## Considering Alternative Lifestyles

Question: H ere is a list of things some people today find acceptable behavior if people choose to do them, and others find unacceptable. For each one would you tell mewhether you find it acceptable for anyone, or acceptable for others but not for yourself, or not acceptable for anyone?

Percent responding N OT acceptable for anyone

## People living in a homosexual relationship



People of different races marrying each other


## People living together outside of marriage



Source: Survey by Roper Starch W orldwide, latest that of July 1998.

Question: Do you feel that homosexuality should be considered as an accepted alternative lifestyle or not?


Source: Surveysfor 1993 and 1994 by CBS/N ew Y ork T imes; thosefor 1982, 1983, 1989, 1992, 1996, 1997 and 1999 by the G allup $O$ rganization.

People who are not married having children


Single people having sex with different partners


M arried people having sexual relations with people other than their spouses


## A Way of Life?

Question: Pleasetell mewhether thefirst statement or thesecond statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right.... H omosexuality is a way of lifethat should be accepted by society, or homosexuality is a way of life that should be discouraged by society.


[^0]
## Gay Takes on the Straight World

Question: H owever much actual discrimination there is, do you think there is more homophobia or less homophobia than there was five years ago?


Note: Asked of gay and lesbian adults.
Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for N ewsweek, July 28-30, 1998.

Q uestion: ...[W ]hich oneof thefollowing two statements, if any, do you agree with?... M ore people are homophobic today than ever, but they may beless willing to show it, or, therearenot more homophobic people today, but those who are seem more outspoken and activist in their opposition to gays.


N ote: Asked of gay and lesbian adults.
Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for $N$ ewsweek, July 28-30, 1998.

Question: I'm going to read you some different reasons why straight people might dislike gays and lesbians. Please tell me if you think each is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason why straight people dislike gays.

Ignorance of gays


Bible says it's wrong


Fear of being uncomfortable


Bad personal experience


Note: Asked of gay and lesbian adults.
Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for N ewsweek, July 28-30, 1998.

D ata shown on pp. 25 and 27-30 referencing a gay and lesbian sample are from a study conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associatesfor $N$ ewsweek. Respondentswererandomly drawn from a masterfile of approximately 750,000 names- compiled by Strubco, Inc. - of Americans who associated themselves with gay or lesbian interests and activities. Those who clearly identified themselves as heterosexual were excluded from the survey sample.

## Homosexualty as a Moral Issue

Question: Thinking about your own values and morals, would you say that homosexuality is always acceptable, acceptable for some people but not for others, unacceptable but should be tolerated by society, or unacceptable and should not betolerated?


Source: Survey by the W ashington Post/K aiser Family Foundation/H arvard U niversity, August 10-27, 1998.

Question: Do you personally believe homosexual behavior is morally wrong or is not morally wrong?


Source: Survey by the G allup O rganization for CN N /U SA Today, June 22-23, 1998.

Q uestion: D o you personally believethat homosexuality is a sin, or not?


Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for N ewsweek, July 30-31, 1998.

Question: W hat is the main reason you personally think homosexual ity is unacceptable?


Note: Asked of those who said homosexuality is unacceptable (57\%). Source: Survey by the W ashington Pos/K aiser Family Foundation/H arvard University, August 10-27, 1998.

Q uestion: Do you personally think that homosexual relationships between consenting adults is morally wrong, or not a moral issue?


Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners for Time/ CN N , 0 ctober 14-15, 1998.

## Death Penalty

Question: Please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about AID S. D o you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or completely disagree that... AID S came from God to punish homosexual behavior?


[^1]
## Born or Made?

Q uestion: In your opinion, is homosexuality something a person is born with or is homosexual ity due to other factors such as upbringing or enviornment?

*V olunteered responses.
Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for N ewsweek, July 30-31, 1998.

Gay and lesbian adults

*V olunteered responses.
Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for N ewsweek, July 28-30, 1998.

Question: Some people believe gays' and lesbians' sexual preference is something that cannot be changed. O thers believe their sexual preference can be changed through will power, therapy, or religious conviction. W hich comes closer to your view?
$N$ ational adults


Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for N ewsweek, July 30-31, 1998.

Q uestion: Do you think a person's homosexual orientation can be changed in most cases, in some cases, in just a few cases, or never?


Source: Survey by the W ashington Post/K aiser Family Foundation/H arvard U niversity, August 10-27, 1998.

Gay and lesbian adults


Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for $N$ ewsweek, July 28-30, 1998.

## Medical Perspective

Question: D o you think homosexuality is a physical or mental illness, or not?


No opinion

Source: Survey by the W ashington Post/K aiser Family Foundation/H arvard U niversity, August 10-27, 1998.

## Comfort Levels

Question: We're interested in how much, if at all, you are personally bothered by some things gay men and women might do. What about this... D oes this bother you very much, somewhat, only a little, or not at all?

Q uestion: ...D o you think this bothers most straight peoplevery much, somewhat, only a little, or not at all?
$N$ ational adults

## It bothers me...

Very much Somewhat


D isplaying the picture of a same-sex partner at the office

Presenting a gay or lesbian appearance in public through clothing, hairstyle, and so forth

Talking openly about homosexual romance

## Kissing someone of the same sex in public



Actively advocating, or declaring their support for, gay rights

H olding hands with someone of the same sex in public

Talking openly about their own gayness

Gay and lesbian adults

## It bothers them...

Very much Somewhat

$$
\begin{array}{|l|l|}
\hline 21 \% & 34 \%
\end{array}
$$

20\% $\quad 46 \%$

| $19 \%$ | $44 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- |

## $39 \% \quad 38 \%$




64\%

Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for N ewsweek, July 30-31, 1998.

Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for N ewsweek, July 28-30, 1998.

## Out of the Closet, Into the Culture

Q uestion: Do you think popular entertainment media- such as movies, television, and books- areincluding too many gay themes and characters these days, not enough, or about theright amount?

$$
N \text { ational adults }
$$



Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for N ewsweek, July 30-31, 1998.

Q uestion: In general, do you think theimages of gays and lesbians portrayed in popular entertainment media, such asmovies, television, and books, are mostly positive or mostly negative?

> Gay and lesbian adults


Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for N ewsweek, July 28-30, 1998.

## Nothing Without Work

Question: I have some questions about the situation in this country for gay men and women. In this country today, do you think there is alot of discrimination against gays and lesbians, somediscrimination, or not much discrimination?


Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for N ewsweek, July 30-31, 1998.

Gay and lesbian adults


Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for N ewsweek, July 28-30, 1998.

Q uestion: As you know, there has been considerable discussion in the news lately regarding the rights of homosexual men and women. In general, do you think homosexual sshould or should not haveequal rights in terms of job opportunities?


Source: Surveys by the G allup O rganization, latest that of February 8-9, 1999.
Question: N ow, I'd like to ask you about the hiring of homosexuals in specific occupations. D o you think homosexuals should or should not be hired for the following occupations?...

Percent saying should N OT


Salespersons


Elementary school teachers


1999


Armed forces


High school teachers


Source: Surveys by the G allup O rganization, June 17-20, 1977, O ctober 12-15, 1989, and February 8-9, 1999.

## Certain Inalienable Rights

Question: In general, do you think too much attention is being paid to homosexual rights these days, not enough attention, or about the right amount?


Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners for Time/CN N , 0 ctober 14-15, 1998.

## Hate Crimes

Question: As you may know, a federal law mandates increased penalties for people who commit crimes against blacks or other minorities out of prejudiceagainst them. D o you favor or oppose a federal law that would mandate the same treatment for people who commit crimes against homosexual sout of prejudice against them?


Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners for Time/CN N , O ctober 14-15, 1998.

Q uestion: D o you think that as a matter of principle the federal government should treat homosexuals and heterosexual s equally, or don't you think so?


Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners for T ime/C N N , O ctober 14-15, 1998.

Q uestion: W hich view comescloser to your own?... G overnment should promotepolicies and programsdiscouraging homosexuality. G overnment should promotepolicies and programsthat treat homosexuality as an acceptablelifestyle. Government should not get involved in this issue.


Source: Survey by the W ashington Post/K aiser Family Foundation/H arvard U niversity, August 10-27, 1998.

Question: Some people believe this country has made about the right amount of effort to protect the rights of gays and lesbians. O thers believemore effort isneeded. Still othersthink thiscountry has gonetoo far in its efforts to protect gay rights. W hich comes closest to your view?
$N$ ational adults


Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for N ewsweek, July 30-31, 1998.

Gay and lesbian adults


Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for $N$ ewsweek, July 28-30, 1998.

## Familiarity Encourages Acceptance

Question: Please tell me whether or not each of the following applies to you. D o you...
... work with someoneyou know isgay or lesbian?

... havesomeonein your family who isgay or lesbian?


D on't know
...have a friend or acquaintance who is gay or lesbian?


Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for N ewsweek, July 30-31, 1998.

Thefamiliarity score in the following table is cal culated on the basis of responses to the above three questions. A score of 0 means the respondent replied "no" to all three questions; a score of 1 indicates an affirmative response to one question; a score of 2 means the respondent said "yes" to at least two questions.

| Question: Thinking again about what might be done to protect gay rights, do you think there should or should not be... | Total |  | iarity | ore |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Percent responding should |  |  |  |
| Equal rights for gays and lesbians in terms of job opportunities? | 86\% | 75\% | 87\% | 93\% |
| Equal rights for gays and lesbians in terms of housing? | 78 | 65 | 78 | 89 |
| Inheritance rights for gay spouses? | 65 | 49 | 69 | 75 |
| H ealth insurance and other employee benefits for gay spouses? | 61 | 51 | 61 | 71 |
| Gays and lesbians serving openly in the military? | 60 | 40 | 62 | 76 |
| Social Security benefits for gay spouses? | 56 | 40 | 56 | 71 |
| Special legislation to guarantee equal rights for gays and lesbians? | 51 | 42 | 44 | 65 |
| Adoption rights for gay spouses? | 40 | 24 | 34 | 61 |
| Legally sanctioned gay marriages? | 36 | 20 | 35 | 54 |

N ote: Responses of don't know and refusals were calculated out.
Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for N ewsweek, July 30-31, 1998.


[^0]:    Source: Survey by Princeton Survey R esearch Associatesfor thePew Research

    Center, July 14-September 9, 1999.

[^1]:    Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the K aiser Family Foundation, N ovember 27-D ecember 17, 1995.

