



GAY AND LESBIAN PEOPLE EXPERIENCE GREATER ACCEPTANCE TODAY THAN 1985, INCLUDING GAINS AT HOME, IN POLITICS, AND THE WORKPLACE

Acceptance of people who identify as gay and lesbian has grown significantly since 1985, and strong majorities today approve of them living their lives as they wish. Many are similarly supportive of transgender and nonbinary people these days, but these groups still face obstacles to acceptance in a variety of areas like politics, sports, medical care, and even home life.

This new survey conducted by NORC for the Los Angeles Times repeated questions from a survey conducted by the Los Angeles Times in December 1985¹ in order to measure how attitudes in the United States toward gay and lesbian people have changed over the last four decades.

The study finds that a lot has changed since 1985 in the way society views gay and lesbian people. Today, most U.S. adults say they know someone who is gay or lesbian compared with just a quarter in 1985. While 67% of adults believed that sexual relations between adults of the same sex was always wrong in 1985, today 64% do not see it as an issue. Similarly, 64% of adults said in 1985 that they would be very upset if they had a gay or lesbian child compared with 14% today. These days, twice as many adults think being attracted to someone of the same sex happens simply because people are born that way compared with 1985. Whereas 47% of adults in 1985 said learning a political candidate was gay or lesbian would make them less likely to vote for the candidate, now 19% say they would not be less likely to vote for a gay or lesbian candidate and 73% say a candidate's sexual orientation would make no difference in how they vote.

The 1985 survey only asked about gay and lesbian people, but the new survey also asked about bisexual, transgender, and nonbinary people for a fuller understanding of issues related to the LGBTQ+ community in 2024.

The gay and lesbian community has made strides since 1985, but they still face some obstacles in many ways. But the transgender and nonbinary community have an even tougher time. Though 34% of adults would be very or somewhat upset if they had a child who were gay, lesbian, or bisexual, 48% would be upset if they had a child who was transgender or nonbinary. Thirty-one percent of the public disapprove of transgender and nonbinary adults living their lives as they wish while about a fifth feel

¹ Question wording was updated as necessary to ask questions using current terminology while protecting the ability to compare 1985 results to 2024 results.

the same about gay, lesbian, or bisexual adults. Nineteen percent would be less likely to vote for a gay or lesbian candidate for Congress, but 33% say they would be less likely to vote for a transgender or nonbinary candidate.

The public's resistance to transgender and nonbinary issues is particularly acute when it comes to minors. Twenty-five percent favor laws to prevent an adult who identifies as transgender or nonbinary from receiving gender-affirming medical care, but 54% support laws that prevent a child younger than 18 from receiving such care.

Still, in some ways many U.S. adults are accepting of transgender and nonbinary children. About half (54%) think schools should respect students' wishes and not tell parents about their child's transgender or nonbinary identity if the student does not want to. Forty-four percent say schools in their area are doing the right amount to accept transgender and nonbinary students, but 25% would like them to do more.

Attitudes around the LGBTQ+ community differ by political party, religious affiliation, LGBTQ+ identity, and knowing someone who identifies as LGBTQ+. Results specific to California residents are found at the end of the report.

The nationwide poll, funded by The California Endowment, was conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago with the Los Angeles Times from January 18 to 26, 2024, using AmeriSpeak®, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago. Online and telephone interviews using landlines and cell phones were conducted with 1,624 adults, including 775 interviews with residents of California and 313 interviews with respondents who identify as LGBTQ+.²

The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.8 percentage points. The margin of sampling error for LGBTQ+ respondents is +/- 8.3 percentage points and +/- 4.5 percentage points for California residents.

COMPARED WITH 1985, PEOPLE ARE NOW FAR MORE LIKELY TO REPORT KNOWING A GAY OR LESBIAN PERSON.

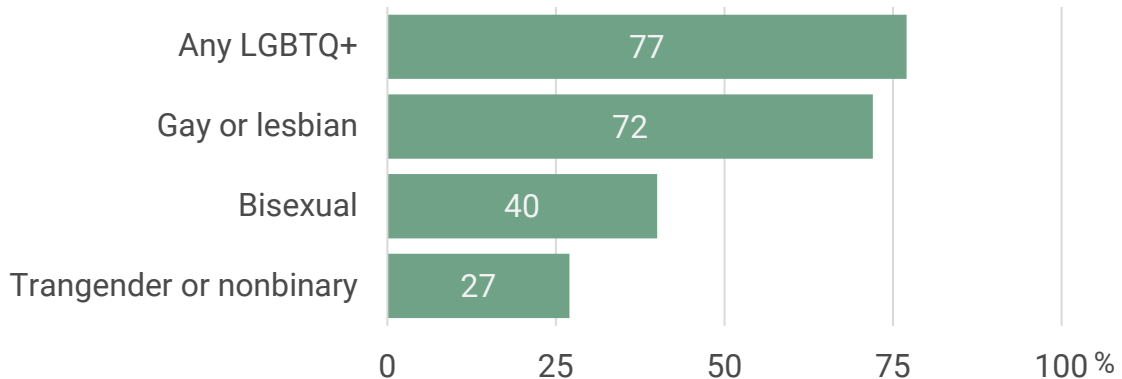
Most U.S. adults have someone in their life who identifies as LGBTQ+. Specifically, 72% know someone who is gay or lesbian. Just 24% said they knew a gay or lesbian person in 1985.

Not as many adults know a bisexual, transgender, or nonbinary person. However, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say they know someone who identifies as transgender or nonbinary (34% vs. 18%). There are also differences between age groups.

² A person was classified as LGBTQ+ if they identify as nonbinary (less than 1% of the final weighted sample), transgender (1%), lesbian or gay (2%), bisexual or pansexual (4%), asexual (less than 1%), or prefer to self-describe their gender (less than 1%) or sexual identity (less than 1%).

Three quarters of adults know someone who identifies as LGBTQ+.

Percent of adults who say yes for each group



Question: [Gay or lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender or nonbinary] Do you have any friends, or relatives, or co-workers who have told you, personally, that they identify as any of the following?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.



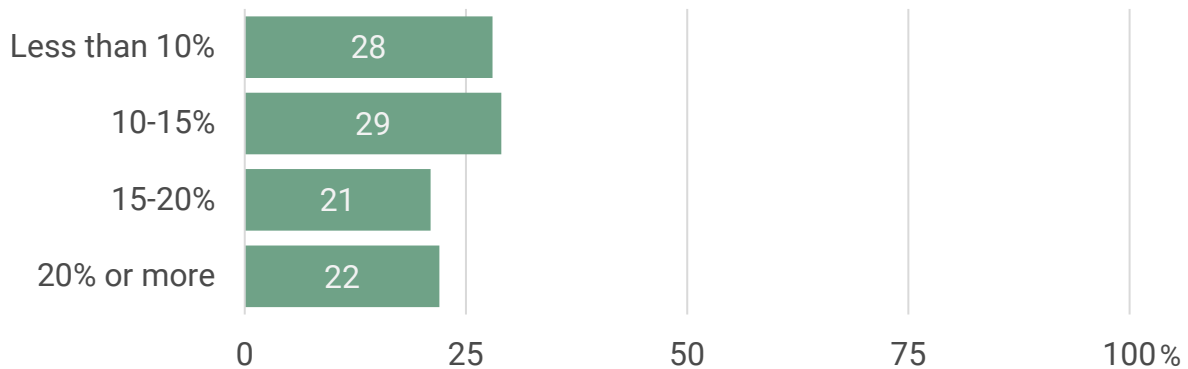
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Among those who have not been told by someone they know that they identify as LGBTQ+, 37% believe they have an acquaintance who is gay or lesbian even though they hadn't been told explicitly, 20% believe they know someone who is bisexual, and 12% think they know someone who identifies as transgender or nonbinary. Democrats who haven't been told by someone they know that they identify as LGBTQ+ are more likely than their Republican counterparts to believe they have an acquaintance who is gay or lesbian (48% vs. 27%).

When asked to choose what percentage of the U.S. population identifies as LGBTQ+, no consensus emerges among the public. However, Protestants (33%) and Republicans (44%) are more likely to say less than 10% of the population identifies as LGBTQ+ compared with those who are not religious (22%) and Democrats (17%).

U.S. adults are split on the percentage of the U.S. population they believe are LGBTQ+.

Percent of adults



Question: Roughly, what percentage of the U.S. population do you think identifies as LGBTQ+? Would you say...

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.



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PEOPLE ARE MORE ACCEPTING OF GAY AND LESBIAN PEOPLE THAN IN 1985. TRANSGENDER AND NONBINARY PEOPLE FACE GREATER SKEPTICISM.

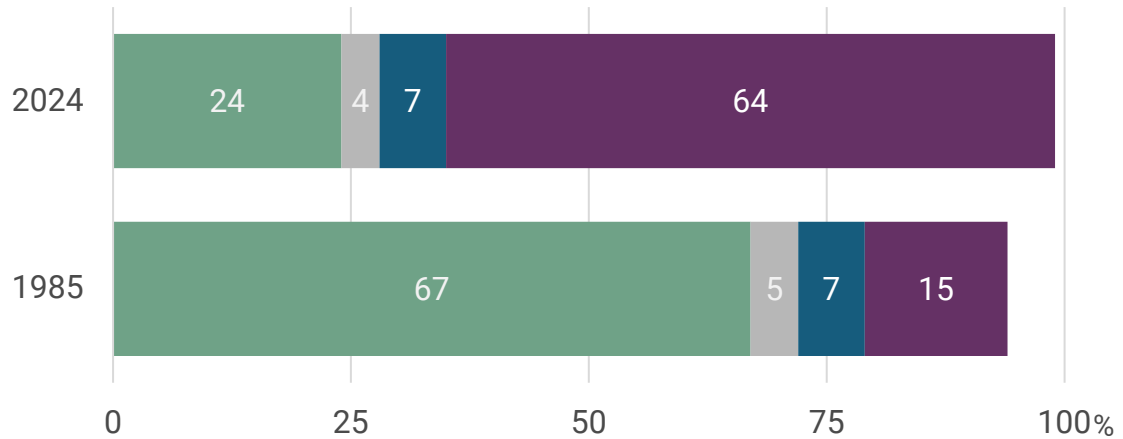
Acceptance of gay and lesbian people is much higher today than it was in 1985, with far fewer adults today viewing sexual relations between adults of the same sex as wrong.³

³ For the 2024 NORC/LA Times Poll, the 1985 response option "Not wrong" was modified to "Not an issue".

Adults today are far more likely to be accepting of sexual relations between adults of the same sex.

Percent of adults

■ Always wrong ■ Almost always wrong ■ Sometimes wrong ■ Not an issue



Question: What about sexual relations between two adults of the same sex? Do you think it is...

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide and LA Times poll conducted December 5-12, 1985.

Note: 2024 response option "Not an issue" modified from 1985 option "Not wrong".



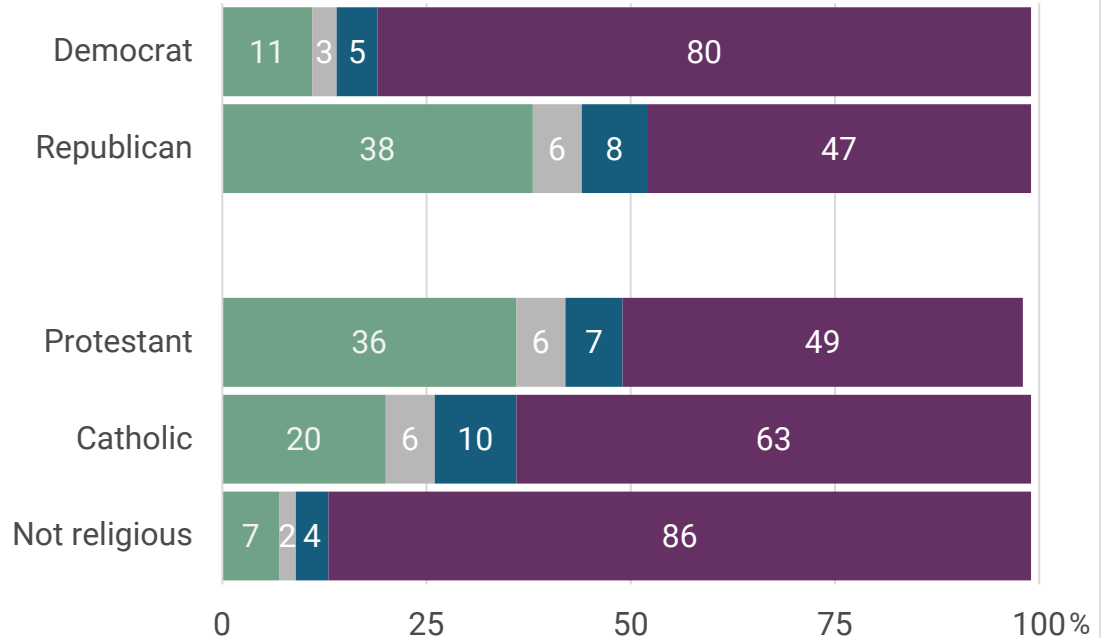
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Protestants and Catholics are more likely than those who are not religious, including those who identify as agnostic, atheists, and those who say they are not religious, to say that sexual relations between two adults of the same sex are wrong. Republicans are more likely than Democrats to disapprove of sexual relations between same-sex adults. Differences also exist according to LGBTQ+ identity and knowing someone who is LGBTQ+.

Protestants, Catholics, and Republicans are more likely to say sexual relations between same-sex adults are wrong.

Percent of adults

■ Always wrong ■ Almost always wrong ■ Sometimes wrong ■ Not an issue



Question: What about sexual relations between two adults of the same sex? Do you think it is...

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.

Note: 2024 response option "Not an issue" modified from 1985 option "Not wrong".



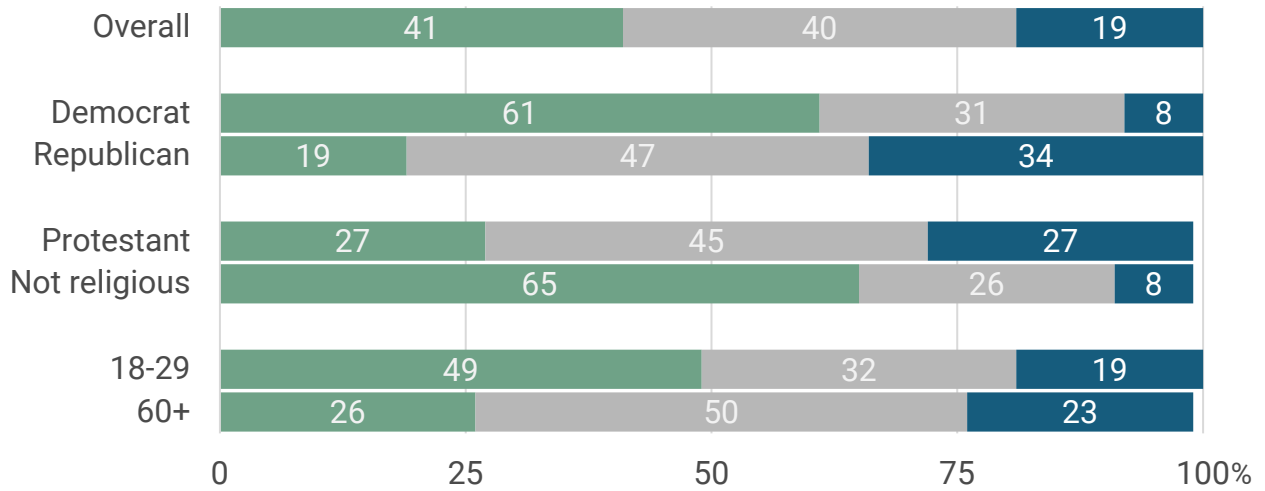
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When it comes to attitudes about same-sex relationships, Republicans and Protestants tend to oppose them for everyone. Adults age 18-29 are more likely than those age 60 and older to approve of same-sex relationships. Differences also exist according to LGBTQ+ identity and knowing someone who is LGBTQ+.

Republicans and Protestants are more likely to disapprove of same-sex relationships.

Percent of adults

- I personally approve of relationships between consenting adults of the same sex
- I think it's all right for others but not for myself
- I oppose it for everyone



Question: Which comes closest to your attitude towards relationships between people of the same sex?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.



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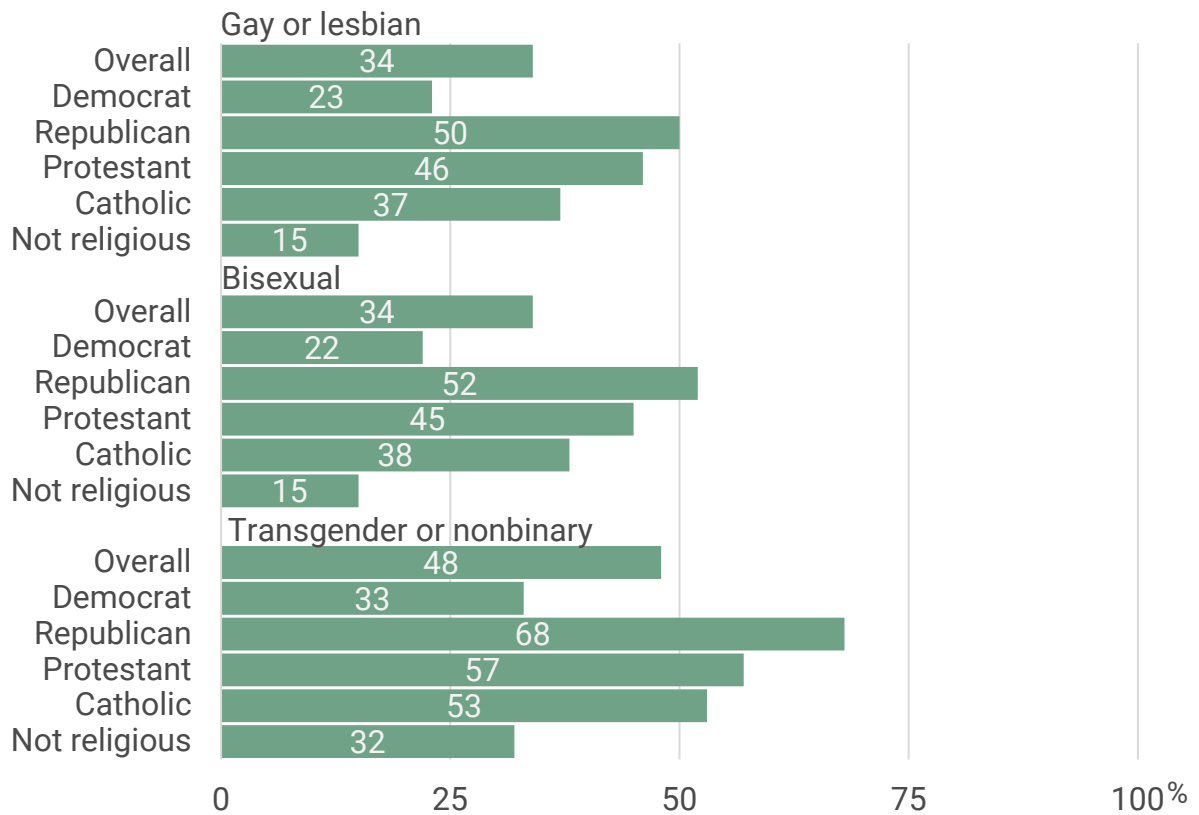
In 1985, 64% said they would be very upset if their child identified as gay or lesbian compared with 14% today. Fifty percent of adults today say they would not be upset at all.

However, the public would have greater difficulty accepting a child who is transgender compared with a child who identifies as gay, lesbian, or bisexual. Forty-eight percent would be very or somewhat upset if their child told them they were transgender compared with 34% who would be upset if their child said they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual.

This pattern of greater concern about a transgender child holds across religious groups. Protestant and Catholic adults, however, are more likely to be upset about their child telling them about any of these identities compared with those who are not religious. Likewise, Republicans are more likely to be upset than Democrats. Again, differences also exist according to LGBTQ+ identity and knowing someone who is LGBTQ+.

Nearly half would be upset if their child were transgender or nonbinary.

Percent of adults who say very/somewhat upset



Question: If you had a child who told you they were any of the following, what do you think your reaction would be? Would you be very upset, somewhat upset, not very upset, or would it not be an issue?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.

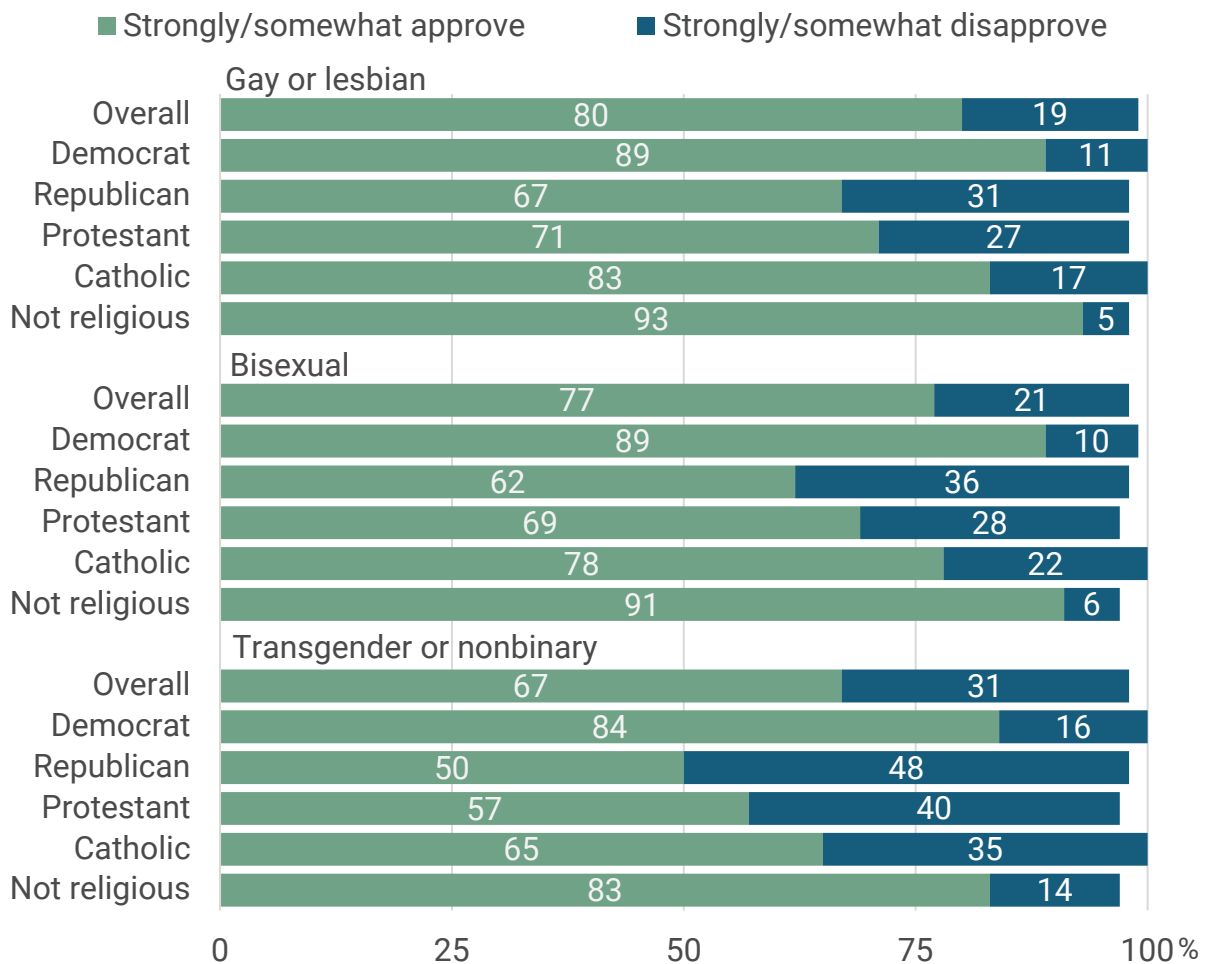


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These days, most adults approve of LGBTQ+ people living their lives as they wish. However, the public views transgender and nonbinary people more negatively, with 3 in 10 disapproving of them living their lives as they wish compared with 2 in 10 that say the same about gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. Protestants and Catholics are more likely to express disapproval than those who are not religious, while Republicans are more likely to disapprove than Democrats. Differences also emerge according to LGBTQ+ identity and having an acquaintance who is LGBTQ+.

Most approve of LGBTQ+ adults living their lives, but fewer approve of transgender and nonbinary adults doing so.

Percent of adults



Question: Do you approve or disapprove of each of the following living their lives as they wish?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.



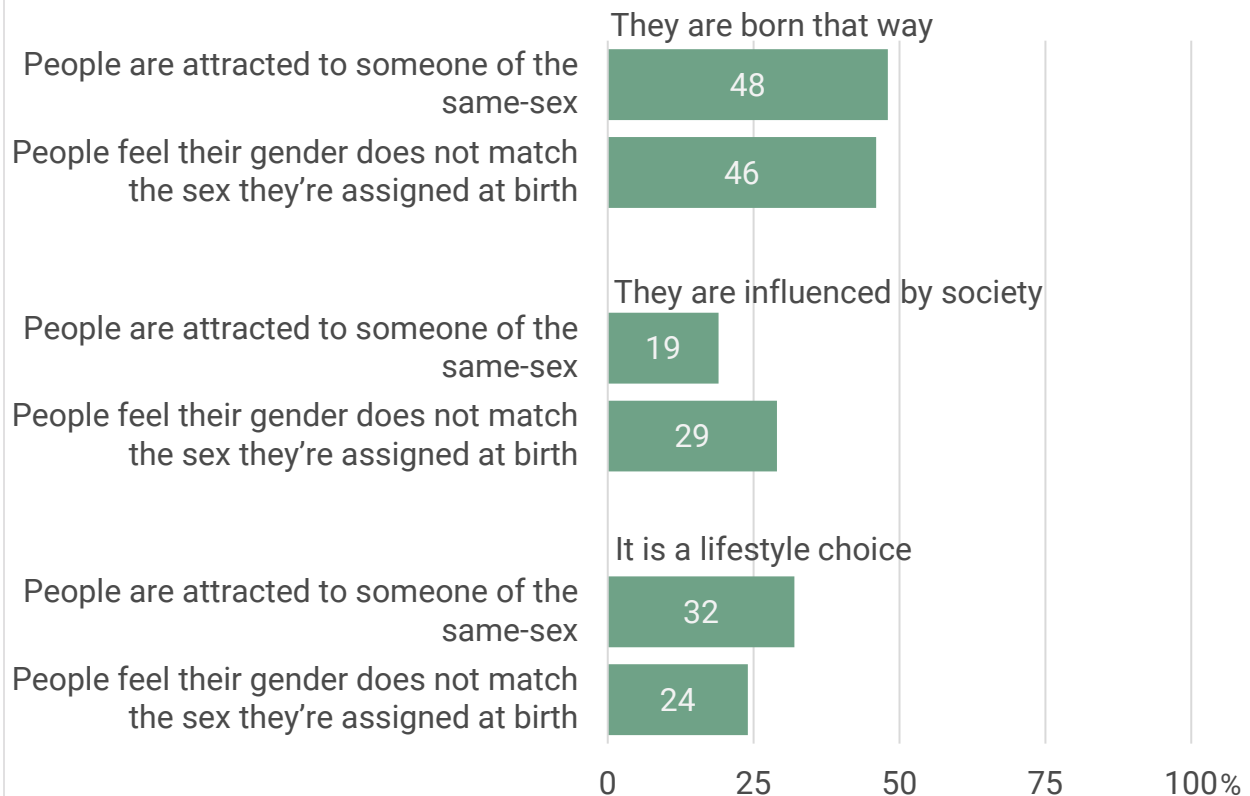
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Forty-eight percent of adults believe that gay and lesbian people are attracted to someone of the same sex because they are born that way, while 32% think that it is a lifestyle choice and 19% attribute it to societal influence. Democrats are more likely than Republicans to believe people are born attracted to someone of the same sex (68% vs. 29%), while Republicans are more likely to say it is due to society's influence (29% vs. 10%) or that it is a lifestyle choice (41% vs. 22%). Differences also emerge according to LGBTQ+ identity or knowing someone who is LGBTQ+.

When comparing the reasons why they think people are gay or lesbian versus why they think people may be transgender or nonbinary, the public is more likely to attribute the former to a lifestyle choice and the latter to influence from society.

Nearly half the public believes that people are born with their sexual and gender identity.

Percent of adults



Question: In your opinion, why are some people attracted to someone of the same sex?/In your opinion, why do some people feel their gender does not match the sex they're assigned at birth?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.



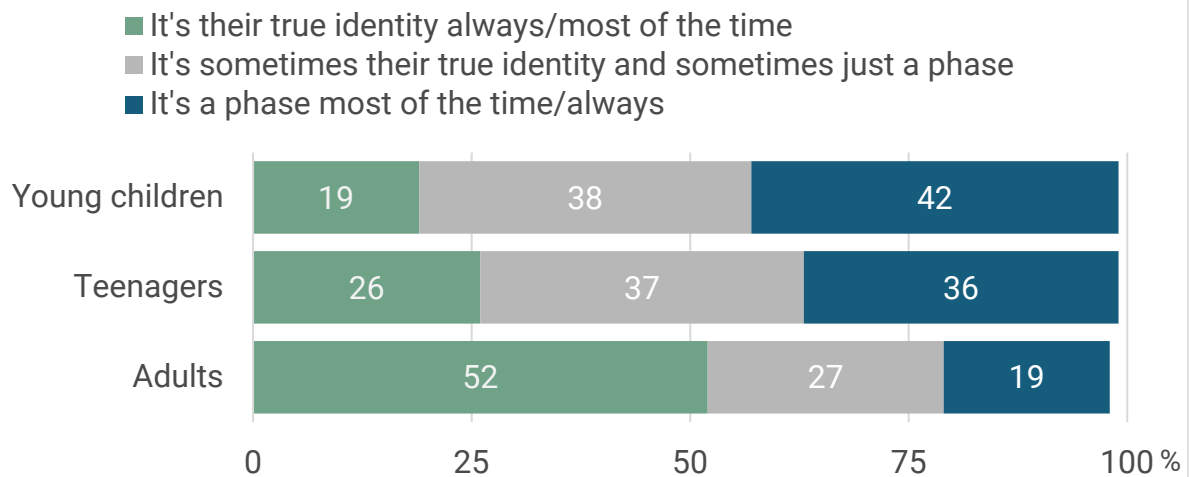
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Large differences in views emerge along partisan lines regarding gender expression. Democrats are more likely to think people who feel their gender does not match the sex they were assigned at birth were born that way (67% vs. 25%), while Republicans are more likely to believe it is a result of societal influence (45% vs. 14%). There are also differences according to LGBTQ+ identity and having an acquaintance who is LGBTQ+.

Half the public think transgender or nonbinary is the true identity for adults, while most think it may be just a phase for young children or teenagers. Republicans are more likely than Democrats to believe that identifying as transgender or nonbinary is a phase always or most of the time for children (68% vs. 21%), teenagers (57% vs. 15%), and adults (36% vs. 5%). Differences also emerge according to age, LGBTQ+ identity, and knowing someone who is LGBTQ+.

Identifying as transgender or nonbinary is more commonly viewed as an adults' true identity than a minors'.

Percent of adults



Question: Thinking about each of the following groups who identify as transgender or nonbinary, do you believe...

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.

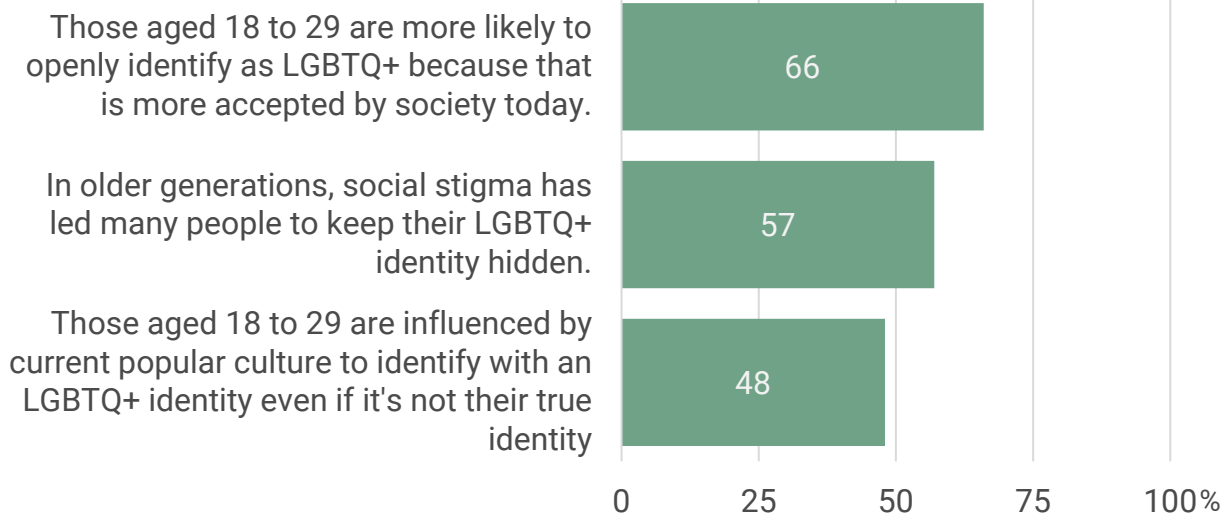


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When asked why younger adults are more likely to identify as LGBTQ+ than older adults, greater acceptance by society these days is the most common answer. More than half also say social stigma led to older adults keeping their identity hidden. About half think current popular culture influences younger people to identify as LGBTQ+ even if it is not their true identity.

Most believe more young adults identify as LGBTQ+ due to prior social stigma and more widespread acceptance today.

Percent of adults who select each response



Question: The share of people who identify as LGBTQ+ is much higher among Americans ages 18 to 29 years old than it is among older Americans. Which of the following reasons do you believe contribute to this difference? Please select all that apply.

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.



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Republicans are more likely than Democrats to think more young people identify as LGBTQ+ as a result of current popular culture's influence (72% vs. 29%), while Democrats are more likely to say it is due to wider acceptance today (76% vs. 55%) or social stigma in older generations (74% vs. 43%). There are also differences according to LGBTQ+ identity and having an acquaintance who is LGBTQ+.

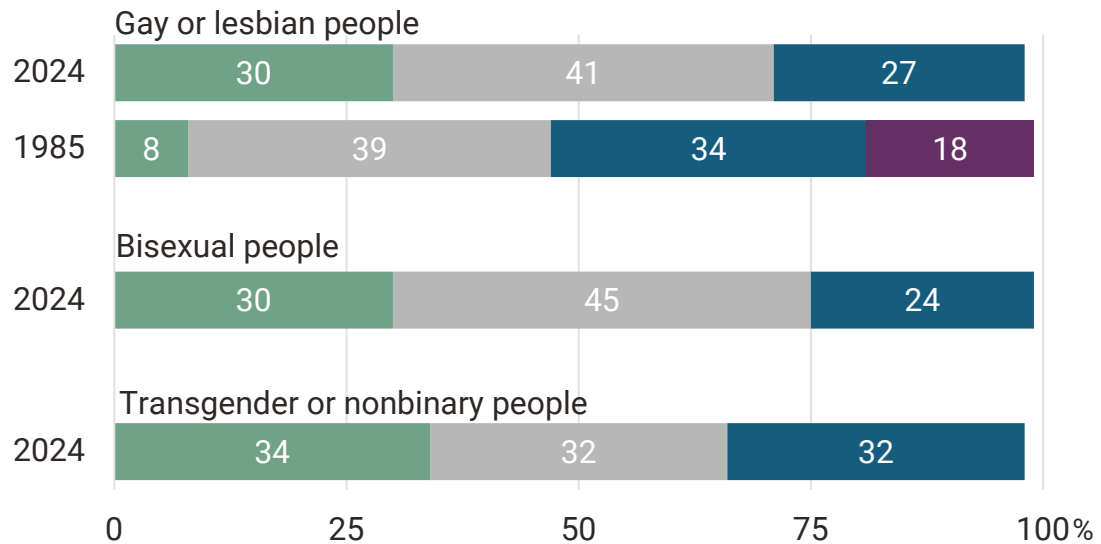
MANY THINK THE POLITICAL POWER OF LGBTQ+ GROUPS HAS GROWN IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

Compared with 1985, more adults think gay and lesbian people have too little political power (8% vs 30%). Similar shares today say the same about bisexual, transgender, and nonbinary people.

About 3 in 10 say LGBTQ+ people have too little political power.

Percent of adults

■ Too little political power ■ The right amount ■ Too much political power ■ Not sure



Question: How do you feel about the political activity of each of the following? In general, do you think they have...

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide and LA Times poll conducted December 5-12, 1985.



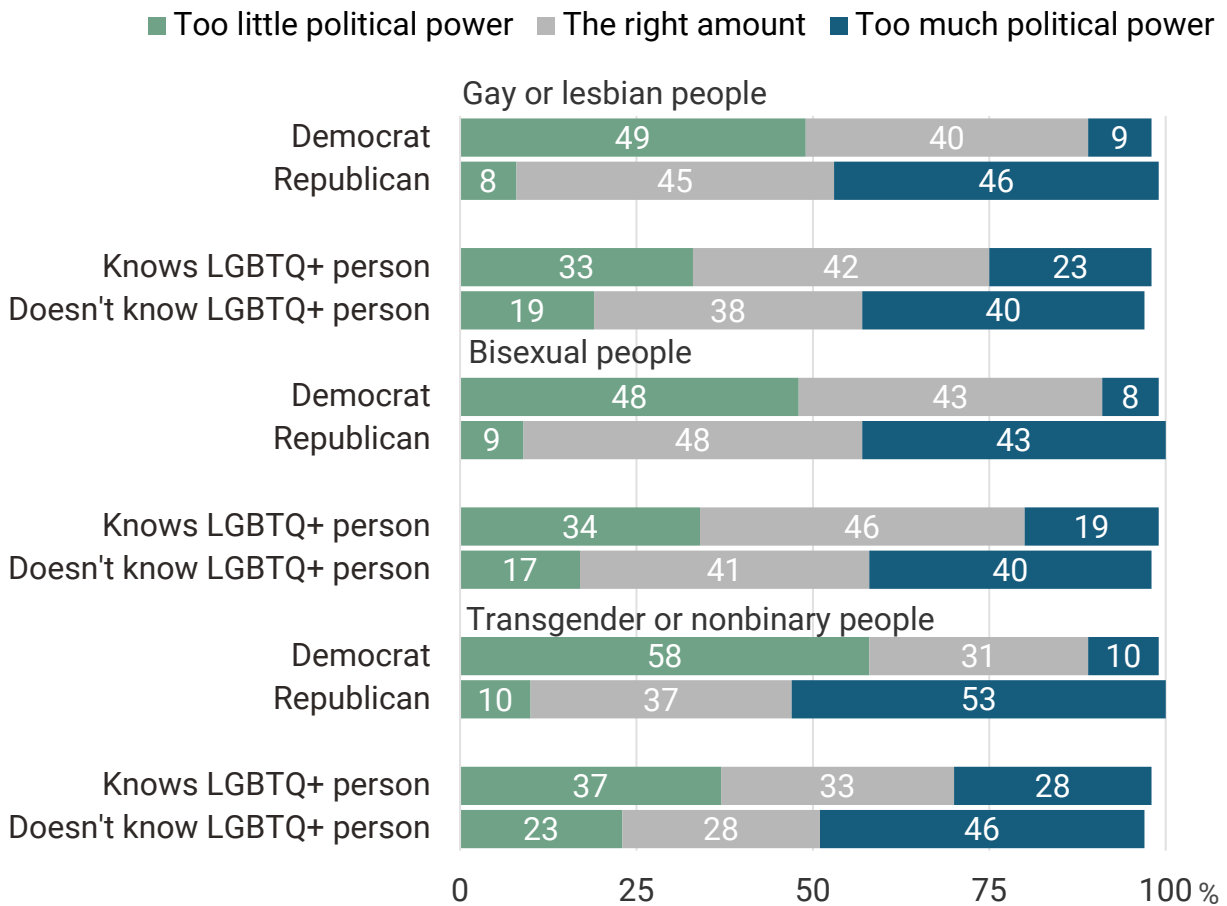
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Adults who have LGBTQ+ friends, relatives or co-workers are almost twice as likely as the rest of the public to say gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and nonbinary people have too little political power. Large splits also emerge between Democrats and Republicans.

Differences also exist between those who identify as LGBTQ+ and those who do not, with those who do identify as LGBTQ+ more likely to say LGBTQ+ people have too little political power.

Those who know someone LGBTQ+ are more likely to say that the community has too little political power.

Percent of adults



Question: How do you feel about the political activity of each of the following? In general, do you think they have...

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.

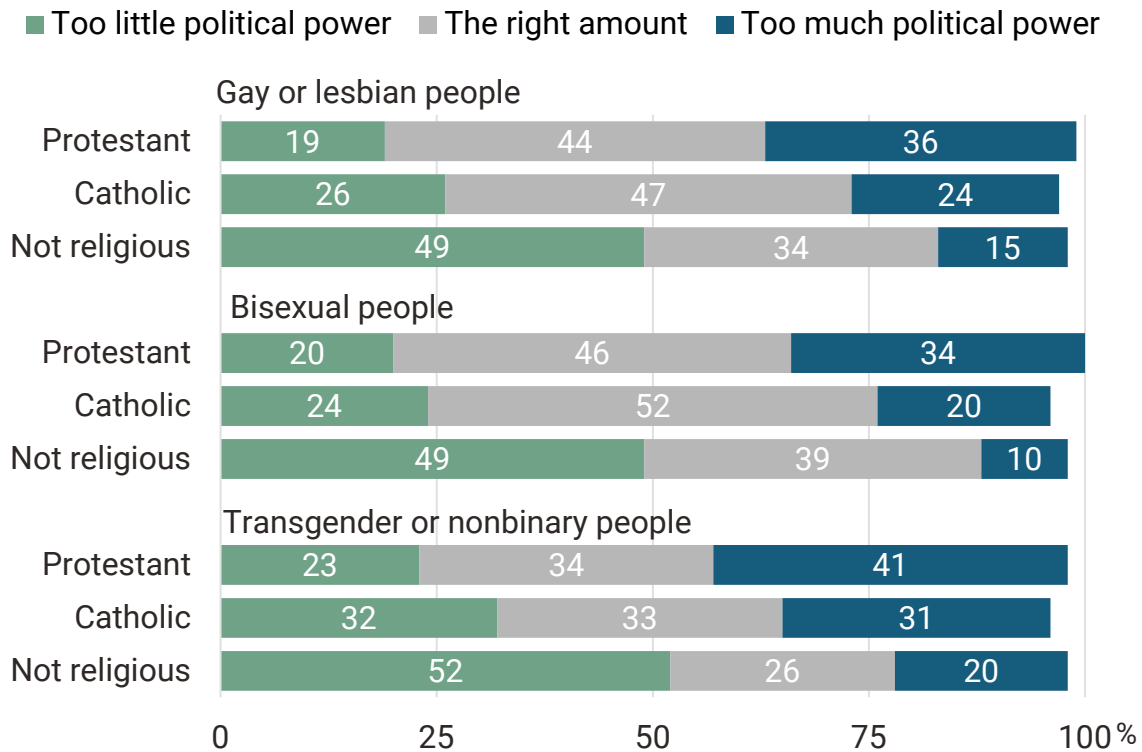


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Protestants and Catholics, compared to those who are not religious, more often believe LGBTQ+ people have too much political power.

Protestants and Catholics are more likely to feel LGBTQ+ people have too much political power.

Percent of adults



Question: How do you feel about the political activity of each of the following? In general, do you think they have...

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.

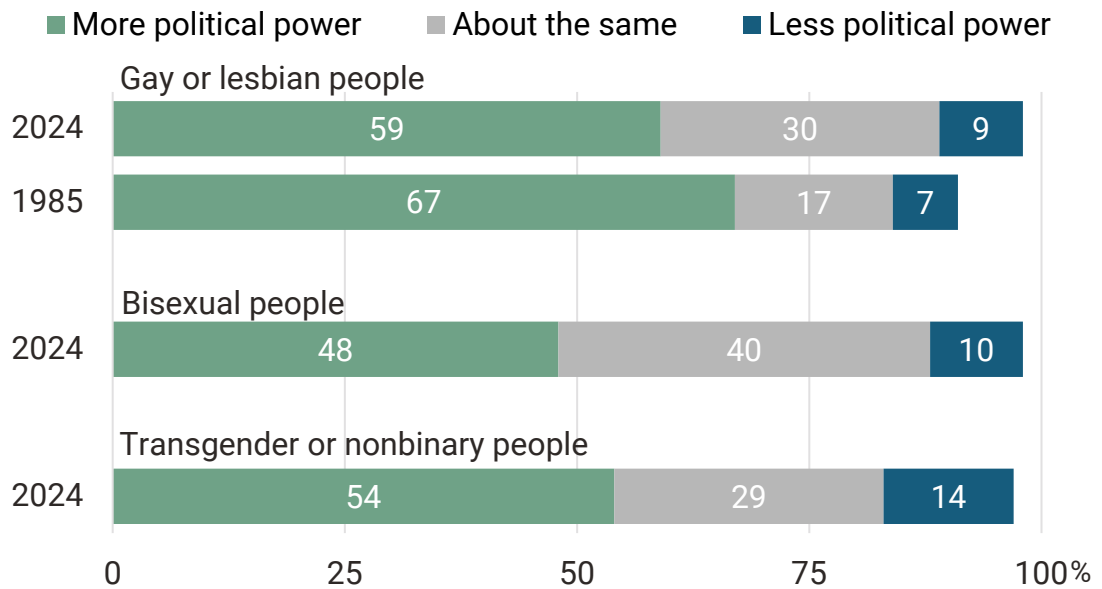


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Even while about a third of the public think people who are LGBTQ+ should have more political power, many think LGBTQ+ groups have more political power now than they did five years ago.

Most say LGBTQ+ people have more political power than five years ago.

Percent of adults



Question: Do you think each of the following has more political power, about the same amount, or less political power now than they did five years ago?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide and LA Times poll conducted December 5-12, 1985.



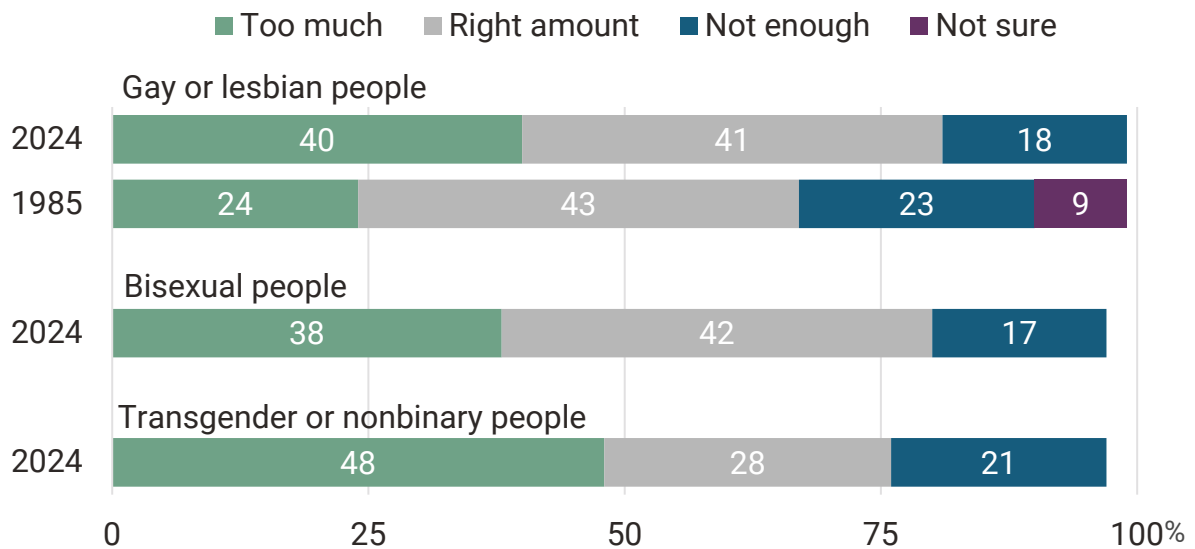
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A greater share of Republicans than Democrats think gay or lesbian people (69% vs. 51%), bisexual people (61% vs. 38%), and transgender people (69% vs. 42%) have more political power than they did five years ago. People who identify as LGBTQ+ are less likely than those who do not identify as LGBTQ+ to say that gay and lesbian (39% vs. 60%), bisexual (32% vs. 49%), and transgender (39% vs. 55%) people have more political power now than five years ago.

Looking at the amount of attention LGBTQ+ people receive from the government, the public is split between whether gay, lesbian, and bisexual people receive too much political attention or the right amount. But the public is more likely to say transgender and nonbinary people are receiving too much political attention rather than the right amount or not enough.

More people think the government is paying too much attention to LGBTQ+ people compared to 1985.

Percent of adults



Question: Do you think the government is paying too much attention, is paying the right amount, or isn't paying enough attention to each of the following?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide and LA Times poll conducted December 5-12, 1985.

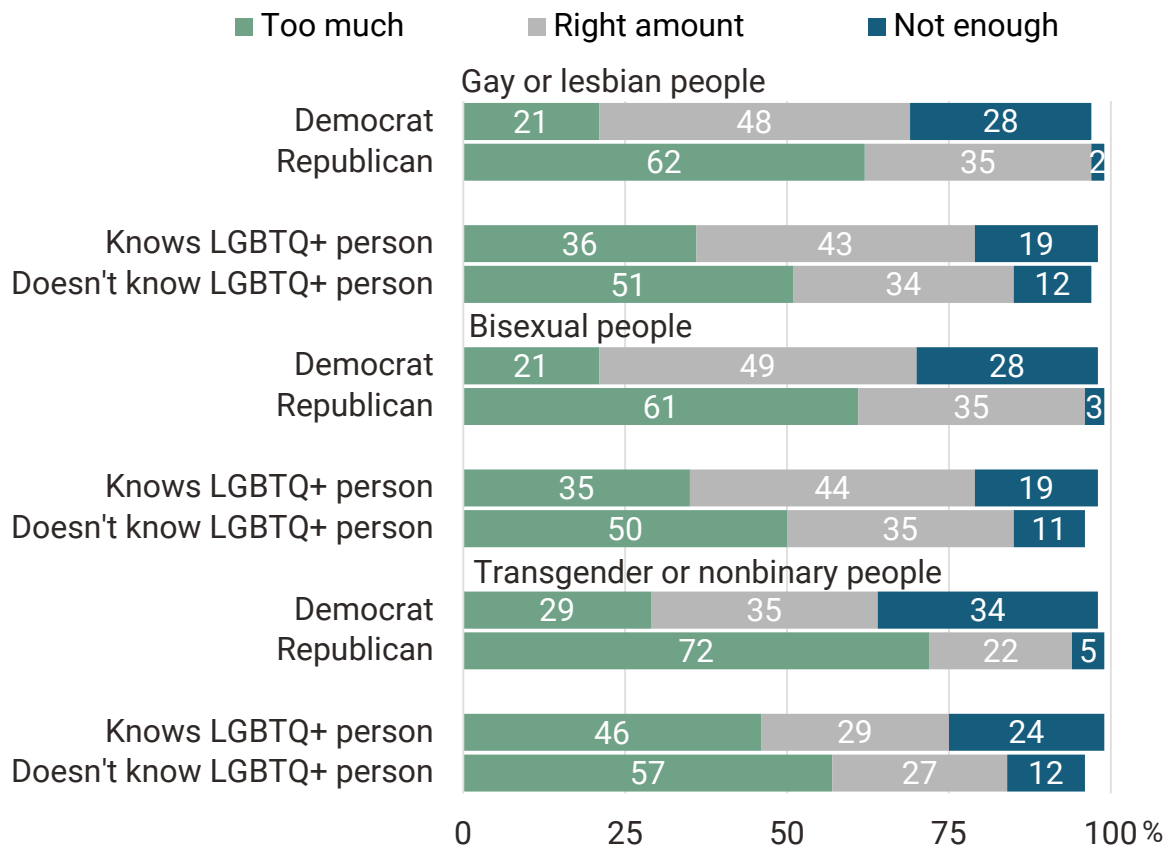


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Those who do not have an LGBTQ+ friend, coworker, or relative are more likely to report that LGBTQ+ groups receive too much political attention from the government than adults who have an LGBTQ+ acquaintance. A greater share of Republicans than Democrats also feel the government is paying too much attention to LGBTQ+ groups. Differences also exist by religion and identification with an LGBTQ+ group.

Those who do not know an LGBTQ+ person are more likely to feel the government is paying too much attention to LGBTQ+ groups.

Percent of adults



Question: Do you think the government is paying too much attention, is paying the right amount, or isn't paying enough attention to each of the following?
Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.

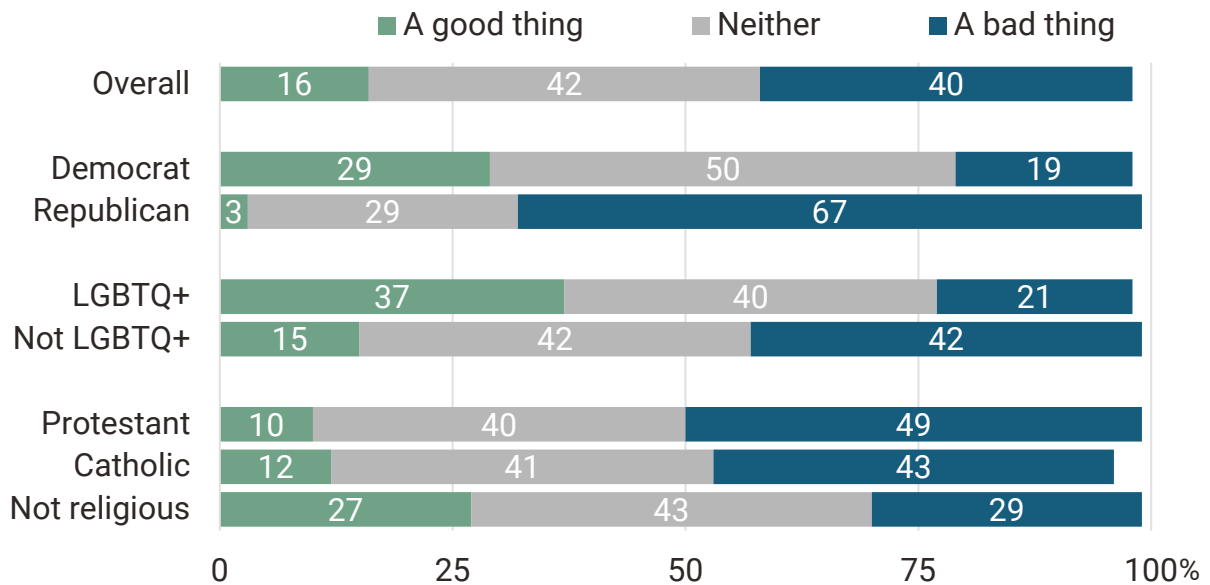


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In addition, 40% say the increase in political and media attention on transgender and nonbinary people is a bad thing for society. LGBTQ+ people, those who are not religious, and Democrats are more likely to view the increased attention as a good thing compared with non-LGBTQ+ people, Protestants, Catholics, or Republicans.

Those who are LGBTQ+ or not religious are more likely to view the increased attention on transgender people as a good thing.

Percent of adults



Question: In recent years, more political and media attention has been focused on transgender and nonbinary people. Do you think this is a good thing for society, a bad thing for society, or neither a good nor bad thing for society?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.

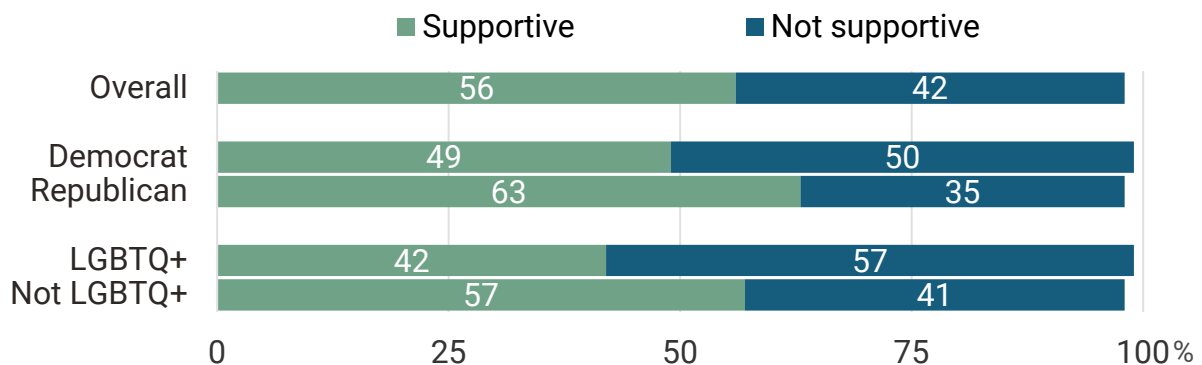


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Overall, the public is split on whether the increased attention on transgender and nonbinary people has been supportive or not. The LGBTQ+ community and Democrats are more likely to say the attention has not been supportive.

Most LGBTQ+ adults say attention on transgender and nonbinary people is not supportive.

Percent of adults



Question: On balance, how supportive or unsupportive do you think the increased political and media attention on transgender and nonbinary people has been for their community?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.



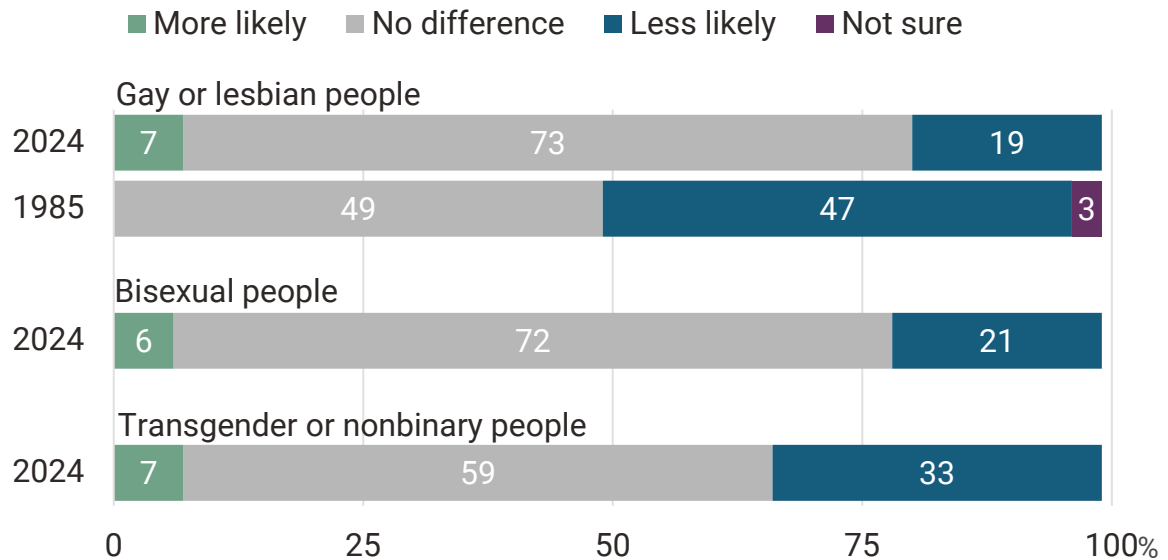
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MOST ADULTS SAY A CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE'S IDENTIFICATION AS GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, OR TRANSGENDER WOULD NOT IMPACT THEIR VOTE.

Seventy-three percent of adults say that if a Congressional candidate identified as gay or lesbian, that would have no bearing on their vote. In 1985, fewer, 49%, said their vote would be unaffected by if a candidate was gay or lesbian. Seventy-two percent say a candidate's bisexuality would make no difference in their vote. Fewer, though still a majority (59%), say they wouldn't care if a candidate was transgender or nonbinary, and 33% would be less likely to vote for such a candidate.

Most say a candidate's sexual orientation would not affect their vote.

Percent of adults



Question: If your party nominated a well-qualified person for Congress, and you heard that they were any of the following, would that make you more likely to vote for that candidate, or less likely, or wouldn't it make any difference one way or the other?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide and LA Times poll conducted December 5-12, 1985.

Note: The "More likely" option was presented to respondents in 1985, but did not receive any responses.

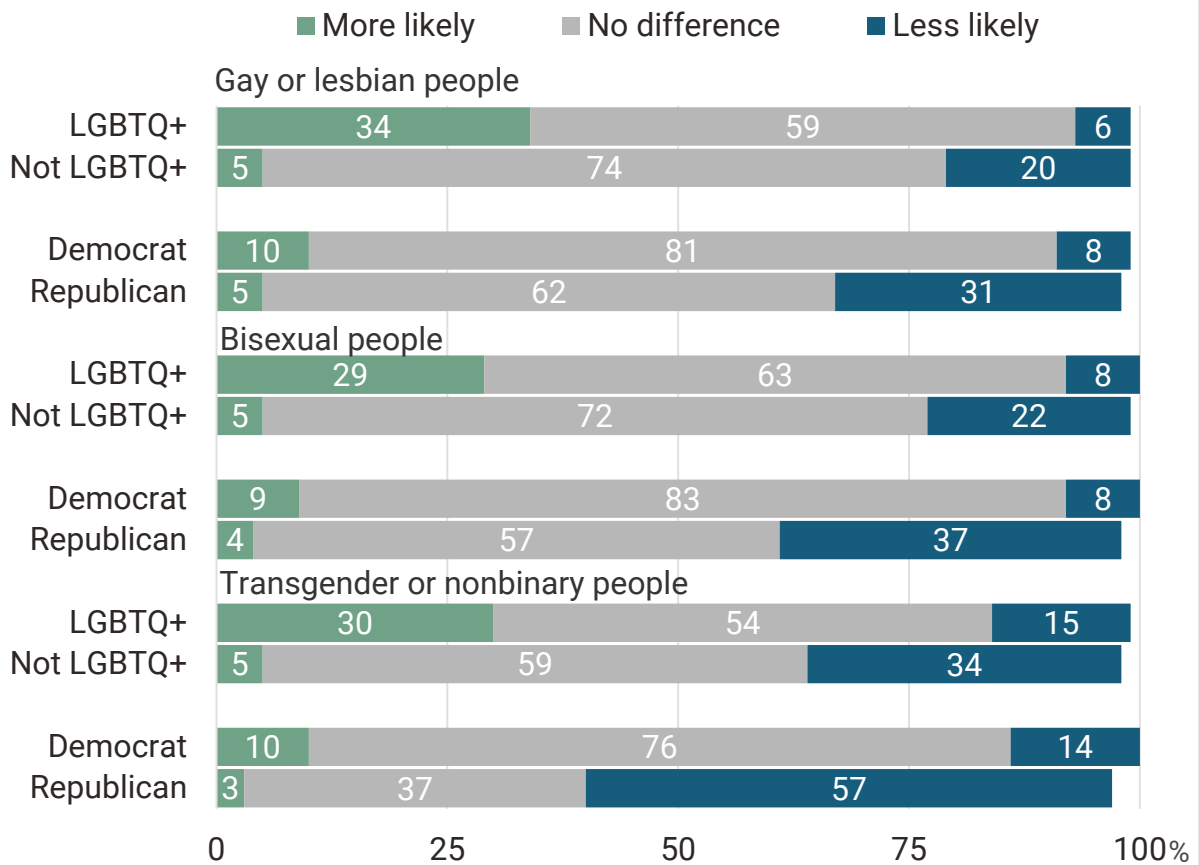


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Protestants, Republicans, and those who are not LGBTQ+ more often say a candidate who is gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or nonbinary would make them less likely to vote for the candidate.

LGBTQ+ adults are much more likely to support an LGBTQ+ candidate than the rest of the public.

Percent of adults



Question: If your party nominated a well-qualified person for Congress, and you heard that they were any of the following, would that make you more likely to vote for that candidate, or less likely, or wouldn't it make any difference one way or the other?

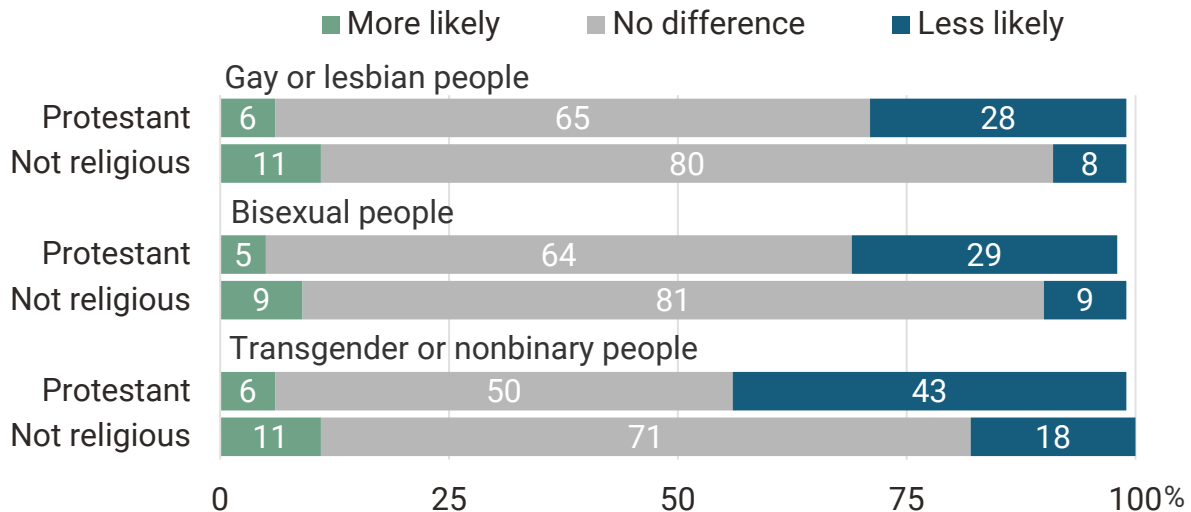
Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.



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Protestants are less likely to support an LGBTQ+ candidate than those who are not religious.

Percent of adults



Question: If your party nominated a well-qualified person for Congress, and you heard that they were any of the following, would that make you more likely to vote for that candidate, or less likely, or wouldn't it make any difference one way or the other?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.



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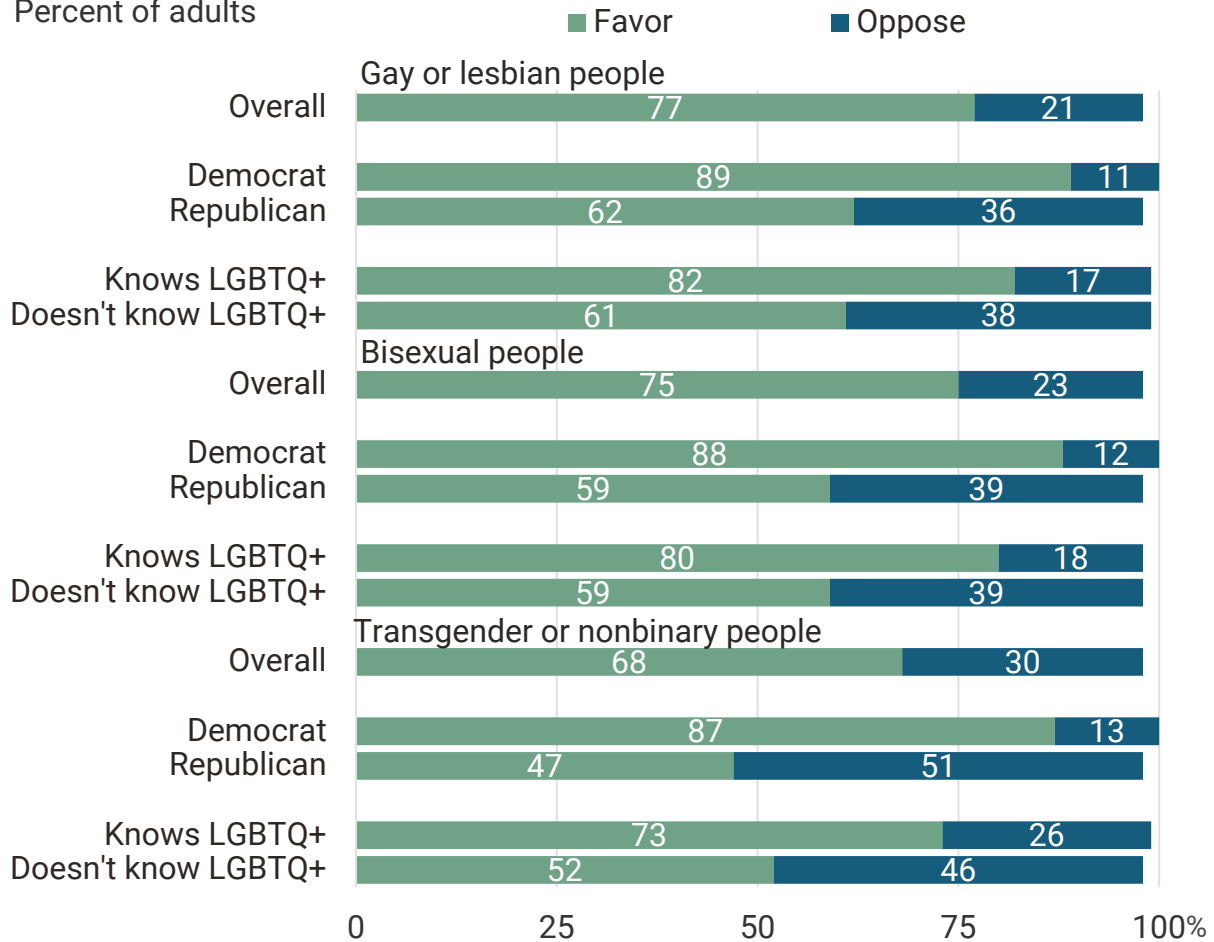
MUCH OF THE PUBLIC FAVORS LAWS AND POLICIES SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES.

The share of the public who favor laws to protect gay and lesbian adults from job discrimination has grown from 51% in 1985 to 77% today. Favorability for job discrimination protections is high for bisexual, transgender and nonbinary people as well.

LGBTQ+ communities, those who know someone who identifies as LGBTQ+, and Democrats are all more likely to favor these protections. Differences also emerge across religious groups.

Most favor laws that protect LGBTQ+ people from job discrimination.

Percent of adults



Question: Do you favor or oppose laws to protect each of the following from job discrimination?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.



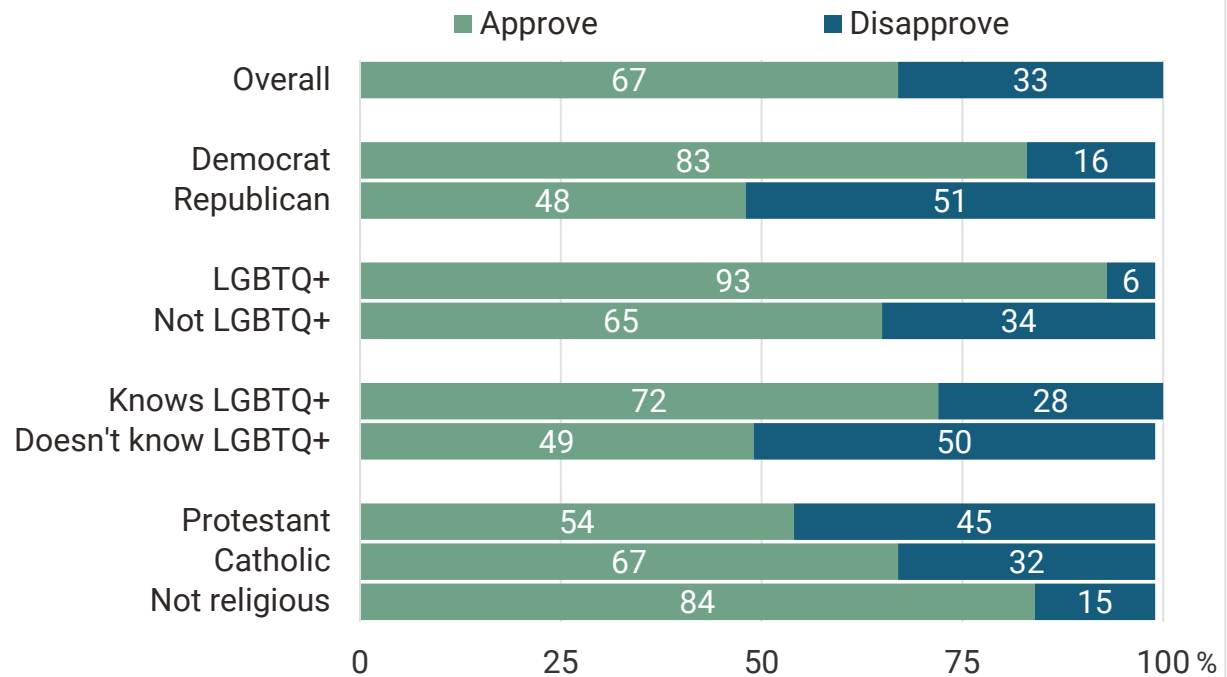
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Seventy-one percent approve of the Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage, while 27% think states should be allowed to ban same-sex marriage. Protestants (36%), Republicans (43%), and those who are not LGBTQ+ (28%) say the Supreme Court should change its ruling and allow states to ban same-sex marriage. In comparison, nonreligious (13%), Democrats (13%) and LGBTQ+ communities (9%) agree, though majorities of all these groups think the decision should stand.

About two-thirds of the public approve of same-sex couples raising children. Most LGBTQ+ people, Democrats, those who know someone who identifies as LGBTQ+, and people who are not religious are more likely to approve of same-sex couples raising children.

Two-thirds of adults approve of same-sex couples raising children.

Percent of adults



Question: Do you approve or disapprove of same-sex couples raising children?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.

NORC at the University of Chicago

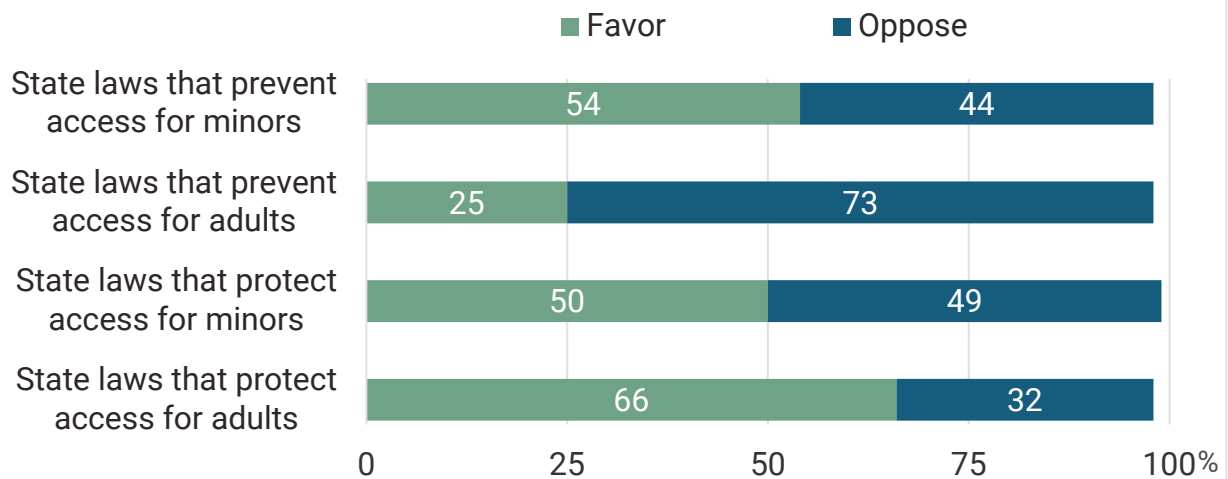


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Despite consensus on other areas, the public is divided on laws and policies specifically impacting transgender and nonbinary people. This is particularly the case for laws related to gender-affirming care for minors compared with laws applying to adults.

More support gender-affirming care for adults than for minors.

Percent of adults



Question: Gender affirming care can include gender-affirming surgeries, puberty blockers for teenagers, and hormone treatments. Do you favor or oppose each of the following?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.

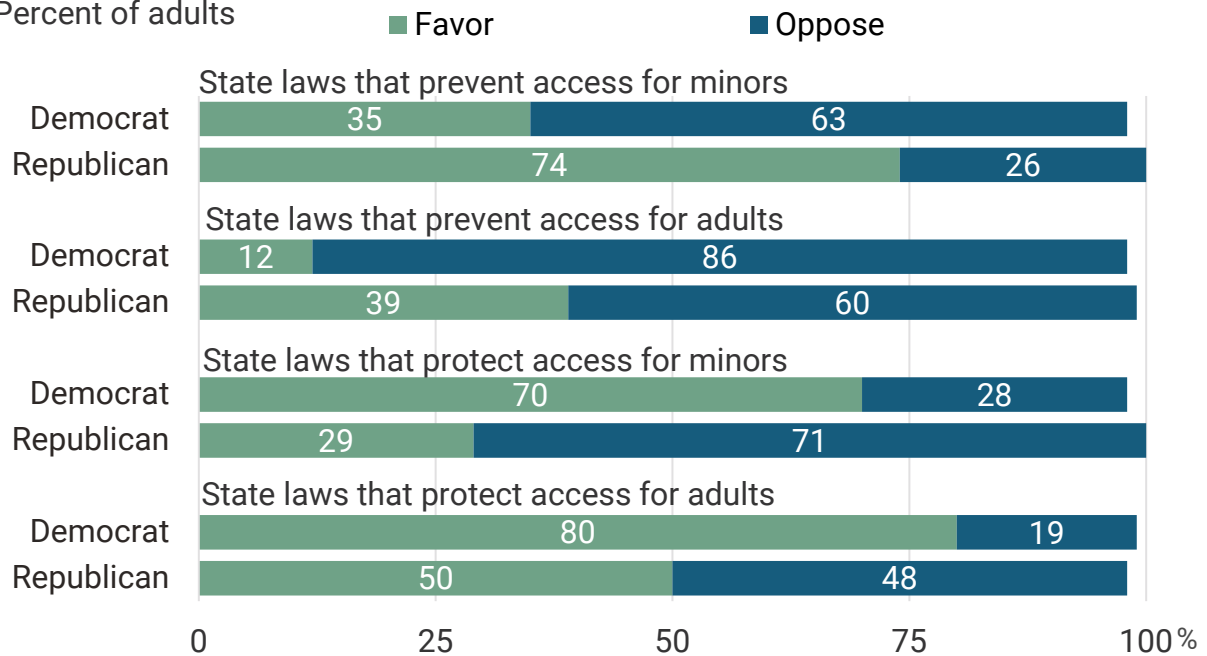


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Democrats are more likely than Republicans to favor the laws in support of gender-affirming care for both adults and minors while Republicans are more likely to oppose them. Differences also exist based on religion, whether one identifies as LGBTQ+, or knows someone that identifies as such.

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to favor laws supporting gender-affirming care.

Percent of adults



Question: Gender affirming care can include gender-affirming surgeries, puberty blockers for teenagers, and hormone treatments. Do you favor or oppose each of the following?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.

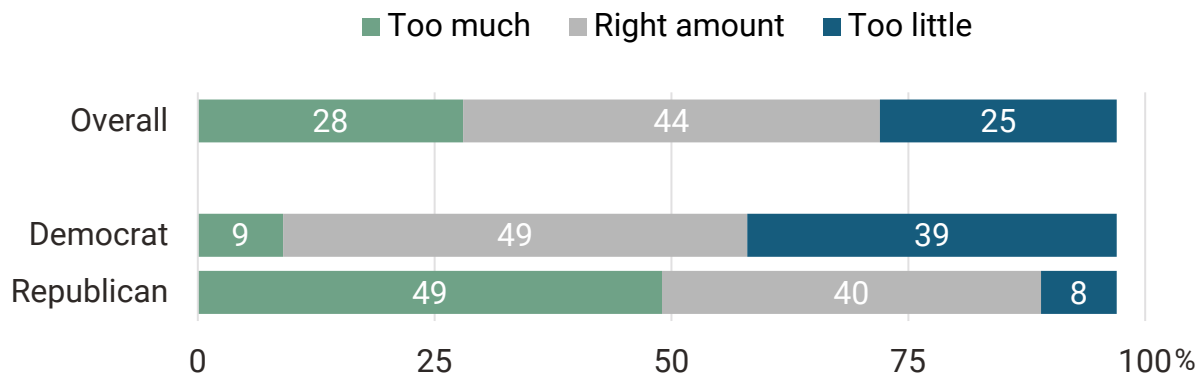


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Turning to schools, 44% think schools are doing the right amount to accept transgender and nonbinary students, while 28% think they are doing too much and 25% too little. Republicans are more likely to think schools are doing too much compared with Democrats. Differences also exist depending on whether one is LGBTQ+ or religious.

Republicans believe schools are doing too much to accept transgender and nonbinary students more often than Democrats.

Percent of adults



Question: Do you believe that schools in your area are doing too much to accept transgender and nonbinary students, too little to accept transgender and nonbinary students, or are they already doing the right amount?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.



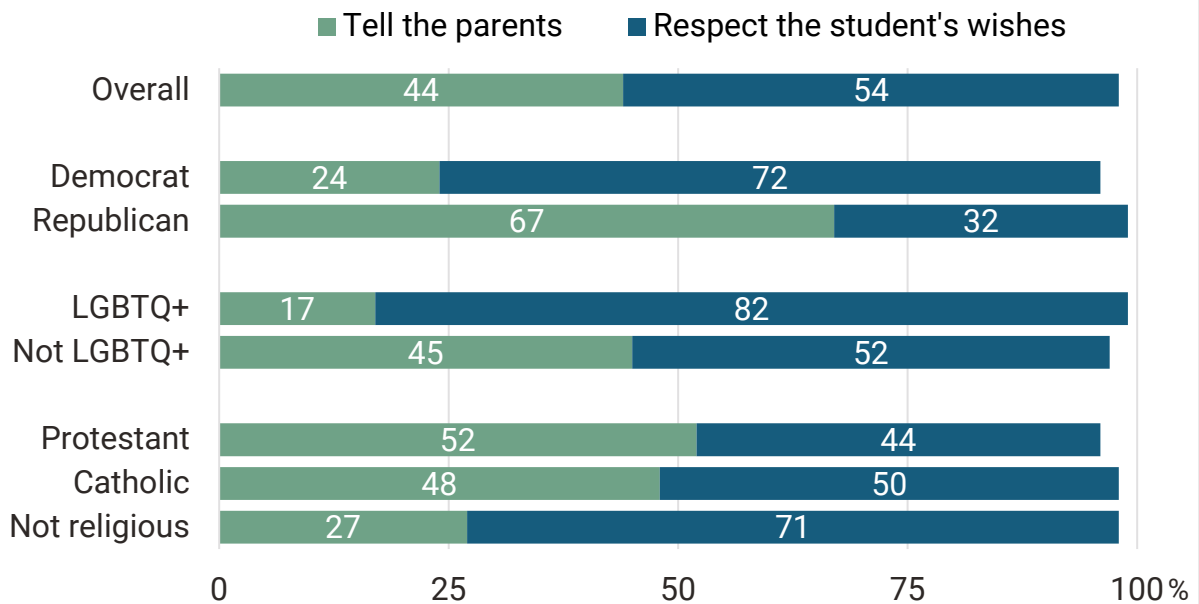
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The public is divided on whether school personnel are obliged to tell a parent if their child identifies as transgender or binary: 54% think the school should respect the student's wishes and not tell the parents and 44% think the school should tell the parents, regardless of the student's wishes.

LGBTQ+ people, Democrats, and those without a religious affiliation are more likely to say schools should respect students' wishes compared with people who are not LGBTQ+, Republicans, Protestant, or Catholic.

Half believe schools should respect students' wishes of not telling parents they identify as transgender.

Percent of adults



Question: If a teenager tells a teacher or other school personnel that they identify as transgender or nonbinary but they do not want to tell their parents, which comes closest to your opinion on how schools should respond?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.



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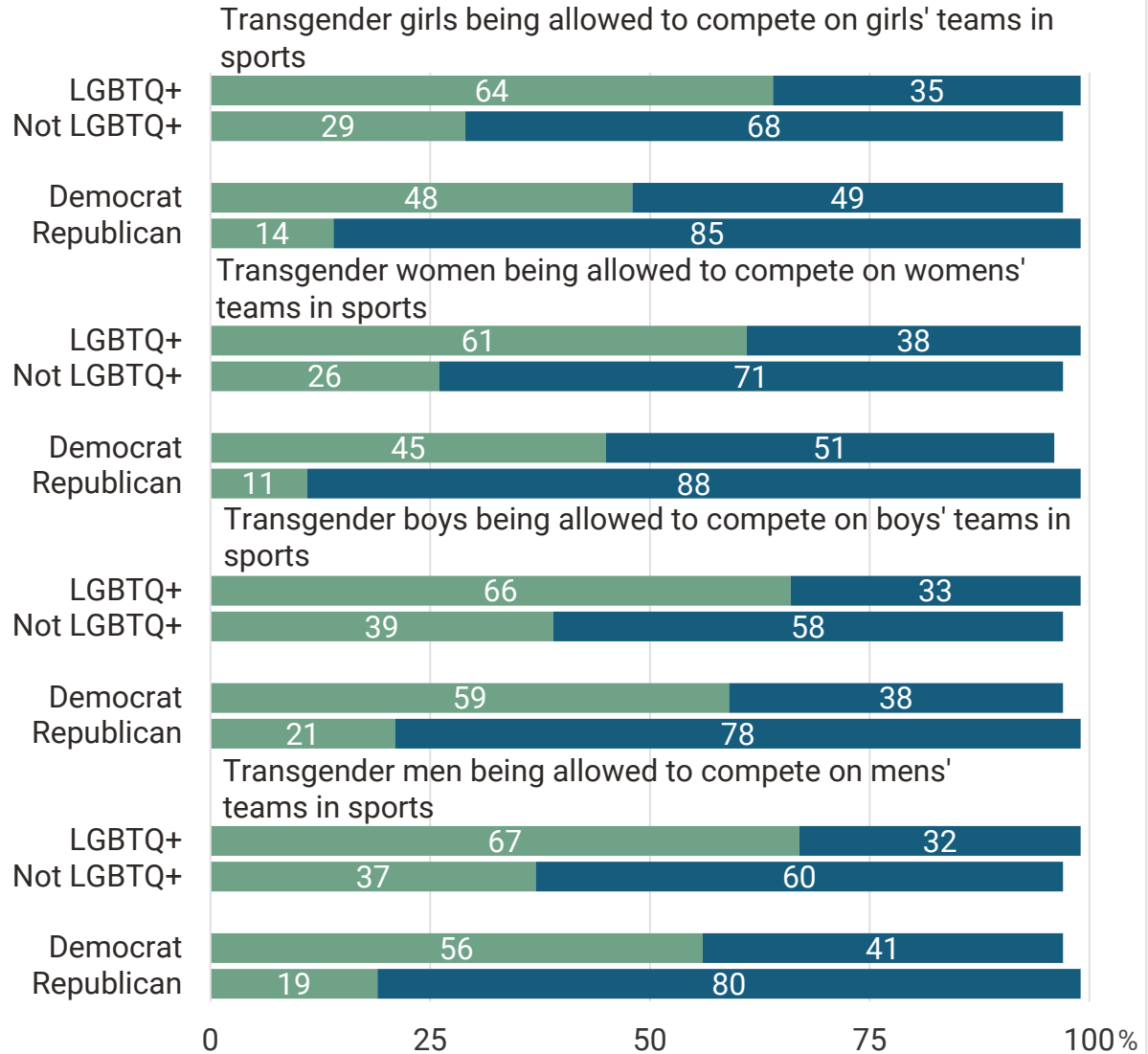
When it comes to transgender athletes competing on the sports teams of the gender with which they identify, 31% think transgender girls should be able to compete on girls' teams and 29% think the same about transgender women on women's teams. More, but still less than half, support transgender boys competing on boys' teams (41%) or transgender men on men's teams (39%).

Most who identify as LGBTQ+, however, support transgender people competing on the team of the gender with which they identify. Democrats are more likely than Republicans to feel transgender people should be allowed to compete on sports teams based on the gender they identify with.

LGBTQ+ adults are more likely to say transgender people should be allowed to compete on the sports teams of the gender with which they identify.

Percent of adults

■ Always/most cases ■ Never/rare cases



Question: Should each of the following be allowed always, in most cases, in rare cases, or never?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.



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Overall, 77% of adults think issues related to transgender and nonbinary people are mostly used by elected officials as a distraction from more pressing priorities, while 21% think they are important priorities for elected officials. Republicans more often than Democrats think these issues are mostly used as a distraction from more pressing priorities (86% vs. 71%).

MOST ADULTS SAY LEARNING ABOUT LGBTQ+ CONTRIBUTIONS IN SOCIETY SHOULD BE TAUGHT IN SCHOOL.

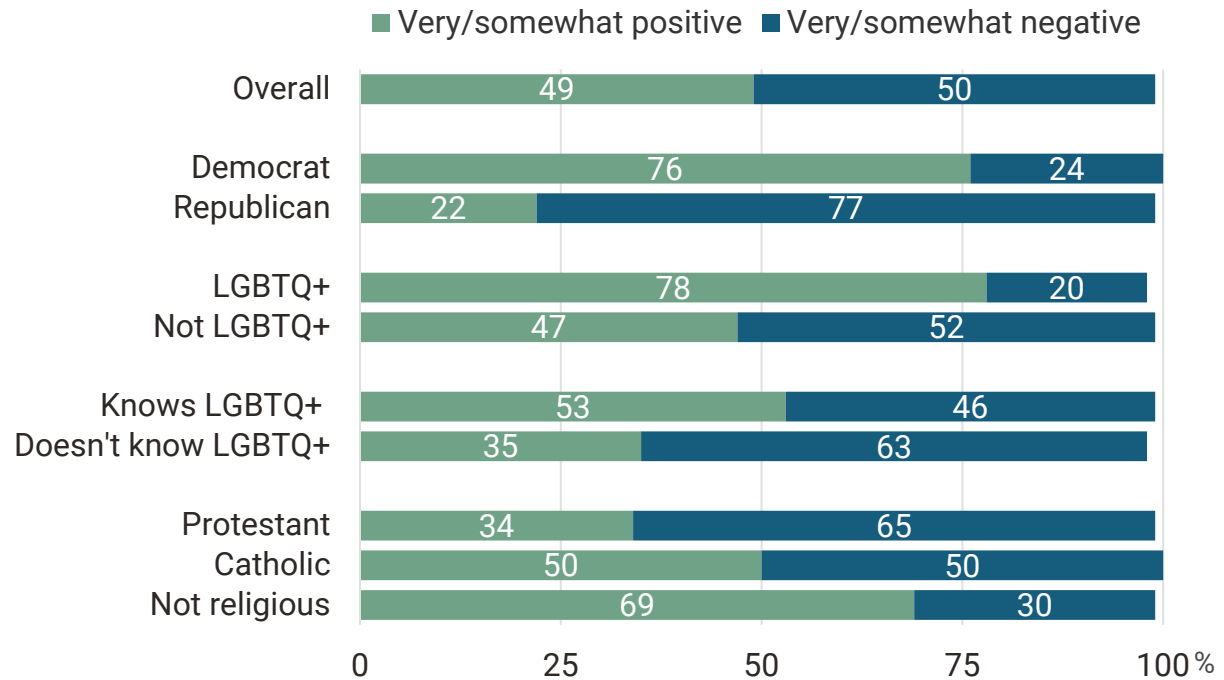
Eighty-two percent of adults think LGBTQ+ people have had at least some influence on American society through arts and entertainment. Sixty-eight percent think the same about civil rights and law. And 56% agree regarding to the government.

Republicans and Democrats both tend to think LGBTQ+ people have had at least some influence on government, but a larger proportion of Republicans believe so (66% vs. 49%). When accounting for other demographics, Democrats and Republicans have similar likelihoods of thinking LGBTQ+ groups have influenced the arts and the law.

Among those who think LGBTQ+ people have had an influence on these aspects of society, they are split between whether the influence has been positive or negative. Democrats, LGBTQ+ people, those that know someone who is LGBTQ+, and those who are not religious all tend to say the influence has been positive.

Public is split over whether LGBTQ+ influence on society has been positive or negative.

Percent of adults who say LGBTQ+ people have had at least a small influence on society



Question: Overall, do you believe this influence has had a positive or negative influence on American society?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.

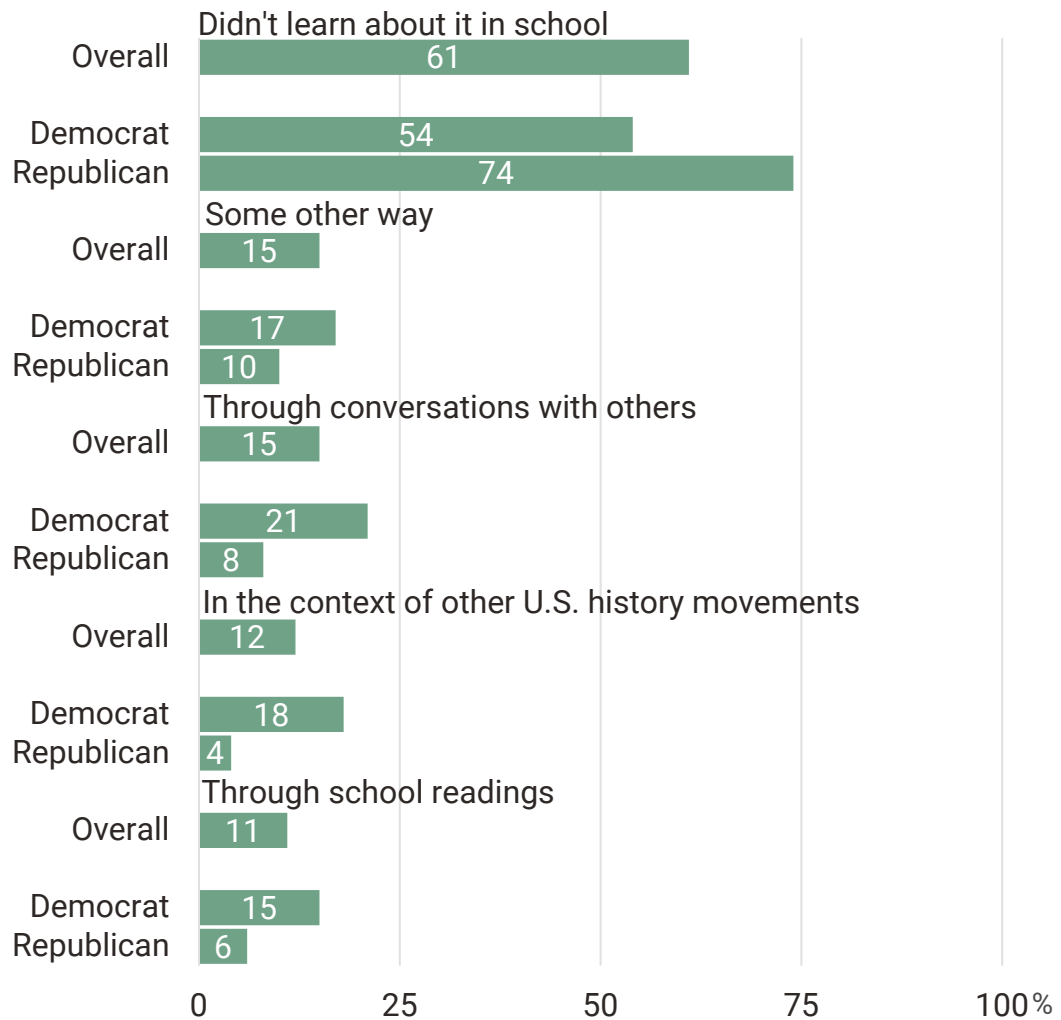


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Sixty-one percent of adults did not learn about LGBTQ+ history at any time in school. Fifteen percent learned about LGBTQ+ history through conversations with others, 11% through their own readings, and 12% in the light of other movements in U.S. history. Democrats are more likely than Republicans to have learned about it in school. Differences also emerge between those who identify as LGBTQ+ and those who do not.

Most did not learn about LGBTQ+ history in school.

Percent of adults who selected each item



Question: In which of the following ways did you learn about LGBTQ+ history or contributions at any time in school?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.



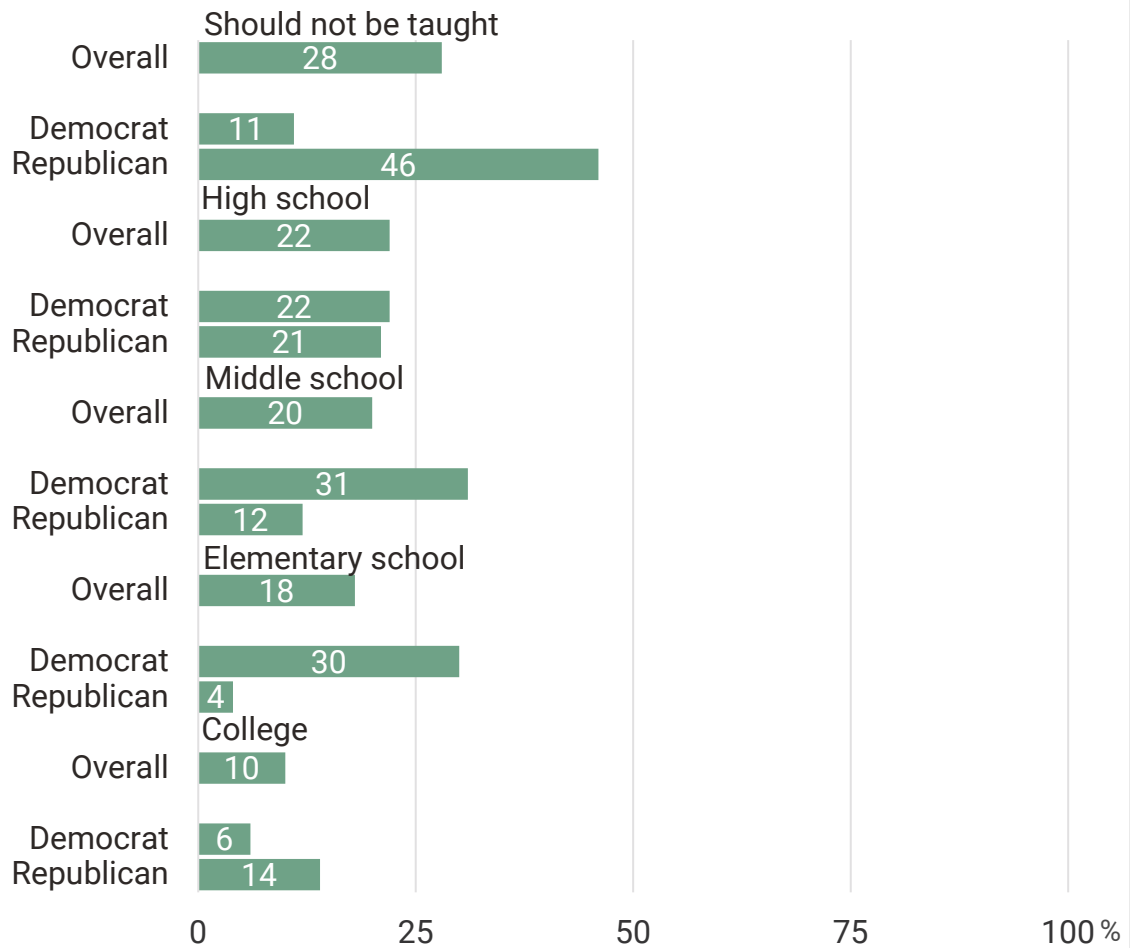
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Among those who did learn about LGBTQ+ history in school, 28% first learned about it in middle or elementary school, while 41% first did so in high school, and 27% didn't learn about it until college or studying for an advanced degree.

Seventy percent of adults support public schools teaching the history and contributions of LGBTQ+ people in the U.S., while 28% think that history should not be taught. Republicans are more likely than Democrats to believe it should not be taught. Differences also emerge based on whether someone knows an LGBTQ+ person, identifies as LGBTQ+, and by religion.

Most believe LGBTQ+ history should be taught before college.

Percent of adults



Question: At what grade level do you believe public school students should begin learning the history and contributions of LGBTQ+ people in the U.S?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide.



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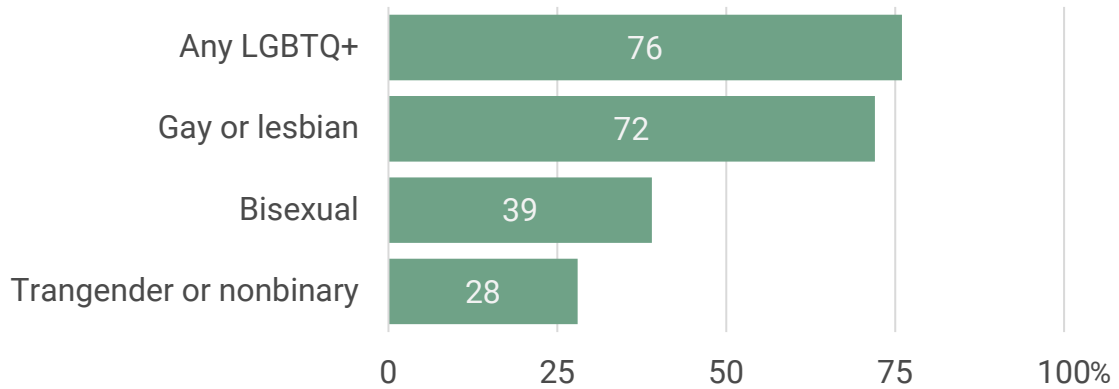
RESULTS AMONG CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS

While Californians are more accepting of LGBTQ+ individuals than in the country at large on a number of measures, these differences tend to be a result of the demographic makeup of the state. California residents are more likely to be more educated, not religious, and identify as Democrats, all of which are related to having more accepting attitudes on LGBTQ+ issues.

Three-quarters of California adults know someone who identifies as LGBTQ+, with the vast majority reporting they have an acquaintance who is gay or lesbian. Fewer know someone who is bisexual, transgender, or nonbinary.

Most California adults know someone who identifies as LGBTQ+.

Percent of California adults who say yes to each



Question: [Gay or lesbian/Bisexual/Trangender or nonbinary] Do you have any friends, or relatives, or co-workers who have told you, personally, that they identify as any of the following?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide with an oversample of California residents and LGBTQ+ adults.



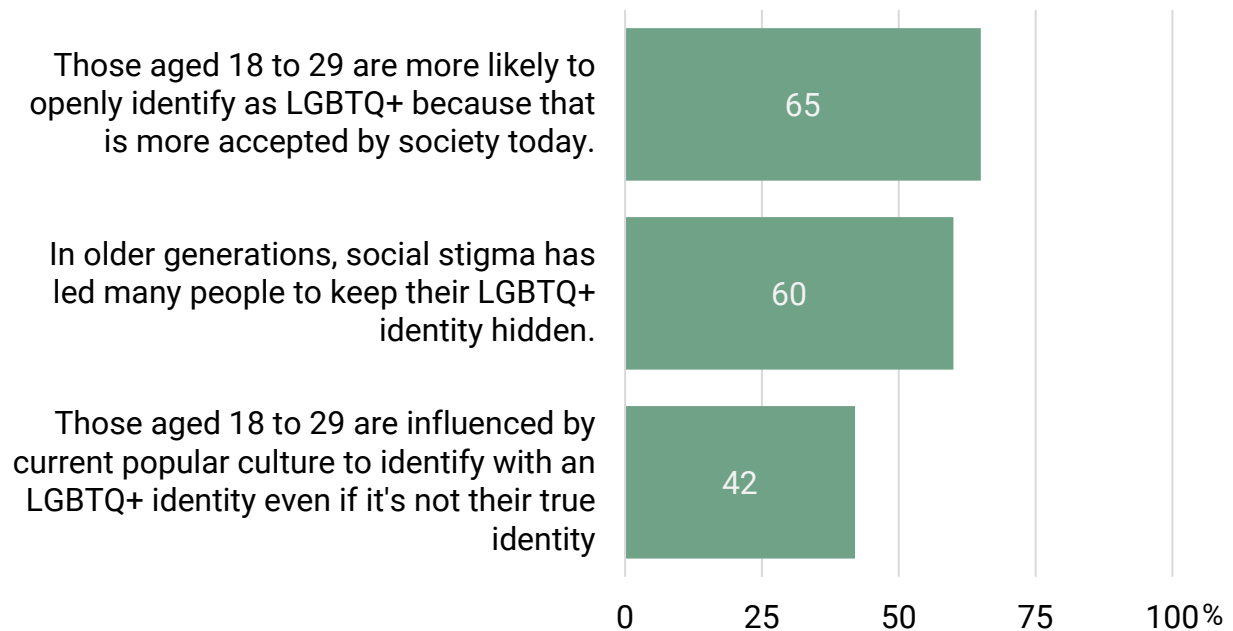
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Thirty-nine percent of those who say they have not been told explicitly that someone they know identifies as LGBTQ+ think someone they know might be gay or lesbian, while 20% think they have a bisexual acquaintance, and 11% believe they have a transgender or nonbinary acquaintance.

Most California adults believe young adults are more likely to identify as LGBTQ+ today due to wider acceptance by society, while most say social stigma in older generations led people to conceal their LGBTQ+ identity. However, 42% believe current popular culture influences younger people to identify as LGBTQ+ even when it is not their true identity.

Most Californians say past social stigma and more acceptance has resulted in more young people identify as LGBTQ+ than older people.

Percent of California adults



Question: The share of people who identify as LGBTQ+ is much higher among Americans ages 18 to 29 years old than it is among older Americans. Which of the following reasons do you believe contribute to this difference? Please select all that apply.

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide with an oversample of California residents and LGBTQ+ adults.

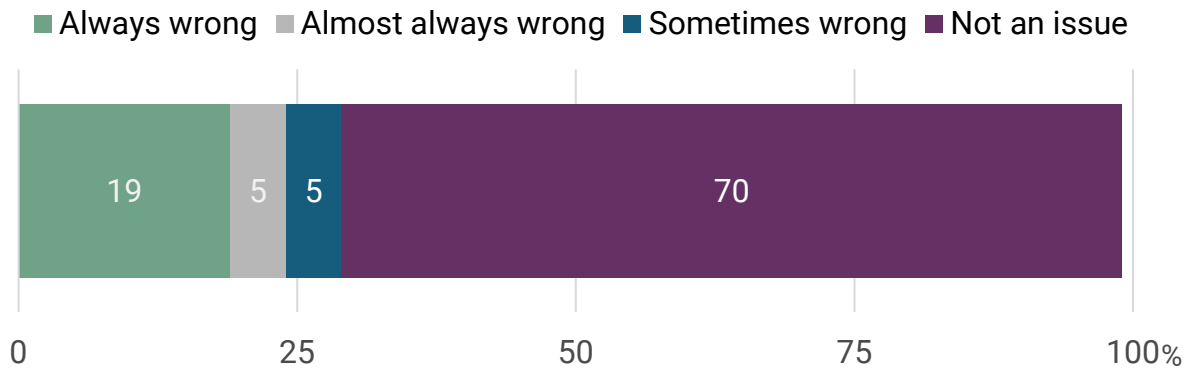


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Seventy percent of California adults report that sexual relations between two adults of the same sex is not an issue. Few say it is sometimes wrong or almost always wrong.

Most California adults are accepting of same-sex relations.

Percent of California adults



Question: What about sexual relations between two adults of the same sex? Do you think it is...

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide with an oversample of California residents and LGBTQ+ adults.

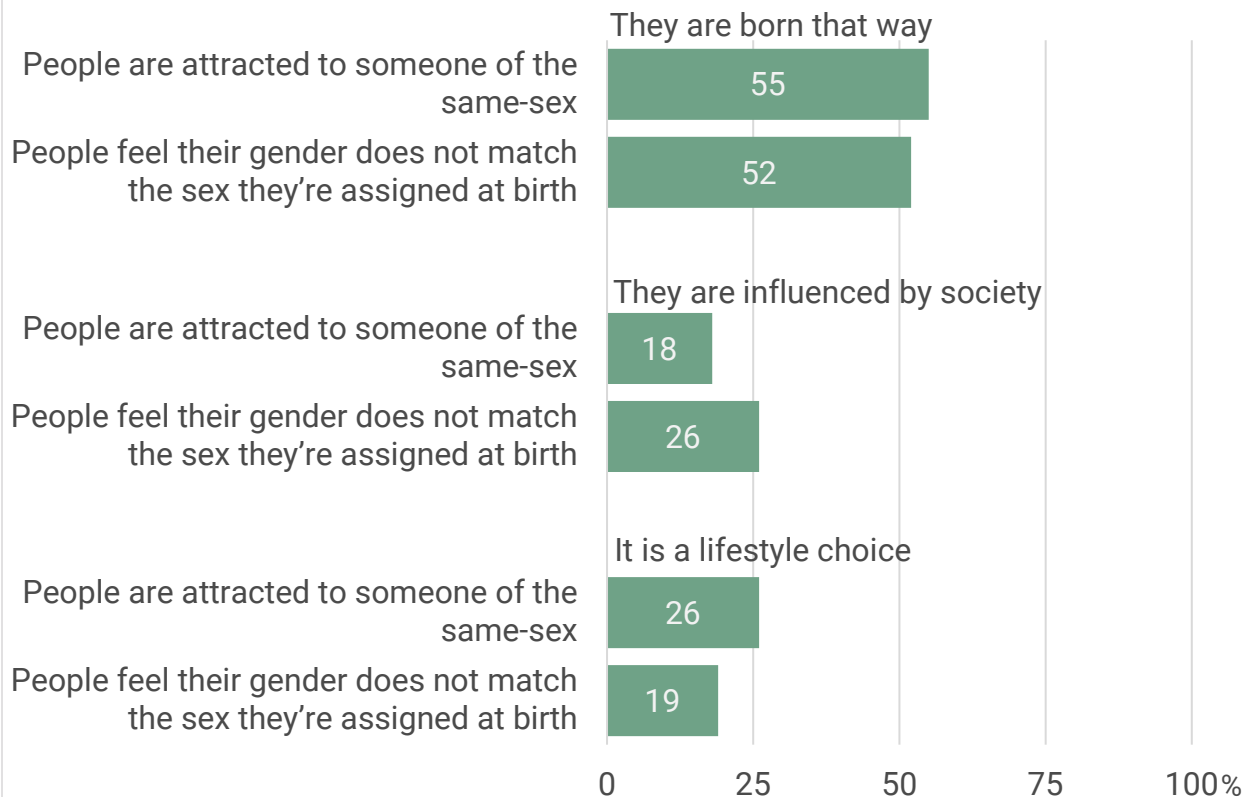


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More than half of California adults think people are gay, lesbian, transgender, or nonbinary because they are born that way, while about a quarter say it is a lifestyle choice.

About half of California adults believe that people are born with their sexual and gender identity.

Percent of California adults



Question: In your opinion, why are some people attracted to someone of the same sex?/In your opinion, why do some people feel their gender does not match the sex they're assigned at birth?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide with an oversample of California residents and LGBTQ+ adults.

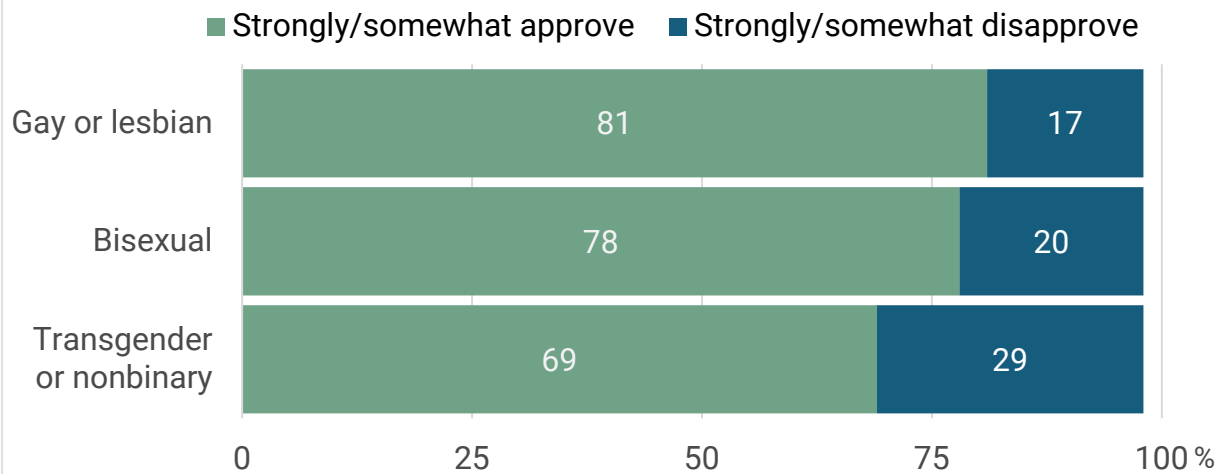


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Most California adults approve of LGBTQ+ adults living their lives as they wish, whether they are gay and lesbian, bisexual, transgender or nonbinary.

Most approve of LGBTQ+ adults living their lives, but fewer approve of transgender and nonbinary adults doing so.

Percent of California adults



Question: Do you approve or disapprove of each of the following living their lives as they wish?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide with an oversample of California residents and LGBTQ+ adults.



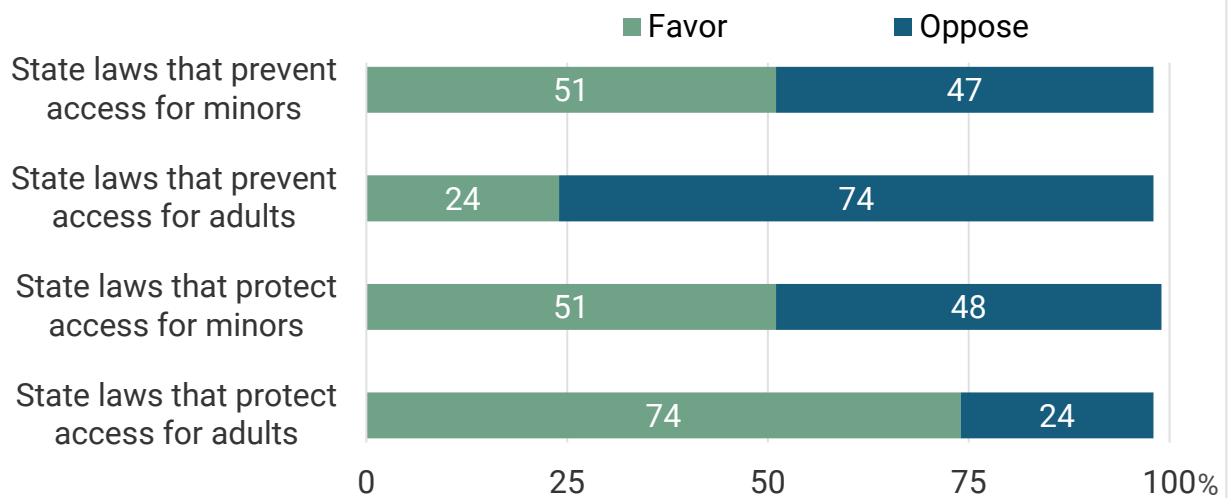
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When it comes to gender-affirming care for adults, about three-quarters of Californians oppose state laws that prevent adults from receiving such care. The same percentage favors state laws that *protect* an adult's ability to receive gender-affirming care.

On the other hand, when it comes to minors, about half favor state laws that prevent a child who identifies as transgender and nonbinary from receiving the same medical care when the child and their parents and doctors think that medical treatment is appropriate.

Californians are more supportive of gender-affirming care for adults than for minors.

Percent of California adults



Question: Gender affirming care can include gender-affirming surgeries, puberty blockers for teenagers, and hormone treatments. Do you favor or oppose each of the following?

Source: NORC/LA Times poll conducted January 18-26, 2024 with 1,624 adults nationwide with an oversample of California residents and LGBTQ+ adults.



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Along with the public overall, 72% of Californians think the Supreme Court's legalization of same-sex marriage should stand as is rather than allowing states to ban same-sex marriage if they so choose.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

This study, funded by The California Endowment, was conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago with The Los Angeles Times.

Data were collected using AmeriSpeak®, NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97 percent of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between January 18-26, 2024, with adults aged 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,624 completed the survey—1,619 via the web and 5 by telephone. Panel members were invited by email or by phone from an NORC telephone interviewer. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish depending on respondent preference. Respondents were offered a small monetary incentive for completing the survey. The final stage completion rate is 22%, the weighted household panel response rate is 22%, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 79%, for a cumulative response rate of 3.9%.

The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.8 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect.

In addition, Californian and LGBTQ+ respondents were sampled at a higher rate than their proportion of the population for reasons of analysis. The overall margin of sampling error for the 313 completed interviews with LGBTQ+ respondents is +/- 8.3 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level including the design effect. The overall margin of sampling error for the 775 completed interviews with California respondents is +/- 4.5 percentage points.

Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error and there may be other unmeasured error in this or any other survey.

Quality assurance checks were conducted to ensure data quality. In total, 77 interviews were removed for nonresponse to at least 50% of the questions asked of them, for completing the survey in less than one-third the median interview time for the full sample, or for straight-lining all grid questions asked of them. These interviews were excluded from the data file prior to weighting.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design.

Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2023 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

Complete questions and results are available at www.norc.org.

Additional information on the AmeriSpeak Panel methodology is available at <https://amerispeak.norc.org/about-amerispeak/Pages/Panel-Design.aspx>.

For more information, email info@norc.org.

CONTRIBUTING RESEARCHERS

From NORC at the University of Chicago

Jennifer Benz
Sean Collins
Claire Inciong Krummenacher
Dan Malato
Lindsey Witt-Swanson

From the Los Angeles Times

David Lauter

From the California Endowment

Sarah Reyes

ABOUT NORC AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

NORC at the University of Chicago conducts research and analysis that decision-makers trust. As a nonpartisan research organization and a pioneer in measuring and understanding the world, we have studied almost every aspect of the human experience and every major news event for more than eight decades. Today, we partner with government, corporate, and nonprofit clients around the world to provide the objectivity and expertise necessary to inform the critical decisions facing society.

ABOUT THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Los Angeles Times, founded in 1881, is the largest news organization in the western United States. Focused on news and information about California and the West, The Times also covers national and international stories of particular interest to its audience.

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT

The California Endowment, a private, statewide health foundation, was established in 1996 to expand access to affordable, quality health care for underserved individuals and communities, and to promote fundamental improvements in the health status of all Californians. Headquartered in Downtown Los Angeles, The Endowment has regional offices in Sacramento, Oakland, Fresno and San Diego, with program staff working throughout the state. The Endowment challenges the conventional wisdom that medical settings and individual choices are solely responsible for people's health. The Endowment believes that health happens in neighborhoods, schools, and with prevention. Learn more at www.calendow.org.