
2007 Survey of the Sonoma County GLBTQQI Community

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2007 Survey of the Sonoma County GLBTQIQ Community

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2007 Survey of the Sonoma County GLBTQQI Community

Introduction

This report summarizes the results of a survey of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning and intersex (GLBTQQI) community in Sonoma County, California (a Glossary of Terms can be found on pages 33 and 34). The survey was conducted independently by the author from May 21 to June 24, 2007, as a *pro-bono* project. It is hoped that the survey results will serve to support existing community efforts and inspire new ones.

Individuals from InsideOut, FTMsc, and the ThinkTANC (three separate groups of loosely affiliated people) offered revisions of the survey questions, and an editor helped improve the flow of this report. However, these generous and intelligent people are not responsible for any shortcomings that may exist in the survey tool, data analysis and summary report. Any and all errors or omissions are the sole responsibility of the author.

The survey was conducted entirely online. A link to the survey was distributed by email to individuals, list serves, nonprofits, organizations and groups. The link was also posted online at www.GaySonoma.com, www.Craigslist.com and www.MySpace.com. *We Mean It! Productions* was kind enough to announce the survey at their June Pride Comedy Night.

A total of 218 participants started the survey and 159 completed it. However, this report does not include the following 25 participants: 18 who indicated they live outside Sonoma County and 7 who identified as straight and who indicated that a “sense of belonging to the GLBTQQI community” was not applicable to them and/or who indicated that equal rights for GLBTQQI people are a bad idea.

This report summarizes the responses from the remaining 193 participants who started the survey (146 or 76% of them completed it). After running calculations, percentages were rounded off to two decimals (e.g. 0.23188 becomes 23% in this report), resulting in small discrepancies in some instances (i.e. for some questions, percentages total 99% or 101% instead of 100%). The open-ended comments submitted by participants are included unedited and in no particular order.

While the survey was constructed thoughtfully and the database analyzed with utmost care, strenuous statistical validation was not performed to measure the margin of error. As tempting as it might be to apply the survey results to the GLBTQQI community at large, the end user is strongly cautioned to avoid drawing hard and fast conclusions about the GLBTQQI community as a whole.

Acknowledgements

First, thank you to “InsideOut,” a small informal group of individuals with warm hearts and big brains who share a desire for a sense of community. While discussing our personal visions for the local GLBTQI community over dinner in March 2007, I voiced a passionate desire to conduct this survey. The group kindly offered their support. They also helped to edit my first draft of the survey and identify ways to help promote it. Unfortunately, I was unable to continue to participate with the group due to personal constraints. It is my hope that the survey results will prove helpful to their efforts, and I thank them for their contributions.

Thank you to some generous and intelligent people from FTMsc and the ThinkTANC (once again, these are informal groups of loosely affiliated individuals). The revisions they suggested significantly improved the structure of some key questions in this survey. Thank you for the insightful recommendations.

Thank you to Patricia Gingell for helping to edit this report. Your talent for fine-tuning the written word is deeply appreciated.

Thank you to Robin, my wife, who supported me unconditionally as I spent many late nights and most weekends over four months developing and promoting the survey, analyzing the responses, summarizing the data and writing this report. Robin read various iterations of this report and edited the final copy. She recognized how important this project was to me and encouraged me to follow my passion. Thank you sweetheart, for everything.

Finally, a very special thank you to each person who participated in the survey. Your input made this project a success. Thank you for taking the time to participate.

Sincerely,
Colin Close

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Participants by Gender– 193 Responses

- The top three individual gender categories were:
 - Female: 59%
 - Male: 31%
 - FTM: 5%

What is your gender?							
Female	Male	Intersex	FTM	MTF	Transgender	Genderqueer	Other *
114	59	1	10	2	3	2	2
59%	31%	1%	5%	1%	2%	1%	1%

- Applying a common use of the term “transgender” to include FTM, MTF, transgender, genderqueer and other*, 10% of participants identified their gender as Transgender**.

What is your gender? (condensed)				
Female	Male	Intersex	Transgender*	Total
114	59	1	19	193
59%	31%	1%	10%	

Participants by Sexual Orientation – 193 Responses

- The top three sexual orientation categories were:
 - Lesbian: 46%
 - Gay: 24%
 - Bisexual: 13%

How would you describe your sexual orientation?						
Gay	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer	Questioning	Other ***	Straight
47	89	25	13	4	1	14
24%	46%	13%	7%	2%	1%	7%

* Other Gender – One participant indicated androgynous and one indicated Male/FTM

** Transgender as used here includes these survey categories: FTM, MTF, Transgender, Genderqueer and Other

*** Other Sexual Orientation – Participant indicated “married”

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Participants Cross Referenced by Gender and Sexual Orientation

- Cross referencing gender and sexual orientation reveals some interesting data:
 - Three female participants (2.6% of female participants) identified as gay.
 - Fourteen participants (7% of participants) identified as straight. These participants indicated they were transgender individuals, partners of transgender individuals or straight allies with a sense of belonging to GLBTQQI community.

Participants cross-referenced by gender and sexual orientation									
Gender	Gay	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer	Quest'g	Other**	Straight	Total	% of Total
Female	3	86	13	5	1	1	5	114	59%
Male	44	0	6	2	1	0	6	59	31%
Transgender*	0	3	5	6	2	0	3	19	10%
Intersex	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1%
Total	47	89	25	13	4	1	14	193	
% of Total	24%	46%	13%	7%	2%	1%	7%		

Participants by G, L, B, T, Q, Q or I Identity – 182 responses

- 182 participants identified with one or more of the G, L, B, T, Q, Q or I categories. This group includes people of all genders and sexual orientations (including straight).
- As can be seen in some comments submitted by participants, not all participants agreed with the use of this acronym or with this level of diversity and inclusion.
- Eleven participants did not appear to identify with one of the G, L, B, T, Q, Q or I categories. They are not included in the two tables immediately below.

	G, L, B, Q, Q (sexual orientation)						T, I (gender)	
	Gay	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer	Quest'g	Other **	Transgender*	Intersex
Total	47	89	25	13	4	1	19	1
% of 182	26%	49%	14%	7%	2%	1%	10%	1%

- The Transgender* table below helps to illustrate the diversity of the community.

Transgender* and sexual orientation									
Gender	Gay	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer	Quest'g	Other**	Straight	Total	% of 182
FTM	0	1	3	3	1	0	2	10	5%
MTF	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	1%
Transgender	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	2%
Genderqueer	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1%
Other ***	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1%
Total	0	3	5	6	2	0	3	19	10%
% of 182	0%	2%	3%	3%	1%	0%	2%	10%	

* Transgender as used here includes these survey categories: FTM, MTF, Transgender, Genderqueer and Other

** Other Sexual Orientation – Participant indicated “married”

*** Other Gender – One participant indicated androgynous and one indicated Male/FTM

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Participants by Age Range – 192 responses

- People less than 35 years old were not well represented in the survey.
 - 15% of participants were less than 35 years old.
 - 5% were under 25.
 - No one under age 18 participated.
- Some participants reported in their open-ended comments that they have experienced a generation gap. Some reported they want to see efforts to bridge the gap. Some commented that they feel left out, discarded or invisible because of age.

What is your age? (by gender)						
Age Range	Female	Male	Intersex	Transgender*	Total	% of Total
Under 18	0	0	0	0	0	0%
18-24	6	2	0	2	10	5%
25-34	8	5	1	5	19	10%
35-44	12	9	0	2	23	12%
45-54	47	21	0	3	71	37%
55-64	31	15	0	5	51	27%
65-74	9	6	0	0	15	8%
75 or older	1	1	0	1	3	2%
Total	114	59	1	18	192	
% of Total	59%	31%	1%	9%		

What is your age? (by sexual orientation)									
Age Range	Gay	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer	Quest'g	Other**	Straight	Total	% of Total
Under 18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
18-24	2	2	3	2	1	0	0	10	5%
25-34	4	4	2	3	2	1	3	19	10%
35-44	5	8	3	3	0	0	4	23	12%
45-54	18	40	5	2	0	0	6	71	37%
55-64	13	24	10	2	1	0	1	51	27%
65-74	4	9	2	0	0	0	0	15	8%
75 or older	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	2%
Total	47	89	25	12	4	1	14	192	
% of Total	24%	46%	13%	6%	2%	1%	7%		

* Transgender as used here includes these survey categories: FTM, MTF, Transgender, Genderqueer and Other

** Other Sexual Orientation – Participant indicated “married”

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Participants by Location (closest city) – 192 responses

- The top three cities were Santa Rosa (51%), Sebastopol (11%) and Guerneville (10%).

Where do you live (closest city)? (by gender)						
City	Female	Male	Intersex	Transgender*	Total	% of Total
Bodega Bay	1	0	0	0	1	1%
Cloverdale	2	2	0	0	4	2%
Cotati	3	0	0	0	3	2%
Geyserville	1	0	0	1	2	1%
Guerneville	9	9	0	2	20	10%
Healdsburg	3	0	0	1	4	2%
Petaluma	14	3	0	1	18	9%
Rohnert Park	6	4	0	1	11	6%
Santa Rosa	54	32	1	11	98	51%
Sebastopol	15	7	0	0	22	11%
Sonoma	1	1	0	1	3	2%
Windsor	4	1	0	1	6	3%
Total	113	59	1	19	192	
% of Total	59%	31%	1%	10%		

Where do you live (closest city)? (by sexual orientation)									
City	Gay	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer	Quest'g	Other**	Straight	Total	% of Total
Bodega Bay	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1%
Cloverdale	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	4	2%
Cotati	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	2%
Geyserville	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1%
Guerneville	8	8	1	2	0	0	1	20	10%
Healdsburg	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	4	2%
Petaluma	2	14	2	0	0	0	0	18	9%
Rohnert Park	2	2	3	3	1	0	0	11	6%
Santa Rosa	27	39	13	6	3	1	9	98	51%
Sebastopol	6	14	2	0	0	0	0	22	11%
Sonoma	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	2%
Windsor	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	6	3%
Total	47	88	25	13	4	1	14	192	
% of Total	24%	46%	13%	7%	2%	1%	7%		

* Transgender as used here includes these survey categories: FTM, MTF, Transgender, Genderqueer and Other

** Other Sexual Orientation – Participant indicated “married”

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How Satisfied Participants Feel – 178 responses

- In all categories except “the presence of a GLBTQIQ community in Sonoma County,” dissatisfaction significantly outweighed satisfaction. In every category, 25% to 29% felt neutral.
 - Presence of GLBTQIQ community in Sonoma County
 - Very or somewhat satisfied: 35%
 - Somewhat dissatisfied or not at all satisfied: 35%
 - Sense of belonging to the GLBTQIQ community
 - Very or somewhat satisfied: 28%
 - Somewhat dissatisfied or not at all satisfied: 42%
 - Political representation of GLBTQIQ community in Sonoma County
 - Very or somewhat satisfied: 25%
 - Somewhat dissatisfied or not at all satisfied: 43%
 - Presence of a GLBTQIQ "voice" in Sonoma County who speaks for your issues and interests
 - Very or somewhat satisfied: 16%
 - Somewhat dissatisfied or not at all satisfied: 49%
 - Local media coverage of GLBTQIQ news (TV, radio, newspaper, internet)
 - Very or somewhat satisfied: 13%
 - Somewhat dissatisfied or not at all satisfied: 57%
 - On average, dissatisfaction outweighed satisfaction.
 - 24% reported feeling very or somewhat satisfied
 - 45% reported feeling somewhat dissatisfied or not at all satisfied

How satisfied are you in terms of these areas shown below?	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Not at all satisfied	N/A
The presence of GLBTQIQ community in Sonoma County	9%	26%	25%	20%	15%	2%
Your sense of belonging to GLBTQIQ community in So County	11%	17%	27%	21%	21%	3%
Political representation of GLBTQIQ people in So County	4%	21%	28%	23%	20%	4%
The presence of a GLBTQIQ "voice" in Sonoma County who speaks for your issues and interests	3%	13%	29%	22%	27%	4%
Local media coverage of GLBTQIQ news (TV, radio, newspaper, internet)	2%	11%	27%	29%	28%	4%
Average	6%	18%	27%	23%	22%	3%

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How Safe Participants Feel About Being Out – 173 responses

- The top three areas in which participants reported feeling very safe or somewhat safe about being out were:
 1. With friends: 93%
 2. With chosen family: 91%
 3. With peers: 84%
- The top three areas in which participants reported feeling somewhat unsafe or not at all safe about being out were:
 1. In public: 16%
 2. In medical settings: 14%
 3. With extended family: 12%
- On average, participants indicated:
 - 75% feel very safe or somewhat safe about being out
 - 9% feel somewhat unsafe or not at all safe about being out
 - 8% feel neutral
 - 8% indicated “not applicable”

How safe do you feel about being "out"?	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Neutral	Somewhat unsafe	Not at all safe	N/A
With chosen family (partner, children, friends considered family)	76%	15%	3%	2%	1%	2%
With parents and siblings	68%	12%	6%	3%	3%	8%
With extended family (grandparents, cousins, etc)	50%	20%	8%	8%	5%	11%
With friends	81%	12%	2%	1%	2%	2%
With peers	57%	28%	6%	6%	2%	2%
In the neighborhood	38%	35%	14%	8%	3%	2%
In academic institutions	46%	25%	9%	4%	2%	13%
In spiritual or religious community	43%	11%	5%	4%	5%	33%
At work	47%	26%	10%	7%	3%	8%
In public in Sonoma County	27%	41%	15%	14%	2%	2%
In medical settings	42%	31%	11%	11%	3%	2%
Average	52%	23%	8%	6%	3%	8%

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How Out Participants Are – 171 responses

- The top three completely out areas were:
 - With chosen family: 90%
 - With friends: 82%
 - With parents and siblings: 80%
- The three highest scoring not at all out areas were:
 - In the neighborhood: 11%
 - At work: 10%
 - In medical settings and in public in Sonoma County: tied at 9%
- On average participants indicated:
 - 62% are completely out
 - 21% are somewhat out
 - 7% are not at all out
 - 9% say being out is “not applicable”

How "out" are you?	Completely out	Somewhat out	Not at all out	N/A
With chosen family (partner, children, friends considered family, etc)	90%	6%	1%	3%
With parents and siblings	80%	8%	6%	6%
With extended family (grandparents, cousins, etc)	59%	24%	9%	9%
With friends	82%	13%	2%	2%
With peers	68%	24%	5%	2%
In the neighborhood	48%	36%	11%	5%
In academic institutions	53%	19%	8%	20%
In spiritual or religious community	50%	8%	8%	34%
At work	60%	21%	10%	9%
In public in Sonoma County	40%	47%	9%	4%
In medical settings	62%	24%	9%	4%
Average	62%	21%	7%	9%

How Safe Participants Feel About Being Out vs. How Out They Are

- More participants reported being *completely out* than *feel very safe* about being out. Some participants expressed in their comments that the community is not out or visible enough.

How Safe Participants Feel vs. How Out They Are	Feel very safe	Completely out
With chosen family (partner, children, friends)	76%	90%
With parents and siblings	68%	80%
With extended family (grandparents, cousins)	50%	59%
With friends	81%	82%
With peers	57%	68%
In the neighborhood	38%	48%
In academic institutions	46%	53%
In spiritual or religious community	43%	50%
At work	47%	60%
In public in Sonoma County	27%	40%
In medical settings	42%	62%
Average	52%	62%

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Types of Activities and Efforts Participants Would Like to See for the GLBTQQI Community in Sonoma County – 165 responses

- The top five areas in which participants want to see more activity/effort were:
 1. 81% want more events bringing GLBTQQI people together
 2. 80% want more GLBTQQI presence in local media
 3. 79% want more visible leadership for the GLBTQQI community
 4. 78% want a local GLBTQQI resource center or community center
 5. 75% want more live entertainment specifically for the GLBTQQI community

What types of activities and efforts would you like to see specifically for the GLBTQQI community in Sonoma County?	Yes! More	Neutral	No thanks
Kid friendly events & activities for GLBTQQI families	37%	47%	17%
GLBTQQI presence in local media (newspapers, radio, magazines, internet)	80%	18%	1%
Spiritual events	41%	47%	12%
Political events	69%	28%	3%
Live entertainment	75%	22%	4%
Night clubs	53%	36%	10%
Non-profits serving GLBTQQI needs	71%	27%	2%
Local GLBTQQI resource center or community center	78%	20%	2%
Events bringing GLBTQQI (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, interested, queer, questioning) people together	81%	16%	2%
Visible leadership	79%	18%	2%
Outdoor activities for GLBTQQI community	69%	28%	4%

Other Activities Participants Would Like to See

- 24 participants (15% of those answering the question) added additional information about the types of activities they would like to see.

1	Political efforts not specifically tied to GLBT issues, e.g. GLBT's addressing global warming, GLBT's addressing non-GLBT issues for our local communities (homelessness, poverty, food donations, ...). I'd like it if we as a GLBT community would have a visible presence/effect on issues that we share with non-GLBT's, instead of always focusing on ourselves.
2	library of print resources and public leather/kink group
3	More opportunities to bring the GLBTI folks together with other target populations. We can help break new ground in building cultural bridges with other marginalized minorities - we can do more to link white privilege / social injustice with visionary ideals of 21st Century "sustainable community". Having fun together wouldn't be like sitting in another political meeting talking about the same stuff for another 25 years.
4	Support for HIV+ men who DON'T use meth.
5	I think you covered it!

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6	Increase in exposure for programs like "OutBeat Salon" radio on KRCB Radio 91 FM. Closer links with the whole community... not just stuff happening at the river. Significant increase in upscale and medium scale establishments for dinner, winetasting, etc.
7	musical representation! a place where one can go and see all of the services for our community. (Many times one organization doesn't know about the other...)
8	Any visibility would be better than what we have, which to my mind is nada.
9	Opportunities to meet people that don't involve loud music or alcohol, venues that support and promote LGBTQ business, LGBTQ-related travel opportunities.
10	Outdoor events, hiking, bird watching, other social events, brunches, dinners, weekends in Calistoga, etc. My partner just started a GLBT Bunch on Sundays at noon, Karma Indian Restaurant, Rohnert Park...see http://sfbay.craigslist.org/nby/w4w/338573687.html
11	Come out, come out, where ever you are....
12	More support for ethnic groups and friends.
13	If I wanted to join a gay book club within 20 miles of my house I'd like to be able go on line to a network and link to that activity within my community. Help us find each other within our specific interests.
14	In general, alternatives for our youth. There may be a tme/play for clubbing, but other venues for gathering are wonderful. --More focus on "real" gay guys. There is too much in the media that creates a feeling of lack in gay men. Sculpted bodies, no body hair, perfect tans. What about the inside of our men (spirit), and what is wrong with not being perfect/young, or keeping your body hair?
15	ANYTHING!!! I find it both appalling and embarrassing that there is little to no coverage in the local media of gay events (even things like Gay Pride/Parade), nor is there a sense of community. Sports teams, artistic things, any sort of possible form of entertainment that would cater to a group or hobbies would be FANTASTIC! It doesn't have to be "GLBT only" type events (or games or whatever), but it should be clearly marked and labeled that it's primarily focused/catered to the GLBT community here in Sonoma County.
16	center for us to find others with similar interests. Hiking, dancing ect.
17	Marriage equality work - where did that go?
18	Dinner socials
19	Gay Pride Parade
20	For GLBTQI people to become more a topic of conversation in our daily life. No one speaks about it ...it's almost as if the GLBTQI people from this area are in the closet in this community...as if they don't exist. I lived in San Francisco and there the GLBTQI people are out and in your face...there, we live, work and socialize with each other very openly and accepting. I miss that in this community.
21	My partner and I live in Petaluma and there hasn't been much (if any) gay influence nor very little gay activities here. We'd like to make more gay friends locally to socialize.
22	I'd like it if people didn't feel it necessary to segregate themselves or make these issues the crux of thier identities. I'd like equal rights for all of us in medical care and law, marriage, family, etc., Safety for the trans person who may be incarcerated, with access to hormones, etc. In short - I just want to be treated like it(trans) wasn't a flag carried on the top of my head as though I were a different type of human.
23	More visibility of GLBT to improve understanding and ultimately more acceptance.

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24	Positive Images is serving youth and they are supported well by many, although a small minority of the GLBTQQI adult community. I suggest further acknowledgement and support for this organization, if you are planning next steps.
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Participants' Primary Involvement in Local GLBTQQI Community Efforts (multiple answers possible for each question) – 161 responses

- The three areas of highest of involvement were:
 1. Community events like Pride: 41% are customers, participants or clients
 2. Social activities like night clubs: 36% are customers, participants or clients
 3. Voice/advocate for GLBTQQI issues: 28% do their own thing
- The three areas of least involvement were:
 1. Media efforts bringing visibility to GLBTQQI issues: 62% not involved
 2. Religious/spiritual efforts serving GLBTQQI community : 54% not involved
 3. Public outreach & education: 49% not involved
- Average involvement:
 - Not involved 44%
 - Customers, participants or clients: 19%
 - Do their own thing: 18%
 - Volunteer: 13%
 - Donate money: 13%
 - Involved through jobs: 4%
 - Serve on the Board of an organization: 1%

What is your primary involvement in local GLBTQQI community efforts? Select all that apply.	It's my job (employment)	I volunteer	I donate money	I'm on the Board	I'm a customer, participant or client	I do my own thing	I'm not involved
Social activities (night clubs)	2%	3%	3%	0%	36%	19%	37%
Community events (like Pride)	3%	15%	10%	1%	41%	14%	17%
Public outreach & education (speakers bureau, panel speaker)	4%	13%	9%	1%	10%	13%	49%
Media efforts bringing visibility to GLBTQQI issues	5%	9%	5%	2%	9%	9%	62%
Political efforts (local, state and/or federal)	3%	13%	22%	1%	9%	22%	31%
Voice/Advocate for GLBTQQI issues	5%	15%	12%	1%	11%	28%	28%
Non-profits serving GLBTQQI needs	6%	15%	20%	4%	8%	7%	39%
Religious/spiritual efforts serving GLBTQQI community	1%	10%	7%	1%	12%	15%	54%
Average	4%	13%	13%	1%	19%	18%	44%

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Other Areas or Ways Participants are Involved

- 24 participants (15% of those answering the question) added additional information about how they are involved.

1	I've lived here almost 4 years, and I haven't found any GLBT community. I read a few We The People's, but I didn't find anything that I felt comfortable participating in alone, not knowing anyone.
2	I've volunteered with face to Face doing outreach, volunteered with United Against Sexual Assault, and been part of security crews for various GLBT events in Guerneville
3	I would like to become more involved and wish I could find the resources and job/volunteer opportunities.
4	I work to help interface Deaf LGBTQ community with the general LGBTQ community
5	Advocate for young people
6	I support Deaf lesbians (primarily) and gay community with networking and advocacy.
7	I'm on the GLBT employee group steering committee at Agilent I've attended Out & Equal the last 2 years
8	Not all social activities are night clubs!! Ever heard of the movies? Going out to dinner?
9	My work is directly related to creating opportunities for the LGBT community.
10	Postings on craigslist looking for events, people to connect with. Networking with GLBT community at work (Sonoma State University)
11	As an educator
12	I volunteered for Spectrum in Marin for years. I could find nothing like that in Sonoma County.
13	I'm looking to find a way to create my version of the gay community closer to home. Couldn't we create local bulletin boards for locals to meet up in activities they are drawn to. Instead of the focus on large community activities, I'd like to see a more local town/city focus closer to home
14	Comment: My efforts politically, outreach, (employment) etc. have been focused in San Francisco rather than Santa Rosa. I have donated to NCLR and Face2Face in Sonoma County.
15	it also used to be my job before becoming 100% disabled.
16	trying to keep different groups together and active.
17	I host a local radio show in Guerneville, on KGGV about LGBT issues, I write for some of the local print media about the night life or other events in Guerneville about the community, and host a few fund raisers and such in Guerneville (Often drag show or similar events, but not just as a drag queen)
18	I support Positive Images financially. I've hosted pot lucks for Sonomen. I square dance with a gltb group in Sebastopol
19	Before becoming disabled, my job was public outreach and non-profits serving the needs of all persons in the GLBTIQ community.
20	I do very little because I don't know where to go or how to help. As I previously mentioned, there is little media attention to anything related to the GLBT community here in Sonoma County. It's depressing and embarrassing, and the only thing I can do is actively voice my opinion.

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21	I get involved through the Center for Spiritual Living. I interact with all types of people, regardless of how they choose to identify their orientation(s). I believe I am a good role model for other gay men, but I do it daily, on a personal level. It is not formalized. I interact with the world as an openly gay man, but being gay does not consume me. I work for a non-profit for children with autism.
22	I tend to keep to myself - It seems safer to fly under the radar, especially with the way our government seems to be going. I don't want to draw too much attention to myself specifically.
23	I have been involved with the local MCC for almost 20 years
24	Hosted monthly Bi Brunch in Santa Rosa. Stopped due to lack of participation.

What Limits Participant Involvement in Local GLBTQIQ Community Activities and Efforts (multiple answers per participant possible) – 159 responses

- The top three reasons selected were:
 - Too busy, not enough time: 55%
 - Don't know how to get involved: 31%
 - None of the current efforts interest me: 26%
- 19% of participants reported that their current level of involvement is just about right, and they are happy with the way things are.

What limits your involvement in local GLBTQIQ community activities and efforts? Select all that apply.	Response Percent
Too busy, not enough time	55%
Don't know how to get involved	31%
Don't want to be "out"	6%
Don't like getting involved	9%
None of the current efforts interest me	26%
Conflicts between people keep me away	20%
Don't feel welcome because of my race/ethnicity	1%
Don't feel welcome because of my gender	3%
Don't feel welcome because of my age	6%
My current level of involvement is just about right, and I'm happy with the way things are.	19%
Other (please specify)	25%

Other Things that Limit Participant Involvement – 40 responses

- 40 participants (25% of those answering the question) added additional information about what limits their participation.

1	too shy to know how to get involved
2	Gay/lesbian ignorance about trans issues makes it hard to participate
3	Have a child and there's nothing that speaks to the family that I'm aware of.

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4	Not knowing anyone (chicken & egg problem there)
5	have experienced some transphobia
6	No sure if people are ready.
7	I would do more
8	I'm co-director of Positive Images.
9	As a Bi woman married to a man, I sometimes feel unwelcome.
10	Don't feel welcome because of criticism of "bisexual" lifestyle.
11	There is no one way to find out about events. We could use maybe an email blast every couple of weeks about events
12	Too prevalent of an attitude of separation from the straight community.
13	Live at The Sea Ranch out of the main stream.
14	Current medical problems make me unreliable
15	how about none of the above??? or better offer? or I don't have to do something GLBTQIQI (what a horrid acronym - please restrain the inclusiveness police!)
16	I really can not stand the name GLBTQIQI
17	Pretty much all of the organizations of which I am aware focus on support for GLBT people with illness related issues. I am not sick and don't selfidentify with a disease.
18	I am expecting twins and am consumed right now!
19	Self-employed- working constantly
20	money, lack thereof
21	trying to drive less
22	what activities?
23	Disabled and deal with lots of chronic pain, very limited in physical ability
24	Age,, poor health
25	there's no center
26	limited due to disability
27	I've never heard of GLBTQIQI and this is the first I am learning of it
28	I am beginning to believe the number of letters to describe our community is getting out of hand. Might we simplify? Next we will be finding it necessary to stipulate vegetarianism....a "V" between the IIQQ would look nice. With all due respect, can't we be inclusive without being so specific?
29	running a business, raising a child, being there for 10 other grandchildren keeps us really busy
30	I just do what I want regardless of whether anyone or any activity is "gay" or "straight"
31	I am not limited. We are all one.
32	Need to have a focused and productive use of time
33	No one is open and out, promoting
34	too many cliques...too many egos
35	many of the efforts seem to have too much of an "in your face, just accept it and get over mentality" that causes more conflict and strife and just sets us back.
36	sometimes the cliques get in the way
37	involved in writing project
38	Don't wish to be publicly out - yet. Need to focus on marriage right now.
39	A place where I can be open and not have an agenda like guys wanting to connect for sex
40	Community = communication and unity; ego gets involved and it can become a real mess

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How Well Participants Understand the Issues Facing G, L, B, T, Q, Q and I Communities – 155 responses

- Participants reported having significantly lower levels of awareness of issues related to gender than issues related to sexual orientation.
 - In the comments sections, some transgender participants reported being impacted by this and by bias or hostility from some members of the GLBTQIQ community.
 - Some bisexual participants also reported experiencing criticism, bias or hostility from the GLBTQIQ community.
- For the survey categories related to **sexual orientation**, between 77% and 96% of participants reported being somewhat aware or very aware of the issues facing these communities:
 - Gay: 96%
 - Lesbian: 93%
 - Straight: 83%
 - Queer: 78%
 - Bisexual: 77%
- For the survey categories related to **gender**, between 42% and 71% of participants reported being vaguely aware or not at all aware of the issues facing these communities:
 - Genderqueer: 71%
 - Intersex: 70%
 - MTF: 45%
 - FTM: 44%
 - Transgender: 42%

How well do you understand the issues facing each of these communities?	Very aware	Somewhat aware	Vaguely aware	Not at aware
Bisexual	24%	54%	17%	5%
Gay	59%	37%	3%	0%
Lesbian	61%	32%	6%	1%
Queer	44%	33%	11%	11%
Straight	42%	41%	14%	3%
FTM (female to male)	22%	34%	27%	17%
MTF (male to female)	17%	38%	27%	18%
Transgender	23%	35%	28%	14%
Intersex	11%	19%	35%	35%
Genderqueer	13%	16%	26%	45%

2007 Survey of the Sonoma County GLBTQIQI Community

Participants Rate How Important It is for the GLBTQIQI Community in Sonoma County to Get Organized Around These Issues – 146 responses

- The top five extremely high priority issues identified by participants were:
 1. Safe schools for GLBTQIQI people: 78%
 2. Equal rights for GLBTQIQI people: 71%
 3. Educating schools, medical providers, etc about GLBTQIQI issues: 61%
 4. Racial equality for GLBTQIQI people: 59%
 5. Equal employment opportunities for GLBTQIQI people: 56%
- The top five somewhat high priority and important but not pressing were:
 1. Immigration issues for GLBTQIQI people: 64%
 2. Improving health insurance coverage for transmen and transwomen: 63%
 3. Fair housing issues for GLBTQIQI people: 60%
 4. Creating a GLBTQIQI community center: 55%
 5. Responding to unsupportive media coverage of GLBTQIQI news: 54%

How important is it for the GLBTQIQI community in Sonoma County to get organized around these issues?	Extremely high priority	Somewhat High priority	Important but not pressing	Not important	Bad idea
Improving health insurance coverage for transmen and transwomen	34%	35%	28%	3%	0%
Educating schools, medical providers, religious institutions, political leaders about GLBTQIQI issues	61%	30%	9%	0%	0%
Equal rights (marriage and other rights) for GLBTQIQI people	71%	22%	7%	0%	0%
Responding to unsupportive media coverage of GLBTQIQI news	46%	40%	14%	1%	0%
Organizing a united and credible voice	48%	36%	13%	1%	3%
Immigration issues for GLBTQIQI people	25%	31%	33%	8%	3%
Fair housing issues for GLBTQIQI people	38%	38%	22%	1%	0%
Equal employment opportunities for GLBTQIQI people	56%	31%	13%	1%	0%
Safe schools for GLBTQIQI people	78%	17%	4%	0%	0%
Racial equality for GLBTQIQI people	59%	29%	11%	1%	0%
Creating a GLBTQIQI community center	40%	26%	29%	3%	2%

2007 Survey of the Sonoma County GLBTQIQI Community

What Participants Like about the GLBTQIQI Community in Sonoma County

- 94 participants (64% of participants who completed the survey) submitted open-ended comments responding to the question “What do you like about the GLBTQIQI community in Sonoma County?”

1	All I know is that the GLBT community sponsors Pride week, Women's weekend, and comedy night. I don't know what else they do.
2	That it exists.
3	We've made this community fairly safe and open. I can't imagine living anywhere else because I am spoiled by the freedom and safety I feel here.
4	Haven't found it.
5	OK, so I'm a straight guy that is happily married to a female wife. Much of what was asked does not directly relate to me. But, for some reason my wife and I have made and retained a large number of gay and lesbian friends. It seems to me that Sonoma County is "the place" for the GLBT community if they don't like large cities (San Francisco). Listening to my friends, they all seem to feel fairly comfortable here (despite the gender conservatives) politically, feel safe here, and love the nature/location/weather of Sonoma County. I think it is a wonderful thing that we live in an area that is fairly balanced and accepting. It's ok if some people don't agree with this viewpoint - but they should try living away from our two coastlines and see how they are treated. THIS is a good place to be.
6	It's close to San Francisco. Unfortunately, that is about the only resource and center of activism that I can rely on.
7	The presence of people, their energy, and their ability to become a family when together
8	honestly not sure
9	I like that there are many different organizations available.
10	Where is it??
11	Overall, its fairly safe and somewhat low-key though always present. We are allowed to just live our lives without being out of the ordinary.
12	I feel safe and comfortable. There are very few counties where I can visibly find the GLBT community on the streets. The GLBT community is not segregated into their own community, they are part of the greater community.
13	Small so easy to meet people. People are generally friendly.
14	Excellent people - intelligent, aware, skilled
15	That we do come together every so often (Comedy Night) and we are so big that we are more blended and integrated into the social fabric of the county. Most tight GLBTQIQI communities came together out of safety and small numbers - the good is that it's more personal, the drawback is that it keeps the population more insulated. We have so many queers up here that we have become well respected members of the whole community. We don't have fear-based in-fighting about needing to agree on everything.
16	diverse; friendly
17	I like that I can do and feel totally supported in my work with GLBTQIQI youth and young adults. This is where it's at for me - the kids of our future. This is who I truly want to nurture. they are our hope.
18	it is my family
19	My friends, smile.

2007 Survey of the Sonoma County GLBTQIQ Community

20	Fun people, willing to get involved. Trying to improve the world.
21	Most people I meet who identify as such are nice people. I do not like the term GLBTQIQ, makes it sound like alphabet soup, not people at all. Prefer GLBT or LGBT ... that's enough. Guess I'm old school in that respect. Queer would work for me also.
22	Seems very visible. West county very open. I like the diversity. I'm always amazed at the people who are accepted for who they are.
23	They are my family--- I have lived and worked and played here because of it being gay-friendly for 30 years
24	Sister's Bingo in Guerneville
25	its diversity
26	Not much, at this time. It is fragmented at best, non-existent at least. I would volunteer more if there was more happening.
27	Generally positive and inclusive.
28	that it's visible, and sometimes open-minded,
29	we know that one another exists, and that in itself is comforting.
30	We're here and we're visible if anyone's looking.
31	It's very free form and not rigid. It lacks a "unified voice." Since when do we all have to be on the same page anyway?
32	Most people are nice. When people do get involved in something they really make an effort
33	On the occasions that I've been around it, I have sensed a feeling of warmth and acceptance toward others, which made me feel comfortable and safe and at home.
34	compared to Mississippi....this is great
35	We're everywhere and we're friendly! And just when I think I know everyone, I meet a whole new group of folks who are amazing and exciting.
36	It feels like a very large community on one hand but don't really know how large until a special event (comedy, dancing, Pride Picnic, etc). I try and support gay owned business'. I appreciate the "We the People" newspaper and the community events/groups/outings etc opportunities that are available for us to participate in. I like being gay and I like it here in Sonoma Co!
37	There are a lot of us!
38	I like the Gay and lesbian people. I am supportive of all others who are wanting to change their lives, but I don't understand why gays and lesbians have to water down their identity yet again for others. Thus, do to this "watering down" effect I no longer get involved and truly I use to be very involved in the movement. My friends, my age agree - however in defense of the other "letters" in the gay and lesbian community, my younger friends think everyone should be lumped together but they also have no interest in being involved. So to wrap up, I think once again those that care are not heard and those that are heard are the small minority keeping away the majority. Good Luck!
39	that it is
40	The diversity, openness to all aspects of "queer" including our straight but not narrow supporters
41	My partner and I have a small group of very close friends. Since we don't spend time at the bars, or do drugs, or smoke there are very few places in which we feel comfortable.
42	I feel accepted.
43	I have been unable to find the GLBTQIQ Community in sonoma county

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44	I appreciate having the Pride events in Santa Rosa - at least once a year having folks gather and be a united presence.
45	I'm not really involved now. I read about it in the paper and it seems like a lot of great things are going on.
46	The people
47	I'm not familiar with it. I've lived here almost 20 years, and still really not a part of the community. Of course, I was trying to identify as a lesbian, not as a transman.
48	I like that I can feel free to be who I am most of the time. I can count on most of the citizens of Sonoma County to accept me for who I am.
49	This is generally a great county to live in.
50	MCC New Hope
51	hard to say since I'm not clear on what encompasses the community. I know there are good service agencies, and annual events (Pride, comedy night) etc and many groups for different age groups . I think we need to break out and try some new things and get a new image.
52	We have one.
53	acceptance
54	That we have a town (Guerneville) that has a strong, unified GLBT community that is also very integrated with the straight community there. That I feel safe anywhere in Sonoma County being completely out, which is probably related to a history of visibility of the community (I've only lived in the county for 3 years).
55	seeing ourselves in our diversity.
56	We moved here five years ago from the South Bay. We both feel safer and more a part of the community than we ever did in Belmont. I like that there is a large women's community for us to be part of and lots of activities for us to participate in. I find the lack of racial diversity in Sonoma County to be an issue for me but at the same time, I love the fact that mostly I feel welcome and included.
57	I always feel welcome and accepted at all events I've ever attended.
58	the size and diversity
59	The existence of it.
60	Personally I like the fact that Sonoma county is first a beautiful space. And that we have such a diverse group of folks out here.
61	Is there a "community"?
62	It is far reaching and has a loud voice. Many of the outreach programs pull together and get it done that way. It is a fairly out place to live.
63	Do not know enough about it yet
64	Open and welcoming
65	In the interest of brevity, I would say I like "our" community for the same reason I like the straight community. I like the community in general.
66	Not aware of any organized community.
67	Like going to Gay Comedy Night but don't really attend anything else.
68	i dont know about the program
69	I am fairly new here (4 months) but feel an enourmous acceptance of my orientation within Sonoma County employment and with community based organizations.
70	That we're here and mostly accepted.

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71	Sense of community
72	Is there a community in Sonoma County?
73	We are here! Bless those who actively pursue to advance equal rights for all. Bless those who are "GLBTQIQ," but who may have another purpose in life other than furthering causes for the community in any particularly organized fashion. There are other ways to elevate consciousness. Some of us do it behind the scenes by counterbalancing the negative energy of others.
74	do not feel there is really much of one besides the obvious one face to face and food for thought most pressing is to have we the people back in print what a shame as large of community we are in sonoma county and our pride fest sooo disappointing
75	I like www.sonomaboysnightout.com website. It gives activity and event information for the North Bay with some political links too.
76	I love all the people of Sonoma County. It's diversity of people among a beautiful and scenic area make it a wonderful place to live. I just wish that I could feel a bigger sense of community amongst the GLBT people here.
77	Prevalence, more accepting than many communities, good AIDS care for my HIV friends, visibility
78	it is HUGE
79	In the areas where it's known for its GLBTQIQ community...it's very strong and thriving and I'm happy to see that and I feel welcomed!
80	Loving, caring people who are courageous enough to stand up for our rights and show our true rainbow colors.
81	I've only been here a year and a half and I haven't really seen it. Portland seemed to have more of a presence, and so did Flagstaff and Phoenix. what's up??
82	Lived here 1.5 yrs and have not sought out or been part of community. Hope that changes.
83	longevity, age range, laid back, etc.
84	What community? OK, well most of the queer folk I have met here in the county are pretty mellow and inclusive. I haven't encountered the biphobia from lesbians and gays that I've heard about in other communities.
85	I am not familiar with GLBTQIQ
86	The overall acceptance of individual differences and experiences. Feeling free to be myself and to be involved at whatever level feels comfortable to me. I have been more involved in the past, less so now because my priorities have changed.
87	I'm not familiar with it as an organized entity. I know the people whom I know as a regular part of my life and, not surprisingly, I like my friends because they're good human beings.
88	There seems to be less of division between gays and lesbians as in other communities. The majority of events held are inclusive of men and women.
89	I don't attend or participate in the GLBTQIQ. I would participate in working toward specific rights issues.
90	Have known for 20+ yrs. On a personal level have wonderful friends- on social level want more effort to increase better understanding and respect- help to support other GLBTQIQ people and issues
91	that there are a lot of us. it makes it not so unusual to be queer in this county.
92	The relative size of the GLBTQIQ community makes it possible to make significant social and political gains if it could be galvanized into one cohesive force... ???

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93	I think our community has an enormous number of very caring people who do immensely important jobs (both volunteer and professional) within this region. I rather doubt the straight population has any idea how many of us are here, doing the good work that we do. I love our com-passionate consciousness.
94	Not a whole lot. I find that it is largely isolated to specific groups without a unitary goal. I find that gay/lesbian groups are discriminatory towards the trans communities and would rather not be involved in any way with our causes.

What Participants Find Difficult about the GLBTQIQ Community in Sonoma County

- 96 participants (66% of participants who completed the survey) submitted open-ended comments responding to the question "What do you find difficult about the GLBTIIQQ community here?"

1	There is no community center where the community can meet. Not many activities. It is very GL but not BT accomadating.
2	No community center, no way to find "us", no where to organize and hold meetings. The gay/lesbian part of community treats the trans part poorly (sometimes without even realizing it). The G andL need to get educated about the T but don't seem to care about their ignorance and alienating behavior.
3	In a few events that I've been involved with that embrace diversity, there is a disconnect amongst the different GLBT groups. To impress tolerance and acceptance in our community, the turf wars need to cease. I have no desire to be involved with groups that can't be amicable with one another.
4	There's no central clearing house. There's no place where you can know that you will find information regarding anything you want to know effecting the GLBT community. There's no place you can offer your experience, strength and hope to without complete time and energy committment.
5	Haven't found it.
6	Nothing, really. Generally - they feel comfortable around me and I feel comfortable around them. We treat each other like fellow humans and everything goes well. There are a few bad actors in every community that makes things look bad for everyone else. This goes for both straight or GBLT communities (although it would be nice if we didn't see a line between the two).
7	the ghetto-center mentality.
8	Not enough going on for the youth. There's only high school GSA's and Positive Images. I would like to see an increase of activrities and events for GLBT youth (13-25)
9	divisions based on gender, trans status
10	I find it difficult to find organizations.
11	In fighting and lack of tolerance of trans folks.
12	Not as much support or organized community as elsewhere. Whatever happend to our Pride parade?
13	Youth segregation
14	San Francisco is too close and makes it hard to create a community here.
15	very difficult to organize, we are spread out in small groups throughout the county

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16	nothing that i know of
17	Lesbians tend to behave like 4th graders - cliqueish, too politically correct, tiresome processing of issues, making issues of non-issues. There is so much positive and affirming going on. There is a certain feminist/victim role inherent in the lesbian community. I have no patience for that, and I am a feminist. I also think we need more of a connection between all LGBTQ people.
18	spread out in so many cities
19	I find the immaturity of the GLBTQIQ adults who continue to not grow and project - the result being that we as large as a community as we are do not have a community center. That's a tragedy in 2007.
20	There are some unique personality-based leaders and though I haven't been involved personally, it seems like there is a lot of old-baggage and tense history with quite a few people. That can be a little alienating to folks trying to get active. It seems hard to find a "there", there, up here. When people move here it's often too difficult to find new friends and make new social circles. The initial movement people have gotten older and are keeping more to themselves, not being replaced by the '30 somethings. Intergenerational activities would be good to get us together - finding stuff more people can have fun with, together.
21	Folks don't have a lot of contact with each other. Bars are a dirty. Dinner places are mostly way, way below scale, sleezy, seedy places. What's wrong with us, even cities that have deeply hidden gay communities do a much better job at establishing businesses and dinner houses and meeting places that look nice, are well lighted, have good food and are a reflection of the good people we are. Seems like Sonoma county gay community doesn't have any self respect. Being this close to SF you'd think we'd know how to put together venues that reflect our values better.
22	no centralized gathering place; and what is here is not focused for the 'boomer' crowd
23	I would like to see more events not centered on bars and/or sex.
24	The usual "small town", "incestuous community" stuff like back biting, gossip, judgmental of different choices. Comes from being fearful I think.
25	There is no 'there' here -- we used to have bars and softball and events, now we are so mainstreamed that we are everywhere with no where to go and gather
26	no place to meet, no activities except Pride
27	The internal prejudice within the community. It has been this way for as long as I have lived here.
28	Passive, fragmented, home-based, lack of leadership, especially among young people.
29	Too isolationist from straight community, Too dominated by American Dreamers and non-profiters, Too hung up on the past struggles to be building the future
30	We're not united and don't have a community center or resource center for us.
31	people seem very closed in their own relationships. it's hard to network if you don't "belong" already.
32	Over-reaching surveys like this one that try to define the community in all inclusiveness. Maybe we aren't all one community, but a bunch of interrelated communities. Is that so bad?
33	Similar to prev question. That we are here (so many of us) yet we are so integrated into the community - a good thing - that we don't come out en mass until a special event.
34	connections

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35	No central identity or place that one can call a center. In SF you see a giant rainbow flag in the middle of a plaza and you know you have arrived. In Sonoma County you don't see anything anywhere. Not even a rainbow flag in front of a building of an organization that supposedly serves the GLBT community. What's wrong with us.. do we not like ourselves.... would seem so.
36	There's not a well-organized young crowd -- my 30-something colleagues don't show up anywhere but the bar, it seems. Also, the older generations seem to be very good at holding grudges but not letting go of them -- this is frustrating! I would love for there to be more of a cross-generational mentoring feel than a bitter angry queen feel to things in our community. (And I'm not just talking about men -- there are some incredibly bitter women out there, too.)
37	Big separation between older and younger gays and lesbians. Not enough mutual understanding of the other's "culture."
38	All the letters. The minority once again has taken over the cause and alienated the majority.
39	it's level of outreach
40	There seem to be so many hard feelings in the community between varying groups and an unwillingness to just let it go. I'm also concerned about the animosity between the lesbian community and gay men.
41	Youth-ism, if you're older you're invisible. Fear of the "Poly" community
42	Hard to meet people, no place where one can establish long term friendships. We seem to be pretty insulated and isolated.
43	I'm new to the area, so I'm not always aware of the opportunities/events.
44	There seems to be an old school thinking in some of the community. I am not sure how to bridge divides, it would be great to have a forum to do so
45	Locating them
46	Nothing particularly
47	Hostile treatment from some of the members of the gay and lesbian communities towards me as a transman. I support their rights, and they spit right back at me. I'm 60 years old, and I just aint gonna take it anymore.
48	There is no social scene. There is not a general place to meet and socialize, have dinner, things like that. If you're not into going to Club 7 (Sweet) or the Black Cat, there's not really any way to meet others in the GLBTQIQ community.
49	No central community center.
50	Everything else. I am contemplating moving to Merced
51	Not united.
52	This is a big county and people are spread out. That's why I recommend a more localized focus within smaller areas with a big effort at helping people in local areas find each other. Outreach and liasion teams to help build GLBT community in the four directions. Healdsburg Geyserville cloverdale/Santa Rosa Rohnert park/ Sebastapol Guerneville/Petaluma Sonoma.Help people network and build relationships where they live!
53	no gathering place in Santa Rosa
54	Feel disconnected from the community outside of Guerneville (where I live), even though I work in Santa Rosa and often eat and go out in Santa Rosa. I'd be willing to go to other places in the county if there were more opportunity to meet and develop relationships with other members of our community.
55	Don't know where to meet others of like mind.

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56	difficult to find others socially without bar.
57	wishing more interaction with men and women youth and elder would happen in a context of exchange and rapport
58	More attention to the disabled members of our community.
59	The lack of racial/ethnic diversity, in the community as a whole and within the GLBTQIQ community. In the five years we've lived here we've met one Black lesbian and I've seen some Latinas when we go dancing. Being Latina myself I'd like to see more people of color.
60	community center is missing where one can talk to someone.
61	It has become weaker over the years I have been here.
62	Not enough places to go to in Santa Rosa, RP, Petaluma, etc.
63	Difficult to find "community".
64	In our diversity we are a far flung group of folks. It's hard to get more than a handful of people together to work on one thing. Also with the type of things that I want to work on, I find it less trouble sometimes to simply do it myself, while often it would work better if a few people were doing the event, cause etc.
65	There are still problems in the school systems. We have a daughter about to go into high school in Santa Rosa, she was scared for all to know about her "two moms" issue because of the "hate" still present in our school systems. This sucks, especially when one of the ones she was afraid of was her history teacher!!
66	There's a division between GLBT's in Guerneville and Santa Rosa and also between men and women. There isn't much interaction between the groups.
67	We don't have a lounge or bar dedicated to us. In a city of 150K, we should at least have one bar.
68	See #73.
69	How to find out about events. Fitting things into our schedule.
70	Not interested in local gay scene- prefer to socialize in the city
71	I don't feel an acceptance out in neighborhoods.
72	No community center or identity
73	How MANY letters do we need to be ALL inclusive, give me a break.
74	the politics and enormous egos I was involved for many years and just couldn't stand the lack of working together adults bickering like children
75	We keep coming up with letters to add to who we are, and surveys are submitted in which the definitions of terms are not operationalized. I may know better about issues concerning a particular community if I knew what was being talked about. Words have different meanings to different people, and we need to be clear about what we mean before asking people about their levels of understanding. In many ways we perpetuate the "victimhood" we experience by giving it too much power in our thoughts. When we focus on lack, we get more of it, in abundance. There are more affirmative ways to go about raising consciousness/awareness. Many gay/different people (ITQXZQPLOMNR), or whatever they are called, spend great energy toward certain issues, but they are still asleep. A person can raise money, attend rallies, participate in pride events while still perpetuating images of having to look perfect, wear the right clothing, have the whitest teeth, the biggest dick, the nicest car, the best job, and so on. Of course, this is not specific to this area.
76	The sense of isolation among gay, bi and questioning men,
77	Not enough continuity - hard to find each other sometimes.

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78	Not enough sense of organization, community or voice. Either people are too afraid to do something to really get the community going and known in the county, or they're too lazy.
79	Boring, old, too PC (I don't support a "party line" for such a diverse group), lack of racial diversity
80	Again, my previous comment that the GLBTQIQ community almost seems non-existent here in Santa Rosa. It still seems largely in the closet. And, by the GLBTQIQ making their presence known, is how the rest of the community will learn to live with and embrace their differences.
81	invisible
82	small?
83	too many cliques, not supportive enough to each other, very negative and closed minded when it comes to LGBTIQ Christians
84	distances when you live rurally
85	Finding the GLBTQIQ community!
86	I'm getting older and don't have much in common with the younger generations!
87	What community?
88	na
89	It's seems to be the same group of people who are always having to take charge of events, which I think can cause burn out.
90	The way too many seperate themselves from society at large and how it seems to be passed down as though it is our lot in life. It is NOT. The groups are often so focused on the troubles and "wrong-doings" of the way others judge and define them. Discussions usually seem to be boil down to anger venting sessions and re-directing judgement. There isn't much progress, if any, in discussions I've attended.
91	No continuity or cohesion
92	Our (mostly) successful assimilation into the community at large has left us without a "center". Also, efforts that attempt to bring us together are amateurish and unappealing (Pride). We all grown up a bit and our events need more professionalism, sophistication.
93	See the previous.
94	that there aren't many places/events for us to come together. also that in-fighting takes place when some event or cause tries to get moved forward. it's very disheartening and ugly.
95	I find it fractured and isolated in little groups. There are few bisexual resources, too.
96	As in all groups which are marginalized by the dominant culture, there are some people in our community who have been so hurt by personal rejection and traumatic experiences based upon their sexuality and/or sexual identity that they "act out" in ways which demonstrate just how psychologically damaging that rejection and discrimination has been. Although I do not believe in "blaming the victim," it would be a denial of reality to ignore the fact that sometimes these folks seek opportunities to engage in outrageous and/or angry and defiant behavior,(in protest of their hurtful, unfair treatment), which only backfires on them and on our community as a sub-culture. The unfortunate fact is that human beings tend to rely on stereotypes in order to put people in neat, manageable categories. And then important decisions are made, based upon those stereotypes and categories, which can have profound, practical effects. Therefore, it's risky, (and can perhaps be counteproduktive), to form highly visible and vocal, self-appointed, "representative" groups, who claim to speak for a certain sub-culture, such as the GLBTQIQ Community in Sonoma County, (especially

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	when there are so many sub-groups with divergent and sometimes conflicting needs and concerns within that sub-group). Too often such efforts create unnecessary internal tensions and divisions. And sometimes the very effort of trying to “represent” certain groups of people results in an even greater tendency on the part of the dominant culture to stereotype the sub-group, based upon the personality traits and (mis)perceived “values” of its “official spokespeople.” The fact is that there is no one of us, nor is there even a group of us, who can adequately speak for or represent the rest of us as a sub-group. Sure, it's important to expose otherwise uninformed people to information, which only members of our sub-group can speak to with credibility, because education is the greatest catalyst for true acceptance and healthy change. But, the paradoxical truth is that we're each individual human beings with our own “issues” and needs, which at their base, are no different from those of any other human being on the face of the earth. If great care is not taken to prevent it, a group such as this can provide an uninformed, dominant culture with the kind of false “evidence” that it needs to keep seeing and portraying us as “separate from” and “different from” in ways that will only serve to keep us alienated. I have done “diversity” training for many years and with many and various groups of people, from cops to community volunteers to high school students. In preparation to do so, I've attended many such presentations, as well as “train the trainer” courses, etc. One of the least effective, (and, at times, even dangerously counterproductive), approaches I've seen is the “ad hominem,” or the “one of each” approach, where a person supposedly representative of a given sub-culture is trotted out in front of the audience as a “typical” member of that certain sub-group. If it's someone with an “appealing” personality, etc., then the audience concludes that everyone in that sub-group must be “appealing” as well. If it's someone with a “chip on her/his shoulder,” then the entire sub-group is written off. A former Jesuit priest friend of mine once explained to me that the most significant difference between Jesuits and Franciscans, which is determinative of their respective status within the power structure of the Roman Catholic Church, is that the Jesuits have enough sense to keep “Brother Ass” tethered to a post in the backyard. That's crass, indeed. But, it's an analogy worth considering. The next most challenging proposition in choosing figure heads and spokespeople for the “GLBTQIQ community in Sonoma County” is the process of doing so, itself. Who's going to choose them, what criteria will be used and what internal resentments are going to be fomented in doing so? If you don't have humane, equitable, and pragmatic answers to all of these questions, it would better not to form the group at all.
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What Participants Would Change About the GLBTQIQ Community If They Could Change Things

- 86 participants (59% of participants who completed the survey) submitted open-ended comments responding to the question “If you could change things, what would you change about the GLBTIQ community?”

1	Education to make BT a part of the GL community. The T community if seen as heterosexual does not fit into the GLBT community very well and being married to FTM, we don't feel included.
2	Development of events outside the bar and resort environment.

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3	more plces to go and things to do
4	Some form of Community resource center possibly. Somewhere we can be organized within and from.
5	I would like to see the community more active. I would like to see more social activities, dances, picnics and such. I feel that this would act as a bonding agent.
6	I wish Gay and Lesbian people would seek to understand fully the issues faced by Trans and Intersex people. I wish we had a community center that is large and modern and centrally located in Santa Rosa with "queer" friendly food, shops and bookstores nearby.
7	I want opportunities to meet and work with lesbians on issues that are of importance to our larger community(ies), e.g. global warming, alternatives to war, compassionate outreach to all people regardless of sexual preference/identity, As long as we stay focused only on ourselves and "our issues", A) we won't earn (or deserve) the respect of the society at large; and B) we won't have as much positive impact on the world as we could.
8	Well, if everything was peachy - there would be no "GLBT Community." We would all just be Sonoma County Neighbors in a perfect world. I understand the need for special interest groups, but it sucks to have to be in that position in the first place.
9	More out and involved. More involvement in the issues we face, and support from one another.
10	I would like to have a GLBT center in Santa Rosa, and have each organization in Sonoma County represented there, with a way to contact them. That way people would only need to go to one place to find organizations that meet there needs.
11	Have all inclusive community center. Opened daily where we could have various events, eat & drink coffee, etc, etc
12	The community center as maybe the base for resources sounds like a great idea.
13	More connections between LGBTQ people; a community center; fun activities; fund raisers for services such as educating medical providers, making schools safe, etc.
14	a community center might galvanize a larger group of individuals
15	i don't know
16	not sure
17	I would have us have a community center, period.
18	a community center, locally
19	I'd like there to be a casual gathering place, like a women's bookstore or coffee shop or something.
20	I'd love a community center where events and meetings could be generated, a hang out place for youth and adults alike. I'd have more educational events as well as social ones.
21	quit with the in-fighting
22	To feel more connected as a community, not ugly step child of San Francisco.
23	More opportunities to come together in combined forms, not just as homogeneous groups.
24	have a central place where all can go to get information
25	more willing to get involved
26	Find ways to bridge gaps between the older and younger "cultures."
27	Build a community center and host activities for all ages and coupled as well as single GLBTQIs.
28	Make it more out, more open, more visible. Create a space for ourselves where community center can be easily identified. Be proud of ourselves.

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29	increase community outreach and involvement. get together more hiking events
30	It was hard to select "priorities" on the previous page because if enough people selected each area as a priority, much would get accomplished around many issues. This is a hard one for me, because the older I get, the less I am single-issue oriented. Spiritual/emotional/political growth is important for every person, and my suspicion is that in the coming years, class will become the determining factor as a "divider" more than gender, color or preference. The thing I would change is that we would balance the gains of American GLBTQIQ liberation with the expanding global humanitarian crisis from imperialism/capitalism. We have come further, faster than any other oppressed group and that's good - but sometimes we have made gains at the expense of other, also crucial social injustices. We are a predominantly boomer and sometimes, myopic movement. We're we to link with other communities in authentic ways, we could become a core new political movement that could sweep the nation. Alone, we are still a target.
31	No more over-reaching all inclusivenessy surveys. What the hell is a transqueer? How is gay different from queer. Are lesbians queer or is queer only gay men? Its tough to use these terms to get meaningful data if you don't do a better job of defining them in the survey design. This survey reeks of amatuerish.
32	I would magically infuse a sense of support -- not just for kids coming out of the closet, or for folks who are struggling with HIV, but for all of us in our various states of emotional, physical, and spiritual health. I would make people more financially supportive of LGBTQ businesses, non-profits, and events. I would make people more enthusiastic and less lethargic (myself included) about changing the world in our favor.
33	Get back to basics!!! We are gay aren't we? Or are we not? I am! but I no longer have a voice in my community, because when I get up to speak I am reminded that I am not PC if I do not preface all my thoughts thru the lens of all the others who may or may not be gay. Good lord... Get back to basics
34	Create an ability to work together with one voice. The dissenting voices be willing to compromise for the greater good. A closer bond, and understanding, between the men's and women's communities.
35	Stop being so rigid about how we define ourselves
36	I'd create a central district that would be clearly identified all the time as a safe, gay, place to go. I'd set a flag pole in the ground and fly a great big ranbow flag and all the shops around the flag would be clearly, proudly, loudly gay. There'd be resturants and book stores and novelty places and bath n'beauty stores, goth and glam as well. The shop windows would be big and open... it would be a place where people would love to just go shopping and hang out and get all the latest stuff. The video store would have gay films proudly displayed. That's how it would be.
37	more media involvement or just more publicizing of events
38	More cohesiveness
39	The people with "two-face" personalities.
40	I would like to see a way to socialize and bring together the community as a whole. An area of a town, or a center - where it's safe, and there are hangouts and businesses who cater to the GLBTQIQ community, and where you can meet people.
41	Have a community center
42	It would be easier to find especially when someone is just coming out. This was a problem 20 years ago and still is.

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43	the invisibility and isolation
44	understand each other more.
45	have more places to meet others to socialize.
46	I would like to change peoples attitudes. Often people thinl that this is Sonoma County; we are safe. This is not true. I have been discriminated here because I did not fit other LGBT's criteria.
47	Much more political representation and activity regarding our issues. More involvement and visibility of community among youth and mentoring youth, support of GSAs in high schools (at events all you see are 30+). Events that involve youth and young people in the planning so they are more fun. More unified community around issues, particular GLB support trans issues. A few lesbian bars in Santa Rosa and/or just a a fun gay bar, or at least a real gay night at a genuinely hip bar so everyone just doesn't go to SF.
48	have many more cultural & fun events
49	In addition to more racial/ethnic diversity, I'd love to see the community be more accepting of each other. We need to be each other's allies and learn to speak with a united voice.
50	Neuter the Christains
51	more information about events. more family events. more handicapped accessible events.
52	Bring it all together more. I still don't think there is enough awareness and communication between the different areas of our community. Many of the Gay and Lesbians, don't know all there is to know about the bisexual group or the transgender group, there is still too much separation in my opinon.
53	well the catty side of me would like to say a few things about some of the past groups, people or such that have done things in the past. And the evil side of my nature would like to say a few things about a couple of the groups doing things currently. But at least there are a few people doing things, while I don't agree (Hence my not working with them...) at least they are doing something. I find with my 'alpha queene' way of being, it's more often than not better for me to do free lance type of actions. What it boils down for me to is, can't we leave our drama at the door and do the work that should be done? (Of course it could be said that I'm guilty of being one to cause drama... but I'm also doing stuff, so who knows...)
54	GLBTQIQ to Q
55	Finding the individuals with the passion and leadership to engage and create a sense of "community".
56	I would change the number of initials. I can't keep up with the additions.
57	Form it and make it available and accepting to entire community.
58	The times I feel most comfortable in my "community" are those times I am on an Olivia cruise or resort trip. Other than that I don't really feel a part of any "community".
59	I dont know
60	Can't answer yet
61	Would love to see a community center - like the Billy De Frank Center in San Jose.
62	Create a community center
63	The designation. GLBT was too much to start with. It only separates us more.
64	tough question I would have to really think about this
65	To be heard and accepted in public without prejudice or bias. To have more heroes and people to look up to that just so happen to be a GLB or T.
66	Start a community center

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67	Political and social activism in Sonoma County is so BORING. This is a huge issue and should not be dull to support... it should be passionate, fun, exciting, stimulating.
68	I want equal marriage rights so deeply. My partner and I have been together for 25 years. I would change the world so that all of us in the LGBTIIQQ community who care about this would stand up together, unified, and keep pressing on until we are victorious.
69	That we be kind to one another. That we were aware of our internal processes/development, and the things that can get in the way of having a wonderful life and enjoyable, lasting relationships. That we teach our youth about pitfalls and how to manage them and move BEYOND them. And, the end of what seems to be an eternal adolescence for so many gay men. So many gay men act in certain ways because they think that is what they are supposed to do, based on what they see. Sex is wonderful. Having a healthy body makes for a more enjoyable life. Taking care of ones self is common sense. However, when these things are done at the expense of the spirit, the consequences can be quite painful. I would change the advertising in the newspapers to reflect our diversity, not just the "gods" in body. It would be great to pick up something about a gay event that did not have a massage ad, numbers for escorts and overemphasis on the sexual. Sure, there are times when we need to push the envelope, but there are times when I pick up the B.A.R. and think, "If I were a straight person, I would think they are obsessed with sex and it is all they think about." This is because images are taken in, immediately (the current facts seem to be that the whole world is obsessed with sex; it is just that "we" get singled out for our obsessions, and at times I think we make it easy for people to do so).
70	Coming out is the most difficult thing to do and the most necessary thing to do.
71	make it a little easier to find. more community based events with better promotion.
72	I like the idea of a community center, resources, business referrals, rentals, etc. Outdoor activities, meet new people.
73	That we learn to accept others like we want to be accepted.
74	More bisexual consciousness in We The People, especially Haddit's column.
75	If there is one, it might consider advertising events, gatherings, online social and support groups, etc. on local radio like KRSH or even put notices in the community forum boards on Craigs List.
76	More education in the schools, more exposure, more people coming out - the more visible and common we are, the less people will be afraid.
77	I'd make it less couple imperative
78	na
79	Tough question!
80	The victim stance that is overly played.
81	From passivists to activists
82	More events to bring people together, like concerts, picnics, cleanups, community service, etc.
83	Maybe a community meeting place where we can focus on issues and increase our understanding and friendship within our community as well reach ing out to othersin the larger community
84	that ego would be set aside in order to move things forward for our own self interest. more queer music/cultural events; things that don't necessarily involve dances or the bar scene. that would provide the opportunity for community to come together on pretty neutral ground for starters

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85	I would create a carefully constructed public forum in which the entire community could come together and start talking about a forward action plan to unite, not politically necessarily, but as a community involved in more social issues.
86	I don't think that there is a real GLBTIQO "community." We're playing into the fallacy of the so-called "straight community" by lumping ourselves together on the basis of every known category of sexuality and/or gender identity other than "straight." By pretending that we're an actual "community," we're allowing ourselves to be defined as somehow the "same as each other" simply because we're "different from 'normal,' heterosexual people," whose physiology and outward appearance supposedly matches their gender identity and the gender roles that they choose to assume. And the whole thing is a big lie. There are profounder articulable differences between the sub-groups listed in the "alphabet soup" of "GLBTQOI" than there are between Lesbians and heterosexual women. And yet, we act as though it's right to assume that all of the categories of folks listed in that hodge-podge of letters is somehow more of a "community" than are Lesbians and heterosexual women. Why? As "members" of the "GLBTQOI Community," We experience prejudice and discrimination on the basis of some category of sexuality and/or gender and/or sexual and/or gender expression. But the whole thing boils down to the dominant culture's hatred of the feminine, (which is what we all have in common with each Other Sexual Orientation heterosexual females, included). Simply put, women are hated, because they're (wrongly) seen, in our male-dominated culture, as the opposite of men. Gay men are hated, because they "disgrace" their "manhood" by "acting like women." Women who look and/or "act like" men are hated for usurping the "male privilege" to which they were not legitimately born. Men who look and/or "act like" women are hated for the same reason that Gay men are hated. And people who "confuse" the issue by blurring any of the (exaggerated) lines between the genders are hated for shining a light on the fact that each one of us is simultaneously "male" and "female," to one degree or another, (because that suggestion is an intolerable affront to all, self-loathing males, as well as to the self-hating females who depend upon them for their survival.) The more that we dilute and/or side-track the discussion away from the basic fear and hatred that's causing the real problem for all of the groups represented in the "alphabet soup," the more we're going to continue to set ourselves up for alienation, based on false pretenses. It's women and everything about what's (falsely perceived as) "womanly" that's hated. It's part of the continuum of hatred of women that's so grossly manifest in Sharia law. In a savage world, where "might makes right," (no matter how much we try to protest our being "civilized"), what's "male" is prized and what's "not-male" (i.e., what's mostly falsely defined as "female"), is despised. It's really that simple, and yet, even we miss it.

Glossary of Terms

Not all readers will agree with the description of these terms as presented. The descriptions are offered as suggestions (rather than as definitive) in the hopes of raising awareness, stimulating thought and encouraging discussion.

Bisexual – Being attracted to people of the same gender and the opposite gender as oneself.

FTM – Female to Male. Being born in a female body (or being born intersex and assigned female at birth) while having the persistent and inherent sense of being male.

Gay – Being attracted to the same gender, usually associated with men. There appears to be a growing use of gay as a general term to indicate gay and/or lesbian.

Gender – As used in this survey, gender includes sex indicators (male, female or intersex) and gender identity indicators (for example FTM and MTF). See Gender Identity below.

Gender Identity – The inherent and persistent sense or experience of being a man or a woman (or neither or both) that exists independent of the gender assigned at birth.
NOTE: Gender identity does not predetermine or indicate one's sexual orientation.

Genderqueer – Outside of conventional binary assumptions of gender. For example, identifying as neither man nor woman, or identifying as both man and woman.

GLBTQOI – Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning and Intersex.

Intersex – Being born with atypical genitalia and/or uncommon chromosome configurations (XO, XXX, etc).

Lesbian – Being attracted to the same sex, associated with women.

MTF – Male to Female. Being born in a male body (or being born intersex and assigned male at birth) while having the persistent and inherent sense of being female.

Out – Being “out of the closet” or open about one’s sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex condition (or that of a loved one).

Sexual orientation – The orientation of one’s sexual attraction. For example, being attracted to the opposite gender (straight), the same gender (gay or lesbian), or both genders (bisexual), etc. *NOTE: Sexual orientation does not predetermine or indicate one's gender identity.*

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Straight – Being attracted to people of the opposite gender.

Transgender – As used in this survey, the term transgender is used in one of two ways:

1. As one of five gender category options for those participants who do not identify as the gender assigned at birth.
2. As an umbrella term that includes five gender categories from the survey (FTM, MTF, transgender, genderqueer and other).

NOTE: The term transgender can also be used as an umbrella term that includes an even wider range of gender identities and gender expressions (such as cross dressing and drag).

Queer – A gender-neutral expression for a sexual orientation that is non-straight.

Questioning – As used in this survey, being uncertain of or questioning one's sexual orientation.