

PUBLIC OPINION ON GENDER AND SEXUAL DIVERSITY IN VIET NAM

INTRODUCTION

The study *“Public Opinion on Gender and Sexual Diversity in Viet Nam”* was conducted by the **Institute for Studies of Society, Economy and Environment (iSEE)** and the **Institute of Sociology and Psychology**, with technical and financial support from the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** in Vietnam.

The study shows that awareness and acceptance of LGBTI communities in Vietnam have improved significantly. Gay men and lesbians have high visibility, and most respondents believe that gender and sexual diversity, specifically homosexuality and transgender identity, are neither diseases nor deviant behaviors. The majority feel relatively comfortable when interacting with LGBTI people, and public support for same-sex marriage and related rights is relatively high.

OBJECTIVES

Provide updated data

Provide updated, comprehensive data on public awareness, attitudes, and opinions toward issues of gender and sexual diversity

Measurement public opinion

Measure levels and variations in public support or opposition

Analyze influencing factors

Analyze factors shaping supportive or non-supportive attitudes

Provide evidence for policies

Offer reliable, scientific evidence for policymakers in drafting and revising legislation, especially the Gender Affirmation Law, the Law on Gender Equality, and the Law on Marriage and Family.

METHODOLOGY

Sampling: Individuals aged 18–69 living in households or temporary residences at the time of the survey. Random selection at Province/City, Commune/Ward, Household levels.

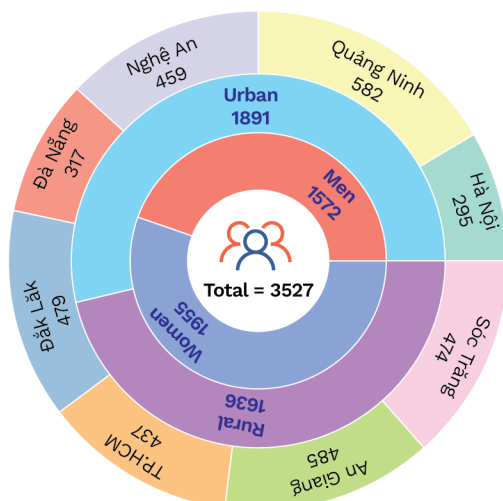


Figure 1: Stratified Sample Size

DATA COLLECTION

Quantitative survey:

Quantitative survey using structured questionnaires via smartphones. Enumerators conducted face-to-face interviews and recorded responses digitally.

Real-time monitoring:

Responses transmitted directly to a central server for real-time monitoring, ensuring accuracy, confidentiality, and timeliness.

Ethics:

All information provided by participants was anonymized and used exclusively for research purposes.

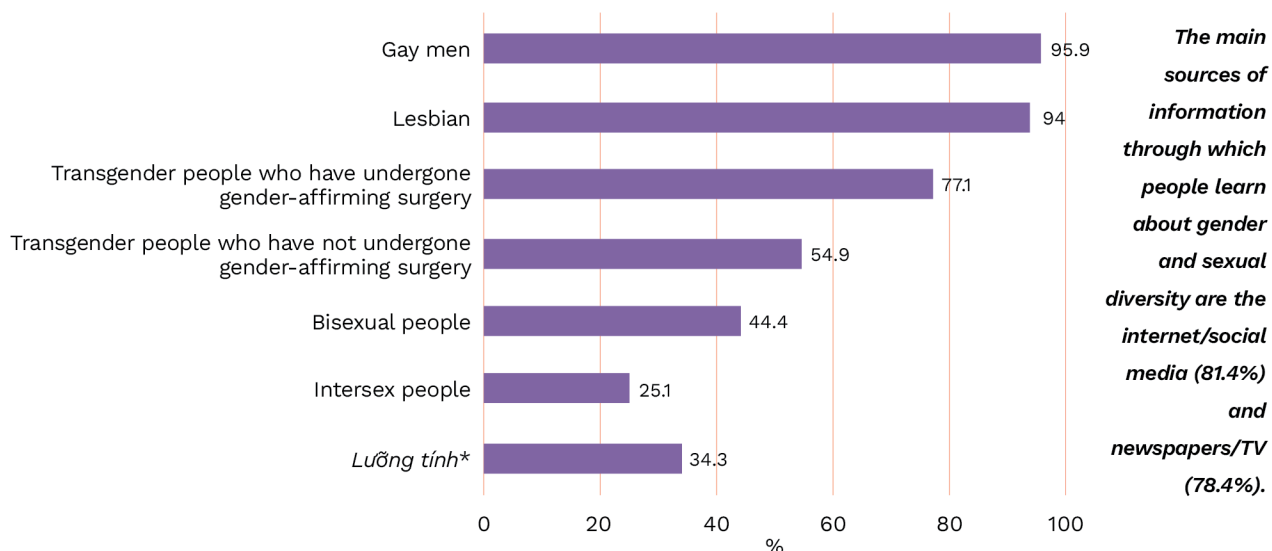
FINDINGS

Awareness of gender and sexual diversity

77.9% of respondents stated that genders beyond male and female exist. This proportion is higher among women under 40 with higher levels of education.

Levels of awareness of sexual orientations and gender identities vary: gay men (**96.9%**) and lesbians (**94.9%**) are the most widely recognized, while intersex (**9.9%**) remains much less known.

Figure 2: Awareness of Gender and Sexual Diversity



Awareness and attitudes toward gay and lesbian people

89.9% report feeling “normal,” “relatively comfortable”, or “completely comfortable” when interacting with gay people.

89.7% of respondents have heard of or know about same-sex couples living together as spouses.

69.0% do not consider homosexuality a disease or deviant behavior. This belief is strongest among those aged 18–39 (**76.2%**), lowest among those 54–69 (56.3%), and higher among women (**71.9%**) compared to men (**65.9%**).

Legal awareness and opinions on same-sex marriage

65.2% of respondents support same-sex marriage.

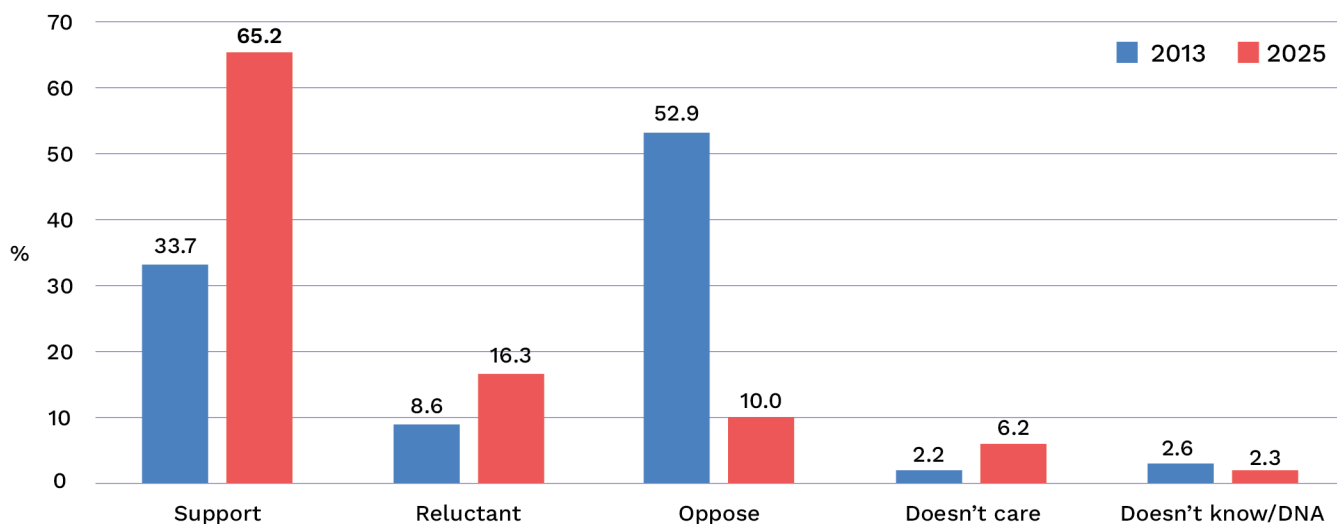


Figure 3: Support and Opposition to Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Marriage (2013 vs. 2025)

65.2% of respondents support same-sex marriage. With only **5.8%** in opposition, the **Vietnamese public supports marriage for same-sex couples by a 6-to-1 margin**. Support for parental rights and joint adoption is especially high at **78.0%**.



■ Awareness and attitudes toward transgender people

87.8% feel normal or comfortable when interacting with transgender people; only **8.6%** feel uneasy or uncomfortable.

70.9% say being transgender is neither a disease nor deviant behavior. Positive attitudes are highest among those aged 18–39 (**77.1%**) and lowest among those aged 54–69 (**57.7%**).

43% personally know or are acquainted with a transgender person; 51.7% have heard or read about transgender people through media; only 5.4% had never heard of them.

■ Opinions on legal gender recognition

63.1% support allowing gender transition through medical interventions under the law.

52.7% believe transgender people should be allowed to change the gender marker on their national ID after undergoing gender-affirming surgery; **20.9%** believe self-declaration or the desire to be recognized as another gender should be sufficient to change gender marker; **7%** say gender marker is not changeable in any case.

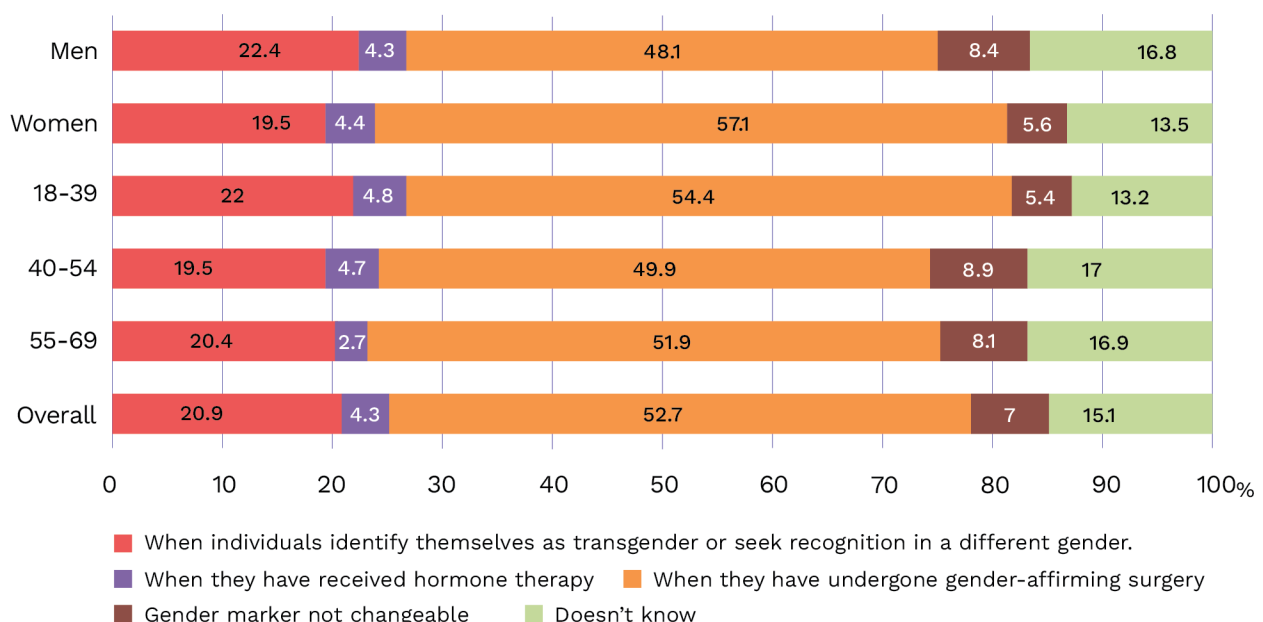


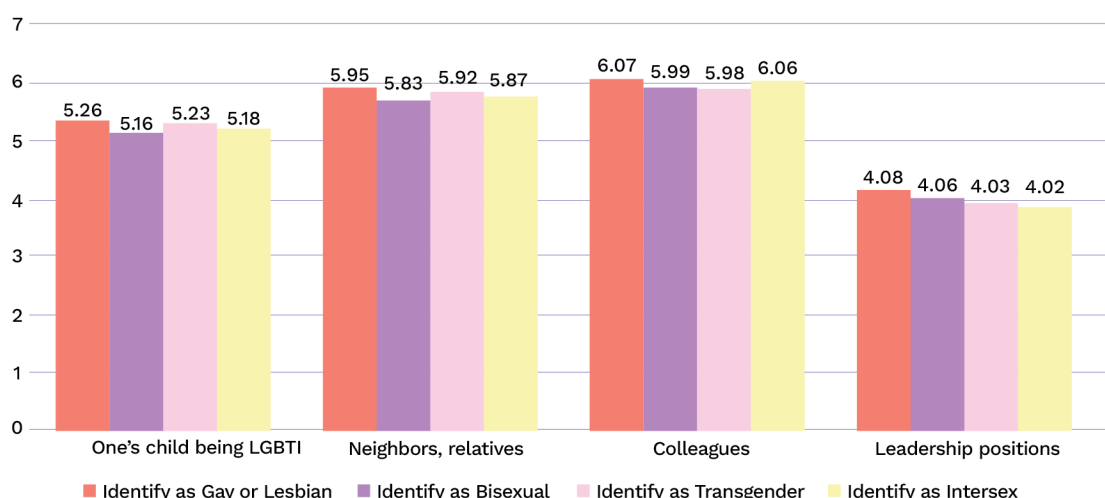
Figure 4: In which cases should transgender people be allowed to change their legal gender?

Changing gender markers on national ID is the most widely supported right for transgender people (**71.5%**), followed by changing one's name on ID (**61.1%**) and genital surgery (**52.9%**).

Issues such as retirement age and maternity leave regulations are considered by the majority to follow a person's affirmed gender, with support rates of **55.7%** and **53.4%**, respectively.

■ Attitudes toward hypothetical scenarios involving LGBTI people in family, work, and society

On a scale of 1–10 (1 = “Very uncomfortable,” 10 = “Very comfortable”), average comfort levels range from 4.02 to 6.07 with hypothetical situations involving LGBTI people.



■ CONCLUSION

As the Vietnamese government reviews the Law on Marriage and Family, the Law on Gender Equality, and the Gender Affirmation Law is to be discussed, understanding public attitudes toward sexuality and gender diversity is particularly important. This evidence ensures that future legal frameworks not only align with international standards but also reflect social realities and meet human rights protection needs.

When compared to the 2013 study “*Public Opinions on Same-Sex Marriage in Vietnam*” notable progress emerges:

- **The proportion of people who personally know someone gay nearly doubled, from 30.4% (2013) to 60.7% (2025).**
- **Awareness of same-sex couples living together rose sharply from 62.3% to 87.9% (+25.6%).**
- **Support for same-sex marriage nearly doubled, from 33.7% (2013) to 63.4% (2025).**

However, acceptance varies depending on context and relationship. Comfort levels are lower in more “sensitive” scenarios, such as having an LGBTI child or an LGBTI person in a high-level leadership position. The study also highlights clear generational differences: younger people (18–39) are more supportive than middle-aged and older groups (40–54 and 55–69), reflecting an important factor driving social attitude change.

These findings confirm the rapid and positive transformation of social perceptions toward LGBTI communities in Vietnam and underscore the potential to strengthen advocacy and policy engagement toward inclusive development goals for gender and sexual minorities.

LGBTI An abbreviation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex

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ID Identification/Identity Document

Visit: <https://thuvien.lgbt/> to read the full research report.

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***Note:** In Vietnam, the term “*lưỡng tính*” (hermaphroditism) is commonly used, but it is inaccurate and often leads to confusion. Depending on the context, it may refer to: Bisexual: a sexual orientation involving attraction to both men and women; Intersex: a biological variation where an individual's physical characteristics do not fully fit medical definitions of male or female.