

# Sex Now: Canada's largest survey of Gay and Bisexual men



Catie Webinar – February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

# Agenda



- Who are we?
- Once upon a time... Sex Now
- What have we learned from Sex Now?
- Why Sex Now?
- Sex Now: the Next Generation

Who we are?

# About CBRC

**cbrc**  
Community-Based Research Centre  
For Gay Men's Health

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**From Competence to Community: What's Health Literacy Got to Do with It?**  
By Maggie MacAulay | October 2014

This year's CBRC Summit theme was about health literacy: "the ability to access, comprehend, evaluate and communicate information—as a way to promote, maintain and improve health— in a variety of settings, across the life-course". According to PHAC, an estimated 55% of working age adults and 88% of adults over 65 have less than adequate health literacy.

Poor health literacy often translates to poor health outcomes and is usually correlated with a range of other social determinants such as stigma, poverty, and racism. So, does it make more sense to target literacy or the social factors?

Existing research about...

**BLOG: UNDER THE LENS**  
**Sexual Risk & Gay Men**  
By Sarah Chown | August 2014

Risk refers to the possibility of a negative outcome such as harm, injury, or loss. There are many kinds of risk that we all encounter, from social risks to financial and professional risks to health and safety risks. In the lives of gay men, one source of risk is pervasive heterosexism and homophobia that create...

**Quantitative, Qualitative or Versatile**  
*This is where we drag leaders in gay men's health into our Proust spotlight. Get to know your colleagues as they share their work, their passion and a little of their busy lives.*

**Interview with Paul Flowers**  
Paul Flowers, PhD, Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow

**1. What is your place of birth?**  
Ripon, England, UK - the smallest city in the UK...

**Sex Now 2015**  
The Next Generation  
Online November 2014 to April 2015  
sexnowsurvey.com  
Do it now!

**CBRC Tweets**  
@CBRCtweets

Apply today! A 4-day leadership workshop for young gay, bisexual, trans, and queer guys interested in being...  
<http://t.co/lFjg9lrvVQ> — 1 week 20 hours ago

Trans crisis line launches in Canada. <http://t.co/Ogn22A6o0D>  
— 1 week 20 hours ago

**B.C. Briefs**  
Getting Ready for Sex Now - Regional Consultations  
Warm Reception in the North

**Investigaytors**  
The Investigaytors are a diverse group of young, community-minded gay men committed to "investigating" gay men's health. By continually learning and gaining skills related to research and the social sciences...

**Sex Now Survey**  
Canada's largest survey of gay and bisexual men's health is ready for you. Do it here. Do it now.

**BC Gay Men's Health Summit**  
This year close to 200 people came together to learn about health literacy and gay men. Summit presentations will soon be available online.

**In Our Library**

**Sex Now Across Canada: Highlights from the Sex Now 2015 Survey**

Non profit CBO  
Dedicated Board  
Multiple Funders  
BC Mandate  
Network Structure

Gay Health  
Promotion  
Research &  
Development

Sex Now  
Summit  
Investigaytors  
Totally Outright  
Evaluation &  
Research  
KTRW (website &  
Regional)

# Once Upon a time... Sex Now



# Back in 2001...



- BCCDC recorded a 33% increase of HIV positive tests among Gay men – a reversal of a five year downward trend (BCCDC, 2001)
- Less than 0.1% of the 11 million dollar provincial AIDS program was all that was being applied to gay men's HIV prevention in BC (Marchand, 2001)
- Gay men described AIDS organization as unwelcoming and interpreted the absence of prevention program as an indication that HIV was no longer a gay issue (Marchand, 2001)











## Original Questionnaire

sex  
NOW

This survey is about sex between men.  
It is completely VOLUNTARY and ANONYMOUS.  
We are investigating sexual safety for future community health planning.  
The questions are frank and explicit. Please give us the truth as you live it.  
The survey visits Victoria, Vancouver and Prince George during the  
summer of 2002. Please fill in this form just once.

sex  
NOW

1. How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_ years
2. What city do you live in (or closest to)?  
 Victoria  Vancouver  Prince George  
 Outside BC  
 Other BC: please specify  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What education have you completed?  
 Some high school  College/ Technical  
 High school  University
4. What term do you use for yourself?  
 Gay  Homosexual  
 Bi  Two-Spirited  
 Queer  I don't use a word  
 Another term - specify:  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What best describes your background?  
 Aboriginal  European  
 African  Latin American  
 Asian  Middle Eastern  
 Chinese  South Asian  
 Other: please specify  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What was your income in the last year?  
 Under \$10,000  
 \$10,000 to \$29,999  
 \$30,000 to \$49,999  
 \$50,000 and above
7. Who have you had sex with in the last year?  
 No one  
 Women only  
 Men only  
 Both men and women
8. Are you in a relationship at the moment?  
 Yes, with a man.  
 Yes, with a woman.  
 No; if "no" go to 12
9. How long have you been together? \_\_\_\_\_ years
10. Do you know your partner's HIV status?  
 Yes, HIV-positive  
 Yes, HIV-negative  
 Don't know
11. Do you have an agreement with your partner about sex with other men?  
 No, we haven't talked about it  
 Yes, no sex at all with other guys  
 Yes, no fucking (anal sex) with other guys  
 Yes, no fucking other guys without condoms  
 Yes, any kind of sex with other guys is okay  
 Other, please specify:  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. How often are you on recreational drugs when you have sex?  
 Never  Sometimes  Usually
13. How often have you used crystal meth in the last year?  
 Never  1 time  2-5 times  6-9 times  
 10+
14. How recent was your last HIV test?  
 Never tested  within six months  a year  
 over a year
15. What was your last HIV test result?  
 HIV-Positive  
 HIV-Negative  
 I've never had an HIV test result
16. What do you believe your HIV status is currently?  
 Definitely HIV-positive  
 Probably HIV-positive  
 Couldn't say/don't know  
 Probably HIV-negative  
 Definitely HIV-negative
17. How many guys have you had sex (any kind) with in the last year?  
Number of men \_\_\_\_\_
18. FUCKING (TOP) in the last year...  
How many men have you fucked?  
 None  1  2-5  6-19  20+  
How many men have you fucked without a condom?  
 None  1  2-5  6-19  20+  
How many men have you fucked without a condom whose HIV status you did not know?  
 None  1  2-5  6-19  20+  
How many men have you fucked without a condom who you know were HIV positive?  
 None  1  2-5  6-19  20+

CONTINUE OVER



# A decade of Sex Now



## BRITISH COLUMBIA

- 2000 Street Survey, n=550
- 2001 Rapid Assessment
- 2002 Pride, n=1,900
- 2003 Pilot, n=250
- 2004 Pride, n=2,800, Online, n=450
- 2005 Pilot, n=440
- 2006 Online, n=1,300
- 2007 Online, n=1,500
- 2008 Online, n=1,450

## NATIONAL

- 2010 Online, n=7,980
- 2011-12 Online, n=8,494



# Sex Now: Do It Online



# The evolution of Sex Now

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From 2002 to 2014

From Paper to Online

From HIV to Gay Men's Health

From Behaviours to Social determinants

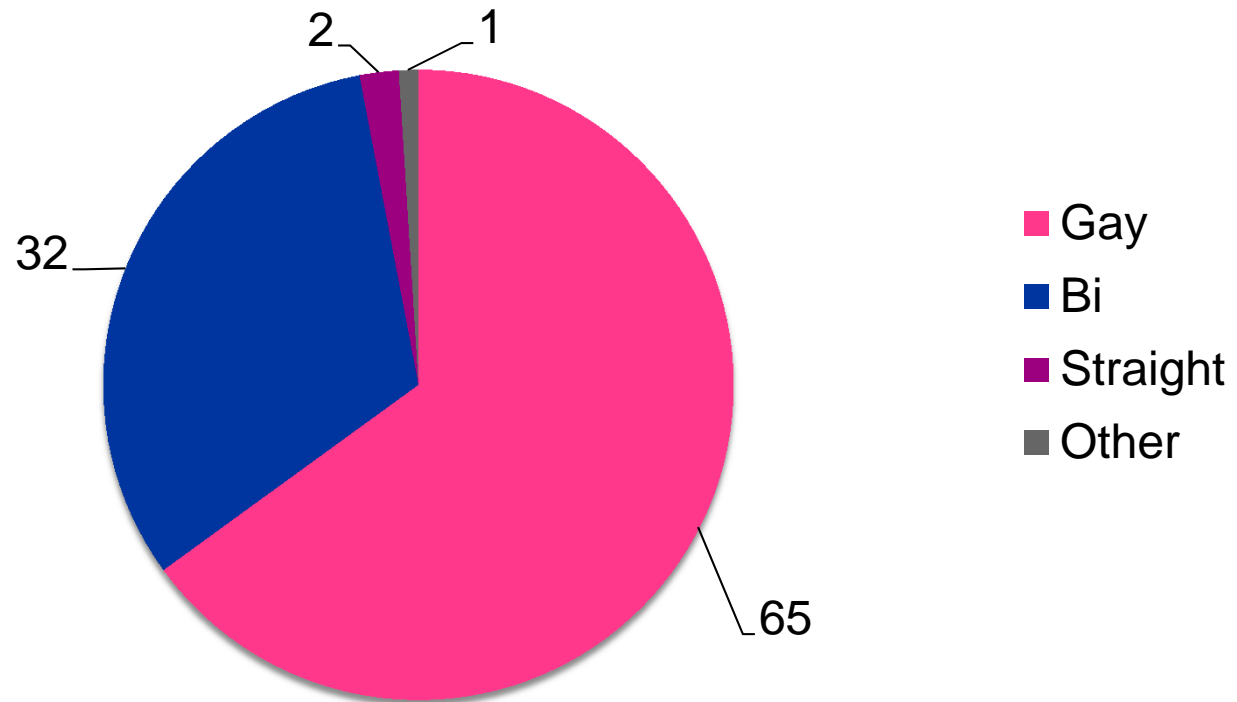
From Provincial (2002-2008) to National (2010, 2011, 2014).



What have we learned?

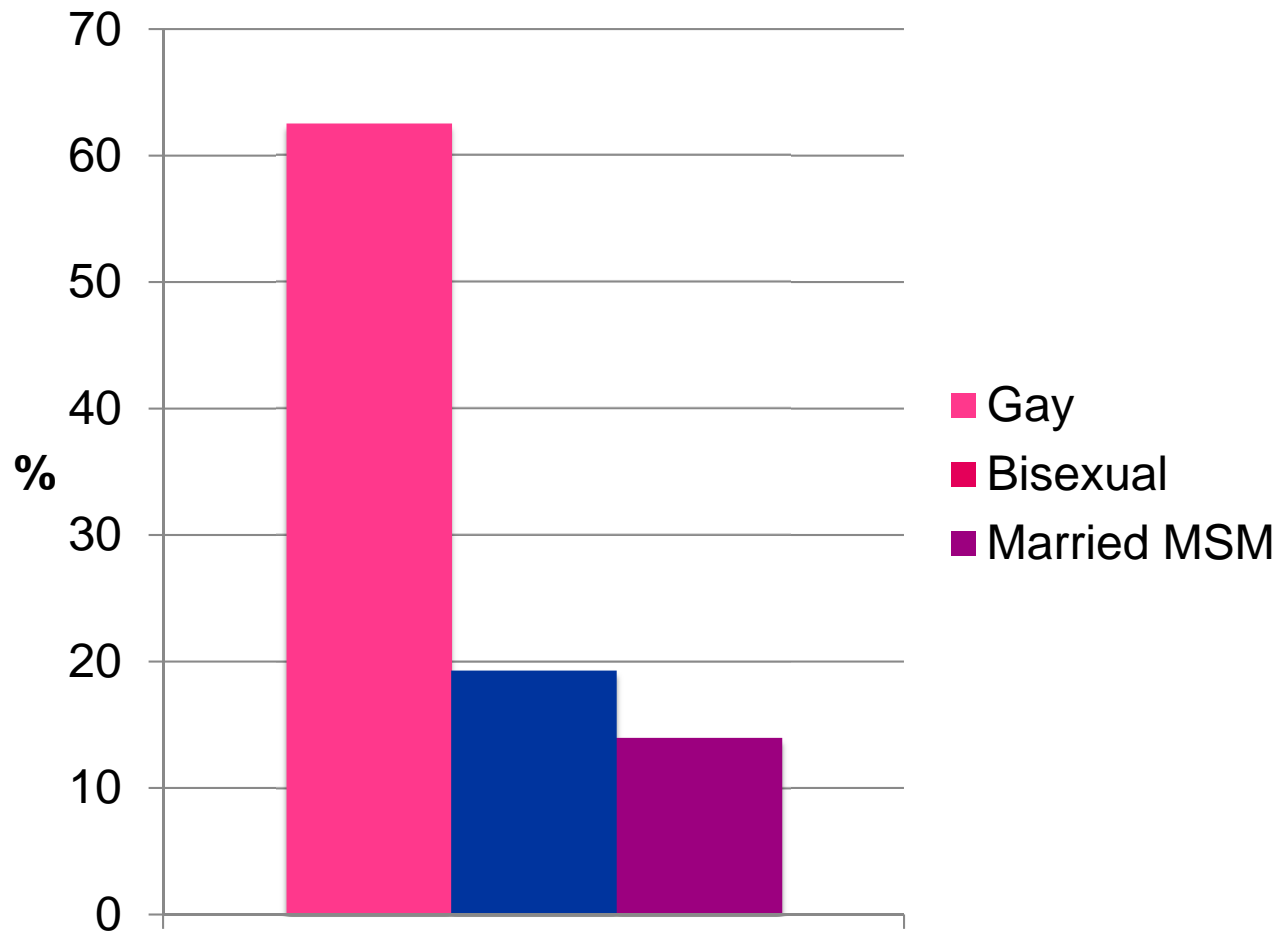


# Gay, bi, MSM – all the same?

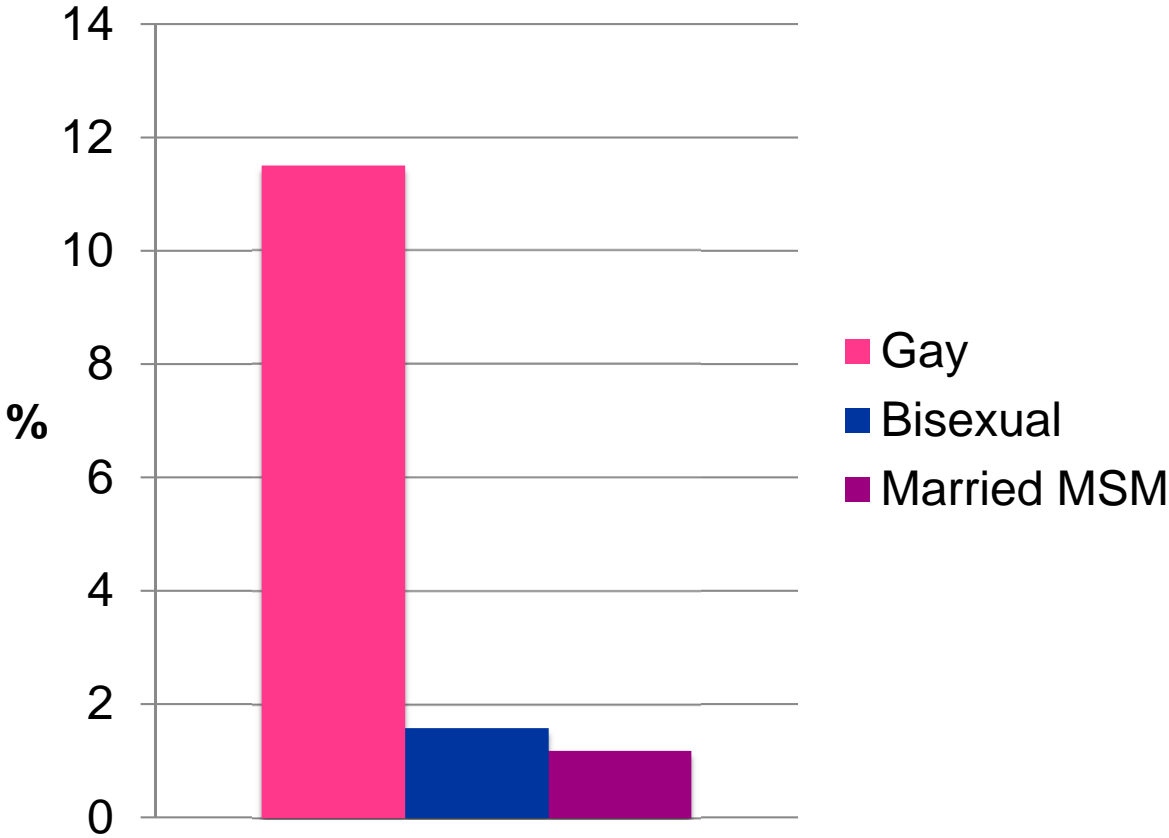


27% Partnered with a woman (2% of gay, 58% of bi, 61% of Straight, 14% of other)

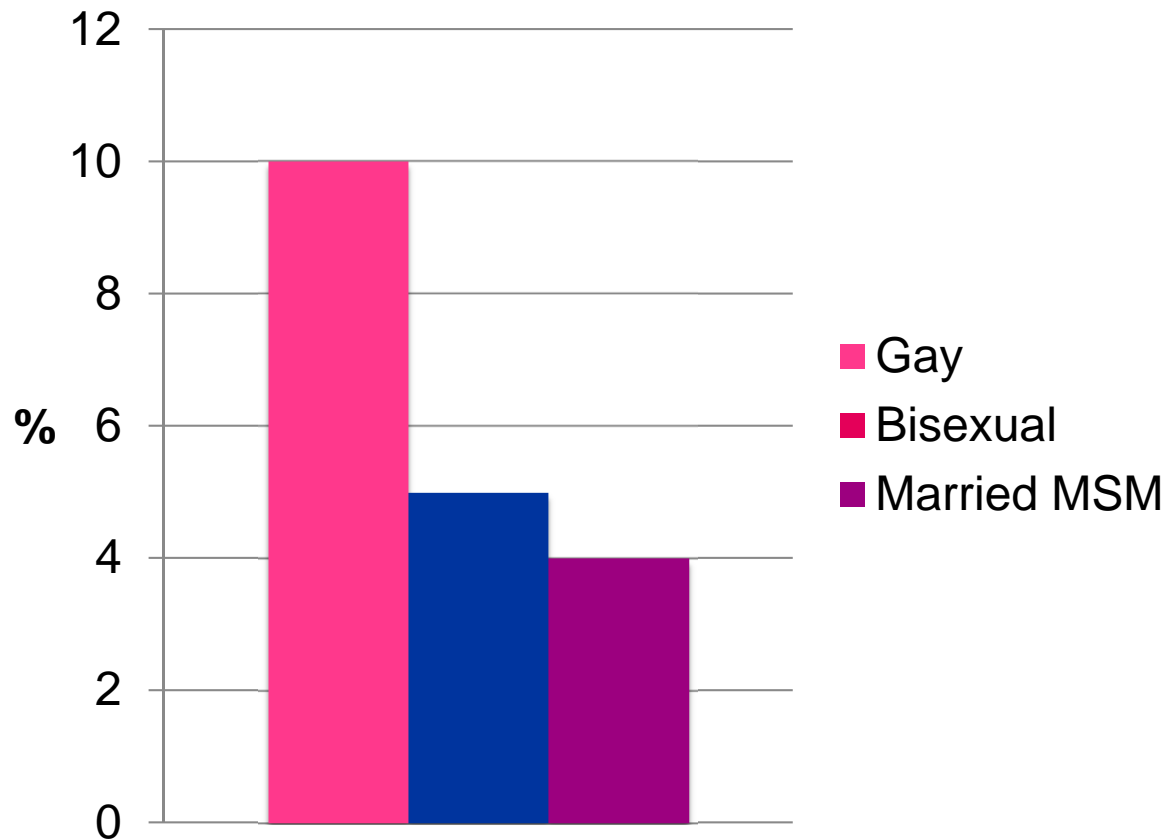
# Exposure to Violence



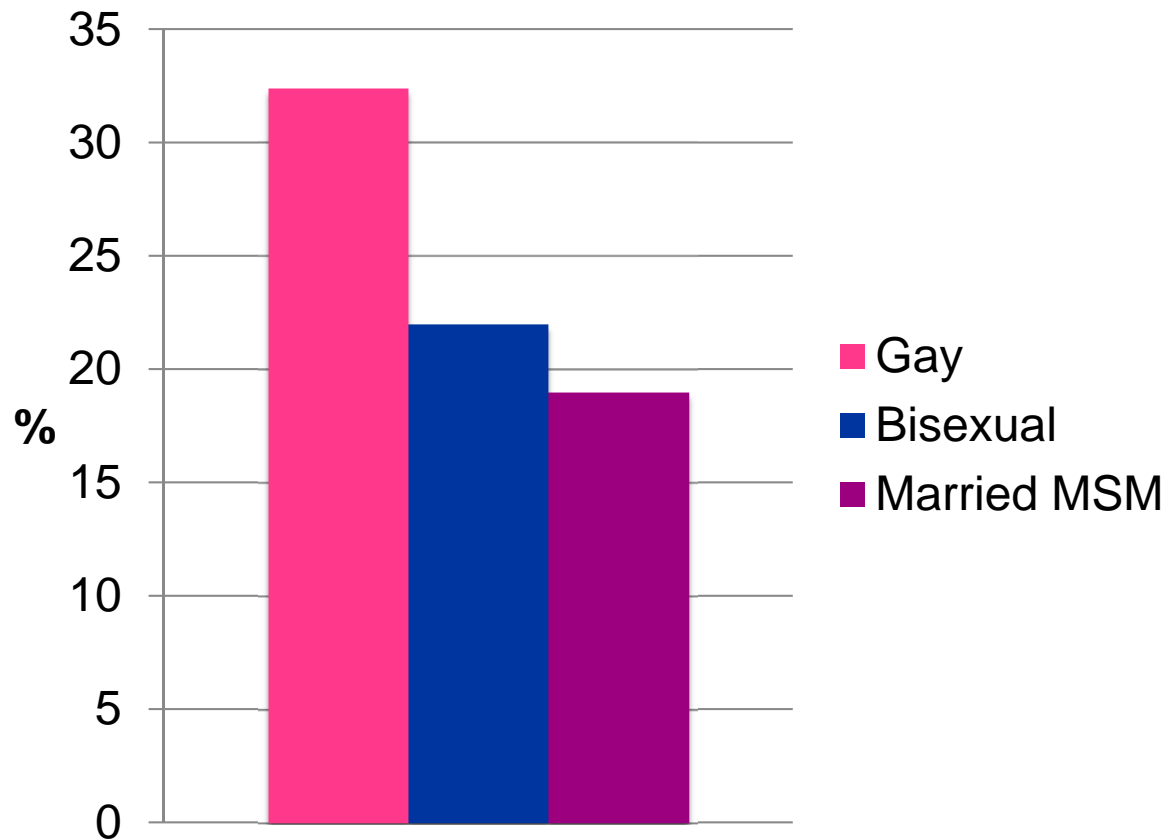
# Self-reported HIV+



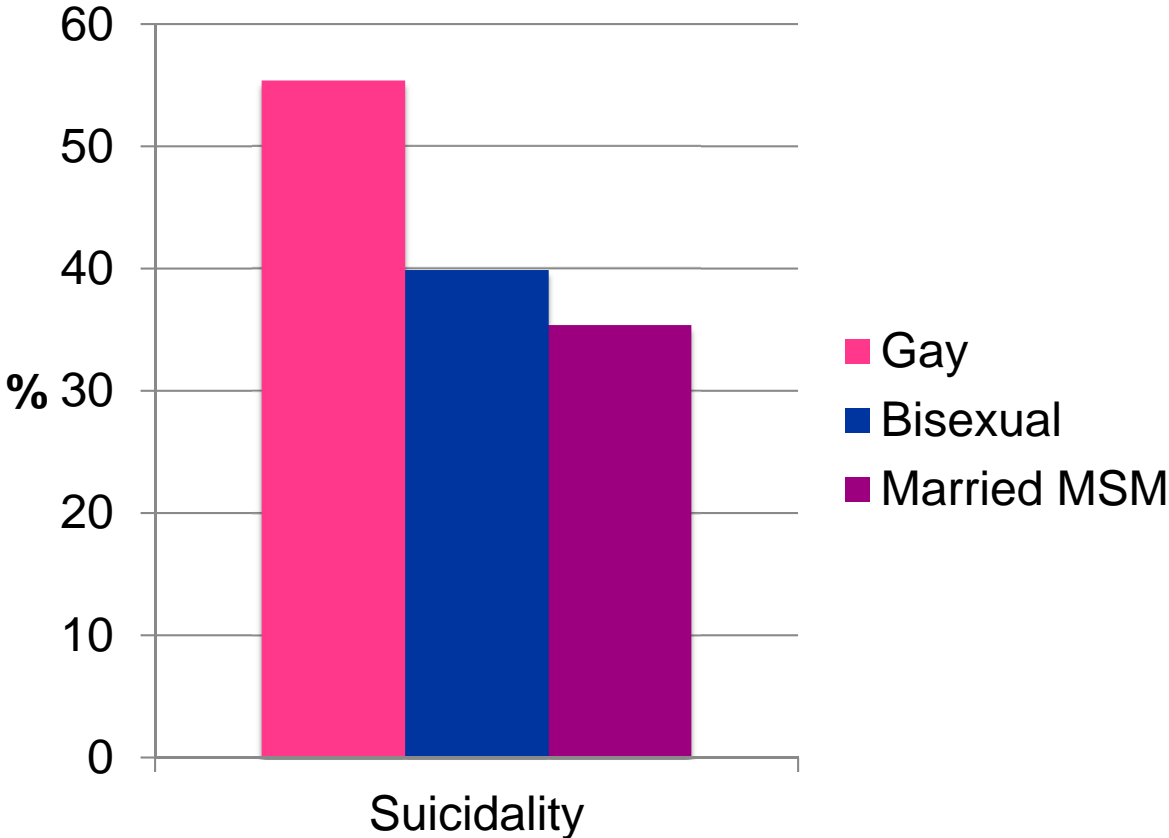
# STI last 12 months



# Sexual Risk last 12 months (UAIU)



# Suicidality

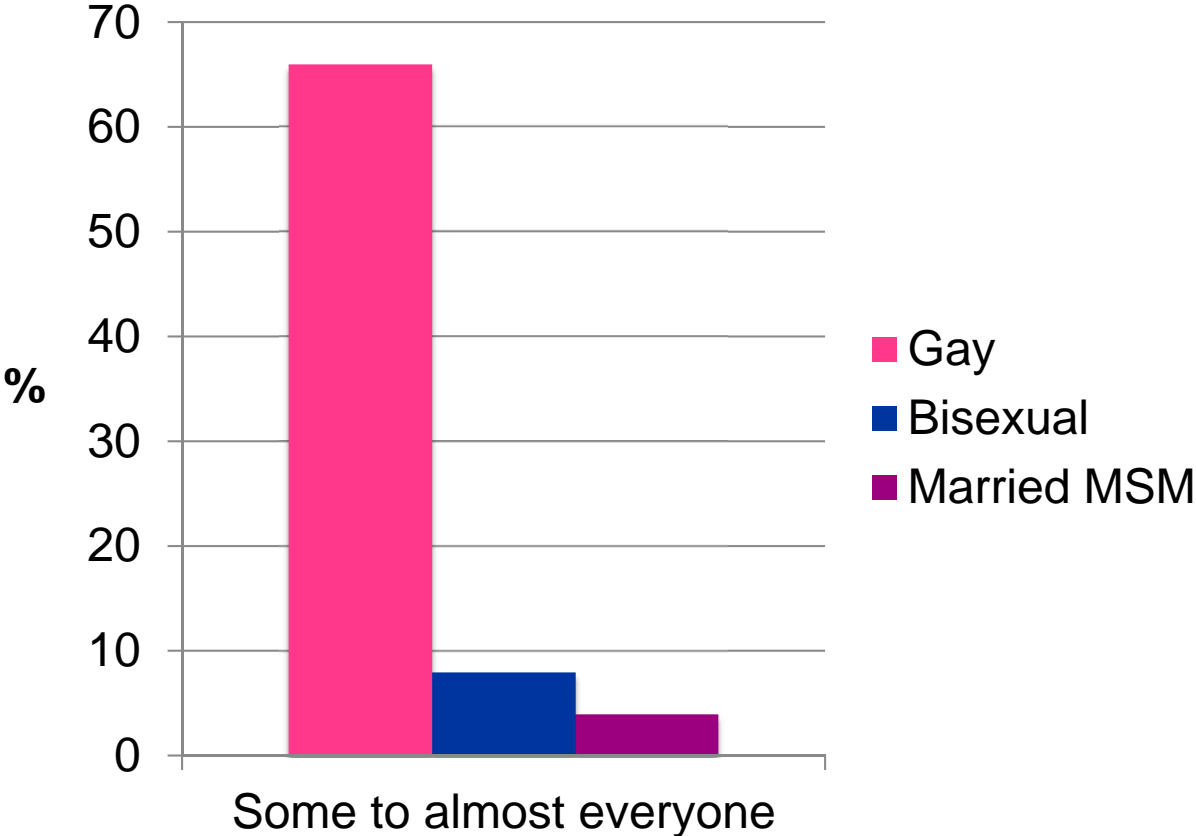




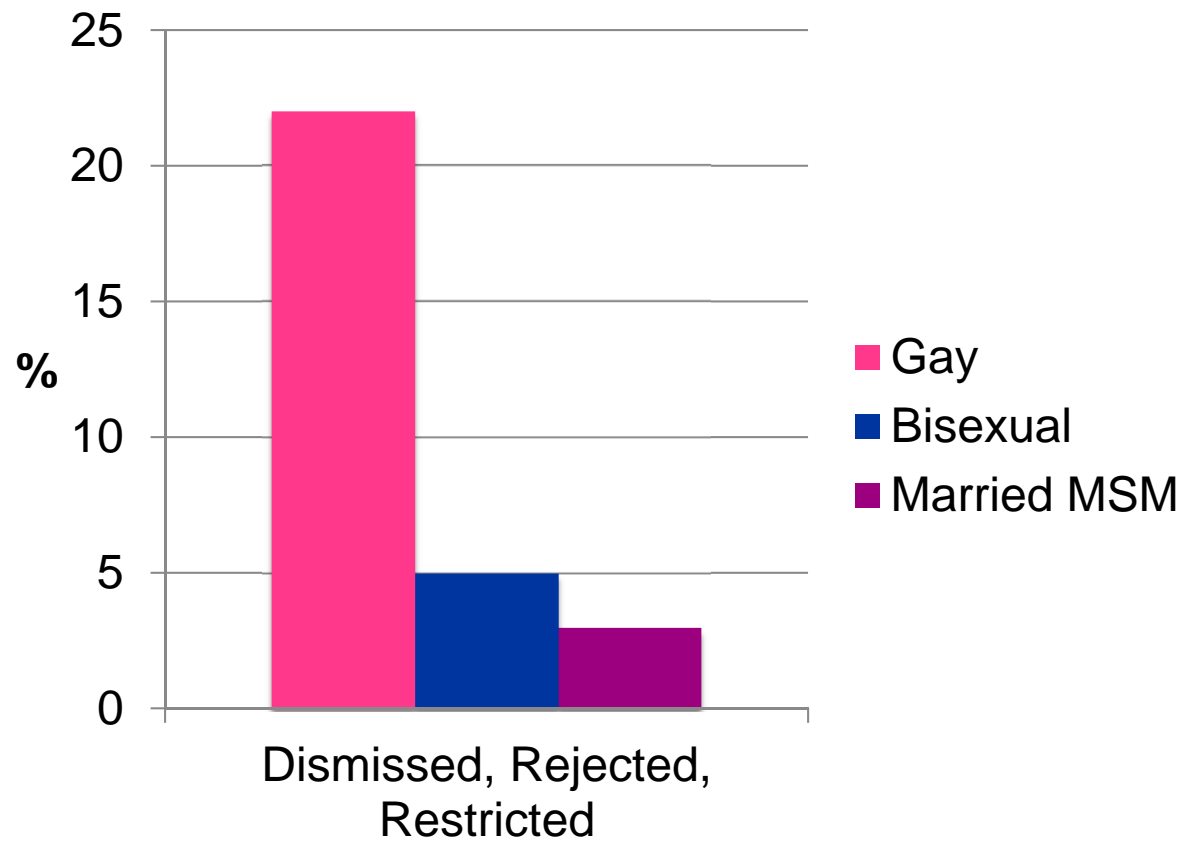
# Out at work

	%
Believe sexuality hurt career	20%
Work Place is not supportive of gay and bi guys	20%
Experienced work place discrimination	16%
Out at work to all or most people	46%
Privacy of sexuality at work is important	56%

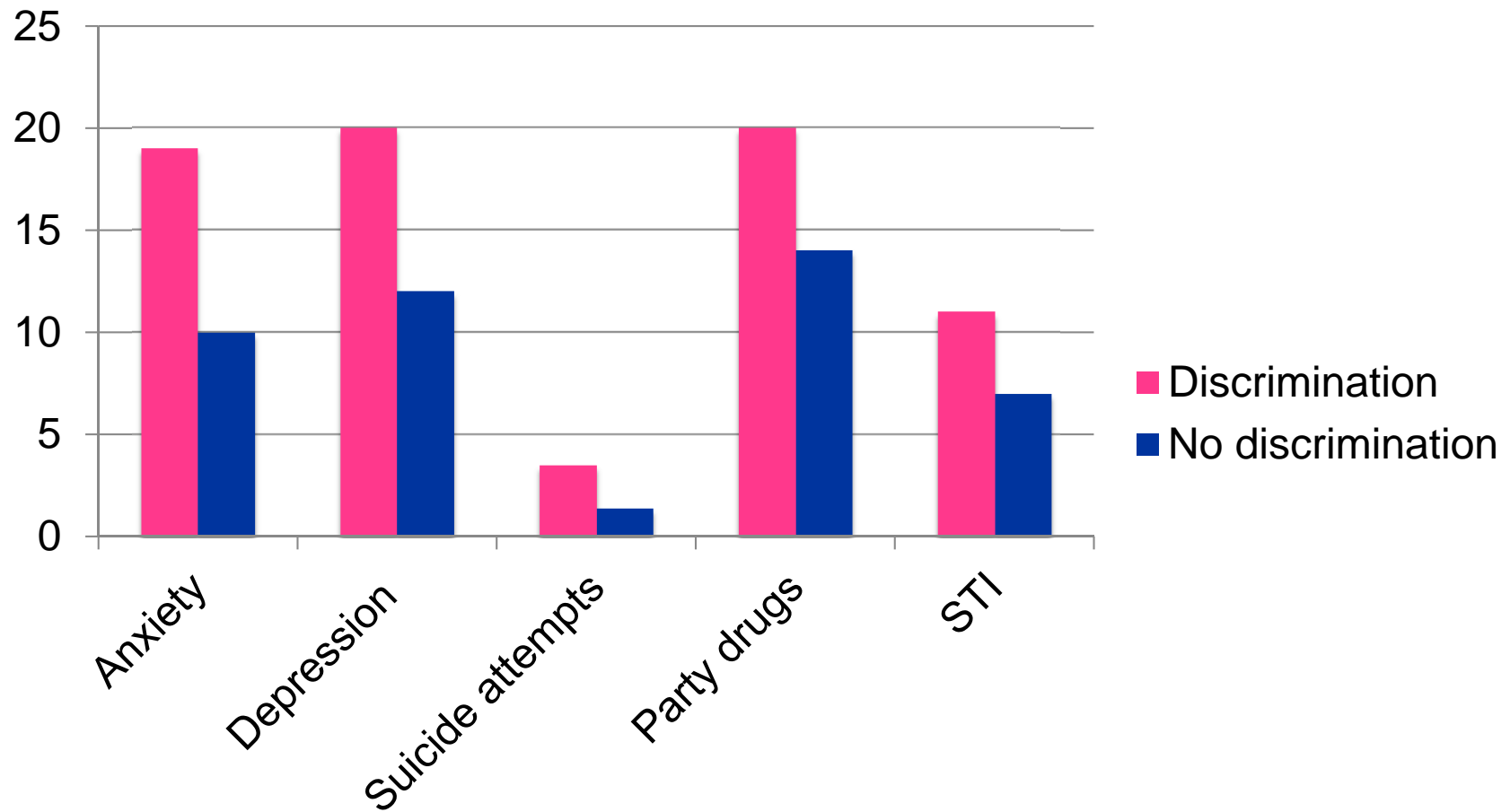
# Out at work?



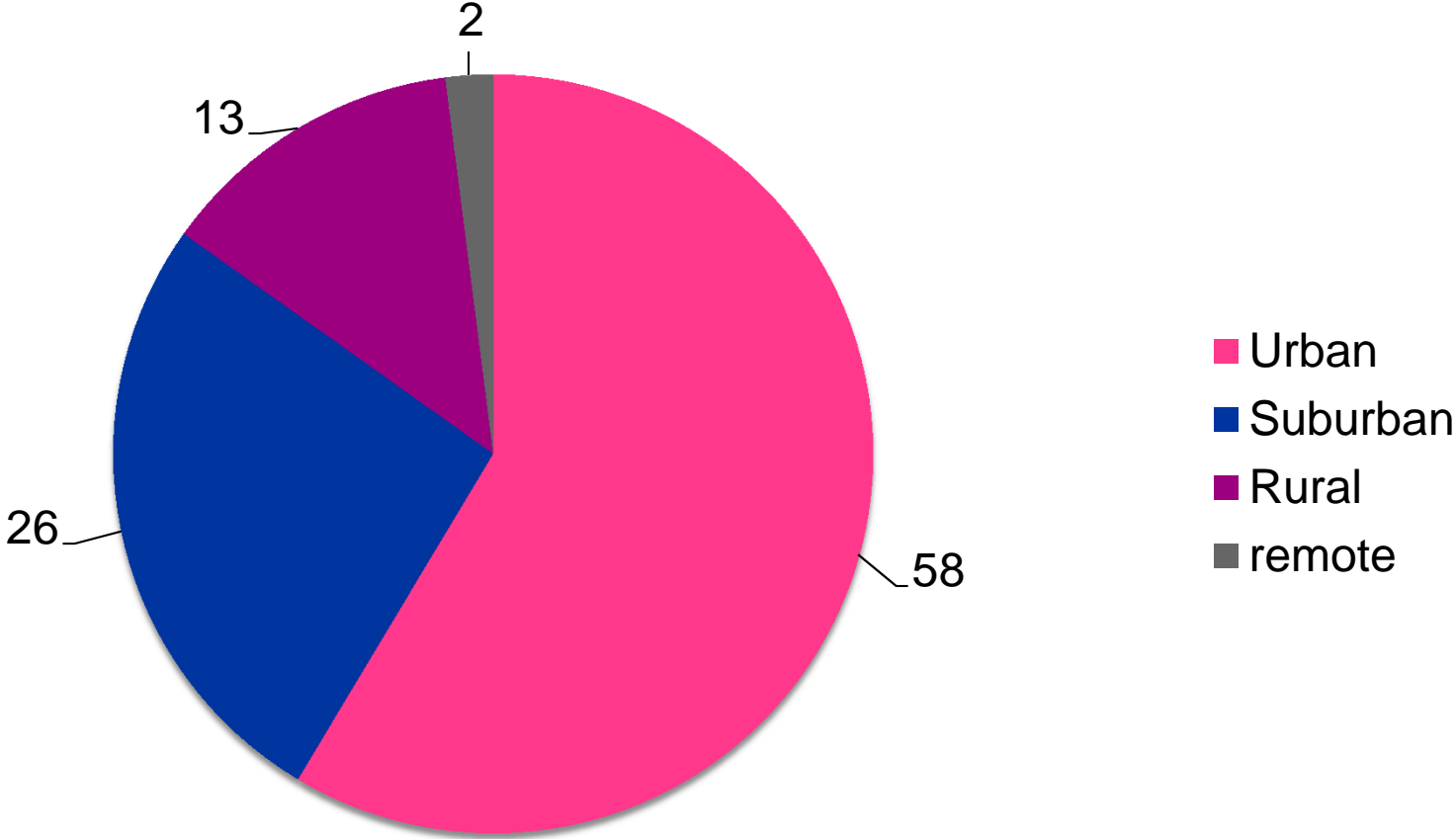
# Employment Discrimination



# Work Discrimination and Health



# Geography Matters!



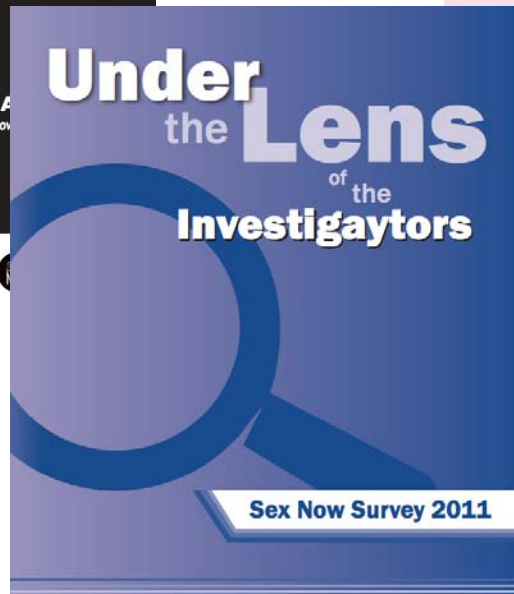
# Geography and Health Services

	Urban	Suburban	Rural/remote
Out to Doctor	56%	41%	41%
Tested for STIS last 12 months	53%	44%	39%
Tested for HIV last 12 months	53%	45%	40%
<i>Reasons for delaying testing</i>			
Didn't know where to go	10%	15%	13%
Testing clinic was too far away	4%	6%	8%
Couldn't get anonymous testing	8%	11%	13%



# Why Sex Now?

# Building Knowledge for Action



## Who Did Sex Now?

WE DESIGNED SEX NOW 2011 TO BE CANADA'S FIRST SURVEY OF SOCIAL DETERMINANTS of health in gay and bisexual men. From September 2011 to February 2012, 8,607 participants joined us online from across Canada and beyond. The survey posed questions about sexuality, mental health, lifetime experience with prejudice, employment and working conditions, social connection and exclusion, general health status, access to services, and participation in civic life. Here is what we learned about the survey participants.

**SEXUAL ORIENTATION**  
Most survey respondents saw themselves as gay or bi. 75% were mostly or only attracted to men, 13% were equally attracted to men and women, and 12% were mostly or only attracted to women.

**RELATIONSHIP STATUS**  
On average, both single and partnered gay men were better educated but earned less income than other men who have sex with men within heterosexual marriages.

**AGE**  
The average age was 43, ranging from 13 to 84.

**ADDITIONAL FINDINGS**  
Sixty-eight percent of men reported at least one form of anti-gay experience. For each additional form of anti-gay experience, our data demonstrated increased likelihood of psychosocial issues. Psychosocial issues had an additive effect, increasing the risk of unprotected intercourse in the last 12 months (doubling the risk for those with 3+ issues OR 1.95 [1.39-2.73]). Overall, our findings suggest that a syndrome is occurring among young Canadian gay and bisexual men, highlighting the need to expand HIV prevention efforts beyond sexual risk, to address stigma and gay men's broader health concerns.

**Abstract** Syndrome has become an important theoretical model toward understanding how psychosocial issues may interact to increase HIV acquisition among gay and bisexual men. We measured the extent to which anti-gay experiences are associated with psychosocial issues, which in turn were hypothesized to have an additive effect on HIV risk, in a sample of Canadian young gay and bisexual men. Sixty-eight percent of men reported at least one form of anti-gay experience. For each additional form of anti-gay experience, our data demonstrated increased likelihood of psychosocial issues. Psychosocial issues had an additive effect, increasing the risk of unprotected intercourse in the last 12 months (doubling the risk for those with 3+ issues OR 1.95 [1.39-2.73]). Overall, our findings suggest that a syndrome is occurring among young Canadian gay and bisexual men, highlighting the need to expand HIV prevention efforts beyond sexual risk, to address stigma and gay men's broader health concerns.

**Resumen** La teoría síndrome se ha convertido en un importante modelo teórico para entender de qué forma múltiples problemas psicosociales pueden ser factores causales en el incremento del riesgo de contraer VIH en hombres homosexuales y bisexuales. Este estudio midió el grado en el que experiencias homofóbicas pueden estar asociadas con problemas psicosociales en una muestra nacional de hombres jóvenes homosexuales y bisexuales en Canadá. Nuestros hallazgos sugieren que las experiencias homofóbicas y sucesivamente los problemas psicosociales pueden tener un efecto sinérgico sobre el riesgo de adquirir VIH. En nuestra muestra, sesenta y ocho por ciento de los hombres reportaron al menos una forma de experiencia homofóbica. Por cada experiencia homofóbica adicional, nuestros datos demostraron un incremento en la probabilidad de problemas psicosociales. A su vez, los problemas psicosociales tenían un efecto aditivo de este modo incrementando el riesgo de relaciones sexuales sin protección en los últimos 12 meses (duplicando el riesgo para aquellas personas con 3+ problemas : razón de momios 1.95 [1.39-2.73]). En general la evidencia de este estudio sugiere que en enfoques sintomático está ocurriendo entre los hombres jóvenes homosexuales y bisexuales canadienses, observando la necesidad de expandir los esfuerzos de prevención de VIH más allá del riesgo sexual, para abordar el estigma que enfrentan los jóvenes homosexuales y que afecta sus problemas de salud.

**Keywords** Gay men's health · HIV/AIDS · Syndrome theory · Marginalization

**Introduction**  
Gay and bisexual men have carried a large burden of the HIV infections in many developed and developing countries since the onset of the epidemic. In Canada they constitute nearly 50% of both prevalent and incident infections [1]. While the traditional approach to



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Published online: 16 October 2013





totally  
**OUTRIGHT**

# PHO Report

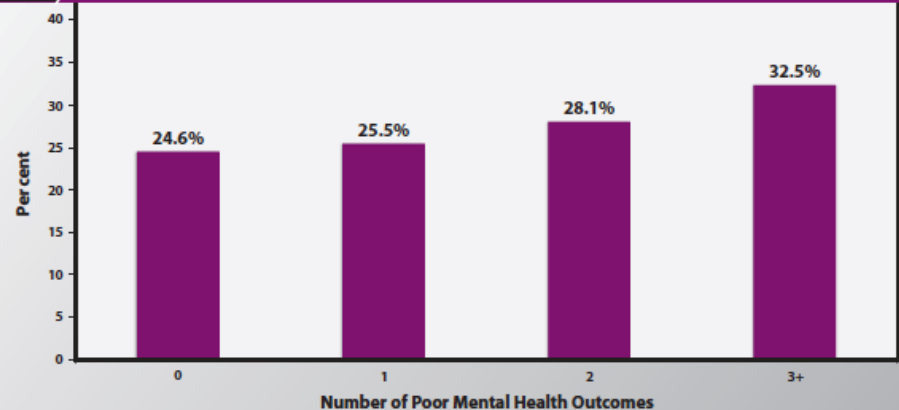
## HIV, Stigma and Society:

*Tackling a Complex Epidemic and Renewing HIV Prevention for Gay and Bisexual Men in British Columbia*



**Figure 4.11b**

**Percentage of Gay and Bisexual Men who Engage in Sexual Risk-Taking Behaviour, by Number of Poor Mental Health Outcomes, BC, 2011**



**Notes:** N=1,805. Sexual risk defined as unprotected anal sex with at least one partner of unknown HIV status in the past 12 months. Poor mental health outcomes include sadness, social isolation, excessive substance use, depression, and other. For more information about this data source, see Appendix B. **Source:** Community-Based Research Centre for Gay Men's Health, *Sex Now* 2011 survey data. Prepared by Epidemiology and Surveillance, Clinical Prevention Services, BC Centre for Disease Control, October 2013. Additional preparation by the BC Office of the Provincial Health Officer, and the Population Health Surveillance, Engagement and Operations Branch; BC Ministry of Health, March 2014.



Provincial Health Officer's  
Annual Report

<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pho/pdf/hiv-stigma-and-society.pdf>

# Real Need Analysis: Simcoe county



	National	Simcoe
Out to provider	50%	27%
Not publicly Out	36%	55%
Physical violence	13%	6%
HIV risk	29%	27%
Perceived risk	32%	26%

# Sex Now: the Next Generation



sex Now

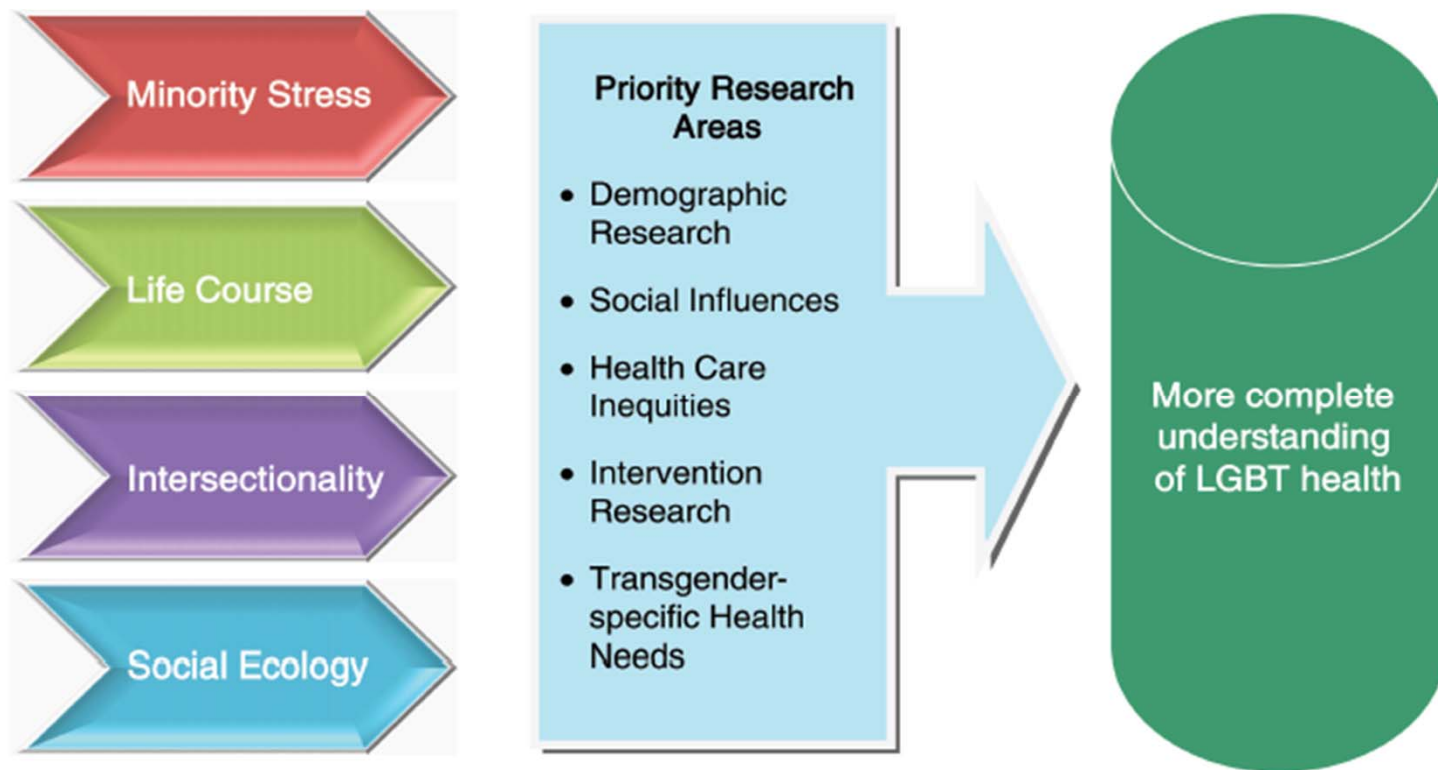


THE NEXT GENERATION

sexe  
AU  
PRÉSENT



LES GÉNÉRATIONS



Institute of Medicine (2011)  
The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People:  
Building a Foundation for Better Understanding



**GLOBE UNLIMITED 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY FLASH SALE!** Access everything globeandmail.com has to offer. OFFER ENDS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10<sup>th</sup> 2013! [CLICK FOR DETAILS](#)

Home » Globe Debate

**KELVIN BROWNE**  
**The gay generation gap**  
 Special to The Globe and Mail  
 Published Wednesday, Jun 29 2011, 2:00 AM EDT  
 Last updated Saturday, Jul. 02 2011, 8:07 AM EDT

0 comments

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The world today for gay 20-year-olds is almost unrecognizable turf for those who came out in the 1970s. If one had any expectation of offering them advice, or being a father or mother figure, or even feeling that your experiences are relevant, forget it. If I didn't already have this sense, all I needed to do was read the article in *The Grid* about the "post-mo" lives of young gays that makes my experience redundant. And perhaps *Gay Pride* redundant, too.



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**THE SUMMER ISSUE** Text Size: A | A | A

**The Gay Generation Gap**  
 Forty years after Stonewall, the gay movement has never been more united. So why do older gay men and younger ones often seem so far apart?  
 By Mark Harris Published Jun 21, 2009 93 Comments Add Yours

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**The Gay Generational Divide Is Wider Than Ever!**  
 What youngsters think of your pride march  
 By Michael Musto Wednesday, Jun 20 2012 Comments (1) Like (29) Send Tweet (28) Pocket (5) +1 (0)

The gay generational divide has gotten wider than a midlife waistline, as new opportunities and attitudes take young gays miles away from the loathing and ignorance that clotted my own youth.

To find out just how far the generational gap extends, while hoping to bridge the gap, I

**Now Trending**

- Banky's Last Piece Is Inflatible, In Queens
- 10 Weekend Ideas Under \$10: Day of the Dead Festas, Brooklyn Vintage Crawl, NYC Marathon
- Rightbloggers on the Latest Obamacare Outrage: Some People Have to Change Policies

# Generational divide?

## Gay Boomers, Gen X stereotyping Gen Y

- Shallow
- Silly
- Uninterested in work
- Profoundly ungrateful
- Sexually careless
- Consider activism icky & noisy
- Remorselessly “Post Gay”

## Gay Gen Y stereotyping Gen X, Boomers

- Terminally depressed
- Horrible scolds
- Talk about AIDS like war vets
- Act as if invented activism
- Get off on victimhood
- Grim, prim, doctrinaire bores
- Jealous of easygoing youth

*Village Voice, NYC 2012*

# 5 Gay Generations...

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- Stigma 1930s
- Stonewall 1940s
- AIDS I 1950/60s
- AIDS II 1970s
- Post AIDS 1980/90's

Hammack et al. 2013

<http://cbrc.net/resources/2013/gay-mens-health-and-identity-life-course-perspective>

# Life course data needs

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- Stigma, Prejudice, Violence
- Historical exposures (time)
- Migration experience (place)
- Multi-generational workforce
- Social media habits
- Health & Prevention Knowledge
- Go-to sources
- Resilience factors

# Intergenerational Team



Investi**gay**tors



## Welcome

### **SEX NOW: November 2014 to April 2015**

Thank you for participating in Sex Now, The Next Generation. This year we are exploring the range of experiences among generations of men.

Sex Now is Canada's largest survey of sex between men. You will be joining at least 10,000 respondents nation-wide.

The Next Generation questionnaire is new. It probes both intimate and everyday experiences.

Your contribution is anonymous so no-one will ever know how you answered.

Your input will be combined with thousands of others to describe what influences our health and well being.

We appreciate the time you take to complete the survey. Your frank and candid answers are vital to improved policies and programs. Please tell us the truth as you live it.

## Consent and Privacy Statement

(Scroll to read)

Life Course and Gay Men's Health: Implications for Health Policy and Programs

**Principal Investigator:** Terry Trussler, EdD, Research Director [terry@cbrc.net](mailto:terry@cbrc.net)

*This study is funded by the Vancouver Foundation*

Thanks for your interest in Sex Now—a survey about sex between men. Please help us with this important research. Your participation is voluntary. You may decide not to answer or stop at any time.

The Community Based Research Centre is conducting this survey with the aim of

**DO THE SURVEY NOW**

[Sexnowsurvey.com](http://Sexnowsurvey.com)

[Sexeaupresent.com](http://Sexeaupresent.com)

# Help us get 10,000 men!



- Do Sex Now at [www.sexnowsurvey.com](http://www.sexnowsurvey.com)
- Display our banner(s)
- Share our message online – Chat, blog, tweet, facebook, newsletter etc.

# Questions and dialogues





# Thank you!

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- Find us on Facebook

Facebook.com/thecbrc

Facebook.com/sexnowsurvey

- Find us on Twitter

@cbrctweets

@sexnowsurvey

@sexeaupresent

- Email us: [olivier@cbrc.net](mailto:olivier@cbrc.net)

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