

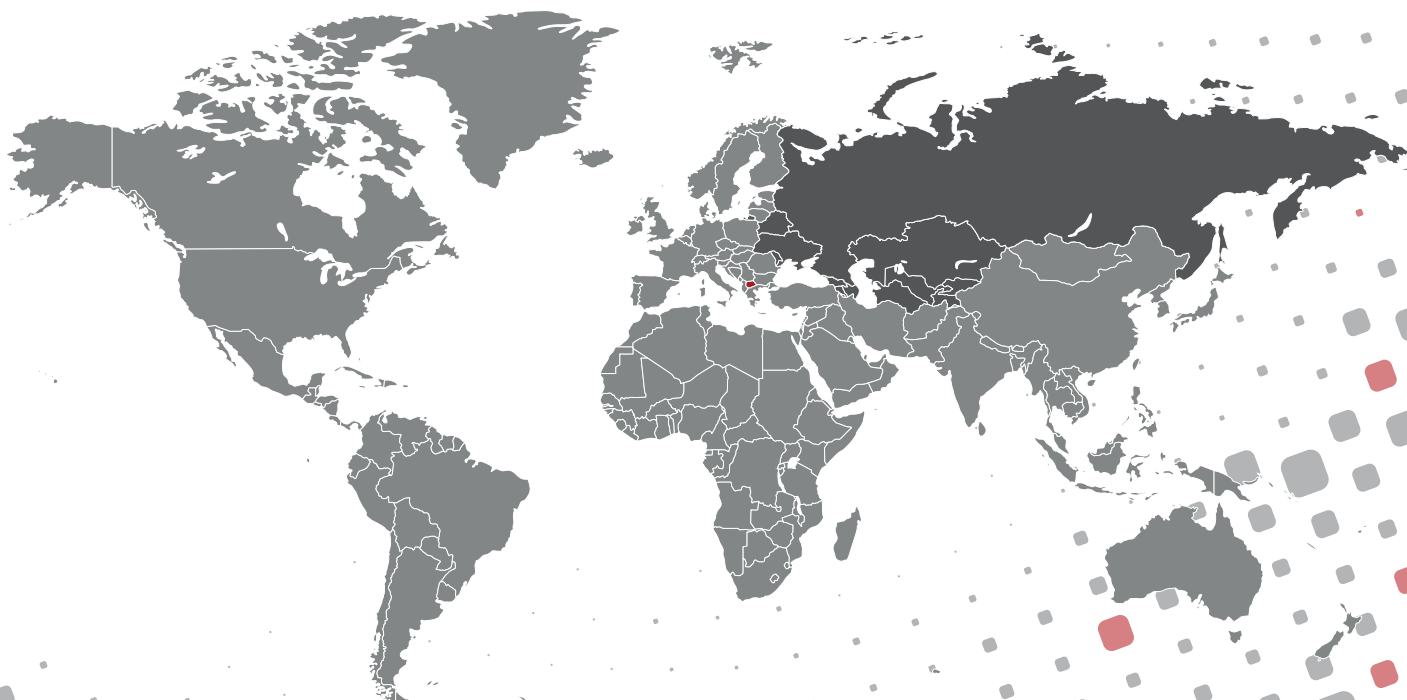


*Eurasian Coalition
on Male Health*

Attitude of social, health workers and police towards LGBT in Macedonia

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 89 respondents were surveyed*, among them 49 are health workers, 28 are social workers and 12 are representatives of police. The majority of health and social workers are women. Police were represented exclusively by men. In comparison to social workers and police, health workers were older and had longer work experience. Social workers and police were represented approximately the same age. Finally, social workers had longer work experience than police. The majority of all the respondents were Orthodox, see (Fig. 1).

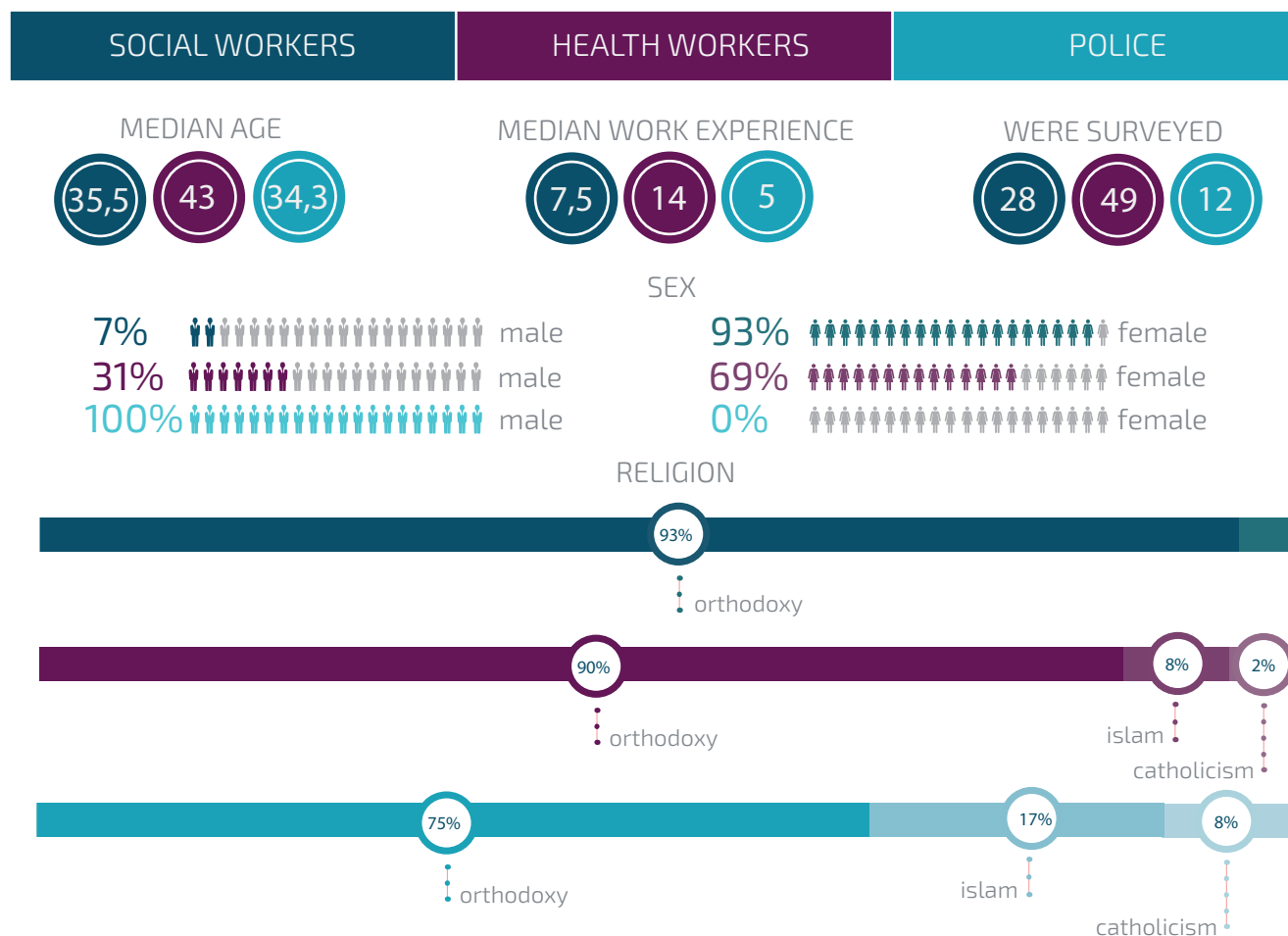


Fig. 1

Assessment of the personal attitudes of respondents towards LGBT people

The majority of survey participants expressed a positive perception of homosexuality. 82% of respondents believe that homosexuality 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, 80% of health workers and 67% of police. However, 25% of police believe that homosexuality is a disease or the result of psychological trauma.

Homosexuality is the most acceptable for social workers – 96% believe it should be accepted in society. The majority of health workers (71%) and police (67%) also accept the homosexuality, and health workers more than police. However, as well as, while consideration of the previous question, 25% of police expressed a negative belief that homosexuality should not be accepted in society (Fig. 2).

* 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.



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

Representatives of all the three professional groups demonstrate a lower than average degree of social distance towards LGBT (health workers and police) and low degree (social workers). That means the social workers are ready to come near to LGBT closer than health workers or police. All the respondents 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). 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 greater the amount of work experience, the closer respondent is towards LGBT.

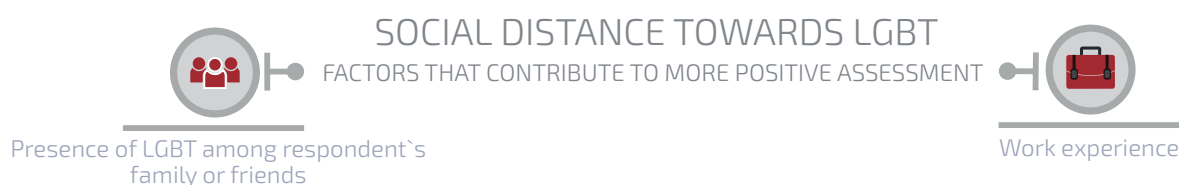


Fig. 3

The majority of respondents are agree with the idea of equality between LGBT and other citizens (83%) and social workers are more than others – 93%, meanwhile, health workers – 82% and police – 67%.

Social workers, mostly, (78%) support the same-sex marriage. Considering the question about the right of LGBT to adopt and/or raise children, the opinion of social workers was not so unanimous and positive: 46% were agree with this right, 21% were against such a right and 21% stated that there should be exceptions on a case-by-case basis (Fig. 4).

Health workers support the idea of same-sex marriage (46% agree) much more than idea of the LGBT right to adopt and/or raise children (18% agree). However, with that, 23% of health workers believe that LGBT should not be given the right of same-sex marriage and 17% believe that there should be exceptions on a case-by-case basis. The majority of health workers (39%) are against the right of LGBT to adopt and/or raise children and 22% believe that there should be individual consideration (Fig. 4).

42% of police representatives support the idea that same-sex couples should have the right to marry. However, 25% are against such a right and 33% believe that there should be individual consideration. As for the right of LGBT to adopt and/or raise children, 45% of police was disagree with such a right, 36% did not have a definite position and 18% stated that such entitlement should have individual consideration (Fig. 4).

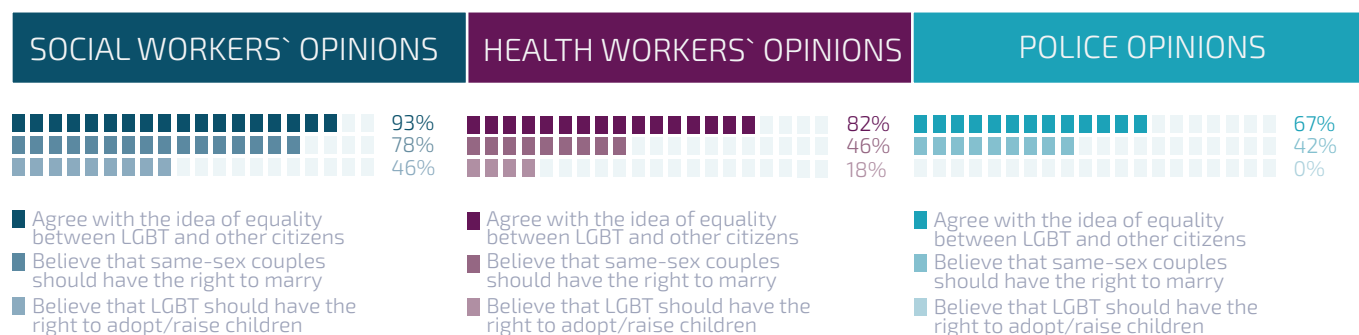


Fig. 4

There are several factors influencing the willingness of respondents to accept the idea of equality between LGBT and other citizens (Fig. 5).

ACCEPTANCE OF THE IDEA OF EQUALITY BETWEEN LGBT AND OTHER CITIZENS



Fig. 5

Presence of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender among respondent's family or friends means more chances to accept the idea of equality, as well as the fact of longer respondent's work experience. Health workers, not social workers, are tend to have a lower acceptance of the idea of equality.

Attitude of professional groups towards LGBT people

Health workers, as well as social workers and police, assessed their colleagues' attitude towards LGBT as neutral/ambiguous.

The majority of police (58%), as well as, 36% of health workers and 44% of social workers, noted that they have encountered incidents of discrimination, alienation, or disapproval by colleagues towards LGBT. The majority of social workers (57%) and health workers (63%) stated that they have never encountered this. 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.

Experience of providing services and assistance to LGBT people

The majority of social workers are providing HIV/STI counseling for LGBT and are providing such services more than health workers are. However, the percentage of health workers providing HIV/STI counseling and those who do not does not differ significantly (Fig. 6).

PROVISION OF COUNSELING SERVICES FOR LGBT ON HIV/STI PREVENTION

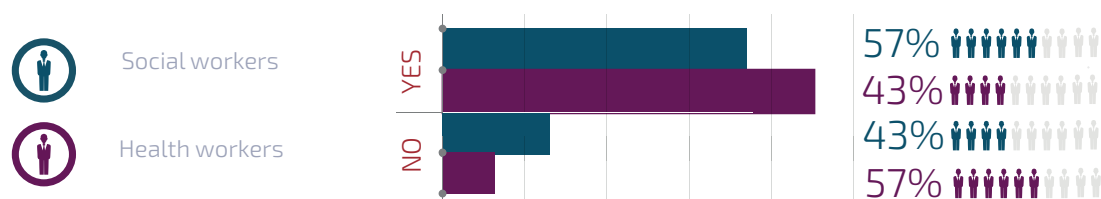


Fig. 6

LGBT personally seek services at the social workers' place of work more, than at the health workers'. The percentage of health workers who have not clients from LGBT personally seek their assistance is much higher than percentage of those who have (Fig. 7).

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

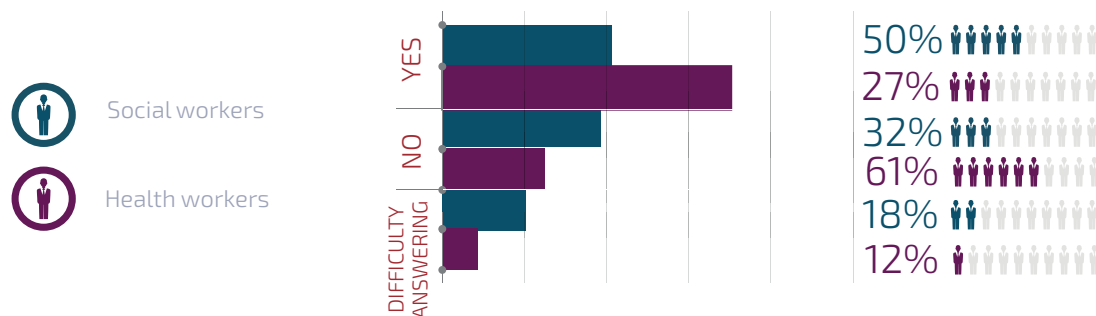


Fig. 7

Highlights

- ☐ The majority of respondents expressed a positive perception of homosexuality
- ☐ Homosexuality is the most acceptable for social workers, rather than health workers and police
- ☐ Almost one third of police has negative opinion about homosexuality and disagree with a belief that homosexuality should be accepted in society
- ☐ Presence of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender among respondent's family or friends, as well as, the greater the amount of work experience are those factors that influence positive on the social distance to LGBT and acceptance the idea of equality between LGBT and other citizens
- ☐ The majority of respondents agree with the idea of equality between LGBT and other citizens and social workers are more than others
- ☐ Respondents support the same-sex marriage more than the right of LGBT to adopt and/or raise children
- ☐ The majority of health workers and police are against the right of LGBT to adopt/raise children
- ☐ Representatives of police have encountered incidents of discrimination, alienation, or disapproval by colleagues towards LGBT more often than social and health workers
- ☐ Social workers, mostly, are providing HIV/STI counseling for LGBT and more than health workers LGBT personally seek services at the social workers' place of work more, than at the health workers'