

Vital Statistics 2007 The UK Gay Men's Sex Survey

Area Sub-samples Data Report (January 2009: Version 2)

North East Strategic Health Authority (n=169)

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. There is a data report for each Strategic Health Authority (SHA) in England, with men grouped according to their Primary Care Trust (PCT) of residence. There are also whole country reports for England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, with men grouped according to their region 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 PCT appear as a row (horizontal line) in the tables. The bottom row of each table gives the result for the entire SHA. The first table shows the number of men recruited to the survey living in PCT areas and the size of the sub-samples in the rest of the tables. PCT areas with fewer than 20 men in the sample are reported as "all other men". Some adjoining PCT areas are amalgamated where respondents cannot be allocated to an individual PCT area. 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.



Table Contents

SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

- 1a. Primary Care Trust (PCT) area of residence.
- 1b. Web and booklet sample sizes by PCT area of residence.
2. Age groups; Q5 grouped into ten year age bands.
3. Age averages; from Q5; 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 6 groups; from Q6.
5. Sexual identity; Q48.
6. Gender of sexual partners in the last year; Q16.
7. Marriage / civil partnership status; Q4.
8. Sero-discordancy with male regular partner; Q9.

HIV TESTING & HEPATITIS SUSCEPTIBILITY

9. HIV testing history; Q7.
10. Hepatitis B susceptibility; Q12.
11. Hepatitis A susceptibility; Q14.

SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

12. Number of male sexual partners in the last year; Q17.
13. Met new male sexual partner/s in last year (among those who had any male partners); Q20.
14. Unprotected anal intercourse (UAI) in the previous year, with partners whose HIV status was unknown or discordant; Q24+Q25+Q28+Q29.
15. Perceived HIV transmission risk in the last year (for all men); Q21.

HEALTH NEEDS

16. Ever heard of PEP; Q33.
17. Any concern about your alcohol use; Q32.
18. Any concern about your drug use; Q32.
19. *I would sometimes rather risk HIV transmission than use a condom; Q39a.*
20. *I can talk to my friends about safer sex and HIV; Q39b.*
21. *I have someone to talk to if I'm worried about safer sex and HIV; Q39c.*
22. *If I wanted to know something about safer sex or HIV, I'd know how to find the answer; Q39d.*
23. How easy do you find it to decline sexual contact with other men? Q40.
24. How easy is it for you to have safer sex during sexual encounters? Q41.
25. How easy is it for you to negotiate the sex that you want? Q42.
26. How easy is it for you to maintain condom use in your sexual encounters? Q43.

Sigma Research
77a Tradescant Road
London, SW8 1XJ
020-7820 8022
David.Reid@sigmaresearch.org.uk
www.sigmaresearch.org.uk

SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

1a. Primary Care Trust (PCT) area of residence.

	Frequency	Percent
County Durham	44	26.0
Newcastle	28	16.6
Gateshead	22	13.0
North Tees	15	8.9
Middlesbrough	13	7.7
Northumberland Care trust	11	6.5
Sunderland Teaching	9	5.3
PCT area unknown	6	3.6
Hartlepool	6	3.6
Redcar & Cleveland	6	3.6
Darlington	5	3.0
North Tyneside	2	1.2
South Tyneside	2	1.2
Total	169	100.0

1b. Web and booklet sample sizes by PCT area of residence.

Count

	Distribution method		Total
	Web	Booklet	
Newcastle	21	7	28
Gateshead	11	11	22
County Durham	25	19	44
All other North East SHA men	49	26	75
Total	106	63	169

2. Age groups.

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Age in 10s					Total
	<20	20s	30s	40s	50+	
Newcastle	17.9%	39.3%	35.7%	7.1%		100.0%
Gateshead	13.6%	31.8%	13.6%	27.3%	13.6%	100.0%
County Durham	15.9%	38.6%	25.0%	4.5%	15.9%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	25.3%	32.0%	22.7%	12.0%	8.0%	100.0%
Total	20.1%	34.9%	24.3%	11.2%	9.5%	100.0%

3. Age averages.

Age

Demog - PCT area of residence	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Newcastle	25.00	17	48	28.14	9.005
Gateshead	32.50	17	60	34.32	12.933
County Durham	26.50	16	62	31.05	13.063
All other North East SHA men	26.00	17	67	29.37	12.335
Total	27.00	16	67	30.25	12.168

4. Ethnicity in 6 groups.

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Ethnicity						Total
	White other	Black	Asian	Mixed	Other	White British	
Newcastle	10.7%	3.6%			7.1%	78.6%	100.0%
Gateshead			4.5%			95.5%	100.0%
County Durham	11.4%			2.3%		86.4%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	1.3%					98.7%	100.0%
Total	5.3%	.6%	.6%	.6%	1.2%	91.7%	100.0%

5. Sexual identity.

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Sexual identity				Total
	Gay	Bisexual	I don't usually use a term	Any other term	
Newcastle	96.4%		3.6%		100.0%
Gateshead	77.3%	13.6%	9.1%		100.0%
County Durham	84.1%	13.6%	2.3%		100.0%
All other North East SHA men	85.3%	9.3%	4.0%	1.3%	100.0%
Total	85.8%	9.5%	4.1%	.6%	100.0%

6. Gender of sexual partners in the last year.

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Gender of sexual partners				Total
	No one	Women only	Both men and women	Men only	
Newcastle	3.6%			96.4%	100.0%
Gateshead	4.5%		4.5%	90.9%	100.0%
County Durham	20.5%	4.5%	11.4%	63.6%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	12.0%		8.0%	80.0%	100.0%
Total	11.8%	1.2%	7.1%	79.9%	100.0%

7. Marriage / civil partnership status.

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Legal partnership status			Total
	in a civil partnership with a man	in a marriage with a woman	in neither of these	
Newcastle	7.1%		92.9%	100.0%
Gateshead	4.5%	4.5%	90.9%	100.0%
County Durham			100.0%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	8.0%	4.0%	88.0%	100.0%
Total	5.3%	2.4%	92.3%	100.0%

8. Sero-discordancy with male regular partner.

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	HIV serodiscordancy with male partner			Total
	Not in sero-discordant relationship	In sero-discordant relationship	Don't know if sero-discordant	
Newcastle	85.7%	10.7%	3.6%	100.0%
Gateshead	86.4%	13.6%		100.0%
County Durham	79.5%	9.1%	11.4%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	92.0%	2.7%	5.3%	100.0%
Total	87.0%	7.1%	5.9%	100.0%

HIV TESTING & HEPATITIS SUSCEPTIBILITY

9. HIV testing history.

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	HIV testing history			Total
	Never tested	Tested negative	Tested positive	
Newcastle	25.0%	60.7%	14.3%	100.0%
Gateshead	22.7%	68.2%	9.1%	100.0%
County Durham	38.6%	54.5%	6.8%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	46.7%	48.0%	5.3%	100.0%
Total	37.9%	54.4%	7.7%	100.0%

10. Hepatitis B susceptibility.

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Hepatitis B susceptibility		Total
	Susceptible	Not Susceptible	
Newcastle	39.3%	60.7%	100.0%
Gateshead	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
County Durham	56.8%	43.2%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	53.3%	46.7%	100.0%
Total	51.5%	48.5%	100.0%

11. Hepatitis A susceptibility.

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Hepatitis A susceptibility		Total
	Susceptible	Not Susceptible	
Newcastle	67.9%	32.1%	100.0%
Gateshead	81.8%	18.2%	100.0%
County Durham	77.3%	22.7%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	81.3%	18.7%	100.0%
Total	78.1%	21.9%	100.0%

SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

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

% within Demog - PCT area 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	
Newcastle	3.6%	25.0%	28.6%	21.4%	17.9%	3.6%	100.0%
Gateshead	4.5%	22.7%	31.8%	13.6%	13.6%	13.6%	100.0%
County Durham	25.0%	11.4%	29.5%	18.2%	6.8%	9.1%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	12.0%	25.3%	26.7%	26.7%	5.3%	4.0%	100.0%
Total	13.0%	21.3%	28.4%	21.9%	8.9%	6.5%	100.0%

13. Met new male sexual partner/s in last year (among those who had any male partners).

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Met new male partner		Total
	No	Yes	
Newcastle	14.8%	85.2%	100.0%
Gateshead	19.0%	81.0%	100.0%
County Durham	6.1%	93.9%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	25.8%	74.2%	100.0%
Total	18.4%	81.6%	100.0%

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

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	UAI with partners of unknown or discordant status				Total
	Not done	Insertive only	Receptive only	Both Insertive and Receptive	
Newcastle	75.0%	3.6%	14.3%	7.1%	100.0%
Gateshead	68.2%	13.6%	9.1%	9.1%	100.0%
County Durham	77.3%	2.3%	6.8%	13.6%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	80.3%	4.2%	5.6%	9.9%	100.0%
Total	77.0%	4.8%	7.9%	10.3%	100.0%

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

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	HIV transmission risk in last year		Total
	No	Yes	
Newcastle	75.0%	25.0%	100.0%
Gateshead	68.2%	31.8%	100.0%
County Durham	59.1%	40.9%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	81.3%	18.7%	100.0%
Total	72.8%	27.2%	100.0%

HEALTH NEEDS

16. Ever heard of PEP.

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Heard of PEP		Total
	No	Yes	
Newcastle	21.4%	78.6%	100.0%
Gateshead	31.8%	68.2%	100.0%
County Durham	47.7%	52.3%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	50.7%	49.3%	100.0%
Total	42.6%	57.4%	100.0%

17. Any concern about your alcohol use.

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Any concern about alcohol use		Total
	No	Yes	
Newcastle	96.4%	3.6%	100.0%
Gateshead	95.5%	4.5%	100.0%
County Durham	90.9%	9.1%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	98.7%	1.3%	100.0%
Total	95.9%	4.1%	100.0%

18. Any concern about your drug use.

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Any concern about drug use		Total
	No	Yes	
Newcastle	96.4%	3.6%	100.0%
Gateshead	95.5%	4.5%	100.0%
County Durham	97.7%	2.3%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	96.0%	4.0%	100.0%
Total	96.4%	3.6%	100.0%

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

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Sometimes rather risk HIV transmission than use a			
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree
Newcastle		3.6%	3.6%	17.9%
Gateshead		9.1%	4.5%	22.7%
County Durham	6.8%	6.8%	13.6%	20.5%
All other North East SHA men	1.3%	2.7%	6.7%	22.7%
Total	2.4%	4.7%	7.7%	21.3%

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

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Sometime	Total
	Strongly disagree	
Newcastle	75.0%	100.0%
Gateshead	63.6%	100.0%
County Durham	52.3%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	66.7%	100.0%
Total	63.9%	100.0%

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

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	I can talk to my friends about safer sex and HIV					Total
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
Newcastle	39.3%	46.4%	7.1%	7.1%		100.0%
Gateshead	40.9%	27.3%	13.6%	9.1%	9.1%	100.0%
County Durham	34.1%	34.1%	20.5%	6.8%	4.5%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	44.0%	34.7%	14.7%	2.7%	4.0%	100.0%
Total	40.2%	35.5%	14.8%	5.3%	4.1%	100.0%

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

% within Demog - PCT area 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	
Newcastle	39.3%	42.9%		17.9%		100.0%
Gateshead	45.5%	18.2%	4.5%	22.7%	9.1%	100.0%
County Durham	31.8%	36.4%	9.1%	18.2%	4.5%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	45.3%	26.7%	13.3%	8.0%	6.7%	100.0%
Total	40.8%	30.8%	8.9%	14.2%	5.3%	100.0%

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

% within Demog - PCT area 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	
Newcastle	64.3%	32.1%		3.6%		100.0%
Gateshead	45.5%	27.3%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	100.0%
County Durham	36.4%	40.9%	9.1%	4.5%	9.1%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	48.0%	41.3%	5.3%	2.7%	2.7%	100.0%
Total	47.3%	37.9%	5.9%	4.1%	4.7%	100.0%

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

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Ease of declining sexual contact from other men				Total
	Very easy	Quite easy	Quite difficult	Very difficult	
Newcastle	46.4%	32.1%	17.9%	3.6%	100.0%
Gateshead	40.9%	40.9%	13.6%	4.5%	100.0%
County Durham	31.8%	38.6%	27.3%	2.3%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	33.3%	44.0%	17.3%	5.3%	100.0%
Total	36.1%	40.2%	19.5%	4.1%	100.0%

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

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Ease of having safer sex during sexual encounters				Total
	Very easy	Quite easy	Quite difficult	Very difficult	
Newcastle	71.4%	28.6%			100.0%
Gateshead	54.5%	31.8%	9.1%	4.5%	100.0%
County Durham	40.9%	45.5%	13.6%		100.0%
All other North East SHA men	57.3%	29.3%	13.3%		100.0%
Total	55.0%	33.7%	10.7%	.6%	100.0%

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

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Ease of negotiating sex that is wanted				Total
	Very easy	Quite easy	Quite difficult	Very difficult	
Newcastle	25.0%	71.4%		3.6%	100.0%
Gateshead	31.8%	54.5%	9.1%	4.5%	100.0%
County Durham	36.4%	40.9%	20.5%	2.3%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	44.0%	44.0%	10.7%	1.3%	100.0%
Total	37.3%	49.1%	11.2%	2.4%	100.0%

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

% within Demog - PCT area of residence

	Ease of maintaining condom use in sexual encounters				Total
	Very easy	Quite easy	Quite difficult	Very difficult	
Newcastle	60.7%	35.7%	3.6%		100.0%
Gateshead	50.0%	31.8%	9.1%	9.1%	100.0%
County Durham	38.6%	45.5%	13.6%	2.3%	100.0%
All other North East SHA men	46.7%	33.3%	17.3%	2.7%	100.0%
Total	47.3%	36.7%	13.0%	3.0%	100.0%

<ENDS>