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Abstract

The goal of the study was to examine differences in sexual behavior and connectedness to family, friends, work, school, and religion between different sexual orientations. An advertisement for the study was posted on various social networking sites with a hyperlink to the study. The participants completed a 15-20 minute survey via the internet. The survey consisted of topics such as sexual debut age, discourse of sexual identity to: friends, family, and others, and opinions about the fluidity of sexual orientation and within group differences and similarities. Participants had an opportunity to participate in a follow up study that will give them a chance to give more specific answers or explain prior answers or their point of view. Results showed that individuals of the same gender identities had more likenesses than members of the same sexuality orientation. Homosexual men that have a feminine gender identity show a significant lower sexual debut age than homosexual men that had a masculine gender identity. However, all homosexual were more likely to have a lower oral sexual debut age than intercourse that involved penetration. Connectedness to others was higher in male homosexuals with a masculine identity compared to a feminine identity (feelings of love and respect). However, homosexual men with a masculine identity were less like to disclose sexual orientation to other. When it was disclosed, it was often to a female. Homosexual and bisexual individual were significantly more likely to feel that sexual orientation was fluid and not fixed.