

# Prescription for Change

## Lesbian and bisexual women's health check 2008

### North East

This report is a supplementary report to the Stonewall report **Prescription for Change: Lesbian and bisexual women's health check 2008**. This report provides further regional statistics for each country, each Strategic Health Authority, or healthboard.

#### Methodology

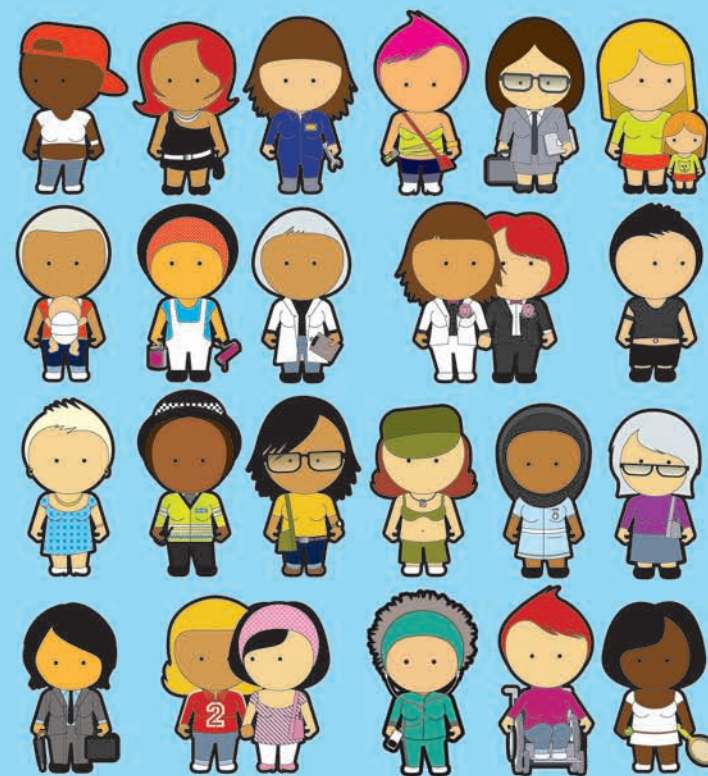
In the summer of 2007, 6178 women responded to an online and paper survey on their health needs and experiences.

The survey included questions on lifestyle (alcohol consumption, smoking, exercise, mental health), medical history and experiences of the health sector. The survey also captured qualitative evidence from participants about their experiences. These are included in the main report.

#### Guidance on using the data

This data is intended to provide NHS planners with information about their local population, in comparison to national and regional data. For nationwide statistics (Great Britain) for comparison, please refer to the main report. When citing data from this supplementary report please cite Prescription for Change: Lesbian and bisexual women's health check 2008.

Survey results analysed by Sigma Research.



# Lesbian & Bisexual Women's Health Survey 2007

## North East Strategic Health Authority data report (June 2008, n=224)

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### 1a. PCT of residence

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Newcastle	56	25.0	25.0	25.0
County Durham	49	21.9	21.9	46.9
Northumberland Care Trust	21	9.4	9.4	56.3
South Tyneside	16	7.1	7.1	63.4
North Tyneside	15	6.7	6.7	70.1
Gateshead	14	6.3	6.3	76.3
Sunderland Teaching	14	6.3	6.3	82.6
Middlesbrough	10	4.5	4.5	87.1
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching	8	3.6	3.6	90.6
PCT area unknown	7	3.1	3.1	93.8
Hartlepool	7	3.1	3.1	96.9
Redcar & Cleveland	7	3.1	3.1	100.0
Total	224	100.0	100.0	

### 1b. PCT of residence for following comparisons

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid All other North East	98	43.8	43.8	43.8
Newcastle	56	25.0	25.0	68.8
County Durham	49	21.9	21.9	90.6
Northumberland CT	21	9.4	9.4	100.0
Total	224	100.0	100.0	

### 2. Sexual identity

% within PCT

	Sexual identity			Total
	Lesbian	Bisexual	Other	
PCT Northumberland CT	76.2%	23.8%		100.0%
Newcastle	80.4%	14.3%	5.4%	100.0%
County Durham	73.5%	24.5%	2.0%	100.0%
All other North East	83.7%	12.2%	4.1%	100.0%
Total	79.9%	16.5%	3.6%	100.0%

### 3. Current smoker (cigarettes)

% within PCT

		Current smoker (cigarettes)		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	70.0%	30.0%	100.0%
	Newcastle	75.0%	25.0%	100.0%
	County Durham	79.2%	20.8%	100.0%
	All other North East	61.2%	38.8%	100.0%
Total		69.4%	30.6%	100.0%

### 4. Number of days drank alcohol in the last week

% within PCT

		Number of days drank alcohol in the last week								Total
		No alcohol in last 7 days	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days	6 days	7 days	
PCT	Northumberland CT	42.1%	15.8%	21.1%		5.3%	10.5%		5.3%	100.0%
	Newcastle	15.1%	22.6%	20.8%	20.8%	3.8%	13.2%	1.9%	1.9%	100.0%
	County Durham	19.1%	17.0%	23.4%	14.9%	10.6%	4.3%	2.1%	8.5%	100.0%
	All other North East	15.4%	27.5%	17.6%	15.4%	11.0%	6.6%	2.2%	4.4%	100.0%
Total		18.6%	22.9%	20.0%	15.2%	8.6%	8.1%	1.9%	4.8%	100.0%

### 5. Used any of the following drugs in the last year: marijuana, ecstasy, LSD, speed, crystal meth, cocaine, crack, ketamine, GHB, heroin

% within PCT

		Used any drugs in the last year		Total
		Not last year	Yes, last year	
PCT	Northumberland CT	81.0%	19.0%	100.0%
	Newcastle	63.6%	36.4%	100.0%
	County Durham	63.3%	36.7%	100.0%
	All other North East	63.8%	36.2%	100.0%
Total		65.3%	34.7%	100.0%

## 6. Ever tested for STI / vaginal conditions

% within PCT

		Ever tested for STI / vaginal conditions		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	61.9%	38.1%	100.0%
	Newcastle	41.1%	58.9%	100.0%
	County Durham	46.9%	53.1%	100.0%
	All other North East	60.8%	39.2%	100.0%
Total		52.9%	47.1%	100.0%

## 7. Gender of sexual partners in last 5 years

% within PCT

		Gender of sexual partners in last 5 years				Total
		Women only	Men only	Both women and men	No one	
PCT	Northumberland CT	61.9%	4.8%	28.6%	4.8%	100.0%
	Newcastle	64.3%		30.4%	5.4%	100.0%
	County Durham	51.0%	8.2%	34.7%	6.1%	100.0%
	All other North East	70.1%	3.1%	23.7%	3.1%	100.0%
Total		63.7%	3.6%	28.3%	4.5%	100.0%

## 8. Experience of cervical screening (age 25-64, NOT Trans)

% within PCT

		Experience of cervical screening				Total
		Never had cervical smear	I have had a smear test in the last 3 years	I have had a smear test in the past 3-5 years	I had a smear test more than 5 years ago	
PCT	Northumberland CT		60.0%	6.7%	33.3%	100.0%
	Newcastle	3.4%	62.1%	27.6%	6.9%	100.0%
	County Durham	22.7%	36.4%	22.7%	18.2%	100.0%
	All other North East	13.8%	65.5%	10.3%	10.3%	100.0%
Total		11.3%	58.9%	16.1%	13.7%	100.0%

## 9. Frequency of self-checking breasts

% within PCT

		Frequency of self-checking breasts			Total
		No, I don't currently self-check	Yes, sometimes (every few months)	Yes, regularly (every month)	
PCT	Northumberland CT	9.5%	57.1%	33.3%	100.0%
	Newcastle	25.0%	57.1%	17.9%	100.0%
	County Durham	20.4%	34.7%	44.9%	100.0%
	All other North East	17.3%	44.9%	37.8%	100.0%
Total		19.2%	46.9%	33.9%	100.0%

## 10. In the last year, made any attempt to take your life

% within PCT

		In the last year, made any attempt to take your life		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	90.0%	10.0%	100.0%
	Newcastle	92.9%	7.1%	100.0%
	County Durham	100.0%		100.0%
	All other North East	91.6%	8.4%	100.0%
Total		93.6%	6.4%	100.0%

## 11. In the last year, deliberate self-harm (with no the intention of killing yourself)

% within PCT

		In the last year, deliberate self-harm (with no the intention of killing yourself)		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	90.0%	10.0%	100.0%
	Newcastle	73.2%	26.8%	100.0%
	County Durham	75.5%	24.5%	100.0%
	All other North East	78.1%	21.9%	100.0%
Total		77.4%	22.6%	100.0%

## 12. Ever been told you have eating problem

% within PCT

		Ever been told you have eating problem		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	85.7%	14.3%	100.0%
	Newcastle	76.8%	23.2%	100.0%
	County Durham	77.6%	22.4%	100.0%
	All other North East	78.6%	21.4%	100.0%
Total		78.6%	21.4%	100.0%

## 13. Ever experienced domestic violence

% within PCT

		Ever experienced domestic violence				Total
		No never	Yes, from a male	Yes, from a female	Yes (gender unknown)	
PCT	Northumberland CT	61.9%	4.8%	33.3%		100.0%
	Newcastle	67.9%	10.7%	19.6%	1.8%	100.0%
	County Durham	73.5%	4.1%	22.4%		100.0%
	All other North East	64.3%	8.2%	26.5%	1.0%	100.0%
Total		67.0%	7.6%	24.6%	.9%	100.0%

## 14. Self-rating of health

% within PCT

		Self-rating of health				Total
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	
PCT	Northumberland CT	14.3%	47.6%	38.1%		100.0%
	Newcastle	21.4%	53.6%	23.2%	1.8%	100.0%
	County Durham	12.2%	63.3%	22.4%	2.0%	100.0%
	All other North East	18.4%	61.2%	18.4%	2.0%	100.0%
Total		17.4%	58.5%	22.3%	1.8%	100.0%

### 15. BMI categories

% within PCT

		BMI categories					Total
		Underweight (<18.5)	Normal (18.5 - 24.99)	Overweight (25 - 29.99)	Obese (30+)	Very Obese (40+)	
PCT	Northumberland CT		40.0%	20.0%	35.0%	5.0%	100.0%
	Newcastle	1.8%	58.9%	25.0%	12.5%	1.8%	100.0%
	County Durham	6.4%	48.9%	19.1%	19.1%	6.4%	100.0%
	All other North East	3.2%	44.2%	25.3%	26.3%	1.1%	100.0%
Total		3.2%	48.6%	23.4%	22.0%	2.8%	100.0%

### 16. Sexuality disclosure to GP or health care professionals

% within PCT

		Sexuality disclosure to GP or health care professionals					Total
		All or almost all	More than half	About half	Less than half	Few or none	
PCT	Northumberland CT	55.0%		5.0%		40.0%	100.0%
	Newcastle	29.6%	11.1%	13.0%	7.4%	38.9%	100.0%
	County Durham	27.1%	4.2%	4.2%	2.1%	62.5%	100.0%
	All other North East	40.6%	4.2%	7.3%	7.3%	40.6%	100.0%
Total		36.2%	5.5%	7.8%	5.5%	45.0%	100.0%

### 17. Any NEGATIVE experiences of health care in the last year

% within PCT

		Any NEGATIVE experiences of health care in the last year		Total
		No none	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	78.9%	21.1%	100.0%
	Newcastle	52.8%	47.2%	100.0%
	County Durham	45.8%	54.2%	100.0%
	All other North East	52.1%	47.9%	100.0%
Total		53.3%	46.7%	100.0%



**18. Health care worker assumed heterosexuality**

% within PCT

		Health care worker assumed heterosexuality		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	84.2%	15.8%	100.0%
	Newcastle	66.0%	34.0%	100.0%
	County Durham	58.3%	41.7%	100.0%
	All other North East	68.4%	31.6%	100.0%
Total		67.0%	33.0%	100.0%

**19. No opportunity to discuss sexual orientation in health-care setting**

% within PCT

		No opportunity to discuss sexual orientation in health-care setting		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	94.7%	5.3%	100.0%
	Newcastle	81.1%	18.9%	100.0%
	County Durham	83.3%	16.7%	100.0%
	All other North East	78.9%	21.1%	100.0%
Total		81.9%	18.1%	100.0%

**20. Not sure of GP surgery's policy on confidentiality**

% within PCT

		Not sure of GP surgery's policy on confidentiality		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	100.0%		100.0%
	Newcastle	90.6%	9.4%	100.0%
	County Durham	87.5%	12.5%	100.0%
	All other North East	87.4%	12.6%	100.0%
Total		89.3%	10.7%	100.0%

### 21. Came out and health care worker still assumed heterosexuality

% within PCT

		Came out and health care worker still assumed heterosexuality		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	100.0%		100.0%
	Newcastle	92.5%	7.5%	100.0%
	County Durham	89.6%	10.4%	100.0%
	All other North East	88.4%	11.6%	100.0%
	Total	90.7%	9.3%	100.0%

### 22. Came out and health-care worker asked inappropriate questions

% within PCT

		Came out and health-care worker asked inappropriate questions		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	94.7%	5.3%	100.0%
	Newcastle	96.2%	3.8%	100.0%
	County Durham	97.9%	2.1%	100.0%
	All other North East	94.7%	5.3%	100.0%
	Total	95.8%	4.2%	100.0%

### 23. Any POSITIVE experiences of health care in the last year

% within PCT

		Any POSITIVE experiences of health care in the last year		Total
		None of these	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	38.1%	61.9%	100.0%
	Newcastle	47.3%	52.7%	100.0%
	County Durham	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	All other North East	41.2%	58.8%	100.0%
	Total	44.3%	55.7%	100.0%

**24. Health care worker did not make inappropriate comments after disclosure**

% within PCT

		Health care worker did not make inappropriate comments after disclosure		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	81.0%	19.0%	100.0%
	Newcastle	70.9%	29.1%	100.0%
	County Durham	68.8%	31.3%	100.0%
	All other North East	63.9%	36.1%	100.0%
Total		68.3%	31.7%	100.0%

**25. Acknowledgement of sexuality by health worker after disclosure**

% within PCT

		Acknowledgement of sexuality by health worker after disclosure		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	81.0%	19.0%	100.0%
	Newcastle	67.3%	32.7%	100.0%
	County Durham	83.3%	16.7%	100.0%
	All other North East	77.3%	22.7%	100.0%
Total		76.5%	23.5%	100.0%

**26. Health care worker provided an opportunity to come out**

% within PCT

		Health care worker provided an opportunity to come out		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	95.2%	4.8%	100.0%
	Newcastle	98.2%	1.8%	100.0%
	County Durham	93.8%	6.3%	100.0%
	All other North East	91.8%	8.2%	100.0%
Total		94.1%	5.9%	100.0%

**27. Health care worker welcomed partner at consultation**

% within PCT

		Health care worker welcomed partner at consultation		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	90.5%	9.5%	100.0%
	Newcastle	89.1%	10.9%	100.0%
	County Durham	95.8%	4.2%	100.0%
	All other North East	85.6%	14.4%	100.0%
Total		89.1%	10.9%	100.0%

**28. Health care worker gave advice accounting for my sexuality**

% within PCT

		Health care worker gave advice accounting for my sexuality		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	90.5%	9.5%	100.0%
	Newcastle	92.7%	7.3%	100.0%
	County Durham	89.6%	10.4%	100.0%
	All other North East	94.8%	5.2%	100.0%
Total		92.8%	7.2%	100.0%

**29. GP surgery had clear policy on confidentiality**

% within PCT

		GP surgery had clear policy on confidentiality		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	71.4%	28.6%	100.0%
	Newcastle	67.3%	32.7%	100.0%
	County Durham	70.8%	29.2%	100.0%
	All other North East	73.2%	26.8%	100.0%
Total		71.0%	29.0%	100.0%

**30. GP surgery displayed non-discriminatory policy including sexual orientation**

% within PCT

		GP surgery displayed non-discriminatory policy including sexual orientation		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	90.5%	9.5%	100.0%
	Newcastle	94.5%	5.5%	100.0%
	County Durham	95.8%	4.2%	100.0%
	All other North East	88.7%	11.3%	100.0%
Total		91.9%	8.1%	100.0%

**31. Attended specialist health service for lesbian or bisexual women**

% within PCT

		Attended specialist health service for lesbian or bisexual women		Total
		No	Yes	
PCT	Northumberland CT	100.0%		100.0%
	Newcastle	100.0%		100.0%
	County Durham	100.0%		100.0%
	All other North East	97.9%	2.1%	100.0%
Total		99.1%	.9%	100.0%

## **The Study:**

In 2007, Stonewall and De Montfort University asked lesbian and bisexual women from Great Britain to complete a survey about their health.

The survey received 6178 responses making it the biggest survey of lesbian and bisexual women's health needs in Europe.

Eighty one per cent of respondents said that they were lesbian, and sixteen per cent said they were bisexual. Eighty five per cent of respondents live in England, nine per cent in Scotland, and five per cent in Wales. Eighty two per cent of respondents are white British, and the rest are from ethnic minorities, which is comparable with the general population. Respondents come from a wide age-range. The youngest respondent was fourteen and the oldest was 84. Fourteen per cent of respondents say that they have a disability, including physical and mental disabilities.