Perceptions of Polyamory in Canada: Preliminary Data

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Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family

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Study

- Survey conducted between 20 June and 3 August 2016 in partnership with the Canadian Polyamory Advocacy Association
- 547 valid responses
  - Women: 320 (30%)
  - Men: 161 (60%)
  - Transgender, genderqueer, genderfluid: 43 (8%)
  - Other: 12 (2%)
Experience of polyamory

Respondents’ participation in polyamorous relationships

- Presently in polyamorous relationship: 350 respondents (Yes) vs. 84 respondents (No)
- In polyamorous relationship in past five years: 105 respondents (Yes) vs. 63 respondents (No)

n = 534 / 168 (respondents not presently in polyamorous relationship)
Respondents’ province or territory of residence

n = 404
Age

Respondents’ age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 to 24</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 or older</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n = 547
Age

Age distribution among respondents and Canadian population

- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 or older

- Respondents
- Canada
Educational attainment

Highest level of education achieved by respondents

- Some high school
- High school diploma
- Trade school diploma
- Some college
- College diploma
- Some university
- Undergraduate degree
- Post-graduate degree

n = 547
Educational attainment

Education distribution among respondents and Canadian population

- No certificate, degree or diploma
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Trade school diploma
- College diploma
- Undergraduate degree
- Post-graduate degree

Percentage

Respondents

Canada
Respondents’ personal and family annual income

- Under $39,999
- $40,000 to $59,999
- $60,000 to $79,999
- $80,000 to $99,999
- $100,000 to $124,999
- $125,000 to $149,999
- $150,000 to $199,999
- More than $200,000

Percentage

Personal income
Family income

n = 536 / 338
Sexuality

Respondents’ sexual orientation

n = 535
Ethnicity

Respondents’ ethnic identification

- African-Canadian
- Caucasian / European
- Chinese
- East Indian
- Filipino
- First Nations
- Metis
- Other

n = 542
Religious affiliation

Respondent’s religious affiliation

n = 404
Children in household

Number of children in respondents’ households

- 1 child
- 2 children
- 3 children
- 4 children
- 5 children or more

n = 127 / 48
Formalization of rights

Steps taken by respondents to formalize rights and responsibilities of members of their relationships

- Travel authorization
- Power of attorney, legal
- Power of attorney, medical
- Appointment as guardian
- Relationship agreement
- School authorization
- Emergency authorization
- Other

n = 176
Attitudes about equality

Respondents’ agreement with statements about equality among the members of their relationships

Strongly agree / agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree / strongly disagree

n = 480 / 478 / 479
Attitudes about relationship

Respondents’ agreement with statements about the rights and responsibilities of members of their relationships

- Have responsibility to be honest with each other
- Have equal say in changes to relationship
- Have equal say in admission of new members
- Have right to leave when choose

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly agree / agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Disagree / strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have responsibility to be honest with each other</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have equal say in changes to relationship</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have equal say in admission of new members</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have right to leave when choose</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n = 480 / 478 / 472 / 480
Attitudes about public perception

Respondents’ agreement with statements about the public perception of polyamorous relationships

- Public acceptance of polyamory is increasing
- Antipolygamy laws have negatively affected public acceptance
- People see polyamory as a kink or fetish

Strongly agree / agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree / strongly disagree

n = 468 / 467 / 468
Attitudes about public perception

Respondents’ agreement with statements about public perception of polyamorous relationships and frequency of polyamory

- People see polyamorous relationships as a form of family
- The number of people who identify as polyamorous is increasing
- The number of people who are openly polyamorous is increasing

Strongly agree / agree  Neither agree nor disagree  Disagree / strongly disagree

n = 468 / 468 / 468
Attitudes about prohibition

Respondents’ agreement with statements about the effect of the criminalization of polygamy

Prohibition has prevented me from pursuing polyamorous relationships
Prohibition has discouraged me from pursuing polyamorous relationships
Prohibition has prevented me from being openly in a polyamorous relationship
Prohibition has discouraged me from being openly in a polyamorous relationship

Strongly agree / agree  Neither agree nor disagree  Disagree / strongly disagree

n = 463 / 465 / 466 / 465
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