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**Violence against lesbians, gays and bisexuals in Croatia: research report**

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Lesbian group Kontra  
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## **Research Summary**

This is the first research conducted within the LGB community in Croatia which investigated the extent and structure of violence against the LGB persons due to their sexual orientation.

The goals of the research are as follows: 1. informing Croatian LGB community about their member's life experiences with homophobic violence, 2. drawing attention of the public and the relevant state institutions to the prevalence of the homophobic violence and to the need of its better legal regulations and 3. raising awareness of the police, psychotherapists, social and medical workers, e.g. everyone responsible for offering help to the victims of violence on the issue of violence against the LGB persons.

The research was conducted in late 2005 at the sample of 202 persons from the LGB population in Zagreb, Rijeka and Osijek. It became apparent that every second lesbian, gay and bisexual person in Croatia had suffered violence due to her/his sexual orientation in the last 4 years. Almost 40% of participants experienced insults or swearing in that period, 20% of them suffered threats with physical violence, while 14% of participants suffered physical violence. The violence had mostly been committed by the persons who were unknown to the victims, either in open or enclosed public areas. As the numerous studies before this, our study showed as well that the experience of violence was related to several symptoms of the psychological problems. The persons who experienced assaults and limitation of freedom due to their sexual orientation from 2002 up to the end of 2005 show more anxiety, depression and lower self-esteem than the persons who had not experienced violence and those who experienced verbal violence, and feel that belonging to the LGB community is important for defining their own identity. It also appeared that the social environment of the victims of violence knew better about their sexual orientation than of those LGB persons who did not experience violence.

Even 84% of participants are aware of more than one case of a physical violence against an unknown to them LGBT person due to his/her sexual orientation. 56% of participants in the research have one or more close LGBT persons who were victims of physical violence. People whose several friends or partners were attacked show more depression and anxiety than the others.

When it comes to belonging to the LGB population, we noticed that a lesbian, gay or bisexual person who is more open about his/her views on homo/bisexuality has a higher level of a personal self-esteem. The results have also shown that less anxious persons are those who do not conceal his/her sexual orientation in order to avoid unease, discrimination or violence.

At the end of the report we gave basic recommendations to the institutions in charge of helping the victims of violence as well as LGBT organisations on prevention and reduction of primary and secondary victimization due to sexual orientation.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

In every society, the general public condemns the phenomenon of violence and characterizes it as an extremely negative phenomenon which must be strictly sanctioned and repressed quickly and efficiently. This is also supported by the fact that in the last ten years, there were several campaigns in Croatia aiming at increase of safety and raises the citizen's awareness on the problem of violence and its repression<sup>1</sup>. But unfortunately, despite such positive examples, there are also exceptions that relate to the victims who belong to the stigmatized groups and communities. They, due to the social prejudices which the majority has against them, suffer various forms of discrimination and violence. The society often does not recognize such behaviour as an injustice or violence, and the condemnation of the perpetrator thus fails, and the general public has no will to stop such behaviour. Lack of concern of the majority gives way to the further spreading of violence against the weak and unprotected groups, and the violent persons remain unpunished. The sexual minorities are one of such minority, stigmatized communities in the majority of heterosexual society.

Homonegativity and homophobia are most often the umbrella terms for all social prejudices against the LGBT people. These are the negative attitudes, values and beliefs of the heterosexual majority towards the homosexuality and homosexuals (Greene and Herek, 1999: 48-49). Homophobia is also defined as an aversion and irrational fear of heterosexuals from the homosexuality, and is similar to racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and sexism<sup>2</sup>.

How homophobic and homonegative is the environment where lesbians, gays and bisexual persons in Croatia live? The context in which LGB persons live may be best shown with the research results in public polls on the subject of homosexuality and homosexuals. The research results of the Puls Agency from 2002, taken at the representative sample of 600 persons, show that only 40% of the participants believe that the rights of the homosexual persons are threatened. Also, only round 40% of participants would grant the right to marriage to the same-sex partners. It was also discovered that only less than half of the sample would accept friendship with homosexual persons, while somewhat more than a half would like to have a homosexual as a neighbour, and somewhat less than 60% would like to have a homosexual as a co-worker. It is important to emphasize that almost every fourth participant in the sample would not accept homosexual persons in any case, not even as a fellow Croatian citizen. At the Psychology Summer School of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, the knowledge and level of acceptance of homosexuals were studied, among other things

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<sup>1</sup> We will mention only some of them: the national and local programmes of increase of the general safety and combating violence by the Croatian Ministry of Interior Affairs and their police departments «Goodbye arms», «Stop to the Violence Behind the Closed Doors», «With Sport Against the Substance Abuse and Violence»; that from the NGO sector: «Stop to the Violence Against Women» of the Autonomous Women's House Zagreb, Centre for Women War Victims, Women's Counsel and B.a.B.e. – be active, be emancipated; «Stop to the Violence Among the Children» from the UNICEF Office in Croatia and «Stop to the Violence Against Animals» of the organisation Liberation of Animals.

<sup>2</sup> European Parliament's resolution on homophobia in Europe P6\_TA-PROV (2006)0018  
[http://www.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade3?SAME\\_LEVEL=1&LEVEL=0&NAV=S&DETAIL=&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2006-0018+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN](http://www.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade3?SAME_LEVEL=1&LEVEL=0&NAV=S&DETAIL=&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2006-0018+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN)

in 2003, on a sample of 365 citizens of Zagreb. In that research, almost half of the participants considered homosexuality as illness. Three out of four persons would accept a homosexual as a neighbour, and two out of three persons would accept a homosexual as a friend. Only a bit more than two thirds of participants would accept a homosexual person as his/her child's teacher, and as his/her brother/sister's partner, and only every fourth participant would accept a homosexual person as his/her child's partner. The latest research was done in 2005 by the psychologist Maja Parmač at a sample of 1121 participants in Zagreb, Rijeka and Split. The results show that men are more homophobic than women and that they have a more pronounced negative attitude towards the homosexual men than towards the lesbians. No statistically significant difference in intensity of attitude towards lesbians and gays was found in women. It appeared that 14% of men and 3% of women would disown a homosexual son. Even round 60% of men does not want to look at the homosexual men in public, as opposed to round 3% of women, more than two thirds of men and two fifths of women agree with a statement that «Male homosexuality is unnatural». Round 60% of men and round 27% of women would not like that their child grows up in a society which tolerates male homosexuality. When they judge about the lesbians, somewhat different results were gained. 5% of men and 1% of women would disown their lesbian daughters. Almost every fourth man and every third woman does not want to see the lesbians in public, and almost half of men and a bit more than one third of women agree with the statement that «Female homosexuality is unnatural». Round 40% of men and 30% of women do not want that their child grows up in a society which tolerates lesbianism.

All those results point out to the intolerant and potentially threatening social environment that the lesbians, gays and bisexual persons are exposed to in their everyday lives.

The Republic of Croatia has started implementing protection of sexual minorities' rights in its legislature only since 2003. With the hard and consistent work of the Legal Team of the Iskorak Organisation -Centre for the Rights of Sexual and Gender Minorities and the Lesbian Group Kontra, the sexual minorities are legally protected from discrimination by the following laws: Gender Equality Act, Labour Act, Law on Scholarship and Higher Education, Penal Act, Same-Sex Partnership Act, Media Act and the Schoolbook Standard. It was also in 2003 when, for the first time in Croatian history, the same-sex partnership was recognised as a legal subject through the Same-Sex Partnership Act. The change of the Croatian legislature concerning sexual orientation should also be made easier through various EU documents that establish the general legal framework for the equal treatment and prohibition of direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation: «The Charter of Fundamental Rights in EU», Directives of the Council of Europe (No. 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 and No. 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000) and the Resolution of the European Parliament. In January 2006, the European Parliament also passed the «Resolution on Combating Homophobia in Europe» that was addressed to the European Commission, governments of all member states and all accession countries and candidate states. Reminding on the conventions on respecting the human rights (above all «The Charter of Fundamental Rights in EU») which emphasize the readiness of the EU to respect human rights of the sexual and gender minorities, right to equality and life without discrimination, the Parliament requested adherence and

enforcement of the obligations and set rights and to punish severely the members who do not adhere to the set principles and documents concerning protection of rights of the sexual and gender minorities. The afore stated Croatian laws and the latest Resolution of the European Parliament (which was also addressed to Croatia as an accession country) are a good legal ground for protection of the LGB rights, but they are still insufficient for rooting out ignorance, antipathy and prejudice against LGB persons that is still widespread in Croatia.

By this research, we wanted to point out to the consequences of the stigmatized position to lesbians, gays and bisexuals in Croatia and provide guidelines for decrease or prevention of violence against the LGB persons and the negative effects of such violence. The research focuses on the experiences of violence of LGB persons, correlations of those experiences with the mental health, personal and collective self-esteem, disclosure and concealment of the sexual orientation.

We assume, guided by the opinion of Garnets et al. (1990) that the experience of violence faces the person with various problems, but it also gives him/her a chance for the personal growth and development. We do not want to deny the existence of the negative consequences of violence, nor do we want to present the LGB persons who experienced violence as the passive victims. Just the opposite, we believe that the LGB persons who experienced violence actively confront violence and stigmatization they experience in a number of ways.

## **2. DEFINITION OF VIOLENCE**

Violence against LGB population is an umbrella term to describe and include various forms of homophobic behaviour which intend to humiliate and hurt the integrity, health and safety of person(s) only because they identify themselves as lesbians, gays or bisexual persons. In our research, we adapted the categories of violence of the Expert Group for Combating Violence Against Women<sup>3</sup>, and we completed the list of the violent incidents with that of the research of Herek et al. from 1997. Although the Expert Group also describes the structural and spiritual violence, we only examined the physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence. We considered that those kinds of violence were directed against the basic areas of integrity, health and safety of every person, and therefore adequate for the research of violence against the sexual minorities. In the base of all those forms of violence, there is the abuse of power of the perpetrator which uses the stigmatized position of the LGB population in society, which makes the sexual minorities more vulnerable and unprotected population.

Definitions of the categories of violence according to the Expert group:

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human\\_Rights/Equality/PDF\\_EG-S-VL\(97\)1\\_E.pdf](http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human_Rights/Equality/PDF_EG-S-VL(97)1_E.pdf) (15.02.2006.)

The Exper Group made a study on violence and a platphorm for combating violence against women for the Council of Europe on the basis of the UN «Declaration on Elimination of Violence against Women». That categorisation was also used by Suzana Kovačević and Silva Mežnarić in their research «Violence Against Women 2000».



«**Economic violence** - Inequitable control over access to shared resources, for example: denying/controlling access to money, preventing access to employment or education, denial of rights to property.

**Psychological violence** - Taunts, jeers, comments, threats, isolation, contempt, bullying, public insult. This is usually experienced as damaging to self-identity and well-being, especially if it is persistent.

**Physical violence** - Pushing, shoving, hair pulling, hitting, beating, kicking, burning, biting, strangling, stabbing, genital mutilation, torture, murder. Severity of injury ranges from minimal tissue damage, broken teeth and bones to permanent injury and death.

**Sexual violence** - Any non-consensual sexual activity including: sexual taunts and jokes, staring and leering, unwelcome comments, flashing (exposure), offensive phone calls, unwanted sexual propositions, forced viewing of/or participation in pornography, unwanted touching, coerced sex, rape, incest, being made to perform sexual acts the woman finds painful or humiliating, forced pregnancies, trafficking and exploitation in the sex industry.»

### 3. COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

With the encouragement of ILGA Europe (*International Lesbian and Gay Association*), the research projects on discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the, at that time EU accession countries but now member countries (except Romania) were conducted in 2001 and 2002. The conducted research aimed at checking the level of political development and transition of the former socialist countries in relation to the civil society, democratization and political stability. Although those researches differ methodologically from our research, they still give a general overview of the various kinds of discrimination and violence experienced by lesbians, gays and bisexual persons. We will show only some results of the researches done at the homosexual and bisexual population in Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Hungary and Slovakia (Jojart, Šipošova, Daučikova, 2002: 47-48).

- Report on Discrimination in Poland:

The number of participants was 215, of which 35 (16%) were female and 179 (83, 5%) male, with one person identifying as «other».

22% experienced violence

51% experienced harassment

74% avoid expressing feelings for their partner in public places

67% avoid coming out to people other than their family and friends

72% hide sexual orientation from the neighbours/landlords

32% experienced discrimination in the church

25,5% experienced harassment at work place

17% were refused applying for a job

5% left the job because of sexual orientation

49% is willing to emigrate

63% reasons for emigration would be sexual orientation

- Report on Discrimination in Romania

The number of participants was 123, of which 23 (18,7%) were female and 98 (79,7%) male, with two people identifying as «other».

28,4% considered themselves as having suffered ill treatment or punishment as a result of Article 200 of the Penal Code of the Republic of Romania

27,6% victim of physical violence

41,5% reported the harassment

52% hide sexual orientation in the family

29,3% experienced some forms of discrimination at work

13% experienced some forms of discrimination within the health care institutions

46% wish to emigrate because of sexual orientation

- Report on Discrimination in Slovenia

The number of participants was 172, 43, 6% of them being women, 52, 9% men, and 3,5% participants did not declare themselves.

49,4% experienced violence or harassment

37,8% hide sexual orientation at work

20% experienced harassment at work

14,5% were denied promotion at work

7,6% experienced discrimination within the health care system

7% experienced discrimination and harassment in the area of housing

11% experienced sexual orientation discrimination during the military service

34,9% sexual orientation had a significant role in deciding to emigrate

- Report on Discrimination in Hungary

The number of participants was 112, of those 48 female and 64 were male.

17% completely hide sexual orientation

18,8% experienced physical attack

6,3% experienced discrimination of police and authorities

56,2% experienced harassment

- Report on Discrimination in Slovakia

The number of participants was 251, 87 (35%) of them being women and 164 (65%) men.

15% experienced physical violence

43% experienced harassment

85% sometimes and always hide their sexual orientation in the public

13% is completely open regarding sexual orientation

30% experienced discrimination within their families

77% want to emigrate due to their sexual orientation

## 4. METHODOLOGY

### 4.1. Procedure

The questionnaire research of the LGB population was conducted in three Croatian cities: Zagreb, Rijeka and Osijek. We chose these cities since the LGBT organisations are (or were) active in them. Lesbian group Kontra and Iskorak - Centre for the rights of the sexual and gender minorities are active in Zagreb, and there are LORI – Lesbian organisation Rijeka and Iskorak – Rijeka branch in Rijeka. At the moment, there is no LGBT organisation in Osijek, but Iskorak – Osijek branch used to be active.

In choosing these three cities, we started with the assumptions that: 1. public visibility of LGBT people increases with the activity of organisations, 2. greater visibility brings more violence, 3. activity of the organisations empowers LGBT community, and LGBT persons are thus more open in relation to their sexual orientation, 4. greater disclosure of sexual orientation brings greater violence.

We also chose those three cities because the activity of organisations produces networks of LGB individuals and one may reach the potential participants in this research more easily. We managed to reach the participants using the chain referral method (Penrod et al., 2003). That method is used with the research of sensitive issues and “hard to reach” population. The procedure is based upon defining the size and features of the desired sample, then, the careful choice of the locators who are members of the studied population themselves, and the research place. The locators find the other participants through the serial reference, in order to expand the research area outside one social network. The chain referral method, which may be called a multiple snowball method, is characterized by careful planning and directing the procedure of finding the participants in order to find the sample with desired features.

Unfortunately, we did not manage to come to the sample we first planned, which was structured according to general population characteristics based on the 2001. Croatian census: the number of inhabitants of Zagreb, Rijeka and Osijek, gender, age and level of education. Despite the surveyors’ efforts, the LGB population older than 40 remained underrepresented in the research because the surveyors did not manage to reach them through the chain referral from the persons who participated in the research and because the older LGB persons refused to fill in the questionnaire because of the lack of trust that they have in the strangers. It was obvious that the social networks of younger LGB population were separated from the networks of somewhat older lesbians, gays and bisexual persons. The population with primary school and lower was also underrepresented.

### 4.2. Instruments

The questionnaire was constructed on the basis of the following instruments:

- **Expanded religiosity scale (Bahtijarević, 1969.)**

The scale is used for the self-identification of religiosity within four categories that were offered: religious, unsure, indifferent and not religious. It consists of six items, one of which should be chosen.

- **Sexual Orientation Milestones (D'Augelli and Grossman, 2001.)**
  1. What is your sexual orientation? 1. Gay or lesbian, 2. Bisexual but mostly lesbian or gay, 3. Bisexual, equally lesbian or gay and heterosexual, 4. Bisexual but mostly heterosexual, 5. Heterosexual and 6. Unsure
  2. How old were you when you first felt sexual feelings towards the person of the same sex?
  3. How old were you when you first considered yourself lesbian/gay or bisexual person?
  4. How did you call yourself then? As: 1. Gay, 2. Lesbian, 3. Bisexual person, 4. Something else
  5. How old were you when you first told someone about your sexual orientation?
  
- **Disclosure of sexual orientation scale (Jugović, Pikić, 2006.)**

The scale consists of five questions which attempt to measure participants' awareness of family's (mother, father, siblings), friends', co-workers' and peers' (school, university or workplace colleagues) knowledge of her/his sexual orientation. The responses to the questions relate to knowledge of parents' (e.g. «Does your mother know about your sexual orientation?») are in the scale of 1= «No, I am sure that (s)he does not know.», to 4= «Yes, I am sure that (s)he does know.», and responses on the questions on disclosure towards the others (e.g. «Do your siblings know about your sexual orientation?»), the responses are on the scale from 1= «No, I am sure that no one knows.», to 6= «Yes, I am sure that all of them know.» All questions offer the answer «I don't have any.» as well.
  
- **Concealment of sexual orientation scale (Pikić, Jugović, 2006.)**

It is a Likert type scale of the seven statements which assess the prevalence (1= Never, to 5= Always) of: correction of appearance and behaviour towards heteronormativity, concealment of sexual orientation, avoiding topics related to one's homo/bisexuality, avoiding topics on homo/bisexuality in general and topics on the Croatian LGBT community and movement in order to avoid the potential unease, discrimination or violence in the social interaction.
  
- **Incidents of violence scale (Jugović, Pikić, 2006.)**

The scale contains 19 items measuring the frequency of violence incidents (0=Never, 1=Once, 2=Twice and 3=Three times or more) divided into 4 categories of violence. The economic violence is described by the claims on threats of deprivation of money and material safety, threats of throwing out from one's home, on deprivation of money and material safety, throwing out of one's home and control of movement. The psychological violence was described with the claims on the experienced insults, swearing and spitting, threats of the physical violence, threats of stabbing, threats of knife assault or assault by some other weapon, on following or running after the person and destruction of property. The physical violence is represented by the claims on throwing object on person, pushing, pulling hair or slapping, on hitting or the experience when the person was beaten, kicked with or without some object, and on assault with knife, gun or some other weapon. And finally, the sexual violence

includes unwanted sexual suggestions, sexual assault or rape attempts, unwanted touching or sexual exploitation and rape.

- ***Self-Rating Depression Scale - SDS (Zung, 1965.)***

The Zung's self-rating depression scale is a questionnaire developed for the purpose of the quantitative measurement of depression. It consists of 20 items that were designed on the basis of the clinical diagnostic criteria which are most often used for characterising depressive distress. SDS is a simple test that is filled in by the participants themselves, assessing how often they feel individual symptoms on the scale of 1= Never or extremely rarely, to 4= Mostly or always.

- ***Endler Multidimensional Anxiety Scales-Trait – EMAS-T (Endler, Edwards and Vitelli, 1991)***

EMAS-T is a part of the EMAS anxiety questionnaires which measures the anxiety trait. In accordance with the Endler's model, this scale consists of four dimensions of general situations: social evaluation, physical danger, new and ambiguous situation and daily routines situation. The shortened version of 9 items (Sorić et al., 1995) was used in this research, for every subscale which measures 4 afore stated dimensions. The participants assess their reactions and attitudes in thus defined situations on the scale of 1=Not at all, to 5=Strongly.

- **The questions on the existence of suicidal thoughts and attempts and seeking psychotherapeutic help because of the depressive distress and usage of anti-depressive medications.**

1. Have you ever seriously considered taking your own life?
2. Have you ever had suicide attempts?
3. Have you ever asked for a professional psychotherapeutic help because of the depression related distress (from a psychologist or a psychiatrist)?
4. Have you ever used medications against depression (antidepressives)?

The existing answers can be: Never, Once and More than once.

- ***Collective Self-Esteem Scale (Luhtanen and Crocker, 1992.)***

The scale consists of 16 items which measure collective self-esteem related to various social identities such as gender, nation or race, and we used it for research of the collective self-esteem related to belonging to a group of people with homosexual or bisexual orientation. It consists of four subscales, and each of them assesses the following aspects of the social self-esteem: 1. group membership, 2. private collective self-esteem, 3. public collective self-esteem, 4. importance of collective identity to the individual. Participants assess to which extent they agree with the statements from 1= Strongly disagree to 5= Strongly agree.

- ***Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale – RSES (Rosenberg, 1965.)***

It is a Likert-type scale and it measures self-esteem defined as a self-acceptance and self-worth. The questionnaire consists of ten items, five of them being formulated positively and five of them being formulated negatively.

- **General life satisfaction**

General life satisfaction is measured with the Likert type statement “I am satisfied with my life.” where the participants assess to which extent they agree with it (from 1=Strongly disagree, to 5=Strongly agree).

### 4.3. Sample

The questionnaire research of the LGB population was conducted in Zagreb, Rijeka and Osijek. The total of 202 participants took part in the research, with the approximately equal number of men and women.

*Table 1. Frequency and proportion with regard to the sex*

Sex	N	%
Men	101	50
Women	98	48,5
Transsexual person (FTM)	1	0,5
Unknown	2	1,0
Total	202	100,0

N = number of participants

% =percentage of participants

Out of the total number of women, 55,1% of them identified themselves as lesbians, while 43,9% of them called themselves bisexual. Out of the total number of men, 81,2% of them identified themselves as gay, while 16,8% of men consider themselves as bisexual.

*Table 2. Frequency and proportion with regard to the sex and sexual orientation*

Sexual orientation with regard to the sex of participant	N	%
<b>Women</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100</b>
Homosexual	54	55,1
Bisexual	43	43,9
Undecided about their sexual orientation	1	1,0
<b>Men</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100</b>
Homosexual	82	81,2
Bisexual	17	16,8
Undecided about their sexual orientation	1	1,0
Unknown sexual orientation	1	1,0
<b>Transsexual person</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>
Homosexual orientation	1	100
<b>Unknown sex</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>
Homosexual orientation	2	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	

When the sample is divided into 5 age groups of 10 years (except for the youngest group), it can be seen that the half of the participants is aged 20 to 29. The young persons

are prevalent in the sample – the largest number of participants (round 80%) is aged 20 to 39.

*Table 3. Frequency and proportion with regard to the age of the participants*

<b>Age</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
15-19	11	5,4
20-29	102	50,5
30-39	58	28,7
40-49	22	10,9
50-60	7	3,5
Unknown	2	1,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>100,0</b>

According to the level of education, the largest number of participants has completed secondary school (56,4%). A significant number of participants in the sample also have completed 2-year HND (higher national diploma) or university programmes (39,1%).

*Table 4. Frequency and proportion with regard to the level of education*

<b>Level of education</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Primary School	9	4,5
Secondary School	114	56,4
HND	23	11,4
University Degree and Higher	56	27,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>100,0</b>

In relation to the region, the majority of participants live in the Zagreb Region (The City of Zagreb, Zagreb County, Karlovac County, Krapina-Zagorje County and Koprivnica-Križevci County), then in the Rijeka Region (Primorje-Gorski Kotar County and Istria County) and finally, in the Osijek Region (Osijek-Baranja County, Vukovar-Srijem County and Slavonski Brod-Posavina County).

*Table 5. Frequency and proportion with regard to the region where the participants live*

<b>Region that the person is coming from</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Zagreb	137	67,8
Rijeka	35	17,3
Osijek	29	14,4
Unknown	1	0,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>100,0</b>

We asked all participants with whom they were sharing their living space. The largest number of participants responded that they were living with their parents (36,6%), while there was a similar percentage in the group of participants who were living by themselves (20,8%) and exclusively with their partner (19,3%).

*Table 6. Frequency and proportion of participants with regard to with whom they were living*

<b>Who are you living with?</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
With my parents	74	36,6
On my own	42	20,8
With my partner	39	19,3
With my friends	19	9,4
With my relatives	7	3,4
With my roommate	4	2,0
In a residence hall	4	2,0
With my grandparent(s)	3	1,5
With my partner and parents	2	1,0
With my partner and friends	2	1,0
With my child/children	2	1,0
With my brother/sister	2	1,0
Something else	2	1,0
Total	202	100,0

The participants assessed their material status in relation to the other Croatian citizens. A half of them stated that their material status was similar to the Croatian average material status, and even one third thought that they were living above or much above the average.

*Table 7. Frequency and proportion of the material status assessment in relation to the other Croatian citizens*

<b>Material status</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Much worse than average	6	3,0
Worse than average	21	10,4
Average	108	53,4
Better than average	59	29,2
Much better than average	8	4,0
Total	202	100,0

We asked the participants to assess the importance of religion and relation towards their own religiousness. The total of 43,1% of the sample considered him/herself a believer, while 37,1% is atheist.

*Table 8. Frequency and proportion of religion importance assessment*

<b>Importance of religion</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
I practice my religion and I accept everything that my religion teaches.	8	4,0
I am religious, although – do not accept everything my religion teaches.	79	39,1



I think about that a lot, but I am not sure whether I believe or not.	17	8,4
I am indifferent towards religion.	19	9,4
I am not religious, although I have nothing against religion.	55	27,2
I am not religious and I am against religion.	20	9,9
Unknown	4	2,0
Total	202	100,0

#### ***4.4. Data analysis***

Statistical analyses used in the research are independent-sample t-test, one-way ANOVA, the Pearson's correlation coefficient, and nonparametric tests: chi-square test, the Kruskal-Wallis H test and Mann-Whitney's U test. Descriptive statistics was shown as well.

## 5. RESULTS

The experiences with violence were studied for two time periods, for the period before 2002 and for that from 2002 until the end of 2005. We first examined the incidents experienced in the recent period as it is assumed that remembrance about them is fresher. As a dividing point for those two period, we chose the year 2002, as it was the year when the first public events started, as well as the campaigns of the LGBT organisations for promotions of the rights of sexual minorities in Croatia: the Legal Team of Iskorak and Kontra was founded, the first Zagreb Pride took place, and the Lesbian Organisation Lori had a campaign for the promotion of rights of homosexuals, under the name of «Ljubav je ljubav» («Love is love»). We considered this year to be prominent for the lesbians, gays and bisexuals in Croatia and that they can differ sexual orientation biased violence experienced before and after that year.

### 5.1. Violence experienced from 2002 until the end of 2005

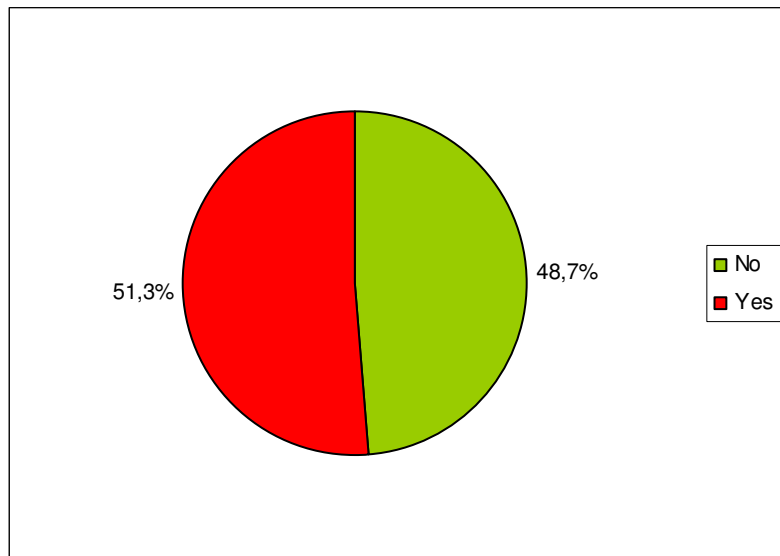


Figure 1. The total violence experienced from 2002 until the end of 2005 for the whole sample

Analyzing 19 types of violence we divided into four categories: economic, psychological, physical and sexual violence, we got the conclusion that more than a half of participants experienced some form of violence in the period from 2002 until the end of 2005 because someone thought him/her as gay, lesbian or bisexual person (Figure 1.).

Table 9. Percentage and frequency of participants who experienced total violence and some categories of violence from 2002 until the end of 2005 for the whole sample (N=202), separately for women (N=98) and men (N=101) and  $\chi^2$ -test<sup>4</sup> for the differentiation of women and men in their experience of violence.

<sup>4</sup>  $\chi^2$ - the tests were calculated on the basis of sex (female and male) and the experience of violence (experienced and not experienced). The number of participants may differ from one analysis to another due to a possible answer that was left-out.

	All		Women		Men		$\chi^2$
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Total violence</b>	101	51,3%	51	52,6%	49	50,5%	0,083
<b>Economic</b>	36	18,1%	20	20,6%	16	16,2%	0,649
<b>Psychological</b>	83	41,7%	38	38,8%	44	44,9%	0,755
<b>Physical</b>	29	14,4%	11	11,2%	17	17,0%	1,360
<b>Sexual</b>	60	29,9%	37	37,8%	22	22,0%	5,873*

N = number of participants who experienced violence

% = percentage of participants who experienced violence

\* = significant at  $p < 0,05$

Out of four categories of violence, the participants have mostly experienced psychological violence (41,7%), and after that the most frequent is the sexual violence, which was experienced by almost one third of persons (Table 9.). The economic violence was experienced by almost 20% of sample, and almost 14% of participants suffered a physical attack.

Analysing the experiences of the different incidents of violence on the basis of sex, we found out that the women have suffered statistically significant more sexual violence than men ( $\chi^2=5.87$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) and that men and women do not differ in all other categories of violence they experienced (Table 9.).

We also checked which incidents were the most frequent ones inside each of four categories of violence (Table 10, p. 66). It appeared that the most frequent one, inside the psychological violence category, were insults or swearing (37%) and threats of physical violence (19,5%). The unwanted sexual suggestions were second in frequency out of the total incidents of violence (27,9%), but the first inside the sexual violence category. In economic violence, the three incidents were equal: threats of deprivation of money and material security (9%), threats of throwing someone out of home (8,5%) and control of movement (8,5%). In the physical violence, the most frequent one was shoving objects at the person (10,4%).

When we take into account sex when analysing the individual incidents, it may be seen that the women got the unwanted sexual suggestions twice as often as men ( $\chi^2 = 6.09$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) (Table 10, p. 66). In order to get a better understanding of this information, we need a series of additional data that, unfortunately, was not included into our research, that being sex of the perpetrators, his/her sexual orientation and the description of the event. One of the possible assumptions is that the perpetrators were (heterosexual) men who see lesbians/bisexual women as women «without a man» and they are therefore subject to and «available» for the sexual suggestions and offers. The heteronormativity in a society reaches the point where a woman in a man's company is considered the «other man's territory» and «unavailable» for sexual suggestions and thus protected from them. In any case, such suggestions are unwanted and they are a form of sexual violence.

Women and men experienced all others incidents of violence in the same proportion.

In accordance to the well-known studies on violence against the homosexual and bisexual people abroad (D'Augelli and Grossman, 2001; Herek, Gillis and Cogan, 1999) our research showed too that the verbal forms of violence such as insults or swearing and threats of physical violence occur most often, while the physical assaults happened more rarely. Although (luckily) they are not the most common forms of violence, we are here pointing out the findings on the worst forms of physical and sexual violence. In this research, 14 persons experienced pushing, pulling hair or slapping, and the same number were beaten, kicked or hit with an object. Apart from the physical one, it should be pointed out that a significant number of persons suffered sexual violence, e.g. 15 persons experienced sexual assault attempt or rape. Twenty five persons experienced unwanted touching or sexual exploitation, and 4 persons were raped because they are lesbians, gays or bisexual persons (Table 10, p. 66).

Some persons experienced some incidents of violence several times (twice, three times, or more) in the period between 2002 until the end of 2005. Thus 20% of people experienced insults, swearing and spitting, and 17,4% of participants experienced unwanted sexual suggestions twice, three times and more. Sexual exploitation, threats of physical violence and following was experienced twice, three times or more by 7% to 9,5% of sample (Table 11, p. 67).

Also, some participants experienced more than one incident and within more than one category of violence. The number of incidents that an individual person experiences ranges from 1 to 12 incidents. The largest number of persons experienced one incident of violence (14,7% of the total sample), than four (7,6%), and two and three incidents of violence (6,6%). With regards to the four categories of violence - economic, psychological, physical and sexual one – the majority of people experienced incidents within one category (19,8%), than within two (16,2%), 10,7% participants experienced incidents from three different categories, while 4,6% of persons experienced incidents from all four categories of violence. The majority of victims thus experienced various forms of violence, on several occasions, in the last four years.

We checked if there was a difference in the experience of violence in relation to the socio-demographic characteristics of the sample. It was shown that the age is a significant variable in experiencing economic and sexual violence. The persons aged 15 to 19 experienced more economic violence than the older age, and the persons between 15 to 29 experienced more sexual violence than the older participants. That shows that the younger ones are more vulnerable to violence than the older lesbians, gays and bisexuals.

We were also interested if the violence was equally spread in the regions where the participants live, so we compared the Zagreb, Rijeka and Osijek region.

Table 12. The total violence and the categories of violence experienced from 2002 up to the end of 2005 according to the region where the participant lives, and  $\chi^2$ -test for differing the experience of violence in relation to the region. (The Zagreb Region N=137, The Osijek Region N=29, The Rijeka Region N=35)<sup>5</sup>.

	The Zagreb region		The Osijek region		The Rijeka region		$\chi^2$
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Total violence</b>	75	56,0%	9	31,0%	17	51,5%	5,935
<b>Economic</b>	28	20,7%	2	6,9%	6	17,6%	3,084
<b>Psychological</b>	64	47,4%	4	13,8%	15	44,1%	11,160**
<b>Physical</b>	25	18,4%	1	3,4%	3	8,6%	5,503
<b>Sexual</b>	43	31,6%	6	20,7%	11	31,4%	1,401

N = number of participants who experienced violence

% = percentage of participants who experienced violence

\*\* = significant at  $p < 0,01$

There is no difference in the total experienced violence between the Zagreb, Osijek and Rijeka regions, but it appeared that the participants from the Osijek region experienced less psychological violence in comparison to the other two regions ( $\chi^2=11,160$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p < 0,01$ ) (Table 12.). On the level of incidents, the persons from the Osijek region experience less insults, swearing and spitting ( $\chi^2=7,979$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p < 0,05$ ), threats of physical violence ( $\chi^2=6,173$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p < 0,05$ ) and shoving objects at a person ( $\chi^2=8,138$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p < 0,05$ ) (Table 13, p. 68) than those from the Zagreb and Rijeka region. Still, those results should be interpreted with great care due to the small number of persons from the Rijeka and Osijek region in the research. For a safer conclusion on the real existence of differences in violence between the regions, the significantly larger samples of participants are needed. In the other categories and incidents of violence, no statistically significant difference between these three regions was founded.

The further analyses of the total experienced violence and the categories of violence in relation to the socio-demographic characteristics of the sample: the level of education, employment category, socioeconomic status in relation to with whom they are living, showed no statistically significant differences. The homosexual and bisexual persons also do not differ in whether they have or have not experienced the total violence or individual categories, no matter if the statistical analysis was done on the whole sample or separately for women and men. This means that the violence may happen to everyone, no matter of his/her level of education, employment, size of the city/town where he/she lives, socioeconomic status and homosexual or bisexual orientation.

<sup>5</sup> The number of participants may differ from one analysis to another due to a possible answer that was left-out.

### 5.1.1. THE PERPETRATORS

We wanted to know who are the commonest perpetrators of the specific categories of violence. Are those the close family members or relatives, friends, co-workers, employers, landlords/landladies, complete strangers or someone else?

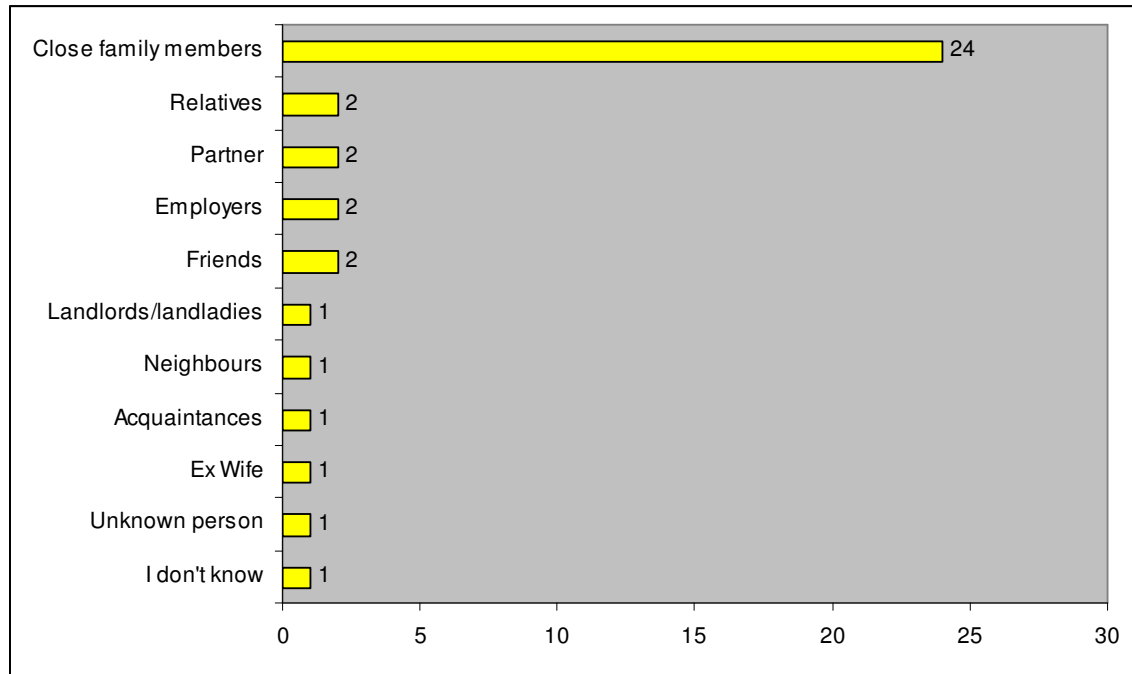


Figure 2. Perpetrators of economic violence

Among the persons who experienced economic violence (N=36) from 2002 up to the end of 2005, two thirds of them said that the perpetrators of the economic violence were the members of the close family (N=24). That is not so unusual if we take into account that more than one third of participants is living with their parents at the moment and that the younger members experience economic violence more often. It is clear that the close family members are those who have the power and they abuse it when it concerns material safety or throwing out lesbians, gays and bisexuals out of their own home.

For further explanation of the violent context of lives of lesbians, gays and bisexual persons, we shall show the experience they described in the questionnaire.

Woman (22)

*«Mom limited my movement and had tantrums because of my relationship with an older woman. My old man insulted me, took me to the psychiatrist, threatened, threw me out of home, threatened to the woman I was seeing at that time, threatened with physical violence.»*

These findings and the example show us how hard it is to lesbians, gays and bisexual people in the surroundings of their own family which should provide them safety, not be a threat to safety. The similar results were also gained in the research in Poland in 2002, where 30% of persons experienced discrimination within their own family, including

threats, control of behaviour and throwing out of home (Jojart, Šipošova, Daučíkova, 2002: 47-48).

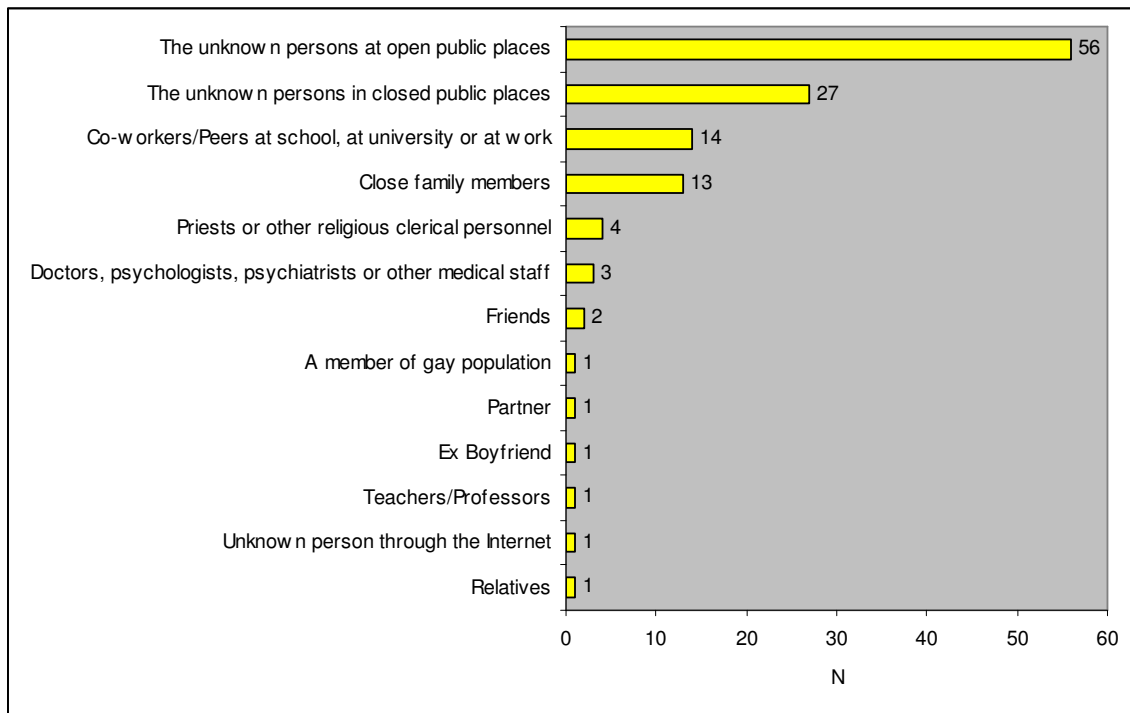


Figure 3. Perpetrators of the psychological violence

Psychological violence, i.e. various insults, blackmail, threats, following etc. was mostly committed by the people who were strangers to our participants. They make up 68% of the perpetrators of the psychological violence incidents. The perpetrators were the strangers twice as often at the public places (N=56), e.g. on the street or in the park, than the strangers in the indoor public places (N=27) such as restaurants and cafes.

Man (39)

*«A man began to follow me at a gay cruising area. He continued following me even after I left that place, and then he came close and started to insult me. I felt terrible, scared and ashamed. A bus came and I boarded into it and he stayed there.»*

Woman (29)

*«I had a close encounters with the members of the skinhead subculture; there was (first their and then mutual) insulting, threats with physical violence – there was no physical violence, though. I reported that to the nearest policeman – the case ended on court as a breach of peace. On another occasion, when I was walking down the street with my girlfriend (that I was dating at that time!) with my hand on her shoulder, again some bold young men got courage (and told us stuff), so I almost had fight with them (I don't stand back!) but the girl I dated back then separated us.»*

The co-workers and close family members are the most common perpetrators of psychological violence after the strangers, but there are also some cases of psychological

violence from the professionals from help-providing branches<sup>6</sup> and religious clerical staff.

Woman (30)

*«I was recently almost attacked by a psychiatrist I visited because of depression when I told her I loved women. She was extremely verbally aggressive and sarcastic and at the end I decided to find another one.»*

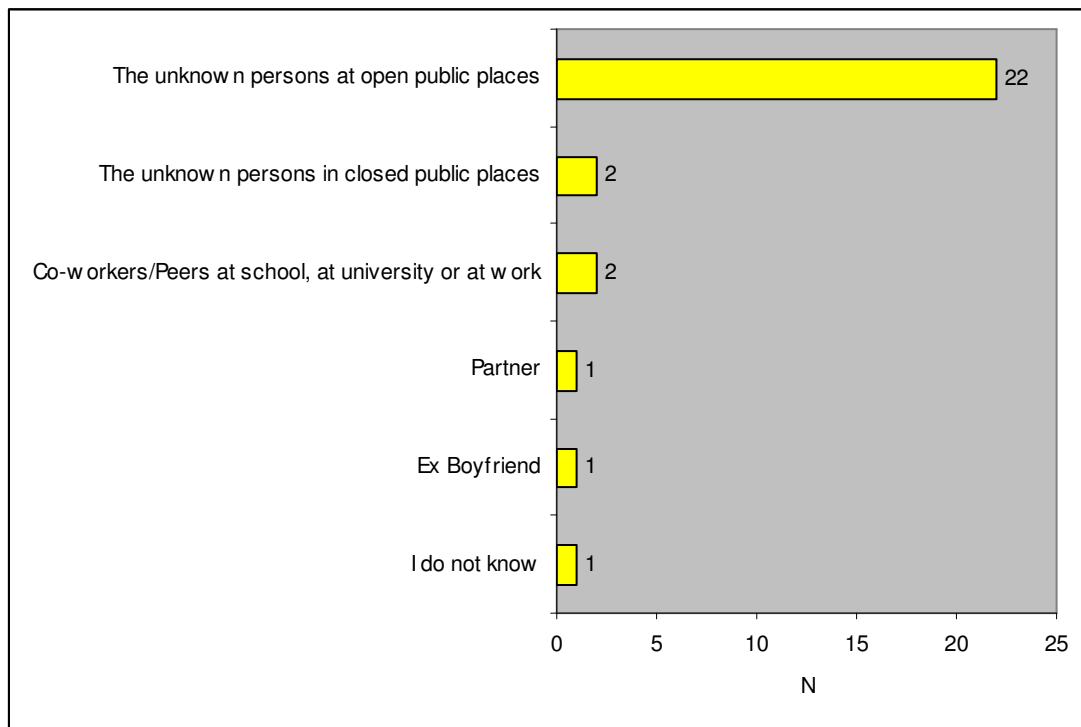


Figure 4. Perpetrators of physical violence

Even three quarters of perpetrators of physical assaults such as shoving objects at somebody, slapping, hitting or weapon assaults were the strangers at the outdoor public places.

Man (29)

*«After the Gay Pride I did not participate at, a young man stopped me at the street and asked me if I participated at the gay parade. I said I didn't, he said I looked as if I did. I told him that that was his problem, and after that he hit me in the head with his fist. I fell and lost consciousness for a moment. A friend helped me to get up and we left. I felt bad, humiliated. I was turning around on the street for days, fearing the attack or meeting that person again.»*

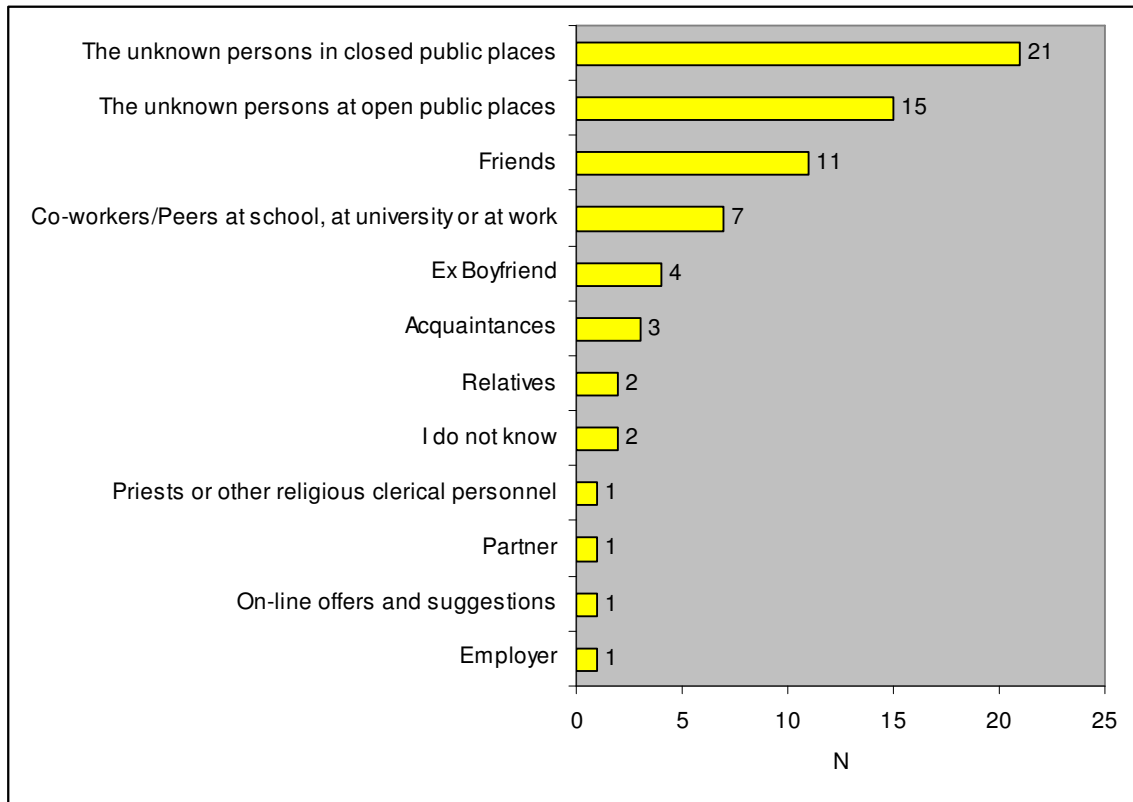
Man (29)

*«It happened two and a half years ago. When I was going home from the theatre, I met a group of Skinheads, who recognized me as a person who acted on a TV show dressed up*

<sup>6</sup> Help-providing branches include medical doctors and other health-care staff, psychologists and psychiatrists.



*as a woman. They broke my nose, my arm, the skull fracture and a broken jaw. I think that everything is clear.»*



*Figure 5. Perpetrators of sexual violence*

As with the psychological violence, the most common perpetrators of sexual violence were the strangers. They made up 50% of all perpetrators of sexual violence. It more often involved strangers in indoor public places (N=21) than in the outdoor public places (N=15). Friends (N=11) and co-workers (N=7) were the next group according to the frequency. Since the question on perpetrators related to the unwanted sexual suggestions, unwanted touching, attempts of sexual assault and rape together, we cannot know who of the mentioned persons committed which act.

Woman (29)

*«There were lots of sexual suggestions – one of them in a tram, too – since I am totally out, I guess it is interpreted as a call to a lively old men to join me and my girlfriend.»*

Woman (23)

*«Rape, sex against my will!»*

Woman (25)

*«One guy closed me into a room and wanted to rape me because I am gay. I talked him out of it after two hours of struggle claiming that I was promiscuous and potentially HIV positive as I had also been abroad.»*

### 5.1.2. SEEKING FOR HELP

After experiencing violence, the victims often seek help, no matter if it was emotional support, medical help or information. It was generally shown that the support from the family, friends, local community and professionals in the help-providing branches was important for recovery of the victims of violence (Bard and Sangrey, 1986, from Frieze et al., 1987). Because of that, we examined whom the participants who experienced violence asked for help after experiencing violence.

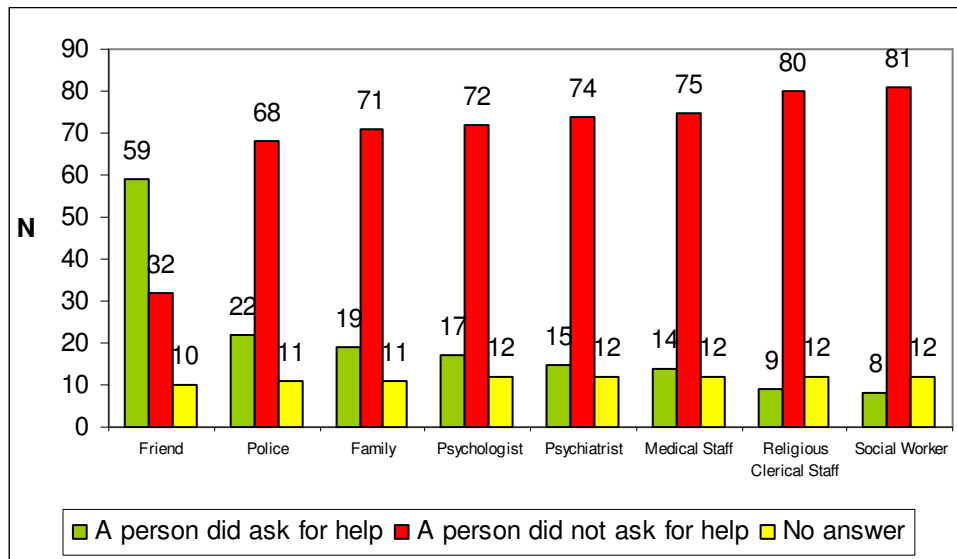


Figure 6. The number of persons who experienced violence from 2002 up to the end of 2005 in relation to asking for help from various persons or institutions (N=101)

The friends are the category that the majority of people approached for help after the experienced violence. A significantly lesser number approached to the police, and even lesser to the family. Such result is not surprising since many homosexual and bisexual persons experienced violence by their family due to their sexual orientation. Likewise, a certain part of the homosexual and bisexual population often builds closer relationships with their friends than with their own family, so they see the support network in their friends.

But, not all of them receive the help they asked for. Some victims of violence may also experience negative reactions such as lack of interest, ignoring or refusal because their homosexual or bisexual orientation (Comstock, 1989; Gross et al., 1988; Coates, Wortman and Abbey, 1979, from Berrill and Herek, 1990). Such negative reactions are called secondary victimisation (Berrill and Herek, 1990), which is different from the primary victimisation, i.e. violence because of which the person asked for help. We considered it important to examine the experiences of the victims when asking for help from the close persons or representatives of the institutions whose goal is providing help and services to the victims of violence.

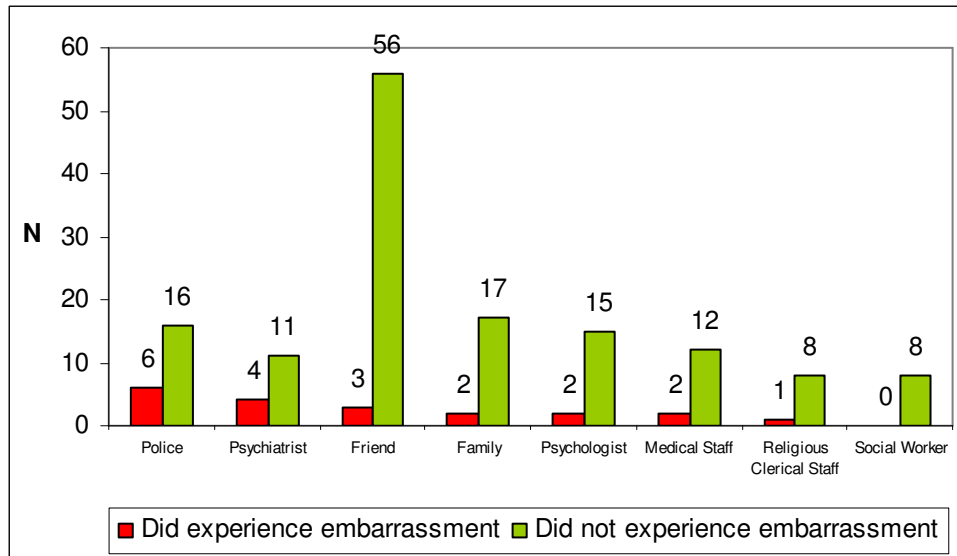


Figure 7. The number of persons who asked for help from the persons and/or institutions after they experienced violence from 2002 up to the end of 2005 with regards to the experienced unease, lack of interest, ignoring or refusal

We asked if the victims of violence who asked various persons or institutions for help experienced unease, lack of interest, ignoring or refusal. It appeared that the majority of people who asked for help from a friend did not have any negative experience. Since the relatively small number of people approached the other persons or institutions, it is hard to draw certain conclusions on frequency of experiencing secondary victimisation from those institutions or their representatives. A research on a larger number of victims of violence who approached police, medical doctors and other hospital staff or mental health experts in order to establish how widespread is the secondary victimisation and the forms in which it appears. It is important to design and implement strategies for its reduction or removal as many persons decide not to report violence they just experienced exactly because of the fear of secondary victimisation (Comstock, 1989; Morgen and Grossman, 1988, from Berrill and Herek, 1990).

The examples of experiences with the police and the psychiatrist after seeking help because of the violence they experience follow.

Man (30)

*«Me and my best friend were attacked by a group of drunken kids at Remiza. I assume they attacked us because they realised we were fags from our loud dispute. The quarrel and the fight moved into a bus full of people. No one intervened, including the driver. We did not call the police, but the friend went to the ER because of the head trauma. The ER reported it to the police later, but we did not tell the real reasons for the fight. The police was fair, but the perpetrators were not found.»*

Woman (23)

*«My visit to the psychiatrist because of depression (that was caused mostly with the family relations when they found out I had a girlfriend) was not a pleasant experience. In*

*my opinion, he acted very unprofessionally. I immediately emphasized that my orientation was homosexual and that if he considered that as illness, I'd go on. He told me that was my private matter and that he can be objective and professional. Apart from the fact that he was lying on the sofa throughout the conversation, he asked me totally unnecessary questions in order to prove me that the source of all my problems lies in my sexual orientation with a practical example: what would happen if I put someday an ad on a post, saying that me and my girlfriend were looking for an apartment («two homosexual persons looking for an apartment») – would anyone call me at all and if so, would the price be higher than to heterosexual couple – a stupid question and a stupid comment – totally unnecessary.»*

Woman (30)

*«I had been in a relationship with a woman whose husband used to beat her and abuse her in all possible ways for 3 years. There was a situation when we ended up in a police station in such way that her husband hit me on the chin with his fist in front of the policemen. After that, the policemen looked at us as if we were dirt. They gave us half an hour advance before her husband telling us that everything we could do is going to the GP and file a civil action against her husband.»*

### 5.1.3. REPORTING VIOLENCE

We examined whether the victims reported the violence to the police and whether they approached the Legal Team of Iskorak and Kontra for advice.

Even 80% of persons who experienced some form of violence in the period from 2002 up to the end of 2005 did not report that violence to the police. The reasons for not reporting the violence to the police vary from mistrust towards the police, their own judgement of the insufficient severity of violence for reporting to the police, to fear, shame and unease.

In the following text, we are giving the examples of the reasons for failure to report the violence to the police, with the type of violence that every person experienced.

*«I did not, because I do not believe in efficiency of the police, but the ER reported it as I did have serious physical injuries.»*

(The person who experienced insults, swearing or spitting, threats of physical violence, shoving objects, pushing, pulling hair or slapping and was beaten, kicked or hit with an object.)

*«Because of my experience of homophobia in the legal system.»*

(The person experienced insults, swearing or spitting, blackmail, threats of physical violence, threats of assault by knife, gun, or some other weapon, tracking or running after the person, destruction of property, shoving objects on himself/herself, unwanted sexual suggestions, sexual assault or rape attempt, pushing, pulling hair or slapping and being beaten, kicked or hit with some object.)

*«It was not too much.»*

(Person who experienced insults, swearing or spitting, unwanted sexual suggestions, unwanted touching or sexual exploitation.)

*«Because of shame.»*

(Person who experienced control of movement, deprivation of money and material security, insults, swearing or spitting, blackmail, threats of physical violence, tracking or running after the person, pushing, pulling hair or slapping, being beaten, kicked or hit with some object, experienced unwanted sexual suggestions, sexual assault or rape attempt and unwanted touching or sexual exploitation.)

*«Because of fear from further complications that could occur after the report.»*

(Person who experienced insults, swearing or spitting, unwanted sexual suggestions, threats of physical violence, tracking or running after the person, pushing, pulling hair or slapping and being beaten, kicked or hit with some object.)

*«First time, because I scared as I had no one to turn to, and later because I thought it made no sense.»*

(Person who experienced insults, swearing or spitting, threats of physical violence, tracking or running after the person and being beaten, kicked or hit with some object.)

Even 78% of persons who experienced some form of violence in the period between 2002 and the end of 2005 did not ask the Legal Team of Iskorak and Kontra for the advice. Analysis of the answers to the question why the participants did not report the violence to the Legal Team showed that the majority of people thought that there was no legal ground for reporting the violence, some thought the reporting unnecessary, and a certain group of people expressed their mistrust and repulsion towards the Iskorak and Kontra. It is important to say that the majority of people who experienced more severe sexual violence or a physical assault, were not informed on the action of the Legal Team. The reasons why the persons who experienced more severe violence (such as physical assaults, sexual assault attempts or rape, unwanted touching or sexual exploitation) did not ask a Legal Team for help are the following:

*«I didn't know that Legal Team existed.»*

*«I didn't know it existed.»*

*«I was not informed sufficiently!!!»*

*«I don't know the phone number or the address.»*

*«I don't believe in their proficiency.»*

*«And how could they help me?»*

*«I was too young.»*

*«It was my first time and in some way I had no courage.»*

*«I wouldn't bother, they are only some strangers.»*

## 5.2. Violence experienced prior to 2002

We included only those people who consider themselves lesbian, gay or bisexual for more than four years in the analysis of violence which happened prior to 2002. We thought it right to analyse the incidents of violence only on persons who identify themselves homosexual or bisexual for longer time since we wanted to compare the number of incidents of sexual orientation biased violence before and after 2002.

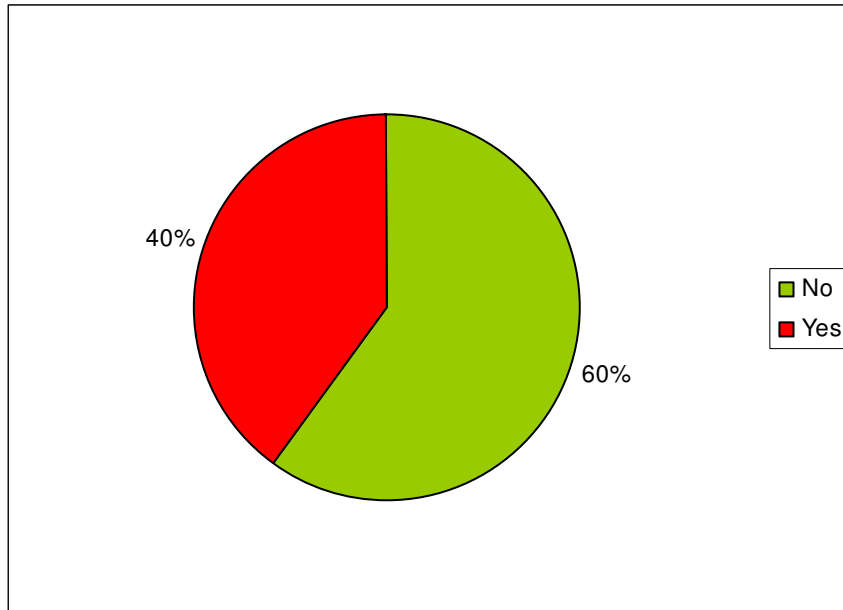


Figure 8. Total violence experienced prior to 2002 for the whole sample

Out of the total of 156 persons, 40% of them experienced some form of violence because someone thought them homosexual or bisexual.

Table 14. Total violence and categories of violence experienced prior to 2002 for the total sample (N=167), separately for women (N=72) and men (N=93), and  $\chi^2$ -test for differentiation of women and men in experiencing violence<sup>7</sup>

	All		Women		Men		$\chi^2$
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Total violence</b>	62	40,0%	25	37,3%	35	40,7%	0,181
<b>Economic</b>	24	15,0%	12	17,1%	12	13,6%	0,372
<b>Psychological</b>	53	33,5%	21	30,9%	30	34,1%	0,179
<b>Physical</b>	30	18,6%	10	14,3%	19	21,3%	1,311
<b>Sexual</b>	25	15,4%	13	18,6%	12	13,3%	0,819

N = number of participants who experienced violence

% = percentage of participants who experienced violence

<sup>7</sup> All  $\chi^2$ -tests are not significant on the level of  $p > 0,05$ . The number of participants may differ from one analysis to another due to a some answer that was left-out.

When we compare 4 categories of violence, we see that the psychological violence was the most frequently experienced category (33,5%) in the period prior to 2002. (Table 14.). The next one according to the frequency is physical (18,6%), then sexual (15,4%) and economic violence (15%).

According to the findings of the American studies (D'Augelli and Grossman, 2001; Herek, Gillis and Cogan, 1999), and our data on violence experienced from 2002 up to the end of 2005, the verbal assaults such as insults was the most frequently experienced violence (30,7%) (Table 15, p. 69). The percentage of persons who experienced threats of physical violence (19,4%) or tracking (15,2%) is not different in comparison to the period after 2002 (Table 10, p. 66). But, there is a huge difference with unwanted sexual suggestions, which doubled after 2002 (15,3%) in comparison to 2002.

Physical violence is the second most common category of violence experienced prior to 2002 due to sexual orientation. Pushing, pulling hair or slapping was experienced by 13,5% persons, and 11,1% was beaten, kicked or hit by some object. Unwanted touching or sexual exploitation as a form of sexual violence was experienced by 15,3% of people.

The differences between men and women did not exist either in the experience of suffered violence, nor on the level of individual categories of incidents of violence.

Prior to 2002, some forms of violence were experienced even more than once (Table 16, p. 70). Insults or swearing, threats of physical violence and unwanted sexual suggestions were experienced once, twice, or more by round 12% of persons, and pushing, pulling hair or slapping and tracking was experienced by 6% of the total sample.

### ***5.3. Comparison of the violence experienced prior to 2002 and from 2002 up to the end of 2005***

We wanted to see the possibility of a difference in outspread of violence before (Table 15, p. 69) and after 2002 (Table 10, p. 66) by comparing the percentage of persons who did not define themselves heterosexual in those two periods<sup>8</sup>. It is most evident that more persons experienced insults and unwanted sexual suggestions after 2002. One of the assumptions for explanation of more frequent reporting of those incidents after 2002 is the interaction of greater visibility of LGB persons and a greater representation of the subject of homosexuality in the public and the media and lesser concealing of sexual orientation of LGB persons. Because of that, the LGB people can be more easily spotted by the unknown people, even those who are prone to violence against them. On the other hand, maybe it is harder for the LGB persons to remember the insults and unwanted sexual suggestions that happened long time ago, so they reported only such recent incidents. Of course, only the longitudinal study and keeping statistics on the hate crimes against homosexuals and bisexuals may provide information on the increase or decrease of violence against LGB community.

### ***5.4. Violence against the unknown and close LGBT persons***

Garnets et al. (1990) considers that the whole gay community is victimised by the attack on a single homosexual or bisexual person and that such violence creates the fear climate because of which lesbians, gays and bisexual persons feel the urge to hide their sexual orientation. For that reason, we were also interested, apart from their own experience with violence, how much do the participants in this research know about the violence against other LGBT persons in Croatia.

We examined whether the participants in this research have heard about or know some LGBT person who experienced physical assault or was murdered because of her/his sexual orientation.

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<sup>8</sup> We carefully began with interpretation of these differences since it concerns two unequally long time periods. The period from 2002 and up to the end of 2005 is 4 years long, and the period prior to 2002, where the participants could have experienced violence because of their sexual orientation may be longer than 4 years, depending on how long the person identifies himself/herself as homosexual or bisexual. It became apparent that 50% of people, who considered themselves lesbian, gay or bisexual prior to 2002 started identifying like that 3 to 13 years ago since 2002.



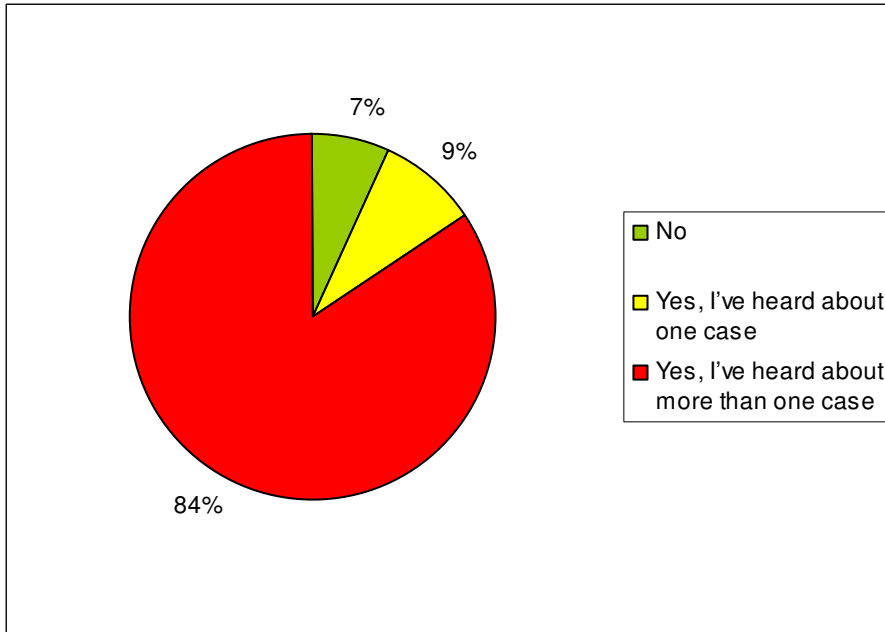


Figure 9. Percentage of the replies to the question «Have you ever heard that a LGBT person, not known to yourself, experienced physical violence in Croatia because of his/her sexual orientation?» (N=201)

The majority of participants in this research have heard about several cases in which an LGBT person in Croatia experienced the physical violence, the lesser number has heard of one such case, and the least number of people have never heard about such cases.

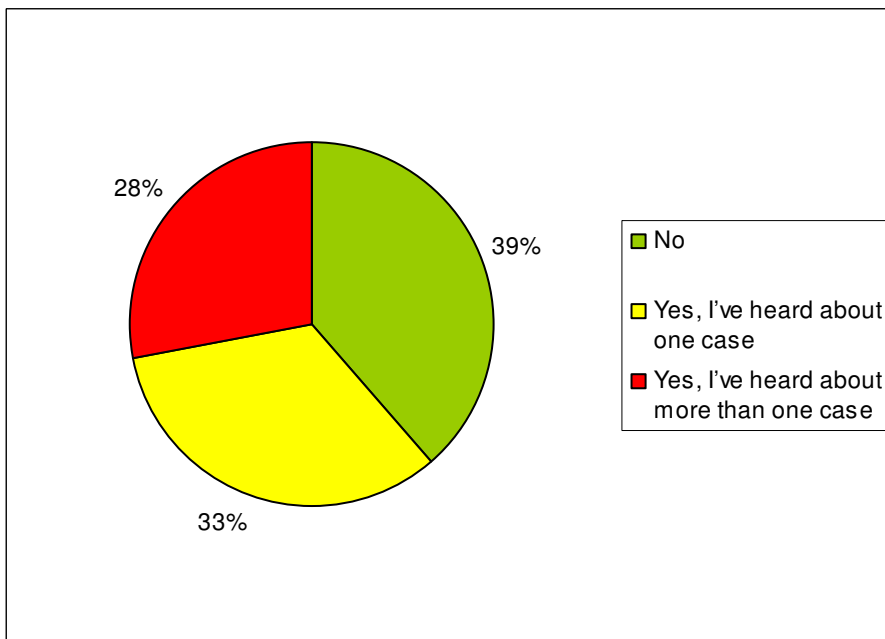
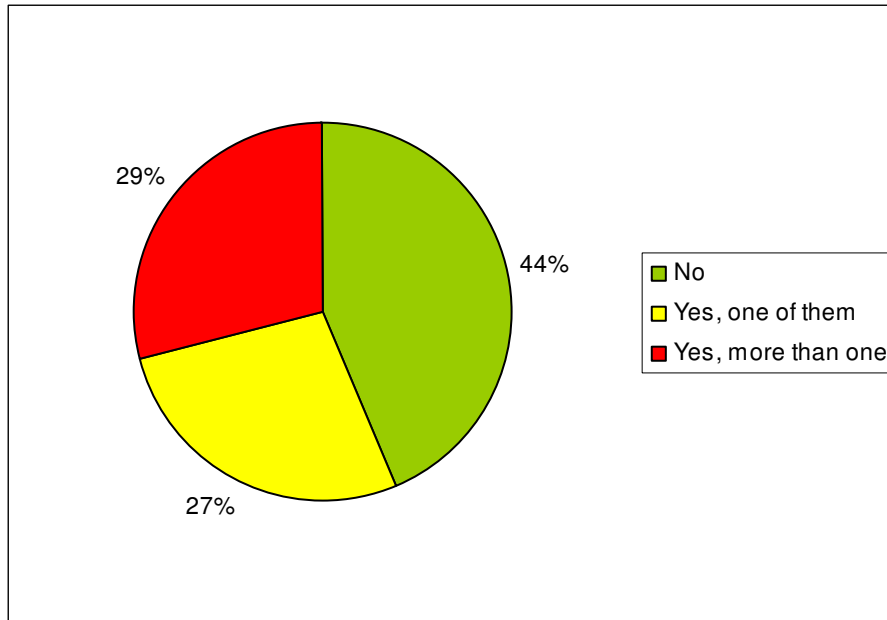


Figure 10. Percentage of the replies to the question «Have you ever heard that a LGBT person, not known to yourself, was murdered in Croatia because of his/her sexual orientation?» (N=192)

Even one third of the persons had heard about one case of homicide because of the sexual orientation in Croatia. Lesser number had heard about several such cases.

When we take into account that a large number of persons is aware of the cases of physical violence and homicides of the LGBT persons in Croatia and that the knowledge on the violence against the others increases the sense of vulnerability and fear, especially when they perceive the victims as similar to themselves (Skogan and Maxfield, 1981; Tyler, 1981, 1984, from Frieze et al., 1987), we may assume that such events have an adverse effect on the feeling of safety and self-esteem of a large number of lesbians, gays and bisexual persons.



*Figure 11. Percentage of the replies to the question «Has an LGBT person close to you (a partner, a friend) been a victim of physical violence?» (N=202)*

Even 56% of the participants in the sample have one or more friends or partners who experienced physical violence because of his/her sexual orientation.

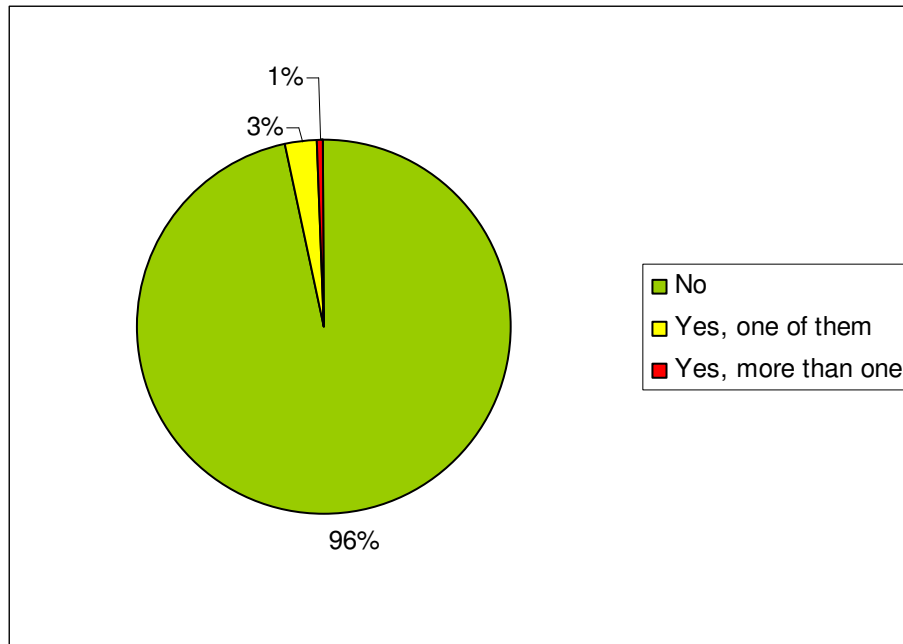


Figure 12. Percentage of the replies to the question «Has an LGBT person close to you (a partner, a friend) been a victim of homicide?» (N=185)

A close person has not been murdered because of his/her sexual orientation to majority of participants, but 3% of them suffered a loss of one, and 1% the loss of several close persons.

Violence against the close strikes their friends and partners as they must learn how to cope with the experience of violence. In the case of the homicide, they must learn how to cope with the physical loss of the victim, and in the case of physical violence with the victim's reactions (Garnets et al., 1990). At the end, they must find some sense themselves and get back the feeling of safety, which is not easy since the similar violence that their close persons experienced may happen to them due to their sexual orientation.

### ***5.5. Relation of the experienced violence, the variables connected to the sexual orientation and psychological well-being indicators***

It appeared that round 60% persons who experienced violence suffered more than one category of violence. Because of that, we could not divide the participants to those who experienced e.g. only psychological or only physical violence, so we needed a different categorisation. We have decided upon the new categorisation of violence, where the sample was divided into three subgroups: the persons who have not experienced violence, persons who experienced only verbal violence and persons who experienced assaults and limitations of freedom. Due to a large number of persons who experienced assaults and limitations of freedom together with verbal violence (N=59), and because the smaller number of participants who experienced only assaults and limitations of freedom without verbal violence (N=6), those two subgroups were merged into one, called Assaults and limitation of freedom<sup>9</sup> (N=65). According to that categorisation, the verbal violence includes all verbal incidents: all kinds of threats, insults and blackmail and unwanted sexual suggestions. The category of assaults and limitations of freedom includes all physical and sexual assaults, tracking and destruction of property, throwing out of one's home, deprivation of material safety and control of movement. On average, the persons who experienced only verbal violence, experienced 2 incidents of violence, while the persons who experienced assaults and limitations of freedom, on average experienced 5 incidents of violence. Therefore, the difference between those subgroups is not only in type, but also in the amount of experienced violence and we can say that for that reason, the category of "assault" was defined as more severe violence.

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<sup>9</sup> The categorisation similar to this one was conducted by D'Augelli and Grossman (2001) in the research on victimisation against the adult LGB persons. They divided the sample onto the persons who did not experience any violence, those who experienced only verbal violence (without physical violence) and those who experienced physical violence (and it can include those persons who also experienced verbal violence).

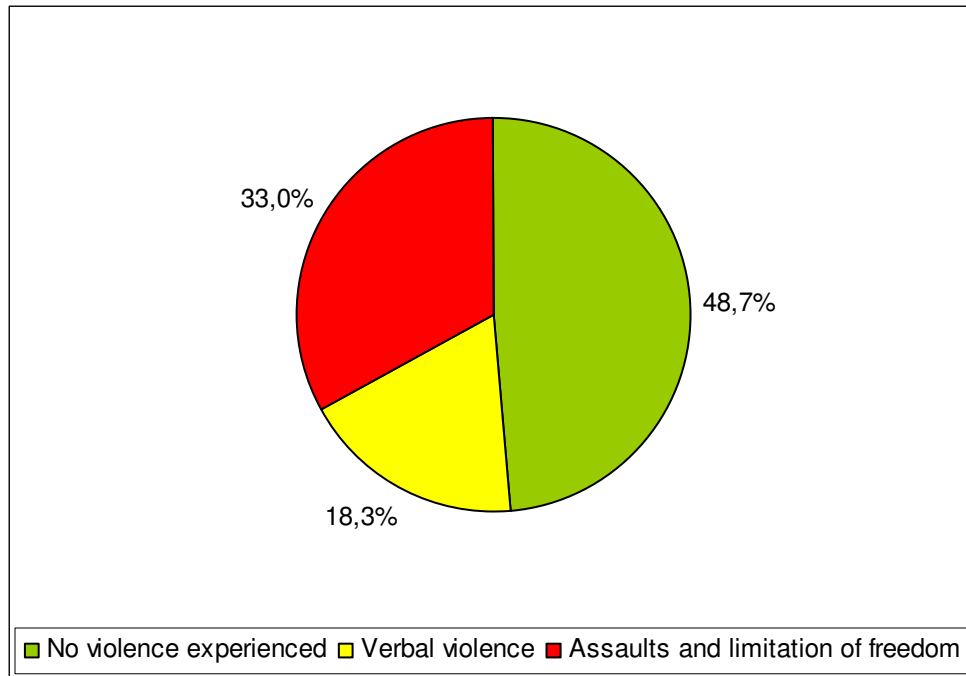


Figure 13. The type of experience of violence suffered from 2002 up to the end of 2005 for the total sample.

Table 17. Percentage and frequencies of persons who had different experiences with violence (they did not experience violence, only verbal violence and assaults and limitation of freedom) from 2002 up to the end of 2005 for the total sample (N=197), separately for women (N=97) and men (N=97) and  $\chi^2$ -test<sup>10</sup> for differentiation of women and men in the experience of violence

Categories of experience of violence	All		Women		Men		X <sup>2</sup>
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Never experienced violence	96	48,7%	46	47,4%	48	49,5%	0,105
Verbal violence	36	18,3%	18	18,6%	18	18,6%	
Assaults and limitation of freedom	65	33,0%	33	34,0%	31	32,0%	

N = number of persons

% = percentage of persons out of the total sample, i.e. out of the total number of women or men

It is evident from the Table 17 that almost half of the sample has not experienced any violence, that one third has experienced assaults and limitations of freedom, and round 20% experienced verbal violence and that there is no difference between the sexes in the experience of violence.

<sup>10</sup>  $\chi^2$ - test was calculated on the basis of sex (female and male) and the experience of violence. The test is insignificant on the level of p>0,05.

## 5.6. Disclosure and concealment of sexual orientation from the social environment

We wanted to explore how open the LGB people are to their environment regarding sexual orientation and to which extent and in which ways they are concealing their homosexuality or bisexuality in order to avoid unease, discrimination or violence. We also wanted to know what is the relation between the concealment and disclosure with the experienced violence.

### 5.6.1. DISCLOSURE OF THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION

We examined how aware is the closer social environment to the sexual orientation of participants in this research and if there was a difference between the persons of different experience of violence in disclosure of the sexual orientation.

*Table 18. Descriptive statistics and percentage in relation to the answers on mothers' (N=181) and fathers' (N=163) awareness of participants' sexual orientation*

	<b>M</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Does your Mother know about your sexual orientation?	2,78	1,146	17,7%	25,4%	17,7%	39,2%
Does your Father know about your sexual orientation?	2,26	1,143	33,7%	27,6%	17,2%	21,5%

M = Mean

SD = Standard deviation

1 = No, I am sure that he/she does not know.

2 = I assume that he/she does not know.

3 = I assume that he/she knows.

4 = Yes, I am sure that he/she knows.

Round 40% of participants is sure that their mothers are aware about their sexual orientation, while only round 20% is sure about the fathers. In accordance to that, round one third of persons are sure that their fathers are not aware about their sexual orientation, while the number of mothers who are certainly not aware is less by half. The more frequent coming out to the mothers than to the fathers is also known from the other studies (e.g. D'Augelli, 2002).

*Table 19. Descriptive statistics and percentage in relation to the answers on siblings' (N=167), friends' (N=201) and co-workers/peers' (N=198) awareness of participants' sexual orientation*

	<b>M</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Do your siblings know about your sexual orientation?	3,77	2,005	19,8%	15,0%	13,2%	9,6%	5,4%	37,1%
Do your friends know about your sexual orientation?	4,56	1,264	1,5%	4,5%	10,0%	39,3%	10,0%	34,8%

Do people on your workplace (at school, at the university and work) know about your sexual orientation?	3,37	1,525	13,6%	17,2%	19,7%	30,8%	5,1%	13,6%
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M = Mean

SD = Standard deviation

1 = No, I am sure that no one knows.

2 = I assume that no one knows.

3 = I assume that some of them know.

4 = Yes, I am sure that only some of them know.

5 = I assume that all of them know.

6 = Yes, I am sure that all of them know.

Round one third of persons is sure or assumes that their siblings are not aware of their sexual orientation, while almost 40% is sure that they know. When talking about the peers and co-workers, it became apparent that the LGB people are significantly more closeted at workplace than in the circle of friends. More than one third of the persons are sure that all their friends certainly know their sexual orientation, which may point out to disclosure to the relatively large circle of people. Only 13,6% of them are sure that everybody at their place of work is familiar with their homosexuality or bisexuality. These results are not surprising since we may assume that we chose our friends, but we cannot choose peers and co-workers at the work place. We also may assume that the fear of loss of job and/or discrimination on the job affects the coming out at the workplace. The research results that were published by the Henda Agency in 2005 confirm that their fear is founded<sup>11</sup>. Even 66% of persons in charge for making business decisions in 202 Croatian companies gave a negative answer to the question «Would you hire a homosexual person who is out?».

#### 5.6.2. VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED FROM 2002 UP TO THE END OF 2005 AND DISCLOSURE OF THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Persons who have not experienced violence are less open towards parents and peers and co-workers in relation to their sexual orientation than the persons who experienced violence, no matter to the category of violence (Table 20, p. 71). The participants who experienced only verbal violence are more open to their siblings than those who have not experienced. Those who experienced verbal violence are most open to the friends, followed by the persons who experienced assaults and limitations of freedom, while the least open persons are those who have not experienced violence.

Such results may be explained in two ways. We may assume that the greater disclosure of the sexual orientation may lead to a greater probability to experience violence. Secondly, we may assume that the persons who experience violence confide to the close persons and ask support from them and they are more open in relation to their sexual orientation. We assume that the greater disclosure regarding sexual orientation towards one's own

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.iskon.hr/novac/page/2005/01/30/0056006.html> (30.01.2005.)

family or friends does not necessarily lead to violence, especially because the perpetrators of the largest number of violence are the unknown persons.

### 5.6.3. CONCEALMENT OF THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Apart from the disclosure towards certain persons, we also examined the strategies of concealment of sexual orientation in order to avoid uneasiness, discrimination or violence.

*Table 21. Descriptive statistics and the percentage of persons with regards to the answers on the concealment of sexual orientation in order to avoid uneasiness, discrimination and/or violence because of sexual orientation*

	<b>M</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
I try to have the appearance that the society expects from my gender...	2,30	1,305	37,3%	22,9%	20,9%	10,0%	9,0%
I behave in the way that is expected from my gender...	2,34	1,240	32,3%	27,4%	20,4%	13,4%	6,5%
I keep my sexual orientation secret...	2,96	1,180	11,9%	25,4%	28,4%	23,9%	10,4%
I avoid speaking about my emotional or sexual life...	2,94	1,292	16,1%	24,1%	22,6%	23,6%	13,6%
I distort the picture on my love life (e.g. my friends „act as“ my boyfriend/girlfriend)...	2,00	1,312	54,0%	16,8%	11,4%	10,9%	6,9%
I keep quiet about my attitudes, thoughts and feelings about homosexuality/bisexuality in general...	2,11	1,147	38,6%	29,7%	16,8%	11,4%	3,5%
I keep quiet about my attitudes, thoughts and feelings about LGBT movement, community and persons in Croatia...	2,06	1,151	42,1%	26,2%	18,8%	8,9%	4,0%

... = in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation

M = Mean

SD = Standard deviation

1 = Never

2 = Rarely

3 = Sometimes

4 = Often

5 = Always

Generally speaking, the largest number of participants never or rarely used strategies of concealment of their sexual orientation in order to avoid uneasiness, discrimination and violence due to their sexual orientation. Out of all strategies, the participants in the research most often avoided speaking about their emotional and sexual life and kept their sexual orientation secret because of the possible adverse consequences. But even more than two thirds of the persons never or rarely distorted the picture about their emotional life (70,8%), kept quiet about their attitudes towards homosexuality and LGBT movement in Croatia (68,3%) and did not try to look in accordance with the social norms



about the appearance of men and women (60,2%). These results should also be seen in the light of the procedure of looking for persons who would participate in the research where we assume that the participants in the research hide their sexual orientation less than the LGB persons that were not reached through the research.

At the end we may conclude that the participants in the research considered that they would be most exposed to the unease, discrimination or violence if they became involved in the activities which directly disclosed their sexual orientation, such as talking about his/her same-sex partner. That could be the reason why they rarely behave in that way.

#### 5.6.4. VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED FROM 2002 UP TO THE END OF 2005 AND CONCEALMENT OF THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION

When we examined the difference between the persons with different experience with violence and strategies of concealment one's sexual orientation, it became apparent that the participants who experienced verbal violence are those who least hide their sexual orientation and least avoid talking about their emotional life in comparison to the persons who have not experienced violence and who experienced severe violence (Table 22, p. 72).

The persons who experienced verbal violence are less distorting the picture on their emotional life and less keep quiet their attitudes on homosexuality and LGBT community in Croatia, than the persons who have not experienced violence. We may conclude that the LGB people who experienced exclusively verbal violence do not draw their sexuality into privacy. The persons who have not experienced violence and those who have experienced more severe forms of violence are on the other side. It seems that those who have not experienced violence are more cautious, and those who experienced more severe forms of violence are more scared. We may confirm the probability that the consciousness on threatening social environment affects reaching decisions on hiding one's sexual orientation.

#### 5.6.5. BEHAVIOUR WHICH MAY DISCLOSE SEXUAL ORIENTATION IN PUBLIC

We examined if the interviewees who participated in the Croatian LGBT community's public life and if they showed intimacy with their same-sex partner in the public. We also examined whether they avoided such behaviour because of the caution or fear of unease, discrimination or violence.

*Table 23. Percentage of persons in relation to the answers on visiting LGBT identified places in Croatia (N=202)*

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Do you visit LGBT places in Croatia (e.g. gay clubs, LGBT organisations and groups)?	71,8%	0,5%	27,7%

1 = Yes, I do.

2 = No, I don't, in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation

3 = No, I don't, but for some other reason.

*Table 24. Percentage of persons in relation to the answers on participation in the public LGBT manifestations in Croatia (N=201)*

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Do you come to the public LGBT manifestations in	33,3%	20,9%	45,8%

Croatia(e.g. Queer Zagreb or Zagreb Pride)?			
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1 = Yes, I do.

2 = No, I don't, in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation

3 = No, I don't, but for some other reason.

*Table 25. Percentage of persons in relation to the answers on showing intimacy with the same-sex partner in public (N=201)*

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Do you kiss or hold hands with your same-sex partner in public?	24,4%	43,8%	31,8%

1 = Yes, I do.

2 = I don't do that in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence because of my sexual orientation.

3 = I don't do that, but due to some other reason.

Almost no one avoided going to the LGBT identified places because of the fear from possible adverse consequences. The number of those people who avoided participation at the manifestations such as Queer Zagreb or Zagreb Pride was more relevant (20,9%), as well and the percentage (43,8%) of those who avoided signs of intimacy with their partner in public, such as holding hands or kissing is even higher. We assume that the participants assess that unease, discrimination and violence will more probably occur with greater exposure to public during behaviour that may be connected with homosexuality. It is probable that the LGB persons feel more visible and thus more vulnerable and less protected in the public (heterosexual) space than in the gay-identified places such as gay club or LGBT organisation.

### 5.7. The relation of violence experienced from 2002 up to the end of 2005 and collective self-esteem

The positive social identity, in our research it is the identity of lesbians, gays or bisexuals, is important for the mental health and feeling of safety, membership and one's own value (Calhoun and Acocella, 1990). In this research, we were interested in the relation of experienced violence and collective self-esteem. Collective self-esteem of LGB people is the result of personal self-esteem related to the group of people with the same sexual orientation. After experiencing sexual orientation biased violence, the LGB persons may start connecting their own identity of a homosexual or bisexual with feelings of fear, shame and the lack of safety, not love and community (Garnets et al., 1990), but, on the other hand, they can connect more intensively to the group of people of their own sexual orientation which may become a significant source of power and support.

Table 26. Differences<sup>12</sup> in the collective self-esteem between three groups with different experience of violence suffered because of their sexual orientation from 2002 up to the end of 2005.

	Never experienced violence (N=96)		Verbal violence (N=36)		Assaults and limitations of freedom (N=65)		p
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	
The total result of the collective self-esteem scale	52,15	8,574	55,70	7,655	53,74	7,912	>,05
Group membership	14,63 <sup>a</sup>	3,453	16,42 <sup>b</sup>	3,382	15,63 <sup>ab</sup>	3,592	<,05
Private collective self-esteem	15,77	3,314	16,80	3,027	15,33	3,429	>,05
Public collective self-esteem	11,68	3,190	12,61	3,236	11,38	3,139	>,05
Importance of group membership for one's identity	10,18 <sup>a</sup>	3,944	9,61 <sup>a</sup>	4,618	11,73 <sup>b</sup>	3,781	<,01

M = Mean

SD = Standard deviation

p = significance

a, b, c = means labelled with the same letter show no mutual statistic difference at  $p < 0,05$  (and means labelled with «ab» show no difference from those labelled with «a» and «b»)

Our findings (Table 26.) have shown that the participants who experienced verbal violence feel worthier and more useful members of the LGB population than those who have not experienced violence. We also found that the affiliation to the LGB population is more important in definition of identity to persons who experienced assaults and limitations of freedom than to the other two groups. We assume that experiencing harder forms of violence has a specific impact on the personality of the LGB people and that the LGB identity is thus, either positively or negatively, stressed as an important part of one's own understanding and acceptance.

<sup>12</sup> The Kruskal-Wallis H test was used for testing the difference in groups with different experiences of violence due to the unequal size of those three groups. We used the Mann-Whitneyev U test in order to check which groups were mutually different.

Women have greater collective self-esteem, i.e., they feel more that the group they belong to is worth the effort and they feel less sorry than men to belong to the group of people of their sexual orientation.

### ***5.8. The relation of violence experienced from 2002 to the end of 2005 with the psychological well-being indicators***

The victims of violence show specific reactions to the experienced violence, which can be immediate, short-term or long-term. The different forms of violence such as rape, physical assault or vandalism show very similar results (Wirtz and Harrell, 1987). Those reactions to the experienced victimisation may vary from disbelief and denial, loneliness, vulnerability and self-pity (Bard and Sangrey, 1986, according to Frieze et al., 1987), through the loss of identity and self-respect to fear, anxiety and depression (Nortman and Nadelson, 1976; Frank, Turner and Duffy, 1979; Ellis, Atkeson and Calhoun, 1981, according to Frieze et al., 1987). We think that sexual orientation biased violence leaves trace in the behaviour of those persons as well as their feelings and beliefs. The victims of violence are more prone to believe that the world is not a safe place, that the people are malevolent (Garnets et al., 1990) and that they should be aware and hide their own sexual orientation from the social environment.

The findings of this research show that people who experienced sexual orientation biased assaults and limitation of freedom from 2002 to the end of 2005 show more anxiety, depression and lower self-esteem than the persons who did not experience violence and those who experienced only verbal violence (Table 27, p. 73). Apart from the total anxiety scale result, the participants who experienced cases of harder violence are also more anxious in the situations when the others evaluate them and in everyday and usual activities, i.e. reading newspapers or having a lunch. Such results are not surprising, since the similar studies on homosexual population have shown that young people who had experienced harder victimization have more pronounced problems related to the mental health (D'Augelli, 2002), and the victims of physical violence have lower self-esteem than the persons who have not experience violence or have experienced only verbal violence (D'Augelli and Grossman, 2001).

Apart from these statistically significant differences, we must emphasize those people who have not experienced violence, persons who experienced verbal violence and those who experienced assaults are not different in relation to life satisfaction. It was generally shown that the participants in this research are mostly satisfied with their lives.

Apart from the afore mentioned indicators of psychological well-being, we also wanted to research the presence of suicidal thoughts and attempts, and seeking psychological help due to the depression related distress and usage of anti-depressive medications in their lives so far. We quote those indicators for the whole sample, and than we are providing a comparison of the groups with different experience of the violence they suffered in the last 4 years.

*Table 28. Percentage of persons in relation to the responses on existence of the suicidal thoughts and attempts, on seeking psychological help and usage of antidepressive medications throughout their lives (N=201)*

	Never	Once	More than once
Have you ever SERIOUSLY considered taking your own life?	57,2%	21,9%	20,9%
Have you ever had a suicide attempt?	85,1%	11,9%	3,0%
Have you ever asked for a professional psychotherapeutic help due to depression related distress?	61,2%	27,4%	11,4%
Have you ever used anti-depressive medications?	71,6%	13,9%	14,4%

More than 40% of participants in this research have seriously considered taking their own lives, and half of them have considered it more than once. Twelve percent of persons have attempted suicide once in their lifetime, and 3% of them more than once. Almost 40% of persons asked for a professional psychotherapeutic help, and over one quarter of them have used the anti-depression medications at least once in a lifetime.

We also spotted the connection of the experience of violence suffered from 2002 until the end of 2005 with the suicide and depression related indicators, but we must mention that this does not concern the causal relationships of violence and the aforementioned indicators (Table 29, p. 74). Among the persons who have seriously considered taking their own life at least once in their lifetime, the number of people who experienced some form of violence is almost double, while there is almost four times as much persons who experienced violence and tried to kill themselves at least once in their lifetime as opposed to the people with no experience of violence. In accordance to our results, which point out to the greater depression at the victims of more severe forms of violence, it appeared that the number of people who asked for professional psychotherapeutic help because of their depressive distress was double in those who experienced some form of violence. The similar result is also valid in relation to the usage of anti-depressive medications.

### ***5.9. CLOSE LGBT PERSONS WHO EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE, PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING INDICATORS AND COLLECTIVE SELF-ESTEEM***

Apart from having to tackle with fear from potential violence or with the consequences of the experienced violence, the sexual minorities sometimes have to face violence experienced by the persons close to them. Our results show that the LGB persons, whose partners and friends experienced sexual orientation biased physical violence, especially when there is more of them, have similar symptoms of psychological distress as the persons who experienced severe forms of violence (Table 30, p. 75). The persons whose several close LGBT persons were assaulted, generally show more anxiety and depression than those whose close persons have not experienced physical violence because of their

sexual orientation, and they are also more anxious in the situations where the other people make judgements about them and while performing everyday activities. The other researches also showed that persons close to the victims have higher levels of anxiety and fear (Friedman et al, 1982, from Frieze et al, 1987), especially when the victims are perceived similar to themselves (Skogan and Maxfield, 1981; Tyler, 1981, 1984, from Frieze et al, 1987), which in this case relates to sexual orientation.

In accordance to the finding on greater depression in people whose partners or friends experienced physical violence, it appeared that the large number of them had suicidal thoughts or had a suicide attempt in comparison to those whose close and dear persons have not experienced physical victimisation (Table 31, p. 76). The same result was gotten for seeking professional psychotherapeutic help, as well for the usage of antidepressives. Twice as much of them have seriously considered taking their own life, and four times more of them who actually tried to accomplish that were among the participants whose close persons experienced physical violence. Also, there is almost twice as much those who sought professional psychotherapeutic help due to the depressive symptoms among them, and three times more of those who used medications against depression in comparison to the persons whose friends or partners had no experience with physical violence.

Berrill and Herek (1990) consider that the same-sex partners of the victims of violence are under a special risk of secondary victimisation since they help victims in seeking help. They often cannot visit their partners in the hospital as they are not considered a close family member (Garnet et al., 1990). Apart from that, close persons who suffered a physical attack due to his/her sexual orientation, may create the feeling of personal vulnerability in homosexuals as well as the belief that they can be assaulted themselves because of their sexual orientation.

The participants did not differ in total collective self-esteem scale result regardless if their close persons experienced physical violence (Table 32, p. 77).

### ***5.10. Relation of disclosure and concealment of the sexual orientation, psychological well-being indicators and collective self-esteem***

It has been noted that the experience of violence was related to the disclosure and concealment of sexual orientation and collective self-esteem as well as to the indicators of psychological well-being. In order to get a complete notion on relation of these variables, we examined the relation of disclosure and strategy of concealment and the collective self-esteem and indicators of psychological well-being.

#### **5.10.1. DISCLOSURE OF THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND COLLECTIVE SELF-ESTEEM**

It is noted that the collective self-esteem is statistically significant, but only weakly<sup>13</sup> related to the disclosure towards the family, friends and co-workers/peers (Table 33, p. 78). The greater feeling of belonging to LGB population is related to the greater disclosure towards mother, father, siblings, friends and co-workers/peers.

It is important to point out that this involves very low correlations and that we speak only about relation of these variables, but not about the causal relation between them. We may assume that the feeling of positive valuation and importance of the group that the LGB person belongs affects their confiding sexual orientation to the family or friends. We could also assume that the pride with the one's own group comes from openness regarding one's own sexual orientation towards one's friends and their acceptance of sexual orientation. In any case, it should be pointed out that the awareness of one's sexual orientation to his/her family, friends and business circle is related to the positive evaluation of one's own lesbian, gay or bisexual identity.

#### **5.10.2. DISCLOSURE OF THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING INDICATORS**

Although, for example, the research of D'Augelli (2002) showed that the teenagers whose parents do not know that they are homosexual or bisexual have more symptoms of psychological distress, our results point out that the level of disclosure regarding sexual orientation is not related to anxiety, depressiveness, personal self-esteem and satisfaction with life (Table 34, p. 78). It appeared that regarding the mothers of the persons who have asked for psychological help at least once in their lifetime, were somewhat more introduced to their sexual orientation than those who have never asked for help. But here we are not talking about the causal relation of those variables. The differences in the level of disclosure with regard to the variables of suicidal thoughts and attempts, and usage of antidepressives are not significant (Table 35, p. 79). We assume that the relation of the level of disclosure and the symptoms of psychological distress are also influenced by the manner in which the persons from their surrounding learned about their sexual orientation or their reaction to that knowledge. We presume that the negative reactions could be related to the bad mental health and the reactions of acceptance with better mental health. The level of disclosure itself obviously is not related to the indicators of psychological well-being.

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<sup>13</sup> According to Petz (1997) the Pearson's correlation coefficient «r from 0,00 to  $\pm 0,20$  means no or insignificant relation, r from  $\pm 0,20$  to  $\pm 0,40$  means weak relation, r from  $\pm 0,40$  to  $\pm 0,70$  means real significant relation, and r from  $\pm 0,70$  to  $\pm 1,00$  means strong or very strong relation» (p. 211)

### 5.10.3. CONCEALMENT OF THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND COLLECTIVE SELF-ESTEEM

As we have already mentioned, the persons who have experienced verbal violence least hide their sexual orientation and they have a feeling that they are more important members of LGB population than those who have not experienced violence and on that assumption we presupposed that the stronger collective self-esteem was related to the rarer concealment of the sexual orientation. The results showed that more the person values the LGB population, the more he/she feels belonging to that group, the rarer he/she tries to present himself/herself as a non-homosexual person (Table 36, p. 80). Also, the more the person believes that the social environment positively assesses the homosexual persons, the lesser he/she will adjust the appearance to the social norms and avoid talking about the emotional life.

Hence, the results confirmed our assumption that the lower level of concealment sexual orientation was related to the positive valuation of the social identity of the gays, lesbians or bisexuals. But does the better valuation of LGB population has an impact on the lower level of concealment sexual orientation or the lower level of concealment encourages greater pride of one's group – we can only assume. Maybe the greater pride and lower level of concealment of sexual orientation are encouraged by some third factor, such as presence of the homosexuality in the media, knowledge of the social environment about the problems of the homosexuals, etc.

### 5.10.4. CONCEALMENT OF THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING INDICATORS

It has been shown that the persons who experienced more severe violence are more anxious, more depressive and have a lower self-esteem than those who have not experienced violence and from the victims of verbal violence. The results show that the sexual orientation is least hidden by the victims of verbal violence, and mostly by the persons who have not experienced violence. We were therefore interested in the relation of concealment of sexual orientation and psychological well-being indicators. It appeared that the higher level of self-esteem was weakly connected with the open expression of attitudes on homosexuality (Table 37, p. 81). Concealment of sexual orientation in order to avoid unease, discrimination or violence was related to the anxiety in new and ambiguous situations and social evaluation situations. The LGB persons are probably more cautious in the unclear situations and they modify their behaviour, appearance or attitudes in order not to be related to homosexuality. In such situations, the LGB persons must assess how much thrust they can have into strangers and balance their wish for expression of sexual orientation with the feelings of fear and caution due to possible adverse consequences of outing.

We may conclude that the persons who adjust their behaviour less and who less keep quiet about their thoughts and feelings in order to avoid unease, discrimination or violence are less anxious and have greater personal and collective self-esteem. This is in the accordance to the research that showed that the psychological adjustment is the highest in women and men who are dedicated to their gay identities and do not hide their homosexuality or bisexuality from the others (Bell and Weinberg, 1978; Hammersmith and Weinberg, 1978, from Garnet et al., 1990), while those who are concealing their



sexual orientation may feel psychological distress including the lower self-esteem (Bell and Weinberg, 1978, from Garnet et al., 1990).

It appeared also that depression and life satisfaction are not related to concealment of the sexual orientation (Table 37, p. 81).

## **6. CONCLUSION**

The goal of this research was to examine which forms of violence do the LGB persons in Croatia experience because of their sexual orientation, who are the most common perpetrators of violence and how the experiences of violence are related to the psychological well-being indicators and collective self-esteem. We were also interested in how much are the LGB people open to their social environment regarding their sexual orientation and to which extent they hide that they are homosexual or bisexual because of fear of discrimination or violence.

This research shows that every second lesbian, gay and bisexual person experienced violence because of his/her sexual orientation in the last 4 years. In the period between 2002 and the end of 2005, almost 40% of participants in this research experienced insults or swearing, 28% of them unwanted sexual suggestions, and 20% threats of physical violence. Physical violence was experienced by 14% of participants, the most common being shoving objects at a person (10%). It also became apparent that the younger LGB persons experience more sexual and economic violence than the older ones, and women experience unwanted sexual suggestions more often than men.

Violence against the LGB persons was mostly committed by the persons who were unknown to them, either in public open or indoor places. It is concerning that the large number of persons decide to show aggression towards people they do not know only because they think they might be homosexual. Only with the economic violence the commonest perpetrators are the close family members who have a power over the material security of lesbians, gays and bisexuals. These findings show that the significant number of LGB person cannot feel safe either in public places or in his/her own home.

In the period prior to 2002, the significant number of persons experienced violence because of the sexual orientation. The most common were the insults (30,7%), threats of physical violence (19,4%) and tracking (15,2%). The comparison of violence experienced prior and after 2002 show that the higher percentage of people experienced insults and unwanted sexual suggestions between 2002 and the end of 2005 than prior to 2002.

In general, the research shows that the social surrounding of victims of violence is more aware of their sexual orientation than those of the LGB persons who have not experienced violence. The persons who experienced exclusively verbal violence are most open to their siblings. In accordance to that, it appeared that the victims of verbal violence are least secretive about their sexual orientation and they least avoid talking about their emotional life in comparison to the persons who have not experienced violence and those who experienced more severe forms of violence.

Experiencing violence is also connected to the LGB identity. The victims of the physical assaults and limitation of freedom think more than the others that belonging to the LGB people affects the experience of oneself. We assume that the experience with the more severe homophobic violence additionally points out the LGB identity in the persons who have suffered hard and tedious experience because of that identity. The harder forms of violence the person has experienced, the stronger is the affiliation to the LGB population tied to his/her own identity.

Like the numerous studies before this one, our study has shown that the experience of violence was related to more symptoms of psychological distress. Namely, the persons who experienced physical assaults and limitations of freedom because of their sexual orientation from 2002 up to the end of 2005, are more anxious, depressive and have lower self-esteem than the persons who have not experienced violence and those who have experienced only verbal violence.

Even 84% of participants in this research have heard about more than one unfamiliar LGBT persons who experienced physical violence in Croatia because of the sexual orientation. Also, 56% of them have one or more friends/partners who are physically victimised. The persons whose more than one close persons were attacked are more depressive and anxious than those whose one close person was attacked and those whose friend and partners hasn't been attacked. Hence, the harder violence the person suffers, and the more their friends and partners experience violence, the more depressive and anxious he/she will be.

It appeared that lesbians, gays or bisexuals who rarely keeps quiet about the attitudes on homosexuality has a greater personal self-esteem and those who hide their sexual orientation in order to avoid unease, discrimination or violence are more anxious.

We are here trying to list the limitations of our research and stress the need for further research of violence against the LGB persons. According to our results, the causal relation between the variables cannot be established since the research was a correlational. Although it appeared that the experiences of violence are related to the worse mental health, only the longitudinal research may surely show us which were the victims' reactions to violence and in which way do they and their loved ones face the consequences. Furthermore, the majority of participants in this research were aged from 20 to 39, which limits the generalisation to the other, and we thus believe that the experiences of violence against the LGB teenagers and persons older than 40 must be further examined. Among other things, the violence against the LGB persons in the regions other than the Zagreb region, the Osijek region and the Rijeka region must also be examined. Due to the specific methodology of collecting data, we assume that the persons who took part in this research are more open in relation to the sexual orientation and it is questionable whether our data can be generalised to the persons who are not open to their social environment. It would be useful to examine the profile of the perpetrators and the circumstances of the different forms of violence and the occurrence of the experience of secondary victimisation. Apart from that, it is important to explore

the positive experiences and emotions LGB people get in the community such as pride, power, support, friendship and love.

This is the first victimisation research on the lesbians, gays and bisexuals in Croatia. It is used in order to fill the rare knowledge on the stigmatised position of the LGB population through illumination of diversity and the outspread of the homophobic violence and the negative effect of violence to the mental health of victims and their friends/partners. The relation between the violence and the collective self-esteem and the connection of concealment of sexual orientation and mental health of lesbians, gays and bisexuals is also pointed out.

We have a long and demanding process before us, of educating the public and professionals in social institutions who provide for the well-being of all citizens on issues of rights and position of the sexual minorities in Croatia. Prevention of the homophobic violence, the consequences of violence and reduction of the secondary victimisation as well as the better care for the LGB victims and their loved ones are the goals standing before our legislator, police and legal system, medical and mental health professionals and LGBT organisations.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end, we would like to highlight some policies for the common work of the legislator, the police, medical and mental health professionals, media, LGBT organisations and others with the goal to solve the issue of violence against lesbians, gays and bisexuals and reducing adverse effects of that violence.

- To the legislator: incrimination of hate crimes which include all hate speeches and deeds directed against the sex/gender, sexual, religious, national and race minorities.
- To the state statistics: entering and tracking the categories of the violence victims according to the gender/sex, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, nationality and race in reporting the valid sentence to the National Bureau of Statistics.
- To the police, psychologists, psychiatrists, medical doctors and other medical staff: careful and considerate treatment towards the victims of homophobia in a way which respects their dignity, in order to avoid the secondary victimisation.
- To the media: careful and considerate representation of victims of homophobia and the total LGBT community in a way which does not reproduce the prejudices and respects their dignity.
- To the LGBT organisations:
  - Systematic documentation and reporting on all forms of violence and discrimination.
  - Organising of peer-counselling<sup>14</sup> for the victims of violence and discrimination, their partners and family members.
  - Organisation of educational workshops to all experts who come into a contact with the victims of violence, their partners and family members.

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<sup>14</sup> Peer-counseling is a counsel where the members of a certain community work, in this case they would be LGBT counsels for the LGBT persons asking for help or advice.

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## 9. APPENDIX 1: TABLES

Table 10. Incidents of violence experienced from 2002 up to the end of 2005 for the total sample (N=202), separately for women (N=98) and men (N=101) and  $\chi^2$ -test for differentiation of women from men in experiencing violence<sup>15</sup>.

	All		Women		Men		$\chi^2$
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Threats of withholding money and material security	18	9,0%	10	10,3%	8	7,9%	0,342
Threats of throwing you out of your home	17	8,5%	10	10,2%	7	7,0%	0,647
Deprivation of money and material security.	6	3,0%	4	4,1%	2	2,0%	0,730
Throwing you out from your home.	8	4,0%	3	3,1%	5	5,0%	0,480
Control of movement.	17	8,5%	8	8,2%	9	9,1%	0,054
Insults, swearing and spitting.	74	37,0%	35	35,7%	38	38,4%	0,150
Blackmail.	18	9,0%	8	8,2%	10	10,0%	0,202
Threats of physical violence.	39	19,5%	14	14,3%	24	24,2%	3,136
Threats assault by knife, gun, or some other weapon.	11	5,5%	3	3,1%	8	8,0%	2,301
Tracking or running after you.	33	16,4%	12	12,2%	21	21,0%	2,732
Destruction of your property.	6	3,0%	2	2,0%	4	4,0%	0,667
Shoving objects at you.	21	10,4%	10	10,2%	10	10,0%	0,002
Pushing, pulling hair or slapping.	14	7,0%	4	4,1%	9	9,0%	1,952
Hitting or you were beaten, kicked or hit with some object.	14	7,0%	4	4,1%	9	9,0%	1,952
Attack by knife, gun or some other weapon	2	1,0%	0	0,0%	2	2,0%	1,980
Unwanted sexual suggestions.	56	27,9%	35	35,7%	20	20,0%	6,092*
Sexual assault or rape attempt.	15	7,5%	9	9,2%	6	6,0%	0,716
Unwanted touching or sexual exploitation.	25	12,4%	13	13,3%	12	12,0%	0,072
Rape.	4	2,0%	3	3,1%	1	1,0%	1,062

N = number of participants who experienced violence

% = percentage of participants who experienced violence

\* = significant at  $p < 0,05$

<sup>15</sup>  $\chi^2$ - tests calculated on the basis of sex (female and male) and the experience of violence (experienced and not experienced). The number of participants may differ from one analysis to another due to a possible answer that was left-out.



Table 11. Frequency of experienced incidents of violence from 2002 up to the end of 2005 for the total sample (N=202), separately for women (N=98) and men (N=101)<sup>16</sup>.

	All				Women				Men			
	0	1x	2x	3 + x	0	1x	2x	3 + x	0	1x	2x	3 + x
Threats of withholding money and material security	183	10	4	4	87	5	3	2	93	5	1	2
	91,0%	5,0%	2,0%	2,0%	89,7%	5,2%	3,1%	2,1%	92,1%	5,0%	1,0%	2,0%
Threats of throwing you out of your home	184	11	1	5	88	6	0	4	93	5	1	1
	91,5%	5,5%	0,5%	2,5%	89,8%	6,1%	0,0%	4,1%	93,0%	5,0%	1,0%	1,0%
Deprivation of money and material security.	195	4	1	1	94	2	1	1	98	2	0	0
	97,0%	2,0%	0,5%	0,5%	95,9%	2,0%	1,0%	1,0%	98,0%	2,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Throwing you out from your home.	193	5	3	0	95	1	2	0	95	4	1	0
	96,0%	2,5%	1,5%	0,0%	96,9%	1,0%	2,0%	0,0%	95,0%	4,0%	1,0%	0,0%
Control of movement.	183	5	3	9	90	3	2	3	90	2	1	6
	91,5%	2,5%	1,5%	4,5%	91,8%	3,1%	2,0%	3,1%	90,9%	2,0%	1,0%	6,1%
Insults, swearing and spitting.	126	34	11	29	63	14	6	15	61	20	5	13
	63,0%	17,0%	5,5%	14,5%	64,3%	14,3%	6,1%	15,3%	61,6%	20,2%	5,1%	13,1%
Blackmail.	183	10	1	7	90	4	1	3	90	6	0	4
	91,0%	5,0%	0,5%	3,5%	91,8%	4,1%	1,0%	3,1%	90,0%	6,0%	0,0%	4,0%
Threats of physical violence.	161	24	4	11	84	9	1	4	75	15	3	6
	80,5%	12,0%	2,0%	5,5%	85,7%	9,2%	1,0%	4,1%	75,8%	15,2%	3,0%	6,1%
Threats assault by knife, gun, or some other weapon.	190	9	0	2	95	2	0	1	92	7	0	1
	94,5%	4,5%	0,0%	1,0%	96,9%	2,0%	0,0%	1,0%	92,0%	7,0%	0,0%	1,0%
Tracking or running after you.	168	14	9	10	86	4	5	3	79	10	4	7
	83,6%	7,0%	4,5%	5,0%	87,8%	4,1%	5,1%	3,1%	79,0%	10,0%	4,0%	7,0%
Destruction of your property.	194	3	0	3	96	2	0	0	95	1	0	3
	97,0%	1,5%	0,0%	1,5%	98,0%	2,0%	0,0%	0,0%	96,0%	1,0%	0,0%	3,0%
Shoving objects at you.	180	12	6	3	88	5	2	3	90	6	4	0
	89,6%	6,0%	3,0%	1,5%	89,8%	5,1%	2,0%	3,1%	90,0%	6,0%	4,0%	0,0%
Pushing, pulling hair or slapping.	187	10	3	1	94	4	0	0	91	6	3	0
	93,0%	5,0%	1,5%	0,5%	95,9%	4,1%	0,0%	0,0%	91,0%	6,0%	3,0%	0,0%
Hitting or you were beaten, kicked or hit with some object.	187	12	1	1	94	4	0	0	91	8	0	1
	93,0%	6,0%	0,5%	0,5%	95,9%	4,1%	0,0%	0,0%	91,0%	8,0%	0,0%	1,0%
Attack by knife, gun or some other weapon	199	0	2	0	98	0	0	0	98	0	2	0
	99,0%	0,0%	1,0%	0,0%	100%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	98,0%	0,0%	2,0%	0,0%
Unwanted sexual suggestions.	145	21	11	24	63	11	9	15	80	9	2	9
	72,1%	10,4%	5,5%	11,9%	64,3%	11,2%	9,2%	15,3%	80,0%	9,0%	2,0%	9,0%
Sexual assault or rape attempt.	186	8	2	5	89	4	1	4	94	4	1	1
	92,5%	4,0%	1,0%	2,5%	90,8%	4,1%	1,0%	4,1%	94,0%	4,0%	1,0%	1,0%
Unwanted touching or sexual exploitation.	176	11	4	10	85	7	2	4	88	4	2	6
	87,6%	5,5%	2,0%	5,0%	86,7%	7,1%	2,0%	4,1%	88,0%	4,0%	2,0%	6,0%
Rape.	197	3	1	0	95	2	1	0	99	1	0	0
	98,0%	1,5%	0,5%	0,0%	96,9%	2,0%	1,0%	0,0%	99,0%	1,0%	0,0%	0,0%

0 = incident not experienced  
 1x = incident experienced once  
 2x = incident experienced twice  
 3 + x = incident experienced three times and more

<sup>16</sup> The number of participants may differ from one analysis to another due to a possible answer that was left out.

Table 13. Incidents of violence experienced from 2002 up to the end of 2005 according to the region where the person lives, and the chi-square test for differentiation of experience of violence in relation to the region<sup>17</sup>. (Zagreb region N=137, Osijek region N=29, Rijeka region N=35).

	Zagreb region		Osijek region		Rijeka region		$\chi^2$
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Threats of withholding money and material security	15	11,0%	2	6,9%	1	2,9%	2,453
Threats of throwing you out of your home	13	9,6%	0	0,0%	4	11,4%	3,276
Depravation of money and material security.	6	4,4%	0	0,0%	0	0,0%	2,911
Throwing you out from your home.	5	3,7%	0	0,0%	3	8,6%	3,150
Control of movement.	13	9,6%	0	0,0%	4	11,8%	3,340
Insults, swearing and spitting.	56	41,5%	4	13,8%	14	40,0%	7,979*
Blackmail.	16	11,8%	0	0,0%	2	5,7%	4,599
Threats of physical violence.	33	24,3%	2	6,9%	4	11,8%	6,173*
Threats assault by knife, gun, or some other weapon.	10	7,4%	0	0,0%	1	2,9%	3,057
Tracking or running after you.	24	17,6%	2	6,9%	7	20,0%	2,382
Destruction of your property.	5	3,7%	0	0,0%	1	2,9%	1,123
Shoving objects at you.	20	14,7%	0	0,0%	1	2,9%	8,138*
Pushing, pulling hair or slapping.	11	8,1%	1	3,4%	2	5,7%	0,898
Hitting or you were beaten, kicked or hit with some object.	12	8,8%	1	3,4%	1	2,9%	2,179
Attack by knife, gun or some other weapon	1	0,7%	0	0,0%	1	2,9%	1,609
Unwanted sexual suggestions.	39	28,7%	6	20,7%	11	31,4%	1,004
Sexual assault or rape attempt.	10	7,4%	1	3,4%	4	11,4%	1,469
Unwanted touching or sexual exploitation.	20	14,7%	1	3,4%	4	11,4%	2,814
Rape.	3	2,2%	1	3,4%	0	0,0%	1,054

N = number of participants who experienced violence

% = percentage of participants who experienced violence

\* = significant at  $p < 0,05$

<sup>17</sup> The number of participants may differ from one analysis to another due to a possible answer that was left out.

Table 15. The incidents of violence experienced prior to 2002 for the total sample (N=167), separately for women (N=72) and men (N=93), and  $\chi^2$ -test for differentiation of women and men in the experience of violence<sup>18</sup>

	All		Women		Men		$\chi^2$
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Threats of withholding money and material security	13	8,1%	8	11,4%	5	5,6%	1,762
Threats of throwing you out of your home	17	10,4%	9	12,9%	8	8,8%	0,693
Deprivation of money and material security.	5	3,1%	4	5,7%	1	1,1%	2,756
Throwing you out from your home.	6	3,7%	3	4,3%	3	3,3%	0,099
Control of movement.	12	7,5%	7	10,0%	5	5,6%	1,078
Insults, swearing and spitting.	51	30,7%	21	29,2%	28	30,4%	0,031
Blackmail.	17	10,4%	7	9,9%	10	11,1%	0,066
Threats of physical violence.	31	19,4%	10	14,5%	19	21,3%	1,219
Threats assault by knife, gun, or some other weapon.	10	6,2%	3	4,3%	7	7,9%	0,852
Tracking or running after you.	25	15,2%	10	14,1%	13	14,3%	0,001
Destruction of your property.	10	6,1%	5	7,0%	5	5,6%	0,151
Shoving objects at you.	11	6,8%	4	5,7%	7	7,8%	0,262
Pushing, pulling hair or slapping.	22	13,5%	7	9,9%	14	15,6%	1,135
Hitting or you were beaten, kicked or hit with some object.	18	11,1%	6	8,5%	12	13,5%	1,002
Attack by knife, gun or some other weapon	3	1,9%	2	2,9%	1	1,1%	0,652
Unwanted sexual suggestions.	25	15,3%	14	19,7%	11	12,2%	1,700
Sexual assault or rape attempt.	8	4,9%	5	7,1%	3	3,3%	1,203
Unwanted touching or sexual exploitation.	12	7,4%	6	8,6%	6	6,7%	0,206
Rape.	4	2,5%	3	4,3%	1	1,1%	1,628

N = number of participants who experienced violence

% = percentage of participants who experienced violence

<sup>18</sup> All  $\chi^2$ -tests are insignificant on the level of  $p > 0,05$ . The number of participants may differ from one analysis to another due to a possible answer that was left out.

Table 16. The frequency of the experienced incidents of violence prior to 2002 for the total sample (N=167) and separately for women (N=72) and men (N=93)<sup>19</sup>.

	All				Women				Men			
	0	1x	2x	3 + x	0	1x	2x	3 + x	0	1x	2x	3 + x
Threats of withholding money and material security	148	5	3	5	62	3	2	3	84	2	1	2
	91,9%	3,1%	1,9%	3,1%	88,6%	4,3%	2,9%	4,3%	94,4%	2,2%	1,1%	2,2%
Threats of throwing you out of your home	146	10	1	6	61	4	1	4	83	6	0	2
	89,6%	6,1%	0,6%	3,7%	87,1%	5,7%	1,4%	5,7%	91,2%	6,6%	0,0%	2,2%
Deprivation of money and material security.	157	2	1	2	66	2	1	1	89	0	0	1
	96,9%	1,2%	0,6%	1,2%	94,3%	2,9%	1,4%	1,4%	98,9%	0,0%	0,0%	1,1%
Throwing you out from your home.	156	4	1	1	67	1	1	1	87	3	0	0
	96,3%	2,5%	0,6%	0,6%	95,7%	1,4%	1,4%	1,4%	96,7%	3,3%	0,0%	0,0%
Control of movement.	149	3	3	6	63	1	2	4	84	2	1	2
	92,5%	1,9%	1,9%	3,7%	90,0%	1,4%	2,9%	5,7%	94,4%	2,2%	1,1%	2,2%
Insults, swearing and spitting.	115	18	10	23	51	6	5	10	64	12	4	12
	69,3%	10,8%	6,0%	13,9%	70,8%	8,3%	6,9%	13,9%	69,6%	13,0%	4,3%	13,0%
Blackmail.	146	10	2	5	64	3	1	3	80	7	1	2
	89,6%	6,1%	1,2%	3,1%	90,1%	4,2%	1,4%	4,2%	88,9%	7,8%	1,1%	2,2%
Threats of physical violence.	129	12	3	16	59	3	1	6	70	8	1	10
	80,6%	7,5%	1,9%	10,0%	85,5%	4,3%	1,4%	8,7%	78,7%	9,0%	1,1%	11,2%
Threats assault by knife, gun, or some other weapon.	151	3	3	4	67	1	0	2	82	2	3	2
	93,8%	1,9%	1,9%	2,5%	95,7%	1,4%	0,0%	2,9%	92,1%	2,2%	3,4%	2,2%
Tracking or running after you.	139	14	5	6	61	3	3	4	78	9	2	2
	84,8%	8,5%	3,0%	3,7%	85,9%	4,2%	4,2%	5,6%	85,7%	9,9%	2,2%	2,2%
Destruction of your property.	153	7	1	2	66	3	0	2	85	4	1	0
	93,9%	4,3%	0,6%	1,2%	93,0%	4,2%	0,0%	2,8%	94,4%	4,4%	1,1%	0,0%
Shoving objects at you.	151	3	5	3	66	1	2	1	83	2	3	2
	93,2%	1,9%	3,1%	1,9%	94,3%	1,4%	2,9%	1,4%	92,2%	2,2%	3,3%	2,2%
Pushing, pulling hair or slapping.	141	12	2	8	64	4	0	3	76	8	2	4
	86,5%	7,4%	1,2%	4,9%	90,1%	5,6%	0,0%	4,2%	84,4%	8,9%	2,2%	4,4%
Hitting or you were beaten, kicked or hit with some object.	144	11	2	5	65	4	0	2	77	7	2	3
	88,9%	6,8%	1,2%	3,1%	91,5%	5,6%	0,0%	2,8%	86,5%	7,9%	2,2%	3,4%
Attack by knife, gun or some other weapon	159	1	1	1	68	1	0	1	89	0	1	0
	98,1%	0,6%	0,6%	0,6%	97,1%	1,4%	0,0%	1,4%	98,9%	0,0%	1,1%	0,0%
Unwanted sexual suggestions.	138	6	4	15	57	4	2	8	79	2	2	7
	84,7%	3,7%	2,5%	9,2%	80,3%	5,6%	2,8%	11,3%	87,8%	2,2%	2,2%	7,8%
Sexual assault or rape attempt.	154	3	1	4	65	1	1	3	87	2	0	1
	95,1%	1,9%	0,6%	2,5%	92,9%	1,4%	1,4%	4,3%	96,7%	2,2%	0,0%	1,1%
Unwanted touching or sexual exploitation.	150	4	2	6	64	1	1	4	84	3	1	2
	92,6%	2,5%	1,2%	3,7%	91,4%	1,4%	1,4%	5,7%	93,3%	3,3%	1,1%	2,2%
Rape.	158	3	0	1	67	3	0	0	89	0	0	1
	97,5%	1,9%	0,0%	0,6%	95,7%	4,3%	0,0%	0,0%	98,9%	0,0%	0,0%	1,1%

0 = incident not experienced  
 1x = incident experienced once  
 2x = incident experienced twice  
 3 + x = incident experienced three times and more

<sup>19</sup> The number of participants may differ from one analysis to another due to a possible answer that was left out.

Table 20. The differences<sup>20</sup> in disclosure of sexual orientation between the three groups with different experience with violence suffered due to their sexual orientation from 2002 up to the end of 2005

	Never experienced violence (N=96)		Verbal violence (N=36)		Assaults and limitation of freedom (N=65)		p
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	
Does your mother know about your sexual orientation?	2,44 <sub>a</sub>	1,149	3,13 <sup>b</sup>	1,070	3,07 <sup>b</sup>	1,039	<,01
Does your father know about your sexual orientation?	1,83 <sub>a</sub>	0,999	2,79 <sup>b</sup>	1,177	2,56 <sup>b</sup>	1,127	<,001
Do your siblings know about your sexual orientation?	3,36 <sub>a</sub>	1,983	4,65 <sup>b</sup>	1,853	3,95 <sup>ab</sup>	1,967	<,05
Do your friends know about your sexual orientation?	4,23 <sub>a</sub>	1,364	5,25 <sup>b</sup>	0,906	4,66 <sup>c</sup>	1,149	<,001
Do people in your workplace (at school, at university, at work) know about your sexual orientation?	2,96 <sub>a</sub>	1,391	4,03 <sup>b</sup>	1,362	3,68 <sup>b</sup>	1,605	<,001

M = Mean

SD = Standard deviation

p = significance

a, b, c = means labelled with the same letter have no statistical difference at  $p < 0,05$  (and means labelled with «ab» have no difference from those labelled with «a» and «b»)

<sup>20</sup> For testing the significance of differences of groups with different experience of violence, the Kruskal-Wallis H test was used due to the unequal size of those three groups. In order to check which groups are different in relation to another, we used Mann–Whitney's U test.

Table 22. Differences<sup>21</sup> in concealment of sexual orientation between three groups with different experience experienced due to their sexual orientation between 2002 and 2005.

	Never experienced violence (N=96)		Verbal violence (N=36)		Assaults and limitations of freedom (N=65)		p
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	
The total result of the scale of concealment sexual orientation	18,46	7,061	13,69	5,791	16,08	6,555	>,05
I try to look in such way which the society expects from my gender in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation	2,49	1,390	1,94	1,145	2,28	1,244	>,05
I act in such a way that is expected from my gender in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation	2,48	1,328	2,17	1,056	2,25	1,199	>,05
I keep my sexual orientation secret in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation	3,22 <sup>a</sup>	1,178	2,36 <sup>b</sup>	1,073	2,86 <sup>a</sup>	1,130	<,01
I avoid talking about my emotional or sex life in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation	3,24 <sup>a</sup>	1,301	2,33 <sup>b</sup>	1,095	2,88 <sup>a</sup>	1,279	<,01
I distort the picture on my love life (e.g. my friends „act as“ my partners) in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation	2,23 <sup>a</sup>	1,395	1,50 <sup>b</sup>	1,000	1,91 <sub>ab</sub>	1,247	<,01
I keep quiet about my attitudes, thoughts and feelings about homosexuality/bisexuality in general in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation	2,34 <sup>a</sup>	1,247	1,75 <sup>b</sup>	1,025	2,02 <sub>ab</sub>	1,008	<,05
I keep quiet about my attitudes, thoughts and feelings about LGBT movement, community and persons in Croatian order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation	2,32 <sup>a</sup>	1,244	1,64 <sup>b</sup>	0,867	1,95 <sub>ab</sub>	1,082	<,01

M = Mean

SD = Standard deviation

p = significance

a, b, c = means labelled with the letter have no mutual statistical difference at p<0,05 (and means labelled with «ab» do not differ from those labelled with «a» and «b»)

<sup>21</sup> For testing the significance of differences of groups with different experience of violence, the Kruskal-Wallis H test was used due to the unequal size of those three groups. In order to check which groups are different in relation to another, we used Mann-Whitney's U test.

Table 27. Differences<sup>22</sup> in indicators of the psychological well-being between three groups of different experience with violence due to their sexual orientation from 2002 up to the end of 2005

	Never experienced violence (N=96)		Verbal violence (N=36)		Assaults and limitations of freedom (N=65)		p
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	
Total result of the anxiety scale	87,76 <sup>a</sup>	20,325	85,53 <sub>a</sub>	21,117	95,17 <sub>b</sub>	22,675	<,05
Social evaluation	21,41 <sup>a</sup>	8,269	20,64 <sub>a</sub>	6,736	25,71 <sub>b</sub>	9,430	<,01
Physical danger	32,55	7,365	32,47	8,002	32,43	7,850	>,05
New and ambiguous situation	21,70	6,987	20,08	6,950	22,58	7,068	>,05
Daily routines situations	12,33 <sup>a</sup>	4,096	12,33 <sub>a</sub>	5,127	14,45 <sub>b</sub>	5,439	<,01
Depression	39,15 <sup>a</sup>	9,208	40,06 <sub>a</sub>	8,142	43,68 <sub>b</sub>	8,717	<,01
Personal self-esteem	42,84 <sup>a</sup>	6,534	44,14 <sub>a</sub>	4,871	39,22 <sub>b</sub>	7,076	<,001
Life satisfaction	4,11	0,831	4,09	0,818	3,83	0,935	>,05

M = Mean

SD = Standard deviation

p = significance

a, b, c = means labelled with the same letter have no mutual statistical difference at  $p < 0,05$  (and means labelled with «ab» do not differ from those labelled with «a» and «b»)

<sup>22</sup> For testing the significance of differences of groups with different experience of violence, the Kruskal-Wallis H test was used due to the unequal size of those three groups. In order to check which groups are different in relation to another, we used Mann-Whitney's U test.

Table 29. Frequencies of persons in relation to the experience with violence experienced from 2002 up to the end of 2005 (no-yes) and indicators of suicide and depression (no-yes), and their  $\chi^2$  tests<sup>23</sup>

		Experience with violence			$\chi^2$
		No	Yes	$\Sigma$	
Have you ever SERIOUSLY considered taking your own life?	No	65	45	110	11,324**
	Yes	30	56	86	
	$\Sigma$	95	101	196	

		Experience with violence			$\chi^2$
		No	Yes	$\Sigma$	
Have you ever attempted suicide?	No	89	78	167	10,516**
	Yes	6	23	29	
	$\Sigma$	95	101	196	

		Experience with violence			$\chi^2$
		No	Yes	$\Sigma$	
Have you ever asked for a professional psychotherapeutic help because of depression related distress?	No	69	52	121	9,267**
	Yes	26	49	75	
	$\Sigma$	95	101	196	

		Experience with violence			$\chi^2$
		No	Yes	$\Sigma$	
Have you ever been taking medications against depression?	No	76	66	142	5,266*
	Yes	19	35	54	
	$\Sigma$	95	101	196	

\* = significant at  $p < 0,05$

\*\* = significant at  $p < 0,01$

<sup>23</sup> Due to the small number of frequencies within some categories, the persons who experienced only verbal violence and those who experienced assaults and limitations of freedom are connected into one category. We also merged the categories «once» and «more than once» in the category of existence of the indicator of suicide and depression.



Table 30. Differences<sup>24</sup> in psychological well-being indicators between the groups whose close LGBT have different experiences with physical violence because of their sexual orientation. (The sample is divided into 3 groups in relation to the answers to the question «Has an LGBT person close to you (your partner, friend) ever been a victim of physical violence in Croatia DUE TO HER/HIS SEXUAL ORIENTATION.» The answers may be «No», «Yes, one of them» and «Yes, more than one».)

	No (N=88)		Yes, one of them (N=55)		Yes, more than one (N=59)		F	p
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD		
Total result of the anxiety scale	84,85 <sup>a</sup>	20,168	89,19 <sup>ab</sup>	21,798	96,78 <sup>b</sup>	21,995	5,512	<,01
Social evaluation	21,05 <sup>a</sup>	8,682	22,44 <sup>ab</sup>	8,309	25,07 <sup>b</sup>	8,422	3,960	<,05
Physical danger	31,21	8,436	31,96	7,414	34,40	6,505	3,125	<,05
New and ambiguous situation	20,65	6,604	21,28	7,383	23,37	6,911	2,836	>,05
Daily routines situations	11,92 <sup>a</sup>	3,531	13,61 <sup>ab</sup>	5,181	14,25 <sup>b</sup>	5,839	4,706	<,05
Depression	38,45 <sup>a</sup>	9,004	42,23 <sup>ab</sup>	7,873	42,98 <sup>b</sup>	9,291	5,304	<,01
Personal self-esteem	43,07	6,730	41,68	6,324	40,55	6,578	2,528	>,05
Life satisfaction	4,16	0,819	3,89	0,786	3,88	1,001	2,504	>,05

M = Mean

SD = Standard deviation

p = significance

F = F ratio

a, b, c = means labelled with the same letter have no mutual statistical difference at  $p < 0,05$  (and means labelled with «ab» do not differ from those labelled with «a» and «b»)

<sup>24</sup> For testing the significance of differences of the groups with different experience with violence, the one-way ANOVA was used. In order to check which groups differ among themselves, we used the Sheffe's test for groups with homogenous variances and the Tamhane's T2 test for non-homogenous variances.

Table 31. The frequencies of the persons in relation to having a close LGBT person who was a victim of a physical assault (no-yes) and indicators of suicide and depression (no-yes), and their  $\chi^2$  tests

		Has a close LGBT person been a victim of physical assault?			$\chi^2$
		No	Yes	$\Sigma$	
Have you ever SERIOUSLY considered taking your own life?	No	60	55	115	7,692**
	Yes	28	58	86	
	$\Sigma$	88	113	201	

		Has a close LGBT Person been a victim of physical assault?			$\chi^2$
		No	Yes	$\Sigma$	
Have you ever attempted suicide?	No	82	89	171	8,102**
	Yes	6	24	30	
	$\Sigma$	88	113	201	

		Has a close LGBT person been a victim of physical assault?			$\chi^2$
		No	Yes	$\Sigma$	
Have you ever asked for a professional psychotherapeutic help because of depression related distress?	No	61	62	123	4,351*
	Yes	27	51	78	
	$\Sigma$	88	113	201	

		Has a close LGBT person been a victim of physical assault?			$\chi^2$
		No	Yes	$\Sigma$	
Have you ever been taking medications against depression?	No	73	71	144	9,860**
	Yes	15	42	57	
	$\Sigma$	88	113	201	

\* = significant at  $p < 0,05$

\*\* = significant at  $p < 0,01$

Table 32. Differences<sup>25</sup> in the collective self-esteem between the groups of persons whose close LGBT persons have different experiences with the physical violence because of their sexual orientation. (The sample is divided into 3 groups in relation to the answers to the question «Has an LGBT person close to you (partner, friend) been a victim of physical violence in Croatia because of his/her sexual orientation». The answers can be «No», «Yes, one of them» and «Yes, more than one».)

	No (N=88)		Yes, one of them (N=55)		Yes, more than one (N=59)		F	p
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD		
Total result of the collective self-esteem scale	52,95	8,396	53,60	7,157	53,45	8,926	0,114	>,05
Group membership	14,62	3,637	15,56	3,196	16,02	3,441	3,062	<,05
Private collective self-esteem	16,33	3,254	15,47	3,120	15,43	3,515	1,703	>,05
Public collective self-esteem	12,14	3,447	12,06	2,964	10,88	2,823	3,133	<,05
Importance of group membership for the identity	9,92	3,820	10,64	4,129	11,36	4,250	2,241	>,05

M = Mean

SD = Standard deviation

F = F ratio

p = significance

<sup>25</sup> For testing the significance of differences of the groups with different experience with violence, the one-way ANOVA was used. In order to check which groups differ among themselves, we used the Sheffe's test for groups with homogenous variances and the Tamhane's T2 test for non-homogenous variances.

Table 33. Correlations of level of disclosure in relation to the sexual orientation and collective self-esteem

	<b>Mother</b>	<b>Father</b>	<b>Siblings</b>	<b>Friends</b>	<b>Co-workers/Peers</b>
Total result of the collective self-esteem scale	,231**	,194*	,198*	,291**	,329**
Group membership	,299**	,277**	,331**	,300**	,299**
Private collective self-esteem	,158*	,061	,044	,235**	,196**
Public collective self-esteem	-,052	-,057	-,178*	,053	,030
Importance of group membership for the identity	,121	,131	,222**	,081	,188**

\* = significant at  $p < 0,05$

\*\* = significant at  $p < 0,01$

Table 34. Correlations of the level of disclosure in relation to the sexual orientation and psychological well-being indicators (All correlations are insignificant at  $p < 0,05$ )

	<b>Mother</b>	<b>Father</b>	<b>Siblings</b>	<b>Friends</b>	<b>Co-workers/Peers</b>
Total result of the anxiety scale	-,021	-,003	,030	-,021	,006
Social evaluation	-,031	-,053	,023	-,010	,020
Physical danger	,096	,053	,134	,063	,034
New and ambiguous situation	-,107	-,068	-,067	-,117	-,030
Daily routines situations	-,094	,060	-,017	,006	,010
Depression	-,004	-,039	-,013	-,014	,000
Personal self-esteem	,024	-,007	-,052	-,044	,026
Life satisfaction	,033	-,065	-,118	-,078	,009

Table 35. Differences<sup>26</sup> in disclosure of the sexual orientation in relation to the existence of the suicide and depression indicator (no-yes)

	Have you ever SERIOUSLY considered taking your own life?				p
	No		Yes		
	M	SD	M	SD	
Mother	2,77	1,134	2,83	1,159	>,05
Father	2,23	1,199	2,33	1,066	>,05
Siblings	3,51	1,970	4,09	2,028	>,05
Friends	4,46	1,345	4,67	1,142	>,05
Co-workers/Peers	3,32	1,508	3,41	1,538	>,05

	Have you ever had suicide attempts?				p
	No		Yes		
	M	SD	M	SD	
Mother	2,77	1,137	2,92	1,187	>,05
Father	2,24	1,154	2,50	1,058	>,05
Siblings	3,74	1,980	3,92	2,208	>,05
Friends	4,54	1,288	4,67	1,124	>,05
Co-workers/Peers	3,35	1,496	3,45	1,660	>,05

	Have you ever asked a professional psychotherapeutic help because of the depression-related distress?				p
	No		Yes		
	M	SD	M	SD	
Mother	2,65	1,104	3,01	1,173	<,05
Father	2,16	1,072	2,44	1,233	>,05
Siblings	3,55	2,017	4,11	1,969	>,05
Friends	4,42	1,329	4,77	1,127	>,05
Co-workers/Peers	3,21	1,461	3,59	1,583	>,05

	Have you ever used medications against depression?				p
	No		Yes		
	M	SD	M	SD	
Mother	2,76	1,133	2,88	1,172	>,05
Father	2,26	1,126	2,31	1,199	>,05
Siblings	3,71	1,987	3,92	2,080	>,05
Friends	4,48	1,288	4,74	1,188	>,05
Co-workers/Peers	3,29	1,452	3,53	1,670	>,05

M = Mean

SD = Standard deviation

p = significance

<sup>26</sup> Due to the unequal subsamples during the testing significance of differences between the persons with and without the suicide and depression indicators, the Mann-Whitney's U test was used.

Table 36. Correlations of concealment of sexual orientation and collective self-esteem

	Concealment of sexual orientation							
	Total scale	Appearance	Behaviour	Secrecy	Avoidance	Distortion	Keeping quiet (generally)	Keeping quiet (LGBT movement)
Total result of the collective self-esteem scale	-,350**	-,272**	-,222**	-,245**	-,329**	-,290**	-,312**	-,352**
Group membership	-,323**	-,205**	-,180*	-,251**	-,298**	-,242**	-,263**	-,366**
Private collective self-esteem	-,327**	-,341**	-,276**	-,155*	-,240**	-,255**	-,308**	-,296**
Public collective self-esteem	-,196**	-,214**	-,183*	-,173*	-,237**	-,105	-,171*	-,085
Importance of group membership for the identity	,042	,130	,137	,025	-,012	-,044	,034	-,039

The common key for the Tables 36 and 37 can be found on this page.

\* = significant at  $p < 0,05$   
 \*\* = significant at  $p < 0,01$

Total = Total result of the scale of concealment of sexual orientation  
 Appearance = I try to look how the society expects from my gender in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation  
 Behaviour = I act in a way that it is expected from my gender in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation  
 Secrecy = I keep my sexual orientation secret in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation  
 Avoidance = I avoid talking about my emotional or sexual life in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation  
 Distortion = I distort the picture on my love life (e.g. my friends „act as“ my partners) in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation  
 Keeping quiet (generally) = I keep quiet about my attitudes, thoughts and feelings about homosexuality/bisexuality in general in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation  
 Keeping quiet (LGBT movement) = I keep quiet about my attitudes, thoughts and feelings about LGBT movement, community and persons in Croatian order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation

Table 37. Correlations of concealment of sexual orientation and psychological well-being indicators

	Concealment of sexual orientation							
	Total scale	Appearance	Behaviour	Secrecy	Avoidance	Distortion	Keeping quiet (generally)	Keeping quiet (LGBT movement)
Total result of the anxiety scale	,167*	,143*	,167*	,216**	,120	,083	,176*	,112
Social evaluation	,161*	,112	,105	,236**	,167*	,054	,184**	,111
Physical danger	,024	,042	,069	,106	,038	-,039	,019	-,033
New and ambiguous situation	,240**	,212**	,256**	,203**	,134	,167*	,212**	,175*
Daily routines situations	,082	,070	,080	,084	-,052	,085	,099	,090
Depression	,131	,124	,131	,141	,085	,010	,132	,106
Personal self-esteem	-,193**	-,152*	-,127	-,189**	-,185*	-,077	-,212**	-,140
Life satisfaction	-,120	-,095	-,090	-,142*	-,155*	-,026	-,056	-,051

\* = significant at  $p < 0,05$

\*\* = significant at  $p < 0,01$

The common key for the Tables 36 and 37 can be found on the page 70.

## 10. APPENDIX 2: VARIABLES AND INSTRUMENTS CONSTRUCTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS RESEARCH

Note: Here we did not present scales of religiosity, depression, anxiety and personal and collective self-esteem. We only state which variable is involved.

<p><b>1. Sex:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Man</li> <li>2. Woman</li> <li>3. Transsexual person (Male to female)</li> <li>4. Transsexual person (Female to male)</li> <li>5. Intersexual person</li> </ol> <p><b>2. Age:</b> _____</p> <p><b>3. Level of education:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Primary education</li> <li>2. Secondary education/vocational school</li> <li>3. HND</li> <li>4. University degree and above</li> </ol> <p><b>4. Employment:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Employed</li> <li>2. Unemployed</li> <li>3. I am a secondary school pupil</li> <li>4. I am a student</li> <li>5. I am retired</li> </ol> <p><b>5. Residence:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Zagreb</li> <li>2. Some other large city (over 50.000 inhabitants)</li> <li>3. Small town (up to 50.000 inhabitants)</li> <li>4. Village</li> </ol> <p><b>6. County</b></p> <p>_____</p>	<p><b>7. Who are you living with?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alone</li> <li>2. With my partner</li> <li>3. With my parents</li> <li>4. With my friends</li> <li>5. With my relatives</li> <li>6. In the residence hall</li> <li>7. Something else _____</li> </ol> <p><b>8. Please assess your material status in relation to other Croatian citizens:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Much worse than average</li> <li>2. Worse than average</li> <li>3. Similar to average</li> <li>4. Better than average</li> <li>5. Much better than average</li> </ol> <p><b>9. Expanded religiosity scale</b></p>
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### 10., 11., 12., 13., and 14. Sexual Orientation Milestones

<p><b>15. Does your mother know about your sexual orientation?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No, I am sure she does not.</li> <li>2. I assume she does not know.</li> <li>3. I assume she knows.</li> <li>4. Yes, I am sure she knows.</li> <li>5. I do not have a mother.</li> </ol>	<p><b>16. Does your father know about your sexual orientation?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No, I am sure he does not.</li> <li>2. I assume he does not know.</li> <li>3. I assume he knows.</li> <li>4. Yes, I am sure he knows.</li> <li>5. I do not have a father.</li> </ol>
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<p><b>17. Do your siblings know about you sexual orientation?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No, I am sure that no one knows.</li> <li>2. I assume that no one knows.</li> <li>3. I assume that some of them know.</li> <li>4. Yes, I am sure that only some of them know.</li> <li>5. I assume that all of them know.</li> <li>6. Yes, I am sure that all of them know.</li> <li>7. I do not have any.</li> </ol>	<p><b>18. Do your friends know about your sexual orientation?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No, I am sure that no one knows.</li> <li>2. I assume that no one knows.</li> <li>3. I assume that some of them know.</li> <li>4. Yes, I am sure that only some of them know.</li> <li>5. I assume that all of them know.</li> <li>6. Yes, I am sure that all of them know.</li> <li>7. I do not have any.</li> </ol>
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<p><b>19. Do the people at your work (in school, at the university or at work) know about your sexual orientation?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No, I am sure that no one knows.</li> <li>2. I assume that no one knows.</li> <li>3. I assume that some of them know.</li> <li>4. Yes, I am sure that only some of them know.</li> <li>5. I assume that all of them know.</li> <li>6. Yes, I am sure that all of them know.</li> <li>7. I do not have any.</li> </ol>
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**20. What do you think, how possible it is that the people WHO DO NOT KNOW YOU recognise your sexual orientation?**

1. Not possible.
2. Somewhat possible.
3. I cannot estimate.
4. It is probable.
5. It is very probable.

**21. How often do you behave in the following ways IN ORDER TO AVOID UNEASE, DISCRIMINATION AND/OR VIOLENCE because of YOUR SEXUAL ORIENTATION? Please, you should circle the number which corresponds to your answer with every statement.**

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
1. I try to look how the society expects from my gender in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation	1	2	3	4	5
2. I act in a way that it is expected from my gender in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation	1	2	3	4	5
3. I keep my sexual orientation secret in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation	1	2	3	4	5
4. I avoid talking about my emotional or sexual life in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation	1	2	3	4	5
5. I distort the picture on my love life (e.g. my friends „act as“ my partners) in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation	1	2	3	4	5
6. I keep quiet about my attitudes, thoughts and feelings about homosexuality/bisexuality in general in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation	1	2	3	4	5
7. I keep quiet about my attitudes, thoughts and feelings about LGBT movement, community and persons in Croatian order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation	1	2	3	4	5

**22. Do you visit LGBT identified places in Croatia (e.g. Global club in Zagreb, LGBT organisations and groups)?**

1. Yes, I do.
2. No, I don't, in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation.
3. No, I don't, but due to some other reason.

**23. Do you come to the public LGBT manifestations in Croatia (e.g. Queer Zagreb or Zagreb Pride)?**

1. Yes, I do.
2. No, I don't, in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation.
3. No, I don't, but due to some other reason.

**24. Do you kiss or hold hands with your partner in public?**

1. Yes, I do that.
2. No, I don't, in order to avoid unease, discrimination and/or violence due to my sexual orientation.
3. No, I don't, but due to some other reason.

**The following part of the questionnaire relates to the violence that LGBT persons may experience BECAUSE OF THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION. Violence includes deprivation of material security, limitations of freedom of movement, insults, blackmail, threats, physical assault etc.**

**25. Have you IN THE PERIOD FROM 2002 TO PRESENT experienced the following types of violence BECAUSE SOMEONE THOUGHT YOU ARE GAY/LESBIAN OR BISEXUAL?**

	Never	Once	Twice	Three times or more
1. Threats of deprivation of money and material security.	1	2	3	4
2. Threats of throwing you out of your home	1	2	3	4
3. Deprivation of money and material security.	1	2	3	4
4. Throwing you out from your home.	1	2	3	4
5. Control of movement.	1	2	3	4
6. Insults, swearing and spitting.	1	2	3	4
7. Blackmail.	1	2	3	4
8. Threats of physical violence.	1	2	3	4
9. Threats of assault by knife, gun or some other weapon.	1	2	3	4
10. Tracking or running after you.	1	2	3	4
11. Destruction of your property.	1	2	3	4
12. Shoving objects at you.	1	2	3	4
13. Pushing, pulling hair or slapping.	1	2	3	4
14. Hitting or you were beaten, kicked or hit with some object	1	2	3	4
15. Attack by knife, gun or some other weapon	1	2	3	4
16. Unwanted sexual suggestions.	1	2	3	4
17. Sexual assault or rape attempt.	1	2	3	4
18. Unwanted touching or sexual exploitation.	1	2	3	4
19. Rape.	1	2	3	4

If you have not experienced any of previously stated forms of violence **IN THE PERIOD OF 2002 TO PRESENT**, please go on to the question No. 33. If you have experienced any of the stated forms of violence in that period, please continue with the question **No. 26**.

26. If you experienced **deprivation of money and material security, threats of deprivation of money and material security, throwing you out of your home, threats of throwing you out of your home and/or control of movement, because of your sexual orientation**, please respond who were the perpetrators of such forms of violence. You may circle several answers.

1. Close family members (e.g. mother, father, siblings).
2. Relatives.
3. Friends.
4. Landlords/landladies.
5. Employers
6. Someone else. Please fill in. \_\_\_\_\_
7. I don't know.
8. I have never experienced those forms of violence.

27. If you have experienced **insults, swearing, spitting, blackmail, threats of physical violence, threats of assault by knife, gun, or some other weapon, tracking or running after you and/or destruction of your property, because of your sexual orientation**, please respond who were the perpetrators of such forms of violence. You may circle several answers.

1. Close family members (e.g. mother, father, brother and/or sister).
2. Relatives.
3. Friends.
4. Co-workers/Peers at school, at university or at work.
5. Landlords/Landladies
6. Doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists or other medical staff.
7. Priests or other religious clerical personnel.
8. The unknown persons at public places (streets, parks, etc.).
9. The unknown persons in public closed places (restaurants, cafes, shops, cafeterias, etc.).
10. Someone else. Please fill in. \_\_\_\_\_
11. I don't know.
12. I have never experienced those forms of violence.

28. If you experienced **shoving objects on you, pushing, pulling your hair or slapping, hitting or kicking, hitting with some object and/or assault by knife, gun or some other weapon, due to your sexual orientation**, please respond who were the perpetrators of those forms of violence. You may circle several answers.

1. Close family members (e.g. mother, father, brother and/or sister).
2. Relatives.
3. Friends.
4. Co-workers/Peers at school, at university or at work.
5. Landlords/Landladies
6. Doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists or other medical staff.
7. Priests or other religious clerical personnel.
8. The unknown persons at public places (streets, parks, etc.).
9. The unknown persons in public closed places (restaurants, cafes, shops, cafeterias, etc.).
10. Someone else. Please fill in. \_\_\_\_\_
11. I don't know.
12. I have never experienced those forms of violence.

29. If you have ever experienced **the unwanted sexual suggestions, unwanted touching or sexual exploitation, sexual assault or rape attempt, or rape, due to your sexual orientation**, please respond who were the perpetrators of those forms of violence. You may circle several responses.

1. Close family members (e.g. mother, father, brother and/or sister).
2. Relatives.
3. Friends.
4. Co-workers/Peers at school, at university or at work.
5. Landlords/Landladies
6. Doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists or other medical staff.
7. Priests or other religious clerical personnel.
8. The unknown persons at public places (streets, parks, etc.).
9. The unknown persons in public closed places (restaurants, cafes, shops, cafeterias, etc.).
10. Someone else. Please fill in. \_\_\_\_\_
11. I don't know.
12. I have never experienced those forms of violence.

<b>30. Have you reported violence to the police?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
If you did not, please write down why you did not		

<b>31. Have you ever asked the Legal Team of Iskorak and Kontra for an advice after the violence you experienced?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
If you did not ask them for help, please state why you did not.		

**32. If you have asked for the help from following people and/or experts after the violence you suffered DUE TO YOUR SEXUAL ORIENTATION, have you ever experienced inconveniences, lack of interest, ignoring or refusal from them?**

	Yes	No	I never asked for their help
1. Family	1	2	3
2. Friend	1	2	3
3. Police	1	2	3
4. Medical staff	1	2	3
5. Social worker	1	2	3
6. Psychologist	1	2	3
7. Psychiatrist	1	2	3
8. Religious clerical personnel	1	2	3

**33. Have you EVER PRIOR TO 2002 experienced the following types of violence BECAUSE SOMEONE THOUGHT YOU GAY/LESBIAN OR BISEXUAL?**

	Never	Once	Twice	Three times or more
1. Threats of deprivation of money and material security.	1	2	3	4
2. Threats of throwing you out of your home	1	2	3	4
3. Deprivation of money and material security.	1	2	3	4
4. Throwing you out from your home.	1	2	3	4
5. Control of movement.	1	2	3	4
6. Insults, swearing and spitting.	1	2	3	4
7. Blackmail.	1	2	3	4
8. Threats of physical violence.	1	2	3	4
9. Threats of the assault by knife, gun or some other weapon.	1	2	3	4
10. Tracking or running after you.	1	2	3	4
11. Destruction of your property.	1	2	3	4
12. Shoving objects at you.	1	2	3	4
13. Pushing, pulling hair or slapping.	1	2	3	4
14. Hitting or you were beaten, kicked or hit with some object.	1	2	3	4
15. Attack by knife, gun or some other weapon	1	2	3	4
16. Unwanted sexual suggestions.	1	2	3	4
17. Sexual assault or rape attempt.	1	2	3	4
18. Unwanted touching or sexual exploitation.	1	2	3	4
19. Rape.	1	2	3	4

**PLEASE, IF YOU WANT TO, DESCRIBE THE VIOLENCE WHICH HAPPENED TO YOU IN ANY POINT OF YOUR LIFE IN SHORT ON THE LAST PAGE.**

If you experienced some other forms of violence because someone thought you gay/lesbian or bisexual, that were not mentioned here, please described what happened to you on the last page.

**34. Have you lost a friend DUE TO YOUR SEXUAL ORIENTATION?**

1. No.
2. Yes, one of them.
3. Yes, several friends.
4. I do not have any friends.

**35. Have you ever heard of an LGBT person, not known to you, who suffered violence in Croatia DUE TO HIS/HER SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

	No	Yes, I heard about one case	Yes, I heard about several cases
<b>1. has experienced physical violence</b>	1	2	3
<b>2. was murdered</b>	1	2	3

**36. Was a person close to you (partner or friend) due to HIS/HER SEXUAL ORIENTATION a victim of:**

	No	Yes, one of them	Yes, more of them
<b>1. Physical violence</b>	1	2	3
<b>2. Murder</b>	1	2	3

The following questions relate to your feelings, thoughts and behaviour in your life generally.

**37. Depression Scale**

<b>38. Have you ever seriously considered taking your own life?</b>	<b>Never</b>	<b>Once</b>	<b>More than once</b>
<b>39. Have you ever had suicide attempts?</b>	<b>Never</b>	<b>Once</b>	<b>More than once</b>
<b>40. Have you ever asked for a psychotherapeutic help (from the psychologist, psychiatrist) because of depression related distress?</b>	<b>Never</b>	<b>Once</b>	<b>More than once</b>
<b>41. Have you ever used medicines against depression (antidepressives)?</b>	<b>Never</b>	<b>Once</b>	<b>More than once</b>

**42. Anxiety scale**

**43. Collective Self-Esteem Scale**

**44. Personal Self-Esteem Scale**

**45. Please assess how applicable is this statement on you and circle the answer.**

**I am satisfied with my life.**

1. I strongly disagree.
2. I mostly disagree.
3. I neither agree nor disagree.
4. I mostly agree.
5. I strongly agree.

Thank you for sharing Your experience and feelings with us. You have thus made contribution in the action for advancement of rights and empowerment of LGBT people and raising public awareness on the position of the LGBT community in Croatian society.

If you wish, you may describe the violence you experienced, no matter if it was mentioned in the questionnaire or not. You may write how the violence occurred, what happened to you, how you felt or whatever you consider important.

## 11. ON LESBIAN GROUP KONTRA

Lesbian group Kontra is a nongovernmental organisation which promotes lesbian and bisexual women's human rights. It was founded in summer 1997 in Zagreb. Some of the Kontra's members were founders of «Lila initiative» (1989), the first lesbian group initiative in Croatia and members of «Ligma» (1992). Kontra operates according to the feminist and anti-military principles and opposes all forms of discrimination.

Kontra believes that a right to a different sexual orientation is one of the basic human rights. It advocates rooting out of all forms of violence and discrimination against lesbians and bisexual women and all other sexual minorities.

Some of the most important accomplishments of Kontra:

- ♥ Kontra founded the first lesbian telephone helpline and info-line and counsel in Croatia in 1997.
- ♥ Organised the visit of Lesbian ConneXion/s, the international photo exhibition in Zagreb in 2000, in the CEKAO gallery.
- ♥ Organised the meeting of the lesbian activists from ex-Yugoslavia in Rovinj in 2001
- ♥ Founded LezBib, the first public LGBT library in Croatia in 2002.
- ♥ Published a book by Adrienne Rich, „Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence“
- ♥ Co-founded the Croatian LGBT Groups Coordination in the same year.
- ♥ Organised the first Zagreb Pride in cooperation with Iskorak in the same year
- ♥ Co-founded the Legal Team in cooperation with Iskorak in the same year
- ♥ The following antidiscriminatory laws were passed in the Croatian Parliament in 2003 as a result of lobbying and the work of the Legal Team:
  - Gender Equality Act
  - Labour Act
  - Law on Scientific Work and Higher Education
  - Penal Code
  - Law on Same-sex Partnerships
  - Law on Media
  - Schoolbook standard
- ♥ Organised Zagreb Pride in cooperation with Iskorak in the same year
- ♥ Organised Zagreb Pride on its own in 2004
- ♥ Published the handbook «LGBT Rights Protected by the Constitution – a Handbook for Using Antidiscriminatory Provisions and Laws of the Republic of Croatia» in the same year
- ♥ In 2005 co-organised Zagreb Pride with the feminist group Epikriza
- ♥ In the same year, opened a phone line for legal help to the LGBT community