



## Perceptions Among Men With Unwanted Same-Sex Attractions (SSA) of the Factors Contributing to the Development of Their Homosexual Feelings

Survey by People Can Change, June 2004

*People Can Change is an independent, non-profit organization of men who have overcome unwanted homosexual attractions who now help and support other men who seek similar change. People Can Change provides an educational Web site ([www.peoplecanchange.com](http://www.peoplecanchange.com)), international online support groups, intensive training weekends (called "Journey Into Manhood") and in-person support groups.*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In May and June 2004, People Can Change surveyed the members of its online support groups, which have a combined total membership of about 600 men – all of whom are seeking to overcome unwanted homosexual feelings (or feelings of "same sex attraction," or SSA). The survey sought to determine what biological and environmental factors the members of People Can Change believe contributed to the development of their SSA feelings. A total of 205 surveys were completed – a response rate of 34%.

The majority of the survey consisted of a list of 25 possible factors, from "biology" to "personal choice," that some men have identified as possible causes or sources of their same-sex attraction. The survey asked respondents to identify whether they believed each of these 25 factors contributed to their developing SSA feelings, and if so, to what extent each contributed.

This summary ranks their responses in a variety of ways (see tables 1 and 2 on pages 11 and 12), but the most frequently cited responses were:

- 1. Relationship with or feelings about their father:** 97% said this was a contributing factor in their development of same-sex attractions, and 71% said it was one of the three most significant factors.
- 2. Relationship with or feelings about their male peers:** Again, 97% said this was a contributing factor, while 49% said it was one of the "top three" factors.
- 3. Relationship with or feelings about their mother:** 91% said this was a contributing factor, and 36% said it was one of the three most significant factors.

**4. Sexual abuse:** 48% of respondents said that, as children or youth, they had been sexually abused by an older or more powerful person. Usually it was by a male (83 out of 205 respondents, or 40%), and in those cases, 96% considered the abuse to be a contributing factor to their developing SSA feelings, and 43% said the abuse was one of the three most significant factors.

**5. Other sexual experiences:** 93% said they had had other sexual experiences – including masturbation, pornography, sexual fantasy and sex play with other boys – as children or youth, and of those who did, 93% said they believed these experiences contributed to their SSA feelings.

**6. Personality traits:** 87% said they believed their personality traits were a contributing factor, and 18% considered them one of the three most significant factors.

**7. Fear, envy, resentment, or anger toward other males or masculinity:** 91% said they experienced such feelings, and among those who did, 96% considered them to be a contributing factor, and 17% said those feelings were among the three most significant factors causing them to develop same-sex attractions.

The survey also asked about the men's experience, if any, with successfully shifting the degree or intensity of their sexual feelings from homosexual to heterosexual:

1. 84% reported that they had already experienced some decrease in the degree or intensity of their SSA feelings or interests over time, while 68% reported that they had already experienced some increase in the degree or intensity of their sexual attractions to women over time.
2. 57% reported that currently their sexual feelings or interests were more homosexual than heterosexual, but at the time in their lives when their SSA feelings or interests were the strongest, 87% had more homosexual than heterosexual feelings and interests.

People Can Change conducted this survey electronically using Zoomerang research technology ([www.zoomerang.com](http://www.zoomerang.com))



.com). On May 16, 2004, People Can Change sent the survey invitation and a URL link to 16 People Can Change-sponsored online support/discussion groups that have a combined total membership of about 600 men. The technology blocked individuals from responding to the survey more than once. A reminder and second request was sent on May 30, 2004, and the survey was closed on June 9, 2004.

A total of 205 surveys were completed – a response rate of 34%.

Members of these People Can Change groups are males who either are now, or have been at some point in their past, sexually attracted to other males. To be admitted to any of these groups in the first place, members must affirm to the moderator that they are seeking to diminish unwanted homosexual feelings and increase their heterosexual interests, and/or want to support others who are seeking such change in their lives.

The survey instrument consisted of 42 closed-ended questions and 28 open-ended questions. Essentially, all of the open-ended questions simply invited the respondents to elaborate on their answers to the closed-ended questions if they so desired.

The majority of the survey consisted of a list of 25 possible factors, from “biology” to “personal choice,” that, as the survey explained, “Some men have identified...as possible causes or sources of their feelings of same-sex attraction (SSA).” The survey asked respondents to identify how much, if any, each of these 25 they believed were contributing factors to them personally in their developing SSA feelings.

### Limitations and Caveats

First, it is important to recognize that this survey is a measurement of *perceptions* of some of the causes of same-sex attractions among members of the study group, and not a measurement of *actual* causes. It does not prove, for instance, that poor relationships with father and male peers are in fact the leading causes of homosexual development; rather, it shows that the study group *believes* them to be so, in their own case. On the other hand, one should not dismiss the “expertise” of the members of this group either. They, more than anyone else, should have meaningful insight into the factors that likely contributed to the development of their same-sex attractions.

Second, it is important to recognize that the survey sample was drawn from a group of men who are dissatisfied with having same-sex attractions and who wish to change to a more heterosexual orientation. These are men for whom homosexual feelings feel inauthentic, unsatisfying or wrong. It is not only possible but in fact quite likely that a sample drawn from men who had gladly and proudly embraced a gay identity and were openly living a gay life could have very different answers. Thus, this survey

should not be considered representative of the gay community, but rather of a community of men who have feelings of same-sex attractions but reject homosexuality as a self identity or acceptable lifestyle for themselves.

### A Word About Terminology

Among men and women who experience unwanted homosexual feelings and hope to diminish them, the phrase “same-sex attraction” or “same-sex attracted” and the acronym SSA typically are much preferred to “gay,” which is considered a socio-political identity and self-label that these men and women strongly reject. Also, “SSA” often is preferred as an adjective (“I have SSA feelings”) rather than as a noun to avoid labeling one’s self as “being” SSA. Therefore, the survey questionnaire and this summary report use the terminology widely preferred among this population.

All 205 respondents were males who are now, or have been at some time in the past, sexually attracted to other men. Gender and SSA history were the only two criteria explicitly screened for, but of course the sample was men who had already shown by joining one or more of the People Can Change groups that they were dissatisfied with their SSA feelings and were seeking to diminish them (or had already experienced some degree of change).

82% of respondents were between 20 and 49 years old, with 32% in their 40s, 27% in their 30s, and 23% in their 20s. Another 13% were in their 50s, while 3% were older than 59 and 2% were younger than 20.

The majority, 54%, were single, never married, and not in a current relationship. Another 36% were married and living with their wife, while 4% were single but in a relationship with a woman, 3% were married but separated from their wife, and 1.5% were divorced. One man (0.5%) was widowed and one (0.5%) was single but in a relationship with another man.

80% were from the U.S., 4% from Canada and 2% from other countries within North or South America. Also, 8% were from Asia Pacific countries including India and Australia, and 6% were European. This reflects the general demographics of the People Can Change online groups.

58% said they were 11 to 15 years old when they first became aware that they experienced sexual attractions to other males, 22% said they were 6 to 10 years old, and 15% said they were 16 to 20.

Asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement, “**In my case, I believe my SSA feelings developed as a result of genetic or biological influences; basically, I was born to be gay,**” 95% disagreed – 77% strongly and 18% somewhat. Of those who agreed with the statement, 4% agreed somewhat and 1% agreed strongly.

*continued*



Asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement, **"In my case, I believe my SSA feelings developed as a result of experiences and feelings in childhood and youth,"** 99% agreed – 80% strongly, and 19% somewhat. Three out of 203 men who answered this question disagreed with this statement – two (1%) somewhat and one (0.5%) strongly.

Asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement, **"In my case, I believe my SSA feelings developed as a matter of personal choice,"** 82% disagreed – 64% strongly and 18% somewhat. Of those who agreed with the statement, 16% agreed somewhat and 2% agreed strongly.

Asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement, **"In my case, I believe it is impossible to know the causes or sources of my SSA feelings,"** 90% disagreed – 58% strongly and 32% somewhat. Of those who agreed with the statement, 9% agreed somewhat and 1% agreed strongly.

51% of respondents said they believed biology or genes were "no factor" in the development of their SSA feelings. While the other 49% said biology or genes were, in fact, contributing factors, the significance was minor to 34% of all respondents and moderate to 9%. Only 3% said this was a significant factor, while 2% considered it a very significant factor.

Asked to identify the top three most significant factors contributing to the development of their SSA feelings, only 4% named biology or genes as one of their top three influences.

When asked what ages they believed were the most significant in the development of their SSA feelings, only 1% answered "before birth," while 17% answered "newborn to age 5." Ages 6 to 10 were the most significant to 35% of the respondents, while ages 11 to 15 were most significant to 38%. The rest answered that the most significant years in the development of their SSA feelings were even later: 6% said ages 16 to 20 and 3% said after age 20.

The survey told respondents, "Some men have identified some of the following factors as possible causes or sources of their feelings of same-sex attraction (SSA). How much, if any, do you believe the following were contributing factors to you personally in your developing SSA feelings?"

Respondents could select either:

- no factor
- minor factor
- moderate factor
- significant factor, or
- very significant factor.

In most (but not all) cases, they could also select "not appli-

cable (did not experience this)."

After rating each factor individually, respondents were then asked to select the top three factors from among them all. The question was, "What do you believe were, in your own case, the THREE most significant factors contributing to your developing SSA feelings?"

### Significance of the Father Relationship

An overwhelming majority of respondents identified **two major factors** contributing to the development of their SSA feelings: their relationship with or feelings about their father (even if he was absent or unknown), and their relationship with or feelings about male peers. An identical number and percent of respondents to these two questions – 199 of 205 responses, or 97% – said these were contributing factors.

- 74% of all respondents said their relationship with or feelings about father was a significant (24%) or very significant (50%) factor, while 16% said it was a moderate factor and 6% said it was a minor factor.
- 71% of all respondents said their relationship with or feelings about father was one of the **three most significant factors** contributing to their SSA – the **most frequent** response to this question (out of a list of 25 possible factors).
- When invited to elaborate on their response to this question, 177 men wrote in explanations. Of these, seven answers were too vague to log, but following is a summary of the responses from the other 170. (Note that these responses are sometimes double counted.)
  - 97 (55%) described their father as distant, detached, disinterested, weak, absent, or said he didn't spend time with them when they were young. Some of these men volunteered that they had rejected their father (rather than the other way around).
  - Fifty-four respondents (31%) described their father as cold or mean or said they feared him.
  - Thirty (17%) raised the issue of their father not being an appropriate role model, or of their having rejected him as a role model. (Sixteen of those who raised this issue were also counted in the group describing their father as mean, and three others were also counted in the group describing their father as distant.)
  - Two said they had a positive relationship with their father (1%)

### Significance of Relationships with Male Peers

97% – 199 of 205 respondents – also identified their rela-



tionship with or feelings about their male peers as a contributing factor to their development of SSA feelings. This is the same number who said their relationship with or feelings about their father contributed to their SSA feelings.

- 69% of all respondents said their relationship with or feelings about male peers was a significant (34%) or very significant (36%) factor. Another 19% said it was a moderate factor and 9% a minor factor.
- 45% of all respondents said their relationship with or feelings about male peers was one of the three most significant factors contributing to their SSA – the *second* most frequent response to this question.

When invited to elaborate on their response to this question, 175 men wrote in explanations. Of these, eight answers were too vague to log, but following is a summary of the responses from the other 167. (Note that these responses are often double counted, when respondents gave more than one explanation.)

- 92 (55%) described themselves as misfits, loners, as feeling inferior, as not fitting in, or not feeling like “one of the guys.” Many said they longed to fit in and feel accepted.
- 75 (45%) said they had few if any friends or had bad experiences with friends, and sometimes came to fear or distrust male peers. Many said they longed to have good friendships.
- 40 (24%) said they were teased, bullied or otherwise felt rejected by their peers, often for lack of athletic skill, for physical awkwardness, for being too fat, too thin, too effeminate, or sometimes for being a racial minority or foreigner
- 33 (20%) specifically brought up that they were teased or felt different from their peers because they were poor at sports or disinterested in sports.
- 7 (4%) said they had positive experiences with friends and other male peers.

### Significance of the Mother Relationship

91% of respondents said their relationship with or feelings about their mother (even if she was absent or unknown) was a contributing factor to their developing SSA feelings. In addition:

- 62% of all respondents said their relationship with or feelings about mother was a significant (29%) or very significant (33%) factor, while 15% said it was a moderate factor and 13% said it was a minor factor.

However, the percentage of respondents who identified

their relationship with their mother as a “top three” contributing factor was close to half the percentage who identified their relationship with their father as one of the three most significant contributing factors: 36% selecting “mom” as a top-three influence versus 71% selecting “dad.”

When invited to elaborate on their response to this question, 158 men wrote in explanations. Of these, 11 answers were too vague to log, but following is a summary of the responses from the other 147. (Note that these responses are sometimes double counted.)

- 72 (46%) described their mother as over-protective, smothering or emotionally needy, many times turning to their son for emotional support, using him as a confidante and even, in the words of 13 men (8%), a “surrogate husband.”
- 31 (20%) men described their mother as domineering or controlling.
- 20 (13%) said their mother was critical of their father or of males generally, and 18 (11%) said they aligned with mom against dad. Six (4%) said they felt their mother discouraged masculinity and had treated them for a time as a girl.
- 12 (8%) described their mother as critical or abusive.
- 9 (6%) described a positive, loving relationship or said they admired or respected their mother.

### Significance of Sexual Abuse

Almost half of all respondents – 98 out of 205, or 48% – said that, as children, they had been sexually abused or sexually exploited by an older or more powerful person. Usually it was by a male (83 out of 205 respondents, or 40%) but sometimes a female (38 respondents, or 14%) and sometimes both (23 respondents, or 11%).

Respondents who experienced abuse widely considered it to be a contributing factor in the development of their SSA feelings.

80 out of 83 men who were abused by males when they were young – or 96% – said they considered the abuse to be a contributing factor. Of these 83 men:

- 75% said the abuse was a significant (20%) or very significant (54%) factor contributing to their developing SSA feelings, while 13% said it was a moderate factor and 8% said it was a minor factor.
- 4% said they did not consider the abuse to be a contributing factor.
- 43% said the abuse was one of the three most signifi-



cant factors contributing to the development of their SSA feelings.

- 28 out of 38 men who were abused by females when they were young – or 74% – said they considered the abuse to have contributed to the development of their SSA feelings. Of these 38 men:
- 44% said the abuse was a significant (18%) or very significant (26%) factor contributing to their developing SSA feelings, while 18% said it was a moderate factor and 11% said it was a minor factor.
- 26% said they did not consider the abuse to be a contributing factor.
- 21% said the abuse was one of the three most significant factors contributing to the development of their SSA feelings.

### Significance of Other Sexual Experience

Aside from sexually abusive situations, a significant majority of respondents had other sexual experiences – including masturbation, sexual fantasy, pornography and sex play with other boys – that they considered to have contributed to or reinforced their development of SSA feelings.

188 men (93% of 203 respondents) said they had had sexual experiences such as these when they were young, and 174 out of the 188, or 93%, said they believed these experiences contributed to their SSA feelings. Of these 188 men:

- 53% said they were a significant (29%) or very significant (24%) factor contributing to their SSA feelings, while 23% said they were a moderate factor and 16% said they were a minor factor.
- 7% said they did not consider these experiences to be a contributing factor.
- 11% said these experiences were among the three most significant factors contributing to the development of their SSA feelings.

When asked how these experiences contributed (an open-ended question), sample responses were:

- *“Had I not gotten into porn magazines I would have never discovered some of the other parts of gay life and I would have most likely stayed clear of gay activities. That sounds like they were really that powerful in my development, but you know something, they probably were.”*
- *“Once I entered puberty my desire for male friendships became sexualized.”*
- *“Pornography certainly helped ripen my homosexual interests, though it did not generate them.”*

- *“Very early sex play with other boys my age. I was exposed to sexuality at an age when children are not developmentally prepared for it.”*

### Significance of Personality

- 87% of respondents said they believed their personality traits contributed to the development of their SSA feelings.
- 35% of all respondents said their personality traits were a significant (27%) or very significant (8%) factor, while 27% said they were a moderate factor and 24% said they were a minor factor.
- 13% said they believed their personality did not play a role in the development of SSA feelings.
- 18% said they considered their personality traits to be one of the three most significant factors contributing to the development of their SSA feelings.

When invited to elaborate on their response to this question, 106 men wrote in explanations that were specific enough to be logged. Of these 106:

- 61 men (58%) described themselves as sensitive, emotional or easily hurt.
- 25 (24%) described themselves as shy, introverted, quiet, timid or not outgoing.
- 11 (10%) described themselves as fearful.
- 8 (8%) described themselves as non competitive or not interested in sports.
- 8 (8%) described themselves as interested in girls' activities or having feminine traits or interests.

(Note that these responses are sometimes double counted.)

### Significance of Fear and Resentment of Males

Out of 205 respondents, 187 men, or 91%, said they experienced fear, envy, resentment or anger toward other males or masculinity. Of these 187:

- 180 (96%) said they considered those feelings to be a contributing factor
- 108 (58%) said this was a significant (26%) or very significant (32%) factor, while 29% said it was a moderate factor and 10% said it was a minor factor.
- 7 (4%) said these feelings did not contribute to their same-sex attractions.
- 32 (17%) said these feelings were among the three most significant factors contributing to the development of their SSA feelings.

See tables (next two pages) for a full summary. ■

**TABLE 1: Responses ranked by percent answering that an issue was a contributing factor at all (i.e., ranked by column 2)**

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>	<i>Column 4</i>	<i>Column 5</i>
<i>Factor</i>	<i>% answering this was a contributing factor (from minor to very significant)</i>	<i>% answering this was a significant or very significant factor</i>	<i>% answering "not applicable" (did not experience this)</i>	<i>% answering this was one of 3 most significant factors</i>
Relationship with or feelings about <b>father</b> (even if father was absent or unknown)	<b>97%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>71%</b>
Relationship with or feelings about <b>male peers</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>45%</b>
Relationship with or feelings about <b>mother</b> (even if mother was absent or unknown)	<b>91%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Fear of, envy, resentment, anger</b> toward other <b>males</b> or masculinity	<b>88%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Personality</b> traits	<b>87%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Sexual experience</b> (other than sexual abuse) including pornography or masturbation	<b>86%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Admiration</b> of, respect, appreciation for other <b>males</b> or masculinity	<b>75%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>10%</b>
Relationship with or feelings about <b>female peers</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Interests, skills, behaviors</b> that were <b>atypical</b> for males in your culture	<b>71%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>9%</b>
Physical characteristics, <b>body</b> type	<b>69%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Confusion, anxiety, ambivalence</b> about being male	<b>63%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>7%</b>
Relationship with or feelings about <b>brothers</b> , if any	<b>59%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Cultural</b> or societal influences, including mass media	<b>53%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2%</b>
Relationship with or feelings about <b>father figures</b> , if any (stepfather, grandfather, uncles, etc.)	<b>49%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Biology</b> or genes	<b>49%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Shame</b> about being male	<b>48%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Mental health</b> issues	<b>45%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Relationship with or feelings about <b>mother figures</b> , if any (stepmother, grandmother, aunts, etc.)	<b>44%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Relationship with or feelings about <b>sisters</b> , if any	<b>44%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Fear of, envy, resentment, anger</b> toward <b>females</b> or femininity	<b>43%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Sexual abuse</b> or exploitation of you by an older or more powerful <b>male</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Admiration</b> of, respect, appreciation for <b>females</b> or femininity	<b>35%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Personal choice</b> ; conscious, deliberate decision to develop SSA feelings or embrace gay identity or interests	<b>35%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Health problems</b> during childhood, youth	<b>24%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Sexual abuse</b> or exploitation of you by an older or more powerful <b>female</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Impossible to know	--	--	--	<b>4 (4%)</b>



**TABLE 2: Responses ranked by percent who (1) experienced a factor and (2) considered it to have contributed (i.e., ranked by column 3)**

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>	<i>Column 4</i>	<i>Column 5</i>
	# applicable (e.g. DID have brothers, etc.)	# (and % of column 2) considering this a contributing factor at all (from minor to very significant)	# (and % of column 2) considering this a significant or very significant factor	# (and % of column 2) considering this one of 3 most significant factors
Relationship with / feelings about <b>father</b> (even if father was absent or unknown)	<b>205</b>	<b>199 (97%)</b>	<b>153 (75%)</b>	<b>145 (71%)</b>
Relationship with / feelings about <b>male peers</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>199 (97%)</b>	<b>142 (69%)</b>	<b>92 (49%)</b>
<b>Sexual abuse</b> or exploitation of you by an older or more powerful <b>male</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>80 (97%)</b>	<b>62 (75%)</b>	<b>36 (43%)</b>
<b>Fear of, envy, resentment, anger</b> toward other <b>males</b> or masculinity	<b>187</b>	<b>180 (96%)</b>	<b>108 (58%)</b>	<b>32 (17%)</b>
<b>Sexual experience</b> (other than sexual abuse) including pornography or masturbation	<b>188</b>	<b>174 (93%)</b>	<b>99 (53%)</b>	<b>21 (11%)</b>
Relationship with / feelings about <b>mother</b> (even if mother was absent or unknown)	<b>204</b>	<b>185 (91%)</b>	<b>127 (62%)</b>	<b>74 (36%)</b>
<b>Confusion, anxiety, ambivalence</b> about being male	<b>146</b>	<b>129 (88%)</b>	<b>66 (45%)</b>	<b>15 (10%)</b>
<b>Personality</b> traits	<b>204</b>	<b>177 (87%)</b>	<b>73 (35%)</b>	<b>36 (18%)</b>
<b>Admiration</b> of, respect, appreciation for other <b>males</b> or masculinity	<b>174</b>	<b>152 (87%)</b>	<b>88 (51%)</b>	<b>21 (12%)</b>
Relationship with or feelings about <b>father figures</b> , if any (stepfather, grandfather, etc.)	<b>118</b>	<b>100 (85%)</b>	<b>64 (54%)</b>	<b>15 (13%)</b>
<b>Shame</b> about being male	<b>118</b>	<b>97 (82%)</b>	<b>41 (35%)</b>	<b>6 (5%)</b>
<b>Interests, skills, behaviors</b> that were <b>atypical</b> for males in your culture	<b>171</b>	<b>144 (81%)</b>	<b>52 (30%)</b>	<b>19 (11%)</b>
Relationship with / feelings about <b>brothers</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>120 (80%)</b>	<b>39 (26%)</b>	<b>14 (9%)</b>
Relationship with or feelings about <b>female peers</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>154 (75%)</b>	<b>59 (29%)</b>	<b>4 (2%)</b>
<b>Mental health</b> issues	<b>124</b>	<b>93 (75%)</b>	<b>38 (31%)</b>	<b>2 (2%)</b>
<b>Sexual abuse</b> or exploitation of you by an older or more powerful <b>female</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>28 (74%)</b>	<b>17 (45%)</b>	<b>8 (21%)</b>
<b>Fear of, envy, resentment, anger</b> toward <b>females</b> or femininity	<b>121</b>	<b>87 (72%)</b>	<b>37 (31%)</b>	<b>2 (2%)</b>
Relationship with or feelings about <b>mother figures</b> , if any (stepmother, aunts, etc.)	<b>125</b>	<b>86 (69%)</b>	<b>41 (33%)</b>	<b>9 (7%)</b>
Physical characteristics, <b>body type</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>141 (69%)</b>	<b>60 (29)</b>	<b>36 (18%)</b>
<b>Personal choice</b> ; conscious, deliberate decision to develop SSA feelings or embrace gay identity or interests	<b>106</b>	<b>72 (68%)</b>	<b>29 (27%)</b>	<b>4 (4%)</b>
<b>Health problems</b> during childhood, youth	<b>83</b>	<b>50 (60%)</b>	<b>14 (17%)</b>	<b>2 (2%)</b>
Relationship with / feelings about <b>sisters</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>90 (60%)</b>	<b>27 (18%)</b>	<b>5 (3%)</b>
<b>Admiration</b> of, respect, appreciation for <b>females</b> or femininity	<b>129</b>	<b>72 (56%)</b>	<b>30 (23%)</b>	<b>2 (2%)</b>
<b>Cultural</b> or societal influences, including mass media	<b>204</b>	<b>108 (53%)</b>	<b>42 (21%)</b>	<b>4 (2%)</b>
<b>Biology or genes</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>100 (49%)</b>	<b>7 (5%)</b>	<b>9 (4%)</b>
Impossible to know	--	--	--	<b>4 (4%)</b>

Note: Percent in columns 3, 4 and 5 are derived from dividing numbers in these columns by the number of responses in column 2.