

The Inaugural Australian Trans and Gender Diverse Sexual Health Survey

Barriers, Resilience, and the Impact of Trans-Led Research

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Kirby Institute



SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

PARTICIPANTS

In total, 2,202 people started the survey

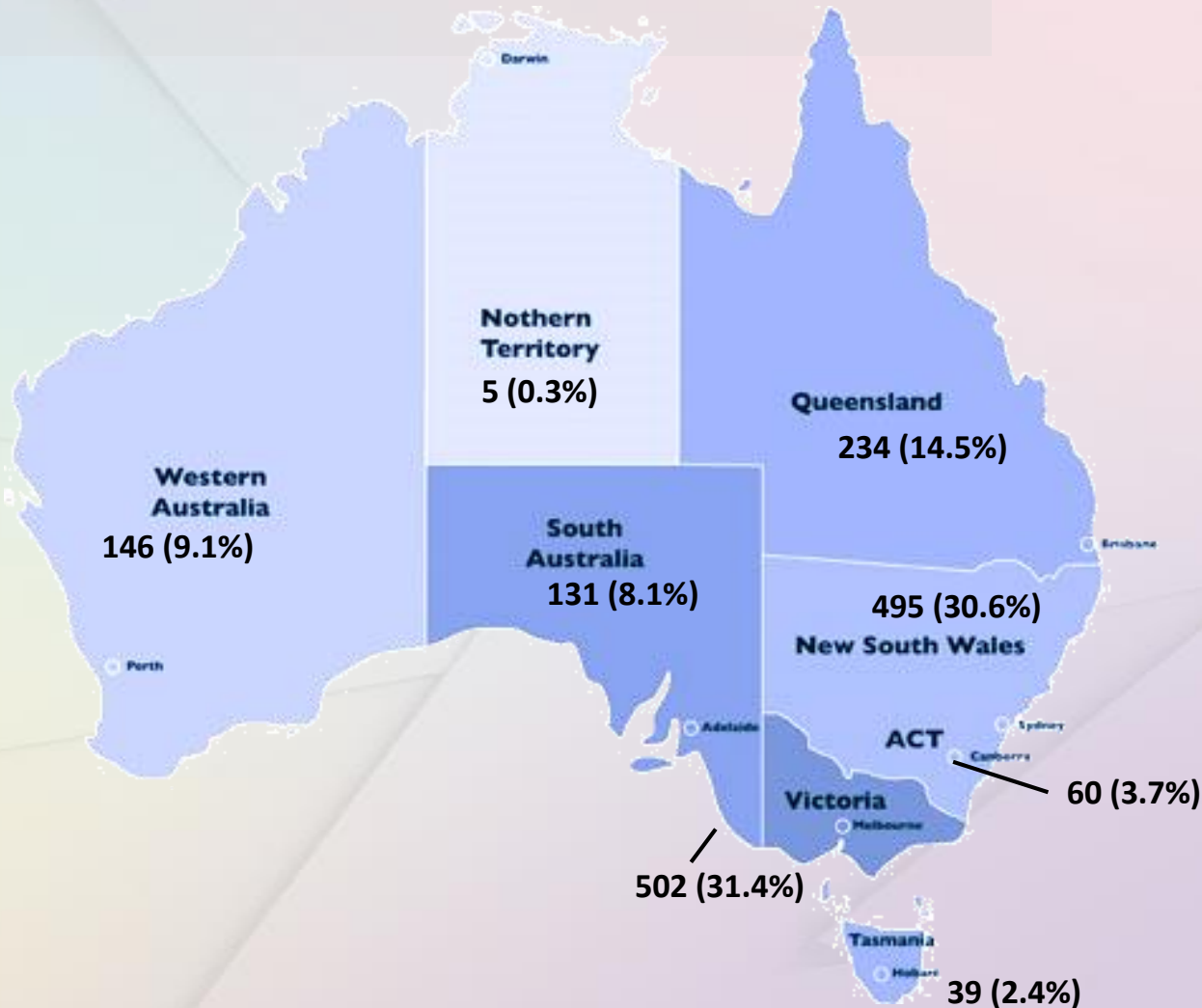
- 282 were ineligible
 - 175 were not trans or gender diverse
 - 107 lived outside of Australia, and
- 1,920 people started the main survey
 - 288 discontinued partway through and were excluded
 - 2 responses appeared to be duplicates
 - 17 did not provide enough information

**The final sample comprised 1,613 people
(84% completion rate)**

PARTICIPANTS

Among 1,613 participants...

- 4.4% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- 85% Australian-born
- 82.0% lived in a major city
- 25.8% high school or less
- Aged 16-80
 - Mean=24.5
 - Median=22



TRANSGENDER LIFESTYLES AND HIV/AIDS RISK



Funded by
The Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Health
Auspiced by
The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations

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Research Assistant s and Fieldworkers: Aidy Griffin and
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School of Sociology
University of New South Wales
1994

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PEOPLE WITH TRANSGENDER ISSUES

PLEASE NOTE: WHERE ANSWERS ARE GIVEN NUMBERS 01, 02, 03 ETC. ONLY ONE RESPONSE IS REQUIRED, SO PLEASE CIRCLE ONLY ONE ANSWER. WHERE ANSWERS ARE GIVEN NUMBERS 1., 1., 1., THESE ARE MULTIPLE CHOICE ANSWERS AND YOU CAN CIRCLE MORE THAN ONE.

PART 1: DEMOGRAPHY.

1. What is your age?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 01. <15 | 06. 36 - 40 |
| 02. 16 - 20 | 07. 41 - 45 |
| 03. 21 - 25 | 08. 46 - 50 |
| 04. 26 - 30 | 09. 51 - 60 |
| 05. 31 and over | 10. 61 and over |

2. What gender were you given at birth?

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| 01. Female | 02. Male |
|------------|----------|

3. What is your current gender?

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| 01. Female | 02. Male |
|------------|----------|

4. Where are you living at present?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 01. Sydney City & Inner Suburbs | 06. NSW Country |
| 02. Sydney - Eastern Suburbs | 07. Canberra |
| 03. Sydney - Northern Suburbs | 08. Melbourne |
| 04. Sydney - Western Suburbs | 09. Brisbane |
| 05. Sydney - Southern Suburbs | 10. Perth |
| | 11. Other..... |

5. What kind of accommodation are you currently living in?

Part 1: Accommodation type:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 01. Refuge | 07. Share accommodation |
| 02. Rental house/unit | 08. With friends |
| 03. Boarding house | 09. Homeless |
| 04. Hotel | 10. Housing Commission |
| 05. With parents | 11. Buying house/unit |
| 06. Other short term..... | 12. Own house/unit |

GENDER

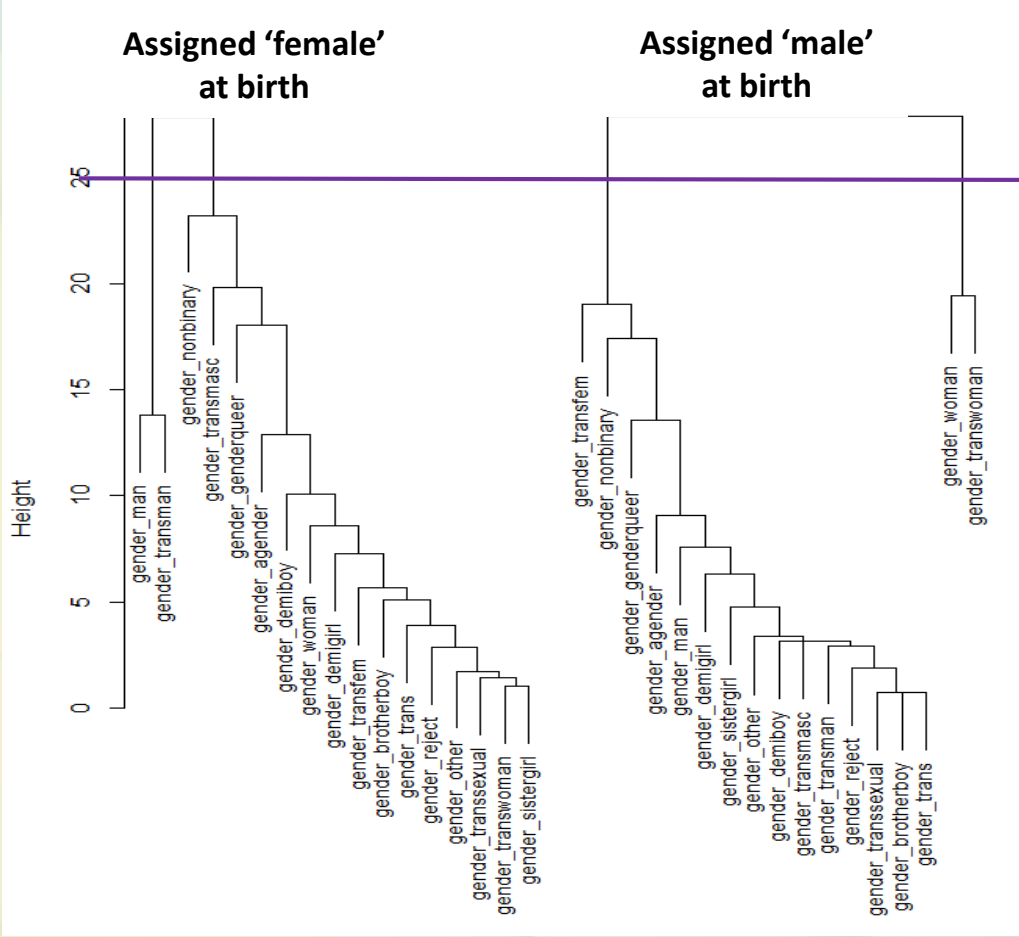
Please select as many from this list that you feel apply to you and feel free to add your own as needed:

- Trans man
- Trans woman
- Man
- Woman
- Trans masculine
- Trans feminine
- Non-binary
- Genderqueer
- Agender
- Sistergirl
- Brotherboy
- Demiboy
- Demigirl
- Other

What sex were you assigned at birth (i.e. what was specified on your original birth certificate)?

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

GENDER



4 Categories

- 353 (22%) trans men
- 397 (24%) trans women
- 231 (14%) non-binary, assigned male at birth
- 632 (39%) non-binary, assigned female at birth

Average Age of Realisation, Sharing and Living as Affirmed Gender



3.4%
of participants
had not told
anyone they
were trans
and/or gender
diverse



Realising they
were trans
and/or gender
diverse:
age **14.1**
years



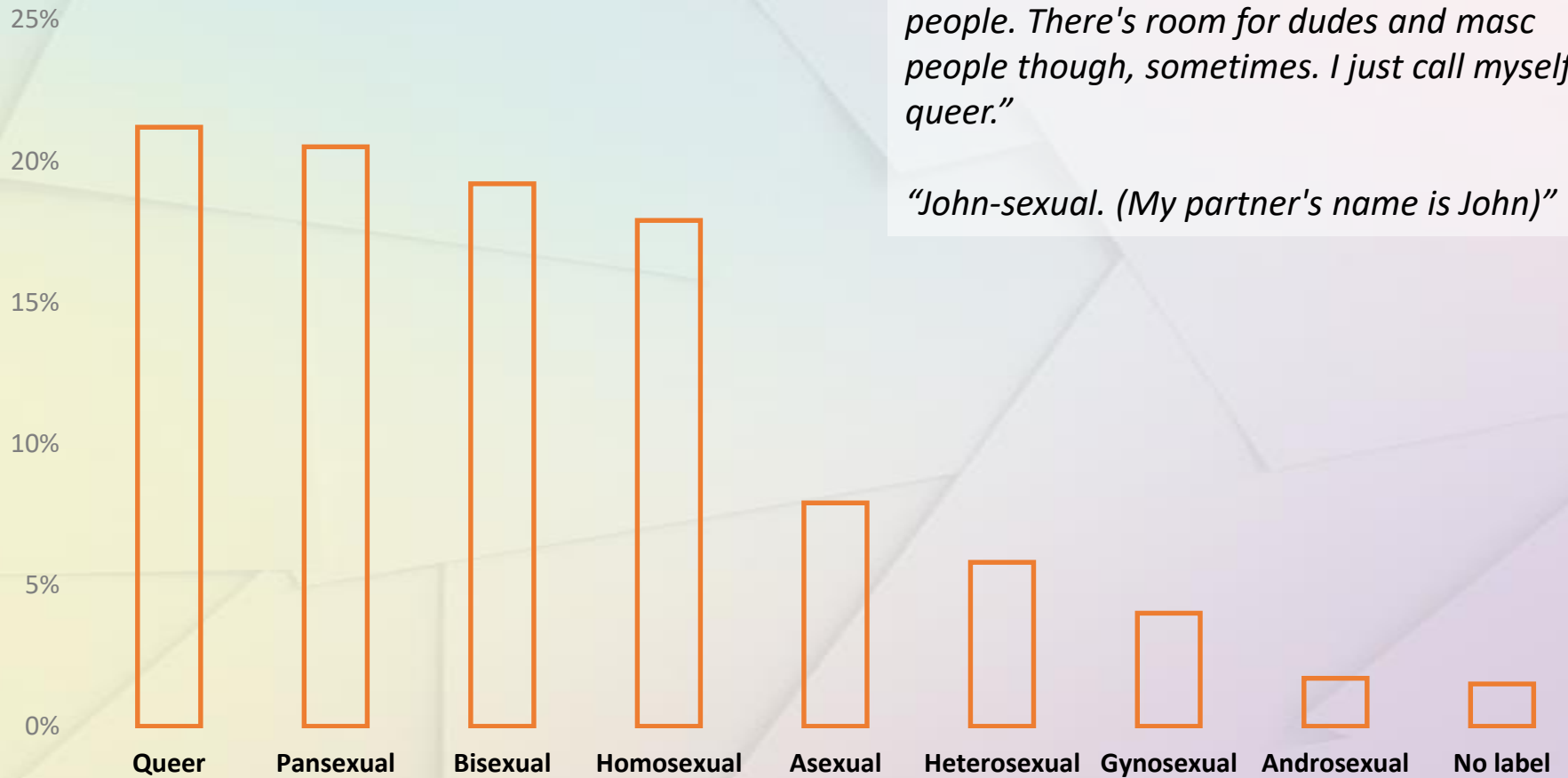
Telling others
that they were
trans and/or
gender diverse:
age **22.3**
years



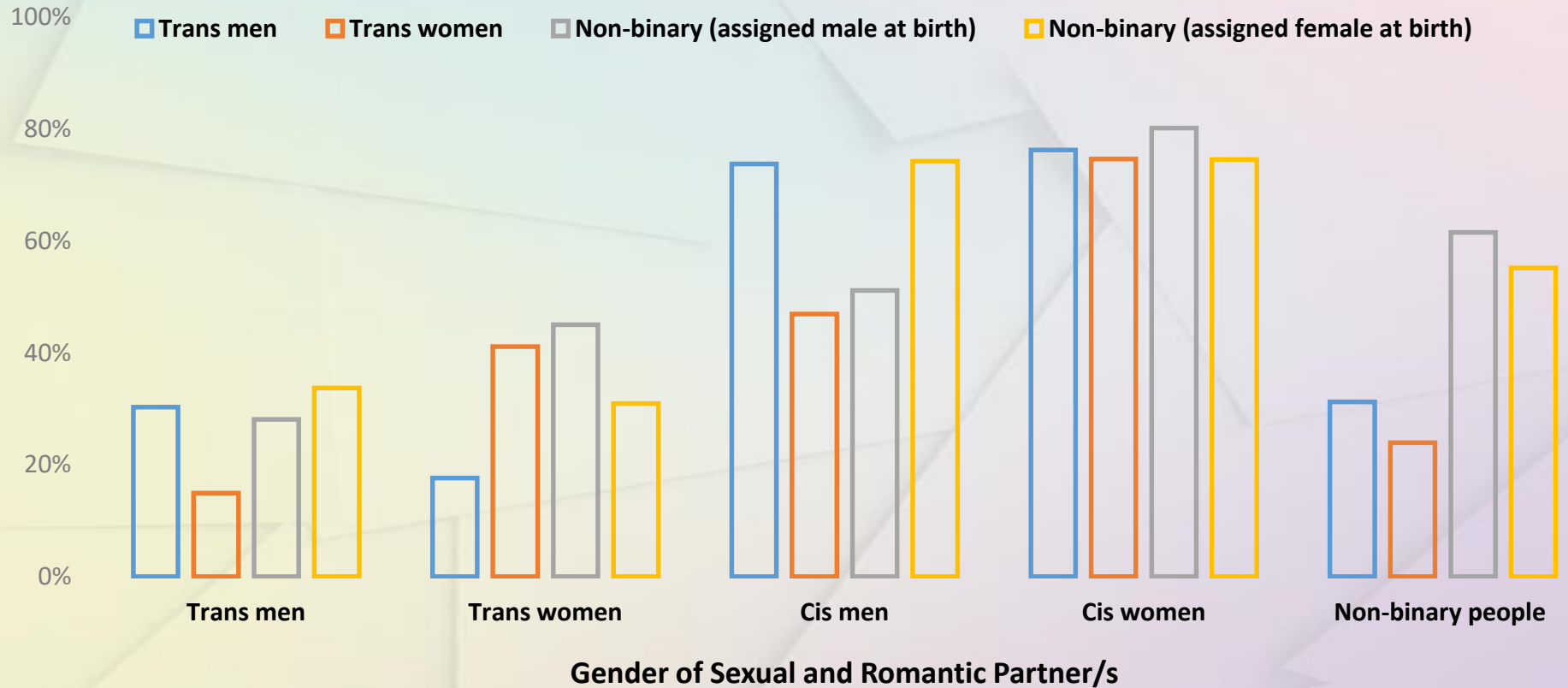
Living their lives
as trans and/or
gender diverse:
age **24.5**
years

SEX, SEXUALITY AND ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

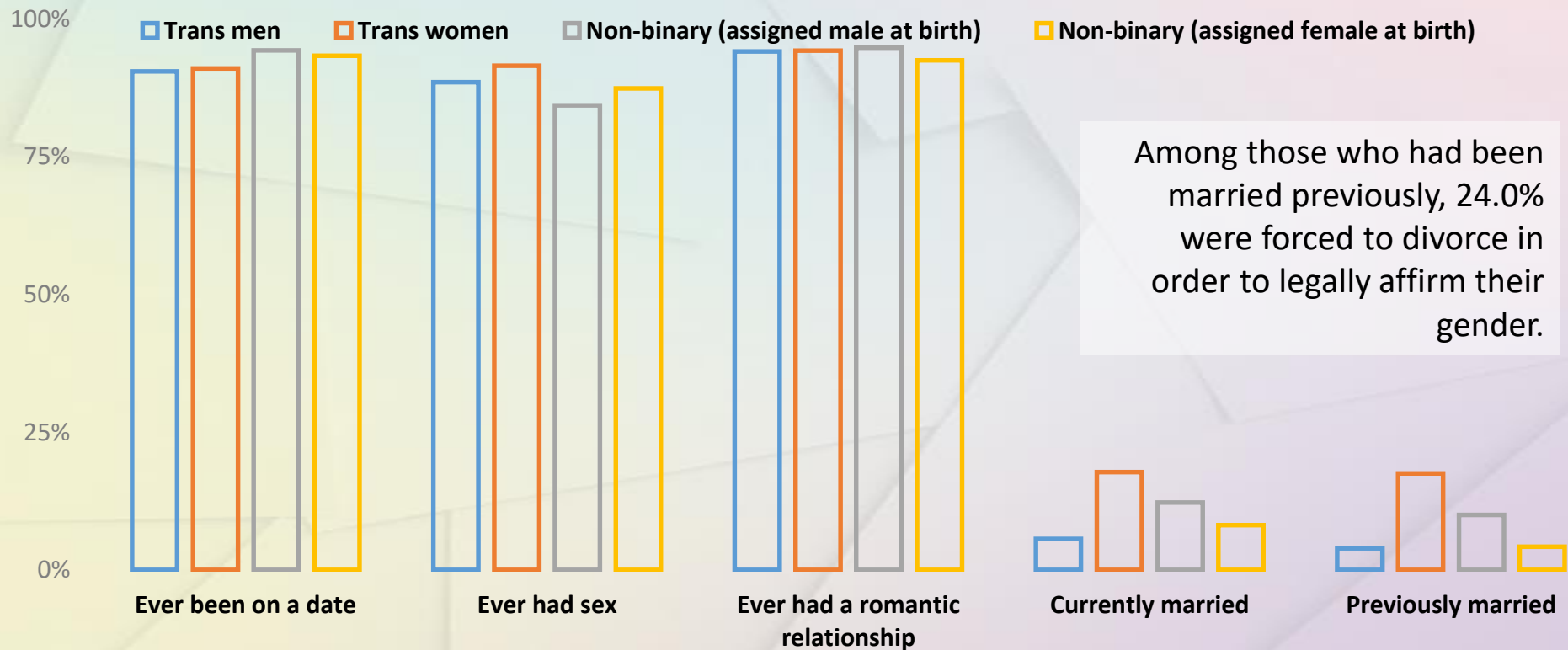
SEXUAL ORIENTATION SELF-DESCRIPTIONS



SEXUAL AND ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS



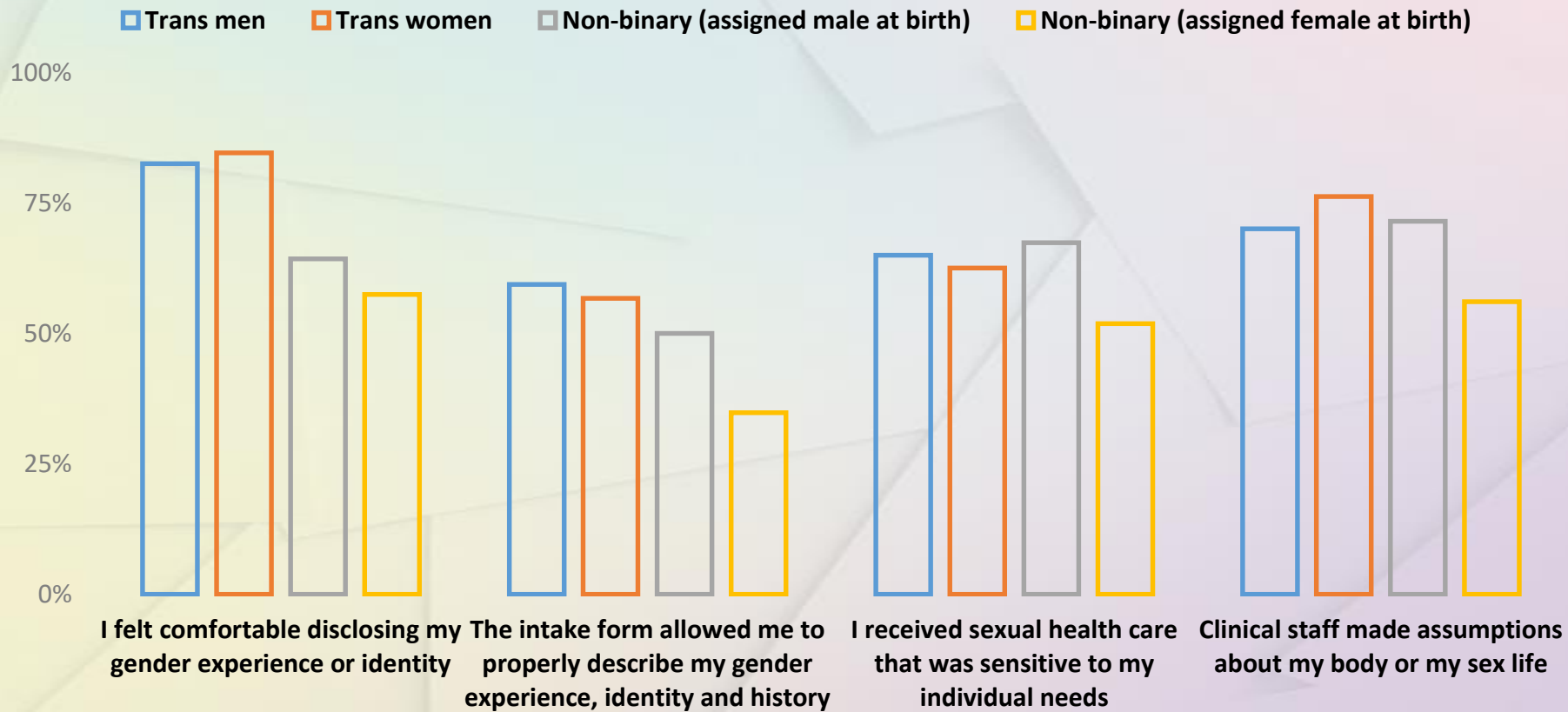
SEX, DATING, AND MARRIAGE



Among those who had been married previously, 24.0% were forced to divorce in order to legally affirm their gender.

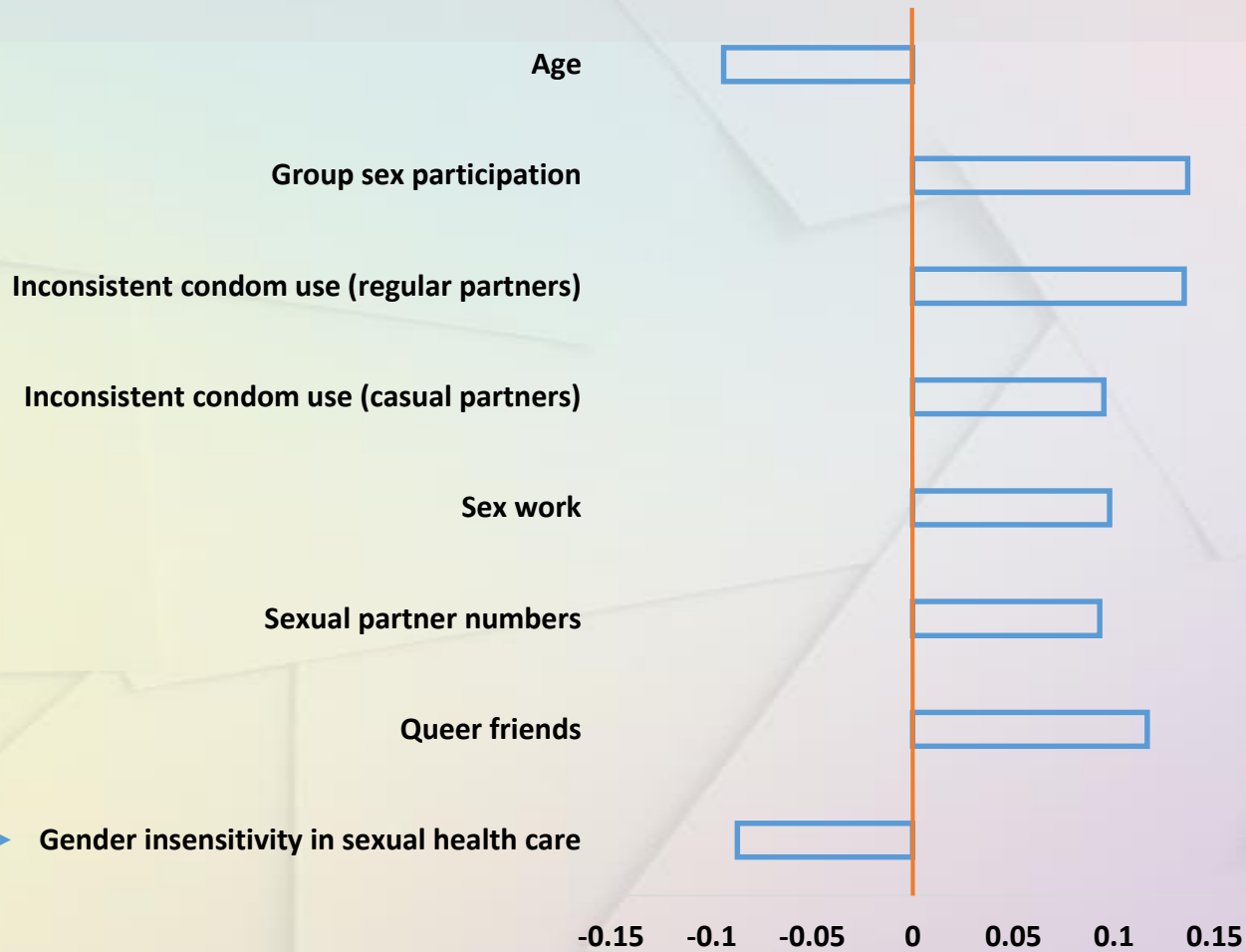
SEXUAL HEALTH CARE

EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL HEALTH CARE



UPTAKE OF SEXUAL HEALTH CARE AMONG SEXUALLY ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS

ONE TEST IN THE PAST YEAR





RISK, BLOODBORNE VIRUSES AND SEXUALLY TRANSMISSIBLE INFECTIONS

SEXUAL HEALTH

Condom use for anal, vaginal or frontal sex

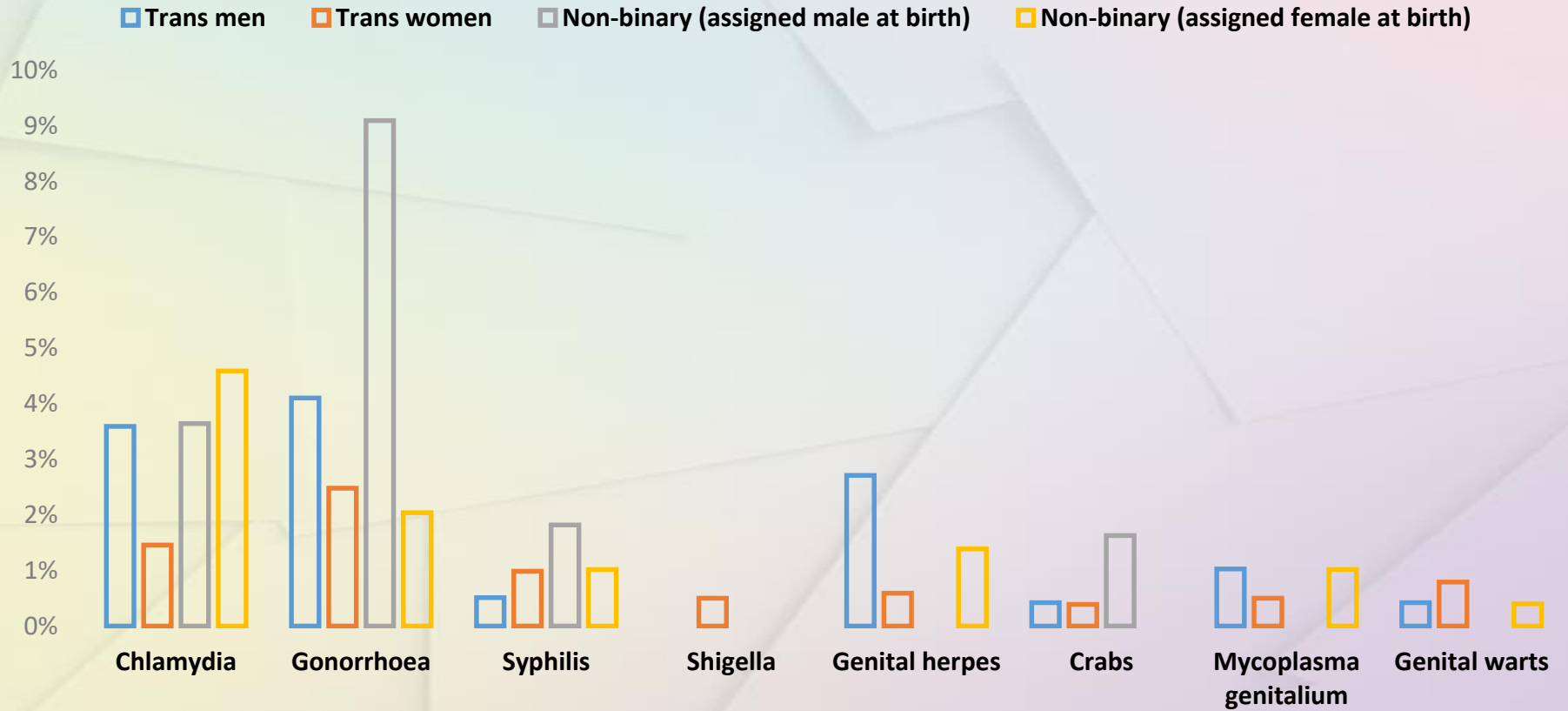
- 79.7% reported inconsistent use with regular partners
- 69.4% reported inconsistent use with casual partners

- 2.2% reported using PrEP currently

STI testing among sexually-active participants

- 69.3% reported being tested for STIs in the past year
 - 46.9% of those reported two or more tests in the past year

STI DIAGNOSES IN THE PAST YEAR



HIV AND HEPATITIS C

51.5% of participants had been previously tested for HIV

- 10 (1.2%) reported being HIV positive
 - 100% of these participants were receiving treatment
 - 10 reported their most recent viral load was undetectable
- Among HIV negative participants
 - 28.3% were tested for HIV within the previous year

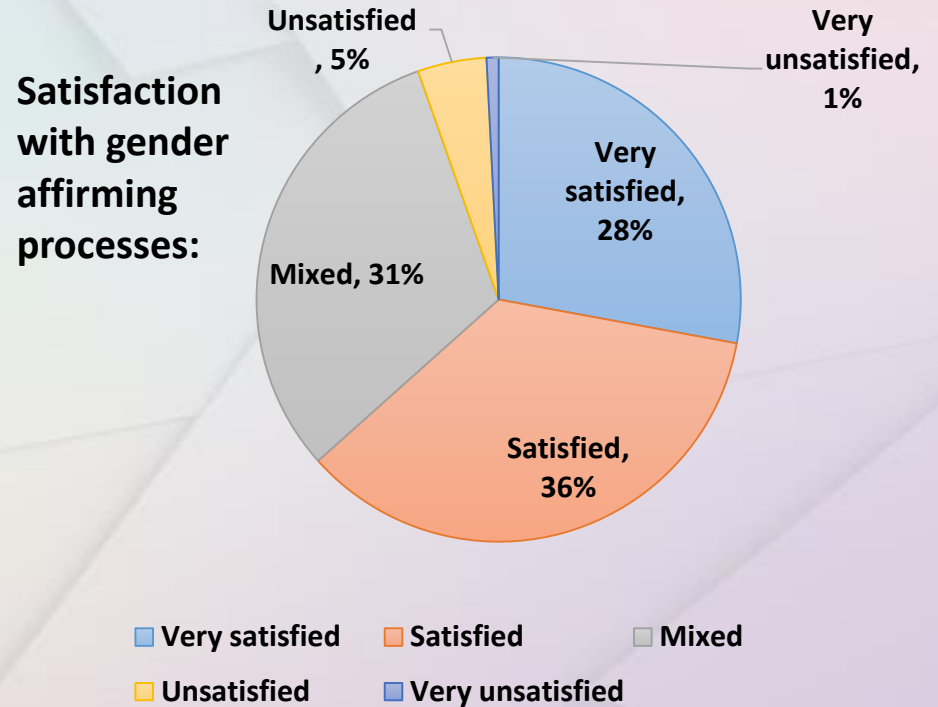
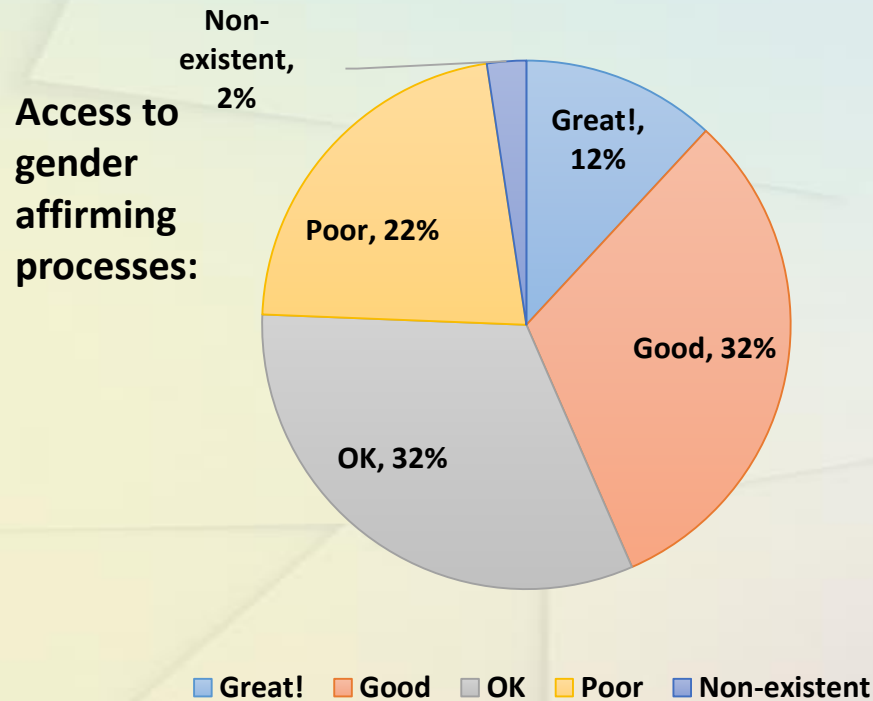
46.6% of participants had been previously tested for Hep C

- 19 (2.4%) were negative following treatment
- 2 (0.2%) were positive and had not received treatment



GENDER AFFIRMING PROCESSES: ACCESS, SATISFACTION AND SEXUALITY

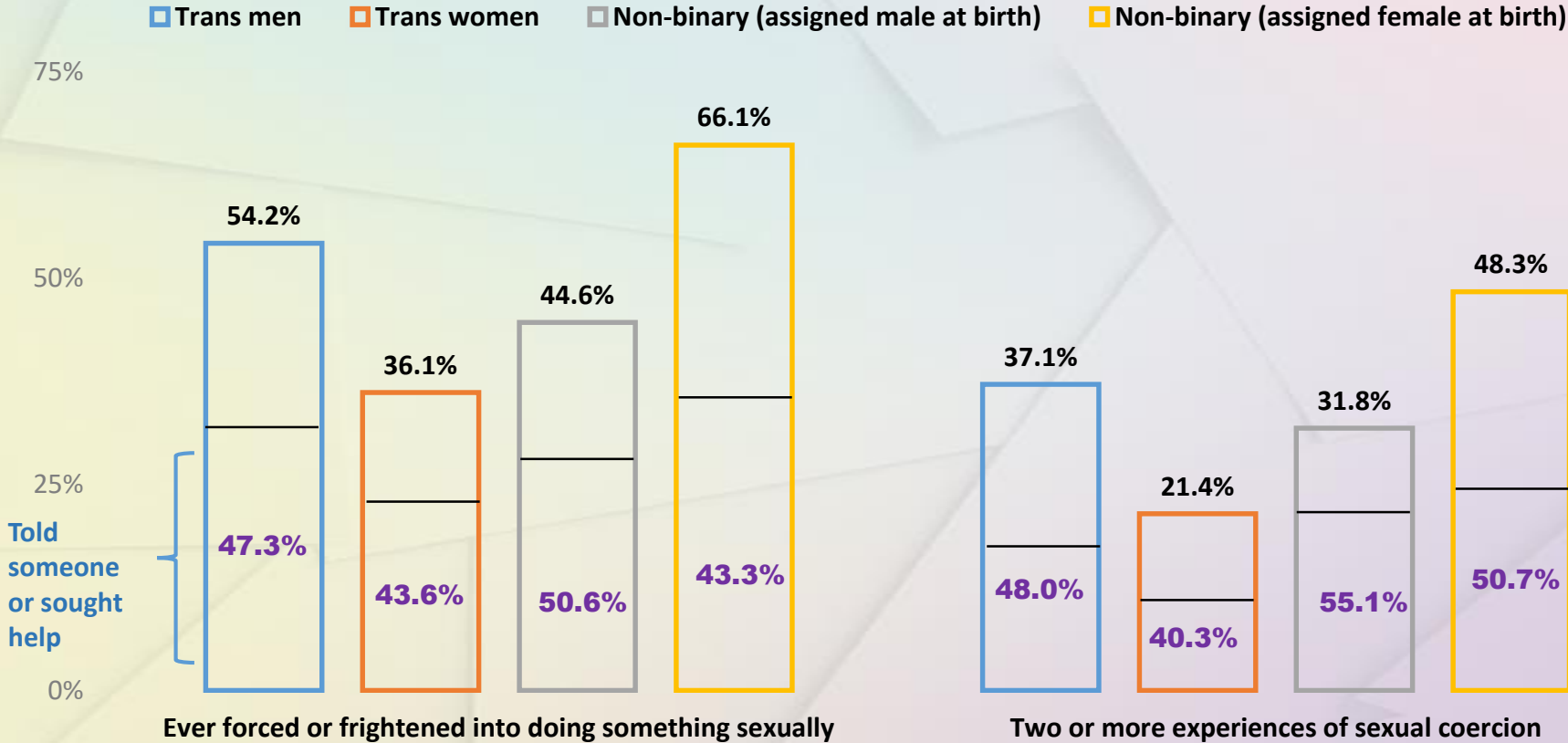
GENDER AFFIRMATION ACCESS AND SATISFACTION



SEXUAL COERCION AND VIOLENCE

SEXUAL COERCION AND VIOLENCE

182 (11.2%) PARTICIPANTS SKIPPED THESE QUESTIONS



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

- The final sample of 1,613 yielded one of the highest response rates for a TGD-focused health study ever conducted
- There is an urgent need to prioritise health resources and services that could improve the sexual health and well-being of Australia's trans and gender diverse populations
- Trans and gender diverse people have unique experiences of sex and sexual health, they also engage in a wide range of sexual practices, get married and divorced, and form partnerships with people of all genders. Just like cis people do.
- Trans and gender diverse people experience sexual violence and coercion at a rate nearly four times that of the Australian general public, and only a minority report their experiences or seek help
- Trans and gender diverse people reported experiencing very high rates of marginalisation in sexual health care because of their gender

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

- Less than half of participants said they'd experienced inclusive sexual health care, this was associated with lower testing rates amongst sexually active participants
- Only half of participants reported having a sexual health screen in the last twelve months while most reported inconsistent condom use with casual partners. These factors, along with poor experiences in sexual health care, low uptake of PrEP and barriers to gender affirmation services present significantly heightened vulnerability to HIV and STIs
- Trans and gender diverse people also reported inadequate sex education and rarely received information to make decisions about fertility
- Trans and gender diverse people struggled to access the gender affirming care they sought, which was found to negatively affect mental health and sexual and romantic satisfaction
- Trans and gender diverse people who were able to access gender affirming care reported higher levels of sexual and romantic satisfaction and mental health

TRANS-LED TRANS RESEARCH

TRANS-LED TRANS RESEARCH

- Most trans research, both historic and contemporary, has been entirely structured, conducted, and published by cisgender researchers
- Peer-led studies with other communities has shown that having community members involved in the research increases the research team's accountability to the community, helps build rapport, and provides deep insight into nuanced aspects of that community
- Including peers in these processes helps produce research that is actionable and effective in responding to that community's needs
- Previous research has indicated trans people feel more likely to participate if a study has trans peers

TRANS-LED TRANS RESEARCH

- The inclusion of trans researchers in trans studies is not only preferred, but an essential part of conducting valuable and actionable research
- Of our 9-person team, 5 researchers are trans and/or gender diverse
- We were involved in vetting the survey questions, analyzing the data, writing and publishing the preliminary report of our findings, and now presenting our findings here at ASHM
- Feedback from participants indicated that our community ties and public presence in the advertising of this survey encouraged participation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND DISCLOSURES

- No conflicts to declare
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- Community consultants and partners:
 - PASH.tm, Trans Health Australia, The Gender Centre, Brotherboys and Sistergirls NT, Queensland AIDS Council, GendaSA, Shine SA, Transgender Victoria, Transfolk WA, Trans Health Australia, ACON, AFAO, LGBTQI Health Alliance, Working it Out, Thorne Harbour Health, NSW STI Programs Unit, Australian Sexual Health Alliance, Scarlet Alliance
 - Kelly Glanney, Raewyn Connell, Damien Riggs
 - All of the clinics and services that displayed our posters and information!
- Paul Simpson, Bridget Haire, Larissa Lewis
- Our lovely video models (Liz, Mish, Chantell, Teddy, Laurie, Reena and Lisa)
- And the whole investigative team: Teddy Cook, Denton Callander, Jeremy Wiggins, Liz Duck-Chong, Shoshana Rosenberg, Mish Pony, Martin Holt, Emanuel Vlahakis and Vincent Cornelisse

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