

Howitz

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FOR PC INFORMATION

Dear Comrades,

In discussing the gay liberation movement, the subject of the extent of homosexual activity in the population has come up, and different figures have been quoted. For your information, attached are some of the statistical generalizations made by the Kinsey studies of sexual behavior in the American male and female.

Comradely,

Barry Sheppard
Barry Sheppard

INCIDENCE OF HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVITY
AS REPORTED BY THE KINSEY STUDIES

Statistics concerning the white male population in the United States lead Kinsey to make the following generalizations in 1948:

"37 percent of the total male population has at least some overt homosexual experience to the point of orgasm between adolescence and old age. This accounts for nearly two males out of every five that one may meet."

"13 percent of the males (approximately) react erotically to other males without having overt homosexual contacts after the onset of adolescence."

Thus, "50 percent of all males (approximately) have neither overt nor psychic experience in the homosexual after the onset of adolescence."

"50 percent of the males who remain single until age 35 have had overt homosexual experience to the point of orgasm, since the onset of adolescence."

"58 percent of the males who belong to the group that goes into high school but not beyond, 50 percent of the grade school level, and 47 percent of the college level have had homosexual experience to the point of orgasm if they remain single to the age of 35."

"30 percent of all males have at least incidental homosexual experience or reactions over at least a three year period between the ages of 16 and 55. This accounts for one male out of every three in the population who is past the early years of adolescence."

"25 percent of the male population has more than incidental homosexual experience or reactions for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55. In terms of averages, one male out of approximately every four has had or will have such distinct and continued homosexual experience."

"18 percent of the males have at least as much of the homosexual as the heterosexual in their histories for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55. This is more than one in six of the white male population."

"13 percent of the population has more of the homosexual than the heterosexual for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55. This is one in eight of the white male population."

"10 percent of the males are more or less exclusively homosexual for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55. This is one male in ten in the white male population."

"8 percent of the males are exclusively homosexual for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55. This is one male in every 13."

"4 percent of the white males are exclusively homosexual throughout their lives, after the onset of adolescence."

By "psychic experience" Kinsey means conscious experience.

The above figures reflect the fact that there is a continuum of homosexual-heterosexual activity. Between the 50 percent exclusively heterosexual and the 4 percent exclusively homosexual throughout their lives, there are 46 percent who fall somewhere between these two extremes. Also, at different periods in any individual's life, he may be engaged in more or less homosexual activity relative to his heterosexual activity. Thus, some of the figures stipulate homosexual activity "for at least a three year period." Consequently, if you look at the present, current, activity of the white male population, you get different figures:

23 percent are currently engaged in at least incidental homosexual activity, but this activity will extend for at least a three year period. That is, this excludes incidental homosexual activity that doesn't occur over at least a three year period.

20 percent are currently engaged in at least more than incidental homosexual activity, which will last at least for a three year period.

14 percent are at least equally homosexual and heterosexual in their current activity, and will be so for at least a three year period.

10 percent are currently at least predominately engaged in homosexual activity, and will be so for at least a three year period.

8 percent are at least predominately engaged in homosexual activity with only incidental heterosexual activity, and will be so for at least a three year period.

6 percent are exclusively homosexual and will be so for at least a three year period.

Concerning distribution of homosexual activity in the population, Kinsey's figures show that there is more such activity among what he calls "day labor" and "semiskilled," with slightly less among "lower white collar" and "skilled labor" and considerably less among "professionals." He gave no figures for "business executive group" and "extremely wealthy group."

Statistics from the Kinsey study on Females

To age 45, 13 percent had at least one homosexual experience to the point of orgasm.

To age 45, 20 percent had some homosexual experience.

To age 45, 28 percent had at least some homosexual responses.

The study summarized its statistics on women between the ages of 20 and 35. These statistics were done for each age, and are different for each age; this summary gives the range of percentages among the 15 different age groups:

"Something between 11 and 20 percent of the unmarried females and 8 to 10 percent of the married females in the sample were making at least incidental homosexual responses, or making incidental or more specific homosexual contacts, in each of the years between 20 and 35 years of age. Among the previously married females, 14 to 17 percent were in that category.

"Something between 6 and 14 percent of the unmarried females, and 2 to 3 percent of the married females, were making more than incidental responses and/or making more than incidental homosexual contacts in each of the years between 20 and 35 years of age. Among the previously married females, 8 to 10 percent were in that category.

"Between 4 and 11 percent of the unmarried females in the sample, and 1 to 2 percent of the married females, had made homosexual responses, and/or had homosexual experiences, at least as frequently as they had made heterosexual responses and/or had heterosexual experiences in each of the years between 20 and 35 years of age. Among the previously married females, 5 to 7 percent were in that category.

Between 3 and 8 percent of the unmarried females in the sample, and something under 1 percent of the married females, had made homosexual responses and/or had homosexual experience more often than they had responded heterosexually and/or had heterosexual experience in each of the years between 20 and 35 years of age. Among the previously married females, 4 to 7 percent were in that category.

"Between 2 and 6 percent of the unmarried females in the sample, but less than 1 percent of the married females, had been more or less exclusively homosexual in their responses and/or overt experience in each of the years between 20 and 35 years of age. Among the previously married females, 1 to 6 percent were in that category.

"Between 1 and 3 percent of the unmarried females in the sample, but less than three in a thousand of the married females, had been exclusively homosexual in their psychologic responses and/or overt experience in each of the years between 20 and 35 years of age. Among previously married females, 1 to 3 percent were in that category."

"Between 14 and 19 percent of the unmarried females in the sample, and 1 to 3 percent of the married females, had not made any socio-sexual response (either heterosexual or homosexual) in each of the years between 20 and 35 years of age. Among the previously married females, 5 to 8 percent were in that category."