

A comparison of heterosexual & GLBT participants: same same but different?

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I AM ~~GAY~~.
I AM ~~STRAIGHT~~.
I AM ~~LESBIAN~~.
I AM ~~BISEXUAL~~.
I AM ~~TRANSGENDERED~~.
I AM HUMAN.

Shared by Pride PAC

What is the EDRS?



Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System



Participants: Regular ecstasy users (REU)

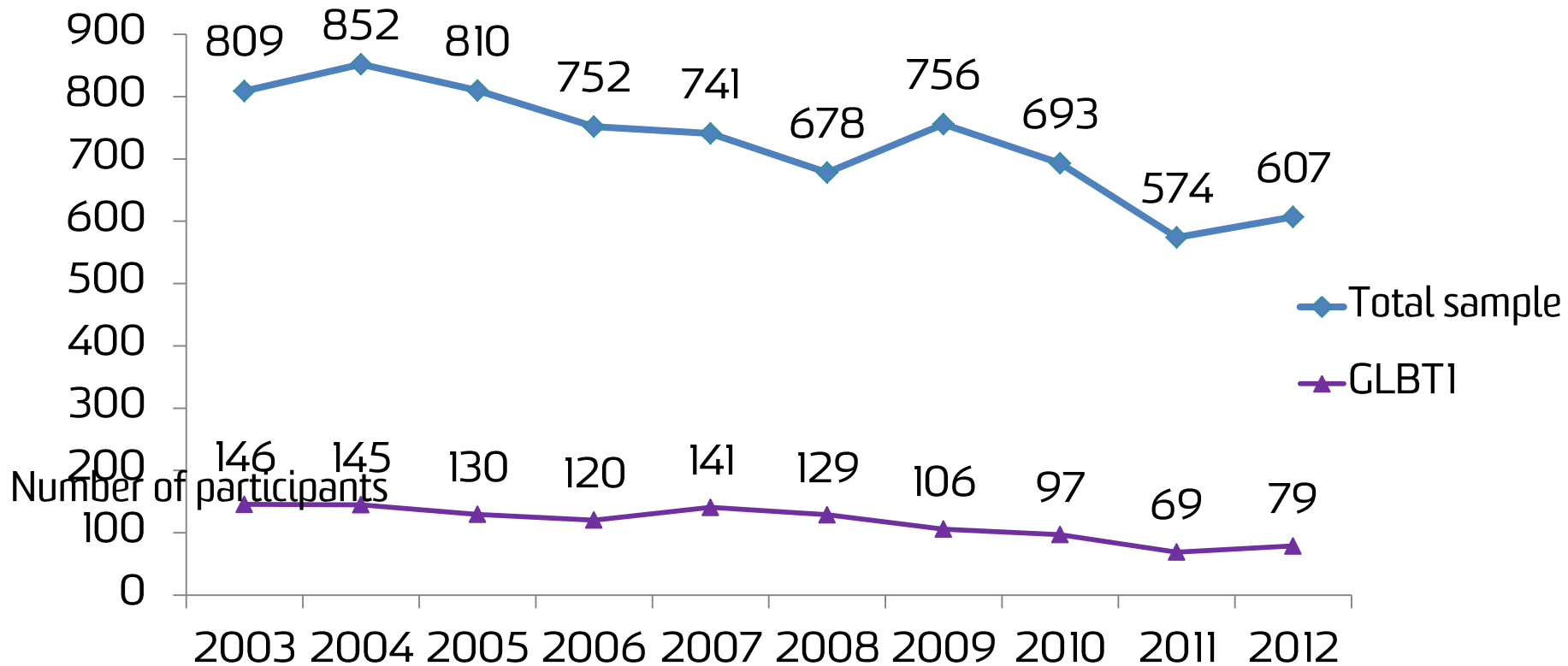
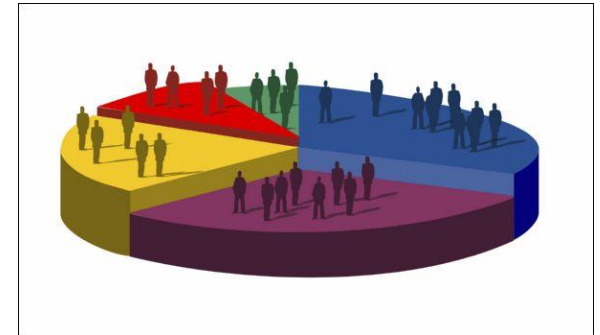
Main Drugs: Ecstasy, methamphetamines, cocaine, GHB, Ketamine, LSD, analogues, cannabis etc.

Three main components:

1. 100 face-to-face interviews with REU;
2. Key expert interviews (e.g. law, health and industry personnel);
3. Population indicator data (e.g. hospital admissions, overdose deaths, Australian Crime Commission data etc).

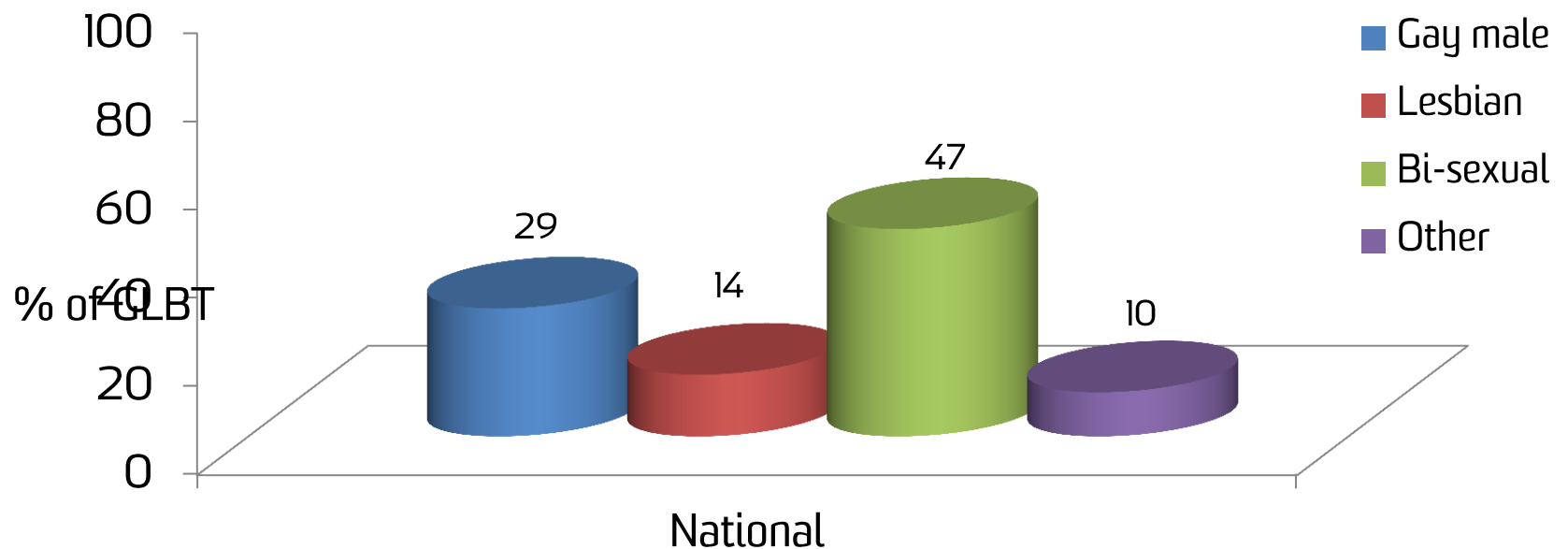
Sample size, 2003-2012

→ Total & GLBT



GLBT participants, 2012

	National N=607	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
GLBT %	13	18	16	10	19	10	4	17	11



Demographics, 2012



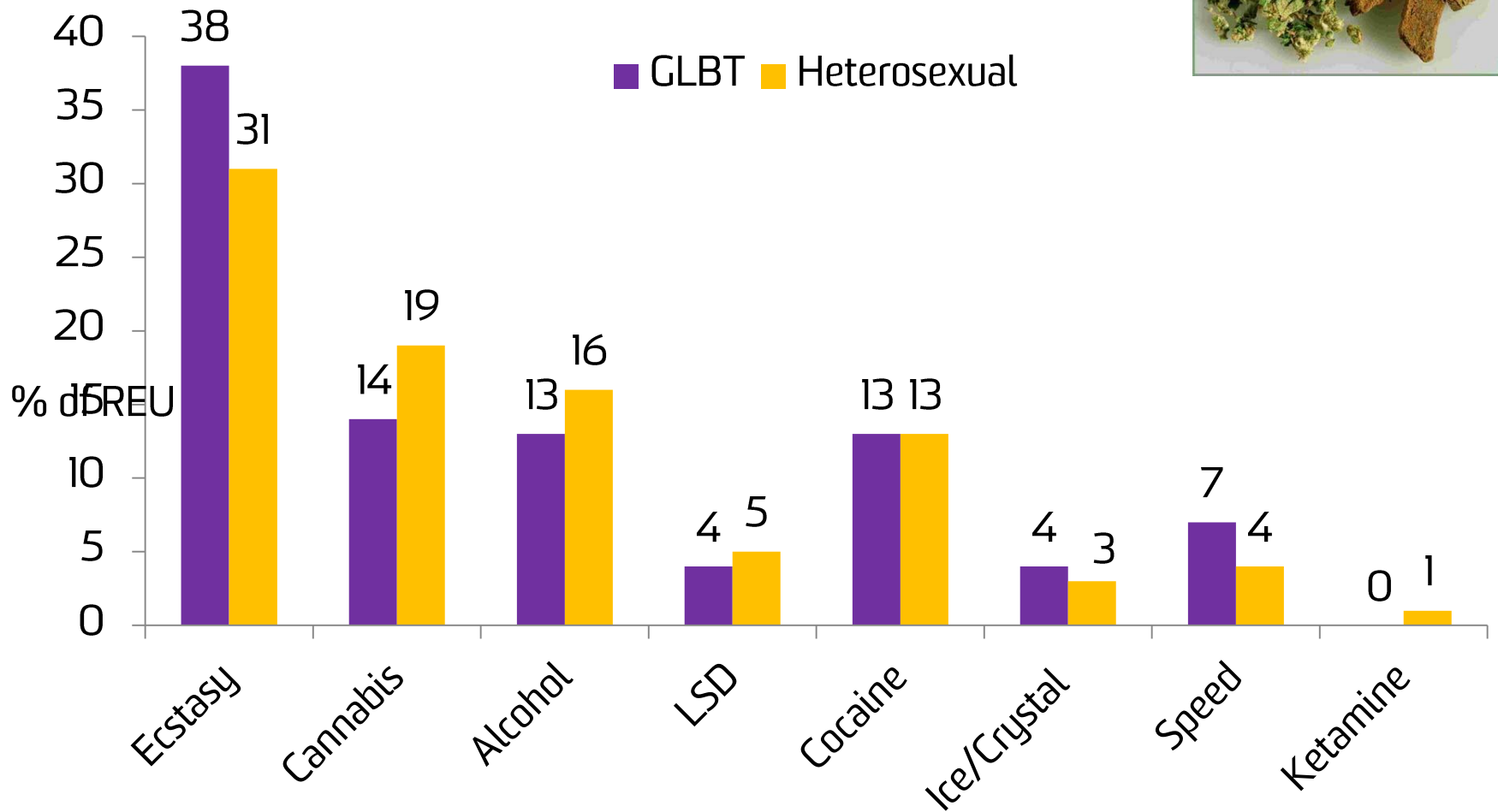
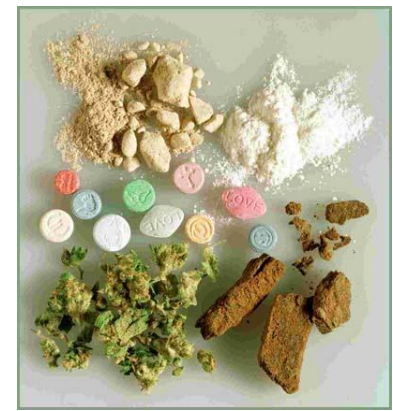
National data	GLBT N=77	Heterosexual N=529
% male	47*	68
age (median)	24*	23
% English-speaking background	99	97
Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander	5	2
Mean no school years	12	12
Unemployed	17	15
Drug treatment	4	5

* $p < 0.05$



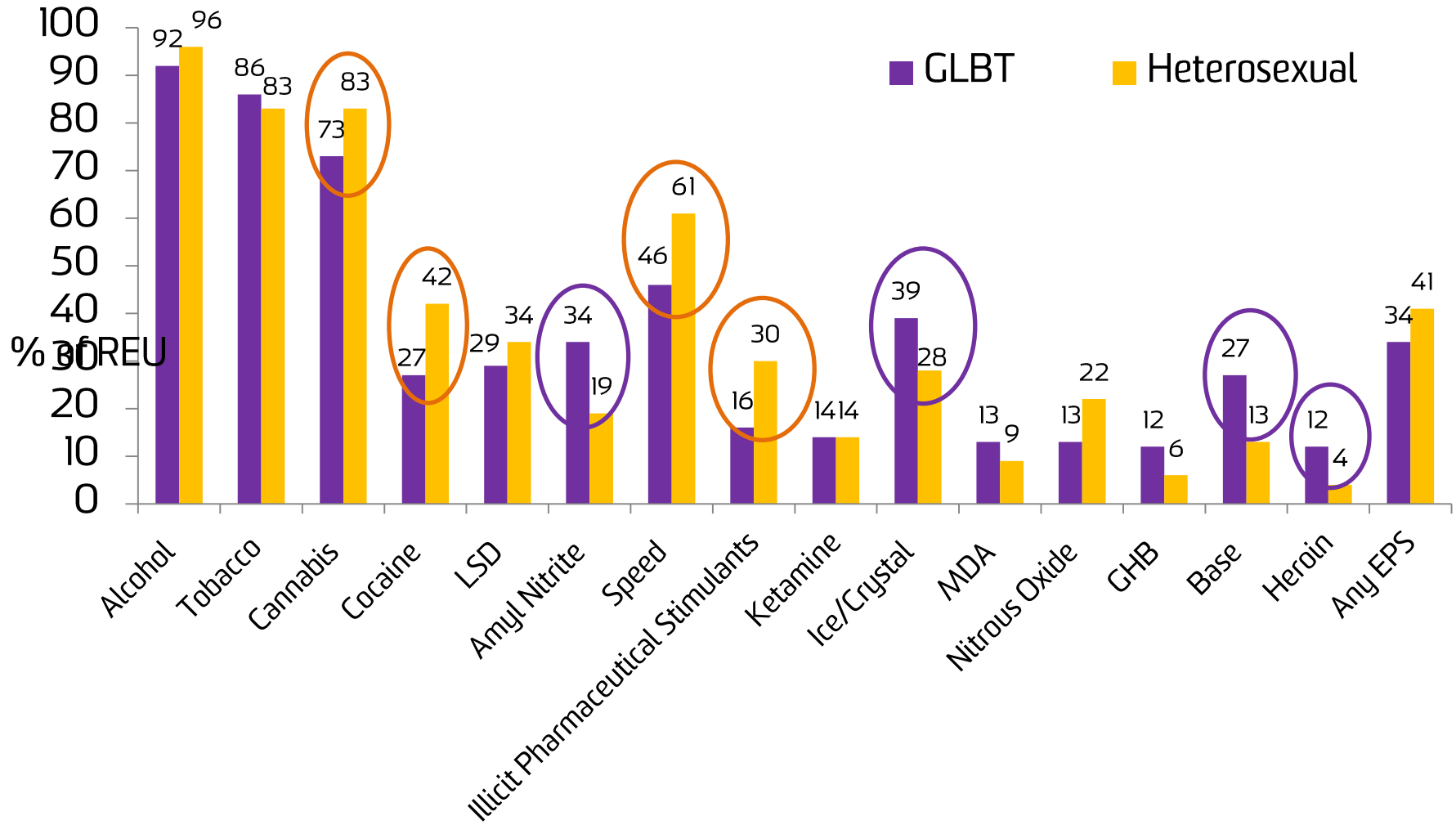
Patterns of Drug Use

→ drug of choice, 2012



Patterns of drug use

→ drugs used recently, 2012



Sexual practices last 6 months, 2012



	GLBT % N=76	Heterosexual % N=529
Casual sex in past 6 months	66	68
Sex on drugs last time with casual partner#	86	93
<i>Ecstasy</i>	72*	53
<i>Alcohol</i>	44	55
<i>Cannabis</i>	33	41
<i>Speed</i>	26*	7
<i>Ice/crystal</i>	19	12
<i>Cocaine</i>	12	8
<i>Amyl nitrate</i>	12*	1
Used protection last time with casual partner^	54	54
Sexual health check up (past year)	51	41
STI diagnosis (past year)	10	5

#of those who had casual sex in past six months

^of those who had sex whilst under the influence of drugs

*p<0.05



Mental health issues, 2012

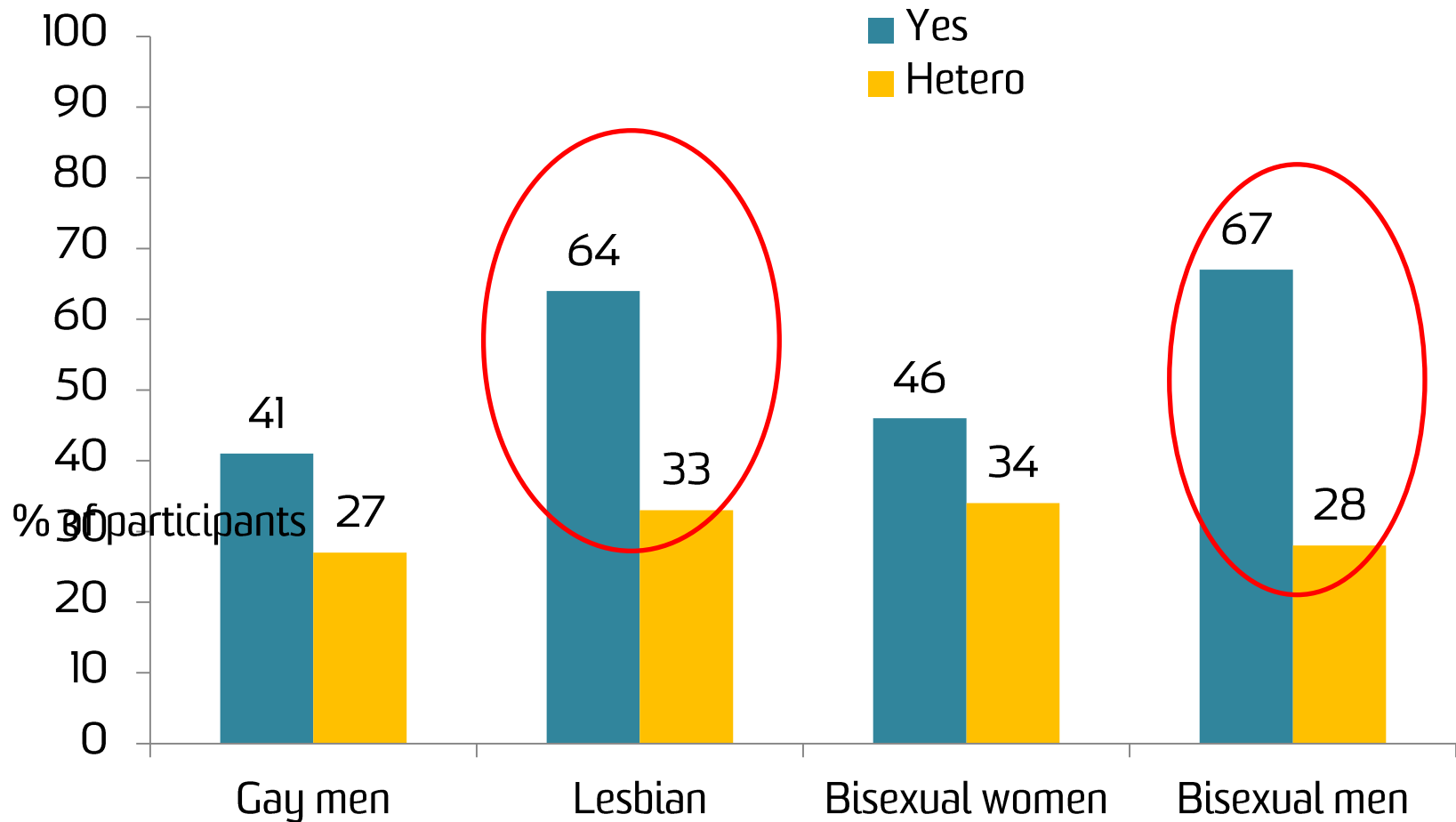
	GLBT % N=76	Heterosexual % N=529
Self reported MH problem last 6 months	50*	29
<i>Depression</i>	36*	17
<i>Anxiety</i>	29*	16
<i>Paranoia</i>	12*	3
<i>PTSD</i>	7*	1
<i>Panic</i>	5	2
Attended a health professional	35*	22
Prescribed medication#	40	40
<i>Antidepressants</i>	67	64
<i>Benzodiazepines</i>	50	55
<i>Antipsychotics</i>	21	28

* $p < 0.05$

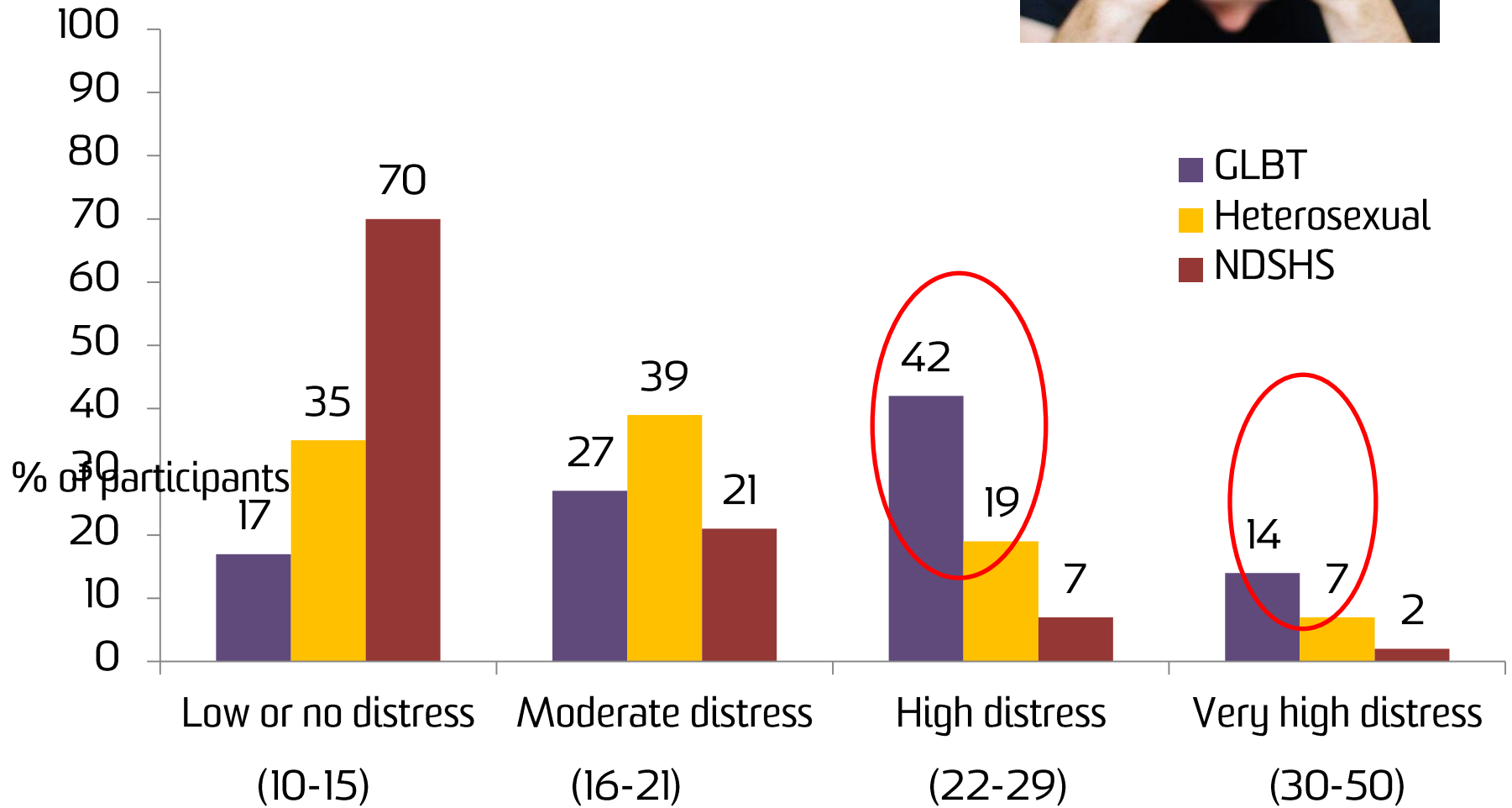
of those who had attended a health professional



Self reported MH problems among GLBT, 2012



Psychological Distress, 2012



Risky practices (I), 2012



	GLBT %	Heterosexual %
Binged on stimulants (past 6 months)	46	38
Use other drugs with ecstasy [^]	92	87
Use other drugs to come down [^]	69*	54
<i>Alcohol <5 drinks</i>	<i>10*</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Alcohol >5 drinks</i>	<i>16*</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Tobacco</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Cannabis</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>GHB</i>	<i>1</i>	<i><1</i>
<i>Benzodiazepines</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>10</i>

[^]on last occasion of use

*p < 0.05

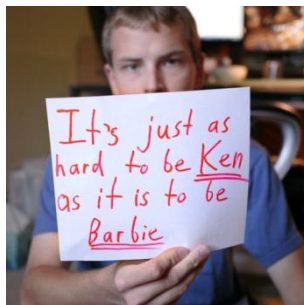
Risky Practices (2), 2012



	GLBT %	Heterosexual %
Ever injected a drug	29*	14
Lifetime stimulant overdose	24	34
Lifetime depressant overdose	28	32
Driven after taking drugs (% of those who drove recently)	49	59
Arrested in past 12 months	15	14
Committed a crime in the last month (drug dealing, property crime, fraud, violent crime)	40	38
Ever been to prison	5	5

* $p < 0.05$

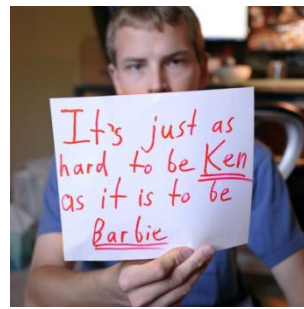
Body image, 2012



	GLBT %	Heterosexual %
<i>Used psycho-stimulants to control weight (ever)</i>	23*	10
<i>Concern about gaining weight</i>	30*	10
<i>Concern lost too much weight</i>	15	12
<i>Weight gain desirable</i>	11	16
<i>BMI: <18.5 (underweight)</i>	10*	4
<i>18.5-25 (normal)</i>	58	68
<i>>25 (overweight)</i>	31	29

*p<0.05

Body image, 2012



	Male %			Female %		
	Gay	Hetero	Bi	Lesbian	Hetero	Bi
<i>Used psycho-stimulants to control weight (ever)</i>	29***	6	18	9	20	29
<i>Concern about gaining weight</i>	14	6	9	27	20	58***
<i>BMI: <18.5 (underweight)</i>	0	3	18**	14	7	17

*p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001

Summary: same same.....



Heterosexual & GLBT participants both:

- Nominated ecstasy as their drug of choice
- Had high levels of alcohol and tobacco use
- Were sexually active → had similar rates of casual sex whilst under the influence of drugs, unprotected sex, STI testing
- Had similar rates of bingeing, overdose, drug driving and criminal activity

Summary: same same..... but different..



However, GLBT participants were significantly more likely to:

- Have recently used amyl nitrate, ice, heroin and base (and less likely to have used cannabis, cocaine, speed and illicit pharmaceuticals)
- Use drugs to come down from ecstasy
- Have ever injected a drug
- Have higher levels of psychological distress
- Report MH problems → depression, anxiety, paranoia & PTSD
- Have attended a mental health professional
- Report body image concerns

Implications

- GLBT community continues to suffer higher levels of MH problems than their heterosexual peers:
 - Prevention
 - Stigma & discrimination
 - Treatment (GLBT sensitive services)
- Body image concerns → particularly among gay men and bisexual men/women.
- High levels of sexually risky behaviours among GLBT and heterosexual participants → safe sex campaigns.





Human
rights
for
everyone;
there is
no difference.

THANKYOU

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No
freedom
'til we're
equal.
Damn
right
I support it.

- Same love, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis

