

BRIDGE Survey: Methodology

I. About the Data

The BRIDGE survey was fielded between April 6, 2026 to June 1, 2026 to gather information regarding HIV prevention, care, and treatment. Responses were received through the Community Insights Panel and through recruitment efforts via distribution of surveys from partner organizations. Nearly 5,000 responses were received and after quality assurance and cleaning protocol, the final analytical sample was $n = 4,689$ LGBTQ+ adults.

II. Weighting and Estimation

Post-stratification weights were constructed using benchmark population distributions derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey (HPS), the largest nationally representative federal survey to routinely collect sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data. Benchmark estimates were generated from pooled HPS survey weeks and cross-sectional cycles to improve precision and stability, particularly for smaller LGBTQ+ subpopulations. Estimation incorporated the HPS person-level survey weights and 80 replicate weights provided by the Census Bureau, following recommended pooling procedures and variance estimation using Fay's modified balanced repeated replication (BRR) method (Fay coefficient = 0.5). The resulting weighted population estimates served as empirically derived calibration targets representing the contemporary demographic composition of the U.S. LGBTQ+ adult population.

These HPS-derived benchmark distributions were subsequently used to calibrate survey respondents through iterative proportional fitting (raking). Final survey weights were adjusted to align the sample with the benchmark marginal distributions for age, race and ethnicity, educational attainment, Census region, and sexual identity. All reported proportions, percentages, and population estimates were calculated using these final calibrated weights.