



SOCIAL PERCEPTION SURVEY ON LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL RIGHTS



THE INITIATIVE FOR
EQUAL RIGHTS

NOIPolls

POLLING | ANALYTICS | DATABANK | STRATEGY



THE INITIATIVE FOR
EQUAL RIGHTS

NOIPolls

POLLING | ANALYTICS | DATABASE | STRATEGY

***An NOI poll commissioned by
The Initiative for Equal Rights***

January 2017

Disclaimer

This report has been produced by NOIPolls Limited to provide information on all issues which form the subject matter of the document. NOIPolls hereby certifies that all the quantitative data expressed in this document accurately reflect its views of respondents surveyed for the poll. The background information is based on secondary data from various sources that it believes are reliable; however, no representation is made that it is accurate or complete. Whilst reasonable care has been taken in preparing this document, no responsibility or liability is accepted for errors or fact or for any views expressed herein by NOIPolls for actions taken as a result of information provided in this report. Any ratings, forecasts, estimates, opinions or views herein constitute a judgment as at the date of this document. If the date of this document is not current, the views and content may not reflect NOIPolls' current findings and/or thinking. ©

TABLE OF CONTENT

1.0	Executive Summary	01
2.0	Survey Background	01
3.0	Survey Methodology	01
4.0	Survey Results	02
4.1	Demographic Distribution	02
4.3	Homosexuality as a Condition of Birth	03
4.4	Trend Analysis of Homosexuality by Condition of Birth	03
4.5	Acceptability of Homosexuals Within the Family	04
4.6	Trend Analysis of Homosexuals Within the Family	04
4.7	Attitudes Towards SSMPA	05
4.8	Trend Analysis on Attitudes To SSMPA	05
4.9	Awareness of Homosexuals in Nigeria	06
4.10	Trend Analysis on The Awareness of Homosexuals in Nigeria	06
4.9	Perceptions of Nigerians Towards Homosexuality	07
4.10	Trend Analysis on The Perceptions of Nigerians Towards Homosexuality	08
5.0	Conclusion	08
6.0	Appendix – Questionnaires and extra charts	09

Table of Figures

Figure 1:	Nationwide demographic distribution	02
Figure 2:	Homosexuality by condition of birth	03
Figure 3:	Trend analysis of homosexuality by condition of birth	03
Figure 4:	Homosexual acceptability	04
Figure 5:	Trend analysis on homosexual acceptability in Nigeria	04
Figure 6:	Support for the Anti Same-Sex Law in Nigeria	05
Figure 7:	Trend analysis on the support of the Anti-Same-Sex Law in Nigeria	05
Figure 8:	Awareness of homosexuals in Nigeria	06
Figure 9:	Trend analysis on the awareness of homosexuals in Nigeria	07
Figure 10:	Perceptions of Nigerians towards homosexuality	07
Figure 11:	Trend analysis of opinion of Nigerians on homosexuality	08
Figure 12:	Support for the Anti-Same Sex Law in Nigeria	12
Figure 13:	Awareness of homosexuals in Nigeria	12
Figure 14:	Mode of awareness in relation to someone who is homosexual	13
Figure 15:	Trended mode of awareness in relation to someone who is homosexual	13
Figure 16:	Perceptions of Nigerians towards homosexuality	14

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NOIPolls commissioned by The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERs) conducted a nationwide trended poll on: a) the perceptions of Nigerians around the rights and lived experience of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Nigerians and b) attitudes toward the 2014 Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act (SSMPA). TIERs is a Nigeria-based registered non-profit organization whose work is to protect and promote the human rights of sexual minorities within Nigeria and the West Africa sub-region. It was founded in 2005 as a response to the discrimination and marginalization of sexual minorities observed in HIV prevention and human rights work.

The poll revealed that the vast majority of Nigerians (91%) do not believe that people are born homosexual, indicating that there is little belief in scientific and genetic justification or explanations for stable same-sex attraction. This figure represents a 1% increase when compared to the 2015 findings. Correspondingly, 83% of those surveyed specified that they would not be willing to accept a family member who is homosexual, whereas 13% expressed a willingness to accept an LGB family member. Comparing current results with the 2015 findings revealed a 4% decline in the number of people who say they would not accept a gay family member.

The survey also shows that 9 in 10 adult Nigerians (90%) are in support of the SSMPA, a 3% increase from the 2015 result (87%). Also, analysis reveals that 83% of respondents disclosed that they do not have a family member, a friend or know anyone in their community who is homosexual. 17% however claimed that they either have a family member, a friend or know someone who is LGB. In relation to the question about association with homosexuals, 90% of the respondents are of the view that Nigeria would be a better country without homosexuals and 70% of the respondents say that they would not want to have anything to do with homosexuals. 21% indicated that they don't mind homosexuals as long as they do not have to see them. In addition, 56% of Nigerians say homosexuals should be denied access to public services like healthcare, housing, education, etc. whereas 39% think that they should have access to public services.

2.0 SURVEY BACKGROUND

On 13 January 2014, the former president of Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan signed into law the Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act (SSMPA), which was passed by the National Assembly in May 2013. The SSMPA has made it a criminal offence for same-sex people to hold meetings, set up associations and organizations, and this attracts a 10-year jail sentence¹ while marriage between same-sex couples attracts a 14-year jail term. Nigeria is one of 38 African countries that have passed draconian legislation in recent times. The passing of these laws has attracted criticisms and legal challenge from within the countries as well as internationally. Despite criticism from various sources, many Nigerians are opposed to the idea of homosexuality claiming cultural incongruity.

3.0 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The survey method involved a random nationwide sampling of 2,000 respondents who were interviewed over the telephone. Participants were selected from the six geopolitical zones through a proportionate, stratified random sample design. A sample of this size gives 95% confidence that the results obtained are statistically precise - within a range of plus or minus 3% of what they would have been if the entire population had been surveyed. The survey questionnaires were administered using five major languages (Yoruba, Hausa, Igbo, English and Pidgin English). Respondents were asked eight specific questions and findings are presented below.

4.0 SURVEY RESULTS

The survey is the third in series of the LGB poll conducted by NOIPolls. The first was conducted in 2013 and the second was conducted in 2015 and this section presents findings from the 2017 polls and where necessary, it draws comparison with early polls.

4.1 DEMOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The demographic distribution of the respondents is divided into the following groups: Gender, age-group, geo-political zones and occupation as illustrated in figure 1 below.

GENDER: The proportion of male and female respondents was almost equal with 51% and 49% respectively.

AGE-GROUP: The largest age-group represented in the survey was 18-35 years with 54%, followed by respondents aged 36-60 with 43%. The lowest age-group represented in the survey was the 60+ age-groups (3%)

GEO-POLITICAL ZONES: All geo-political zones were adequately represented in the survey, with the highest representation from the North-West zone (24%) and the lowest was the South-East zone (12%).

OCCUPATION: The highest represented occupation in the survey was self-employed trader (34 percent); followed by Government/Civil Servant (21 percent) and students (11 percent).

Summary of Weighted Demographic Variables for Perception of Nigerians on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) Rights
Snap Poll(N=2,146) – January, 2017

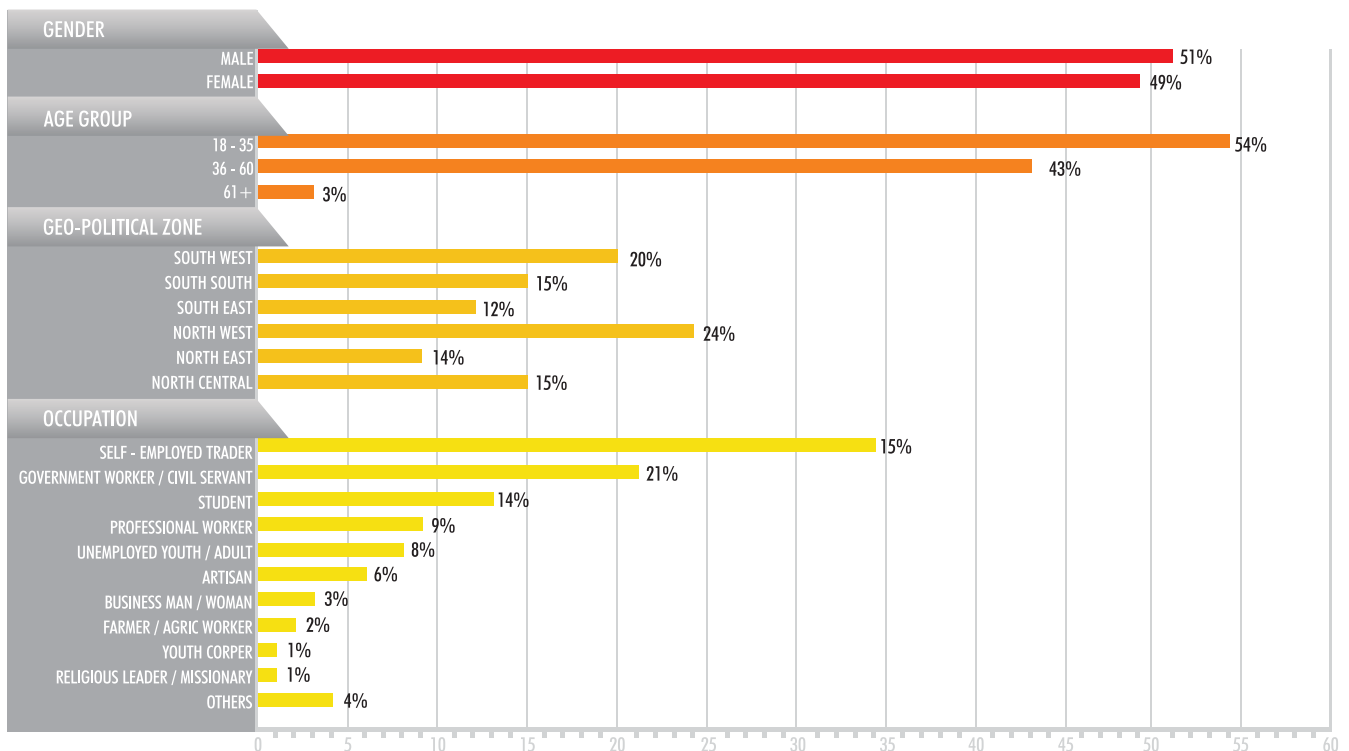


Figure 1: Nationwide Demographic Distribution

4.3 HOMOSEXUALITY AS A CONDITION OF BIRTH

The question whether homosexuality is inborn or socially constructed has engendered great debate, with perspectives varying between those who believe homosexuality is genetically predetermined and therefore difficult to alter. Others view homosexuality as acquired through socialization and therefore, a life choice that can be easily changed at will. When the respondents were asked if people are born homosexual, most (91%) across the demographic divide said no. Only 4% of respondents believe that people are born homosexuals and 5% of respondents were unsure. In subsequent polls, it will be useful to see what the result will be if the same question was posed about whether heterosexuality is inborn or acquired.

In your opinion do you think people are born homosexual? (January 2017)

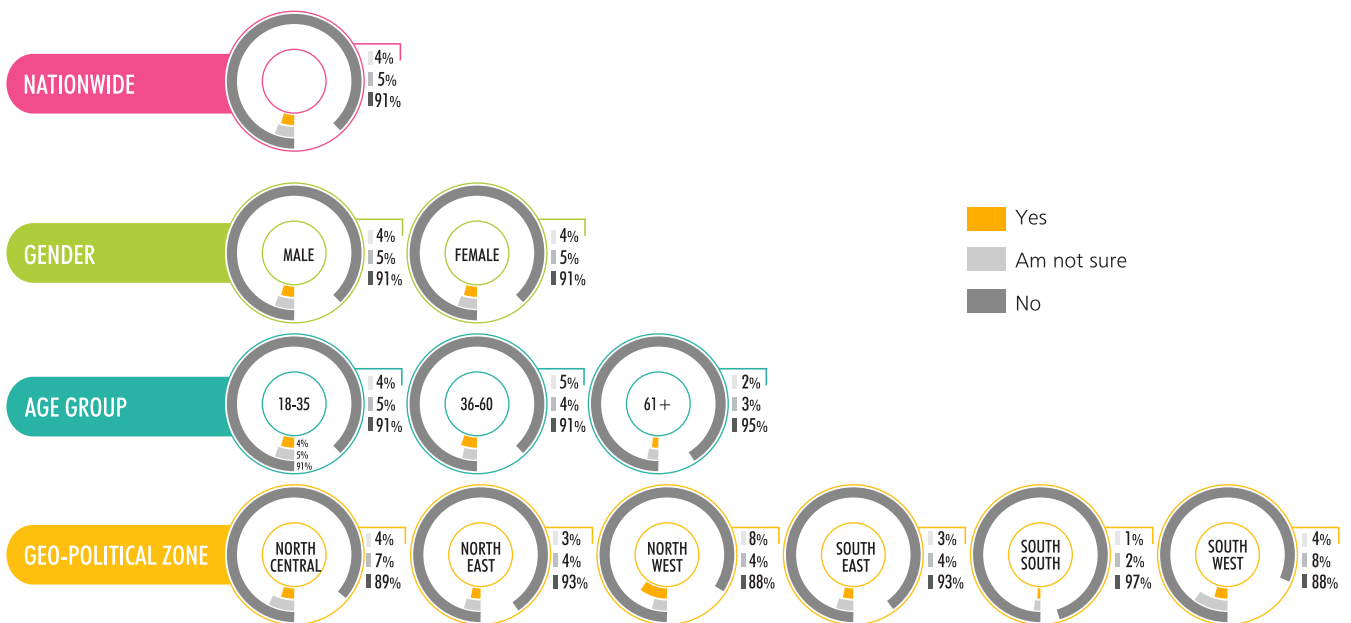


Figure 2: Homosexuality by condition of birth

4.4 TREND ANALYSIS OF HOMOSEXUALITY BY CONDITION OF BIRTH

When current findings are compared with the result obtained in 2015, the findings are almost identical with a 1% increase in the number of Nigerians who are certain that people are not born homosexuals.

In your opinion, do you think people are born homosexual? (January 2017)

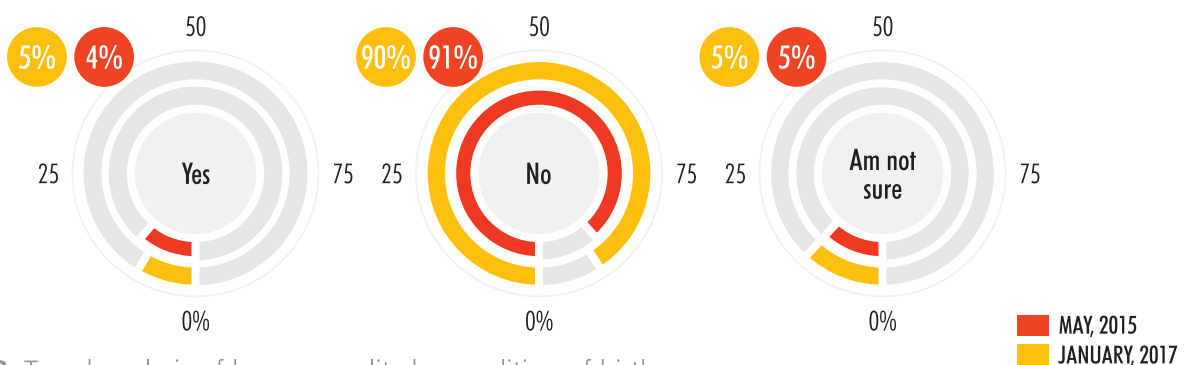


Figure 3: Trend analysis of homosexuality by condition of birth

4.5 ACCEPTABILITY OF HOMOSEXUALS WITHIN THE FAMILY

In order to ascertain the level of acceptability of LGB people across family members, the majority of Nigerians (83%) stated that they would not accept a family member who is homosexual. This can be attributed to a general disapproval of same-sex attraction or relationship which most respondents mentioned during the course of the interview as alien, not part of their African cultural or religious beliefs. Analyses across gender showed that more males (83%) than female (81%) will not accept homosexuals, while residents from the North Central and South-South geo-political zones had the highest unacceptability rate with 86% each.

Recent findings revealed that 13% of Nigerians affirmed that they would accept a family member who is homosexual and respondents from the North-west zone (19%) accounted for the largest proportion of Nigerians who expressed acceptance.

Personally, would you accept a family member if they are homosexual? (January 2017)

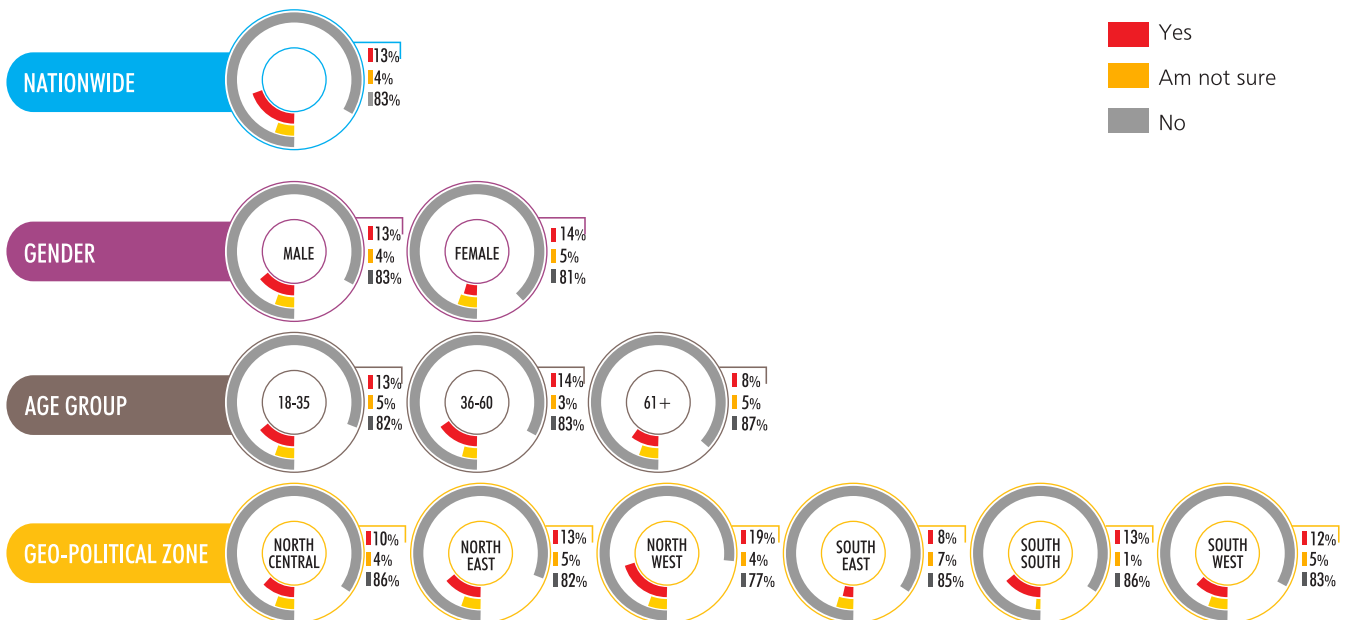


Figure 4: Homosexual acceptability
Source: NOIPolls - January 2017

4.6 TREND ANALYSIS OF HOMOSEXUALS WITHIN THE FAMILY

Comparing these findings with the result obtained in May 2015, there is a 4% decrease in the proportion of respondents who would not accept a homosexual family member. Inversely, a 2% increase was observed in the number of respondents who would personally accept a family member if they are homosexuals.

Personally, would you accept a family member if they are homosexual?

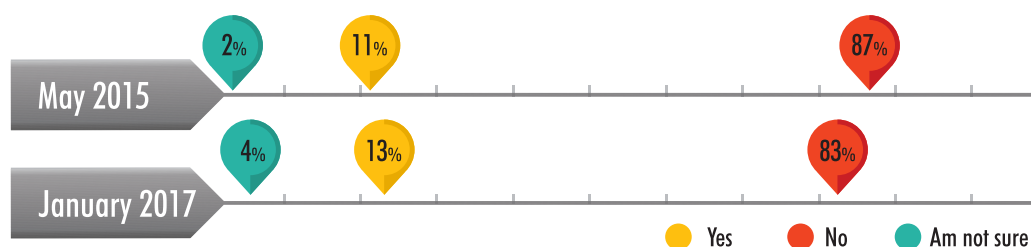


Figure 5: Trend analysis on homosexual acceptability in Nigeria
Source: NOIPolls - January 2017

4.7 ATTITUDES TOWARDS SSMIPA

The SSMIPA makes marriage between same-sex couples punishable by 14 years in prison. It also makes the assembling of same-sex groups punishable by a 10-year prison sentence. Three years after the law was signed by the former President Goodluck Jonathan in January 2014, the poll showed that majority of Nigerians (90%) continued to support the Act. It is also worth noting that during the course of this survey, most respondents believed that homosexuality is not only unAfrican, but also that it is yet another example of Africans adapting to Western cultural practices.

Contrarily, while 7% of the respondents surveyed claimed that they oppose the law, the highest opposition to the law is among the over 61+(17%).

To what extent do you support or oppose the Anti Same-Sex law that bans marriage and also makes homosexuals assembling together punishable by 10 years in prison? (January 2017)

*The Higher the average score, the higher the level of support to the 'Anti Same-Sex Law' (1=3=I strongly oppose/I oppose, ..., 3=I strongly support/I support)

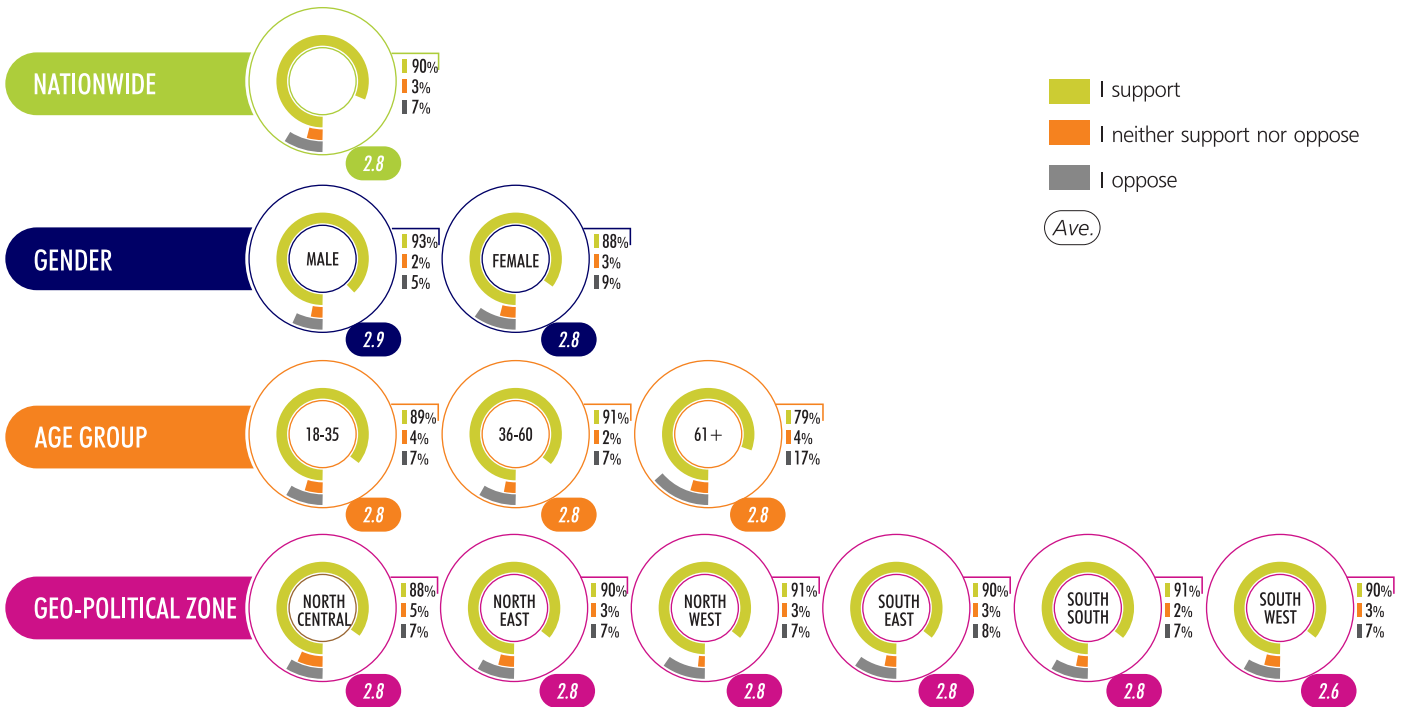


Figure 6: Support for the Anti Same-Sex Law in Nigeria
Source: NOIPolls – January 2017

4.8 TREND ANALYSIS ON ATTITUDES TO SSMIPA

Trend analysis showed a steady increase in the proportion of respondents who strongly support the anti-same sex law over a 4-year interval when current findings are compared with the result obtained in 2013 and 2015.

To what extent do you support or oppose the anti-same sex law' that bans gay marriage and makes it punishable by 14 years in prison and also makes homosexuals assembling together punishable by 10 years in prison?

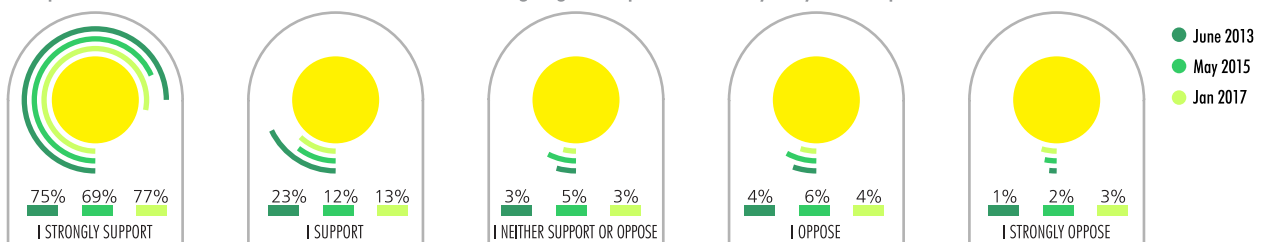


Figure 7: Trend analysis on the support of the Anti-Same-Sex Law in Nigeria
Source: NOIPolls – January 2017

4.9 AWARENESS OF HOMOSEXUALS IN NIGERIA

The poll sought to measure the social and familial awareness about LGB people. 1% of respondents specified that they were aware of a family member who was homosexual, while a majority (99%) stated otherwise. 3% of respondents affirmed that they have friends who are homosexual and 86% of respondents stated that they do not have friends who are homosexual. A further 61% of respondents stated that they do not know anyone in their locality who is homosexual and about 4 in 10 (39%) respondents nationwide stated that they know someone who is homosexual within their locality or vicinity. Overall 17% of the respondents say they either know someone who is homosexual either as a friend, family member or person in their vicinity. Although 17% of respondents say they know someone who is homosexual, the younger demographics 18-35 (17%) and 35-60 (18%) are more likely to personally know someone who is homosexual – either friend, family member or in their locality – than the older demographic (61+) at 8%.

Which of these statements apply to you in your area awareness of homosexuals in Nigeria? (January, 2017)

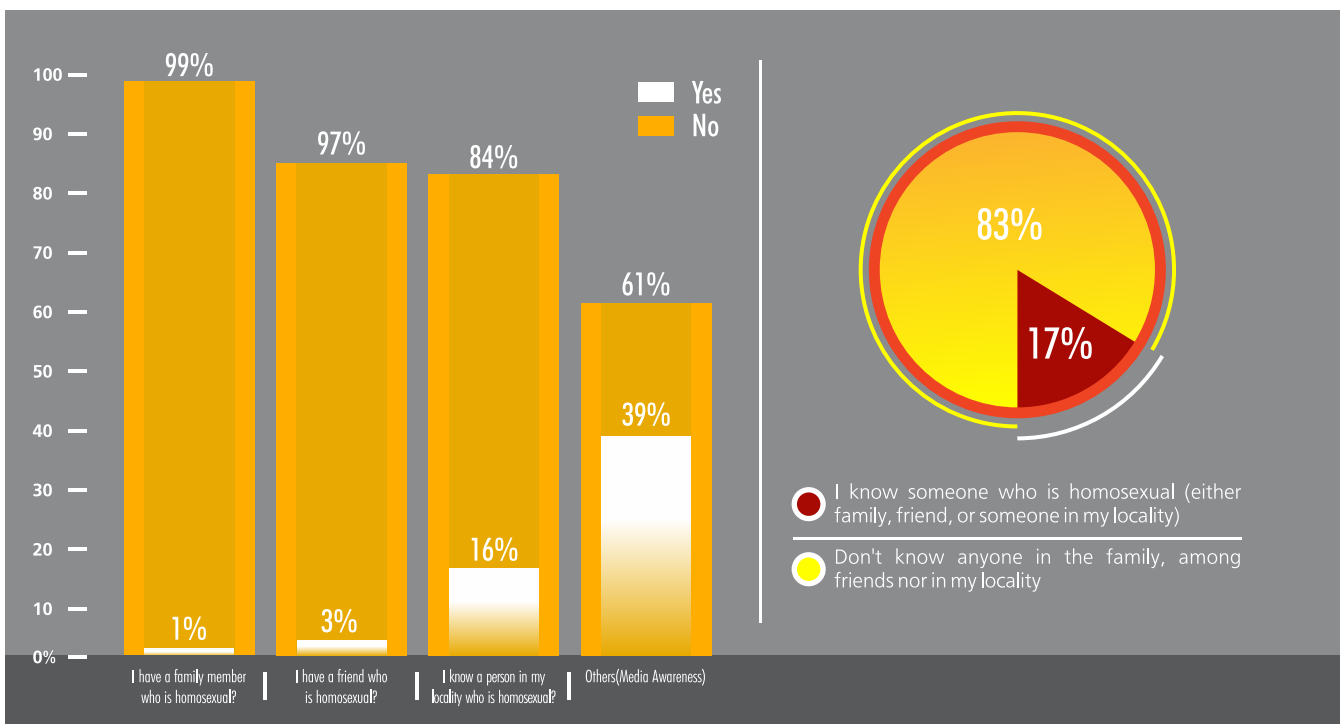


Figure 8: Awareness of homosexuals in Nigeria
Source: NOIPolls – January 2017

4.10 TREND ANALYSIS ON THE AWARENESS OF HOMOSEXUALS IN NIGERIA

There has been a 1% decrease in 2017 of the number of people who stated that they have a family member who is homosexual compared to the 2% of 2015. Further analysis shows that 5% of respondents nationwide in 2015 indicated that they have a friend who is homosexual while the 2017 poll revealed that 3% of the respondents confirmed that they have a friend who is homosexual.

Compared to 2015 where 14% of respondents claimed to know a person in their locality who is homosexual, 16% of the respondents make the same claim in 2017. The 2015 result showed that 16% of respondents nationwide stated that their knowledge about LGB people was through the media. This figure increased to 39% in 2017, representing a 23% increase. At 39%, the media remains the most likely context through which the surveyed population acquire knowledge and awareness about LGB people in Nigeria.

Which of these statements apply to you in your awareness of homosexuals in Nigeria?

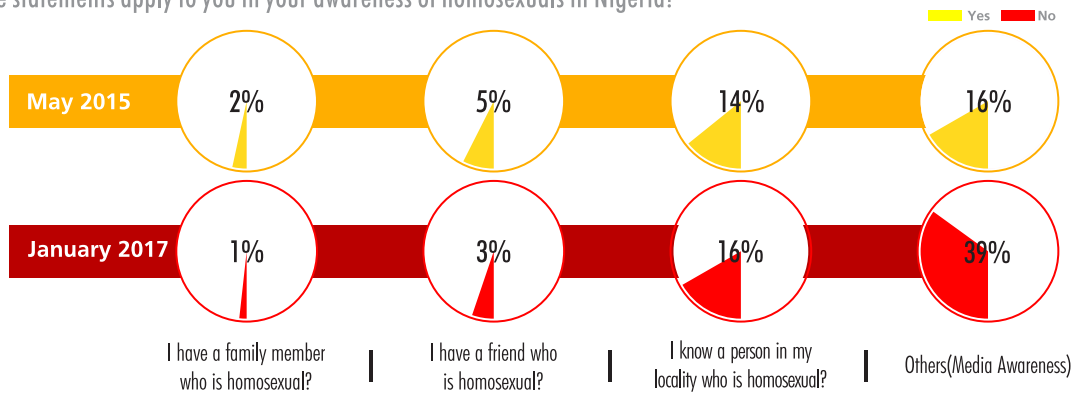


Figure 9: Trend analysis on the awareness of homosexuals in Nigeria
Source: NOIPolls – January 2017

Total awareness of homosexuals in Nigeria (through family members, friends, within dwelling localities, and media)

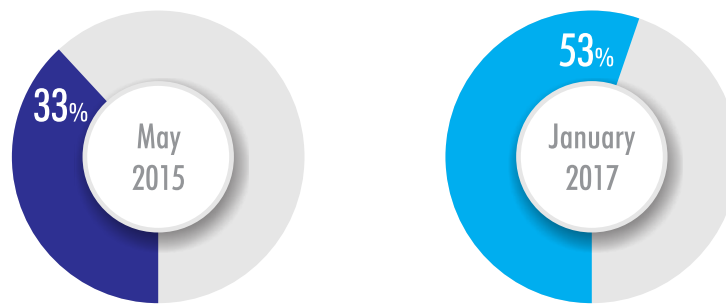


Figure 9
Source: NOIPolls – January 2017

4.9 PERCEPTIONS OF NIGERIANS TOWARDS HOMOSEXUALITY

When asked if homosexuals should be imprisoned for 14 years for having consensual same-sex relationship most Nigerians (91%) stated in the affirmative; while 7% opposed it and 2% stayed neutral. Similarly, a high (90%) number of respondents are of the view that Nigeria would be a better country without homosexuals while 7% disagreed with this assertion. Furthermore, the poll revealed that 70% of the respondents say that they do mind homosexuals and would rather not see them, whereas 21% do not mind homosexuals as long as they remain out of their field of vision.

The majority of respondents (94%) disagreed that constitutional rights of freedom of association and assembly should be a right upheld for homosexuals. (98%) are of the opinion that homosexuals should neither have the right to marriage, while 80% say homosexuals should not have the same rights as other Nigerians. (56%) say homosexuals should be denied access to public services like healthcare, housing, education, and 39% think that they should have access to public services.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (January 2017)

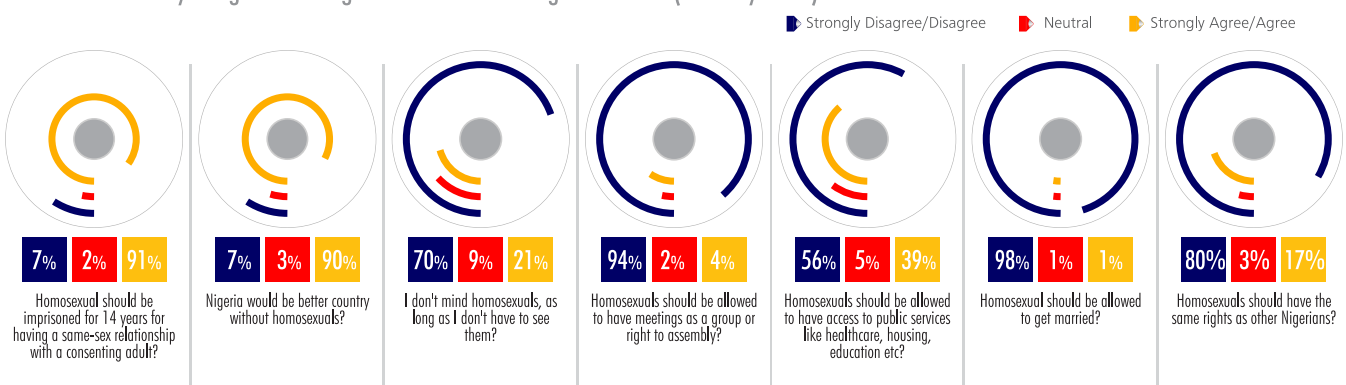


Figure 10: Perceptions of Nigerians towards homosexuality
Source: NOIPolls – January 2017

4.10 TREND ANALYSIS ON THE PERCEPTIONS OF NIGERIANS TOWARDS HOMOSEXUALITY

Comparing current findings with the results obtained in 2015 showed a 9% increase in the number of Nigerians who think that homosexuals should be allowed to have access to public services whereas, a 7% decrease was observed in the number of respondents who do not mind homosexuals as long as they don't have to see them.

While there's been an increase (4%) in the number of respondents who think that same-sex relationship should carry a 14-year prison sentence, there has been a noticeable rise (9%) in the number of respondents who think that homosexuals should be allowed to have access to public services such as healthcare and housing etc. Noteworthy is the increased acceptance (7%) for homosexuals in 2017 compared to 2015.

Trend analysis of opinion of Nigerians on homosexuality showing % of those who agree or strongly agree with the following statements:

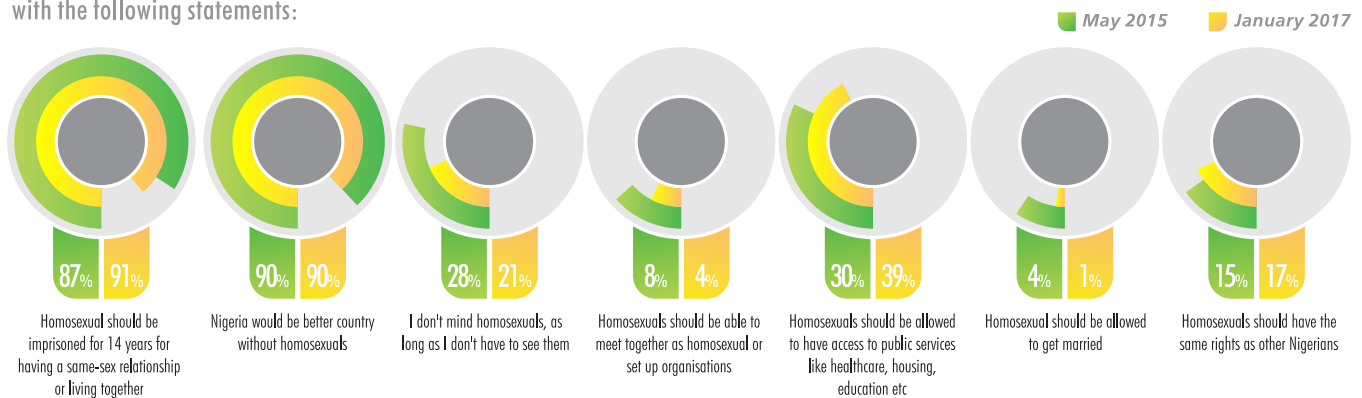


Figure 11

Source: NOIPolls - January 2017

5.0 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, while a larger proportion of Nigerians (91%) do not think people are born homosexual, and a majority continue to support the Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act, a growing number of Nigerians (39%) accept that Nigerians who are homosexual should have equal access to public services such as healthcare, housing and education. The predominant narrative about Nigerian attitudes to homosexuality may need revising, giving the shifting perspectives and attitudes demonstrated by the trends in this survey.

6.0 APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRES AND EXTRA CHARTS

Perception of Nigerians on LGB Rights Poll - Questionnaire

Good Morning / Evening, my name is..... I work for NOIPolls, an Abuja-based opinion polling and research organization. We are currently conducting a survey to find out the views of Nigerians regarding LGB rights. (We retrieved your number from a pool of randomly generated numbers). Your participation in this poll is completely voluntary. However, your opinion is vital to this poll. Is this a good time to talk? Note to interviewer: Do not read out 'Don't know' and 'Refused' options.

1. In your opinion, do you think people are born homosexual?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Am not sure
4. Refused

2. Personally, would you accept a family member if they are homosexual?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Am not sure
4. Refused

3. To what extent do you support or oppose the 'Anti Same-Sex law' that bans gay marriage and makes it punishable by 14 years in prison and also makes homosexuals assembling together punishable by 10 years in prison?

1. I strongly oppose
2. I oppose
3. I neither support nor oppose
4. I support
5. I strongly support
6. Don't know
7. Refused

4. Which of these statements apply to you in your awareness of homosexuals in Nigeria?

		Yes	No	DK/RF
1	I have a family member who is homosexual	1	2	3
2	I have a friend who is homosexual	1	2	3
3	I know a person in my locality who is homosexual	1	2	3
4	Others (please specify).....			

5. In your opinion, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	DK/RF
a	Homosexuals should have the same rights as other Nigerians.	1	2	3	4	5	6
b	Homosexuals should be allowed to get married.	1	2	3	4	5	6
c	Homosexuals should be allowed to have access to public services like healthcare, housing, education etc	1	2	3	4	5	6
d	Homosexuals should be allowed to have meeting as a group or right to assembly.	1	2	3	4	5	6
e	I don't mind homosexuals, as long as I don't have to see them.	1	2	3	4	5	6
f	Nigeria would be a better country without homosexuals	1	2	3	4	5	6
g	Homosexuals should be imprisoned for 14 years for having a same-sex relationship with a consenting adult.	1	2	3	4	5	6

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

6. Gender:

1. *Male*
2. *Female*

7. What age category do you fall in to?

1. *0-17 (End interview if this is the case)*
2. *18-35*
3. *36-60*
4. *60+*
5. *Don't know/Refused*

8. Occupation?

1	Government Work / Civil Servant	Employed by a public ministry, agency, board, or commission; either at Federal, State or LGA level.
2	Professional worker	Lawyer, Doctor, Teacher, Engineer, Nurse, Accountant, Computer Programmer, Architect, Banker, Pilot etc.
3	Self-Employed Trader	Self-employed trader or one-man business owner.



4	Business Man/Woman	Owner-Manager of a registered business corporation employing one or more persons.
5	Farmer/Agric. Worker	Farmer, Fisherman, Meat Seller, Agro Dealer, Agric extension worker, tractor operator etc
6	Artisan	Carpenter, barber, Plumber, Electrician, Mechanic, Hairdresser, Tailor, Welder etc
7	Religious Leader / Missionary	Full-Time Pastor, Evangelist, Reverend, Imam, Mallam etc
8	Youth Corper	Currently Serving
6	Student	Currently in Secondary or Tertiary Institutions – Universities, Polytechnics, College of Education and Vocational Schools
5	Unemployed Youth / Adult	Currently has no means of earning an income
6	Others	

9. What state do you live in? (*Interviewer: code state and geo-political zone*)
Note: Code for states (below) 1-37.
38 – Refused

S/N	STATE	S/N	STATE	S/N	STATE	S/N	STATE	S/N	STATE
1	Abia	10	Delta	19	Kano	28	Ondo	37	Abuja/FCT
2	Adamawa	11	Ebonyi	6	Katsina	6	Osun	38	Refused
3	Akwa Ibom	6	Edo	6	Kebbi	6	Oyo		
4	Anambra	6	Ekiti	6	Kogi	6	Plateau		
5	Bauchi	6	Enugu	6	Kwara	6	Rivers		
6	Bayelsa	6	Gombe	6	Lagos	6	Sokoto		
7	Benue	6	Imo	6	Nasarawa	6	Taraba		
8	Borno	6	Jigawa	6	Niger	6	Yobe		
9	Cross River	6	Kaduna	6	Ogun	6	Zamfara		

To what extent do you support or oppose the 'Anti Same-Sex law' that bans marriage and makes it punishable by 14 years in prison and also makes homosexuals assembling together punishable by 10 years in prison? (JAN. 2017)

*The Higher the average score, the higher the level of support to the 'Anti Same-Sex Law' (1 = I strongly oppose, ..., 5 = I strongly support)

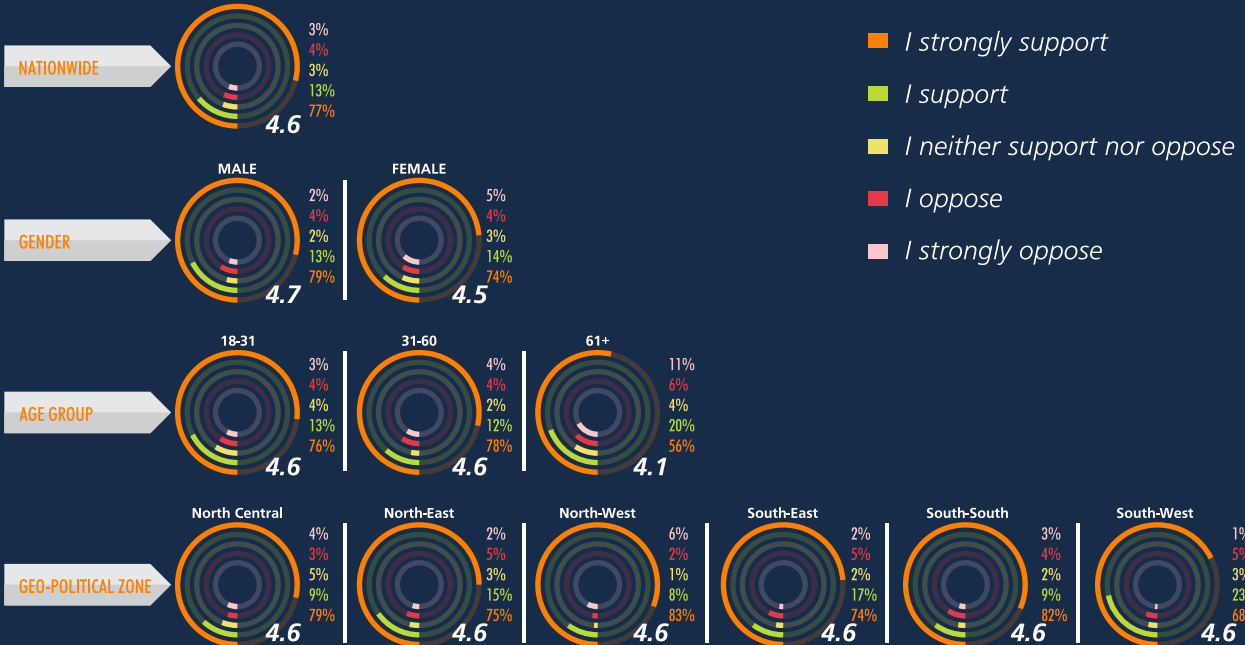


Figure 12: Support for the Anti-Same Sex Law in Nigeria
Source: NOIPolls - January 2017

On the average, the poll revealed that 17 percent of the Nigerians acknowledged that they know someone (either family, friend or someone in their locality) who is a homosexual while, 83 percent disclosed that they do not know anyone in their family, among friends nor in their locality who is homosexual.

Do you have/know a person in my locality who is homosexual? [Jan. 2017]

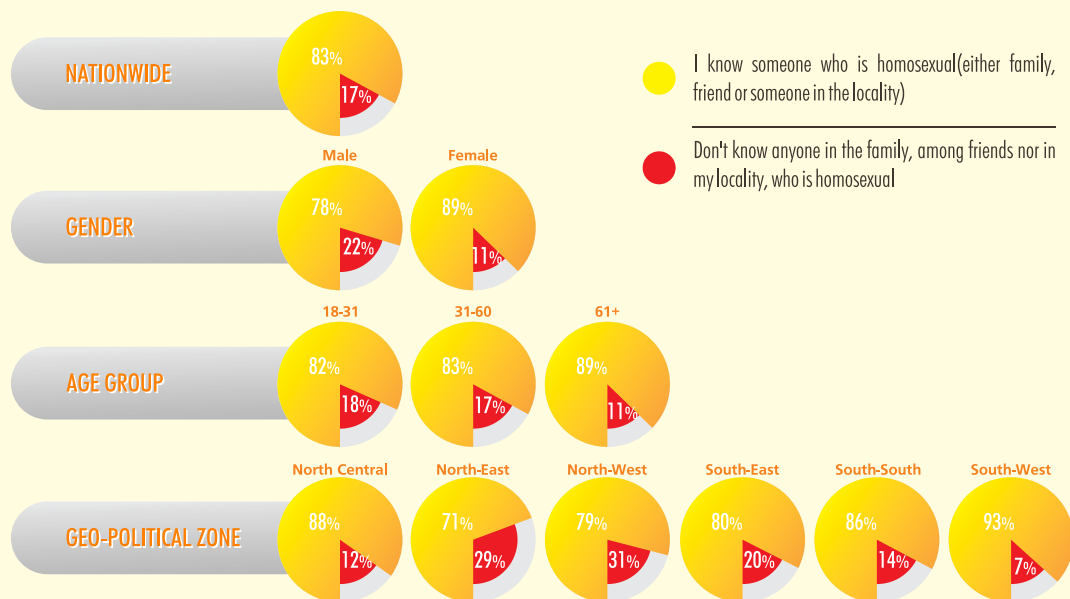


Figure 13: Awareness of homosexuals in Nigeria
Source: NOIPolls - January 2017

Which of these statements apply to you, in your awareness of homosexuals in Nigeria?

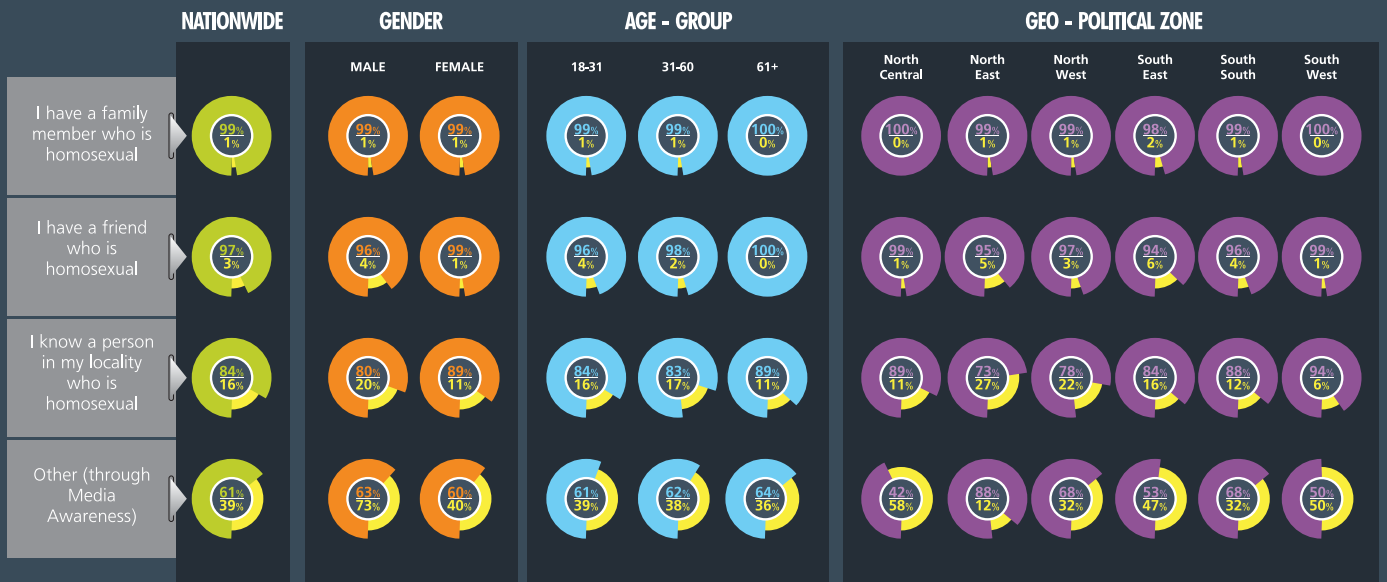


Figure 14: Mode of awareness in relation to someone who is homosexual
Source: NOIPolls - January 2017



Do you have/know a person in your locality who is homosexual? (January, 2017)

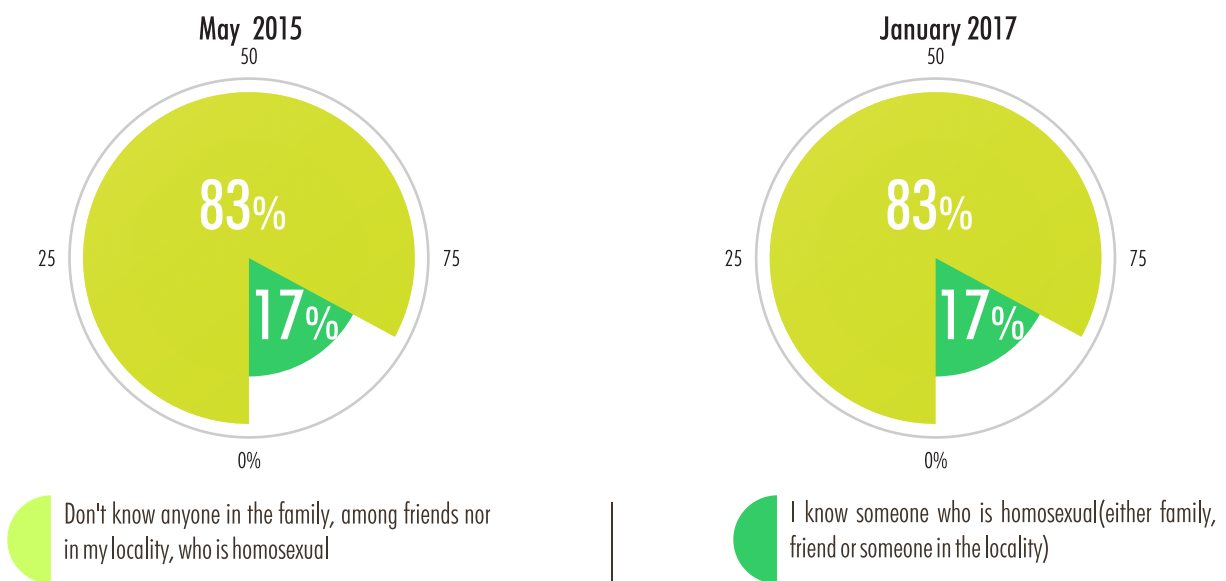


Figure 15: Trended mode of awareness in relation to someone who is homosexual
Source: NOIPolls - January 2017

In your opinion, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?



Figure 16: Perceptions of Nigerians towards homosexuality
Source: NOIPolls - January 2017

END NOTE

<https://allpsych.com/journal/homosexuality/>

In calculating knowing someone who is homosexual and “total awareness of homosexual in Nigeria”, respondents that are aware through **at least one** of the following sources: **'family members', 'friends', 'or vicinity'** were considered to be aware of homosexuals in Nigeria. Responses, whether singular or multiple are counted just once in these categories; responses represent total number of respondents answering positively not total number of positive responses.

