



*Eurasian Coalition
on Male Health*

Attitude of social and health workers towards LGBT in Georgia

Brief on main results of the Study on the Attitudes of Staff of Key Social Services of Five Countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia towards LGBT People, conducted within the Framework of ECOM's Regional Program "Right to Health"

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Socio-demographical characteristics

A total of 129 respondents were surveyed*. The majority (70 people) are health workers and 59 are social workers. The greater part of respondents in both professional groups were women than men. In comparison to social workers, the health workers were older and had longer work experience. The majority were Orthodox, see (Fig. 1).

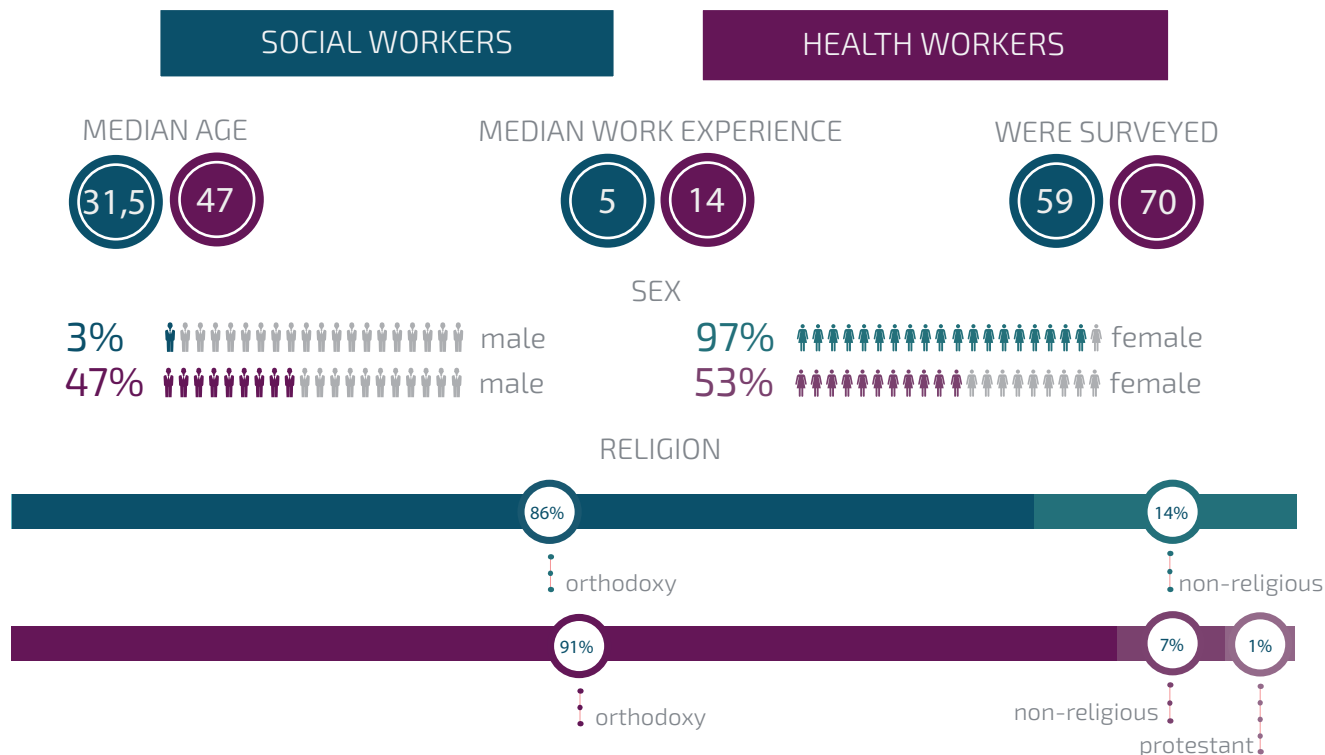


Fig. 1

Assessment of the personal attitudes of respondents towards LGBT people

The majority of respondents (90%) have a positive attitude to homosexuality and believe that it is either a sexual orientation with the same right to exist as heterosexuality, or a fact that can neither be punished nor glorified. This opinion is shared by 93% of social workers and by 87% of health workers. The percentage of respondents that believe that homosexuality should be accepted in society ranges from 67% (health workers) to 86% (social workers). Thus, social workers have more positive perception of LGBT, than the health workers have, see (Fig. 2).

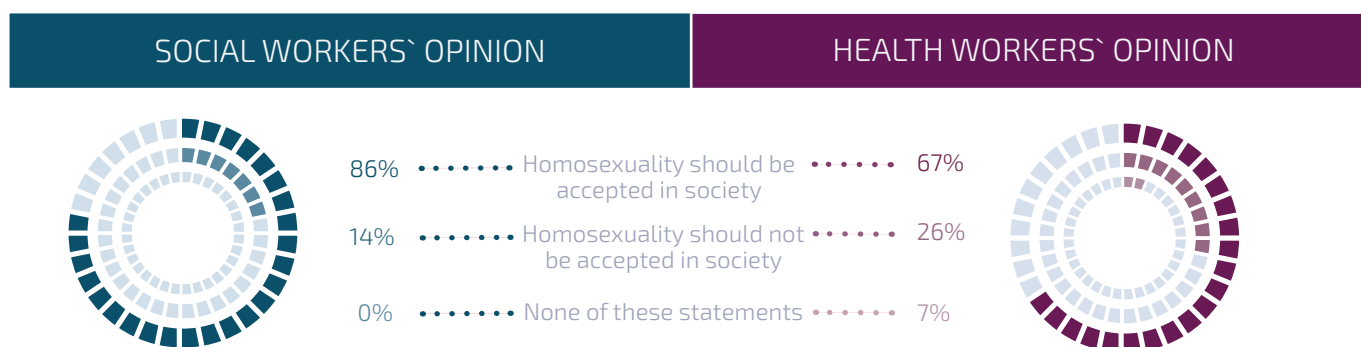


Fig. 2 Respondents' opinions about the acceptability of homosexuality in society

* Moskotina R. et al. Study on the Attitudes of Staff of Key Social Services of Five Countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia towards LGBT People, conducted within the Framework of ECOM's Regional Program "Right to Health" / R. Moskotina, N. Dmitruk, O. Trofimenko, Y. Privalov, M. Kasianczuk (The Eurasian Coalition on Male Health). – Tallinn, 2017. – 94 p.

The degree of social distance of social workers in relation to LGBT people was estimated to be lower than average and among health workers – higher than average. That means the social workers are ready to come near to LGBT closer than the health workers. However, representatives of both professional groups evaluate their status in the society the same as the status of LGBT.

Several factors can influence on the degree of social distance (Fig. 3).

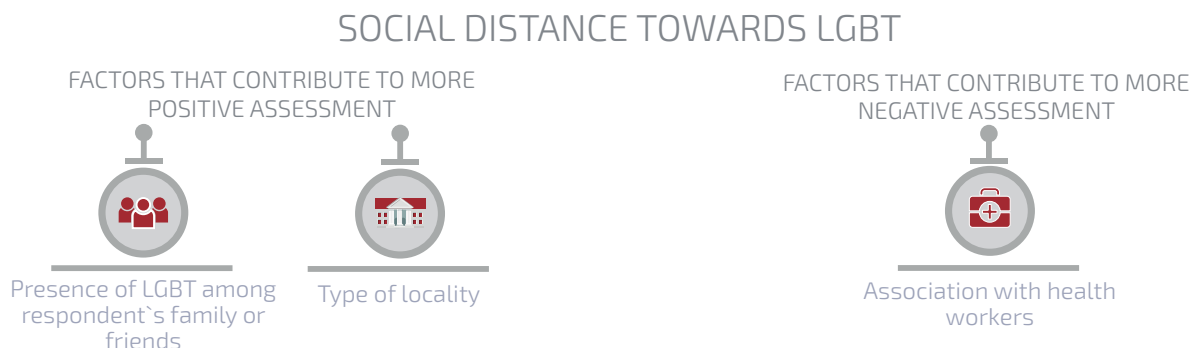


Fig. 3

Presence of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender among respondent's family or friends means the social distance in relation to LGBT is lower. Also the smaller respondent's locality, the lower the degree of social distance. Health workers, not social workers, are tend to have a longer distance towards LGBT people.

Social workers were totally agreeing with the idea of equality between LGBT and other citizens, meanwhile, health workers – by 93%. Social workers, in comparison to health workers, demonstrate the higher level of agreement with the opinion that homosexual couples should have the same right to marriage as heterosexual couples and right to adopt and/or raise children. The majority of social workers support the same-sex marriage more (56%), than the right to adopt and/or raise children (38%). One third of surveyed social workers believe that there should be exceptions on a case-by-case basis within equal same-sex marriage (24%) and children raise/adoption (34%) (Fig. 4).

The percentage of health workers against the idea of same-sex marriage (59%) is more than the percentage supports this (26%). The same is regard to the right to adopt and/or raise children – 47% of health workers are against it, 19% support this statement and 33% believe that there should be exceptions on a case-by-case basis (Fig. 4).

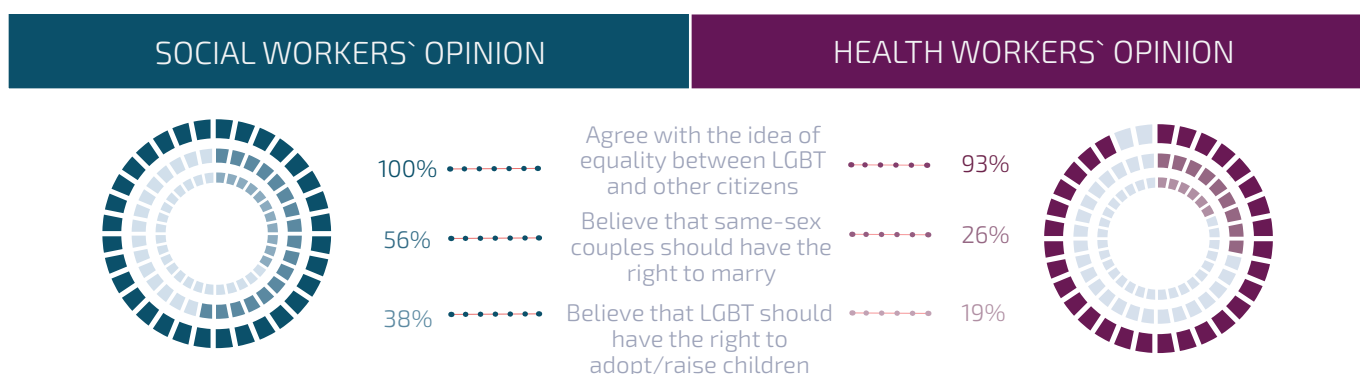


Fig. 4

Health workers, not social workers, are tend to have a lower acceptance of the idea of equality, as well as, those who are older (Fig. 5).

ACCEPTANCE OF THE IDEA OF EQUALITY BETWEEN LGBT AND OTHER CITIZENS

Factors that oppose to the idea's acceptance



Fig. 5

Attitude of professional groups towards LGBT people

Health workers, as well as social workers, assessed their colleagues' attitude towards LGBT as neutral/ambiguous. 44% of social workers and 26% of health workers stated that they had encountered incidents of discrimination, alienation, or disapproval by their colleagues towards LGBT. However, such results mean that social workers may have a higher degree of openness than health workers in disclosing the fact that they often encounter such incidents. Health workers, not social workers, are more likely to have negative valuation of their colleagues' attitude towards LGBT people.

Experience of providing services and assistance to LGBT people

The majority of respondents are working with representatives of the LGBT community on issues related to HIV/STI prevention. Health workers are providing HIV/STI counseling more than social workers (Fig. 6).

PROVISION OF COUNSELING SERVICES FOR LGBT ON HIV/STI PREVENTION

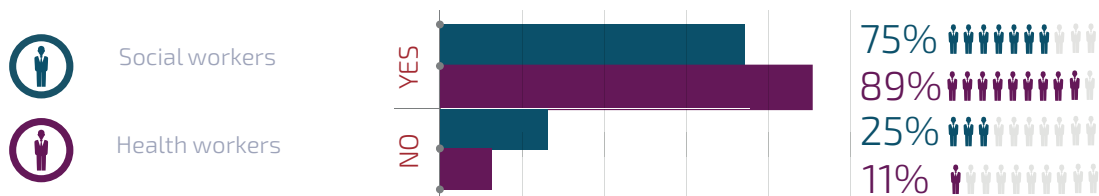


Fig. 6

In most cases, LGBT representatives personally seek services at the respondent's place of work. The percentage of health workers who have clients from the LGBT community that personally comes to their place of work for services are much higher than same percentage of social workers. There is almost no difference between the proportion of those social workers from whom LGBT personally seek assistance and those that do not have such clients (Fig. 7).

DO LGBT CLIENTS PERSONALLY SEEK SERVICES AT YOUR PLACE OF WORK?

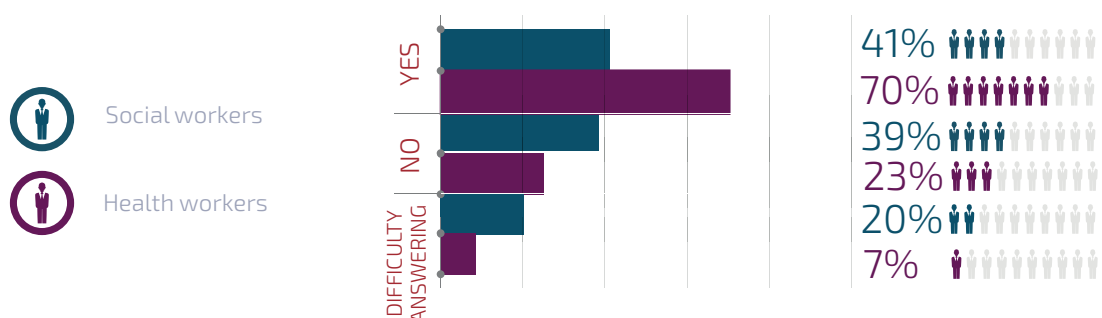


Fig. 7

Highlights

- The majority of respondents have a positive attitude to homosexuality and believe it should be accepted in society
- Homosexuality is more acceptable for social workers, rather than health workers
Presence of LGBT among respondent's family or friends means the lower level of social distance to LGBT
- The majority of health workers against the idea of same-sex marriage and LGBT's right to adopt/raise children; social workers support both ideas and the idea of same-sex marriage more
- Health workers are more likely to have negative valuation of their colleagues' attitude towards LGBT people
- The majority of respondents provide HIV/STI prevention counseling for LGBT and health workers more than social workers
- The greater part of health workers have LGBT clients coming personally to their work place and seek services and this part is much more than social workers