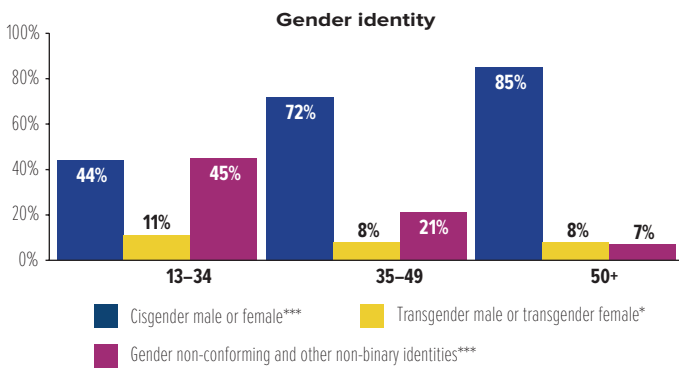
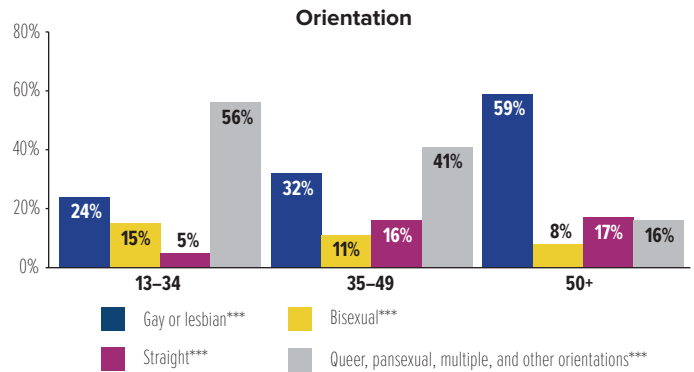


ISSUE BRIEF: Gender, Orientation, and Generational Change

Orientation

Examining survey respondents reported gender identity and sexual orientation labels reveals a generational shift in how New York’s LGBTQ+ community members view themselves. The overwhelming majority of respondents over age 50 said that they were gay, lesbian, bisexual, or straight, whereas over half (56%) of respondents under age 35 identified with a different orientation, such as queer or pansexual, other orientations, or multiple orientations.

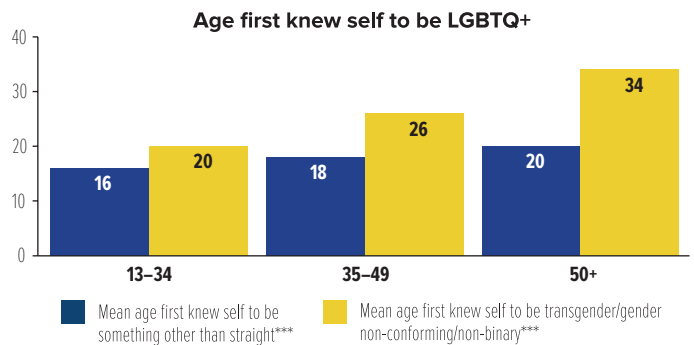


Gender

Likewise, almost half of under-35 respondents identified outside of the male/female binary, while 85% of respondents over 50 identified as cisgender male or female. Other data on needs, barriers, and access to services show that younger and older respondents report consistently different lived experiences that are statistically significantly associate with age.

Initial age of LGBTQ+ identity

Respondents were asked at what age they first knew themselves to be some orientation other than straight or identified as a gender not aligned with their sex assigned at birth. Here, too, we see important differences between generations. On average, respondents under age 35 **first felt** themselves to be something other than straight at age 16, compared with age 20 for respondents age 50 or older. Similarly, respondents under 35 **knew** that they were transgender/gender non-conforming/non-binary at age 20, nearly 15 years on average earlier than older T/GNC/NB respondents.



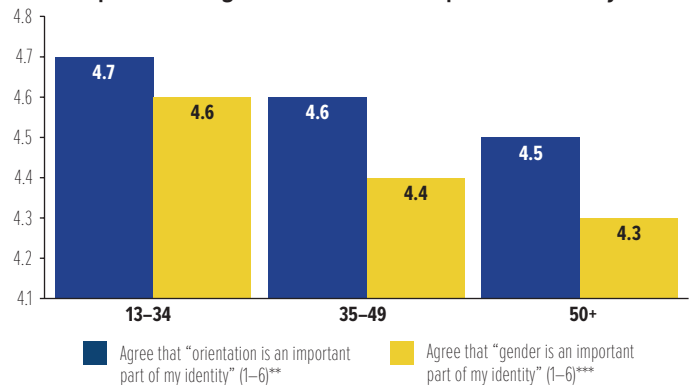
Note: Asterisks denote statistically significant difference from statewide percent, per t-test. * = $p < .05$; ** = $p < .01$; *** = $p < .001$

Note: Due to rounding of percentages, pie chart totals may add to 100%, +/- 1%.

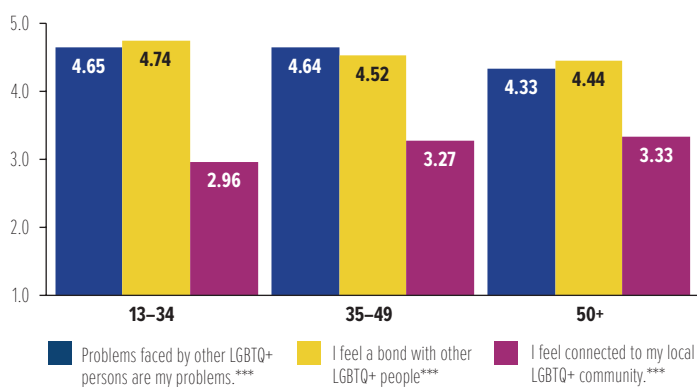
Importance of gender identity and orientation to personal identity

Strong differences in lived experiences associated with age are shown in responses to other questions throughout the survey. Younger LGBTQ+ individuals in New York State view their gender identity and/or sexual orientation as more important to their personal identity and overall sense of self than do older people.

Importance of gender/orientation to personal identity



Community Identification (1 = Strongly disagree, 6 = Strongly agree)



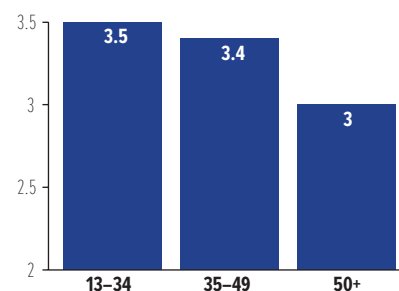
Community connections

Younger respondents reported slightly higher, but statistically significant, differences, when asked to what extent (on a 1–6 scale) they agree that the problems faced by the LGBTQ+ community are also my problems. The average rating for respondents under 35 was 4.7, versus 4.3 for those older than 50. Younger respondents also reported feeling a stronger “bond” between themselves and other LGBTQ+ persons, while older respondents felt a stronger connection to their “local LGBTQ+ community.”

Medical mistrust

Younger respondents reported higher levels of medical mistrust than older respondents at a highly statistically significant level, indicating more difficult experiences with medical providers for younger people.

Medical mistrust index (1–5 scale)***



Note: Asterisks denote statistically significant difference from statewide percent, per t-test. * = $p < .05$; ** = $p < .01$; *** = $p < .001$

Note: Due to rounding of percentages, pie chart totals may add to 100%, +/- 1%.