



Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll

Results Summary 2019



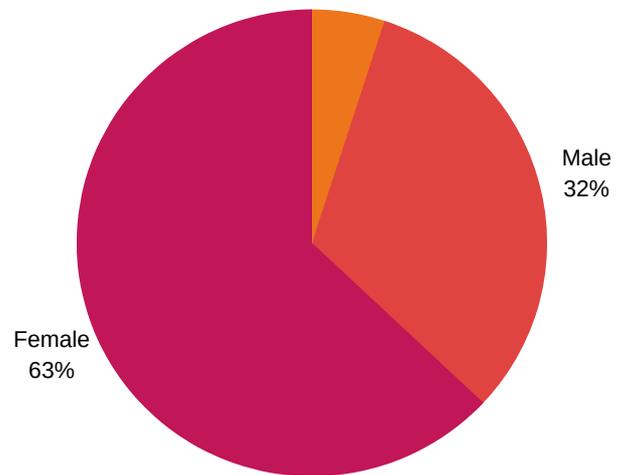
In 2019 we conducted the annual online Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll survey with young people aged 15-29 years. We asked about their sexual behaviors, knowledge of sexually transmissible infections (STIs), alcohol and other drug use, mental health and pornography use. A total of 1007 young people completed the survey.

Demographics

- 86% were born in Australia
- The average age was 22 years
- 68% were currently studying at high school, university or TAFE
- 54% lived with their parent/s

Gender Identity

Gender Diverse Including; Non-Binary, Trans-Male, Trans-Female
5%

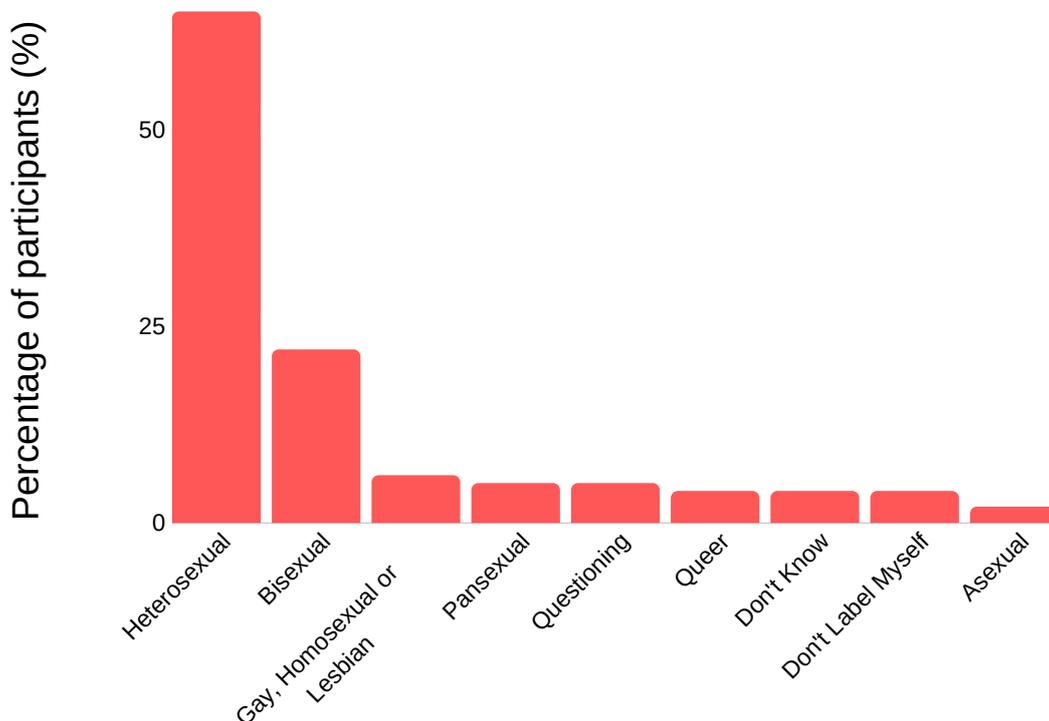


Current Sexual Identity

- Participants reported a range of sexual identities with heterosexual identity the most common (67%)

75

Sexual Identities



Note: Participants could select more than one sexual identity so percentage does not equal to 100%

Sexual Behaviours

- 76% reported they had ever had oral sex
- 68% reported that they had ever had vaginal intercourse
- 33% reported they had ever had anal intercourse

Of those who reported penetrative vaginal or anal sex in the past 12 months (n=646)...

- 89% reported a regular partner in the past 12 months (e.g. boyfriend, girlfriend, other partner)
- 61% reported that they had ever had an STI test
- 40% reported a casual partner in the past 12 months (e.g. one-night stand, friends with benefits)
- 32% reported a new partner in the past 3 months

Knowledge of STIs

84% knew that people infected with STIs do not always have symptoms

84% knew that left untreated, chlamydia can last for years

84% knew that in Victoria, it is illegal to forward sexts without permission

55% knew that chlamydia can be diagnosed by a urine test

74% knew that taking the pill, IUD or implant for a long time does not reduce fertility

65% knew that gonorrhoea, syphilis and chlamydia can all be treated with antibiotics

47% knew that pap smears cannot be used to diagnose the main STIs

63% knew that chlamydia can make women infertile

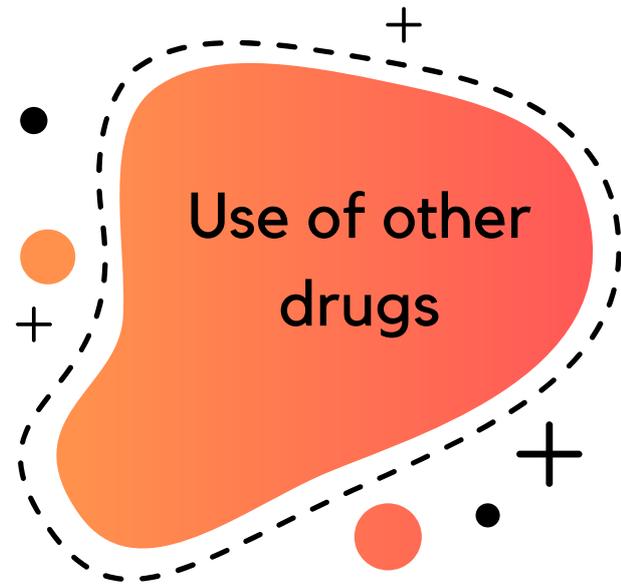
On average, participants scored 6/8



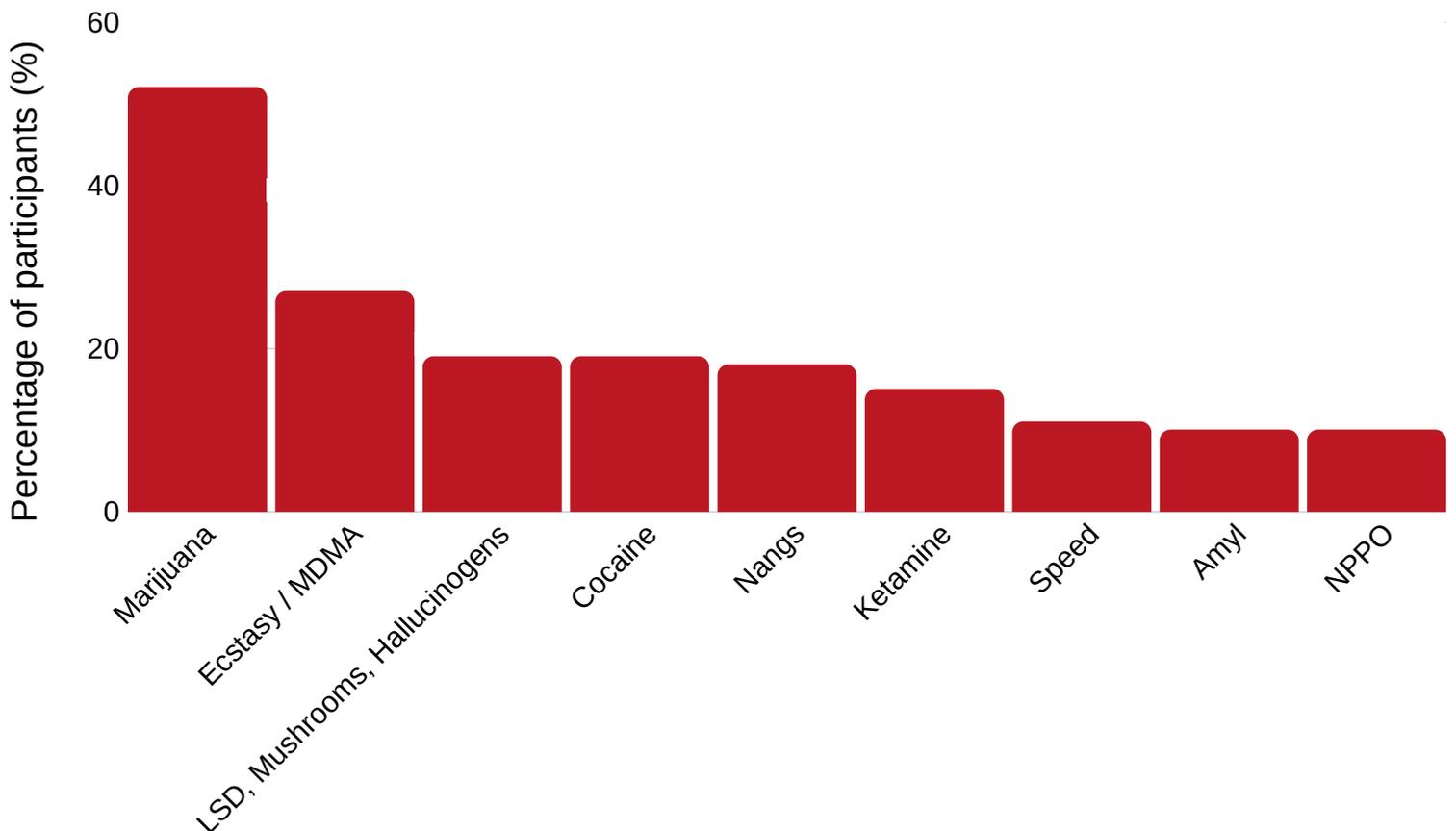


- 87% reported drinking alcohol in the past 12 months
- 50% reported drinking alcohol for the first time when they were aged 16 years or younger
- Negative things young people experienced from drinking in the past 12 months included; saying or doing embarrassing things (71%), had a hangover the morning after drinking (69%), felt very sick to the stomach or thrown up (59%), had less energy or felt tired (58%) and done impulsive things they later regretted (40%)

- 57% reported that they had ever used illegal drugs; the most common was marijuana (52%)
- Of participants who had ever used illegal drugs (n=572), 44% had used in the past month
- 26% had ever used electronic cigarettes; of these people most had only tried them once or twice (76%)
- 12% reported that they were current smokers



Common drugs ever used by participants



Note: NPPO: Non-prescription pharmaceutical opioids (e.g. oxycodone, morphine)

Pornography

We asked young people about their viewing habits and things they wish they had learnt about pornography if they could go back in time.

"The people do not look like the average person. It is okay to have rolls of fat and pubic hair."

"For me, porn became a part of my education as a queer person, nobody teaches you that."

"That it's not a real representation of how actual sex works. "

- 91% of participants had ever viewed porn intentionally; on average, this occurred for the first time when participants were aged 14 years
- Males were significantly more likely to view porn daily or almost daily than females (38% vs. 3%)

Contact Information

The study researchers would like to thank the young people who participated in this survey. The full results of the study are currently being prepared for publication in scientific journals and presentation at national and international conferences. If you have any questions about the study or the results, please email Caitlin Douglass via caitlin.douglass@burnet.edu.au.

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



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