

Statistics relating to same sex relationships and homosexuality

Compiled by Salt Shakers – Melbourne – updated 2007

1. Percentage of adult population in AUSTRALIA who identify as homosexual

Nationwide figure - 1.2% of adults identifying as homosexual or lesbian.

1.6% of adult men identified as homosexual and 0.8% of women as lesbian.

1.4% of women and 0.9% of men said they were bisexual.

From the 2003 'Sex in Australia' survey of 20,000 people, with a special weighting to Sydney's homosexual centre.

Conducted by the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society (ARCSHS) at La Trobe University.

Published in Australian & NZ Journal of Public Health, Vol 27 No 2 2003 ISSN 1326 0200.

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/ashr/Sex%20In%20Australia%20Summary.pdf>

CANADA – (as comparison)

1.3% of men and 0.7% of women considered themselves homosexual.

0.9% of women, compared with 0.6% of men, said they were bisexual.

(June 2004 - A Canadian government survey of 83,000 people - Canadian Community Health Survey)

Ref: Statistics Canada <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/040615/d040615b.htm>

2. Percentage of homosexuals who live as "couples"

Same sex couples make up ONLY 0.46 % of all couples. (19,594 couples, 2001 Australian census)

The 2001 census showed that over 8 million men and women were living as partners in couple relationships and that 12% of these were 'de facto married'. Ten years prior the 1991 census indicated that around 7.2 million men and women were living as partners in couple relationships and that 8% of these were de facto married. Same sex couples make up 0.46 % of all couples. (19,594 couples, 2001 census)

Source: *3310.0 Marriages and Divorces, Australia, Nov 2003*, Australian Bureau of Statistics.

At <http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/0/893C1288678FD232CA2568A90013939C?Open>

3. Commitment - statistics for 'marriage'

Marital Status (2001 census figures)

[Applies to all persons aged 15 years and over]

7,635,947 married people (50.7%)

509,923 separated people (3.4%)

1,099,391 divorced people (7.4%)

691,609 'never married' people (31.6%) [this is high because the figures are for people over 15]

The divorce rate per 1,000 married women is not growing.

In 1981 there were 11.9 divorces per 1000 married women; in 2000, the figure was 12.

From 'Divorce rate steady, but cohabiters breaking up', *Sydney Morning Herald*, October 25, 2003

At <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/10/24/1066974320459.html>

4. Commitment - statistics for homosexual relationships -

In 'gay-friendly' Scandinavian countries, where same-sex 'civil union' type relationships have existed for 10 years, male-male union breakdown ('divorce') is 50% higher than heterosexual unions. For female-female coupling the breakdown figure is 170% higher.

Source: Deathblow to Marriage, Kurtz, National Review,

At <http://www.nationalreview.com/kurtz/kurtz200402050842.asp>

Australian statistics – from the Melbourne Gay Community Periodic Survey (MCGPS)

Regular Partners

MCGPS (Feb. 2000) interviewed homosexual men at Melbourne's midsumma carnival and homosexual venues and found that:

27.6% of homosexual men say they have 'only regular' partners,
35.1% have regular PLUS casual and 24.4 % have only casual sex.
70.3% said they had sexual contact with casual partners in previous 6 months

Number of Sex Partners

(MGCPS Feb. 2000) When questioned about the number of sex partners in the previous six months:
One - 20.7 %, 2 to 10 - 39 %, 11 to 50 - 26.2 %, Over 50 - 7.8 %
Thus 73 % have had more than one partner in the previous six months.

Length of Relationships

Changed in previous six months - 40.4 %, 6 months to 1 year 9.8 %, 1 to 2 years - 18.8 %,
3 to 5 years - 15.3%, over 5 years - 15.7 %
Therefore 50% lasted less than one year and 68% lasted less than 2 years.
(Includes data from 'Men and Sexual Health', by the National Centre in HIV Social Research, 1997)

5. Commitment - statistics for homosexual "marriages" overseas

There are few statistics available.

Same-sex 'marriage' is a very new phenomenon - due to the virtual non-existence of homosexual 'marriage'.
Only two states in Canada and two European countries (Netherlands and Belgium) have allowed homosexual marriage/civil unions.

Statistics for Sweden show only 0.55% of couples are same-sex and in Norway 0.68%.

Source: Deathblow to Marriage, Kurtz, National Review,
At <http://www.nationalreview.com/kurtz/kurtz200402050842.asp>

In The Netherlands, where same sex couples are allowed to 'marry', a recent study published in AIDS magazine, found that the average length of a relationship between two men is 1.5 years.

In addition the study found that they have eight other 'partners' each year.

At <http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2003/jul/03071405.html>

Official statistics from The Netherlands government show that few homosexuals actually get married.

"Another important change in formal union behaviour in The Netherlands is the fact that homosexuals may not get married. This has been legal since 2001. ... The number of homosexual marriage is still small; in 2002 just under 1,000 marriages between two men and fewer still between two women were registered."

'Economic circumstances and union dissolution in the 1990s in The Netherlands',
Dr D Manting and Dr D Loeve, Statistics Netherlands.

<http://www.cbs.nl/nl/publicaties/publicaties/algemeen/discussion-papers/discussion-paper-04006.pdf>

6) Health of homosexual community

Over 80% of all HIV/AIDS sufferers are homosexual men. (Federal health dept. figure)

Recent statistics show that HIV/AIDS has increased 18% in Australia over the last two years. The fact that this growth is mainly due to 'men having sex with men' should ring warning bells about normalising such behaviour.

"In fact, 86% [of] people who recently acquired the virus were "gay".

Quote from : <http://library.thinkquest.org/03oct/01335/en/australia.html>

There are many other major health problems associated with normalising homosexuality and same-sex relationships. There has been a resurgence of other Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), pointing to a rise in the level of high-risk sexual behaviours. This is especially true among young people, and homosexual men.

Senator Brian Greig acknowledged these problems during a Senate Committee Inquiry into NVE videos.

Senate Hansard – "Which brings me to the point you raised about drug use and what you called the homosexual community. I acknowledge and concede that there is a disproportionate percentage of drug and alcohol use and abuse in the gay and lesbian community...."

(Thursday, 23 March 2000 SENATE—*Legislation L&C 27*)

Syphilis cases in Sydney have increased by 300% in two years, particularly in the homosexual community.. Cases of syphilis in South Eastern and Central Sydney have risen from 31 in 2001 to 160 in 2003, an increase health professionals are calling alarming.

“We’re talking about a disease that was barely mentionable a couple of years back, whereas now a significant amount of people are getting syphilis. The rise in syphilis within the gay community is also worrying because a disproportionate number of new syphilis cases are also HIV positive. Implications for HIV positive men were of particular concern”, McGuigan said.

From ‘Syphilis on the up’, *Sydney Star Observer*, 1/4/2004
At <http://www.ssonet.com.au/showarticle.asp?ArticleID=3005>

It is often said that taking away ‘discrimination’ will help solve these health problems – if this is the case why have we seen an increase in recent years as acceptance has grown? We have also seen an increase in heterosexual STDs as acceptance of promiscuity has grown!!

Things Gay Men Need to Know - by the *365Gay.com Science Editor*

This article states that homosexual men are much more likely to suffer from:

1. HIV/AIDS (80% of cases in Aust. are related to homosexual sex),
2. Higher rates of substance use - including amyl nitrate, marijuana, Ecstasy, and amphetamines.
3. higher rate of Depression and anxiety than in the general population,
4. An increased risk of Hepatitis infection,
5. Higher rates of STDs including syphilis, gonorrhoea, Chlamydia, public lice, hepatitis A, B, or C virus, etc.
6. Higher risk of death by prostate, testicular, or colon cancer.
7. Higher rates of alcohol dependence.
8. Up to 50 percent higher rates of tobacco use.
9. Much more likely to experience eating disorders such as bulimia or anorexia nervosa.
10. Are at risk of human papilloma virus - which cause anal and genital warts.

[10 Things Gay Men Need to Know – *Written by Anne Petrov, 365Gay.com Science Editor.*
Posted 01.02.03 on <http://www.gaywired.com/article.cfm?section=9&id=185>]

7) Civil unions – the effect on marriage or relationships of legalising same-sex ‘marriage’ or ‘civil unions’

As Australia has devalued marriage, by giving the same ‘rights’ to co-habiting couples, we have seen a detrimental growth in children born out of wedlock.

Only 3 per cent of children born between 1963 and 1975 were born to a sole mother; by 2001 this proportion had grown to 11.4 per cent.

From ‘Divorce rate steady, but cohabiters breaking up’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, October 25, 2003
At <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/10/24/1066974320459.html>

Sweden and Scandinavia are reporting a dramatic decrease in marriage since ‘civil unions’ were introduced. Consequently they have seen a dramatic rise in number of children born without the security of marriage.

Source: Deathblow to Marriage, Kurtz, National Review,
At <http://www.nationalreview.com/kurtz/kurtz200402050842.asp>

8) The value of commitment in relationships for children and spouses

As BILL MUEHLENBERG stated in his article ‘Open slather on family values’

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,22933325-5000117,00.html>

"... the overwhelming weight of 35 years of social science makes it quite clear that children are best served when raised by both their own biological parents. He also states that there over 10,000 international studies weighing into this question and the data is irrefutable: children raised in any other structure than that of a mother and a father family suffer considerable disadvantages. The overwhelming weight of 35 years of social science makes it quite clear that children are best served when raised by both their own biological parents.

The Heritage Foundation has a data base of relevant research.

See Family and Society Database: <http://www.heritage.org/research/features/familydatabase/> - then choose the topic you wish to find information on.

A number of studies have been done on same sex parenting. However, several major studies [in particular by Lerner and Nagai, Stacey and Biblarz and Patricia Morgan] have now shown that these studies are flawed, with many done on very small sample numbers and with no control groups etc. In addition, the studies actually show there are many possible dangers for the children involved in same-sex parenting relationships.

"Children as Trophies" UK sociologist Patricia Morgan has researched all the studies that have been done on same-sex parenting. She has found that many of the studies are flawed in their research methods and that many of the studies themselves actually show that there are detrimental effects for children brought up in these situations. One of these is a higher chance that the child will become involved in homosexual activity. Patricia has published all her findings in a book titled "Children as trophies". Available from Salt Shakers.

Links to articles by the researchers mentioned and additional material on this topic is on Salt Shakers website at <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/9/B/235/>

9. Community acceptance of homosexuality

48 % of Australians think "homosexuality is always wrong, 9% think it is "almost always wrong", 15% "wrong only sometimes", and 28% say "not wrong at all".

The Australian Social Monitor June 2001 - Melbourne University.

Published by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research at University of Melbourne
'Attitudes towards homosexuality in 29 nations'

At <http://www.ecom.unimelb.edu.au/iaesrwww/sm/number13.html>

(NOTE: These statistics are taken from the actual hard copy Journal - the web based extract states 46% always wrong and 30% never wrong)

10. Acceptance of homosexuality in churches

Clearly the majority of Christians do not accept homosexuality.

Even in the Uniting Church, considered to be the most liberal denomination in Australia today, 88.6 per cent said that the UCA should require leaders to commit to celibacy in singleness and faithfulness in marriage.

This was a survey done by the Reforming Alliance.

See 'Church rejects 'gay poll'

By Barney Zwartz, Religious Affairs Writer, January 28, 2004, *The Age*

<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2004/01/27/1075088021978.html>

In the National Church Life Survey - only 18% of UCA respondents said yes to appointing homosexuals as leaders.

Acceptance of homosexuals as Leaders - by denominational type

Denominational type	Mainstream	Pentecostal	Other Protestant
(%)	(%)	(%)	

Yes	20	1	5
Yes, but only if non-practicing	22	10	16
No	46	83	70
Don't know	12	6	8

Homosexuals as Members - by denominational type

Yes	42	21	18
Yes, but only if non-practicing	29	38	36
No	16	34	34
Don't know	14	7	11

Source: 2001 National Church Life Survey

Notes: mainstream includes Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Uniting.

Pentecostal includes Apostolic, Assemblies of God, Christian City Church, Christian Revival Crusade and Vineyard Fellowship.

Other Protestant includes Baptist, Christian & Missionary Alliance, Church of the Nazarene, Churches of Christ, Reformed, Salvation Army, Seventh-day Adventist and Wesleyan Methodist.

At <http://nsw.uca.org.au/news/2003/Assembly-2003/NCLS-Occasional-Paper-2.pdf>