

# Chlamydia screening in the Walk in Centre



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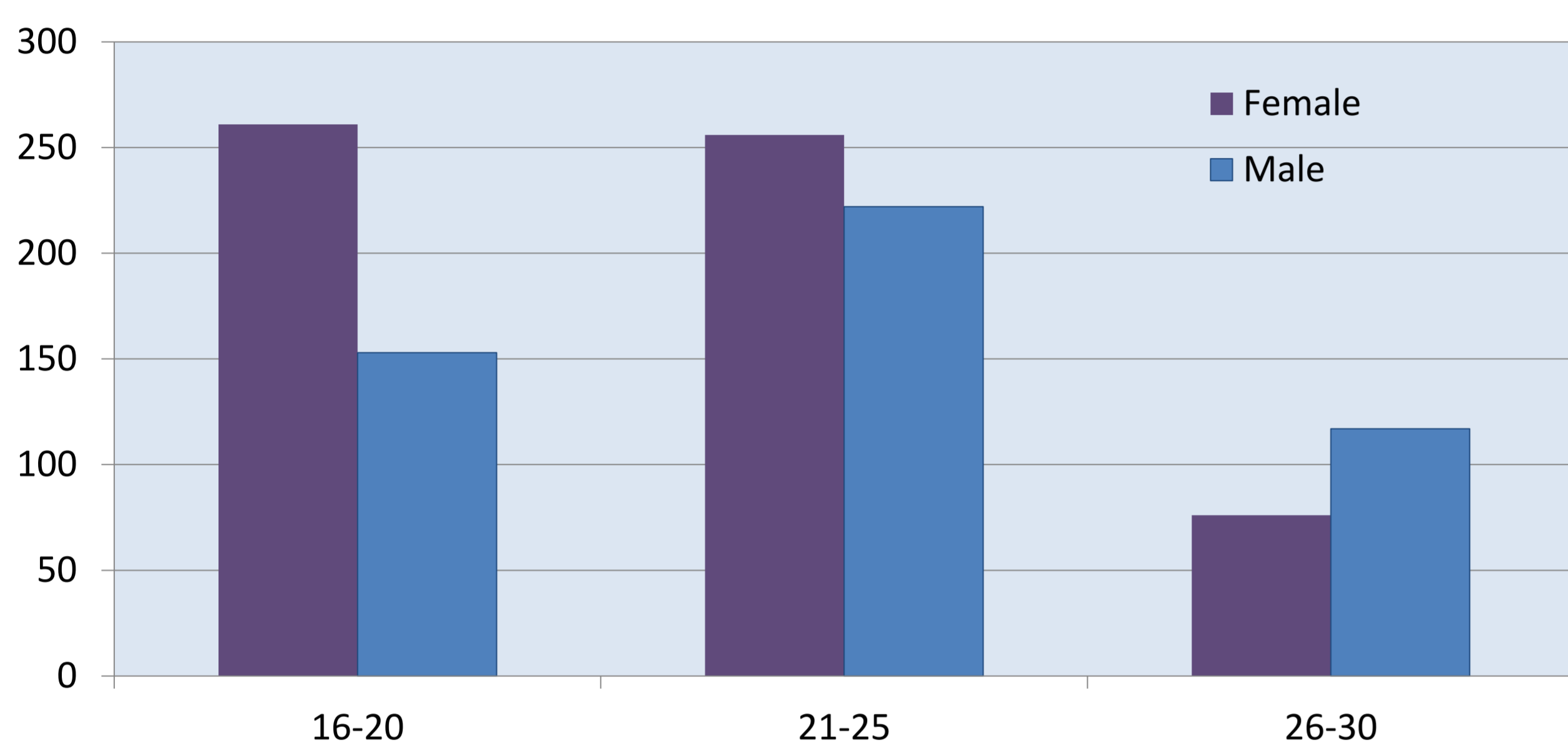
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## Background

### What is chlamydia?

- Chlamydia is the number one bacterial STI in Australia
- Most chlamydia infections are asymptomatic
- Negative sequelae include:
  - PID approx 30% (especially if infected more than once)
  - Chronic pelvic pain/epididymitis
  - Male and female infertility
  - Ectopic pregnancy
- 80% of those who test positive are under 30 yr
- Testing is easy - PCR urine or swab
- Treatment is easy – 1 gm of Azithromycin in one dose

### Chlamydia notifications in the ACT in 2012 by age and sex (N=1283)



### Why screen for chlamydia in the Walk in Centre?

- **Access**
  - Open 07:00-23:00 7 days/week
  - No appointment necessary
  - Free/discreet
  - No Medicare card needed
- **Suits target group**
  - Approximately 6,650 young people attend the WiC each year
  - Young people prefer screening to be offered by health professionals in a health care setting
- **WiC nurses**
  - Opportunity to expand scope of public health practice

## Aims

Determine the feasibility and acceptability of chlamydia screening in the ACT Health Walk-in Centre (WiC) among patients aged 16 to 30 years attending the WiC for any reason.

## Methods

- Target population: all 16-30 yr olds presenting to the WiC
- Study was advertised - radio, ACT Health website, waiting room
- Information sheet given by reception staff
- Questionnaire about experience completed after the consultation
- Consultation:
  - Reason for presentation addressed
  - Nurse discussed study, obtained verbal consent
  - Urine specimen + survey
  - Canberra Sexual Health Centre managed positive cases and contact tracing

### Acknowledgments

WiC and CSHC nursing and clerical staff

The young people who participated

ACT Government, Population Health Division for funding this project

## Results

- Screening offered August '12 - May '13 (10 months)
- 15,163 patients attended the WiC
- 4341 (28%) were in the target age range
- 1183 (27%) were offered screening
- 473 (40%) accepted screening
  - 11% of target population
  - 62% female
  - 57% 16-20 yr, 36% 21-25 yr, 7% 26-30 yr
  - 33 (7%) attended specifically for screening
- 28 (5.9%) positive
  - 19 (68%) female
  - 9 (32%) male

### Factors associated with screening

- Female gender (292 vs. 181 p=0.0001)
- 20-24 year age group
- Attending the WiC on the weekend

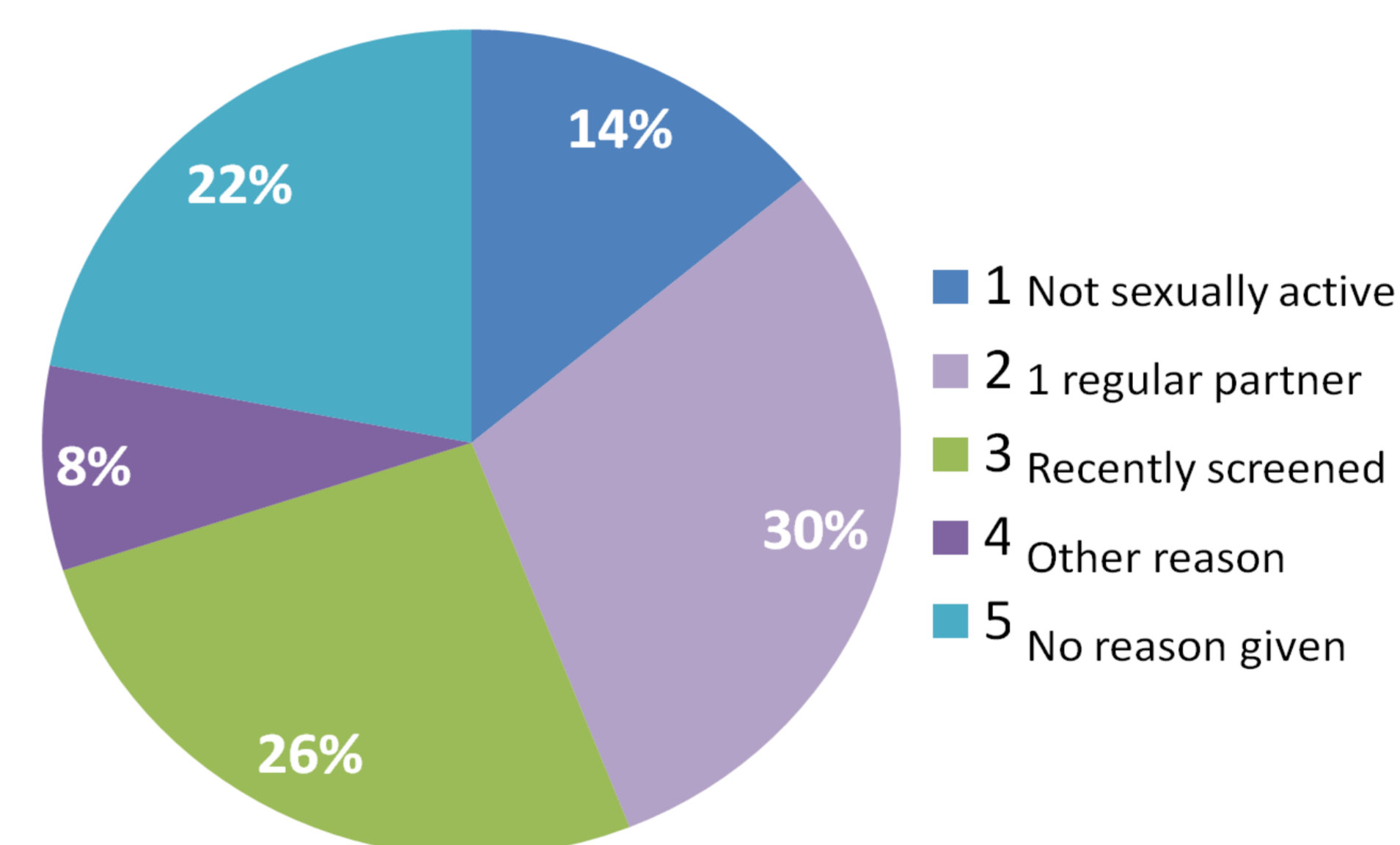
### Positive cases

26/28 (92.9%) attended CSHC for treatment

39 sexual partners were nominated

23 sexual partners contacted by index case or 16 by CSHC staff

### Reasons given for choosing not to be screened (N=710)



### Questionnaire responses

- 218 respondents (46%)
  - 65% female
  - 35% 16-20 yo, 28% 21-24 yo, 37% 25-30 yo
- 95% said WiC appropriate place to be screened
- 94% comfortable with discussing chlamydia
- 94% satisfied with amount of information given

### Respondents agreed to screening:

- 46% because it was offered
- 36% because interested
- 12% felt at risk
- 79% would recommend screening at WiC to a friend

## Conclusions

Feasibility ✓

Satisfaction ✓

Lower than expected participation rates indicate the need for greater education among staff and patients .

**These research findings have now been translated into practice and chlamydia screening is now offered routinely to young people attending the WiC.**