Background Attitudes towards sex and relationships influence sexual behaviour, the wellbeing of those marginalised, and provision and use of services. Some countries conduct repeated surveys on sexual attitudes, but no longitudinal studies have investigated individuals’ changes in opinion over time. We have quantified consistency and change in acceptance of same-sex partnerships between ages 26 and 38 years, in New Zealand.

Methods Members of the Dunedin Study birth cohort answered computer-presented questions on their opinions about sexual and reproductive topics, including acceptability of same-sex partnerships, using items from the UK’s National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (Natsal-1). Opinions from the age 26 and age 38 assessments were compared for consistency and change, and associated characteristics.

Results Response level was >90% at each assessment (n = 966; n = 936). The distribution of women’s opinions was similar for sex between men and sex between women, and liberalised with age. Men’s acceptance of sex between men was lower, and did not increase with age. At age 38 vs 26, 38% vs 38% of men and 58% vs 54% of women reported sex between two men was ‘rarely wrong/not wrong at all’. For sex between women, 58% vs 55% of men and 60% vs 57% of women reported this level of acceptance. Although aggregate changes were small, at an individual level 42% of men and 35% of women changed their opinion about sex between men, and about sex between women. For men and women, consistent acceptance of same-sex partnerships was associated having some same-sex experience, and more for men and women, consistent acceptance of same-sex partnerships between ages 26 and 38 years, in New Zealand.

Background In recent years, the number of sexually transmissible infections (STIs) has skyrocketed in Australia and cause a considerable burden on public health. The association between STIs and sexual behaviour is well-established in high-risk populations but information about the general population is less well-known. ASHR2 provides population-based data about the sexual health and practices of Australians. This analysis examines the associations between STIs and sexual behaviour.

Methods Computer-assisted telephone interviews were conducted with a random sample of the Australian population aged 16–69. Participants were surveyed about their sexual behaviour and experiences with STIs. Responses were weighted based on study design, location, and the age and sex distribution of Australia. Univariate logistic regression was used to determine the associations between sexual behaviour, testing history and diagnosis.

Results A total of 20,094 men and women were interviewed, with an overall participation rate of 66.2%. A higher proportion of women (17.3%) were tested than men (13.2%) in the past year. Men and women were more likely to have been tested in the past year if they identified as bisexual (or homosexual for men), were of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin, had >1 partner in the past year, had a previous STI and had ever injected drugs. In the year prior to being interviewed, 1.1% of men and 2.7% of women reported having an STI. Diagnosis was associated with having >1 partner in the past year, sex work as a worker and having ever injected drugs for both men and women. For men, diagnosis was also associated with sex work as a client (OR = 3.14 [95% CI: 1.78–5.56]) while diagnosis in women was associated with receiving sex education at school (OR = 1.59[95% CI: 1.14–2.21]).

Conclusion Australian women are tested more frequently for STIs and are diagnosed more frequently despite sharing similar associations for STIs as men.

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