



## Country Comparison on Key Findings for Homophobia in Sport

*Out on the Fields* is the first international study and largest conducted on homophobia in sport. Nearly **9500** people including lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people from across the world. The study focused on issues of sexuality in team sports and the English speaking countries. Repucom conducted the research with the study being initiated by Bingham Cup Sydney 2014 and supported by a coalition of sports organisations. **The study methodology and results were reviewed by a panel of seven academics from six universities including Victoria University (Australia), Penn State University, University of Massachusetts (USA); Brunel University (UK); University of Winnipeg and Lavel University (Canada).**

### Sporting Culture

- The United States ranked the most poorly on many of the key measures, such as having the highest number of all participants (54%) and gay participants (60%) who thought LGB people were 'not accepted at all' or only 'accepted a little' in sporting culture
- Americans were also the most likely (70%) of any of the English speaking countries to believe homophobia is more common in sport than the rest of their society
- The UK also ranked poorly, with the second highest number (49%) of participants saying LGB people are 'not accepted at all' or only 'accepted a little' in sporting culture
- Canadians held the most positive views about the acceptance of LGB people in sport, for example only 29% of all participants thought LGB people were 'not accepted at all' or only 'accepted a little' in sport

### Youth Sport

- Americans were the most likely to believe youth sport is not safe and welcoming for LGB people, however many participants from Ireland (75%) and New Zealand (71%) also held that view.
- Another measure of whether LGB people are welcome in youth sport is their experiences in school PE class. On that measure, a higher percentage of Canadians (28%) than in any other country believed PE classes are the sporting environment where homophobia is most likely to occur
- Negative experiences in PE class were also cited by many LGB people as a reason they did not participate in youth or adult team sports. In fact, 35% of Canadian gay men cited PE classes as a reason for not playing adult team sports, only slightly lower than the UK, with 36% which was the highest number.

Research Conducted by

Study Initiated and Managed by

Full report at [www.outonthefields.com](http://www.outonthefields.com)

REPUcom

BINGHAM CUP  
Sydney 2014

Sydney Convicts  
Rugby Club



## Spectator Stands

- The study's findings paint a very concerning picture of homophobia occurring among fans at sporting events. The UK (49%), Australia (48%) and Ireland (43%) had the highest number of participants who believed spectator stands are the most likely sporting environment for homophobia to occur
- An overwhelmingly majority of participants in the UK (85%) also felt spectator stands were not very safe places for LGB people, followed by Americans (83%)

## Coming Out

- New Zealand and Australia were the countries with the highest number of gay youth (under 22) who said they hid their sexuality, while Ireland and Canada had the highest number of lesbians youth who stayed in the closet
- The UK stood out as the country with the highest number of gay male participants and USA with the highest number of lesbians who said they were out of the closet to all of their teammates while playing youth sport
- For adult sport Canadian gay men and New Zealand lesbians were the most likely to be out of the closet

## Experiences / Prevalence of Homophobia and Discrimination

- Americans (84%) followed by Canadians (81%) and Australians (80%) were the most likely to report witnessing or experiences homophobia in sport while the Irish were the least likely
- Of those who had personally been targeted with homophobia, Canadian gay, lesbian and bisexual people were the most likely to report being physically assaulted (21% of LGB people) followed by the UK (20%) while those in NZ (12%) were the least likely
- American LGB people who were personally targeted were the most likely to report receiving homophobic slurs (87%) followed by Canada (85%) and Australia (84%)
- Overall, the vast majority of participants, particularly straight people, said they had witnessed homophobia in sport

- Of those who witnessed homophobia, Americans (30%) followed by Canadians (25%) were the most likely to report bullying while Americans (83%) followed by Australians (81%) were most likely to report homophobic slurs such as "faggot" or "dyke"

## Country Ranking on Homophobia and Discrimination

The study found that homophobia was very common in each of the countries surveyed in the study. However, some countries did slightly better than others. In order to identify any major difference between countries, we have ranked each country from most accepting to the least accepting based on five equal measures that combine to create an 'inclusion score.'

### Inclusion Score

Each country could receive a total of 500 points

1. Canada 148/500
2. Australia 122/500
3. New Zealand 120/500
4. United Kingdom 107/500
5. Ireland 106/500
6. United States 84/500

Below are the five measures used to create inclusion score, each worth 100 points.

1. Percent of LGB people "out" to their entire team in youth and adult sport
2. Percent of participants who did not witness or experience homophobia
3. Percent of participants who held positive views on the safety of LGB people as spectators
4. Percent of participants who believed youth sport was supportive and safe for LGB people
5. Percent of participants who believed LGB people were accepted in sporting culture

## About the study

The data for Out on the Fields was collected through a 10-15 minute online survey with recruitment focused primarily on the UK, USA, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and Ireland. The study focuses on issues of sexuality, not gender, which is why LGB is used rather than the now standard LGBTI. People from all sexualities took part, including nearly 25% heterosexual.