

Activity C

The goal of this activity is to think about how you can make connections between your personal beliefs, science, and public policy and how these factors can be translated into action.

Background Information

In the most recent wave of the WVS (2017), researchers asked respondents from 57 countries whether they believed homosexuality was justifiable. Results showed that the majority of citizens from 50 of those countries responded negatively. Respondents in the remaining seven countries (Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, and Uruguay) were more positive. The most negative attitudes were reported by respondents from the Middle East (Qatar, Jordan), Western Asia (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia), and Africa (Morocco, Tunisia). Regarding international policies, many countries have enacted anti-sodomy laws and broader laws that legally ban same-sex conduct while privileging heterosexual behavior. As one example, the Lebanon Penal Code Article 534 states that “any sexual intercourse contrary to the order of nature is punishable by up to one year in prison” (Reid, 2017). Thus, a full appreciation of the current status of lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) rights internationally requires attention to international attitudes and to the institutional level policies that continue to oppress sexual minorities and to privilege heterosexual individuals.

Instructions

1. Identify five countries whose citizens report unaccepting attitudes toward homosexuality, using the Map feature for either of the attitude toward homosexuality variables (see Table 2 and Figure 1). For example, in Wave 6, at least 80 percent of respondents from these countries mentioned homosexuals as a group they would not like to have as neighbors: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Iraq, Morocco, Turkey, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe.
2. Explore at least one other variable that has been found to be correlated with these attitudes (see Figure 2).
3. Prepare a presentation that you could give to the United Nations about the experiences of LGBs in at least one of the countries you chose. Your presentation should include recommendations for public policy changes that would support LGB rights.

Be sure to base your recommendations on psychological science research and theory. If possible, use concepts that have been covered in your class. For example, you might explain the contact hypothesis and discuss the research showing that individuals who have personal contact with LGBs show greater acceptance of homosexuality (e.g., Herek, 2016). This suggests that policies should be changed so that LGBs are safe in disclosing their sexual orientation.



Table 1**Selected Country Inclusion by World Region and Wave Number**

World Region	Wave			
	Wave 3 1995-1998	Wave 4 1999-2004	Wave 5 2005-2009	Wave 6 2010-2014
Africa	Nigeria South Africa	Morocco Tanzania Zimbabwe	Ethiopia South Mali South Africa	Ghana South Africa Tunisia
Asia	China Philippines Turkey	Bangladesh Jordan South Korea	Hong Kong Iran Malaysia	Azerbaijan Pakistan Singapore
Eastern Europe	Albania Bulgaria Czech Republic	Bosnia and Herzegovina Montenegro Serbia	Hungary Poland Russian Federation	Belarus Estonia Romania
North America	El Salvador Mexico United States	Canada Mexico United States	Guatemala Mexico Trinidad and Tribago	Mexico Trinidad and Tribago United States
Oceania	Australia New Zealand	-	Australia New Zealand	Australia New Zealand
South America	Argentina Chile Venezuela	Argentina Peru Venezuela	Argentina Brazil Chile	Argentina Chile Peru
Western Europe	Norway Spain Sweden Switzerland	Spain Sweden	Andorra France Italy United Kingdom	Germany Netherlands Spain



Table 2

Variable Numbers for Questions Assessing Attitudes toward Homosexuality by Wave

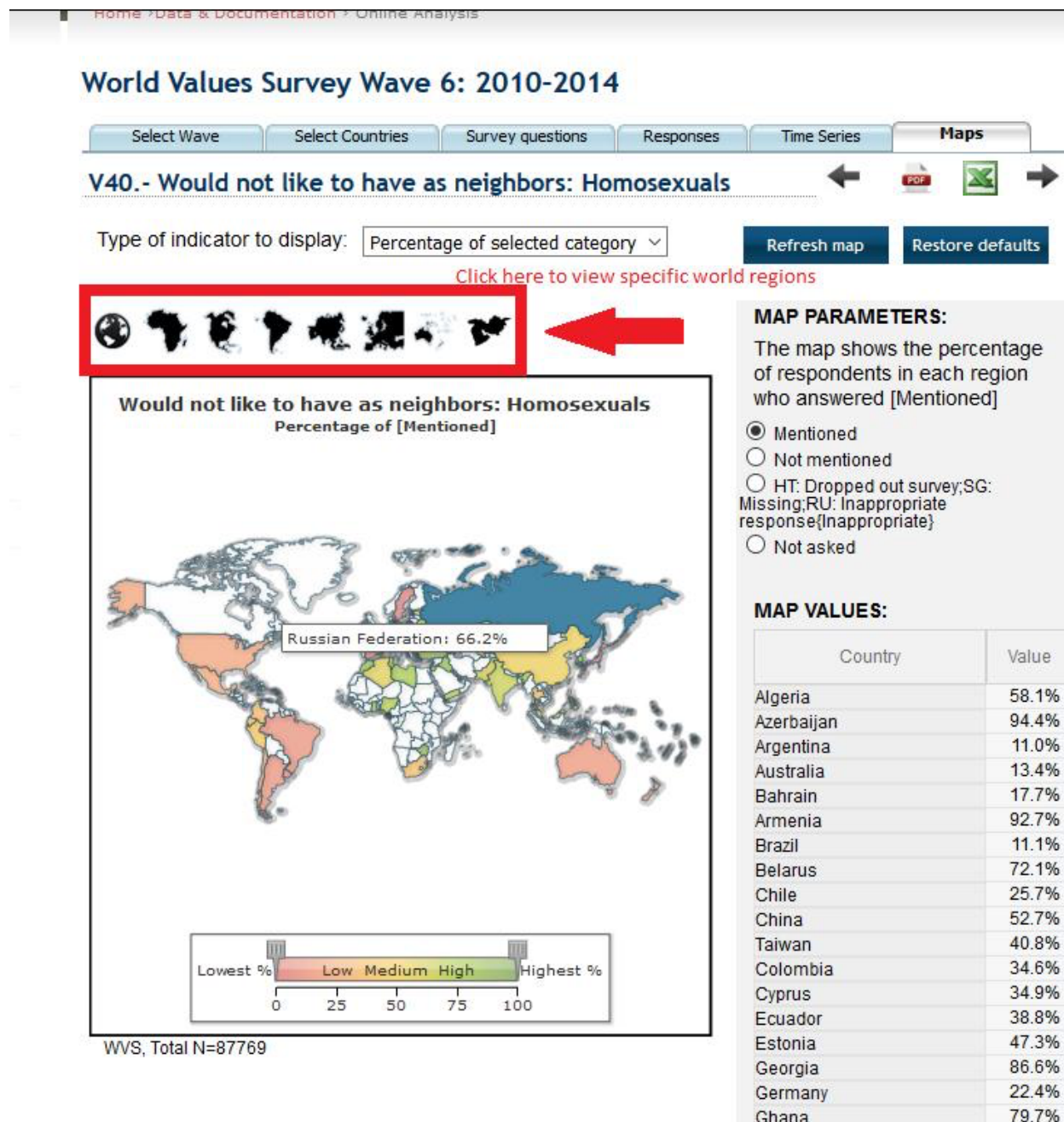
Question	Wave 3: 1995-1998	Wave 4: 1999-2004	Wave 5: 2005-2009	Wave 6: 2010-2014
Mentioned would not like to have as neighbors (negative attitude)	V60	V76	V38	V40
Think homosexuality can always be justified (10), never be justified (1), or something in between	V197	V208	V202	V203

Note: V = Variable number



Figure 1

Interactive Map for Attitudes Toward Homosexuals as Neighbors Wave 6



Source: <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSONline.jsp>

World Values Survey Wave 6: 2010-2014

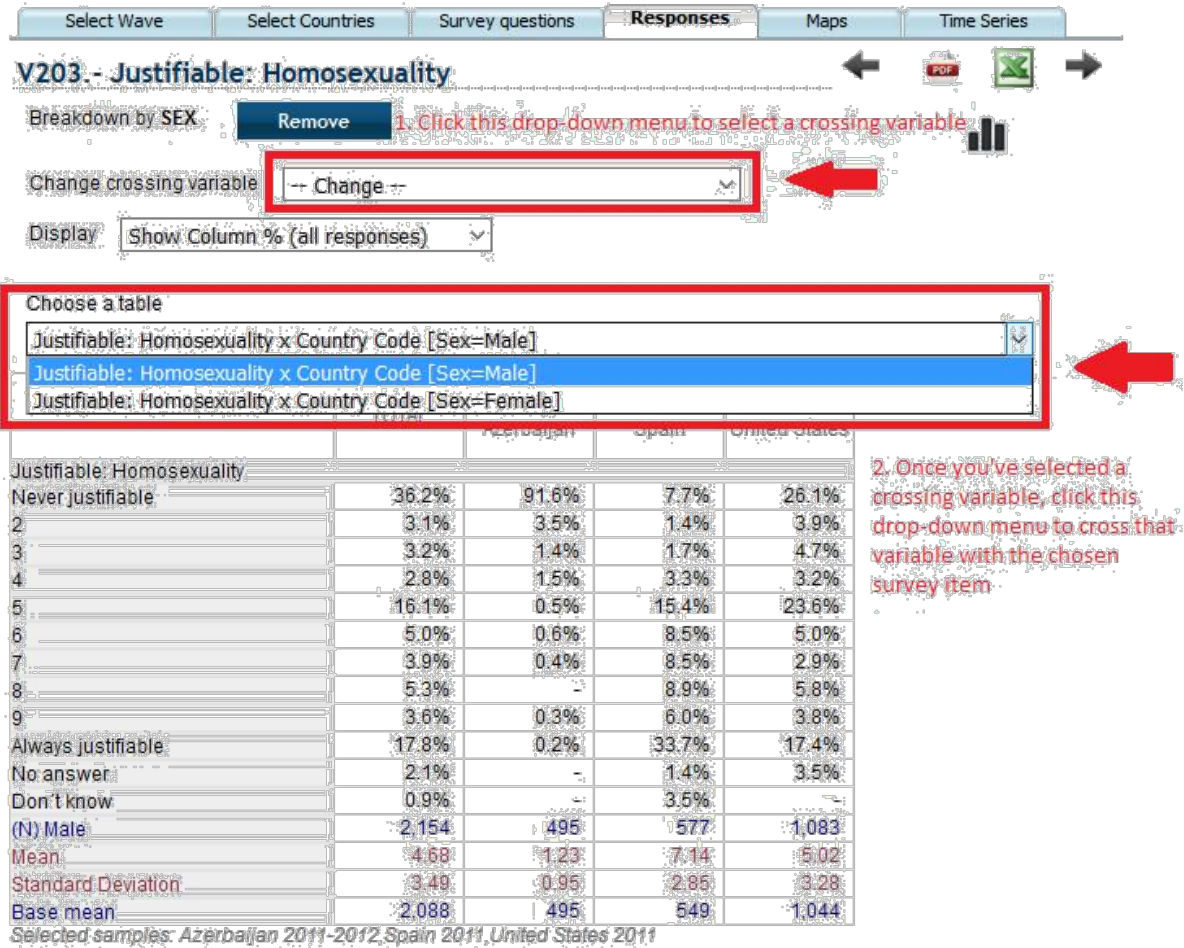


Figure 2

Mean Responses from the Question of Whether Homosexuality is Justifiable for Wave 6 by Country and Participant Sex

