Gay Generations:
Life Course and Gay Men's Health

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About "Sex Now"

Sex Now is a national periodic survey conducted by the Community Based Research Centre for Gay Men's Health (CBRC) in Vancouver. The survey was originally commissioned in 2002 by the BC Centre for Disease Control (CDC) as an investigation into rising HIV infection rates in gay men in the province of British Columbia. Since then, there have been eight survey cycles starting with BC Pride Festivals in 2002 & 2004, moving to the internet in 2006, 2007 & 2008, and then to cover all of Canada in 2010, 2012 & 2015. The 2014/15 edition of the survey (SN15) was conducted online at two dedicated websites (one in English, the other in French) from October 2014 to May 2015.

Participation in the previous cycles reached at least 8,000 Canadian gay and bisexual men on each occasion. SN15 is known to have reached almost 15,000, however, the net result was around 8,000 completed surveys – about the same sample size produced in previous years.

The significantly lower completion rate than participation rate may have been due in part to the increased use of smart phones in lieu of laptop/desktop computers to respond to the questionnaire. As well, the questionnaire was the longest of any previous survey. Worries about data plan usage, low familiarity with completing surveys on a smart phone, and the length of the questionnaire itself apparently contributed to the near 50% drop-out rate. Nonetheless, the massive response affirmed the extensive outreach, advertising and social media promotion for SN15 and the potential for greater participation in future surveys.

Gay Generations

The theme explored by SN15 was Gay Generations: life course experiences among cohorts composed of the youngest to oldest gay and bisexual men in the survey. The survey provided an unprecedented opportunity to learn more from Canadian men about life course influences on health and prevention, especially the way in which changes in historic patterns of stigma and discrimination are impacting current circumstances related to HIV.

This study was inspired by a more general probe undertaken by the CBRC to examine how social determinants of health are affecting gay men's experience with HIV. Why, for example, have gay men's infection rates continued unabated while infection rates for other vulnerable groups, such as injection drug users, have undergone dramatic declines?

The question is full of complexities, not the least of which is a withering lack of data. Due to historic sexual stigma, national databases, normally used to probe population health, are largely unavailable for research on gay men because a category for sexual orientation has been nonexistent. The 2003 edition (and later) of the Canadian Community Health Survey included a question about sexual orientation, but the question is asked verbally over the phone by an interviewer.

CBRC undertook the national expansion of Sex Now to address this lack of data – to capture large enough samples to be able to detect the influence of social factors affecting gay men's health. We were guided in this initiative by key methodological suggestions in the US Institute of Medicine Report on The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered People: 1) Social Ecology, 2) Minority Stress, 3) Intersectionality, 4) and Life Course. We explored each of these methodolo-

Introduction

gies through the BC Gay Men's Health Summit, inviting leading exponents of each of these fields of inquiry to address their applicability to gay men's health.

The Summit invited Dr. Phillip Hammack from the University of California, Santa Cruz to present his work in applying Life Course theory to gay men's health. Life Course focuses on the powerful connection between individual lives and the historical, cultural and economic context in which they unfold. Dr. Hammack showed how the health and wellness of gay men is tied both to the historical time in which they came of age and to the experiences they shared with their generational peers at the time. Accordingly, a key historical time factor for gay men is the emergence of HIV/AIDS and where gay men were in their lives at key moments in the course of the epidemic. Through extensive qualitative research, Dr. Hammack described five co-existing generations among US gay men born from the 1930s to 1980s (see http://www.cbrc.net/resources/2015/gay-mens-health-and-identity-life-course-perspective).

The vast majority of the SN 2015 sample was born from 1945 through the 1990s, representing a shift in the historical ground from Dr. Hammack's study of US gay men. We also noted that the course of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Canada was often several years behind events in the US. For these reasons, parsing the age cohorts to reflect the Canadian experience became one of the first challenges in mounting a study of our own gay generations.

To conduct our probe, we created five groups from SN15 referencing age-based affinities observable within everyday life of CBRC programs: 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-59, 60 plus. These age groups, so defined, each have their corresponding historic birth year periods, and historic coming of age periods, that in turn are positioned within the historical emergence of gay liberation and the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Canada.

Age based cohorts turned out to be a useful way to probe SN15 data, however, some notable issues emerged. The age cohorts we composed were not evenly spaced generational cohorts of 20 years but much smaller and inconsistent frames of 10 and 15 years. The two oldest cohorts are missing great numbers of gay men who died in the epidemic. One third of each of these cohorts now includes bisexual men and straight identifying men. Nonetheless, as this report will show, there is a range of behavioural, cultural and historical touchstones that give each age cohort we selected its own distinctiveness.

The aim of this report is to begin a field-wide discussion of generational issues in gay and bisexual men's health and prevention. It is a preliminary work-up of answers to SN15 questions, broken out into five age cohorts, each with a defined boundary. It covers a wide swathe of inquiry from sexual behaviour to health care experience to party voting patterns, all adding to a composite picture of gay life through a Life Course lens. It is by no means a complete picture. It lacks the depth and complexity to show where and how age intersects with sexual, gender and ethno-racial identities. Nonetheless, we hope that it will inspire the kind of in-depth studies that will eventually bring these nuances to the fore along with a greater understanding of the way Life Course trajectories are affecting the current situation with gay and bisexual men's health and interventions that would improve it.

Defining the Groups

We have used two methods of arraying life course information in this text. The most common method, used in the tables, arrays age cohorts by the youngest to oldest, reading left to right. At times, however, it is useful to consider the same age groups as birth year cohorts in an earliest to latest timeframe. Several charts use this method to trace the historical development of trends. A summary table of cohort characteristics uses the birth year array to express historical developments.

It should also be noted that cut points for the age groups are artificially hard boundaries necessitated by data analysis. In reality the boundaries between age groups are much more existentially fuzzy. Some people may find themselves relating more to a younger or older group or find elements of both younger and older men in their experience. This was certainly true of Dr. Hammack's presentation where many Summit participants felt themselves to be straddling the edges of two generations.

Describing the Cohorts

The five groups composed for this analysis bear some reflection on their historical position relative to each other.

Generation Gay Legal
AGE 60-71, BORN 1944-55, BABY BOOMERS

Pride March on University Ave in Toronto, 1972. Image: © Jearld Moldenhauer

Gay boomers came of age in the late 1960s and 1970s. Many would have heard of the Stonewall riot in New York near the end of June 1969, seeing it as a clarion call of the gay liberation. Equally important in Canada, however, was the passage of the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1968-69, introduced by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, decriminalizing homosexuality. The earliest signs of HIV arose in 1981 with the appearance of a rare pneumonia and cancer among gay men in San Francisco and New York. But those men were later known to have been infected years before, in

the 1970s. Most gay boomers were in their twenties or early thirties, experiencing the prime of their lives as these events unfolded. Great numbers perished in the ensuing health crisis. A small number of men in the SN15 sample were born prior to 1945 and would not have been considered post-war baby boomers but were included in this grouping due to their proximity to the above events. Consider as well that large numbers of this generation are absent from these data due to death in the epidemic.

Generation Gay Pride
AGE 45-59, BORN 1956-70, LATE BOOMERS TO GEN X

Toronto Bathhouse raids Feb 5; 1981. From the Toronto Star Archives.

The Gay Pride generation came of age from the mid-1970s to the late 1980s. Many would have been aware of decriminalization and Stonewall but much of gay life in Canada was still underground. Operation Soap, the Toronto police bathhouse raids in February 1981, exposed continuing deep stigma and structural harassment. The bathhouse raids helped unleash gay political mobilization while many of these men were in their twenties. The Toronto Pride parade evolved out of mass protests against the police intrusions. Unfortunately, however, an unknown epidemic was unfolding while many of these men were coming out and joining gay communities. Large numbers were infected without knowing it, which would bring about the eventual devastation of the cohort.

Generation Safe Sex

AGE 35-44, BORN 1971-80, GEN X TO GEN Y
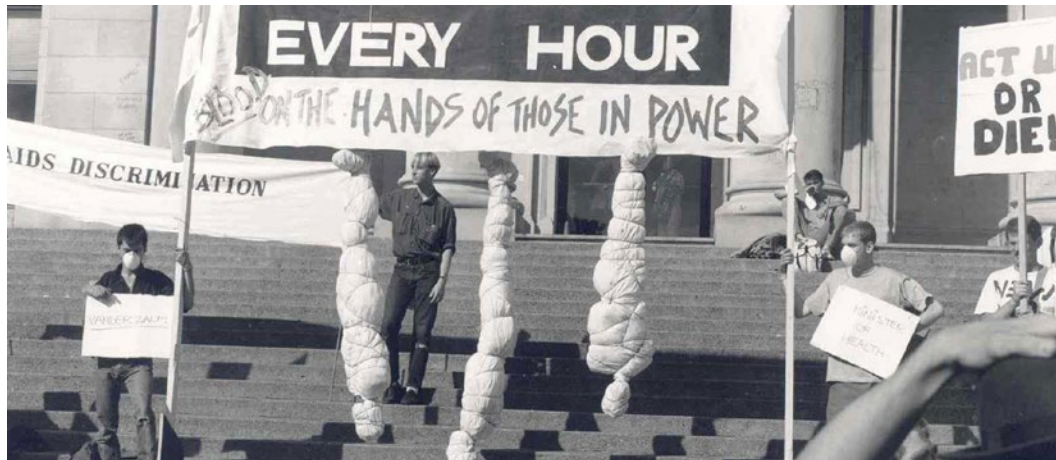
An AIDS human rights protest at Robson Square, 1990. The University of British Columbia Archives.

Coming of age in the late 1980s through 1990s in Canada, these men witnessed AIDS at its worst as they were coming out. As teens they witnessed overwhelming numbers of gay men visibly ill and dying. While in their twenties, HIV infection, AIDS and death seemed to be equated with being gay. Nonetheless, this generation of men were the main beneficiaries of the safe sex revolution in gay communities. Condoms, despite their problems, represented sexual liberation in the midst of the most severe conditions imaginable. More nuanced forms of safer sex were also coming into practice such as sero-sorting and test-ensured monogamy.

Generation ART

AGE 25-34, BORN 1981-1990, GEN Y TO MILLENNIALS

The Boots dancefloor during a 1990s Pride weekend event. Photo: Casey McNeill.

Generation ART came of age in the late 1990s to 2000s. While coming out, they witnessed the first successful HIV treatments known as Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) and the consequent social

response among gay men. The ART breakthrough was announced at the International Conference on AIDS in Vancouver in 1996. Infections began to decline precipitously in subsequent years. ART brought about a revolution among HIV positive gay men, who were now well enough for casual sex. Barebacking and associated strategies to ensure its relative safety grew from a whisper to a chorus while young men of the ART generation were having their first gay encounters. In 2001, the first signs emerged of a resurgence of HIV infections among gay men.

Generation Gay Marriage
AGE 15-24, BORN 1991-2000, MILLENNIALS

While coming of age from 2009 to the present, these young men have witnessed several co-occurring cultural revolutions that have greatly affected the character and quality of gay life in Canada. In 2005, gay marriage was made legal. While the impact of the new law on everyday gay life was not large, it signalled a new standard of equality and acceptance that was difficult to ignore. Young gay millennials came out into a world that already included gay marriage. But they had to run a gauntlet of a violent backlash to gay visibility in high schools. Dramatic changes in the conceptualization of HIV treatment began to emerge with the realization that low viral load greatly diminishes onward transmission, potentially to zero. In the meantime, a technological revolution in the use of smart phones and social location apps seems to be redefining what it means to be gay.

Summary Table: Gay Generations

	GEN. GAY LEGAL	GEN. GAY PRIDE	GEN. SAFE SEX	GEN. ART	GEN. GAY MARRIAGE
AGE	60s+	45–59	35–44	25–34	15–24
BIRTH YEAR	before 1956	1956~70	1971~80	1981~90	1991 or later
CAME OF AGE	1960s-mid 70s	mid 1970s-80s	1989-90s	1999-mid 2000s	2009-2015
HIV	Epidemic emerged in their 30s	Epidemic emerged in their 20s	Entered their 20's in worst HIV epidemic	Most came of age in the early era of ARV treatment	Most came of age in era of low viral load, undetectability
DEMOGRAPHICS	83% Canadian born 93% White 50% urban 78% not living where they grew up	87% Canadian born 91% White 53% urban 71% not living where they grew up	79% Canadian born 17% non-White 60% urban 72% not living where they grew up	81% Canadian born 19% non-White 63% urban 66% not living where they grew up	84% Canadian born 21% non-White 52% urban 23% suburbs 19% towns 53% still living where they grew up
IDENTITY	64% gay 33% bisexual 40% never came out 25% male partnered 38% live with a partner or spouse	66% gay 32% bisexual 32% never came out 30% male partnered 33% live with a partner or spouse	71% gay 27% bisexual 53% out by age 24 34% male partnered 33% live with a partner or spouse	79% gay 19% bisexual 56% single 33% male partnered 23% live with a partner or spouse	Most identity diverse 73% gay 24% bisexual 11% queer Most gender diverse 11% trans
LIFESTYLE	64% retired 24% employed 64% own property 72% high job control	66% employed 22% self employed 28% earn $90K+ 57% high job control	76% employed 19% self employed 23% earn $90K+ 54% high job control 48% hold degree(s)	76% employed 34% earn <$30K 58% earn $30-90K 50% high job control 51% hold degree(s)	60% students 58% employed 80% earn <$30K 42% high job control 40% live with parents

	GEN. GAY LEGAL	**GEN. GAY PRIDE**	**GEN. SAFE SEX**	**GEN. ART**	**GEN. GAY MARRIAGE**
SOCIAL VALUES	Liberal 46%, NDP 21% Conservative 19% 48% future optimistic 26% meet financial goals	Liberal 48% NDP 20% Conservative 16% 60% future optimistic 13% meet financial goals	Liberal 43% NDP 24% Conservative 11% 65% future optimistic 32% to marry a man	Liberal 35% NDP 32% Conservative 8% 73% future optimistic 50% to marry a man	NDP 30% Liberal 28% Conservative 8% 76% future optimistic 60% to marry a man
SEXUAL ACTIVITY	Active as younger Websites preferred Prefer younger men 44% last sex with a friend with benefits	65% hooking up 53% last sex was via websites 11% last sex was via dating app 35% 10+ partners/yr	Most active cohort for hook-ups, group, etc. 42% last sex was via websites 24% last sex was via dating app 35% 10+ partners/yr	64% hooking up 35% last sex was via dating app 40% last sex was via websites 56% same age partners	55% hooking up 34% dating 40% last sex was via dating app 29% last sex was via websites 65% anal sex active 39% older men
SEXUAL HEALTH	52% STI test in past yr 52% HIV test in past yr 36% used erectile meds before most recent sex High Hep B	58% STI test in past yr 57% HIV test in past yr 14% used erectile meds before most recent sex 12% poppers Most condom committed cohort	63% STI test in past yr 61% HIV test in past yr 35% migrated for sexual expression	Most tested cohort 65% STI test in past yr 64% HIV test in past yr Highest gonorrhea & chlamydia rates Highest online stigmas: body; ethnicity	37% never had HIV test 52% STI test in past yr 50% HIV test in past yr
GENERAL HEALTH	59% out to providers 52% hypertension 45% high cholesterol 21% diabetes	63% out to providers 32% seek stress care 22% partner violence 25% used pain meds	67% out to providers 32% school violence 22% partner violence 26% care for depression	67% out to providers 76% have a doctor 35% use walk-in clinics 58% online body image discrimination	Most school violence Most discrimination 30% consider suicide 28% used pain meds 40% use walk-in clinics

GAY GENERATIONS: LIFE COURSE AND GAY MEN'S HEALTH

About this Report

Each table in this report is supported by embedded bar graphs which may help to provide a visual reference for comparisons within and between each age cohort.

When looking at the statistics presented throughout this report, it is important to keep in mind who may not be represented in the data. As in any online survey of substantial length, some groups of people may be under-represented, including (a) those who are entirely or mostly disconnected with regard to online technology, and (b) those who find it too burdensome to complete the survey in one sitting, for whatever reason (e.g. language barriers, lost interest/patience).

Additionally, for this report in particular, it is important to consider factors which could affect participation rates differently for different age cohorts. As mentioned, the older age cohorts in this analysis were the most heavily affected by AIDS, and those who died prematurely as a result are of course not represented in the data. Similarly, those who have died prematurely for other reasons (e.g. suicide, drug overdose) would not be represented in these statistics.

Despite these caveats, it is hoped that this report will prompt further inquiry and provide useful information on how gay generations can be addressed separately in policy, programs, and services.

Demographics

Gender and Sexual Identity

GENDER IDENTITY *What is your gender identity? (check all that apply)*										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Man	994	94%	1,743	99%	1,352	98%	2,723	99%	1,007	98%
Woman	8	1%	2	.1%	6	.4%	5	.2%	1	.1%
Transgender	119	11%	58	3%	23	2%	22	1%	17	2%
Genderqueer	43	4%	30	2%	20	1%	23	1%	10	1%
Two-spirit	8	1%	22	1%	24	2%	42	2%	7	1%
Other	21	2%	11	1%	5	.4%	6	.2%	2	.2%
% calculated out of (i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

Over 90% of respondents in each age group identified their gender as "man". However, a substantially higher proportion of the youngest age group identified as transgender.

SEXUAL IDENTITY *How do you usually describe your sexual identity? (check all that apply)*										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Gay (homosexual)	767	73%	1,394	79%	979	71%	1,824	66%	654	64%
Bi (bisexual)	251	24%	335	19%	369	27%	888	32%	342	33%
Straight (heterosexual)	51	5%	71	4%	78	6%	145	5%	53	5%
Queer	115	11%	134	8%	59	4%	77	3%	19	2%
Two-spirit	13	1%	16	1%	30	2%	40	1%	12	1%
Other	55	5%	36	2%	16	1%	26	1%	9	1%
% calculated out of (i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

The majority of the respondents in all age groups identified as gay, however, the proportions of bisexual men increased with age. Generally, the youngest cohort expressed more gender and sexual diversity than other age groups.

Birthplace and Ethnicity

BORN IN CANADA *Is Canada your birthplace?*										
	<25		**25-34**		**35-44**		**45-59**		**60+**	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	886	84%	1,434	81%	1,094	79%	2,407	87%	855	83%
No	166	16%	334	19%	290	21%	354	13%	169	17%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,761	100%	1,024	100%

ETHNICITY *What best describes your ethnic/cultural origins? (check all that apply)*										
	<25		**25-34**		**35-44**		**45-59**		**60+**	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
White/Caucasian	829	79%	1,438	81%	1,147	83%	2,507	91%	949	93%
Aboriginal	82	8%	94	5%	70	5%	100	4%	18	2%
African	22	2%	22	1%	13	1%	10	.4%	3	.3%
Caribbean	25	2%	36	2%	21	2%	22	1%	5	.5%
East Asian	53	5%	76	4%	35	3%	28	1%	3	.3%
South Asian	32	3%	38	2%	27	2%	10	.4%	3	.3%
South-east Asian	29	3%	49	3%	22	2%	16	1%	2	.2%
Latino/Hispanic	38	4%	60	3%	57	4%	30	1%	2	.2%
Middle Eastern	30	3%	52	3%	26	2%	15	1%	2	.2%
Pacific Islands	2	.2%	7	.4%	12	1%	5	.2%	1	.1%
Other	57	5%	66	4%	65	5%	120	4%	53	5%
% calculated out of										
(i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

The majority of respondents were born in Canada and identified as White/Caucasian. Proportions of those born outside of Canada varied only slightly across age cohorts. There was, however, greater ethnic diversity among younger age groups.

Migration

MIGRATION Are you still living in the same city/region where you … lived 1 year ago / lived 5 years ago / went to high school (or lived at age 17)?		<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Same as 1 year ago		848	81%	1,508	85%	1,255	91%	2,596	94%	982	96%
Same as 5 years ago		587	56%	1,042	59%	999	72%	2,281	83%	871	85%
Same as H.S. (or age 17)		556	53%	595	34%	391	28%	814	29%	221	22%
% calculated out of (i.e. total # of respondents)		1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

*This table shows the percentage of respondents in each age group who answered "Yes".

Larger proportions of younger respondents indicated that they had moved within the past several years. The majority of those aged 25 and older were no longer living where they grew up – true for 4 out of 5 of respondents older than 60.

MIGRATION Where did you move [in order to more freely express your sexuality]? (check all that apply)		<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
… to a city		148	59%	392	60%	266	55%	398	52%	91	41%
… between cities		68	27%	200	30%	139	29%	248	33%	87	39%
… between provinces		45	18%	153	23%	106	22%	225	29%	75	34%
… to Canada		39	15%	106	16%	91	19%	90	12%	19	9%
… from Canada		9	4%	35	5%	26	5%	39	5%	9	4%
… from a city		14	6%	16	2%	12	2%	30	4%	11	5%
% calculated out of (i.e. total # of respondents)		252		657		485		763		221	

*This question was only asked if respondents had ever moved in order to more freely express their sexuality.

*The full text of the response options was: To a city: From rural/ small town/suburbia to a city. Between cities: From a city to another city. Between provinces: From a province to another province. To Canada: From another country to Canada. From Canada: From Canada to another country. From a city: From a city to rural/small town/ suburbia.

Moving to experience sexuality unfettered by stigma was strongly linked with age. Many of the youngest group were living with parents and still in school, however, more than a third of men 25-34 and 35-44 had moved to express their sexuality -- most to a city. Younger age groups most often moved from rural/small town/suburbia to a city. This was true for the older age groups as well, although a comparatively higher proportion of older respondents moved between cities or between provinces.

Living Situation

LIVING ENVIRONMENT
What best describes the environment you live in?

	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Urban	546	52%	1,121	63%	830	60%	1,476	53%	514	50%
Suburban	241	23%	333	19%	262	19%	482	17%	165	16%
Small city/town	198	19%	232	13%	213	15%	535	19%	224	22%
Rural	53	5%	66	4%	65	5%	251	9%	110	11%
Remote	12	1%	12	1%	12	1%	15	1%	9	1%
Other	2	.2%	4	.2%	2	.1%	1	.04%	2	.2%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,760	100%	1,024	100%

The majority of respondents of all age cohorts lived in cities. The proportions of respondents living in small city, town, or rural environments, however, increased with age. Nearly a quarter of the youngest age group were located in the suburbs – many of them living with their parents, and still in school or unemployed.

LIVING SITUATION
What is your living situation?

	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sole occupant rental space	139	13%	460	26%	350	25%	626	23%	193	19%
Shared rental space	380	36%	648	37%	299	22%	345	13%	99	10%
Sole occupant owner	21	2%	204	12%	281	20%	786	28%	316	31%
Shared ownership	28	3%	201	11%	362	26%	853	31%	381	37%
Live with parents	421	40%	215	12%	55	4%	52	2%	2	.2%
Dormitory	30	3%	5	.3%	2	.1%	4	.1%	1	.1%
Couch surfing, house sitting	10	1%	6	.3%	3	.2%	10	.4%	2	.2%
No permanent address	8	1%	9	1%	5	.4%	5	.2%	3	.3%
Other	14	1%	20	1%	27	2%	79	3%	27	3%
Total	1,051	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,760	100%	1,024	100%

*This question was only asked if respondents lived in a shared rental space or shared ownership of a home.

LIVING WITH...
Who do you live with? (check all that apply)

	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
One or more roommates	265	65%	412	49%	155	23%	138	12%	37	8%
Boyfriend, partner, spouse	102	25%	408	48%	451	68%	916	77%	385	80%
My children	2	.5%	32	4%	98	15%	153	13%	25	5%
One or more parents	23	6%	19	2%	17	3%	25	2%	6	1%
Other family	40	10%	55	6%	24	4%	68	6%	27	6%
Other	19	5%	45	5%	41	6%	79	7%	32	7%
% calculated out of (i.e. total # of respondents)	408		849		661		1,197		479	

Living alone increased with age, as did owning property, either shared or not. Sharing rental accommodations decreased with age as did living with roommates. Living with a boyfriend, partner, or spouse increased with age.

Education, Income, and Occupation

EDUCATION										
What is the highest level of education that you have completed?										
	<25		**25-34**		**35-44**		**45-59**		**60+**	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Some high school	73	**7%**	42	**2%**	39	**3%**	79	**3%**	25	**2%**
High school	208	**20%**	166	**9%**	126	**9%**	283	**10%**	100	**10%**
Some college/university	388	**37%**	339	**19%**	265	**19%**	601	**22%**	204	**20%**
College	171	**16%**	317	**18%**	289	**21%**	628	**23%**	160	**16%**
University degree: BA, etc.	189	**18%**	614	**35%**	414	**30%**	691	**25%**	271	**26%**
Grad degree: MA, etc.	22	**2%**	235	**13%**	207	**15%**	389	**14%**	204	**20%**
Doctorate: PhD, MD, etc.	1	**.1%**	55	**3%**	44	**3%**	90	**3%**	60	**6%**
Total	1,052	**100%**	1,768	**100%**	1,384	**100%**	2,761	**100%**	1,024	**100%**

Considering that 60% of respondents under 25 were still students (see the "Occupation" table below), all cohorts were highly educated. The majority of respondents older than 25 had post-secondary education – most a university degree. More than a quarter of men sixty or older had post-graduate degrees. According to Statistics Canada the proportion of mainstream Canadians aged 25 to 64 with a university degree in 2011 was 25.9%.

OCCUPATION										
What is your occupation? (check all that apply)										
	<25		**25-34**		**35-44**		**45-59**		**60+**	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Employed	612	**58%**	1,341	**76%**	1,057	**76%**	1,827	**66%**	247	**24%**
Self-employed	75	**7%**	292	**17%**	267	**19%**	597	**22%**	157	**15%**
Student	632	**60%**	331	**19%**	81	**6%**	32	**1%**	0	**0%**
Retired	4	**.4%**	3	**.2%**	8	**1%**	206	**7%**	656	**64%**
Unemployed	135	**13%**	121	**7%**	80	**6%**	135	**5%**	13	**1%**
Unable to work	21	**2%**	40	**2%**	42	**3%**	163	**6%**	23	**2%**
% calculated out of										
(i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

The majority of respondents were employed, except those 60 and over (64% retired). Self-employment increased with age up to 60. About 1 in 5 men 35-44 and 45-59 were self-employed.

PERCEIVED CONTROL										
How much personal control do you feel you have over your work life - what work you do, the time you have to do it in, social pressures, etc.? (1 Low - 5 High)										
	<25		**25-34**		**35-44**		**45-59**		**60+**	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Low (1-2)	216	**23%**	362	**21%**	276	**21%**	474	**19%**	64	**12%**
Medium (3)	319	**35%**	481	**28%**	327	**25%**	597	**24%**	91	**17%**
High (4-5)	385	**42%**	853	**50%**	720	**54%**	1,439	**57%**	395	**72%**
Total	920	**100%**	1,696	**100%**	1,323	**100%**	2,510	**100%**	550	**100%**

*This table does not include people who responded "Not applicable, not working, retired, etc".

Perceived control over work life increased with age. Personal control is a social stress measure: those with less personal control commonly experience greater job stress and more health issues. Those with more control commonly experience less job stress and better overall health. This table shows increases in perceived control with advancing age.

INCOME **What was your income in the last year?**										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under $30,000	844	80%	594	34%	256	18%	478	17%	188	18%
$30,000 - $89,999	191	18%	1,021	58%	815	59%	1,518	55%	619	60%
$90,000 +	17	2%	153	9%	313	23%	765	28%	217	21%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,761	100%	1,024	100%

Income increased with age. About a quarter of men 35-44 and 45-49 had annual incomes over $90K. Nonetheless, nearly 1 in 5 of men older than 35 earned less than $30,000.
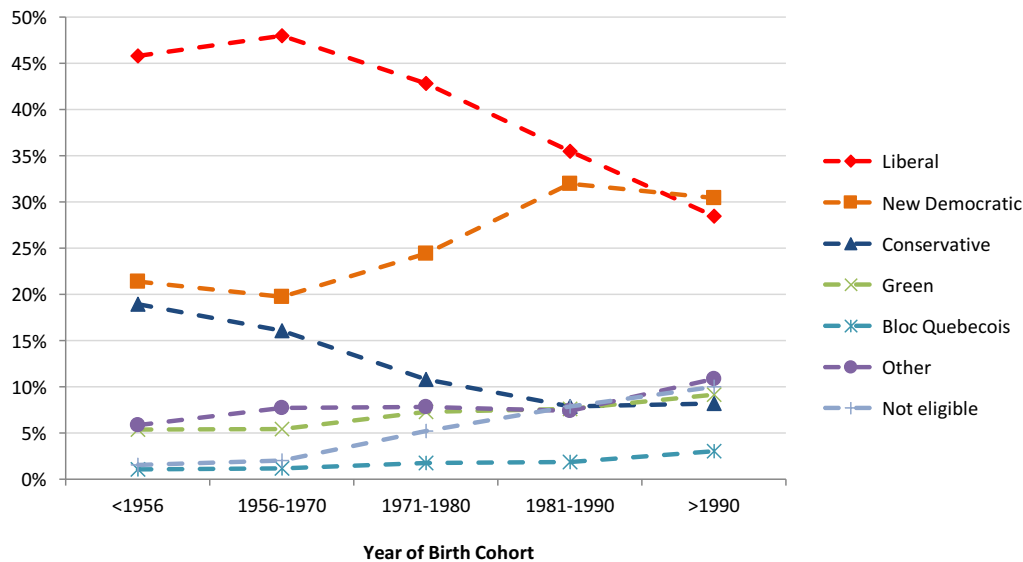
Political Participation

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION **Have you voted? (check all that apply)**										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
In last municipal election	415	39%	959	54%	883	64%	2,018	73%	833	81%
In last provincial election	465	44%	1,155	65%	987	71%	2,274	82%	911	89%
In last federal election	404	38%	1,188	67%	992	72%	2,299	83%	933	91%
Not in recent elections	352	33%	313	18%	215	16%	267	10%	56	5%
Not eligible to vote	141	13%	168	10%	99	7%	60	2%	18	2%
% calculated out of (i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

Voting at all levels of government increased with age.

VOTING **If a Federal election was held today, what party would you vote for?**										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Liberal	299	28%	627	35%	592	43%	1,324	48%	469	46%
New Democratic	320	30%	565	32%	338	24%	544	20%	219	21%
Conservative	86	8%	139	8%	149	11%	443	16%	194	19%
Green	96	9%	134	8%	101	7%	150	5%	55	5%
Bloc Quebecois	32	3%	33	2%	24	2%	32	1%	11	1%
Other	114	11%	131	7%	108	8%	213	8%	60	6%
Not eligible to vote	105	10%	139	8%	72	5%	55	2%	16	2%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,761	100%	1,024	100%

Voting patterns often reveal important value differences among groups, including age groups. We asked respondents what party they intended to vote for in the months preceding the Federal election of 2015. Overall, Liberals won 41% of eligible respondent vote, New Democrats 25%, Conservatives 13%, Other 8%, Greens 7%, and Bloc Quebecois 2%. History will show that Liberals won the election, however, Sex Now respondents would have had NDP, not Conservatives, leading the opposition. Liberal support was generationally uneven, increasing with age and lagging a few points behind NDP support in the youngest age group.

Voting Intentions 2015 Federal Election by Year-of-Birth Cohort

The chart illustrates value differences in age groups by proportions of the intentional vote. Overall support for liberal democratic values are suggested but the youngest appear most committed.

Social Participation

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: Social groups/events
How satisfied are you with meeting guys at social groups and events?

	<25 #	<25 %	25-34 #	25-34 %	35-44 #	35-44 %	45-59 #	45-59 %	60+ #	60+ %
Unsatisfied / Very unsatisfied	410	39%	724	41%	496	36%	938	34%	285	28%
Satisfied / Very satisfied	423	40%	724	41%	521	38%	1,027	37%	414	40%
Not sure / NA	219	21%	320	18%	367	27%	795	29%	325	32%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,760	100%	1,024	100%

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: Gay bars and clubs
How satisfied are you with meeting guys at gay bars and clubs?

	<25 #	<25 %	25-34 #	25-34 %	35-44 #	35-44 %	45-59 #	45-59 %	60+ #	60+ %
Unsatisfied / Very unsatisfied	469	45%	912	52%	578	42%	1,100	40%	358	35%
Satisfied / Very satisfied	289	27%	510	29%	410	30%	767	28%	262	26%
Not sure / NA	294	28%	346	20%	396	29%	893	32%	404	39%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,760	100%	1,024	100%

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: Internet sites (Squirt)
How satisfied are you with meeting guys at Internet sites (Squirt)?

	<25 #	<25 %	25-34 #	25-34 %	35-44 #	35-44 %	45-59 #	45-59 %	60+ #	60+ %
Unsatisfied / Very unsatisfied	473	45%	734	42%	551	40%	995	36%	278	27%
Satisfied / Very satisfied	324	31%	676	38%	599	43%	1,395	51%	573	56%
Not sure / NA	255	24%	358	20%	234	17%	370	13%	173	17%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,760	100%	1,024	100%

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: Social location apps (Grindr)										
How satisfied are you with meeting guys on social location apps (Grindr)?										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Unsatisfied / Very unsatisfied	418	40%	674	38%	502	36%	866	31%	227	22%
Satisfied / Very satisfied	419	40%	761	43%	479	35%	661	24%	146	14%
Not sure / NA	215	20%	333	19%	403	29%	1,233	45%	651	64%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,760	100%	1,024	100%

Where to meet other gay men? Age cohorts expressed different preferences. Large proportions of all age groups expressed dissatisfaction with most social venues but younger men were by far more dissatisfied overall than older men. Bars and clubs were least preferred for the three youngest age groups – the majority of 25-34 year olds. The two oldest age groups were most satisfied with internet sites and least satisfied with social location apps (e.g. Grindr). Generally, satisfaction with internet sites increased with age while satisfaction with apps decreased.

TIME SPENT WITH GAY/BI MEN										
How much of your free time do you usually spend hanging out with other gay or bisexual men?										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<50%	738	70%	1,081	61%	939	68%	2,040	74%	778	76%
50%	170	16%	297	17%	180	13%	312	11%	111	11%
>50%	144	14%	390	22%	265	19%	409	15%	135	13%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,761	100%	1,024	100%

Time spent with other gay men has been an enduring indicator of social bonding and community engagement. Large majorities of all age groups indicated little social involvement with other gay and bisexual men. Men 25-34 were most community involved as an age group, however, the larger proportions of bisexual men (33%) in older cohorts may be moderating the community influence of older gay men in this table.

Relationship Status

RELATIONSHIPS										
Are you currently...?										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Single	701	67%	990	56%	647	47%	1,257	46%	465	45%
Partnered to a male	270	26%	591	33%	477	34%	823	30%	259	25%
Partnered to a female	52	5%	149	8%	232	17%	644	23%	290	28%
Other	29	3%	38	2%	28	2%	37	1%	10	1%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,761	100%	1,024	100%

The most common status among respondents was "single" although proportions decreased with age. About one third of men 25-34, 35-44 and 45-59 were partnered with another man. Proportions of men partnered with a woman increased with age commensurate with increased proportions of bisexual men.

Sexuality

Coming Out and First Sex

AGE AT FIRST SEX										
How old were you when you first had sex with another guy?										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<14	85	9%	229	13%	240	18%	663	24%	273	27%
14-17	420	44%	518	30%	312	23%	718	26%	254	25%
18-24	440	47%	833	48%	533	39%	715	26%	196	19%
25 +	0	0%	160	9%	278	20%	646	24%	298	29%
Total	945	100%	1,740	100%	1,363	100%	2,742	100%	1,021	100%

Age at first sex with another guy

Year of Birth Cohort	<14	14-17	18-24	25+
<1956	27%	25%	19%	29%
1956-1970	24%	26%	26%	24%
1971-1980	18%	23%	39%	20%
1981-1990	13%	30%	48%	9%
>1990	9%	44%	47%	
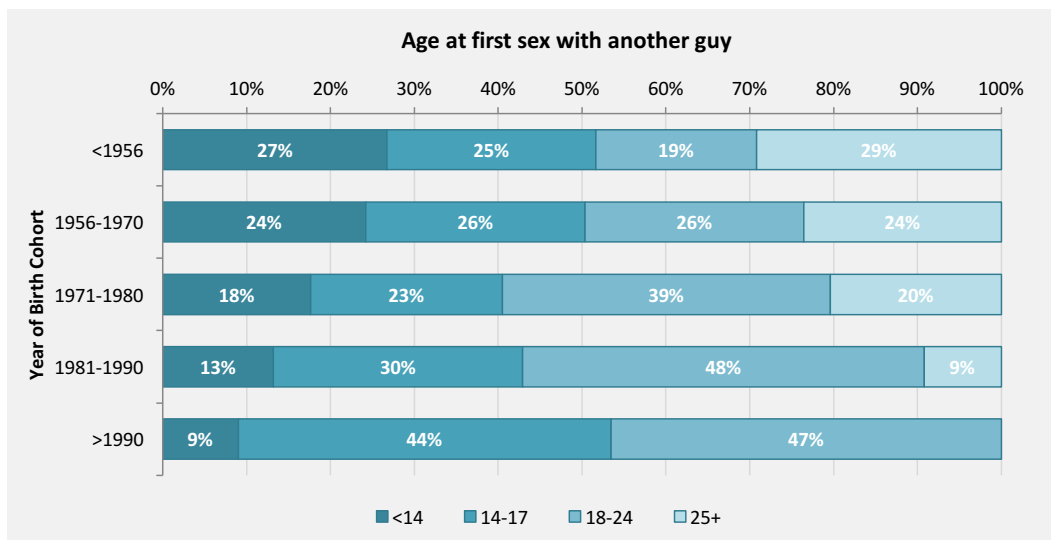
The table and chart show how cultural trends may be reshaping the age of sexual debut among gay and bisexual men. A more relaxed society does seem to have had effects. Older men have increasingly emerged sexually in later life under more liberal conditions.

COMING OUT AGE										
How old were you when you "came out" (told others) about your sexuality with other guys?										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Never came out	224	21%	279	16%	360	26%	895	32%	410	40%
<18	465	44%	508	29%	179	13%	252	9%	57	6%
18-24	359	34%	779	44%	554	40%	696	25%	144	14%
25-29	0	0%	162	9%	147	11%	276	10%	89	9%
30-39	0	0%	39	2%	126	9%	338	12%	120	12%
40 +	0	0%	0	0%	16	1%	301	11%	202	20%
Total	1,048	100%	1,767	100%	1,382	100%	2,758	100%	1,022	100%

Similarly cultural change has affected when gay men come out i.e., disclosing their sexuality to others. Among those who had come out in the survey sample, younger cohorts came out earlier. Older men, still influenced by the social values of the time they came of age, seem affected most as indicated by those who have never come out. The greater presence of bisexual men in the older cohorts may be affecting proportions due to a strong pattern of concealing their sexuality.


Age when respondent "came out"
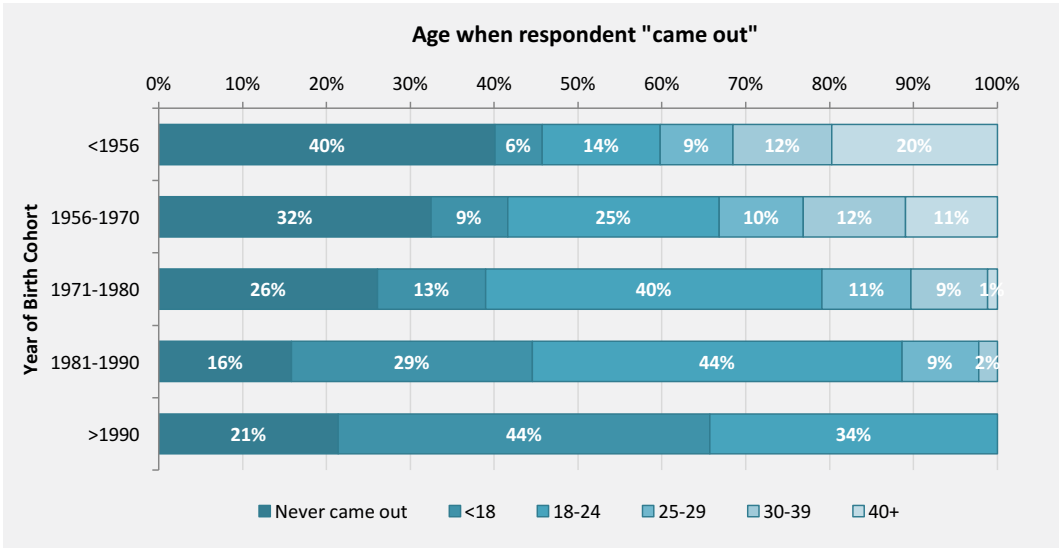
Sex in the Past Year

ACTIVITIES, PAST YEAR										
What kind of action have you had in the last 12 months? (check all that apply)										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Hooking up	577	55%	1,131	64%	917	66%	1,805	65%	645	63%
Friends with benefits	453	43%	918	52%	733	53%	1,387	50%	482	47%
Primary partner	435	41%	887	50%	684	49%	1,160	42%	328	32%
Group	231	22%	534	30%	458	33%	817	30%	264	26%
Dating	361	34%	606	34%	289	21%	395	14%	95	9%
Inactive	137	13%	96	5%	74	5%	169	6%	118	12%
Other	12	1%	30	2%	30	2%	60	2%	33	3%
% calculated out of										
(i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

*The full text of the response options was: Hooking up: Hooking up with casual sex partners. Friends with benefits: Sex with fuck buddies, friends with benefits. Primary partner: Sex with primary partner (boyfriend, husband, spouse, etc.). Group: Sex with two or more partners (group sex). Dating: Dating, sex with potential boyfriends. Inactive: Not sexually active.

Hooking up with casual partners was the major sex-seeking activity in the year prior to the survey in all age groups, although proportions varied. Larger proportions of younger men dated with a goal of finding a potential boyfriend. Friends with benefits and primary partners were leading options. Sex with two or more partners accounted for a third or nearly a third of the 25-34, 35-44, and 45-59 age groups.

Dating/Sex with Potential Boyfriends in the Past Year, by Year-of-Birth Cohorts
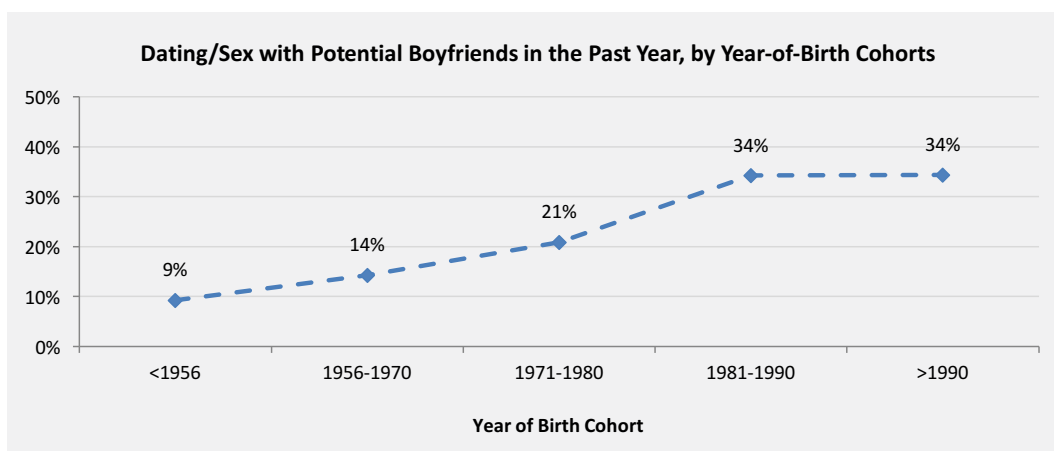
Charting by year of birth cohort captures traces of historical trends that might otherwise get overlooked. This chart shows the rise of dating to find a partner as a cultural shift among gay men. Dating was rarely heard of among men born prior to 1980. Earlier Sex Now surveys captured the upswing of dating in the early 2000's which now accounts for at least a third of the youngest cohorts.

PARTNER VOLUME

In the last 12 months, how many guys have you had sex with in total?

	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0	51	**5%**	97	**6%**	86	**6%**	183	**7%**	101	**10%**
1	191	**20%**	263	**15%**	192	**14%**	334	**12%**	123	**12%**
2-9	468	**49%**	801	**46%**	608	**45%**	1,278	**47%**	492	**48%**
10 +	237	**25%**	578	**33%**	477	**35%**	948	**35%**	305	**30%**
Total	947	**100%**	1,739	**100%**	1,363	**100%**	2,743	**100%**	1,021	**100%**

Higher partner volume is often associated with HIV infection risk, though not by itself an actual risk. This table shows accumulated partners over the 12 month period prior to the survey. Large majorities of all age groups reported 2-9 partners over the year. Sex with only one partner declined with age. A third of men in age groups 25-34, 35-44, and 45-59 reported more than 10 partners over a year.

CONDOM USE: Same status partners

In the last 12 months, how many guys whose HIV status was the SAME as yours did you fuck or fucked you WITHOUT condoms?

	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0	353	**39%**	578	**35%**	515	**40%**	1,170	**46%**	459	**50%**
1	298	**33%**	526	**32%**	350	**27%**	587	**23%**	205	**22%**
2-9	211	**24%**	446	**27%**	331	**26%**	652	**25%**	201	**22%**
10 +	34	**4%**	92	**6%**	81	**6%**	151	**6%**	55	**6%**
Total	896	**100%**	1,642	**100%**	1,277	**100%**	2,560	**100%**	920	**100%**

Condom use has been used as a measure of HIV infection risk for the past thirty years under changing circumstances. Even though the landscape of prevention has shifted with early treatment, undetectability, and PrEP, condom use remains one of the few enduring measures of population risk for HIV. This table indicates condom use where partners have assumed or communicated that they have the same status (i.e. last tested status). The most striking differences are between the youngest and oldest age groups.

CONDOM USE: Unknown status partners *In the last 12 months, how many guys whose HIV status was UNKNOWN to you did you fuck or fucked you WITHOUT condoms?*										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0	677	**76%**	1,206	**73%**	939	**74%**	1,993	**78%**	706	**77%**
1	109	**12%**	187	**11%**	139	**11%**	193	**8%**	83	**9%**
2-9	83	**9%**	199	**12%**	151	**12%**	278	**11%**	112	**12%**
10 +	27	**3%**	50	**3%**	48	**4%**	96	**4%**	19	**2%**
Total	896	**100%**	1,642	**100%**	1,277	**100%**	2,560	**100%**	920	**100%**

*This question was only asked if respondents said they had sex with a guy in the last 12 months.

Sexual partners of unknown HIV status have the highest risk of one partner being HIV positive without knowing it. An unknown HIV positive status is thought to be the main driver of current trends in HIV infection, as positive men under treatment are considered virtually non-infective. This table shows substantial majorities of all ages reporting no condomless sex with unknown status partners while about one quarter report one partner or more. There has been little substantial change in this pattern over the last decade.

CONDOM USE *How often did you use condoms with the following partners over the last 12 months?* *[Hookup, casual, anonymous partner]*										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Never	106	**12%**	174	**11%**	215	**17%**	431	**17%**	175	**19%**
Intermittent	184	**21%**	406	**25%**	306	**24%**	610	**24%**	222	**24%**
Always	384	**43%**	686	**42%**	488	**38%**	926	**36%**	277	**30%**
No anal sex	222	**25%**	376	**23%**	268	**21%**	593	**23%**	246	**27%**
Total	896	**100%**	1,642	**100%**	1,277	**100%**	2,560	**100%**	920	**100%**

*This question was only asked if respondents said they had sex with a guy in the last 12 months.

Condom commitment with casual partners over the 12 months prior to the survey appears to have been disproportionately strongest among young men under 25, decreasing with age.

Most Recent Sex

Limiting questions about sexual activity to just the last occasion is a more reliable cross-section of respondent experience than yearly action summaries. All of the survey questions in this section refer to respondents' most recent sex, and (except for the table directly below) were asked only if respondents said they had ever had sex with a guy.

LAST PARTNER *What best describes your relationship to the last guy you had sex with?*										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Friends with benefits	296	**31%**	568	**33%**	492	**36%**	1,102	**40%**	450	**44%**
Hooking up	301	**32%**	565	**32%**	489	**36%**	1,079	**39%**	377	**37%**
Primary partner	350	**37%**	607	**35%**	382	**28%**	562	**20%**	194	**19%**
Total	947	**100%**	1,740	**100%**	1,363	**100%**	2,743	**100%**	1,021	**100%**

Friends with benefits, hooking up, and primary partners shared about a third each of last partner activities among younger men. Friends with benefits were slightly more common last partners among older age groups.

VENUE *How did you meet him? (This question refers to the last guy the respondent had sex with.)*										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Internet hookup	234	**25%**	506	**29%**	577	**42%**	1,452	**53%**	572	**56%**
Mobile app (Grindr, Scruff)	380	**40%**	605	**35%**	325	**24%**	315	**11%**	44	**4%**
Through friends	133	**14%**	227	**13%**	120	**9%**	183	**7%**	63	**6%**
Baths/play space meet-up	10	**1%**	67	**4%**	97	**7%**	287	**10%**	107	**10%**
Bar/café	35	**4%**	75	**4%**	60	**4%**	113	**4%**	45	**4%**
Party, social event	40	**4%**	61	**4%**	43	**3%**	67	**2%**	30	**3%**
Park, outdoor cruising	6	**1%**	16	**1%**	26	**2%**	115	**4%**	68	**7%**
Dating to find a boyfriend	25	**3%**	66	**4%**	31	**2%**	26	**1%**	8	**1%**
Group sex	5	**1%**	5	**.3%**	5	**.4%**	21	**1%**	2	**.2%**
Other	79	**8%**	112	**6%**	79	**6%**	164	**6%**	82	**8%**
Total	947	**100%**	1,740	**100%**	1,363	**100%**	2,743	**100%**	1,021	**100%**

This table indicates the degree to which gay and bisexual men's sex-seeking has migrated from physical spaces like bars and clubs to digital spaces like web sites and smart phone apps. Older men more commonly reported outdoor or bathhouse cruising than younger men.

How respondents met their last sex partner
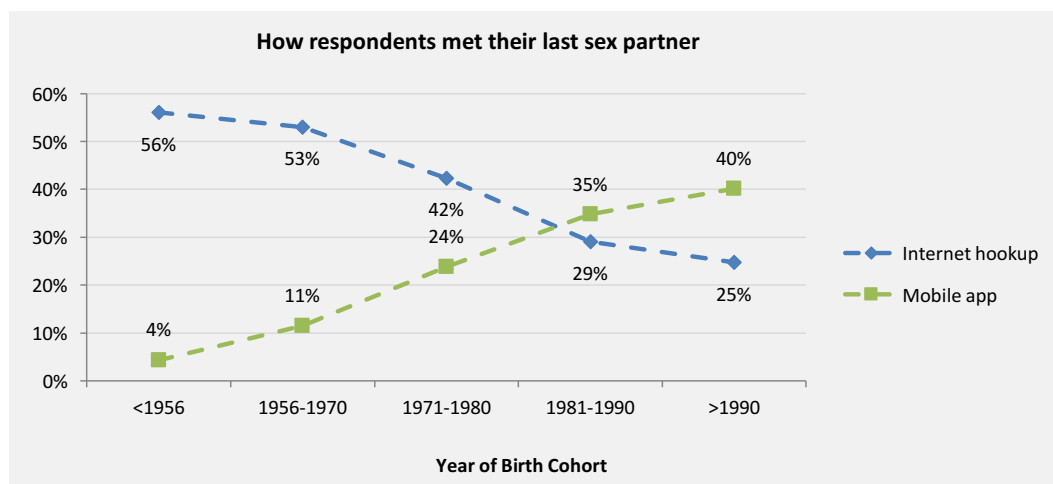
Charting latest sex-seeking venues exposes generational differences that may be associated with the time of life gay and bisexual men were experiencing when technologies emerged. As shown here older men, for whom the introduction of sex seeking websites would have been revolutionary, appear to have stayed with their "old reliable" in large proportions. Younger men continue to use such sites but in much smaller proportions. Mobile apps were much more commonly used among younger men.

PARTNER AGE										
What best describes his age? (This question refers to the last guy the respondent had sex with.)										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
More than 5 years younger	32	3%	206	12%	412	30%	1,272	46%	680	67%
Around the same age	537	57%	973	56%	510	37%	1,023	37%	283	28%
More than 5 years older	372	39%	539	31%	409	30%	402	15%	48	5%
Unsure	6	1%	22	1%	32	2%	46	2%	10	1%
Total	947	100%	1,740	100%	1,363	100%	2,743	100%	1,021	100%

This table shows the extent of intergenerational sexual contact and preferences as disclosed by latest encounters. The majority of men in younger age groups said they were involved with men of the same age. Still about a third or more reported sex with older men. Just under a third of men 35-44 reported sex with younger men – which increased to nearly half among men 45-59 and two thirds of men age sixty or older.

LATEST ACTIVITIES
The last time you had sex with him, what kind of sex did you have? (check all that apply)

	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Oral	776	82%	1,414	81%	1,090	80%	2,208	80%	820	80%
Anal	619	65%	1,103	63%	838	61%	1,535	56%	490	48%
Masturbation	648	68%	1,114	64%	724	53%	1,287	47%	436	43%
Rimming	345	36%	603	35%	426	31%	943	34%	319	31%
Other	59	6%	109	6%	75	6%	183	7%	64	6%
% calculated out of (i.e. total # of respondents)	947		1,740		1,363		2,743		1,021	

Some reported sexual activities were related to age. Although oral sex was universal, anal sex and masturbation activities declined with age.

LATEST CONDOM USE
When you fucked, did you use a condom?

	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	291	47%	451	41%	339	41%	606	40%	199	41%
No	322	52%	646	59%	490	59%	915	60%	286	59%
Unsure	5	1%	6	1%	7	1%	8	1%	2	.4%
Total	618	100%	1,103	100%	836	100%	1,529	100%	487	100%

This table shows condom use on the last occasion of anal sex (includes monogamous and regular partners). Although condom use was strongest among youth, more than half of all age groups reported no condom use on the last occasion.

LATEST POSITION
What position did you take?

	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Top	157	25%	383	35%	315	38%	531	35%	168	34%
Bottom	333	54%	514	47%	372	44%	678	44%	222	46%
Both top and bottom	128	21%	206	19%	149	18%	323	21%	97	20%
Total	618	100%	1,103	100%	836	100%	1,532	100%	487	100%

Sexual roles appear to shift with advancing age. The majority of all age groups reported bottoming on their last occasion but youth under 25 were the age group to bottom most commonly.

SEX AND SUBSTANCE USE
Before you had sex, did you have any of the following? (check all that apply)

	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Marijuana	116	12%	266	15%	162	12%	308	11%	111	11%
>4 alcoholic drinks	134	14%	223	13%	153	11%	235	9%	59	6%
Viagra or Cialis	10	1%	51	3%	83	6%	377	14%	225	22%
Poppers	32	3%	158	9%	141	10%	341	12%	101	10%
Crystal meth	8	1%	33	2%	38	3%	59	2%	12	1%
Cocaine	12	1%	33	2%	28	2%	29	1%	10	1%
GHB	8	1%	27	2%	27	2%	20	1%	8	1%
Ecstasy/MDMA	11	1%	16	1%	20	1%	13	.5%	7	1%
Ketamine	2	.2%	4	.2%	6	.4%	6	.2%	3	.3%
Mephedrone	1	.1%	1	.1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
None of the above	703	74%	1,187	68%	930	68%	1,783	65%	631	62%
% calculated out of (i.e. total # of respondents)	947		1,740		1,363		2,743		1,021	

Substance misuse is considered one of the mutually reinforcing epidemics influencing HIV infection rates in gay men. This table shows the extent to which substances may be affecting sexual activity. Substance use is often a niche group phenomenon that can appear proportionally small in a whole population and yet be very influential in a local context. In terms of age, this table shows erectile medication use increasing with age (as would be expected) and alcohol decreasing.

Identity, Stigma, & Resilience

Being Out

OUT TO... *Who knows about your sexuality?*	<25 #	<25 %	25-34 #	25-34 %	35-44 #	35-44 %	45-59 #	45-59 %	60+ #	60+ %
Friends	670	64%	1,228	70%	812	59%	1,379	51%	431	43%
Family	411	40%	973	56%	755	55%	1,385	51%	458	46%
School/College/University	467	50%	812	58%	472	46%	642	36%	138	23%
Workplace	373	41%	863	51%	640	49%	997	40%	228	32%
Civic, community activities	314	41%	712	49%	516	45%	792	36%	247	30%

Probing who in particular gay and bisexual men are out to is a useful indicator of social climate. According to life course theory, gay and bisexual men continue to be influenced throughout their lives by the social conditions existing around the time they came of age. This table shows proportions of 'out' men increasing with youth, which seems indicative of the effect of liberalizing social values since the 1960s. Some young men under 25 appear to be in the process of emerging. The 25-34 cohort seems most committed. These proportions may vary widely from place to place. Big cities like Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal have the largest proportions of out men, while suburbs and smaller cities have considerably smaller proportions.

Stigma and Discrimination

DISCRIMINATION *Have you experienced any of the following?*	<25 #	<25 %	25-34 #	25-34 %	35-44 #	35-44 %	45-59 #	45-59 %	60+ #	60+ %
Called homophobic names	664	63%	1,017	58%	687	50%	1,127	41%	342	33%
Rumours about sexuality	649	62%	896	51%	564	41%	962	35%	309	30%
Attention to appearance	424	40%	535	30%	302	22%	428	16%	94	9%
Pass as straight at event	284	27%	447	25%	291	21%	591	21%	200	20%
Excluded socially	303	29%	427	24%	291	21%	469	17%	154	15%
Missed career opportunity	112	11%	218	12%	175	13%	362	13%	115	11%
Cyberbullied	263	25%	190	11%	119	9%	165	6%	31	3%
% calculated out of (i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

Despite the trend toward more liberal social values or perhaps because of it, experiences with stigma, discrimination and violence have actually increased among youth in recent years. While liberalizing trends have allowed younger men to come out earlier, increased bullying and violence have been the result. This table shows younger men faring worst. The majority of the youngest cohort have faced overt discrimination. One quarter reported being cyber bullied.

VIOLENCE BEFORE AGE 18										
Have you ever been targeted with antigay violence?										
	<25		**25-34**		**35-44**		**45-59**		**60+**	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Verbal violence, hate talk	474	45%	700	40%	400	29%	694	25%	124	12%
Physical violence, beaten up	127	12%	249	14%	191	14%	364	13%	61	6%
% calculated out of										
(i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

Exposure to overt violence is another of the mutually reinforcing epidemics thought to be driving HIV rates in gay men. CBRC studies have shown that syndemic conditions are influencing HIV infections in Canada. As described above, youth had the brunt of overt violent discrimination. This table shows the extent of violence to which each generation was exposed while in high school, i.e. prior to 18. In earlier eras, it appears, when sexuality was generally more hidden, fewer young men were exposed to violent harassment. Some observers claim that older men tend, over time, to diminish the importance of what they experienced in high school – which, if true, would moderate these results.

ANTICIPATED STIGMA										
What situations worry you about encountering antigay prejudice? Please rate your worries over the following situations...										
	<25		**25-34**		**35-44**		**45-59**		**60+**	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Other country customs	671	64%	1,162	66%	829	60%	1,545	56%	504	49%
Justice system	565	54%	868	49%	642	46%	1,183	43%	371	36%
Gym, pool, recreation centre	612	58%	832	47%	549	40%	828	30%	215	21%
Employment, workplace	557	53%	853	48%	549	40%	915	33%	190	19%
Travel, hotel, transportation	483	46%	792	45%	551	40%	854	31%	248	24%
Family events	554	53%	767	43%	471	34%	729	26%	210	21%
Canada Customs border entry	373	35%	611	35%	489	35%	910	33%	304	30%
Health care	427	41%	636	36%	407	29%	654	24%	196	19%
Apartment, home rental	415	39%	563	32%	325	23%	466	17%	114	11%
Education, university, college	330	36%	362	23%	221	18%	347	13%	75	8%
% calculated out of										
(i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

Another way to measure the effects of stigma is to find out what worries men when faced with social situations where they may encounter homophobia. This table arrays the proportionally most-to-least worrisome situations across the generations. Proportions tend to decrease with age, suggesting that younger cohorts worry more than older. They may have good reason owing to the violence so many experienced in high school and after. Older cohorts will have gained experience and practice with social situations, which would moderate how much they worry about settings they have already encountered.

RECENT DISCRIMINATION										
Have you encountered any antigay discrimination in the following settings?										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Employment, workplace	106	10%	142	8%	97	7%	147	5%	29	3%
Family events	121	12%	125	7%	73	5%	102	4%	29	3%
Education, university, college	96	9%	47	3%	26	2%	40	1%	12	1%
Gym, pool, recreation centre	61	6%	64	4%	42	3%	54	2%	10	1%
Health care	42	4%	63	4%	37	3%	49	2%	16	2%
Other country customs	26	2%	49	3%	50	4%	81	3%	33	3%
Travel, hotel, transportation	28	3%	33	2%	35	3%	53	2%	13	1%
Justice system	30	3%	41	2%	37	3%	78	3%	20	2%
Apartment, home rental	31	3%	35	2%	15	1%	44	2%	10	1%
Canada Customs border entry	15	1%	26	1%	23	2%	54	2%	18	2%
% calculated out of										
(i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

Actual antigay discrimination experience in the 12 months prior to the survey shows that there was far less overt exposure to discrimination than anticipated. Nonetheless, the extent of worry about stigma in the population is made evident by the substantially lower rate of actual reported experience. The array from most-to-least exposed to discrimination shifts as well. Actual discrimination experiences in employment, family events and education take the lead over worries about other countries' customs, the justice system and the gym. Still, the youngest cohorts are more affected than older, as age seems to diminish exposure to discrimination.

REACTIONS TO STIGMA: Glad to be in Canada										
When I see news reports of antigay discrimination, politics and events happening outside of Canada, I feel…										
(please rate your feelings): Glad to be in Canada										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Low (1-2)	125	12%	149	8%	112	8%	199	7%	75	7%
Medium (3)	133	13%	165	9%	128	9%	198	7%	75	7%
High (4-5)	794	75%	1,454	82%	1,144	83%	2,364	86%	874	85%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,761	100%	1,024	100%

We asked respondents what they felt about antigay discrimination events outside of Canada that might affect their feelings about stigma: sad, angry, worried or motivated. Older cohorts were somewhat less angered and younger cohorts more worried but overwhelmingly, the great majority of every cohort felt glad to be residing in Canada when they heard stories of oppression from elsewhere.

STIGMA ONLINE										
Have you ever experienced discrimination while using online dating sites or mobile location apps for any of the following reasons? (check all that apply)										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Age	381	36%	680	38%	658	48%	1,565	57%	617	60%
Body shape, size, look	499	47%	1,023	58%	729	53%	1,172	42%	321	31%
Race/ethnicity	190	18%	343	19%	198	14%	175	6%	26	3%
Gender presentation	217	21%	222	13%	121	9%	107	4%	45	4%
Orientation/sexuality	147	14%	169	10%	119	9%	198	7%	45	4%
HIV status	22	2%	120	7%	135	10%	288	10%	72	7%
Trans history/status	106	10%	65	4%	33	2%	33	1%	13	1%
Disability	32	3%	43	2%	36	3%	82	3%	21	2%
Other	39	4%	70	4%	45	3%	81	3%	21	2%
None of the above	357	34%	513	29%	458	33%	964	35%	363	35%
% calculated out of (i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

Stigma is a social power that puts people down and keeps them out. Gay and bisexual men are not only exposed to sexual stigma but exploit it too – online, with the convenience of dating sites and apps. About two thirds of respondents of all age cohorts reported exposure to discrimination while online. Age and body image were the dominant stigmas experienced in all age groups. Body image dominated younger men's experience while age was dominant in older men. Overall, younger men seemed to have greater exposure to other forms of stigma: race, gender presentation, sexual expression and trans status.

Partner Violence

PARTNER VIOLENCE										
Have you ever been mistreated by a sex partner (verbal, emotional, or physical abuse)?										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Primary partner	187	18%	403	23%	300	22%	520	19%	128	13%
Hookup	142	13%	259	15%	157	11%	322	12%	109	11%
Friend with benefits	103	10%	162	9%	105	8%	186	7%	51	5%
% calculated out of (i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

*The full text of the response options was: Primary partner: Boyfriend, partner, husband. Hookup: Hookup, casual, anonymous partner. Friend with benefits: Friend with benefits, fuck buddy.

*This table shows the percentage of respondents in each age group who answered "Yes".

Partner violence is also considered one of the mutually reinforcing epidemics in the syndemic driving HIV infections in gay men – largely fuelled by the stress of anti-gay stigma and discrimination. This table summarizes experience in Canada by age cohort. The most common intimate partner violence reported was with a primary partner, boyfriend or husband. Nearly one quarter of men 25-34 reported partner violence, as did 1 in 5 men 35-44 and 45 -59. Overall, however, intimate partner violence of all types decreased with age.

Aspiration and Achievement

ASPIRATION: Quality of life
How likely do you feel it is that you will achieve the quality of life that you want?

	<25 #	<25 %	25-34 #	25-34 %	35-44 #	35-44 %	45-59 #	45-59 %	60+ #	60+ %
Very unlikely / Unlikely	218	21%	354	20%	322	23%	725	26%	241	24%
Very likely / Likely	803	76%	1,285	73%	906	65%	1,617	59%	498	49%
Already have	31	3%	129	7%	156	11%	419	15%	285	28%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,761	100%	1,024	100%

Asking respondents about their life expectations is an indirect way to measure the effects of structural stigma in the population – the lifelong stress of being a member of a sexual minority. The majority of all age cohorts were optimistic about their eventual quality of life. Reductions with age were actually due to men achieving their dreams. Achieving quality of life expectations appears to increase with age, however, at least 1 in 5 in younger cohorts and 1 in 4 of older cohorts believed it would never happen. Nearly half of men older than sixty were still holding out.

ASPIRATION: Enough money
How likely do you feel it is that you will have enough money to live as you wish?

	<25 #	<25 %	25-34 #	25-34 %	35-44 #	35-44 %	45-59 #	45-59 %	60+ #	60+ %
Very unlikely / Unlikely	286	27%	510	29%	447	32%	999	36%	292	29%
Very likely / Likely	737	70%	1,157	65%	825	60%	1,414	51%	463	45%
Already have	29	3%	101	6%	112	8%	348	13%	269	26%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,761	100%	1,024	100%

The majority of all age cohorts were optimistic about their financial future, however, up to one third remained pessimistic. Attaining financial goals appeared to increase with age, correlating with quality of life.

ASPIRATION: Own property
How likely do you feel it is that you will own property such as a condo or house?

	<25 #	<25 %	25-34 #	25-34 %	35-44 #	35-44 %	45-59 #	45-59 %	60+ #	60+ %
Very unlikely / Unlikely	245	23%	491	28%	364	26%	728	26%	235	23%
Very likely / Likely	768	73%	958	54%	493	36%	633	23%	132	13%
Already have	39	4%	319	18%	527	38%	1,400	51%	657	64%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,761	100%	1,024	100%

More than half of men 45-59 and almost two thirds 60 and over reported owning property. Ownership increased with age. Property ownership had the highest measure of actual achievement for all age groups among all aspirational results from the survey.
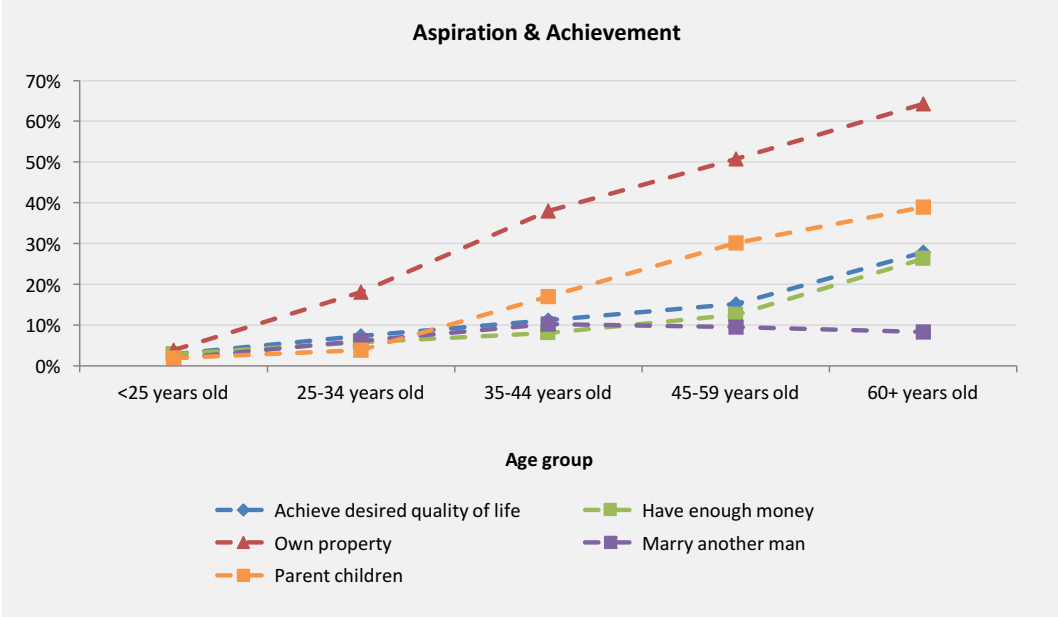
ASPIRATION: Marry a man										
How likely do you feel it is that you will marry another man?										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Very unlikely / Unlikely	402	38%	775	44%	799	58%	1,908	69%	827	81%
Very likely / Likely	632	60%	885	50%	444	32%	588	21%	112	11%
Already have	18	2%	108	6%	141	10%	265	10%	85	8%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,761	100%	1,024	100%

The perceived likelihood of getting married to another man decreased dramatically with age. Both cultural shifts with the legalization of gay marriage and stage of life may be influencing these results. Men under 25 have been named the "gay marriage generation", apparently with good reason as shown here by the large majority (60%) who recorded their intent to marry another guy. Actually achieving marriage was still lagging far behind aspirations, however, possibly due to the recentness of legal reforms.

ASPIRATION: Be a parent										
How likely do you feel it is that you will parent a child or children?										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Very unlikely / Unlikely	474	45%	973	55%	923	67%	1,756	64%	595	58%
Very likely / Likely	560	53%	727	41%	228	16%	174	6%	30	3%
Already have	18	2%	68	4%	233	17%	831	30%	399	39%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,761	100%	1,024	100%

Two decades ago it was rare for gay men to expect to have a full lifespan let alone marriage and children. As shown here the majority (53%) of men under 25 and 41% of those 25-34 were expecting to parent children. The large proportions who already have children in the older age cohorts was due to the large numbers (one third) of married bisexual men in those groups.

Aspiration & Achievement

Legend:
- Achieve desired quality of life
- Own property
- Parent children
- Have enough money
- Marry another man

Age group: <25 years old, 25-34 years old, 35-44 years old, 45-59 years old, 60+ years old

Charting achievement of life aspirations across age cohorts generally affirms the "it gets better" theory of gay life in current popular culture at least insofar as it gets better with age. However, as critical observers and these tables show, not everyone achieves their aspirations, in most cases, not even the majority.

Sexual Health

TESTING, 12 MONTHS *Have you tested for sexually transmitted infections within the past 12 months?*										
	<25		**25-34**		**35-44**		**45-59**		**60+**	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
STI test	551	**52%**	1,147	**65%**	878	**63%**	1,589	**58%**	530	**52%**
HIV test	513	**50%**	1,066	**64%**	766	**61%**	1,368	**57%**	477	**52%**

*This table shows the percentage of respondents in each age group who answered "Yes".

*The percentages for HIV testing do not include people living with HIV, who would not need to have annual HIV testing.

Testing for HIV at least annually is a standard for sexually active gay and bisexual men, increasing up to quarterly with greater partner volume. Regular STI testing, rather than waiting for symptoms, is thought to be equally important. The UN goal for 2020 is to have 90% of people living with HIV knowing their status. This table shows there is work to do in every age cohort, however, the data may be affected by age related sexuality (youngest and oldest cohorts) such as a lack of recent partners or only low risk encounters. Testing appears to decrease with age.

LATEST TEST RESULT *What was your most recent HIV test result?*										
	<25		**25-34**		**35-44**		**45-59**		**60+**	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
HIV-positive	17	**2%**	90	**5%**	125	**9%**	345	**12%**	99	**10%**
HIV-negative	643	**61%**	1,461	**83%**	1,102	**80%**	2,074	**75%**	731	**71%**
Never had an HIV test/result	392	**37%**	217	**12%**	157	**11%**	342	**12%**	194	**19%**
Total	1,052	**100%**	1,768	**100%**	1,384	**100%**	2,761	**100%**	1,024	**100%**

HIV prevalence is uneven across gay and bisexual men's generations. Gay men age sixty or older were most likely to have seen their generation decimated by AIDS, but this cohort also includes bisexual men who were unexposed at the peak of the HIV epidemic. In general though, HIV prevalence increased with age, in step with the opportunity for exposure with each passing year of gay and bisexual men's lives. Almost 40% of young men under 25 had not had a recent HIV test although untested proportions decreased precipitously in men 25 and older.

DIAGNOSED STI (SELF-REPORTED), 12 MONTHS									
Have you been diagnosed with any of the following?									
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Gonorrhea	52	5%	124	7%	96	7%	164	6%	47	5%
Chlamydia	46	4%	120	7%	91	7%	166	6%	31	3%
Genital warts (HPV)	29	3%	68	4%	63	5%	112	4%	31	3%
Herpes	16	2%	36	2%	55	4%	95	3%	29	3%
Syphilis	18	2%	43	2%	58	4%	87	3%	31	3%
Hepatitis B	4	.4%	6	.3%	11	1%	46	2%	23	2%
Hepatitis C (HCV)	4	.4%	4	.2%	8	1%	25	1%	13	1%
Shigella	6	1%	10	1%	8	1%	19	1%	6	1%
% calculated out of									
(i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

This table shows the proportions of incident STIs in the 12 months prior to the survey. The proportions were small which makes it difficult to distinguish differences. Using men under 25 as a reference group, we calculated odds ratios for STIs in other age cohorts in the table below. Incidence of hepatitis turned out to be higher in older cohorts, while the incidence of syphilis, herpes, and HPV were highest in the 35-44 age cohort.

| DIAGNOSED STI (SELF-REPORTED), 12 MONTHS | | | | | |
| *Have you been diagnosed with any of the following?* | | | | | |
	<25	25-34	35-44	45-59	60+
Gonorrhea	1.00	1.45	1.43	1.21	0.93
Chlamydia	1.00	1.59	1.54	1.40	0.68
Genital warts (HPV)	1.00	1.41	1.68	1.49	1.10
Herpes	1.00	1.35	2.68	2.31	1.89
Syphilis	1.00	1.43	2.51	1.87	1.79
Hepatitis B	1.00	0.89	2.10	4.44	6.02
Hepatitis C (HCV)	1.00	0.59	1.52	2.39	3.37
Shigella	1.00	0.99	1.01	1.21	1.03

General Health

Self-Assessment of Overall Health

HEALTH SELF ASSESSMENT _In general, how would you describe your overall health (physical, mental, social wellbeing)?_										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poor / Fair	170	**16%**	162	**9%**	121	**9%**	233	**8%**	83	**8%**
Good	332	**32%**	499	**28%**	424	**31%**	663	**24%**	222	**22%**
Very good / Excellent	550	**52%**	1,107	**63%**	839	**61%**	1,865	**68%**	719	**70%**
Total	1,052	**100%**	1,768	**100%**	1,384	**100%**	2,761	**100%**	1,024	**100%**

This health self-assessment was adapted from the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) for comparison with Sex Now. It is asked orally in the CCHS survey as opposed to online in Sex Now and the wording is slightly different, which may affect results. Nonetheless, the table shows that self-assessed health improved with age among Sex Now respondents. The opposite trend is seen in the CCHS, with self-assessments of overall health declining with age amongst males (only 44% of males 65 and older rated their health as very good or excellent). As shown earlier, the youngest cohorts also exhibited more worries and encounters with stigma and discrimination than older age cohorts.

Diagnosed Chronic Conditions

CHRONIC CONDITIONS _Have you ever been diagnosed with any of the following?_										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
High blood pressure	57	**5%**	142	**8%**	246	**18%**	831	**30%**	530	**52%**
High cholesterol	27	**3%**	99	**6%**	170	**12%**	730	**26%**	464	**45%**
Diabetes	15	**1%**	25	**1%**	81	**6%**	327	**12%**	219	**21%**
Cardiovascular disease	10	**1%**	12	**1%**	24	**2%**	158	**6%**	165	**16%**
Cancer	6	**1%**	14	**1%**	27	**2%**	103	**4%**	137	**13%**
None of the above	963	**92%**	1,524	**86%**	1000	**72%**	1,453	**53%**	301	**29%**
% calculated out of										
(i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

Social determinants theory suggests that health outcomes, as measured by chronic conditions such as heart disease, are worsened by lower social status. Higher status people enjoy better health by a gradient commensurate with their social standing. Sex Now research has disclosed a consistent health gradient where straight men are best off, gay men worst and bisexual men somewhere between. (Trans gay men are worst off among gay men.) The table above shows that aging increases proportions of cohorts affected by chronic illness. Future research using national databases will compare these results with the mainstream male population.

Substance Use and Self-Medication

RECREATIONAL SUBSTANCES: Used a few times a week or more										
How often have you used the following recreational substances in the last 12 months?										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol	278	26%	653	37%	490	35%	1,002	36%	431	42%
Marijuana	160	15%	315	18%	212	15%	338	12%	101	10%
Tobacco	174	17%	385	22%	309	22%	577	21%	159	16%
Poppers	17	2%	68	4%	90	7%	180	7%	57	6%
Viagra/Cialis	3	.3%	12	1%	25	2%	103	4%	63	6%
Ecstasy/MDMA	5	.5%	4	.2%	2	.1%	2	.1%	1	.1%
Cocaine	4	.4%	8	.5%	7	1%	7	.3%	1	.1%
"G"/GHB	2	.2%	10	1%	10	1%	2	.1%	1	.1%
Crystal meth	6	1%	14	1%	16	1%	22	1%	7	1%
"K"/Ketamine	3	.3%	2	.1%	5	.4%	1	.04%	2	.2%
Steroids	8	1%	4	.2%	7	1%	16	1%	6	1%
Crack	4	.4%	2	.1%	2	.1%	1	.04%	1	.1%
Mephedrone	2	.2%	3	.2%	3	.2%	2	.1%	1	.1%
% calculated out of										
(i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

Substance use is often thought to be commonplace among gay and bisexual men. This table shows the proportions of respondents in each age group who had used each of the listed recreational substances a few times a week or more in the last 12 months. Evidently substance use continues across the lifespan. Viagra use increased with age while marijuana use decreased.

BINGE DRINKING										
How often did you consume 5 or more drinks in one sitting (beer, wine or spirits) in the last 12 months?										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Never	275	26%	407	23%	468	34%	1,268	46%	615	60%
Once a month or less	514	49%	853	48%	621	45%	1,002	36%	243	24%
More than once a month	263	25%	508	29%	295	21%	491	18%	166	16%
Total	1,052	100%	1,768	100%	1,384	100%	2,761	100%	1,024	100%

Excess alcohol consumption is a common issue among gay and bisexual men, especially younger men, as this table shows. Binge drinking decreased with age while abstinence from binging increased precipitously.

SELF-MEDICATION *How often have you used these medications WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION in the last 12 months?*										
	<25		**25-34**		**35-44**		**45-59**		**60+**	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Pain medications	286	**27%**	400	**23%**	315	**23%**	687	**25%**	252	**25%**
Erectile medications	31	**3%**	164	**9%**	232	**17%**	697	**25%**	365	**36%**
Sleeping medications	106	**10%**	178	**10%**	147	**11%**	330	**12%**	104	**10%**
Anxiety medications	69	**7%**	146	**8%**	131	**9%**	222	**8%**	85	**8%**
Stimulant medications	59	**6%**	68	**4%**	35	**3%**	37	**1%**	4	**.4%**
% calculated out of										
(i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

*This table shows the percentage of respondents in each age group who had used each of the listed medications without a prescription in the last 12 months (i.e. selected any response other than "Never").

The use and misuse of medications without a prescription may in some cases be a symptom of social problems. A quarter of all age cohorts reported the use of pain medication without a prescription, outstripping many common recreational substances such as cocaine and crystal (earlier table). However, it was unclear if the medications used were prescription pain medications without a prescription. The use of erectile medications without a prescription seems clearly connected with age, while sleeping medications appear universal. Stimulant medication use decreased with age.
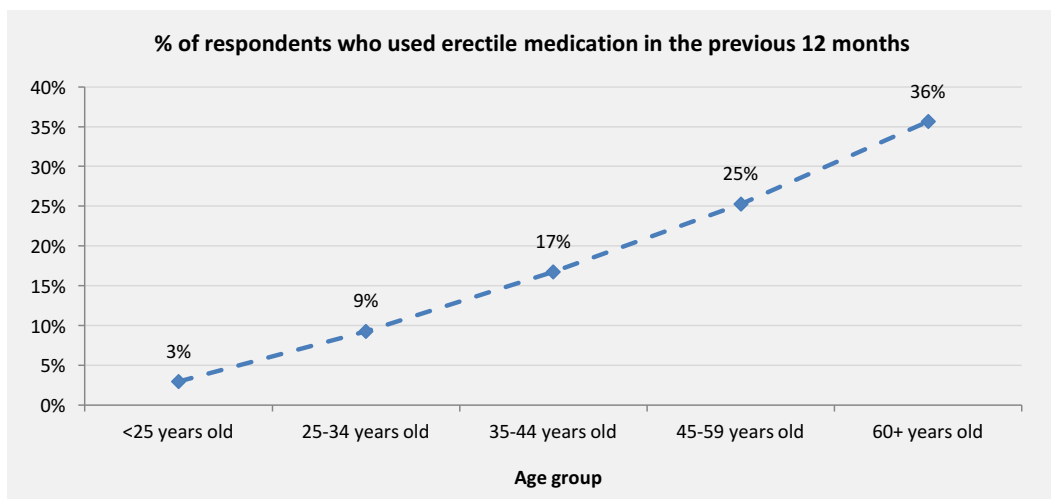
% of respondents who used erectile medication in the previous 12 months

Mental Health

MENTAL HEALTH CARE *Have you discussed any of these topics with a healthcare professional?*										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Stress	307	29%	565	32%	451	33%	939	34%	289	28%
Sex	268	25%	501	28%	362	26%	641	23%	211	21%
Anxiety	290	28%	503	28%	378	27%	682	25%	163	16%
Depression	278	26%	448	25%	355	26%	714	26%	208	20%
Relationship problems	135	13%	277	16%	194	14%	347	13%	92	9%
Family issues	165	16%	239	14%	180	13%	362	13%	85	8%
Workplace issues	85	8%	237	13%	224	16%	404	15%	63	6%
Suicidal thoughts	159	15%	164	9%	136	10%	244	9%	58	6%
Compulsions	119	11%	185	10%	130	9%	195	7%	45	4%
Alcohol, drug use	89	8%	137	8%	128	9%	197	7%	59	6%
Coming out	127	12%	130	7%	86	6%	141	5%	45	4%
Eating disorders	74	7%	65	4%	60	4%	124	4%	30	3%
Other	52	5%	68	4%	49	4%	106	4%	35	3%
% calculated out of (i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

Sex Now investigates mental health because it is often directly connected to social engagement, sex, and stigma in gay and bisexual men. Depression, for example, is one of the mutually reinforcing epidemics linked with HIV infection in the syndemic model of gay and bisexual men's health. Anxiety is closely linked, often called the "flip side" of depression. This table shows the proportions of each cohort who have discussed a range of issues with a health care professional in the 12 months prior to the survey. Stress, sex, anxiety and depression appear to top the lists in every cohort. About a third of every cohort has had enough trouble with stress to take it up with a professional. And more than a quarter of most cohorts except for the oldest have discussed anxiety and depression with a professional. Evidently some mental health issues persist over the lifespan and some others are more connected with age such as suicidal thoughts in younger men and workplace issues in the 35-44 and 45-59 age cohorts.

SUICIDE *Have you ever…*										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Considered suicide	318	30%	355	20%	253	18%	451	16%	115	11%
Attempted suicide	73	7%	47	3%	53	4%	78	3%	24	2%
% calculated out of (i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

Suicide can be considered both a symptom and an outcome. Gay and bisexual men are thought to be two-to-five times more likely than straight men to attempt suicide. Sexual minority stress is thought to be the reason even though the routes to depression and suicide are still unclear and the subject of ongoing research. Suicidal ideation and attempts appear to decrease with age among Sex Now respondents. Nearly a third of youth reported suicidal ideation, another sign of the volatility of stigma, stress and depression in the youngest cohort. Furthermore, these percentages may underestimate the true magnitude of the problem, considering that those who have committed suicide are not represented in the data.

Sexual Health Knowledge

The survey used a suite of questions to probe the extent of gay and bisexual men's knowledge of contemporary health issues. The following tables show results for current HIV prevention related knowledge: Viral Load suppression (TasP), Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), and Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).

ART IS PREVENTION *The following statements are TRUE: Were you previously aware of them before taking this survey?* *Antiretroviral medications, taken daily, significantly reduce the chance that HIV positive persons can transmit HIV to their sexual partners by suppressing their viral load.*										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	706	**67%**	1,397	**79%**	1,005	**73%**	1,828	**66%**	623	**61%**
No	346	**33%**	371	**21%**	379	**27%**	933	**34%**	401	**39%**
Total	1,052	**100%**	1,768	**100%**	1,384	**100%**	2,761	**100%**	1,024	**100%**

PEP *The following statements are TRUE: Were you previously aware of them before taking this survey?* *PEP - Post Exposure Prophylaxis: Within three days after a sexual risk event (such as fucking without a condom) there are medications you can take for a month that can prevent an HIV infection from establishing.*										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	552	**52%**	1,189	**67%**	857	**62%**	1,503	**54%**	455	**44%**
No	500	**48%**	579	**33%**	527	**38%**	1,258	**46%**	569	**56%**
Total	1,052	**100%**	1,768	**100%**	1,384	**100%**	2,761	**100%**	1,024	**100%**

PrEP *The following statements are TRUE: Were you previously aware of them before taking this survey?* *PrEP - Pre Exposure Prophylaxis is a daily antiretroviral medication now available for HIV negative men that can prevent sexual transmission of HIV (not yet approved in Canada).*										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	587	**56%**	1,213	**69%**	857	**62%**	1,504	**54%**	418	**41%**
No	465	**44%**	555	**31%**	527	**38%**	1,257	**46%**	606	**59%**
Total	1,052	**100%**	1,768	**100%**	1,384	**100%**	2,761	**100%**	1,024	**100%**

In all cases, the proportions of men who knew about these issues were highest among men 25-34, decreasing with age. The youngest cohort was often considerably behind in all knowledge indicators, consistent with reports of inadequate coverage of sexual health in high school.

Health Care Participation

CARE LOCATION										
Where do you usually get routine medical care?										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Family physician	524	**50%**	1,006	**57%**	997	**72%**	2,329	**84%**	948	**93%**
Walk-in medical clinic	420	**40%**	617	**35%**	299	**22%**	343	**12%**	50	**5%**
Emergency center (hospital)	31	**3%**	28	**2%**	15	**1%**	18	**1%**	8	**1%**
No routine care available	58	**6%**	80	**5%**	55	**4%**	35	**1%**	9	**1%**
Other	19	**2%**	37	**2%**	18	**1%**	36	**1%**	9	**1%**
Total	1,052	**100%**	1,768	**100%**	1,384	**100%**	2,761	**100%**	1,024	**100%**

Sex Now probed location of care to assess the quality of care that gay and bisexual men are receiving. As shown in the table, younger men commonly use walk in clinics that are thought to lack continuity for individual patients. Having a personal physician appears to increase with age.

HAS A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER										
How would you rate your current or most recent doctor (primary care provider)?										
(one of the response options was "I don't have a doctor (primary care provider)")										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Has a doctor	764	**73%**	1,340	**76%**	1,169	**84%**	2,514	**91%**	974	**95%**
Does not have a doctor	288	**27%**	428	**24%**	215	**16%**	247	**9%**	50	**5%**
Total	1,052	**100%**	1,768	**100%**	1,384	**100%**	2,761	**100%**	1,024	**100%**

As this table shows, proportions with primary care physicians increase with age.

OUT TO PROVIDER										
Have you told your/a health care provider that you have sex with other men?										
	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	526	**50%**	1,189	**67%**	922	**67%**	1,747	**63%**	608	**59%**
No	452	**43%**	500	**28%**	426	**31%**	963	**35%**	386	**38%**
Not sure	74	**7%**	79	**4%**	36	**3%**	51	**2%**	30	**3%**
Total	1,052	**100%**	1,768	**100%**	1,384	**100%**	2,761	**100%**	1,024	**100%**

Sex Now has shown that being out to a health care provider triples the odds of annual HIV testing. Doctors know more about what to advise if they know the sexual orientation of their patients. Cultural and structural issues often interfere. Young men under 25 may be reluctant to come out if they are still with their family's doctor. Bisexual men are disproportionately less inclined to come out to their doctor who also may be treating their wife and kids. Lower proportions out in older cohorts may be due to the larger presence of bisexual men in those groups.

RATING CARE: Knowledge of gay/bi health How would you rate your current or most recent doctor (primary care provider)? [Knowledge about the health issues of gay & bisexual men]		<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Low (1-2)		168	22%	215	16%	186	16%	338	13%	128	13%
Medium (3)		210	27%	362	27%	294	25%	588	23%	227	23%
High (4-5)		386	51%	763	57%	689	59%	1,588	63%	619	64%
Total		764	100%	1,340	100%	1,169	100%	2,514	100%	974	100%

*This question was only asked if respondents said they had a doctor (primary care provider).

Having confidence in the gay health knowledge of a primary care physician may be a reason to come out, or not. As this table shows, confidence in the physician's knowledge of gay health grew with age.

MENTAL HEALTH Have you ever had sessions to discuss emotional issues with a healthcare professional?	<25		25-34		35-44		45-59		60+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Physician	213	20%	413	23%	321	23%	740	27%	228	22%
Clinical counselor	149	14%	242	14%	175	13%	293	11%	87	8%
Psychologist	167	16%	263	15%	202	15%	367	13%	105	10%
Psychiatrist	114	11%	161	9%	157	11%	267	10%	93	9%
Other healthcare professional	27	3%	62	4%	46	3%	103	4%	38	4%
% calculated out of (i.e. total # of respondents)	1,052		1,768		1,384		2,761		1,024	

*This table shows the percentage of respondents in each age group who had discussed emotional issues with each of the listed healthcare professionals in the last 12 months.

Does age affect with whom you would discuss emotional and mental health issues? According to Sex Now, it seems that older men were more invested in discussing such issues with their physician and younger men with a mental health professional. Men age sixty or over were less engaged in any mental health care. The differences may have their origin in historical stigma about the social acceptability of mental health care.

Conclusion

From all the foregoing some might wonder about the apparent shortening of "generations" from two decades to one. Traditionally, two decades has marked a cycle of life in which the young bear children, bringing forth yet another generation. Are gay generations really so different that generational change occurs in one decade, not two? An interesting question, because on investigation the conceptualization of mainstream generations appears to have been shifting as well.
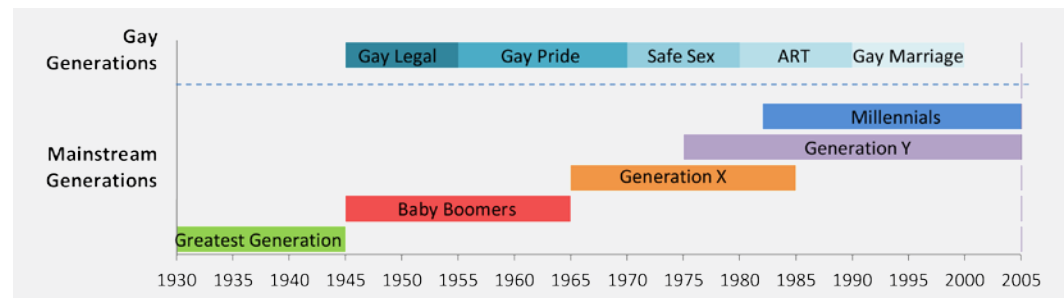
The separations between Gen X, Gen Y and Millennials do not appear to be the hard boundaries defined by the global disaster of World War II. The boundaries appear to overlap and the birth year periods defining them seem to be a matter of contested opinion. Quite apparently, massive cultural shifts, in pace with technology, are changing the way we see mainstream generations, not just gay generations. As we move further away from the postwar baby boom, the line that draws divisions between generations is softening, possibly just for simple reasons like the decisions people make about birth timing.

So it should not be such a surprise that these same cultural shifts and others closer to gay home ground are affecting the way gay generations arise. Millennials have never known a time when the Internet, websites and emails did not exist. Few would fail to acknowledge that Millennials seem to be more preternaturally different than generations before them. Gay Millennials – Generation Gay Marriage – appear to be similarly affected, not only in their place within mainstream society but gay culture as well.

It does not always follow that the future can be predicted from the past even though computer algorithms and massive enterprises behind them assume so. We cannot know how gay life will go for Generation Gay Marriage because the ground is shifting so rapidly. What portion of the 60% of gay Millennials who expect to marry a man will actually succeed in doing so? The answer is unprecedented in the past and whatever will be, will be.

Readings and Resources

Scholarly knowledge from a life course perspective about health influences on gay and bisexual men's lives is very limited. Compared to the general population, the landscape of maturation and development in gay and bisexual men remains a virtual wilderness; critical life transitions have barely been trail blazed. The social consequences of emerging same sex attraction gets all the serious research attention while the health effects over a life time are still waiting their turn.

The following readings and resources have helped to frame CBRC's Gay Generations project and the preceding analysis of Sex Now 2015 – more grist for further field wide discussions on the health effects and prevention implications of growing up, living out and aging gay.

Life Course Theory: Key principles
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