

Vital Statistics Northern Ireland 2003 The Gay Men's Sex Survey

Northern Ireland NHS Health and Social Service Board of residence data report (updated May 2008)

The *Gay Men's Sex Survey* 2003 was conducted by Sigma Research in collaboration with health promoters throughout Britain and Ireland. This report supplements the main annual report for the survey called *On the move: findings from the United Kingdom Gay Men's Sex Survey, 2003*. It is available at:
www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/go.php/reports/report2004g/

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

The data

The survey used two data collection methods over the summer of 2003:

- (1) A self-sealing, Freepost addressed booklet distributed by 124 British health promotion and gay agencies (4 of these based in Northern Ireland);
- (2) on a specific website promoted via links on 35 gay and HIV-related websites (2 serving Northern Irish men specifically).

To be included in this sample respondents had to:

- be male
- be aged 14 or over.
- be living in Northern Ireland.
- have had sex with a man in the last year and / or expect to have sex with a man in the future.
- 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 NHS Health and Social Services Board appear as a row in the tables. The bottom line of each table gives the result for all the NHS Health and Social Services Boards in the table. The first table shows (in order of size) the number of men recruited to the survey living in each NHS Health and Social Services board and the size of the sub-samples in the rest of the tables. The tables show the proportions (%) of each sub-sample for that variable (less missing data). Rows (lines across) 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/VS2003booklet.pdf

Funding

In Northern Ireland this research was funded by the Rainbow Project. In Scotland, by Healthy Gay Scotland, a Scottish Executive funded HIV prevention initiative. In England and Wales, by Terrence Higgins Trust as part of CHAPS, a national HIV prevention initiative funded by the English Department of Health and Welsh Assembly.



TABLE CONTENTS

SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

1. Web and Booklet sample sizes.
2. Age groups; Q1 grouped into ten year age bands.
3. Age averages; from Q1 the age of the youngest and oldest man, their median age (line them up by size and pick the one in the middle), mean age (add them up and divide by how many there are), and a measure of how spread out along the range they are (the standard deviation).
4. Ethnicity; Q2.
5. Formal education; from Q3, low is educated to O-levels / CSEs / GCSE or equivalent; high is educated to degree level; medium includes A-levels, diplomas and professional qualifications.
6. Annual income; Q9.
7. Perceived financial management ; Q12.
8. HIV testing history; Q16.
9. GP registration; Q32.
10. Awareness by GP staff of sex with men (those who are registered with a GP); Q33.

SOCIO-SEXUAL CONTEXT

11. Gender of sexual partner in the last year; Q20.
12. Number of male sexual partners in the last year; Q22 (those who had sex with men).
13. HIV concordancy of regular relationship; Q13 & Q15.

SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIOURS

14. Number of partners with whom had receptive unprotected anal intercourse (RUAI), in the last year (those who had male partners); Q23.
15. Likelihood of having RUAI with a man with a different HIV status (among those who had RUAI in the last year); Q24.
16. Number of partners with whom had insertive unprotected anal intercourse (IUAI), in the last year (those who had male partners); Q25.
17. Likelihood of having IUAI with a man with a different HIV status (among those who had IUAI in the last year); Q26.

UNMET HIV PREVENTION NEEDS

18. Sexual Assault in the last 12 months; Q27.
19. Difficulty getting hold of condoms; Q28.
20. Difficulty getting hold of water based lube; Q28.

CONDOM SOURCES

21. Experience of getting condoms in the previous 12 months; Q29
21. Bought condoms
22. Got condoms free
23. Sexual partners usually had condoms
24. Friends usually gave condoms

HIV KNOWLEDGE

25. Know that "An HIV negative man is more likely to pick up HIV by getting fucked by an HIV positive man than by fucking him."; Q31.
26. Know that "When fucking an HIV negative man without a condom, an HIV positive man is more likely to pass on HIV infection if either of them already has another sexually transmitted infection"; Q31.
27. Know that "Men can have HIV without knowing it"; Q31.
28. Know that "When fucking an HIV negative man without a condom, an HIV positive man is more likely to pass on HIV infection if he ejaculates (cums) in his partner"; Q31.
29. Know that "Condoms are less likely to break if you use a water-based lubricant"; Q31.
30. "An HIV positive man who has undetectable viral load (in his blood) can still pass on HIV"; Q31.

POST EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS

31. Heard of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP); Q45.
32. Tried to get PEP; Q46.
33. Ever taken PEP; Q47.
34. Know anyone who received PEP; Q48.
35. "If you thought you had been exposed to HIV would you consider trying to get PEP?" (those not tested HIV positive); Q49.

Sigma Research
77a Tradescant Road,
London, SW8 1XJ
www.sigmaresearch.org.uk

Ph: 020-7820 8022
Fax: 020-7793 8009
Email: David.Reid@sigmaresearch.org.uk

Vital Statistics 2003
The UK Gay Men's Sex Survey
Northern Ireland Health and Social Services Board of residence
data report (May 2008)

Sample sizes and descriptions

1. Web and Booklet sample sizes.

Count

	distribution method		Total
	web	booklet	
Eastern	133	45	178
Southern	56	5	61
Northern	45	6	51
Western	44	1	45
All other Northern Irish men	1	4	5
Total	279	61	340

2. Age groups.

% within Health and Social Services board

	Age				
	<20	20s	30s	40s	50+
Eastern	10.2%	38.0%	27.7%	15.3%	8.8%
Southern	29.8%	36.2%	21.3%	8.5%	4.3%
Northern	27.5%	42.5%	15.0%	10.0%	5.0%
Western	20.0%	53.3%	20.0%	3.3%	3.3%
All other Northern Irish men		40.0%	60.0%		
Total	17.4%	40.2%	24.3%	11.6%	6.6%

3. Age averages.

age

Health and Social Services board	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Eastern	30.00	15	63	31.88	10.846
Southern	24.00	15	60	27.13	10.167
Northern	22.50	15	69	27.65	11.588
Western	22.50	17	59	25.60	8.826
All other Northern Irish men	36.00	24	38	31.80	7.155
Total	26.00	15	69	29.63	10.803

4. Ethnicity.

% within Health and Social Services board

	Ethnicity		
	White	Asian	Mixed and other
Eastern	97.2%		2.8%
Southern	96.7%	1.6%	1.6%
Northern	96.1%	2.0%	2.0%
Western	95.6%		4.4%
All other Northern Irish men	100.0%		
Total	96.8%	.6%	2.6%

5. Formal education.

% within Health and Social Services board

	Education		
	low	medium	high
Eastern	22.0%	29.4%	48.6%
Southern	23.0%	47.5%	29.5%
Northern	23.5%	29.4%	47.1%
Western	27.3%	43.2%	29.5%
All other Northern Irish men	20.0%	40.0%	40.0%
Total	23.1%	34.6%	42.3%

6. Annual income.

% within Health and Social Services board

	Annual income			
	<10 000	£10 000 - 19999	£20 000 - 29 999	£30 000 and greater
Eastern	20.6%	38.9%	18.3%	22.3%
Southern	45.9%	32.8%	11.5%	9.8%
Northern	39.2%	35.3%	15.7%	9.8%
Western	35.6%	37.8%	20.0%	6.7%
All other Northern Irish men	40.0%	40.0%	20.0%	
Total	30.3%	37.1%	16.9%	15.7%

7. Perceived financial management.

% within Health and Social Services board

	How are you managing financially?				
	Living comfortably	Doing alright	Just about getting by	Finding it quite difficult	Finding it very difficult
Eastern	28.1%	39.2%	19.3%	8.2%	5.3%
Southern	23.0%	34.4%	29.5%	8.2%	4.9%
Northern	23.5%	39.2%	23.5%	11.8%	2.0%
Western	15.9%	45.5%	31.8%		6.8%
All other Northern Irish men	40.0%	20.0%	40.0%		
Total	25.0%	38.9%	23.8%	7.5%	4.8%

8. HIV testing history.

% within Health and Social Services board

	HIV testing history		
	Tested positive	Last test negative	Never tested
Eastern	2.8%	49.2%	48.0%
Southern		32.8%	67.2%
Northern	2.0%	27.5%	70.6%
Western		36.4%	63.6%
All other Northern Irish men		60.0%	40.0%
Total	1.8%	41.4%	56.8%

9. GP registration.

% within Health and Social Services board

	Registration with a GP	
	No	Yes
Eastern	9.1%	90.9%
Southern	6.7%	93.3%
Northern	8.0%	92.0%
Western	2.3%	97.7%
All other Northern Irish men		100.0%
Total	7.5%	92.5%

10. Awareness by GP staff of sex with men (those who are registered with a GP).

% within Health and Social Services board

	GP staff aware of sexuality		
	No	Yes	Don't know
Eastern	59.6%	26.3%	14.1%
Southern	67.9%	17.9%	14.3%
Northern	71.1%	13.3%	15.6%
Western	67.4%	11.6%	20.9%
All other Northern Irish men	60.0%	20.0%	20.0%
Total	63.9%	20.7%	15.4%

Socio-sexual context

11. Gender of sexual partners in the last year.

% within Health and Social Services board

	Gender of sexual partners			
	no one	women only	men only	both men and women
Eastern	6.2%	2.8%	83.1%	7.9%
Southern	13.1%	3.3%	70.5%	13.1%
Northern	3.9%	2.0%	80.4%	13.7%
Western	6.7%		80.0%	13.3%
All other Northern Irish men			100.0%	
Total	7.1%	2.4%	80.3%	10.3%

12. Number of male sexual partners in the last year (those who had sex with men).

% within Health and Social Services board

	Number of male partners				
	one	2,3 or 4	5 to 12	13 to 29	30+
Eastern	18.0%	29.2%	25.5%	18.0%	9.3%
Southern	21.6%	39.2%	21.6%	11.8%	5.9%
Northern	20.8%	31.3%	35.4%	8.3%	4.2%
Western	16.7%	47.6%	26.2%	7.1%	2.4%
All other Northern Irish men		25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Total	18.6%	33.7%	26.5%	14.1%	7.2%

13. HIV concordancy of regular relationship.

% within Health and Social Services board

	HIV concordancy or regular relationship			
	Single	HIV concordant	HIV discordant	Concordancy unknown
Eastern	46.6%	39.7%	1.1%	12.6%
Southern	55.0%	28.3%		16.7%
Northern	52.0%	30.0%	2.0%	16.0%
Western	47.7%	40.9%		11.4%
All other Northern Irish men	80.0%			20.0%
Total	49.5%	35.7%	.9%	13.8%

Sexual Risk Behaviours [see contents for acronyms]

14. Number of RUAI partners in the last year (those who had male partners).

% within Health and Social Services board

	Number of RUAI partners			
	none	one	two, three or four	5 or more
Eastern	52.5%	24.4%	19.4%	3.8%
Southern	56.9%	23.5%	15.7%	3.9%
Northern	45.8%	33.3%	18.8%	2.1%
Western	50.0%	35.7%	9.5%	4.8%
All other Northern Irish men	75.0%	25.0%		
Total	52.1%	27.2%	17.0%	3.6%

15. Likelihood of having RUAI with a man with a different HIV status (among those who had RUAI in the last year).

% within Health and Social Services board

	Likelihood of having SdRUAI		
	Probably/Definitely have been	I may have, may not have been	Probably/definitely have not been
Eastern	5.3%	16.0%	78.7%
Southern	4.5%	31.8%	63.6%
Northern	3.8%	19.2%	76.9%
Western		14.3%	85.7%
All other Northern Irish men			100.0%
Total	4.1%	18.6%	77.2%

16. Number of IUI partners in the last year (those who had male partners).

% within Health and Social Services board

	Number of IUI partners			
	none	one	two, three or four	5 or more
Eastern	50.3%	27.3%	18.0%	4.3%
Southern	46.9%	30.6%	18.4%	4.1%
Northern	50.0%	33.3%	16.7%	
Western	47.6%	35.7%	16.7%	
All other Northern Irish men	50.0%	25.0%	25.0%	
Total	49.3%	29.9%	17.8%	3.0%

17. Likelihood of having IUAJ with a man with a different HIV status (those who had IUAJ in the last year).

% within Health and Social Services board

	Likelihood of having SdIUAJ		
	Probably/Definitely have been	I may have, may not have been	Probably/definitely have not been
Eastern		25.0%	75.0%
Southern	7.7%	34.6%	57.7%
Northern	4.2%	16.7%	79.2%
Western	4.8%	4.8%	90.5%
All other Northern Irish men		50.0%	50.0%
Total	2.6%	22.9%	74.5%

Unmet HIV Prevention Needs

18. Sexual Assault in the last 12 months.

% within Health and Social Services board

	Forced to have sex	
	No	Yes
Eastern	92.7%	7.3%
Southern	96.7%	3.3%
Northern	88.2%	11.8%
Western	93.2%	6.8%
All other Northern Irish men	100.0%	
Total	92.9%	7.1%

19. "I sometimes have a problem getting hold of condoms".

% within Health and Social Services board

	Problem getting hold of condoms				
	strongly agree	agree	not sure	disagree	strongly disagree
Eastern	5.1%	10.2%	5.1%	31.1%	48.6%
Southern	1.6%	16.4%	8.2%	26.2%	47.5%
Northern	15.7%	15.7%	3.9%	37.3%	27.5%
Western	2.3%	13.6%	13.6%	36.4%	34.1%
All other Northern Irish men				40.0%	60.0%
Total	5.6%	12.4%	6.5%	32.0%	43.5%

20. "Water-based lube is sometimes hard to get hold of".

% within Health and Social Services board

	Problem getting hold of water-based lube				
	strongly agree	agree	not sure	disagree	strongly disagree
Eastern	6.2%	16.3%	15.2%	27.0%	35.4%
Southern	6.6%	21.3%	26.2%	23.0%	23.0%
Northern	17.6%	21.6%	9.8%	27.5%	23.5%
Western	9.1%	22.7%	22.7%	20.5%	25.0%
All other Northern Irish men			20.0%	20.0%	60.0%
Total	8.3%	18.6%	17.4%	25.4%	30.4%

Condom Sources

21. "I bought them".

% within Health and Social Services board

	Where got condoms - bought	
	No	Yes
Eastern	59.3%	40.7%
Southern	50.8%	49.2%
Northern	58.8%	41.2%
Western	56.8%	43.2%
All other Northern Irish men	40.0%	60.0%
Total	57.1%	42.9%

22. "I got them free".

% within Health and Social Services board

	Where got condoms - free	
	No	Yes
Eastern	43.5%	56.5%
Southern	59.0%	41.0%
Northern	56.9%	43.1%
Western	50.0%	50.0%
All other Northern Irish men	20.0%	80.0%
Total	48.8%	51.2%

23. "My sexual partners usually had them".

% within Health and Social Services board

	Where got condoms - from partner	
	No	Yes
Eastern	84.7%	15.3%
Southern	77.0%	23.0%
Northern	78.4%	21.6%
Western	84.1%	15.9%
All other Northern Irish men	80.0%	20.0%
Total	82.2%	17.8%

24. "My friends usually gave them to me".

% within Health and Social Services board

	Where got condoms - friends	
	No	Yes
Eastern	93.8%	6.2%
Southern	95.1%	4.9%
Northern	96.1%	3.9%
Western	97.7%	2.3%
All other Northern Irish men	80.0%	20.0%
Total	94.7%	5.3%

HIV Knowledge

25. "An HIV negative man is more likely to pick up HIV by getting fucked by an HIV positive man than by fucking him".

% within Health and Social Services board

	Knowledge negative RUAI>IUI risk		
	I knew this	I wasn't sure	I didn't know this
Eastern	83.6%	8.5%	7.9%
Southern	74.6%	10.2%	15.3%
Northern	72.5%	9.8%	17.6%
Western	72.7%	4.5%	22.7%
All other Northern Irish men	60.0%	20.0%	20.0%
Total	78.6%	8.6%	12.8%

26. "When fucking an HIV negative man without a condom, an HIV positive man is more likely to pass on HIV infection if either of them already has another sexually transmitted infection".

% within Health and Social Services board

	Knowledge >risk with existing STI		
	I knew this	I wasn't sure	I didn't know this
Eastern	59.6%	14.0%	26.4%
Southern	39.0%	25.4%	35.6%
Northern	62.7%	23.5%	13.7%
Western	63.6%	11.4%	25.0%
All other Northern Irish men	60.0%	40.0%	
Total	57.0%	17.5%	25.5%

27. "Men can have HIV without knowing it".

% within Health and Social Services board

	Knowledge men can have unknown HIV infection		
	I knew this	I wasn't sure	I didn't know this
Eastern	94.4%	2.2%	3.4%
Southern	86.4%	10.2%	3.4%
Northern	90.0%	4.0%	6.0%
Western	88.6%	9.1%	2.3%
All other Northern Irish men	80.0%	20.0%	
Total	91.4%	5.1%	3.6%

28. "When fucking an HIV negative man without a condom, an HIV positive man is more likely to pass on HIV infection if he ejaculates (cums) in his partner".

% within Health and Social Services board

	Knowledge >risk if IUAIO		
	I knew this	I wasn't sure	I didn't know this
Eastern	91.5%	6.2%	2.3%
Southern	88.1%	6.8%	5.1%
Northern	82.4%	11.8%	5.9%
Western	93.2%	4.5%	2.3%
All other Northern Irish men	80.0%	20.0%	
Total	89.6%	7.1%	3.3%

29. "Condoms are less likely to break if you use a water-based lubricant".

% within Health and Social Services board

	Knowledge condom breakage < water lube		
	I knew this	I wasn't sure	I didn't know this
Eastern	80.7%	12.5%	6.8%
Southern	68.3%	13.3%	18.3%
Northern	70.6%	11.8%	17.6%
Western	68.2%	18.2%	13.6%
All other Northern Irish men	80.0%		20.0%
Total	75.3%	13.1%	11.6%

30. "An HIV positive man who has undetectable viral load (in his blood) can still pass on HIV".

% within Health and Social Services board

	Knowledge transmission possible with undetectable viral load		
	I knew this	I wasn't sure	I didn't know this
Eastern	59.0%	23.6%	17.4%
Southern	47.5%	22.0%	30.5%
Northern	41.2%	21.6%	37.3%
Western	59.1%	11.4%	29.5%
All other Northern Irish men	20.0%	20.0%	60.0%
Total	53.7%	21.4%	24.9%

Post Exposure Prophylaxis

31. Heard of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP).

% within Health and Social Services board

	Health and Prevention tech - Heard PEP	
	No	Yes
Eastern	76.8%	23.2%
Southern	90.2%	9.8%
Northern	92.2%	7.8%
Western	84.1%	15.9%
All other Northern Irish men	75.0%	25.0%
Total	82.5%	17.5%

32. Tried to get PEP.

% within Health and Social Services board

	Health and Prevention tech - tried to get PEP	
	No	Yes
Eastern	99.4%	.6%
Southern	100.0%	
Northern	100.0%	
Western	100.0%	
All other Northern Irish men	100.0%	
Total	99.7%	.3%

33. Ever taken PEP.

% within Health and Social Services board

	Health and Prevention tech - ever taken PEP	
	No	Yes
Eastern		100.0%
Southern		100.0%
Northern		100.0%
Western		100.0%
All other Northern Irish men		100.0%
Total		100.0%

34. Know anyone who received PEP.

% within Health and Social Services board

	Health and Prevention tech - know anyone got PEP	
	No	Yes
Eastern	93.8%	6.2%
Southern	98.4%	1.6%
Northern	96.1%	3.9%
Western	100.0%	
All other Northern Irish men	100.0%	
Total	95.8%	4.2%

35. Consideration of getting PEP if exposed to HIV (those not tested HIV positive).

% within Health and Social Services board

	Health and Prevention tech - would you try to get PEP		
	No	Yes	Maybe
Eastern	1.2%	77.6%	21.2%
Southern	1.7%	65.0%	33.3%
Northern	4.0%	72.0%	24.0%
Western	4.5%	61.4%	34.1%
All other Northern Irish men		50.0%	50.0%
Total	2.1%	72.0%	25.9%

[Report ends]