

# Vital Statistics 2006 The UK Gay Men's Sex Survey

## England Strategic Health Authorities Data Report (February 2008)

This is the first release of data from the UK Gay Men's Sex Survey 2006, conducted by Sigma Research in collaboration with health promoters throughout the UK. This report supplements the annual report (down-loadable from <http://www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/files/report2008c.pdf>). 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 gay population. This report contains data from men who live in England and for whom Strategic Health Authority (SHA) data is known. Respondents are grouped according to the SHA in which they live.

### *The data*

The survey used two data collection methods over the summer of 2006:

- (1) A self-sealing, Freepost addressed booklet distributed by 76 health promotion agencies;
- (2) On a specific web-site <<http://www.sigmasurvey.org.uk>>, promoted via links on 31 gay and HIV related web-sites. Two sites, gay.com and gaydar.co.uk, conducted substantial paid for promotion of the survey.

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

The respondents are grouped according to the agency which recruited them.

To be included in the sample respondents must:

- be male;
- be aged 14 or over;
- be living in England;
- 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 SHA appear as a line in the tables. The bottom line of each table gives the result for the entire England sample. The first table shows the number of men recruited to the survey living in each SHA 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:

<http://www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/files/VS2006booklet.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. Booklet recruitment occurred in England and Wales.



**Sigma**  
RESEARCH

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**Sample Description**

**1. Web and booklet sample sizes.**

Count

	Distribution method		Total
	Web	Booklet	
London	2363	1226	3589
South West	374	292	666
South Central	326	109	435
South East Coast	429	154	583
East of England	377	286	663
East Midlands	305	314	619
West Midlands	361	284	645
Yorkshire and The Humber	345	446	791
North West	620	354	974
North East	159	104	263
SHA Unknown	1404	181	1585
Total	7063	3750	10813

## 2. Age Groups

% within SHA of residence

	Age Groups				
	<20	20s	30s	40s	50+
London	2.8%	26.3%	37.7%	23.2%	10.0%
South West	10.8%	28.5%	26.1%	20.6%	14.0%
South Central	9.2%	30.2%	25.8%	20.7%	14.1%
South East Coast	5.5%	29.6%	30.4%	20.4%	14.0%
East of England	9.3%	35.7%	23.4%	18.5%	13.1%
East Midlands	10.0%	28.1%	26.5%	20.6%	14.9%
West Midlands	9.8%	28.9%	28.4%	17.0%	15.8%
Yorkshire and The Humber	6.9%	34.1%	24.5%	22.6%	12.0%
North West	7.9%	32.6%	25.8%	18.9%	14.8%
North East	17.2%	34.9%	19.2%	15.3%	13.4%
All other English men	9.9%	28.3%	22.9%	20.7%	18.1%
Total	7.1%	29.2%	29.4%	21.0%	13.3%

## 3. Age averages.

Age

SHA of residence	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
London	35.00	15	80	36.00	10.515
South West	34.00	14	77	35.31	13.105
South Central	34.00	14	73	34.98	12.544
South East Coast	34.00	16	77	35.84	12.204
East of England	32.00	14	78	34.14	12.625
East Midlands	34.00	14	75	35.18	12.935
West Midlands	34.00	14	77	34.92	12.756
Yorkshire and The Humber	34.00	15	73	34.76	12.213
North West	34.00	15	77	34.94	12.479
North East	28.00	15	74	32.23	13.101
All other English men	35.00	14	79	36.12	13.770
Total	34.00	14	80	35.42	12.169

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

% within SHA of residence

	Years in full-time education post - 16				
	None	1 year	2 years	3 to 5 years	6 or more years
London	9.0%	3.9%	10.1%	34.7%	42.3%
South West	18.3%	9.2%	20.9%	26.3%	25.3%
South Central	14.5%	8.3%	17.0%	34.3%	26.0%
South East Coast	14.6%	9.8%	19.2%	34.2%	22.2%
East of England	18.7%	7.4%	22.0%	31.2%	20.7%
East Midlands	21.4%	6.8%	18.1%	30.9%	22.8%
West Midlands	20.5%	9.3%	18.8%	29.0%	22.5%
Yorkshire and The Humber	20.2%	6.7%	17.0%	31.4%	24.7%
North West	16.0%	7.0%	15.9%	37.6%	23.5%
North East	19.1%	11.5%	18.3%	33.2%	17.9%
All other English men	21.4%	7.6%	17.2%	31.2%	22.5%
Total	15.6%	6.7%	15.5%	32.8%	29.4%

#### 5. Sexual identity.

% within SHA of residence

	Sexual identity			
	Gay	Bisexual	I don't usually use a term	Any other term
London	86.6%	6.8%	5.9%	.7%
South West	85.8%	7.7%	5.1%	1.4%
South Central	84.4%	9.0%	6.2%	.5%
South East Coast	86.3%	8.2%	4.5%	1.0%
East of England	84.6%	10.6%	4.1%	.8%
East Midlands	83.5%	9.6%	6.4%	.5%
West Midlands	83.8%	10.6%	5.3%	.3%
Yorkshire and The Humber	87.1%	7.8%	4.1%	1.0%
North West	86.2%	9.9%	3.4%	.5%
North East	90.5%	5.7%	3.8%	
All other English men	76.7%	15.7%	7.3%	.3%
Total	84.6%	9.3%	5.5%	.7%

## 6. Ethnicity in six groups.

% within SHA of residence

	Ethnicity					
	White British	White other	Black	Asian	Mixed	Other
London	59.7%	26.8%	3.1%	2.4%	4.0%	4.0%
South West	88.5%	7.1%	.5%	.8%	2.0%	1.2%
South Central	86.1%	8.8%	.7%	1.2%	1.4%	1.8%
South East Coast	87.4%	7.1%	.3%	1.2%	1.9%	2.1%
East of England	88.2%	6.8%	1.2%	1.5%	1.5%	.8%
East Midlands	87.9%	7.4%	.3%	2.8%	1.1%	.5%
West Midlands	87.8%	7.0%	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%	1.3%
Yorkshire and The Humber	91.2%	4.7%	.4%	1.4%	1.0%	1.3%
North West	90.1%	5.3%	.7%	1.0%	1.8%	1.1%
North East	91.2%	3.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.9%	1.5%
All other English men	85.3%	7.7%	.9%	1.7%	2.5%	2.0%
Total	78.6%	13.3%	1.5%	1.7%	2.5%	2.3%

## 7. Living arrangements.

% within SHA of residence

	Living arrangements		
	Live alone	Live with male partner	Live with others not male partner
London	36.8%	29.1%	34.0%
South West	30.0%	32.4%	37.7%
South Central	33.4%	26.7%	39.9%
South East Coast	35.7%	30.6%	33.7%
East of England	31.3%	29.2%	39.5%
East Midlands	34.6%	32.4%	33.0%
West Midlands	32.7%	30.0%	37.3%
Yorkshire and The Humber	36.9%	28.6%	34.6%
North West	36.0%	26.8%	37.2%
North East	31.2%	25.9%	43.0%
All other English men	33.7%	26.9%	39.4%
Total	34.8%	28.9%	36.3%

## 8. In a Civil partnership or Marriage.

% within SHA of residence

	Civil partnership/marriage		
	In a Civil Partnership with a man	In a Marriage with a woman	In neither of these
London	6.6%	2.9%	90.4%
South West	6.6%	4.0%	89.4%
South Central	7.7%	6.1%	86.2%
South East Coast	5.9%	4.9%	89.2%
East of England	6.2%	6.9%	86.9%
East Midlands	4.8%	3.4%	91.8%
West Midlands	6.6%	3.6%	89.8%
Yorkshire and The Humber	7.0%	3.2%	89.8%
North West	5.5%	4.3%	90.2%
North East	7.2%	2.8%	90.0%
All other English men	7.0%	7.7%	85.2%
Total	6.5%	4.4%	89.1%

## HIV & Hepatitis C testing

### 9. HIV testing history.

% within SHA of residence

	HIV testing history			
	Never tested	-ve test last year	-ver test >1 year ago	Tested HIV positive
London	23.4%	36.4%	27.4%	12.8%
South West	41.6%	28.6%	26.2%	3.6%
South Central	40.5%	28.9%	26.4%	4.2%
South East Coast	36.5%	30.6%	27.3%	5.5%
East of England	43.2%	28.7%	24.3%	3.8%
East Midlands	43.8%	26.0%	24.7%	5.4%
West Midlands	42.8%	25.9%	21.8%	9.6%
Yorkshire and The Humber	39.6%	30.0%	26.0%	4.4%
North West	37.2%	29.2%	20.8%	12.9%
North East	49.6%	21.9%	22.7%	5.8%
All other English men	48.4%	24.0%	22.1%	5.4%
Total	36.2%	30.3%	25.0%	8.5%



## 10. Hepatitis C testing history.

% within SHA of residence

	Hepatitis C testing history				
	Never tested	Tested -ve	Tested +ve no longer have it	Tested +ve still have it	Don't know - if ever tested or diagnosed
London	33.6%	55.1%	2.8%	.7%	7.8%
South West	51.2%	39.8%	1.8%	.3%	6.9%
South Central	46.2%	43.2%	.7%		9.9%
South East Coast	41.4%	50.3%	1.2%		7.1%
East of England	50.1%	42.5%	.8%	.2%	6.5%
East Midlands	51.8%	41.0%	.7%	.8%	5.7%
West Midlands	51.9%	38.7%	1.4%	.3%	7.6%
Yorkshire and The Humber	49.2%	42.5%	.6%	.4%	7.2%
North West	46.4%	45.5%	.9%	.3%	6.8%
North East	57.1%	37.8%	.4%	.8%	3.9%
All other English men	52.9%	35.8%	1.9%	.3%	9.2%
Total	44.4%	45.8%	1.7%	.4%	7.6%

## Sexual behaviour

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

% within SHA of residence

	Gender of sexual partners			
	No one	Women only	Both men and women	Men only
London	3.0%	.4%	6.9%	89.7%
South West	5.6%	.3%	7.1%	87.1%
South Central	6.9%	.2%	9.0%	83.9%
South East Coast	4.8%	.7%	6.5%	88.0%
East of England	5.1%	.9%	9.2%	84.8%
East Midlands	5.7%	1.3%	8.4%	84.7%
West Midlands	6.7%	.5%	7.6%	85.3%
Yorkshire and The Humber	5.6%	.8%	7.4%	86.3%
North West	6.5%	.3%	8.3%	84.9%
North East	7.6%	.8%	5.7%	85.9%
All other English men	8.1%	1.6%	12.8%	77.5%
Total	5.3%	.7%	8.2%	85.8%

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

% within SHA of residence

	HIV concordancy of regular male relationship			
	Single	HIV concordant	HIV discordant	Concordancy unknown
London	45.0%	35.9%	8.9%	10.2%
South West	42.0%	44.2%	4.4%	9.5%
South Central	46.1%	42.6%	4.2%	7.2%
South East Coast	44.1%	42.2%	5.5%	8.3%
East of England	43.2%	46.4%	5.0%	5.3%
East Midlands	44.1%	43.9%	5.3%	6.6%
West Midlands	42.8%	42.0%	6.5%	8.7%
Yorkshire and The Humber	47.2%	41.5%	3.8%	7.5%
North West	47.4%	37.0%	7.8%	7.7%
North East	52.3%	33.6%	3.8%	10.3%
All other English men	48.6%	38.8%	5.3%	7.3%
Total	45.6%	39.4%	6.5%	8.5%

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

% within SHA of residence

	Number of male sexual partners				
	One	2,3 or 4	5 to 12	13 to 29	30 or more
London	16.2%	22.5%	26.3%	17.0%	18.0%
South West	25.1%	32.2%	25.9%	10.0%	6.8%
South Central	23.9%	30.1%	24.6%	11.2%	10.2%
South East Coast	24.2%	29.0%	22.4%	15.5%	8.9%
East of England	23.3%	28.5%	24.3%	14.3%	9.7%
East Midlands	30.2%	29.4%	24.1%	9.7%	6.6%
West Midlands	24.1%	29.9%	22.3%	10.9%	12.8%
Yorkshire and The Humber	23.9%	31.1%	25.6%	11.0%	8.5%
North West	21.5%	32.8%	24.7%	10.1%	10.9%
North East	27.2%	37.2%	21.8%	7.1%	6.7%
All other English men	24.7%	29.7%	24.2%	11.0%	10.3%
Total	21.6%	27.9%	24.9%	13.2%	12.4%

**14. Anal intercourse and condom use in the last year.**

% within SHA of residence

	Anal intercourse and condom use in the last year.		
	No anal intercourse	Any anal intercourse always protected	Any unprotected anal intercourse
London	12.4%	37.7%	49.9%
South West	17.9%	31.0%	51.1%
South Central	18.5%	32.1%	49.4%
South East Coast	16.2%	35.5%	48.4%
East of England	15.1%	35.5%	49.4%
East Midlands	17.4%	28.5%	54.1%
West Midlands	16.2%	30.6%	53.2%
Yorkshire and The Humber	16.7%	30.7%	52.6%
North West	16.5%	35.9%	47.6%
North East	21.2%	32.3%	46.5%
All other English men	21.6%	31.8%	46.6%
Total	16.1%	34.2%	49.7%

## Health Needs

### 15. "HIV is still a very serious medical condition."

% within SHA of residence

	"HIV is still a very serious medical condition."				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure/neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
London	82.8%	14.6%	1.5%	.9%	.2%
South West	84.1%	14.0%	.9%	.3%	.6%
South Central	82.9%	15.7%	1.4%		
South East Coast	87.0%	12.0%	.5%		.5%
East of England	84.2%	14.7%	.8%	.2%	.2%
East Midlands	81.8%	15.1%	2.3%	.7%	.2%
West Midlands	82.7%	14.7%	1.7%	.8%	.2%
Yorkshire and The Humber	82.7%	15.6%	1.1%	.4%	.1%
North West	83.9%	14.1%	.5%	1.1%	.3%
North East	80.0%	17.7%	1.5%		.8%
All other English men	82.7%	14.8%	1.5%	.7%	.3%
Total	83.1%	14.7%	1.3%	.6%	.3%

**16. "The sex I have is always as safe as I want it to be."**

% within SHA of residence

	"The sex I have is always as safe as I want it to be."				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure/neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
London	51.7%	31.6%	8.2%	7.3%	1.2%
South West	53.4%	30.2%	8.5%	7.3%	.6%
South Central	57.0%	31.9%	5.1%	5.1%	.9%
South East Coast	53.9%	32.4%	6.7%	6.0%	1.0%
East of England	55.7%	31.6%	6.8%	5.0%	.9%
East Midlands	49.7%	35.8%	8.0%	5.2%	1.3%
West Midlands	50.5%	34.9%	8.2%	5.7%	.8%
Yorkshire and The Humber	52.4%	35.4%	6.5%	5.2%	.4%
North West	54.8%	30.2%	7.4%	6.4%	1.1%
North East	55.6%	31.7%	6.6%	5.0%	1.2%
All other English men	55.9%	29.1%	9.5%	4.6%	1.0%
Total	53.2%	31.8%	7.9%	6.1%	1.0%

**17. "I'd expect a man with HIV to tell me he was positive before we had sex."**

% within SHA of residence

	"I'd expect a man with HIV to tell me he was positive before we had sex."				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure/neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
London	45.3%	16.4%	15.4%	15.3%	7.6%
South West	61.3%	16.6%	11.0%	7.6%	3.5%
South Central	65.2%	15.9%	10.1%	5.1%	3.7%
South East Coast	59.3%	17.0%	12.0%	9.1%	2.6%
East of England	63.4%	18.2%	10.1%	5.6%	2.7%
East Midlands	62.0%	18.1%	9.9%	5.1%	4.9%
West Midlands	60.3%	14.2%	11.9%	8.9%	4.7%
Yorkshire and The Humber	63.9%	15.7%	10.8%	6.7%	2.9%
North West	58.7%	14.3%	11.7%	9.2%	6.1%
North East	65.1%	16.1%	10.3%	3.4%	5.0%
All other English men	68.6%	15.6%	8.0%	5.6%	2.1%
Total	57.2%	16.1%	12.0%	9.7%	4.9%

**18. "I'd know where to go if I wanted to make some new friends."**

% within SHA of residence

	"I'd know where to go if I wanted to make some new friends."				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure/neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
London	24.7%	42.3%	20.4%	9.6%	2.9%
South West	32.1%	43.8%	13.7%	8.5%	1.8%
South Central	22.9%	44.3%	19.2%	11.1%	2.5%
South East Coast	26.6%	42.5%	18.7%	9.8%	2.4%
East of England	29.1%	45.0%	16.5%	7.8%	1.7%
East Midlands	30.4%	43.1%	15.3%	8.9%	2.3%
West Midlands	29.8%	42.7%	16.6%	8.2%	2.7%
Yorkshire and The Humber	31.5%	40.1%	18.8%	7.8%	1.7%
North West	27.8%	39.7%	19.5%	9.5%	3.5%
North East	32.7%	38.5%	15.4%	8.1%	5.4%
All other English men	26.4%	42.7%	20.0%	8.3%	2.7%
Total	27.3%	42.3%	18.7%	9.0%	2.7%

**19. "I'd like more ways of meeting other Gay men that don't revolve around sex."**

% within SHA of residence

	"I'd like more ways of meeting other Gay men that don't revolve around sex."				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure/neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
London	35.0%	41.4%	14.4%	7.1%	2.1%
South West	36.9%	40.4%	15.5%	6.3%	.9%
South Central	37.2%	45.0%	11.3%	5.5%	.9%
South East Coast	39.1%	41.9%	12.9%	5.0%	1.0%
East of England	38.3%	43.3%	12.1%	5.4%	.9%
East Midlands	39.6%	40.2%	13.1%	4.3%	2.8%
West Midlands	38.8%	38.0%	14.4%	6.8%	2.1%
Yorkshire and The Humber	40.9%	40.7%	12.7%	4.2%	1.4%
North West	35.7%	42.1%	13.9%	6.7%	1.6%
North East	48.3%	36.7%	7.7%	5.8%	1.5%
All other English men	37.6%	41.2%	13.1%	6.2%	1.9%
Total	37.3%	41.2%	13.5%	6.2%	1.7%

**20. "I would like to be more involved in promoting the health of Gay and Bisexual men."**

% within SHA of residence

	"I would like to be more involved in promoting the health of Gay and Bisexual men."				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure/neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
London	16.4%	31.2%	36.2%	13.4%	2.8%
South West	17.8%	32.5%	37.8%	9.3%	2.6%
South Central	13.5%	29.9%	39.0%	16.7%	.9%
South East Coast	18.9%	32.4%	34.8%	10.7%	3.1%
East of England	21.9%	27.1%	37.8%	10.9%	2.4%
East Midlands	18.9%	33.1%	35.1%	10.3%	2.6%
West Midlands	21.3%	31.9%	34.3%	10.3%	2.2%
Yorkshire and The Humber	20.8%	30.8%	35.0%	11.5%	1.9%
North West	19.6%	32.7%	34.8%	11.0%	2.0%
North East	22.8%	27.8%	31.7%	13.5%	4.2%
All other English men	18.3%	32.2%	35.8%	10.4%	3.3%
Total	18.3%	31.3%	35.9%	11.8%	2.6%



## Health Needs - HIV transmission and the law

### 21. "Laws that can be used against the sexual behaviour of people with HIV are different in different countries."

% within SHA of residence

	Sexual behaviour laws different in different countries.			
	I knew this	I didn't know this	I wasn't sure	I don't understand this
London	68.9%	17.3%	11.7%	2.2%
South West	56.3%	24.9%	15.8%	3.0%
South Central	57.3%	25.9%	14.8%	2.1%
South East Coast	57.6%	23.6%	16.4%	2.4%
East of England	56.5%	27.7%	13.0%	2.7%
East Midlands	60.8%	24.3%	13.4%	1.5%
West Midlands	58.0%	23.9%	14.7%	3.5%
Yorkshire and The Humber	58.4%	24.0%	14.2%	3.3%
North West	61.3%	20.2%	15.3%	3.1%
North East	56.3%	26.4%	12.3%	5.0%
All other English men	55.4%	27.5%	13.8%	3.3%
Total	61.4%	22.4%	13.5%	2.7%

**22. "Some people with HIV have been imprisoned in the UK for passing their infection to a sexual partner."**

% within SHA of residence

	Some PLWHIV imprisoned for passing infection			
	I knew this	I didn't know this	I wasn't sure	I don't understand this
London	78.2%	13.8%	7.4%	.6%
South West	74.9%	14.5%	10.0%	.6%
South Central	75.3%	17.3%	7.4%	
South East Coast	77.9%	14.2%	7.4%	.5%
East of England	76.9%	15.8%	6.8%	.5%
East Midlands	75.3%	16.3%	8.0%	.5%
West Midlands	77.1%	15.5%	6.8%	.6%
Yorkshire and The Humber	74.5%	15.6%	9.1%	.9%
North West	77.6%	13.1%	8.5%	.8%
North East	81.6%	10.0%	7.3%	1.1%
All other English men	75.3%	17.5%	6.5%	.7%
Total	76.9%	14.9%	7.6%	.6%

**23. "People with HIV have been imprisoned in the UK for passing their infection without intending to do so."**

% within SHA of residence

	Some PLWHIV imprisoned for unintentional transmission			
	I knew this	I didn't know this	I wasn't sure	I don't understand this
London	21.0%	64.2%	13.2%	1.6%
South West	20.7%	61.7%	15.4%	2.1%
South Central	20.4%	68.1%	9.5%	2.1%
South East Coast	20.3%	63.6%	13.4%	2.6%
East of England	25.6%	60.5%	12.4%	1.4%
East Midlands	25.7%	58.8%	14.5%	1.0%
West Midlands	20.8%	62.5%	15.3%	1.4%
Yorkshire and The Humber	24.3%	58.8%	15.1%	1.8%
North West	22.0%	61.6%	14.5%	1.9%
North East	25.1%	63.3%	8.9%	2.7%
All other English men	21.9%	65.3%	11.0%	1.8%
Total	22.0%	63.0%	13.2%	1.8%

**24. "No HIV positive person has been imprisoned in the UK for having sex with a negative person who did not get HIV."**

% within SHA of residence

	No PLWHIV has been imprisoned for sex when transmission has not occurred			
	I knew this	I didn't know this	I wasn't sure	I don't understand this
London	25.8%	47.7%	20.3%	6.2%
South West	20.0%	49.2%	23.4%	7.4%
South Central	19.9%	54.3%	18.9%	6.9%
South East Coast	18.3%	52.2%	21.6%	7.8%
East of England	25.5%	48.4%	19.2%	6.9%
East Midlands	23.0%	48.4%	23.7%	4.8%
West Midlands	21.5%	50.6%	22.1%	5.8%
Yorkshire and The Humber	20.1%	50.1%	21.5%	8.2%
North West	22.4%	46.9%	22.1%	8.6%
North East	23.6%	49.4%	21.6%	5.4%
All other English men	21.0%	51.4%	20.4%	7.2%
Total	22.9%	49.2%	21.1%	6.8%

**END**