



Sexual Orientation & Gender Differences in the Duration of Sexual Activity within Same-Sex and Mixed-Sex Relationships

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Comparing Sexual Behaviour



- Quality vs. Quantity
 - Duration vs. Frequency
- Variable definitions of sex & sexual activity
- Issue of question relevance:
 - Sexual Intercourse
 - Penetration
 - Oral Sex
- Current Study: Focus on “the encounter”

Current Study



- Part of a larger longitudinal relationships study
- Online Survey began in 2005 and is ongoing
- Measures:
 - Relationship Satisfaction
 - Sexual Satisfaction
 - Mental Health & Physical Health
 - Social Support for the Relationship
 - Sexual & Health Behaviours
 - Sexuality and Sexual Identity

Current Analysis

- How long did your last **sexual encounter** with your partner last?
- How long does your average **sexual encounter** with your partner last?

< 10
minutes

10-15
min

15-30
min

30-45
min

45-60
min

1-2
hours

2+
hours

Sample Demographics

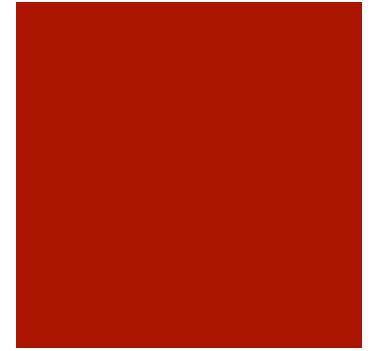


	Female	Male	Total
Same-Sex	210	210	420
Mixed-Sex	287	106	393
Total	497	316	813

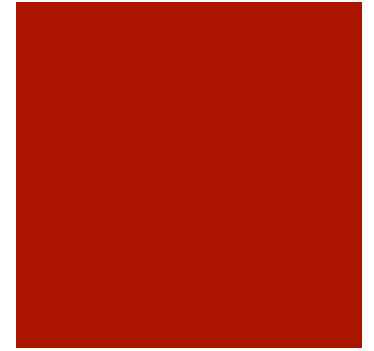
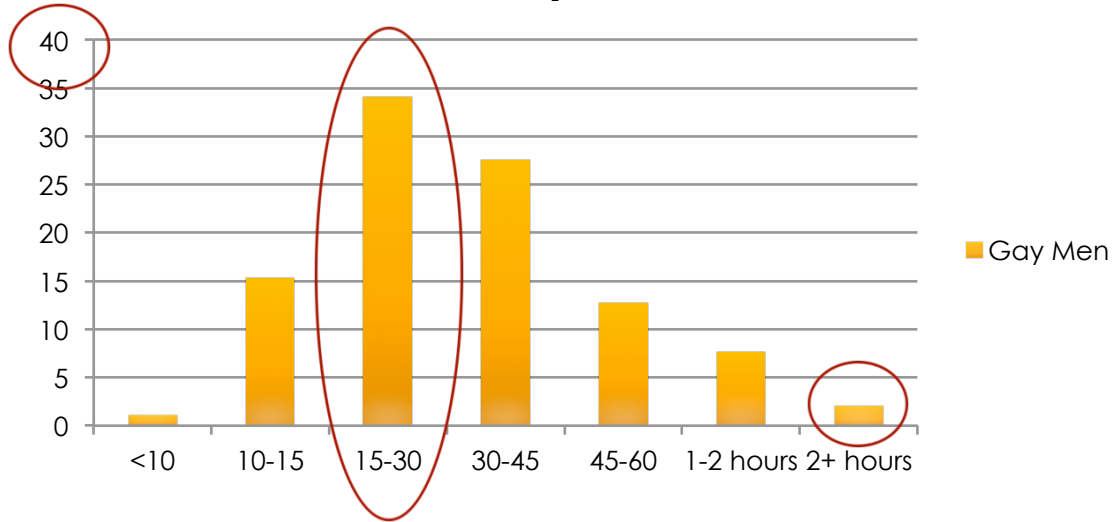
- Age
 - 18 – 79; Mean: 30.32
 - Heterosexual Mean Age: 25, Non-Heterosexual Mean Age: 35
- Relationship Length
 - Average length: 4.5 years
 - Range: < 1 month – 39 years

4 Group Comparison

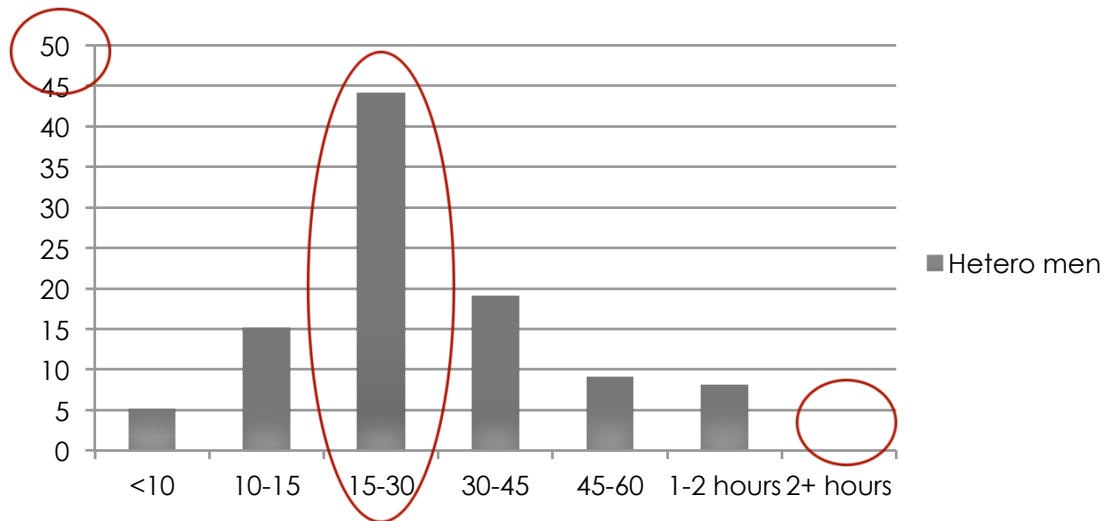
- Lesbian Women
 - Gay Men
 - Heterosexual Men
 - Heterosexual Women
-
- Lesbians reported longest durations, followed by gay men, heterosexual men and then heterosexual women.



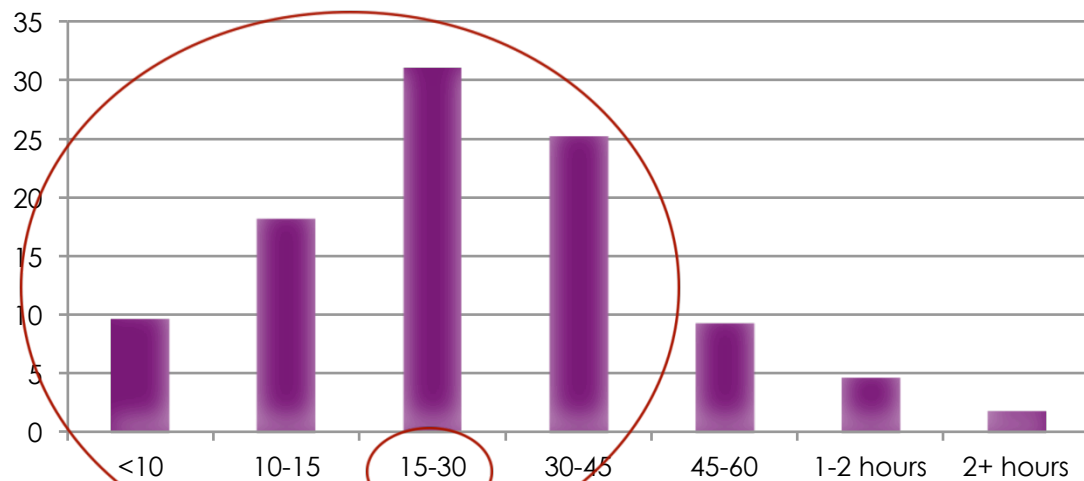
Gay Men



Hetero men



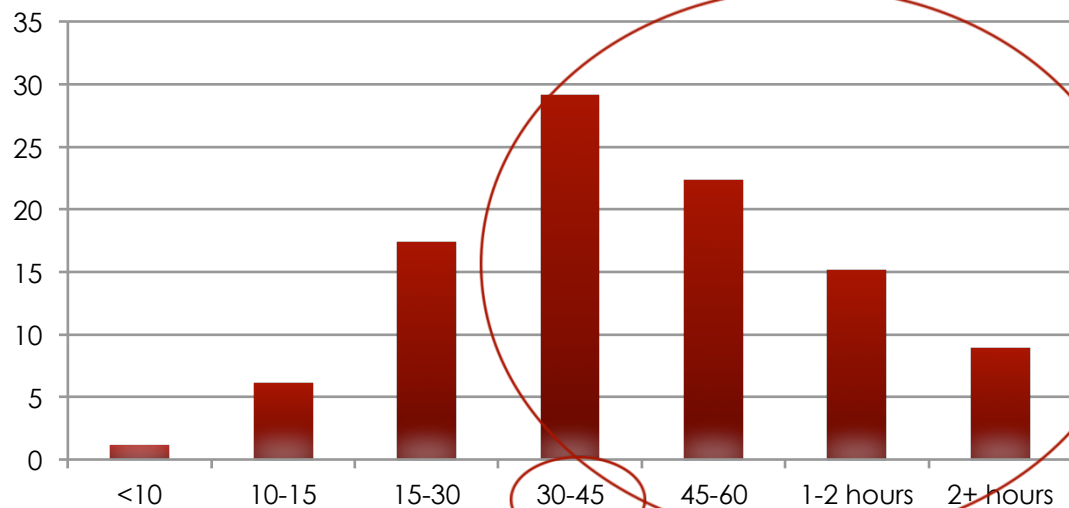
Hetero Women



■ Hetero Women



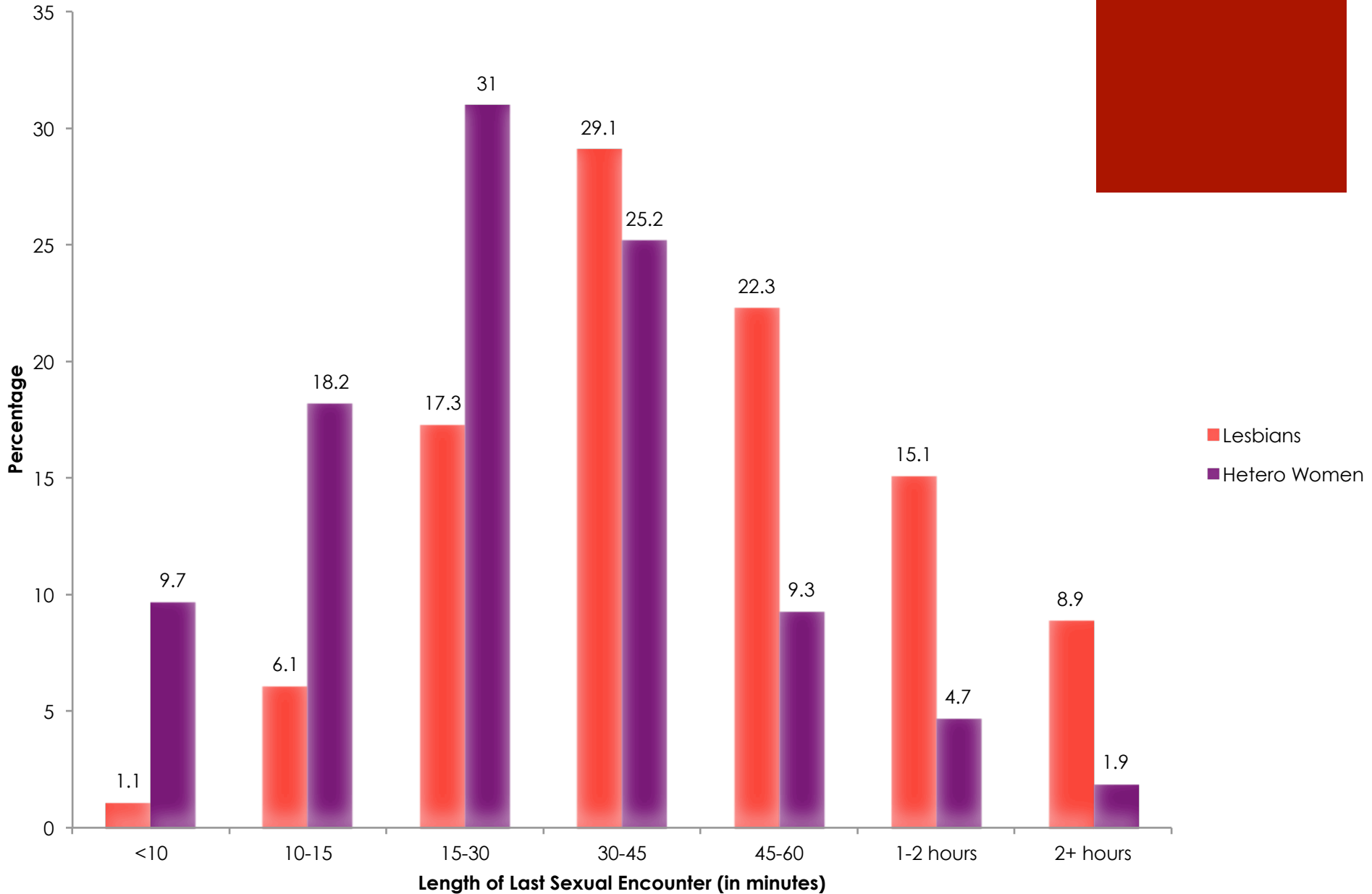
Lesbians



Sig.
Difference

■ Lesbians

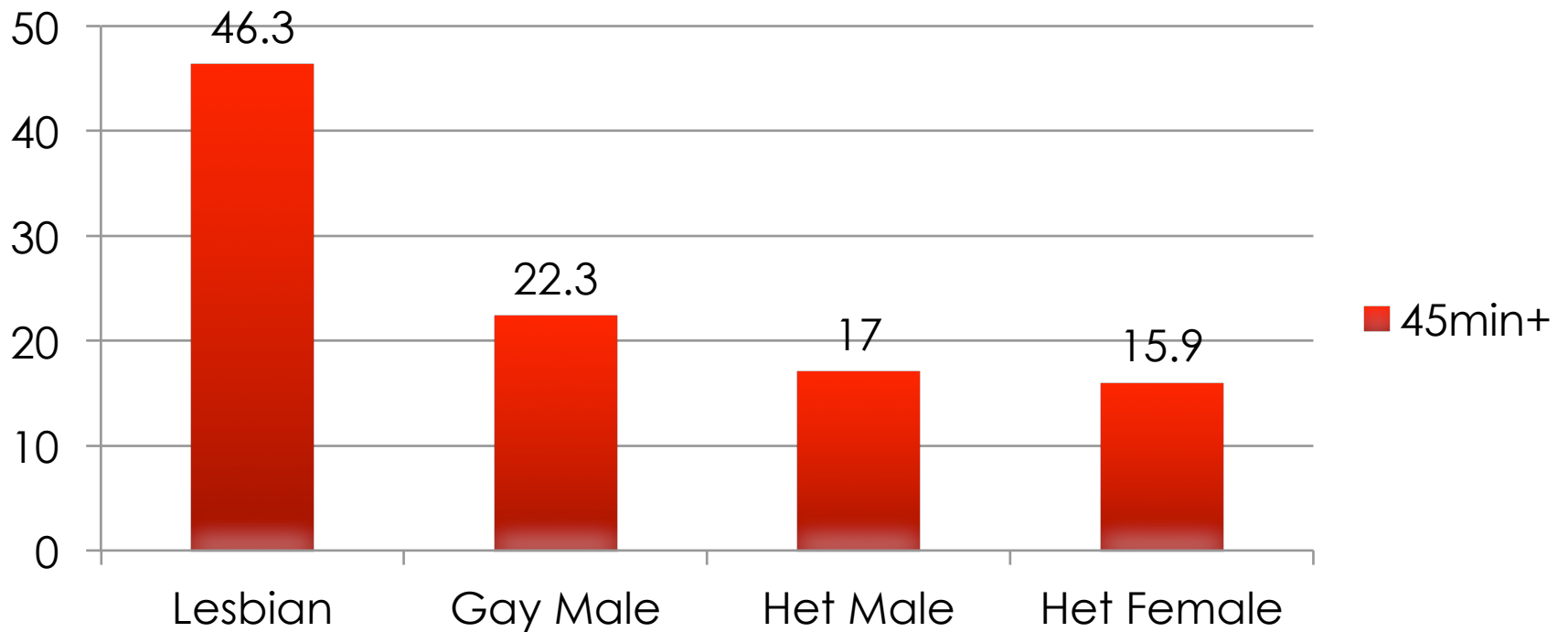
Length of Last Sexual Encounter



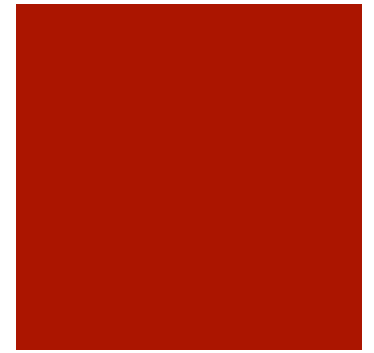
% Reporting 45 min+



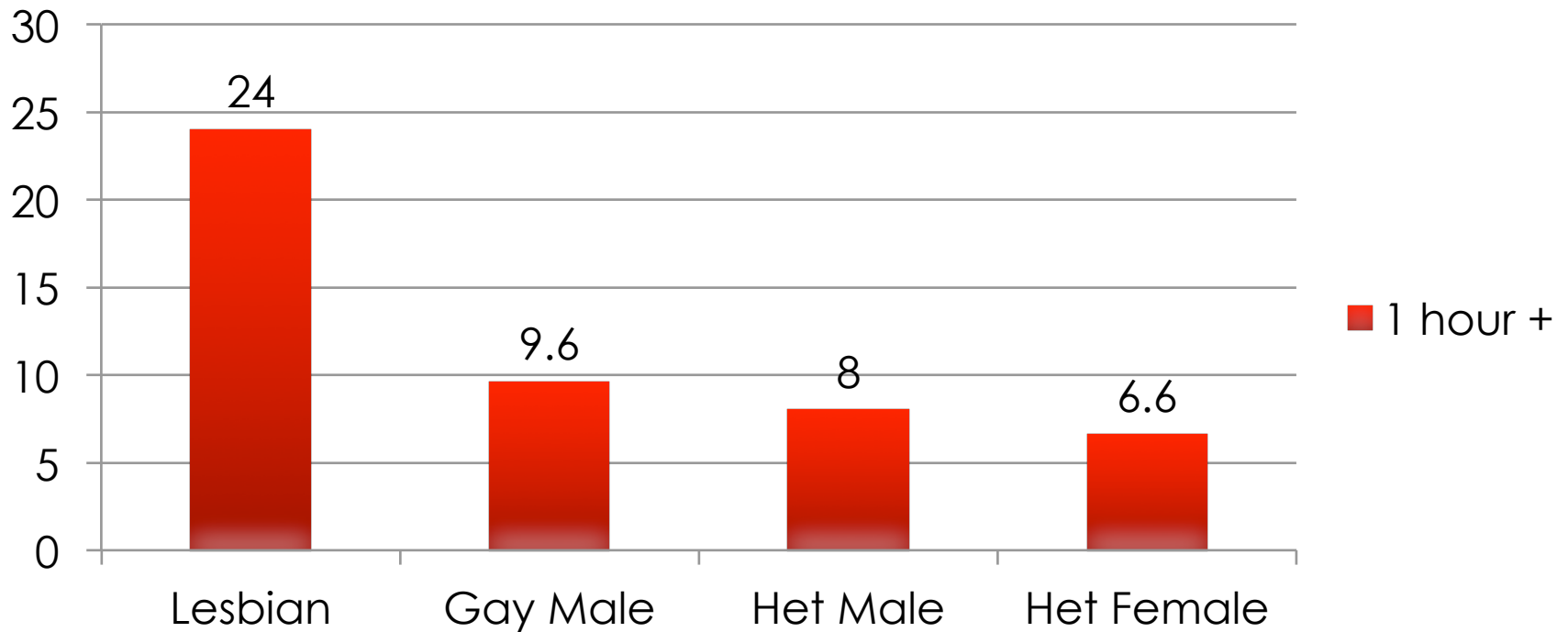
45min+



% Reporting 1 hour +



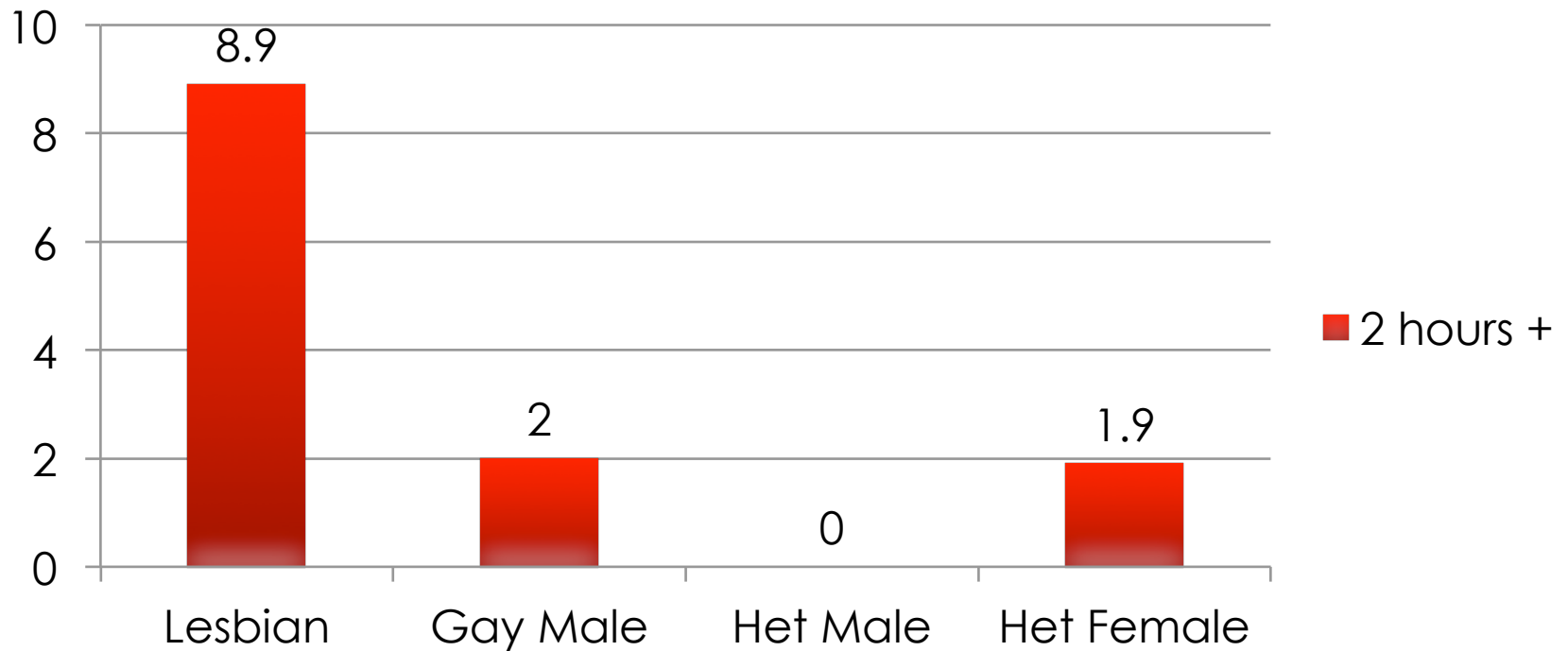
1 hour +



% Reporting 2 hours +



2 hours +



Specific Activities



- Heterosexual Men & Women reported most frequent sexual intercourse
- Lesbians reported more frequent experiences of:
 - Multiple orgasms
 - Orgasms from oral sex
- Heterosexual Men reported more frequent experiences of:
 - Orgasm from vaginal intercourse
- Gay Men and Lesbians reported more frequent:
 - Performance of oral sex on their partner
- Heterosexual Women reported most frequent experiences of:
 - Sexual activity with partner that did not result in an orgasm
- Gay & Bisexual Men reported most frequent experience of orgasm through anal penetration

Conclusions



- The question you ask matters:
 - Sexual intercourse = heterosexuals
 - Duration = lesbians
 - Sex without orgasm = heterosexual women
 - Anal penetration = gay and bisexual men
- Longer durations could be an explanation for lower frequencies
- Frequency likely does not equate to quality
- Bottom line = satisfaction

Thank You

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