

SEX, DRUGS, AND ROCK 'N' ROLL

RESULTS SUMMARY 2023

In 2023, we conducted the annual Sex, Drugs, and Rock 'n' Roll survey. 794 young people aged 15–29 years completed the online survey. We asked about their **sexual behaviours**, knowledge of **sexually transmissible infections (STIs)**, **pornography use**, perceptions of **long COVID**, and **alcohol and other drug use**.

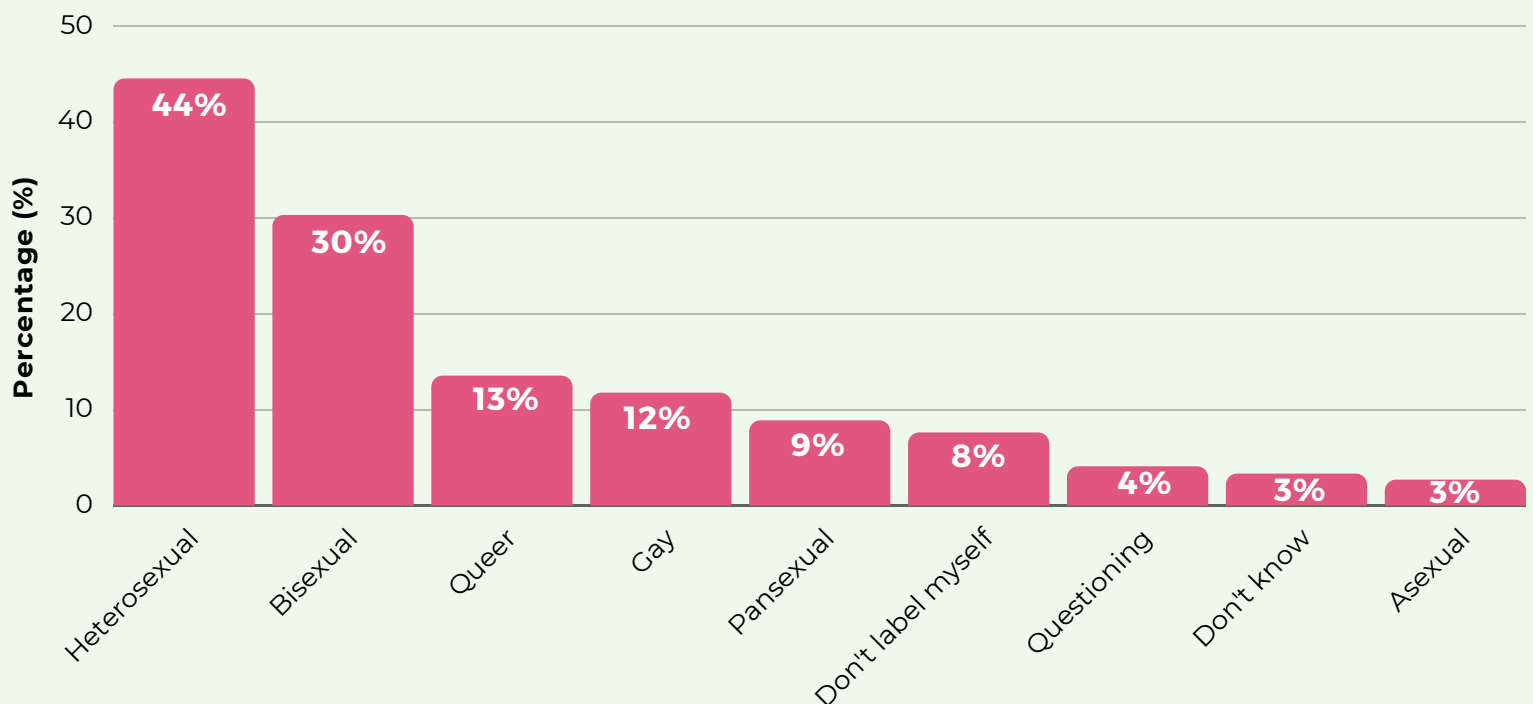
Demographics

- The average age was **23 years**
- **87%** were born in Australia
- **69%** were currently studying at high school, university, or TAFE
- **58%** lived with their parent/s

Gender Identity

- **55%** woman
- **34%** man
- **13%** non-binary

Sexual Identity



Note: Participants could select multiple options for gender and sexual identity

Sexual Behaviours

82% ever had oral sex

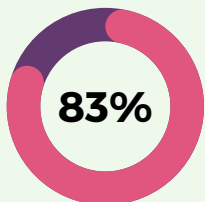
73% ever had vaginal intercourse

35% ever had anal intercourse

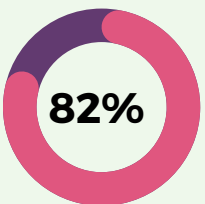
Of the 566 people who reported penetrative vaginal or anal sex in the past 12 months...

- **90%** had a regular partner (boyfriend, girlfriend, other partner)
- **38%** had a casual partner (one-night stand, friends with benefits)
- **34%** had a new partner in the past 3 months
- **57%** ever had an STI test
- **42%** used a condom the last time they had vaginal sex (n=558)

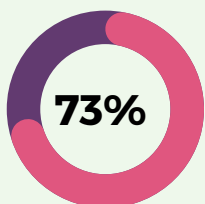
Knowledge of STIs



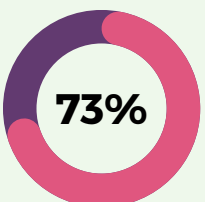
knew that if left untreated, chlamydia can last for years



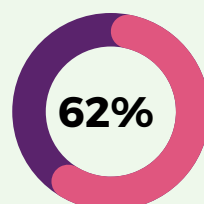
knew that people infected with STIs do not always have symptoms



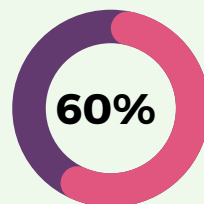
knew that taking the pill when young does not reduce fertility



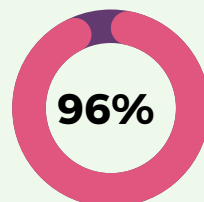
knew that gonorrhea, syphilis, and chlamydia can all be treated with antibiotics



knew that chlamydia can make women infertile



knew that chlamydia can be diagnosed by a urine test



The oral contraceptive pill cannot prevent both pregnancy and STIs

Participants were asked 7 questions about STIs. The average score was



5/7

Pornography



We asked participants...

What features would make you willing to pay for porn?

35%

More ethical conditions
for performers

29%

Consensual &
respectful content

20%

To support industry
and creators

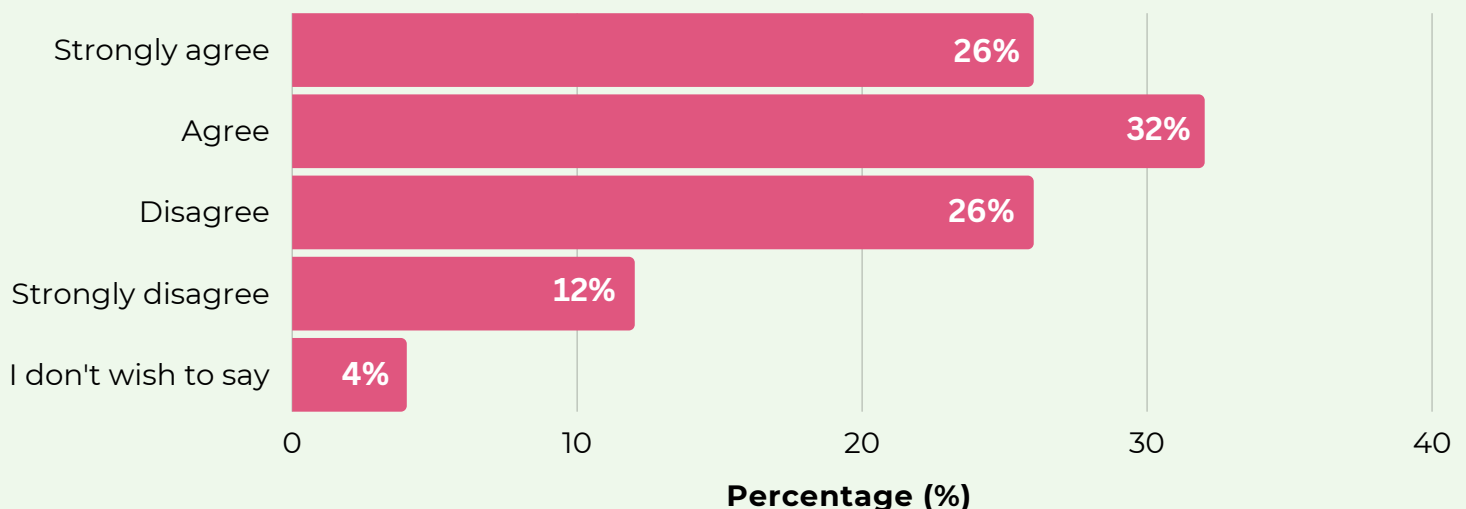
20%

Better quality

20%

LGBTQIA+ friendly

Should everyone have to verify their age before viewing porn?



Long COVID

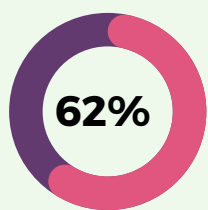
We defined as
symptoms for >4 weeks
following infection

- **79%** reported ever having a short-term COVID-19 infection
- **11%** of participants reported ever having long COVID
- **6%** had a current long COVID infection

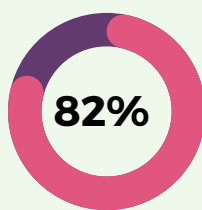
- **Almost half (49%)** of participants had family or friends who had experienced long COVID
- **15%** needed to support family or friends in managing their infection



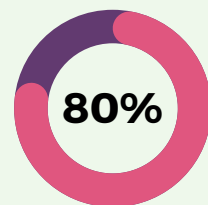
Impacts reported among those with a current long COVID infection (45 participants)



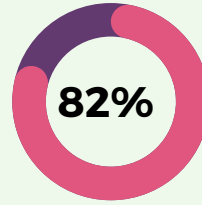
Cut down the amount of time spent on work or other activities



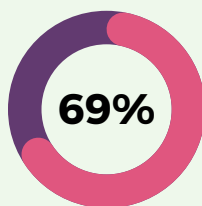
Had difficulty performing work or other activities



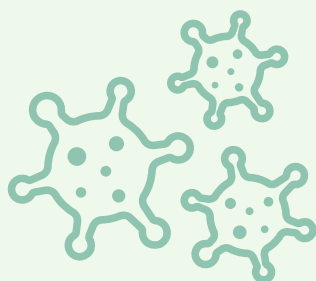
Accomplished less than they would have liked



Couldn't exercise as much as before



Were limited in the kind of work or other activities



Alcohol & Other Drug Use

86% drank alcohol in the past year

50% had ever used an e-cigarette

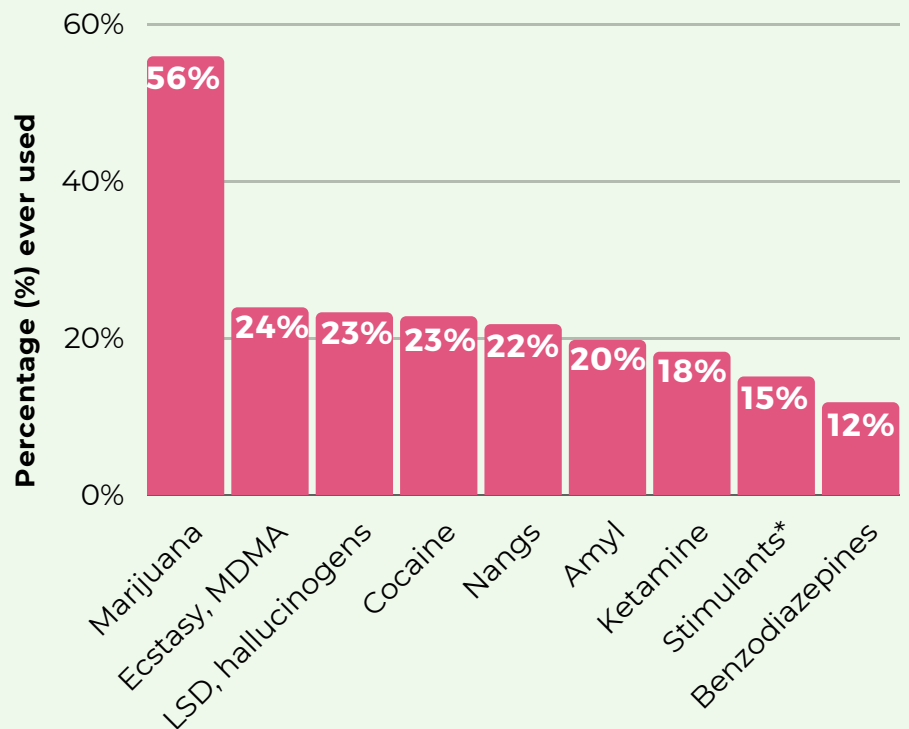
10% were current smokers

16 yrs

the average age participants reported drinking alcohol for the first time

Illicit Drugs

- **61%** had ever used illicit or non-prescribed drug
- Of these participants, **52%** had done so in the last month



Note: Participants could select multiple options
*non prescribed pharmaceuticals

The study team would like to thank the young people who took part in this survey.

If you have any questions about the study or the results, please email:

Ana Orozco, ana.orozco@burnet.edu.au

If you would like to talk with anyone about concerns or distress that have arisen from these results, please access the services below:



Check our mood-boosting playlist from participants' favourite songs

lifeline.org.au
beyondblue.org.au/
headspace.org.au/

