



Mahidol University
Institute for Population and Social Research



Preliminary Findings:
Youth Covid-19 online survey:
General Youth

21.7.2020

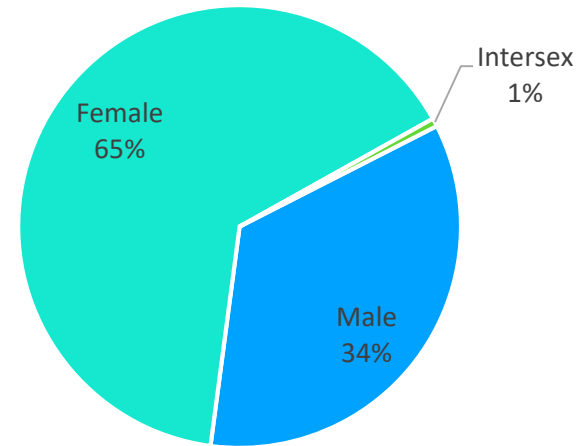
About the survey

- Online survey - Data collected from 11 June – 12 July 2020
- The survey was shared through the members of Children and Youth Council of Thailand and the networks of UNFPA, UNHCR and Raks Thai. In addition, it was also shared through the network of IPSR, including Rajaphat universities in Lopburi, Suphanburi, Nakorn Pathom and Udon Thani; NGOs and CBOs working with young people in communities, including the Khon Wai Sai group, and other provinces in the northeastern and the south. This included sharing the survey via Facebook pages, community leaders and volunteers.
- **Ethical consideration**
 - **Privacy issues:** The questionnaires allowed respondents to keep some questions 'blank' in case that they might not want to answer.
 - **Confidentiality:** The survey was anonymous and self-administered. No personal identification information of respondents was recorded. The analysis was done by not disclosing any individual information, but as an overview.
 - **Informed consent:** Youths accessed who accessed the link to the questionnaire would see information about the survey and were asked for their consent to be recorded in the database. There were 969 youths who accessed the survey, and 951 (98%) agreed to continue the survey. Then after reading a message on study objectives, and risks and benefits of taking the survey, 941 (99% of 951) gave their informed consent.
 - **Age of respondents:** The screening question on age of respondents blocked 55 respondents aged below 15 and 28 respondents aged above 30 from participating in the survey. In the section on sexual behaviors, the online questionnaire screened out 182 respondents who were aged below 18.
- Total respondents who completed the survey are 823 from 67 provinces, including Bangkok.

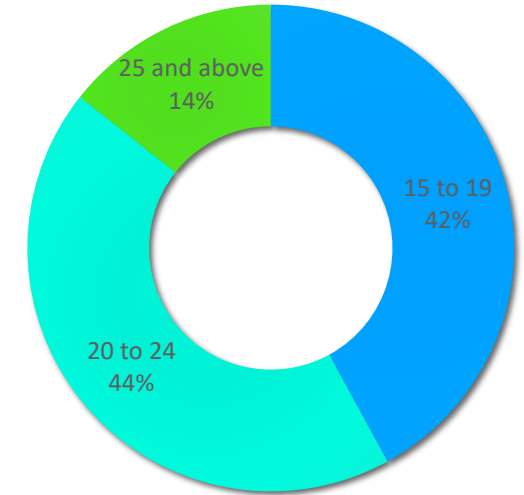
General characteristics

- Total respondents = 823.
- 65% are female, 35% male and about 1% reported they were intersex by birth.
- Mean age is 20.7 years old.
- Largest group is the 20-24 age group, followed by the 15-19 age group .
- Respondents were from 67 provinces throughout Thailand, with about 42% from Bangkok and its vicinity and 31% from urban districts or areas in other provinces.
- Within age groups, the largest proportion of respondents aged 25 and above were from Bangkok and its vicinity, similar to the age group of 20-24 years. Among respondents aged 15-19, the majority were from other provinces.

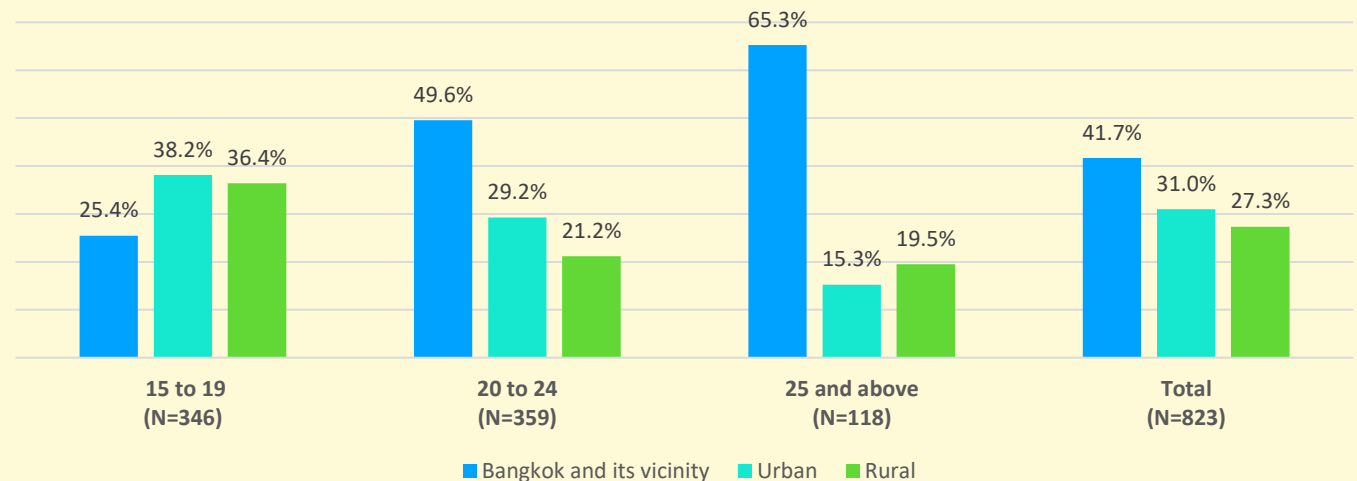
Biological sex of respondents (N=823)



% respondents by age group

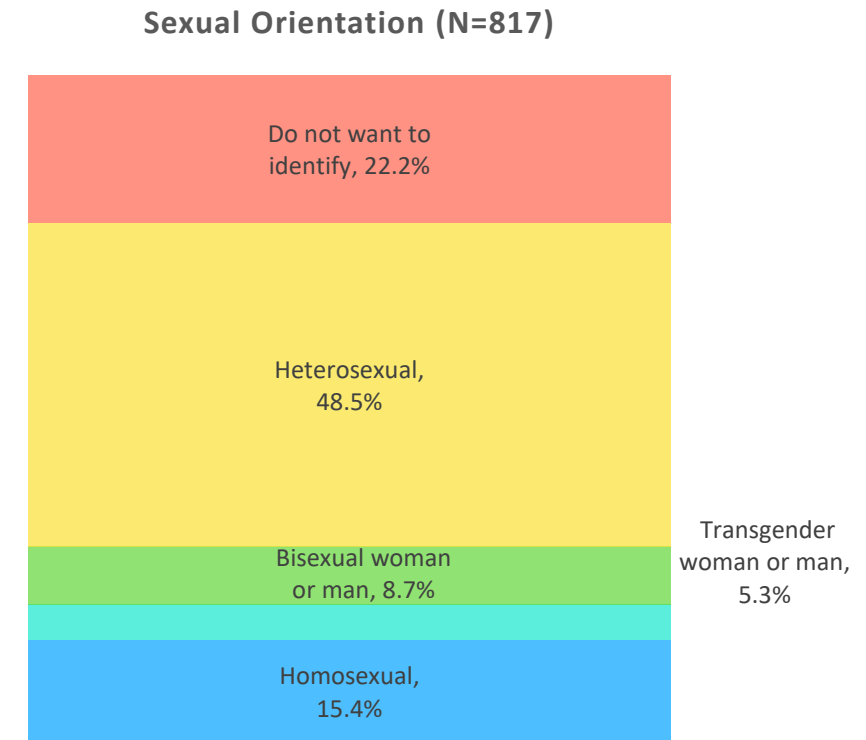
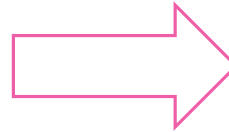
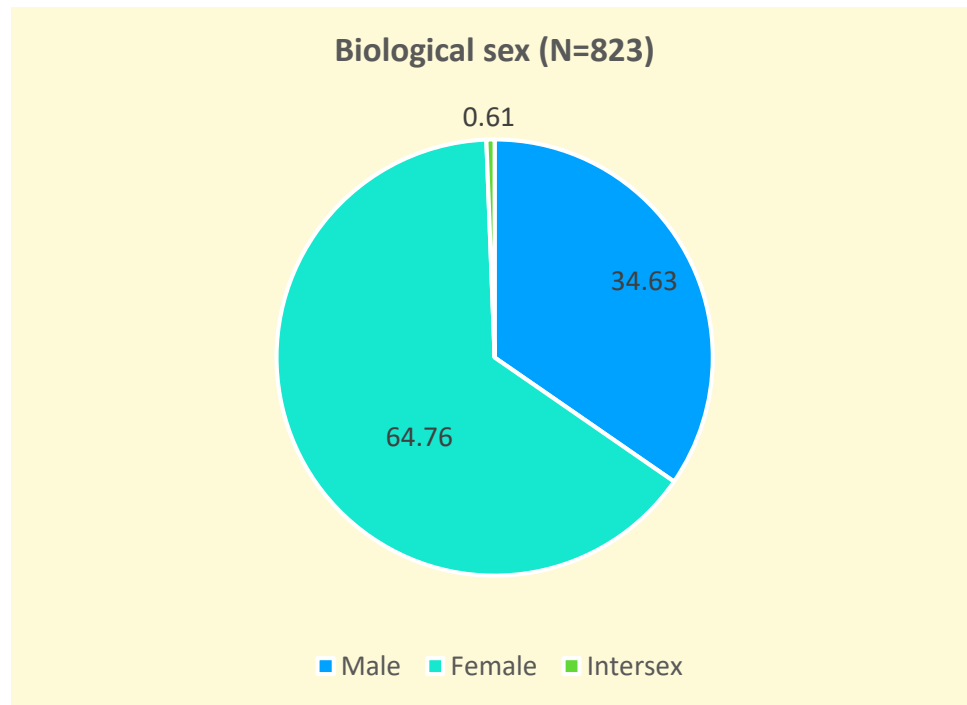


% area of residence by age groups



General characteristics

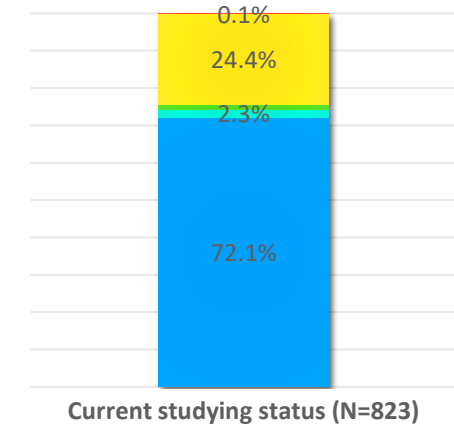
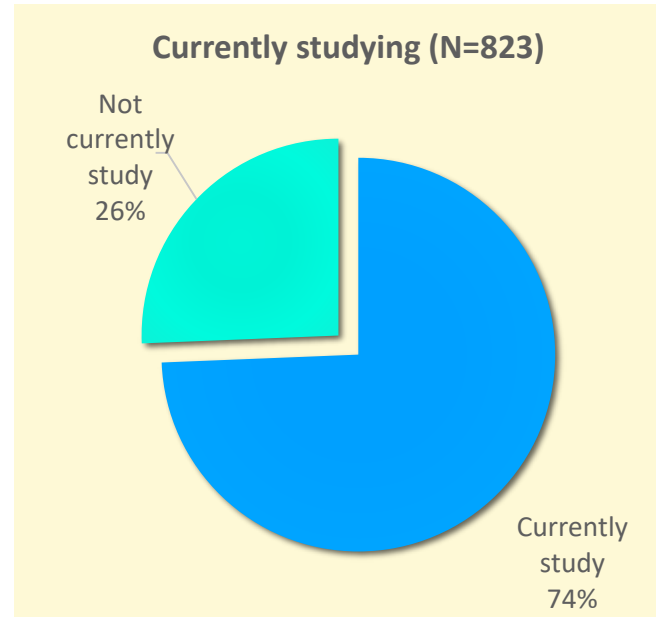
- At the beginning of the survey, two questions were asked about respondents' biological sex and sexual orientation/identity.



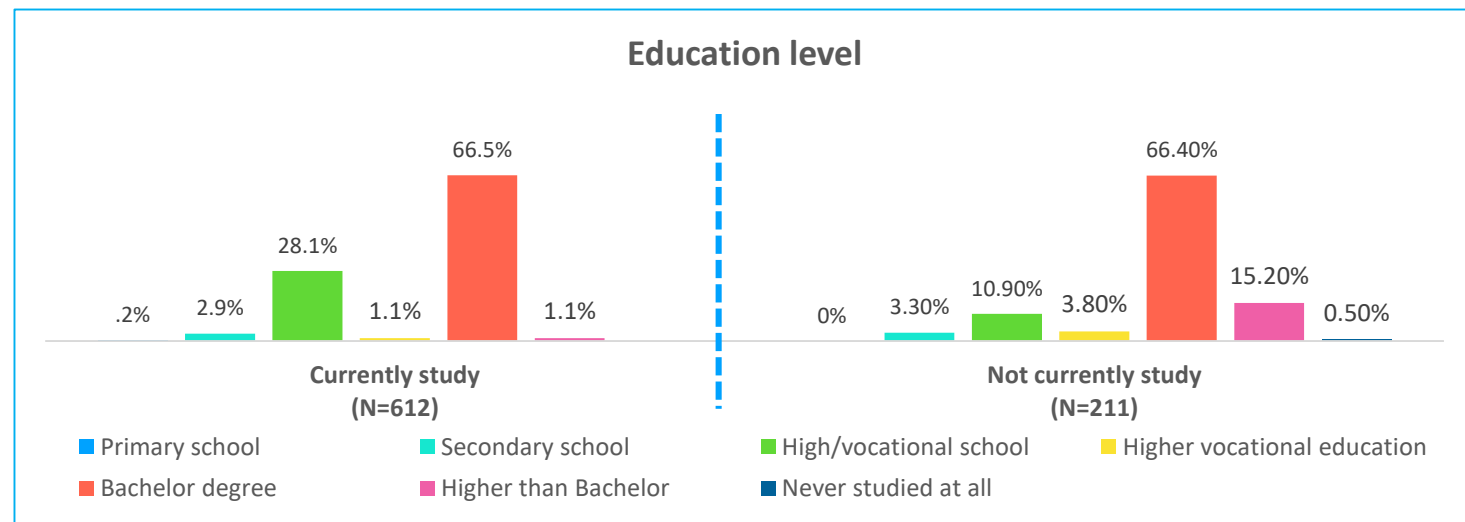
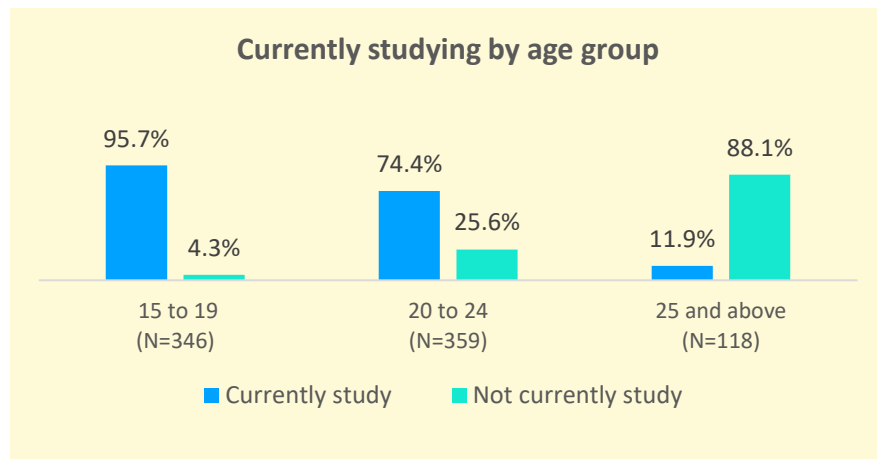
5 respondents reported themselves as '**intersex**'.
Two of them are heterosexuals, the others are homosexual, transgender and not identifying.

General characteristics

- About 74% of respondents are currently studying, either in the formal or informal system, while 24% already graduated. One percent already dropout from school and one case reported to have never studied at all.
- Among those who are currently studying, over 66% are at the university level or higher, followed by high school or vocational school level. Most of those who are not currently studying attained bachelor degree or higher (over 80%).
- The majority of respondents in age group of 15-19 and 20-24 are currently studying, while most in the 25 years and above age group are not currently studying.



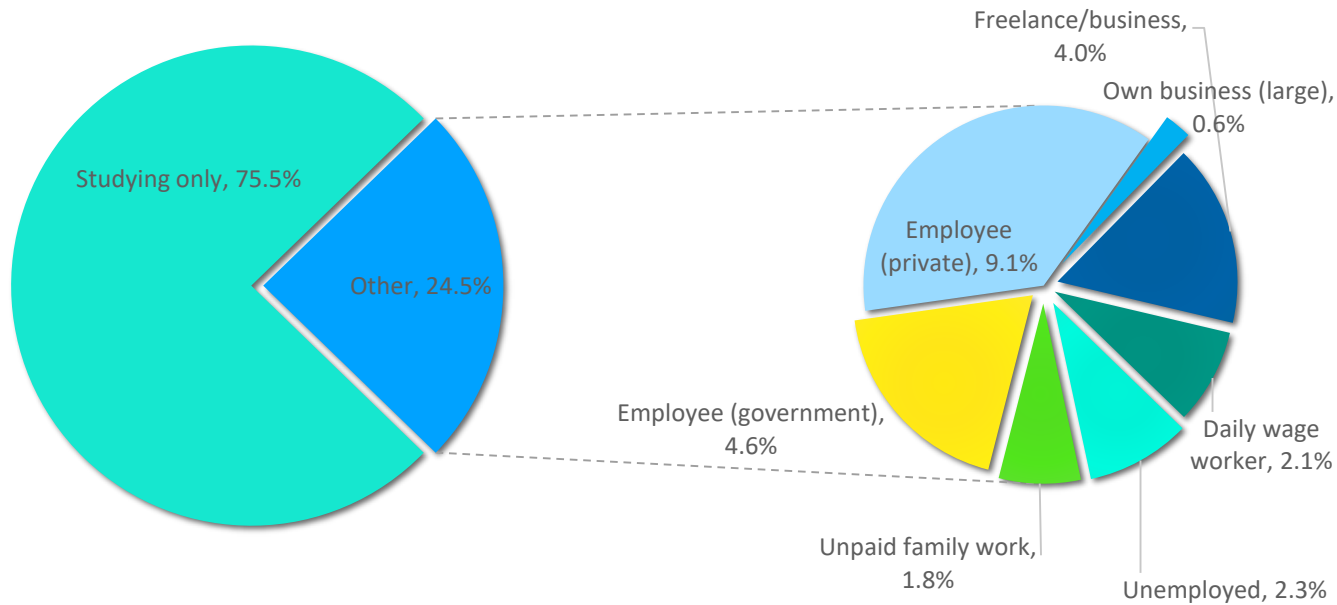
- 1 Currently studying (formal)
- 2 Currently studying (non-formal)
- 3 Already dropped out
- 4 Already graduated
- 5 Never studied at all



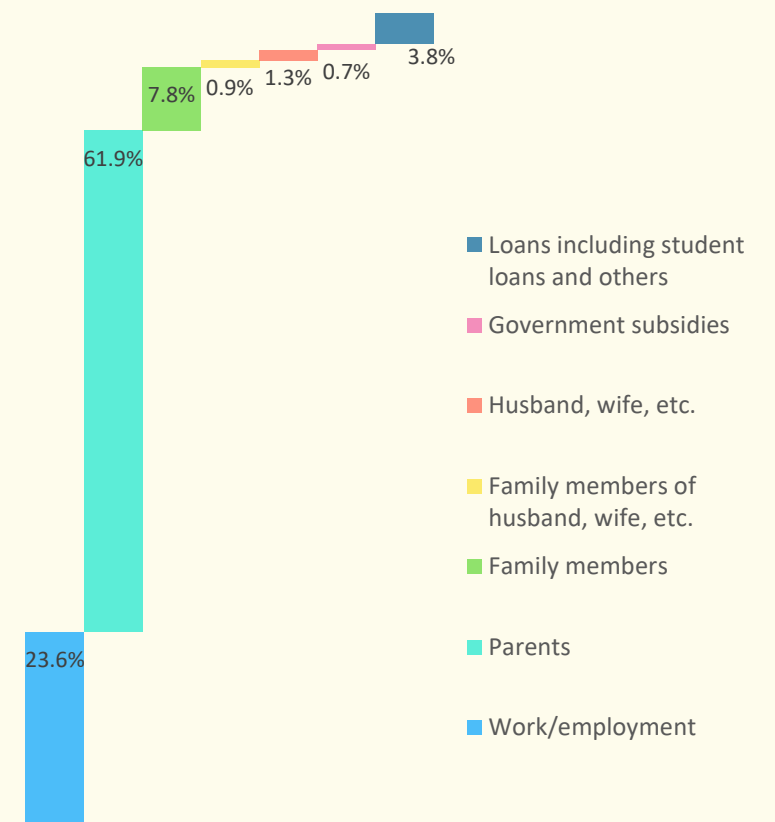
General characteristics

- 75% of respondents are studying only, while the rest are working
- Majority of them (about 70%) are financially relying on their parents or family members

Occupation before COVID19 (N=823)



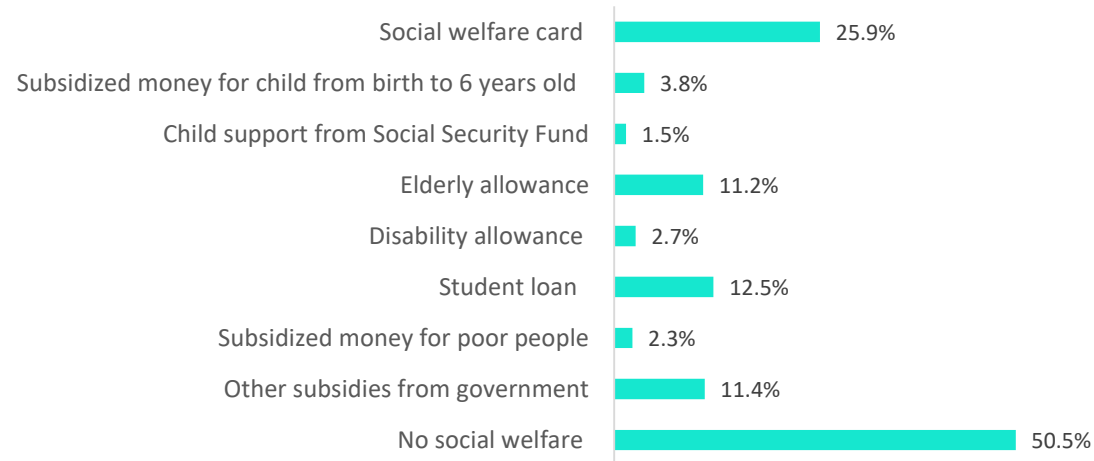
Main source of money for spending (N=821)



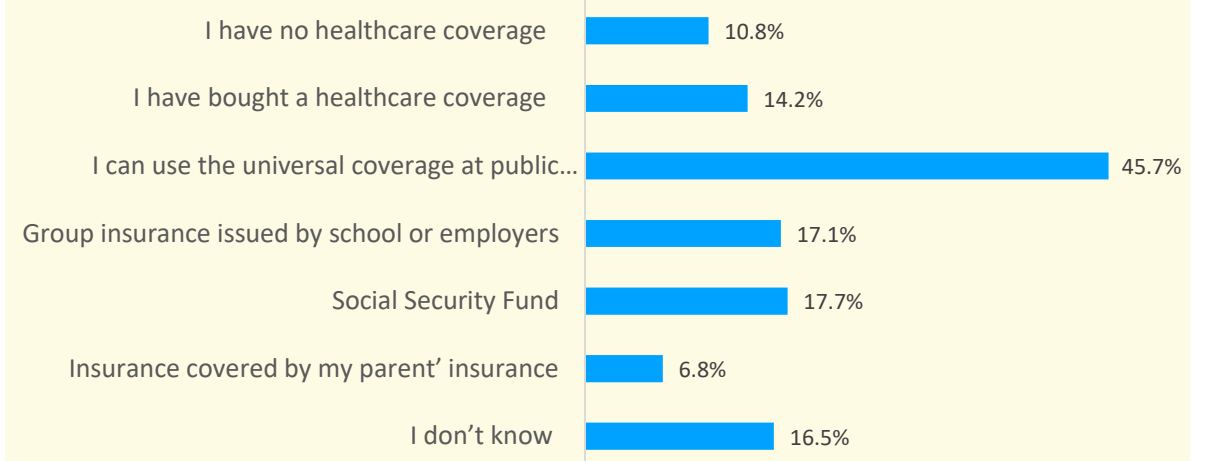
General characteristics

- Over half of respondents reported no social welfare for themselves or their family members

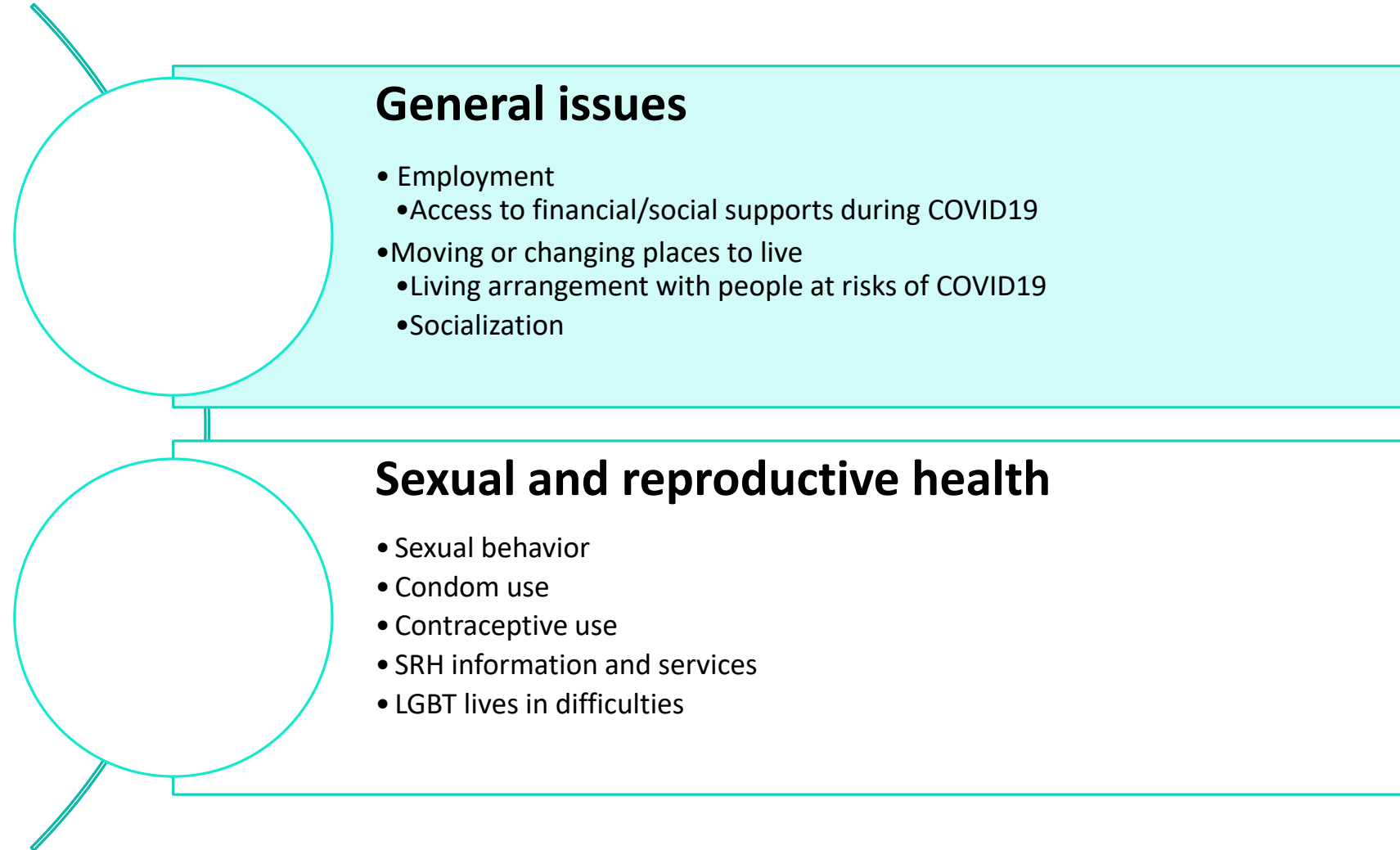
**Social welfare of respondents and/or their family members
(multiple answers)**



**Current Healthcare plan of the respondents
(multiple answers)**



Impact of COVID-19 on general youth aged 15- 30 years old

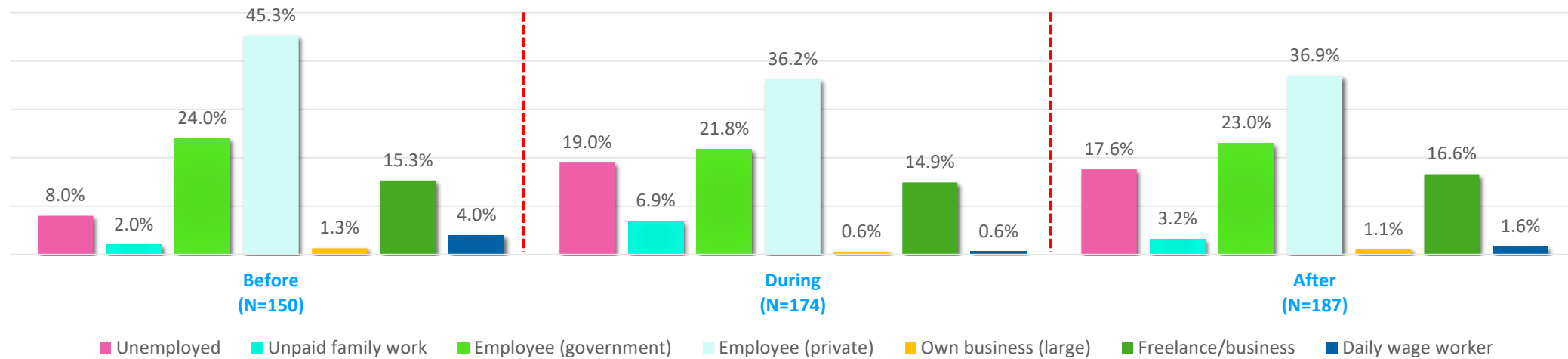


Impact Of COVID-19

Becoming unemployed

- A noticeable share of youth became unemployed during and after the COVID19 lockdown period. Before the COVID19, only 8% of respondents were unemployed; this increased to 19% and 17.6% during and after, respectively

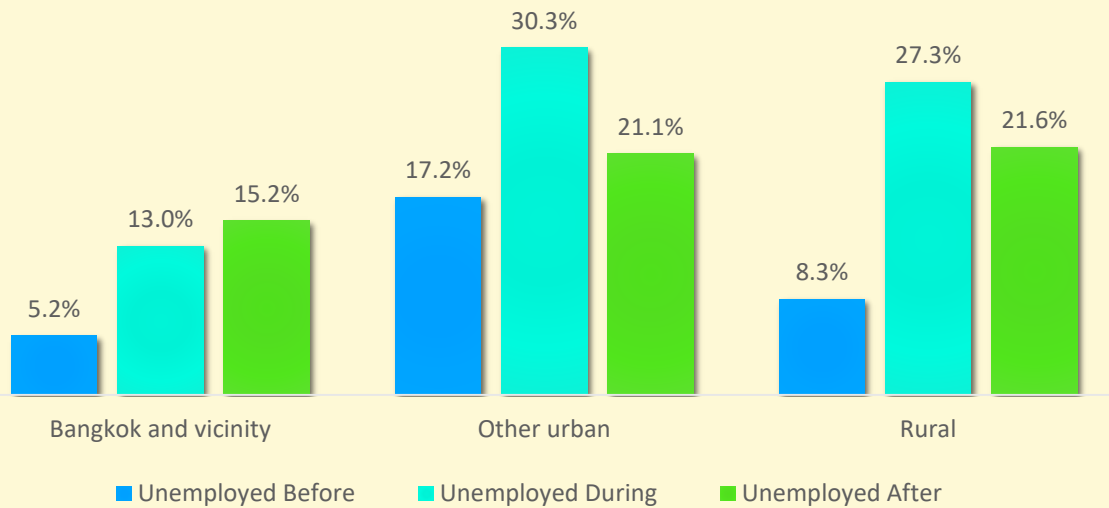
% of employment status before, during and after the COVID19 lockdown (among those who are not studying only)



Impact Of COVID-19

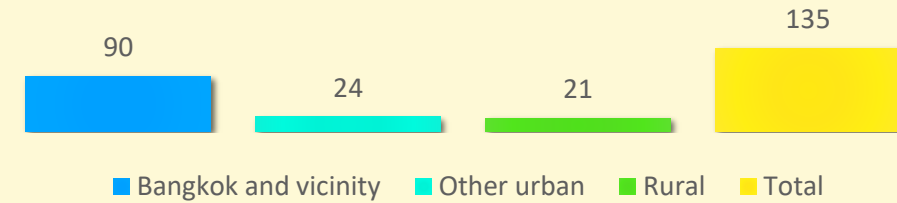
Becoming unemployed

Among respondents who were not only studying, the unemployed rate increased during the COVID19 lockdown in all areas of residence and slightly decreased after the lockdown

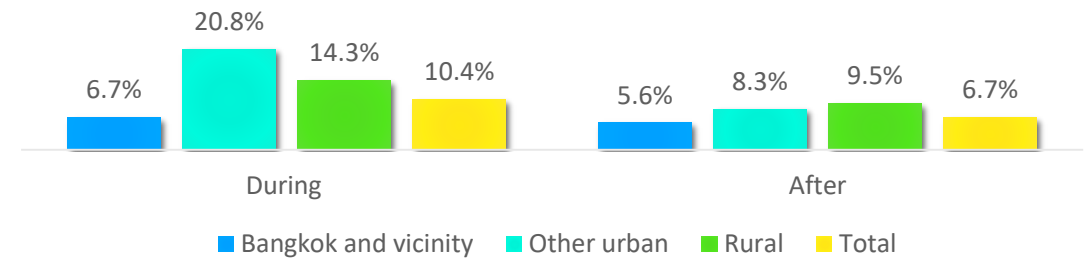


% of unemployed before, during and after the COVID19 lockdown by area of residence

Number of respondents reported being employed before COVID19 by areas of residences



% of respondents becoming unemployed during and after COVID19 by areas of residence (selecting those who were employed before COVID19)

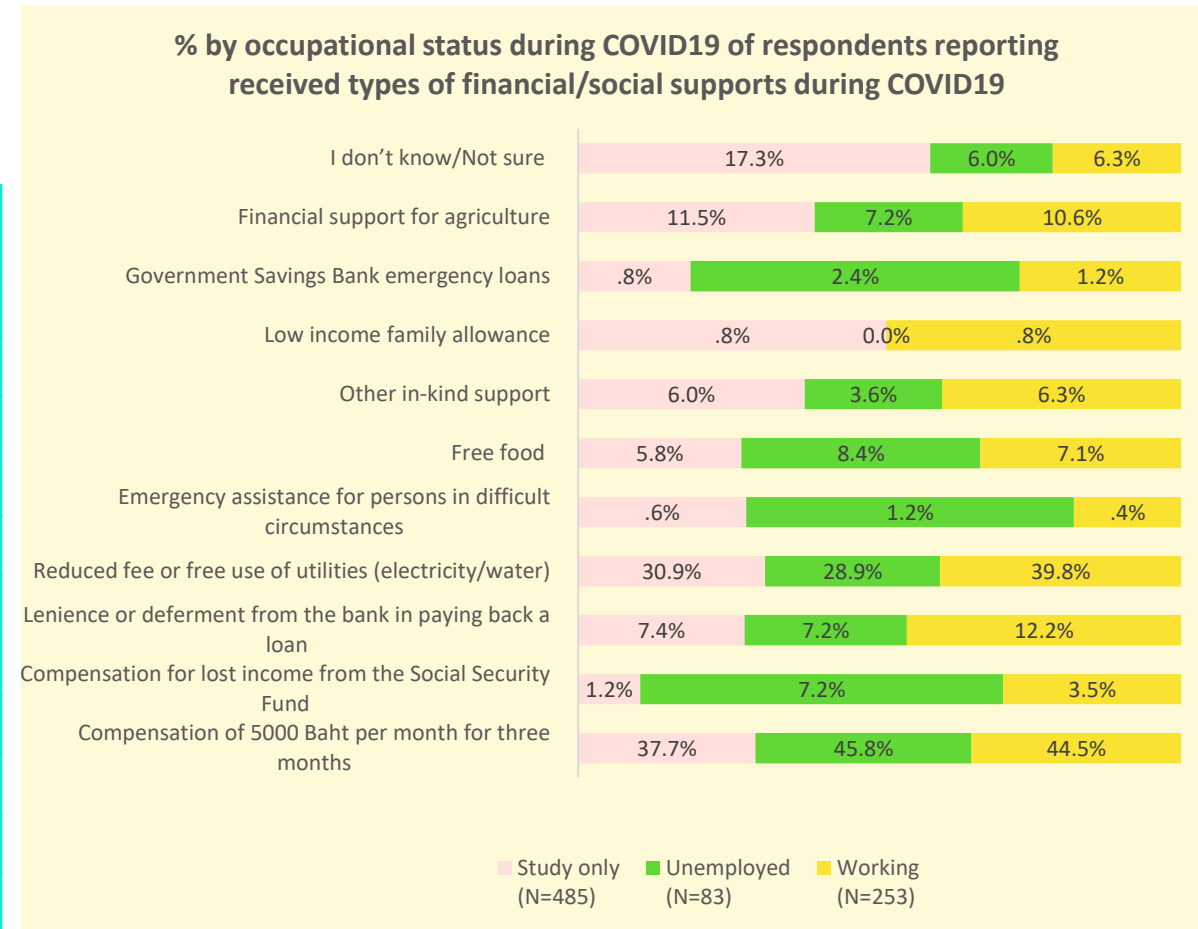


Before the COVID19 lockdown, 135 respondents were employed or owned a business. The majority of them resided in Bangkok and its vicinity. Among these respondents, over 10% lost their job and income due to becoming unemployed during the COVID19 lockdown. The situation seems to be getting better as the percentage of being unemployed decreased after the COVID19 lockdown ended.

Impact Of COVID-19

Small proportion had access to financial and social support

Type of financial/social support during COVID19	Number (person)
Compensation of 5000 Baht per month for three months	334
Compensation for lost income from the Social Security Fund	21
Lenience or deferment from the bank in paying back a loan	73
Reduced fee or free use of utilities (electricity/water)	275
Emergency assistance for persons in difficult circumstances	5
Free food	53
Other in-kind support	48
Low income family allowance	6
Government Savings Bank emergency loans	9
Financial support for agriculture	89
I don't know/Not sure	105

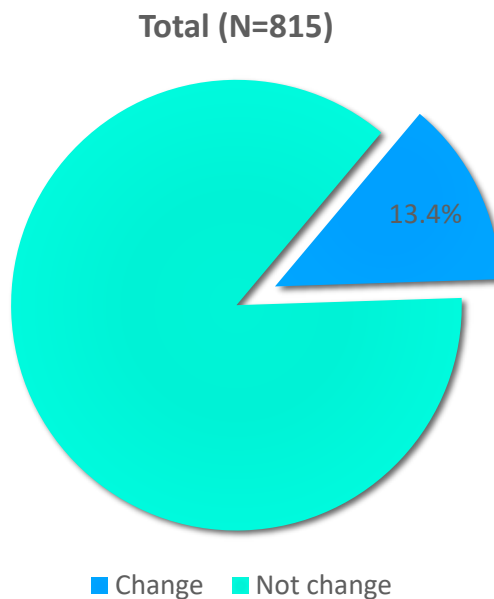


Unemployed youth and their families did not have access to financial and social support during COVID19, while working youths seemed to have more access to these types of support.

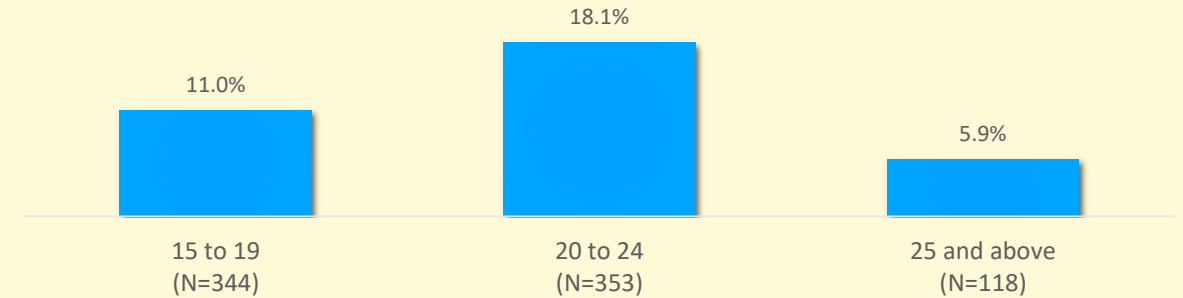
Impact Of COVID-19

Changing place to live

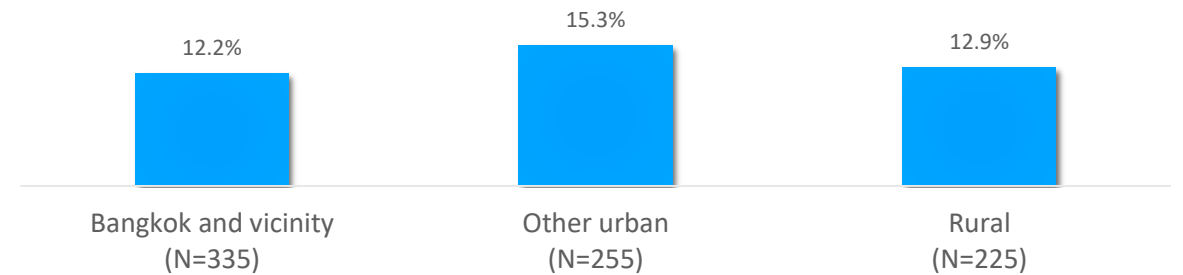
- Over 13% of respondents had to move during COVID-19
- Respondents aged 20-24 years old moved more than other groups
- Respondents who lived in urban areas moved more
- Respondents currently with students status moved more



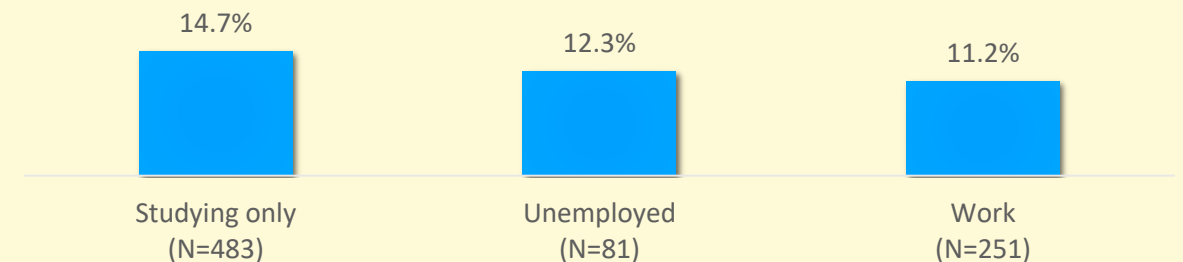
% of respondents changed places to live during COVID19 lockdown by age group



% of respondents changed places to live during COVID19 lockdown by area of residence

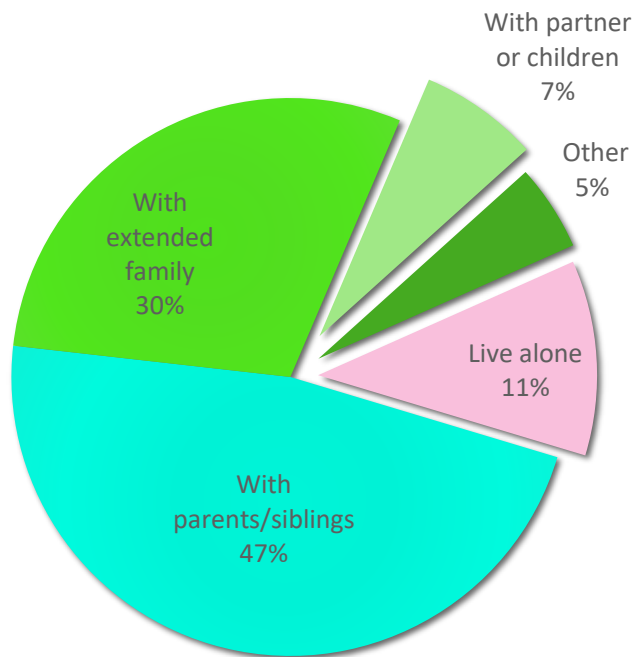


% of respondents changed places to live during COVID19 lockdown by occupational status during COVID19



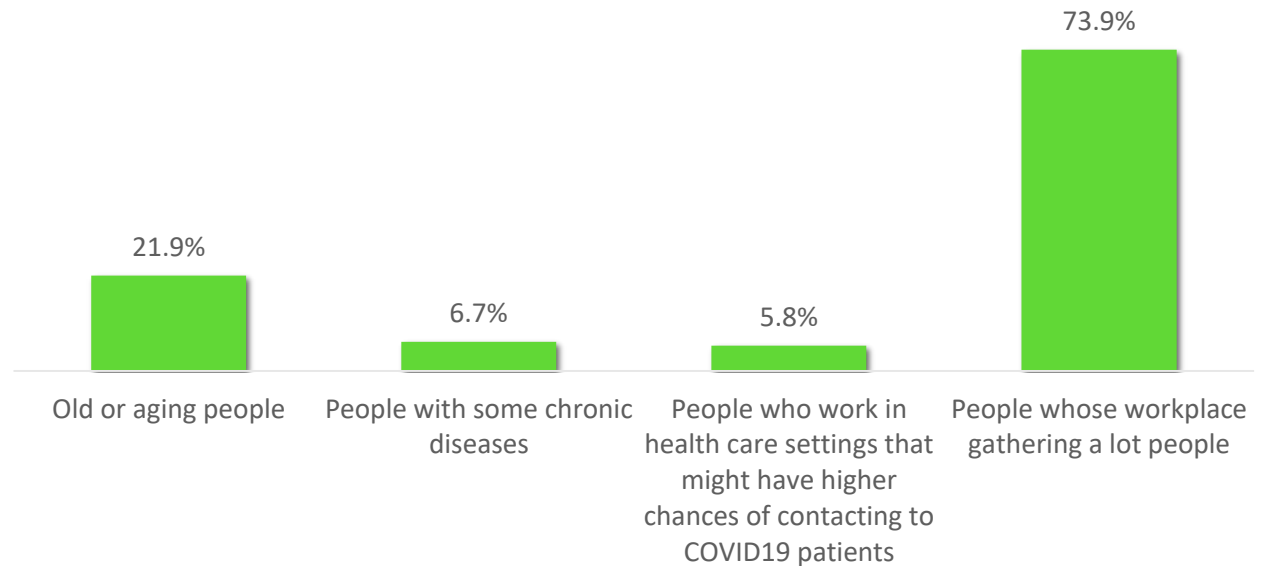
Impact Of COVID-19

Living arrangements with people at risk of COVID19



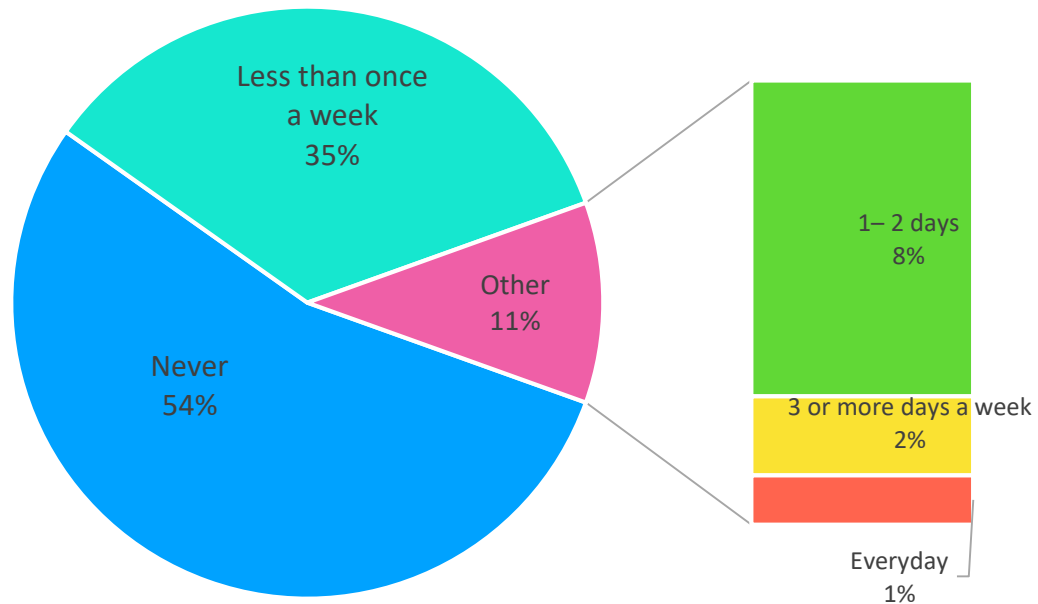
Living arrangement

Among those who are living alone, % of respondents reported having people who might be at higher risk of COVID19 (multiple answers)
(N=730)



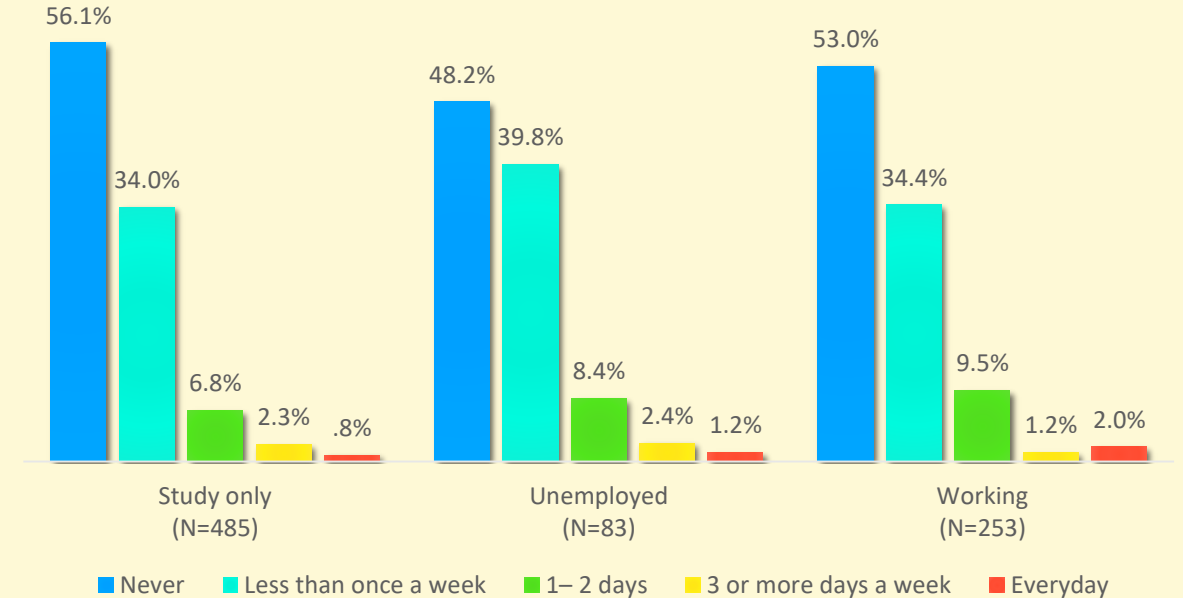
Impact Of COVID-19

Socializing changed



Frequency of meeting with friends in person
during COVID19 (N=821)

Frequency of meeting with friends in person during COVID19 by occupational status during COVID

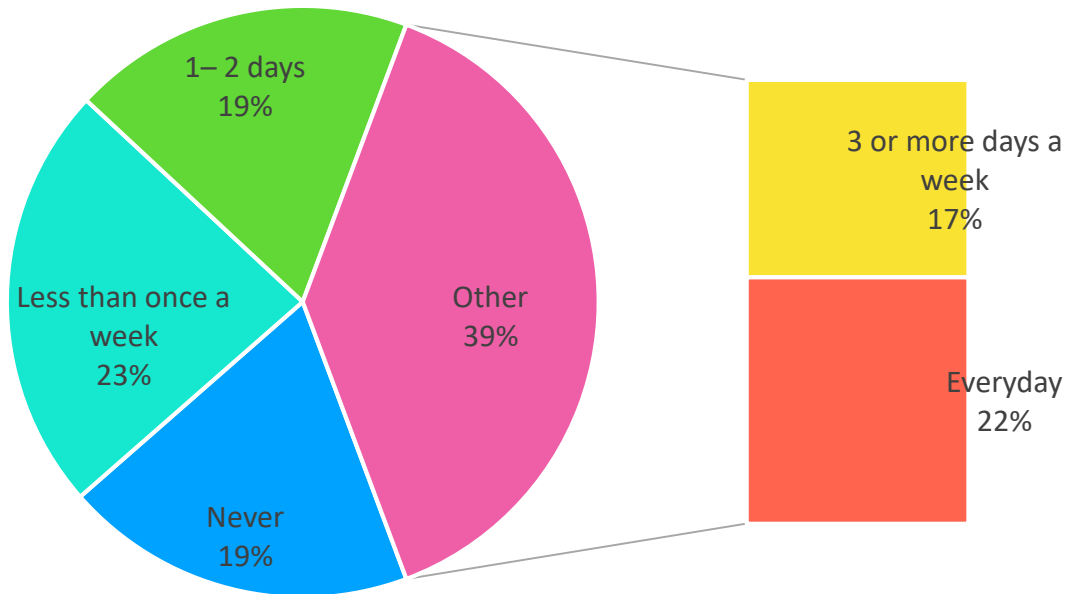


During the lockdown for COVID19 prevention (March-May 2020), over 50% of youth never socialized with friends in person, while 35% met their friends about once a week.

Taking into consideration their occupational status during that period, a larger proportion of those who were unemployed met with their friends in person, comparing to students and working youths.

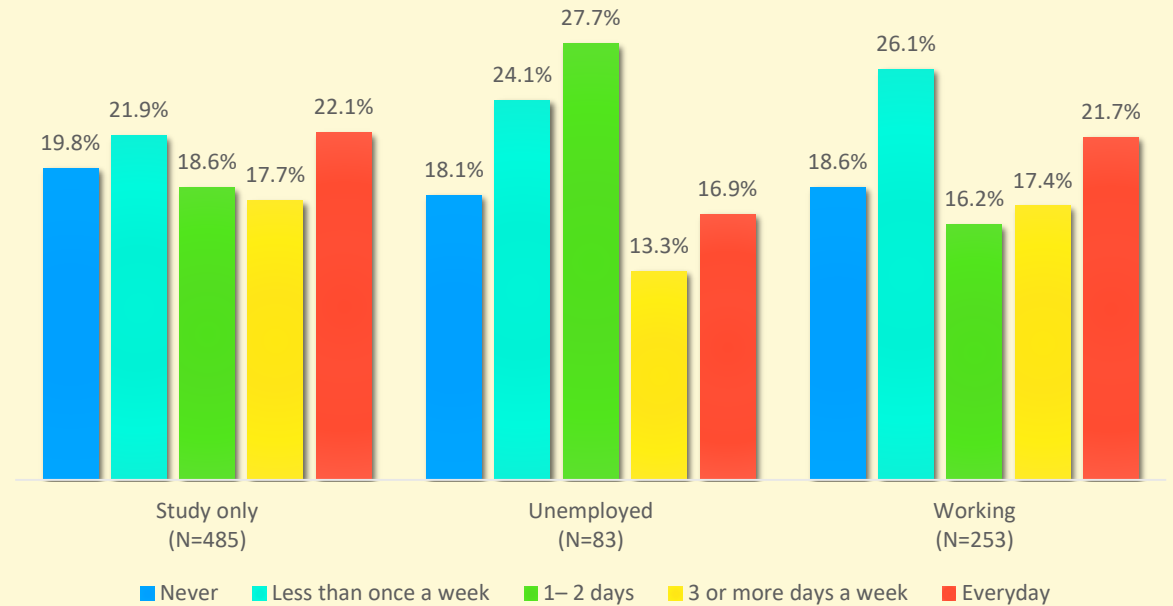
Impact Of COVID-19

Socializing changed



Frequency of meeting with friend through online platforms (N=821)

Frequency of meeting with friend through online platforms by occupational status during COVID19



Online meeting was undoubtedly more popular. Only less than 20% of respondents reported that they never met online with their friends during the COVID lockdown.

Students and working youths more often met with friends through online platforms than youths who became unemployed during the COVID19 lockdown.

Impact of COVID-19 on general youth aged 15- 30 years old

General issues

- Employment
 - Access to financial/social supports during COVID19
- Moving or changing places to live
 - Living arrangement with people at risks of COVID19
- Socialization

Sexual and reproductive health

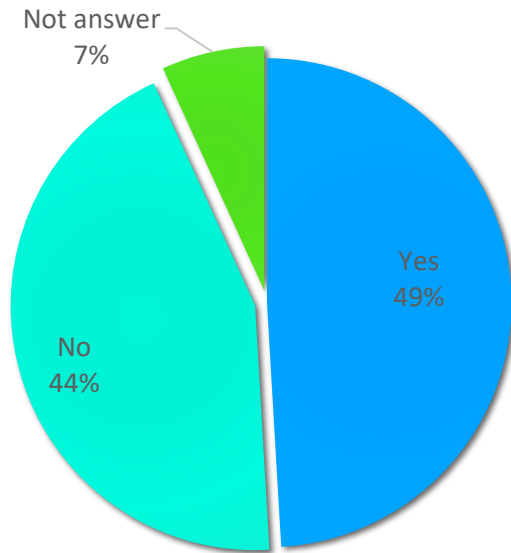
- Sexual behavior
- Condom use
- Contraceptive use
- SRH information and services
- LGBT lives in difficulties

Impact Of COVID-19

Sexual behavior during COVID19

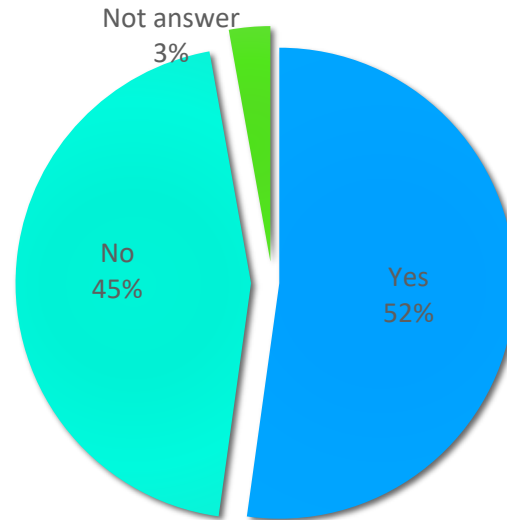
This sexual behavior section was answered by respondents aged 18 and above

Ever had sexual experiences
(N=646)



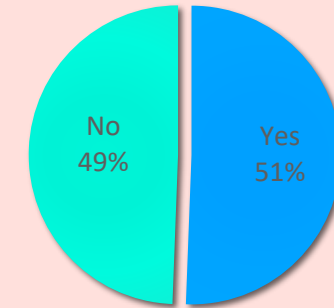
About half of respondents had sexual experiences

Had sex during COVID-19
(N=318)



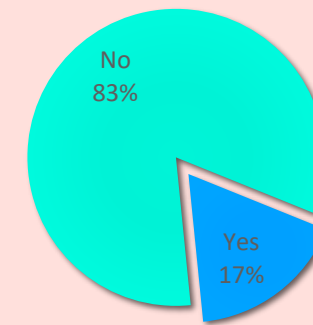
Half of those who had sexual experiences did have sex during COVID19

Sex with opposite-sex partner
(N=166)



Of those who have sex during COVID19, half of them had sex with opposite-sex partners

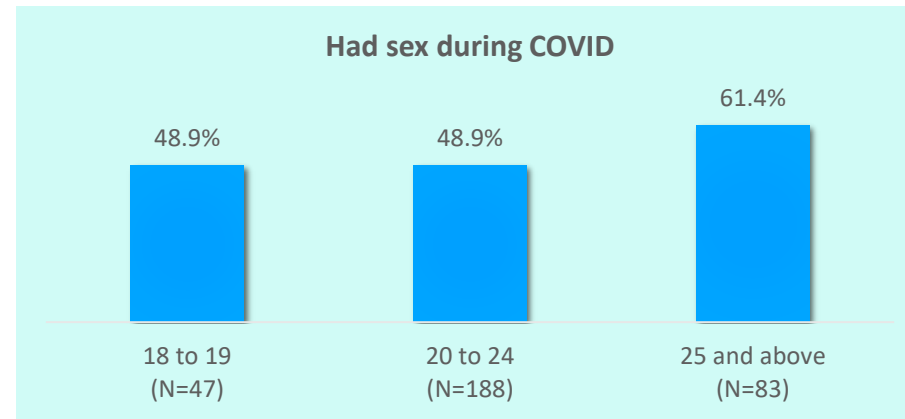
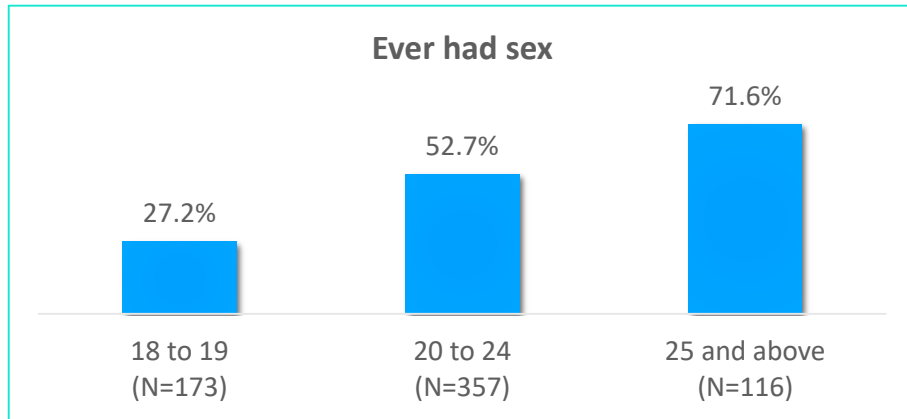
In relationships with same-sex partner
(N=646)



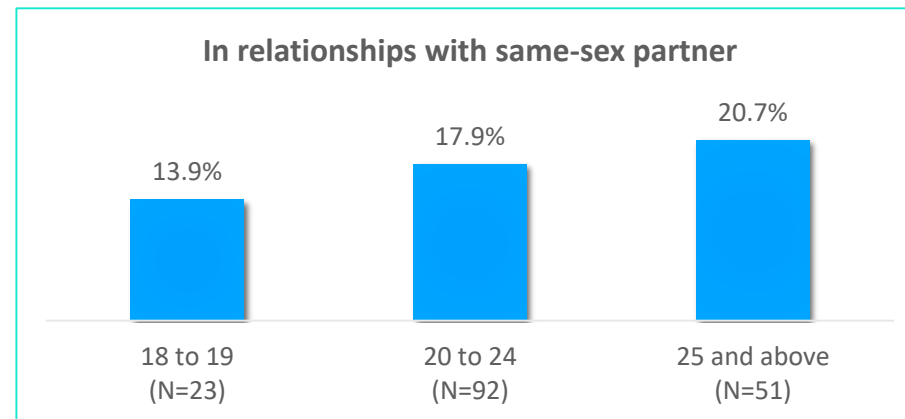
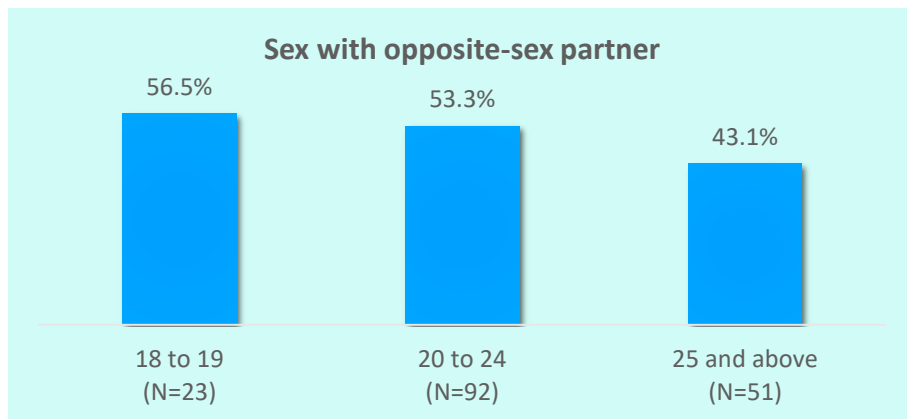
LGBT respondents were part of this survey

Impact Of COVID-19

Sexual behavior during COVID19

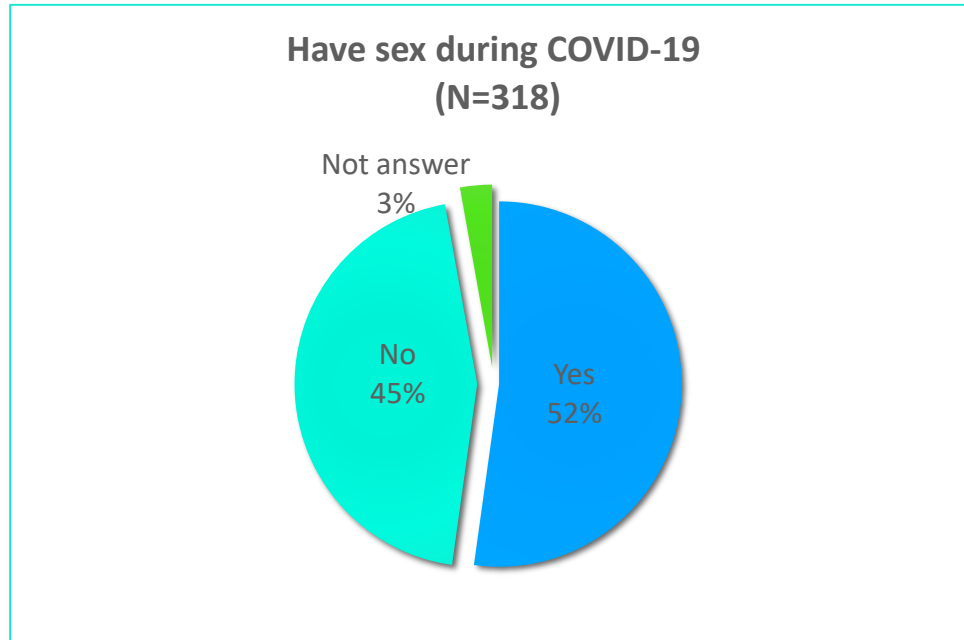


- Over 71% of youth aged 25 and above ever had sexual experiences and over 61% of them also had sex during COVID19.
- More youths who ever had sex are in opposite-sex relationships, comparing to the same-sex.



Impact Of COVID-19

Sexual behavior during COVID19

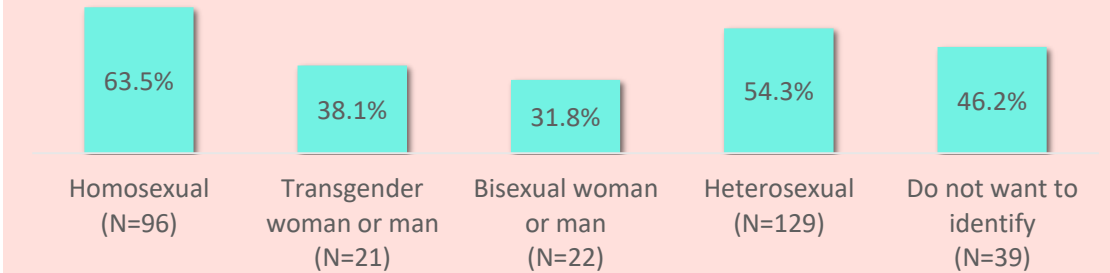


Youth were sexually active during COVID19, regardless of their sexual orientation.

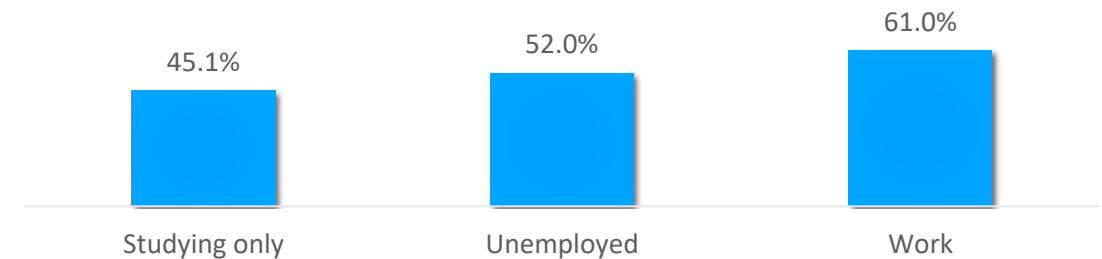
Students also had sex at quite a similar proportion to those who are unemployed. And, youth in Bangkok and vicinity seem to have been more sexual active during COVID19 than those from other provinces.

The survey didn't have question related to their sexual partners.

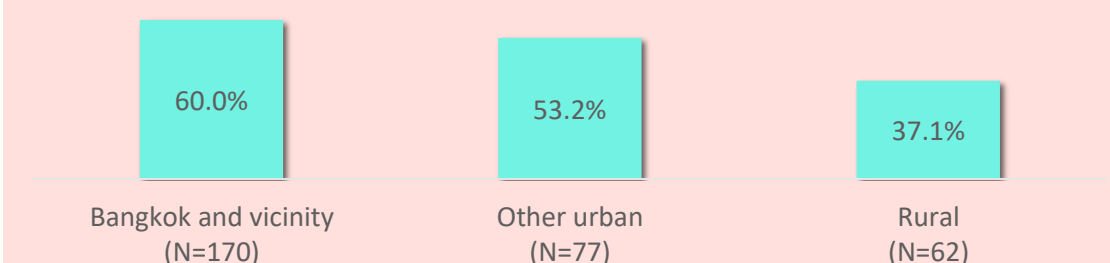
% having sex during COVID19 by reported sexual orientation



% having sex during COVID19 by occupational status during COVID19



% having sex during COVID19 by area of residence

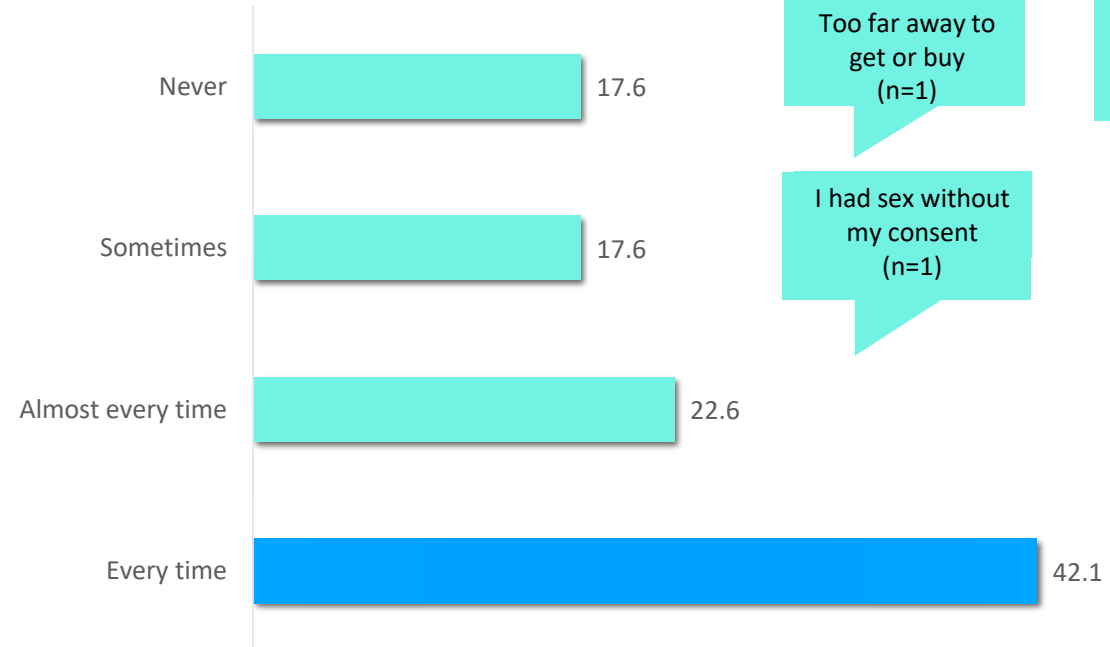
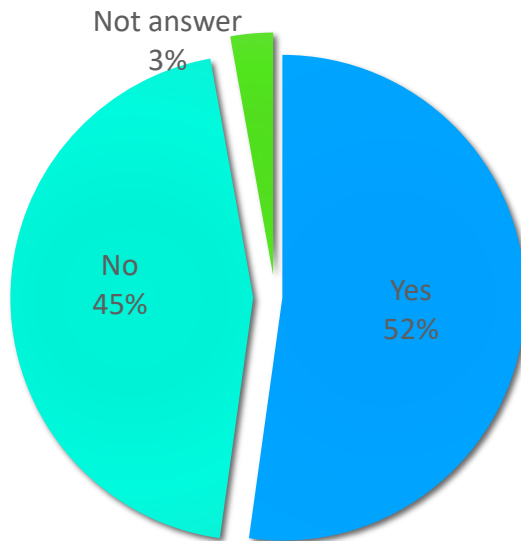


Impact Of COVID-19

Condom use when having sex during COVID19

Among youths who had sex during COVID19, less than half (42%) of them used a condom every time. Over 17% never used a condom. The reasons for not using a condom included issues of accessibility to condoms, i.e. too far away to buy, embarrassing, no free condom available. The most common reason was a dislike of condoms (either by the respondent or partner). One case reported having sex without consent as the reason for not using condom every time.

Have sex during COVID-19
(N=318)



During the past 3-4 months under COVID 19 situations when you had sex with your partner, how often did you use condom?

Reason for not using condom every time when having sex

My partner refused to use
(n=25)

No free condoms available
(n=1)

Too far away to get or buy
(n=1)

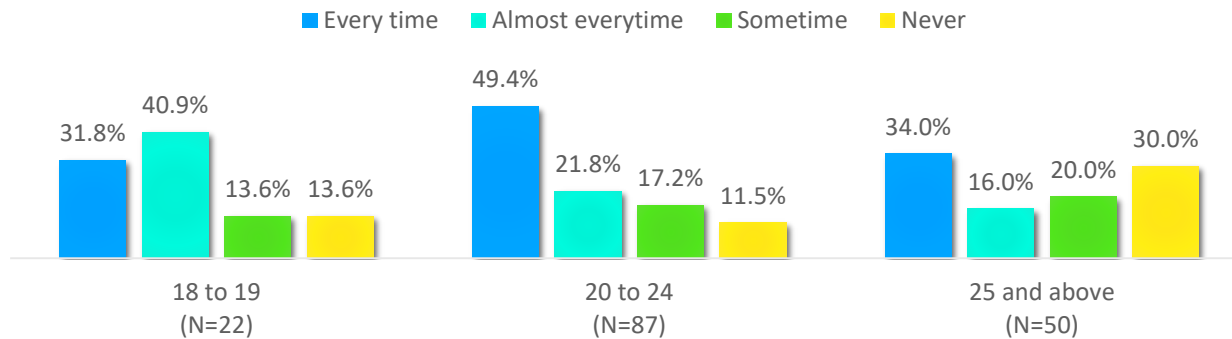
Embarrassed to get condoms
(n=1)

I had sex without my consent
(n=1)

Impact Of COVID-19

Condom use when having sex during COVID19

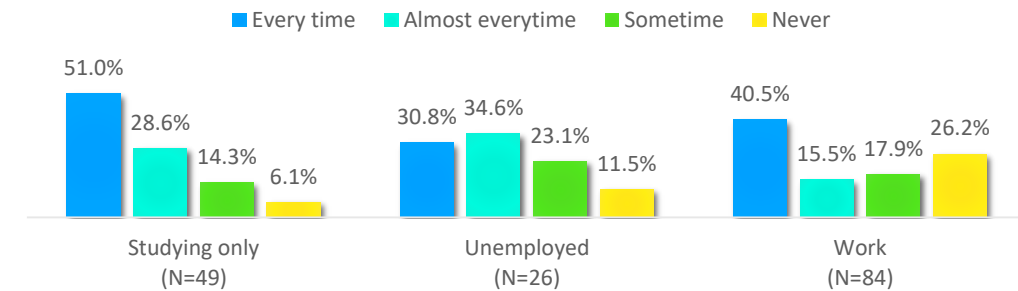
% frequency of condom use when having sex during COVID19,
by age group



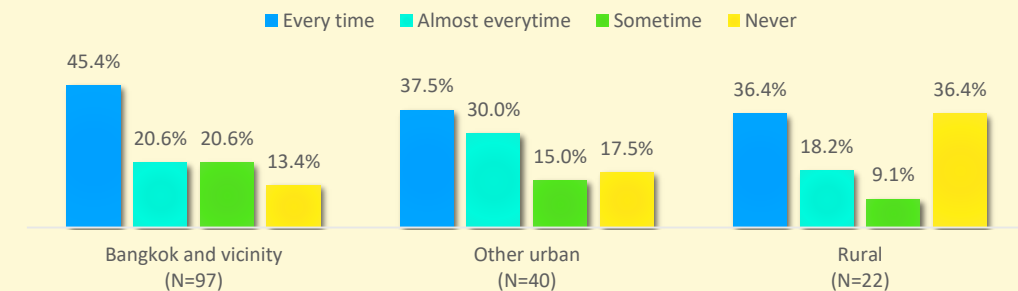
The percentage of those using a condom **every time** when having sex during COVID19 was highest among youth 20-24 years old, full-time students and youths in Bangkok and its vicinity.

Meanwhile, the percentage of those **never** using a condom when having sex during COVID19 was highest among youth aged 25 years and above, youth who were working during COVID19 and youth from rural areas.

% frequency of condom use when having sex during COVID19 by
occupational status during COVID19



% frequency of condom use when having sex during COVID19 by area of
residence

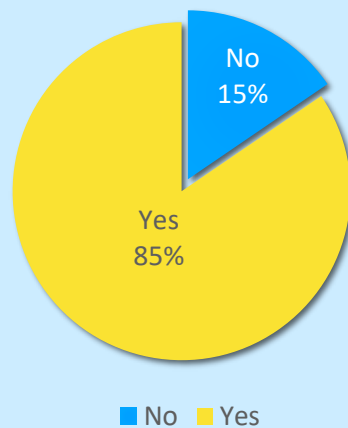


Impact Of COVID-19

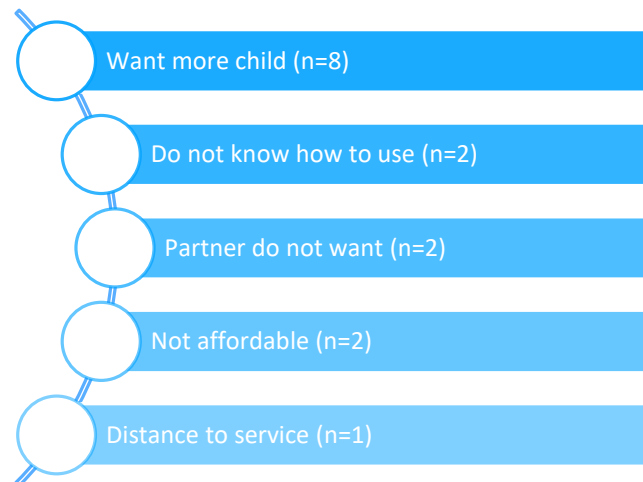
Contraceptive use during COVID19

Respondents who reported having sex with a partner of the opposite sex (male-female sex) were asked whether they used any contraceptive methods to prevent pregnancy. About 15% reported no contraceptive use and the main reason was wanting to have a child. The rest gave reasons related to the accessibility to services.

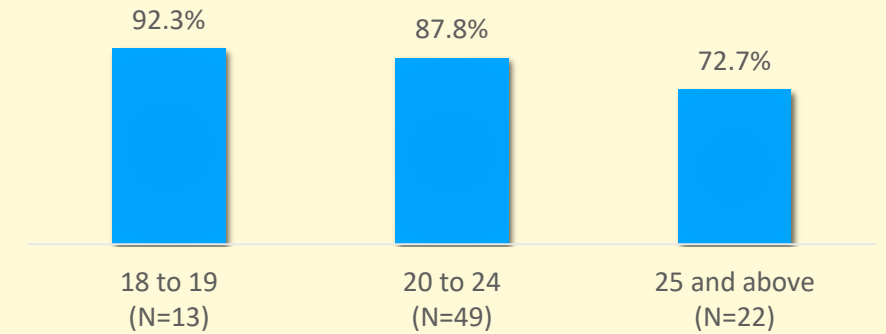
Contraceptive use (N=84)



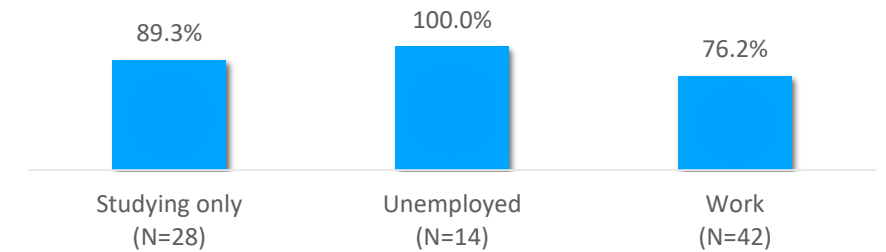
Reasons for not using contraceptive methods



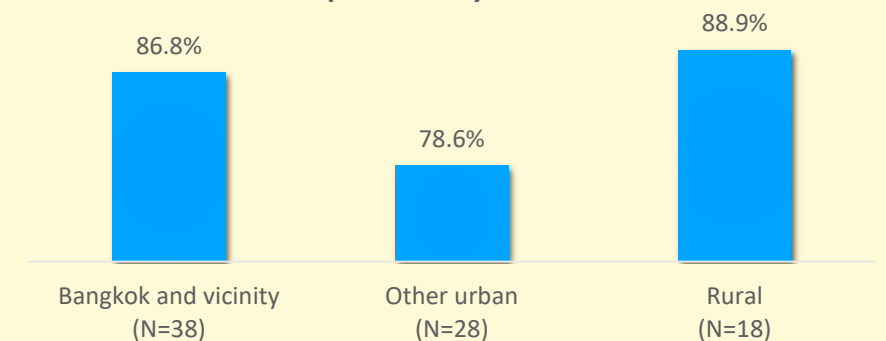
% contraceptive use by age group



% contraceptive use by occupational status during COVID19

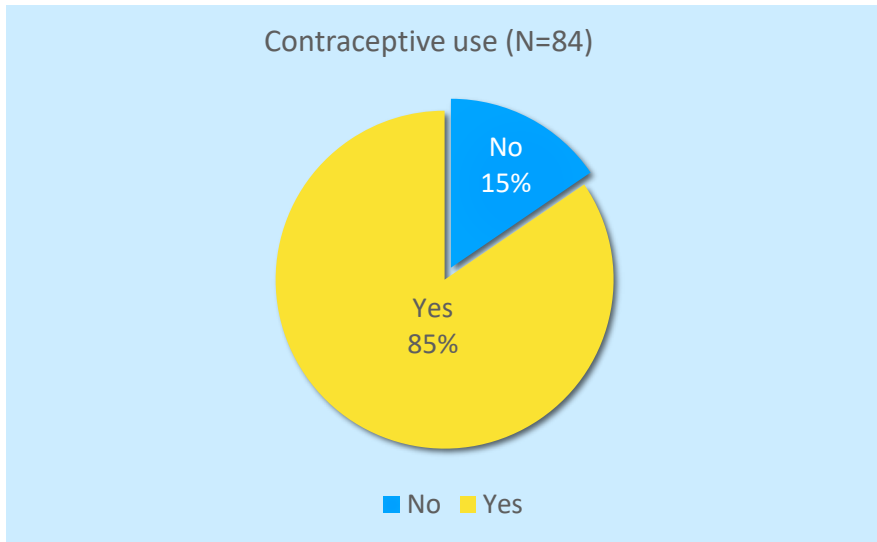


% contraceptive use by area of residence



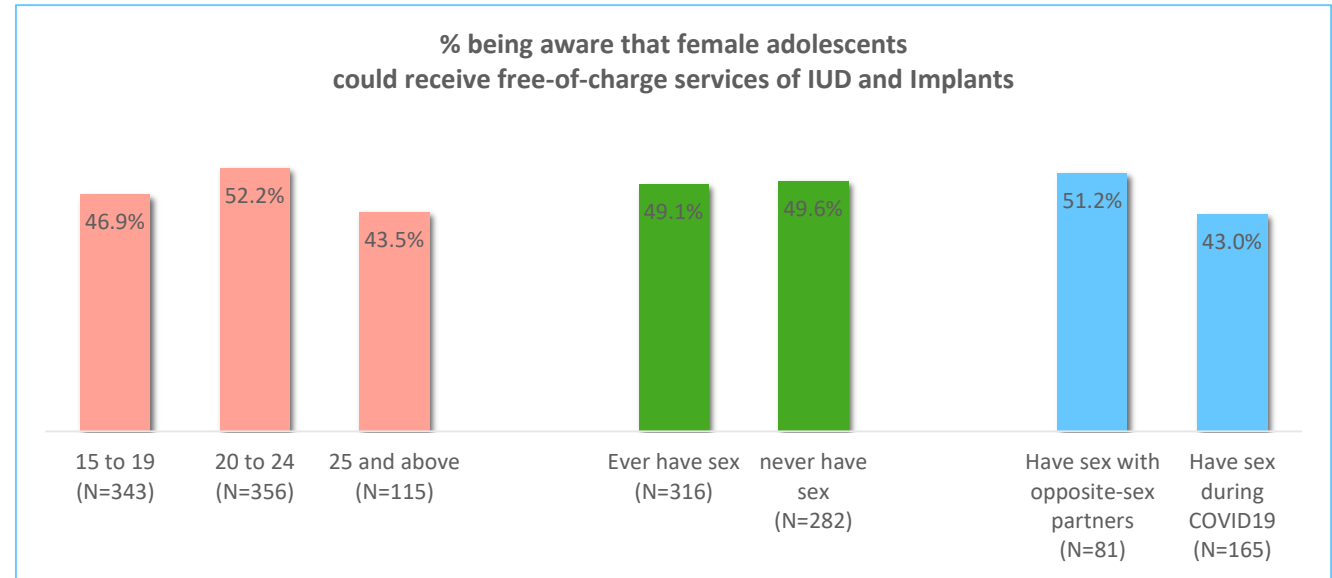
Impact Of COVID-19

Contraceptive use during COVID19



Among contraception users, the most popular method is

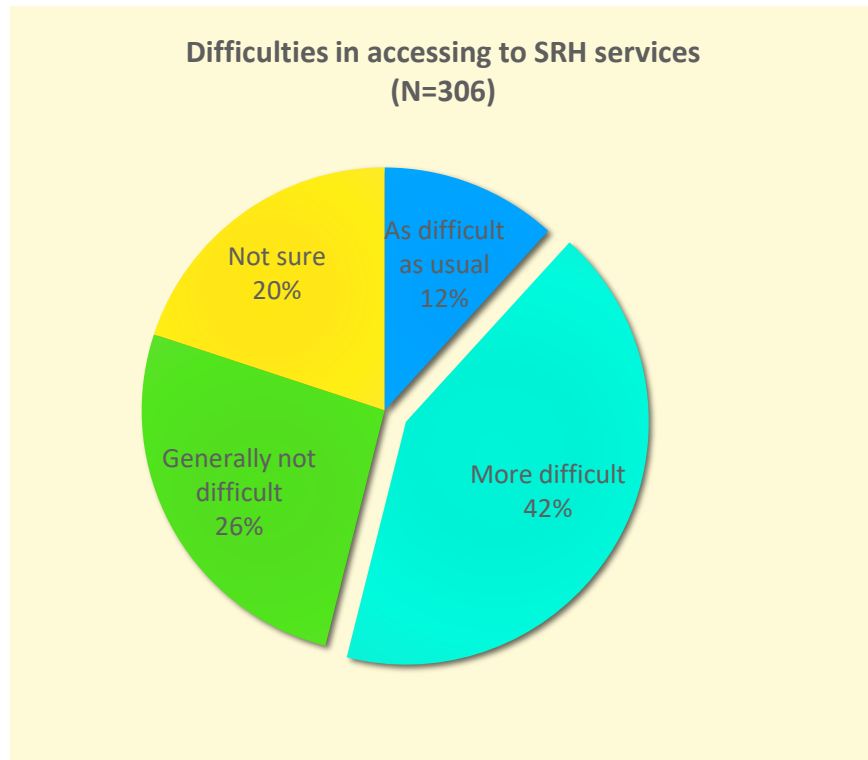
- Condom (n=57)
- Coitus Interruptus (Withdrawal, Pull-out method) (n=15)
- Fertility wareness method: FAM (Safe period) (n=11)
- Emergency contraceptive pills (ECPs) (n=9)
- Implants (n=9)
- Injectibles (n=4)



Youth are not well aware of free-of-charge IUD and implants services for female adolescents

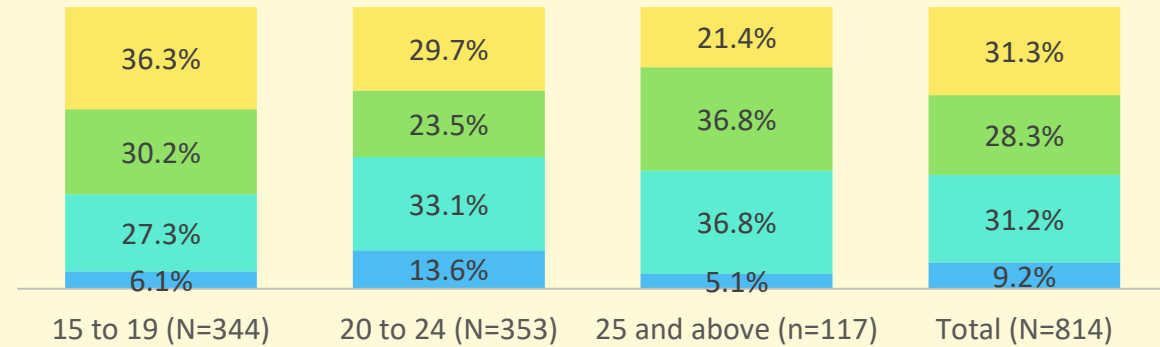
Impact Of COVID-19

Difficulties in SRH services



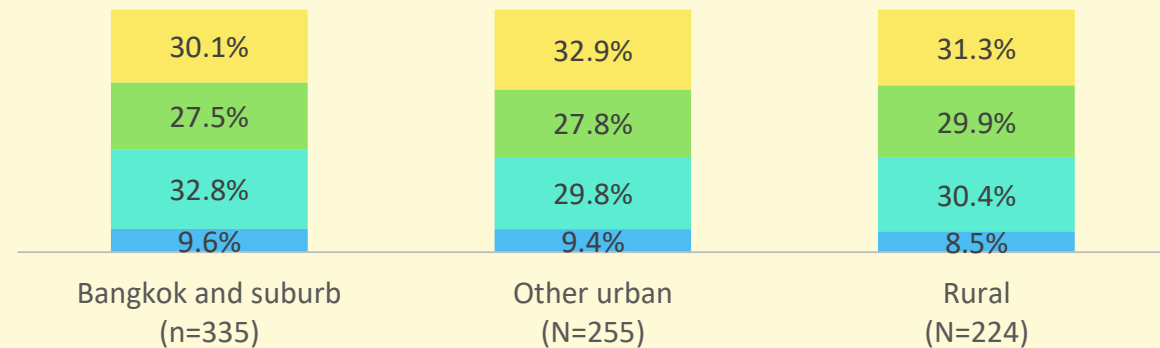
BY AGE GROUP

As difficult as usual More difficult Generally not difficult Not sure



BY RESIDENCY AREA

As difficult as usual More difficult Generally not difficult Not sure



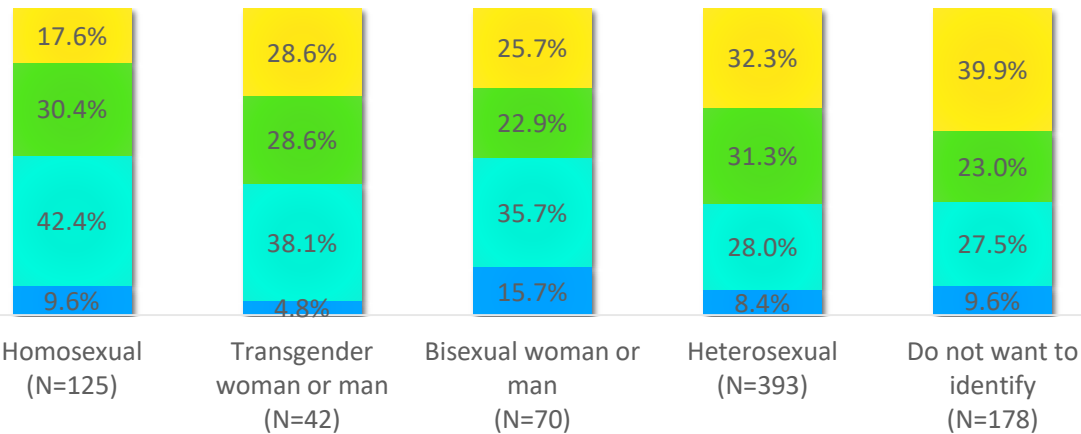
42% of youth found that COVID19 and the related government measures, e.g. closing some services and schools, social distancing, limiting travel, have caused more difficulties for teenagers in accessing to essential SRH services.

Impact Of COVID-19

Difficulties in SRH services

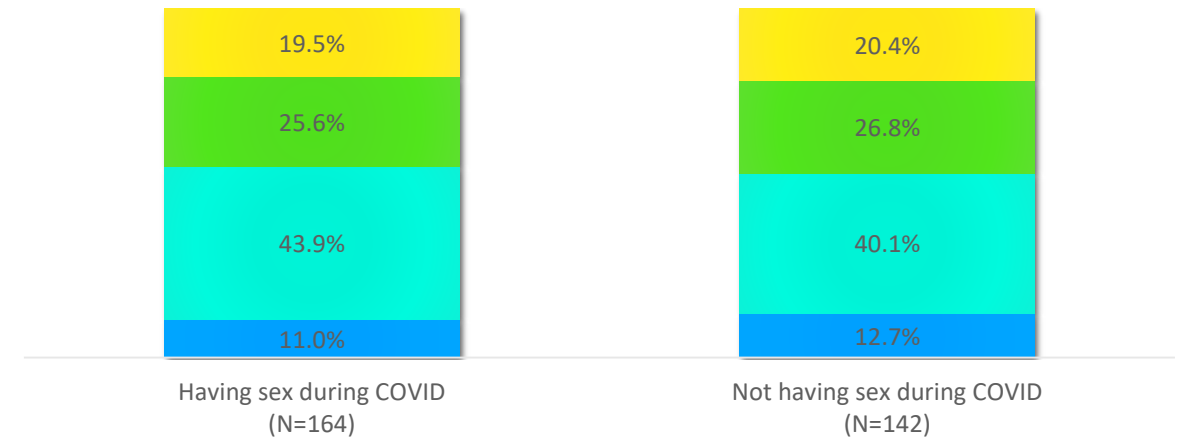
Difficulties in accessing SRH services, by sexual orientation

■ As difficult as usual ■ More difficult ■ Generally not difficult ■ Not sure



Difficulties in accessing SRH services, by having sex during COVID19

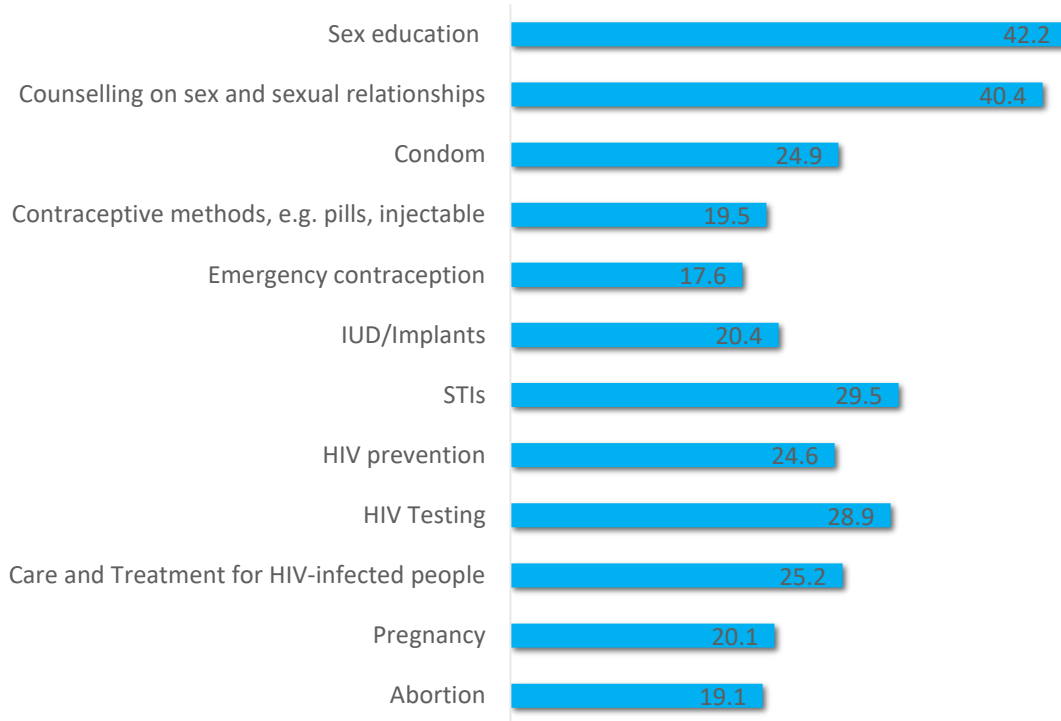
■ As difficult as usual ■ More difficult ■ Generally not difficult ■ Not sure



Impact Of COVID-19

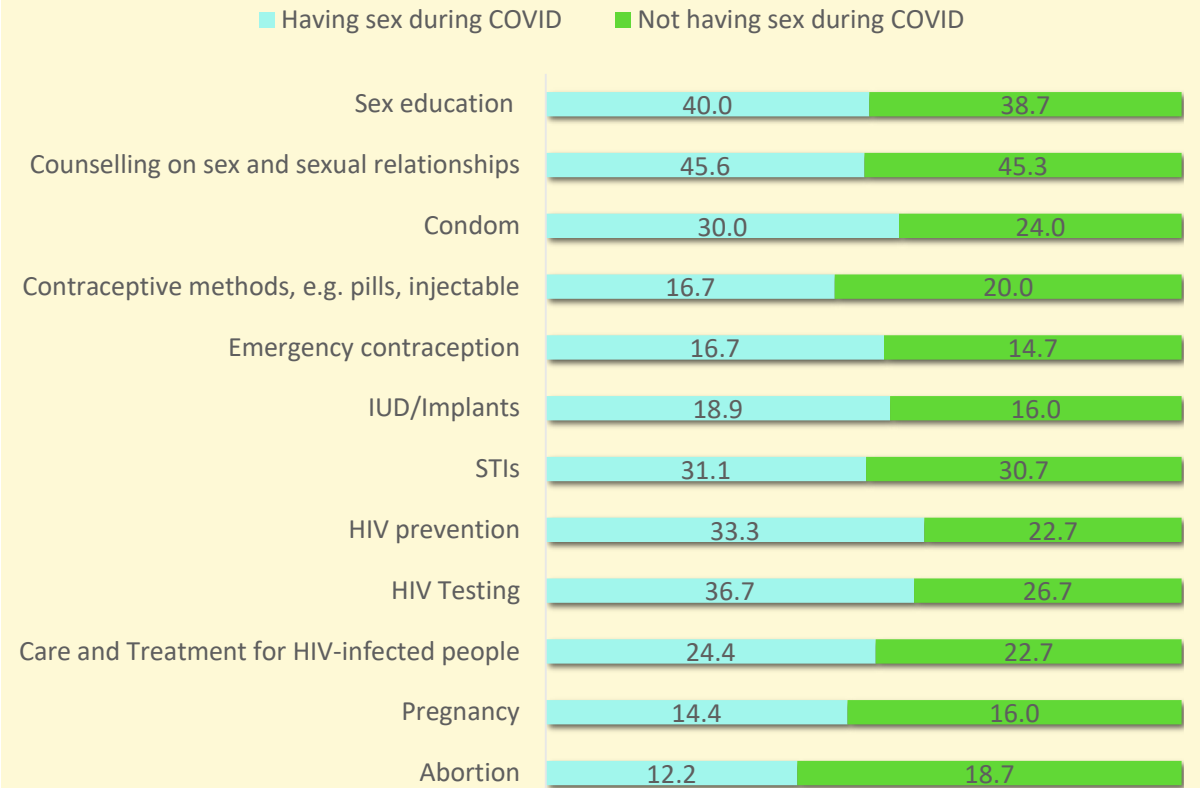
Difficulties in SRH services

% of respondents reported SRH services they found difficult to access



During COVID19, accessing to SRH services become difficult for many respondents. Largest proportion reported difficulties accessing to sex education, counselling.

% of respondents reported SRH services they found difficult to access, by having sex during COVID19

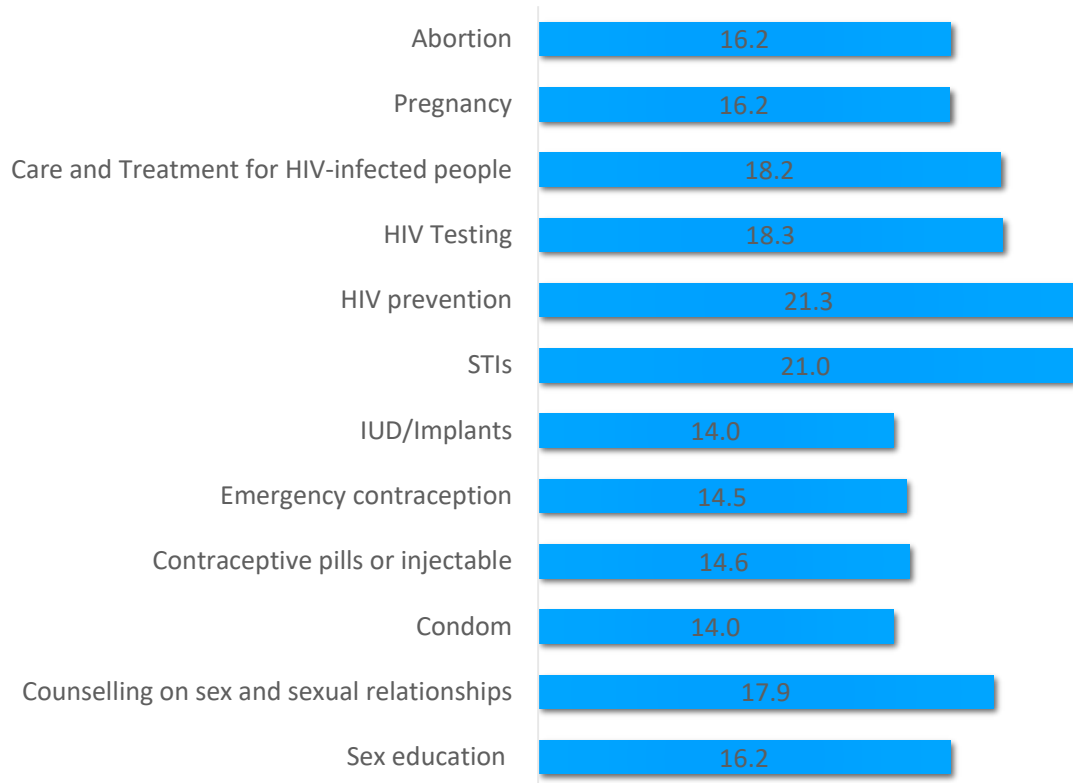


Impact Of COVID-19

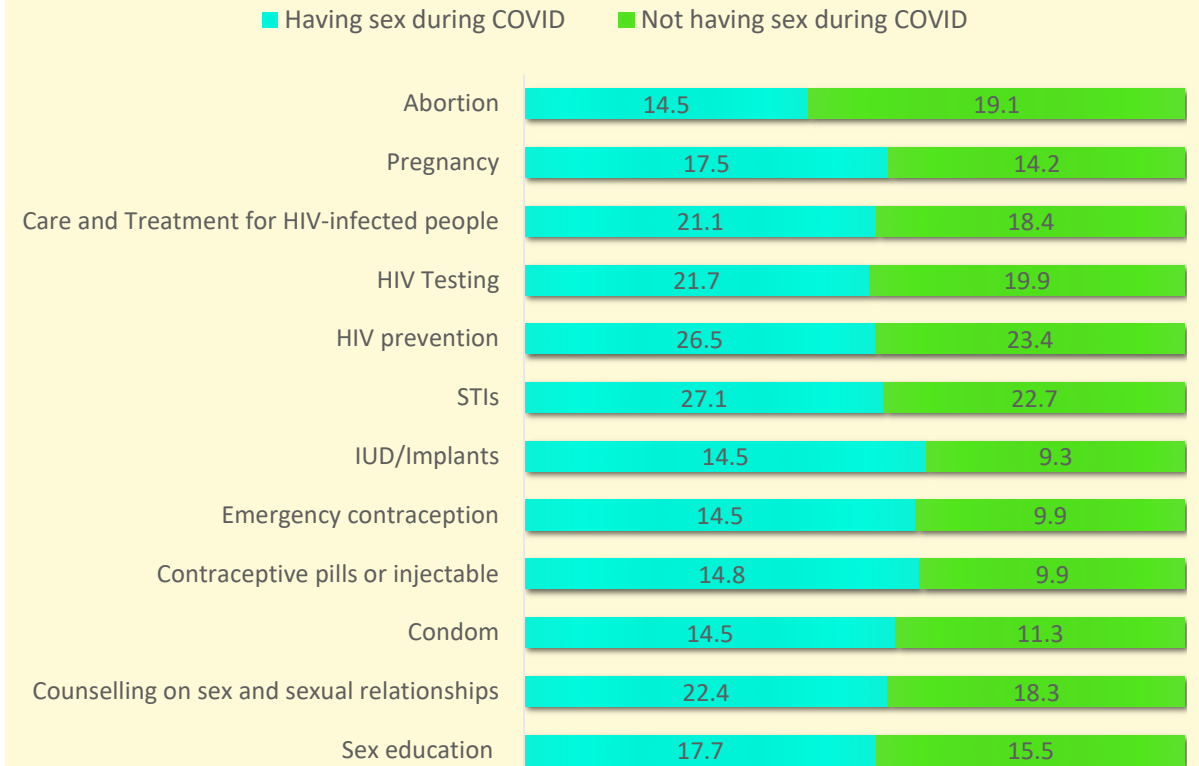
In need of SRH information

Youth needed SRH information during COVID19. Most needed information about HIV prevention, STIs, HIV testing.

% of respondents needing SRH information



% respondents needing SRH information, by having sex during COVID19

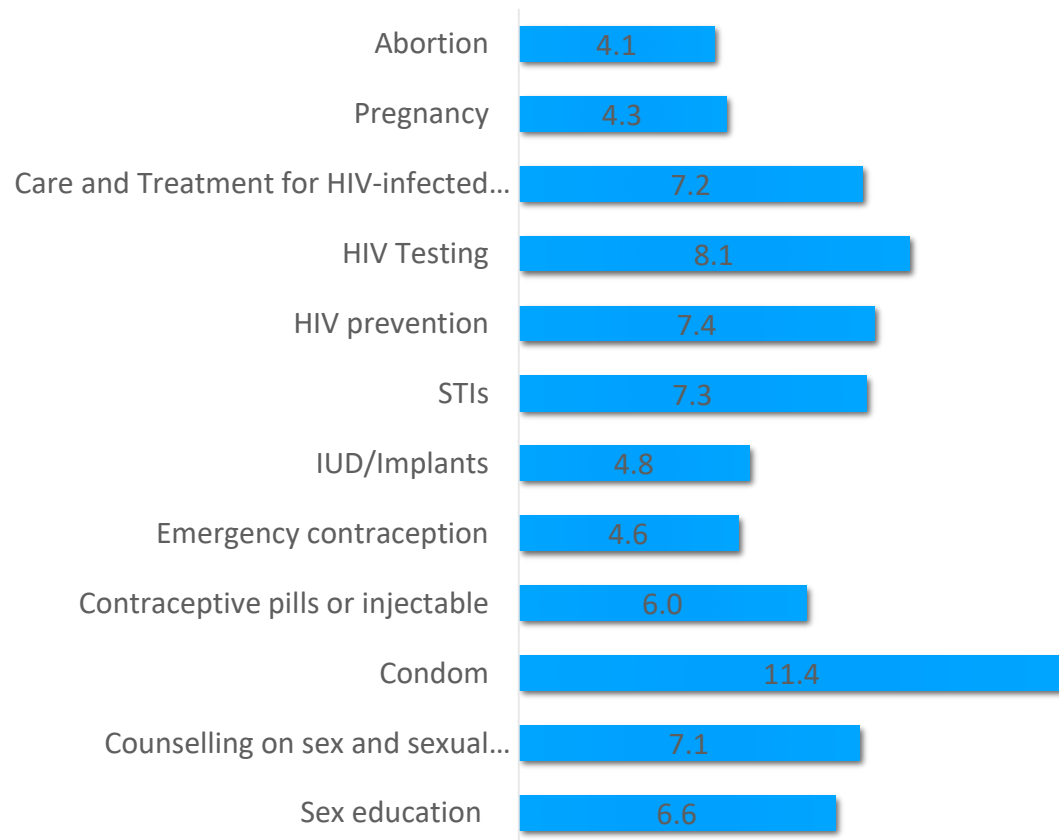


Youth who had sex during COVID19 needed more information.

Impact Of COVID-19

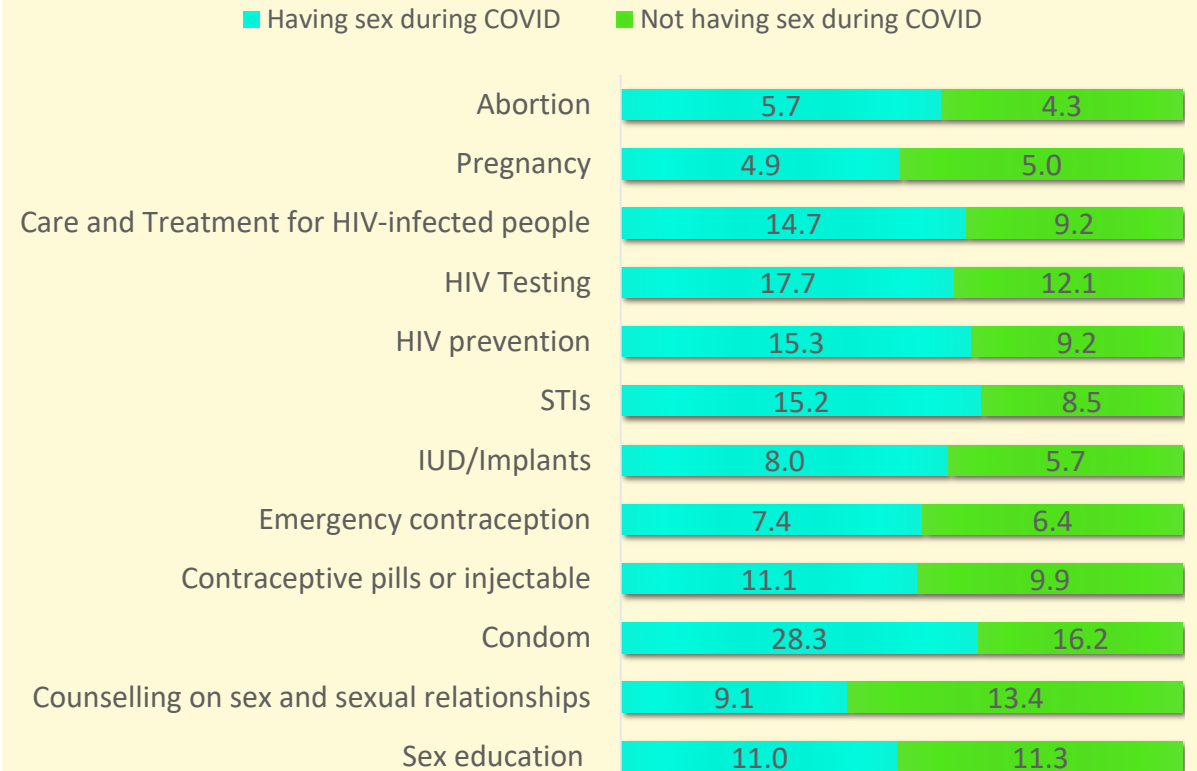
In need of SRH services

% of respondents needing SRH services



Most needed services were condoms, followed by HIV testing and HIV prevention. Youth who had sex during COVID19 needed HIV testing, HIV prevention and STI-related services, while youth not having sex during COVID (but ever have sexual experiences) needed condoms, counselling in sexual relationships and HIV testing.

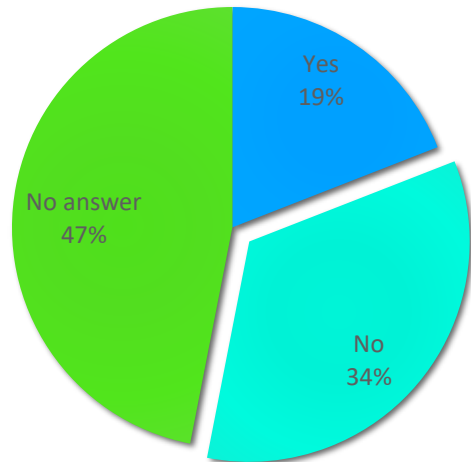
% respondents needing SRH services, by having sex during COVID19



Impact Of COVID-19

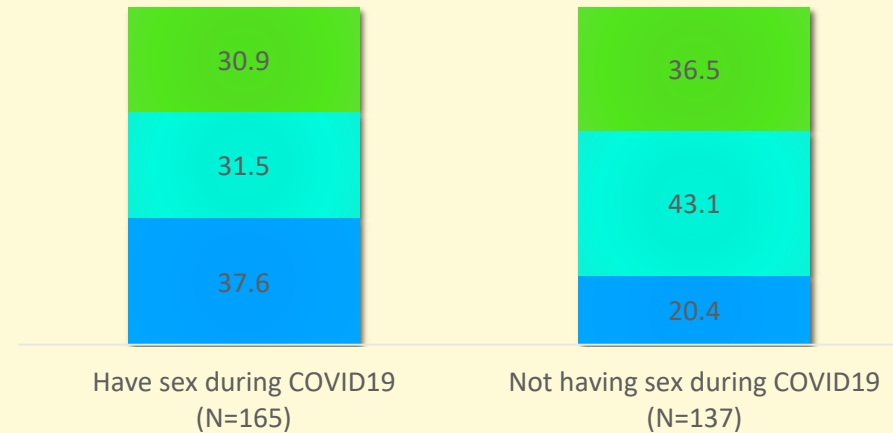
Difficulties in SRH services

Receiving SRH information or services needed during COVID19 (N=797)



Receiving SRH information or services needed during COVID19, by having sex during COVID19

■ Yes ■ No ■ No answer



Over one-third of respondents reported not having received the SRH services or information they needed during COVID19.

A larger proportion of youth not having sex during COVID19 did not receive the information and services they needed.

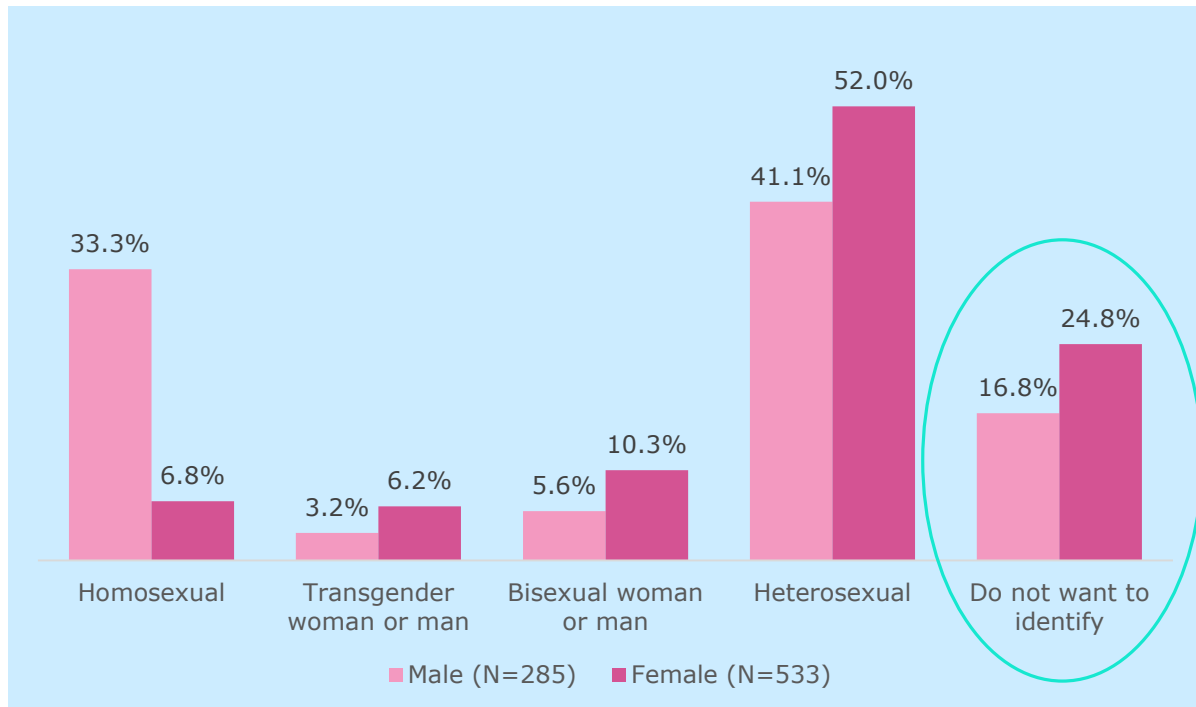
Other information needed included PrEP, safe sex and sexual health, vaccine for cervical cancer, information about menstrual problems, and information about COVID-STI links.

Impact Of COVID-19

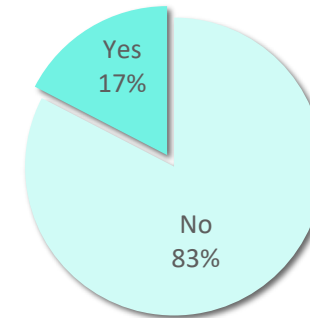
LGBT lives in more difficulties

About 30% of respondents reported their sexual orientation as “non-heterosexuals”. A larger proportion of females did not want to identify.

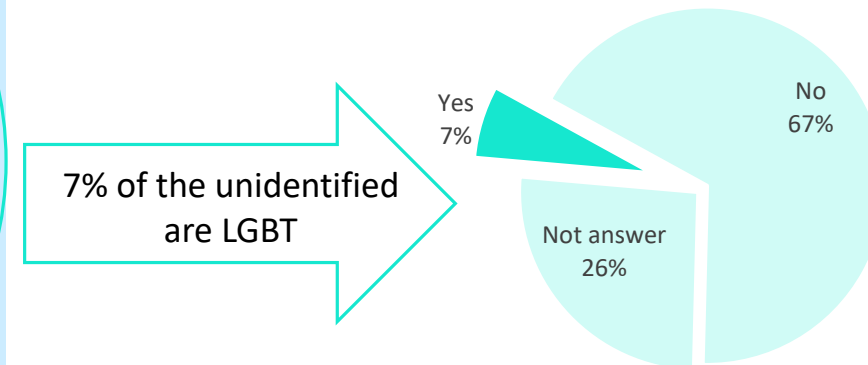
A higher % of males self-identified as homosexuals than female. Meanwhile, a larger proportion of females were bisexuals.



Live with or be in relationships with LGBT partners during the COVID19 lockdown
(N=644)



Live with or be in relationships with LGBT partners during the COVID19 lockdown, among those who did not identify their sexual orientation
(N=181)

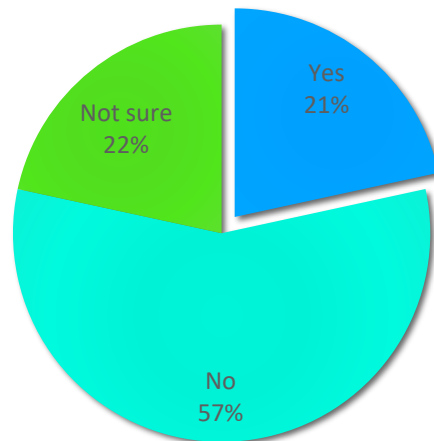


Impact Of COVID-19

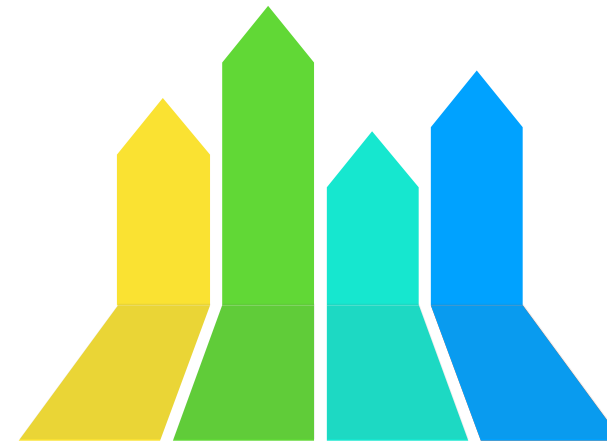
LGBT lives in more difficulties

Among youth aged 18 and above who reported being in LGBT relationships during COVID19, 21% reported that during the past 3-4 months under COVID19 situations, do you face more difficulties living your lives with your same-sex partners, e.g. more difficult in hiding from people, getting more affected from unacceptance and discrimination by family or others?

Difficulties in living LGBT lives during COVID19 lockdown
(N=110)



*3 of them reported facing more difficulties
4 were unsure about this*



12 respondents do not want to identify their sexual orientation but reported living or in relationships with same-sex partners during COVID19 lockdown

In summary: COVID19 impact on general youth – general issues

- **Becoming unemployed**

The proportion of unemployed youth increased during the lockdown.

The increase in unemployment was most pronounced among youth living in other provinces than Bangkok, including both rural and urban areas.

Of those who had worked before COVID19, over 10% become unemployed during the COVID10 lockdown. The percentage was highest among those living in urban areas, followed by rural areas.

- **Lack of access to support during COVID19**

Less than 10% of those becoming unemployed during COVID19 had access to financial and social support.

Youth I employment had better access to support during COVID19.

- **Had to move during COVID19**

Only a small proportion of youth had to change their residence during COVID19 – 13% reported that they had to move during COVID19.

The largest proportion of respondents who moved during COVID19 were those in the age group of 20-24 years, those who lived in other urban areas and full-time students. A relatively high share of students were removed from their place of residence during COVID19, while a comparatively small share of unemployed youth had to change their residence.

- **Living arrangements with people at risk of COVID19**

Over 70% of respondents lived with their parents or in extended families. The majority of them had family members who are at a high risk of COVID19.

- **Less socialization in person, but more online**

Over 50% of youth never socialized with friends in person, while 35% met with their friends about once a week.

Online meeting was undoubtedly more practiced. Only less than 20% of respondents reported that they never met online with their friends during this COVID lockdown.

In summary: COVID19 impact on general youth – SRH issues

- **Youth were sexually active during the COVID19 lockdown and were in need of SRH services and information, especially STI, HIV sex and sexual relationships counselling**
- **Not all youth used condoms every time when they had sex during COVID19.**
In general, only 42% reported having used a condom every time. Difficult access to condom is one of reasons for irregular use. One reported case of sex without consent, and the resulting unprotected sex, could be the tip of the iceberg.
- **Contraceptive use was reported by a large proportion of youth who had sex with opposite-sex partners during COVID19, but many of the users relied on less effective methods to preventing pregnancy.**
Among contraceptive users, more than half reported having used condoms, many reported relying on coitus interruptus and the fertility awareness method. Only 9 respondents reported using implants and 4 using IUD. The awareness of free-of-charge IUD and implant services for female adolescents is low.
- **COVID19 caused difficulties in accessing to SRH services and information.**
42% of youth found that COVID19 and the related government measures, e.g. closing of some services and schools, social distancing, limiting travel, have caused more difficulties for teenagers in accessing essential SRH services. Youth living in Bangkok and vicinity (33%) as well as youths having sex during COVID19 (44%) reported such difficulties.

In summary: COVID19 impact on general youth – SRH issues

- **Youth needed HIV and STI services and information during COVID19.**

Most needed services were condoms, followed by HIV testing and HIV prevention. Youth who had sex during COVID19 needed HIV testing, HIV prevention and STI-related services, while youth who did not have sex during COVID (but had sexual experience before) needed condoms, counselling in sexual relationships and HIV testing.

- **SRH services and information needed during COVID19 were not received by all youth.**

Over 30% of youths reported they did not receive the service and information they needed.

- **Sex education and counselling on sex and sexual relationships were reported as difficult to access during COVID19.**

A large proportion of youth reported that sex education and counselling on sex and sexual relationships were difficult for them to access especially during the COVID19 lockdown. The proportion is not much different between youth who had and who did not have sex during COVID19.

- **LGBT youth faced difficulties during COVID19**

13% of respondents reported having same-sex relationships or LGBT lives, and among this group 21% reported having faced more difficulties living their lives with their same-sex partners, e.g. more difficult in hiding from people, facing more discrimination by and lack of acceptance by family members or others, during the past 3-4 months under COVID 19.