



HIV/AIDS AND THE MEDIA PROJECT



Homos in the headlines

men who have sex with men in the South African news media

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HIV/AIDS and the Media Project



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



JOHNS HOPKINS
Health and Education in South Africa

Background

- HIV/AIDS and the Media Project
 - Promoting healthy media
 - Partnership between the Anova Health Institute and the Wits Journalism Programme
 - Media monitoring
 - Training journalists
 - Liaison between the media and healthcare professionals
 - Fellowships

Homosexuality in the media in 1985

Gays emerge from 'the closet' for convention

By Joe Openshaw

The outgoing and incoming presidents were the first couple on the floor. To the strains of the "President's Waltz", they started the dancing at the Gay Association of South Africa's masked ball in Johannesburg on Saturday night.

It was a scintillating affair in the Gold Room of the President Hotel — and the highlight of the association's national convention over the long weekend.

More than 300 gays in costumes showing flair and imagination danced until 3 am on Sunday.

The convention, with the slogan "Gay OK", was held to encourage gays in South Africa to stand up and be counted and to help lead them to self-acceptance. As one speaker put it: "Closets are for clothes, not people."

Come out they did and organisers estimated 1 000 members attended the many events — from

Star Star Areas 3/6/85 Ag 3.
fashion shows and art exhibitions to a rugby match and fun run.

Gays were not the only people to show interest in the convention. The police, members of the NGK and the Johannesburg Traffic Department stuck their noses in at one time or another during proceedings.

The three-man delegation from the NGK was invited to see for itself — and for the church's commission on homosexuality — what goes on at a gay gathering.

The police, in the form of the Vice Squad, were uninvited but showed avid interest in the art exhibition, taking away three of the more explicit paintings and 21 gay postcards for further investigation.

Traffic police restricted their attention to ticketing cars illegally parked outside the hotel during the masked ball.

A crowd of "straights" gathered outside the hotel during the arrival of couples for the ball

and made ribald remarks about those in drag.

The Gold Room was also used for events of a more serious nature. Two prominent legal men led symposiums on "Oppression and the gay" and "The gay and the law".

The national committee, in one resolution, decided to press for the legalisation of sex in private between consenting adults of the same sex.

In the gay rugby match, held in Pretoria, Johannesburg trounced Pretoria 22-4.

AIDS victims face a long, lonely, agonising wait for death, reports CHRIS WHITFIELD and LUKE ZEEMAN

'The gay plague' strikes

Star 10.2.85.

JOHN is dying. He is a powerfully built, athletic 26-year-old homosexual with AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

His physical appearance is still robust but his after-hours lifestyle is virtually that of a recluse. He works as an airline clerk but sleeps soon after getting home until he has to get ready for work the next day.

Only his doctors and two friends now he has AIDS. He hasn't told his parents, who do not know he is homosexual. His work colleagues have no idea he has the disease.

For several months John was plagued by flu that would not go away, a tooth cavity that would not heal, a painfully swollen gland in his neck and occasional fevers.

Heavy antibiotics, prescribed by doctors, had no effect.

Gradually he sank into depression, his appetite shrank and he had trouble swallowing.

His friends — other homosexuals in the city where he lives — grew tired of his complaining and began to distance themselves from him.

"Then all of a sudden one evening my telephone rang," Vern, a close friend, told *The Sunday Star*.

'I don't want to die'

"It was a doctor who said he had John at the hospital and would I come and collect him? "When I arrived at the hospital the doctor was practically waiting at the door. He took me to the ward and John was lying on a bed with these drips in his arms.

"Looking at his face, I realised he was in a terrible state. The doctor closed the door behind me and I was all alone with John.

"He grabbed my arm and started crying. I said: 'What the hell is wrong?'"

And he said he had been there all day and they had been doing tests on him.

"About an hour before I arrived, they told him he might have AIDS — it was a 50/50 chance.

"I was standing there, not expecting such a thing... just that word AIDS gave me such a shock. The first thing I thought was: 'Get away from this guy.'"

"I'm only 26 and I don't want to die. I didn't live such a bad life. There are others far worse than me," was one of the first things John said to Vern.

The doctor asked Vern to take John home and not leave him alone that night.

"We were terribly upset. On the way back to my place, we were both crying in the taxi.

"He stayed in my apartment for three days before I could let him go home and be sure he wouldn't commit suicide," said Vern.

A few weeks later the symptoms dis-

appeared and John began to live a normal life again.

For nearly six months he felt well, lived well and began to hope the doctors might have been wrong.

Then the symptoms reappeared and John went back to doctors for extensive tests.

'He was a wreck'

"One day just before Christmas he appeared in my office, swimming in tears. He couldn't stand up straight, I had to hold him up and he told me he definitely had AIDS.

"That just destroyed him; he was a complete wreck," said Vern.

"The doctor had told him there was nothing they could do for him."

John was told to go home and live, as far as possible, a normal life — with no discotheques until 6 am in the morning, no drink or drugs. No excess.

At the moment John is at the critical

stage. He has to be careful not to catch any disease as his immune system is only operating at about one-third of its efficiency.

"He has no partner, no mother — nobody besides us he can talk to. The restrictions on his lifestyle have made him depressed."

John's physical appearance has not altered radically. He has not lost weight — a normal symptom of the disease.

"You can't see any change. He has become quiet and his psychological situation is different. He cries a lot. You only have to raise your voice round him and tears well up.

"He expects to die at any moment."

And AIDS is casting a shadow over the entire gay community, says Vern.

"The big question now is: 'Will I be next?' Will it be I or one of my friends?"

"That's what everybody is afraid of"



HAPPY FAMILY ...
Kevin Moore (left) and Tim Plewman (right) play "father and mother" to Stephen Dean in "Hello, I'm 8"

Are 'gay' couples fit to bring up kids?

"EVERY child needs a mother and a father," said one psychiatrist, without a moment's hesitation.

"A child needs to experience the love of a woman and know how to share that love with a rival."

The classic familial triangular situation, this psychiatrist felt, was essential.

"To be brought up by a homosexual couple is like being brought up by two sides of a triangle. By some fluke, adjusted children could grow up in a household like that, but generally it's not a healthy

Can a homosexual couple successfully bring up a child? That is the bare bones of the question posed by the play "Hello, I'm 8" currently on stage at the Alhambra Theatre. It seems that there is no clear answer. Two psychiatrists and a clinical psychologist who were asked the question came up with three different responses. None of them, for professional reasons, can be named

ing. There can't not be complications, but the issue is whether they can be dealt with in a way that's not too

children to sex generally until they're of an appropriate age."

He warned that "it's very

"The assumption is made that the triangle is taken place in an overt sense. What I am suggesting is that a child has an intuitive reco

Rationale & Problem Statement

“Homos don’t make headlines” discussion forum raised a number of questions:

- Are the mainstream media writing about homosexuality?
- How often?
- If so, what tone/angle are they taking?
- Whose voices are we hearing?

Media monitoring

Study parameters:

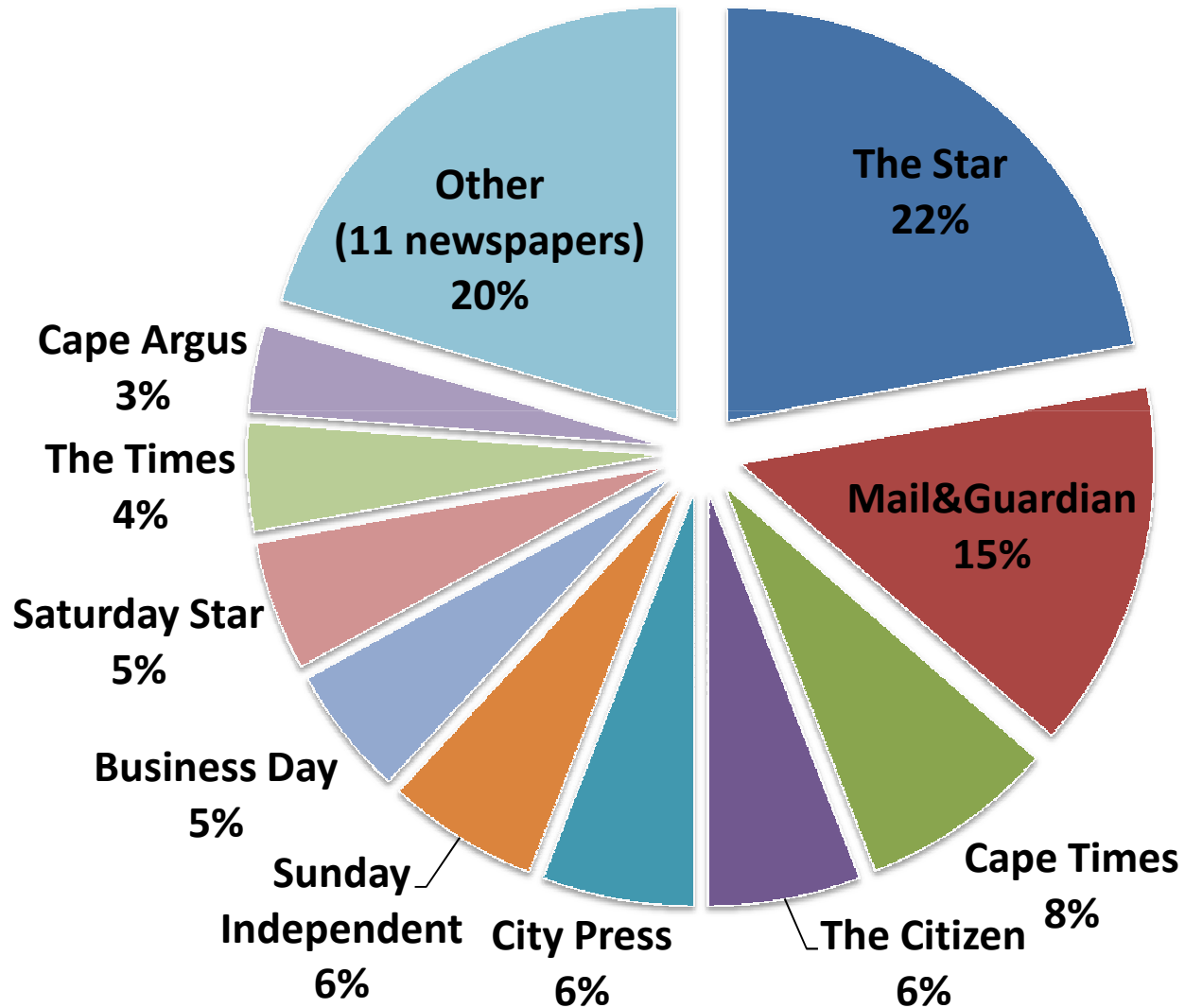
- **1 July 2010 – 31 March 2011**
- National and major regional print news media
- Key word search on the University of the Free State's *SA Media Archive* database
 - “gay”, “homosexual”, “men who have sex with men”, “MSM” as base key words with variations

Publications

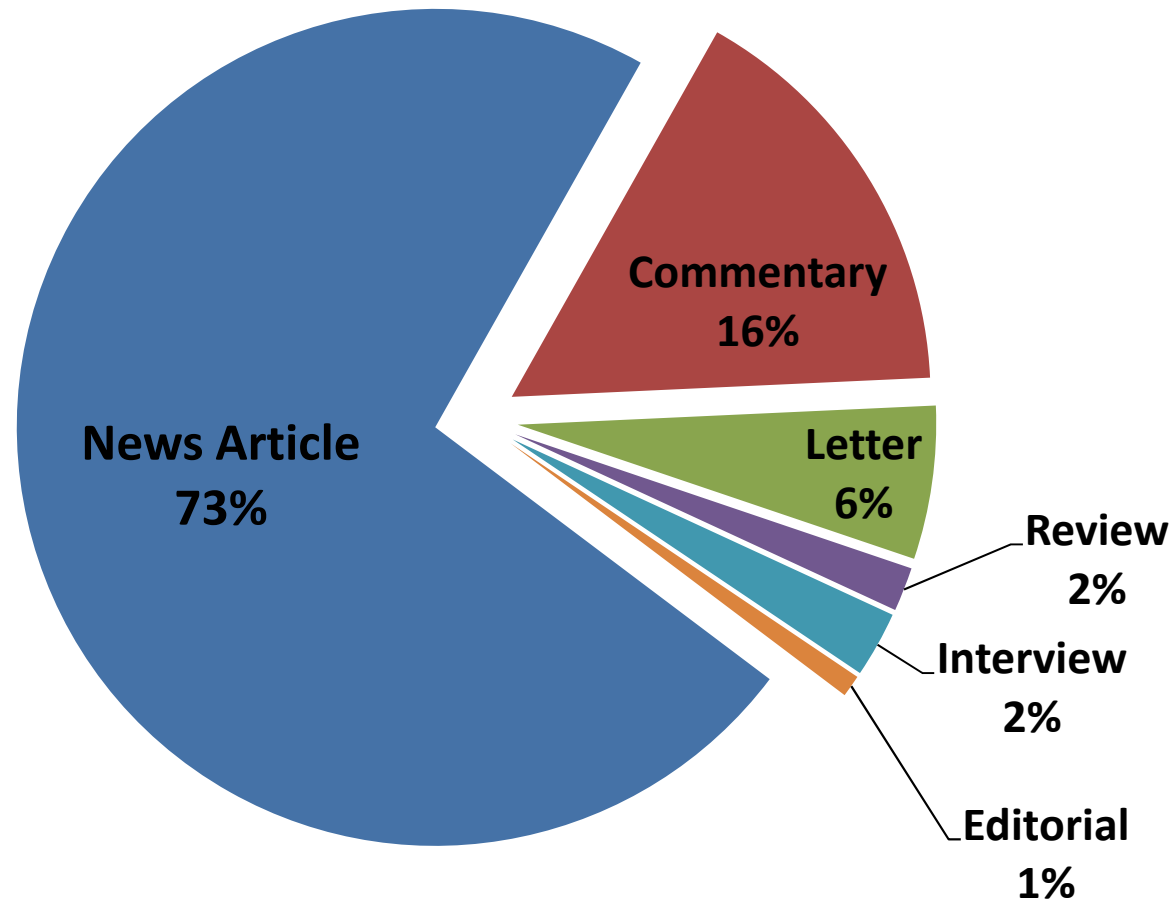
RAW DATA:
188 articles
21 publications

PUBLICATIONS	
Business Day	Saturday Star
Cape Argus	Sowetan
Cape Times	Sunday Independent
City Press	Sunday Times
Daily Dispatch	Sunday Tribune
Daily News	The Citizen
Independent on Saturday	The Star
Leadership SA	The Times
Mail&Guardian	The Witness
Pretoria News	Weekend Post
Saturday Argus	

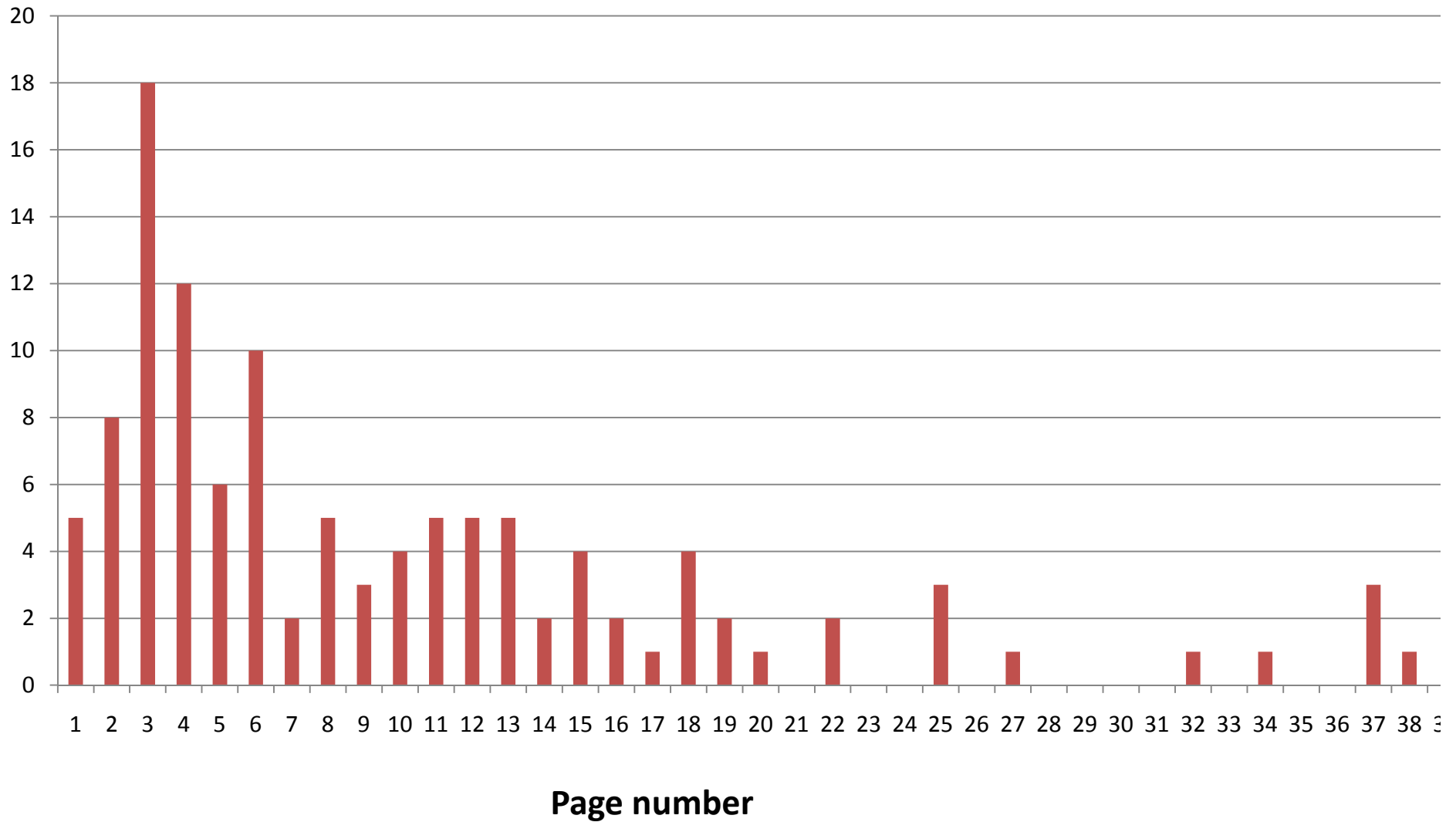
Top 10 Publications



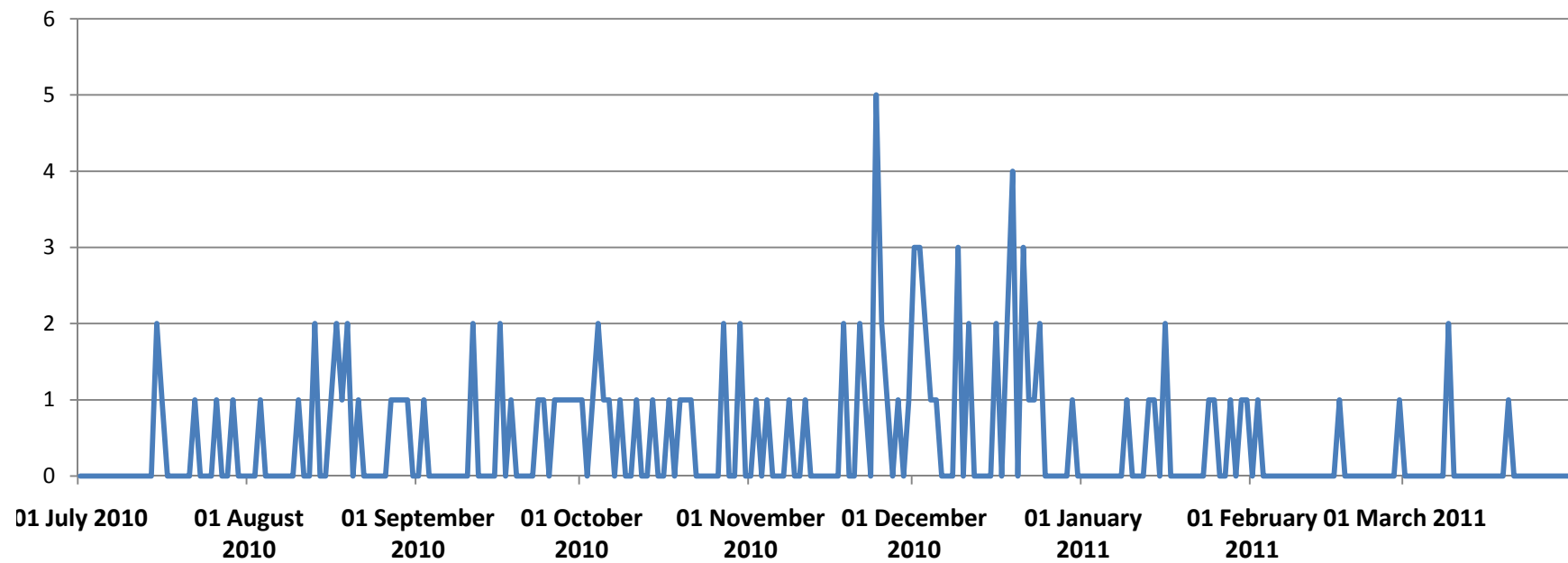
Type of article (n=118)



Prominence / Placement



Frequency of coverage



Jilted gay lover barred from sending SMSes to ex

ZELDA VENTER
HIGH COURT REPORTER

A BREAK-UP between two lovers, resulting in the scorned lover bombarding the other one with SMSes was the subject of a Pretoria High Court urgent interdict this week.

Both men work at the Potchefstroom campus of the University of the North West. They were in a love relationship for about six months, before the applicant, Phillip-Pieter Meintjies, ended the relationship in last November.

Meintjies stated in papers before court that he was at his wits' end with his former partner, Johan Buys, who had sent him a never-ending stream of SMS messages.

The court heard that on one day alone he received 63 messages from

Buys did not defend the action or state his side of the story to the court. The only response was when he, via an SMS, asked Meintjies's lawyer "whether he was the applicant's new boyfriend".

Buys also told the lawyer in the message that Meintjies had "marked himself for Satan" and that he (Meintjies) had "hypnotised" him (Buys) into being gay.

Meintjies said he and Buys met in April last year and broke up six months later. They tried to resume their relationship in January, but it was short-lived and he ended it as it was not working.

"Shortly after I ended it (Buys) started to send me messages and to phone me."

On March 5 Buys wrote to Meintjies that "you are all I think about".

Two days later he stated that he was going to delete his former

Findings (1)

- Mostly news articles (resonates with most HIV coverage)
- Given high prominence (unlike HIV coverage)
- Frequency indicates that coverage is events-driven

Conclusion:

- Homosexuality has a certain news value
 - *But do these articles have value beyond that?*

Authors for all articles

Authors (all articles n=118)	No. of articles
Unique authors	65
Authors appearing more than twice (13 authors)	29
Articles without byline	11
SAPA / SAPA-AP / Reuters	10
Health-e News	3
TOTAL	118

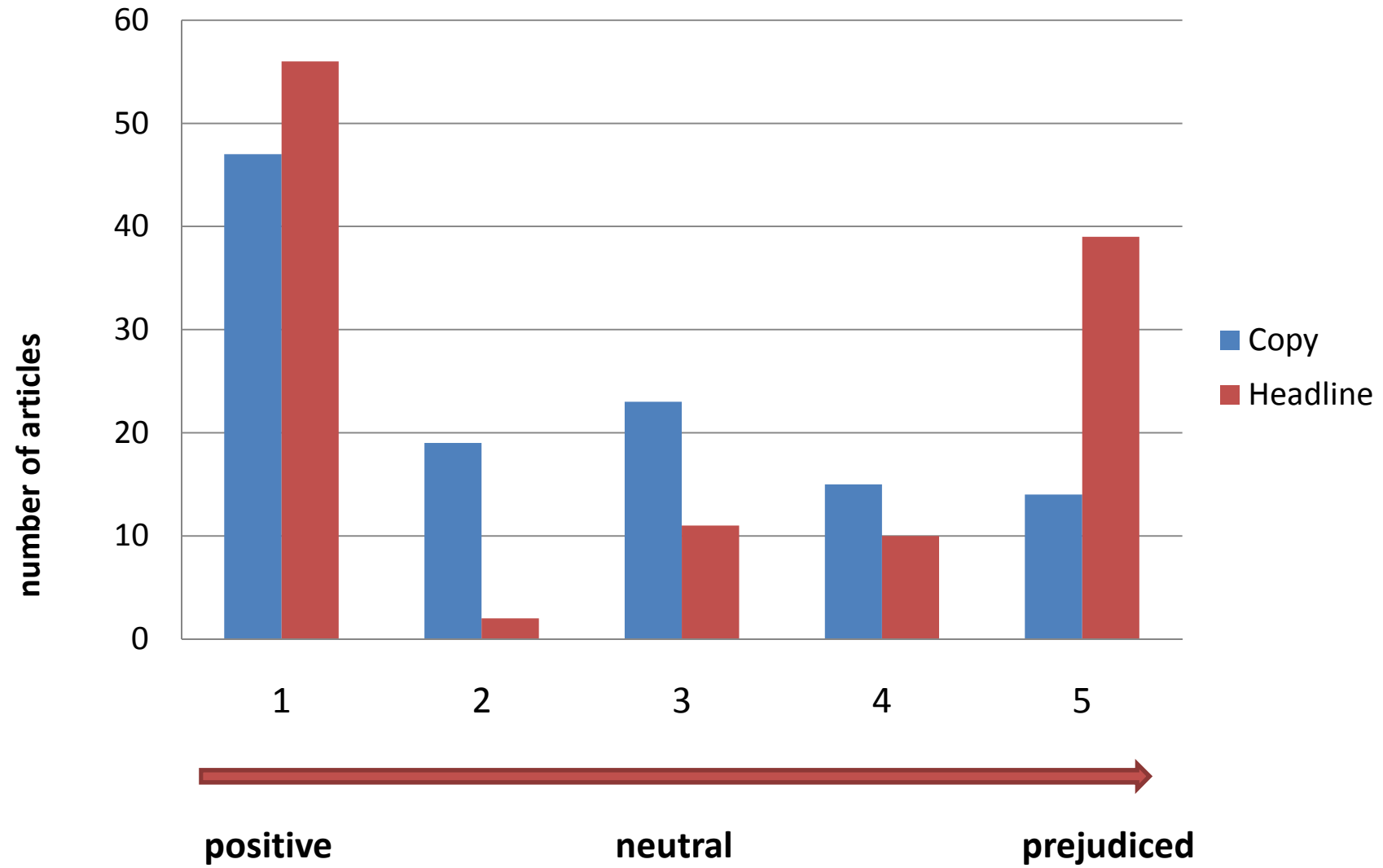
Authors – news articles only

Authors (news articles only n=86)	No of articles
Unique authors	45
Authors appearing more than twice (10 authors)	23
Articles without byline	5
SAPA / SAPA-AP / Reuters	10
Health-e News	3
TOTAL	86

Authors (continued)

- Findings are consistent with changes in newsrooms
 - Fewer health journalists
 - Short-staffed and resource-poor
 - Juniorisation of the newsroom
 - Reliance on syndicates
- The up-side:
 - number of articles written by seasoned health journalists or other experts in the field

Bias



Secret gay sex fuels HIV spread in Africa

CLAIRE KEETON

THE hidden HIV epidemic among men in Africa who have sex with other men — many of whom have wives — is fuelling the Aids crisis on the continent.

“In Africa, HIV prevalence is high in young women and that’s the picture we have of what’s driving the epidemic,” Professor Salim Abdool Karim, director of HIV/Aids research institution Caprisa, told the M2010 Microbicides conference this week.

“What’s been forgotten is the hidden side of the epidemic, since same-sex relationships are

criminalised in 37 out of 54 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

“In reality, HIV is really common among gay men throughout Africa. We simply don’t talk about it.”

The scientists at the conference, in Pittsburgh in the US, said a rectal microbicide could help reduce infections.

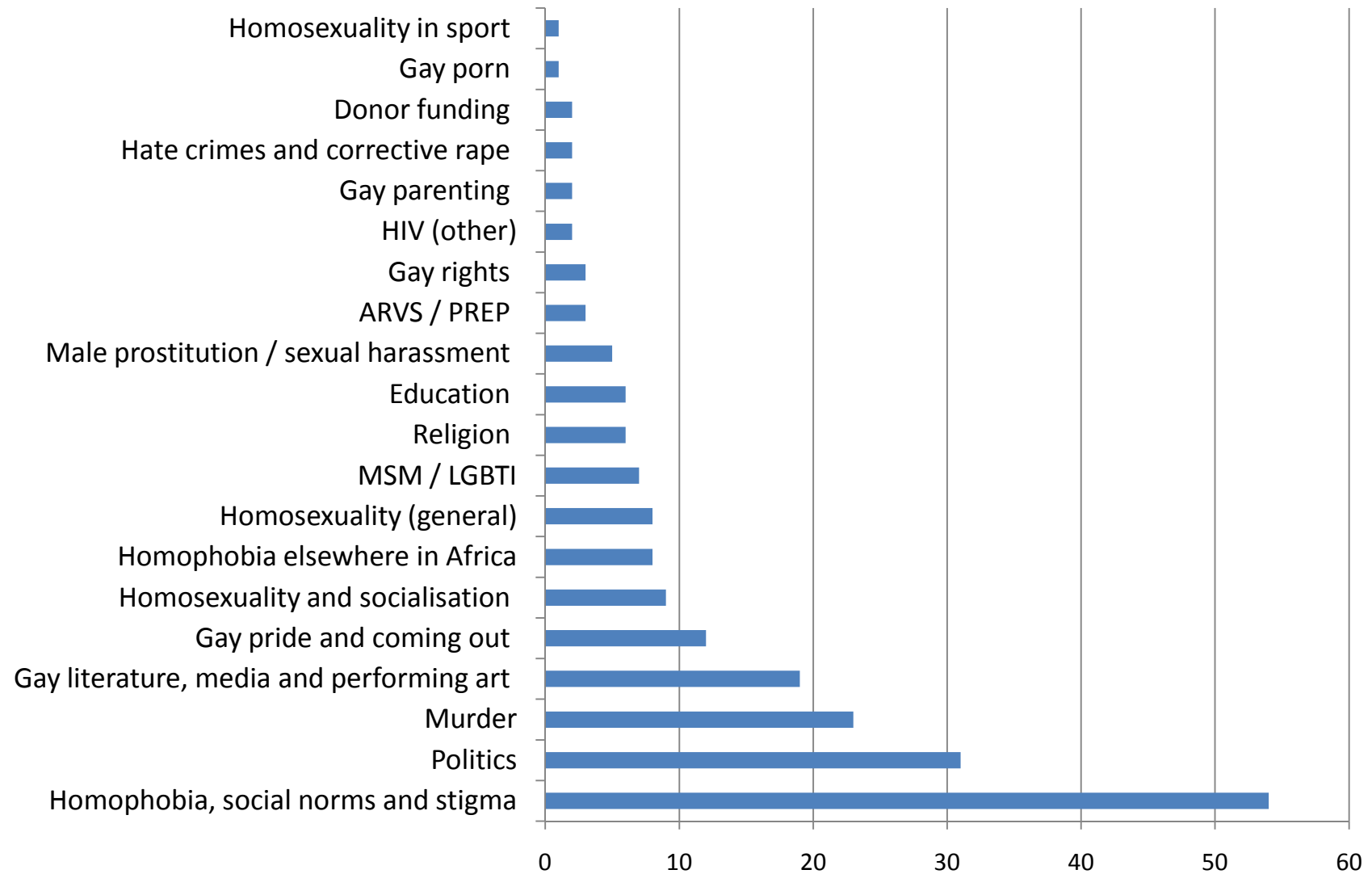
Studies show that men who have sex with men are at high risk of HIV infection — particularly in Africa, where safe access to prevention tools and services is restricted.

Up to 3% of men in South Africa are thought to have had homosexual intercourse.

HIV prevention efforts aimed at men who sleep with men are needed — about 20% of new infections are among this group — yet health activists are hamstrung by widespread political and cultural hostility to same-sex relationships.

Michel Kazatchkine, executive director of the Global Fund to fight Aids, TB and Malaria, said in response to the recent imprisonment in Malawi of two men for being gay: “The criminalisation of individuals based on their sexual orientation is not just a human rights issue — it also . . . drives sexual behaviour underground and creates an environment

Most prominent themes



Gay Ugandans targeted after outing

Containing names and addresses, a hostile report has left people in fear of their lives

Jody Clarke

Heather Kitaka (not her real name) was in her Kampala home on October 15, listening to music, when it began.

"It started at 3pm and went on all night. People started throwing stones through my gate and shouting. My friends came and said: "Look, you have to leave; you have to get out of here." So the next day, I left. I haven't been back since."

In September 2007, the newspaper carried out a "weird sex investigation" titled "Homo terror".

The articles and the reaction to them underscores the growing homophobia in the country, say the country's gay community, a year after a Ugandan MP drew up a Bill in Parliament that would have imposed the death penalty for some homosexual acts and life in prison for others.

The legislation was introduced after the visit in March last year of Scott Lively, an American evangelist,

Recommendations

- To increase coverage
 - understand what is newsworthy and sexy to editors
 - hitch article to current and topical issues
 - maximise days where coverage is “obligatory”
- To increase quality of coverage
 - be available to speak to the media
 - respond through appropriate channels and engage in dialogue with the media