

**WOMEN IN CONTACT WITH THE  
SYDNEY GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY:**

**REPORT OF THE SYDNEY WOMEN AND  
SEXUAL HEALTH (SWASH) SURVEY  
2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016**

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This report is based on the 2016 round of the Sydney Women and Sexual Health (SWASH) survey, which was run by Julie Mooney-Somers (Sydney Health Ethics, University of Sydney) and Rachel Deacon (Discipline of Addiction Medicine, Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney; and Drug & Alcohol Services, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District). During the 2016 survey, Nicolas Parkhill was the CEO at ACON.

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ACON (formerly the AIDS Council of NSW) is NSW's leading health promotion organisation specialising in HIV prevention, care and support, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) health.

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# Executive Summary

The Sydney Women and Sexual Health (SWASH) survey is a comprehensive survey of important health issues relevant to lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women including sexual health and wellbeing, violence, mental health, tobacco use, illicit drug use, alcohol consumption, and cancer screening behaviours.

SWASH is run by a collaboration of ACON and researchers at the University of Sydney (since 2009; prior to this researchers were based at the University of New South Wales). It was first carried out in 1996, initiated by workers from two ACON projects, Women Partners of Gay and Bisexual Men and the Gay and Lesbian Injecting Drug Use Project, who were faced with a lack of empirical evidence on which to base their intervention work. The survey is regularly revised to reflect the needs of the community and knowledge deficits identified through research literature. Where possible, questions are used from established national surveys such as the Australian Health Survey, National Drug Strategy Household Survey, Australian Study of Health and Relationships, and Australian Longitudinal Survey of Women's Health.

Australian epidemiological data on sexual health, mental health, experiences of abuse and violence, preventive health practices, and behaviours such as illicit drug use, alcohol use and smoking remains inconsistent. The inclusion of sexuality questions in large epidemiological surveys remains patchy, and data is often reported only by sexuality and not by sexuality and gender. In this context, SWASH provides a unique and important source of health-related information on Australian LBQ women.

This report presents results from surveys conducted at the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day and other community events and venues during the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras seasons in 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016. It highlights several areas of particular concern - many of which have persisted over time - where mainstream preventive health interventions that are inclusive of this group or targeted to LBQ women, are needed.

## **2016 Key Findings:**

**Sample:** 623 participants returned valid questionnaires; 64% at the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day, 30% at other lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer (LGBTQ) social venues and events and 7% through community groups.

**Demographics:** The age range was 16-74 years (median age 33 years). 71% had post-school education, 58% were employed full-time and 16% were students. 16% had dependent children and 15% were planning children in the coming two years. 51% lived in the city or Inner West of Sydney.

**Sexual identity:** 62% thought of themselves as lesbian/dyke/homosexual/gay, 16% as bisexual, and 15% as queer; 6% chose the 'other' category. Being in a regular sexual relationship with a woman was the most common relationship status (57%).

**Community engagement:** 52% felt very or mostly connected to the LGBTQ community in their everyday life.

**Sexual relations with women:** 90% had ever had sex with a woman; 73% had done so in the preceding six months. Among women who had had sex with a woman in the preceding six months, 75% reported one sexual partner.

**Sexual relations with men:** 64% had ever had sex with a man; 19% had done so in the preceding six months. 27% had ever had sex with a man they knew to be gay or bisexual.

**Sex work:** Fifty four women (9%) reported they had ever done sex work.

**Pap smears:** 19% had never had a Pap smear, and a further 12% had their last Pap smear more than three years ago. Women who had never had sex with a man were 2.5 times as likely to be overdue for screening than women who did ever have sex with a man.

**STI screening:** 35% of women had never had an STI test, despite the vast majority being sexually active.

**Tobacco:** 30% were tobacco smokers, a substantially higher proportion than the general community; smoking was most common in 16-24 year olds (42%).

**Alcohol:** 81% reported drinking alcohol; 48% consumed more than the NHMRC guidelines recommend for reducing the lifetime risk of alcohol-related disease or injury. 19% of women drinkers, drank 5 or more drinks weekly or more often in the past 6 months.

**Illicit drugs:** In the preceding six months, 45% had used one or more illicit drugs including cannabis (29%), ecstasy (19%) and cocaine (16%). Rates of drug use were much higher than in the general community.

**Drug and alcohol help-seeking behaviour:** 11% reported to have ever sought help for a drug and/or alcohol issue. Help was most commonly sought from a counsellor/psychologist.

**General health:** While most rated their general health as good/very good/excellent, 17% said it was poor or fair. 45% were overweight (22%) or obese (23%).

**Mental health:** 14% reported high psychological distress (35% of 16-24 year olds). Over the past five years, 65% had accessed psychological services, 47% had received a mental health diagnosis.

**Chronic illness and disability:** One in five respondents reported having a disability or chronic illness, 27% of older women (45+).

**Experiences of abuse and violence:** 32% had ever experienced intimate partner violence by a female partner. 40% had experienced some kind of anti-LGBTQ behaviour in the past year.

# Overview

A lack of systematic, nuanced research on the health and wellbeing of Australian lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women has been a significant barrier to understanding, recognising and addressing their health needs. At worst, LBQ women's health needs have been largely ignored. At best, they have been considered to be synonymous with women's health.<sup>1</sup> While sex between women is rarely a health risk in itself, a range of social, psychological and economic factors mean that this minority group has worse health outcomes than their heterosexual peers. Stigma, family and community rejection and discrimination can impact on health and wellbeing, the delivery of health services, and women's access to services.

The first round of the Sydney Women and Sexual Health (SWASH) survey was carried out in 1996; it has been run every two years since, making this its eleventh iteration. It was initiated by workers from two ACON projects, Women Partners of Gay and Bisexual Men, and the Gay and Lesbian Injecting Drug Use Project, who were faced with a lack of empirical evidence on which to base their intervention work. Concern had been voiced about the possibility of HIV spreading from gay men to the 'general community' so the first SWASH survey focused on sexual and injection-related HIV transmission risks. The survey was addressed to all women in social contact with gay and lesbian communities in Sydney. In the following years, the focus shifted from sex with men to lesbian sexual practice, and questions on hepatitis A, B and C were added; later questions were added about knowledge of sexually transmissible infections (STIs), Pap smears and testing for STIs, tobacco smoking, and illicit drug use. More recently, questions about intimate partner violence, experiences of anti-LGBTQ behaviour, and self-report measures of physical health, mental health, alcohol consumption, and height and weight were added. In 2016, new questions were included on chronic illness and disability as well as on help-seeking behaviour in relation to intimate partner violence and drug and alcohol use.

The shift in focus since the survey's inception extended the reach of SWASH to a broader survey of the health of women in and around Sydney's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) communities. SWASH is now the longest running and only regular survey of LBQ women's health and wellbeing in Australia (and probably the world). This important and unique resource is a self-funded partnership between a community-based NGO and its university partners.

The inclusion of lesbian and bisexual women in the 2010 National Women's Health Policy<sup>2</sup> was a timely recognition of persuasive international and local evidence that some health problems may be more prevalent, risk factors may be different, and interventions may need to be tailored to the needs of this group. SWASH provides a much needed local evidence base to inform best practice in healthcare and prevention for chronic diseases, mental health and wellbeing, sexual and reproductive health and ageing.

This report presents results from the 2016 survey with 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014 data presented for comparison; the format follows previous survey iterations.<sup>3-6</sup> Slight changes in sampling and questions between iterations mean that differences between the years cannot be attributed solely to change over time. We make note of changes in questions and years when particular questions were not asked.



# Methods

## 3.1. Survey instrument

A two-page self-complete questionnaire was used for each iteration; some survey questions were included in all iterations, others appeared only once (see Appendices for copies of the questionnaires). In 2016, the questionnaire included items on demographics; sexual and gender identity; LGBTQ community connection; smoking, alcohol and drug use; sexual health; general health; chronic illness and disability; psychological wellbeing; experiences of anti-LBQ behaviour and intimate partner violence; parenthood intentions; preventive health behaviour; health-related help-seeking behaviour; and healthcare access and satisfaction.

## 3.2. Sampling and recruitment

SWASH is a repeated cross-sectional survey that takes place every two years in February during the Sydney Mardi Gras season. It employs a modified version of the Time-Location convenience sampling also used for the HIV behavioural surveillance undertaken by the Gay Community Periodic Survey.<sup>7</sup> This venue-based method is often employed for populations that cluster in locations. We drew on the knowledge of ACON health-promotion staff to identify venues and events likely to have a high concentration of LBQ women during each survey recruitment period. As in previous years, the primary recruitment site was the Mardi Gras Fair Day - a highly significant community family day with entertainment, stalls, and food attended by up to 80,000 people. Additional recruitment took place at other LBQ venues and at social events.

In 2016 data collectors at Fair Day were stopped by security from approaching women beyond the designated survey stall; as a result respondent numbers were almost half what they were in 2014. In 2014 some commercial venues were reluctant to allow recruitment, despite a long history of engagement with the SWASH survey. In 2010 we used targeted recruitment to over-sample older women and women living in the western suburbs. In 2008 recruitment occurred only at Fair Day. In 2006 recruiters at Fair Day wore caps with the slogan 'Secret lesbian business' which appeared to sample a lower number of bisexual and queer/other women. Between 1996 and 2006 clinics and needle and syringe programs were also recruitment sites.<sup>4</sup>

Questionnaires were offered to everyone identifying as a woman who was willing to respond. Because of practical difficulties, refusal rates were not calculated. Recruitment takes place in public spaces and entertainment venues, so women who wish to avoid completing the questionnaire can easily do so. Few women explicitly refused a verbal offer to contribute.

### 3.3. Analysis

Data were entered from the coded questionnaires and loaded into SPSS v24.0 software for analysis. Data were cleaned and checked for internal consistency and, where inconsistencies were found, checked against the questionnaires. Additional comments and answers to open-ended questions were transferred from the questionnaires. The analysis presented here is primarily descriptive, with cross-tabs and t-tests to confirm significant differences between subgroups; p values were calculated using Pearson's chi-square statistic or Fisher's exact test where appropriate (i.e. where the 'expected' number was very small).

The non-answer rate for some questions was high, especially those requiring writing text rather than ticking a box. We assume that many respondents simply left a question blank when it did not apply to them, rather than ticking the 'no' response. However, percentages have generally been calculated on the total sample, not on the question-specific response rate, which would have inflated the 'yes' percentages. Readers can take the 'yes' percentages as lower-bound estimates and judge for themselves whether to interpret the missing people as likely to be similar to the respondents or likely to mean 'no' or 'not applicable'. Exceptions to this are tables reporting summaries of questions where women could select more than one item, and tables reporting sub-samples.

## Findings

It is impossible to calculate a response rate for SWASH. Very few women declined the invitation to participate but it was easy for women in recruitment sites to avoid the survey recruiters. Reflecting the decision taken for the 2004 survey report,<sup>5</sup> responses of women who identified as heterosexual have not been included in this report. While women who identified as straight may still have had sex with women, most of these respondents did so only rarely (of the 84 heterosexual women who responded to the 2016 survey, 16 had ever had sex with a woman, only six in the last six months). Thus, this report focuses on lesbian, bisexual, queer and other non-heterosexual identifying (LBQ) women. Table 1 summarises the valid responses by recruitment venue. We asked respondents to indicate if they had completed the 2014 survey; 14% had. This compares to 13% in 2012 and 12% in 2010, suggesting a relatively consistent - although lower than we might expect - repeat participation rate.

**Table 1: Recruitment venues**

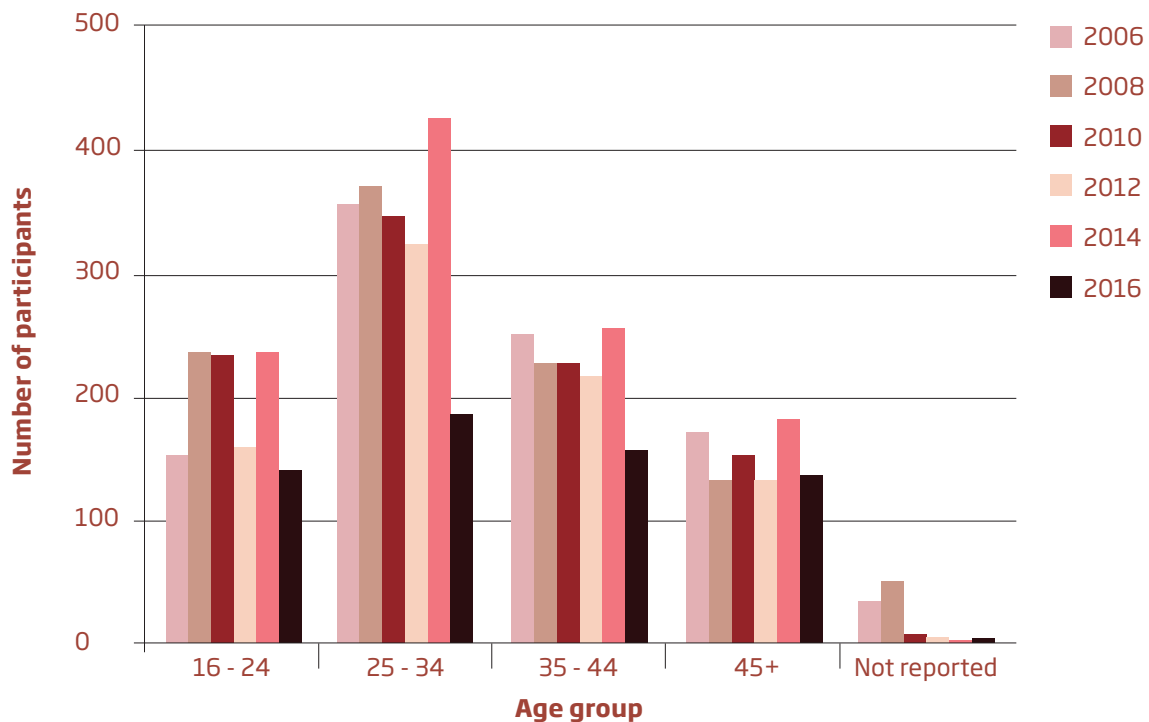
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2016</b>
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Fair Day	461 (47.9)	1013 (100)	689 (71.5)	437 (52.3)	767 (69.7)	397 (63.7)
Social venues/ events	286 (29.7)	-	216 (22.4)	398 (47.7)	333 (30.3)	184 (29.5)
Community group	204 (21.2)	-	59 (6.1)	-	-	42 (6.7)
Health Clinics	11 (1.1)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

## 4.1. Sample characteristics

### 4.1.1. Age

The age range was 16-74 years, with a median age of 33 (2006 range 16-68 years, median age 33; 2008 range 16-69 years, median age 31; 2010 range 17-81, median age 31; 2012 range 16-76, median age 32; 2014 range 16-66, median age 31). Figure 1 compares the proportion of respondents in 5-year age categories over the six surveys. The category with the largest number of respondents has consistently been the 25-34 years age group.

**Figure 1: Age distribution of sample**



### 4.1.2. Sexual identity and attraction

In 2016 we kept the response option 'queer' - added in 2010 - in the question 'Do you think of yourself primarily as: Lesbian/dyke/homosexual/gay, Bisexual, Heterosexual/straight, Other (please specify)?'. We did this to reflect the significant proportion of women in previous years who ticked 'other' and wrote 'queer'. To allow easy comparison we have collapsed 'queer' and 'other' in subsequent analyses. Across the six iterations of the survey reported here, there has been a significant drop in the proportion of women identifying as lesbian, from 86% to 62% ( $p < 0.001$ ; Table 2).

Some women resisted sexual identity categorisation, making comments such as ‘in a same sex relationship’, three said ‘not sure yet’ or ‘unsure’. The most common written responses in the ‘other’ category were ‘pansexual’, ‘fluid’ and ‘queer’ with several others stating ‘transgendered’. Tension between identity labels and practice was evident in a few replies, such as the woman who described herself as a ‘bent heterosexual’. Throughout this report, when women are referred to as lesbian, bisexual, etc., it is this self-description that is being used, whatever their reported sexual behaviour.

Exclusive attraction to women was not the majority experience (33%; Table 3), even among these highly community-attached women, the majority of whom (73%) had been sexually active with a woman in the preceding six months. As would be expected, lesbian-identified women were most likely to say they were attracted only or mostly to women (96%), followed by queer or other women (63%), and then bisexual women (35%). The decreasing trend in exclusive attraction to women seen in previous years (38% in 2006 to 29% in 2012) has plateaued in 2016 (33%).

The median age of lesbian women was 36 years, of bisexual women 28 years, and of queer and other women 30 years (Table 4). Age and sexual identity have been correlated in each SWASH survey since it began in 1996, with younger women more likely than older women to identify as bisexual, queer or other, and less likely to identify as lesbian (Figure 2).

**Table 2: Stated sexual identity**

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Lesbian/ homosexual	828 (86.1)	773 (76.3)	726 (75.3)	570 (68.3)	753 (68.5)	389 (62.4)
Bisexual	84 (8.7)	122 (12.0)	101 (10.5)	110 (13.2)	180 (16.4)	97 (15.6)
Queer <sup>1</sup>	-	-	91 (9.4)	103 (12.3)	95 (8.6)	95 (15.2)
Other	50 (5.2)	105 (10.4)	33 (3.4)	44 (5.3)	65 (5.9)	36 (5.8)
Not reported	0 (0.0)	13 (1.3)	13 (1.4)	8 (1.0)	7 (0.6)	6 (1.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>
(1) Option introduced in 2010						

**Table 3: Sexual attraction to males and females (“I have felt sexually attracted to”)**

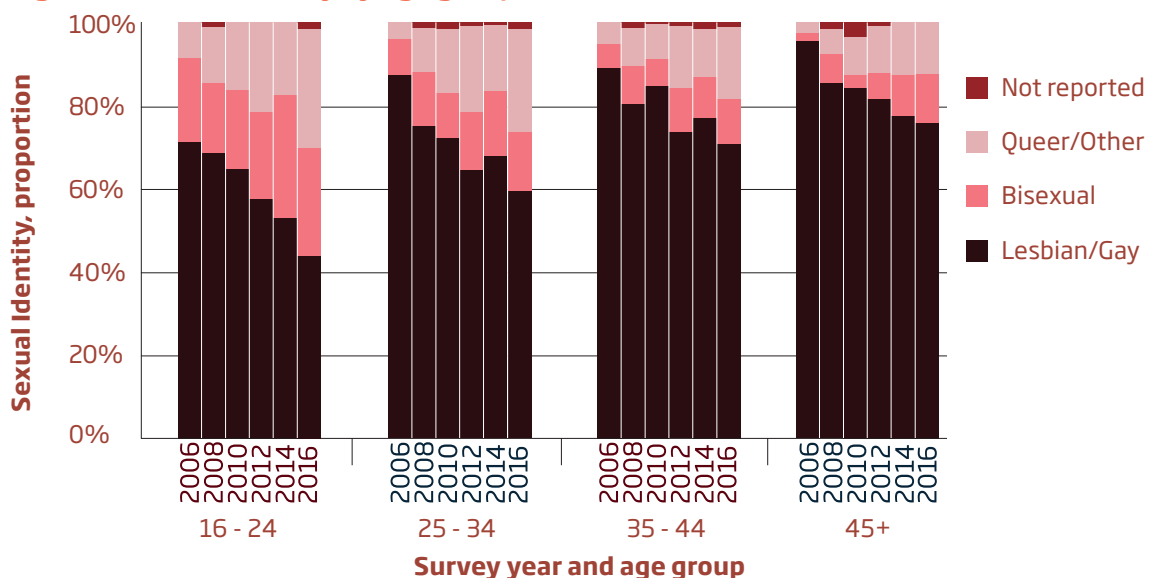
	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Only to females	367 (38.2)	399 (39.4)	343 (35.6)	238 (28.5)	372 (33.8)	207 (33.2)
More often to females	475 (49.4)	454 (44.8)	475 (49.3)	434 (52.0)	511 (46.5)	285 (45.7)
Equally often to both	71 (7.4)	99 (9.8)	102 (10.6)	100 (12.0)	131 (11.9)	89 (14.3)
More often to males	24 (2.5)	30 (3.0)	25 (2.6)	43 (5.2)	68 (6.2)	30 (4.8)
Only to males	1 (0.1)	3 (0.3)	4 (0.4)	7 (0.8)	6 (0.5)	3 (0.5)
To no one at all	5 (0.5)	5 (0.5)	3 (0.3)	3 (0.4)	5 (0.5)	5 (0.8)
No answer	19 (2.0)	23 (2.3)	12 (1.2)	10 (1.2)	7 (0.6)	4 (0.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

**Table 4: Mean and median age, by sexual identity**

	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer/ Other	Not reported
	Mean (median)	Mean (median)	Mean (median)	Mean (median)
<b>2016</b>	37 (36)	31 (28)	31 (30)	29 (28)
<b>2014</b>	35 (33.0)	30 (26.5)	32 (29.0)	37 (33.6)
<b>2012</b>	35 (34.0)	30 (29.0)	32 (30.0)	36 (35.0)
<b>2010</b>	34 (33.0)	28 (25.0)	31 (28.0)	40 (38.0)
<b>2008</b>	33 (32.0)	29 (27.5)	30 (28.0)	36 (34.0)
<b>2006</b>	35 (34.0)	29 (26.5)	32 (31.0)	<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Respondents who did not indicate a sexual identity were excluded from the dataset in 2006.

**Figure 2: Sexual identity by age group**



#### 4.1.3. Transgender respondents

In 2016, 41 respondents (7%) indicated that they were transgender (Table 5). The number of transgender respondents in the survey has increased since 2006, but overall remains low. For this reason, we have not conducted separate analyses for transgender respondents.

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2016</b>
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
No	925 (96.2)	970 (95.8)	925 (96.0)	791 (94.7)	1054 (95.8)	558 (89.6)
Yes	11 (1.1)	25 (2.5)	31 (3.2)	36 (4.3)	35 (3.2)	41 (6.6)
Prefer not to say	-	-	-	-	6 (0.5)	11 (1.8)
Not reported	26 (2.7)	18 (1.8)	8 (0.8)	8 (1.0)	5 (0.5)	13 (2.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

#### 4.1.4. Intersex respondents

Since 2014 we have asked respondents about their intersex status. Twelve (1.9%) indicated that they were intersex, double the proportion identifying as intersex in 2014. The proportion of (identifying) intersex people in the SWASH sample is low. For this reason, we have not conducted separate analyses.

#### 4.1.5. Children

In 2016, 16% of respondents said they had dependent children, a similar proportion to other years (Table 6). Some women who are biological mothers or co-parents may no longer have dependent children if the children have left home and are self-supporting; their status as parents is not reflected here. Ninety five (15%) said they were planning to have children in the next two years (Table 7). The majority of women (73%) considering children in the coming two years did not already have dependent children.

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2016</b>
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
No	814 (84.6)	892 (88.1)	816 (84.7)	717 (85.9)	929 (84.5)	510 (81.9)
Yes	137 (14.2)	119 (11.8)	139 (14.4)	106 (12.7)	152 (13.8)	102 (16.4)
Not reported	11 (1.1)	2 (0.2)	9 (0.9)	12 (1.4)	19 (1.7)	11 (1.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

**Table 7: Planning to have children in next two years**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2016</b>
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
No	699 (72.7)	676 (66.8)	677 (70.2)	568 (68.0)	879 (79.9)	518 (83.1)
Yes	100 (10.4)	156 (15.4)	129 (13.4)	106 (12.7)	194 (17.6)	95 (15.2)
Not sure	149 (15.5)	153 (15.1)	145 (15.0)	142 (17.0)	- <sup>1</sup>	-
Not reported	14 (1.5)	28 (2.8)	13 (1.4)	19 (2.3)	27 (2.5)	10 (1.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

(1) This option dropped in 2014

#### **4.1.6. Social attachment to the gay and lesbian community**

Since 2010, we have asked how connected respondents felt to LGBTQ community in their everyday life. Unsurprisingly for a sample that is generated through attendance at LGBTQ community events levels of connection were high, with 52% reporting they felt mostly or very connected in their everyday lives (Table 8). Of the 623 respondents, 98% said that at least a few of their friends were lesbian women, gay men or bisexual, transgender or queer people (Table 9).

In the preceding six months, 76% had attended at least one LGBTQ social group or venue (Table 10). Over the past five iterations, attendance at all categories of events has shown a downward trend: 2006 86%; 2008 93%; 2010 81%; 2012 85%; 2014 78%. The drop may indicate a change in socialising habits - LBQ women may be attending more mixed-mainstream venues - and/or opportunities to attend events and venues may have decreased. This presents challenges for health services wishing to engage with this group. Previous strategies for delivering health promotion often relied on women physically congregating at events or venues.



**Table 8: Connection to LGBTQ community, by sexual identity (2010, 2012, 2014, 2016)**

	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer/ Other	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
<b>2016</b>					
Very	84 (21.6)	13 (13.4)	43 (32.8)	1 (16.7)	141 (22.6)
Mostly	125 (32.1)	18 (18.6)	39 (29.8)	3 (50.0)	185 (29.7)
Somewhat	119 (30.6)	40 (41.2)	33 (25.2)	1 (16.7)	193 (31.0)
Rarely	48 (12.3)	16 (16.5)	12 (9.2)	1 (16.7)	77 (12.4)
Not at all	8 (2.1)	9 (9.3)	3 (2.3)	0 (0.0)	20 (3.2)
Not reported	5 (1.3)	1 (1.0)	1 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	7 (1.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>389 (100)</b>	<b>97 (100)</b>	<b>131 (100)</b>	<b>6 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>
<b>2014</b>					
Very	153 (20.0)	20 (11.1)	37 (23.1)	0 (0.0)	210 (19.1)
Mostly	224 (29.7)	47 (26.1)	46 (28.8)	1 (14.3)	318 (28.9)
Somewhat	240 (31.9)	62 (34.4)	56 (35.0)	4 (57.1)	362 (32.9)
Rarely	109 (14.5)	32 (17.8)	16 (10.0)	1 (14.3)	158 (14.4)
Not at all	23 (3.1)	17 (9.4)	4 (2.5)	1 (14.3)	45 (4.1)
Not reported	4 (0.5)	2 (1.1)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	7 (0.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>753 (100)</b>	<b>180 (100)</b>	<b>160 (100)</b>	<b>7 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>
<b>2012</b>					
Very	126 (22.1)	15 (13.6)	41 (27.9)	0 (0.0)	182 (21.8)
Mostly	182 (31.9)	29 (26.4)	60 (40.1)	1 (12.5)	272 (32.6)
Somewhat	183 (32.1)	35 (31.8)	36 (24.5)	1 (12.5)	255 (30.5)
Rarely	54 (9.5)	15 (13.6)	7 (4.8)	1 (12.5)	77 (9.2)
Not at all	20 (3.5)	13 (11.8)	3 (2.0)	2 (25.0)	38 (4.6)
Not reported	5 (0.9)	3 (2.7)	0 (0)	3 (37.5)	11 (1.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>570 (100)</b>	<b>110 (100)</b>	<b>147 (100)</b>	<b>8 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>
<b>2010</b>					
Very	147 (20.3)	9 (8.9)	34 (27.4)	3 (23.1)	193 (20.0)
Mostly	230 (31.7)	22 (21.8)	41 (33.1)	1 (7.7)	294 (30.5)
Somewhat	221 (30.4)	43 (42.6)	35 (28.2)	3 (23.1)	302 (31.3)
Rarely	79 (10.9)	16 (15.8)	4 (3.2)	1 (7.7)	100 (10.4)
Not at all	44 (6.1)	8 (7.9)	9 (7.3)	2 (15.4)	63 (6.5)
Not reported	5 (0.7)	3 (3.0)	1 (0.8)	3 (23.1)	12 (1.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>726 (100)</b>	<b>101 (100)</b>	<b>124 (100)</b>	<b>13 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>

**Table 9: Number of friends who are LGBTQ**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2016</b>
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
None	23 (2.4)	21 (2.5)	27 (2.4)	6 (1.0)
A few	127 (13.2)	118 (14.1)	169 (15.4)	85 (13.6)
Some	285 (29.6)	230 (27.5)	363 (33.0)	185 (29.7)
Most	471 (48.9)	399 (47.8)	490 (44.5)	321 (51.5)
All	38 (3.9)	26 (3.1)	25 (2.3)	19 (3.0)
Not reported	20 (2.1)	41 (4.9)	26 (2.4)	7 (1.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

**Table 10: Attendance at LGBTQ social venues or groups in the past 6 months**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2016</b>
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Lesbian/queer women's night/bar	689 (71.6)	773 (76.3)	614 (63.7)	553 (66.2)	640 (58.2)	289 (46.4)
Gay night/bar	584 (60.7)	659 (65.1)	496 (51.5)	451 (54.0)	537 (48.8)	234 (37.6)
LGBTQ <sup>(1)</sup> dance party	415 (43.1)	489 (48.3)	295 (30.6)	304 (36.4)	333 (30.3)	198 (31.8)
LGBTQ <sup>(1)</sup> group meeting	333(34.6)	244 (24.1)	205 (21.3)	222 (26.6)	244 (22.2)	171 (27.4)
LGBTQ <sup>(1)</sup> community event	-	563 (55.6)	403 (41.8)	423 (50.7)	462 (42.0)	303(48.6)
LGBTQ <sup>(1)</sup> sports group	-	129 (12.7)	133 (13.8)	151 (18.1)	184 (16.7)	83 (13.3)
<b>Any of the above</b>	<b>828 (86.1)</b>	<b>942 (93.0)</b>	<b>781 (81.0)</b>	<b>706 (84.6)</b>	<b>855 (77.7)</b>	<b>465 (75.6)</b>

Note: Summary table; adds up to more than 100% because respondents could be in more than one category.

(1) 2006 and 2008 wording was "gay and/or lesbian".

#### 4.1.7. Education, employment and income

The SWASH sample has always been well educated; the proportion of women who have post-school qualifications has increased gradually from 64% in 2006 to 71% in 2016; 20% had a postgraduate qualification (Table 11). For comparison, 54% of New South Wales women aged over 15 had post-school qualifications in 2011 (latest available ABS census data), with 7% having a postgraduate degree.<sup>9</sup>

Of those who answered the questions on employment, 58% were employed full-time and 16% were students, some of whom were also employed (Table 12). It is difficult to compare the employment status of the SWASH sample with Census data, as our sample is skewed towards younger and childless women. According to the latest available ABS census data (2011) 46% of all women in NSW were employed full-time.<sup>9</sup>

With 42% of respondents earning an annual before tax income of \$60,000 or more and the proportion dependent on state benefits low, this is a reasonably well-off group (Table 13). Being a sample with high proportions of younger and childless women, it is difficult to compare the income of the SWASH sample with other data. The average weekly earnings for all women in NSW in May 2016 were \$973.70 giving an annual before-tax income of \$50,632.40<sup>10</sup>

**Table 11: Education**

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Up to Year 10/ School Certificate	140 (14.6)	131 (12.9)	133 (13.8)	86 (10.3)	88 (8.0)	70 (11.2)
Year 12/Higher School Certificate	191 (19.9)	202 (19.9)	197 (20.4)	131 (15.7)	170 (15.5)	108 (17.3)
Tertiary diploma/ trade certificate	167 (17.4)	206 (20.3)	159 (16.5)	155 (18.6)	229 (20.8)	112 (18.0)
University or college degree	291 (30.3)	351 (34.7)	305 (31.6)	315 (37.7)	403 (36.6)	202 (32.4)
Postgraduate degree	161 (16.7)	115 (11.4)	160 (16.6)	142 (17.0)	207 (18.8)	126 (20.2)
Not reported	12 (1.3)	8 (0.8)	10 (1.0)	6 (0.7)	3 (0.3)	5 (0.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

**Table 12: Employment status**

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Employed full-time	618 (64.2)	691 (68.2)	615 (63.8)	512 (61.3)	683 (62.1)	363 (58.3)
Employed part-time	164 (17.1)	163 (16.1)	168 (17.4)	195 (23.4)	232 (21.1)	134 (21.5)
Unemployed	42 (4.4)	42 (4.2)	40 (4.2)	29 (3.5)	42 (3.8)	35 (5.6)
Student	150 (15.6)	140 (13.8)	168 (17.4)	118 (14.1)	181 (16.5)	100 (16.1)
Pensioner/social security benefits	65 (6.8)	27 (2.7)	22 (2.3)	28 (3.4)	29 (2.6)	30 (4.8)
Doing domestic duties	22 (2.3)	25 (2.5)	15 (1.6)	26 (3.1)	32 (2.9)	16 (2.6)
Not in the work force	14 (1.5)	14 (1.4)	22 (2.3)	11 (1.3)	17 (1.5)	6 (1.0)

Note: Summary table; adds up to more than 100% because respondents could be in more than one category.

**Table 13: Annual income before tax**

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Nil-\$19,999	192 (20.0)	167 (16.5)	181 (18.8)	127 (15.2)	189 (17.2)	125 (20.1)
\$20,000-\$39,999	200 (20.8)	212 (20.9)	197 (20.4)	145 (17.4)	179 (16.3)	101 (16.2)
\$40,000-\$59,999	281 (29.2)	300 (29.6)	234 (24.3)	188 (22.5)	220 (20.0)	107 (17.2)
\$60,000-\$99,999	196 (20.4)	251 (24.8)	248 (25.7)	254 (30.4)	308 (28.0)	173 (27.8)
\$100,000+	48 (5.0)	47 (4.6)	90 (9.3)	93 (11.1)	171 (15.5)	89 (14.3)
Not reported	45 (4.7)	36 (3.6)	14 (1.5)	28 (3.4)	33 (3.0)	28 (4.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

#### 4.1.8. Ethnicity

Table 14 shows responses to questions on ethnic or cultural background grouped into broad categories. This cannot be compared directly with the Census data, which report several variables including place of birth, language spoken and ancestry rather than our less specific category of ethnic affiliation. However, according to the 2011 Census, 69% of women in New South Wales were born in Australia, 9% in Europe or the Middle East and 8% in Asia.<sup>9</sup> This suggests that this sample of LBQ women contains fewer Asian women and more European and Middle Eastern women than would be expected if it were similar to the total NSW population. In SWASH, 6% of women self-identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons; this is twice the proportion that would be expected if the sample were similar to the total NSW population (According to ABS, Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2011, 3.6% of the female population of NSW identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander).

**Table 14: Ethnicity**

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Anglo-Australian <sup>1</sup>	652 (67.8)	647 (63.9)	627 (65.0)	532 (63.7)	687 (62.5)	411 (66.0)
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander <sup>2</sup>	36 (3.7)	39 (3.9)	37 (3.8)	35 (4.2)	62 (5.6)	39 (6.3)
European and Middle Eastern	101 (10.5)	124 (12.2)	137 (14.2)	136 (16.3)	151 (13.7)	64 (10.4)
Asian	34 (3.5)	39 (3.9)	58 (6.0)	42 (5.0)	65 (5.9)	32 (5.2)
Other	75 (7.8)	94 (9.3)	91 (9.4)	59 (7.1)	110 (10.0)	64 (10.4)
Not reported	64 (6.7)	70 (6.9)	14 (1.5)	31 (3.7)	25 (2.3)	13 (2.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2868 (100)</b>	<b>2920.9 (100)</b>	<b>2874.1 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

(1) Including UK and Irish, Scottish, Celtic.

(2) In 2016, 44 respondents also indicated Anglo-Australia, European, Asian or other ethnic or cultural background; 2006: 25; 2008: 29; 2010: 29; 2012: 23.

#### 4.1.9. Geographical location and residential status

Just over half (59%) of respondents lived in the city, inner west or eastern suburbs of Sydney (Table 15). This is unsurprising as recruitment sites were all located in the metropolitan area. Few women (4%) lived in what has traditionally been considered the core gay Sydney suburbs of Darlinghurst, Potts Point, Kings Cross, and Surry Hills, while an increasing majority lived in Sydney's city and inner western suburbs (51%). A significant proportion of women lived outside the Sydney region (9%) demonstrating the number of women coming into the region for the Mardi Gras festival. The relative population density of this sample presents an opportunity for targeted engagement strategies in the delivery of health and wellbeing programs.

**Table 15: Where respondents lived**

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
'Gay' Sydney <sup>1</sup>	39 (4.1)	26 (2.6)	23 (2.4)	43 (5.2)	38 (3.5)	27 (4.3)
Eastern suburbs	51 (5.3)	56 (5.5)	56 (5.8)	51 (6.1)	86 (7.8)	27 (4.3)
City and inner western Sydney <sup>2</sup>	361 (37.5)	426 (42.1)	414 (43.0)	431 (51.6)	480 (43.6)	315 (50.6)
Southern suburbs <sup>3</sup>	68 (7.1)	57 (5.6)	57 (5.9)	43 (5.2)	65 (5.9)	27 (4.3)
Northern suburbs <sup>4</sup>	96 (10.0)	82 (8.1)	110 (11.4)	51 (6.1)	108 (9.8)	63 (10.1)
Western suburbs <sup>5</sup>	166 (17.3)	187 (18.5)	157 (16.3)	99 (11.9)	149 (13.5)	96 (15.4)
Outside Sydney region <sup>6</sup>	133 (13.8)	116 (11.5)	136 (14.1)	104 (12.5)	157 (14.3)	57 (9.2)
Not reported/ invalid	48 (5.0)	63 (6.2)	11 (1.1)	13 (1.6)	17 (1.5)	11 (1.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

Note: The classification of postcodes and suburbs into the above regions is based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 3 (270.0.55.003)

(1) Surry Hills, Darlinghurst, Kings Cross and Potts Point, eastern inner city districts.

(2) Including Newtown and Erskineville, bounded by Homebush, Cooks River, Canterbury.

(3) South to Waterfall/Menai and west to Punchbowl.

(4) North to Norah Head and west to Pennant Hills/Epping.

(5) From Carlingford and Greenacre, Bankstown, Padstow, Newington across the Blue Mountains as far as Bell, out to Pheasants Nest, and north to Wisemans' Ferry.

(6) Based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 3 (270.0.55.003).

## 4.2. Sexual partners and practices

### 4.2.1. Sex with women

The great majority of respondents (90%) reported they had ever had sex with a woman; 73% had done so in the preceding six months. As expected, lesbian were most likely (82%) to report recent sex with a woman, and bisexual women least likely (43%; Table 16).

Women who reported sex with a female partner in the preceding six months were most likely to report one sexual partner (75%; Table 17). These women were most likely to have had sex between two and five times in the preceding four weeks (Table 18).

<b>Table 16: When respondents last had sex with a woman, by sexual identity</b>					
	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer/ Other	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
<b>2016</b>					
Never	7 (1.8)	24 (24.7)	14 (10.7)	2 (33.3)	47 (7.5)
Over 6 months ago	55 (14.1)	30 (30.9)	21 (16.0)	0 (0.0)	106 (17.0)
In the past 6 months	318 (81.7)	42 (43.3)	92 (70.2)	4 (66.7)	456 (73.2)
Not reported	1 (1.0)	1 (1.0)	4 (3.1)	0 (0.0)	14 (2.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>389 (100)</b>	<b>97 (100)</b>	<b>131 (100)</b>	<b>6 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>
<b>2014</b>					
Never	13 (1.7)	17 (9.4)	15 (9.4)	1 (14.3)	46 (4.2)
Over 6 months ago	116 (15.4)	64 (35.6)	36 (22.5)	2 (28.6)	218 (19.8)
In the past 6 months	610 (81.0)	97 (53.9)	108 (67.5)	4 (57.1)	819 (74.5)
Not reported	14 (1.9)	2(1.1)	1 (0.6)	0 (0)	17 (1.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>753 (100)</b>	<b>180 (100)</b>	<b>160 (100)</b>	<b>7 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>
<b>2012</b>					
Never	7 (1.2)	10 (9.1)	14 (9.5)	0 (0)	31 (3.7)
Over 6 months ago	88 (15.4)	37 (33.6)	26 (17.7)	0 (0)	151 (18.1)
In the past 6 months	466 (81.8)	61 (55.4)	107 (72.8)	5 (62.5)	639 (76.5)
Not reported	9 (1.6)	2 (1.8)	0 (0)	3 (37.5)	14 (1.7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>570 (100)</b>	<b>110 (100)</b>	<b>147 (100)</b>	<b>8 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>
<b>2010</b>					
Never	9 (1.2)	8 (7.9)	6 (4.8)	1 (7.7)	24 (2.5)
Over 6 months ago	87 (12.0)	19 (18.1)	15 (12.1)	0 (0.0)	121 (12.6)
In the past 6 months	61 (84.0)	70 (69.3)	100 (80.7)	8 (61.5)	788 (81.7)
Not reported	20 (2.8)	4 (4.0)	3 (2.4)	4 (30.8)	31 (3.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>726 (100)</b>	<b>101 (100)</b>	<b>124 (100)</b>	<b>13 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>
<b>2008</b>					
Never	12 (1.6)	15 (12.3)	7 (6.7)	2 (15.4)	36 (3.6)
Over 6 months ago	106 (13.7)	44 (36.1)	14 (13.3)	1 (7.697)	165 (16.3)
In the past 6 months	644 (83.3)	60 (49.2)	80 (76.2)	8 (61.5)	792 (78.2)
Not reported	11 (1.4)	3 (2.5)	4 (3.8)	2 (15.4)	20 (2.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>773 (100)</b>	<b>122 (100)</b>	<b>105 (100)</b>	<b>13 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>
<b>2006</b>					
Never	17 (2.1)	7(8.3)	4 (8.0)	-	28 (2.9)
Over 6 months ago	131 (15.8)	22 (26.2)	5 (10.0)	-	158 (16.4)
In the past 6 months	666 (80.4)	51 (60.7)	34 (68.0)	-	751 (78.1)
Not reported	14 (1.7)	4 (4.8)	7 (14.0)	-	25 (2.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>828 (100)</b>	<b>84 (100)</b>	<b>50 (100)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>

**Table 17: Number of female sexual partners in the preceding six months, by sexual identity**

	Lesbian n (%)	Bisexual n (%)	Queer/ Other n (%)	Not reported n (%)	Total n (%)
<b>2016</b>					
One	249 (78.8)	32 (74.4)	56 (60.2)	4 (100)	341 (74.8)
2-5	45 (14.2)	9 (20.9)	27 (29.0)	0 (0.0)	81 (17.8)
>5	16 (5.1)	1 (2.3)	8 (8.6)	0 (0.0)	25 (5.5)
Not reported	6 (1.9)	1 (2.3)	2 (2.2)	0 (0.0)	9 (2.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>316 (100)</b>	<b>43 (100)</b>	<b>93 (100)</b>	<b>4 (100)</b>	<b>456 (100)</b>
<b>2014</b>					
One	477 (72.4)	75 (56.4)	64 (49.2)	2 (40.0)	618 (66.7)
2-5	108 (16.4)	26 (19.5)	40 (30.8)	2 (40.0)	176 (19.0)
>5	20 (3.0)	4 (3.0)	5 (3.8)	0 (0.0)	29 (3.1)
Not reported	54 (8.2)	28 (21.1)	21 (16.2)	1 (20.0)	104 (11.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>659 (100)</b>	<b>133 (100)</b>	<b>130 (100)</b>	<b>5 (100)</b>	<b>927 (100)</b>
<b>2012</b>					
One	339 (72.1)	43 (69.4)	69 (65.1)	3 (42.9)	454 (70.4)
2-5	100 (21.3)	16 (25.8)	28 (26.4)	0 (0)	144 (22.3)
>5	17 (3.6)	2 (3.2)	7 (6.6)	1 (14.3)	27 (4.2)
Not reported	14 (3.0)	1 (1.6)	2 (1.9)	3 (42.9)	20 (3.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>470 (100)</b>	<b>62 (100)</b>	<b>106 (100)</b>	<b>7 (100)</b>	<b>645 (100)</b>
<b>2010</b>					
One	462 (75.0)	41 (57.8)	61 (59.8)	6 (50.0)	570 (71.2)
2-5	126 (20.5)	16 (22.5)	31 (30.4)	3 (25.0)	176 (22.0)
>5	16 (2.6)	8 (11.3)	5 (4.9)	0 (0.0)	29 (3.6)
Not reported	12 (2.0)	6 (8.5)	5 (4.9)	3 (25.0)	26 (3.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>616 (100)</b>	<b>71 (100)</b>	<b>102 (100)</b>	<b>12 (100)</b>	<b>801 (100)</b>
<b>2008</b>					
One	481 (75.0)	43 (71.7)	49 (58.3)	6 (66.7)	579 (72.9)
2-5	132 (20.6)	14 (23.3)	29 (34.5)	1 (11.1)	176 (22.2)
>5	18 (2.8)	3 (5.0)	5 (6.0)	0 (0.0)	26 (3.3)
Not reported	10 (1.6)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)	2 (22.2)	13 (1.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>641 (100)</b>	<b>60 (100)</b>	<b>84 (100)</b>	<b>9 (100)</b>	<b>974 (100)</b>
<b>2006</b>					
One	532 (79.9)	36 (66.7)	21 (52.5)	-	589 (77.5)
2-5	112 (16.8)	15 (27.8)	9 (22.5)	-	136 (17.9)
>5	14 (2.1)	2 (3.7)	3 (7.5)	-	19 (2.5)
Not reported	8 (1.2)	1 (1.9)	7 (17.5)	-	16 (2.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>666 (100)</b>	<b>54 (100)</b>	<b>40 (100)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>760 (100)</b>
Note: Table only includes women who reported sex with a woman in the preceding 6 months					



**Table 18: Number of times women had had sex with a woman in the past 4 weeks**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2016</b>
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
0	100 (12.6)	129 (16.4)	105 (16.4)	184 (22.5)	101 (22.1)
1	73 (9.2)	82 (10.4)	85 (13.3)	93 (11.4)	49 (10.7)
2-5	223 (28.2)	244 (31.0)	191 (29.9)	229 (28.0)	149 (32.7)
6-10	136 (17.2)	139 (17.6)	123 (19.2)	130 (15.9)	65 (14.3)
11+	127 (16.0)	107 (13.6)	95 (14.9)	145 (17.7)	59 (12.9)
Text response <sup>1</sup>	83 (10.6)	49 (6.4)	12 (1.9)	7 (0.9)	11 (2.4)
Not reported	50 (6.3)	38 (4.8)	28 (4.4)	31 (3.8)	22 (4.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>792 (100)</b>	<b>788 (100)</b>	<b>639 (100)</b>	<b>819 (100)</b>	<b>456 (100)</b>

Note: Table only includes women who reported sex with a woman in the past 6 month

(1) Instructions added in 2012 to write an estimate in numbers greatly reduced the text responses

#### 4.2.2. Sex with men

Three hundred and ninety nine women (64%) reported they had ever had sex with a man; 19% in the last 6 months. Bisexual (84%) and queer/other (77%) women were more likely to have ever had sex with a man compared to lesbian women (55%). The fact that many lesbian women have a sexual history that includes men is perhaps familiar and unremarkable to LGBTQ community members. However, health service providers, policy makers and those designing STI prevention programs need to be aware that a significant proportion of women who do not identify as heterosexual are having sex with men, and consider the reach of their programs. LBQ women may not respond to health promotion campaigns directed at assumed heterosexual audiences.

In our sample, sex was generally with men the respondents believed to be heterosexual: 91% of women who reported they had ever had sex with a man, reported they had had sex with a heterosexual man (Table 19) compared to 43% reporting sex with a gay or bisexual man (Table 20). Of the 58 women reporting sex with a gay or bisexual man in the past six months, 8 (14%) often had unprotected sex (similar to previous years). Of the 81 women reporting sex with a heterosexual man in the preceding six months, 31 (38%) often had unprotected sex (higher than previous years).

<b>Table 19: When respondents last had sex with a heterosexual man, by sexual identity</b>					
	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer/Other	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
<b>2016</b>					
Never	180 (46.3)	14 (14.4)	39 (29.8)	2 (33.3)	235 (37.7)
Over 6 months ago	187 (48.1)	38 (39.2)	57 (43.5)	3 (50.0)	285 (45.7)
In the past 6 months	8 (2.3)	41 (42.3)	30 (22.9)	1 (16.7)	81 (13.0)
Not reported	13 (3.3)	4 (4.1)	5 (3.8)	0 (0.0)	22 (3.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>389 (100)</b>	<b>97 (100)</b>	<b>131 (100)</b>	<b>6 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>
<b>2014</b>					
Never	312 (41.4)	16 (8.9)	40 (25.0)	1 (14.3)	369 (33.5)
Over 6 months ago	392 (52.1)	69 (38.3)	72 (45.0)	1 (14.3)	534 (48.6)
In the past 6 months	33 (4.4)	86 (47.8)	46 (28.8)	4 (57.1)	169 (15.4)
Not reported	16 (2.1)	9 (5.0)	2 (1.3)	1 (14.3)	28 (2.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>753 (100)</b>	<b>180 (100)</b>	<b>160 (100)</b>	<b>7 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>
<b>2012</b>					
Never	209 (36.7)	12 (10.9)	24 (16.3)	0 (0)	245 (29.3)
Over 6 months ago	270 (47.4)	41 (37.3)	68 (46.3)	3 (37.5)	382 (45.8)
In the past 6 months	30 (5.3)	37 (33.6)	34 (23.1)	1 (12.5)	102 (12.2)
Not reported <sup>1</sup>	61 (10.7)	20 (18.2)	21 (14.3)	4 (50.0)	106 (12.7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>570 (100)</b>	<b>110 (100)</b>	<b>147 (100)</b>	<b>8 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>
<b>2010</b>					
Never	293 (40.4)	16 (15.8)	29 (23.4)	3 (23.1)	341 (35.4)
Over 6 months ago	339 (46.7)	34 (33.7)	68 (54.8)	6 (46.2)	447 (46.4)
In the past 6 months	25 (3.4)	46 (45.5)	21 (16.9)	0 (0.0)	92 (9.5)
Not reported	69 (9.5)	5 (5.0)	6 (4.8)	4 (30.1)	84 (8.7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>726 (100)</b>	<b>101 (100)</b>	<b>124 (100)</b>	<b>13 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>
<b>2008</b>					
Never	383 (49.6)	22 (18.0)	31 (29.5)	5 (38.5)	441 (43.5)
Over 6 months ago	348 (45.0)	42 (34.4)	53 (50.5)	6 (46.2)	449 (44.3)
In the past 6 months	20 (2.6)	56 (45.9)	18 (17.1)	1 (7.7)	95 (9.4)
Not reported	22 (2.9)	2 (1.6)	3 (2.9)	1 (7.7)	28 (2.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>773 (100)</b>	<b>122 (100)</b>	<b>105 (100)</b>	<b>13 (100)</b>	<b>1313 (100)</b>
<b>2006</b>					
Never	307 (37.1)	11 (13.1)	13 (26.0)	-	331 (34.4)
Over 6 months ago	476 (57.5)	36 (42.9)	24 (48.0)	-	536 (55.7)
In the past 6 months	19 (2.3)	35 (41.8)	8 (16.0)	-	62 (6.4)
Not reported	26 (3.1)	2 (2.4)	5 (10.0)	-	33 (3.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>828 (100)</b>	<b>84 (100)</b>	<b>50 (100)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>
(1) Typographical errors in the 2012 questionnaire mean that the proportion of 'not reported' answers was higher than usual.					

<b>Table 20: When respondents last had sex with a gay or bisexual man, by sexual identity</b>					
	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer/Other	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
<b>2016</b>					
Never	313 (80.5)	58 (59.8)	66 (50.4)	4 (66.7)	441 (70.8)
Over 6 months ago	51 (13.1)	22 (22.7)	37 (28.2)	2 (33.3)	112 (18.0)
In the past 6 months	16 (4.1)	15 (15.5)	27 (20.6)	0 (0.0)	58 (9.3)
Not reported	9 (2.3)	2 (2.1)	1 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	12 (1.9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>95 (100)</b>	<b>97 (100)</b>	<b>131 (100)</b>	<b>6 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>
<b>2014</b>					
Never	592 (78.6)	103 (57.2)	97 (60.6)	4 (57.1)	796 (72.4)
Over 6 months ago	84 (11.2)	47 (26.1)	39 (24.4)	2 (28.6)	172 (15.6)
In the past 6 months	48 (6.4)	25 (13.9)	22 (13.8)	0 (0.0)	95 (8.6)
Not reported	29 (3.9)	5 (2.8)	2 (1.3)	1 (14.3)	37 (3.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>753 (100)</b>	<b>180 (100)</b>	<b>160 (100)</b>	<b>7 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>
<b>2012</b>					
Never	478 (83.9)	73 (66.4)	80 (54.4)	4 (50.0)	635 (76.0)
Over 6 months ago	66 (11.6)	22 (20.0)	43 (29.2)	1 (12.5)	132 (15.8)
In the past 6 months	15 (2.6)	11 (10.0)	18 (12.2)	0 (0)	44 (5.3)
Not reported	11 (1.9)	4 (3.6)	6 (4.1)	3 (37.5)	24 (2.9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>570 (100)</b>	<b>110 (100)</b>	<b>147 (100)</b>	<b>8 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>
<b>2010</b>					
Never	606 (83.5)	66 (65.4)	79 (63.7)	9 (69.2)	760 (78.8)
Over 6 months ago	81 (11.2)	19 (18.8)	37 (29.8)	1 (7.7)	138 (14.3)
In the past 6 months	19 (2.6)	12 (11.9)	8 (6.5)	0 (0.0)	39 (4.1)
Not reported	20 (2.8)	4 (4.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (23.1)	27 (2.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>726 (100)</b>	<b>101 (100)</b>	<b>124 (100)</b>	<b>13 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>
<b>2008</b>					
Never	661 (85.5)	62 (50.8)	70 (66.7)	11 (84.6)	804 (79.4)
Over 6 months ago	85 (11.0)	36 (29.5)	21 (20.0)	1 (7.7)	143 (14.1)
In the past 6 months	15 (1.9)	20 (16.4)	9 (8.6)	0 (0.0)	44 (4.3)
Not reported	12 (1.6)	4 (3.3)	5 (4.8)	1 (7.7)	22 (2.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>773 (100)</b>	<b>122 (100)</b>	<b>105 (100)</b>	<b>13 (100)</b>	<b>1313 (100)</b>
<b>2006</b>					
Never	699 (84.4)	48 (57.1)	28 (56.0)	-	775 (80.6)
Over 6 months ago	105 (12.7)	20 (23.8)	12 (24.0)	-	137 (14.2)
In the past 6 months	10 (1.2)	14 (16.7)	5 (10.0)	-	29 (3.0)
Not reported	14 (1.7)	2 (2.4)	5 (10.0)	-	21 (2.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>828 (100)</b>	<b>84 (100)</b>	<b>50 (100)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>

### 4.2.3. Sexual practices

Among the 73% of women who had had sex with a woman in the preceding six months, the most common sexual practice was manual sex (involving hands and genitals; Table 21). Stimulation of the external genitals was practised by only a few more women than sex with the fingers or hand inside the vagina. Most women also practised oral sex (cunnilingus), both given and received. More than half (64%) reported having used a sex toy. Most women (84%) who had used a toy had done so both on the external genitals and inside the vagina. Anal practices were less common; 28% had given or received manual stimulation of the anus.

One hundred and sixty seven (27%) women reported having been involved in 'S/M dominance/bondage' (i.e. sadomasochism or slave-mistress encounters) without or with blood (i.e. practices such as cutting, piercing, whipping or fisting; Table 22). This is a significant increase on 2014 ( $p < 0.001$ ). Twelve percent of women reported they had had group sex in the preceding six months; for most respondents this involved a woman (Table 23). Fifty four women (9%) reported they had ever done sex work (Table 24).

**Table 21: Sexual practices with a woman in the past 6 months**

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Fingers/hand on external genitals	723 (96.3)	751 (94.8)	753 (95.6)	610 (95.5)	765 (93.4)	421 (92.3)
Fingers/hand inside vagina	704 (93.7)	746 (94.2)	741 (94.0)	594 (93.0)	754 (92.1)	410 (89.9)
Fingers/hand inside anus	230 (30.6)	246 (31.1)	223 (28.3)	188 (29.4)	206 (25.2)	129 (28.3)
Oral sex (mouth on partner's genitals)	640 (85.2)	686 (86.6)	693 (87.9)	537 (84.0)	668 (81.6)	385 (84.4)
Oral sex (mouth on respondent's genitals)	611 (81.4)	668 (84.3)	663 (84.1)	527 (82.5)	643 (78.5)	371 (81.4)
Rimming (mouth on partner's anus)	118 (15.7)	146 (18.4)	128 (16.2)	110 (17.2)	103 (12.6)	82 (18.0)
Rimming (mouth on respondent's anus)	112 (14.9)	145 (18.3)	119 (15.1)	115 (18.0)	110 (13.4)	75 (16.4)
Sex toy used on external genitals	421 (56.1)	474 (59.9)	470 (59.6)	375 (58.7)	434 (53.0)	269 (59.0)
Sex toy used inside vagina	427 (56.9)	485 (61.2)	482 (61.2)	398 (62.3)	440 (53.7)	255 (55.9)
Sex toy used inside anus	108 (14.4)	138 (17.4)	110 (14.0)	100 (15.7)	96 (11.7)	74 (16.2)
NOTE: Summary table; adds up to more than 100% because respondents could be in more than one category; only includes women who reported sex with a woman in the past 6 months						

**Table 22: Experience of S/M dominance/bondage in the past 6 months**

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Yes	172 (17.9)	198 (19.6)	145 (15.0)	138 (16.5)	185 (16.8)	167 (26.8)
- with blood	62 (6.4)	68 (6.7)	35 (3.6)	36 (4.3)	39 (3.5)	48 (7.7)
No	770 (80.0)	772 (76.2)	753 (78.1)	602 (72.1)	868 (78.9)	428 (68.7)
Not reported	15 (1.6)	34 (3.4)	60 (6.2)	95 (11.4)	47 (4.3)	28 (4.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>751 (100)</b>	<b>792 (100)</b>	<b>788 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

**Table 23: Group sex in the past 6 months**

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Group sex which included:						
A woman	62 (6.4)	94 (9.3)	77 (8.0)	77 (9.2)	115 (10.5)	51 (8.2)
A straight or heterosexual man	21 (2.2)	31 (3.1)	31 (3.2)	38 (4.6)	50 (4.5)	28 (4.5)
A gay or bisexual man	11 (1.1)	20 (2.0)	14 (1.5)	17 (2.0)	21 (1.9)	17 (2.7)
BDSM <sup>1</sup> no blood	-	-	35 (3.6)	34 (4.1)	43 (3.9)	39 (6.3)
BDSM <sup>2</sup> with blood	-	-	9 (0.9)	17 (2.0)	15 (1.4)	15 (2.4)
<b>Any group sex</b>	<b>69 (7.2)</b>	<b>111 (11.0)</b>	<b>93 (9.6)</b>	<b>96 (11.5)</b>	<b>137 (12.5)</b>	<b>72 (11.6)</b>
Note: Summary table; adds up to more than 100% because respondents could be in more than one category.						
(1) BDSM is bondage, dominance or sadomasochism or slave-mistress encounters						
(2) Practices such as cutting, piercing, whipping or fisting						

**Table 24: Sex work**

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Never	914 (95.0)	934 (92.2)	887 (92.0)	767 (91.2)	1020 (92.7)	559 (89.7)
Over 6 months ago	36 (3.7)	52 (5.1)	34 (3.5)	32 (3.8)	42 (3.8)	39 (6.3)
In last 6 months	2 (0.2)	10 (1.0)	14 (1.5)	15 (1.8)	22 (2.0)	15 (2.4)
Not reported	10 (1.0)	17 (1.7)	29 (3.0)	21 (2.5)	16 (1.5)	10 (1.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

#### 4.2.4. Sexual relationships

Three hundred and fifty five women (57%) were in a regular sexual relationship with a woman, 6% with a man and 31% were not in a regular sexual relationship (Table 25). The decreasing trend in the proportion of women reporting a relationship with a woman (2006: 66% to 2014: 58%) reflects the general decrease in lesbian-identifying women and the increase in recent sex with men already reported. The most common relationship length was over five years (30%) (Table 26).

Twenty seven percent of women reported they had had a casual partner(s) in the preceding six months; 23% reported casual sex with a female partner (Table 27). A quarter of women (27%) in a regular relationship with a woman also had a casual sexual partner (female or male) in the preceding six months.

**Table 25: Regular partner**

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
No	284 (29.5)	282 (27.8)	273 (28.3)	266 (31.9)	350 (31.8)	191 (30.7)
With a woman	634 (65.9)	633 (62.5)	607 (63.0)	410 (49.1)	634 (57.6)	355 (57.0)
With a man	25 (2.6)	47 (4.6)	24 (2.5)	42 (5.0)	64 (5.8)	39 (6.3)
Poly/Multiple partners	7 (0.7)	11 (1.1)	35 (3.6)	25 (3.0)	41 (3.7)	23 (3.7)
Not reported <sup>1</sup>	12 (1.3)	40 (4.0)	25 (2.6)	92 (11.0)	11 (1.0)	13 (2.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

(1) Typographical errors in the 2012 questionnaire mean that the proportion of 'not reported' answers was higher than usual.

**Table 26: Length of regular relationship**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2016</b>
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Less than 6 months	90 (13.4)	133 (18.2)	122 (17.7)	74 (13.0)	117 (15.6)	63 (14.7)
6-11 months	78 (11.4)	75 (10.3)	84 (12.2)	58 (10.2)	102 (13.6)	49 (11.4)
1-2 years	142 (21.1)	145 (19.9)	161 (23.3)	105 (18.4)	144 (19.2)	84 (19.5)
3-5 years	146 (21.7)	152 (20.9)	101 (14.6)	84 (14.8)	163 (21.7)	94 (21.9)
Over 5 years	203 (30.1)	182 (25.0)	189 (27.4)	111 (19.5)	214 (28.5)	130 (30.2)
Not reported <sup>1</sup>	15 (2.2)	42 (5.8)	34 (4.9)	137 (24.1)	10 (1.3)	10 (2.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>674 (100)</b>	<b>729 (100)</b>	<b>691 (100)</b>	<b>569 (100)</b>	<b>750 (100)</b>	<b>430 (100)</b>

Note: Table only includes women who reported being in a regular relationship.

(1) Typographical errors in the 2012 questionnaire mean that the proportion of 'not reported' answers was higher than usual.

**Table 27: Casual partners**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2016</b>
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
No	702 (73.0)	644 (63.6)	620 (64.3)	491 (58.8)	780 (70.9)	437 (70.1)
Yes, with women	184 (19.1)	233 (23.0)	210 (21.8)	171 (20.5)	192 (17.4)	105 (16.9)
Yes, with men	11 (1.1)	37 (3.7)	24 (2.5)	29 (3.5)	48 (4.4)	26 (4.2)
Yes, with both	37 (3.9)	48 (4.7)	53 (5.5)	51 (6.1)	68 (6.2)	39 (6.3)
Not reported <sup>1</sup>	28 (2.9)	51 (5.0)	57 (5.9)	93 (11.1)	12 (1.1)	16 (2.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

(1) Typographical errors in the 2012 questionnaire mean that the proportion of 'not reported' answers was higher than usual.

## 4.3. Tobacco, alcohol and other drug use

### 4.3.1. Tobacco use

Thirty percent of women were current tobacco smokers (Table 28); with 18% smoking daily (61% of current smokers). There is a significant, although slow, downward trend from 35% in 2006 to 30% in 2016 ( $p < 0.001$ ). These are high rates of smoking compared with the general population, especially considering this is a highly educated urban sample. The 2016 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) of the general population, found 13% of Australian women smoked (cf. 30% SWASH); 11% smoked daily (cf. 18% SWASH), a significant decrease on 2010 rates (25% daily smokers).<sup>11</sup>

Of considerable concern is the rate of smoking among younger women: 42% of 16 to 24 years old LBQ women smoked (Table 28). This is 2.5 times higher than the rate reported for 18 to 24 year old women by the NDSHS (15%)<sup>11</sup>. Again, while the reported rate of daily smoking among Australian young women decreased, rates among the young LBQ women in our sample have not. Over a decade ago the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health found a similar disparity: 46% of LBQ women aged 22-27 years were smokers, compared to 25% of heterosexual women.<sup>12</sup>

The finding that LBQ women smoke at twice the rate of women in the general community is consistent and robust. We've undertaken a detailed analysis of trends and correlates of smoking based on 2004-2014 SWASH data.<sup>14</sup>

Tobacco use is a significant public health issue facing LBQ women and their communities. Wide-ranging government initiatives have been introduced since the 2006 survey, including graphic pictures on all tobacco products, a ban on smoking in all indoor areas in pubs and nightclubs, and in 2012 plain packaging of tobacco products. Several hard-hitting campaigns in popular media have also appeared. These initiatives have had a considerable impact on smoking rates in the general population, but do not appear to be successful for LBQ women.



<b>Table 28: Smoking status by age group</b>						
	16-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45+	Notreported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
<b>2016</b>						
Current smoker	59 (41.8)	63 (34.2)	33 (21.0)	29 (21.2)	0 (0.0)	184 (29.5)
Ex-smoker	8 (5.7)	29 (15.8)	56 (35.7)	47 (34.3)	2 (50.0)	142 (22.8)
Never smoked	71 (50.4)	87 (47.3)	59 (37.6)	51 (37.2)	2 (50.0)	270 (43.3)
Not reported	3 (2.1)	5 (2.7)	9 (5.7)	10 (7.3)	0 (0.0)	27 (4.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>141 (100)</b>	<b>184 (100)</b>	<b>157 (100)</b>	<b>137 (100)</b>	<b>4 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>
<b>2014</b>						
Current smoker	113 (47.7)	127 (30.0)	56 (22.0)	32 (17.6)	1 (50.0)	329 (29.9)
Ex-smoker	30 (12.7)	104 (24.5)	78 (30.6)	73 (40.1)	1 (50.0)	286 (26.0)
Never smoked	91 (38.4)	185 (43.6)	116 (45.5)	73 (40.1)	0 (0.0)	465 (42.3)
Not reported	3 (1.3)	8 (1.9)	5 (2.0)	4 (2.2)	0 (0.0)	20 (1.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>237 (100)</b>	<b>424 (100)</b>	<b>255 (100)</b>	<b>182 (100)</b>	<b>2(100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>
<b>2012</b>						
Current smoker	66 (41.8)	115 (35.6)	66 (30.6)	29 (21.8)	0 (0.0)	276 (33.0)
Ex-smoker	16 (10.0)	57 (17.7)	60 (27.8)	47 (35.33)	2 (40.0)	182 (21.8)
Never smoked	66 (41.8)	129 (39.9)	74 (34.3)	49 (36.8)	1 (20.0)	319 (38.2)
Not reported	10 (6.3)	22 (6.8)	16 (7.4)	8 (6.0)	2 (40.0)	58 (7.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>158 (100)</b>	<b>323 (100)</b>	<b>216 (100)</b>	<b>133 (100)</b>	<b>5 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>
<b>2010</b>						
Current smoker	98 (42.1)	127 (36.7)	75 (33.2)	33 (21.6)	1 (16.7)	334 (34.7)
Ex-smoker	32 (13.7)	77 (22.3)	66 (29.2)	68 (44.4)	2 (33.3)	245 (25.4)
Never smoked	86 (36.9)	120 (34.7)	78 (34.5)	42 (27.5)	2 (33.3)	328 (34.0)
Not reported	17 (7.3)	22 (6.4)	7 (3.1)	10 (6.5)	1 (16.7)	57 (5.9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>233 (100)</b>	<b>346 (100)</b>	<b>226 (100)</b>	<b>153 (100)</b>	<b>6 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>
<b>2008</b>						
Current smoker	119 (50.6)	123 (33.3)	89 (39.2)	38 (28.8)	6 (12.0)	375 (37.0)
Ex-smoker	33 (14.0)	115 (31.2)	67 (29.5)	65 (49.2)	1 (2.0)	281 (27.7)
Never smoked	82 (34.9)	131 (35.5)	71 (31.3)	29 (22.0)	3 (6.0)	316 (31.2)
Not reported	1 (0.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	40 (80.0)	41 (4.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>235 (100)</b>	<b>369 (100)</b>	<b>227 (100)</b>	<b>132 (100)</b>	<b>50 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>
<b>2006</b>						
Current smoker	69 (45.1)	139 (39.2)	78 (31.3)	50 (29.2)	2 (5.9)	338 (35.1)
Ex-smoker	25 (16.3)	94 (26.5)	85 (34.1)	63 (36.8)	0 (0.0)	267 (27.8)
Never smoked	56 (36.6)	121 (34.1)	84 (33.7)	57 (33.3)	2 (5.9)	320 (33.3)
Not reported	3 (2.0)	1 (0.3)	2 (0.8)	1 (0.6)	30 (88.2)	37 (3.9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>153 (100)</b>	<b>355 (100)</b>	<b>249 (100)</b>	<b>171 (100)</b>	<b>34 (100)</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>

### 4.3.2. Alcohol use

The majority of women (83%) in the 2016 survey reported drinking alcohol, although this proportion has dropped significantly from 90% in 2014 ( $p < 0.001$ ). The 2016 NDSHS found 75% of Australian women had consumed alcohol in the past 12 months.<sup>11</sup> Table 29 illustrates the distribution of drinking frequency. The frequency of drinking was related to age: younger drinkers (aged 16-24 years) were the most likely to drink two days a week or less (83%), while older women (aged 45+) were the most likely to report drinking 5 days per week or more (18%).

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommends drinking no more than two standard drinks on any day reduces the *lifetime risk* of harm from alcohol-related disease or injury.<sup>13</sup> We asked women: on a day when you drink alcohol, how many standard drinks do you usually have? Nearly half of all respondents (48%; 59% of those who drank (Table 30)) and 62% of younger women (and 72% of younger women who drank) reported they usually drank at levels that exceed this recommendation.

The NHMRC recommends that drinking no more than four standard drinks on a single occasion reduces the risk of alcohol-related injury arising from that *single occasion*.<sup>13</sup> Using data from the same question about how many standard drinks women usually have, 17% of all women (20% of those who drank) reported that they usually drank at levels that exceed this recommendation (Table 30). 16% of all respondents (19% of those who drank) reported drinking five or more drinks ('binge drinking') weekly or more often in the past six months (Table 31).

**Table 29: Frequency of drinking alcohol**

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Never	96 (10.0)	91 (9.0)	100 (10.4)	89 (10.7)	94 (8.5)	83 (13.3)
Less often than weekly	294 (30.6)	276 (27.3)	251 (26.0)	223 (26.7)	359 (32.6)	195 (31.3)
1 or 2 days a week	222 (23.1)	274 (27.1)	270 (28.0)	234 (28.0)	310 (28.2)	178 (28.6)
3 or 4 days a week	193 (20.1)	198 (19.6)	177 (18.4)	156 (18.7)	200 (18.2)	88 (14.1)
5 or 6 days a week	89 (9.3)	70 (6.9)	53 (5.5)	61 (7.3)	71 (6.5)	32 (5.1)
Every day	37 (3.9)	60 (5.9)	49 (5.1)	25 (3.0)	48 (4.4)	26 (4.2)
Not reported	31 (3.2)	44 (4.3)	64 (6.6)	47 (5.6)	18 (1.6)	21 (3.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

**Table 30: Drinks consumed on a day when alcohol is consumed**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2016</b>
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
1 or 2 drinks	345 (35.9)	307 (30.3)	302 (31.3)	257 (30.8)	369 (33.6)	206 (33.1)
3 or 4 drinks	320 (33.3)	348 (34.4)	275 (28.5)	270 (32.3)	348 (31.6)	198 (31.8)
5 to 8 drinks	114 (11.8)	154 (15.2)	160 (16.6)	126 (15.1)	186 (16.9)	71 (11.4)
9 or more drinks	56 (5.8)	61 (6)	51 (5.3)	45 (5.4)	84 (7.6)	32 (5.1)
Not reported	31 (3.2)	52 (5.1)	76 (7.9)	48 (5.7)	19 (1.7)	33 (5.3)
Non-drinker	96 (10.0)	91 (9.0)	100 (10.4)	89 (10.7)	94 (8.5)	83 (13.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

**Table 31: Frequency of drinking 5 or more on a single occasion in past 6 months**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2016</b>
	Drunk/Binge	7+ drinks	5+ drinks	5+ drinks	5+ drinks	5+ drinks
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Never	229 (23.8)	240 (23.7)	139 (14.4)	104 (12.5)	191 (17.4)	120 (19.3)
Once or twice	305 (31.7)	322 (31.8)	234 (24.3)	202 (24.2)	232 (21.1)	141 (22.6)
About once a month	154 (16.0)	125 (12.3)	202 (21.0)	178 (21.3)	294 (26.7)	154 (24.7)
About once a week	104 (10.8)	134 (13.2)	153 (15.9)	129 (15.4)	171 (15.5)	60 (9.6)
More than once a week	39 (4.1)	50 (4.9)	63 (6.5)	57 (6.8)	95 (8.6)	35 (5.6)
Every day	3 (0.3)	3 (0.3)	8 (0.8)	8 (1.0)	11 (1.0)	3 (0.5)
Not reported	32 (3.3)	48 (4.7)	65 (6.7)	68 (8.1)	12 (1.1)	27 (4.3)
Non-drinker	96 (10.0)	91 (9.0)	100 (10.4)	89 (10.7)	94 (8.6)	83 (13.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

### 4.3.3. Illicit drug use

In the preceding six months, 45% of respondents had used any illicit drug (Table 32). With the notable exception of cannabis, patterns of drugs use have varied over time. Of particular note, the drop in methamphetamine use (from 23% 2006 to 10% in 2016), the downward trend in ecstasy use (from 27% 2006 to 19% in 2016) and the upward trend in cocaine use (from 12% 2006 to 16% in 2016). In response to the question 'Have you ever injected drugs?' 8% of women indicated that they had ever done so, similar to previous years.

Rates of illicit drug use remain several times higher among the SWASH sample than reported for the general community (Table 33). The NDSHS 2016 found 13% of women reported using any illicit drug in the past 12 months, compared to 45% in our sample who reported using any illicit drug in the past 6 months.<sup>11</sup> Analysis over a decade ago of data from the Australian Longitudinal Survey of Women's Health found similar disparities: compared to heterosexual women, LBQ women were more likely to have used illicit drugs (41% vs. 10%) and to have ever injected drugs (11% vs. 1%).<sup>12</sup> A recent international meta-analysis of 18 studies of sexual orientation and adolescent substance use found the odds of substance use by young LBQ women was four times higher than that of heterosexual young women.<sup>15</sup> To contextualise this, the authors note that LBQ women report illicit drug use at a similar level to that of young heterosexual men. Despite stark evidence that a lesbian, bisexual or queer identity appears predictive of drug use, harm reduction efforts have largely focused on gay men. Without a sophisticated understanding of the drivers of illicit drug use in LBQ women and the LGBTQ community more broadly, and the conditions under which these practices become problematic, interventions are unlikely to succeed.

In 2016, we asked for the first time about the context of drug use. Participants were asked to indicate whether each substance they had used was usually taken at home, at a party and/or during sex (Table 37). Only half of women reporting recent drug use responded to the contexts of use question; we have conservatively calculated the context of use percentages on the proportion of women reporting use of each substance not on the question-specific response rate (Table 34). Drug types more commonly used at home were cannabis and benzodiazepines. Methamphetamine and LSD were more likely used at parties, although a substantial minority of women reported usually using at home. Ecstasy, cocaine, amyl, special K and GHB were usually used during a party context. A very small number of women reported drug use during sex.

**Table 32: Illicit drug use in the past 6 months**

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Any cannabis <sup>1</sup>	329 (34.2)	388 (38.3)	319 (33.1)	263 (31.5)	371 (33.7)	184 (29.5)
» Natural	329 (34.2)	388 (38.3)	319 (33.1)	263 (31.5)	371 (33.7)	183 (29.4)
» Synthetic	-	-	-	-	-	20 (3.2)
Ecstasy	262 (27.2)	328 (32.4)	241 (25.0)	188 (22.5)	232 (21.1)	117 (18.8)
Methamphetamine <sup>2</sup>	233 (24.2)	268 (26.5)	163 (16.9)	123 (14.7)	153 (13.9)	61 (9.8)
» Speed	223 (23.2)	259 (25.6)	150 (15.6)	112 (13.4)	133 (12.1)	-
» Crystal	82 (8.5)	66 (6.5)	40 (4.2)	38 (4.6)	48 (4.4)	-
Cocaine	113 (11.8)	186 (18.4)	164 (17.0)	144 (17.3)	209 (19.0)	101 (16.2)
Benzos / Valium	92 (9.6)	150 (14.8)	130 (13.5)	126 (15.1)	140 (12.7)	115 (18.5)
Amyl / poppers	-	110 (10.9)	93 (9.7)	79 (9.5)	106 (9.6)	50 (8.0)
LSD / trips	-	73 (7.2)	53 (5.5)	57 (6.8)	78 (7.1)	35 (5.6)
Special K/ ketamine	70 (7.3)	62 (6.1)	48 (5.0)	42 (5.0)	49 (4.5)	28 (4.5)
GHB	35 (3.6)	32 (3.2)	22 (2.3)	26 (3.1)	32 (2.9)	13 (2.1)
New/emerging psychostimulants <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	4 (0.6)
Other drugs	40 (4.2)	75 (7.4)	60 (6.2)	44 (5.3)	41 (3.7)	19 (3.0)
<b>Any of the above</b>	<b>456 (47.4)</b>	<b>540 (53.3)</b>	<b>456 (47.3)</b>	<b>403 (48.3)</b>	<b>524 (47.6)</b>	<b>280 (44.9)</b>

NOTE: Summary table; adds up to more than 100% because respondents could be in more than one category

(1) In 2016 respondents were asked separately about natural and synthetic cannabis. Earlier years use assumed to be natural form.

(2) Use of speed and crystalline forms of methamphetamine no longer asked separately from 2016

(3) New question in 2016

**Table 33: Use of various illicit drugs SWASH women compared with women in general community**

	SWASH 2016 past 6 months %	NDSHS 2016 past 12 months %
Cannabis (natural)	29.4	8.0
Ecstasy	18.8	1.9
Cocaine	16.2	2.2

**Table 34: Context of recent drug use, for women reporting use of each drug type (2016)**

	Home	Venue/party	During sex
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Cannabis (natural)	65 (35.5)	17 (9.3)	1 (0.5)
Cannabis (synthetic)	6 (30.0)	2 (10.0)	1 (5.0)
Ecstasy	6 (5.1)	48 (41.0)	4 (3.4)
Methamphetamine	11 (18.0)	16 (26.2)	0 (0.0)
Benzos / Valium	66 (57.4)	8 (7.0)	1 (0.9)
Cocaine	10 (9.9)	38 (37.6)	0 (0.0)
LSD / trips	7 (20.0)	12 (34.3)	0 (0.0)
Amyl / poppers	3 (6.0)	23 (46.0)	2 (4.0)
Special K/ Ketamine	2 (7.1)	15 (53.6)	0 (0.0)
GHB	0 (0.0)	7 (53.8)	0 (0.0)

NOTE: Summary table adds up to more than 100% because respondents could be in more than one category; only includes women who reported recent drug use

#### 4.3.4. Drug/alcohol help-seeking behaviour

In 2016 we asked women if they had ever sought help for a drug and/or alcohol issue; 11% of all respondents (N = 66) reported that they had. Help was most commonly sought from a counsellor/psychologist (79%; Table 35).

**Table 35: Drug/alcohol help-seeking behaviour (2016)**

	2016
	n (%)
GP	27 (39.1)
Counsellor/psychologist	54 (78.3)
Helpline	6 (8.7)
Specialist drug & alcohol service	17 (24.6)
LGBTI service	10 (14.5)
Community organisation	7 (10.1)
Friends/relatives	16 (23.2)
Self-help groups (AA/NA/SMART)	17 (24.6)
Hospital/ED	12 (17.4)
Online/apps	2 (2.9)
Other	4 (5.8)

NOTE: Summary table adds up to more than 100% because respondents could be in more than one category; only includes women who reported that they had sought help

## 4.4. Health status and behaviour

### 4.4.1. Relationships with doctors

In 2016, the majority of women reported they had a regular doctor (60%) or health centre (17%) (Table 36). Women who had a regular doctor or health centre were more likely to be out about their sexuality (76%) than women who did not (31%). The vast majority of respondents with a regular doctor/practice (81%) reported being satisfied or very satisfied (Table 37). Women who were out to their regular GP were more likely to be very satisfied (54%,  $p < 0.01$ ) than women who were not out (20%). That is, while women were largely satisfied with the service they received, disclosing sexuality appeared to be associated with a more positive evaluation of that service/relationship.

**Table 36: Regular doctor**

	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
No regular doctor	226 (23.4)	196 (23.5)	239 (21.7)	123 (19.7)
Yes, regular GP	474 (49.2)	446 (53.4)	684 (62.2)	375 (60.2)
Yes, regular health centre	211 (21.9)	142 (17.0)	169 (15.4)	105 (16.9)
Not reported	53 (5.5)	51 (6.1)	8 (0.7)	20 (3.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

**Table 37: Satisfaction with regular doctor (2012, 2014, 2016)**

	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Very satisfied	257 (43.7)	363 (42.5)	218 (45.4)
Satisfied	184 (31.3)	301 (35.3)	173 (36.0)
Neither	38 (6.5)	86 (10.1)	44 (9.2)
Unsatisfied	17 (2.9)	33 (3.9)	14 (2.9)
Very unsatisfied	5 (0.9)	21 (2.4)	8 (1.7)
Not reported	87 (14.8)	49 (5.7)	23 (4.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>588 (100)</b>	<b>853 (100)</b>	<b>480 (100)</b>

NOTE: Table only includes women who reported having a regular GP or clinic

### 4.4.2. General health

The majority of respondents rated their general health as excellent/very good/good (79%); 17% of respondents reported their health as fair/poor (Table 38). In 2016, we asked women if they had a chronic (long-term) illness or disability. Twenty two percent of women said they had a chronic (long-term) illness or disability; 27% did among women aged 45 and over.

<b>Table 38: General health, by sexual identity</b>					
	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer/ Other	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
<b>2016</b>					
Poor/Fair	55 (14.1)	23 (23.7)	26 (19.8)	2 (33.3)	106 (17.0)
Good/Very good	264 (67.9)	65 (67.0)	89 (67.9)	4 (66.7)	422 (67.7)
Excellent	56 (14.4)	5 (5.2)	11 (8.4)	0 (0.0)	72 (11.6)
Not reported	14 (3.6)	4 (4.1)	5 (3.8)	0 (0.0)	23 (3.7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>389 (100)</b>	<b>97 (100)</b>	<b>131 (100)</b>	<b>6 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>
<b>2014</b>					
Poor/Fair	71 (9.4)	19 (10.6)	19 (11.9)	1 (14.3)	110 (10.0)
Good/Very good	501 (66.5)	123 (68.3)	113 (70.6)	4 (57.1)	741 (67.4)
Excellent	173 (23.0)	37 (20.6)	28 (17.5)	2 (28.6)	240 (21.8)
Not reported	8 (1.1)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	9 (0.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>753 (100)</b>	<b>180 (100)</b>	<b>160 (100)</b>	<b>7 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>
<b>2012</b>					
Poor/Fair	61 (10.7)	14 (12.7)	23 (15.7)	3 (37.5)	101 (12.1)
Good/Very good	366 (64.2)	61 (55.5)	99 (67.4)	3 (37.5)	529 (63.4)
Excellent	111 (19.5)	29 (26.4)	23 (15.7)	0 (0.0)	163 (19.5)
Not reported	32 (5.6)	6 (5.5)	2 (1.4)	2 (25.0)	42 (5.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>570 (100)</b>	<b>110 (100)</b>	<b>147 (100)</b>	<b>8 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>
<b>2010</b>					
Poor/Fair	106 (14.6)	8 (7.9)	15 (12.1)	1 (7.7)	130 (13.5)
Good/Very good	443 (61.0)	65 (64.4)	79 (63.7)	8 (61.5)	595 (61.7)
Excellent	140 (19.3)	22 (21.8)	21 (16.9)	2 (15.4)	185 (19.2)
Not reported	37 (5.1)	6 (5.9)	9 (7.3)	2 (15.4)	54 (5.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>726 (100)</b>	<b>101 (100)</b>	<b>124 (100)</b>	<b>13 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>
<b>2008</b>					
Poor/Fair	40 (5.2)	16 (13.1)	9 (8.6)	0 (0.0)	65 (6.4)
Good/Very good	476 (61.6)	76 (62.3)	59 (56.2)	8 (61.5)	619 (61.1)
Excellent	225 (29.1)	25 (20.5)	35 (33.3)	3 (23.4)	288 (28.4)
Not reported	32 (4.1)	5 (4.1)	2 (1.9)	2 (15.4)	41 (4.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>773 (100)</b>	<b>122 (100)</b>	<b>105 (100)</b>	<b>13 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>
<b>2006</b>					
Poor/Fair	74 (8.9)	12 (14.3)	6 (12.0)	-	92 (9.6)
Good/Very good	513 (62.0)	52 (61.9)	35 (70.0)	-	600 (62.4)
Excellent	216 (26.1)	16 (19.1)	6 (12.0)	-	238 (24.7)
Not reported	25 (3.0)	4 (4.8)	3 (6.0)	-	32 (3.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>828 (100)</b>	<b>84 (100)</b>	<b>50 (100)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>



### 4.4.3. Overweight and obesity

We use respondent's height and weight to calculate a body mass index (BMI) for each respondent. The BMI is an internationally recognised standard for classifying overweight and obesity in adult populations. It is an imperfect measure as people tend to overestimate height and underestimate weight when self-reporting,<sup>16</sup> and it does not recognise differences in height and weight proportions which may be related to cultural heritage. While 43% of the sample was in the healthy weight category, 45% reported height and weight that placed them in the overweight or obese category (Table 39). We have provided comparative self-report data from women aged 18 years and older in the 2014-15 NHS (Table 40).<sup>17</sup>

There is understandable concern among members of the LGBTQ community about a focus on body weight, and in particular on using normative ideals of body shape. Body weight does pose a challenge for our communities: levels of overweight and obesity put women at increased risk of heart and lung disease, joint problems, and diabetes.<sup>18-21</sup> More broadly, international research suggests that lesbian and bisexual women have an above-average prevalence of known risk factors for breast and gynaecological cancers including having no children or being older at first childbirth, tobacco use, alcohol consumption, and obesity.<sup>20, 22, 23</sup>

**Table 39: Body mass index**

	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Underweight	36 (3.7)	30 (3.6)	39 (3.5)	21 (3.4)
Healthy	455 (47.2)	395 (47.3)	524 (47.6)	267 (42.9)
Overweight	207 (21.5)	195 (23.4)	266 (24.2)	138 (22.2)
Obese	169 (17.5)	130 (15.6)	172 (15.6)	140 (22.5)
Not reported	97 (10.1)	85 (10.2)	99 (9.0)	57 (9.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

Note: Cut off scores were Underweight (<18.50); Healthy (18.50-24.99); Overweight (25- <29.99); Obese (>30)

**Table 40: Body mass index compared with the women aged 18+ in general community**

	SWASH 2016 %	AHS 2014/15 %
Underweight/Healthy	51.0	45.1
Overweight	24.0	28.2
Obese	25.0	27.2

Note: Cut off scores were Underweight/Healthy (<24.99); Overweight (25- <29.99); Obese (>30). For comparison, table excludes SWASH non-responders.

#### 4.4.4. Mental health

Since 2006 we have used the Kessler 6 (K6) to measure non-specific psychological distress (e.g. feeling nervous, hopeless, restless, worthless) in the preceding four weeks.<sup>25</sup> The proportion of women reporting high distress has been trending up since we first posed the questions in 2006 (Table 41). The 2014-15 National Health Survey (NHS) used the K10,<sup>26</sup> and while these measures cannot be directly compared, the K10 'high/very high' rating (13% of women in NSW) is broadly equivalent to the K6 'medium/high rating' (36% of SWASH sample).

The high levels of distress among LBQ women are reflected in the high proportion of women who reported accessing mental health services (76%) (Table 42), and received a diagnosis of depression, anxiety disorder or other mental health disorder at some point in their lives (58%) (Table 43). The increasingly high mental health service access may be due in part to the Australian government's Better Access program, which since 2006 provided intensive, short-term Medicare-subsidised mental health services. However, a 2005 national survey of gay and lesbian wellbeing<sup>35</sup> found that 62% of women had accessed counselling or psychological between 2000-2005, suggesting use of these services may always have been high in this population. Regardless of whether access has increased or was always high, these findings demonstrate very clearly a considerable demand for services. We do not know how this is being met, or by which professionals. Nor do we know whether women are satisfied with the services they are receiving. It is crucial that general mental health services and individual professionals are able to provide culturally appropriate services to LBQ women.

Distress among younger women (16-24 year olds) is especially alarming; 35% reported high distress compared to 5% of those 45 years and older ( $p < 0.001$ ; Table 41). Again looking to the 2014-15 National Health Survey (NHS), 18% of 18-24 year old NSW women reported 'high/very high' distress compared to 65% of 16-24 year old SWASH women reporting 'medium/high' distress.<sup>26</sup> Over time we see an upward trend in this age group, from 13% reporting high distress in 2006 to 35% in 2016. This trend is echoed in the proportion who accessed mental health services (from 51% in 2006 to 68% in 2016) and received a diagnosis of depression, anxiety disorder or other mental health disorder at some point in their lives (from 39% in 2006 to 63% in 2016).

There is consistent and persuasive international evidence that LGBTQ populations experience higher rates of mental health problems and suicidal behaviour than heterosexual people.<sup>27-32</sup> A review of the international literature concluded that higher rates of depressive symptoms and mental health outcomes are consistently found in LBQ women compared to their heterosexual peers.<sup>33</sup> This is borne out by the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health: younger LBQ women were significantly more likely to exhibit poorer mental health and exhibited significantly higher levels of self-harm than exclusively heterosexual women (17% vs. 3%).<sup>34</sup> The Australian Private Lives survey found 15% of LBQ women reported that in the preceding two weeks they had felt they would be better off dead, with 80% reporting a history of feeling depressed.<sup>35</sup>

**Table 42: Ever accessed counselling or psychological services**

	Lesbian n (%)	Bisexual n (%)	Queer/ Other n (%)	Not reported n (%)	Total n (%)
<b>2016</b>					
No	90 (23.1)	24 (24.7)	15 (11.5)	1 (16.7)	130 (20.9)
Yes, in the past 5 years	229 (58.9)	64 (66.0)	105 (80.2)	4 (66.7)	402 (64.5)
Yes, over 5 years ago	57 (14.7)	6 (6.2)	8 (6.1)	1 (16.7)	72 (11.6)
Not reported	13 (3.3)	3 (3.1)	3 (2.3)	0 (0.0)	19 (3.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>389 (100)</b>	<b>97 (100)</b>	<b>131 (100)</b>	<b>6 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>
<b>2014</b>					
No	219 (29.1)	49 (27.2)	31 (19.4)	1 (14.3)	300 (27.3)
Yes, in the past 5 years	434 (57.6)	103 (57.2)	118 (75.8)	5 (71.4)	660 (60.0)
Yes, over 5 years ago	92 (12.2)	28 (15.6)	9 (5.6)	1 (14.3)	130 (11.8)
Not reported	8 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.3)	0 (0.0)	10 (0.9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>753 (100)</b>	<b>180 (100)</b>	<b>160 (100)</b>	<b>7 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>
<b>2012</b>					
No	161 (28.3)	33 (30.0)	19 (12.9)	3 (37.5)	216 (25.9)
Yes, in the past 5 years	292 (51.2)	58 (52.7)	105 (71.4)	3 (37.5)	548 (54.9)
Yes, over 5 years ago	74 (13.0)	11 (10.0)	16 (10.9)	0 (0.0)	101 (12.0)
Not reported	43 (7.5)	8 (7.3)	7 (4.8)	2 (25.0)	60 (7.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>570 (100)</b>	<b>110 (100)</b>	<b>147 (100)</b>	<b>8 (100)</b>	<b>834 (100)</b>
<b>2010</b>					
No	213 (29.3)	37 (36.6)	29 (23.4)	3 (23.1)	282 (29.3)
Yes, in the past 5 years	359 (49.5)	45 (44.6)	80 (64.5)	3 (23.1)	487 (50.5)
Yes, over 5 years ago	105 (14.5)	10 (9.9)	8 (6.5)	4 (30.8)	127 (13.2)
Not reported	49 (6.8)	9 (8.9)	7 (5.7)	3 (23.1)	68 (7.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>726 (100)</b>	<b>101 (100)</b>	<b>124 (100)</b>	<b>13 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>

**Table 43: Ever diagnosed (self-report) with anxiety, depression or other mental health disorder**

	Lesbian n (%)	Bisexual n (%)	Queer/ Other n (%)	Not reported n (%)	Total n (%)
<b>2016</b>					
No	162 (41.6)	34 (35.1)	42 (32.1)	2 (33.3)	240 (38.5)
Yes, in past 5 years	161 (41.4)	52 (53.6)	75 (57.3)	4 (66.7)	292 (46.9)
Yes, over 5 years ago	52 (13.4)	8 (8.2)	9 (6.9)	0 (0.0)	69 (11.1)
Not reported	14 (3.6)	3 (3.1)	5 (3.8)	0 (0.0)	22 (3.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>389 (100)</b>	<b>97 (100)</b>	<b>131 (100)</b>	<b>6 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>
<b>2014</b>					
No	392 (52.1)	81 (45.0)	69 (43.1)	5 (71.4)	547 (49.7)
Yes, in past 5 years	270 (35.9)	79 (43.9)	74 (46.3)	2 (28.6)	425 (38.6)
Yes, over 5 years ago	79 (10.5)	19 (10.6)	17 (10.6)	0 (0.0)	115 (10.5)
Not reported	12 (1.6)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	13 (1.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>753 (100)</b>	<b>180 (100)</b>	<b>160 (100)</b>	<b>7 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>
<b>2012</b>					
No	268 (47.0)	50 (45.5)	61 (41.5)	5 (62.5)	384 (46.0)
Yes, in past 5 years	188 (33.0)	34 (30.9)	58 (39.5)	1 (12.5)	281 (33.7)
Yes, over 5 years ago	69 (12.1)	16 (14.6)	20 (13.6)	0 (0.0)	105 (12.6)
Not reported	45 (7.9)	10 (9.1)	8 (5.4)	2 (25.0)	65 (7.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>570 (100)</b>	<b>110 (100)</b>	<b>147 (100)</b>	<b>8 (100)</b>	<b>834 (100)</b>
<b>2010</b>					
No	367 (50.6)	53 (52.5)	56 (45.2)	5 (38.5)	481 (50.0)
Yes, in past 5 years	237 (32.6)	28 (27.7)	48 (38.7)	3 (23.1)	316 (32.8)
Yes, over 5 years ago	67 (9.2)	11 (10.9)	13 (10.5)	2 (15.4)	93 (9.6)
Not reported	55 (7.6)	0 (0.0)	7 (5.6)	3 (23.1)	74 (7.7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>726 (100)</b>	<b>101 (100)</b>	<b>124 (100)</b>	<b>13 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>

**Table 41: Kessler 6 measure of psychological distress, by age group**

	16-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45+	Notreported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
<b>2016</b>						
Low distress	39 (27.7)	107 (58.2)	103 (65.6)	84 (61.3)	2 (50.0)	335 (53.8)
Medium distress	42 (29.8)	44 (23.9)	29 (18.5)	22 (16.1)	2 (50.0)	139 (22.3)
High distress	49 (34.8)	20 (10.9)	10 (6.4)	7 (5.1)	0 (0.0)	86 (13.8)
Not reported	11 (7.8)	13 (7.1)	15 (9.6)	24 (17.5)	0 (0.0)	63 (10.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>141 (100)</b>	<b>184 (100)</b>	<b>157 (100)</b>	<b>137 (100)</b>	<b>4 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>
<b>2014</b>						
Low distress	116 (48.9)	260 (61.3)	176 (69.0)	133 (73.1)	1 (50.0)	686 (62.4)
Medium distress	54 (22.8)	85 (20.0)	39 (15.3)	25 (13.7)	1 (50.0)	204 (18.5)
High distress	51 (21.5)	49 (11.6)	17 (6.7)	8 (4.4)	0 (0.0)	125 (11.4)
Not reported	16 (6.8)	30 (7.1)	23 (9.0)	16 (8.8)	0 (0.0)	85 (7.7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>237 (100)</b>	<b>424 (100)</b>	<b>255 (100)</b>	<b>182 (100)</b>	<b>2 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>
<b>2012</b>						
Low distress	82 (51.9)	214 (66.3)	143 (66.2)	90 (64.7)	4 (80.0)	533 (63.8)
Medium distress	34 (21.5)	53 (16.4)	30 (13.9)	17 (12.8)	0 (0.0)	134 (16.1)
High distress	26 (16.5)	24 (7.4)	19 (8.8)	7 (5.3)	0 (0.0)	76 (9.1)
Not reported	16 (10.1)	32 (9.9)	24 (11.1)	19 (14.3)	1 (20.0)	92 (11.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>158 (100)</b>	<b>323 (100)</b>	<b>216 (100)</b>	<b>133 (100)</b>	<b>5 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>
<b>2010</b>						
Low distress	124 (53.2)	215 (62.1)	165 (73.0)	114 (74.5)	2 (33.3)	620 (64.3)
Medium distress	55 (23.6)	61 (17.6)	27 (11.9)	14 (9.2)	0 (0.00)	157 (16.3)
High distress	28 (12.0)	29 (8.4)	12 (5.3)	4 (2.6)	0 (0.00)	73 (7.6)
Not reported	26 (11.1)	41 (11.8)	22 (9.7)	21 (13.7)	4 (66.7)	114 (11.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>233 (100)</b>	<b>346 (100)</b>	<b>226 (100)</b>	<b>153 (100)</b>	<b>6 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>
<b>2006</b>						
Low distress	96 (62.7)	266 (75.0)	195 (78.3)	137 (80.1)	4 (11.8)	698 (72.6)
Medium distress	31 (20.3)	31 (8.7)	25 (10.0)	14 (8.2)	0 (0.00)	101 (10.5)
High distress	20 (13.1)	21 (5.9)	3 (1.2)	9 (5.3)	0 (0.00)	53 (5.5)
Not reported	6 (3.9)	37 (10.4)	26 (10.4)	11 (6.4)	30 (88.2)	110 (11.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>153 (100)</b>	<b>355 (100)</b>	<b>249 (100)</b>	<b>171 (100)</b>	<b>34 (100)</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>

Note: cut off scores were Low = 0-7, Medium = 8-12, High = 13-24.<sup>36</sup>  
 (36) K6 questions were not asked in 2008.

#### 4.4.5. Preventive health practices

The NSW Ministry of Health recommends that all women should be screened for precursors of cervical cancer by having Pap smears every two years, even if they have never had sex with a man.<sup>37</sup> Table 44 shows that 32% of respondents were overdue for screening - last screened more than three years ago, never had or not sure when they last had a Pap smear. The 3-year participation rate for women in the NSW population for the period 2012-2014 was 70%.<sup>38</sup> The equivalent screening rate for SWASH women aged 20-69 years is 71% (the rate has remained around 70% since 2006).

In 2017 the National Cervical Screening Program will change the recommended time between Pap smear tests from two to five years and increase the age at which screening starts from 18 to 25 years; future reports will reflect these changes.<sup>39</sup>

Women who had never had sex with a man remain 2.5 times more likely to have never been screened (32% compared to 13% who had ever had sex with a man). This suggests education is still needed. Lower screening in these women may be due to a belief that lesbian women are at lower risk of cervical cancer, a perception that has been reported among Australian healthcare providers.<sup>40</sup> This is despite HPV transmission only requiring skin-to-skin contact<sup>41</sup> and Australian research demonstrating that the prevalence of genital warts in women with a sexual history with women is similar to that of exclusively heterosexual women.<sup>42</sup> The message that a history of sex with men is not a prerequisite for a Pap smear is particularly important for both LBQ women and their healthcare providers. We've undertaken a detailed analysis of trends and correlates of pap smear rates based on SWASH data.<sup>43</sup> Health promotion campaigns like the Cancer Council of Victoria's Lesbians need Pap smears too, designed to raise awareness among the LGBTQ community and the professionals caring for their health need to continue.

In 2016 we asked women if they had ever received the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine, or cervical cancer vaccine, that offers protection against HPV types related to cancer and related to genital warts. (This question was also asked in 2014 but we have not showed these data due differences in wording). Since 2007 a vaccine has been offered free to young women aged 12 to 13 years through the national HPV vaccine program run in Australian schools, with a parallel catch up program available through GPs for women aged up to 26 years. We restricted analysis to respondents aged under 27 years who would have had access to the free vaccine program. Over half of young women (57%) had received at least one dose; only 29% reported completing the full vaccine schedule (3 doses) (Table 45). Respondents may not remember the vaccines they received in high school or not have been living in the Australia to receive the vaccine. However, coverage in this sample does not come close to that reported for the general population; a 2014 study of 2011 data found 50% of women surveyed in NSW, who were eligible to receive the HPV vaccine, believed they had the full 3 doses (61% reported 1 dose, 56% reported 2 doses).<sup>44</sup> The concern here is that LBQ women may not benefit from the reduced incidence in genital warts nor, more importantly, protection against HPV-related cervical cancer.

Rates of STI testing within the sample appear steady. Over half of respondents (62%) had ever had a test for an STI other than HIV; 19% had done so in the previous six months (Table 46). Women who had ever had sex with a man were significantly more likely to have had an STI test (72%) compared to women who had never had sex with a man (45%;  $p < 0.001$ ). This suggests a need for STI testing campaigns and resources targeting LBQ women about their sexual health, risks and the need for testing. Ninety one women (15%) had ever received an STI diagnosis; 24% of those tested. An STI diagnosis was significantly more likely among women who reported ever having had sex with a man (27%) compared to those who had never had sex with a man (14%;  $p < 0.001$ ). In comparison to STI testing, the proportion of women who reported ever having had an HIV test was low (41%).

In 2016 we asked respondents where they obtained sexual health information (Table 47). The most commonly reported sources were online (58%) and GPs (53%).

**Table 44: Timing of last Pap smear, by experience of sex with men**

	Never had sex with a man n (%)	Ever had sex with a man n (%)	Not reported n (%)	Total n (%)
<b>2016</b>				
Less than 3 years ago <sup>(1)</sup>	106 (52.5)	289 (72.4)	13 (59.1)	408 (65.5)
More than 3 years ago <sup>(2)</sup>	18 (8.9)	52 (13.0)	2 (9.1)	72 (11.6)
Never	64 (31.7)	50 (12.5)	2 (9.1)	116 (18.6)
Not sure	7 (3.5)	4 (1.0)	1 (4.5)	12 (1.9)
Not reported	7 (3.5)	4 (1.0)	4 (18.2)	15 (2.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>202 (100)</b>	<b>399 (100)</b>	<b>22 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>
<b>2014</b>				
Less than 3 years ago <sup>(1)</sup>	197 (57.4)	540 (72.2)	5 (55.6)	742 (67.5)
More than 3 years ago <sup>(2)</sup>	22 (6.4)	76 (10.2)	2 (22.2)	100 (9.1)
Never	109 (31.8)	110 (14.7)	1 (11.1)	220 (20.0)
Not sure	10 (2.9)	16 (2.1)	0 (0.0)	26 (2.4)
Not reported	5 (1.6)	6 (0.8)	1 (11.1)	12 (1.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>334 (100)</b>	<b>748 (100)</b>	<b>9 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>
<b>2012</b>				
Less than 3 years ago <sup>(1)</sup>	177 (60.0)	393 (75.0)	3 (18.8)	573 (68.6)
More than 3 years ago <sup>(2)</sup>	20 (6.8)	40 (7.6)	1 (6.3)	61 (7.3)
Never	75 (25.4)	61 (11.6)	0 (0.0)	136 (16.3)
Not sure	7 (2.4)	7 (1.3)	0 (0.0)	14 (1.7)
Not reported	16 (5.4)	23 (4.4)	12 (75.0)	51 (6.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>295 (100)</b>	<b>524 (100)</b>	<b>16 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>
<b>2010</b>				
Less than 3 years ago <sup>(1)</sup>	226 (60.1)	430 (75.3)	7 (41.2)	663 (68.8)
More than 3 years ago <sup>(2)</sup>	29 (7.7)	46 (8.1)	0 (0)	75 (7.8)
Never	91 (24.2)	61 (10.7)	0 (0)	152 (15.8)
Not sure	10 (2.7)	8 (1.4)	0 (0)	18 (1.9)
Not reported	20 (5.3)	26 (4.6)	10 (58.8)	56 (5.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>376 (100)</b>	<b>571 (100)</b>	<b>17 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>
<b>2008</b>				
Less than 3 years ago <sup>(a)</sup>	254 (59.2)	425 (74.4)	3 (23.1)	682 (67.3)
More than 3 years ago <sup>(b)</sup>	44 (10.3)	62 (10.9)	1 (7.7)	107 (10.6)
Never	112 (26.1)	69 (12.1)	1 (7.7)	182 (18.0)
Not reported	19 (4.4)	15 (2.6)	8 (61.5)	42 (4.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>429 (100)</b>	<b>571 (100)</b>	<b>13 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>
<b>2006</b>				
Less than 3 years ago <sup>(a)</sup>	169 (49.7)	450 (73.7)	4 (36.4)	623 (64.8)
More than 3 years ago <sup>(b)</sup>	46 (13.5)	85 (13.9)	1 (9.1)	132 (13.7)
Never	105 (30.9)	64 (10.5)	0 (0)	169 (17.6)
Not reported	20 (5.9)	12 (2.0)	6 (54.6)	38 (4.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>340 (100)</b>	<b>611 (100)</b>	<b>11 (100)</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>

(1) The response options in 2006 and 2008 were "Less than a year" and "1-3 years"; in 2010 and 2012 they were "less than 2 years ago", "2-3 year". We have collapsed the options to "less than 3 years ago" for comparison.

(2) The option in 2006 and 2008 was "more than 3 year ago"; in 2010 and 2012 it was "3-5 years" and "more than 5 years ago". We have collapsed the options to "more than 3 years ago" for comparison.

**Table 45: HPV vaccine uptake in 16 to 26 year olds (2016)**

	16-19 years	20-26 years	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
One dose	2 (4.0)	17 (13.2)	19 (10.6)
Two doses	6 (12.0)	10 (7.8)	16 (8.9)
Three doses	11 (22.0)	41 (31.8)	52 (29.1)
Yes but unsure about no. of doses	5 (10.0)	10 (7.8)	15 (8.4)
No	13 (26.0)	31 (24.0)	44 (24.6)
Not sure if at all	11 (22.0)	18 (14.0)	29 (16.2)
Not reported	2 (4.0)	2 (1.6)	4 (2.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50 (100)</b>	<b>129 (100)</b>	<b>179 (100)</b>

NOTE: HPV vaccine is delivered in three doses at 0, 2, 6 months; table only includes women aged 18 to 28 years



**Table 46: Timing of last STI test other than HIV by sexual identity**

	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer/ Other	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
<b>2016</b>					
Never	146 (37.5)	35 (36.1)	32 (24.4)	3 (50.0)	216 (34.7)
Yes, over 6 months ago	168 (43.2)	37 (38.1)	60 (45.8)	1 (16.7)	266 (42.7)
Yes, in the past 6 months	62 (15.9)	20 (20.6)	36 (27.5)	2 (33.3)	120 (19.3)
Not reported	13 (3.3)	5 (5.2)	3 (2.3)	0 (0)	21 (3.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>
<b>2014</b>					
Never	330 (43.8)	61 (33.9)	43 (26.9)	1 (14.3)	435 (39.5)
Yes, over 6 months ago	304 (40.4)	71 (39.4)	74 (46.3)	4 (57.1)	453 (41.2)
Yes, in the past 6 months	105 (13.9)	47 (26.1)	43 (26.9)	2 (28.6)	197 (17.9)
Not reported	14 (1.9)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	15 (1.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>753 (100)</b>	<b>180 (100)</b>	<b>160 (100)</b>	<b>7 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>
<b>2012</b>					
Never	252 (44.2)	43 (39.1)	39 (26.5)	1 (12.5)	335 (40.1)
Yes, over 6 months ago	202 (35.4)	38 (34.6)	60 (40.8)	2 (25.0)	302 (36.2)
Yes, in the past 6 months	79 (13.9)	21 (19.1)	46 (31.3)	0 (0.0)	146 (17.5)
Not reported	37 (6.5)	8 (7.2)	2 (1.4)	5 (62.5)	52 (6.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>570 (100)</b>	<b>110 (100)</b>	<b>147 (100)</b>	<b>8 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>
<b>2010</b>					
Never	305 (42.0)	39 (38.6)	34 (27.4)	6 (46.2)	384 (39.8)
Yes, over 6 months ago	277 (38.2)	32 (31.7)	54 (43.6)	5 (38.5)	368 (38.2)
Yes, in the past 6 months	103 (14.2)	23 (22.8)	28 (22.6)	0 (0.0)	154 (16.0)
Not reported	41 (5.7)	7 (6.9)	8 (6.5)	2 (15.4)	58 (6.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>726 (100)</b>	<b>101 (100)</b>	<b>124 (100)</b>	<b>13 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>
<b>2008</b>					
Never	337 (43.6)	38 (31.2)	25 (23.8)	5 (38.5)	405 (40.0)
Yes, over 6 months ago	297 (38.4)	53 (43.4)	51 (48.6)	3 (23.1)	404 (39.9)
Yes, in the past 6 months	106 (13.7)	27 (22.1)	27 (25.7)	3 (23.1)	163 (16.1)
Not reported	33 (4.3)	4 (3.3)	2 (1.9)	2 (15.4)	41 (4.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>773 (100)</b>	<b>122 (100)</b>	<b>105 (100)</b>	<b>13 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>
<b>2006</b>					
Never	356 (43.0)	30 (35.7)	14 (28.0)	-	400 (41.6)
Yes, over 6 months ago	344 (41.6)	34 (40.5)	23 (46.0)	-	401 (41.7)
Yes, in the past 6 months	93 (11.2)	15 (17.9)	8 (16.0)	-	116 (12.1)
Not reported	35 (4.2)	5 (6.0)	5 (10.0)	-	45 (4.7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>828 (100)</b>	<b>84 (100)</b>	<b>50 (100)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>

**Table 47: Obtaining sexual health information**

	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)
Online	557 (50.6)	358 (57.5)
GP	478 (43.5)	327 (52.5)
Friends	306 (27.8)	189 (30.3)
Community organisation	249 (22.6)	180 (28.9)
Don't seek information	-(1)	33 (5.3)

Note: Summary table; adds up to more than 100% because respondents could be in more than one category.

(1) Not given as an option in 2014.

## 4.5. Experiences of violence and abuse

### 4.5.1. Intimate partner violence

Forty five percent of women reported they had ever been in a relationship where a partner had physically or emotionally abused them; 32% of women reported experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) from a woman (Table 48). In 2016 we asked women when this violence had occurred: 24% said within the past 2 years, 30% said 2-5 years ago and 46% more than 5 years ago (Table 49). Regardless of whether the partner was male or female, IPV was most likely to have taken place more than 5 years ago.

The apparent increase in (IPV) since 2006 needs to be interpreted with caution. It is not clear if IPV is increasing or if awareness has increased. Indeed, this may be evidence of the effectiveness of work by ACON, the Inner City Legal Centre, and the LGBTQ Domestic and Family Violence Interagency on LGBTQ domestic violence. Targeted messages to the LGBTQ community (e.g. the nature of IPV or where to get support) may be having a positive effect by providing a language for talking about IPV and encourage reporting.

Just over half (54%) of women who reported experiencing IPV had talked to someone else or sought help (similar to previous years). The most common sources of help were counsellor/psychologist (66%) and friend/neighbour (63%; Table 50). This may indicate a need for increased capacity in support services around domestic violence for LBQ women and to educate them to understand crisis and longer term needs, including support to report to law enforcement agencies.

**Table 48: Number of respondents who had ever experienced IPV**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2016</b>
	n (%)	n (%)		n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Never	608 (63.2)	636 (62.8)	538 (55.8)	474 (56.8)	643 (58.5)	328 (52.6)
Yes, with a male only	130 (13.5)	113 (11.2)	74 (7.7)	90 (10.8)	124 (11.3)	81 (13.0)
Yes, with a female only	194 (20.2)	221 (21.8)	266 (27.6)	213 (25.5)	292 (26.5)	163 (26.2)
Yes, with both	- <sup>1</sup>	- <sup>1</sup>	15 (1.6)	7 (0.8)	29 (2.6)	34 (5.5)
Not reported	30 (3.1)	43 (4.2)	71 (7.4)	51 (6.1)	12 (1.1)	17 (2.7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>962 (100)</b>	<b>1013 (100)</b>	<b>964 (100)</b>	<b>835 (100)</b>	<b>1100 (100)</b>	<b>623 (100)</b>

(1) In 2006 and 2008 we did not ask if women had experienced DV with both male and female, but a proportion of respondents are likely to have experienced both

**Table 49: Timing of IPV (2016 only)**

	In past 2 years	2-5 years ago	Over 5 years ago	Not reported
Yes, with a male only	19 (23.5)	19 (23.5)	42 (51.9)	1 (1.2)
Yes, with a female only	40 (24.5)	51 (31.3)	72 (44.2)	0 (0.0)
Yes, with both	8 (23.5)	13 (38.2)	12 (35.3)	1 (2.9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>67 (24.1)</b>	<b>83 (29.9)</b>	<b>126 (45.3)</b>	<b>2 (0.7)</b>

**Table 50: Sources of help for IPV (2016 only)**

	<b>2016</b>
	n (%)
Counsellor/psychologist	103 (65.6)
Friend or neighbour	99 (63.1)
Family or relative	59 (37.6)
Police	22 (14.0)
Doctor or hospital	25 (15.9)
LGBTI service	13 (8.3)
IPV helpline	9 (5.7)
Online service	2 (1.3)

NOTE: Summary table; adds up to more than 100% because respondents could be in more than one category. ; includes only women who reported ever experiencing IPV

#### 4.5.2. Anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans behaviour

Respondents were asked whether they had experienced any of six specified anti-LGBT acts against them in the preceding 12 months (Table 51). Forty percent of women had experienced some form of abuse or harassment, an increase on previous years. The most common experience was verbal abuse or harassment, and it is this type of abuse that has increased markedly (10%) since 2014, while other forms of abuse have remained steady. That so few women reported abusive behaviour to police is of concern (Table 52) and points to a need for further work to strengthen the relationship between the LGBTQ community and the NSW police force. A number of campaigns over recent years have addressed violence and abuse of LGBTQ people; this includes raising awareness of the impact of homophobic harassment. Campaigns such as ACON's This Is Oz are clearly valuable and must continue; it is unacceptable that so many LBQ women experienced some type of anti-LGBT abuse in the preceding 12 months.

**Table 51: Anti-LGBT behaviour experienced in the past 12 months**

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Verbal abuse or harassment	387 (40.2)	415 (41.0)	295 (30.6)	246 (29.5)	297 (27.0)	233 (37.4)
Being pushed or shoved	74 (7.7)	65 (6.4)	91 (9.4)	68 (8.1)	86 (7.8)	41 (6.6)
Being bashed	23 (2.4)	22 (2.2)	23 (2.4)	18 (2.2)	24 (2.2)	15 (2.4)
Physical threat or intimidation	101 (10.5)	133 (13.1)	92 (9.5)	80 (9.6)	110 (10.0)	65 (10.4)
Refusal of service	73 (7.6)	53 (5.2)	70 (7.3)	51 (6.1)	60 (5.5)	34 (5.5)
Refused employment or promotion	46 (4.8)	35 (3.5)	41 (4.3)	34 (4.1)	42 (3.8)	24 (3.9)
<b>Any of the above</b>	<b>414 (43.0)</b>	<b>433 (42.7)</b>	<b>326 (33.8)</b>	<b>274 (32.8)</b>	<b>315 (28.6)</b>	<b>247 (39.8)</b>

**Table 52: Anti-LGBT behaviour reported to police in the past 12 months**

	2012	2014	2016
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Verbal abuse or harassment	5 (2.0)	7 (2.4)	7 (3.0)
Being pushed or shoved	3 (4.4)	5 (5.8)	5 (12.2)
Being bashed	3 (16.7)	3 (12.5)	1 (6.7)
Physical threat or intimidation	4 (5.0)	8 (7.3)	5 (7.7)
Refusal of service	1 (2.0)	1 (1.7)	1 (2.9)
Refused employment or promotion	1 (2.9)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)

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# Conclusion

SWASH provides a snapshot of the health and wellbeing of LBQ women in Sydney. It highlights several areas of particular concern - many of which have persisted over time - where mainstream preventive health interventions that are inclusive of this group or targeted to LBQ, are needed. Despite the survey's breadth we are not collecting information on all salient health issues (e.g. exercise, diet or health service utilisation). In particular, presentations at community forums and professional meetings have raised questions about the use of prescribed medication for psychological distress, experiences of self-injury or suicidality, and use of mental health or physical health services.

SWASH is a convenience survey rather than a random sample, but recruitment is done in settings not specifically related to the health outcomes under study. People come to Mardi Gras Fair Day, where approximately two thirds of our respondents were recruited, for social reasons, not because they have health or other problems. This means that the sample is not skewed towards people with high rates of health difficulties or risk factors. On the other hand, a survey of this sort is not likely to include people with same-sex desires about which they are very uneasy or who do not wish to associate with the LGBTQ community or are not drawn to the activities or events on offer during Mardi Gras season. The results reflect the features of a generally younger, metropolitan, community-attached group of LBQ women, rather than all women who have had sexual experiences with women, or all women who do not identify as heterosexual.

Over the last six iterations of the SWASH survey, a total of 5497 lesbian, bisexual and queer and other non-heterosexually identifying women engaged with Sydney LGBTQ communities have been surveyed. The lack of comparable surveys within Australia (and to our knowledge, internationally) highlights the importance of SWASH. This report provides an unparalleled insight into the health and wellbeing of LBQ women, and indicates findings of particular salience and urgency for those interested in improving the health and wellbeing of this population.

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# Appendix 1: Questionnaires

20. In the past **6 mths**, how many women have you had sex with?  
 None  One  2-5  6-10  More than 10  times
21. In the last **4 wks**, how many times have you had sex with a woman? (write a number) \_\_\_\_\_
22. In the past **6 mths**, which of the following have you done while having sex with a woman?  
 Fingers / hand on external genitals  No  Yes   
 Fingers / hand inside vagina    
 Fingers / hand inside anus    
 Oral sex (your mouth, her genitals)    
 Oral sex (her mouth, your genitals)    
 Rimming (her mouth, your anus)    
 Rimming (your mouth, her anus)    
 Sex toy used on external genitals    
 Sex toy used inside vagina    
 Sex toy used inside anus
23. In the past **6 mths**, have you done:  
 Kink, S/M dominance/bondage (no blood)  No  Yes   
 Kink, S/M dominance/bondage (with blood)
24. Have you done any sex work?  
 Over 6 mths ago  In the past 6 mths  Never
25. When was the last occasion you had sex with a **gay/homosexual/bisexual man**?  
 Over 6 mths ago  Go to Q27  Never  In the past 6 mths
26. In the past **6 mths** have you had vaginal/anal intercourse with a **gay/bisexual man** (regular or casual partner) **without** a condom?  
 Never  Once  Occasionally  Often
27. When was the last occasion you had sex with a **straight/heterosexual man**?  
 Over 6 mths ago  Go to Q29  Never  In the past 6 mths
28. In the past **6 mths** have you had vaginal/anal intercourse with a **straight/heterosexual man** (regular or casual partner) **without** a condom?  
 Never  Once  Occasionally  Often
29. Are you currently in a sexual relationship with a regular partner?  
 A woman  A man  Multiple regular partners/poly
30. How long is this relationship?  
 Less than 6 mths  6-11 mths  1-2 yrs  3-5 yrs  More than 5 yrs
31. Have you had casual sex in the past **6 mths**?  
 No  Yes, with women   
 Yes, with men  Yes, with both

9. Are you: (tick all that apply)  
 Employed full-time   
 Employed part-time  Unemployed   
 Doing domestic duties  Not in the work force   
 Pensioner/social security  Student
10. What is your annual income before tax?  
 Nil-\$19,999   
 \$20,000-\$39,999  \$40,000-\$59,999   
 \$60,000-\$99,999  \$100,000+
11. What is the highest level of education you have completed?  
 Up to Year 10 / School Certificate   
 Year 12 / HSC / Leaving Cert / IB   
 Tertiary diploma or trade certificate   
 University or college degree   
 Postgraduate degree (MA, MSc, PhD)
12. Do you have any dependent children?  
 If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_  
 No  Yes
13. Are you planning to have a child in the next **2 yrs**?  
 No  Yes
14. Do you have a chronic (long-term) illness or disability?  
 If yes, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No  Yes
- Community**
15. Do you feel connected to a LGBTIQ community in your everyday life?  
 Very  Mostly  Somewhat  Rarely  Not at all
16. In the past **6 mths** have you attended:  
 Lesbian/queer women's night/bar  No  Monthly  Weekly  More   
 Gay night/bar      
 LGBTQ dance party      
 LGBTQ group meeting      
 LGBTQ community event      
 LGBTQ sports group
17. Please tell us where you connect with LGBTIQ community or content online (sites, pages, groups) \_\_\_\_\_
18. How many of your friends are LGBTIQ?  
 None  A few  Some  Most  All
- Sex and relationships**
19. When was the last time you had sex with a **woman**?  
 Never  Go to Q23  Over 6 mths ago  Go to Q23   
 In the past 6 mths

- Before you start:** This code allows us to track changes in health over time. This will NOT identify you.  
 First two letters of first name  and surname
- Did you complete the SWASH survey in 2014? Yes
- About You**
1. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_ years  
 No  Yes
2. Postcode/suburb/town where you live \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?  
 No  Yes
4. What is your ethnic or cultural background?  
 (e.g. Greek, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chinese)  
 Anglo-Australian only  Other (specify)
5. Do you think of yourself primarily as:  
 Lesbian/dyke/gay/homosexual  Bisexual   
 Queer  Heterosexual/straight   
 Other (specify)
6. Which of these six statements best describes you? *I have felt sexually attracted—*  
 Only to females, never to males    
 More often to females, and at least once to a male    
 About equally often to females and to males    
 More often to males, and at least once to a female    
 Only to males, never to females    
 To no one at all
7. Are you transgender or transsexual?  
 No  Yes   
 Prefer not to say
8. Are you intersex?  
 No  Yes   
 Prefer not to say



## SWASH - Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer Women's Health Survey 2016

**Definitions:** By **woman** we mean a person who identifies as a woman (born female or now identifies as female). By **man** we mean a person who identifies as a man (born male or now identifies as male). By **LGBTIQ** we mean lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer

**Before you start:** This code allows us to track changes in health over time. This will NOT identify you.

First two letters of first name  and surname

Did you complete the SWASH survey in 2014? Yes

**About You**

1. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_ years

2. Postcode/suburb/town where you live \_\_\_\_\_

3. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

4. What is your ethnic or cultural background?  
 (e.g. Greek, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chinese)  
 Anglo-Australian only  Other (specify)

5. Do you think of yourself primarily as:  
 Lesbian/dyke/gay/homosexual  Bisexual   
 Queer  Heterosexual/straight   
 Other (specify)

6. Which of these six statements best describes you? *I have felt sexually attracted—*

7. Are you transgender or transsexual?  
 No  Yes   
 Prefer not to say

8. Are you intersex?  
 No  Yes   
 Prefer not to say



55. How often do you normally drink alcohol?  
 Never  1 Go to Q68  Less often than weekly  2  
 1 or 2 days a week  3 3-4 days a week  4  
 5-6 days a week  5 Every day  6

56. On a day when you drink alcohol, how many standard drinks do you usually have?  
 (1 drink = a small glass of wine, a middie of beer or a nip of spirits)  
 1-2 drinks  1 3-4 drinks  2 5-8 drinks  3  
 9-12 drinks  4 13-20 drinks  5 20+ drinks  6

57. In the past 6 mths, how often have you drunk 5 or more drinks on one occasion?  
 Never  1 Once or twice  2  
 About once a month  3 About once a week  4  
 More than once a week  5 Every day  6

58. How often have you used these drugs in the last 6 mths?  
 And where did you take usually them?

	Never	1-5	6+	Home	Venue/ party	During sex
Benzos / Valium	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Amyl / poppers	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Natural cannabis	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Synthetic cannabis	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Ecstasy	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Amphetamines	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
(speed/ice)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Cocaine	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
LSD / trips	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
GHB	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Ketamine	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
New/emerging psychostimulants	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Any other drug (specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3

59. Have you ever injected drugs?  
 Never  1 Over 6 months ago  2 In past 6 months  3

60. Have you ever sought help for a drug and/or alcohol issue (your own)?  
 No  1 End of survey  2 Yes  2 Go to Q67

61. Where did you seek help? (tick all that apply)  
 Counsellor/psychologist  2 GP  1  
 Specialist D&A service  4 LGBTI service  5  
 Community organisation  6 Friends/relatives  7  
 Self-help groups (AA/NA/SMART)  8 Hospital/ED  9  
 Online/apps (specify)  10  
 Other (specify)  11

62. During the past 4 wks, how much of the time did you feel cheer you up  
 All of the time  1 Most of the time  2 Some of the time  3 A little of the time  4 None of the time  5

63. Do you currently smoke cigarettes or other tobacco?  
 Daily  1 More than weekly (not daily)  2  
 Less than weekly  3 Ex-smoker  4  
 Never smoked/less than 100 in lifetime  5

64. How tall are you without shoes? \_\_\_\_\_ cms  
 How much do you weigh? \_\_\_\_\_ kgs

65. How often have you vaccinated against Human Papillomavirus (HPV; Gardasil/Cervarix)?  
 No, never  1 Not sure  2  
 Yes, at least 1 dose  3 Yes, at least 2 doses  4  
 Yes, at least 3 doses  5 Unsure how many doses  6

66. Have you ever had a test for a sexually transmitted infection (not HIV)?  
 Over 6 mths ago  2 In the past 6 mths  3

67. Have you ever been diagnosed with an STI?  
 No  1 Yes  2

68. Have you ever had an HIV antibody test?  
 No  1 Go to Q60  2 Yes  2 Not sure  3

69. What was the result of your last HIV test?  
 Positive (you have HIV)  1 Negative  2 Not sure  3

70. Where do you get sexual health information?  
 Friends  2 GP  3 Community organisation  4  
 Other (specify)  5 \_\_\_\_\_

71. Have you ever accessed a counsellor or psychiatrist?  
 No  1 Yes, in past 5 yrs  2 Yes, over 5 yrs ago  3

72. Have you ever been diagnosed with depression, anxiety disorder or other mental health disorder?  
 No  1 Yes, in past 5 yrs  2 Yes, over 5 yrs ago  3

73. Psychological health and wellbeing  
 So sad nothing could cheer you up  1 Most of the time  2 Some of the time  3 A little of the time  4 None of the time  5  
 Nervous  1 Restless or fidgety  2 Hopeless  3 That everything was an effort  4 Worthless  5

74. Do you currently smoke cigarettes or other tobacco?  
 Daily  1 More than weekly (not daily)  2  
 Less than weekly  3 Ex-smoker  4  
 Never smoked/less than 100 in lifetime  5

75. How tall are you without shoes? \_\_\_\_\_ cms  
 How much do you weigh? \_\_\_\_\_ kgs

76. How often have you vaccinated against Human Papillomavirus (HPV; Gardasil/Cervarix)?  
 No, never  1 Not sure  2  
 Yes, at least 1 dose  3 Yes, at least 2 doses  4  
 Yes, at least 3 doses  5 Unsure how many doses  6

77. Have you ever had a test for a sexually transmitted infection (not HIV)?  
 Over 6 mths ago  2 In the past 6 mths  3

78. Have you ever been diagnosed with an STI?  
 No  1 Yes  2

79. What was the result of your last HIV test?  
 Positive (you have HIV)  1 Negative  2 Not sure  3

80. Where do you get sexual health information?  
 Friends  2 GP  3 Community organisation  4  
 Other (specify)  5 \_\_\_\_\_

81. Have you ever accessed a counsellor or psychiatrist?  
 No  1 Yes, in past 5 yrs  2 Yes, over 5 yrs ago  3

82. Have you ever been diagnosed with depression, anxiety disorder or other mental health disorder?  
 No  1 Yes, in past 5 yrs  2 Yes, over 5 yrs ago  3

83. During the past 4 wks, how much of the time did you feel cheer you up  
 All of the time  1 Most of the time  2 Some of the time  3 A little of the time  4 None of the time  5

84. Do you currently smoke cigarettes or other tobacco?  
 Daily  1 More than weekly (not daily)  2  
 Less than weekly  3 Ex-smoker  4  
 Never smoked/less than 100 in lifetime  5

85. How tall are you without shoes? \_\_\_\_\_ cms  
 How much do you weigh? \_\_\_\_\_ kgs



### Sydney Women and Sexual Health (SWASH) Survey 2014

**Before you start** complete this code so we can track changes in women's health over time. This will NOT identify you.

First two letters of first name   and surname

Did you complete the SWASH survey in 2012? Yes  No

**About You**  
 1. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_ years

2. Postcode or Suburb/Town where you live \_\_\_\_\_

3. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? No  Yes

4. What is your ethnic or cultural background? (e.g. Greek, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chinese) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you think of yourself primarily as:  
 Lesbian/dyke/gay/homosexual  Queer  Bisexual   
 Other (specify)  Heterosexual/straight

6. Which of these six statements best describes you? *I have felt sexually attracted—*  
 Only to females, never to males  1  
 More often to females, and at least once to a male  2  
 About equally often to females and to males  3  
 More often to males, and at least once to a female  4  
 Only to males, never to females  5  
 To no one at all  6

7. Are you transgender or transsexual? No  Yes   
 Prefer not to say  3

8. Are you intersex? No  Yes   
 Prefer not to say  3

9. Are you: Tick all that apply  
 Employed full-time  1  
 Employed part-time  2  
 Doing domestic duties  4  
 Pensioner/social security  6  
 Student  7  
 Unemployed  3  
 Not in the work force  5

10. What is your annual income before tax?  
 Nil—\$19,999  1  
 \$20,000—\$39,999  2  
 \$40,000—\$59,999  3  
 \$60,000—\$99,999  4  
 \$100,000+  5

11. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Up to Year 10 / School Certificate  1
- Year 12 / HSC / Leaving Cert / IB  2
- Tertiary diploma or trade certificate  3
- University or college degree  4
- Postgraduate degree (MA, MSc, PhD)  5

12. Do you have any dependent children? No  Yes   
 If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Are you planning to have a child in the next 2 years? No  Yes

14. Have you ever been homeless? Tick all that apply  
 Now Past Never

- Sleeping rough/squatting  1  2  3
- Emergency accommodation, refuge, shifting between friends/relatives  1  2  3
- Boarding house, caravan park, hostel, hotel, motel  1  2  3

**Community**

LGBTQ means Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer

15. Do you feel connected to a LGBTQ community in your everyday life? Very  1 Mostly  2 Somewhat  3 Rarely  4 Not at all  5

16. In the past 6 months have you attended:  
 Lesbian/queer women's night/bar  1  2  3  4  
 Gay night/bar  1  2  3  4  
 LGBTQ dance party  1  2  3  4  
 LGBTQ group meeting  1  2  3  4  
 LGBTQ community event  1  2  3  4  
 LGBTQ sports group  1  2  3  4

17. How many of your friends are LGBTQ? None  1 A few  2 Some  3 Most  4 All  5

**Sex and relationships**

18. When was the last time you had sex with a woman? Never  1 Go to Q22  
 Over 6 mths ago  2 Go to Q22 In the past 6 mths  3

19. In the past 6 months, how many women have you had sex with? None  1 One  2 2-5  3 6-10  4 More than 10  5

20. In the last 4 weeks, how many times have you had sex with a woman? (write a number) \_\_\_\_\_ times

21. In the past 6 mths, which of the following have you done while having sex with a woman?

- Fingers / hand on external genitals  1 No  2 Yes  2
- Fingers / hand inside vagina  1 No  2 Yes  2
- Fingers / hand inside anus  1 No  2 Yes  2
- Oral sex (your mouth, her genitals)  1 No  2 Yes  2
- Oral sex (her mouth, your genitals)  1 No  2 Yes  2
- Rimming (her mouth, your anus)  1 No  2 Yes  2
- Rimming (your mouth, her anus)  1 No  2 Yes  2
- Sex toy used on external genitals  1 No  2 Yes  2
- Sex toy used inside vagina  1 No  2 Yes  2
- Sex toy used inside anus  1 No  2 Yes  2

22. In the past 6 mths, have you done:  
 S/M dominance/bondage (no blood)  1 No  2 Yes  2  
 S/M dominance/bondage (with blood)  1 No  2 Yes  2

23. Have you done any sex work? Never  1  
 Over 6 mths ago  2 In the past 6 mths  3

24. When was the last occasion you had sex with a gay/homosexual/bisexual man? Never  1 Go to Q26  
 Over 6 mths ago  2 In the past 6 mths  3

25. In the past 6 mths have you had vaginal or anal intercourse with a gay/bisexual man (regular or casual partner) without a condom? Never  1 Occasionally  3 Often  4

26. When was the last occasion you had sex with a straight/heterosexual man? Never  1 Go to Q28  
 Over 6 mths ago  2 Go to Q28 In the past 6 mths  3

27. In the past 6 mths have you had vaginal or anal intercourse with a straight/heterosexual man (regular or casual partner) without a condom? Never  1 Occasionally  3 Often  4

28. Are you currently in a sexual relationship with a regular partner? No  1 Go to Q30  
 A woman  2 A man  3 Multiple regular partners/poly  4

29. How long is this relationship? Less than 6 mths  1 6-11 mths  2 1-2 yrs  3 3-5 yrs  4 More than 5 yrs  5

30. Have you had casual sex in the past 6 mths? No  1 Go to Q32 Yes, with women  2 Yes, with men  3 Yes, with both  4

31. Where do you meet casual sexual partners? Tick all that apply  
 Bars/night clubs  1  
 Online dating sites  2  
 Social networking sites  3  
 Friends of friends  4  
 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  5

32. On any occasion in the past 6 months have you had group sex which included:  
 a gay, homosexual or bisexual man  No  Yes  
 a straight or heterosexual man    
 a woman    
 S/M dominance/bondage (no blood)    
 S/M dominance/bondage (with blood)

**Your health**

33. Do you have a regular GP?  
 I see the same GP  I attend the same health centre

34. If you have a regular GP, how satisfied are you?  
 Very satisfied  Satisfied  Neither  Unsatisfied  Very unsatisfied

35. Are you out to your GP about your sexuality/gender identity?  
 No  Yes

36. In general, would you say your health is?  
 Poor  Fair  Good  Very good  Excellent

37. How tall are you without shoes?  
 \_\_\_\_\_cms

38. How much do you weigh (no clothes/shoes)?  
 \_\_\_\_\_kgs

39. When did you have your last Pap smear test?  
 Less than 2 yrs ago  2-3 yrs ago  3-5 yrs ago  More than 5 yrs ago  Never  Not sure

40. Have you been vaccinated against Human Papillomavirus (HPV, Gardasil/Cervarix)?  
 1 dose  2 doses  3 doses  Never  Not sure

41. Have you ever had a test for a sexually transmitted infection (not HIV)?  
 Over 6 mths ago  In the past 6 mths

42. Have you ever been diagnosed with an STI?  
 No  Yes

43. Have you ever had an HIV antibody test?  
 Yes  No  Go to Q.45  
 Not sure

44. What was the result of your last HIV test?  
 Positive (you have HIV)  Negative  Not sure

45. Where do you get sexual health information?  
 Friends  GP  Community organisation  Online   
 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  Don't seek information

**Psychological health and wellbeing**

46. Have you ever accessed a counsellor or psychiatrist?  
 No  Yes, in past 5 yrs  Yes, over 5 yrs ago

47. Have you ever been diagnosed with depression, anxiety disorder or other mental health disorder?  
 No  Yes, in past 5 yrs  Yes, over 5 yrs ago

48. During the past 4 weeks, how much of the time did you feel All of the time  Most of the time  A little of the time  None of the time

So sad nothing could cheer you up  Nervous  Restless or fidgety  Hopeless  That everything was an effort  Worthless

**Smoking, drinking and drug use**

49. Do you currently smoke cigarettes or other tobacco?  
 Daily  More than weekly (not daily)  Less than weekly  Ex-smoker  Never smoked/less than 100 in lifetime  Go to Q52

50. In the last 12 mths, have you:  
 Successfully given up smoking (more than a month)  Tried to give up unsuccessfully  Changed to a brand with lower tar/nicotine content  Tried to change to a brand with lower tar/nicotine content, but were unsuccessful  Reduced the amount of tobacco you smoke in a day  Tried to reduce the amount of tobacco smoked in a day, but were unsuccessful  None of these

51. Would you like to reduce or quit your current level of smoking?  
 No  Yes

52. How often do you normally drink alcohol?  
 Never  1 or 2 days a week  3-4 days a week  5-6 days a week

53. On a day when you drink alcohol, how many standard drinks do you usually have? (1 drink = a small glass of wine, a midday of beer or a nip of spirits)  
 1-2 drinks  3-4 drinks  5-8 drinks  9-12 drinks  13-20 drinks  20+ drinks

54. In the past 6 mths, how often have you drunk 5 or more drinks on one occasion?  
 Never  About once a month  Once or twice  More than once a week  Every day

55. In the last 12 mths, have you:  
 Reduced the number of times you drink you used to  Switched to drinking more low-alcoholic drinks than you used to  Stopped drinking alcohol  Changed your main drink  None of the above

56. Would you like to reduce or quit your current level of alcohol use?  
 No  Yes

57. How often have you used these drugs in the last 6 mths?  
 Never  1-5 times  6-10 times  11-20 times  More than 20 times

Benzos / Valium  Amyl / poppers  Marijuana  Ecstasy  Speed  Cocaine  Crystal meth  LSD / trips  GHB  Ketamine  Any other drug (specify)

58. Have you ever injected drugs?  
 Never  Over 6 months ago  In past 6 months

**Violence**

59. In the last 12 months, have you experienced any of the following anti-lesbian, gay, bi or trans behaviour?  
 Yes  No  Tick if reported to police:

Verbal abuse or harassment  Being pushed or shoved  Being bashed  Physical threat or intimidation  Refusal of service  Refused employment/promotion

60. Have you ever been in a relationship where your partner physically or emotionally abused you?  
 Never  Go to Q62  Yes, with a man  Yes, with a woman

61. Did you talk to someone else about it or seek help?  
 No  Yes

62. Since the age of 16, have you been forced or frightened into doing something sexually that you didn't want to do?  
 Never  Yes, by a man  Yes, by a woman

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey  
 Page 2 of 2



**Sydney Women and Sexual Health (SWASH) Survey 2012**

**Before you start**

Please complete this code so we can track changes in women's health year to year. We will NOT be able to identify you; you can use a pretend/nickname but make sure it is one you will remember.

First two letters of first name  and surname

Did you complete the SWASH survey in:  
 2010  2008  2006  Earlier  Never

**About You**

1. What is your age?  years

2. Postcode or Suburb/Town where you live \_\_\_\_\_

3. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?  
 No  Yes

4. What is your ethnic or cultural background? (e.g. Greek, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chinese) Anglo-Australian only   
 Other  (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you think of yourself primarily as:  
 Lesbian / dyke / homosexual / gay  Bisexual   
 Queer  Heterosexual / straight   
 Other (please specify)  \_\_\_\_\_

6. Which of these six statements best describes you?  
*I have felt sexually attracted—*  
 Only to females, never to males   
 More often to females, and at least once to a male   
 About equally often to females and to males   
 More often to males, and at least once to a female   
 Only to males, never to females   
 To no one at all

7. Are you transgender or transsexual? No  Yes

8. Are you: Tick all that apply  
 Employed full-time   
 Employed part-time  Unemployed   
 Doing domestic duties  Not in the work force   
 Pensioner/social security benefits  Student

9. What is your annual income before tax? Nil–\$19,999   
 \$20,000–\$39,999  \$40,000–\$59,999   
 \$60,000–\$99,999  \$100,000+

10. What is the highest level of education you have completed? Up to Year 10 / School Certificate   
 Year 12 / HSC / Leaving Cert / IB   
 Tertiary diploma or trade certificate   
 University or college degree   
 Postgraduate degree (master's, PhD)

11. Do you have any dependent children?  
 No  Yes  If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Are you planning to have a child in the next 2 years?  
 No  Yes  Not sure

**Community**

LGBTQ means Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer

13. Do you feel connected to a LGBTQ community in your everyday life?  
 Very  Mostly  Somewhat  Rarely  Not at all

14. What makes you feel connected to a LGBTQ community?  

	Very	Mostly	Some what	Rarely	Not at all
Socialising with LGBTQ friends at LGBTQ venues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socialising with LGBTQ friends at mainstream venues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hanging out at home with LGBTQ friends and family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spending time with my LGBTQ partner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socialising with LGBTQ friends online	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Having LGBTQ colleagues at work/university	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending LGBTQ community events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playing sport with LGBTQ teams/leagues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. In the past 6 months have you attended:  

	No	Monthly	Weekly	More
Lesbian/queer women's night/bar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gay night/bar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LGBTQ dance party	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LGBTQ group meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LGBTQ community event	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LGBTQ sports group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. How many of your friends are LGBTQ?  
 None  A few  Some  Most  All

**Sex and relationships**

17. When was the last time you had sex with a woman?  
 Never  Go to Q22 Over 6 months ago  Go to Q22  
 In the past 6 months

18. During the past 6 months, how many women have you had sex with?  
 None  One  2–5 women   
 6–10 women  More than 10 women

19. In the past 6 months, which of the following have you done while having sex with a woman?

Fingers / hand on external genitals	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Yes
Fingers / hand inside vagina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fingers / hand inside anus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oral sex (her mouth, her genitals)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oral sex (her mouth, your genitals)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimming (her mouth, your anus)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimming (your mouth, her anus)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex toy used on external genitals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex toy used inside vagina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex toy used inside anus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

20. In the last 4 weeks, how many times have you had sex with a woman? \_\_\_\_\_ times (Please write a number)

21. In the past 6 months, have you done:  
 S/M dominance/bondage (no blood) No  Yes   
 S/M dominance/bondage (with blood) No  Yes

22. Have you done any sex work?  
 Never   
 Over 6 months ago  In the past 6 months

23. When was the last occasion that you had sex with a gay, homosexual or bisexual man?  
 Never  Go to Q26  
 Over 6 mths ago  Go to Q26 In the past 6 mths

24. In the past 6 months have you had vaginal or anal intercourse with a gay or bisexual man (either regular or casual partner) without a condom?  
 Never  Once  Occasionally  Often

25. When was the last occasion that you had sex with a straight or heterosexual man?  
 Never  Go to Q28 Over 6 months ago  Go to Q28  
 In the past 6 months

26. In the past 6 months have you had vaginal or anal intercourse with a straight or heterosexual man (either regular or casual partner) without a condom?  
 Never  Once  Occasionally  Often

Are you currently in a sexual relationship with a regular partner? No regular relationship \_1 Yes, a woman \_2 Yes, a man \_3 Yes, multiple regular partners/poly \_4  
 If yes, how long has this relationship been? Less than 6 months \_1 6-11 months \_2 1-2 years \_3 3-5 years \_4 More than 5 years \_5

27. Have you had casual sex in the past 6 months? Yes, with women \_1 Yes, with men \_2 Yes, with both \_3 No casual partners \_4

28. On any occasion in the past 6 months have you had group sex which included (tick all that apply to you)  
 No Yes  
 a gay, homosexual or bisexual man \_1 \_2  
 a straight or heterosexual man \_1 \_2  
 a woman \_1 \_2  
 dominance/bondage (no blood) \_1 \_2  
 S/M dominance/bondage (with blood) \_1 \_2

**Your health**

29. Do you have a regular GP? No \_1 I see the same GP \_2 I attend the same health centre/practice \_3  
 If you have a regular GP, how satisfied are you? Very satisfied \_1 Satisfied \_2 Neither \_3 Unsatisfied \_4 Very unsatisfied \_5

30. Are you out to your GP about your sexuality/gender identity? No \_1 Yes \_2

31. In general, would you say your health is Poor \_1 Fair \_2 Good \_3 Very good \_4 Excellent \_5

32. How tall are you without shoes? \_\_\_\_\_ cms  
 33. How much do you weigh (no clothes/shoes) \_\_\_\_\_ kgs

34. Has a doctor ever diagnosed you with: (Tick all that apply)  
 Heart disease \_1 Type 2 diabetes \_2 High cholesterol \_3 High blood pressure \_4

35. When did you have your last Pap smear test? < 2 years ago \_1 2-3 years ago \_2 3-5 years ago \_3 More than 5 years ago \_4 Never \_5 Not sure \_6

36. Have you ever had an abnormal Pap smear test? No \_1 Yes \_2 Not sure \_3

37. Have you ever had a test for a sexually transmitted infection (not HIV)? No \_1 Over 6 months ago \_2 In the past 6 months \_3

38. Have you ever been diagnosed with an STI? No \_1 Yes \_2

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39. Have you ever had an HIV antibody test? No \_1 Yes \_2 Don't know \_3

If yes, what was the result of your last HIV test? Positive (you have HIV) \_1 Negative \_2 Not sure \_3

40. Have you ever been tested for hepatitis C? No \_1 Yes \_2 Don't know \_3

If yes, what was the result of your last test? Positive (you have hep C) \_1 Negative \_2 Not sure \_3

**Smoking, drinking and drug use**

41. Do you currently smoke cigarettes or other tobacco? Daily \_1 More than weekly (not daily) \_2 Less than weekly \_3 Ex-smoker \_4 Never smoked/less than 100 in lifetime \_5

42. How often do you normally drink alcohol? Never \_1 Less often than weekly \_2 1 or 2 days a week \_3 3-4 days a week \_4 5-6 days a week \_5 Every day \_6

43. On a day when you drink alcohol, how many standard drinks do you usually have? (1 drink = a small glass of wine, a midly of beer or a nip of spirits)  
 1-2 drinks \_1 3-4 drinks \_2 5-8 drinks \_3 9-12 drinks \_4 13-20 drinks \_5 20+ drinks \_6

44. In the past 6 months, how often have you drunk 5 or more drinks on one occasion? Never \_1 Once or twice \_2 About once a month \_3 About once a week \_4 More than once a week \_5 Every day \_6

45. How often have you used these drugs in the last 6 mths?  

	Never	1-5 times	6-10 times	11-20 times	More than 20 times
Benzos / Valium	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Amyl / poppers	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Marijuana	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Ecstasy	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Speed	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Cocaine	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Crystal meth	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
LSD / trips	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
GHB	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Ketamine	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Any other drug**	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5

 \*\*Please specify other drug \_\_\_\_\_

46. Have you ever injected drugs? Never \_1 Over 6 months ago \_2 In the past 6 months \_3

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey

**Psychological health and wellbeing**

47. During the past 4 weeks, how much of the time did you feel:  
 All of the time Most of the time Some of the time A little of the time None of the time

So sad nothing could cheer you up	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Nervous	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Restless or fidgety	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Hopeless	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
That everything was an effort	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Worthless	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5

48. Have you ever accessed a counsellor or psychiatrist? No \_1 Yes, in past 5 yrs \_2 Yes, over 5 yrs ago \_3

49. Have you ever been diagnosed with depression, anxiety disorder or other mental health disorder? No \_1 Yes, in past 5 yrs \_2 Yes, over 5 yrs ago \_3

**Violence**

50. In the last 12 months, have you experienced any of the following anti-lesbian, gay, bi or trans behaviour? Yes No Reported to police

Verbal abuse or harassment	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3
Being pushed or shoved	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3
Being bashed	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3
Physical threat or intimidation	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3
Refusal of service	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3
Refused employment/promotion	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3

51. Have you ever been in a relationship where your partner abused you (physically or emotionally)? Never \_1 Yes, with a man \_2 Yes, with a woman \_3

If yes, did you talk to someone else about it or seek help? No \_1 Yes \_2

52. Since the age of 16, have you been forced or frightened into doing something sexually that you didn't want to do? No \_1 Yes, by a female \_2 Yes, by a male \_3

Finally, please indicate whether you consider the following statements to be true or false.

53. If a person experiencing a cold sore outbreak has oral sex they can give their partner genital herpes. True \_1 False \_2

54. You can have an STI and not have any symptoms. True \_1 False \_2

Page 2 of 2

# acon

## BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY'S HEALTH & WELLBEING

ACON and the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, University of New South Wales

### Sydney Women and Sexual Health Survey 2010

#### About You

1. What is your age?   years
2. Where do you live? Postcode or Suburb/town \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? No  Yes
4. What is your ethnic or cultural background? e.g. Greek, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chinese  
Anglo-Australian only   
Other  (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you think of yourself primarily as:  
Lesbian / dyke / homosexual / gay   
Bisexual  Heterosexual / straight   
Queer  Other (please specify)  \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which of these six statements best describes you?  
*I have felt sexually attracted—*  
Only to females, never to males   
More often to females, and at least once to a male   
About equally often to females and to males   
More often to males, and at least once to a female   
Only to males, never to females   
To no one at all
7. Are you transgender or transsexual? No   
Yes, identify as female  Yes, identify as male   
Yes, other  (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Are you: (Tick all that apply to you) Employed full-time   
Employed part-time  Unemployed  A student   
Doing domestic duties  Not in the work force   
A pensioner or on social security benefits

9. What is your annual income before tax? Nil–\$19,999   
\$20,000–\$39,999  \$40,000–\$59,999   
\$60,000–\$99,999  \$100,000+

10. What is the highest level of education you have completed? Up to Year 10 / School Certificate   
Year 12 / HSC / Leaving Cert / IB   
Tertiary diploma or trade certificate   
University or college degree   
Postgraduate degree (master's, PhD)

11. Do you have any dependent children? \_\_\_\_\_  
No  Yes  If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Are you planning to have a child in the next 2 years?  
No  Yes  Not sure

If yes, how do you plan to conceive?  
Sexual intercourse with a male partner   
IVF, anonymous donor  IVF, known donor   
Self inseminate, anonymous donor   
Self inseminate, known donor

#### Community

Here, LGBTQ means Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer

13. Do you feel connected to a LGBTQ community in your everyday life?  
Very  Mostly  Somewhat  Rarely  Not at all
14. How many of your friends are LGBTQ?  
None  A few  Some  Most  All

15. In the past 6 months have you attended:  
Lesbian/queer women's night/bar? No  Monthly  Weekly  More   
Gay night/bar?        
LGBTQ dance party?        
LGBTQ group meeting?        
LGBTQ community event?        
LGBTQ sports group?

16. Do you read: Cherrrie No  Yes   
LOTL No  Yes   
SSO (Star) No  Yes   
SX No  Yes
17. Which GLBTQ websites do you visit most often?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Sex and relationships

18. When was the last time you had sex with a woman?  
Never  Over 6 months ago  Go to question 22  
In the past 6 months

19. During the past 6 months, how many women have you had sex with? None  One  2–5 women   
6–10 women  More than 10 women

20. In the past 6 months, which of the following have you done while having sex with a woman?  
Fingers / hand on external genitals No  Yes   
Fingers / hand inside vagina No  Yes   
Fingers / hand inside anus No  Yes   
Oral sex (your mouth, her genitals) No  Yes   
Oral sex (her mouth, your genitals) No  Yes   
Rimming (her mouth, your anus) No  Yes   
Rimming (your mouth, her anus) No  Yes   
Sex toy used on external genitals No  Yes   
Sex toy used inside vagina No  Yes   
Sex toy used inside anus No  Yes

21. In the last 4 weeks, how many times have you had sex with a woman? \_\_\_\_\_ times

22. In the past 6 months, have you done:  
S/M dominance/bondage (no blood) No  Yes   
S/M dominance/bondage (with blood) No  Yes

23. Have you done any sex work? Never   
In the past 6 months  Over 6 months ago

24. When was the last occasion that you had sex with a gay, homosexual or bisexual man?  
Never  Over 6 months ago  Go to question 26  
In the past 6 months

25. In the past 6 months have you had vaginal or anal intercourse with a gay or bisexual man (either regular or casual partner) without a condom?  
Never  Once  Occasionally  Often

26. When was the last occasion that you had sex with a straight or heterosexual man?  
Never  Over 6 months ago  Go to question 28  
In the past 6 months

27. In the past 6 months have you had vaginal or anal intercourse with a straight or heterosexual man (either regular or casual partner) without a condom?  
Never  Once  Occasionally  Often

28. Are you currently in a sexual relationship with a regular partner? No regular relationship   
Yes, a woman  Yes, a man   
Yes, multiple regular partners/polyamorous   
If yes, how long has this relationship been?  
Less than 6 months  6–11 months   
1–2 years  3–5 years  >5 years

29. Have you had casual sex in the past 6 months?  
 Yes, with **women**  Yes, with **both**   
 Yes, with **men**  No casual partners
30. On any occasion in the past 6 months have you had group sex which included (tick all that apply to you)  
 a gay, homosexual or bisexual man? No  Yes   
 a straight or heterosexual man? No  Yes   
 a woman? No  Yes   
 S/M dominance/bondage (no blood) No  Yes   
 S/M dominance/bondage (with blood) No  Yes

**Your health**

31. Do you have a regular GP? No  I see the same GP   
 I attend the same health centre/practice
32. Are you out to your GP about your sexuality/gender identity? No  Yes
33. In general, would you say your health is  
 Poor  Fair  Good  Very good  Excellent
34. How tall are you without shoes?  
 (if you are not sure, estimate) \_\_\_\_\_ cms
35. How much do you weigh without clothes or shoes?  
 (if you are not sure, estimate) \_\_\_\_\_ kgs
36. Have you ever been diagnosed with cancer? No   
 Yes – Breast  Skin  Lung  Cervical   
 Other cancer  (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

37. When did you have your last Pap smear test?  
 Less than 2 years ago  More than 5 years ago   
 2-3 years ago  Never   
 3-5 years ago  Not sure
38. Have you ever had a test for a sexually transmitted infection (not HIV)?  
 No  Over 6 months ago  In the past 6 months   
 No  Yes
39. Have you ever been diagnosed with an STI?  
 No  Yes
- If yes, tick all that apply to you  
 Gonorrhoea  Chlamydia  Lice/crabs   
 Hepatitis B  Syphilis  Genital herpes   
 Genital warts  Bacterial vaginosis  HPV   
 Other  (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

40. Have you ever had an HIV antibody test?  
 No  Yes  Don't know
- If yes, what was the result of your last HIV test?  
 Positive (you have HIV)  Negative  Not sure

41. Have you ever been tested for hepatitis C?  
 No  Yes  Don't know   
 If yes, are you?  
 Positive (you have hep C)  Negative  Not sure

**Smoking, drinking and drug use**

42. Do you currently smoke cigarettes or other tobacco?  
 Yes, daily  Yes, more than weekly (not daily)   
 Yes, less than weekly  No, ex-smoker   
 Never smoked/less than 100 in lifetime
43. On a day when you smoke, how many cigarettes do you usually have? (please specify number) \_\_\_\_\_
44. How often do you normally drink alcohol?  
 Never, I don't drink  Less often than weekly   
 1 or 2 days a week  3 or 4 days a week   
 5 or 6 days a week  Every day
45. On a day when you drink alcohol, how many standard drinks do you usually have? (1 drink = a small/glass of wine, a middy of beer or a nip of spirits)  
 1-2 drinks  3-4 drinks  5-8 drinks   
 9-12 drinks  13-20 drinks  20+ drinks
46. In the past 6 months, how often have you drunk 5 or more drinks on one occasion?  
 Never  Once or twice   
 About once a month  About once a week   
 More than once a week  Every day

47. How often have you used these drugs in the last 6 mths?  
 1-5 times 6-10 times 11-20 times More than 20 times
- |                     |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Benzos / Valium     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Amyl / poppers      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Marijuana           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Viagra, Cialis etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ecstasy             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Speed               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cocaine             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Crystal meth        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| LSD / trips         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| GHB                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ketamine            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Heroin              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Steroids            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any other drug      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

48. Have you ever injected drugs? Never   
 Over 6 months ago  In the past 6 months   
 Weekly+  6-10 times  1-5 times  Never
49. How often have you injected drugs in the past 6 months?  
 Weekly+  6-10 times  1-5 times  Never

- Psychological health and wellbeing**
50. During the past 4 weeks, how much of the time did you feel:  
 All of the time Most of the time Some of the time None of the time
- |                                    |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| So sad nothing could cheer you up? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nervous?                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Restless or fidgety?               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hopeless?                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| That everything was an effort?     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Worthless?                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

51. Have you ever accessed a counsellor or psychiatrist?  
 No  Yes, in past 5 yrs  Yes, over 5 yrs ago
52. Have you ever been diagnosed with depression, anxiety disorder or other mental health disorder?  
 No  Yes, in past 5 yrs  Yes, over 5 yrs ago

**Violence**

53. In the last 12 months, have you experienced any of the following anti-lesbian, gay, bi or trans behaviour?  
 Verbal abuse or harassment No  Yes   
 Being pushed or shoved No  Yes   
 Being bashed No  Yes   
 Physical threat or intimidation No  Yes   
 Refusal of service No  Yes   
 Refused employment or promotion No  Yes
54. Have you ever been in a relationship where your partner abused you (physically or emotionally)?  
 Never  Yes, with a man  Yes, with a woman   
 If yes, did you talk to someone else about it or seek help?  
 No  Yes
55. Since the age of 16, have you been forced or frightened into doing something sexually that you didn't want to do?  
 No  Yes, by a female  Yes, by a male
- Finally, please indicate whether you consider the following statements to be true or false.
56. If a person experiencing a cold sore outbreak has oral sex they can give their partner genital herpes.  
 True  False
57. You can have an STI and not have any symptoms.  
 True  False
58. Lesbians do not need Pap smears. True  False

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.



## BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY'S HEALTH & WELLBEING

ACON: AIDS Council of New South Wales  
 NSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine  
 National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

### Sydney Women and Sexual Health Brief Survey 2008

- How many of your friends are lesbians?  
 None 1 A few 2 Some 3 Most 4 All 5
- How many of your friends are gay or homosexual men?  
 None 1 A few 2 Some 3 Most 4 All 5
- In the past 6 months have you attended:  
 a lesbian bar? No 1 Yes 2  
 a gay bar? No 1 Yes 2  
 a gay/lesbian dance party? No 1 Yes 2  
 a gay/lesbian group meeting? No 1 Yes 2  
 a GLBT community event? No 1 Yes 2  
 a gay/lesbian sports group No 1 Yes 2
- Do you read—  
*Cherrie* No 1 Sometimes 2 Often 3  
*LOTL* No 1 Sometimes 2 Often 3  
*SSO (Star)* No 1 Sometimes 2 Often 3  
*SX* No 1 Sometimes 2 Often 3
- Which gay/lesbian websites do you visit most often?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you transgender/ transsexual? No 1 Yes 2
- Do you think of yourself as:  
 Lesbian / dyke / homosexual / gay 1  
 Bisexual 2  
 Other (please specify) 4  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you have any dependent children?  
 No 1 Yes 2 If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you a: (Tick all that apply to you)  
 Birth mother No 1 Yes 2  
 Co-parent No 1 Yes 2
- Are you planning to have a child in the next 2 years?  
 No 1 Yes 2 Not sure 3
- Are you: (Tick all that apply to you)  
 Employed full-time 1 Employed part-time 1  
 Unemployed 1 A student 1  
 Doing domestic duties 1 Not in the work force 1  
 A pensioner or on social security benefits 1
- What is your occupation? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is your annual income before tax?  
 Nil-\$19,999 1 \$60,000-\$99,999 4  
 \$20,000-\$39,999 2 \$100,000+ 5  
 \$40,000-\$59,999 3
- What is the highest level of education you have completed?  
 Up to Year 10 / School Certificate 3  
 Year 12 / HSC / Leaving Cert / IB 4  
 Tertiary diploma or trade certificate 5  
 University or college degree 6  
 Postgraduate degree (masters, PhD) 7
- When was the last time you had sex with a woman?  
 Never 1 Go to question 19  
 Over 6 months ago 2 Go to question 19  
 In the past 6 months 3 Go on to question 16
- During the past 6 months, how many women have you had sex with?  
 None 1 One 2 2-5 women 3  
 6-10 women 4 More than 10 women 5
- In the past 6 months, which of the following have you done while having sex with a woman?  
 Fingers / hand on external genitals No 1 Yes 2  
 Fingers / hand inside vagina No 1 Yes 2  
 Fingers / hand inside anus No 1 Yes 2  
 Oral sex (your mouth, her genitals) No 1 Yes 2  
 Oral sex (her mouth, your genitals) No 1 Yes 2  
 Rimming (her mouth, your anus) No 1 Yes 2  
 Rimming (your mouth, her anus) No 1 Yes 2  
 Sex toy used on external genitals No 1 Yes 2  
 Sex toy used inside vagina No 1 Yes 2  
 Sex toy used inside anus No 1 Yes 2

- In the last 4 weeks, how many times have you had sex with a woman? \_\_\_\_\_ times
- In the past 6 months, have you done:  
 S/M dominance/bondage (no blood) Yes 1 No 2  
 S/M dominance/bondage (with blood) Yes 1 No 2
- Have you done any sex work?  
 No, never 1 More than 6 months ago 2  
 During the past 6 months 3
- When was the last occasion that you had sex with a gay, homosexual or bisexual man?  
 Never 1 Go to question 24  
 Over 6 months ago 2 Go to question 24  
 In the past 6 months 3 Go on to question 22
- During the past 6 months, how many gay, homosexual or bisexual men have you had sex with?  
 None 1 One 2 2-5 men 3  
 6-10 men 4 More than 10 men 5
- In the past 6 months have you had vaginal or anal intercourse with any gay or bi man (either regular or casual partner) without a condom?  
 Never 1 Once 2 Occasionally 3 Often 4
- When was the last occasion that you had sex with a straight or heterosexual man?  
 Never 1 Go to question 26  
 Over 6 months ago 2 Go to question 26  
 In the past 6 months 3 Go on to question 25
- During the past 6 months, how many straight or heterosexual men have you had sex with?  
 None 1 One 2 2-5 men 3  
 6-10 men 4 More than 10 men 5
- Which of these six statements best describes you?  
 I have felt sexually attracted—  
 only to females, never to males 1  
 more often to females, and at least once to a male 2  
 about equally often to females and to males 3  
 more often to males, and at least once to a female 4  
 only to males, never to females 5  
 to no one at all 6

Please turn over ➤



27. Are you currently in a sexual relationship with a regular partner?  
 Yes—with a **woman** 1 Yes—with **both** 3  
 Yes—with a **man** 2 No regular relationship 4
28. If you are in a regular relationship, how long has it been?  
 Less than 6 months 1 3–5 years 4  
 6–11 months 2 More than 5 years 5  
 1–2 years 3 No regular relationship 6
29. Have you had casual sex in the past 6 months?  
 Yes—with **women** 1 Yes—with **both** 3  
 Yes—with **men** 2 No casual partners 4
30. On any occasion in the past 6 months have you had group sex which included—  
 a gay, homosexual or bisexual **man**? No 1 Yes 2  
 a straight or heterosexual **man**? No 1 Yes 2  
 a **woman**? No 1 Yes 2
31. In the last 12 months, have you experienced any of the following anti-lesbian or anti-gay behaviour?  
 Verbal abuse or harassment No 1 Yes 2  
 Being pushed or shoved No 1 Yes 2  
 Being bashed No 1 Yes 2  
 Physical threat or intimidation No 1 Yes 2  
 Refusal of service No 1 Yes 2  
 Refused employment or promotion No 1 Yes 2
32. Have you ever experienced domestic violence in a relationship?  
 Never 1 Yes, with a man 2 Yes, with a woman 3
33. If yes, did you talk to someone else about it or seek help?  
 No 1 Yes 2
34. If yes, who did you talk to?  
 Family or relative 1 Counsellor, psychologist 1  
 Friend or neighbour 1 Gay/lesbian service 1  
 Doctor/hospital 1 Magazine, radio etc. 1  
 Police 1 DV helpline 1  
 Other 1 *please state* \_\_\_\_\_
35. In general, would you say your health is—  
 Excellent 1 Very good 2  
 Good 3 Fair 4 Poor 5
36. Are you out to your doctor about your sexuality?  
 No 1 Yes 2 Don't have a regular doctor 1
37. When did you have your last Pap smear test?  
 Less than a year ago 1 More than 3 years ago 3  
 1–3 years ago 2 Never 4
38. Have you ever had a test for a sexually transmitted infection (not HIV)?  
 No, never 1 More than 6 months ago 2  
 During the past 6 months 3
39. Where did you go for this test?  
 GP / family doctor 1 24-hour medical centre 4  
 sexual health clinic 2 women's health centre 5  
 FPA Health clinic 3  
 other 6 (*please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_
40. Have you ever had an HIV antibody test?  
 No 1 Yes 2 Don't know 2
41. Based on the result of your last HIV antibody test, are you—?  
 Positive (you have HIV) 1 Negative 2 Don't know 3
42. Have you been tested for hepatitis C?  
 No 1 Yes 2 Don't know 3
43. Do you have hepatitis C? No 1 Yes 2 Don't know 3
44. Have you ever **injected** drugs?  
 Never 1 More than 6 months ago 2  
 During the past 6 months 3
45. How often have you injected drugs in the past 6 months?  
 Every week 1 6 or more times 2  
 One to 5 times 3 Never 4
46. How often have you **used** these drugs in the past 6 months?
- |                     | Never                      | 1–5 times                  | 6–10 times                 | 11–20 times                | More than 20 times         |
|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Benzos / Valium     | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Amyl / poppers      | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Marijuana           | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Viagra, Cialis etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Ecstasy             | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Speed               | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Cocaine             | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Crystal meth        | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| LSD / trips         | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| GHB                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Special K           | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Heroin              | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Steroids            | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Any other drug      | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
47. Do you currently smoke cigarettes or other tobacco?  
 Yes 1 No, I have never smoked 2  
 No, I am an ex-smoker 3
48. How often do you normally drink alcohol?  
 Never, I don't drink 1 3 or 4 days a week 4  
 Less often than weekly 2 5 or 6 days a week 5  
 1 or 2 days a week 3 Every day 6
49. On a day when you drink alcohol, how many drinks do you usually have? (*1 drink = a small glass of wine, a middy of beer or a nip of spirits*)  
 1 or 2 drinks 1 9–12 drinks 4  
 3 or 4 drinks 2 13–20 drinks 5  
 5–8 drinks 3 More than 20 drinks 6
50. In the past 6 months, how often have you drunk 7 or more drinks on one occasion?  
 Never 1 About once a week 4  
 Once or twice 2 More than once a week 5  
 About once a month 3 Every day 6
- Please indicate whether you consider the following statements to be true or false.*
51. If a person with a cold sore has oral sex they can give their partner genital herpes. True 1 False 2
52. Chlamydia can lead to infertility in women.  
 True 1 False 2
53. Lesbians do not need Pap smears  
 True 1 False 2
- Finally, we need a few details to compare with other studies.*
54. What is your age?  \_\_\_\_\_ years
55. Where do you live?  
 Postcode or Suburb/town \_\_\_\_\_
56. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?  
 No 1 Yes 2
57. What is your ethnic or cultural background? e.g. Greek, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chinese  
 Anglo-Australian only 1  
 Other 2 (*please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.**

**ACON: AIDS Council of New South Wales**

National Centre in HIV Social Research  
National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research  
University of New South Wales

**Sydney Women and Sexual Health  
Brief Survey 2006**

- How many of your friends are lesbians?  
None 1 A few 2 Some 3 Most 4 All 5
- How many of your friends are gay or homosexual men?  
None 1 A few 2 Some 3 Most 4 All 5
- In the past 6 months have you attended:  
a lesbian bar? No 1 Yes 2  
a gay bar? No 1 Yes 2  
a gay/lesbian dance party? No 1 Yes 2  
a gay/lesbian group meeting? No 1 Yes 2
- Do you read—  
LOTL No 1 Sometimes 2 Often 3  
SX No 1 Sometimes 2 Often 3  
SSO (Star) No 1 Sometimes 2 Often 3
- Are you transgender / transsexual? No 1 Yes 2
- Do you think of yourself as:  
Lesbian / dyke / homosexual / gay 1  
Bisexual 2 Heterosexual / straight 3  
Other (please specify) 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you have any dependent children?  
No 1 Yes 2 If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you a: (Tick all that apply to you)  
Birth mother No 1 Yes 2  
Co-parent No 1 Yes 2
- Are you planning to have a child in the next 2 years?  
No 1 Yes 2 Not sure 3
- Are you: (Tick all that apply to you)  
Employed full-time 1 Employed part-time 1  
Unemployed 1 A student 1  
Doing domestic duties 1 Not in the work force 1  
A pensioner or on social security benefits 1

- What is your occupation? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is your annual income before tax?  
Nil-\$19,999 1  
\$20,000-\$39,999 2  
\$40,000-\$59,999 3  
\$60,000-\$99,999 4  
\$100,000+ 5
- What is the highest level of education you have completed?  
Up to Year 10 / School Certificate 3  
Year 12 / HSC / Leaving Cert / IB 4  
Tertiary diploma or trade certificate 5  
University or college degree 6  
Postgraduate degree (master's, PhD) 7
- Have you done any sex work?  
No, never 1 More than 6 months ago 2  
During the past 6 months 3
- When was the last occasion that you had sex with a woman?  
Never 1 Go to question 19  
Over 6 months ago 2 Go to question 19  
In the past 6 months 3 Go on to question 16
- During the past 6 months, how many women have you had sex with?  
None 1 6-10 women 4  
One 2 More than 10 women 5  
2-5 women 3
- In the past 6 months, which of the following have you done while having sex with a woman?  
Fingers / hand on external genitals No 1 Yes 2  
Fingers / hand inside vagina No 1 Yes 2  
Fingers / hand inside anus No 1 Yes 2  
Oral sex (your mouth, her genitals) No 1 Yes 2  
Oral sex (her mouth, your genitals) No 1 Yes 2  
Rimming (her mouth, your anus) No 1 Yes 2  
Rimming (your mouth, her anus) No 1 Yes 2  
Sex toy used on external genitals No 1 Yes 2  
Sex toy used inside vagina No 1 Yes 2  
Sex toy used inside anus No 1 Yes 2
- In the last 4 weeks, how many times have you had sex with a woman?  
\_\_\_\_\_ times

- In the past 6 months, have you done:  
S/M dominance/bondage (no blood) Yes 1 No 2  
S/M dominance/bondage (with blood) Yes 1 No 2
- When was the last occasion that you had sex with a gay, homosexual or bisexual man?  
Never 1 Go to question 23  
Over 6 months ago 2 Go to question 23  
In the past 6 months 3 Go on to question 21
- During the past 6 months, how many gay, homosexual or bisexual men have you had sex with?  
None 1 One 2 2-5 men 3  
6-10 men 4 More than 10 men 5
- In the past 6 months have you had vaginal or anal intercourse with any gay or bi man (either regular or casual partner) without a condom?  
Never 1 Once 2 Occasionally 3 Often 4
- When was the last occasion that you had sex with a straight or heterosexual man?  
Never 1 Go to question 25  
Over 6 months ago 2 Go to question 25  
In the past 6 months 3 Go on to question 24
- During the past 6 months, how many straight or heterosexual men have you had sex with?  
None 1 One 2 2-5 men 3  
6-10 men 4 More than 10 men 5
- Which of these six statements best describes you?  
I have felt sexually attracted—  
only to females, never to males 1  
more often to females, and at least once to a male 2  
about equally often to females and to males 3  
more often to males, and at least once to a female 4  
only to males, never to females 5  
to no one at all 6
- Are you currently in a sexual relationship with a regular partner?  
Yes—with a woman 1 Yes—with both 3  
Yes—with a man 2 No regular relationship 4
- If you are in a regular relationship, for how long has it been?  
Less than 6 months 1 3-5 years 4  
6-11 months 2 More than 5 years 5  
1-2 years 3 No regular relationship 6

Please turn over ➤

28. Have you had casual sex in the past 6 months?  
 Yes—with **women** 1 Yes—with **both** 3  
 Yes—with **men** 2 No casual partners 4
29. On any occasion in the past 6 months have you had group sex which included—  
 a gay, homosexual or bisexual **man**? No 1 Yes 2  
 a straight or heterosexual **man**? No 1 Yes 2  
 a **woman**? No 1 Yes 2
30. Since the age of 16, have you ever been forced or frightened into doing something sexually that you did not want to do?  
 Never 1 Yes, by a male 2 Yes, by a female 3
31. In the last 12 months, have you experienced any of the following anti-lesbian or anti-gay behaviour?  
 Verbal abuse or harassment No 1 Yes 2  
 Being pushed or shoved No 1 Yes 2  
 Being bashed No 1 Yes 2  
 Physical threat or intimidation No 1 Yes 2  
 Refusal of service No 1 Yes 2  
 Refused employment or promotion No 1 Yes 2
32. Have you ever experienced domestic violence in a relationship?  
 Never 1 Yes, with a man 2 Yes, with a woman 3
33. If yes, did you talk to someone else about it or seek help?  
 No 1 Yes 2
34. If yes, who did you talk to?  
 Family or relative 1 Counsellor, psychologist 1  
 Friend or neighbour 1 Gay/lesbian service 1  
 Doctor/hospital 1 Magazine, radio etc. 1  
 Police 1 DV helpline 1  
 Other 1 *please state* \_\_\_\_\_
35. In general, would you say your health is—  
 Excellent 1 Very good 2  
 Good 3 Fair 4 Poor 5
36. In the past 4 weeks, how often did you feel—  
 nervous?  
 so sad that nothing could cheer you up?  
 restless or fidgety?  
 hopeless?  
 that everything was an effort?  
 worthless?
- |  | of the time                |                            |                            |                            |                            |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|  | All                        | Most                       | Half                       | Some                       | None                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
36. Are you out to your doctor about your sexuality?  
 No 1 Yes 2  
 Don't have a regular doctor 1
37. When did you have your last Pap smear test?  
 Less than a year ago 1 More than 3 years ago 3  
 1–3 years ago 2 Never 4
38. Have you ever had a test for a sexually transmitted infection (not HIV)?  
 No, never 1 More than 6 months ago 2  
 During the past 6 months 3
39. Where did you go for this test?  
 GP/family doctor 1 24-hour medical centre 4  
 sexual health clinic 2 women's health centre 5  
 FPA Health clinic 3  
 other 6 (*please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_
40. When were you last tested for HIV?  
 During past 6 months 1 6–11 months ago 2  
 1–2 yrs ago 3 More than 2 yrs ago 4 Never 5
41. What was the result of your last HIV test?  
 Positive 1 Negative 2 Don't know 3
42. Have you been tested for hepatitis C?  
 No 1 Yes 2 Don't know 3
43. Do you have hepatitis C? No 1 Yes 2 Don't know 3
44. Have you **ever** injected drugs?  
 Never 1 More than 6 months ago 2  
 During the past 6 months 3
45. In the past 6 months, which of these drugs have you used or injected?
- |                     | Used   | Injected   |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Marijuana           | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Ecstasy             | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| GHB                 | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Special K           | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Cocaine             | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Crystal meth        | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Heroin              | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Speed               | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Viagra, Cialis etc. | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Benzos e.g. Valium  | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
- Any other drug  please specify \_\_\_\_\_
46. In the past 6 months, have you shared any injecting equipment (e.g. water, swab, needle)?  
 No 1 Yes 2
47. Do you currently smoke cigarettes or other tobacco?  
 Yes 1 No, I have never smoked 2  
 No, I am an ex-smoker 3
48. How many cigarettes do you smoke each day?  
 None 1 1–20 2 21–40 3 More than 40 4
49. How often do you normally drink alcohol?  
 Never, I don't drink 1 3 or 4 days a week 4  
 Less often than weekly 2 5 or 6 days a week 5  
 1 or 2 days a week 3 Every day 6
50. On a day when you drink alcohol, how many drinks do you usually have? (*1 drink = a small glass of wine, a middy of beer or a nip of spirits*)  
 1 or 2 drinks 1 9–12 drinks 4  
 3 or 4 drinks 2 13–20 drinks 5  
 5–8 drinks 3 More than 20 drinks 6
51. In the past 6 months how often have you got drunk or gone on a drinking binge?  
 Never 1 About once a week 4  
 Once or twice 2 More than once a week 5  
 About once a month 3 Every day 6
- Please indicate whether you consider the following statements to be true or false.*
52. If a person with a cold sore has oral sex they can give their partner genital herpes. True 1 False 2
53. Chlamydia can lead to infertility in women. True 1 False 2
54. Lesbians do not need Pap smears True 1 False 2
- Finally, we need a few details to compare with other studies.*
55. What is your age?   years
56. Where do you live?  
 Postcode or Suburb/town \_\_\_\_\_
57. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?  
 No 1 Yes 2
58. What is your ethnic or cultural background? e.g. Greek, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chinese  
 Anglo-Australian only 1  
 Other  (*please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.









