

A Common Human Trait

16 clues...

Raise your hand and keep it raised if you think you know the answer. Lower it if you do not.

**This trait is “stable, bimodal,
behaviorally expressed.”**

It is a bipolar trait with two basic orientations, with around 92% accounting for the majority population and around 8% for the minority orientation.

People with the minority orientation have been persecuted for thousands of years.

There are a small number of people who are oriented both ways.

Evidence from art history suggests the incidence of the two different orientations has been constant for five millennia.

A person's orientation cannot be identified simply from looking at him/her; those with the minority orientation are just as diverse in appearance, race, religion, and all other characteristics as those with the majority orientation.

Since the trait is invisible, internal attraction, the only way to identify orientations is by the behaviors that express them. The trait itself, however, is not a “behavior.”

Neither orientation correlates with any disease or mental illness. Neither is pathological.

Neither orientation is chosen.

Signs of the orientation are detectable sometimes very early in children.

Although the behavior of both orientations can be changed through coercion and social pressure – in the past, those with the minority orientation were forced as children to behave as if they had the majority orientation – the internal orientation remains.

Adoption studies show that the orientation of adopted children is unrelated to the orientation of their parents – their social environment – demonstrating that the trait is not socially, but rather biologically rooted.

Studies show that identical twins (who have identical genes), have a much higher-than-average chance of being concordant for the minority orientation – about 12% - than fraternal twins (who share only half of their genes on average), who are more concordant in turn than adopted siblings (who don't share any genes), indicating a genetic component.

**There are 30% more men with
the minority orientation than
women.**

Familial studies show no direct parent-offspring connection, but the minority trait clearly runs in families.

The pattern in which it runs shows a genetic “maternal effect” with a higher incidence in male offspring.



What is this trait?

Handedness!

Two Trait Profiles

HUMAN HANDEDNESS

- Majority orientation: 92%
Minority orientation: 8%
- No correlation with race, geography, culture, mental or physical pathology
- Either Orientation Chosen?
NO
- Can external expression be altered? YES
- Can internal orientation be altered clinically? NO

HUMAN SEXUAL ORIENTATION

- Majority orientation: 92%
Minority orientation: 8%
- No correlation with race, geography, culture, mental or physical pathology
- Either Orientation Chosen?
NO
- Can external expression be altered? YES
- Can internal orientation be altered clinically? NO

Two Trait Profiles

HUMAN HANDEDNESS

- Does trait run in families?
YES
- Handedness of adopted children shows no relationship to that of adopted parents.
- Identical twins more likely to share minority orientation

HUMAN SEXUAL ORIENTATION

- Does trait run in families?
YES
- Sexual orientation of adopted children shows no relationship to that of adopted parents.
- Identical twins more likely to share minority orientation

Source: GLSEN Lunchbox educational series, “A Left-Handed Lesson”