

**A Survey of the Modern Orthodox Jewish Community in the United States
September 2017**

Responses to Q32. How have your attitudes toward sexuality changed over the past few years?

(This followed Q31, which asked if the respondent's attitudes toward sexuality had changed over the past few years, in terms of their knowledge, personal expectations, etc.; this was asked of those who responded "Yes.")

A NOTE ON ANONYMITY: The responses are presented verbatim, without corrections of spelling or grammar. We value respondents' anonymity very highly and treat it with the greatest respect and caution. To that end, all potentially identifying information (such as names of cities, shuls, rabbis, or other information that might identify a respondent) has been edited for purposes of anonymity [edits may be indicated by square brackets]. Please contact Nishma Research if you have any questions or comments on this matter.

- More respectful of the wide variety of experiences of others
- Much more tolerant of LBGQT
- Awareness of sexuality as more of a spectrum and less binary
- Grappling with same sex relationships due to the fact that some of our friends' children are in those relationships
- More cognizant of transgender & LGBT issues.
- More accepting of my sexuality and others
- I got married
- As someone who became more religious recently, I have developed a slightly more traditional view of sexuality recently.
- More conservative personally.
- I strongly believe that the Torah is the only guide for a Jew to live a truly meaningful life, including all its restrictions on sexual activity.
- more sensitively. as a husband, it was important to me to recognize that it was difficult from my wife to go from "0 to 100" with little guidance/awareness and specifically in terms of feeling that such acts are now allowed in marriage
- More open to people's ideas and what they want to do
- Better understanding of gay Jews
- Tzinut, humility, shomer negiah
- just with aging I have learned more
- I am more accepting of gay individuals
- Learned about a gay person
- more open and informed
- Much more open to homosexuality as a reality
- I have become more accepting of people with different orientations or who express their sexuality more openly than I do
- I just learned more I think
- I got married; for obvious reasons as somebody that didn't have premarital sex that changed everything!
- They have become more realistic. I also have to thank BatSheva Marcus and Joy of Text and my sexual dysfunction doctor who helped me with issues pertaining to painful intercourse.
- drastically increased acceptance of LGBTQ individuals + attitudes
- Much more open to physical intimacy outside marriage
- I discovered I was gay
- Halakhah and shomer negiah were not designed for singles in their thirties. Developing an ethical approach to intimate physical activity outside the scope of halakhah is an important part of my adulthood.
- Become more liberal
- I have become more open and accepting of other people's sexual identity but as a cohen I personally have challenges with the young modern orthodox community. As someone who is observant the topic of sexuality can make dating more challenging.
- Become more liberal.
- I have become more open to diverse human sexuality
- Being married has taught me many new things!
- I have learned more about hilchot niddah through a chavruta and that has changed my views on how I plan to keep taharat mishpacha.
- I have taken the opportunity to be exposed to more viewpoints on sexuality than I had in my Jewish day school and have thus been able to grow in my understanding of others' experiences.
- More stringent
- I learned hilchos niddah b'iyun.

- More nonchalant
- I've become more secure with with own judgment
- As an 30 year old single in the Jewish community I look back on the way shomer negiah was taught and enforced in my community with a mix of horror and shame. We do not cultivate healthy conversations around sexuality and the expressions thereof in general and especially not for those who are single.
- I've become much more open to physical relationships outside of the context of marriage and have stopped being shomer negiah.
- Understanding and Including transgender individuals into our lives
- As I have gotten older it has been something that I have both had to think about and has been more part of conversations. I think that sex was not spoken about in high school, but once one is finished with college it is part of the conversation with regards to dating- even if it is not a public conversation.
- knowledge
- I've learned more about feminism, intersectionality, masculinity, homophobia, misogyny, and have vowed to play an active role in disrupting sexism and discrimination against LGBTQI community members.
- As I entered into my late 20's and early 30's, I stopped being "shomer negiyah" privately when in a serious relationship. I am also very supportive of LGBT rights and specifically, Orthodox shuls welcoming LGBT members fully. This is due to the experience of having a few close friends coming out as gay over the past few years, which pushed me from being hesitantly open to LGBT rights to being fully supportive.
- More open to LGBTQ. Less judgemental of older singles being sexually active.
- I no longer believe in sex outside of marriage (and, as such, stopped having it)
- I support lgbqt rights, even though I believe this perspective incompatible with torah
- Its just more complicated and less ascetic than I thought
- I have only been sexually active since my wedding 2 years ago. I was surprised to find a sex-positive attitude in Judaism and learned about it during my kallah classes. My relationship with mikvah is more positive than I expected it to be, but my relationship with the harchakot and the yemim nekiyim is more negative than I expected. When I have questions I ask a Maharat, or use the nishmat website, but the Maharat is not in my shul.
- Moved away from yeshivish ideas and toward modern, practical, biological ideas
- Not as judgey about same sex couples
- More open to gays.
- Sexuality is an important part of our lives, even before marriage. There was very little discussion of sexuality and the anatomy of my body which left me feeling unprepared to understand those topics. I do not think sexuality should be a taboo topic and that the Orthodox community needs to make an effort to discuss these issues more openly.
- much more open to sexuality as a spectrum and not one way or another
- My attitude is more liberal.
- It's amazing how your understanding of the world can expand when you educate yourself by taking the time to listen to a wide range of viewpoints and experiences, both inside and outside the Orthodox and Jewish world.
- I have come to realize that sexuality is an important part of my life, even before marriage. There is not enough discussion about sexuality and the anatomy of the body. This left me feeling naive and unprepared to deal with these issues. I am a bug advocate for ending the taboo on these topics and discussing them more openly in the Orthodox community.
- I discovered after I got married that I had a sexual pain disorder. Thankfully things have gotten much better, but this was something that I had never heard of was totally unprepared for. It took me a long time to understand what was happening to me and led to me losing trust in my body for a while. I wished this was something that my kallah teacher could have made me aware of, because I've learned that this is actually fairly common and that there's a community of women who have gone through this. It would have helped me to have been aware of this possibility before I got married, and also would have helped me feel less stigmatized.
- Much more comfortable talking about sex in all settings.
- From an opinion very critical of gay Jews who identify as Orthodox to one of understanding that there is little choice in sexuality (different opion re: gender), and most would chose to be heterosexual if possible. Would like to see them accepted in shuls, but must appreciate that it is still deeply complicated.

- I am very recently married, so I went from an immature view of basic avoidance to acceptance and enjoyment
- Got married
- I think it is a part of a person that needs to be controlled in a healthy manner.
- I've developed a more open-minded view as my experience getting to know other people from other walks of life and their perspectives.
- I got married, so I have personal experience.
- Become more exploration and encouraged spouse to do the same
- Toward my own sexual needs, in the context of getting older and having children.
- Less restrictive a la my super-yeshivish kalla teacher.
- I've become more halachically oriented
- I have become very concerned that we are too modest in our discussions of sexuality.
- Since getting married I think about the act of sex and sexual attraction in many different ways. There are many expectations that one has about sex and intimacy (and I'm even speaking about the mature understandings of them) that are different to the couple based on their values, physical needs and desires, etc. and I feel that we're starting to get a real grasp on what those mean to us as a couple.
- More open to discussion. Question/less identification with hamachik approach to sexuality
- Become more open, people should be able to do what they want.
- Much more open to gender differences
- I've always been pretty open to the idea of it, but the more I learn, the more empowered I feel about it, and the more I want to learn about the actual halachot regarding it, and the more I realize I've not been taught, which motivates me to learn more.
- I think I have more comfort supporting hat rights politically but not religiously. It's hard to feel both at once.
- I got married three years ago and was not sexually active prior to marriage, so it was not something that I had actual experience with before a few years ago.
- More accepting of same sex relationships.
- I have more knowledge of LGBTQ sexuality and more knowledge of child-development in terms of sexuality. I seek out more sources proactively.
- More accepting
- More exploration within the framework of Halacha
- I became a doctor. I'm not scared of female anatomy anymore.
- my nephew is gay - opened up my mind
- More accepting of homosexuals
- More strict
- Dealing with boys going through puberty
- I look at sexuality through a Jewish lens and appreciate the family purity laws.
- Open to acceptance of homosexuality in modern synagogues
- Different strokes for different folks
- Accept homosexual-lesbian self definition
- Not clear what you are asking for in this question. I will say that I have always been LGBTQ excepting and embracing. I am an Orthodox mother of a gay son and I am fully open and embracing about it and him.
- Much less opinionated
- Now that I'm married and having sex it's less foreign to me
- Much more knowledgeable of concerns of GLBTQ community
- more understanding of homosexuality
- More understanding
- Mostly, I like to think I've simply grown wiser. I was not religious as a young adult, which coincided with the Flower Children era. Today I am far more conservative on the subject.
- More understanding of homosexual Concerns
- EDITED: As a young woman, became more aware of and a user of porn. More sexually self-aware. Advises friends on the subject. Used to ascribe to abstinence until marriage. But then I had my first kiss from my crush at a college visit weekend to Stern College then I hooked up with an Israeli guy during shana alef, and then I started being sexually active with various boyfriends during my undergrad years in Stern. Today I have been dating my boyfriend for close to 8 months and our sex life has been a blessing for both of our lives. I feel so blessed to be with someone so sexually compatible with me. So when my parents push us to get married now because of "the yetzer hara," well... they just have no idea.
- I've developed a deeper understanding of sexuality as a complex phenomenon, the importance of it in my life and in human life, and the possibilities for enjoyment and connection that it offers.
- More lenient and less stringent and judgmental with age

- Inclined to believe orthodox communities need to ensure gay individuals can feel like they have a place in and belong in the community.
- well, i came to terms with being a straight woman in the wrong body.
- I have become more comfortable with and knowledgeable about sexuality as I have experienced it directly in the course of my marriage over the last three years.
- I've become much more open to sexual possibilities and accepting of sexuality in general. Whereas a few years ago I did not intend to have premarital sex, I now do. (Although I don't intend to get married, so I'm not sure it's technically "premarital", but I digress.)
- become more understanding of gay relationships including marriage
- Yes more accepting
- matured like other attitudes
- It is 2017 and I have become less judgmental and more accepting of people who live their lives differently from mine
- Acceptance of homosexuality and other forms of interpersonal identification
- More accepting of different orientations. Also more open to different sexual activities with spouse.
- I used to think being shomer negiah was of the utmost importance. I currently believe that doing so could be detrimental to one's relationship with a significant other before they are married.
- more understanding of people
- Understanding more and more that sexual orientation is not an entirely voluntary choice.
- I got married and went from being Shomer Negiah into a committed relationship. I learned a lot more about my own sexuality through this process.
- Got married- changed everything!
- I have read more. Understood more about sexuality in marriage and how to educate religious youth in positive ways.
- Accepting of homosexuality.
- homosexuality is an inherent trait and orthodox shuls and communities should stop pretending that its a choice.
- i am much more accepting of openly practicing gay people
- As a baal shuva, I have greater respect toward those who oppose pre-marital sex
- What happens in the bedroom is no one else's business. My attitude is more open.
- I have become more knowledgeable and open
- Become more knowledgeable and education through classes, books, etc
- I am less accepting of demonstrative sexuality and advocate greater privatization of sexual expression
- I have learned much more about gender and sexual diversity.
- I was a child of the 60's. Now I am 68, widowed 2½ years ago, starting to "date," and have learned to recognize the wisdom of the traditional way of doing things as opposed to the way I grew up.
- I have become more knowledgeable and comfortable with the idea.
- I view sexuality in a more Jewish context than I did previously.
- Learned more as I got married... became more comfortable discussing sexuality with doctors etc
- I view sexuality in a more Jewish context than I had previously.
- Acceptance of lesbian and gay members of the orthodox jewish community is very important because they too were created b'tzelem Elohim
- I see a fuller picture of sexuality; how it drives human behavior. I understand that homosexuality is not a personal preference for most gay individuals, but an inner drive.
- We are always learning.
- I've become more aware of LGBTQ issues and struggles and have learned more about psychology of love and relationships and have strengthened my views on what a relationship should be etc
- Must accept people for who they are Their sexuality is not my affair
- I was not raised in orthodoxy, and so I've developed an appreciation for the spiritual element of sexual/sexuality.
- Recognizing the reality and ramifications of the fact that orientation is God-given and not learned. Gay people, like diabetics, are unable (as compared to unwilling) to perform certain Mitzvas. It doesn't preclude them from doing the others.
- Became more tolerant
- I guess that I have become a lot less homophobic over the years
- I try to educate our children about sex in a developmentally appropriate way.

- Sex is more scheduled. Also have increased affectionate actions within our marriage on a more daily cycle. We are careful to be kind to each other, even in times of stress.
- less homophobic
- life getting more hectic changes realistic expectations of sexual life.
- Breaking the gender barrier.
- Much more open and forthcoming, high school and Jewish education tends to have some ridiculous, unhealthy, unrealistic expectations and attitudes towards sexuality, especially for women/ and young people in general. There is a great deal of shame and repression, rather than acceptance, discussion, awareness and knowledge.
- More understanding of homosexuality
- I have learned from listening to the Joy of Text podcast
- I have become much more understanding of homosexuality
- I'm much more conservative in my views.
- Lines are much more blurred.
- Abstaining until marriage is neither realistic nor widely upheld in my community.
- I got married this past yr and I now have a much better understanding of the tahras hamishpacha and the beauty in which that entails
- coming from a family that was chozer betshuva there was minimal exposure to sex even for educational purposes i think that some communities look down upon asking questions, talking about uncomfortable topics, etc that wont help us grow
- As a result of general increased knowledge and maturity I have recognized that sexuality is fluid and exists on a spectrum of sorts
- much more liberal for other people I still wish people would not share their sexual orientation publicly and pridefully. Feel free to stay in the closet, I will not pry , Show respect for our Rabbis and tradition Why do I have to know what you do out of shul?
- I have accepted myself as a lesbian
- I've just been exposed to more knowledge and have created a sense of "to each their own" on this issue.
- become more conservative
- More open to finding a place for homosexual Jews in modern orthodoxy
- I think homosexuals do not choose to be that way.
- I have remarried and my wife and I are committed to taharas hamishpachah, which is a new addition to my life.
- Expanded my understanding of sexuality both generally and personally. Developed a more forgiving and positive approach to sexuality. Developed a more open and communicative approach to sexuality.
- As I have become more religious I have viewed my own sexual conduct in a different light. For example, my husband and I were never shomer negiah and it became increasingly more difficult to feel comfortable with having sex before marriage.
- Before we got married, I had no concept of my own sexuality. Coming from Bais Yaakov, I was very insecure about my own body and what it could do. Thankfully, my husband was very knowledgeable and understanding (due to his more open upbringing) and fought with his Rabbi to allow us to do anything we wanted in the bedroom (oral sex, etc). Now I feel I have a very healthy and positive sexual experience thanks to him, but I know this is not always the case for many from my background.
- I have learned to separate my personal religious belief on the life choices of others from my understanding of their moral rectitude and have been able to prevent myself from relating to such individuals in any other way besides that which their social and interpersonal actions would dictate.
- I have become more accepting of LGBT individuals
- I'm 18 now, so basically changing of attitude was learning what it was.
- Our daughter came out as LGBT and we became very involved with Eshel which supports frum parents of gay children. Changed my whole perspective.
- I'm not sure how to explain.
- Terminated sexual relations
- Judaism supports marriage centered sexuality
- Becoming shomer negia.
- I've become more accepting of gay rights.
- Less repressed
- As I have become religious I first went from having a typical secular attitude that premarital sex is positive to reluctantly accepting prohibitions against premarital sex and now to embracing and really believing in the value of not having sex outside of marriage.
- I learned to appreciate the times I'm a niddah.
- My understanding of Lgbt issues has increased
- more open to other peoples desires

- Became married, developed a more spiritually inclined attitude toward the topic.
- I found out that my kallah class teacher taught me chumros as halachos.
- more understanding of gay issues
- I realized how stupid shomer negiah is for people who are still single past the age of 21 or 22.
- more open to acceptance of LGBTQ
- more open to discuss and more flexible thinking
- Got married
- More open
- I have become more open and accepting of individuals who's sexual gender orientation is not generally approved by halacha
- As the parents of a young child, we've struggled to find time to connect as a couple.
- My personal inclinations haven't changed but my view of LGBT+ people has become less about them being the butt of jokes, and more viewing them as full human beings deserving of dignified treatment, same as anyone else.
- I have become more and more accepting and understanding of various people's experiences and lives.
- Now, I am accepting of all people and whatever their sexuality is, that was not the case before.
- Became more understanding and liberal thinking
- In getting married I leave more about Jewish approaches
- more aware of the prevalence of different identities
- I am more welcoming to homosexual individuals within Orthodox practice
- It's no longer as important
- More aware of diverse opinions and the plight of those marginalized by the unlearned masses.
- I am more cognizant that things vary from person to person and there is no normal.
- More accepting
- I was already somewhat accepting of practices considered out of the norm. I'm now a bit more accepting than before.
- Much more open to LGBT
- Am more tolerant of the existence of same sex couples.
- more open
- Open to more experiences.
- They have become more lax. I understand better about gender fluidity and appreciate people's demand for full rights of all orientations.
- As we become a more tolerant, progressive world- we need to understand more about various communities and sub-communities.
- expecting that having a baby naturally might not occur, it is a 'norm' to be sexually active before marriage
- Disappointment
- I have unlearned my nails yaakov education. I now believe that Hashem gave me my body and desires as a way to fully connect to my spouse. My body and sexual needs and desires are not shameful or wrong and are simply private, rather than embarrassing
- acceptance of gay rights and gender identity rights
- More accepting of LBGT people
- More liberal
- More accepting of Gay and transgender people.
- I got married 4 years ago. While I was single, I never talked about anything with anyone and I had so much anxiety about getting married. I worked with a therapist and a kallah teacher. After I got married, I've been much more open about talking about things, vocalizing my feelings, and I've been much more able to talk to my husband openly about our sex lives.
- More open minded with myself and others
- More strict after seeing how every year & every generation loses more innocence & modesty & becomes more desensitized & more base.
- Brought up to believe that sex wasn't important
- I have become more accepting of those with alternative lifestyles.
- More tolerant of gay marriage.
- I believe that gay Jewish families should be able to be members of my shul.
- I am more open to secular gay marriage.
- I've become more accepting of LGBTQ issues.
- Others might have different orientation Am more understanding and accepting
- I am very accepting of any Jew as long as they are ethical and a mensh
- More accepting.
- i believe in pre marital sex
- I am less opposed to my daughter having sex before marriage if it's in the context of a loving relationship
- I think that gender isolation in the community is damaging to social structure

- more accepting of people who are gay
- I've reached menopause so some things have changed regarding my sexuality.
- Greater understanding, compassion and acceptance of individuals of all communities.
- My nephew is gay. It's very hard for me to come to terms with, but I'm trying.
- In general I've become more tznius in my dress and behavior. I have come to see the value in it more and more as I've grown in my observance on other levels. On another note, though, I have come to resent some of the derabanan additions to the family purity laws and I have often found myself wishing that we could have a Sanhedrin again so the rules could be modified. I believe more non-orthodox women would be willing/interested to do niddah and mikveh if it were a little less confusing and a little more reasonable for people who tend to have short menstrual cycles.
- I have 2 family members who are transgender. I have become more understanding of their experience.
- much more open about LGBT
- I got married and became sexually active. I'm sure it's changed my attitude - not sure how.
- Advocate for acceptance of LGBT Jews who wish to remain in the modern orthodox community.
- I believe that Orthodox views of sexuality are deeply and fundamentally misogynist and rooted in a need to keep women at a disadvantage.
- Less judgmental about other people's choices. premarital sex would not have "ruined" me and I would have found a suitable mate anyway.
- believe that for many, although not all, persons who identify as gay that this is biologically driven and that cannot be "cured" and that those persons who choose to engage in same sex relations should be welcomed even though such conduct is not halachically approved. however, opposed to recognizing "gay marriage"
- Prior to marriage, I had no experience. As I am now married for 13 years, I have a greater understanding about the subject.
- I do believe in the importance of sex after marriage, but I think one should have reasons other than religious ones. I also see the benefit to experimenting on occasion.
- Jewish institutions need to provide MUCH more (healthy) sex education.
- I have become more accepting towards the LGBT community.
- When it became clear that the rabbanut in Israel secretly but intentionally put something in marriage ceremony in nonreligious communities (i.e., nonkosher witness) so that it can be retroactively annulled if necessary in order to prevent mamzeirim, the concept of premarital sex on a religious level, changed. It was explained that such child born of such union has no stigma. But community on whole (or male rabbis) dont want men to become irrelevant and allow or endorse single motherhood when women cannot find a spouse. Meanwhile 65 year old single men will say they want t a "young wife" who can have children... yeah, where were they when the women they were dating said that 15/20 years ago?
- I might be a bit more liberal
- I am a Yoetzet Halacha, so this is my field.
- More conservative
- I am no longer looking to hook up because I found my wife.
- I am more accepting of gay/lesbian relationships than I was, more likely to consider relationships outside of chuppah and kiddushin
- I have become more liberal
- More open
- I am more accepting of same sex couples as love does not have a wrong or a right
- Mixed feelings over the practice of taharat hamishpacha and its lack of openness to modernity
- No longer shomer negiah due to too many single Orthodox men being gay. I don't want to marry a gay man so I need to test out his heterosexuality...
- People are what they are.
- More snius
- More open to secular gay marriages.
- more tolerant of alternate behaviors and lifestyles
- I now believe that it is not necessary to experience sexuality prior to marriage
- Being that I am a senior, I feel less restricted now for many reasons. I now follow my own rules using good judgement and high moral standards in my behavior.
- I have completely given up. I am tired of not being satisfied and years of it. I am tired of not being listened to as far as desires and wishes
- More tolerant
- More liberal having lived in the broader world.

- Things have become less black and white, more gray areas.
- Less religious
- More reading and informational. Less emotion-based
- Slowly realizing I deserve more and have more rights than I've thought in the past
- Totally accepting of homosexuality now. No problem with pre-marital sex. View orthodox attitude as creating more problems than necessary. Our kids are so confused by all of this.
- I'm more liberal
- I'm more conservative in my views of sexuality.
- Somewhat more positive about gays.
- I think I have become more fully accepting of things like same sex marriage
- Gotten more conservative and more disdainful of secular culture
- I have come to understand that sexuality is not a choice anyone makes - it's how one is born.
- Less concerned with what other people do. Everyone has different challenges and it's not for me to decide which is greater in G-d's eyes. There is little emphasis on women's sexuality in yeshivos and beyond which creates a void in married life.
- More tolerant of people with alternative lifestyles
- Having children has made me more aware of displays in the open world and a little bit more conservative in what I allow into my home or what we listen to and see.
- Will it's up to the person and Hashem
- Actually being in a relationship, I feel like my generalizations have melted away. I find myself strongly resonating with the ideas of shomer negia and actually realizing that touch is precious and something I predominantly only want to share with my partner.
- More willing to accept people who are different than me
- more tolerant of other - can agree to disagree
- far more liberal and tolerant
- My opinion of men has been diminished. I have learned that too many who pose as Orthodox do not live according to halacha. My husband A"H was an exception to that rule.
- Im 20 so if they haven't changed since I was 10 there would be some serious issues
- More understanding of others who identify with LGBTQ
- except, tolerate, individuals who act and think different than me
- I no longer feel on a personal level that homosexuality is abhorrent despite the fact the Torah is opposed. I don't think this is a fight Orthodox Judaism should be expending energy on, we have too many other far more pressing issues to contend with.
- As I have become an observant Jew, I've increasingly incorporated laws and values of tzniut into my personal conduct, eventually becoming shomer negia (with a couple of lapses).
- I used to be very uncomfortable with it. Now, I admire those who try to stay Orthodox while being true to themselves.
- I have become more knowledgeable and understanding
- More understanding in general.
- this is a very ambiguous question. is it with regard to Judaism or just in general? I have definitely become more open minded, accepting and non-judgemental about sexual choices
- Generally slowly but steadily trending toward more openness to experimentation in the bedroom (i.e. positions, aids), and observance of harchakot vacillates.
- More understanding of homosexuality,
- I am comfortable in being an openly gay woman living an Observant life. I know it is possible if we simply are embraced by our communities and our Rabbis learn to become better at inclusion.
- I believe that gay people should not be shunned.
- Am much more accepting of LGBTQ community
- I think gays should have a place in shul and orthodox life/community.
- Accept other ways....reluctantly
- Far more accepting of different leanings and needs
- more accepting of other people's choices
- I wonder if the prohibition against premarital sex is a good idea, and I wonder what should be recommended to couples who have intimacy issues and where keeping Niddah would make it worse because they are barely intimate in the first place and if they all of a sudden feel like being intimate and it's the wrong time of the month, it's a problem. I also wonder who kids who are raised with it being discouraged from exploring sexuality are expected to not feel guilty and to feel free when married.
- I have a deeper understanding of people with different sexual and sexuality issues.

- more tolerant of lgbt community
- I was born in 1924 and my views have not changed from when I was raised. I realize that there are new approaches in all social models.
- more liberal
- more conservative
- More open toward homosexual members' participation in communal events
- Appreciate the challenges posed by pornography and other media depictions of sexual relations, non-binary gender identity, and homosexuality.
- more inclusive
- I believe in self acceptance. I don't view people as defined as good or bad as people based upon acts that veers from Jewish religious sexual norms. Tolerance and acceptance does not mean that "Judaism" should redefine its religious norms.
- It is more of a spiritual relationship rather than solely physical. The intimacy is more genuine
- I feel that it needs to be talked about more openly as with more information the healthier sex life you will have.
- Yes. More accepting of alternative lifestyles of others.
- Frustration is common and should be expected
- I have been a lot less active
- I've gone through menopause and my sex drive has decreased
- Yes. I feel, after speaking with friends who have grown up frum and have been married for years, that Orthodox women need to feel more comfortable speaking about sexuality within a Halachic context. Often from teenage environments have trained girls that sexuality is not something to be discussed because we promote abstinence, however after marriage when sex is permitted women are still under the impression it's inappropriate to discuss. So if they need guidance or help it often takes a very long time, if ever, for them to find solutions.
- Not mine but others. People who are homosexual or trans. I wonder if and how to accept them
- more open
- I think sexuality is a very private issue and have little to no opinion of other people's sexuality.
- Prefer not to answer
- Feel more free
- Open to new relationships after divorce.
- I have come to adopt a very individualist approach when it comes to the intersection of halachic

observance, avairas and tshuva, community support of human diversity, and promoting anti-bigoted attitudes among fellow Jews. I believe that people will struggle with and make avairas having to do sexual attraction/orientation, and trans issues. I promote a publicized Torah observant standard of halacha while maintaining respect for the privacy of people's sexual lives and relationship with HaShem which unequivocally complex and difficult. Much the same way many men masturbate, there will always be gay Jews and their private actions/struggles should not be scrutinized in a way that leads to ostracization and marginalization beyond what they must already feel based on their relationship with Halacha. Promote the notion judgement will be from HaShem, not from their fellow Jew who during this life can support their halachic observance in other ways.

- I became a baalas teshuva and learned about the holiness of sexuality. I also attended kallah classes before my marriage.
- I'm married. I wasn't always religious. 1 woman feels limiting.
- More accepting of alternative -- gay, lesbian, trans -- lifestyles
- I find many gay people to be kind and productive citizens but still do not believe in gay marriage.
- more open minded
- I have gone to the mikvah and tried to follow the laws of family purity.
- I've realized that lgbt relationships can be normal, moral, and halachically observant. I've learned that sexual modesty is a normal thing that normal people desire and not (always) a symptom of the oppression of women.
- acceptance of same sex marriage, recognizing that there are more than two genders
- More liberal and accepting
- I have learned more medical, physiological, psychological and Jewish factors that are at play and have gotten more involved in education on the topic.
- Much more accepting of homosexuality; but still have issues with trans-sexuality.
- More open
- Not as important as they used to be.
- More accepting of mainstream gender issues/ identity and supporting that community
- My own personal experiences have allowed me to become more open, more fluid, and more honest.
- Our son is gay

- I'm young, so I've learned more information
- I'm more accepting of LGBTQ people
- acceptance of the LGBTQ community
- I am tolerant of different sexual ways as long as it does not affect me, or my ability to express my views openly. I feel there is a political influence that is trying to force me to change how I think.
- I have begun to think more about LGBT
- sexuality like religion is personal
- believe that homosexuality as committed to marriage, family, children should be reclassified and treated positively. this includes same sex marriage. believe that the halachah should approach sexuality and expression of love more favorably, warmly, more expressively.
- I am more aware of things as a result of my profession and current community that often were not discussed in my prior community
- I have realized that there is a lot of negativity toward sex and sexuality, I am attempting to be more open minded and less reactive when hearing how others live.
- I think that sexuality is an important part of human experience and needs and that we as Orthodox Jews need to become more comfortable in discussing this from earlier ages with our kids. I think that teachings about the forbiddenness of normal, healthy sexual development such as fantasizing or masturbation should not be emphasized to teens in schools. I think we need to do a better job helping ourselves and our children feel comfortable and confident in their bodies and in their bodily responses to the world including nuances of sexual need and desire, and empower ourselves, them to develop satisfying ways of fulfilling those needs and desires, and learning from a younger age - junior hs, HS - about the ways Jewish tradition cultivates healthy sexuality.
- Greater understanding of the role of healthy sexuality in Jewish life
- Became more tolerant of other people's sexual expression, as one of my daughters, and a niece, identified as same-sex (gay, lesbian, words that mean the same thing but have different emotional weight to them)
- I've become more relaxed and open minded, more open to trying new things to accommodate spouse
- I was very sexually active before becoming observant. Sex through a Jewish lens is very different especially when with a committed, life-long partner.
- We've become more liberal in our private sexual practices. Our practices may not conform to what is prescribed by her locker or preached by Orthodox rabbi's.
- Becoming a quiet advocate and supporter of organizations with the aim of LGBT inclusion in the Orthodox world. Definitely making the Orthodox world safer for closeted LGBT.
- I got married...
- Become more conservative.
- I've become more aware/learned about the topic -- both the halachos and secular information (as a single woman in my early 30s)
- I'm a sex addict and I've found that religion is not the solution for that problem, so I've had a different perspective on Judaism because I no longer expect it to help with the addiction. This I believe makes me have a healthier approach to religion and not put take much pressure on myself to be from so that religion will save me.
- I think it's really important to be open about sexual issues, not to be afraid to discuss them (in the appropriate forum) and not to pretend challenges don't exist.
- matured
- I have become more educated and informed on the lifestyles alternative to my own in effort to be more empathetic
- More conservative
- Accept people with same sex relationships
- More interested in fetishes!
- More liberal
- Became more sexually active
- I feel it is more important that the Orthodox community accept gay people as part of the community.
- I got married
- more knowledgeable and more comfortable
- In more open to understanding transgender and other sexual orientations
- Each have their own role n feminism goes to far
- More concerned about family purity
- I feel more comfortable with my husband
- Live and let live. Sexuality is private.
- Whatever people do as long as their monogamous, whether gay ,or straight
- more conservation
- I've become more accepting of others' choices.

- More accepting of alternative sexual orientation. If there is a committed couple of the same sex ...I believe they and their children should be welcome in the community
- Do not view homosexuality as a choice and as such need to find a place in MO for those who are
- More open-minded and think it's a personal decision, rather than one that must be dictated by communal standard. I think it's important to consider what is traditional, but for each person to ultimately do what is right for themselves.
- Thought I'd not have sex before marriage and this was an important value to me, but after being single for so many years and my frustration with these limits, I decided to have sex with my boyfriend (at age 40, for the first time). Since then I had sex with someone in a more casual romantic relationship. Not something I ever thought I'd do outside of marriage and feels like a loss.
- More open minded to couples of varying sexual orientation.
- more accepting and even supportive of gay relationships, and of intermarriage
- More liberal towards others' choices
- More understanding of variations
- I am more open to those who are LGBT and more tolerant of what people do in the privacy of their own homes as long as it does not harm others.
- More understanding of the range of "normal"
- I grew up yeshivish and had a more closed view of sex until college
- I am 23 (when i was younger i didnt know much.) and i am currently a student in a MSW program so i have an increased openness
- I much more liberal and tolerant than in the past
- I have come to appreciate how complicated the Strict Orthodox expectations of Taharas haMishpocha are for couples to keep when they are in difficult medical situations such as IVF.
- I am more open and accepting of alternate lifestyles and life choices
- Have come to understand that not everyone experiences his/her sexuality, their attractions and how they view themselves in the same way (hetero and stable) as I do.
- Evolved based on LGBT issues.
- More open, confident, appreciation of varying approaches
- I have become more tolerant of non-traditional relationships and I believe people should be free to do anything that is safe and legal with another consensual adult.
- I am more open on questions of inclusion
- More open to allowing full participation by LBBTQ community
- I've become somewhat more accepting of homosexuality
- My son identifies as bisexual, which has really opened my eyes to Jewish approaches to sexuality
- I am unable to accept that God created people with attraction towards others of the same gender and then forbade them from engaging in intimate relationships with people of the same Gender. consequently I fully support the right of homosexuals to marry and participate in the community.
- I came from a non religious background so I am more conservative now in my PDA
- I have a better understanding of homosexuality, but I still believe that it is against Jewish law.
- I'm more sensitive to women's rights and the dangers of sexual assault against women as well as more accepting of homosexuality and other non-conventional gender approaches.
- More liberal on homosexual relationships
- Less focused on modesty and more immersed in culture around us, less focused on a woman's body being bad to men and more about being proud and private about who you are
- I remembered previously suppressed child sexual abuse.
- more tolerant
- More open to homosexuality
- I have a gay child.
- Greater LGBTQ acceptance
- having a 21 year old child with a disability and beginning to contemplate what his life may look like in the future and 2) recognizing that sexual preferences and gender identity in many cases is truly 'nature' vs. 'nurture' and I think culturally, as a Klal, there are difficult discussions to be had in which acknowledging the times we live in (vis a vis the acceptability of one to be outspoken regarding gender and sexual preference as well as in action).
- I am more understanding. I am more confident.
- more accepting about lifestyle choices
- more accommodating of non-conforming sexuality

- More tolerant of those who engage in premarital sex.
- Much more focused on being a modest person without sexualizing myself or my daughter. Trying to be modest w/o being paranoid but also trying to keep to halacha.
- Trying to reconcile issues of homosexuality with the Torah.
- More tolerant
- I am more open to discussing my concerns or questions with someone. In previous instances, I have been more timid and shy about raising up those questions.
- personal experience getting married. and generally learning about history of sexuality in US, DSM etc.
- They have become more ambiguous - it is difficult to square, if not outright impossible, the Torah's clear message with what is becoming accepted in society, especially when personal friends have identified themselves as part of the LGBTQ community. (Assuming one believes these orientations are innate and cannot be "unlearned".)
- More concerned now with the moral and ethical components of the sexual drive
- I got married, and in learning more about sex, became much more open.
- More understanding towards gay people
- I have become more accepting of my gay brother.
- Became more aware of many things.
- Became more accepting of different life styles even if I don't approve of them
- Very open to people doing what makes them happy and hope not to shun people for this choice.
- Less judgmental of others
- think religious bodies should be more accepting of Jews who have different attitudes and experiences.
- I came out as a lesbian
- More open and expressive.
- More understanding of alternatives
- As I became more observant, it became important to wait for marriage to be sexually active
- More accommodating of non-heterosexual relationships
- More liberal. We have to find a way to accept LGBTQ in our community.
- I now understand that homosexuality is not biologically pre-ordained.
- More open towards women being equal partners and demanding their needs sexually
- More positive and open, less shame/"issur" based
- More open about it, and also much more accepting of others choices
- more open
- more accepting of others and their sexual identities. Accepting of LGBT persons and practices
- More knowledgeable
- I used to think that while being attracted to the same sex was fine but acting on it wasn't and those who act on it cannot be part of the frum community, now I think we should welcome them. To do so is not condoning it. It's just nobody's business really, and it's no different than any of us doing some aveiras but otherwise living an Orthodox lifestyle.
- I seeing more of shas and poskim my understanding of what is and isn't allowed has shifted to more being allowed. Sexuality is taken very seriously in Judaism and therefore comes off as restrictive and sometimes only as a necessary means to having children. In truth I believe now that Judaism allows almost everything as long as the goal and headspace is in line with Jewish thought and halacha.
- I have a stronger belief that sex education is an important component of a good Jewish education.
- I've becoming more forgiving of myself and my needs and have come to appreciate sex with my husband as a wonderful relationship builder rather than a hot bed for halachic rules and anxiety. Unless it's really/explicitly non halachic I try to keep religion out of the bedroom these days.
- Not as taboo. Also my husband is an OBGYN with Smicha.
- As a widowed single mother, my opinions are quite rare.
- It's complicated. Having thought I was gay for a while and then realizing I was also attracted to women confuses me and my understanding of the binaries or fluidity of sexuality.
- More understanding of gayness, and transgendered people
- More open to the LGBT community
- I feel more strongly that our community, especially communal leaders, needs to make a concerted effort to accept members for the LGBT community.
- I feel that the harchakot laws are extremely outdated and could create harm to marriages as they first start out. It took a couple years until my husband calmed down and we were able to find a balance that worked for us and didn't make me feel subordinate.

- More accepting of gays in a civil sense
- More understanding of the reality and problems faced by gay people.
- I have become much more tolerant of individual differences. Ultimately, it really is none of my business what other people choose to do as long as no one is harmed.
- More knowledge of lgbt people. Plus chosson classes and becoming sexually active now that I am married
- more open to LGBTQ
- Much more lenient on pre-marital sex.
- I find myself less interested in accommodating calls for active recognition and acceptance of LGBTQ issues. If a person's sexual orientation and/or preference is not consistent with mainstream Orthodox halacha and norms, then I believe in respecting the individual as a person, but I don't feel the need for myself or my community to do anything else. I am opposed to giving openly gay men public kibbudim in shul. I also believe the same about other violators of halacha, such as those who commit adultery, abuse spouses or children, and other aveirot. So at the same time, I am not pleased that openly gay men are singled out.
- more conservative
- I would tend to have little or no physical contact with a woman outside of marriage
- More tolerant towards LGBT
- Better understanding of LGBT while remaining opposed to extending them civil and social rights.
- Tend to be more liberal about it, with a live-and-let-live attitude
- More liberal. Being sexually chaste prior to marriage may not result in a positive sex life. Also, more accepting of the notion of gay marriage.
- I'm more aware of sexuality among modern orthodox teens
- Learning more about all the different types of sexuality has made me more aware of the variety and the fact that sexuality is not black and white.
- Realize that Judaism supports natural sexual feelings but has boundaries which greatly enhance the sexual relationship
- More understanding of how American teenagers view gender fluidity.
- More open minded
- I agree with Torah. I have Gay and Lesbian friends. With That being said, I believe they are entitled to a civil union, but marriage is a holy act between a man and a woman.
- more opened
- More pro LGBT, more accepting of adult sexual relationships out of marriage
- actually knowing LGBTQ people
- Yes. More dating time , some sexual contact before marriage.
- more open
- Seeing the struggles of family members who are homosexual opened my eyes to a new world, which includes their views of religiosity.
- I have become more open and accepting.
- less sheltered than the religious educational upbringing.
- I've become more comfortable and more open
- Getting married has changed my views on Taharat hamispacha, and the right way to have a sexual life
- My husband is not interested in sex, and I have managed to bring my expectations into line with that reality, after some internal struggling.
- More open
- more open
- I used to be shomer negiah in all of my relationships (or at least, I would try hard to be). This is no longer the case. In general, the area of sexuality feels less taboo, though some of the emotions and stigmas ingrained in me by years of Orthodox education are hard to shake.
- It's a part of healthy human function. Jewish communal repression of feelings, attitudes, discussions, and even permitted behaviors have been damaging to me. My feelings of embarrassment/shame associated with sexuality are very slowly subsiding. The tznius card is often played as a method of social control disguised as religious piety. It has become an obsession, for both men and women, in the frummer communities and ends up paradoxically hypersexualizing women who don't even realize it.
- I believe that the current state of (non) sex-ed in the Orthodox community is causing a lot of pain to a lot of people.
- it's still not discussed as much as it should be
- More seriously open to gender and sexuality issues.
- More open and expressive
- more flexible due to info resources and discussion with professionals.

- More accepting of LGBTQ
- I married for the first time 4 years ago at age 54.
- More open to homosexuality
- Feel more comfortable
- I believe people shouldn't have sex before marriage, but I also feel like a lot of people are sexually repressing themselves and sexuality in Judaism should be talked about more often.
- I became more aware of other people's experiences that I previously did not understand, including homosexuality and transgender
- I became more well-versed in the Jewish perspective(s).
- I have been married for 5 years now. Sex simply evolves emotionally from my younger years as more of a pleasurable act not just physically (hormonal young crazy) to a bonding experience with my partner. It's less about doing the "Whoopi" and more about bonding.
- There should be better support and understanding for different people and their choices. People are complicated and the community must do more to recognize that
- I've begun to see the great wisdom in Chazal's attitude towards relations between men and women. A lot of this is due to personal hormonal changes with age!
- greater openness to homosexuality
- As I've grown older and settled down with a wonderful husband, I have looked toward Judaism to help explain differences in my own stages towards

sexuality. And I have looked towards Judaism to help guide me in sexually grounded relationship.

- Greater openness, recognition of the desperate need for yoatzot
- I am more open and liberal toward LGBT community however trying to maintain a kosher halachic Jewish perspective
- I have a more halachic view of sexuality.
- More liberal
- More accepting of LGB community. I feel it is how they were created and they should be accepted and respected for who they are.
- More understanding
- Learning about other sexualities and gender situations
- Understanding gay
- More open
- More aware. Not an issue now, but resentful of how observance of T H in past years restricted my sexuality.
- I am more sensitive to the gay community
- I have become more tolerant and less judgemental
- Much more aware of promiscuity and availability of 'sexual tests & invitations'
- I have become more open and accepting of other people
- Realized how important sex is in marriage. More liberal about the whole topic
- Acceptance of LGBT