

Outreach Work with MSM in public sex environments

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Overview

- Introduction to WLGMP and PSE work
- Why work in PSEs? – Discussion
- Findings from the Stanmore Common Sexual Health Needs Assessment (SHNA)
- Recommendations
- Policy and Legislation
- Good Practice
- Questions and Discussion

WLGMP – An Introduction

- WLGMP was set up in 1997 with funding from Ealing, Hounslow and Hammersmith & Fulham Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and works with Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) across West London

WLGMP – An Introduction

- Services include:
 - Peer and community rapid HIV testing
 - Sexual health outreach
 - 24s condoms and lube service
 - 1-2-1 Health Trainer support
 - Specialist work with Black, Asian and Positive Men
 - Website and helpline
 - Homophobic and Transphobic Crime Remote Reporting
 - The Source Magazine
 - Professional briefings

PSE Outreach

- Horsenden Hill
- Stanmore Common
- Barnes Common
- Ham Fields

Terminology

- Cruising
- Cruising grounds
- Cottaging
- Dogging

Discussion

- Why do some MSM engage in sexual activity at PSEs?
- What sort of needs might MSM using PSEs have?
 - Sexual health needs
 - Other needs
- What might organisations need to consider when beginning outreach work at PSEs?

Why use PSEs?

- 'Closeted' lifestyle
 - Married
 - Bisexual
 - Employment
- Historical involvement
- Spur of the moment
- Straightforward preference

Thanks to Richmond LGBT Forum for this slide
<http://www.richmondlgbtforum.org.uk/>

Stanmore Common SHNA

- 6 outreach sessions
- 68 men approached (50 face-to-face, 18 online)
- 16 men completed questionnaire (14 face-to-face, 2 online)

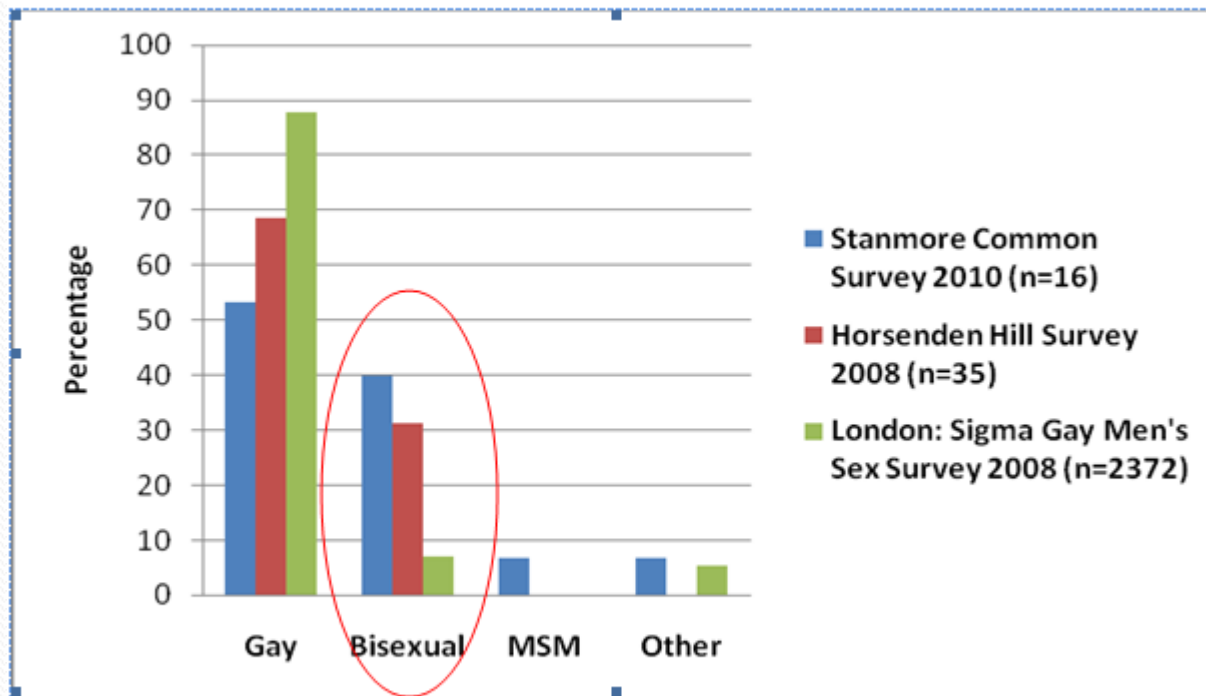
Age

Table 2 Age by number and percentage of respondents (n=16)

Age	PSE Sites				Non-PSE
	Stanmore Common Survey 2010		Horsenden Hill Survey 2008		London Sigma Gay Men's Sex Survey 2008
	No. of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%	%
14-19	0	0.0	0	0.0	1.8
20-29	0	0.0	0	0.0	28.1
30-39	6	37.5	3	8.8	33.4
40-49	4	25	11	32.4	26.0
50 and over	6	37.5	20	58.8	10.7

Sexual orientation

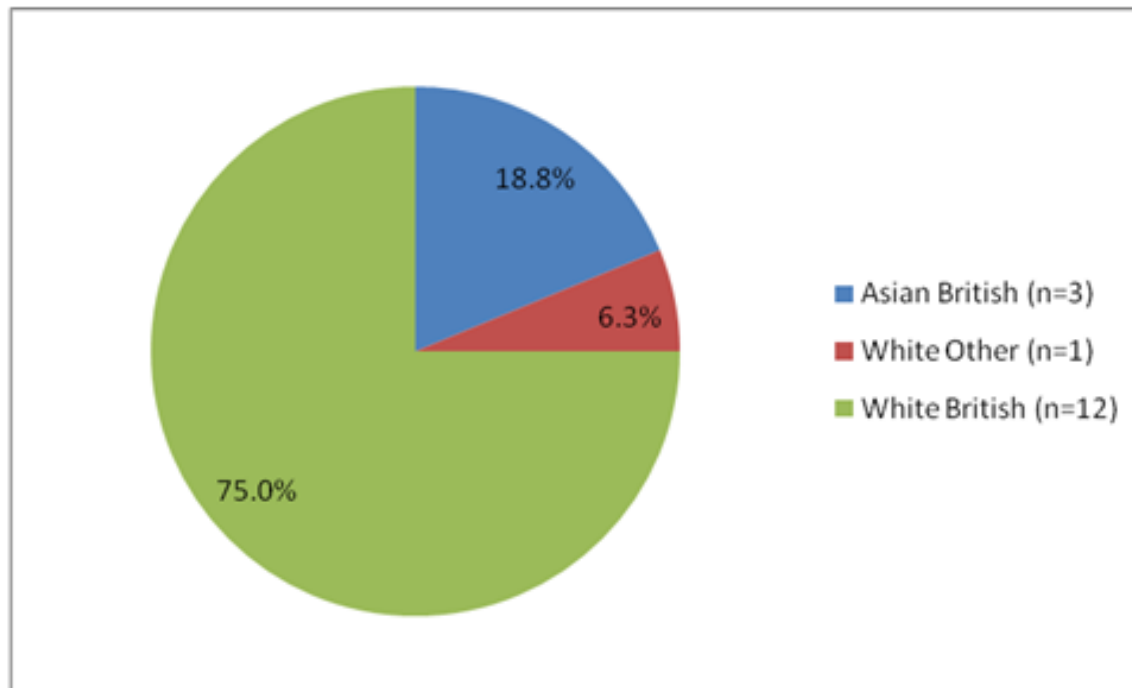
Figure 6 Comparison of the proportion of self-reported sexual identity of men at Stanmore Common, Horsenden Hill and the London gay population



The Other group from the London: Sigma Gay Men's Sex Survey 2008 data represents the sum of all men who did not identify as either gay or bisexual, but who responded with either 'I don't usually use a term,' or 'any other term.' MSM was not an option used by Sigma.

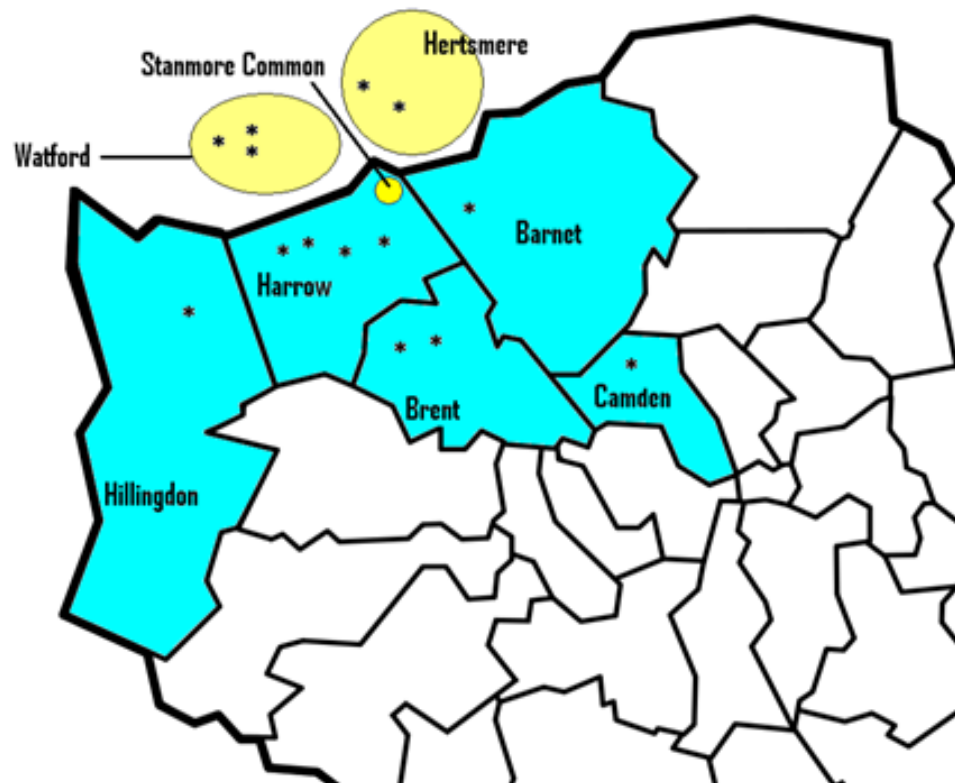
Ethnicity

Figure 7 Ethnic group by percentage of respondents (n=16)



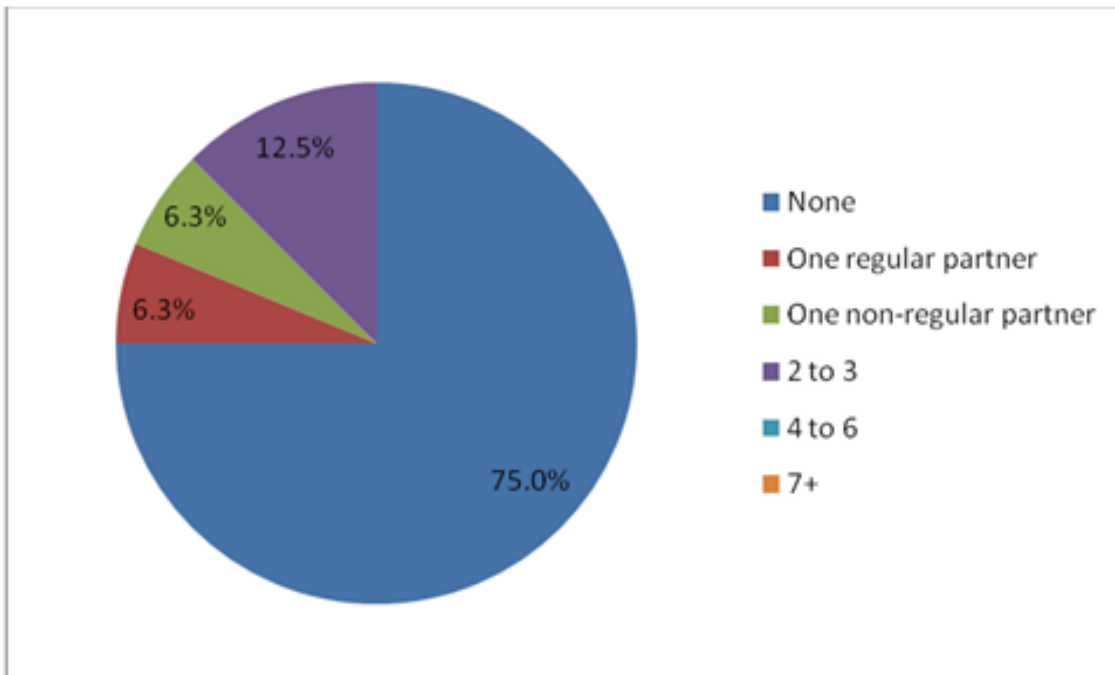
Borough of Residence

Figure 8 Origin location of respondents by borough (n=14, 2 missing)



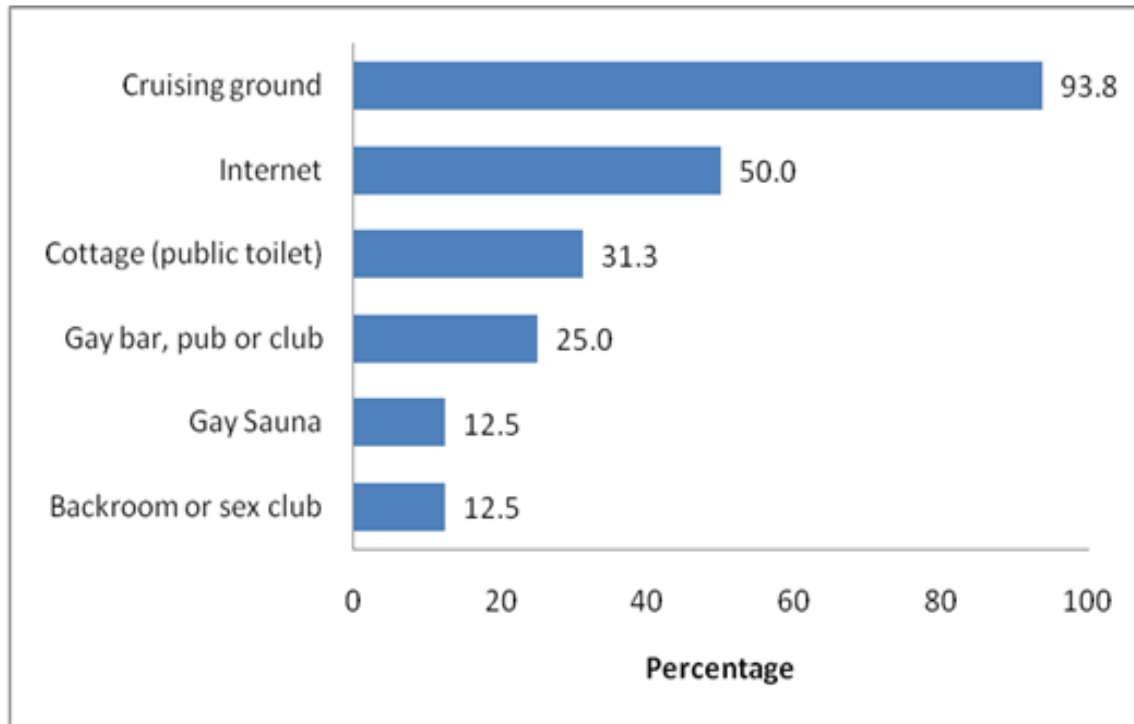
General Sexual Behaviour - 1

Figure 9 Number of male unprotected anal sexual partners in the last three months by percentage of respondents (n=16)



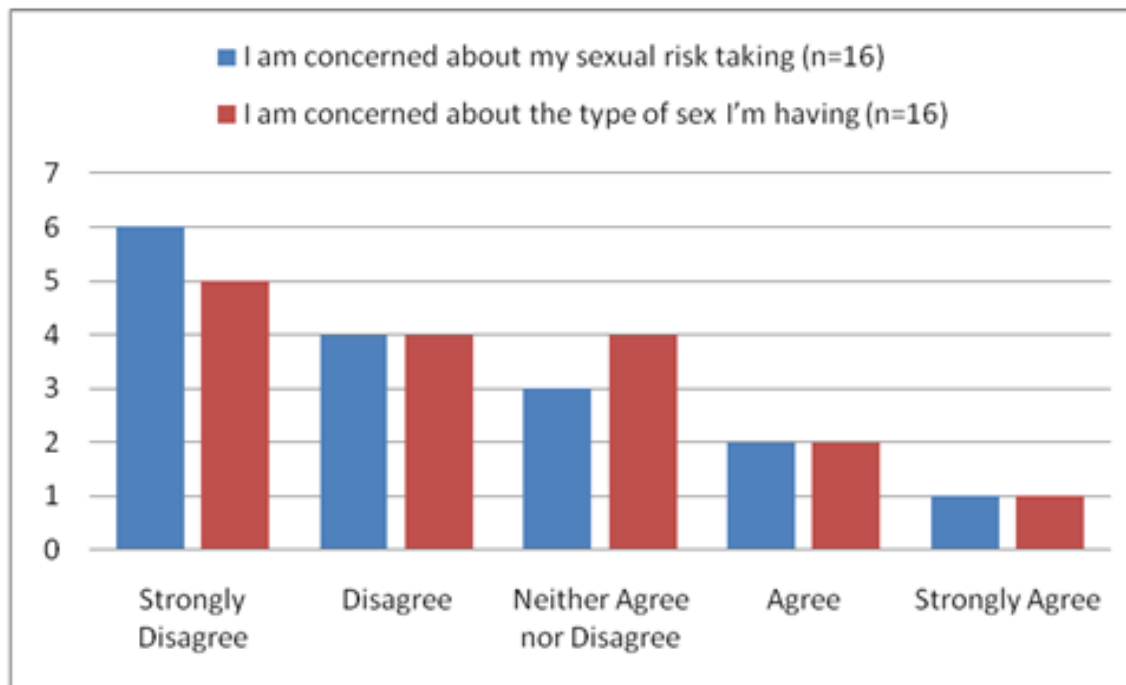
General Sexual Behaviour - 2

Figure 10 Proportion of men using different types of place used to meet new male sexual partners (n=16)



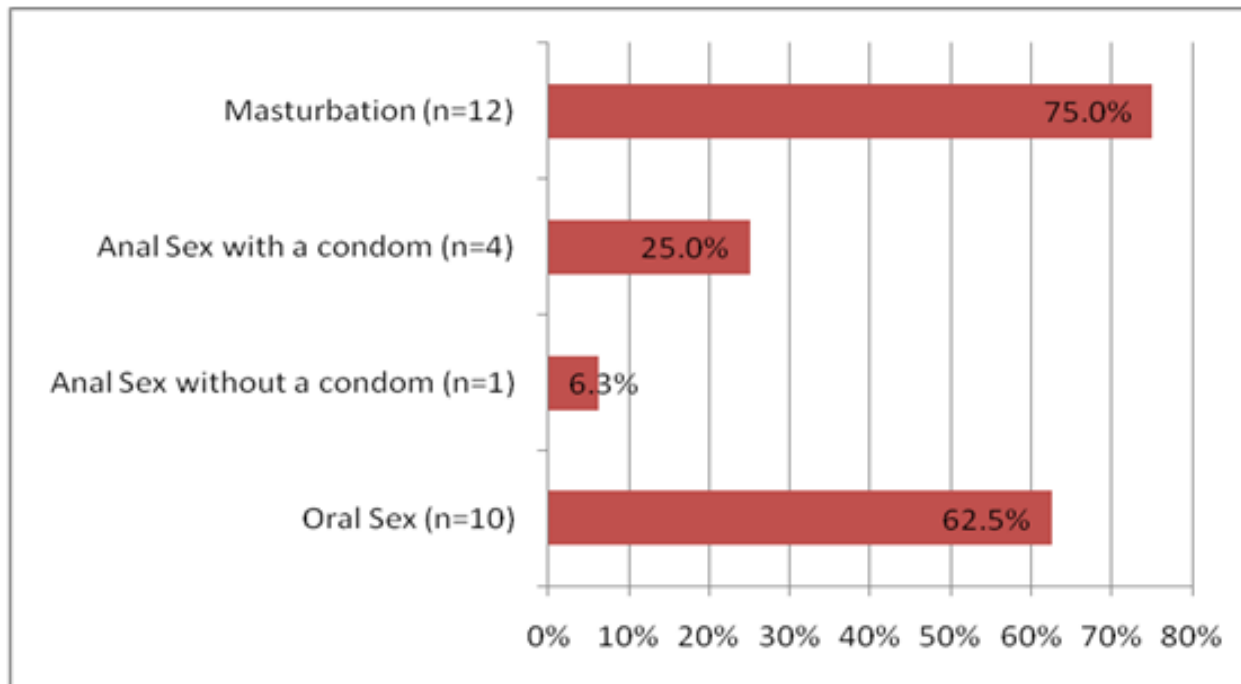
General Sexual Behaviour - 3

Figure 11 Proportion of men concerned about their sexual risk taking and the type of sex they're having, by how strongly they agree or disagree with the statement (n=16)



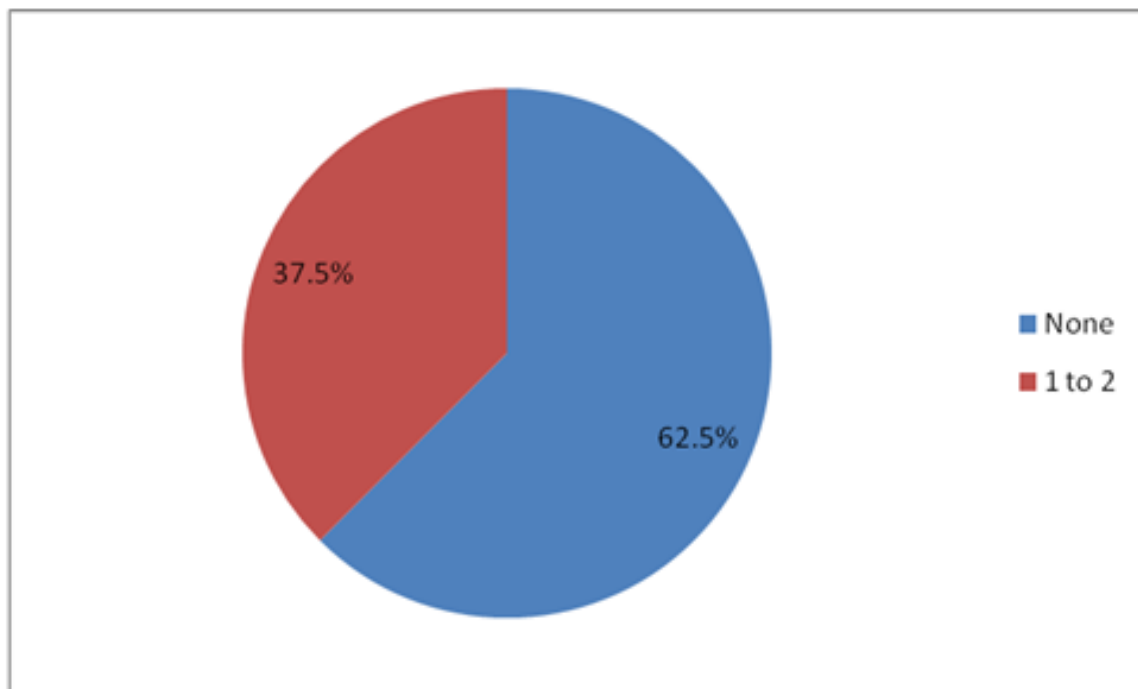
Sexual Activity at this PSE - 1

Figure 14 Proportion of men taking part in different types of sexual activities at Stanmore Common (n=16)



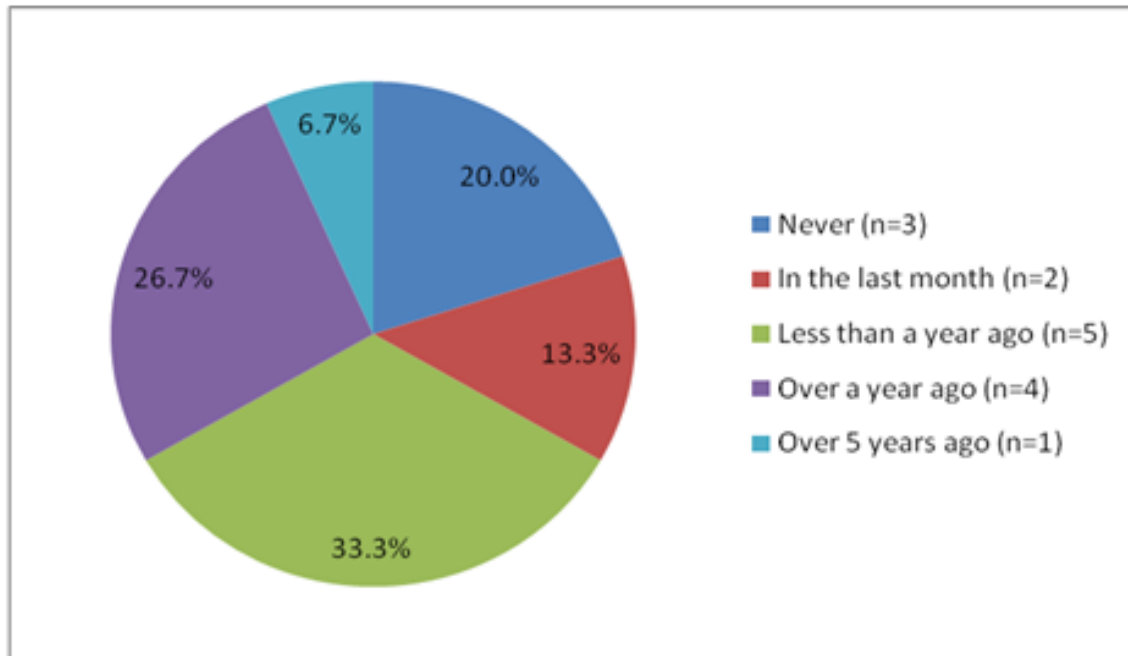
HIV Testing

Figure 10 Proportion of men who had an HIV test, by frequency of test in last 12 months (n=16)



STI Testing

Figure 11 Proportion of men who had a sexual health check-up, by frequency (n=15, 1 missing)



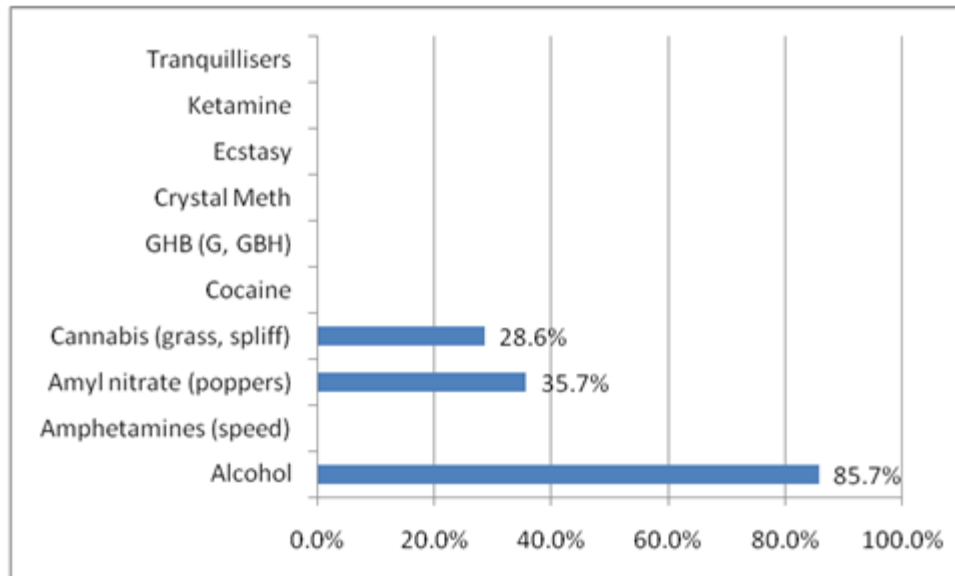
Sexual Health Knowledge

- 93% knew how to use a condom correctly.
- 80% of men knew where to get free condoms and lubricant.
- 62.5% knew roughly their chances of becoming infected with HIV, or infecting others, based on the type of sex that they were having.
- 68% of men knew where their nearest sexual health clinic was located.
- 73% felt they got enough information on sexual health for gay men.

Other issues

- 25% indicated that they had felt low/depressed/down in the last 6 months.
- 20% were concerned about their alcohol use.
- 13% were concerned about their drug use.

Figure 14 Proportion of men using different types of drugs (n=14, 2 missing)

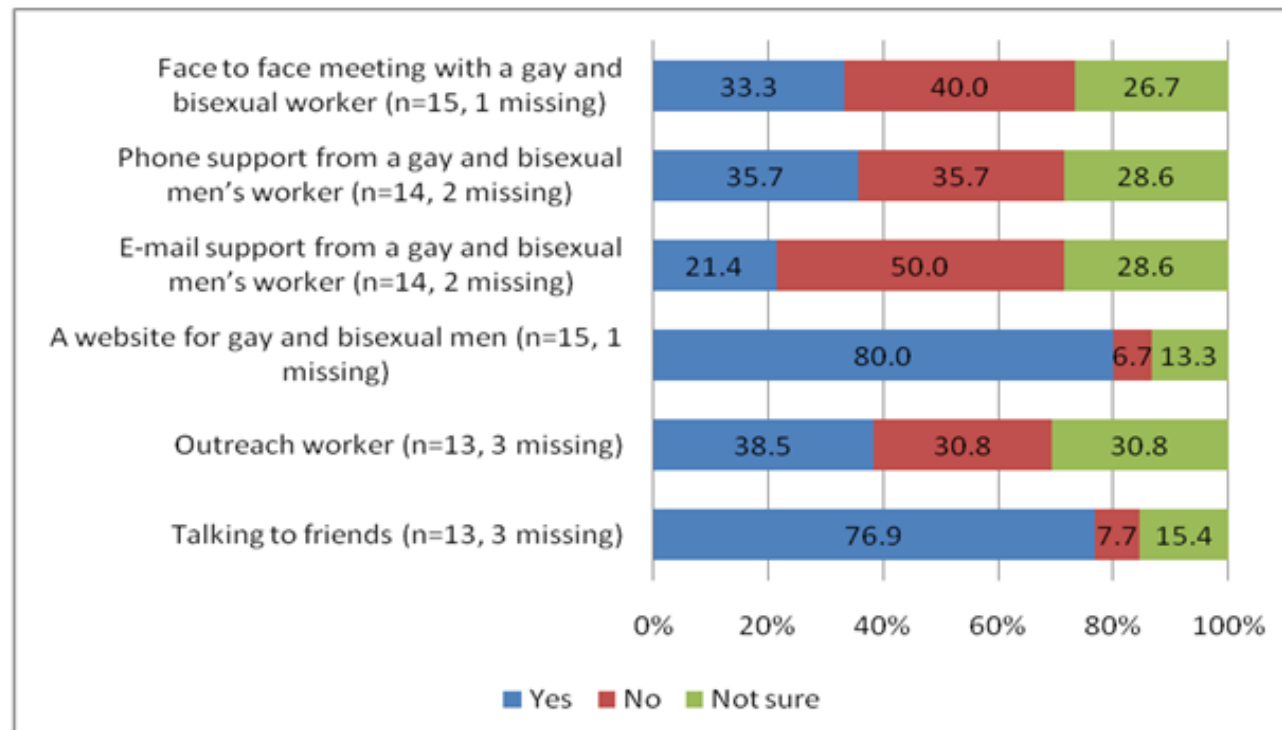


Homophobic Crime

- Over a third of the men (37.5%) said that they had experienced or witnessed homophobic crime at the cruising ground in the last 12 months. However only one man said that he reported such behaviour to authorities.
- The fear of homophobic abuse and violence is high at Stanmore Common. Over two thirds of the men (68.8%) were concerned about homophobic abuse and homophobic violence.
- The level of homophobic crime at Stanmore Common is relatively high when compared to another PSE (Horsenden Hill Cruising Ground, 2008) where 91% of men said they had not experienced or witnessed any homophobic crime at the cruising ground in the last 12 months.

What resources would you use?

Figure 16 Proportion of respondents answering yes, no, or not sure to whether they would use different sources to get help or information on the issues covered in the survey (n=16)



Recommendations

- Continued outreach work and condom distribution
- Promotion of HIV and STI testing and local services
- Signposting to mental health and wellbeing services
- Promotion of social opportunities
- Community safety information and remote reporting
- Training for local police
- Improved litter disposal facilities

The full report is available from
www.westlondongmp.org.uk

Legislation

- Sexual activity in public is NOT an absolute offence
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
 - S.71 – Sexual offences in lavatories
 - S.66 – Exposure
 - S.67 – Voyeurism
- Common Law:
 - Outraging Public Decency
 - Breach of the Peace
- Public order offences
- Anti-social behaviour provisions
- Littering
- Bye-laws (if applicable)
- The Equality Act (21A Public Authorities) says that people cannot discriminate against MSM.

Thanks to Richmond LGBT Forum for this slide
<http://www.richmondlgbtforum.org.uk/>

Policy

- ACPO Four Stage Guidance*
 1. Receipt of complaint of public sexual activity
 2. Scanning and analysis
 3. Stepped response
 1. Inform, dissuade
 2. Situational crime and disorder prevention measures
 3. Preventative patrolling
 4. Assess
- MPS Guidance
- Local policy

*<http://www.met.police.uk/dcf/files/LGBTacpo.pdf>

Good practice

1. Build confidence with the men you are working with.
2. Use websites (e.g. Squirt.org) to engage and inform.
3. Establish good relationships with local police.
4. Keep funders informed.
5. Make connections with local Community Safety Partnerships.
6. Log all incidents reported to you by users.
7. Be proactive: engage local community groups and those who are complaining.
8. Media response: say as little as possible.
9. Support and supervision for workers involved
10. Keep focused and hold your nerve.

Useful Links

- West London Gay Men's Project
 - www.westlondongmp.org.uk
- GALOP
 - www.galop.org.uk
- Stop Hate UK
 - <http://www.stophateuk.org/>
- THT
 - www.tht.org.uk

Any Questions?

Safety Tips

- Try to let a friend know where you've gone.
- Leave valuables at home.
- Be aware of your surroundings and avoid becoming isolated.
- Trust your instincts and move away if you're in danger.
- If you or someone else is being attacked, shout for help.
- Be aware that alcohol or drugs may influence the choices that you make.

Adapted from: GALOP (2010): Cottaging and cruising: Your safety, your rights and the law.