

Gay and Bisexual Men's Health

Stonewall has published the world's largest Gay and Bisexual Men's Health Survey, which reveals that even though Britain's gay and bisexual men are more likely to attempt suicide or self-harm, have depression, smoke, drink and take illegal drugs, their needs are often overlooked by health services which tend to focus solely on gay men's sexual health.

Stonewall's survey - available online, highlights specific concerns for young gay men, with six per cent aged 16-24 attempting to take their own life in the past year - far higher than men in general aged 16-24, and 50 per cent experiencing domestic abuse from a family member or partner since the age of 16.

Stonewall Chief Executive Ben Summerskill said: 'This deeply troubling report provides hard evidence that Britain's 1.8 million gay and bisexual men are being let down by health services which often see homosexuality and bisexuality purely as sexual health issues. As a result hundreds of thousands of gay and bisexual men are in dire need of better support from health professionals. This landmark report makes a number of recommendations that could help health services improve before more lives are ruined.'

The report, based on responses from nearly 6,900 gay and bisexual men across Britain, also reveals that one in three men have not been tested for HIV. This raises 'grave concerns about the effectiveness with which hundreds of millions of pounds of public money have been spent on HIV awareness and prevention in recent years.' If you want to find out more about Stonewall's work with the NHS, you can visit our <u>dedicated health website</u>.

http://www.youngstonewall.org.uk/know_your_rights/health/gay_and_bise xual_mens_health_survey.aspx