

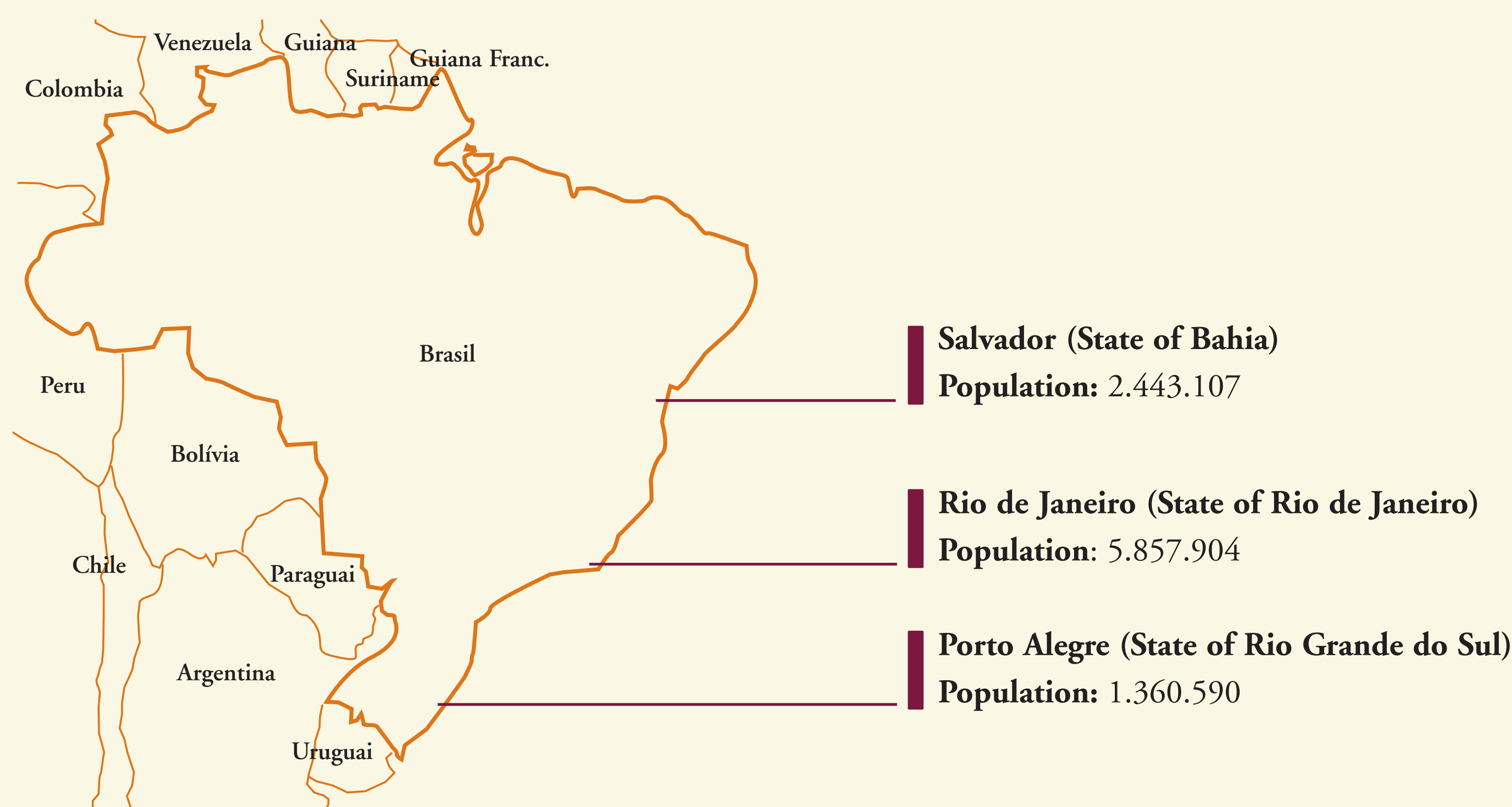


THE GRAVAD RESEARCH

The **GRAVAD Research** ("Teenage Pregnancy: a multicentered study of sexuality, reproduction and youth in Brazil") focuses on the paths and processes of socialization of young people, their choice of partners, their characteristics and the unfolding of a sexual trajectory. It is composed by a qualitative module and a populational survey (**GRAVAD SURVEY**, 2002), conducted among young people from 18 to 24 years old (n=4634) in three Brazilian cities (Porto Alegre, Rio de Janeiro and Salvador), located in different cultural regions of the country.

THE SITES IN BRAZIL WHERE THE RESEARCH WAS DONE

Brazil Population: 169.799.170 **Human Development Index (HDI):** 0.775
Minimum Salary/2005: R\$ 300,00 (US\$ 125) **GNP (Gross National Product) per capita:** US\$ 3.330



DEFINING THE HOMO-BISEXUAL GROUP

■ Homo-bisexual trajectory is attributed to those respondents who declared that they had engaged at least once in sexual practices with people of the same sex, representing 3,3% of the sample. On the one hand, the number of individuals involved is quite small (n=134), just as happens in surveys on the general population; on the other hand, it enables to appreciate homo-bisexuality without the biases arising from the snow-ball technique. Even though few in number, the cases found have a great representative value since they are dispersed among the population rather than being connected to one another. (TABLE 1)

TABLE 1: VARIABLES SELECTED FOR COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP OF HOMO-BISEXUALS BY GENDER

DECLARATION OF SEXUAL EXPERIENCE	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL
HAD SEX AND/OR INTIMATE CARESSES IN LOVE AFFAIR WITH SAME SEX PERSON	0.33	1.13	0.83
HAD SEX AND/OR INTIMATE CARESSES IN CASUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SAME SEX PERSON	1.15	0.47	0.64
HAD SEXUAL EXPERIENCE WITH SAME SEX PERSON IN LIFE	3.11	2.76	2.94
SEXUAL RELATIONS WERE			
Only with same sex person	0.38	0.72	0.56
With the same and opposite sex	2.68	2.46	2.57

Base: all respondents (18-24 years) sexually initiated, Porto Alegre (RS), Rio de Janeiro (RJ), Salvador (BA), Brazil. Source: Gravad Survey, 2002.

■ The number of young with a sexual trajectory exclusively with the same sex is quite insignificant: only 10 individuals (5 males and 5 females). The trajectories are more bisexual than homosexual, considering that we focus on the set of practices one person has had and not in a matter of sexual identity. These individuals are classified as persons *with a homo-bisexual trajectory, as opposed to those with an exclusively heterosexual trajectory*.

SOCIOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT OF THE HOMO-BISEXUAL YOUNG PEOPLE

■ With regard to schooling, less than half of the young interviewed currently attend school, 69% of the women with a homo-bisexual trajectory being outside the educational system. The interviewee's level of schooling does not present differences among the young according to sexual carrier.

■ Upon analysis of the distribution of the individuals according to the mother's educational level, the distinctions are striking: the male homo-bisexuals and heterosexuals present similar proportions; while women differ among themselves, and it is the homo-bisexuals ones who have mothers with the highest educational level.

■ In relation to per capita family income level the homo-bisexuals men are poorer than heterosexuals ones.

■ With regard to skin colour (the Brazilian way of race classification), *brown* and *indigenous* are significantly higher (the response "indigenous" refer to the definition of coloured in Brazil among the young respondents).

■ There is an outstanding preference for Afro-Brazilian religions (*Umbanda, Candomblé or Batuque*), confirming the traditional acceptance by such cults of homosexuality, in comparison to religions with a stricter morality, such as Catholicism and Pentecostalism, but that do not means different rates religious frequency than heterosexual individuals have.

HETEROGENEITY OF SEXUAL CAREERS

■ There is a diversity of trajectories, **a)** young people who were sexually initiated with partners of the same sex and later maintained just heterosexual relations, or **b)** individuals who alternate their sexual bonding with same sex partners or opposite sex partners. There is little exclusively homosexual experience at the moment of the sexual initiation.

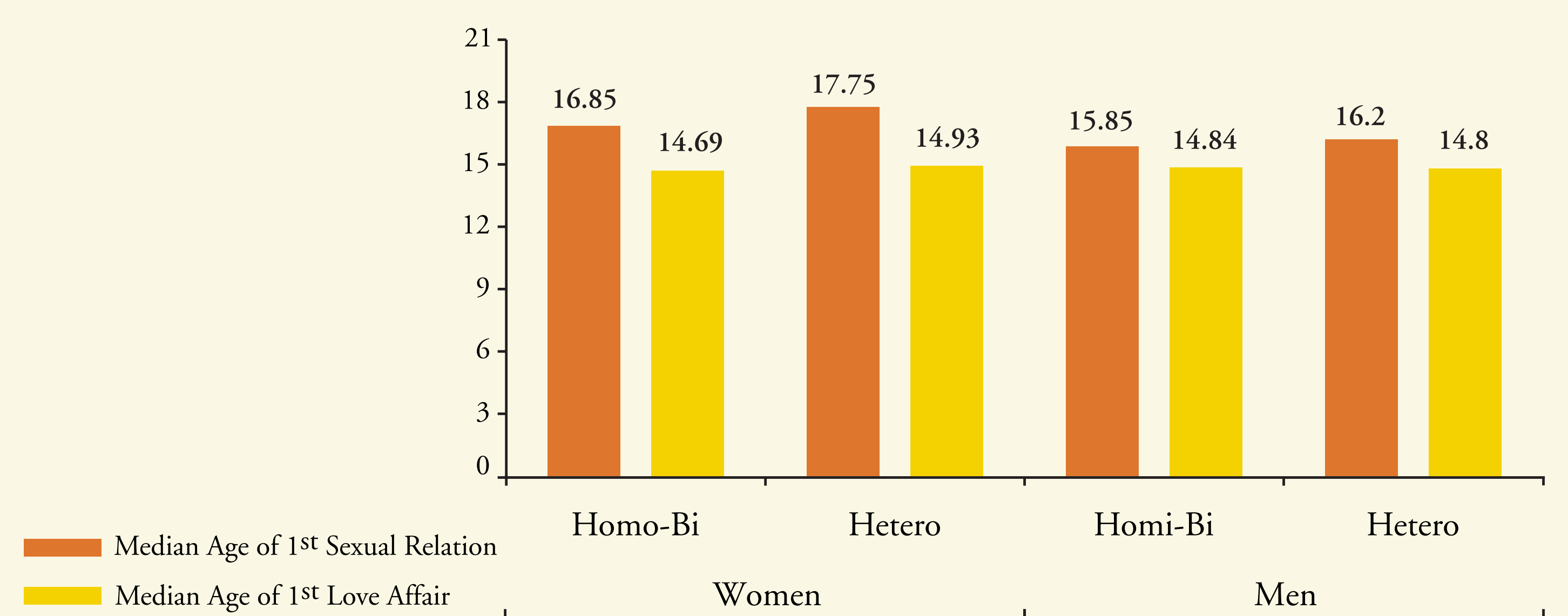
■ The scale of sexual experience with a same sex partner in the first relation increases from 21% to 33% in the latest sexual relation.

FIRST LOVE AFFAIR AND FIRST SEXUAL RELATION

■ The first love affair presents differential characteristics according to gender, but not to sexual trajectory: they are sexualized relationships for almost half those men interviewed, homo-bisexuals or heterosexuals. Their declarations about intimate caresses or sex are similar, reaching 46% for both groups. The differences appear in the female declarations that register "only kisses" as the main form of interaction, while in the male responses prevail declarations of intimate caresses or sex. The first love affair occurs at similar ages, as much for men as for women, whether homo-bisexuals or heterosexuals (GRAPH 1).

■ Male homo-bisexuals initiate a little bit earlier than heterosexual men, homo-bisexual women present a more accentuated difference comparing to female heterosexual women (GRAPH 1).

GRAPH 1: CALENDAR OF SEXUAL INITIATION AND FIRST LOVE AFFAIR ACCORDING TO TRAJECTORY AND GENDER



Base: all respondents (18-24 years) sexually initiated, Porto Alegre (RS), Rio de Janeiro (RJ), Salvador (BA), Brazil. Source: Gravad Survey, 2002.

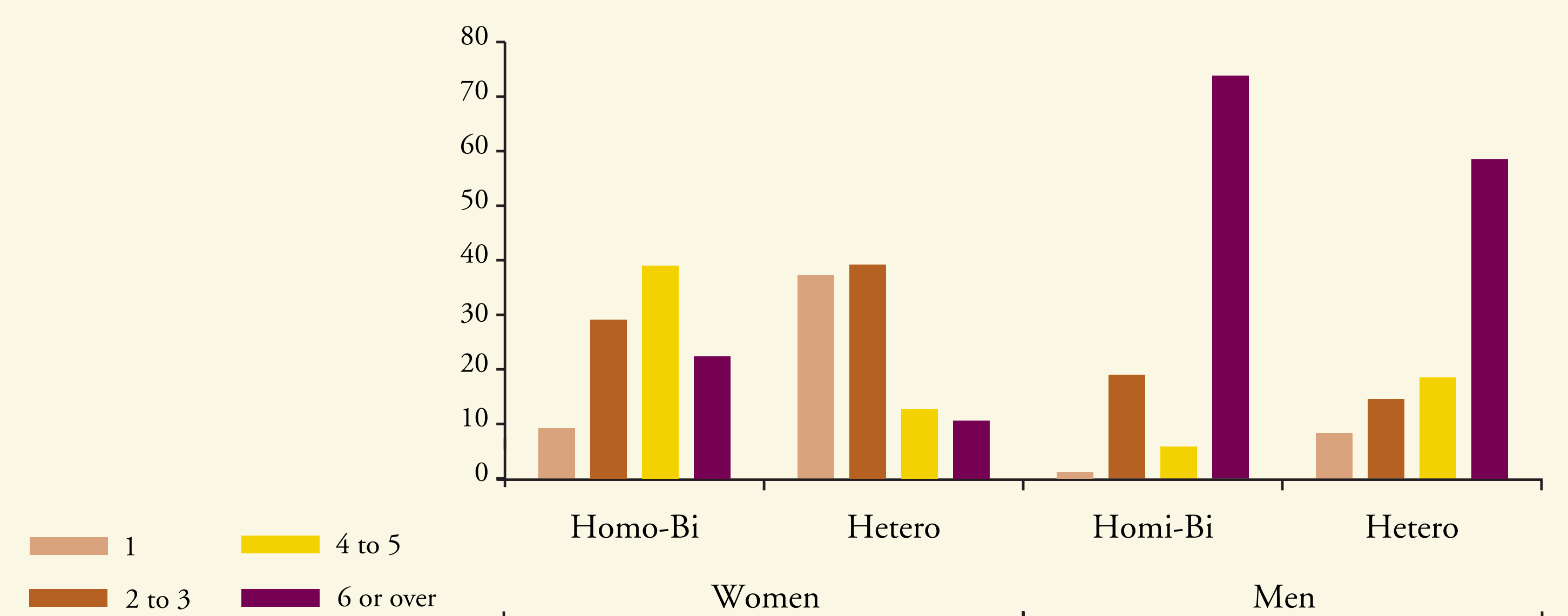
WHAT MOTIVATES FIRST SEXUAL RELATION?

■ Sexual trajectory combined to gender make difference in the declarations of what motivates individuals to engage in first sexual intercourse. The homo-bi young women, whose life styles diverge from the established norms for their gender, allow themselves to enunciate **sexual desire** as the motive for entering in sex life with a partner. This is the same reason declared by heterosexual men and heterosexual women cite **love**. For men, more than women, the main reason is the "wish to lose virginity early".

NUMBER OF SEXUAL PARTNERS

■ A virile gender pattern is shared by heterosexuals, homo-bisexuals men: they declare a greater number of sexual partners than women. Female homo-bisexuals show a rupture with their gender expectations of female pudor regarding the number of partners. Female homo-bisexuals declared three partners or over in a proportion three times more than the number of declarations by the heterosexual women (GRAPH 2).

GRAPH 2: NUMBER OF SEXUAL PARTNERS ACCORDING TO SEXUAL TRAJECTORY AND SEX

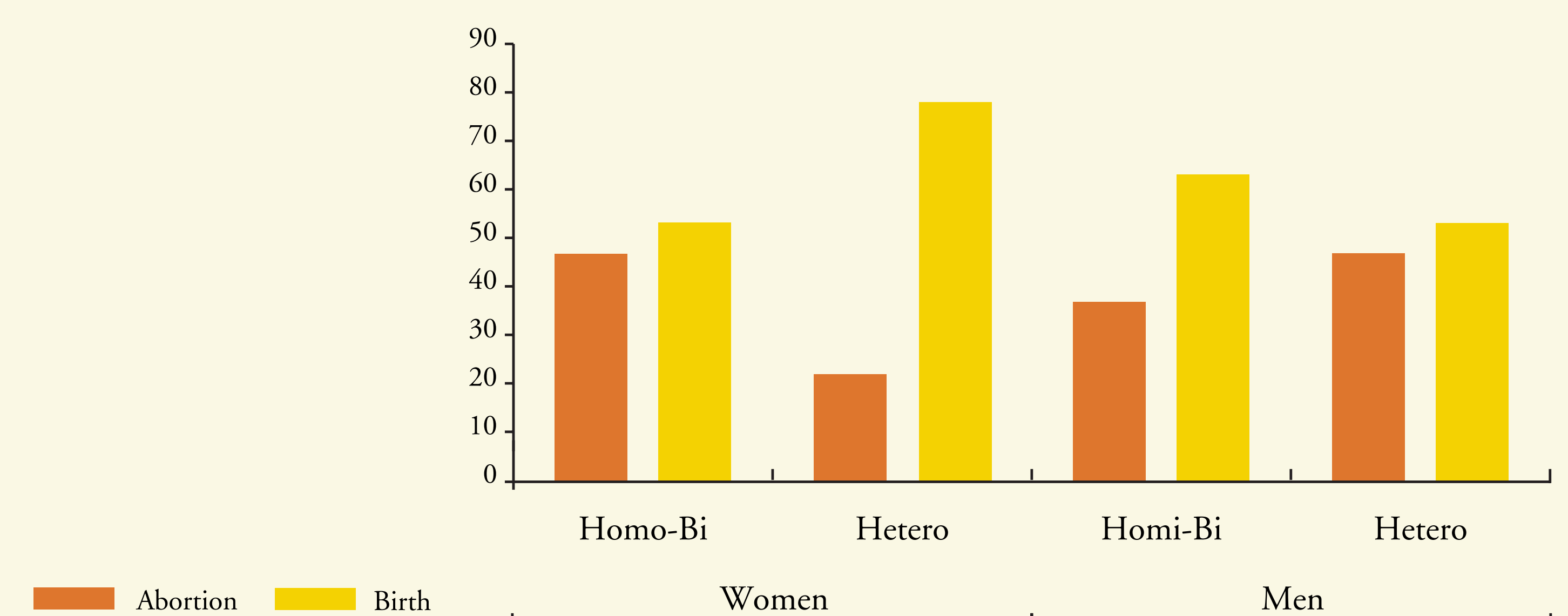


Base: all respondents (18-24 years) sexually initiated, Porto Alegre (RS), Rio de Janeiro (RJ), Salvador (BA), Brazil. Source: Gravad Survey, 2002.

PREGNANCY, BIRTH AND ABORTION

■ The episode of the first pregnancy in the trajectory of the young aged 20 or over follows the same pattern among homo-bisexuals and heterosexuals: in approximately 70% of cases, the pregnancy occurred under 20. The outcome of this event is quite different: for over half the young female homo-bisexuals, the first pregnancy resulted in abortion, while for three quarters of the heterosexuals it resulted in birth (GRAPH 3).

GRAPH 3: DECLARATION ON PREGNANCY EPISODE AND ITS OUTCOME BY YOUNG AGED 20 - 24: ACCORDING TO SEXUAL TRAJECTORY



Base: all respondents (20-24 years) sexually initiated and that declared at least one pregnancy episode, Porto Alegre (RS), Rio de Janeiro (RJ), Salvador (BA), Brazil. Source: Gravad Survey, 2002.

COERCIVE SEXUAL RELATIONS

■ Young people with a homo-bisexual trajectory declare more than the other ones having been forced to have sexual relations. This proportion is even more acute when gender is taken into consideration, showing greater vulnerability for female homo-bisexuals. Their declarations of forced sex represent a figure that is twice those of the heterosexuals (37.5% vs. 15.8%). A similar situation occurs among male homo-bisexuals and heterosexuals, whose proportions, albeit lower than those presented for the female population, correspond to 26% and 11%, respectively.

CONCLUSION

■ Homo-bisexuality is a suitable form of description for the biographical trajectories of young people, quite diversified until that moment of their life cycle. There is no way of anticipating whether such paths will establish a heterosexual or homosexual pattern.

■ Analysis of sexuality must be always entangle with gender. However, the articulation between sexuality and gender does not always take place in the same manner. In general, we observe that gender tends to prevail over sexuality, but in some cases the sexual trajectory that diverges from the dominant norms may produce specific effects on the links between gender and sexuality.

■ The profile of the female homo-bisexuals tends to be more differentiated than that of the heterosexuals. The men present, despite sexual trajectory, more convergences.

■ In the case of women, the choice of partner from both sexes signifies that the sexual trajectory shifts them farther away from the gender pattern consensually accepted for their sex. The reverse occurs with young homo-bisexual men. The social imperatives of masculinity make them converge with many of the behavioral patterns of the male heterosexuals.

■ In summary, we argue that the expectations constructed for a gender have the capacity of producing similarities accentuated in distinct sexual trajectories.

