

Capitalizing on the power of the Internet to survey Ugandan LGBT nationally

ONLINE DISCUSSION MODERATOR'S GUIDE

NOTE: This is a living document and will evolve before and during field.

NOTES TO THE RESEARCH TEAM:

Main goal: to examine issues of program design in order to confirm program components.

Eligibility criteria

- Transgender (either gender); gender minority identity; or identifies as a gender different than sex assigned at birth
- Living in Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, or Uganda
- Aged 18 years and older
- Able to read English
- Internet access
- Able to provide informed consent

Welcome!

We are Frank and Michele. We will be moderating this online discussion.

We are creating a sexual health survey for eastern African adults who are transgender or gender minority.

This bulletin board is private. No one knows you are here or who you are. You can post safely. Please be aware of your surroundings when you post – being in a private place and using a private phone or computer is best.

If you have any questions, please reach the Study Coordinator, Emilie Chen, by calling the Ugandan number 000 256 792 456090 or emailing Support@InnovativePublicHealth.org.

To take part, click on each Topic title below (beginning with "[1. Internet Privacy](#)"), and answer the questions there.

Thread title: 1. Internet privacy

First, let's talk when it might be possible for others to see what you are looking at online.

1. When and why might someone see the things you are doing and information you are reading online?
2. What do you do to keep other people from seeing what you are doing when you are

online?

3. What advice would you give to someone who wants to keep the things they do online private?
4. Please remark on someone else's advice here too: Which other suggestions here do you think would be most helpful in keeping someone's messages private?

Please be sure to go to the next thread called “2. Words that describe sex and your gender identity” and answer the questions there.

Thread title: 2. Words that describe sex and your gender identity

We want to be sure that the words we use in the survey are easy to understand and are respectful. Here are some questions we have for you:

1. What words do you use to describe how you view your gender identity?
2. Do you think words like “transgender” or “gender minority” describe you well? Are there better words that better describe how you see yourself? Why?
3. We want to use words that people understand. What other words may be used more often than “penis”, “anus”, and “vagina”? Are you comfortable with words like “cum” and “pre-cum” to describe sperm and pre-ejaculate?
4. We also want to use language in the survey that is respectful. What words are offensive to you that we definitely should not use in the survey?

Next, please be sure to go to the next thread called “3. Experiences as a transgender or gender minority person in Eastern Africa” and answer the questions in that thread.

Thread title: 3. Experiences as a transgender or gender minority person in Eastern Africa

You are doing great! Thanks for your input thus far. Now we have some questions about what it is like to be an East African adult who identifies as a gender different than your sex assigned at birth. Remember that your answers are completely private. You can post safely here.

1. What does it mean to be a transgender or gender minority person in Eastern Africa? We mean things like: What society says, what your friends say, what your family say about African transgender people?
2. How do you feel when you hear people say that being transgender/gender minority is “un-African”?
3. Who, if anyone knows, that you are transgender or gender minority?

Now, go to the next thread called “4. Relationship experiences”. Please answer all the questions in that thread.

Thread title: 4. Relationship experiences

Now we have some questions about the romantic relationships you have had. Your participation is anonymous – please feel safe to post honestly.

1. How do you meet people who you might want to play sex with or start a romantic relationship with?
2. What do healthy relationships look like for you?
3. What do unhealthy relationships look like for you?
4. What are some of the challenges you face trying to make healthy decisions when you play sex? We mean things like getting and using condoms, getting HIV tests, and talking to your partners about these things.

Please be sure to go to the next thread called “5. Health care experiences”, and answer the questions in that thread.

Thread title: 5. Health care experiences

Your answers have been super helpful – thank you for your contributions! The last questions we have are about experiences you may have had with health care workers. The survey will include questions about how people get medical care when they need it, and your stories will help make sure that the questions ask about the right things.

1. Describe the last time you needed medical care or wanted to see someone like a nurse or a doctor. Did you go to a health centre? If so, how did the people at the clinic treat you?
PROBE: When thinking about how they treated you, we mean did the staff make you feel comfortable or not, did they seem friendly or not, etc.?
2. What have been your experiences with HIV testing? How do you think these experiences are different for you than for people who are not transgender / gender minority?
3. Tell a story about a time you were refused medical services because you are transgender or gender minority.
4. Share a positive experience you have had with a medical professional.

Thread title: 6. Thank you for participating!

We have had such a great experience talking with all of you! As a last request, please take one more look over all the threads to make sure you didn't miss any posts.

We are sad to say our discussion is complete. You have been great, and we appreciate the time and effort you put into the discussion. Your participation has made a difference.

Thank you!