

**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**

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Contents

1 - 2	1. Executive Summary
3	2. Overview
4 - 5	3. Methods
4	3.1. Survey instrument
4	3.2. Sampling and Recruitment
5	3.3. Analysis
6 - 47	4. Findings
7 - 17	4.1. Sample characteristics
7	4.1.1. Age
7 - 9	4.1.2. Sexual identity and attraction
10	4.1.3. Transgender respondents
10	4.1.4. Intersex respondents
10 - 11	4.1.5. Children
11 - 13	4.1.6. Social attachment to the gay and lesbian community
14 - 15	4.1.7. Education, employment and income
15	4.1.8. Ethnicity
16 - 17	4.1.9. Geographical location and residential status
17 - 26	4.2. Sexual partners and practices
17 - 20	4.2.1. Sex with women
20 - 22	4.2.2. Sex with men
23 - 24	4.2.3. Sexual practices
25 - 26	4.2.4. Sexual relationships

27 - 32	4.3. Tobacco, alcohol and other drug use
27 - 29	4.3.1. Tobacco use
29 - 31	4.3.2. Alcohol
31 - 20	4.3.3. Illicit drugs
33 - 45	4.4. Health status and behaviour
33	4.4.1. Relationships with doctors
34 - 36	4.4.2. Self-assessed general health
37 - 40	4.4.3. Self-assessed mental health
40 - 45	4.4.4. Preventative health practices
45 - 47	4.5. Experiences of violence and abuse
45	4.5.1. Sexual coercion
46	4.5.2. Domestic violence
46 - 47	4.5.3. Homophobia/Transphobia
48	5. Conclusion
49 - 50	6. References
51 - 60	7. Appendix 1: Questionnaires

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 the sexual health, mental health, experiences of abuse and violence, preventive health practices, and behaviours such as illicit drug use, alcohol and smoking of LBQ women remains inconsistent. The inclusion of sexuality questions in large epidemiological surveys remains patchy, and data are 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, and 2014. It highlights several health issues 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.

2014 Key Findings:

Sample: 1100 participants returned valid questionnaires; 70% at Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day, 30% at other lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans* and queer (LGBTQ) social venues and events.

Demographics: The age range was 16-66 years (median age 31 years). 76% had post-school education, 62% were employed full-time and 17% were students. 14% had dependent children and 18% were planning children in the coming two years. 44% lived in the city or Inner West of Sydney. 23% had experienced some form of homelessness.

Community engagement: 48% felt very or mostly connected to the LGBTQ community in their everyday life.

Sexual identity: 69% thought of themselves as lesbian/dyke/homosexual/gay, 16% as bisexual, and 9% as queer; 6% chose the 'other' category. Being in a regular sexual relationship with a woman was the most common relationship status (58%).

Sexual relations with women: 94% had ever had sex with a woman; 75% had done so in the preceding six months. Among women who had had sex with a woman in the preceding six months, 67% reported one sexual partner.

Sexual relations with men: 68% had ever had sex with a man; 20% had done so in the preceding six months. 24% had ever had sex with a man they knew to be gay or bisexual.

Pap smears: 20% had never had a Pap smear, and a further 9% had their last Pap smear more than three years ago. Women who had never had sex with a man were most likely to be overdue for screening.

STI screening: 40% 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 (48%). 68% of smokers indicated they would like to reduce or quit their tobacco use.

Alcohol: 90% reported drinking alcohol; 62% of women who drank consumed more than the NHMRC guidelines recommend for reducing the lifetime risk of alcohol-related disease or injury. 28% of women drinkers (37% young women), drank 5+ more drinks weekly or more often in the past 6 months. 26% of drinkers indicated they would like to reduce or quit their alcohol consumption.

Illicit drugs: In the preceding six months, 48% had used one or more illicit drugs including cannabis (34%), ecstasy (21%) and cocaine (19%). Rates of drug use were much higher than in the general community.

Self-reported health status: While most rated their physical health as good/very good/excellent, 10% said it was poor or fair. 40% were overweight or obese.

Mental health: 11% reported high psychological distress (22% of 16-24 year olds). Over the past five years, 60% had accessed psychological services, 39% had received a mental health diagnosis.

Experiences of abuse and violence: 31% had ever experienced sexual coercion. 40% had ever experienced domestic violence. 29% 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.¹ While sex between women is rarely a health risk in itself, a range of social, psychological and economic factors mean that for many health issues this minority group has worse 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 tenth 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 domestic violence, experiences of anti-LGBTQ behaviour, and self-report measures of physical health, mental health, alcohol consumption, and height and weight were added. In 2014, questions were included on homelessness, HPV vaccine uptake, and attempts to reduce or cease tobacco or 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 Policy² 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 Australian 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 2014 survey with 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012 data presented for comparison; the format follows previous survey iterations.³⁻⁶ 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 2014, the questionnaire included items on demographics; sexual and gender identity; community connection; smoking, alcohol and drug use; sexual health; self-assessed general health; psychological wellbeing; experiences of homophobic/transphobic violence and abuse, sexual coercion and domestic violence; parenthood intentions; preventive health 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.⁷ 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 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.⁴

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 v 21 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' cell size 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 decline the invitation to participate but it is easy for women in recruitment sites to avoid the survey recruiters. Reflecting the decision taken for the 2004 survey report,⁵ responses of women who identified as heterosexual have not been included in this report. While women who identify as straight may still have sex with women, most of these respondents did so only rarely (of the 276 heterosexual women who responded to the 2014 survey, 52 had ever had sex with a woman, only eight 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 2012 survey; 13% had. This compares to 12% in the 2012 survey, suggesting a relatively consistent - although lower than we might expect - repeat participation rate.

Table 1: Recruitment venues

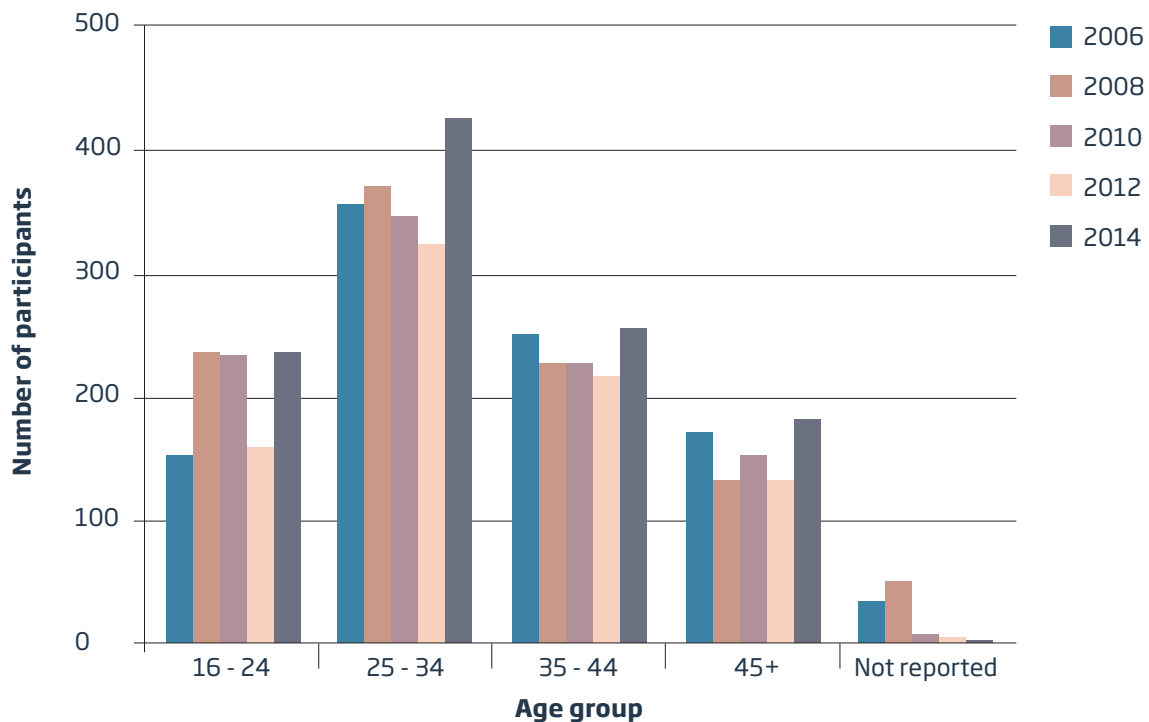
	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Fair Day	461 (47.9)	1013 (100)	689 (71.5)	437 (52.3)	767 (69.7)
Social venues/ events	286 (29.7)	-	216 (22.4)	398 (47.7)	333 (30.3)
Community group	204 (21.2)	-	59 (6.1)	-	-
Health Clinics	11 (1.1)	-	-	-	-
Total	962 (100)	1013 (100)	964 (100)	835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

4.1. Sample Characteristics

4.1.1. Age

The age range was 16-66 years, with a median age of 31 (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). Figure 1 compares the proportion of respondents from different age categories over the five 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 2014 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 five iterations of the survey reported here, there has been a significant drop in the proportion of women identifying as lesbian, from 86% to 69% ($p < 0.001$; Table 2).

Some women resisted sexual identity categorisation, making comments such as 'label free' or 'no specific label' or 'many of the above' or 'just me'. Several respondents identified their sexual identity as 'pansexual' and others as 'transgendered'. Tension between identity labels and practice was evident in a few replies, such as the woman who ticked 'lesbian' and added 'sometimes bi :-)'. 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 (34%), even among these highly community attached women, the majority of whom (75%) had been sexually active with a woman in the preceding six months (Table 3). As would be expected, lesbian identified women were most likely to say they were attracted only or mostly to women (97%), followed by queer or other women (62%), and then bisexual women (27%). The decreasing trend in exclusive attraction to women seen in previous years (38% in 2006 to 29% in 2012) has plateaued in 2014 (34%).

The median age of lesbian women was 33 years, of bisexual women 27 years, and of queer and other women 29 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
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Lesbian/homosexual	828 (86.1)	773 (76.3)	726 (75.3)	570 (68.3)	753 (68.5)
Bisexual	84 (8.7)	122 (12.0)	101 (10.5)	110 (13.2)	180 (16.4)
Queer ¹	-	-	91 (9.4)	103 (12.3)	95 (8.6)
Other	50 (5.2)	105 (10.4)	33 (3.4)	44 (5.3)	65 (5.9)
Not reported	0 (0.0)	13 (1.3)	13 (1.4)	8 (1.0)	7 (0.6)
Total	962 (100)	1013 (100)	964 (100)	835 (100)	1100 (100)

(1) Option introduced in 2010

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

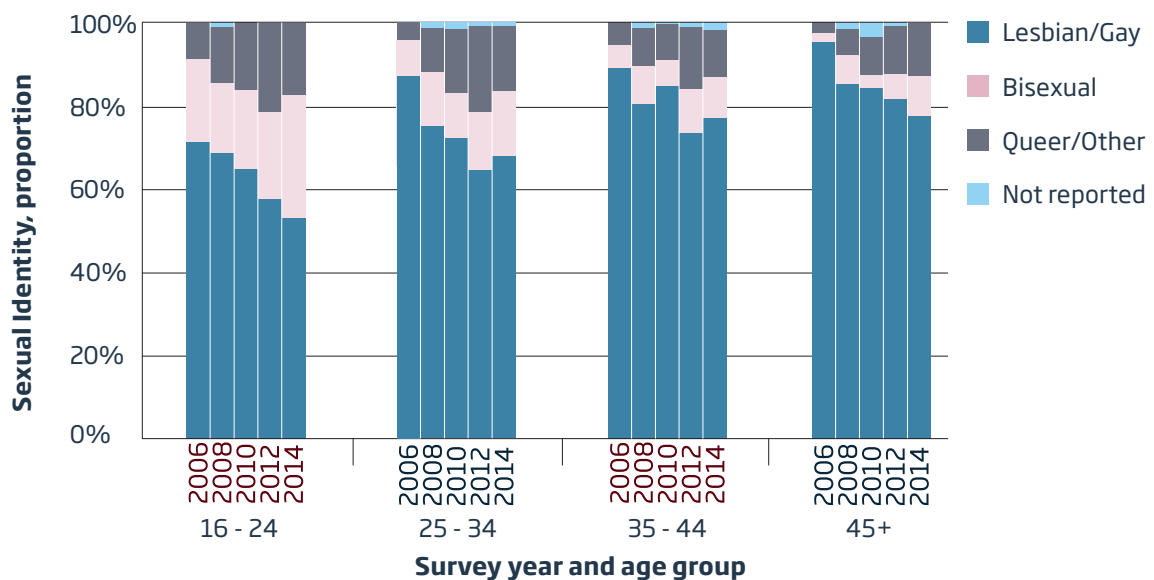
	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Only to females	367 (38.2)	399 (39.4)	343 (35.6)	238 (28.5)	372 (33.8)
More often to females	475 (49.4)	454 (44.8)	475 (49.3)	434 (52.0)	511 (46.5)
Equally often to both	71 (7.4)	99 (9.8)	102 (10.6)	100 (12.0)	131 (11.9)
More often to males	24 (2.5)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

Table 4: Mean and median age, by sexual identity

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

¹ 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 2014, 35 respondents (3%) indicated that they were transgender (Table 5). The number of transgender respondents in the survey has increased since 2006, but overall the proportion remains low. For this reason, we have not conducted separate analyses for transgender respondents.

Table 5: Transgender and transsexual respondents (“Are you transgender or transsexual?”)

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

4.1.4. Intersex respondents

For the first time in 2014, we asked respondents about their intersex status. Nine (0.8%) indicated that they were intersex, a further 12 (1.1%) said they would prefer not to say. The number of (identifying) intersex people in the SWASH sample is low. For this reason, we have not conducted separate analyses.

4.1.5. Children

In 2014, 14% 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. One hundred and ninety four women (18%) said they were planning to have children in the next two years (Table 7). The majority of women (75%) considering children in the coming two years did not already have dependent children.

Table 6: Dependent children (birth or co-parent)

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

Table 7: Planning to have children in next two years

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

(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 event's levels of connection were high, with 48% reporting they felt mostly or very connected in their everyday lives (Table 8). Of the 1100 respondents, 95% 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, 78% 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 or reading community street press.

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

	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer/ Other	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
2014					
Very	153 (20.0)	20 (11.1)	37 (23.1)	0 (0.0)	210 (19.1)
Mostly	224 (29.7)	47 (2.61)	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)
Total	753 (100)	180 (100)	160 (100)	7 (100)	1100 (100)
2012					
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)
Total	570 (100)	110 (100)	147 (100)	8 (100)	835 (100)
2010					
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)
Total	726 (100)	101 (100)	124 (100)	13 (100)	964 (100)

Table 9: Number of friends who are LGBTQ

	2010	2012	2014
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
None	23 (2.4)	21 (2.5)	27 (2.4)
A few	127 (13.2)	118 (14.1)	169 (15.4)
Some	285 (29.6)	230 (27.5)	363 (33.0)
Most	471 (48.9)	399 (47.8)	490 (44.5)
All	38 (3.9)	26 (3.1)	25 (2.3)
Not reported	20 (2.1)	41 (4.9)	26 (2.4)
Total	964 (100)	835 (100)	1100 (100)

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

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014
	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)
Gay night/bar	584 (60.7)	659 (65.1)	496 (51.5)	451 (54.0)	537 (48.8)
LGBTQ ⁽¹⁾ dance party	415 (43.1)	489 (48.3)	295 (30.6)	304 (36.4)	333 (30.3)
LGBTQ ⁽¹⁾ group meeting	333(34.6)	244 (24.1)	205 (21.3)	222 (26.6)	244 (22.2)
LGBTQ ⁽¹⁾ community event	-	563 (55.6)	403 (41.8)	423 (50.7)	462 (42.0)
LGBTQ ⁽¹⁾ sports group	-	129 (12.7)	133 (13.8)	151 (18.1)	184 (16.7)
Any of the above	828 (86.1)	942 (93.0)	781 (81.0)	706 (84.6)	855 (77.7)

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 76% in 2014 (Table 11); 19% had a postgraduate qualification. For comparison, 43% of New South Wales women aged over 15 had post-school qualifications in 2011, 4% had a postgraduate qualification.⁸

Sixty two percent were employed full-time and 17% 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.

With nearly two-thirds employed full-time and the proportion dependent on state benefits low, this is a reasonably well-off group (Table 13). The increase over time in the highest income bracket (tripling) is worth noting. Being a sample with high proportions of younger and childless women, it is difficult to compare the income of the SWASH sample with Census data.

Table 11: Education

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014
	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)
Year 12/Higher School Certificate	191 (19.9)	202 (19.9)	197 (20.4)	131 (15.7)	170 (15.5)
Tertiary diploma/trade certificate	167 (17.4)	206 (20.3)	159 (16.5)	155 (18.6)	229 (20.8)
University or college degree	291 (30.3)	351 (34.7)	305 (31.6)	315 (37.7)	403 (36.6)
Postgraduate degree	161 (16.7)	115 (11.4)	160 (16.6)	142 (17.0)	207 (18.8)
Not reported	12 (1.3)	8 (0.8)	10 (1.0)	6 (0.7)	3 (0.3)
Total	962 (100)	1013 (100)	964 (100)	835 (100)	1100 (100)

Table 12: Employment status

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

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

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.⁸ 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. Sixty two women self-identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; this is twice the proportion that would be expected if the sample were similar to the total NSW population (2.5% of the female population of NSW identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in the 2011 census).⁸

Table 14: Ethnicity

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

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

(2) In 2014, 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 (55%) 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 a consistent majority lived in Sydney's city and inner western suburbs (44%). A significant proportion of women lived outside the Sydney region (14%) 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.

In 2014, 6% of respondents were currently experiencing some form of homelessness; 17% had done so in the past (Table 16). As might be expected, homelessness was highest among women aged 16 to 24 years, with 8% reporting they were currently experiencing some form of homelessness. Strikingly, 7% of LBQ women aged 45 and older were currently experiencing homelessness; 5% were currently sleeping rough or squatting.

Table 15: Where respondents lived

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

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).

Table 16: Experiences of homelessness (2014)

	Now	Past
	n (%)	n (%)
Primary ¹	36 (3.3)	73 (6.6)
Secondary ²	38 (3.5)	141 (12.8)
Tertiary ³	49 (4.5)	109 (9.9)
Any homelessness	61 (5.5)	190 (17.3)

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

(1) Sleeping rough/squatting

(2) Emergency accommodation, refuge, shifting between friends/relatives

(3) Boarding house, caravan park, hostel, hotel, motel

4.2. Sexual partners and practices

4.2.1. Sex with women

The great majority of respondents (94%) reported they had ever had sex with a woman; 75% had done so in the preceding six months. As expected, lesbian women were most likely (81%) to report recent sex with a woman, and bisexual women least likely (54%; Table 17). Women who reported sex with a female partner in the preceding six months were most likely to report one sexual partner (67%; Table 18). These women were most likely to have had sex between two and five times in the preceding four weeks (Table 19).

Table 17: When respondents last had sex with a woman, by sexual identity

	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer/ Other	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
2014					
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)
Total	753 (100)	180 (100)	160 (100)	7 (100)	1100 (100)
2012					
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)
Total	570 (100)	110 (100)	147 (100)	8 (100)	835 (100)
2010					
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)
Total	726 (100)	101 (100)	124 (100)	13 (100)	964 (100)
2008					
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)
Total	773 (100)	122 (100)	105 (100)	13 (100)	1013 (100)
2006					
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)
Total	828 (100)	84 (100)	50 (100)	-	962 (100)

Table 18: Number of female sexual partners in the preceding six months, by sexual identity

	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer/ Other	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
2014					
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)
Total	659 (100)	133 (100)	130 (100)	5 (100)	927 (100)
2012					
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)
Total	470 (100)	62 (100)	106 (100)	7 (100)	645 (100)
2010					
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)
Total	616 (100)	71 (100)	102 (100)	12(100)	801 (100)
2008					
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)
Total	641 (100)	60 (100)	84 (100)	9 (100)	974 (100)
2006					
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)
Total	666 (100)	54 (100)	40 (100)	-	760 (100)
Note: Table only includes women who reported sex with a woman in the preceding 6 months					

Table 19: Number of times women had had sex with a woman in the past 4 weeks (2008, 2010, 2012, 2014)

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

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

Seven hundred and forty eight women (68%) reported they had ever had sex with a man; 20% had done so in the last 6 months. Bisexual (91%) and queer/other (79%) women were more likely to have ever had sex with a man compared to lesbian women (60%). 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: 94% of women who reported they had ever had sex with a man, reported this was with a man they believed to be heterosexual (Tables 20) compared to 36% reporting sex with a gay or bisexual man (Table 21). Of the 95 women reporting sex with a man they believed to be gay or bisexual in the past six months, 10 (11%) often had unprotected sex (similar to previous years). Of the 169 women reporting sex with a heterosexual man in the preceding six months, 67 (40%) often had unprotected sex (higher than previous years).

Table 20: When respondents last had sex with a heterosexual man, by sexual identity

	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer/Other	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
2014					
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)
Total	753 (100)	180 (100)	160 (100)	7 (100)	1100 (100)
2012					
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 ¹	61 (10.7)	20 (18.2)	21 (14.3)	4 (50.0)	106 (12.7)
Total	570 (100)	110 (100)	147 (100)	8 (100)	835 (100)
2010					
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)
Total	726 (100)	101 (100)	124 (100)	13 (100)	964 (100)
2008					
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)
Total	773 (100)	122 (100)	105 (100)	13 (100)	1313 (100)
2006					
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)
Total	828 (100)	84 (100)	50 (100)	-	962 (100)
(1) Typographical errors in the 2012 questionnaire mean that the proportion of 'not reported' answers was higher than usual.					

Table 21: When respondents last had sex with a gay or bisexual man, by sexual identity

	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer/Other	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
2014					
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)
Total	753 (100)	180 (100)	160 (100)	7 (100)	1100 (100)
2012					
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)
Total	570 (100)	110 (100)	147 (100)	8 (100)	835 (100)
2010					
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)
Total	726 (100)	101 (100)	124 (100)	13 (100)	964 (100)
2008					
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)
Total	773 (100)	122 (100)	105 (100)	13 (100)	1313 (100)
2006					
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)
Total	828 (100)	84 (100)	50 (100)	-	962 (100)

4.2.3. Sexual practices

Among the 75% 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 22). 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. Over half (59%) reported having used a sex toy. Most women (83%) who had used a toy had done so both on the external genitals and inside the vagina. Anal practices were less common; 30% had given or received manual stimulation of the anus.

One hundred and eighty five (17%) 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 23). Thirteen percent of women reported they had had group sex in the preceding six months; for most respondents this involved a woman (Table 24). Sixty four women (6%) reported they had ever done sex work (Table 25).

Table 22: Sexual practices with a woman in the past 6 months

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014
	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)
Fingers/hand inside vagina	704 (93.7)	746 (94.2)	741 (94.0)	594 (93.0)	754 (92.1)
Fingers/hand inside anus	230 (30.6)	246 (31.1)	223 (28.3)	188 (29.4)	206 (25.2)
Oral sex (mouth on partner's genitals)	640 (85.2)	686 (86.6)	693 (87.9)	537 (84.0)	668 (81.6)
Oral sex (mouth on respondent's genitals)	611 (81.4)	668 (84.3)	663 (84.1)	527 (82.5)	643 (78.5)
Rimming (mouth on partner's anus)	118 (15.7)	146 (18.4)	128 (16.2)	110 (17.2)	103 (12.6)
Rimming (mouth on respondent's anus)	112 (14.9)	145 (18.3)	119 (15.1)	115 (18.0)	110 (13.4)
Sex toy used on external genitals	421 (56.1)	474 (59.9)	470 (59.6)	375 (58.7)	434 (53.0)
Sex toy used inside vagina	427 (56.9)	485 (61.2)	482 (61.2)	398 (62.3)	440 (53.7)
Sex toy used inside anus	108 (14.4)	138 (17.4)	110 (14.0)	100 (15.7)	96 (11.7)
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 23: Experience of S/M dominance/bondage in the past 6 months

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

Table 24: Group sex in the past 6 months

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014
Group sex which included:	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
A woman	62 (6.4)	94 (9.3)	77 (8.0)	77 (9.2)	115 (10.5)
A straight or heterosexual man	21 (2.2)	31 (3.1)	31 (3.2)	38 (4.6)	50 (4.5)
A gay or bisexual man	11 (1.1)	20 (2.0)	14 (1.5)	17 (2.0)	21 (1.9)
BDSM ¹ no blood	-	-	35 (3.6)	34 (4.1)	43 (3.9)
BDSM ² with blood	-	-	9 (0.9)	17 (2.0)	15 (1.4)
Any group sex	69 (7.2)	111 (11.0)	93 (9.6)	96 (11.5)	137 (12.5)

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 25: Sex work

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

4.2.4. Sexual relationships

Six hundred and thirty four women (58%) were in a regular sexual relationship with a woman, 6% with a man and 32% were not in a regular sexual relationship (Table 26). The decreasing trend in the proportion of women reporting a relationship with a woman (2006: 66% to 2014: 58%) echoes 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 (Table 27).

Twenty eight percent of women reported they had had a casual partner(s) in the preceding six months; 24% reported casual sex with a female partner (Table 28). A quarter of women (26%) in a regular relationship with a woman also had a casual sexual partner (female or male) in the preceding six months. The majority of women had met casual partners through friends of friends (62%), followed by bars and nightclubs (51%; Table 29). The most common 'other' modes were work and university.

Table 26: Regular partner

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

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

Table 27: Length of regular relationship

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

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 28: Casual partners

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

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

Table 29: Connecting with casual sexual partners

	2014
	n (%)
Friends of friends	190 (61.7)
Bars/nightclubs	158 (51.3)
Online	96 (31.2)
Social networking sites	62 (20.1)
Other	34 (11)

Note: Summary table; adds up to more than 100% because respondents could be in more than one category; table only includes women who reported recent casual sexual partners.

4.3. Tobacco, alcohol and other drug use

4.3.1. Tobacco use

Thirty percent of women were current tobacco smokers (Table 30); with 19% smoking daily (65% of current smokers). There is a significant, although slow, downward trend from 35% in 2006 to 30% in 2014 ($p < 0.001$). These are high rates of smoking compared with the general population, especially considering this is a highly educated urban sample. The 2013 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) of the general population, found 13% of Australian women smoked (cf. 30% SWASH); 12% smoked daily (cf. 19% SWASH), a significant decrease on 2010 rates.⁹ The NDSHS found smoking rates among homosexual and bisexual people were 30% compared to 16% of heterosexual people; while rates of daily smoking had decreased significantly among heterosexual people, there was no change among the homosexual and bisexual respondents.⁹

Of considerable concern is the rate of smoking among younger women: 48% of 16 to 24 years old LBQ women smoked (Table 30), 2.8 times higher than the rate reported for 18 to 24 year old women by the NDSHS (17%).⁹ 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.¹⁰ This suggests the finding that LBQ women smoke at twice the rate of women in the general community is consistent and robust, and that smoking in this age group is not decreasing.

Tobacco use is a significant public health issue facing LBQ women. 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 effective for LBQ women.

Two thirds (68%) of current smokers said they would like to reduce or quit their tobacco use. Nearly three quarters (73%) had made some attempt to reduce or cease smoking in the past 12 months (Table 31). Of the 329 current smokers, 23% had successfully given up smoking for more than a month, while 34% had tried to quit but been unsuccessful. The most common strategy reported was to reduce the amount of tobacco used (39%). The NDSHS found slightly lower rates of successful quitting among Australian smokers (19%) and unsuccessful quit attempts (30%).⁹ There is a clear appetite in this population group to reduce tobacco use, suggesting a need for relevant cessation services.

Table 30: Smoking status by age group

	16-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45+	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
2014						
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)
Total	237 (100)	424 (100)	255 (100)	182 (100)	2 (100)	1100 (100)
2012						
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)
Total	158 (100)	323 (100)	216 (100)	133 (100)	5 (100)	835 (100)
2010						
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)
Total	233 (100)	346 (100)	226 (100)	153 (100)	6 (100)	964 (100)
2008						
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)
Total	235 (100)	369 (100)	227 (100)	132 (100)	50 (100)	1013 (100)
2006						
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)
Total	153 (100)	355 (100)	249 (100)	171 (100)	34 (100)	962 (100)

Table 31: Tobacco reduction and quit strategies in past 12 months

	2014
	n (%)
Successfully given up smoking (more than a month)	75 (22.8)
Tried to give up unsuccessfully	113 (34.3)
Changed to a brand with lower tar/nicotine content	43 (13.1)
Tried to change to a brand with lower tar/nicotine content, but were unsuccessful	23 (7.0)
Reduced the amount of tobacco you smoke in a day	129 (39.2)
Tried to reduce the amount of tobacco smoked in a day, but were unsuccessful	48 (14.6)
None of these	90 (27.4)

NOTE: Summary table; adds up to more than 100% because respondents could be in more than one category; table only includes women who reported being a current smoker.

4.3.2. Alcohol

The majority of women (90%) in the 2014 survey reported drinking alcohol. The 2013 NDSHS found 76% of Australian women had consumed alcohol in the past 12 months.⁹ Table 32 illustrates the distribution of drinking frequency. The frequency of drinking was related to age: younger drinkers were the most likely to drink two days a week or less (79%), while older women 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.¹¹ We asked women: *on a day when you drink alcohol, how many standard drinks do you usually have?* Nearly two thirds of drinkers (62%) - and 82% of younger women - reported they *usually* drank at levels that exceed this recommendation (Table 33).

The NHMRC recommends drinking no more than four standard drinks on a single occasion reduces the risk of alcohol-related injury arising from that **single occasion**.¹¹ Using data from the same question about how many standard drinks women usually have, 27% of drinkers reported that they usually drank at levels that exceed this recommendation (Table 33). Over a quarter of drinkers (28%) - and 37% of younger women - reported drinking five or more drinks ('binge drinking') weekly or more often in the past six months (Table 34).

A quarter (26%) of drinkers said they would like to reduce or quit their alcohol consumption, suggesting there is a need for alcohol reduction programs in this population. Sixty percent had made some attempt to reduce or cease drinking in the past 12 months (Table 35). Of the 988 current drinkers, 16% had successfully ceased drinking. Comparing to NDSHS 2013 data, LBQ women appear more likely to cease drinking (8% compared to 16%) and to reduce the number of times they drank (29% compared to 42%).⁹

Table 32: Frequency of drinking alcohol

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

Table 33: Drinks consumed on a day when alcohol is consumed

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

Table 34: Frequency of drinking 5 or more on a single occasion in past 6 months

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

Table 35: Alcohol reduction and quit strategies in past 12 months

	2014
	n (%)
Reduced the number of times you drink	416 (42.1)
Switched to drinking more low-alcoholic drinks than you used to	128 (13.0)
Stopped drinking alcohol	156 (15.8)
Changed your main drink	167 (16.9)
None of the above	403 (40.8)

NOTE: Summary table; adds up to more than 100% because respondents could be in more than one category; table only includes women who reported being a current drinker.

4.3.3. Illicit drugs

In the preceding six months, 48% of respondents had used any illicit drug (Table 36). With the exception of cannabis (34%), patterns of drugs use have varied over time. Of particular note, the drop in speed use (from 23% in 2006 to 12% in 2014), the downward trend in ecstasy use (from 27% 2006 to 21% in 2014) and the upward trend in cocaine use (from 12% 2006 to 19% in 2014). In response to the question 'Have you ever injected drugs?' 7% of women indicated that they had ever done so (2006: 10%; 2008: 10%; 2010: 8%; 2012: 7%).

Rates of illicit drug use were several times higher among our respondents than reported for the general community (Table 37). The NDSHS 2013 found 12% of women reported using any illicit drug in the past 12 months, compared to 48% in our sample. Echoing these

disparities, the NDSHS also found homosexual and bisexual people reported recent illicit drug use (39%) at much higher rates than heterosexual people (14%).⁹ 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%).¹⁰ 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.¹² 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 conditions under which these practices become problematic, interventions are unlikely to succeed.

Table 36: Illicit drug use in the past 6 months

	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Cannabis	329 (34.2)	388 (38.3)	319 (33.1)	263 (31.5)	371 (33.7)
Ecstasy	262 (27.2)	328 (32.4)	241 (25.0)	188 (22.5)	232 (21.1)
Cocaine	113 (11.8)	186 (18.4)	164 (17.0)	144 (17.3)	209 (19.0)
Benzos /Valium	92 (9.6)	150 (14.8)	130 (13.5)	126 (15.1)	140 (12.7)
Speed	223 (23.2)	259 (25.6)	150 (15.6)	112 (13.4)	133 (12.1)
Amyl/poppers	-	110 (10.9)	93 (9.7)	79 (9.5)	106 (9.6)
LSD/trips	-	73 (7.2)	53 (5.5)	57 (6.8)	78 (7.1)
Special K/ ketamine	70 (7.3)	62 (6.1)	48 (5.0)	42 (5.0)	49 (4.5)
Crystal meth	82 (8.5)	66 (6.5)	40 (4.2)	38 (4.6)	48 (4.4)
GHB	35 (3.6)	32 (3.2)	22 (2.3)	26 (3.1)	26 (3.1)
Any other drug	40 (4.2)	75 (7.4)	60 (6.2)	44 (5.3)	41 (3.7)

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

Table 37: Use of various illicit drugs SWASH women compared with women in general community

	SWASH 2014	NDSHS 2013
	past 6 months	past 12 months
	%	%
Cannabis	33.7	7.6
Ecstasy	21.1	1.8
Cocaine	19.0	1.4

4.4. Health status and behaviour

4.4.1. Relationships with doctors

In 2014, the majority of women reported they had a regular doctor (62%) or health centre (15%) (Table 38). 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%). Three quarters of respondents (78%) reported being satisfied or very satisfied with their regular GP/practice (Table 39). Women who were out to their GP were more likely to be very satisfied (42%, $p < 0.01$) than women who were not out (27%). That is, while women in general were satisfied with the service they received, disclosing sexuality appeared to improve that service/relationship.

Table 38: Regular doctor (2010, 2012, 2014)

	2010	2012	2014
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
No regular doctor	226 (23.4)	196 (23.5)	239 (21.7)
Yes, regular GP	474 (49.2)	446 (53.4)	684 (62.2)
Yes, regular health centre	211 (21.9)	142 (17.0)	169 (15.4)
Not reported	53 (5.5)	51 (6.1)	8 (0.7)
Total	964 (100)	835 (100)	1100 (100)

Table 39: Satisfaction with regular doctor (2012, 2014)

	2012	2014
	n (%)	n (%)
Very satisfied	257 (43.7)	363 (42.5)
Satisfied	184 (31.3)	301 (35.3)
Neither	38 (6.5)	86 (10.1)
Unsatisfied	17 (2.9)	33 (3.9)
Very unsatisfied	5 (0.9)	21 (2.4)
Not reported	87 (14.8)	49 (5.7)
Total	588 (100)	853 (100)

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

4.4.2. Self-assessed general health

The majority of respondents rated their general health as excellent/very good/good (89%); 10% of respondents reported their health as fair/poor (Table 40). Self-assessed health in the SWASH sample was similar to the general community (a breakdown by gender is not available) (Table 41).¹³ This is surprising given the greater representation of older women in the 2011/12 AHS sample: 8% aged over 65 years compared to 0.01% of the SWASH sample.

We use respondents 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,¹⁴ and it does not recognise differences in height and weight proportions which may be related to cultural heritage. While nearly half the sample was in the healthy weight category (48%), 40% self-reported height and weight that placed them in the overweight or obese category (Table 42). We have provided comparative self-report data from women aged 18 years and older in the 2011/12 AHS (Table 43).¹⁵

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.¹⁶⁻¹⁹ 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.^{18, 20, 21}

Table 40: Self-assessed general health, by sexual identity

	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer/ Other	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
2014					
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)
Total	753 (100)	180 (100)	160 (100)	7 (100)	1100 (100)
2012					
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)
Total	570 (100)	110 (100)	147 (100)	8 (100)	835 (100)
2010					
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)
Total	726 (100)	101 (100)	124 (100)	13 (100)	964 (100)
2008					
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)
Total	773 (100)	122 (100)	105 (100)	13 (100)	1013 (100)
2006					
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)
Total	828 (100)	84 (100)	50 (100)	-	962 (100)

Table 41: Self-assessed general health SWASH women compared with the general community

	SWASH 2014	AHS 2011/12 ²²¹⁶
	%	%
Poor/Fair	10.1	14.6
Good	29.7	29.7
Very good/Excellent	60.2	55.7

Note: For comparison, table excludes SWASH non-responders.

Table 42: Body mass index (2010, 2012, 2014)

	2010	2012	2014
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Underweight	36 (3.7)	30 (3.6)	39 (3.5)
Healthy	455 (47.2)	395 (47.3)	524 (47.6)
Overweight	207 (21.5)	195 (23.4)	266 (24.2)
Obese	169 (17.5)	130 (15.6)	172 (15.6)
Not reported	97 (10.1)	85 (10.2)	99 (9.0)
Total	964 (100)	835 (100)	1100 (100)

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

Table 43: Body mass index compared with the women aged 18+ in general community

	SWASH 2014 %	AHS 2011/12 %
Underweight/Healthy	56.1	44.3
Overweight	26.8	28.2
Obese	17.2	27.5

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

4.4.2. Self-assessed 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.²³ The proportion of women reporting high distress has been trending up since we first posed the questions. Distress was most common in younger women; 22% of 16-24 year olds reported high distress compared to 4% of those 45 years and older ($p < 0.001$; Table 44). The 2011/12 AHS used the K10,²⁴ and while these measures cannot be directly compared, the K10 'high/very high' rating (13% of Australian women) is broadly equivalent to the K6 'medium/high rating' (30% of SWASH sample). For 16-24 year olds, 13% of Australian women reported 'high/very high' distress compared to 44% of LBQ women who reported 'medium/high' distress.

There is consistent and persuasive international evidence that LGBTQ populations experience higher rates of mental health problems and suicidal behaviour than heterosexual people.²⁵⁻³⁰ A recent 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.³¹ 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%).³² 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.³³

The high levels of distress among LBQ women are reflected in the high proportion of women who reported accessing mental health services (72%; Table 45), and received a diagnosis of depression, anxiety disorder or other mental health disorder at some point in their lives (49%; Table 46). 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 wellbeing³³ 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.

Table 44: Kessler 6 measure of psychological distress, by age group (2006, 2010, 2012, 2014)

	16-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45+	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
2014						
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)
Total	237 (100)	424 (100)	255 (100)	182 (100)	2 (100)	1100 (100)
2012						
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)
Total	158 (100)	323(100)	216(100)	133 (100)	5 (100)	835 (100)
2010						
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)
Total	233 (100)	346 (100)	226 (100)	153 (100)	6 (100)	964 (100)
2006						
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)
Total	153 (100)	355 (100)	249 (100)	171 (100)	34 (100)	962 (100)

Note: cut off scores were Low = 0-7, Medium = 8-12, High = 13-24.³⁴

Table 45: Ever accessed counselling or psychological services (2010, 2012, 2014)

	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer/ Other	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
2014					
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)
Total	753 (100)	180 (100)	160 (100)	7 (100)	1100 (100)
2012					
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)
Total	570 (100)	110 (100)	147 (100)	8 (100)	834 (100)
2010					
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)
Total	726 (100)	101 (100)	124 (100)	13 (100)	964 (100)

Table 46: Ever diagnosed (self-report) with anxiety, depression or other mental health disorder (2010, 2012, 2014)

	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer/ Other	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
2014					
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)
Total	753 (100)	180 (100)	160 (100)	7 (100)	1100 (100)
2012					
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)
Total	570 (100)	110 (100)	147 (100)	8 (100)	834 (100)
2010					
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)
Total	726 (100)	101 (100)	124 (100)	13 (100)	964 (100)

4.4.4. 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.³⁵ Table 47 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 2009-10 was 70%.³⁶ The equivalent screening rate for SWASH women aged 20-69 years in 2010 was 71%; in 2012 it was 72% and in 2014 it was 70%.

Women who had never had sex with a man are 2.2 times more likely to have never been screened (32% compared to 15% who had ever had sex with a man). Lower screening in these women may be due to a belief that lesbian women are at lower risk of cervical cancer,³⁷ a perception that has been reported among Australian healthcare providers.³⁸ This is despite HPV transmission only requiring skin-to-skin contact³⁹ 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.⁴⁰ 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. 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 2014 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. 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 28 years who would have had access to the free vaccine program. Over half of young women (53%) had received at least one dose; only 35% reported completing the full vaccine schedule (Table 48). 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 claimed for the population (for example, that at least half of women aged 12–26 years on 30 June 2007 were fully vaccinated).⁴¹ The concern here is that LBQ women may not benefit from the reduced incidence in genital warts nor, more importantly, protection against HPV related to cervical cancer.

Rates of STI testing within the sample appear steady. Over half of respondents (59%) had ever had a test for an STI other than HIV; 18% had done so in the previous six months (Table 49). Women who had ever had sex with a man were significantly more likely to have had an STI test (65%) compared to women who had never had sex with a man (46%; $p < 0.001$). This suggests a need for STI testing campaigns and resources targeting LBQ women about their sexual health, risks and the need for testing. One hundred and eighteen women (11%) had ever received an STI diagnosis; 18% of those tested. An STI diagnosis was significantly more likely among women who reported ever having had sex with a man (21%) compared to those who had never had sex with a man (10%; $p < 0.001$). The move away from HIV testing continued: from 59% in 2006 to 35% in 2014. This may reflect a change in perception of risk and sexual health messaging. Of the women who reported being tested, two said they were HIV positive.

In 2014 we asked respondents where they obtained sexual health information (Table 50). The most commonly reported sources were online (51%) and GPs (44%).

Table 47: Timing of last Pap smear, by experience of sex with men

	Never had sex with a man	Ever had sex with a man	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
2014				
Less than 3 years ago ⁽¹⁾	197 (57.4)	540 (72.2)	5 (55.6)	742 (67.5)
More than 3 years ago ⁽²⁾	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)
Total	334 (100)	748 (100)	9 (100)	1100 (100)
2012				
Less than 3 years ago ⁽¹⁾	177 (60.0)	393 (75.0)	3 (18.8)	573 (68.6)
More than 3 years ago ⁽²⁾	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)
Total	295 (100)	524 (100)	16 (100)	835 (100)
2010				
Less than 3 years ago ⁽¹⁾	226 (60.1)	430 (75.3)	7 (41.2)	663 (68.8)
More than 3 years ago ⁽²⁾	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)
Total	376 (100)	571 (100)	17 (100)	964 (100)
2008				
Less than 3 years ago ^(a)	254 (59.2)	425 (74.4)	3 (23.1)	682 (67.3)
More than 3 years ago ^(b)	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)
Total	429 (100)	571 (100)	13 (100)	1013 (100)
2006				
Less than 3 years ago ^(a)	169 (49.7)	450 (73.7)	4 (36.4)	623 (64.8)
More than 3 years ago ^(b)	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)
Total	340 (100)	611 (100)	11 (100)	962 (100)

(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 48: HPV Vaccine uptake (2014)

	18-19 years	20-21 years	22-28 years	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
One dose	5 (11.6)	9 (13.8)	14 (4.6)	28 (6.8)
Two doses	3 (7.0)	4 (6.2)	42 (13.7)	49 (11.8)
Three doses	8 (18.6)	29 (44.6)	107 (35.0)	144 (34.8)
No	10 (23.3)	8 (12.3)	72 (23.5)	90 (21.7)
Not sure	17 (39.5)	13 (20.0)	69 (22.5)	99 (23.9)
Not reported	0 (0.0)	2 (3.1)	2 (0.7)	4 (1.0)
Total	43 (100)	65 (100)	306 (100)	414 (100)

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

Table 49: Timing of last STI test other than HIV by sexual identity

	Lesbian	Bisexual	Queer/ Other	Not reported	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
2014					
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)
Total	753 (100)	180 (100)	160 (100)	7 (100)	1100 (100)
2012					
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)
Total	570 (100)	110 (100)	147 (100)	8 (100)	835 (100)
2010					
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)
Total	726 (100)	101 (100)	124 (100)	13 (100)	964 (100)
2008					
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)
Total	773 (100)	122 (100)	105 (100)	13 (100)	1013 (100)
2006					
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)
Total	828 (100)	84 (100)	50 (100)	-	962 (100)

Table 50: Obtaining sexual health information (2014)

	Total
	n (%)
Online	557 (50.6)
GP	478 (43.5)
Friends	306 (27.8)
Community organisation	249 (22.6)
Don't seek information	144 (13.1)
Note: Summary table; adds up to more than 100% because respondents could be in more than one category.	

4.5. Experiences of violence and abuse

4.5.1 Sexual coercion

We asked women: *Since the age of 16, have you ever been forced or frightened into doing something sexually that you did not want to do?* The majority of respondents (68%) indicated they had never experienced sexual coercion. Of the women reporting they had experienced sexual coercion, the majority (86%) had been coerced by a man (Table 51).

Table 51: Number of respondents who had ever experienced sexual coercion (2006, 2010, 2012, 2014)

	2006	2010	2012	2014
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Never	595 (61.9)	640 (66.4)	537 (64.3)	743 (67.5)
Yes, by a male only	274 (28.5)	183 (18.98)	172 (20.6)	253 (23.0)
Yes, by a female only	46 (4.8)	38 (3.9)	56 (6.7)	48 (4.4)
Yes, both	¹	33 (3.4)	17 (2.0)	40 (3.6)
Not reported	47 (4.9)	70 (7.3)	53 (6.4)	16 (1.5)
Total	962 (100)	964 (100)	835 (100)	1100 (100)
(1) In 2006, we did not ask if women had been sexually coerced by both male and female, but a proportion of respondents are likely to have experienced both				

4.5.2. Domestic violence

In 2014, 40% of women reported having ever experienced domestic violence (DV). The majority of experiences were in a relationship with another woman (Table 52). The apparent increase in DV experiences since 2006 needs to be interpreted with caution. It is not clear if DV 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 LGBTIQ Domestic and Family Violence Interagency on LGBTQ domestic violence. Targeted messages to the LGBTQ community (e.g. the nature of domestic violence or where to get support) may be having a positive effect by providing a language for talking about domestic violence and encourage reporting.

Just over half (57%) of women who reported experiencing domestic violence had sought help (similar to previous years). 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 52: Number of respondents who experienced domestic violence in a relationship

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

(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

4.5.3. Homophobia/Transphobia

Respondents were asked whether they had experienced any of six specified anti-LGBT acts against them in the preceding 12 months (Table 53). Twenty nine percent of women had experienced some form of abuse or harassment. Among SWASH respondents, experiences of homophobia or transphobia have dropped significantly from 43% in 2006 to 29% in 2014 ($p < 0.001$). The most common experience was verbal abuse or harassment; reports of this type of abuse have dropped significantly since 2006 from 40% to 27% in 2014 ($p < 0.001$). While this decline is encouraging, there has been no concomitant decrease in other types of abuse and violence. That so few women reported abusive behaviour to police is of concern (Table 54) 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 any homophobia or transphobia in the preceding 12 months.

Table 53: Anti- lesbian, gay, bi and trans behaviour experienced in the past 12 months

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

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

Table 54: Anti- lesbian, gay, bi and trans behaviour reported to police in the past 12 months

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

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

Conclusion

SWASH provides a snapshot of the health and wellbeing of LBQ women in Sydney. It highlights several health issues 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 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 over 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 five iterations of the SWASH survey, a total of 4777 lesbian, bisexual and queer 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



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

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? 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 Yes 2
- Fingers / hand inside vagina 1 2
- Fingers / hand inside anus 1 2
- Oral sex (your mouth, her genitals) 1 2
- Oral sex (her mouth, your genitals) 1 2
- Rimming (her mouth, your anus) 1 2
- Rimming (your mouth, her anus) 1 2
- Sex toy used on external genitals 1 2
- Sex toy used inside vagina 1 2
- Sex toy used inside anus 1 2

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

What else makes you feel connected?

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?

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

SWASH 2012, Version 2012.02.02 31st Jan 2012

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 times 1-5 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

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 | 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 |

51. Have you ever accessed a counsellor or psychiatrist?
 No 1 Yes, in past 5 yrs 2 Yes, over 5 yrs ago 3
52. 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

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 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
54. 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
55. 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.

56. If a person experiencing a cold sore outbreak has oral sex they can give their partner genital herpes.
 True 1 False 2
57. You can have an STI and not have any symptoms.
 True 1 False 2
58. Lesbians do not need Pap smears. True 1 False 2
- Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.**

41. Have you ever been tested for hepatitis C?
 No 1 Yes 2 Don't know 3
 If yes, are you?
 Positive (you have hep C) 1 Negative 2 Not sure 3

Smoking, drinking and drug use

42. Do you currently smoke cigarettes or other tobacco?
 Yes, daily 1 Yes, more than weekly (not daily) 2
 Yes, less than weekly 3 No, ex-smoker 4
 Never smoked/less than 100 in lifetime 5
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 1 Less often than weekly 2
 1 or 2 days a week 3 3 or 4 days a week 4
 5 or 6 days a week 5 Every day 6
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 1 3-4 drinks 2 5-8 drinks 3
 9-12 drinks 4 13-20 drinks 5 20+ drinks 6
46. 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

47. 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
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
Ketamine	<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

48. Have you ever injected drugs? Never 1
 Over 6 months ago 2 In the past 6 months 3
 Weekly+ 1 6-10 times 2 1-5 times 3 Never 4
49. How often have you injected drugs in the past 6 months?
 Weekly+ 1 6-10 times 2 1-5 times 3 Never 4

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 (tick all that apply to you)
 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
 S/M dominance/bondage (no blood) No 1 Yes 2
 S/M dominance/bondage (with blood) No 1 Yes 2

Your health

31. Do you have a regular GP? No 1 I see the same GP 2
 I attend the same health centre/practice 3
32. Are you out to your GP about your sexuality/gender identity? No 1 Yes 2
33. In general, would you say your health is
 Poor 1 Fair 2 Good 3 Very good 4 Excellent 5
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 1
 Yes - Breast 2 Skin 3 Lung 4 Cervical 5
 Other cancer 6 (please specify) _____
37. When did you have your last Pap smear test?
 Less than 2 years ago 1 More than 5 years ago 4
 2-3 years ago 2 Never 5
 3-5 years ago 3 Not sure 6
38. 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
 No 1 Yes 2
39. Have you ever been diagnosed with an STI?
 No 1 Yes 2
 If yes, tick all that apply to you
 Gonorrhoea 1 Chlamydia 2 Lice/crabs 3
 Hepatitis B 4 Syphilis 5 Genital herpes 6
 Genital warts 7 Bacterial vaginosis 8 HPV 9
 Other 10 (please specify) _____

40. 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



BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY'S HEALTH & WELLBEING

ACON: AIDS Council of New South Wales
 UNSW 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**

1. How many of your friends are lesbians?
None 1 A few 2 Some 3 Most 4 All 5
2. How many of your friends are gay or homosexual men?
None 1 A few 2 Some 3 Most 4 All 5
3. 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
4. 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
5. Are you transgender / transsexual? No 1 Yes 2
6. Do you think of yourself as:
Lesbian / dyke / homosexual / gay 1
Bisexual 2 Heterosexual / straight 3
Other (please specify) 4
7. Do you have any dependent children?
No 1 Yes 2 If yes, how many? _____
8. Are you a: (Tick all that apply to you)
Birth mother No 1 Yes 2
Co-parent No 1 Yes 2
9. Are you planning to have a child in the next 2 years?
No 1 Yes 2 Not sure 3
10. 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

11. What is your occupation? _____
12. 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
13. 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
14. Have you done any sex work?
No, never 1 More than 6 months ago 2
During the past 6 months 3
15. 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
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
17. 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
18. In the last 4 weeks, how many times have you had sex with a woman?
_____ times

19. 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
20. 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
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
22. 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
23. 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
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
25. 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
26. 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
27. 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?
- | | All | Most | Half | Some | None |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | of the time | | | | |
| | <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?
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