

Homophobic and transphobic hate crime research

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This note summarises the findings of research work in Scotland into the levels of hate crime experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. We are aware of four studies in recent years.

M. Plant *et al*, *Experiences and Perceptions of Violence and Intimidation of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Communities in Edinburgh*, City of Edinburgh Council Community Safety Unit, 1999

This study, published in 1999, of the experiences of violence and intimidation of the LGBT communities in Edinburgh, found that 52.5% had been the victims of physical assault at some time, and 35.9% had been the victims of physical assault in the year preceding the study. The report quotes a comparative figure of 2.5% for the general population.

S. John and A. Patrick, *Poverty and Social Exclusion of Lesbians and Gay Men in Glasgow*, Glasgow City Council, March 1999

This study, of lesbians and gay men in Glasgow, published in 1999, found that 60% had been threatened with physical violence at some time because someone knew or presumed that they were lesbian or gay. 34% stated that they had been punched, kicked or beaten for this reason, and 14% that they had been assaulted with a weapon.

C. Morrison and A. Mackay, *The Experience of Violence and Harassment of Gay Men in the City of Edinburgh*, Scottish Executive Central Research Unit, 2000

This study, of violence and harassment of gay men in Edinburgh, published in 2000, found that 57% had experienced harassment in the previous year, and 26% had experienced a violent incident. One of the

recommendations in that report was greater recognition of the need to take more seriously hate and bias motivated crimes against gay men.

Beyond Barriers, *First out – report of the findings of the Beyond Barriers survey of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Scotland*, Beyond Barriers, 2003

This survey of 924 LGBT people across Scotland, conducted in 2002, found that 23% had been subjected to physical assault and 68% to verbal abuse because they were LGBT (35% had experienced this within the previous year). Only 17% of victims had reported the incident to the police, and fewer than half of these felt the police had handled the report efficiently, thoroughly and sensitively.