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## Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll results summary 2017

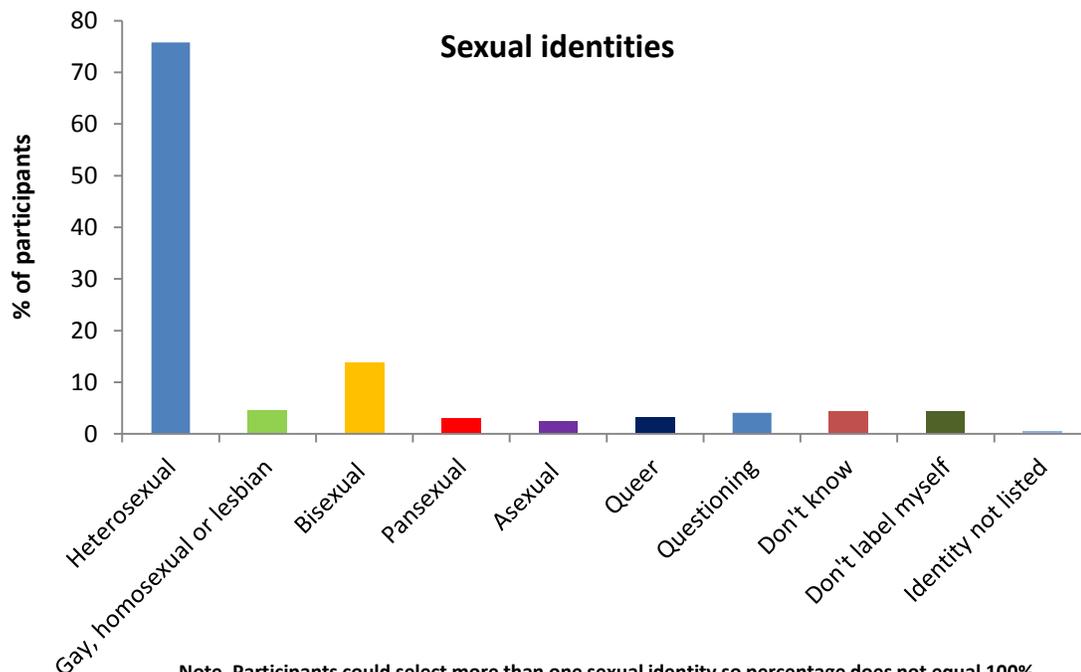
In 2017 we conducted the annual online *Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll* survey with young people aged 15-29 years. We asked about their sexual behaviors, knowledge of sexually transmissible infections (STIs), alcohol and other drug use, mental health, pornography use and experiences of sexual harassment. A total of 1272 young people completed the survey.

### Demographics

- Gender identity: 70% female, 28% male and 2% gender diverse including non-binary, trans-male, and trans-female
- 88% were born in Australia
- The average age was 22 years
- 74% were currently studying at high school, university or TAFE
- 92% lived in a major city
- 56% lived with their parent/s

### Current sexual identity

- The majority of participants identified as heterosexual (75%)



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

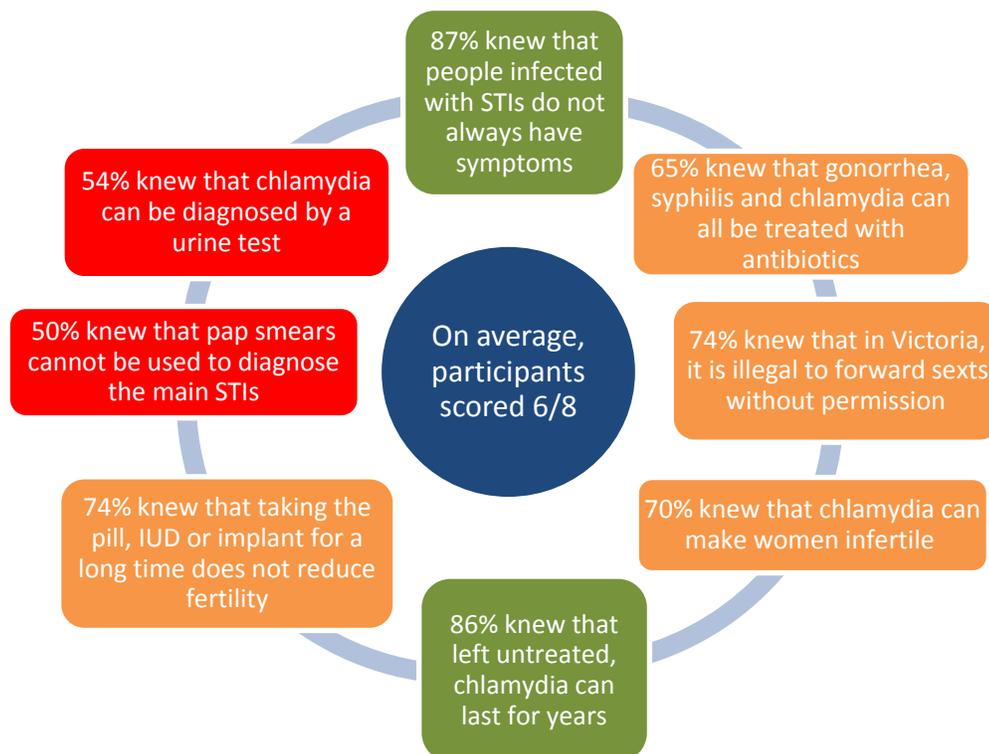
## Sexual health

- 75% reported that they had ever had vaginal intercourse
- 30% reported they had ever had anal intercourse
- 79% reported they had ever given oral sex
- 80% reported they had ever received oral sex

### Of those who reported penetrative vaginal or anal sex in their lifetime (n=973):

- 75% reported a regular partner in the past 12 months (e.g. boyfriend, girlfriend, other partner)
- 39% reported a casual partner in the past 12 months (e.g. one night stand, friends with benefit)
- 31% reported a new partner in the past 3 months
- 48% reported using condoms at last vaginal sex; 50% used the pill
- 52% reported that they had ever had an STI test

## Knowledge of STIs



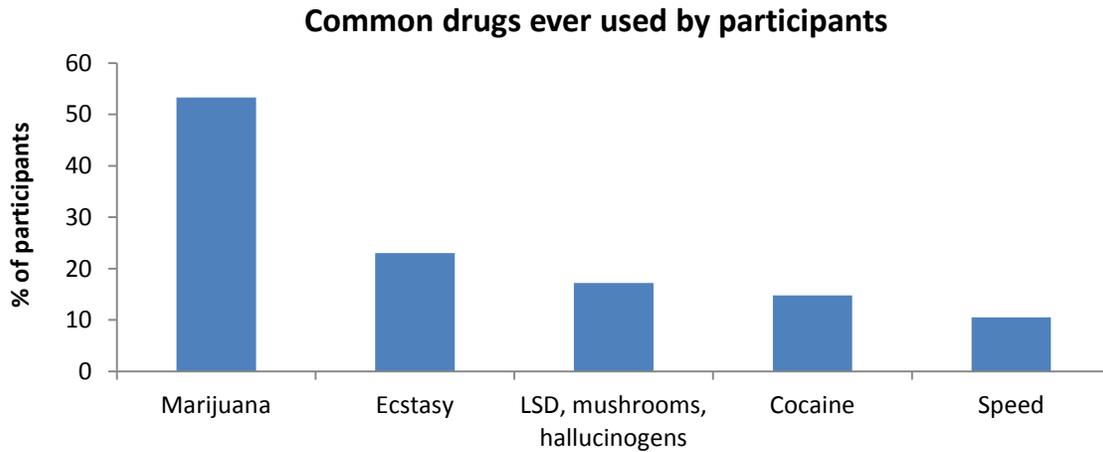
## Alcohol use

- 50% reported drinking alcohol for the first time when they were aged 16 years or younger
- 91% reported drinking alcohol in the past 12 months
- 36% had stopped or reduced their drinking in the past year; common reasons included weight loss, fitness and avoiding hangovers the next day



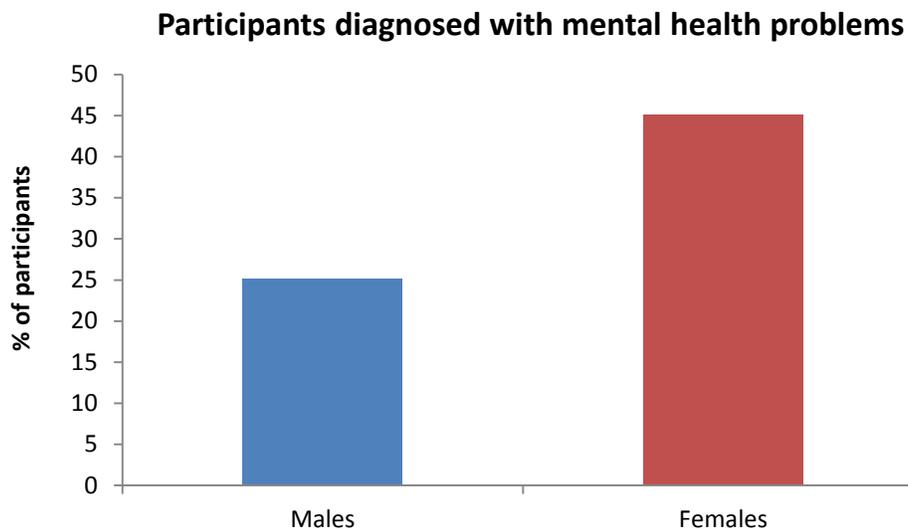
## Use of other drugs

- 13% reported that they were current smokers
- 57% reported that they had ever used illegal drugs
- Of participants who had ever used drugs (n=722), 37% had used in the past month



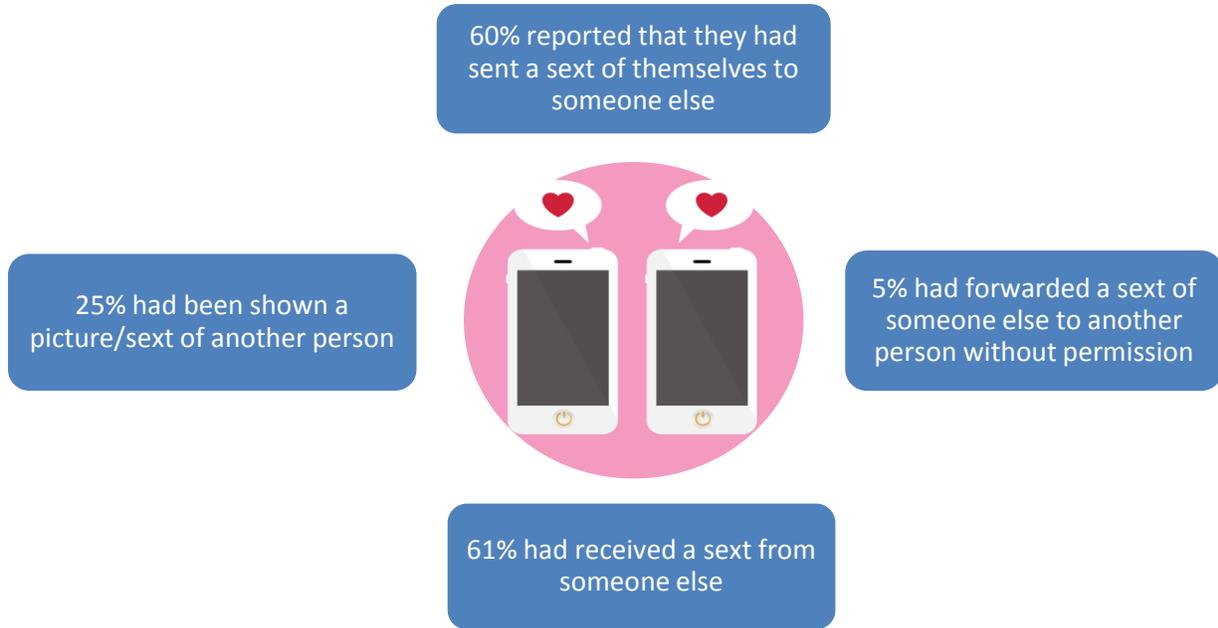
## Mental health

- 40% of participants had ever been diagnosed with a mental health problem; this was higher in females (45%) than males (25%)
- The most common mental health problems diagnosed included anxiety (31%), depressive disorders (26%), and eating disorders (7%)



## Sexting

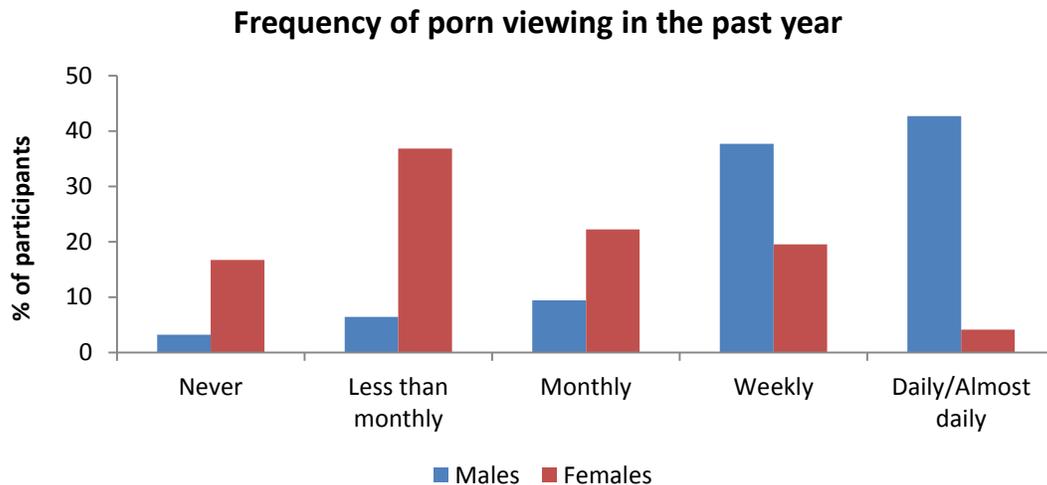
We asked young people about sexually explicit pictures (sexting) via platforms such as mobile phones and social media



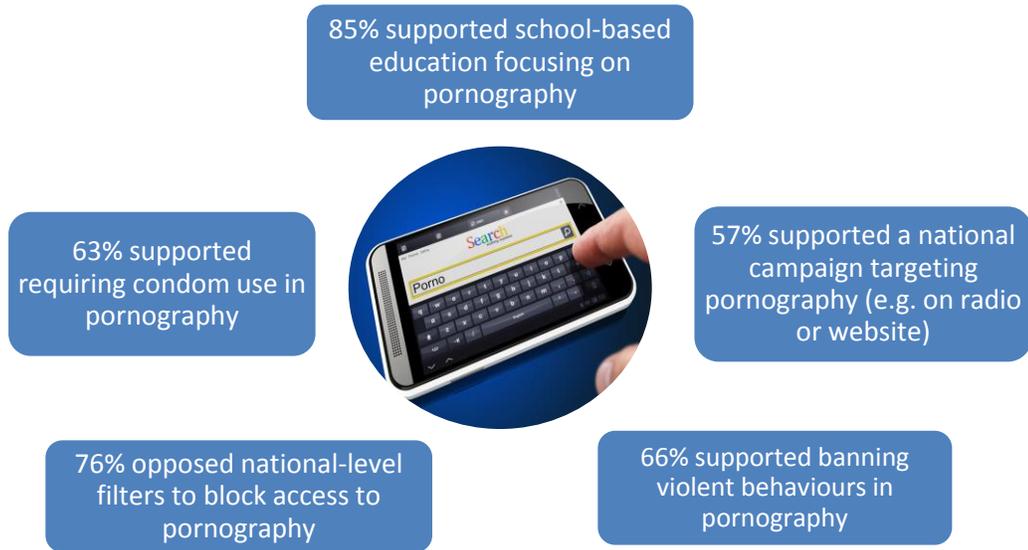
## Pornography

We asked young people about their viewing of pornography and whether they supported pornography-related policies

- 90% of participants had ever viewed porn intentionally; on average, this occurred for the first time when participants were aged 15 years
- Males were significantly more likely to view porn daily than females (43% vs. 4%)



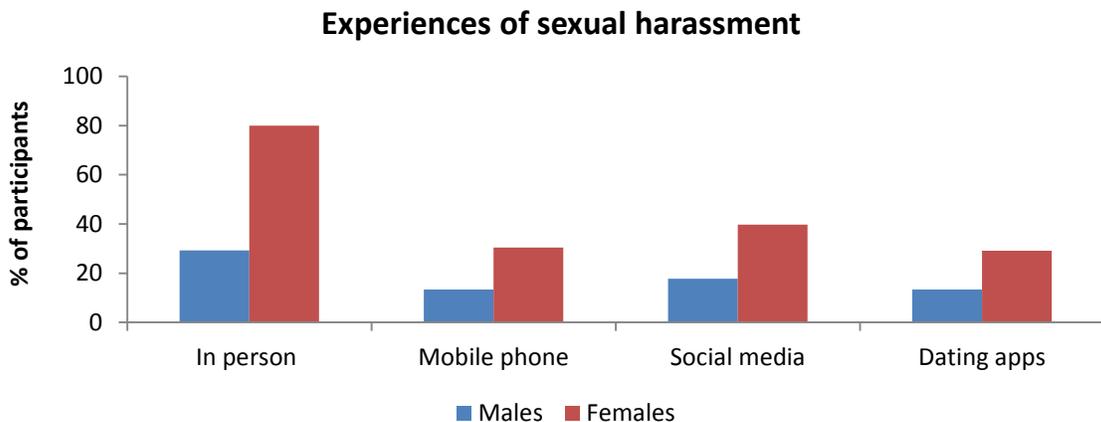
## Support for pornography-related policies



## Sexual harassment

We asked participants if they had been sexually harassed (including cat-calling, comments on appearance, getting 'hit on', touching/groping, staring/ogling, being sent sexual pictures or texts, stalking or any other form of unwanted attention) in the past year via a range of platforms

- Females were more likely than males to report sexual harassment in the past year



The study researchers would like to thank all those who participated for their help. We gratefully acknowledge the support received from the Goldschlager Foundation. 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 its results, please email Caitlin Douglass via [caitlin.douglass@burnet.edu.au](mailto:caitlin.douglass@burnet.edu.au).