

Attitudes Toward Gay and Transgender Civil Rights and Protections in Indiana



Results from the November 2008 Indiana Poll

Brought to you by the Indiana Equality Communications
Committee and in conjunction with the Indiana University Center
for Survey Research

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About Indiana Equality

The mission Indiana Equality (IE), a non-profit Indiana corporation and a 501(c) 3 organization, is to end discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in Indiana. IE seeks such equality by facilitating and coordinating the efforts of the LGBT and allied community that are directed to research, education, and community mobilization. IE is the educational counterpart organization to Indiana Equality Action. Indiana Equality envisions an Indiana where everyone feels at home; living in families and communities where equality, diversity and inclusiveness are universally valued and where government protects all people and responds to their needs regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

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Overview

Indiana Equality commissioned the Indiana University Center for Survey Research (CSR) to survey the attitudes of Indiana citizens on two issues affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Hoosiers: civil rights protections and bias crimes legislation. Questions pertaining to those issues were included in the 2008 Indiana Poll, an annual survey of Indiana residents on a wide range of issues of interest to the general public, policymakers and social scientists. On the issues of civil rights protections and bias crime legislation, majorities favored equality and inclusion, often by substantial margins.

Methodology

A sample of 514 adult Indiana residents was obtained through a random-digit-dialing procedure and surveyed in the weeks from October 17, 2008, through October 28, 2008. (In the case of multiple adult households, one adult was selected randomly to be interviewed.) The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.0 percent at the 5% level.

The survey questions were adapted from earlier ones commissioned in 2005 by Indiana Equality. Those earlier questions were developed by former IUPUI political science professor Ellen Andersen, in consultation with CSR and Indiana Equality.

About the Pollsters

The Indiana University Center for Survey Research conducts surveys for Indiana University faculty and administration, federal, state, and local government agencies, media, and nonprofit organizations. It is located on the Bloomington campus of Indiana University. For more information about CSR or this study, contact the Center's Director, John Kennedy, by writing to the Center for Survey Research, Eigenmann Hall 2 South, 1900 East 10th Street, Bloomington, IN 47406-7512, or by calling (812) 855-2821.

Civil Rights

- The survey found respondents overwhelmingly agree (80.4%) that gay and lesbian Hoosiers should have the same civil rights protections as others currently do. Support for equal treatment is bipartisan: 92% of Democrats, 64.2% of Republicans, and 85.5% of Independents. Clear majorities support such protections in urban, suburban, small town, and rural areas, and across all age and educational attainment groups.
- Similarly, respondents overwhelmingly agree (79.7%) that transgender Hoosiers should have the same civil rights protections as others. Support for equal treatment is bipartisan: 90.2% of Democrats, 67.6% of Republicans, and 82.6% of Independents. Clear majorities support such protections in urban, suburban, small town, and rural areas, and across all age and educational attainment groups.

Gay and lesbian Hoosiers should have the same civil-rights protections as all other Hoosiers.			Transgender Hoosiers should have the same civil-rights protections as all other Hoosiers?		
	Agree	Disagree		Agree	Disagree
Overall	80.4%	19.6%	Overall	79.7%	20.3%
Gender			Gender		
Male	78.5%	21.5%	Male	77.9%	22.1%
Female	81.5%	18.5%	Female	81.0%	19.0%
Marriage Status			Marriage Status		
Married	78.9%	21.1%	Married	78.3%	21.7%
Unmarried	82.8%	17.2%	Unmarried	82.4%	17.6%
Age			Age		
18-29	81.0%	19.0%	18-29	78.6%	21.4%
30-44	88.2%	11.8%	30-44	83.5%	16.5%
45-64	82.3%	17.7%	45-64	80.8%	19.2%
65+	73.6%	26.4%	65+	77.7%	22.3%
Educational Attainment			Educational Attainment		
High School	80.5%	19.5%	High School	82.9%	17.1%
Some College	81.4%	18.6%	Some College	80.0%	20.0%
College Degree or greater	83.3%	16.7%	College Degree or greater	80.5%	19.5%
Community			Community		
City	86.9%	13.1%	City	84.4%	15.6%
Suburban area	78.8%	21.2%	Suburban area	79.5%	20.5%
Small town	79.6%	20.4%	Small town	81.5%	18.5%
Rural area	77.0%	23.0%	Rural area	74.1%	25.9%
Party Identification			Party Identification		
Democrat	92.0%	8.0%	Democrat	90.2%	9.8%
Republican	64.2%	35.8%	Republican	67.6%	32.4%
Independent	85.5%	14.5%	Independent	82.6%	17.4%

Inclusive Bias Crimes Legislation

- A clear majority of respondents (57.7%) agree that gay and lesbian Hoosiers should be included in bias crime legislation. Democrats (67.6%) and Independents (59.1%) were more likely than Republicans (47.8%) to support inclusion. Majorities support inclusion in urban, suburban, small town, and rural areas, in all educational attainment groups except those who did not go to college, and in all age categories except those 65 and older.
- Similarly, a clear majority of respondents (58.2%) agree that transgender Hoosiers should be included in bias crime legislation. Democrats (67.1%) and Independents (62.6%) were more likely than Republicans (47.3%) to support inclusion. Majorities support gender-identity inclusion in urban, suburban, small town, and rural areas, in all educational attainment groups, and in all age categories except those 65 and older.
- By comparison, 57.1% of respondents agree that race should be included in bias crime legislation, 55.2% agree that religion should be included, and 57.1% agree that gender should be included.

Should sexual orientation be included in the bias crimes legislation?			Should gender identity be included in the bias crimes legislation?		
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Overall	57.7%	42.3%	58.2%	41.8%	Overall
Gender					Gender
Male	56.5%	43.5%	60.2%	39.8%	Male
Female	59.0%	41.0%	57.7%	42.3%	Female
Marriage Status					Marriage Status
Married	56.0%	44.0%	54.7%	45.3%	Married
Unmarried	61.3%	38.7%	64.1%	35.9%	Unmarried
Age					Age
18-29	61.0%	39.0%	60.0%	40.0%	18-29
30-44	74.7%	25.3%	71.1%	28.9%	30-44
45-64	63.2%	36.8%	62.8%	37.2%	45-64
65+	40.3%	59.7%	45.1%	54.9%	65+
Educational Attainment					Educational Attainment
High School	49.0%	51.0%	52.3%	47.7%	High School
Some College	63.3%	36.7%	61.5%	38.5%	Some College
College Degree or greater	62.1%	37.9%	63.3%	36.7%	College Degree or greater
Community					Community
City	58.7%	41.3%	56.8%	43.2%	City
Suburban area	62.4%	37.6%	62.8%	37.2%	Suburban area
Small town	53.5%	46.5%	58.5%	41.5%	Small town
Rural area	59.1%	40.9%	56.5%	43.5%	Rural area
Party Identification					Party Identification
Democrat	67.6%	32.4%	67.1%	32.9%	Democrat
Republican	47.8%	52.2%	47.3%	52.7%	Republican
Independent	59.1%	40.9%	62.6%	37.4%	Independent

About the Respondents

- 76.9% of the respondents in the survey were either married, living with a partner, or widowed.
- 91% of the respondents identified as having a religious preference.
- There was strong bi-partisan participation in the survey including Republicans (28%), Democrats (35.5%), Independents (28.3%), and others (8.1%).
- 73% of the respondents in the survey were 45 years of age or older.

**Detailed information on
Participants****Gender**

Male	34.1%
Female	65.9%

Age

18-29	8.4%
30-44	18.6%
45-64	43.1%
65 or older	29.9%

Marital Status

Married	59.8%
Living with a partner	2.6%
Widowed	14.5%
Separated	1%
Divorced	11.4%
Never married	10.8%

Amount of education

0-11 years	5.2%
12 years	31.5%
Some college	32.3%
College degree or higher	31%

Work Status

Working for pay	48.8%
Temporarily unemployed	5%
Retired	33.3%
Keeping house	5.8%
Student	2.4%
Something else	3.4%
Not able to work	1.4%

Living Location

A city	24.3%
A suburban area	23.5%
A small town	29.4%

rural area	22.9%
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Own or Rent

Own	79%
Rent	19.2%
Other	1.8%

Political Affiliation

Democrat	35.6%
Republican	28%
Independent	28.3%
Something else	8.1%

Religious Preference

Catholic	16.4%
Protestant	43.9%
Other Christian	23.2%
Jewish	1%
Muslim	.2%
Some other religion	6.2%
No religious preference	9%

Annual Income

0-\$15,000	7.7%
\$15,000-\$25,000	8.3%
\$25,000-\$35,000	16%
\$35,000-\$50,000	19.9%
\$50,000-\$75,000	18.5%
\$75,000 or more	29.7%