

Writing Themselves In 4

Response to data request:
Experiences of harassment



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About Writing Themselves In 4

Writing Themselves In 4 (WTI4) is the fourth iteration of the Writing Themselves In surveys, with the first conducted in 1998 as the first ever national survey of same sex attracted young people in Australia. The survey was repeated in 2004 and 2010. The survey was conducted by the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS), La Trobe University. The survey provides vital information for health professionals, service providers, community organizations and governments to better understand and support the health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people in Australia. WTI4 was jointly funded by the Victorian Government Department of Premiere & Cabinet, The Australian Capital Territory Government Office for LGBTIQ+ Affairs, the New South Wales Department of Health and SHINE SA, with support from the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist in South Australia.

WTI4 was developed in consultation with a Community Advisory Board, including representatives from all states and territories that had contributed funding for the study. This work was supported by two Youth Advisory Groups in Melbourne and Adelaide. WTI4 involved an online survey, which was open for completion from 2 September to 28 October 2019. Survey participants were recruited through paid Facebook advertising and via LGBTIQ community organisations and their networks. The survey was provided in English and was restricted to participants who resided in Australia at the time of the survey and were aged between 14 and 21 years old. This report presents data from participants of WTI4.

The *Writing Themselves In 4* National Report is available at:

<https://www.latrobe.edu.au/arcshs/publications/writing-themselves-in-publications/writing-themselves-in-4>

Response to data request

Details of the request

Further analysis of the *Writing Themselves In 4* data, to explore rates of sexual, physical and verbal harassment ever experienced by LGBTIQ+ young people in Australia across sexual identity.

Variables included in the analysis

- Ever experienced harassment
- Sexual identity

Sample details

WTI4 included 6,418 young people, aged 14-21 years old. Table 1 provides an overview of their demographic characteristics.

Table 1: Sample characteristics (n = 6418)

SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS	FREQUENCY (N)	%
Sexual identity		
Lesbian	771	12.03
Gay	1063	16.59
Bisexual	2164	33.78
Pansexual	717	11.19
Queer	540	8.43
Asexual	295	4.6
Something else	857	13.38
Gender		
Cisgender woman	3162	50.57
Cisgender man	1394	22.29
Trans woman	75	1.2
Trans man	406	6.49
Non-binary	1216	19.45
Age		
14-17	3770	58.74
18-21	2648	41.26
State		
Australian Capital Territory	300	4.67
Queensland	1008	15.71
New South Wales	1619	25.23
Northern Territory	43	0.67
South Australia	640	9.97
Tasmania	226	3.52
Victoria	1859	28.97
Western Australia	723	11.27
Residential location		
Capital city, inner suburban	434	6.77
Capital city, outer suburban	3705	57.79
Regional city or town	1598	24.93
Rural/Remote	674	10.51

Outcomes

WTI4 participants were asked if they had ever experienced verbal, physical, or sexual harassment or assault based on their sexuality, gender identity and/or gender expression. Participants indicated if they had these experiences in various locations including educational setting, home, work, public, sport, or somewhere else. Responses were combined into a single binary variable indicating whether participants had ever experienced some form of harassment regardless of setting. Table 2 below reports frequencies of ever experiencing some form of harassment among LGBTQ+ young people across sexual identity.

Table 2: Frequency of experiences of harassment among LGBTQ+ young people aged 14-21 years

EVER EXPERIENCED HARASSMENT	NO		YES	
	n	%	n	%
Sexual identity				
Lesbian	239	32.87	488	67.13
Gay	259	25.85	743	74.15
Bisexual	773	39.46	1186	60.54
Pansexual	189	28.42	476	71.58
Queer	120	23.9	382	76.1
Asexual	122	43.88	156	56.12
Something else	290	36.8	498	63.2
Total	1992	33.64	3929	66.36