

Sexual health risks and help-seeking behaviours of south Asian men who have sex with men (SAMSM) living in Australia



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Background

Immigrant south Asian men who have sex with men (SAMSM) in Australia may engage in increased sexual risk taking compared to their counterparts in south Asia (Maurice et al., 2013). A quantitative study was conducted to examine sexual health risks and help seeking behaviours of SAMSM living in Australia.

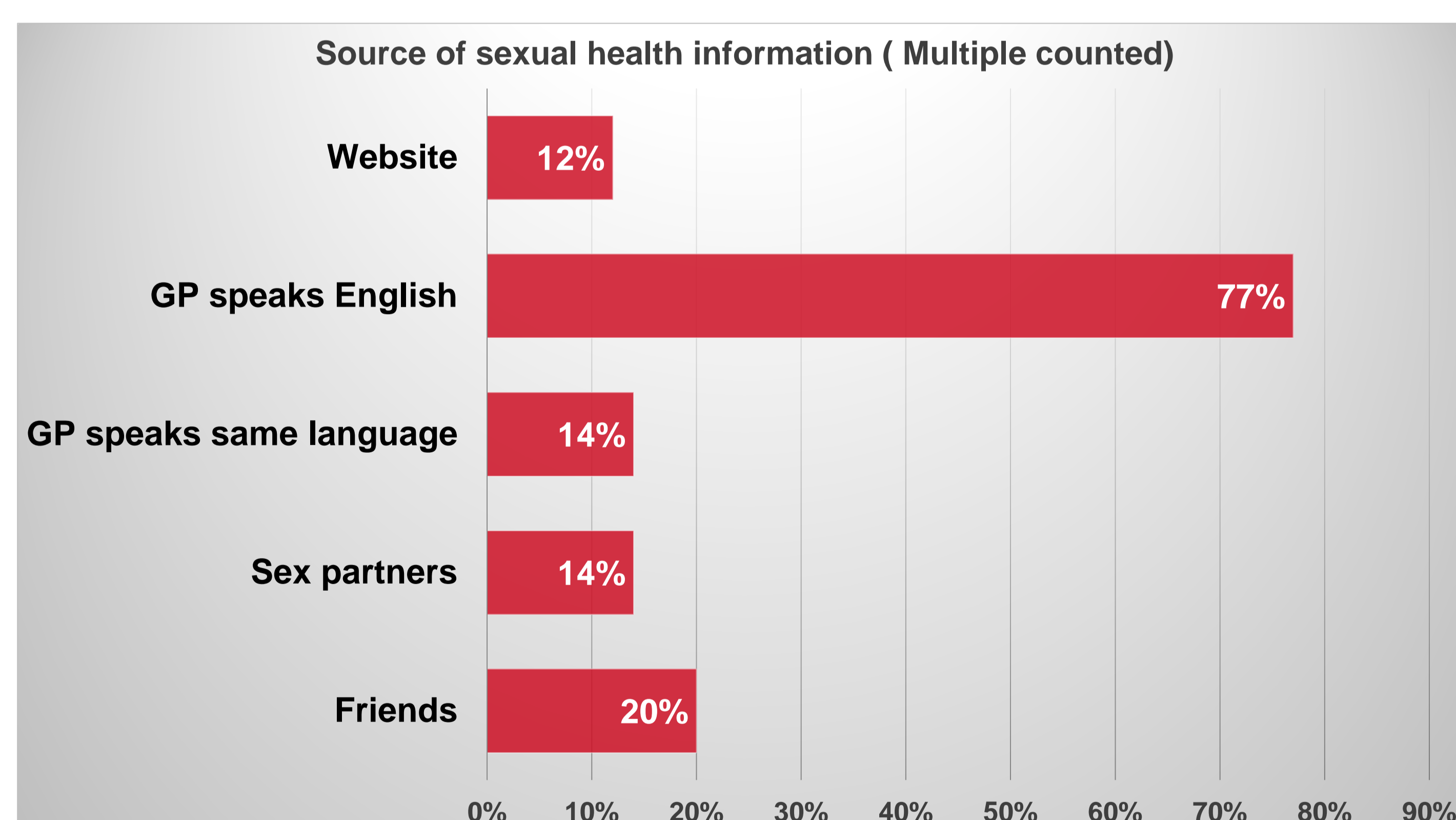
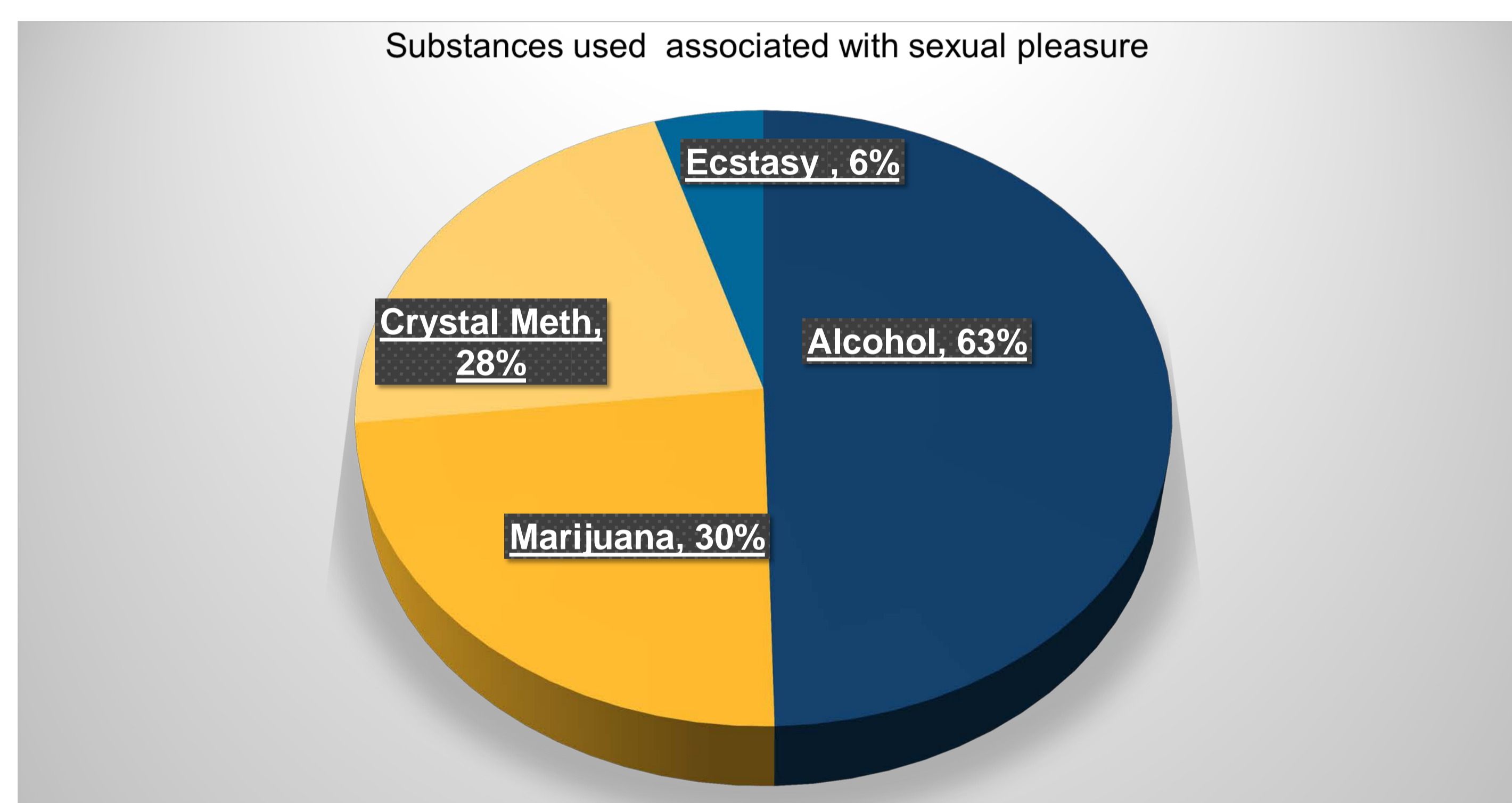
Result

- ❑ In total, 206 SAMSM completed the survey, with 198 responses eligible for analysis where the median age was 32 years and the range was 18 – 56 years.
- ❑ The five countries they had immigrated to Australia from were Bangladesh (n=84); India (n=55); Nepal (n=9); Pakistan (n= 37) and Sri Lanka (n=20).
- ❑ One-fifth of the respondents reported having sex with both males and females.
- ❑ SAMSM had a high number of sexual partners [70%), had regular partners who they met often and 83% had casual partners who they didn't meet often.
- ❑ One-fifth (21%) of the respondents participated in group sex.
- ❑ In the previous six months, almost 90% engaged in condomless anal intercourse (CLAI) with regular partners and 30% with casual partners.
- ❑ One-third (31%) were diagnosed with STIs in the last 12 months.

Method

The study employed an online survey with 20 questions that were adapted from the National Gay Men Periodic Survey. Questions explored sexual network, behaviours, substance use associated with sexual pleasure, diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections (STI's) in the previous 12-months, sexual health screening and help-seeking behaviours of SAMSM.

Substance use and help seeking behaviours



Conclusion

Despite immigrating from conservative cultures, our respondents reported high numbers of sexual partners, substance use associated with sexual pleasure and increased rates of CLAI. This demonstrates high sexual health risks among SAMSM living in Australia. Further research investigating the factors associated with such behaviours is needed to assist in developing targeted interventions for this community.