

Vital Statistics 2007 The UK Gay Men's Sex Survey

Northern Ireland Health and Social Services Boards of residence data report (January 2009: Version 2)

Important Note: This report supercedes the GMSS'07 local data reports released in August 2008. Subsequent to that release of data we identified a problem with a number of cases which we believe to have been falsified. The false cases seemed to be an attempt to systematically skew the findings in a particular area of the survey, but provided incomplete data in other areas. In order to exclude as many of these false cases as possible, while retaining valid cases, we tightened the inclusion criteria and excluded all cases missing responses for any of 31 survey items. This resulted in the loss of 29% of all cases, which accounts for the reduction in cases in the report compared with the earlier data release. This has been necessary for us to continue to have confidence in the data that remains.

This report uses data from the UK *Gay Men's Sex Survey* 2007, conducted by Sigma Research in collaboration with health promoters throughout the UK. It supplements the main survey report which will be published in April 2009. Survey methods and interpretation of the variables will be outlined in that report.

This data is intended to provide HIV health promotion planners with information about their local population of gay men and bisexual men. The report contains data from men who live in Northern Ireland and for whom Health and Social Services Board of residence is known. Respondents are grouped according to the Board in which they live.

There are also whole country reports for England, Wales, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland, with men grouped according to their region of residence. There are also individual data reports for each Strategic Health Authority (SHA) in England, with men grouped according to their Primary Care Trust (PCT) of residence. These, and similar reports for previous years, are available at: www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/go.php/local/gay

The data

The survey used two data collection methods over the summer of 2007: a self-sealing, Freepost addressed booklet distributed by health promotion agencies; and via a specific website promoted via links on gay and HIV-related websites.

This report contains data from all the men recruited through both methods. To be included in the sample respondents had to: be male; be aged 14 or over; be living in the UK; have had sex with a man in the last year or have a gay, bisexual or other "queer" identity; have completed at least one demographic question and one other question. Differences between the number of surveys returned and the number of men who appear in the sample are due to these exclusions.

The tables

Groups of men living in the same Health and Social Services Board appear as a row (horizontal line) in the tables. The bottom row of each table gives the result for all men living in Northern Ireland. The first table shows the number of men recruited to the survey living in each Board and the size of the sub-samples in the rest of the tables. Boards with fewer than 20 men in the sample are reported as "all other NI (Northern Ireland) men". The tables show the proportions (%) of each sub-sample for that variable (less missing data). Rows add up to 100%. The only exception to this layout is table 3, Age averages.

Questionnaires

The contents page identifies the Booklet question number (Q) each table is derived from. The questionnaire used in the survey is available to download at: www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/files/VS2007booklet.pdf

Funding

The survey was funded by Terrence Higgins Trust as part of CHAPS, a national HIV prevention initiative funded by the English Department of Health and the National Assembly for Wales. Online recruitment occurred in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Booklet recruitment occurred in England and Wales.



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SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

1. Web and booklet sample sizes by Health and Social Services Board of residence

Count

	Distribution method		Total
	Web	Booklet	
Eastern	50	2	52
Southern	3	0	3
Northern	11	1	12
Western	7	0	7
Total	71	3	74

2. Age groups.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Age in 10s					Total
	<20	20s	30s	40s	50+	
Eastern	9.6%	40.4%	32.7%	13.5%	3.8%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	22.7%	45.5%	9.1%	18.2%	4.5%	100.0%
Total	13.5%	41.9%	25.7%	14.9%	4.1%	100.0%

3. Age averages.

Age

NI Health Board of Residence	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Eastern	29.00	14	62	30.42	10.108
All other Northern Ireland men	21.50	17	62	27.91	11.932
Total	26.50	14	62	29.68	10.662

4. Ethnicity in 6 groups.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Ethnicity					Total
	White other	Black	Mixed	Other	White British	
Eastern	50.0%			1.9%	48.1%	100%
All other Northern Ireland men	36.4%	4.5%	4.5%		54.5%	100%
Total	45.9%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	50.0%	100%

5. Sexual identity.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Sexual identity			Total
	Gay	Bisexual	I don't usually use a term	
Eastern	84.6%	11.5%	3.8%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	72.7%	27.3%		100.0%
Total	81.1%	16.2%	2.7%	100.0%

6. Gender of sexual partners in the last year.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Gender of sexual partners			Total
	No one	Both men and women	Men only	
Eastern	9.6%	5.8%	84.6%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	18.2%	18.2%	63.6%	100.0%
Total	12.2%	9.5%	78.4%	100.0%

7. Marriage / civil partnership status.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Legal partnership status			Total
	in a civil partnership with a man	in a marriage with a woman	in neither of these	
Eastern	9.8%	3.9%	86.3%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men		4.5%	95.5%	100.0%
Total	6.8%	4.1%	89.0%	100.0%

8. Sero-discordancy with male regular partner.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	HIV serodiscordancy with male partner			Total
	Not in sero-discordant relationship	In sero-discordant relationship	Don't know if sero-discordant	
Eastern	88.5%	3.8%	7.7%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	90.9%	4.5%	4.5%	100.0%
Total	89.2%	4.1%	6.8%	100.0%

HIV TESTING & HEPATITIS SUSCEPTIBILITY

9. HIV testing history

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	HIV testing history			Total
	Never tested	Tested negative	Tested positive	
Eastern	36.5%	57.7%	5.8%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	72.7%	27.3%		100.0%
Total	47.3%	48.6%	4.1%	100.0%

10. Hepatitis B susceptibility.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Hepatitis B susceptibility		Total
	Susceptible	Not Susceptible	
Eastern	63.5%	36.5%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	72.7%	27.3%	100.0%
Total	66.2%	33.8%	100.0%

11. Hepatitis A susceptibility.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Hepatitis A susceptibility		Total
	Susceptible	Not Susceptible	
Eastern	78.8%	21.2%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	90.9%	9.1%	100.0%
Total	82.4%	17.6%	100.0%

SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

12. Number of male sexual partners in the last year.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Number of male sexual partners in the last year						Total
	None	One	2,3 or 4	5 to 12	13 to 29	30 or more	
Eastern	9.6%	30.8%	19.2%	25.0%	11.5%	3.8%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	18.2%	13.6%	36.4%	22.7%	4.5%	4.5%	100.0%
Total	12.2%	25.7%	24.3%	24.3%	9.5%	4.1%	100.0%

13. Met new male sexual partner/s in last year.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Met new male partner		Total
	No	Yes	
Eastern	31.9%	68.1%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	5.6%	94.4%	100.0%
Total	24.6%	75.4%	100.0%

14. Unprotected anal intercourse (UAI) in the previous year with partners whose HIV status was unknown or discordant.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	UAI with partners of unknown or discordant status				Total
	Not done	Insertive only	Receptive only	Both Insertive and Receptive	
Eastern	78.0%	4.0%	10.0%	8.0%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	68.2%	4.5%	4.5%	22.7%	100.0%
Total	75.0%	4.2%	8.3%	12.5%	100.0%

15. Perceived HIV transmission risk in the last year (for all men).

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	HIV transmission risk in last year		Total
	No	Yes	
Eastern	67.3%	32.7%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	77.3%	22.7%	100.0%
Total	70.3%	29.7%	100.0%

HEALTH NEEDS

16. Ever heard of PEP.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Heard of PEP		Total
	No	Yes	
Eastern	71.2%	28.8%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	77.3%	22.7%	100.0%
Total	73.0%	27.0%	100.0%

17. Any concern about your alcohol use.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Any concern about alcohol use		Total
	No	Yes	
Eastern	96.2%	3.8%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	86.4%	13.6%	100.0%
Total	93.2%	6.8%	100.0%

18. Any concern about your drug use.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Any concern about drug use		Total
	No	Yes	
Eastern	92.3%	7.7%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	95.5%	4.5%	100.0%
Total	93.2%	6.8%	100.0%

19. I would sometimes rather risk HIV transmission than use a condom.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Sometimes rather risk HIV transmission than use a condom				Total
	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
Eastern	5.8%	7.7%	11.5%	75.0%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	18.2%	18.2%	4.5%	59.1%	100.0%
Total	9.5%	10.8%	9.5%	70.3%	100.0%

20. I can talk to my friends about safer sex and HIV.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	I can talk to my friends about safer sex and HIV					Total
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
Eastern	44.2%	40.4%	7.7%	3.8%	3.8%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	36.4%	27.3%	27.3%	4.5%	4.5%	100.0%
Total	41.9%	36.5%	13.5%	4.1%	4.1%	100.0%

21. I have someone to talk to if I'm worried about safer sex and HIV.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	I have someone to talk to if I'm worried about safer sex and HIV.					Total
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
Eastern	40.4%	40.4%	11.5%	1.9%	5.8%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	31.8%	27.3%	22.7%	4.5%	13.6%	100.0%
Total	37.8%	36.5%	14.9%	2.7%	8.1%	100.0%

22. If I wanted to know something about safer sex or HIV, I'd know how to find the answer.

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	If I wanted to know something about safer sex or HIV, I'd know how to find the answer.					Total
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
Eastern	55.8%	34.6%	7.7%		1.9%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	36.4%	22.7%	18.2%	18.2%	4.5%	100.0%
Total	50.0%	31.1%	10.8%	5.4%	2.7%	100.0%

23. How easy do you find it to decline sexual contact from other men?

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Ease of declining sexual contact from other men				Total
	Very easy	Quite easy	Quite difficult	Very difficult	
Eastern	40.4%	42.3%	13.5%	3.8%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	36.4%	22.7%	31.8%	9.1%	100.0%
Total	39.2%	36.5%	18.9%	5.4%	100.0%

24. How easy is it for you to have safer sex during sexual encounters?

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Ease of having safer sex during sexual encounters			Total
	Very easy	Quite easy	Quite difficult	
Eastern	51.9%	42.3%	5.8%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	50.0%	31.8%	18.2%	100.0%
Total	51.4%	39.2%	9.5%	100.0%

25. How easy is it for you to negotiate the sex that you want?

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Ease of negotiating sex that is wanted				Total
	Very easy	Quite easy	Quite difficult	Very difficult	
Eastern	40.4%	53.8%	5.8%		100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	31.8%	45.5%	13.6%	9.1%	100.0%
Total	37.8%	51.4%	8.1%	2.7%	100.0%

26. How easy is it for you to maintain condom use in your sexual encounters?

% within NI Health Board of Residence

	Ease of maintaining condom use in sexual encounters				Total
	Very easy	Quite easy	Quite difficult	Very difficult	
Eastern	44.2%	42.3%	9.6%	3.8%	100.0%
All other Northern Ireland men	50.0%	27.3%	22.7%		100.0%
Total	45.9%	37.8%	13.5%	2.7%	100.0%

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