

# Vital Statistics Republic of Ireland 2005

## The *Gay Men's Sex Survey*

Republic of Ireland Health Service Executive Areas and Dublin City and County - Sub-samples Data Report (February 2008)

This is the first release of data from the Gay Men's Sex Survey 2005, conducted by Sigma Research in collaboration with health promoters throughout the UK and Ireland. This data is intended to provide HIV health promotion planners with information about their local gay population. Respondents are grouped according to their Health Service Executive area of residence with the exception of Dublin City or County residents who are included in a separate column at the request of the Gay Men's Health Project. The report indicates where this is not the case.

### *The data*

In the Republic of Ireland the survey used a single data collection method over the summer of 2005:

- (1) On a specific web-site <<http://www.sigmasurvey.org.uk>>, promoted via links on 15 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 the the Republic of Ireland
- have had sex with a man in the last year or have an expectation of having sex with a man in the future.
- 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 Health Service Executive Area (HSE) or Dublin appear as a line in the tables. The bottom line of each table gives the result for the entire area being considered. The first table shows the number of men recruited to the survey living in each HSE area 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/VS2005booklet.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, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Booklet recruitment occurred in England and Wales.

In the Republic of Ireland the survey was part-funded by the Gay men's Health Project, HSE, Dublin, Ireland. Further enquiries on Vital Statistics 2005 in the Republic of Ireland should be addressed to [mick.quinlan@maild.hse.ie](mailto:mick.quinlan@maild.hse.ie).

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RESEARCH

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**Vital Statistics 2005  
The Gay Men's Sex Survey  
ROI Health Service Executive Areas  
of residence data report (February 2008)**

**Sample description**

**1a. Health Service Executive Area**

	Frequency	Percent
HSE area unknown	208	23.9
Western	99	11.4
North East	22	2.5
Southern	193	22.2
Mid Leinster	29	3.3
Dublin City & County	320	36.7
Total	871	100.0

**1b. Health Service Executive area and County of residence**

Count

	Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)						Total
	HSE area unknown	Western	North East	Southern	Mid Leinster	Dublin City & County	
Dublin						320	320
Carlow				1			1
Clare		6					6
Cork				153			153
Donegal		7					7
Galway		38					38
Kerry				12			12
Kildare					12		12
Kilkenny				8			8
Laois					3		3
Limerick		22					22
Longford					1		1
Louth			11				11
Mayo		10					10
Meath			10				10
Monaghan			1				1
Offaly					3		3
Roscommon		3					3
Sligo		3					3
Tipperary		10					10
Waterford				14			14
Westmeath					5		5
Wexford				5			5
Wicklow					5		5
County Unknown	208						208
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>871</b>

## 1c. Web distribution

Count

	Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)						Total
	HSE area unknown	Western	North East	Southern	Mid Leinster	Dublin City & County	
DHIVerse [Cambridge]	1						1
gay.com	26	10	1	11	6	54	108
gaydar.co.uk + rainbow	17	5	4	7	1	24	58
Lesbian Gay Foundation [Manchester]		1					1
Rainbow Project	1			1		2	4
Wiltshire & Swindon Gay Men's Health [Swindon]	1					1	2
Belongto	1		1		1	4	7
Cork Gay Health Project	8	8	1	12	3	23	55
GAIRE	88	64	12	29	14	141	348
Gay Cork	38	6		123		6	173
Gay Health Network	5		1	1	1	9	17
Gay Men's Health Project					1	6	7
Queer ID	5	1	1	2	1	20	30
Sigma Web-site	1					1	2
Sigmasurvey	11	4	1	4	1	25	46
THT Website	3			1		3	7
Email invitation from Demographix	2			2		1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>871</b>

## 2. Age groups.

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Age				
	<20	20s	30s	40s	50+
Western	18.2%	35.4%	28.3%	10.1%	8.1%
North East	13.6%	45.5%	27.3%	13.6%	
Southern	9.8%	51.3%	26.9%	9.8%	2.1%
Mid Leinster	13.8%	37.9%	24.1%	20.7%	3.4%
Dublin City & County	6.3%	52.5%	28.1%	10.9%	2.2%
HSE area unknown	7.2%	41.3%	26.4%	13.5%	11.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>47.0%</b>	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>

### 3. Age averages.

Demog Age (original)

Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Western	28.00	18	60	30.29	10.380
North East	25.50	18	48	28.55	9.075
Southern	27.00	15	62	28.82	8.297
Mid Leinster	28.00	18	61	30.66	10.681
Dublin City & County	27.00	15	60	29.07	8.174
HSE area unknown	30.00	14	65	32.44	11.521
Total	28.00	14	65	30.00	9.550

### 4. Years of formal education after the age of 16 years of age.

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Years in full-time education post - 16				
	None	1 year	2 years	3 to 5 years	6 or more years
Western	5.1%	3.0%	18.2%	42.4%	31.3%
North East		4.5%	22.7%	59.1%	13.6%
Southern	3.6%	4.7%	11.4%	49.2%	31.1%
Mid Leinster	3.4%	3.4%	13.8%	58.6%	20.7%
Dublin City & County	2.5%	2.8%	11.9%	38.4%	44.4%
HSE area unknown	5.3%	4.3%	9.1%	36.1%	45.2%
Total	3.7%	3.7%	12.2%	41.9%	38.6%

### 5. Current religious practice.

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Current religious practice						
	No religious practice	Judaism	Christianity	Islam	Buddhism	Paganism	Other
Western	41.2%	1.0%	54.6%	1.0%		1.0%	1.0%
North East	45.5%		50.0%			4.5%	
Southern	46.9%		46.4%	1.0%	1.6%	1.6%	2.6%
Mid Leinster	58.6%		41.4%				
Dublin City & County	61.3%	.9%	35.2%	.6%	.6%	.9%	.3%
HSE area unknown	45.6%	.5%	50.0%	1.0%	1.5%		1.5%
Total	51.6%	.6%	44.0%	.8%	.9%	.9%	1.2%

**6. Ethnicity in six groups.**

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Ethnic Group				
	White Irish	White other	Asian	Mixed	Other
Western	92.9%	5.1%		2.0%	
North East	90.9%	9.1%			
Southern	85.9%	10.9%	1.6%		1.6%
Mid Leinster	93.1%	6.9%			
Dublin City & County	87.8%	9.4%	.6%	.6%	1.6%
HSE area unknown	89.9%	8.2%	.5%		1.4%
Total	88.7%	8.9%	.7%	.5%	1.3%



## HIV testing

### 7. HIV testing history.

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	HIV testing history			
	Never tested	-ve test last year	-ve test > 1 year ago	Tested HIV positive
Western	59.2%	18.4%	20.4%	2.0%
North East	68.2%	22.7%	9.1%	
Southern	48.7%	31.9%	17.3%	2.1%
Mid Leinster	58.6%	17.2%	24.1%	
Dublin City & County	45.1%	32.8%	19.9%	2.2%
HSE area unknown	50.0%	25.5%	23.0%	1.5%
Total	49.7%	28.5%	20.0%	1.9%

## Sexual behaviour

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

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Demog - Gender of sexual partners			
	No one	Women only	Both men and women	Men only
Western	4.0%	6.1%	20.2%	69.7%
North East	18.2%	4.5%	13.6%	63.6%
Southern	4.1%	5.2%	24.4%	66.3%
Mid Leinster	10.3%	6.9%	17.2%	65.5%
Dublin City & County	5.0%	4.1%	14.4%	76.6%
HSE area unknown	4.8%	5.3%	24.0%	65.9%
Total	5.2%	4.9%	19.6%	70.3%

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

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	HIV concordancy of regular male relationship			
	No male partner	HIV concordant	HIV discordant	Concordancy unknown
Western	55.6%	33.3%	2.0%	9.1%
North East	57.1%	38.1%		4.8%
Southern	58.3%	33.9%	2.6%	5.2%
Mid Leinster	48.3%	44.8%		6.9%
Dublin City & County	48.3%	42.9%	1.9%	6.9%
HSE area unknown	60.0%	33.2%	1.5%	5.4%
Total	54.3%	37.5%	1.8%	6.4%

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

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Number of male sexual partners				
	One	2, 3 or 4	5 to 12	13 to 29	30 +
Western	22.7%	36.4%	25.0%	11.4%	4.5%
North East	23.5%	41.2%	23.5%	11.8%	
Southern	21.2%	39.4%	24.7%	8.8%	5.9%
Mid Leinster	33.3%	33.3%	29.2%		4.2%
Dublin City & County	25.4%	30.3%	22.6%	13.6%	8.0%
HSE area unknown	21.9%	31.1%	27.3%	11.5%	8.2%
Total	23.5%	33.6%	24.7%	11.3%	6.9%

**11. Insertive AI and frequency of condom use in the last year.**

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	IAI and frequency of condom use			
	No IAI	IAI never used a condom	IAI sometimes used a condom	IAI always used a condom
Western	35.4%	6.1%	31.3%	27.3%
North East	31.8%	4.5%	27.3%	36.4%
Southern	33.9%	6.8%	24.5%	34.9%
Mid Leinster	64.3%	10.7%	10.7%	14.3%
Dublin City & County	32.5%	7.8%	27.2%	32.5%
HSE area unknown	36.2%	7.7%	23.2%	32.9%
Total	35.0%	7.4%	25.6%	32.0%

### 12. Condom Failure in the last year.

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Condom failure in the last year		
	No IAI with a condom	No failure	Failure
Western	41.4%	51.5%	7.1%
North East	36.4%	50.0%	13.6%
Southern	40.6%	51.6%	7.8%
Mid Leinster	75.0%	25.0%	
Dublin City & County	40.3%	51.6%	8.1%
HSE area unknown	44.0%	48.8%	7.2%
Total	42.4%	50.0%	7.6%

### 13. Receptive AI and frequency of condom use in the last year.

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	RAI and frequency of condom use			
	No RAI	RAI never used a condom	RAI sometimes used a condom	RAI always used a condom
Western	43.3%	8.2%	24.7%	23.7%
North East	40.9%	4.5%	27.3%	27.3%
Southern	40.6%	6.8%	22.9%	29.7%
Mid Leinster	51.7%	10.3%	20.7%	17.2%
Dublin City & County	39.1%	8.5%	22.7%	29.7%
HSE area unknown	42.9%	9.8%	17.1%	30.2%
Total	41.3%	8.4%	21.7%	28.7%

**14. Unprotected anal intercourse (UAI) in the last year.**

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Unprotected Anal intercourse			
	No UAI	RUAI only	IUAI only	Both RUAI & IUAI
Western	56.7%	5.2%	10.3%	27.8%
North East	59.1%		4.5%	36.4%
Southern	57.8%	7.8%	9.4%	25.0%
Mid Leinster	65.5%	17.2%	3.4%	13.8%
Dublin City & County	55.5%	7.2%	11.6%	25.7%
HSE area unknown	58.5%	6.8%	14.1%	20.5%
Total	57.3%	7.2%	11.1%	24.4%

## Other health behaviour

### 15. Cigarette smoking.

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Cigarette Smoker		
	No cigarettes	<10 per day	10 or more per day
Western	71.7%	8.1%	20.2%
North East	59.1%	13.6%	27.3%
Southern	68.3%	7.4%	24.3%
Mid Leinster	72.4%	13.8%	13.8%
Dublin City & County	68.8%	12.8%	18.4%
HSE area unknown	74.1%	9.3%	16.6%
Total	70.1%	10.3%	19.6%

### 16. Use of recreational drugs in the last year (Ecstasy, LSD, amphetamine, crystal methamphetamine, cocaine, crack cocaine, ketamine, GHB or heroin).

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Recreational drug use (Ecstasy, LSD, Cocaine, Crack, Heroin + Speed, Crystal, K & GHB)	
	Did not use	Used recreational drugs listed
Western	85.9%	14.1%
North East	90.9%	9.1%
Southern	82.3%	17.7%
Mid Leinster	82.8%	17.2%
Dublin City & County	78.0%	22.0%
HSE area unknown	81.6%	18.4%
Total	81.2%	18.8%

**17. Use of crystal methamphetamine in the last year.**

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Use of Crystal methamphetamine/Tina	
	Less than once a month	Not at all
Western	1.0%	99.0%
North East		100.0%
Southern	.5%	99.5%
Mid Leinster		100.0%
Dublin City & County	1.3%	98.7%
HSE area unknown	.5%	99.5%
Total	.8%	99.2%

## Other health needs

### 18. I would like to stop smoking tobacco (of tobacco smokers).

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Like to stop smoking tobacco (of smokers)				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Western	38.2%	26.5%	23.5%	8.8%	2.9%
North East	50.0%	33.3%	8.3%	8.3%	
Southern	40.8%	31.6%	19.7%	7.9%	
Mid Leinster	50.0%	20.0%		10.0%	20.0%
Dublin City & County	36.1%	35.2%	17.2%	9.0%	2.5%
HSE area unknown	41.0%	30.8%	17.9%	7.7%	2.6%
Total	39.5%	31.9%	17.8%	8.4%	2.4%

### 19. I sometimes worry about how much I drink (of drinkers).

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Worry about alcohol use (of drinkers)				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Western	7.6%	26.6%	11.4%	36.7%	17.7%
North East	5.9%	17.6%	11.8%	47.1%	17.6%
Southern	9.3%	25.9%	11.1%	26.5%	27.2%
Mid Leinster	4.0%	20.0%	20.0%	32.0%	24.0%
Dublin City & County	3.8%	26.5%	11.0%	36.1%	22.7%
HSE area unknown	6.3%	23.6%	13.2%	29.3%	27.6%
Total	6.0%	25.3%	11.9%	32.6%	24.2%



**20. I sometimes worry about my recreational drug use (of recreational drug users).**

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Worry about recreational drug use (of rec drug users)				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Western	2.1%	14.6%	10.4%	31.3%	41.7%
North East		8.3%	25.0%	41.7%	25.0%
Southern	8.0%	12.5%	9.1%	31.8%	38.6%
Mid Leinster	8.3%		16.7%	41.7%	33.3%
Dublin City & County	5.9%	14.7%	11.2%	31.2%	37.1%
HSE area unknown	4.8%	13.3%	6.7%	39.0%	36.2%
Total	5.5%	13.3%	10.1%	33.8%	37.2%

## Interventions - Clinic use

### 21. Recency of clinic use.

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Recency of clinic use				
	I've never been to a clinic	More than 5 years ago	More than 1 year ago	Within last year but not in last month	Within the last month
Western	64.6%	7.1%	8.1%	13.1%	7.1%
North East	59.1%		9.1%	22.7%	9.1%
Southern	53.1%	5.2%	16.7%	18.8%	6.3%
Mid Leinster	65.5%		17.2%	6.9%	10.3%
Dublin City & County	47.3%	4.4%	17.6%	20.7%	10.0%
HSE area unknown	51.2%	6.8%	14.5%	19.8%	7.7%
Total	52.4%	5.2%	15.3%	18.8%	8.3%

### 22. Offered an HIV test on last clinic visit (of those not already diagnosed with HIV).

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Offered HIV test on last visit (not already diagnosed with HIV)		
	Never visited a clinic	Not offered test	Offered test
Western	66.0%	10.3%	23.7%
North East	61.9%	14.3%	23.8%
Southern	55.1%	7.0%	37.8%
Mid Leinster	67.9%	10.7%	21.4%
Dublin City & County	48.2%	5.4%	46.3%
HSE area unknown	52.0%	10.3%	37.7%
Total	53.7%	7.9%	38.4%

## Interventions - PEP

### 23. Heard of PEP.

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Heard of PEP	
	No	Yes
Western	81.8%	18.2%
North East	86.4%	13.6%
Southern	83.9%	16.1%
Mid Leinster	82.8%	17.2%
Dublin City & County	76.9%	23.1%
HSE area unknown	81.3%	18.8%
Total	80.5%	19.5%

### 24. Tried to get PEP.

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Tried to get PEP (all)	
	No	Yes
Western	100.0%	
North East	100.0%	
Southern	99.0%	1.0%
Mid Leinster	100.0%	
Dublin City & County	99.4%	.6%
HSE area unknown	99.0%	1.0%
Total	99.3%	.7%

**25. Ever taken PEP.**

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Ever taken PEP (all)	
	No	Yes
Western	100.0%	
North East	100.0%	
Southern	100.0%	
Mid Leinster	100.0%	
Dublin City & County	100.0%	
HSE area unknown	99.0%	1.0%
Total	99.8%	.2%

**26. Know anyone who received PEP.**

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Know anyone who has got PEP (all)	
	No	Yes
Western	98.0%	2.0%
North East	100.0%	
Southern	96.9%	3.1%
Mid Leinster	100.0%	
Dublin City & County	97.2%	2.8%
HSE area unknown	96.2%	3.8%
Total	97.1%	2.9%

**27. Consideration of getting PEP if exposed to HIV (those not tested positive).**

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Would you try to get PEP (men not diagnosed with HIV)		
	No	Yes	Maybe
Western	3.1%	67.7%	29.2%
North East		72.7%	27.3%
Southern	1.1%	72.2%	26.7%
Mid Leinster	7.4%	63.0%	29.6%
Dublin City & County	2.6%	75.6%	21.9%
HSE area unknown	2.5%	69.8%	27.6%
Total	2.4%	72.1%	25.5%

## Hate crime

### 28. Homophobic physical assault in the last year.

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Physical assault	
	No	Yes
Western	96.0%	4.0%
North East	95.5%	4.5%
Southern	94.2%	5.8%
Mid Leinster	100.0%	
Dublin City & County	92.8%	7.2%
HSE area unknown	93.2%	6.8%
Total	93.9%	6.1%

### 29. Homophobic physical assault reported to the police (of those physically assaulted).

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Physical assault reported to police	
	No	Yes
Western	50.0%	50.0%
North East	100.0%	
Southern	70.0%	30.0%
Dublin City & County	87.0%	13.0%
HSE area unknown	78.6%	21.4%
Total	78.8%	21.2%

**30. Homophobic verbal abuse in the last year.**

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Verbal abuse	
	No	Yes
Western	79.6%	20.4%
North East	72.7%	27.3%
Southern	75.9%	24.1%
Mid Leinster	89.7%	10.3%
Dublin City & County	69.8%	30.2%
HSE area unknown	76.7%	23.3%
Total	74.7%	25.3%

**31. Homophobic verbal abuse reported to the police (of those verbally abused).**

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Verbal abuse reported to police	
	No	Yes
Western	100.0%	
North East	100.0%	
Southern	95.7%	4.3%
Mid Leinster	100.0%	
Dublin City & County	98.9%	1.1%
HSE area unknown	100.0%	
Total	98.6%	1.4%

## Internet profile

### 32. Active (currently in use) internet profile on www.gay.com or www.gaydar.co.uk.

% within Health Service Executive Areas (ROI)

	Has active gay.com and/or gaydar profile			
	gay.com	gaydar.co.uk	Both	Neither
Western	1.0%	45.9%	10.2%	42.9%
North East		59.1%	4.5%	36.4%
Southern	6.8%	38.9%	10.5%	43.7%
Mid Leinster		37.9%	17.2%	44.8%
Dublin City & County	2.2%	37.1%	9.4%	51.3%
HSE area unknown	4.9%	36.1%	9.8%	49.3%
Total	3.6%	38.9%	10.0%	47.6%

**END**