



EFFECTS OF INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCE VARIABLES, GENDER, AND EXCLUSIVITY OF SEXUAL ATTRACTION ON VOLUNTEER BIAS IN SEXUALITY RESEARCH



WHAT IS THIS PUBLICATION ABOUT?

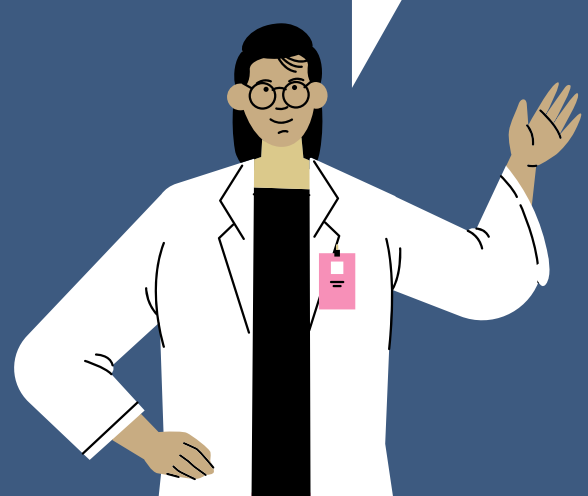
We wanted to find out if individual differences such as degree of sexual experience or sexual attitudes, gender, and exclusivity of sexual attraction (experiencing attraction exclusively to one gender vs. experiencing attraction to more than one gender) are associated with one's willingness to volunteer in sexuality research.

HOW DID WE GATHER INFORMATION?

A community sample of 307 cisgender men, 719 cisgender women, and 5 transgender individuals completed an online survey assessing willingness to participate in hypothetical sex research scenarios. Cisgender refers to gender identity corresponding with sex assigned at birth, and transgender refers to gender identity that differs from sex assigned at birth.

WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

Greater sexual experience and more positive attitudes towards sexuality were significant predictors of willingness to volunteer.



For online surveys, gender was not a significant predictor of willingness to volunteer. For eye tracking/psychophysiology studies, men were more likely to volunteer than women and trans participants.



For online surveys, sexual orientation was not a significant predictor of willingness to volunteer. For eye tracking/psychophysiology studies, individuals with any degree of same-gender attraction were more likely to volunteer than individuals exclusively attracted to the other gender.



This study shows that people who choose to participate in sex research differ in some characteristics compared to people who do not. As a result, the findings of sex research may not be generalizable to all people. Strategies to minimize volunteer bias should be implemented, including advertising methods to minimize self-selection biases.