



What constitutes the best sex life for gay & bisexual men?

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EMIS Survey

- Gay men's sexual health needs assessment
- Summer 2010
- 38 countries, 25 languages
- 184,000 responses in total
- UK responses = 18'435
- Sexual behaviour, knowledge, risk behaviours, drug use etc

Survey questions

- What is your idea of the best sex life?
- 12,924 men provided an answer

Data analysis

- Data selected at random
- Coded independently
- Group consensus

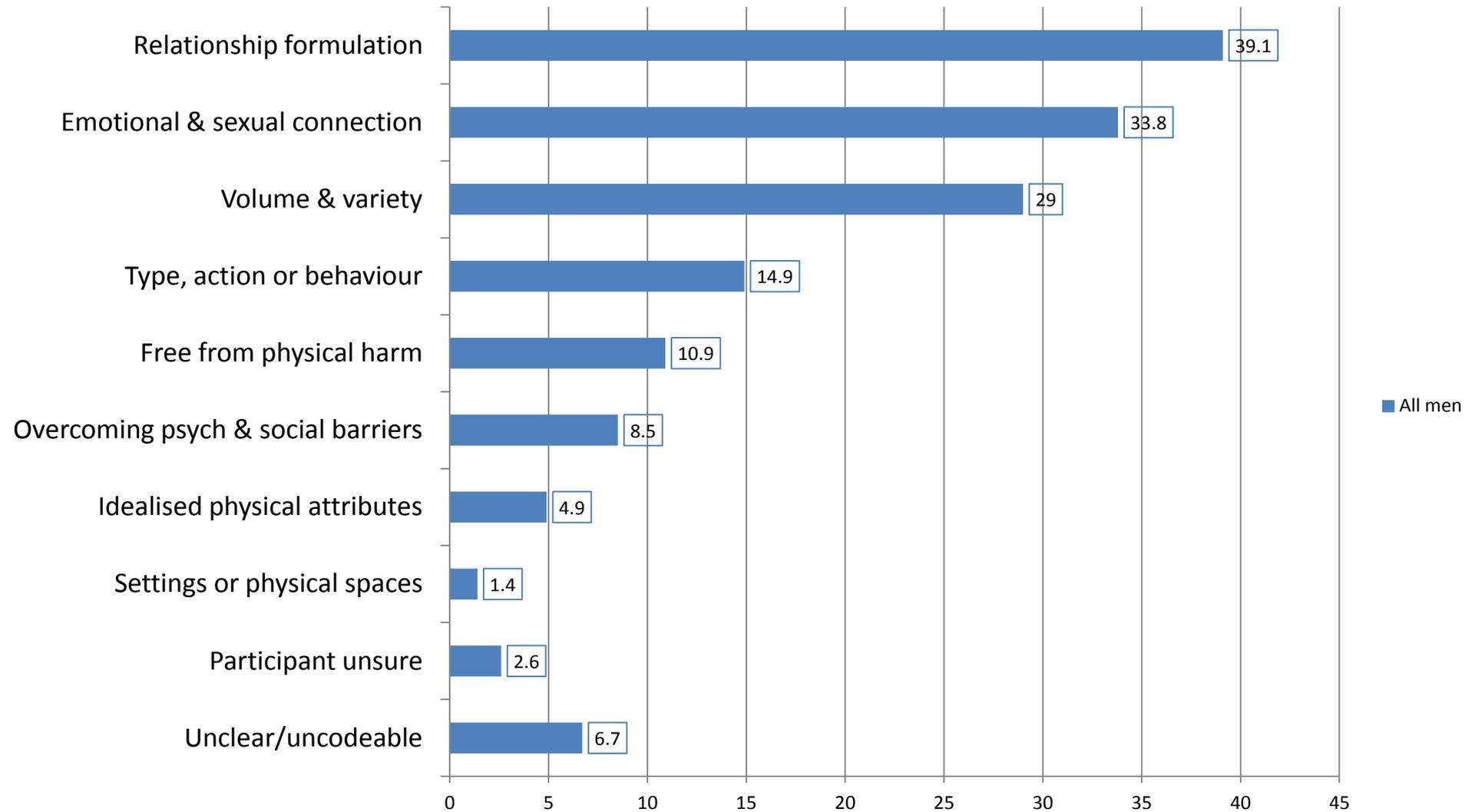


Theme	What's it all about?
1. Connection	Intimacy, trust, love, commitment.
2. Free from physical harm	Free from STI's, physical & sexual assault, consent
3. Overcoming barriers	Guilt free, confident, stress-free, free from stigma
4. Relationships	Monogamous, open, polygamous, fuck buddy
5. Volume & Variety	How often, how many, experimental, adventurous
6. Physical attributes	Cock size, bears etc, good looking, non effeminate
7. Action or behaviour	Position, groups, dom & sub, kinky, anonymous
8. Setting	Location, country, outdoors, sauna.

Data analysis

- Context is everything
- Ambiguity of certain words

Idea of best sex life – All men





“Being in love in a committed relationship”

“Regular sex in a steady, loving relationship”

**RELATIONSHIP
FORMULATION**

“Regular sex with your boyfriend combined with an open relationship and a date with a sex buddy every week or so”

“With a life partner. It’s not about sex it’s about making love”



“One with a person I’m in love with”

“Two people who connect with each other on all levels”

EMOTIONAL OR SEXUAL CONNECTION

“Sex not just to fulfil desires or lust but to please one another with love, passion and care”

“Strong sexual chemistry with a steady partner”



“Having it 2-3 times a week”

“When you can have sex as much as you want, when you want, with a partner who is really into it. And they are not afraid to experiment”

Volume & variety

“Frequently with lots of different men”

“Just having it would be nice!”



“Sex with no STIs and HIV”

“One free of HIV in which all fantasies can be explored”

**FREE FROM
HARM**

“One that has the consent of all the people involved”

“Being able to have casual, unprotected sex with as many partners as possible without the fear of infection ... I would love to experience getting fucked without protection”



“Being comfortable enough in your own skin to know that who you’re with loves you for who you are”

“When we are all treated the same regardless of HIV status”

**OVERCOMING
BARRIERS**

“If I could be more open and relaxed”

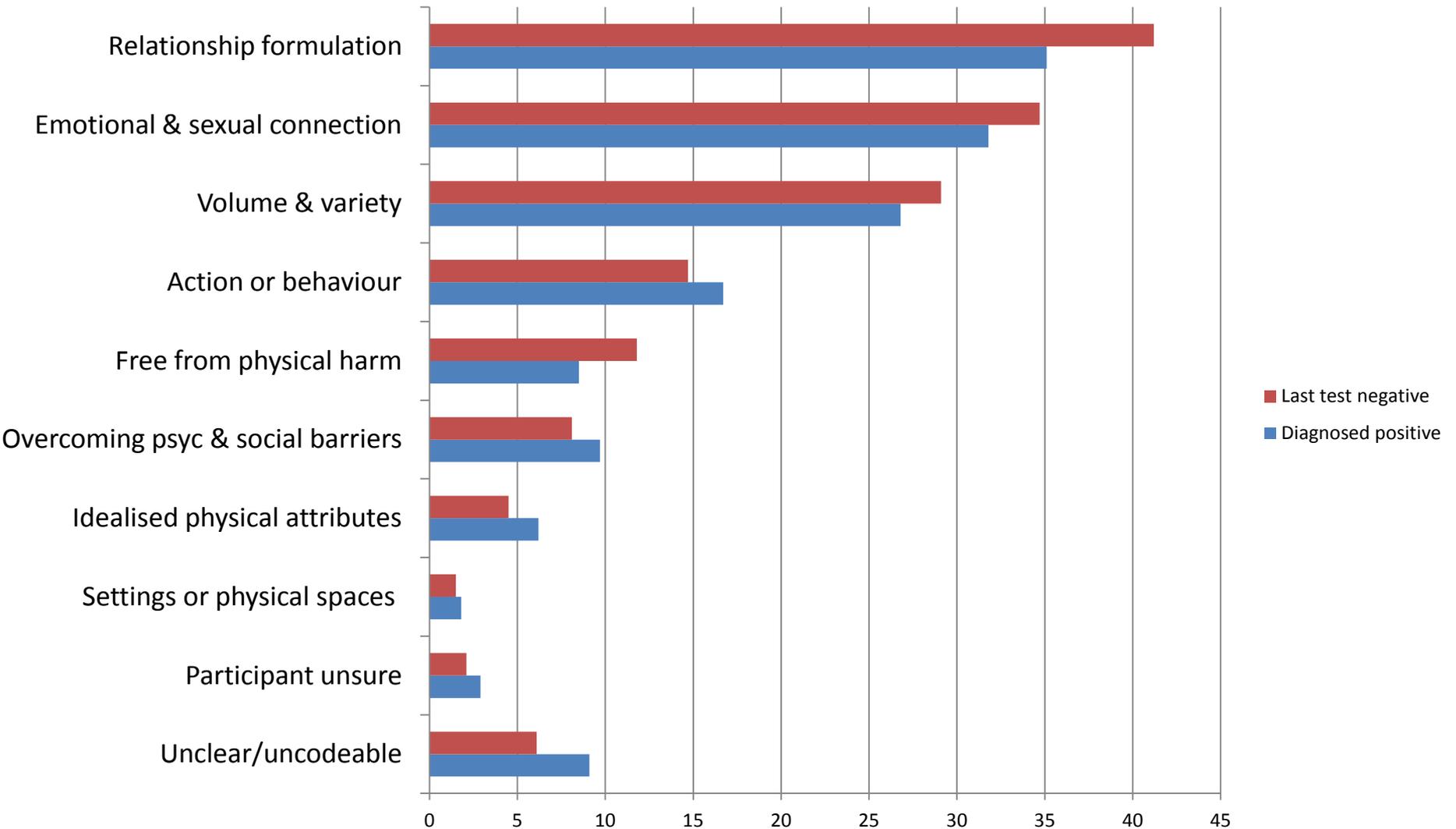
“Open bisexuality without fear of consequences of disclosure”



Additional quotes

- “Laying in a trough swallowing men’s piss whilst being bare fucked and taking cum loads in my ass”
- “A monogamous one, with occasional group sex on the side”
- “My novels are available for a very reasonable price”
- “Someone who does not stick around to fart under the covers”

Idea of best sex life – By HIV status





Variation by age

- Younger men (20s) more likely to idealise emotional and sexual connection than older men (50s)
- Older men less likely to mention freedom from physical harm than younger men
- Men in 20s and early 30s most likely to idealise relationship
- Less likely to idealise volume and variety as age progresses



Variation by region

- Men in East Midlands least likely to mention desire for idealised physical attributes
- Men in South Central significantly more likely to want volume and variety in their sex lives
- Men in London most likely to want some form of relationship



Why is this important?

- Sexual health promotion (not disease prevention)
- Takes account of what men value
- Helps us to understand context in which interventions are received



Questions to consider

1. To what extent is it possible to facilitate what gay men want?
2. To what extent do we already do this?
3. Is there a desire amongst those in the sector to do it more?
4. What might the challenges to this be?

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