

# Vital Statistics 2004 The UK Gay Men's Sex Survey

## Northern Ireland NHS Health and Social Service Board of Residence Data Report (March 2008)

This is a report of data from the UK Gay Men's Sex Survey 2004, conducted by Sigma Research in collaboration with health promoters throughout the UK. This report supplements the annual report *Risk and reflexion* (down-loadable from <http://www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/files/report2005c.pdf>). Survey methods and interpretation of the variables are outlined in that report. This data is intended to provide HIV health promotion planners with information about their local gay population. This report contains data from men who live in Northern Ireland and for whom NHS Health and Social Service Board data is known. Respondents are grouped according to the Board in which they live.

### *The data*

The survey used three data collection methods over the summer of 2004:

- (1) A self-sealing, Freepost addressed booklet distributed by 113 health promotion agencies throughout the UK: (1 based in Northern Ireland);
- (2) In English and Spanish on two specific web-sites <<http://www.sigmasurvey.org.uk>> and <http://www.sigmaspanish.org.uk>>, promoted via links on 37 gay and HIV related web-sites (1 targetting men living in Northern Ireland exclusively). Two sites, gay.com and gaydar.co.uk, conducted paid for promotion of the survey.
- (3) As an insert in the GMFA magazine 'FS' which could be returned by Freepost.

This report contains data from all the men recruited through **all methods**.

The respondents are grouped according to the SHA they live in.

To be included in the sample respondents must:

- be male;
- be aged 14 or over;
- be living in Northern Ireland;
- have had sex with a man in the last year and / 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 Board appear as a line in the tables. The bottom line of each table gives the result for the entire Northern Ireland sample. 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. Areas with fewer than 20 men are not reported on further. 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:

<http://www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/files/VS2004booklet.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. Web

recruitment occurred in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Booklet recruitment occurred in England Wales and Scotland.



## Table Contents

### **SAMPLE DESCRIPTION**

1. Web and booklet sample sizes by Strategic Health Authority of residence.
2. Age groups; Q8 grouped into ten year age bands.
3. Age averages; from Q8; the median age (line them up by size and pick the one in the middle), the minimum (youngest) and maximum (oldest) ages, the mean age (add them up and divide by how many there are), and the standard deviation (a measure of how spread out along the range they are).
4. Ethnicity in six groups; from Q4.
5. Years of full-time education after the age of 16 years of age; Q7.
6. Current religious practice; Q9 + Q11 + Q13.
7. Sexual identity; Q3.
8. Illness, health problem or disability; Q16.

### **HIV TESTING**

9. HIV testing history; Q17 + Q18.

### **SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR**

10. Gender of sexual partner in the last year; Q22.
11. Number of male sexual partners in the last year; Q23 (Those who had sex with men).
12. HIV concordancy of regular male relationship; Q14 + Q15.
13. Sex with a risk of HIV transmission since last HIV test; Q20. (Those who had tested for HIV).

### **HEALTH NEEDS**

14. *The sex I have is always as safe as I want it to be*; Q30a.
15. *I find it easy to say 'no' to sex I don't want*; q30b.
16. *I sometimes feel lonely*; Q30c.
17. *I sometimes worry about how much I drink*; Q30d.
18. *I sometimes worry about my recreational drug use*; Q30e.
19. *I'm happy with what I know about HIV*; Q30f.
20. Desire to know more about sexual health and HIV; Q33.

### **INTERVENTION COVERAGE**

21. *Recency of STI check-up*; Q31.
22. *Location of last STI check-up*; Q32.
23. *Location of last HIV test*; Q19.

Sigma Research address: 77a Tradescant Road London SW8 1XJ  
www.sigmaresearch.org.uk  
Ph 020 7820 8022 Fax 020 7793 8009  
David.Reid@sigmaresearch.org.uk

**Vital Statistics 2004**  
**The UK Gay Men's Sex Survey**  
**Northern Ireland NHS Health and Social Service Board data report (March 2008)**

**Sample sizes and descriptions**

**1. Web, Booklet and FS insert sample sizes.**

Count

	distribution method			Total
	Web English	Booklet	FS insert	
Eastern	141	2	0	143
Southern	32	1	0	33
Northern	59	2	0	61
Western	33	0	1	34
Health board unknown	4	0	0	4
Total	269	5	1	275

**2. Age groups.**

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	Age Groups				
	<20	20s	30s	40s	50+
Eastern	14.0%	45.5%	18.2%	15.4%	7.0%
Southern	24.2%	36.4%	27.3%	6.1%	6.1%
Northern	27.9%	32.8%	19.7%	13.1%	6.6%
Western	26.5%	32.4%	11.8%	20.6%	8.8%
Total	19.9%	39.9%	18.8%	14.4%	7.0%

### 3. Age averages.

Age

demog Northern Ireland Health Board	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Eastern	28.00	15	66	30.64	10.991
Southern	27.00	16	62	29.39	11.093
Northern	25.00	15	63	28.56	11.648
Western	24.00	16	60	30.56	13.242
Total	27.00	15	66	30.01	11.422

### 4. Ethnicity.

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	Ethnic Group				
	White British	White other	Asian	Mixed	Other
Eastern	55.2%	44.1%			.7%
Southern	39.4%	57.6%		3.0%	
Northern	54.1%	42.6%	1.6%		1.6%
Western	38.2%	58.8%			2.9%
Total	50.9%	47.2%	.4%	.4%	1.1%

### 5. Years of full-time education after the age of 16 years of age.

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	Years in full-time education post - 16				
	None	1 year	2 years	3 to 5 years	6 or more years
Eastern	12.1%	6.4%	18.4%	36.2%	27.0%
Southern	12.1%	3.0%	21.2%	36.4%	27.3%
Northern	16.4%	14.8%	18.0%	23.0%	27.9%
Western	8.8%	17.6%	26.5%	20.6%	26.5%
Total	12.6%	9.3%	19.7%	31.2%	27.1%

## 6. Current religious practice.

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	Current religious practice					
	No religious practice	Judaism	Christianity	Buddhism	Paganism	Other
Eastern	75.2%		22.0%	.7%		2.1%
Southern	50.0%		50.0%			
Northern	68.3%	1.7%	25.0%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%
Western	59.4%		34.4%		6.3%	
Total	68.7%	.4%	27.5%	.8%	1.1%	1.5%

## 7. Sexual identity.

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	Sexual identity			
	Gay	Bisexual	I don't usually use a term	Any other term
Eastern	71.3%	20.3%	8.4%	
Southern	66.7%	27.3%	3.0%	3.0%
Northern	70.5%	16.4%	13.1%	
Western	73.5%	23.5%	2.9%	
Total	70.8%	20.7%	8.1%	.4%

## 8. Illness, Health problem or disability.

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	Illness, Health problem, disability	
	no	yes
Eastern	90.9%	9.1%
Southern	87.9%	12.1%
Northern	90.2%	9.8%
Western	90.6%	9.4%
Total	90.3%	9.7%

## HIV testing

### 9. HIV testing history.

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	HIV testing history			
	Never tested	-ve test last year	-ve test > 1 year ago	Tested HIV positive
Eastern	56.0%	23.4%	14.2%	6.4%
Southern	81.8%	15.2%	3.0%	
Northern	68.3%	18.3%	10.0%	3.3%
Western	73.5%	20.6%	5.9%	
Total	64.2%	20.9%	10.8%	4.1%

## Sexual Behaviour

### 10. Gender of sexual partners in the last year.

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	Gender of sexual partners			
	no one	women only	men only	both men and women
Eastern	7.7%	2.1%	72.7%	17.5%
Southern			81.8%	18.2%
Northern	8.2%		75.4%	16.4%
Western	2.9%		73.5%	23.5%
Total	6.3%	1.1%	74.5%	18.1%

### 11. Number of male sexual partners in the last year.

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	Number of male sexual partners				
	One	2,3 or 4	5 to 12	13 to 29	30 or more
Eastern	15.7%	41.7%	23.6%	11.8%	7.1%
Southern	12.1%	33.3%	36.4%	18.2%	
Northern	17.9%	44.6%	21.4%	12.5%	3.6%
Western	12.9%	29.0%	32.3%	22.6%	3.2%
Total	15.4%	39.7%	25.9%	14.2%	4.9%

**12. HIV concordancy of regular male relationship.**

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	HIV concordancy of regular male relationship			
	Single	HIV concordant	HIV discordant	Concordancy unknown
Eastern	46.2%	37.1%	4.2%	12.6%
Southern	56.3%	18.8%		25.0%
Northern	43.3%	38.3%	3.3%	15.0%
Western	30.3%	36.4%	3.0%	30.3%
Total	44.8%	35.1%	3.4%	16.8%

**13. Sex with a risk of HIV transmission since last HIV test (those who had tested for HIV).**

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	HIV transmission risk since HIV test		
	No	Yes	Don't know
Eastern	54.8%	38.7%	6.5%
Southern	83.3%		16.7%
Northern	73.7%	15.8%	10.5%
Western	11.1%	55.6%	33.3%
Total	56.3%	33.3%	10.4%

## Health Needs

### 14. The sex I have is always as safe as I want it to be.

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	Sex is as safe as I want it to be				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Eastern	54.3%	32.3%	3.9%	9.4%	
Southern	48.5%	33.3%	15.2%		3.0%
Northern	41.1%	42.9%	5.4%	10.7%	
Western	45.2%	32.3%	16.1%	6.5%	
Total	49.4%	34.8%	7.3%	8.1%	.4%

### 15. I find it easy to say 'no' to sex I don't want.

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	I find it easy to say "no" to sex				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Eastern	44.9%	38.6%	8.7%	6.3%	1.6%
Southern	36.4%	42.4%	12.1%	9.1%	
Northern	42.9%	35.7%	7.1%	8.9%	5.4%
Western	35.5%	51.6%	3.2%	9.7%	
Total	42.1%	40.1%	8.1%	7.7%	2.0%

### 16. I sometimes feel lonely.

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	I sometimes feel lonely				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Eastern	24.4%	46.5%	7.9%	15.7%	5.5%
Southern	33.3%	33.3%	18.2%	15.2%	
Northern	33.9%	32.1%	12.5%	14.3%	7.1%
Western	32.3%	45.2%	3.2%	16.1%	3.2%
Total	28.7%	41.3%	9.7%	15.4%	4.9%



**17. I sometimes worry about how much I drink.**

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	I sometimes worry about how much I drink				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Eastern	7.9%	28.6%	5.6%	27.8%	30.2%
Southern	9.1%	12.1%	6.1%	48.5%	24.2%
Northern	8.9%	41.1%	5.4%	30.4%	14.3%
Western	9.7%	25.8%	9.7%	38.7%	16.1%
Total	8.5%	28.9%	6.1%	32.5%	24.0%

**18. I sometimes worry about my recreational drug use.**

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	I sometimes worry about my recreational drug use				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Eastern	2.4%	10.5%	4.0%	19.4%	63.7%
Southern	6.3%	6.3%	9.4%	18.8%	59.4%
Northern	5.6%	9.3%	7.4%	16.7%	61.1%
Western	3.4%	10.3%	13.8%	13.8%	58.6%
Total	3.8%	9.6%	6.7%	18.0%	61.9%

**19. I'm happy with what I know about HIV.**

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	I am happy with what I know about HIV				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Eastern	30.7%	52.0%	8.7%	3.9%	4.7%
Southern	12.1%	36.4%	42.4%	9.1%	
Northern	17.9%	44.6%	14.3%	17.9%	5.4%
Western	6.5%	48.4%	25.8%	16.1%	3.2%
Total	22.3%	47.8%	16.6%	9.3%	4.0%

## 20. Would you like to know more about sexual health and HIV?

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	Desire to know more about sexual health and HIV?	
	No	Yes
Eastern	55.2%	44.8%
Southern	36.4%	63.6%
Northern	36.7%	63.3%
Western	38.2%	61.8%
Total	46.7%	53.3%

## Intervention coverage

### 21. Recency of STI check-up.

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	Recency of last STI checkup			
	I've never had a check-up	In the last year	In the last five years	More than five years ago
Eastern	53.8%	28.7%	13.3%	4.2%
Southern	69.7%	15.2%	9.1%	6.1%
Northern	54.1%	29.5%	8.2%	8.2%
Western	73.5%	20.6%		5.9%
Total	58.3%	26.2%	10.0%	5.5%

### 22. Location of last STI check-up

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	Location of last STI checkup		
	GP surgery/local doctor	GUM, STD or sexual health clinic	Private Health Care clinic
Eastern	9.2%	87.7%	3.1%
Southern	20.0%	80.0%	
Northern	21.4%	71.4%	7.1%
Western	22.2%	77.8%	
Total	14.3%	82.1%	3.6%

### 23. Location of last HIV test.

% within demog Northern Ireland Health Board

	HIV testing Location of last test		
	GP surgery/local doctor	GUM, STD or sexual health clinic	Private health care clinic
Eastern	16.7%	76.7%	6.7%
Southern	33.3%	66.7%	
Northern	11.1%	77.8%	11.1%
Western	11.1%	77.8%	11.1%
Total	16.1%	76.3%	7.5%

**END**