



## International student survey 2018

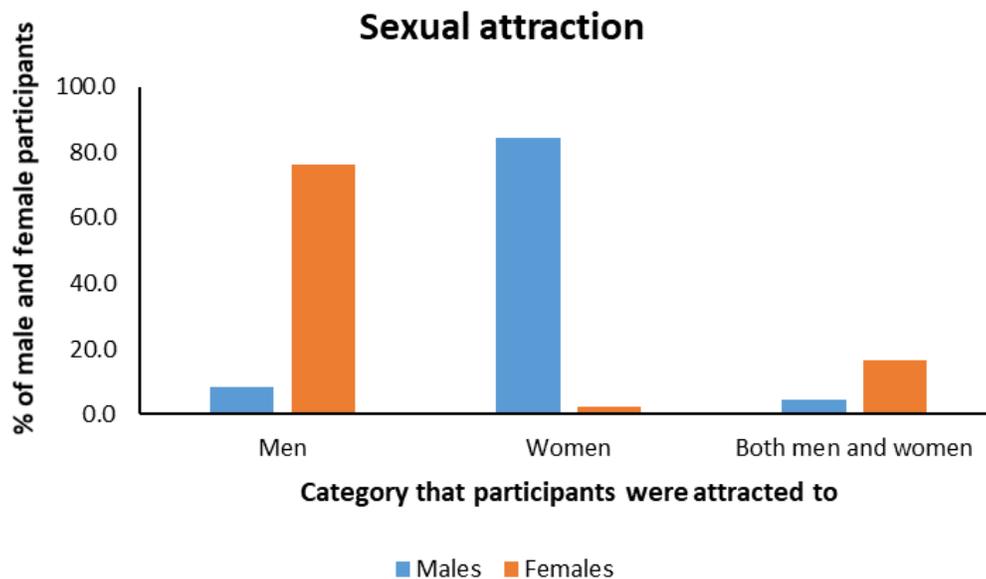
In 2018, the University of Melbourne and the Burnet Institute conducted a survey of international students living in Australia aged 16 years and over. The survey was available in Chinese and participants were recruited through WeChat. We asked participants about their socio-demographic characteristics, sexual behaviors, knowledge of sexually transmissible infections (STIs), sexual education and pornography use. A total of 543 students completed the survey.

### Demographics

- Gender identity: 69% female and 31% male
- 96% were from cities in mainland China
- The average age was 22 years
- 47% of participants had been in Australia for 12 months or less
- Most participants lived with housemates in a rental property (42%)

### Sexual attraction

- The majority of female participants said they were sexually attracted to men (76%)
- Most male participants were sexually attracted to women (84%)
- 13% of participants reported being sexually attracted to both men and women



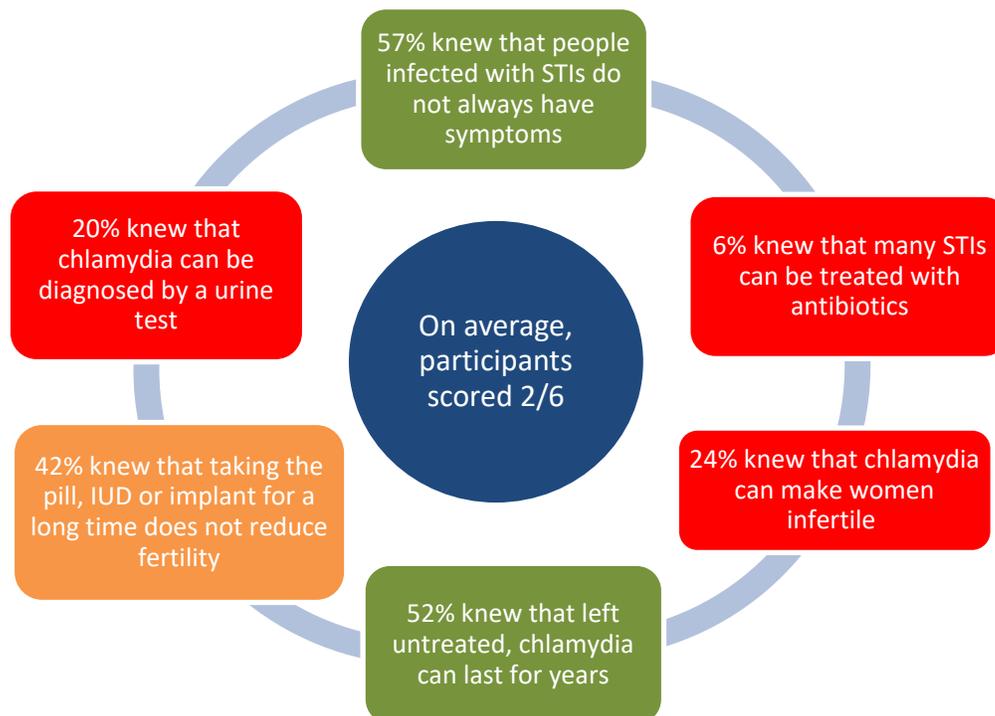
## Sexual behaviours

- 24% of participants had a romantic or sexual partner in Australia (n=168); of these people, 70% said their partner was of the same nationality/ethnicity as them
- 40% reported that they had ever had vaginal intercourse
- 7% reported they had ever had anal intercourse
- 46% reported they had ever had oral sex

### Of those who reported ever having penetrative vaginal or anal intercourse (n=279):

- 82% reported having a regular partner in the past 12 months (e.g. boyfriend, girlfriend, other partner)
- 24% reported a casual partner in the past 12 months (e.g. one-night stand)
- 86% reported that they had not had an STI test while in Australia

## Knowledge of STIs



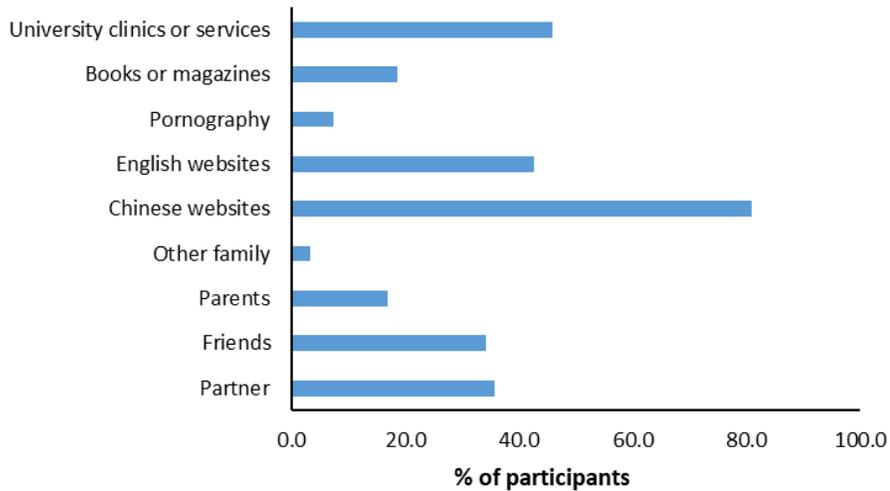
## Sex education

- 21% reported they had received sex education in Australia
- 29% had sex education outside of Australia
- 16% received sex education both inside and outside of Australia
- 32% had never received sex education

## Sources of information

We asked participants where they would seek information about sex and relationships.

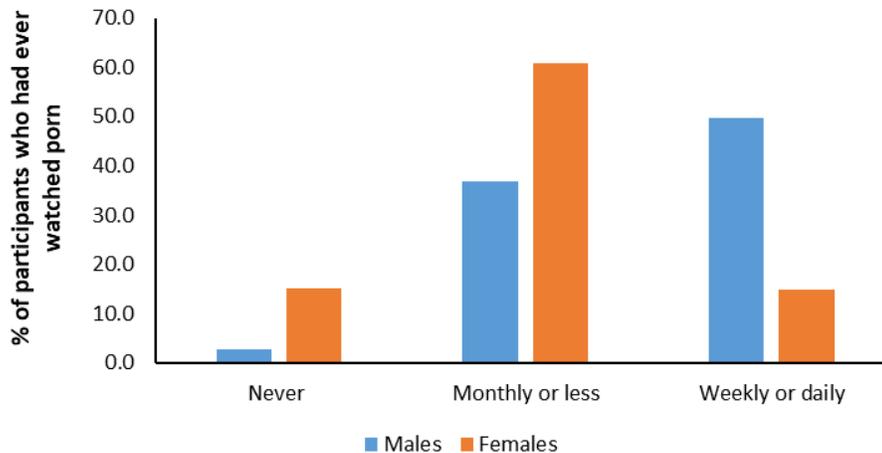
### Sources of sex and relationship information



## Pornography

- 71% of participants reported they had seen online pornography
- On average, participants first saw porn intentionally when they were aged 15 years
- Males were significantly more likely to watch porn weekly or more compared to females

### Frequency of viewing porn in the last 12 months



## Summary

While this report provides only preliminary and descriptive results, it is apparent that a substantial proportion of the sample was sexually active, however, sexual health knowledge was poor and STI testing was uncommon.

The data collected from this survey will be further analysed to better understand the behaviours and knowledge gaps of Chinese international students as a way to provide more useful information that can be used for designing targeted health promotion.

## Acknowledgements

This project was a collaboration between the University of Melbourne (UoM) and the Burnet Institute (BI). The survey was designed by A/Prof Fran Martin (UoM), Dr Megan Lim (BI) and Ms Carol El-Hayek (BI) and programmed by Ms Caitlin Douglass (BI) and by Dr Can Qin (UoM), who also translated the survey. Preliminary analysis for this report was conducted by Ms Caitlin Douglass and Dr Can Qin. This project was partly funded via A/Prof Fran Martin's ARC Fellowship (ARC funding ref: ARC FT140100222) with in-kind support from the BI. We also acknowledge the time and contribution of the many students who participated in the survey.