



SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IMPACT OF COVID-19 SURVEY 4: RESULTS

Who completed the survey and what did we ask them?

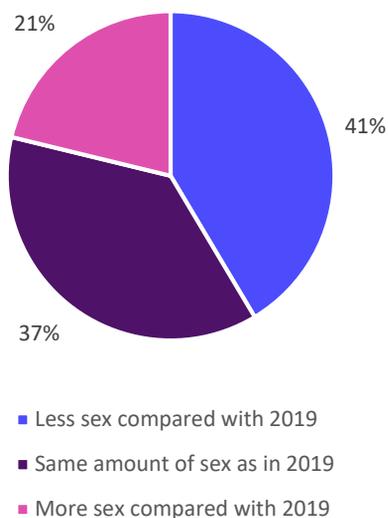
From the 24th November to 18th December 2020, we conducted an online survey exploring the sexual and reproductive health impact of COVID-19. Nearly 300 people completed survey 4. Most participants identified as female and heterosexual, were aged less than 30 years, and were born in Australia. Lots of the participants reported living in Victoria.

COVID-19 restrictions during Survey 4

Australia recorded no new cases of community transmission for the first time since mid-2020 on the 1st of November. Although South Australia experienced an outbreak in mid-November and a snap lockdown, the outbreak was quickly controlled and the lockdown ended within a few days on the 21st November. Much of Australia enjoyed an easing of restrictions from mid-November to mid-December, with little community transmission. Survey 4 captured the experiences of Australians during this time.

How many participants reported recent sex – and were participants having more or less sex than 2019?

Over 60% of participants said that they had sex in the past four weeks. However, 40% of participants said that they were having less sex compared with 2019.



Who were people having sex with?

The most common sexual partners reported were spouse, partner, boyfriend, or girlfriend. A total of 16% reported having sex with a casual partner/hook up, and 13% said that they had recently had sex with an occasional partner.



47% of those with a new sexual partner said that they had met them through an online dating app, while 28% said they were already friends



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What did participants tell us about their sexual practices?

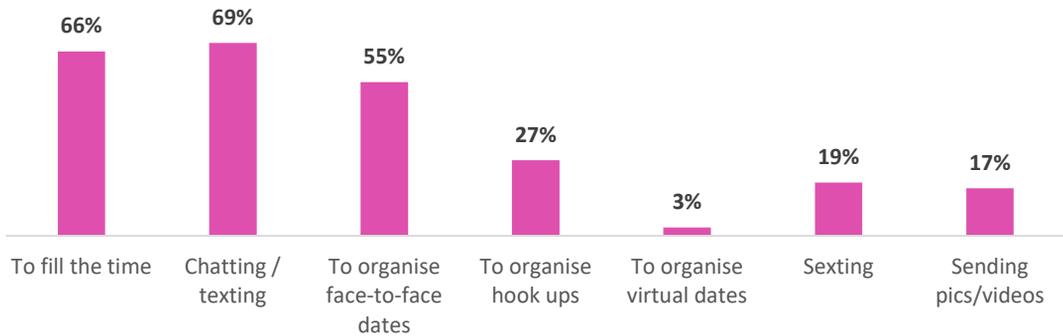
15% of sexually active participants said that they were washing hands more before and after sex than before COVID-19. Several participants reported increases in solo sex activities compared with 2019:



What happened to dating app use?

Just over a quarter of participants said they had been using dating apps compared with 36% who said they had used apps in 2019. Most common apps used were Tinder, Hinge, and Bumble.

Reasons for using dating apps



What did people tell us about access to sexual and reproductive health products? Very few people (<5%) said that they experienced any difficulty accessing contraception and period products.

We conducted four surveys across 2020 during key phases of the pandemic:

- Survey 1: April-May 2020, during the first nation-wide lockdown
- Survey 2: June 2020, during the period of easing restrictions
- Survey 3: August 2020, during the Victorian hard lockdown
- Survey 4: November-December 2020, when restrictions were eased across the country

Do you want more information?

Visit our website: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/9paj>

Or contact us: sexualhealth-research@unimelb.edu.au

This project has been approved by the University of Melbourne Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) ID: 2056693



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