

SURVEY TITLE: Women's Health Initiative

ACRONYM: WHI

SPONSOR: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, United States Department of Health and Human Services.

SURVEY PURPOSE: The Women's Health Initiative (WHI) was a major 15-year research program to address the most common causes of death, disability and poor quality of life in postmenopausal women -- cardiovascular disease, cancer, and osteoporosis.

LOCATION SAMPLED: United States.

YEARS SEXUAL ORIENTATION DATA COLLECTED: 1991-2005

SAMPLE SIZE: The three major components of the WHI were: a randomized controlled clinical trial of promising but unproven approaches to prevention; an observational study to identify predictors of disease; and a study of community approaches to developing healthful behaviors. Sample size: 161,808 women aged 50-79 total. Of the 93,311 women who were asked sexual orientation in the analysis sample, most (97.1%) were heterosexuals. Self-identified lesbians represented only 573 (0.6%) of the sample, almost equally divided between lifetime lesbians and those who identified themselves as lesbians only after age 45 years. Bisexuals were 0.8% of the sample. Only 1.5% reported never having had sex as an adult.

METHOD OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION DATA COLLECTION: Self-completed Questionnaire.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION QUESTIONS:

"Regardless of whether you are currently sexually active, which response best describes who you have had sex with over your adult lifetime? 1) have never had sex; 2) sex with a woman or with women; 3) sex with a man or with men; 4) sex with both men and women; 5) prefer not to answer" (If respondents checked the "with both men and women"): "Which response best describes who you have had sex with after 45 years of age? 1) sex with a woman or with women; 2) sex with a man or with men; 3) sex with both men and women; 4) prefer not to answer"