

Men in Relationships Study

Preliminary Findings

March 30, 2004

Here are statistics from the Men in Relationships Study: Participants were gay-identified men either (a) in a serious relationship with another man, or (b) recently in a serious relationship with another man. Reports about a “current” or “primary” partner refer to the current relationship or to the previous serious relationship. Usually when reporting an “average” finding we will report the mean score (the total of all participants’ scores divided by the number of participants). In some cases we will also report the “median” (that is, if you were to line up all the scores, in order, in a row, the median would be the one exactly in the middle). When there are extremely high or extremely low scores in a given response to a question, the median is usually the best estimate of “central tendency” or the typical participant’s score.

Participant Demographics

Total number of participants: **41**

Age range: **18 to 63** years

Mean age: **30.8** years

Sexual Orientation

Gay Male/Homosexual: 98%

Bisexual: 1%

Race/Ethnicity

Caucasian/White 88%

Latino/Hispanic 10%

Multi-Ethnic 2.5%

Religion

Catholic 25%

Protestant 20%

Spiritual 22%

Agnostic/Atheist 17%

Jewish 10%

Other 7%

Area of Domicile

City/Urban 65%

Small Town 25%

Suburb 5%

Rural 5%

Living Situation

With partner	42%
Live alone	32%
With roommates	22%
With parents	3%

Work full time	56%
Full Time student	42%

Relationship Information

Percentage of participants currently in a relationship: 71%
Current (or most recent) relationship length: 4.7 yrs. (longest 26.5 years)

First sexual/romantic relationship: Mean 15.5 years (range: 7 to 28 yrs. of age)
Longest relationship: Mean 4.8 years (longest 26 years)
Number of lifetime sexual partners: Mean 102; Median 15.5 (range 0-1000 partners)

Current/Recent Sexual Behaviors

Frequency of Sex

Once a month or less	13%
2-3 times/month	13%
1-6 times/week	60%
Once a day	13%
More then 1/day	0%

Regularly use condom with primary partner?

Yes	24%
No	76%

Engaged in at least twice w/primary partner

Deep Kissing	94%
Oral Sex	100%
Anal Sex	89%
Oral/Anal (rimming)	54%

Number of sexual partners in past year

Male partners: Mean 5 (Median = 2; range: 0-40)
Female partners: Mean .11, Median = 0 (4 participants had one female partner each)

Sex Outside the Primary Relationship

Relationship Agreement

Closed/Monogamous	44%
Open w/rules about outside sex	26%
Open without rules	3%
No agreement, not discussed	13%
Disagree about outside sex	5%
Other	7%

37% never had outside sex while in relationship

40% had outside sex while in an open relationship

46% had outside sex while in a closed relationship

Number of outside partners while in a relationship: Mean = 4, Median = 1 (range: 0-25)

Number of outside partners in last 12 months: Mean = 2, Median = 0 (range 0-25)

Has your partner had outside sex while in the relationship?

No	40%
Yes	35%
Don't know	25%

Have rules about outside sex been violated?

By you	25% yes
By your partner	35% yes

Study contact information:

Principal investigator: Steve Forssell

Email: MCRS@gwu.edu

D.C. Phone: 202-994-6323

Denver Phone: 303-596-2244

Website: <http://home.gwu.edu/~forssell>