

# NON-VOLITIONAL SEX IN A LARGE NATIONAL SURVEY OF NEW ZEALAND ADULTS

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## Introduction:

Knowing about non-volitional sex is key to developing policies to improve New Zealanders' sexual health.

## Methods:

In 2014/15, 10,198 adults aged 16-74 years completed the Sexual and Reproductive Health module of the New Zealand Health Survey (NZHS). Questions included sex against their will.

## Results:

One in nine women (11%), and one in thirty men (3%) has ever had sex against their will. Among women, the proportion experiencing this was highest among those aged 45-54 years, and there was a downward trend from this among older and younger age groups.

The median ages for most recent episode of non-volitional sex were 15 years for men and 18 years for women. This was not markedly higher in older age groups indicating this is more of a problem when individuals are young.

The likelihood of experiencing non-volitional sex in women varied by ethnicity: 15% Māori, 13% European/Other, 7% Pacific and 3% Asian. Among men, it was lowest among those of European/Other ethnicity.

The perpetrator was not known to the victim by 16% of women and 21% of men, and was twice as likely to be a current/former intimate partner for women as for men (35% women, 17% men). Among Maori and Pacific women the perpetrator was more likely to a family member or a friend (but not current/former partner) than non-Maori and non-Pacific women.

## Conclusion:

This is the first national survey of sexual and reproductive health in New Zealand since the 1991 New Zealand Partner Relations Survey. The NZHS provides valuable insights into non-volitional sex that will inform interventions to prevent this.

## Disclosure of Interest Statement: See example below:

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