

# Boys who like boys

*A study of where young MSM learn about sex, relationships and HIV*

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# Who are NAT?

The UK's leading charity dedicated to transforming society's response to HIV (since 1987)

Our goals:

Equitable access to treatment, care & support



Eradication of HIV-related stigma and discrimination



Early diagnosis of HIV



Effective HIV prevention



Enhanced understanding of HIV



Boys who  
like boys

TRANSFORMING  
THE UK'S  
RESPONSE  
TO HIV



WHO  
LIKE  
BOYS  
BOYS

“I STILL DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT HIV IS TO BE HONEST. KNOW IT SOUNDS STUPID BUT IT'S OBVIOUSLY A TABOO SUBJECT TO TALK TO ANOTHER GAY LAD ABOUT BEFORE YOU HAVE SEX, BIT OF A TURN OFF!!”

## Why?

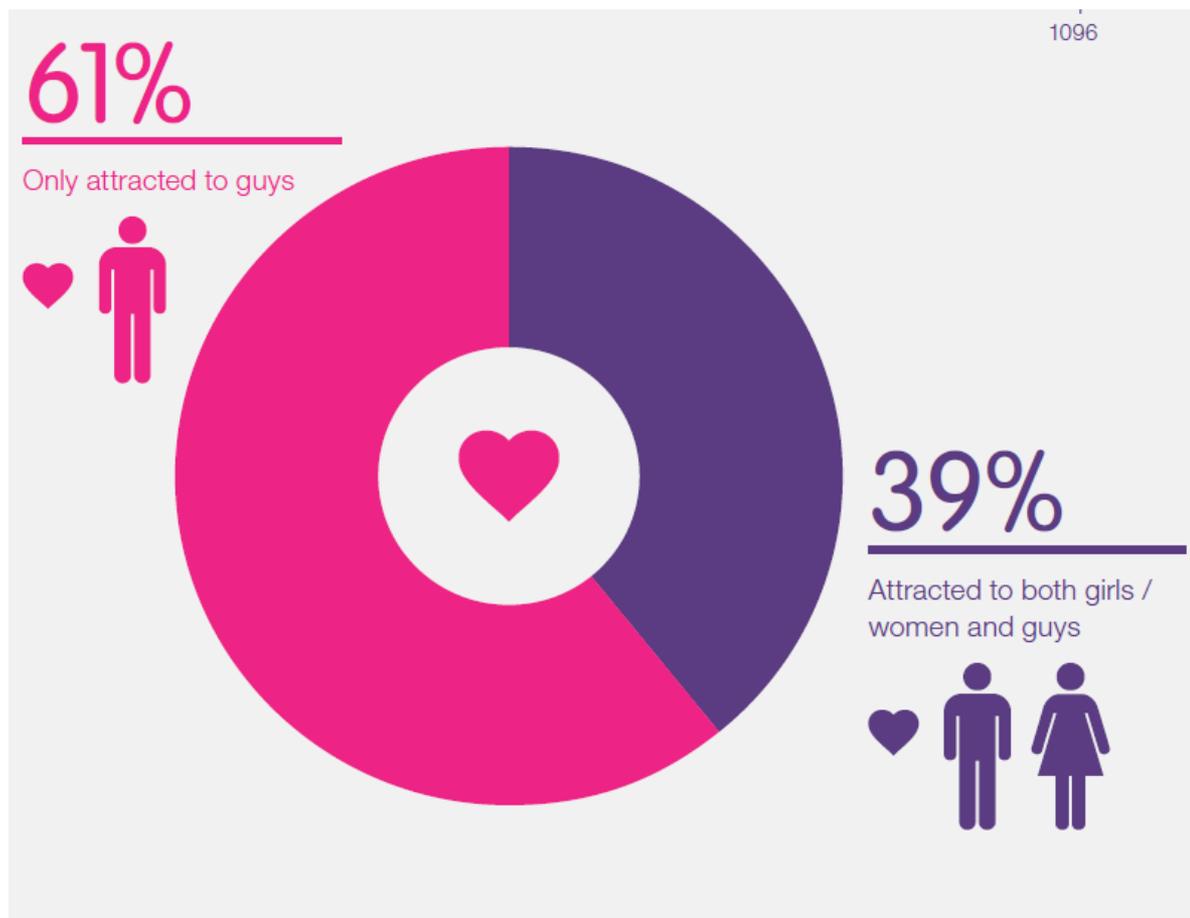


- New diagnoses among young MSM (15 to 24) in the UK have doubled in 10 years
- Lack of understanding about where young MSM are learning about sex, relationships and HIV and what they understand about HIV

## Respondents to the survey

- **Eligibility:** Identify as male (including trans men), be attracted to men (including men who attracted to men and women), and be aged 14- 19
- **Recruitment:** Facebook ads, services for LGBT young people, gay media, social-networking apps, young people websites
- **Survey responses:** Over 1,000 completed surveys
- **Age and region:** Respondents well distributed across the age range and across the four nations
- **Ethnicity:** 91% identified as white, 8% identified as BME

# Sexual orientation

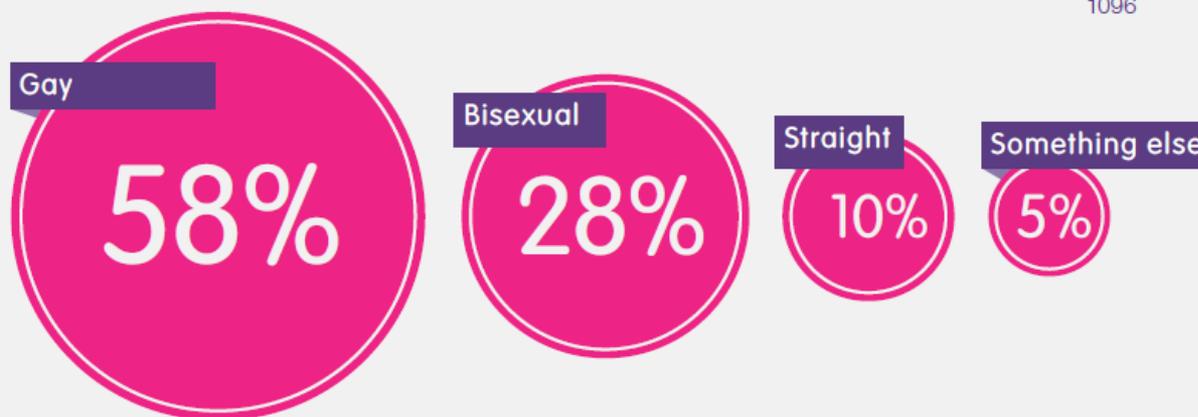


## Sexual identity

graph 4  
Sexual identity

Q: 'Some guys who are attracted to guys identify as gay or bi, but some identify as straight / heterosexual or something else. From the list below, what best describes how you think of yourself?'

respondents:  
1096



## Sex & Relationships Education



- **Information about HIV prevention:**
  - A **third** had not received any info about 'HIV transmission and safer sex'.
  - **50%** would value more information on 'HIV transmission and safer sex'
  - Specifically, **39%** on 'challenges and difficulties in using condoms'.

## Sex & Relationships Education



- Information about relationships and same-sex attraction:
  - 75% had not received any info on 'relationships and attraction towards guys'
  - Out of those who had, 1 in 4 found it 'unhelpful' or 'very unhelpful'.
  - 73% would value more information on 'relationships and attraction towards guys'

## Bullying



- Experiences of bullying and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation:
  - **Over half** of young MSM had ever been bullied or discriminated against
  - **99%** had experienced it by a pupil at school, with **60%** experiencing this often or very often
  - **39%** had experienced it by a teacher or another adult at school, with **15%** experiencing this often or very often

## Where do young MSM look for information?



- For sex and relationships:
  - Websites, chat-rooms, pornography & LGBT publications
  - Boyfriends, friends, and siblings
- For HIV:
  - Teachers
  - Sexual health clinics

## How helpful did young MSM find these sources?



- The most common places were also rated the most helpful
- Websites had the highest proportion of respondents who rated them helpful or very helpful
- More young gay men rated pornography as helpful than unhelpful

## Information in the future



- Websites popular for all topics
- For HIV, a GP was a very popular future source (though not a common choice for current sources)
- Porn did not feature as a preference

## HIV Knowledge



### HIV transmission:

- **Over a quarter** didn't know or weren't sure that HIV can only be passed on through semen, vaginal and rectal fluids, blood or breast milk
- **A third** didn't know or weren't sure, that you could not get HIV through kissing
- **91%** knew already of HIV-risk in sharing needles
- Knowledge about PEP and HIV testing recommendations was poor

## Recommendations

- **17 recommendations** including the need for:
  - Compulsory inclusive SRE & anti bullying measures
  - Further research (needs of heterosexually identifying MSM, impact of porn...)
  - Better signposting to advice, making relevance clear
  - Advice for families around supporting young MSM
  - Commissioning of services in GP surgeries around HIV
  - National and local HIV prevention programmes meeting needs of young MSM

**HIV: Public Knowledge & Attitudes 2014**

**TRANSFORMING  
THE UK'S  
RESPONSE  
TO HIV**



**HIV**  
**Public Knowledge  
and Attitudes,  
2014**

NOVEMBER 2014



A study for the National AIDS Trust by Ipsos MORI

# NAT surveys of public knowledge and attitudes to HIV



- Conducted for NAT by Ipsos MORI in 2000, 2005, 2007, 2010 and 2014
- Representative sample of British population
- Some questions repeated to enable analysis of trends over time
- More detail on methodology in report

## Knowledge of HIV transmission - identifying correct routes



- 83% - sex without a condom between a man and a woman
- 81% - sex without a condom between two men
- 75% - by sharing needles or syringes

# Knowledge of HIV transmission - overall

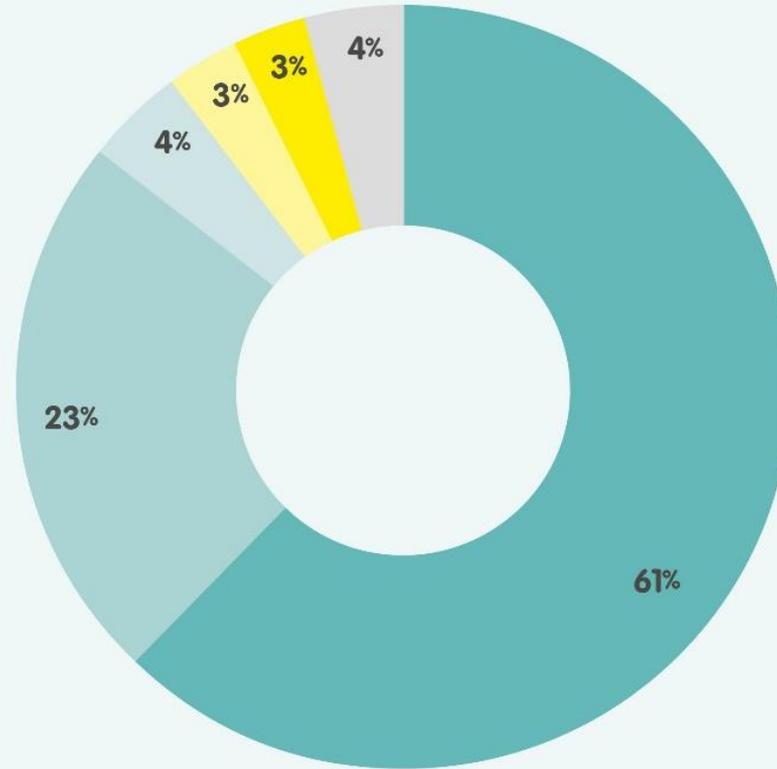


- 65% - identify all three correct routes of HIV transmission
- 28% - misidentify one or more incorrect routes of HIV transmission
- 45% - correctly identify all three routes of transmission and do not identify any incorrect routes
- 7% - identify no correct routes of transmission

## Knowledge of HIV transmission - misidentifying incorrect routes

- 16% - spitting (2010: 10%)
- 16% - kissing (2010: 9%)
- 5% - sharing a glass (2010: 2%)
- 5% - coughing or sneezing (2010: 1%)
- 4% - public toilet seat (2010: 3%)

All young people should be taught about HIV at secondary school (i.e. ages 11 -16) to ensure they have a good understanding of the condition by the time they leave



**Key:**

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

# Recommendations



- Compulsory age-appropriate SRE
- The NHS, and national and local government need to improve public understanding of HIV to prevent HIV transmission and promote respect.
- Government must develop and implement strategies to reduce HIV stigma

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Thank you and questions

The full reports are available on [www.nat.org.uk](http://www.nat.org.uk)

Please email further questions or comments to

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or +44 (0)20 7814 6767



# NAT (National AIDS Trust)

SHAPING ATTITUDES



CHALLENGING INJUSTICE



CHANGING LIVES

