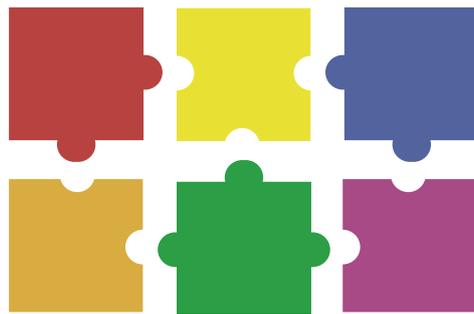# RESEARCH

Levels of Empowerment among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender [LGBT] People in Gauteng, South Africa

Research initiative of the Joint Working
Group conducted by OUT LGBT
Well-being in collaboration with the
UNISA Centre for Applied Psychology

Access To Rights. Access To Services.

Access To Rights. Access To Services.

Authors

Helen Wells
Louise Polders

Contact details of the members of the JWG

OUT LGBT Well-being
Postal: PO Box 26197, Arcadia, 0007
Tel: 012 - 344 5108
Email: research@out.org.za
Web: www.out.org.za

The UNISA Centre for Applied Psychology
Postal: PO Box 392, UNISA, 0003
Tel: 012 - 429 8544
Email: ucap@unisa.ac.za
Web: www.unisa.ac.za/dept/psy/centre

Behind the Mask
Tel: 011 - 403 5566
Web: www.mask.org.za

The Durban Lesbian and Gay Community and Health Centre
Tel: 031 - 301-2145
Web: www.gaycentre.org.za

The Equality Project
Tel: 011 487 3810/1/2

Forum for the Empowerment of Women (FEW)
Tel: 011 - 339 1867
Web: www.few.org.za

Gay and Lesbian Archives (GALA)
Tel: 011 - 717 4239
Web: www.gala.wits.ac.za

Triangle Project
Tel: 021 - 448 3812
Web: www.triangle.org.za

Contents

Background and Research Aims

Despite there being an increasing number of international studies into gay/lesbian (G/L) concerns in the past ten years, there is still a lack of South African data (Index to South African Periodicals). The need for research on a South African sample of G/L persons was made explicit at two workshops hosted by OUT
(a health and mental health service provider for G/L persons in Pretoria) and Schorer Foundation (an expert centre for health care for G/L persons in the Netherlands). Different G/L organisations and other individual psychologists from throughout the country were invited to attend, and expressed the need for data to be collected on various issues that G/L people encounter in their daily lives.

The research that has been completed in South Africa has been largely of a qualitative nature, with very few quantitative studies addressing issues faced by G/L people in South Africa. The few existing studies have dealt primarily with white middle-class gay men excluding blacks, lesbians and people of a lower socio-economic status (Index to South African Periodicals).

The main aim of this research was therefore to gather data of a quantitative nature that was representative so that expertise can be built around empowerment1 issues that are faced by G/L persons living in contemporary South Africa. A study of this scale would be the first quantitative study of its kind done in South Africa.

Research of this kind is important to provide expertise in the field of G/L issues as well as to inform programmes that are offered for the support of G/Ls by various organisations in South Africa.

The research was initially limited to metropolitan Gauteng, with the possibility of conducting repeat studies in other provinces where services for G/Ls were provided. The reason for this limitation was to control for the potentially confounding influence of other variables such as urban/rural differences and other geographical influences.

The scope of this research project was extremely vast including both macro and micro issues to serve as indicators of empowerment. The research was informed by both theory and the needs outlined by the G/L organisations in South Africa.

These included investigations into the:

- social lifestyles;
- victimisation experienced;
- experience of the police and / or criminal justice system;
- health service satisfaction;
- health status;
- substance use;
- well-being;
- religious interests and discrimination;
- political interests; and
- socio-demographics; of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) persons in Gauteng.

The above issues were explored regarding the influence of the following variables:

- Sex
- Race
- Age
- Socio-economic status (analysis along this variable was not used in this report but will be used for more in-depth studies)

The sample was not split along these lines for racist or sexist reasons, instead these splits were used to identify groups (e.g. young black males, older white females), for which interventions could be designed and targeted appropriately.

This report seeks to provide only the results of the study as outlined above. Results are not analysed here. Areas for further analyses have been identified and are discussed below (see 'directions for further research').

1. Empowerment issues in this context refer to matters that may impede/advance the acceptance and integration of G/L people into mainstream society.

Sampling of Respondents

Gay and lesbian participants were selected through a purposive quota sampling technique. At least 30 respondents were to be acquired for each cluster. Thus the total sample should be comprised of at least 360 participants. The clusters that were identified can be seen below.

Male Under resourced Black 16-24 years	Female Resourced White 16-24 years	Female Under resourced Black 16-24 years
Male Under resourced Black 25-40 years	Female Resourced White 25-40 years	Female Under resourced Black 25-40 years
Male Resourced Black 16-24 years	Male Resourced White 16-24 years	Female Resourced Black 16-24 years
Male Resourced Black 25-40 years	Male Resourced White 25-40 years	Female Resourced Black 25-40 years

Results

1. Socio-demographic Information

Profile of Respondents

- Final sample size was 487 respondents; 86% identified themselves as gay/lesbian and 14% as bisexual.
- 46% were between 15-24 years, 48% between 25-40 years and 6% over the age of 41.
- The number of females and males with regards to race is displayed in table 1 below:

Table 1

Females (45%)	Males (55%)
Black = 160	Black = 148
White = 56	White = 117

Gender role prefrences is summarised in table 2 below:

Table 2

	Females (%)		Males (%)	
	Black	White	Black	White
Feminine	42.5	48.2	54.4	6.8
Masculine	37.9	19.6	36.7	78.6
No Preference	19.6	32.1	8.8	14.5

- Adoption of opposite-sex gender role is more prevalent among blacks than whites, particularly amongst black males.
- Language of the respondents was mixed with the majority being English (20%) or Afrikaans (18%) speaking. Other language groups included: Setswana (15%), Zulu (13%), Sotho (9%), Pedi (7%), Ndebele (5%), Xhosa (4%), Tsonga (3%), Siswati (3%), and Venda (2%).

Employment Status

- 52.4% of the respondents were employed, and 33.1% were students. The student population is high due to the fact that 50% of the sample was between the ages of 16 and 24 years.
- Employment was considerably higher amongst whites (85.4%) than blacks (33.6%).

Financial Resources

- Just over a third of the respondents owned property, and nearly half owned a car.
- Of the respondents that were employed, 61% earned a gross salary of R5000 or less per month.

Educational Status

- Clear educational differences can be seen at both ends of the educational spectrum. More whites (34%) than blacks (13%) have university education, while considerably more blacks (20%) than whites (9%) have not completed high-school.
- About one third of both blacks (38%) and whites (32%) have completed either a diploma or certificate course.

Relationship Status

- Table 3 below represents the relationship status of the respondents (Caution should be taken when interpreting the figures as it is thought that some of the categories may not have been mutually exclusive).

Table 3

Single: sexually active	33.2%
Single: not sexually active	20.8%
Open Relationship	23.5%
Monogamous	21.6%
Other	0.8%

- Fewer single white females (16%) are sexually active compared to single black females (32%). This difference is not evident amongst males with approximately one third of black and white males being single and sexually active.
- Monogamy is more prevalent amongst whites than blacks.
- 38% of respondents in a relationship had been in the relationship for longer than one year.

2. Social Lifestyle

Levels of Outness

- It was found that levels of outness are higher amongst whites than blacks on all levels of outness measured:

  - Family
  - Friends
  - Work
  - Community.

- All respondents were most out to their friends.
- A significant positive correlation existed between age and outness. In other words, the older one becomes the more 'out' one is.

Integration into the LGBT Community

- Almost half the respondents (45%) felt that they were well accepted into the LGBT community while 31% felt that they were popular socially and 8% that they were not part of the group.
- Of the sample, 9% said that all their friends were LGBT people while 23% said that none or only a few were. The results for time spent socialising with LGBT people mirrored the number of LGBT friends.
- Time spent socialising in LGBT or heterosexual venues did not differ greatly. Time spent socialising in heterosexual restaurants and religious organisations were higher than for LGBT restaurants and religious organisations.

3. Victimisation

Fear of Victimisation

- A significant negative correlation exist between age and the following fears of victimisation:
  - Verbal abuse
  - Physical abuse
  - Sexual abuse/rape
  - Domestic violence
  - Attacks on property.
- In other words, as age increased so these fears of victimisation decreased.
- Fears of victimisation for males and females are represented in table 4:

Table 4

	Females (%)			Males (%)	
	Black	White		Black	White
Verbal Abuse (n = 151/55)	47.7	52.7	Verbal Abuse (n = 140/117)	57.9	37.6
Physical Abuse (n = 159/55)	53	43.6	Physical Abuse (n = 139/117)	69.8	51.3
Sexual abuse/rape (n = 152/55)	64.5	50.9	Sexual abuse/rape (n = 139/117)	64	34.2
Domestic violence (n= 146/54)	43.8	33.3	Domestic violence (n = 139/117)	57.6	26.5
Attacks on property (n = 150/54)	59.3	44.4	Attacks on property (n = 140/117)	67.1	47

- Fears of victimisation overall seems to be higher for blacks than for whites.

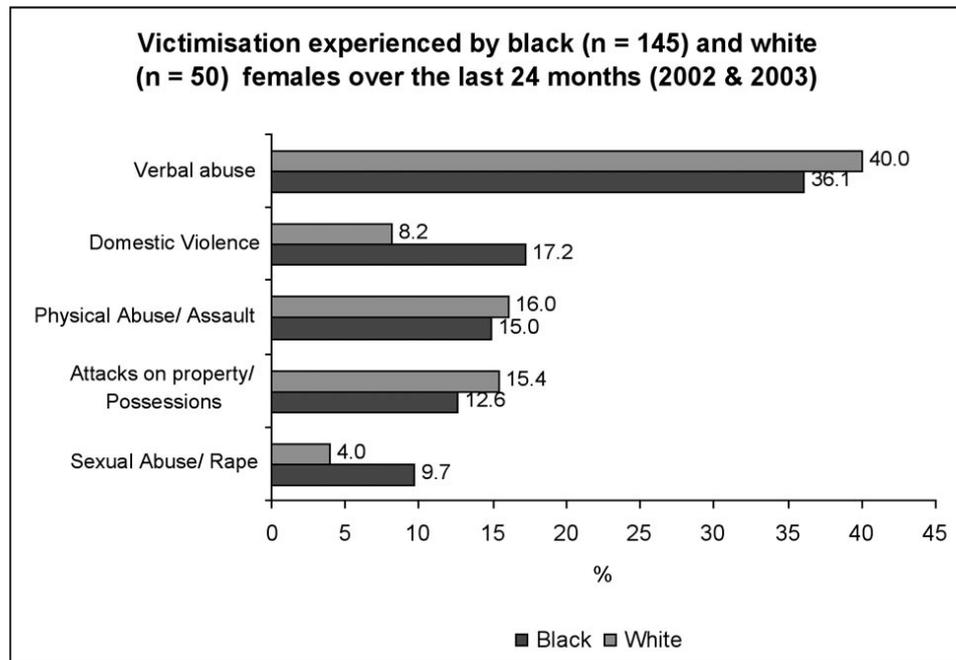**Victimisation Experienced at School**

- The results here indicate that victimisation on the basis of sexual orientation is high in schools. The figures here are inclusive of the whole sample (both adults and school pupils). The prevalence rates (a total of a scale ranging from almost never to most of the time) are indicated in table 5 below.
- An important point to note here is that males (both black and white) experience sexual abuse/rape at schools almost the same as females do.
- Except for sexual abuse/rape, white males experience higher rates of victimisation than black males.
- The main source of victimisation came from pupils for both blacks and whites. Victimisation by teachers was more prevalent among black pupils with victimisation from principals being low except for black females.
- LGBT issues were raised twice as often in black classrooms, and were more positive for black males than white males with little difference between black and white females.

Table 5

	Females (%)			Males (%)	
	Black	White		Black	White
Sexual abuse/rape (n = 147/54)	14.9	11.2	Sexual abuse/rape (n = 144/116)	15.3	11.3
Physical abuse (n = 150/54)	30	16.7	Physical abuse (n= 144/116)	28.5	38.8
Verbal abuse (n= 152/54)	49.3	33.4	Verbal abuse (n= 145/116)	60	68.9
Negative jokes (n = 150/54)	75.9	64.9	Negative jokes (n = 140/113)	70	81.4

Experience of Victimisation

Figure 1

Victimisation experienced by black (n = 145) and white (n = 50) females over the last 24 months (2002 & 2003)
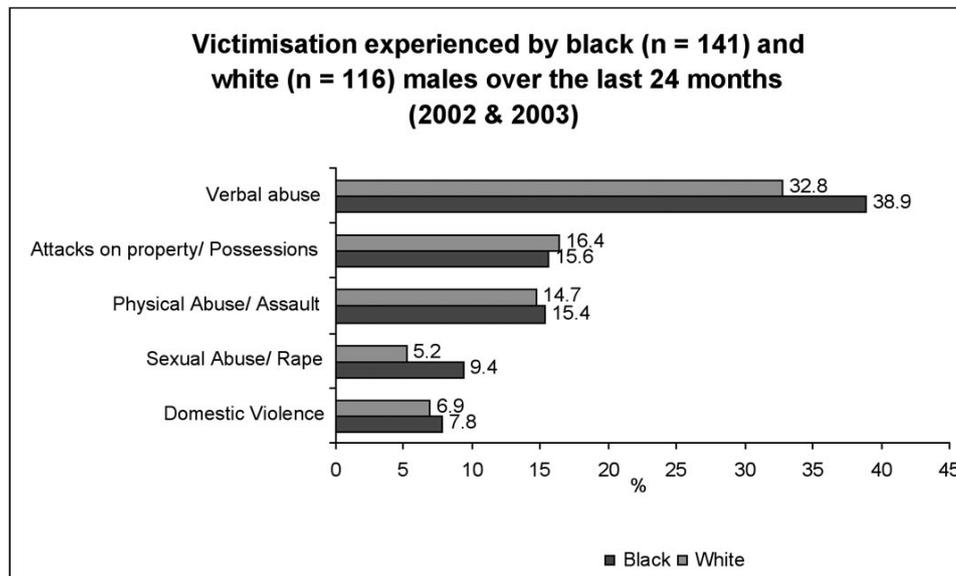
- As can be seen from figure 1, the prevalence of domestic violence and sexual abuse/rape are twice as high for black females as for white females.
- Other forms of victimisation are similar for both black and white females.

Figure 2

Victimisation experienced by black (n = 141) and white (n = 116) males over the last 24 months (2002 & 2003)

- Figure 2 represents victimisation experienced by black and white males. Sexual abuse is almost twice as high for black males than for white males, and is also very similar to the rates experienced by black and white females.
- Other forms of victimisation are similar for both black and white males.
- Except for domestic violence, victimisation is experienced at similar rates for males and females.

5.

Venues of Victimisation

- Compared to whites, victimisation occurred more frequently for blacks in more public venues such as main road, taxi ranks, bus stops, parks and railway stations.
- White females were more victimised in the workplace (59%) than black females (15%) (Caution the sample size for white females was too low to ensure eliability).
- Victimisation experienced at a cruising spot was 29% for black females and non-existent for white females.
- White males' experience of victimisation in the workplace was three times greater than for black males.
- Experience of victimisation in their homes was twice as high for white males than for black males.
- White males (28.9%) also experienced greater victimisation in car parks than black males (16.4%).

Perceived Reasons for Victimisation

- White females cited homophobia, religion and mugging/robbery as the main reasons for victimisation, whereas black females felt that sexism, racism, domestic issues and HIV/AIDS were the main reasons (Caution sample size of white women is too small to ensure reliability).
- Both black and white males felt that homophobia was the main reason for victimisation.
- Black males felt that racism, sexism and HIV/AIDS also contributed to victimisation, whereas white males cited mugging/robbery and domestic issues as other reasons for victimisation.

Incidents Reported to the Police

Table 6 indicates the percentage of incidents reported to the police

Table 6

Attacks on Property	51.6
Physical Abuse	49.1
Sexual Abuse/Rape	41.2
Domestic Violence	31.8
Verbal Abuse	17.7

Figure 3

Figure 3 indicates the way the respondents experienced the police if they reported these incidents of victimisation.
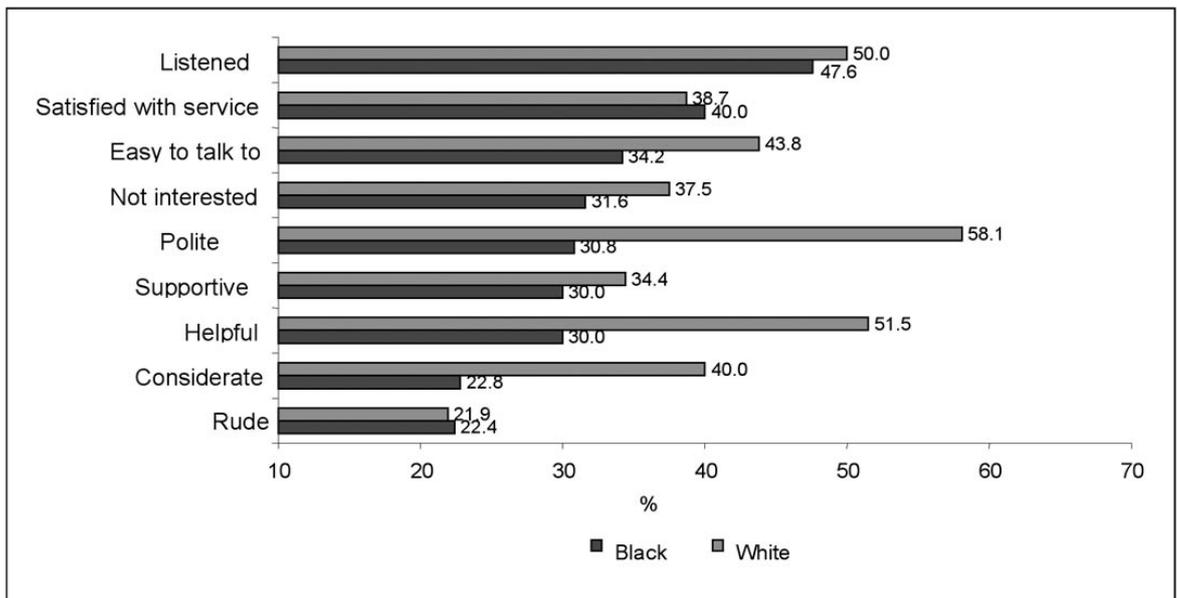
Reasons for Incidents not Reported to the Police

Table 7 below indicates (in percentages) the reasons of those victimised for NOT reporting incidents to the police.

Table 7

	black	white
1. I felt that the report would not be taken seriously	78.2	67.4
2. I felt that the police would not understand	66.7	71.1
3. I felt that the police couldn't do anything	65.7	74.5
4. A friend had previously had poor experience with the police	50.0	47.5
5. I couldn't be bothered	49.5	36.6
6. I thought the incident was not serious enough to report	46.6	59.1
7. I had previously had poor experience with the police	45.2	52.5
8. I do not want the police to know about my sexual orientation	41.0	22.0
9. I am afraid of being abused by the police	39.8	46.2
10. I don't like the police	36.3	47.5
11. These incidents happen so often that I am used to them	34.0	15.8
12. I was embarrassed about the incident and did not want my sexual orientation to become public knowledge	31.1	25.0
13. I was drunk/drugged	20.0	7.7
14. I was unable to get to the police station	17.6	12.8

- Reason number 6 and 11 could be grounds for concern in that for gay/lesbian people, victimisation is happening so often that they are used to it and feel that it is not serious enough to report.
- Approximately 50% of both blacks and whites had previously had negative experiences with the police.
- This table also indicates that the majority have little faith in getting help from the police, and fear that matters may be worse after reporting to the police – abuse from police or sexual orientation becoming public knowledge (i.e. secondary victimisation).
- Reason 13 should also be noted in that 20% of blacks and 7.7 % of whites were too drunk/drugged to report incidents to the police.
- Approximately 21% of black and white females felt that the criminal justice system (police, correctional services etc) were providing for their rights, whereas 45.1 % of black and 17.9% white males felt this way.

Work Place Discrimination

- Although it appears that the majority of people are not discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation, 15% said that they were and another 15% were unsure, so may have been. This question imposed a timeframe of 24 months, thus these figures give some kind of indication that constitutional rights protecting gay/lesbian people from such discrimination are not always enforced.

Figure 4
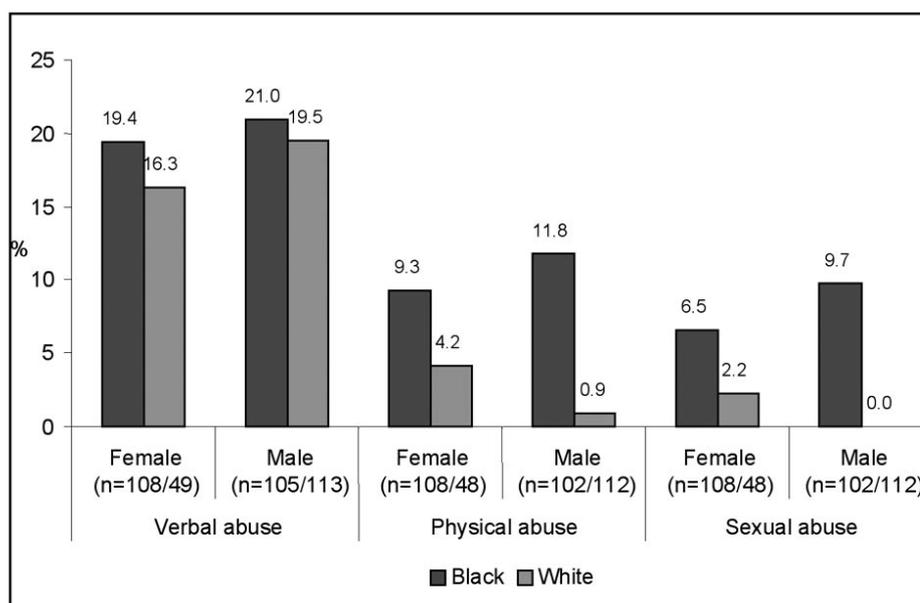
- As indicated in figure 4, victimisation experienced in the workplace is higher for blacks than whites. Sexual abuse/rape and physical abuse/assault appears to be far more prevalent amongst blacks.
- Significant negative correlations were found between education and:

  - Physical abuse
  - Sexual abuse.

- More whites in the sample had higher education than blacks, and therefore probably work in more professional settings, where physical and sexual abuse would not be tolerated against anyone.
- No significant correlation was found between education and verbal abuse, suggesting that verbal abuse is more tolerated in all work settings, thus similar figures were reported for both blacks and whites.

Table 8 illustrates workplace experiences during the last 24 months (2002/3). The percentages indicated refer to the respondents that answered yes to the given statements.

Table 8

	Black %		White %	
	Females n=95	Males n=92	Females n=47	Males n=108
A refusal to allow same-sex partner benefits such as medical aid	17.9	13.0	29.8	8.3
A refusal/ discouragement to allow same-sex partners at company events	19.1	17.4	19.1	11.1
A LGBT work-friendly place	39.8	28.7	55.3	64.8
Diversity workshops that include sexual orientation awareness	28.7	25.0	13.0	11.3

- 15 % of the sample (n=385), said that they had been refused a job based on their sexual orientation and another 15% were unsure.
- 17% said that they had been given a job based on their sexual orientation, with 14% being unsure.

4. Health Service Satisfaction

Consultation with Health Care Practitioners

- Respondents were asked how frequently in the last 24 months they had consulted various health care practitioners. These results are indicated in percentages in table 9 below.
- These results demonstrate that blacks consult practitioners in the public health care sector more than whites, whereas whites consult private doctors and psychologists more frequently than blacks.
- Seventeen percent of the sample had consulted with LGBT organisations - approximately a quarter of the black sample and 2% of white females and 6% of white males.

Table 9

	Private Doctor		Government Doctor		Clinic/Nurse		Psychologist		Social Worker		Traditional Healer	
	Black	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black	White
1 or 2/year	39.1	47.9	31.1	7.6	34.4	24.7	12.6	13.7	15.2	3.2	18.7	2.6
3-6/ year	17.6	29.9	12.1	0.6	9.9	5.7	5.7	9.3	5.7	0.6	5.1	1.3
More than 6/year	10.4	12	3	1.3	6.1	1.9	4.6	11.8	2.7	2.5	4.3	0

- Table 10 indicates the percentage of respondents that agree with the given statements about the heath care practitioners (HCP) that they had consulted in the last 24 months.

Table 10

	Black %		White %	
	Females	Males	Females	Males
1. HCP are aware of my sexual orientation	64.9	64.1	55.6	68.4
2. HCP ask about my sexual orientation	61.5	52.3	40.0	30.1
3. HCP openly discuss concerns related to my sexual orientation	54.3	53.2	31.1	45.6
4. HCP make me feel comfortable	58.2	68.0	61.4	85.1
5. HCP ask questions which make it seem that being heterosexual is the only normal way to be	55.0	36.7	27.3	16.2
6. HCP assume that I am heterosexual	49.6	37.3	47.7	32.7
7. HCP uphold confidentiality	48.5	55.3	77.8	86.0

- Approximately double the amount of blacks than whites indicated that the HCP that they visited asked questions implying that heterosexuality is the only normal way to be.
- It appears more common for HCP to assume that females are heterosexual than males.
- More whites than blacks feel that HCP uphold confidentiality.

Refusal of Treatment based on Sexual Orientation

- Six percent of the sample had been refused treatment based on their sexual orientation, most of whom were black females (8.4%) and black males (7.6%). Only 1.7% of white males had been refused treatment due to their sexual orientation. No white females reported to have been refused treatment.

Delay Seeking Treatment

- Twelve percent of the sample delayed seeking treatment for fear of discrimination based on sexual orientation.
- Almost four times as many black females (15%) than white females (4%), and twice as many black males (15%) than white males (7%), delayed seeking treatment for fear of discrimination.
- Twelve percent of respondents have lived with health conditions (e.g. haemorrhoids, bleeding from the anus, genital infections etc) and not sought help for fear of their sexual orientation being discovered.
- More black (12.6%) than white (1.9%) females and more black (18.2%) than white (7.8%) males did not seek treatment due fear of their sexual orientation being made know because of one of the above mentioned health conditions.

Satisfaction with Heath Care Services Providers

- Although 76% of the sample was satisfied with services, a quarter of clients serviced were not.
- Whites, who consulted more with private doctors, appeared to be more satisfied with services received than blacks.

5. Health Status

Perception of Health Status

- Approximately 80% of the black and 90% of the white sample considered their health to be good or excellent.
- Only 2.5% of black females identified their health as poor or very poor.

STIs

- Respondents were asked if they had had a sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the last 24 months. The results are displayed in figure 6 below.
- The percentage of black females with STIs is similar to that of both black and white men, and the number of black women who are unsure whether they have an infection or not is the highest in the overall sample.
- Due to the sensitive nature of this question it is possible that figures are underestimated.

Figure 6
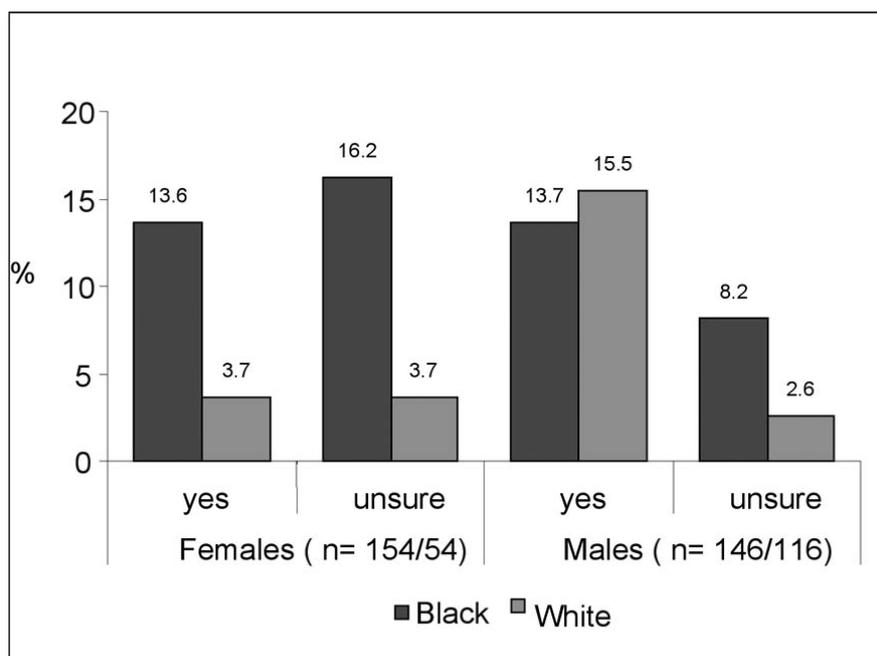
HIV Status

- 64% of the sample had tested for HIV, with approximately half of blacks and 80% whites having tested. Note: no timeframe was placed on this question.
- The results of those who tested can be seen in figure 7 below.
- Amongst the black sample there were those that did not fetch/ or understand their results whereas these categories were non-existent for whites.
- The number of people that are HIV+ is almost double amongst blacks than for whites.
- The number of HIV+ lesbians is high in comparison to international figures. This is contradictory to a belief that lesbians are relatively risk free. It should be noted that some lesbians could have bisexual partners and/or experience high levels of rape.

Figure 7
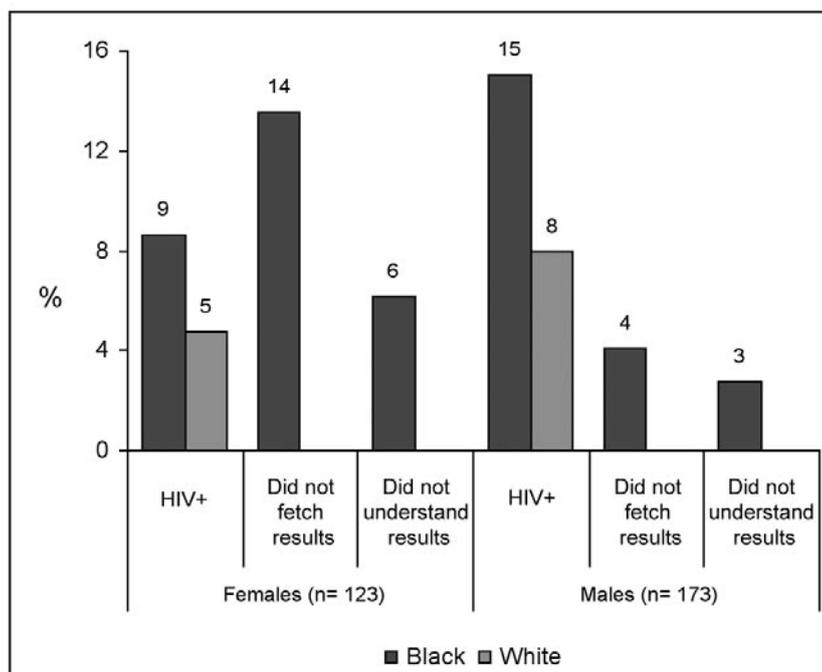
- Table 11 below indicates reasons for not testing for HIV.

Table 11

	Female (%)		Male (%)	
	Black	White	Black	White
Never been in a risky situation	58	67	46	36
Don't think I am at risk	50	67	41	64
Don't know how	23	14	16	23
Too scared	61	14	57	23
Not sexually active	37	56	42	33

- A large number of respondents indicated that they did not know how to test or were too scared to test for HIV. Those that did not know how included both black and whites. There were more blacks that were too scared to test.

6. Alcohol and Substance Use

Self-Perception of Alcohol Use

- Results indicated that more white females (84.6%) than white males (79.3%) were users of alcohol. This contrasted with approximately 63% of black females and males that identified as users.
- Females that identified as abusers constituted about 5% of the sample, with 4.1% black males and 6.9% white males perceiving themselves to be abusers of alcohol.
- No white females saw themselves as alcoholics compared with 2.6% of black females, whereas, 4.8% of black males and 1.7% of white males saw themselves as alcoholics.
- These figures differ from international figures in which lesbian women are seen to abuse alcohol more than gay men.

Frequency of Alcohol Use

- More white females (28%) than black females (14.7%) and white males (21.9%) than black males (14.5%) drink more than 3 times a week or daily.
- Although it appears that whites drink more frequently than blacks, approximately three times as many black females than white females and 8.7% black as compared to 5.4% white males get drunk more than 3 times a week or daily.
- A positive correlation was found between frequency of alcohol use and age with a negative correlation found between frequency of getting drunk and age. This suggests that although older people drink more frequently they do not get as drunk as younger people.

Recreational Drug Use

- Of the respondents that admitted to taking recreational drugs, 23% perceived themselves to be users, 2% as abusers and only 1% as being dependant on
drugs (It is thought that this figure could be an under representation due to a fear of disclosure because drug use is illegal).
- When responding to how frequently drugs were used, 14.6% of the sample responded almost never, 12.7% at least once a month, 4% weekly and 1.7% daily.
- Although venues for drug use did not differ much between home, club and outdoors dance events, more blacks used drugs at clubs and whites at home or outdoors events.

7. Well-being

Levels of Well-being

- Well-being was measured on a scale with scores ranging from 7 (high) to 35 (Low).
- The mean score for this sample was 14.7 (standard deviation 5.6), thus the majority of the sample scored on the higher side of well-being.
- Significant correlations were found between the following indicators of well-being and age:
    - Negative correlation with having two lives
    - Negative correlation with not belonging
    - Negative correlation with rejection
    - Negative correlation with not feeling as happy with others.
- In other words as age increased the above indicators of well-being decrease.

Risk of Depression

- Risk for depression was measured on a scale with scores ranging from 5 (low risk) to 20 (high risk).
- The mean sample score was 9.14 (standard deviation = 3.3), thus the majority of the sample was not at particularly high risk for depression.
- Whites appeared to be slightly more at risk for depression than blacks.
- No significant correlation was found between risk for depression and age.
- A significant positive correlation was found between risk for depression and frequency of alcohol use.

Suicide

- Twenty one percent of the sample had made past suicide attempts, approximately 20% for all groups.
- No significant differences were found between suicide attempts and the following variables:
    - Age (caution must be taken here as no time-frame was given for the question 'have you ever attempted suicide')
    - Race
    - Sex
    - Opposite-sex gender role adoption.
- Suicide ideation was highest among white males (43%) as compared with black males (24%). Black females obtained slightly higher rates than white females. These figures are a sum of the categories seldom, often, always.
- 9% of the black females thought about suicide often or always compared to 5.6% of white females.
- 9.5% of white males thought about suicide often or always compared to 8.9% of black males.
- No significant correlations were found between suicide ideation and
    - age,
    - perception of health status.
- Significant positive correlations were found between suicide ideation and:
    - Fear of victimisation (except attacks on property)
    - Experience of victimisation at school
    - Experience of victimisation in last 24 months (except physical and attacks on property)
    - Experience of verbal and physical victimisation at work
    - Alcohol abuse.
- Significant negative correlations were found between suicide ideation and:
    - Well-being
    - Level of education.

8. Religious Interests

Religious Preferences

- The majority of the sample reported to be Christian (65.6%), with 12.1% Atheist, 2.5% Buddhist, 1.9% Muslim, 0.6% Jewish, 0.4% Hindu and the remainder 'other'.

Discrimination by Religious Authorities

- Table 12 below represents the percentages of the sample who have been discriminated by religious authorities due to their sexual orientation.
- Discrimination by religious authorities is higher among whites than blacks.
- Internal conflict regarding religion and sexual orientation was experienced more strongly amongst black females (31.1%) and black males (36.2%) than white females (20.4%) and white males (27.8%).

Table 12

	Females		Males	
	Black	White	Black	White
Experience of discrimination by religious authorities	36.8	51.9	33.8	54.3
Asked to leave faith due to sexual orientation 12.6	12.6	20.4	15.3	14.7

9. Political Interests

- The majority of the sample (46.9%) were supporters of the African National Congress (ANC), with 21.4% supporting the Democratic Alliance (DA), 6.3% Independent Democrats (ID), 4.2% Pan African Congress (PAC), 3.7% Inkhatha Freedom Party (IFP) with the remainder being 'other'.
- The above information is displayed in figure 8 below along racial lines.

Figure 8
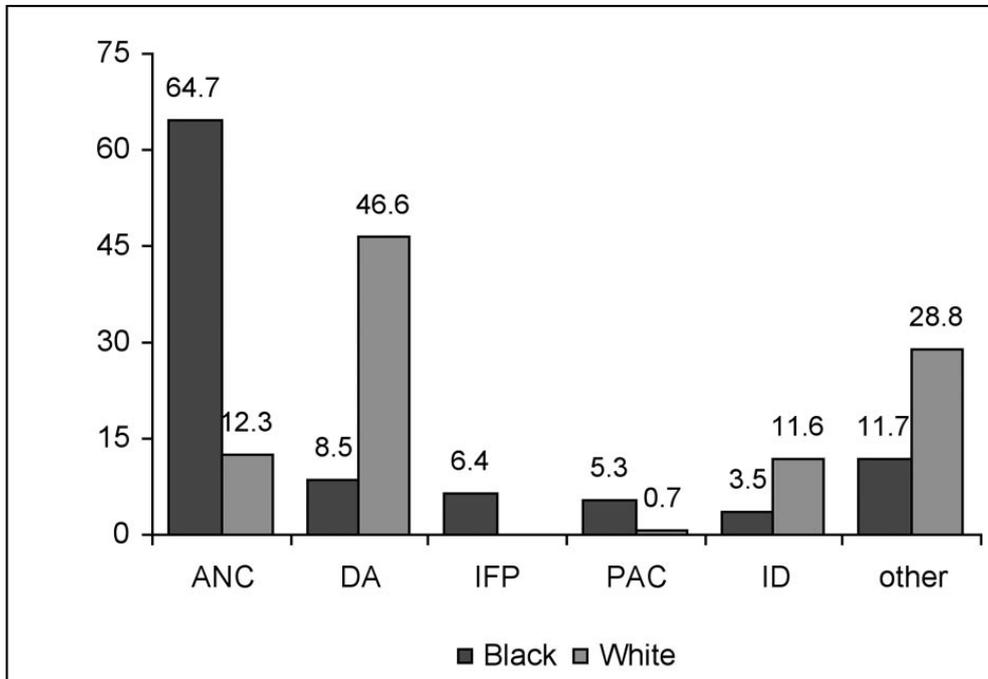
- Of the sample as a whole, 37% felt that sexual orientation was a political issue and 20% were unsure if it was a political issue or not.

Voting

- Almost three quarters of the sample exercise their right to vote (71%). More white males (88%) and white females (72%) vote than black females (67%) and black males (63%).
- Of those who vote, almost double the number of black females (54%) than white females (25%) vote on the basis of their sexual orientation. Amongst males, black males (45%) also vote more on the basis of their sexual orientation than white males (32%).

Constitutional Rights

- Forty-two percent of the sample felt that their constitutional rights were being put into practice and 25% were unsure, with more whites and males feeling this way.
- A number of questions were posed to the respondents who did not feel as if their constitutional rights were being practiced. The results of these questions are given in table 13 below.

Table 13

	Black (%)		White (%)	
	Agree	Unsure	Agree	Unsure
In general people's attitudes towards lgbt people have not improved since the change in constitution	51	34.9	47.9	21.9
In general, people still see heterosexual (straight) people as normal and lgbt people as abnormal	76.4	18.2	87.5	9.7
People are less likely to discriminate against lgbt people now that the constitution has changed	22.6	51.4	40.3	27.8
I feel more comfortable to be open about my sexual orientation now that the constitution protects my rights	39.7	28.8	56.5	24.6

10. Directions for Further Research

Due to the fact that the aims of this research were extremely vast, the results presented above can be thought to represent the first phase in the research project on levels of empowerment.

At subsequent combined workshops, it was decided that to gain maximum benefit from these results, certain areas should be analysed in more detail and then disseminated in the academic community, mainstream government departments as well as the popular media in order for awareness of gay/lesbian issues to be raised.

The areas that were identified for more in-depth analyses are listed below:

- Well-being
- Suicide
- Victimisation
- Police
- Health care satisfaction.

It is hoped that through this research project, levels of awareness around LGBT issues among the public as well as in the public sector (health care workers, teachers, police etc) can be raised. These results will also be used by G/L community organisations to inform programmes so as to better the services that they offer and thus, empower gay men and lesbian women in South Africa.

11. Acknowledgements

Special thanks go to the following organisations and individuals whose help and support in this research project contributed to its success:

- Research participants
- Field workers; Activate; Soweto HIV/AIDS Counselling and Advice Centre (SOHACA); LGBT churches; and Mamba online for their assistance in gaining access to participants
- Activate
- Atlantic Philanthropies
- Equality Project
- HIVOS