2) The number of people whose current gender identity differs from sex at birth or whose current gender identity is “other” ([transgender], hereafter) was 32 (0.7%). The number of people whose sex at birth is “male” and current identity is “woman” (6 people) or “other” (6 people) was 12 (0.3%), and the number of people whose sex at birth is “female” and current identity is “man” (4 people) or “other” (16 people) was 20 (0.5%).
 - 3) The number of people who fall into the categories of “gay, lesbian,” “bisexual,” and [transgender] was 115 (2.7%), and, when those who answered “asexual” were included, the number was 142 (3.3%). As a reference, the total number of people who fall into the categories of “gay, lesbian,” “bisexual,” “asexual,” “don’t want to decide, haven’t decided,” and [transgender] was 352 (8.2%).

*The breakdown of the 115 people: 93 people who answered “gay, lesbian,” or “bisexual” (LGB), and 22 people who are [transgender] (T) but did not choose LGB as their sexual orientation

*The breakdown of the 142 people (LGBT/A): 115 LGBT people, and 27 people who are “asexual” (A) but not [transgender]

3. When asked about the thoughts on various initiatives regarding sexual and gender minorities such as LGBT people promoted by Osaka City, more than 85% of the 4,285 respondents were “for” or “somewhat for” each of the initiatives. [Figure 2]

*The contents of these preliminary results may change once detailed analyses are completed. The aggregate results of the whole survey will be released at a later date.

Executing Entity: The “Diversity of Work and Life, and Coexistence” Research Team

Cooperation: Osaka City

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Details of the Survey Findings

- The questionnaire was sent by mail to 15,000 people, and 4,294 were returned. The number of valid responses was 4,285, and the valid response rate was 28.6%. There were 2,517 (58.7%) females at birth and 1,754 (40.9%) males at birth, and 14 (0.3%) did not indicate their sex at birth. Among the respondents, 678 (15.8%) were in their 20s or younger, 1,021 (23.8%) were in their 30s, 1,229 (28.7%) were in their 40s, 1,274 (29.7%) were in their 50s, and 83 (1.9%) did not indicate their age. (Those who became 60 at the time of survey are also considered to be in their 50s.)
- Regarding the policies of Osaka City, we asked about six initiatives using the following question: “Are you for or against the following initiatives to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against sexual and gender minorities such as LGBT people, and are you for or against promoting efforts to make arrangements for sexual and gender minorities such as LGBT people in Osaka city? Please circle the number closest to your thoughts.”

Survey Methods

- Survey Period: January 16, 2019 (mailed) ~ 28 (extended to February 4 via a remainder postcard, responses included in the aggregate results if arrived by March 7)
- Target Survey Respondent: 15,000 people aged 18 to 59 who reside in Osaka City (randomly sampled from the Basic Resident Register as of October 1, 2018)
- Method of Survey Delivery and Return: Delivered by mail, returned by mail (with an option to respond online), anonymous, self-administered

Plans for Future Analysis and Release

- The research team plans to analyze the aggregate data mainly by age and sex at birth and release the results (scheduled for Fall 2019). In addition, results will be presented at a seminar open to the public.
- We plan to give presentations and publish papers in the fields of demography, sociology, geography, midwifery, and gender and sexuality studies both in and outside of Japan.
 - Population estimates of sexual and gender minorities in Osaka City: we will estimate the proportion of sexual and gender minorities for the population aged 18 to 59 in Osaka City
 - Differences in the experience of harassment, health situations, and economic situations by sexual orientation and gender identity: we will conduct analyses that meet global academic standards, regarding economic situations such as labor market experience, income and savings, mental and physical health, and experience of being bullied and violence, while considering other factors that may be associated with them
- We will provide our data to international organizations such as OECD and UNDP as reference data for Japan

Figure 1. Compositional Proportions of the Respondents by Sexual Orientation (Right) and Gender Identity (Left Bottom) (N=4,285)

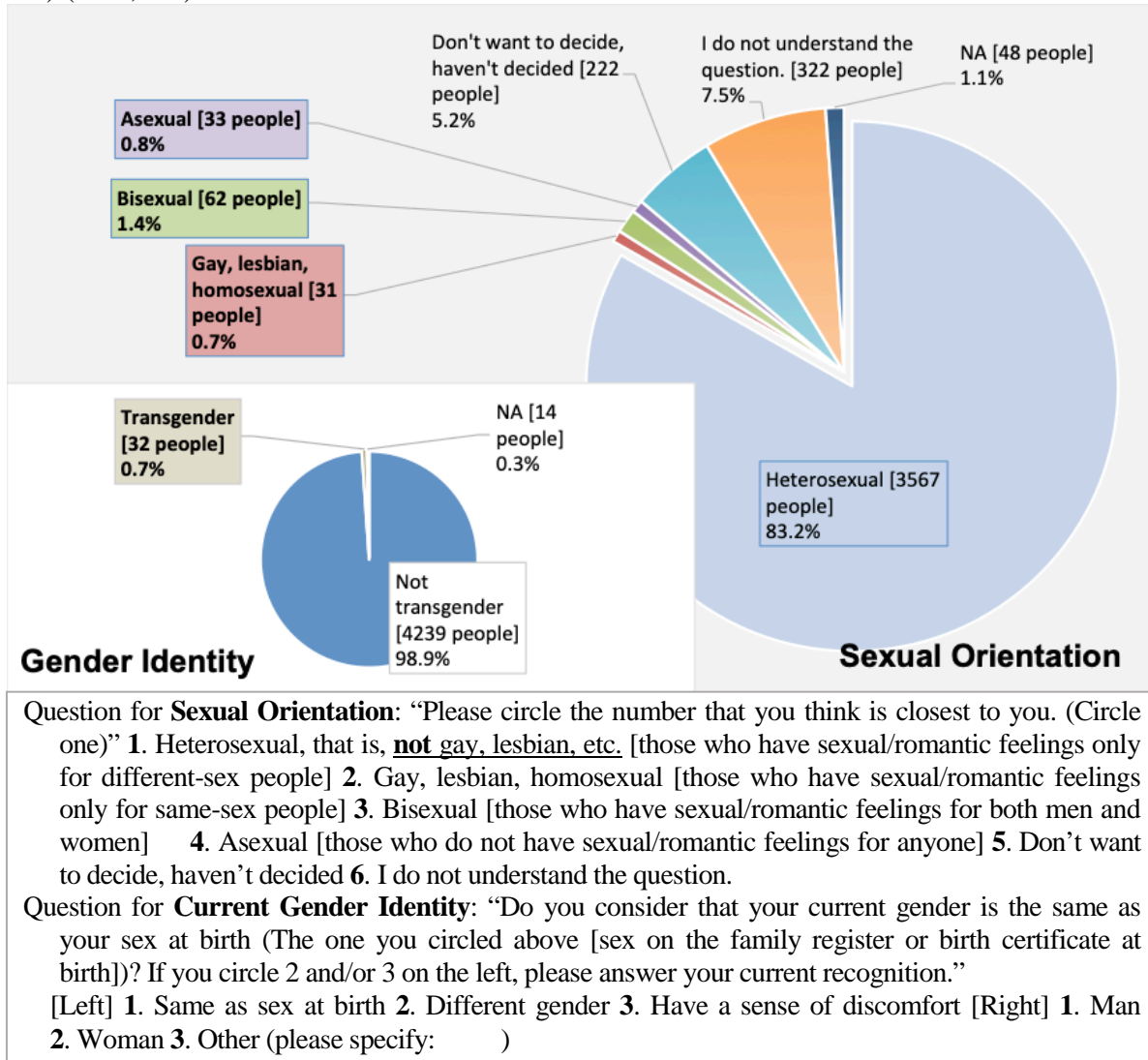


Figure 2. Approval and Disapproval toward Various Initiatives in Osaka City Regarding Sexual and Gender Minorities Such as LGBT People (%) (N=4,285)

