

September 1, 2011

Dear Researcher,

Thank you for your interest in the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale (LGBIS).

The LGBIS was published in a scientific journal for use in the public domain. You do not need to contact any of the authors for permission to use this scale in noncommercial research. However, I do ask that researchers send any reports of research findings to me as soon as available, including those that remain unpublished. You may not use the scale for commercial purposes without permission.

The following pages contain the scale itself, as well as basic information about the scale. If you have questions or concerns about the LGBIS that are not addressed in these pages, then feel free to contact me using the contact information below.

Best wishes with your research!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Mohr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'R'.

Jonathan Mohr

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INFORMATION SHEET: *LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL IDENTITY SCALE*

What is the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale?

The Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale (LGBIS) is a 27-item measure designed to assess eight dimensions of lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) identity that have been discussed in clinical and theoretical literature. The development of the LGBIS is fully described by Mohr and Kendra (2011). This version of the scale replaces the unpublished version used and described in Balsam and Mohr (2007), as well as the original six-subscale Lesbian and Gay Identity Scale described by Mohr & Fassinger (2000).

Do I need to ask for permission to use the LGBIS?

In the interest of promoting further study, other researchers may use this scale without contacting us to obtain prior permission. However, we do ask that researchers send any reports of research findings as soon as available, including those that remain unpublished, to Jonathan J. Mohr.

What instructions should be given with the LGBIS?

For comparability to the norms published in our study (Mohr & Kendra, 2011), researchers should present respondents with the instructions included in this document (see next page). Also, at some point in the survey prior to these instructions, the following statement should be presented to respondents: “Some of you may prefer to use labels other than ‘lesbian, gay, and bisexual’ to describe your sexual orientation (e.g., ‘queer,’ ‘dyke,’ ‘questioning’). We use the term LGB in this survey as a convenience, and we ask for your understanding if the term does not completely capture your sexual identity.”

How are the eight LGBIS subscales scored?

Acceptance Concerns = average of items 5, 9, 16
Concealment Motivation = average of items 1, 4, 19
Identity Uncertainty = average of items 3, 8, 14, 22
Internalized Homonegativity = average of items 2, 20, 27
Difficult Process = average of items 12, 17, 23
Identity Superiority = average of items 7, 10, 18
Identity Affirmation = average of items 6, 13, 26
Identity Centrality = average of items 11, 15, 21, 24, 25
NOTE: Underlined items should be reverse scored.

What are the psychometric properties of the LGBIS?

Exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses were used to derive the eight LGBIS subscales. Data from a large sample of LGB college students supported the validity and reliability of LGBIS subscale scores, suggesting that the LGBIS may offer researchers an efficient means of assessing dimensions of LGB identity. The reliability of LGBIS subscale scores appears adequate for most research purposes, as demonstrated by internal consistency estimates and six-week test-retest correlations.

Can a total score be computed for the LGBIS?

This question assumes that there may be some overarching identity variable underlying the eight subscales. To test this assumption, I conducted exploratory factor analyses of the subscales

separately by gender and sexual orientation. Results differed somewhat for the various subgroups. However, based on what I found, I would suggest that the following subscales could be meaningfully averaged into a higher order scale: Acceptance Concerns, Concealment Motivation, Identity Uncertainty, Internalized Homonegativity, Difficult Process, and Identity Affirmation (reverse scored). This higher order variable might be meaningfully labeled as Identity Challenges or Negative Identity. Also, because this would represent a higher order factor, it would be best to score it by (a) first scoring the lower level subscales (through averaging item responses), and (b) next averaging the relevant subscales.

What else is important to know about the LGBIS?

Before using the LGBIS, we suggest you read about the instrument development process in the article below. It includes information on the earlier version of the LGBIS as well as the LGIS, the original measure on which the LGBIS is based.

Mohr, J. J., & Kendra, M. S. (2011). Revision and extension of a multidimensional measure of sexual minority identity: The Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale. *Journal of Counseling Psychology, 58*, 234-45.

Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale

For each of the following questions, please mark the response that best indicates your current experience as an LGB person. Please be as honest as possible: Indicate how you really feel now, not how you think you should feel. There is no need to think too much about any one question. Answer each question according to your initial reaction and then move on to the next.

	Disagree Strongly	Disagree	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Agree	Agree Strongly
1. I prefer to keep my same-sex romantic relationships rather private.	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. If it were possible, I would choose to be straight.	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. I'm not totally sure what my sexual orientation is.	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. I keep careful control over who knows about my same-sex romantic relationships.	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. I often wonder whether others judge me for my sexual orientation.	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. I am glad to be an LGB person.	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. I look down on heterosexuals.	1	2	3	4	5	6
8. I keep changing my mind about my sexual orientation.	1	2	3	4	5	6
9. I can't feel comfortable knowing that others judge me negatively for my sexual orientation.	1	2	3	4	5	6
10. I feel that LGB people are superior to heterosexuals.	1	2	3	4	5	6
11. My sexual orientation is an insignificant part of who I am.	1	2	3	4	5	6
12. Admitting to myself that I'm an LGB person has been a very painful process.	1	2	3	4	5	6

13. I'm proud to be part of the LGB community.	1	2	3	4	5	6
14. I can't decide whether I am bisexual or homosexual.	1	2	3	4	5	6
15. My sexual orientation is a central part of my identity.	1	2	3	4	5	6
16. I think a lot about how my sexual orientation affects the way people see me.	1	2	3	4	5	6
17. Admitting to myself that I'm an LGB person has been a very slow process.	1	2	3	4	5	6
18. Straight people have boring lives compared with LGB people.	1	2	3	4	5	6
19. My sexual orientation is a very personal and private matter.	1	2	3	4	5	6
20. I wish I were heterosexual.	1	2	3	4	5	6
21. To understand who I am as a person, you have to know that I'm LGB.	1	2	3	4	5	6
22. I get very confused when I try to figure out my sexual orientation.	1	2	3	4	5	6
23. I have felt comfortable with my sexual identity just about from the start.	1	2	3	4	5	6
24. Being an LGB person is a very important aspect of my life.	1	2	3	4	5	6
25. I believe being LGB is an important part of me.	1	2	3	4	5	6
26. I am proud to be LGB.	1	2	3	4	5	6
27. I believe it is unfair that I am attracted to people of the same sex.	1	2	3	4	5	6