



# Quebec's Social and Health Survey Information: Baseline Data Report 2008 (Section 2.8)

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## 2.8 Sexual Orientation and Health

- Among survey respondents having had sexual relations, 97% reported being heterosexual in their sexual orientation.
- The highest rate of homosexuality was among men 25-44 years of age.
- Heterosexual men and women were among the survey respondents most strongly represented in high income levels.
- Among female survey respondents, heterosexuals showed a greater likelihood to have had a PAP test in two years or less when compared to homosexuals or bisexuals.
- While generally both men and women of all sexual orientations perceived their state of health as excellent, very good or good, heterosexuals were somewhat less likely to perceive their health as average or poor.
- Survey respondents with a heterosexual sexual orientation were the least likely to report the occurrence of suicidal ideas.
- Heterosexual respondents were the group most strongly represented in high income levels.
- Anglophones were less likely than Francophones to report a homosexual orientation.

*Table 2.8.1 – Sexual orientation according to sex and age, population 15 and over having had sexual relations, Quebec, 1998*

	Heterosexual		Homosexual		Bisexual	
	%	Pop. '000	%	Pop. '000	%	Pop. '000
<b>Men</b>						
15-24	98.2	356	0.6**	2	1.1**	4
25-44	96.8	1,096	2.2*	24	1.1*	12
45-64	96.5	798	2.0*	17	1.5*	13
65+	96.5	324	1.5**	5	2.1**	7
Total	96.8	2574	1.8	48	1.3	36
<b>Women</b>						
15-24	97.6	344	0.6**	2	1.8**	6
25-44	97.6	1,100	0.9*	10	1.5*	17
45-64	97.7	827	1.4*	12	1.0**	8
65+	97.6	424	2.0**	9	0.5**	2
Total	97.6	2,695	1.2	33	1.2	34
<b>Both sexes</b>						
Total	97.2	5,269	1.5	81	1.3	70

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- \* Interpret with caution.
- \*\* Imprecise estimate, indication only.

- Among survey respondents having had sexual relations the percentage of heterosexuals was very high. Roughly 97% for both men and women.
- The highest rate of homosexuality was among men 25-44 years of age.



Table 2.8.2 – Civil status according to sex and sexual orientation, population 15 and over,<sup>1</sup> Quebec, 1998

		Married	Common law	Widowed, separated, or divorced	Single
		%			
<b>Men</b>					
	Heterosexual	49.5	19.4	8.0	23.0
	Homosexual	17.0*	27.7**	5.6**	49.8
	Bisexual	18.4**	16.8*	28.7	36.1*
	Total	48.5	19.6	8.2	23.7
<b>Women</b>					
	Heterosexual	47.5	18.5	15.4	18.5
	Homosexual	24.1*	8.2**	27.9*	39.8*
	Bisexual	18.8**	6.9**	21.4**	52.9
	Total	46.9	18.3	15.7	19.2

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête sociale et de santé 1998*.

- 1- Persons having had sexual relations.  
 \* Interpret with caution.  
 \*\* Imprecise estimate, indication only.

- The most common civil status among survey respondents was married.
- Both married men and women showed a higher tendency towards heterosexuality than any other sexual orientation.
- Both single men and women showed the highest tendency towards homosexuality and bisexuality.

*Table 2.8.3 – Income level according to sex and sexual orientation, population 15 and over,<sup>1</sup> Quebec, 1998*

	Very poor	Poor	Lower middle income	Upper middle income	High income
	%				
<b>Men</b>					
Heterosexual	5.6	8.9	31.9	40.9	12.8
Homosexual	10.6**	3.5**	34.3*	28.5*	23.1
Bisexual	15.3**	21.9**	28.3*	29.1*	5.4*
Total	5.8	9.0	31.9	40.5	12.8
<b>Women</b>					
Heterosexual	6.9	11.3	32.6	38.2	11.2
Homosexual	15.5**	16.8**	29.1*	29.0*	9.6**
Bisexual	15.4**	28.9*	27.8*	20.7**	7.6**
Total	7.1	11.6	32.5	37.8	11.1

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

1- Persons having had sexual relations.

\* Interpret with caution.

\*\* Imprecise estimate, indication only.

- Heterosexual men and women were among the survey respondents most strongly represented in high income levels.

*Table 2.8.4 – Time elapsed since the last PAP test according to sexual orientation, female population 15 and over,<sup>1</sup> Quebec, 1998*

	2 years or less	More than 2 years or never	Do not know
	%		
Heterosexual	68.4	28.2	3.5
Homosexual and bisexual	51.7	38.5	9.8**
Total	68.0	28.4	3.6

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

1- Persons having had sexual relations.

\*\* Imprecise estimate, indication only.

- Among female survey respondents, those heterosexual in sexual orientation showed a greater likelihood to have had a PAP test in the last two years or less.
- Respondents homosexual and bisexual in sexual orientation showed a greater likelihood for more than two years to have elapsed or never to have had a PAP test.

*Table 2.8.5 – Perception of state of health according to sex and sexual orientation, population 15 and over,<sup>1</sup> Quebec, 1998*

		Excellent, very good, or good	Average or poor
		%	
<b>Men</b>			
	Heterosexual	90.0	10.0
	Homosexual	84.0	16.0**
	Bisexual	82.7	17.3**
	Total	89.8	10.2
<b>Women</b>			
	Heterosexual	88.8	11.2
	Homosexual	84.9	15.1**
	Bisexual	86.0	14.0**
	Total	88.7	11.3

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

1- Persons having had sexual relations.

\*\* Imprecise estimate, indication only.

- Generally, both men and women of all sexual orientations reported perceiving their state of health as excellent, very good or good.
- Heterosexuals were the least likely to perceive their health as average or poor.

*Table 2.8.6 – Occurrence of suicidal ideas in the course of a 12-month period according to sexual orientation, population 15 and over,<sup>1</sup> Quebec, 1998*

	%
Heterosexual	3.8
Homosexual	6.6**
Bisexual	10.8**
Total	3.9

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

1. Persons having had sexual relations.

\*\* Imprecise estimate, indication only.

- Survey respondents with a heterosexual sexual orientation were the least likely to report the occurrence of suicidal ideas.

*Table 2.8.7 – Sexual orientation according to mother tongue, population 15 and over having had sexual relations, Quebec, 1998*

	N=	16634	911	871	272
		French	English	Other	n/a
Heterosexual		96.54%	96.16%	95.06%	90.07%
Homosexual		1.18%	0.99%	1.72%	2.94%
Bisexual		1.14%	1.21%	1.38%	2.57%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- Among survey respondents having had sexual relations, Anglophones were less likely than Francophones to report a homosexual sexual orientation.