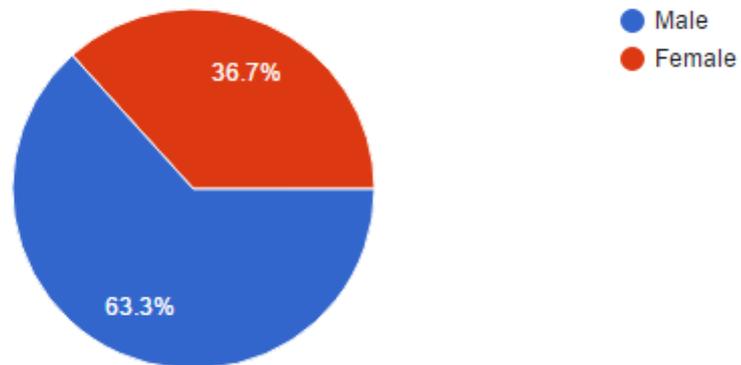
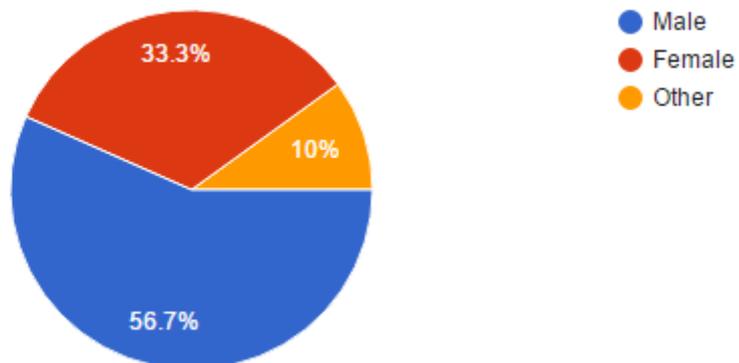


## 1. Interview Transcripts with LGBT members and Questionnaire Results

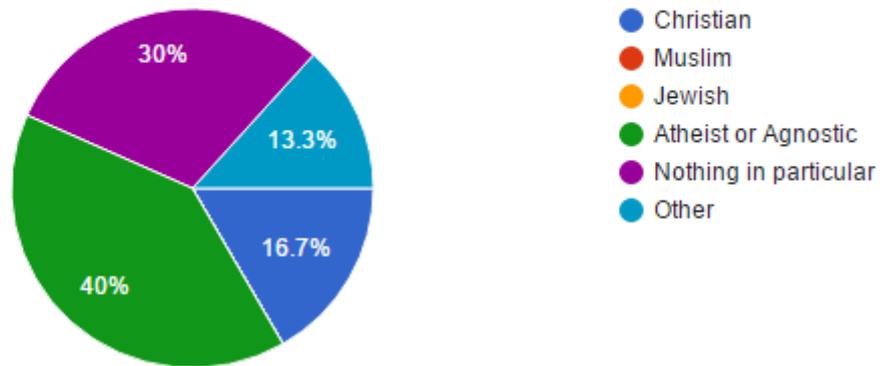
### 3. Sex (30 responses)



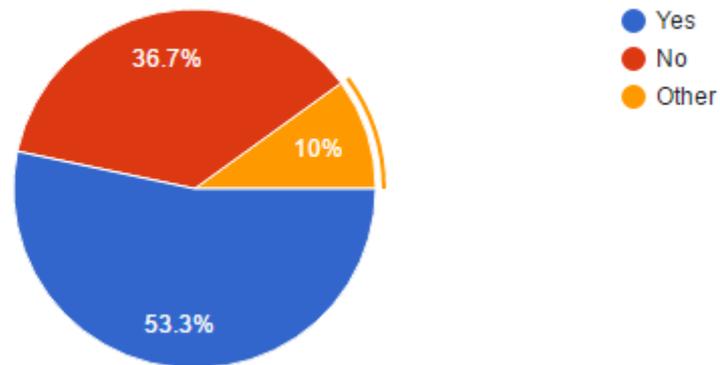
### 4. Gender Identity (30 responses)



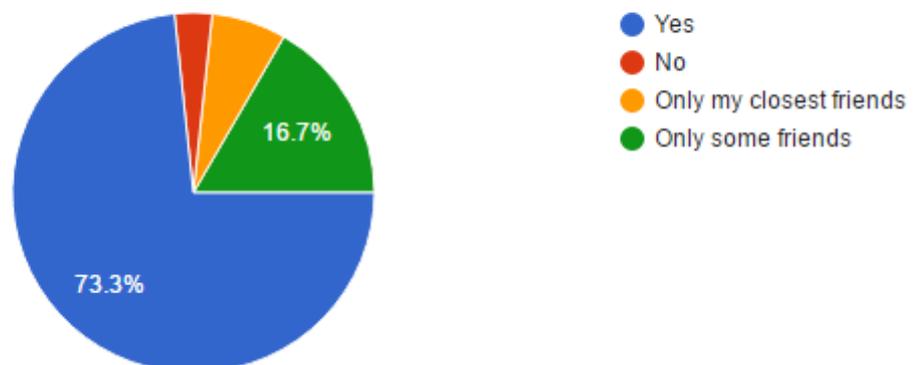
5. What is your current religion? (30 responses)



6. Do you come from a religious family? (30 responses)

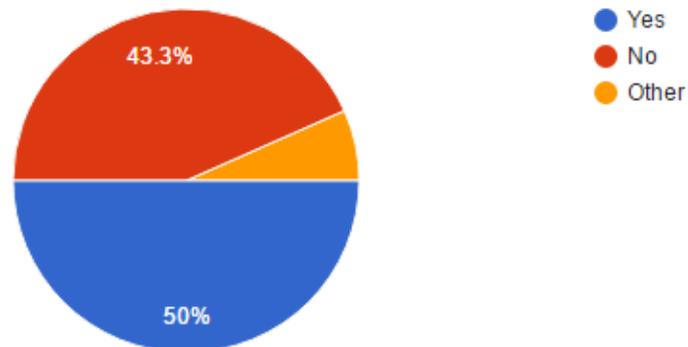


7. Do your friends know your sexual orientation? (30 responses)

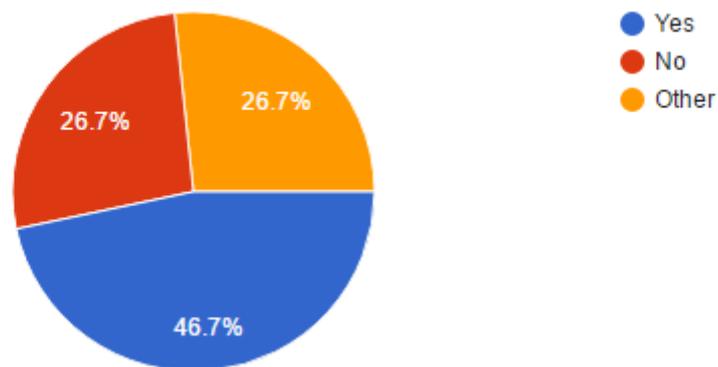


8. Have you ever been rejected by your peers because of your sexual orientation or gender identity?

(30 responses)

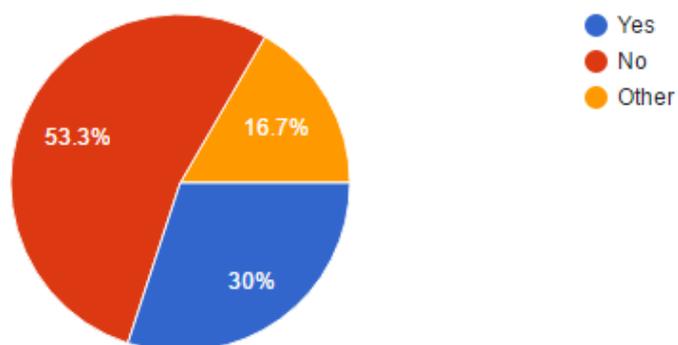


9. Does your family know your sexual orientation? (30 responses)



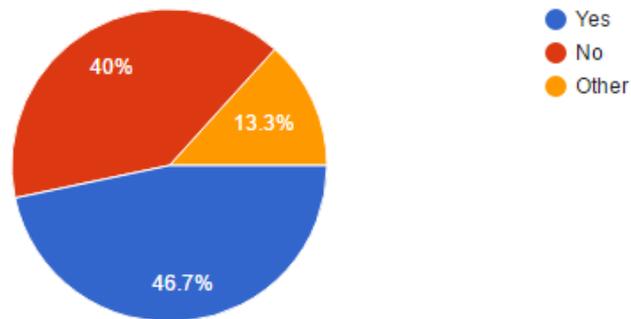
10. Have you ever been treated unfairly by an employer because of your sexual orientation or gender identity?

(30 responses)



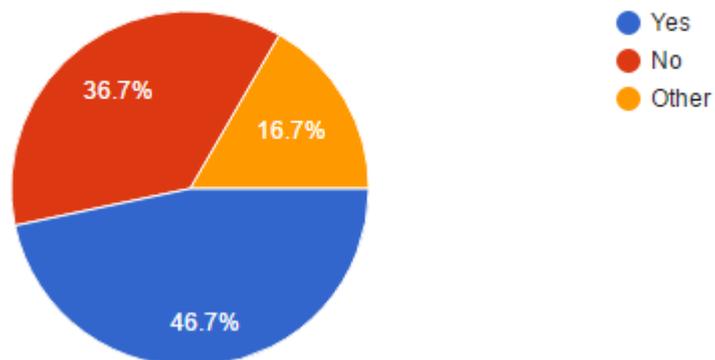
11. Have you ever felt unwelcome in a place of worship? (church, monastery, religious gathering)

(30 responses)

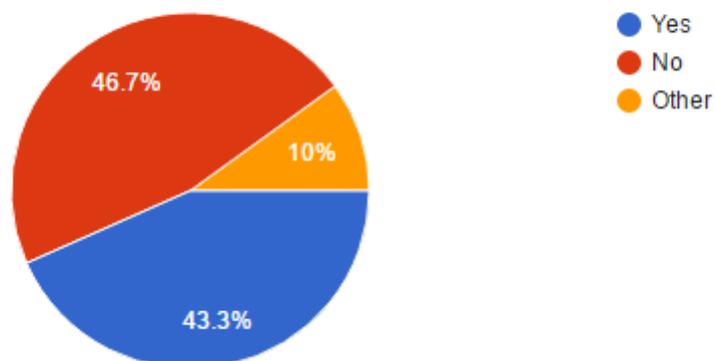


12. Have you ever received poor service at a restaurant/cafe/shop?

(30 responses)



13. Have you ever been threatened or physically attacked? (30 responses)



## 7.1 How did you come out to your friends?

- I just told them whenever I felt it was appropriate.
- I first started talking about other gay people, who have good characteristics, and then when they realized that you don't judge a person by their sexuality, I came out to them.
- Just told them
- Just told them the truth to be honest with them
- Was not a really hard process as my friends are mostly very open and liberal. Some guessed, some I told myself.
- Well, mainly I just told them. Some had already guessed or found out. Besides, I had been questioning my sexuality for a long time and they knew about it.
- They sort of knew
- Just told them over facebook
- He was gay, so it was very easy
- Just met them and told them that I'm gay.
- Told my best friend when we were in high school, she came out as well
- I never did. I've always been very open. I've always talked about things like they were. Like we could talk about something and I just could say "you know, I don't like girls" or "I'm not a boy"
- As easy as I drink coffee with them every day
- Nothing special just did.
- I told them, and they like "bitch we know"
- Most of them were gay, so it wasn't difficult
- Just told them when we were all drunk.
- Telling them
- It was hard for me to tell my straight friends
- Naturally
- Nothing ceremonial, just told them
- Well the first time I was drunk, after that I had no problem with coming-out to my friends.
- I just told them straightforward
- I just told about that
- Just told them
- Told them when I was in a relationship with another woman.
- Just told them I was gay.

- I was very nervous and hid it for several years. I told some of my friends because they kept trying to hook me up with different guys.

## **7.2 How did your friends accept your sexual orientation?**

- They were either very supportive, neutral, or said, "Me too".
- Positively, if someone should make opinion about me based on my sexuality, then they can't be my friends.
- They were okay with it
- They accept me as I am
- I have more than 50 friends (not including the LGBT community) who know about my sexuality and they are totally fine with it.
- I have only a few friends actually. And all of them are okay with that now. Some did say that I was mistaken about it but it's all gone now.
- Easily, and whoever didn't isn't a friend of mine
- mostly normal
- As my friends are very open-minded that wasn't problem for them
- I've lost 5 very close friends after that, with whom I've had friendship almost 15 years. That is the main reason why I decided not to put my time and energy in any friendship with straight people again.
- very well
- My main difference is my gender identity, but not sexual orientation. But the biggest part of my friends accepted me the way I am, and It's hard for to remember bad cases)
- Various reactions
- Mostly positive. But I guess, I have chosen those who'd react positive before coming out.
- As good as it possible
- Very positively
- Good. they were very supportive
- My friends accept me
- Very supportive
- The ones who know are actually from LGBT community
- Fortunately, they all accepted me and were happy that I did come out to them

- My friends are mostly educated and open-minded people so they had no problem with my orientation. In fact I found out that some of them were either bisexual, or had same-sex contacts/relationships/partners/one night stands before.
- Easily
- They were OK with that
- All my friends are accepting.
- Most of them very well, some were not very happy to hear it.
- They said they already knew it
- Neutral, it didn't matter for them.

### **7.3 Please describe any memorable experience with your friends.**

- I got drunk and started calling one of them a hypocrite because they were more tolerant of female homosexuality than male.
- Also, most of my friends eventually came out. It was funny. Especially when a mutual straight friend finds out, one a time, that all of his/her friends are queer.
- There was a girl in my class, and she was very gay-friendly, but I was too shy to come out to her. She kept insisting that it was impossible for me to be heterosexual, and one day I just came out to her. She was happy, and she said she knew it.
- There have been a couple of times when I felt a little nervous and told my friends that I had something important to tell them about myself, and they were like "You want to come out finally?" Can't explain the relief I felt after it.
- I remember sitting in the Cascade with two of my female friends. We just sat there and talked for hours. We had such "sessions" very often.
- One of them said telling him that I'm gay is a same thing as telling him that sky is blue
- It was my last birthday party that was absolutely a big surprise for me. They decided to gather and cheer me up, because I don't like my birthdays. It was unexpected and cool, at least that one I'll remember for the rest of my life.
- People tend to surprise me all the time, especially in terms of how genuine and loving they can be sometimes and how little I can notice that. I don't expect anything from anybody, almost 7 years, and maybe that's why a small good thing towards me can definitely make my day.
- My closest friend promised to stay with me all the time (he is heterosexual)
- Once I told one of my friends that I'm gay, and then she said that she wants kiss my cheek

- We were drunk, and I told them I liked girls, and no one said anything. Then the next day everyone asked me if I really came out to them or they were very drunk. We laughed a lot.
- One time I wrote and performed a theatrical piece in which I came out to friends. One time I asked him if he still wanted to go to see the movie we had planned to see. One friend told me that his wife had been saying that I was gay for a while.
- Well I came-out to my closest friend, but he kind of didn't believe me for a while. So one time we were riding the elevator with him and my ex, so I kissed my best friend right in front of him. I'm not usually comfortable with public kissing, but I had to prove him right?
- First came out to my best friend one night. We were drunk at his house. He told me I'm like his brother and he doesn't care that I'm gay.

### **9.1 How did you come out to your family?**

- I asked my sister what her sexual orientation was and then told her mine. I was crying about something else to my mom and then told her that I thought I was bisexual.
- My sister was complaining to her friends that I don't trust her anymore. Then I told her I was gay, she said that she knew it, but wanted to hear it from me. She said that she's my sister and I should always trust her and not be afraid.
- My parents read my messages with my girlfriend. then a lot of times they ask me about my orientation
- They saw me with my boyfriend
- Well, my Mom knew that I was questioning my sexuality so I just told her that I had found out I was gay.
- I told my dad first and he said he knew it 4 years ago, my mom told him
- Called and let them know
- Was very difficult, but I just asked them to have some drinks with me when i was 18 and when we get tipsy I told them
- Told them when I was 16, mom first, then some time later my father.
- There were a few cases, when my mom saw me with a boy, in hug. I just told them.
- I just told them about it
- It was really really really hard! 2 years ago when I was in relationships with one guy, and then we broke up. I was so confused and sad and I don't know... and my mom of course realized that, asked what happened. I just told her that I broke up with the guy, after she started to cry, you know how it's going on.
- Now I'm kind of OK with my family. So it's enough I think.

- I didn't yet. But my mother suspects that I'm gay
- I told my parents. My mother told my sisters. One reacted negatively. The other still does not acknowledge it either way.
- It was a hard time in my life and I was crying
- Well my sis almost caught me in the bed with a guy, she isn't dumb. So I had to tell her that I'm gay.
- They observed that I was in a relationship with a girl, they asked me about it and I confirmed their observations
- My friend told my parents.
- I came out to my mother first. Then to my sister a few months later. A year after coming out to my mother I came out to my father.
- I first told my mother that I had a girlfriend, and she was very supportive. I told my father years later. He wasn't very happy to hear it, but eventually came to terms with my sexual orientation
- I didn't come out to them yet, but I think my mom has figured it out

## **9.2 How did your family accept your sexual orientation?**

- They thought and still hope that it's a phase and would rather I wasn't open about it.
- Positively
- most of time they prefer to forget about my orientation
- Not fully but they are ok with me
- She was upset but she can't do anything about it. So she supports me.
- My mom was a bit upset but my dad took it easily
- Hated it, and just did not want to talk about it.
- In the beginning bad but I tried to explain them all the details
- Good
- They called a priest, he tried to pray away "my demons", after 3 years they still don't accept me. Dad just asked me to leave the country and never to come back. So I'd say it's a work in progress.
- First 3 years it became a family war (especially with my mom). After that, when I move out from home (without any fights), they started accept me, because I started work, and earn money by myself, I had a luck, and I always talked to them about sexual orientation and gender identity, explain them that all with examples and show them my life as it was. Now everything is fine) and till nowadays I'm, that my dad knows everything about my significant other.

- Very well
- So hard, and rude
- Mother is okay with it. Dad is highly homophobic, I can't imagine how he will react
- Initially my father was disappointed but he grew to accept it as he saw that in other important ways I was still his son and still the person I had always been. My mother never wanted anyone to know for her own image or reputation. My sister told me to stay away from her children. My other sister has never engaged with me even though I have raised the issue.
- He tried to understand me
- My dear sister has no problem with that, and in fact we discuss my relationships with her. My parents and relatives have no idea about my sexual orientation. I am aware that both my mom and dad (mom a bit less) have a typical Soviet era and media view on the subject. They are somehow tolerant, but still have homophobic attitude.
- Quite calmly, although slightly upset at first, eventually came to terms with it
- That was very hard for him, but he accepted that
- They are all accepting. I'm incredibly blessed and lucky to have a family like mine.
- Mother was very supportive, father not so.
- They seem to be supportive

### **9.3 Please describe any standing out experience with your family?**

- I don't really remember something like that.
- My dad was in the Stonewall riots in the 60's
- My mom lives abroad. During my visit she's suddenly said. "I know you are gay and I am fine with that". I was shocked instead :))))
- First of all I told about my sexual orientation to my sister. She literally started crying, ask me some strange questions. But now she's ok with me, even she came with me to LGBT organization, to the some events...
- My father had the capacity to question stereotypes and see me as I am, but my mother continued to rely on stereotypes and see me as somewhat of an exception, but no longer really the son she wanted.
- They get very excited when I bring a male friend to my house
- My mom has suspected about me for a while now. She asked me once openly "are you gay?" and the funny thing is we were at the bus station. So I obviously said "No, of course I am not". I mean, I wanted to tell her a lot of times, but I was never certain that I'm ready so I keep delaying that, and that will definitely not happen at a bus stop.

**14. Please describe any standing out experience you have had with religious institution/representative.**

- Hate and aggression in their speech all the time
- I don't really associate with religious organizations, especially any association connected with my sexuality. Therefore, no stories come to mind.
- I was once a Christian and liked to talk to God. I had such "meetings" from time to time.
- Well the most common with Christians "you're going to go to hell"
- I have none. I don't trust The Church and don't like to be inflicted by somebody or something. Life is too short in order to choose just one path and follow it. There are so many things that we don't know and lose the opportunity to learn, just because someone has told us that Jesus wants us to be this or that way.
- My point is - listen, but then check the information, at least twice.
- I attended church with my parents a few times a year in 1990s.
- A religious woman told me that God leaves me, and I'm son of an evil. So I started to shade her
- I'm not religious, but I do feel that I am not accepted by religious institutions or religious people, even some religious friends. They say that that's not the reason, but I still feel like it is.
- No personal experience, only negative vibes.
- I'm not a religious person I don't have a memorable experience like that, but I feel uncomfortable being around any clergyman because of their worldview in spiritual topics.
- I don't usually associate with such people/organizations, as for me they have nothing to do with religion, but rather with controlling masses...
- Since my parents are very religious, I constantly feel that they would judge and not understand me. I have the same feeling every time I enter the church. Even though those two are equally important parts of me.

## 2. Collected 300 survey results

