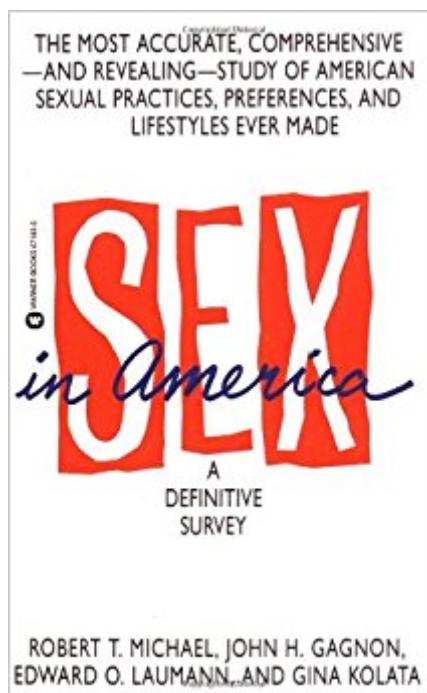


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# Sex In America



## Synopsis

Based on interviews with over 3,000 Americans, this book provides startling information about American sexual practices--exploding longstanding myths and divulging the truth about what goes on between the sexes.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Embargoed until the day--October 10--the press announced its overall findings, this is the popular report of the most authoritative study ever of sexual behavior in the U.S. (A companion report, *The Social Organization of Sexuality* [Univ. of Chicago, \$49.95, 0-226-46957-3], is addressed to social scientists, counselors, and health professionals.) Its most startling conclusion is that most Americans don't "do it" as much as the media and such previous surveys as Kinsey's have made us think. First explaining why this study accurately represents the entire U.S. population in its target age-range (18-59) and why the information gleaned from its respondents is credible, the smoothly edited text presents findings in 11 fields of inquiry: who our sex partners are, how we find them, how many of them we have, how often we have sex, how prevalent particular sexual practices and preferences are among us, how much we masturbate and use erotica and what we think of these things, how many of us have experienced homosexual feelings and behavior and how frequently, how many and what kinds of persons among us have ever contracted sexually transmitted diseases, how many and what kinds of persons among us have contracted the AIDS virus, how many have experienced forced sex, and how social attitudes correlate with the prevalences of certain kinds of sexual behavior. To say this is all fascinating is understatement, but to say it's at all

scandalous is ridiculous. Instead, many will find it reassuringly commonsensical. They'll discover that their own sex lives are pretty normal and that if somebody else is making out like bandits, they're not enjoying it as much as Mr. and Mrs. John Doe. What a relief! Ray Olson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Phenomenal book. A must read for anyone alive.

This is a great book. I am a masters student and my focus is sexual health and this is a great read.

A little dry for the popular press, but if you want to know what they found in the first national survey of sexuality since Kinsey (and the first representative national survey of sexuality ever), this lays it all out in a fairly approachable manner.

A lot of groups with particular agendas attack this study because it doesn't confirm the biases of the past. But just because you don't like it, that doesn't mean it isn't true. And that's really the heart of this study, trying to get to the truth. Or at least a better version of the truth than what we've had in the past. I highly recommend this if only to see just how difficult it is to conduct a "good" statistically valid survey of this type. The resulting data are somewhat incidental, and not likely to be grossly affected by the minor irregularities in the methodology. And for those with actual statistical methodological training, the authors provide their data for review.

Driven by the publicity of American sexual habits after movies like Kinsey, I took it upon myself to begin reading into just how much of the hype was realistic. Could Americans truly be as hypersexed as Kinsey's studies seemed to show? Was it true that one out of every ten Americans was homosexual? Sex in America answers these questions as part of the first scientifically-sound mass-studies of American sexuality ever undertaken by social science. Breaking through the harsh stigma of sex and sexuality, Sex in America points in an unexpected direction: Americans aren't as Bohemian as we might think. This finding: That Americans are not as erotic as the media and popular myth believes us to be, may be the most significant thing about Sex in America. We have been trained to think many things about ourselves and others: That AIDS can affect anyone, that sex drops off with marriage, that young people have the most partners and the shortest relationships. Through thorough, statistically-sound research, the social scientists behind Sex in America show that just about every preconception we have about human sexuality has turned out to

be wrong. Now we know.

This book is the culmination of an enormous undertaking. 9,000 addresses were selected from random geographical locations. The participants, aged 18 to 55 years, completed an hour and a half interview about their sexual practices. Anyone interested in human sexuality will want to learn about the results from this study. Although this book does not go into the depth or detail of "The Social Organization of Sexuality: Sexual Practices in the United States," this book is more user-friendly. This book is a must for therapists who deal not only with sexuality issues but also relationship issues. Previous research has demonstrated that all couples have arguments about work, money and sex. Thus, it is essential to learn what the actual sexual practices of couples are and this book is a tool with a wealth of information.

This study was attacked from the beginning by the Neither Religious Nor Right. If it wasn't the questions, the methodology, and the funding, it was a political maelstrom that almost stopped this study in its tracks. The study points out just how different we really are from many preconceptions. It also is honest enough to deliberately point out the areas of study that need to be more completely done. What it does is to give us a reappraisal that was needed. It is now time for another study. The study must take into account many of the findings of this particular study. The study needs to take regional population as a factor. It fully needs to take Gay, Lesbian, Bi, and Transgendered populations into account. It should discuss the various islands of populations such as LA, Atlanta, New York City, and the rural populations. The questionnaire needs to be free of Right Wing Politics playing to the Neither Religious Nor Right. It must ask hard direct questions about sexuality that were removed from the original study. The number of participants needs to be expanded. The study needs to be properly funded. This was in fact a shoe string study fraught with many problems that almost completely derailed it. I bought this in Hardback years ago for \$50.00. It was money well spent.

This book is incredible not just for the data it presents, but for the first chapter, which presents an exceptional picture of the damage that bad survey data can have on an entire nation. The incredibly ill-designed surveys of the past have warped American's views of themselves and our country, and the book details why. If there was ever a treatise on why we should all learn statistics, this is it.

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