



**VITAL
STATISTICS**
MEN'S SEX SURVEY 2003

Sigma Research has been carrying out community-based sex research for more than ten years. We are the UK's leading social research group specialising in the policy aspects of sexual health and HIV. Sigma Research is based in Brixton, South London and is affiliated to the University of Portsmouth.

VITAL STATISTICS 2003 is commissioned by The Terrence Higgins Trust as part of its Department of Health funded CHAPS Programme.

This booklet has been distributed by:



This survey is about sex between men. It is **anonymous** – please do not write your name on this booklet. The questions are **frank** and **explicit**. Please answer honestly.

VITAL STATISTICS is a UK-wide survey happening throughout the summer of 2003. It is being distributed in this booklet form by health educators and gay organisations. It is also possible to complete the survey online via <http://www.sigmaresearch.org.uk>

Please fill in this form once only this summer, and return this booklet by 30 September 2003.

Thanks for your help.



ABOUT YOU

1 How old are you? years

2 What is your ethnic group? (Tick one)

White

- British
 Irish
 Any other White background

Say what: _____

Mixed

- White and Black Caribbean
 White and Black African
 White and Asian
 Any other mixed background

Say what: _____

Asian or Asian British

- Indian
 Pakistani
 Bangladeshi
 Any other Asian background

Say what: _____

Black or Black British

- Caribbean
 African
 Any other Black background

Say what: _____

Other ethnic groups

- Chinese
 Any other ethnic group

Say what: _____

3 Which of the following educational qualifications do you have?

(Tick as many as apply)

- I have no educational qualifications
- O-Levels / CSEs / GCSEs or equivalent
- A-Levels or equivalent
- Degree or higher
- Other – **Say what:** _____

4 Which country do you currently live in? (Tick one)

- England
- Wales
- Scotland
- Northern Ireland
- Republic of Ireland
- Elsewhere

(This research is of men resident in the UK and Ireland, if you are not currently residing in the UK or Ireland please do not complete this survey)

5 Which Local Authority do you live in?

(who sends your household the Council Tax bill?)

If you don't know your local authority, write in your home postcode or the city/town you live in. If you live in the Republic of Ireland write in your county of residence.



6 Do you currently live in the city, town or area where you were born?

No

Yes

7 Which is your country of birth? (Tick one)

England

Wales

Scotland

Northern Ireland

Republic of Ireland

Elsewhere ... **(Write in the present name of the country)**

8 How many years in total have you spent living in the UK?

____years ____months

MORE ABOUT YOU

9 What is the gross income (before any deductions for Income Tax and National Insurance contributions) that you receive from all sources? (Tick one)

- Less than £5000 per year (less than £96 per week)
- £5000 – £9999 per year (£96 – £192 per week)
- £10000 – £14999 per year (£193 – £288 per week)
- £15000 – £19999 per year (£289 – £385 per week)
- £20000 – £24999 per year (£386 – £481 per week)
- £25000 – £29999 per year (£482 – £577 per week)
- £30000 – £34999 per year (£578 – £673 per week)
- £35000 – £39999 per year (£674 – £769 per week)
- £40000 or more per year (£770 or more per week)

10 When, if ever, was the last time you were unemployed? (Tick one)

- Never → GO TO QUESTION 12
- Over 5 years ago → GO TO QUESTION 12
- In the last 5 years → GO TO QUESTION 12
- In the last year → GO TO QUESTION 12
- I am currently unemployed

11 How long have you been unemployed?

_____ years _____ months

12 How well are you managing financially? Would you say you are...
(Tick one)

- Living comfortably
- Doing alright
- Just about getting by
- Finding it quite difficult
- Finding it very difficult



13 Do you currently have one (or more) regular male sexual partner(s)?

No → GO TO QUESTION 16

Yes

14 How long have you been having sex with your regular sexual partner? (If you have more than one regular partner tell us about the longest relationship)

____ years ____ months

15 Do you and your regular partner have the same HIV status?

(Tick one)

Yes, we have the same HIV status
(either both positive or both negative)

No, one of us is positive and the other is negative

Don't know whether we have the same status or not

16 Have you ever received an HIV test result? (Tick one)

- Yes, I've tested positive → GO TO QUESTION 19
- Yes, my last test was negative → GO TO QUESTION 18
- No, I've never tested for HIV → GO TO QUESTION 17

17 Why have you never tested for HIV?

(Tick as many as apply)

- I didn't know the test existed
- I didn't know where to go to get tested
- I am afraid of being discriminated against for getting tested
- I've taken no risks / I always do 'safer sex'
- It's not important for me to know my HIV status
- I was afraid the result might be HIV positive
- I am afraid of discrimination if I am diagnosed positive
- It would cause problems in my relationship
- Other reasons – **Say what:** _____

18 Do you personally know anyone who is HIV positive?

- No
- Yes

19 What do you believe your HIV status is currently? (Tick one)

- Definitely HIV positive
- Probably HIV positive
- Couldn't say/don't know
- Probably HIV negative
- Definitely HIV negative



ABOUT THE SEX YOU'VE HAD IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

20 In the last 12 months have you had sex with...? (Tick one)

- No one → GO TO QUESTION 21
- Women only → GO TO QUESTION 21
- Men only → GO TO QUESTION 22
- Both men and women → GO TO QUESTION 22

21 Do you expect to have sex with a man in the future? (Tick one)

- No → GO TO QUESTION 27
- Yes → GO TO QUESTION 27
- Not sure → GO TO QUESTION 27

22 In total, how many MEN have you had sex with in the last 12 months? (Tick one)

- One
- 2, 3 or 4
- 5 to 12
- 13 to 29
- 30 or more

23 In the last 12 months, how many different men have you BEEN FUCKED by, WITHOUT a condom? (Tick one)

- None → GO TO QUESTION 25
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

24 How likely do you think it is, that in the last 12 months, you've BEEN FUCKED WITHOUT a condom by a man with a DIFFERENT HIV STATUS to yourself? (Tick one)

- I definitely have been
- I probably have been
- I may have, may not have been
- I probably have not been
- I definitely have not been

25 In the last 12 months, how many different men have YOU FUCKED WITHOUT a condom? (Tick one)

- None → GO TO QUESTION 27
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

26 How likely do you think it is, that in the last 12 months, YOU'VE FUCKED WITHOUT a condom a man with a DIFFERENT HIV STATUS to yourself? (Tick one)

- I definitely have
- I probably have
- I may have, may not have
- I probably have not
- I definitely have not

27 In the last 12 months, have you been forced to have sex when you didn't want it?

- No
- Yes – **How many times?** _____



USE OF CONDOMS AND LUBE

28 Tick a box to show whether you agree or disagree:

- *"I sometimes have a problem getting hold of condoms"*

- strongly agree
- agree
- not sure
- disagree
- strongly disagree

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

- strongly agree
- agree
- not sure
- disagree
- strongly disagree

29 In the LAST YEAR, where have you usually got condoms from?

(Tick as many as apply)

- I don't usually get condoms
- I bought them
- I got them free
- My sexual partners usually had them
- My friends usually gave them to me
- Elsewhere – **Say where:** _____

30 What is your favourite brand of condoms? (Tick one)

- I don't have a favourite
- Durex Gossamer
- Durex Comfort
- Durex Elite
- Durex Ultra Strong
- Durex Featherlight
- Durex Gold
- Durex Extra Safe

- Mates Intensity
- Mates Crystal
- Mates Super Strong
- Mates Sensitive
- Mates Natural
- Mates Xtra Pleasure
- Mates Ribbed
- Mates Conform
- Mates Ultra

- Condomi Sensation
- Condomi Premium
- Condomi Supersafe
- Condomi Nature
- Condomi XXL
- Condomi Strong

- Safeguard Forte
- Avanti polyurethane
- Femidom
- Other – **Say what:** _____



HIV KNOWLEDGE

31 All of the following statements are TRUE.

Did you know this already? (Tick one box for each statement)

- An HIV negative man is more likely to pick up HIV by getting fucked by an HIV positive man than by fucking him.
 I knew this I wasn't sure I didn't know this
- 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.
 I knew this I wasn't sure I didn't know this
- Men can have HIV without knowing it.
 I knew this I wasn't sure I didn't know this
- 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.
 I knew this I wasn't sure I didn't know this
- Condoms are less likely to break if you use a water-based lubricant.
 I knew this I wasn't sure I didn't know this
- An HIV positive man who has undetectable viral load (in his blood) can still pass on HIV.
 I knew this I wasn't sure I didn't know this

USE OF GPs / PRIMARY CARE SERVICES

32 Are you currently registered with a GP surgery / local doctor?

- No → GO TO QUESTION 35
 Yes

33 Do the staff at that GP surgery know that you have sex with men?

- No
 Yes
 Don't know

34 Are you, or would you be, happy for the staff at that GP surgery to know that you have sex with men?

- No – Why not? _____
 Yes

35 When was the last time you went to a ...

(put one tick on each line)

GP surgery / local doctor for a check-up (no symptoms)

- In the last month In the last year Over a year ago Never

GP surgery / local doctor for a specific reason (illness, vaccination etc.)

- In the last month In the last year Over a year ago Never

If you have not been to a GP surgery / local doctor in the last year go to question 38



36 Why did you make your LAST VISIT to a GP surgery / local doctor (whether NHS or private)? (Tick as many as apply)

- I was feeling unwell/had symptoms of an illness
- General check-up (no symptoms)
- To get a referral elsewhere
- Prescription/prescription renewal
- Insurance/mortgage/legal/job purposes
- Vaccination
- Dietary advice/monitoring
- An HIV test
- Blood test (other than HIV)
- Sexual health check-up
- Monitoring of an existing condition
- I accompanied someone else
- Other reason – **Say what:** _____

37 Thinking about that visit, indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements: (Tick one box for each statement)

- *“The staff listened carefully to what I said”*

- strongly agree
- agree
- not sure
- disagree
- strongly disagree

- *“I was treated with courtesy and respect”*

- strongly agree
- agree
- not sure
- disagree
- strongly disagree

- *“The staff seemed to know their job well”*

- strongly agree
- agree
- not sure
- disagree
- strongly disagree

38 In the last year what other health services have you used?

(Tick as many as apply)

- NHS direct (telephone)
- NHS walk-in centre
- Hospital accident and emergency unit (A&E)
- GUM clinic
- HIV clinic
- Private health care clinic
- Dentist
- Optician
- Pharmacy
- Complementary/alternative therapy clinic
- Other – **Say what:** _____



ABOUT HEALTH AND HIV PREVENTION TECHNOLOGIES

HIV Vaccine

No effective vaccine against HIV currently exists. However, medical researchers are trialling (testing) many potential vaccines. It is unlikely that any vaccine will be fully effective against HIV, but a partially effective vaccine may be a reality within 5 to 10 years.

39 Have you heard of HIV vaccines and trials?

- No
- Yes

Men diagnosed with HIV please go to question 41

40 If a partially effective vaccine for HIV became available would you consider using it?

- No
- Yes
- Maybe

Anti-HIV microbicides

Microbicides are substances which protect people from microbes such as viruses and bacteria. They might do this by directly killing microbes or physically preventing them from entering the body. They could be in the form of a lubricant, cream, spray, sponge, foam or jelly. Microbicides against HIV are still at a developmental stage and no proven, safe, effective products are currently available. It is unlikely that any microbicide will be fully effective against HIV but a partially effective microbicide may be a reality within 5 to 10 years.

41 Have you heard of microbicides?

- No
- Yes

42 If a partially effective anti HIV microbicide became available offering some protection against getting or passing on HIV when fucking, would you consider using it?

- No
- Yes
- Maybe



HIV home-testing

HIV tests in the UK can be done through hospitals, sexual health clinics, GPs and medical centres. In some countries people can get home-testing kits, which enables them to self test, mail it to a laboratory and receive the results over the telephone. There is also an instant home-test (similar to home pregnancy tests) where results are learnt on the spot. The sale of HIV home-testing kits of any sort is illegal in the UK and they are not currently available.

43 Have you heard of HIV home-testing kits?

- No
- Yes

Men diagnosed with HIV please go to question 45.

44 If a home-testing kit for HIV became available would you consider using it?

- No
- Yes
- Maybe

Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

PEP is a one month course of anti-HIV drugs. It attempts to stop HIV infection taking place after a person is exposed to the virus. It should be taken as soon as possible after exposure and probably within a few days. In a few UK hospitals PEP is available for those exposed to HIV through sex. In those hospitals whether you get PEP will depend on the likelihood that you have been exposed to HIV and your ability to cope with the side effects.

45 Have you heard of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)?

- No → GO TO QUESTION 49
 Yes

46 Have you ever tried to get PEP?

- No
 Yes

47 Have you ever taken PEP?

- No
 Yes

48 Do you know anyone who has received PEP?

- No
 Yes

Men diagnosed with HIV please go to question 50.

49 If you thought you had been exposed to HIV would you consider trying to get PEP?

- No
 Yes



AND FINALLY READERSHIP OF GAY PUBLICATIONS

50 In the LAST MONTH which of the following gay and HIV publications have you read or looked at?....

(Tick all that apply)

- Attitude
- AXM
- Boyz
- DNA
- Fluid
- Free magazine
- Gay Times
- GCN (Gay Community News)
- LB plus
- NOW UK
- The Pink Paper
- Positive Nation
- QX
- +ve
- Refresh
- F:S (F***sheet)
- G:Scene
- Zone
- Scotsgay
- SHOUT
- 3SIXTY
- OUT

*Thanks very much for taking part
Please remember to seal and post this booklet*

Do you have any comments or suggestions about this survey?