bi·sex·ual adj.

of, relating to, or characterized by sexual or romantic attraction to people of one’s same sex and of the opposite sex.

also : of, relating to, or characterized by sexual or romantic attraction to people of one’s own gender identity and of other gender identities.

—Merriam-Webster Dictionary
**Key Terms**

- **BISEXUAL** (bi) is a term used to describe a person who experiences romantic, emotional, and/or sexual attraction to—and engages in relationships with—more than one gender.
  - It is most commonly believed to be an attraction to both men and women, but some bisexual people use it to mean all different genders (or two different genders such as women and non-binary people)\(^1\). Around half (52%) of the LGBTQ+ community is bi (33% women and 19% men)\(^2\).

- **BIERASURE** is when a bi person is in a relationship and their sexuality is erased. They are either seen as heterosexual or gay/lesbian (depending on the gender of the partner), or are told their sexuality does not matter. Often, they conceal their identity because of their chosen partner.

**Quick Facts**

- According to recently released data from the 2018 General Social Survey (GSS), the number of Americans who identify as bisexual is on the rise. Three percent of US adults identify as bisexual (1% increase since 2008)\(^3\).

- Bisexual people account for four in ten LGBTQ+ adults but are much less likely to disclose their sexual orientation than those who identify as gay or lesbian. Only 19% of bi people say that they were transparent about their sexual orientation to all or most of the important people in their lives.

- 84% of bisexual people are in a relationship with the opposite sex and 4% are in a relationship with someone who is transgender\(^4\).

- 59% of bisexual women and 32% of bisexual men have children.

- 23% of bisexual men and 32% of bisexual women are married.

- Negative stereotypes associated with being bisexual include: people thinking it is a phase; bisexuals are confused; bisexuals are hiding their real sexuality; or bi people are more promiscuous.

**Black Bisexuals**

- People of color are more likely to identify as LGBTQ+ than white people.

- According to the GSS study, 7% of Black people identified as bisexual.
  - 40% of LGBTQ+ people of color consider themselves bisexual\(^5\).
  - Black women accounted for a disproportionate amount of growth in LGB identification, 23% of Black women age 18-34 identified as bi\(^6\).

- Black bisexual people have intersecting stigma as they navigate racism, homophobia and biphobia, which can be internal and external.

- Black bisexual men face a lot of stigma, being seen as cheaters, liars and responsible for the transmission of HIV\(^7\). The surrounding stigma causes more bi men to live covertly, and it negatively impacts mental health. Black bisexual men have higher rates of depression, anxiety, PTSD, and physical assault\(^8\).

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1. Understanding Bisexuality
2. Reporting on the Bisexual Community
3. The rise of bisexuals in America is driven by women
4. Invisible Majority: The Disparities Facing Bisexual People And How To Remedy Them
5. How biphobia impacts Black bisexual men's health
6. 23% of young black women now identify as bisexual
7. Why Don't Black Men Get To Be Bisexual?
8. How biphobia impacts Black bisexual men's health