

Canadian Government Surveys Says Only 1% Claim To Be Gay

A government group called Statistics Canada released the "Canadian Community Health Survey" in mid-June, 2004, revealing that only 1.3% of males and 0.7% of females claim to be gay. Individuals identifying themselves as bisexual accounted for .09% males; and 0.6% females.

Quebec reported the highest number of individuals identifying themselves as gay with 2.3%; British Columbia had 1.9%; New Brunswick with 1.6% and Ontario, 1.5%. The Statistics Canada researchers noted that there was a low response rate.

By age group, 2% of Canadians ages 18-24 said they were homosexual or bisexual, followed by 1.9% of those 35-44; and 1.2% ages 45-59.

Gay activists objected to the figures as misleading. Laurie Aaron with the Canadian gay group Egale, says: "What's clear is that there is underreporting." Until recent research began to reveal significantly lower figures, gay groups more typically claimed their numbers to be from 5 to 10%.

Surveys in the United States, however, also show low numbers of individuals who identify as gay. Here a few:

- A 1989 study, "Adult Sexual Behavior in 1989: Numbers of Partners, Frequency and Risk," found that "Overall ... less than 1% [of the study population] have been exclusively homosexual."

- In 1991, Overlooked Opinions found that even in California and New York, the gay population is less than 8%.

- In 1992, a University of Chicago study found that individuals engaging in homosexual sex in 1991 accounted for 3% of the population.

- In 1992, *Science* magazine reported on a French study showing that only 4.1% of men and 2.6% of women had engaged in gay sex once in their lifetime.

In addition, 31 gay activist organizations filed a friend of the court brief in the *Lawrence v. Texas* **homo** case, and noted in footnote 42 the following: "The most widely accepted study of sexual practice in the United States is the National Health and Social Life Survey (NHSL). The NHSL found that 2. % of the male, and 1. % of the female, population identify themselves as gay, lesbian, or bisexual." This survey was done in 1994. ■