There also continues to be groups, and the types of are meeting, the diversity occurring in where gay men seems there are changes health and relationships. It the study focused on sexual For gay and bisexual men – reasons for this. needed to understand the looked at. More research is virtually every measure we summary it seems that will be available soon.

IDENTITY AND CONNECTION
A third of participants felt very/mostly connected to the gay community while over half felt very/mostly connected to the broader community. 60% of participants used the label ‘lesbian’ while 11% used ‘bisexual’. Other terms used were: gay, same sex attracted, dyke, queer, homosexual. 3% identified as heterosexual and 9% don’t use a label.

RELATIONSHIPS, SEX AND STUFF
36% of participants were not in a regular relationship. Of those who were 71% had been in their current relationship for two or more years and 13% for 10 years or longer! We asked who were interested to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual attraction</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Only to females, never to males</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More often to females, at least once to males</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equally often to males and females</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More often to males, at least once to females</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only to males, never to females</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No one at all</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IDENTITY AND CONNECTION
86% of the men identified as gay, homosexual or queer. However, over time there has been a shift in type of community involvement. Since 1998 more men are reporting that ‘some’ of their friends are gay as opposed to ‘most’, and that they spend ‘some’ of their free time with gay men, rather than ‘most’. Although still very popular, since 1998 there has been a decrease in the use of gay bars (as well as other venues) to find sexual partners. Meanwhile, the use of the internet to find sexual partners has continued to increase.

HIV AND STI TESTING
Most of us have had a HIV test before (82%) with most of us testing within the previous 12 months (62%). Most reported they were HIV-negative (60%). A small proportion were HIV-positive (6%) with the rest either untested or awaiting results. More than half of us had a test for other sexually transmissible infections in the previous 12 months.

Of those with a female partner in the last 6 months, 80% had only one partner and 1% had had six or more female partners. In this same period 11% had one male partner and 5% had more than one male partner. We don’t like dental dams, gloves or condoms as over 80% reporting they never used them.

DIET AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
While we have some healthy eaters in our midst, unfortunately a large number of women didn’t eat enough healthy foods. 53% said they ate junk food once or twice a week; 13% ate junk food three or more times a week. About a half of participants had a healthy weight which is similar to the wider community. However one fifth of women were overweight and 23% of participants were obese. Physical activity was a similar story with some women reporting being quite active while most of us need to move more.

MENTAL HEALTH
About a third of women had been diagnosed with depression by a doctor and one in five reported current treatment for a mental health problem. These rates are higher than the wider community.

So what did we find? In summary it seems that lesbian and bisexual women are less healthy than their heterosexual sisters on virtually every measure we looked at. More research is needed to understand the reasons for this.

PERTH GAY MEN’S COMMUNITY PERIODIC SURVEY
So how are the men going? This survey had a sexual health and relationship focus and has been conducted every 2 years since 1996.

WHO PARTICIPATED?
• 972 participants,
• 86% lived in Perth, 5% regional WA,
• 71% Anglo-Australian background
• 3% Indigenous men
• 73% were in the workforce
• Median age 34 years

HIV status is not often discussed with casual partners, with more than half of women being in a monogamous relationship (54%), which is up from 43% in 1998. About 1/3 had a spoken agreement allowing sex outside of the relationship as long as it was safe sex.

Those with the same HIV status as their partner (both HIV negative or both HIV positive) reported the lowest rates of always using a condom with their partner (26%), while men in relationships where they had different HIV status reported the highest rate of always using a condom (59%).

62% of us had one or more casual partners in the previous six months.

• The proportion who reported casual partners only in the previous six months has remained constant since 1998 at around 21%. However the proportion of men with both regular and casual partners has decreased since 1998 from 35% to 26%.

• A third reported some unprotected anal intercourse with a casual partner in the previous six months: a gradual increase from 18% in 1998.

• HIV status is not often discussed with casual partners, with more than half of men not discussing HIV status before sex with any casual partners (54%). HIV-positive men were more much more likely to initiate a discussion of HIV status than HIV negative men.

We also looked at drug use, knowledge about health issues, and more. Go to the WACHPR website for the full report.

This is only a snapshot of survey findings. Go to [www.wachpr.curtin.edu.au](http://www.wachpr.curtin.edu.au) to read the full reports. For more info on the lesbian and bisexual women’s survey contact Jude Comfort (j.comfort@curtin.edu.au or 08 9266 2365) and for the gay men’s survey contact Graham Brown (g.brown@curtin.edu.au or 08 9266 2751).