

Count Me In Too additional data report on  
**LGBT Men Who Sell/Exchange Sex**

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**count me in too**  
**LGBT research information desk**



## About Count Me In Too

Count Me In Too is a community-led action research project that seeks to advance progressive social change for LGBT people in Brighton & Hove. The Count Me In Too research project built on learning from the Count Me In research project in 2000 and other local research into the experiences of local LGBT people. Data was gathered from LGBT people who live, work and socialise in Brighton & Hove. In 2006, 819 people completed questionnaires and 69 people discussed issues in focus groups. These included LGBT people with shared identities, such as older people, young people, Black & Minority Ethnic people, parents, hate crime survivors and Deaf people.

The data was initially analysed by an Action Group composed of local LGBT people, and initial findings were published in June 2007 in an academic report with a parallel community report. In the past two years, the project has produced 9 detailed reports with LGBT people and local service providers on a range of themes. Additional themed analyses reports have reported on Domestic Violence and Abuse, Safety, Housing, Mental Health, General Health, Bi people and Trans people. They have recommendations on how to address issues and needs identified from the data.

A series of community summaries provides a 'taster' of each additional themed analysis report. All of the reports published by this project and further information about the project, can be accessed at our website: [www.countmeintoo.co.uk](http://www.countmeintoo.co.uk). To contact Count Me In Too, email [lgbtresearchdesk@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:lgbtresearchdesk@brighton.ac.uk) or visit [www.countmeintoo.co.uk](http://www.countmeintoo.co.uk).

## About the LGBT Research Information Desk

The research information desk was set up in 2009 to support LGBT individuals, groups and communities in identifying evidence that can be used to strengthen funding bids, to inform service development, and in campaigning and advocacy work. The Research Information Desk signposts published research from the Count Me In Too project and other LGBT-related research from around the world, and also offers the opportunity to access summaries of as-yet unpublished data from the Count Me In Too research.

The Research Information desk is staffed by Nick McGlynn, a research project assistant for Count Me In Too, and is based at the Cockcroft Building of the University of Brighton (Moulsecoomb campus). It is supervised by Dr. Kath Browne and overseen by the Count Me In Too research team.

## About this report

Count Me In Too was designed to explore the diversity within the LGBT grouping and collated information about lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, recognising the similarities and differences across this grouping. A focus on inclusivity has been at the core of Count Me In Too's research and is reflected in its findings reports and recommendations.

Where requests to the LGBT Research Information Desk focus only on specific communities and identities, reports focus on these groupings.

Findings from other research projects described in this report use terms consistent with the original research, rather than those used by Count Me In Too. The Research Information Desk performs systematic searches for research on lesbian, gay, bi and trans identities: this external research may only address a particular constituency (such as 'gay men' or 'trans women'), and thus may deliberately or inadvertently exclude some LGBT identities or groupings. Where an absence or paucity of data regarding one of these identities was found, this is indicated in the report.

## Summary of key findings

14% of male respondents (n. 61) said that they have at some point taken payment for sexual acts. The majority (86%, n. 383) said that they had not, while a few (1%, n. 4) said that they did not know.

The majority of men said that they have never had sex for somewhere to stay (91%, n. 400). However, equal numbers of men (5%, n. 20) said that they have had sex for somewhere to stay within the past five years, and also not within the past five years.

The majority (61%, n. 37) of men who have sold/exchanged sex said that they don't do it anymore. A further quarter of them (n. 15) said that it was 'just a one-off'. There are still men who say that they occasionally do so, 'when I have to' (13%, n. 8), but only one man (2%, n. 1) who had sold/exchanged sex, said that it is a regular source of income.

'I needed money for housing' was the most frequent given reason for selling/exchanging sex (19%, n. 11). This was followed closely by 'the hours/money suited me better than other jobs' (17%, n. 10), 'I wanted to work in the sex industry' (16%, n. 9), 'I needed money for drugs/alcohol' (14%, n. 8), 'I couldn't get any other job' (11%, n. 6) and finally 'someone else forced me to do it' (5%, n. 3). 53% (n. 30) said that there reason was something other than those suggested in the questionnaire.

Almost all of those men (97%, n. 58) who have taken payment for sex, had at least once taken payment in the form of money. 19% had taken payment in the form of somewhere to stay (n. 11), 15% in the form of drugs (n. 9), 6% in the form of alcohol (n. 6) and 3% said they had taken another form of payment (n. 2).

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# 1 - Introduction

## 1.1 Introduction

This report is about the data gathered by the Count Me In Too research project about men in Brighton & Hove who sell/exchange sex. Relevant Count Me In Too data was collated and summarised by Nick McGlynn, research project assistant with the Count Me In Too research project in December 2009, and the report was written by Nick with Dr. Kath Browne and Leela Bakshi from the Count Me In Too research team. This information was prepared in response to a request from the Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) in Brighton, to inform a report on male sex work in the local area. This THT report is expected to aid in the charity's work surrounding HIV/AIDS. **It is important to note that this Count Me In Too report is a summary of findings only – it does not include the detailed analyses such as are present in Count Me In Too's Additional Findings reports.**

This first section of the report provides the background of this report, including information about the Count Me In Too project, and about the methods and methodology used by the LGBT Research Information Desk to produce this report.

## 1.2 Count Me In Too LGBT Research Information Desk

Count Me In Too is a community-led action research project that seeks to advance progressive social change for LGBT people in Brighton & Hove. The Count Me In Too research project built on learning from the Count Me In research project in 2000 and other local research into the experiences of local LGBT people. Data was gathered from LGBT people who live, work and socialise in Brighton & Hove. In 2006, 819 people completed questionnaires and 69 people discussed issues in focus groups. These included LGBT people with shared identities, such as older people, young people, Black & Minority Ethnic people, parents, hate crime survivors and Deaf people. The data was initially analysed by an Action Group composed of local LGBT people, and initial findings were published in June 2007 in an academic report with a parallel community report. Since then the project has produced 10 detailed reports with LGBT people and local service providers on a range of themes.

The research information desk was set up in 2009 to support LGBT individuals, groups and communities in identifying evidence that can be used to strengthen funding bids, to inform service development, and in campaigning and advocacy work. The Research Information Desk signposts published research from the Count Me In Too project and other LGBT-related research from around the world, and also offers the opportunity to access summaries of as-yet unpublished data from the Count Me In Too research. The Research Information desk is staffed by Nick McGlynn, a research project assistant for Count Me In Too, and is based at the Cockcroft Building of the University of Brighton (Moulsecoomb campus). It is supervised by Dr. Kath Browne and overseen by the Count Me In Too research team.

## 1.3 Data Question and Methods Used

In February of 2010, the Count Me In Too LGBT Research Information Desk was asked by a representative of THT to provide a summary of Count Me In Too's data regarding men's responses to questions 46 ('Have you ever taken payment for sexual acts?'), 46a ('What have you exchanged sex for?') and 80 ('Have you ever has sex or made yourself available to have sex with someone so that you had somewhere to stay within the last 5 years?') of the Count Me In Too questionnaire. The request also asked for data surrounding the frequency of

selling/exchanging sex and the reasons for selling/exchanging sex (see the appendix on p.14 for more information).

Section 8 of the Count Me In Too General Health Additional Findings report addresses the issues of sex work but only infrequently breaks down respondents by gender, and never in a way that would fit with the request from THT. As such it was decided to further explore Count Me In Too's data set. There may appear to be differences between some data reported in the General Health report and in this report stemming from the former's use of the frequency-based category of 'sex work', which is not used in this Research Information Desk report due to the specific questions asked by THT.

In the context of this additional data report, the terms 'selling sex' and 'exchanging sex' relate specifically to the wording of questions in the Count Me In Too questionnaire. For more on Count Me In Too's definitions of these categories, see the General Health Additional Findings report section 8 (and especially section 8.7.1).

In order to address this request the Count Me In Too data was explored and was found to be sufficiently statistically robust enough for a response to be published. However, the request asked if the data could be split into two categories – those who have sold/exchanged sex within the past 5 years, and those who last sold/exchanged sex more than 5 years ago. Unfortunately Count Me In Too's data does not record this timeframe for question 46 and its derivatives (46a, 46b etc), and so this particular split could not be used. Additionally it was asked if respondents' answers of 'other' or 'another answer' to certain questions could be listed – the qualitative data does record these answers and this is reported on in the General Health report, but it cannot be filtered by gender identity.

The quantitative data is calculated and analysed with SPSS software and the project uses a significance level of  $p < .05$ .

## 2 – Summary of data

### 2.1 Introduction

This report summarises data gathered by Count Me In Too relevant to the request made by THT. This chapter of the report addresses the answers the data provides to the following questions:

- **2.2** – Summary of key data
- **2.3** – How many men have sold/exchanged sex?
- **2.4** – How many men have had sex/made themselves available for sex to have somewhere to stay?
- **2.5** – How often do men sell/exchange sex?
- **2.6** – Why do men sell/exchange sex?
- **2.7** – What have men exchanged sex for?

Count Me In Too recorded data from Brighton & Hove’s LGBT population – therefore the men referred to in this report are not necessarily gay men. For example, bisexual men and straight trans men may also be included.

### 2.2 Summary of key data

While most male respondents to Count Me In Too have not sold/exchanged sex, a significant minority (14%, n. 61) have done so. Additionally, some men (1%, n. 4) said that they did not know whether they had done so or not.

Similarly, while most male respondents have not exchanged sex for somewhere to stay, around 5% (n. 20) did so more than five years ago, and a further 5% (n. 20) did so within the past five years.

Of those who have sold/exchanged sex, 25% (n. 15) said it was a one-off, while 15% (n. 9) said they still do so at least occasionally.

Of Count Me In Too’s list of possible reasons for selling/exchanging sex, ‘I needed money for housing’ was the most frequently cited (19%, n. 11).

Almost all men who have exchanged/sold sex have done so for money (97%, n. 58), though places to stay, drugs and alcohol were also received as payment by some.

## 2.3 Number of men who have sold/exchanged sex

Table 2.3 shows the answers of male respondents when asked if they have taken payment for sexual acts.

**Table 2.3: Have you ever taken payment for sexual acts? (men only)**

		Count	Percentage
Have you ever taken payment for sexual acts?	Yes	61	13.6%
	No	383	85.5%
	Don't know	4	.9%
	Total	448	100.0%

14% of male respondents (n. 61) said that they have at some point taken payment for sexual acts. The majority (86%, n. 383) said that they had not, while a few (1%, n. 4) said that they did not know.

More information about the prevalence of selling sex can be found in section 8.2 of the Count Me In Too General Health Additional Findings report.



## 2.4 Number of men who have had sex/made themselves available for sex to have somewhere to stay

Table 2.4 reveals the numbers of men who have had sex (or made themselves available for sex) in order to have somewhere to stay. This question was specifically limited to within the past 5 years.

**Table 2.4: Have you ever had sex or made yourself available for sex with someone so that you had somewhere to stay? (men only)**

		Count	Percentage
Have you ever had sex or made your self available to have sex with someone so that you had somewhere to stay within the last 5 years?	Yes	20	4.5%
	No	400	90.9%
	Yes, not within last 5 years	20	4.5%
	Total	440	100.0%

The majority of men said that they have never had sex for somewhere to stay (91%, n. 400). However, equal numbers of men (5%, n. 20) said that they have had sex for somewhere to stay within the past five years, and also not within the past five years.

More information about making oneself sexually available for somewhere to stay can be found in section 8.16 of the Count Me In Too General Health Additional Findings report.

## 2.5 How often do men sell/exchange sex?

The following table, Table 2.5, shows men's responses when asked how often they sell/exchange sex. Responses are from those who had already said they have sold/exchanged sex.

**Table 2.5: How often do you sell/exchange sex? (men only)**

How often do you sell/exchange sex?	It is a regular source of income	Count	1
		Percentage	1.6%
	Very occasionally, when I have to	Count	8
		Percentage	13.1%
	It was just a one-off	Count	15
		Percentage	24.6%
	I don't do it any more	Count	37
		Percentage	60.7%
	Total	Count	61
		Percentage	100.0%

The majority (61%, n. 37) of men who have sold/exchanged sex said that they don't do it anymore. A further quarter of them (n. 15) said that it was 'just a one-off'. Some men say that they occasionally do so, 'when I have to' (13%, n. 8), but only one man (2%, n. 1) who had sold/exchanged sex, said that it is a regular source of income.

More information about the frequency of selling sex can be found in section 8.7 of the Count Me In Too General Health Additional Findings report.

## 2.6 What are men's reasons for selling/exchanging sex?

In table 2.6, we can see the responses of men who have sold/exchanged sex when asked what their reasons for it were.

**Table 2.6: What were/are your reasons for selling/exchanging sex? (men only)**

I wanted to work in the sex industry	Count	9
	Percentage	15.5%
Someone else forced me to do it	Count	3
	Percentage	5.3%
I needed money for housing	Count	11
	Percentage	19.3%
I needed money for drugs/alcohol	Count	8
	Percentage	13.8%
The hours/ money suited me better than other jobs	Count	10
	Percentage	17.2%
I couldn't get any other job	Count	6
	Percentage	10.5%
Other	Count	30
	Percentage	52.6%

We can see from this table that the majority of respondents said that their reason was other than those given (53%, n. 30). Specification of 'other' was gathered in the qualitative data for this question and can be seen in the Count Me In Too General Health Additional Findings report, section 8.15. However due to the nature of this data it cannot be broken down by gender.

'I needed money for housing' being the most frequent given reason (19%, n. 11). This was followed closely by 'the hours/money suited me better than other jobs' (17%, n. 10), 'I wanted to work in the sex industry' (16%, n. 9), 'I needed money for drugs/alcohol' (14%, n. 8), 'I couldn't get any other job' (11%, n. 6) and finally 'someone else forced me to do it' (5%, n. 3).

More information about reasons for selling sex can be found in section 8.15 of the Count Me In Too General Health Additional Findings report.

## 2.7 What have men exchanged sex for?

The Count Me In Too questionnaire asked men who have taken payment for sex the question 'Have you exchanged sex for...' and offered 5 types of payment – these were money, drugs, alcohol, somewhere to stay, or 'other'. Table 2.7 on the following page reveals respondents' answers.

**Table 2.7: Have you exchanged sex for...? (men only)**

Have you exchanged sex for...	Money?	Count	58
		Percentage	96.7%
	Drugs?	Count	9
		Percentage	15.3%
	Alcohol?	Count	6
		Percentage	10.2%
	Somewhere to stay?	Count	11
		Percentage	18.6%
	Other?	Count	2
		Percentage	3.4%

The data shows that almost all of those men (97%, n. 58) who have taken payment for sex took payment in the form of money at least once. The other types of payment were taken by fewer respondents – 19% at least once took payment in the form of somewhere to stay (n. 11), 15% in the form of drugs (n. 9), 6% in the form of alcohol (n. 6) and 3% said they took another form of payment (n. 2). The questionnaire did not gather data on what other forms of payment were taken.