

Socio-sexual investigations of gay men and AIDS : a three year study of male gay and bisexual lifestyles / Project Sigma.

Contributors

Project Sigma (University College, Cardiff)

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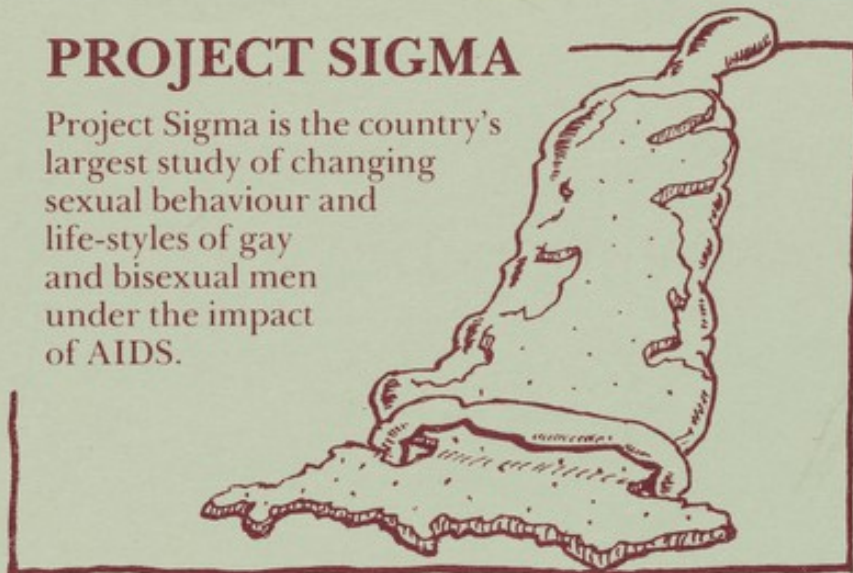
Socio-sexual Investigations of Gay Men and Aids



a 3-year study
of male gay and bisexual
lifestyles

PROJECT SIGMA

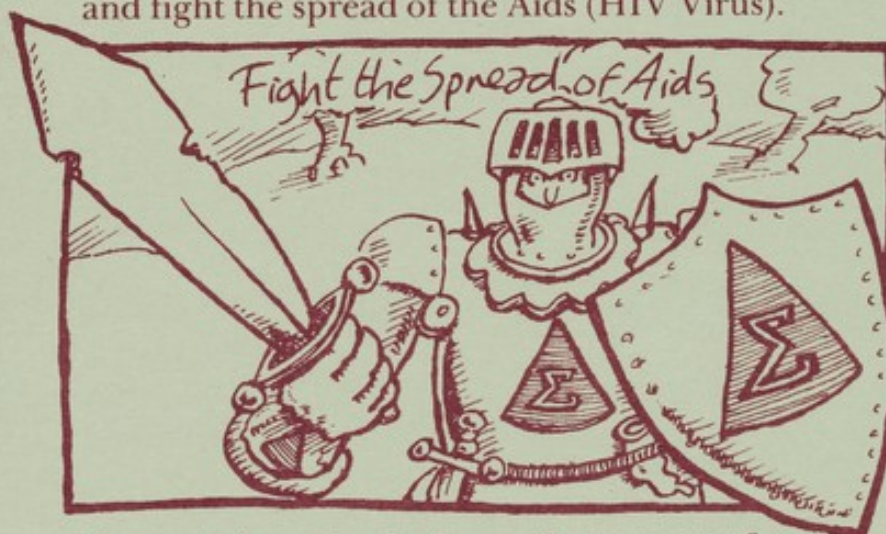
Project Sigma is the country's largest study of changing sexual behaviour and life-styles of gay and bisexual men under the impact of AIDS.



The project is based in Cardiff and London with a further 8 sites around Britain. All those who run the project and research staff are themselves gay or bisexual.

WHAT IS THE STUDY FOR?

The project is set up to help understand, predict and fight the spread of the Aids (HIV Virus).



Research has already shown that aspects of gay and bisexual men's life-style can make them more susceptible to the virus. We have learnt a lot, but we need to know more. The more we know, the more we can help each other.

CAN YOU HELP?

We need to study a sample of men of all ages and backgrounds, whether you are highly sexually active, or not; whether you are in an exclusive relationship or have no regular

partner; whether you are single or married.

To do this we ask you to agree to be interviewed twice in the next 3 years.



WHAT WILL IT INVOLVE?

A meeting with a member of the specially trained Project staff will be arranged at a place convenient to you, at a reasonable time during the day or evening.

The interview usually lasts 2½ hours and is split up into several sections. It involves questions about your life-style, sexual behaviour, social life, health, drug use and attitude to Aids.

For convenience and accuracy we would like to tape-record the interview but this is totally at your discretion. We also ask you to keep a sexual diary for a month.



Data collected are entirely CONFIDENTIAL and at any point you can choose not to answer a question.

The more accurate the data we collect about the extent to which the HIV Virus is prevalent among gay and bisexual men the more chance we have of controlling or stopping it. So, if you

are willing, we ask you to donate a small blood sample for anonymous blood testing. You may of course refuse to give blood. The blood sample is tested anonymously (a code number is used) in London.



The result is given to Dr Tom McManus, the project clinical researcher. If you wish, the result of your test will be made available to you alone. We will provide support, information and counselling, but the result will still be kept entirely confidential.

The blood sample will be taken by the interviewer who has been specially trained at Kings College Hospital, London.

A CONFIDENTIALITY GUARANTEE

Each volunteer taking part in the project is identified only by a code number when the data is analysed. No individual is identifiable and published results will refer only to groups. Using physical precautions and data "encryption" we can guarantee that an individual's identity cannot be known.

Before you take part in the interview, these and any other matters you wish to raise will be explained. We will also ask you to sign a Statement of Informed Consent, and we will provide you with a leaflet explaining your rights.

If you are interested in helping Project Sigma or if you want more information before deciding, please fill in the form overleaf and post it POST FREE. If you prefer, why not phone one of the Project research team for friendly help.

IF YOU WISH TO TAKE PART
IN THE PROJECT AND/OR
WANT MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE FILL IN THIS PAGE
AND RETURN IT IN AN
ENVELOPE
(NO STAMP IS NEEDED)

Please tick appropriate box

Yes, I would like to be interviewed

☐

Please send me more information about
the project

☐

Os ydych am gael mwy o wybodaeth neu
am siarad gyda rhywun yn Gymraeg,
rhoddwch dic yn y blwch

☐

Please send it to:

CARDIFF SAMPLE
c/o Prof A.P.M. Coxon
University College Cardiff
FREEPOST
Cardiff CF1 1YZ

Name_____

Address_____

Telephone_____

Project SIGMA is funded by the Medical Research Council and the Department of Health.

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- Tom McManus: Consultant in Genito-Urinary
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Hospital
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Lecturer, School of Social
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Other associated investigators include:

Gordon Reece/Dept of Engineering
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The Project is supported nationally by:

The Terrence Higgins Trust/Body Positive/
London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard/Lesbian
and Gay Christian Movement/National
FRIEND

The Project is supported locally by:

The Welsh Aids Campaign/Cardiff FRIEND/
Cardiff Lesbian and Gay Co-operative/Cardiff
Gay Christian Movement/Cardiff QUEST/
Cardiff Aids Helpline

and by health and medical authorities
including:

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College of Medicine)/Dr J. Skone (Chief
Administrative Medical Officer, SGHA).