

Something To Tell – The Results

The questions asked on the survey will always precede the results, in *italics* type. If the questions have an asterix next to them, the results are also discussed in the 'discussion' section.

Sexual Orientation

**6) Which of these best describes you?*

Gay

Lesbian

Bisexual

A man who has sex with men

Unsure

A woman who has sex with women

The following tables show how each of the four groups identified themselves:

Male/ftm trans

<u>Sexual orientation</u>	<u>Percentage (%)</u>
Gay	80
Bisexual	13
Undefined	5
Open-minded	2

Female/mtf trans

<u>Sexual Orientation</u>	<u>Percentage (%)</u>
Lesbian	56
Bisexual	14
Gay	12
Unsure	7
A woman who has sex with women	7
Queer	5

Female straight

<u>Sexual Orientation</u>	<u>Percentage (%)</u>
Straight	100

Male straight

<u>Sexual Orientation</u>	<u>Percentage (%)</u>
Straight	100

Coming out

**7) Have you told anyone about your sexual orientation?*

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Male straight (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Yes	98	98	75	60
No	2	2	25	40

**7a) How old were you when you first told someone?*

Male LGBT

<u>Age</u>	<u>Percentage Male LGBT (%)</u>	<u>Percentage Female LGBT (%)</u>
7	0	3
8	0	0
9	0	0
10	0	0
11	2	0
12	5	0
13	2	15
14	16	8
15	27	18
16	23	26
17	7	5
18	5	13
19	2	5
20	3	3
21	4	0
22	2	0
23	0	0
24	2	0
25	2	5

This means that 75% of male LGBTs and 70% of female LGBTs told someone about their sexuality when they were sixteen and under.

Male straight

Of the respondents who said they had told someone, responses included: '0', 'N/A' and 'social assumption'.

Female straight

Of the respondents who said they had told someone, responses included: '2', '1', '16 (as I ticked this box!)', '15', 'forever', 'N/A' and 'Straight?!'

**7b) Please tick any of the following people you have told:*

Mum

Dad

Brother/sister

Other family members

Friends

Anyone at school

Anyone in further education

GP/Health professional

Anyone at work

Neighbours

Flatmates

Youth Worker

Other

Male LGBT

Person/people told	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)
Mum	82	81
Dad	57	71
Brother/sister	80	79
Other family members	68	52
Friends	95	98
Anyone at school	52	50
Anyone at further education	57	50
GP/Health professional	50	48
Anyone at work	65	60
Neighbours	37	36
Flatmates	32	43
Youth worker	52	55
Other	0	Step dad, Teen magazine, Airline staff.

7b ii) If any of these people's reactions caused you difficulty please describe below

Male LGBT

The responses to this were varied. From "no problems", through "A bit of hostility but with perseverance, they being to accept." to "hate my guts. Didn't speak to me and loss of friendship."

Responses also included:

- Mum- didn't really know anything about being 'gay'.
- Mum- she is catholic
- Coming out to parents was quite hard
- Lack of understanding; prejudice
- Dad thinks it's a faze
- Aggressively homophobic friend
- School- homophobic attacks and bullying
- Homophobia

Female LGBT

Again, responses were varied. From "No", through "Some stuff at school- not much really" to "Homophobic bully at school, had to leave for a year am going back in September to finish A levels".

Responses also included:

- Mum did not expect it for 5 years
- My dad's reaction worried me a little
- It was awkward because some were clearly uncomfortable
- Moved out of mums to dads because of conflict. Bullied in school
- Some people made fun of me
- Yes-mainly disapproval.
- A friend stopped greeting me
- Doc. told me I wasn't depressed and wasn't gay

*8) Have you ever been homeless?

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Male straight (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Yes	28	21	0	0
No	72	79	100	100

**9) Are you currently homeless?*

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Male straight (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Yes	8	0	0	0
No	92	100	100	100

**9a) If yes, do you feel that this is/was in any way due to your own or other people's feelings in relation to your sexuality?*

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)
Yes	50	100
No	50	0

**10) Have you ever had to leave home/accommodation due to your own or other people's feelings towards your sexuality?*

	Percentage of Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Male straight (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Yes	23	21	0	7
No	77	79	100	93

**11) Do you have children?*

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Male straight (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Yes	3	2	0	0
No	97	98	100	100

**11a) If yes, do you currently have access to your children?*

Male LGBT

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)
Yes	0	100
No	100	0

**11b) If no, do you feel you would wish to be a parent at some time?*

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Male straight (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Yes	65	70	50	50
No	11	15	25	21
Don't know	24	15	25	29

Discussion

6) From this we can see that LGBT females tend to identify in many different ways, whereas males seem to identify more definitely as gay or bisexual. Many females have taken on the term 'gay' to describe their sexual orientation, which is possibly because it connects them more definitely to the LGBT community. Society, in general, tends to see 'lesbian' as a dirty word or a word used quite selectively, whereas 'gay' is something very widely used (whether positively or negatively) and is applied very generally to LGBT people, e.g. gay bar, gay centre, gay pride. Bisexual identification is quite equal for males and females. Absolutely no males identified as 'Unsure' whereas 7% of females identified as such. This could be connected to the way in which females are brought up with the idea that females do not have a definite sexuality, or because they are brought up not to make strong statements about anything (they are 'sugar and spice and all things nice!'). No males described themselves as 'a man who has sex with men' but 7% of females described themselves as 'a woman who has sex with women'. This could be to do with women only defining themselves in relation to others, or it could be because they connect positively with the term 'woman' whereas LGBT men have made negative associations with the term 'man', due to society stereotyping them as un-masculine which they may associate with not being a 'real man'.

Coming Out

7) Here we can see that the majority of young LGBT people have told someone about their sexual orientation. There was a lot of confusion over the answers to the question for straight young people, and the next section 'how old were you when you first told someone' through light on the fact that many of those who had ticked 'yes' to question 7, had not actually told anyone because their heterosexuality was presumed.

7a) The findings of this question illustrate the extent to which heterosexuality continues to be presumed of young people in today's society. The fact that 98% of LGBT young people have had to tell someone directly about their sexual orientation, whereas most straight young people gave responses that suggest it was not necessary, or that they told someone when they were born (!), means that LGBT young people feel it necessary to actually 'come out' and tell people that they are not heterosexual. This presumption creates a circumstance whereby LGBT young people are outcast from the outset, whether their 'coming out' is easy or not.

7b) This shows that a much lower percentage of male LGBT young people tell their dads than female LGBT young people. This could be because they are afraid that their fathers will see them as deviating from macho culture. It could be because more LGBT males have fathers who are aloof or absent because they are themselves gay (taking on the idea of homosexuality running in families), and are more liberated than women in their actions so can get away with being a bit distant, and therefore may not be as available for their sons to talk to. This could equally be the case if the father was in denial and therefore more aggressively homophobic (this may not happen as much with female LGBT's young people's mothers because women are taught that aggression is a male trait).

Of the female straight young people, 27% said that they had 'told' everyone, 60% said it was not applicable to them, 7% had told school friends only and 7% had told friends only.

Of male straight young people 100% said that it was not applicable to them.

This shows that females have had to justify themselves much more to the people around them even if they are straight. If a girl appears uninterested in boys, then it is viewed as strange and the question of sexual orientation comes up. If a boy appears uninterested in girls then people tend to view this more as him just being interested in other things, like sport, music or school activities.

8) This shows quite a definite difference between LGBT and straight young people in terms of homelessness. LGBT young people, especially young men, are much more likely to have been homeless as young people.

9) Again, this shows that LGBT young males are more likely than all the other groups to become homeless. The figures shown here aren't reflective of national figures because of the places in which the survey was carried out. Particularly those young people asked in the gay village would be likely to have dispensable income (and therefore homes and reasonable stability) because they are out in the village socialising.

9a) Despite male LGBT young people having higher homelessness rates, female LGBTs feel that their homelessness was to do with their own or other people's feelings in relation to their sexuality. It could be that more males get thrown out for other reasons because either they deal with stress in more aggressive ways, which provokes more explosive or extreme reactions from the people they

live with e.g. kicking them out. Or it could be to do with males having more confidence, absorbed from a patriarchal society, to escape abusive situations (unrelated to sexuality). Both of these explanations would suggest why the homelessness rate is higher for males, yet the reason is not as often sexuality. It could also be due to reactions against females' perceived attempt at escape from patriarchal controls and the nuclear family, which creates such rage in families that they completely outcast their daughters on the grounds of sexuality, rather than for any other reasons or behaviours.

10) The 7% of females who answered 'yes', represents one young person (due to lower numbers of straight participants). The fact that one straight female had to leave her home/accommodation because of her or other people's feelings towards her sexuality doesn't seem to tie in with the other statistics, but on looking more closely at the questionnaire she filled in, it is discovered that she has also experienced harassment due to people presuming her to be lesbian or bisexual.

11) More LGBT young people had children, this could be because of the slightly higher number of 20-25 year old respondents among LGBT people, or it could tie in with research that Jan Bridget conducted which showed that LGBT young people are more likely to get pregnant and to father children.

11a) It is interesting that none of the males who fathered children currently had access to them, but all of the females who had children did. There is not enough information as to the nature of the relationships that brought about the pregnancies and circumstances bringing about the access rights (or lack thereof) to come to any sort of conclusion on why this is.

11b) These figures probably show the pressure that is put onto LGBT young people when they come out about the possibility that they will be in a same sex relationship where they will not produce grandchildren for their parents, or of feeling somehow less valuable to society because the love they make won't produce offspring to 'sustain the human race'. I think this makes young LGBT people think about having children more, and makes them decide at a younger age whether they want to bring up children or not. LGBT young people are perceived to threaten the upholding of the capitalist ideal of a nuclear family and I think they are immediately aware of this when they realise that they are gay and may try to reconcile themselves with this ideal or decide that they want to threaten the nuclear family by existing as another type of family. I think that less LGBT people answered 'No' because it is expected

that they say no and, again, they have thought things through/are thinking things through more than their straight counterparts have had to.

side of the results table)

Experience	Percentage of Male LGBT (%)	Percentage of Female LGBT (%)	Percentage of Male straight (%)	Percentage of Female straight (%)
Name calling directed at you	93	90	0	27
Threatened with physical violence	66	55	0	18
Personal property damaged/destroyed	39	17	0	9
Objects thrown at you	45	55	0	18
Chased or followed	48	43	0	18
Spat at	38	43	0	18
Been left out or ignored deliberately	52	55	0	18
Punched, hit, kicked or beaten	36	36	0	9
Assaulted or wounded with a weapon	16	10	0	9
Sexually assaulted	16	14	0	9
Sexually harassed (without assault)	21	33	0	9
Raped	16	12	0	0
Harassed by the police (without assault)	0	10	0	0
Beaten or assaulted by the police	0	0	0	0
Other types of discrimination	Shifty Eyes	Harassment, religious/spiritual.	0	0
Never experienced any of the above	2	10	100	82

Experience	Percentage of LGBT young people (%)
Name calling directed at you	92
Threatened with physical violence	61
Personal property damaged/destroyed	30
Objects thrown at you	49
Chased or followed	46
Spat at	40
Been left out or ignored deliberately	53
Punched, hit, kicked or beaten	36
Assaulted or wounded with a weapon	13
Sexually assaulted	15
Sexually harassed (without assault)	26
Raped	14
Harassed by the police (without assault)	4
Beaten or assaulted by the police	0
Other types of discrimination	Shifty eyes, Harassment, Religious/spiritual
Never experienced any of the above	5

36) Have you ever experienced harassment/violence in any of the following settings because of your sexuality?
 (See list down the left hand side of the results table)

Setting	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Male straight (%)	Percentage female straight (%)
School	85	60	0	18
Youth Club	11	7	0	0
College	22	19	0	0
University	17	12	0	0
Health Service	0	2	0	0
Workplace	24	19	0	0
Church/place of worship	7	14	0	0
Street	69	67	0	9
Pubs/club/restaurant/hotel	43	40	0	9
The gay scene	20	14	0	0
Shops	20	29	0	0
Employment services	4	7	0	0
Housing provider	2	5	0	0
Home	13	10	0	0
Leisure/sports facility	11	7	0	0
Cruising Area	2	5	0	0
By email or text message	13	17	0	0
Other	Chat room, NUS conference, training scheme, bus.	Train station, train		
Never experienced any of the above	4	12	100	72

Setting	Percentage of LGBT young people (%)
School	74
Youth Club	9
College	21
University	15
Health Service	1
Workplace	22
Church/place of worship	10
Street	68
Pubs/club/restaurant/hotel	42
The gay scene	18
Shops	24
Employment services	5
Housing provider	3
Home	11
Leisure/sports facility	9
Cruising Area	3
By email or text message	15
Other	Train station, train, chat room, NUS conference, training scheme, bus.
Never experienced any of the above	7

36a) Did you report this harassment/violence to anyone?

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Yes	35	36	0
No	65	64	100

	Percentage young people (%)
Yes	34
No	66

36b) *If yes, who did you report it to?*

Male LGBT

Person/people reported to	Percentage (%)
Police	53
School/teachers	37
Youth Worker	5
Friend	5

Female LGBT

Person/people reported to	Percentage (%)
Police	62
Work/college	15
Teacher	15
Parent	8

36c) *Did you feel that the response was satisfactory?*

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)
Yes	37	69
No	63	31

	Percentage young people (%)
Yes	50
No	50

36d) *If you didn't report it, please could you tell us why not?*

Male LGBT

Many of the responses to this went along the lines of 'not worth reporting', 'waste of time', 'didn't bother me'. Other responses included:

- I knew it wasn't going to go any further and dealt with the problems face to face.
- People are unapproachable and it is so common that it is pointless.
- They won't listen
- Low self esteem @ time- Just didn't think it would do any good.
- Nothing would be done

- Blah
- Not enough evidence (ticked 'raped')
- I perceive the behaviour to be normal, I ignore it.
- Did not feel confident enough. Thought people would not believe me
- They were about 15 it would waste their time.
- Did not see it as important (he ticked eight of the boxes for question 35)
- One must stand up for oneself
- Too petty. There was nothing anyone could do about it.

Female LGBT

A few of the responses included 'didn't want to', 'felt it wasn't worth it'. Other responses were:

- Cos it wasn't serious (she ticked four of the boxes on question 35)
- No use, nothing would be done because schools don't know how to deal with it or cant deal with it
- I felt like it wouldn't matter and they would stop
- No point nothing would be done about it
- I was too emotional (ticked sexually assaulted, sexual harassed and raped)
- I didn't really know what to do; spoke with my friends and forgot about it
- I was not able to
- Didn't think it would make any difference
- Didn't see the point, not much gets done to stop or prevent it
- Because I was not well enough, and felt I wouldn't be believed

37) *Have you ever experienced violence in a same sex relationship?*

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Male straight (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Yes	14	21	0	0
No	86	79	100	100

37a) *If yes, did you report it?*

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)
Yes	29	12
No	71	88

38) Do you feel that there are satisfactory support services for people who experience violence in same sex relationships?

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Male straight (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Yes	30	26	0	10
No	20	38	33	30
Don't know	50	36	67	60

	Percentage young people (%)
Yes	25
No	29
Don't know	46

39) Did/does your school have an anti bullying policy?

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Male straight (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Yes	51	39	83	61
No	22	33	0	23
Don't know	27	28	17	31

	Percentage LGBT young people (%)
Yes	46
No	26
Don't know	28

	Percentage all young people (%)
Yes	49
No	24
Don't know	27

39a) If yes, does it specifically mention young people who are gay, lesbian or bisexual?

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Male straight (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Yes	13	6	0	14
No	50	71	80	86
Don't know	37	23	20	0

	Percentage LGBT young people (%)
Yes	11
No	57
Don't know	32

	Percentage young people (%)
Yes	10
No	63
Don't know	27

40) Does/did your school seem a safe place for young people who are gay, lesbian or bisexual?

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Male straight (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Yes	20	5	17	8
No	61	86	83	46
Don't know	19	9	0	46

	Percentage LGBT young people (%)
Yes	13
No	72
Don't know	18

	Percentage young people (%)
Yes	13
No	70
Don't know	17

41) Did/does your school provide information or support to young people who are gay, lesbian or bisexual?

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Male straight (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Yes	17	7	0	8
No	63	76	83	61
Don't know	20	17	17	31

	Percentage LGBT young people (%)
Yes	12
No	69
Don't know	19

	Percentage young people (%)
Yes	11
No	69
Don't know	20

41a) If yes, which of the following best describes the information or support you received?

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Very poor	0	33	0
Poor	12.5	33	0
Adequate	25	0	100
Good	37	33	0
Excellent	25	0	0

	Percentage young people (%)
Very poor	8
Poor	17
Adequate	25
Good	33
Excellent	17

42) Do you feel that your academic performance at school or further education was in any way affected by feelings you or other people had in connection with your sexuality? (this might include truanting or being an early school leaver)

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Male straight (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Yes	54	49	0	9
No	45	51	100	91

	Percentage LGBT young people (%)
Yes	52
No	48

43) Have you ever attended a youth club in your local area?

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Male straight (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Yes	60	53	17	31
No	40	46	83	69

	Percentage LGBT young people (%)
Yes	57
No	43

	Percentage straight young people (%)
Yes	26
No	74

	Percentage young people (%)
Yes	52
No	48

43a) *If yes, do you feel it was a welcoming and safe place for young gay, lesbian and bisexual people?*

	Percentage Male LGBT (%)	Percentage Female LGBT (%)	Percentage Male straight (%)	Percentage Female straight (%)
Yes	74	70	100	75
No	26	30	0	25

	Percentage LGBT young people (%)
Yes	72*
No	28*

* some LGBT young people commented next to this question that it was a gay group, or they named specific groups, like 'BU'.

	Percentage young people (%)
Yes	73
No	27

Young people who 'came out' at the age of sixteen or under

Of those young people who 'came out' at school age:

- 94% of males and 74% of females experienced harassment/violence at school
- 70% of females and 51% of males had attempted suicide or had self-harmed
- 100% of those reporting sexual assault +/- rape (because people knew/presumed them to be GLB) 'came out' in this age group

Young people who 'came out' at 17, 18 or 19

Of those young people not coming out at school age:

- 56% of females and 37% of males had attempted suicide or had self-harmed
- None of those reporting sexual assault +/- rape (because people knew/presumed them to be GLB) 'came out' in this age group.

Young people who 'came out' at 20-25

Of those young people not coming out at school or sixth form age:

- No females and 33% of males had attempted suicide or had self harmed
- None of those reporting sexual assault +/- rape (because people knew/presumed them to be GLB) 'came out' in this age group.

With thanks to:

All the respondents

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