



Risk-taking and sexual behaviour in Australian adolescents: a research update

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WILSON ET AL 1998

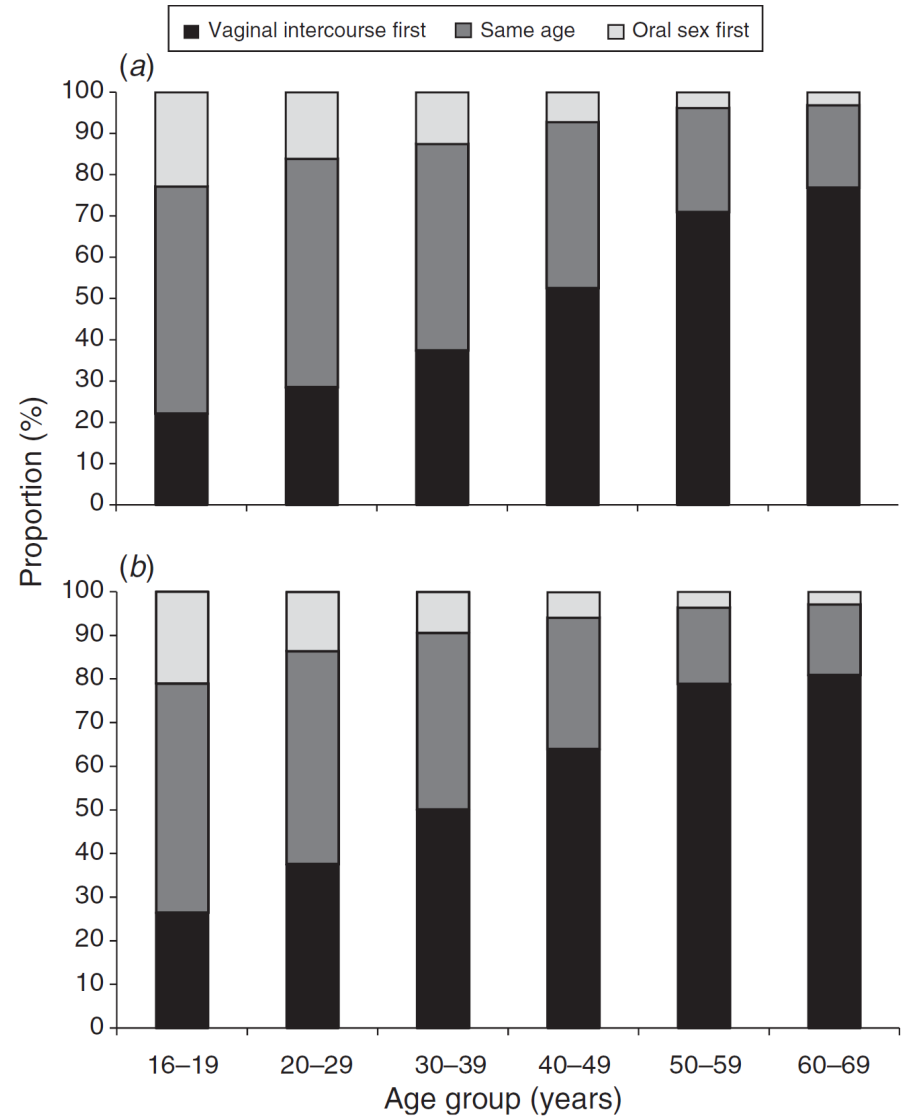
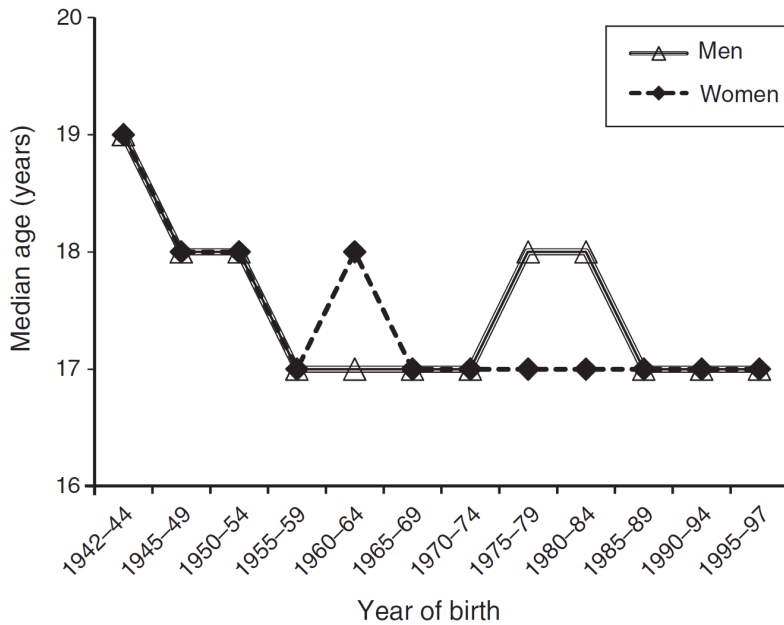
- Normal and adaptive in adolescence
- Responsible for most morbidity and mortality in adolescence



- Age at sex:
 - Early first sexual (vaginal) intercourse
 - Current proportion who have ever had sex
- (Vaginal) sex without condoms
- Sexual activity with multiple partners

- Associations with subsequent sexual risk-taking
 - Number of partners – strong, consistent
 - Contraceptive and condom use
- Associations with negative outcomes
 - Teen pregnancy and birth; later abortion?
 - STIs - mixed

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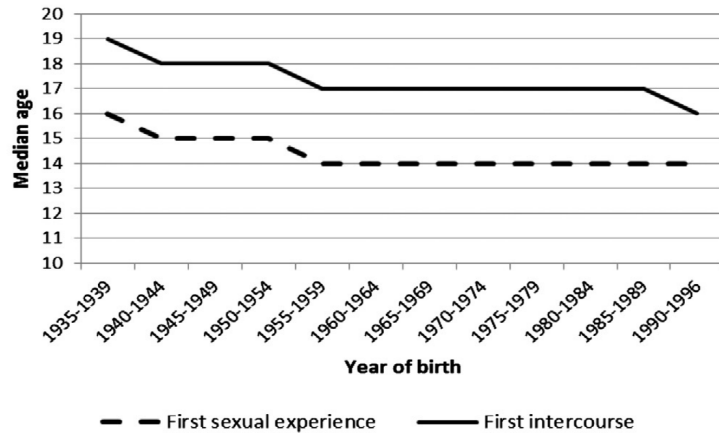




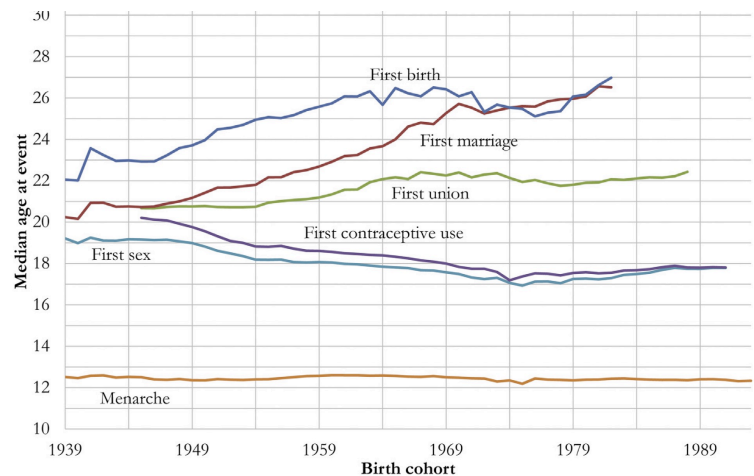
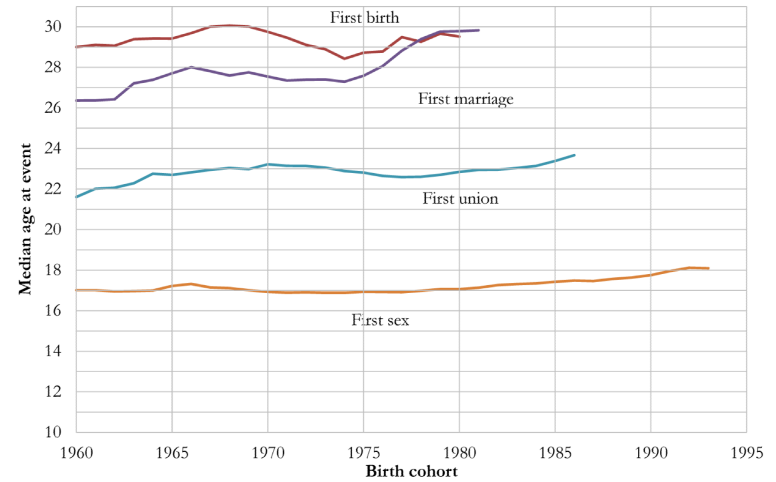
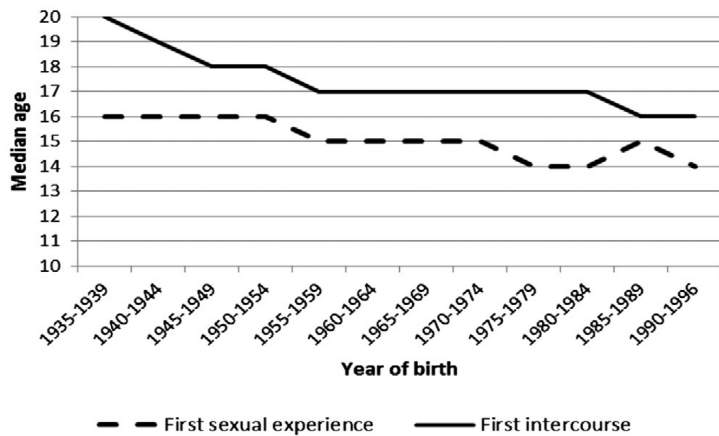
Comparison to UK and US

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Men



Women





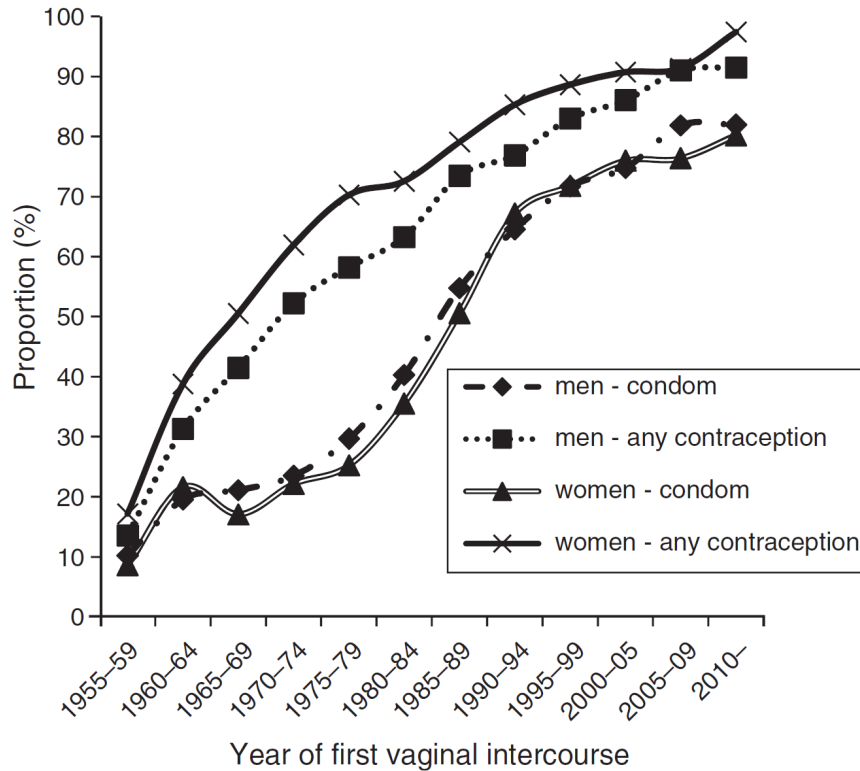
Percentage of students who have ever had sexual intercourse National Survey of Secondary Students and Sexual Health^{1,2}

	Year 10			Year 12		
	2002 ¹	2008 ¹	2013 ²	2002 ¹	2008 ¹	2013 ²
Male	27.8	27.1	22.3	48.3	44.4	52.1
Female	24.2	27.6	22.9	45.7	61.7	49.4
Overall	25.8	27.4	22.7	46.8	56.1	50.4
	High school students (Years 9/10 to 12)					
	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017
Overall	47.8	46.0	47.4	46.8	41.2	39.5

1. Smith et al. 2009. *Secondary Students and Sexual Health, 2008*. Melbourne: ARCSHS.

2. Mitchell et al. 2015. *National Survey of Secondary Students and Sexual Health*. Melbourne: ARCSHS.

3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Summary and Trends Report, 2007-2017*. Atlanta, USA: CDC.



NSSSH data, condom used at last sex:

	Male	Female
Used	65.0%	55.2%
Condom was available	70.2%	64.8%
Used	88.7%	83.6%

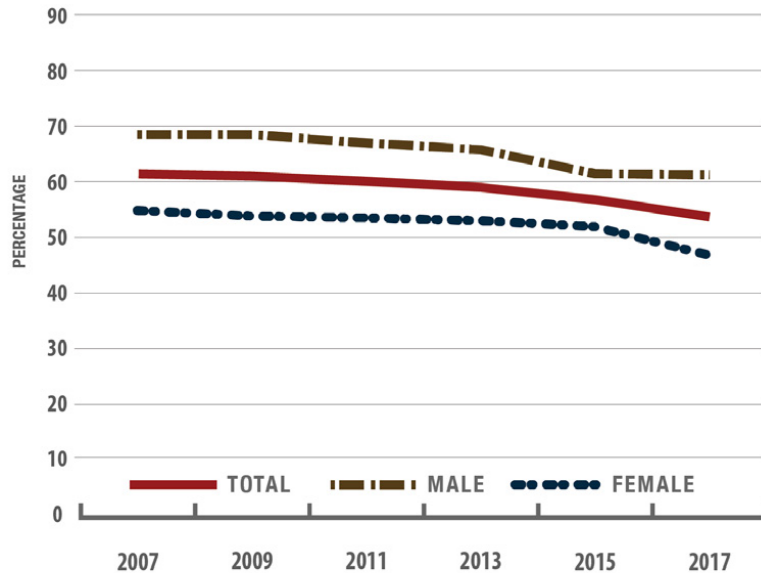
Availability and use of condoms decreased each school year



- 2017 YRBS:
 - 61.3% males
 - 46.9% females

VS

- 2014 NSSSH:
 - 65.0% males
 - 55.2% females





- Adolescents' knowledge poor
- Barriers to access, especially for youth in rural/regional/remote areas
- LARCs are effective and recommended but uptake is poor (<8%)

NSSSH, past year partners

	Males (N=273)		Females (N=440)		Total (N=713)	
	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)
I have not had sex in the past year	6.7	(18 / 269)	4.1	(18 / 437)	5.1	(36 / 706)
1 person	48.3	(130 / 269)	60.2	(263 / 437)	55.7	(393 / 706)
2 people	17.1	(46 / 269)	15.3	(67 / 437)	16.0	(113 / 706)
3 or more people	27.9	(75 / 269)	20.4	(89 / 437)	23.2	(164 / 706)

2017 YRBS, 4 or more lifetime partners: 9.7%

Mitchell et al. 2015. *National Survey of Secondary Students and Sexual Health*. Melbourne: ARCSHS. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Summary and Trends Report, 2007-2017*. Atlanta, USA: CDC.



- Pregnancy, births, abortions
- Sexually transmitted infections (mostly gonorrhoea and chlamydia)



National live birth rates 15-19 year old females

PER 1,000 FEMALE

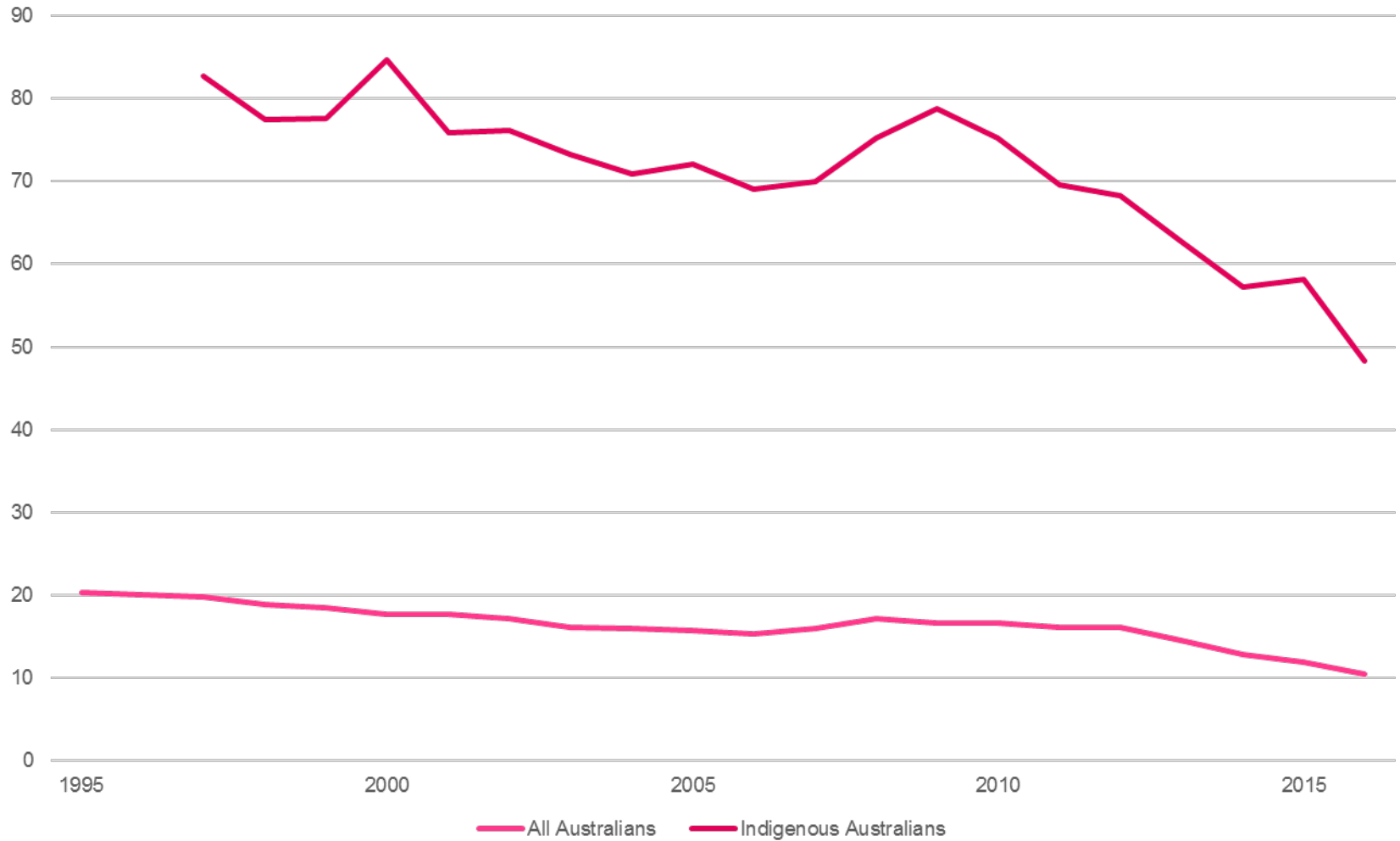
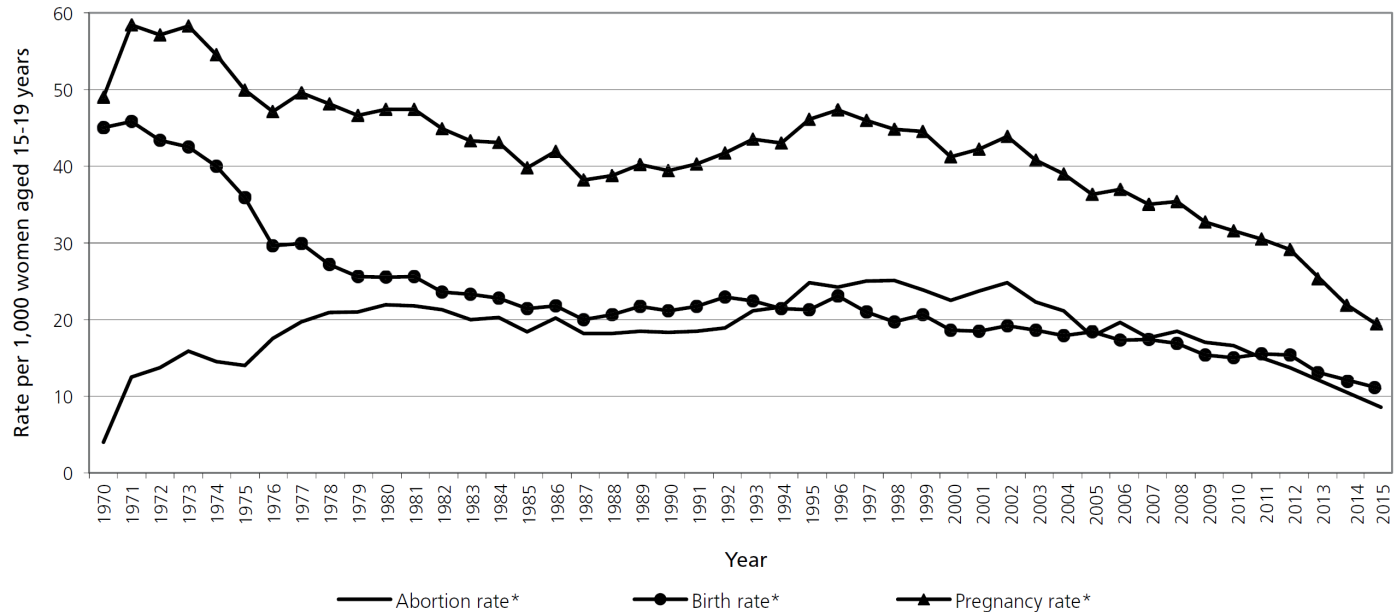


Figure 13: Teenage pregnancy, termination of pregnancy and birth rates, South Australia, 1970-2015



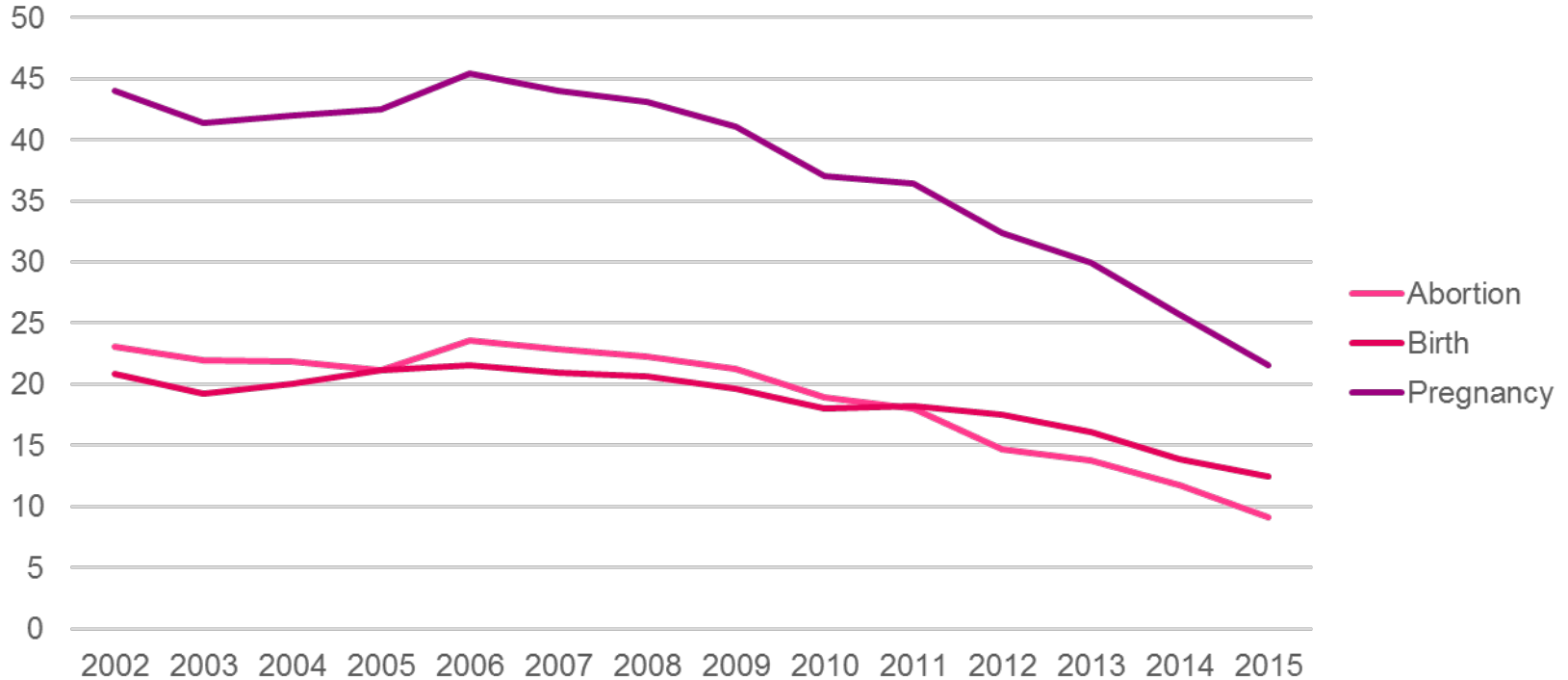
*Abortions and births to women aged less than 15 years are included in the numerator

Abortion proportion, 2015: 44% 15-19, 82% <15
18% all ages



Pregnancy rates, Western Australia

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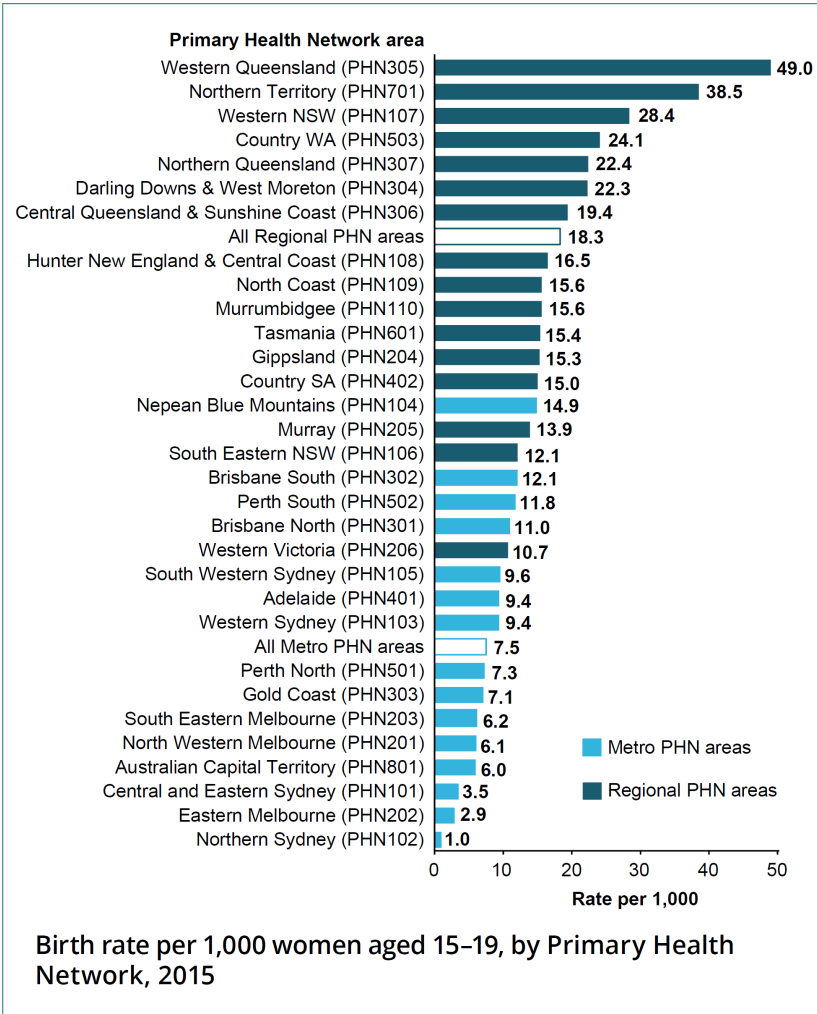
Abortion proportion, 2015: 42.3% 15-19
19% all ages





Disparities: remoteness and SES

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Regional PHN: 18.3/1000

Metro PHN: 7.5/1000

Very remote: 64.5/1000

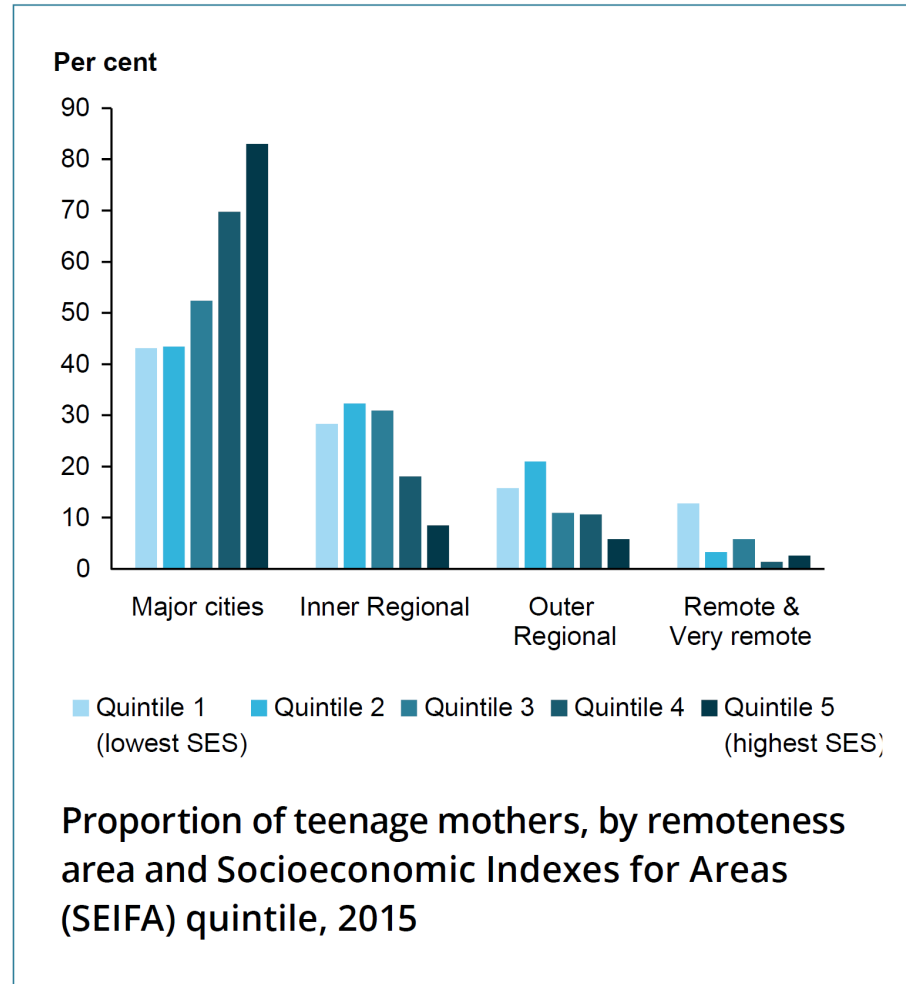
Major city: 7.9/1000

Lowest SES: 24.9/1000

Highest SES: 2.8/1000

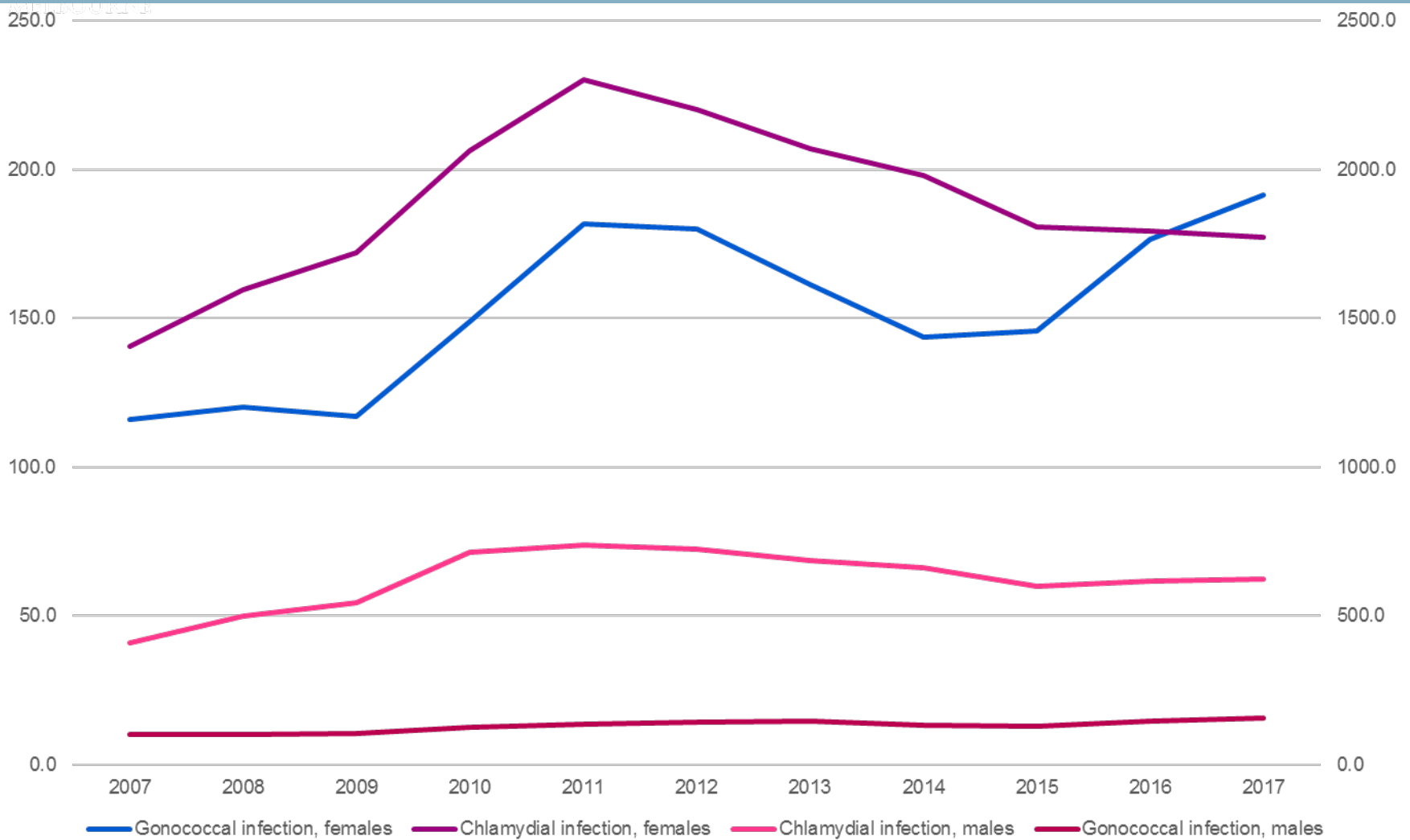


WILSON/GETTY IMAGES



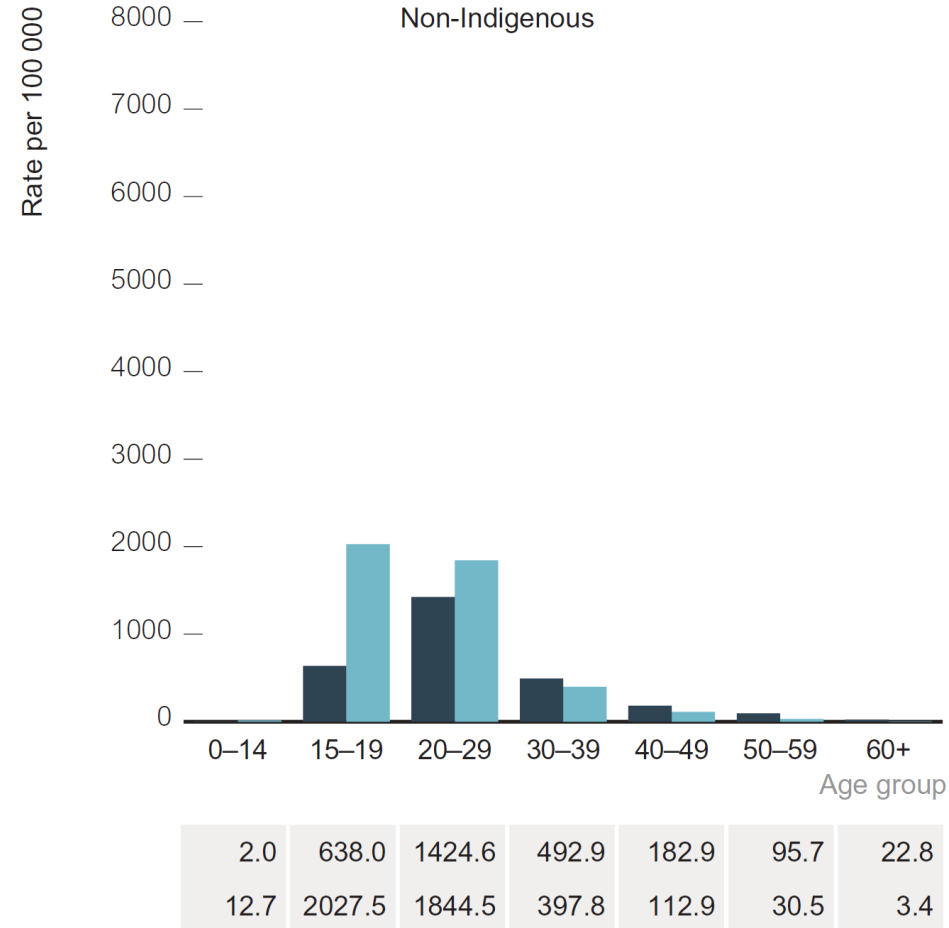
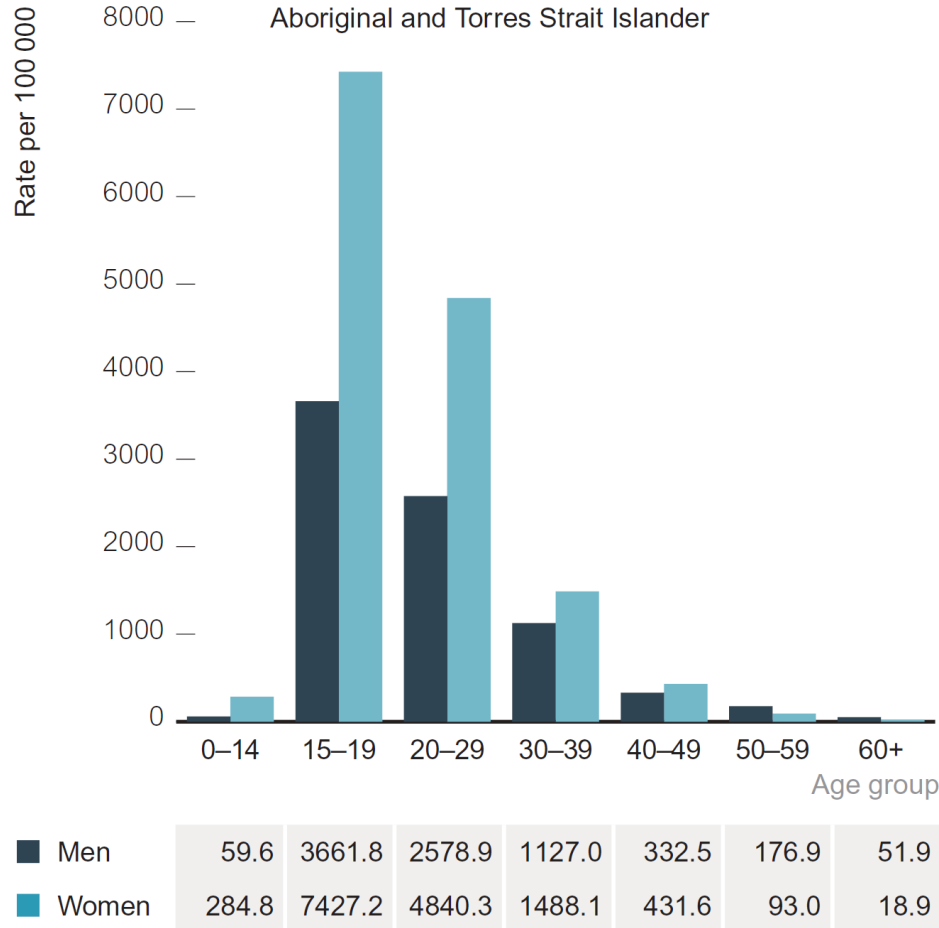


Sexually transmitted infections



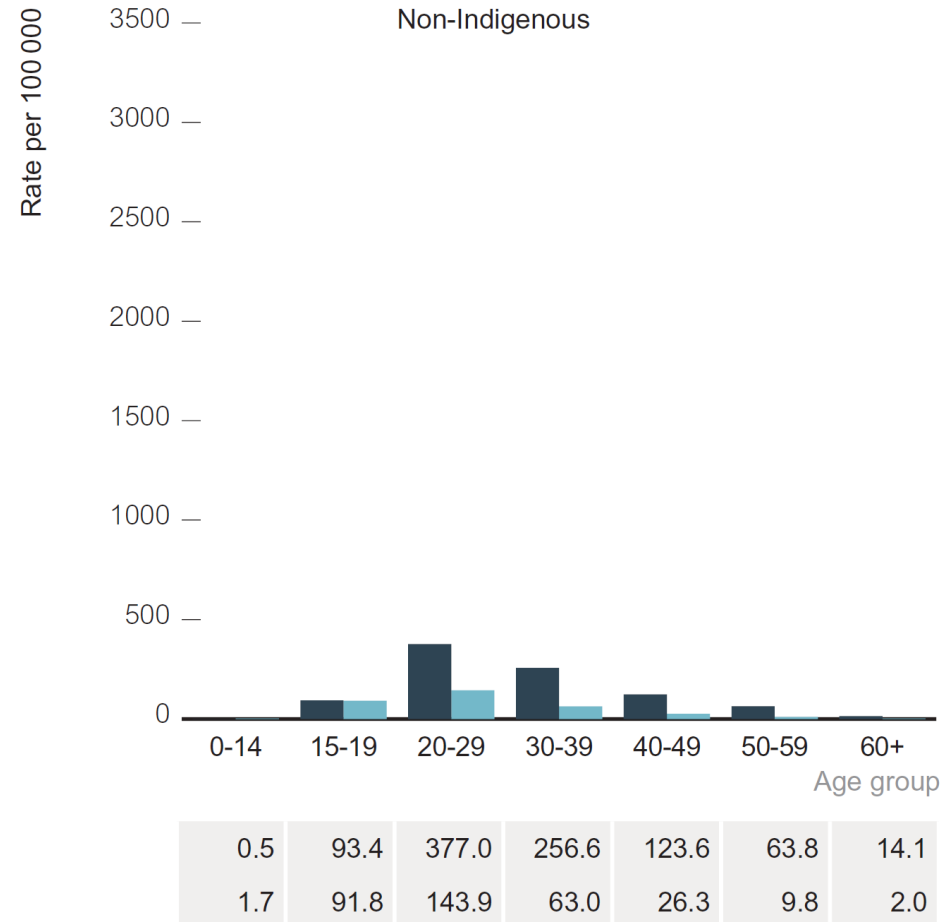
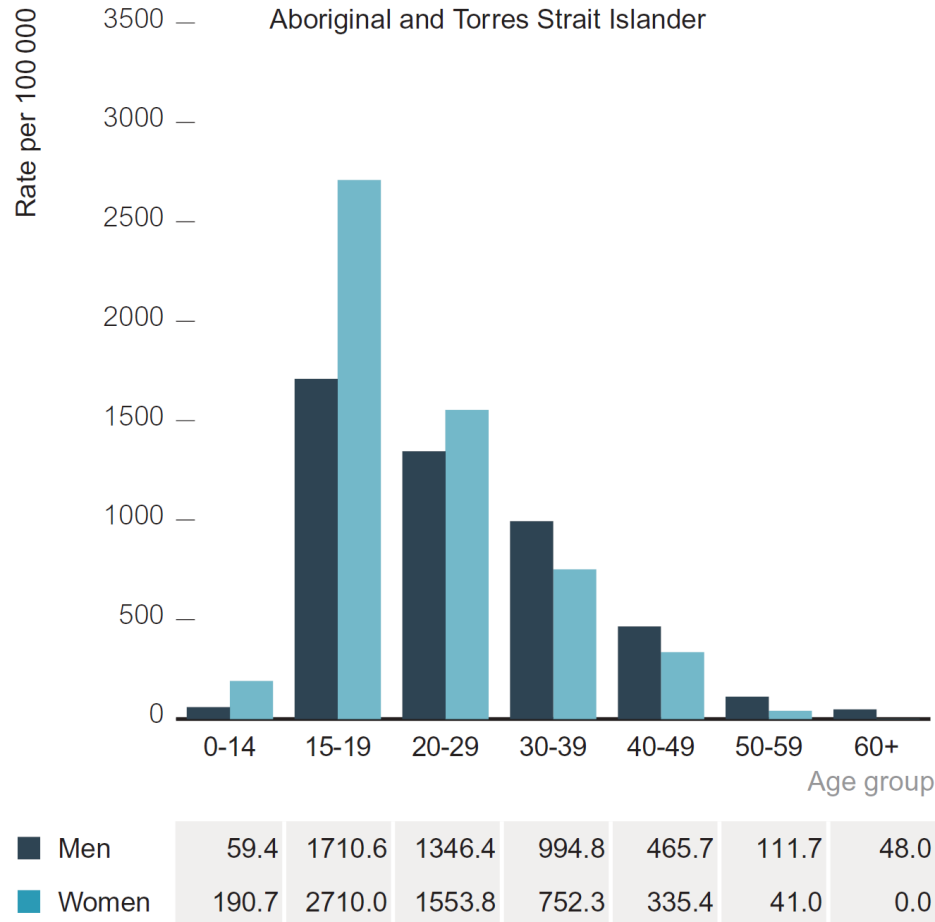
Chlamydia in Indigenous young people

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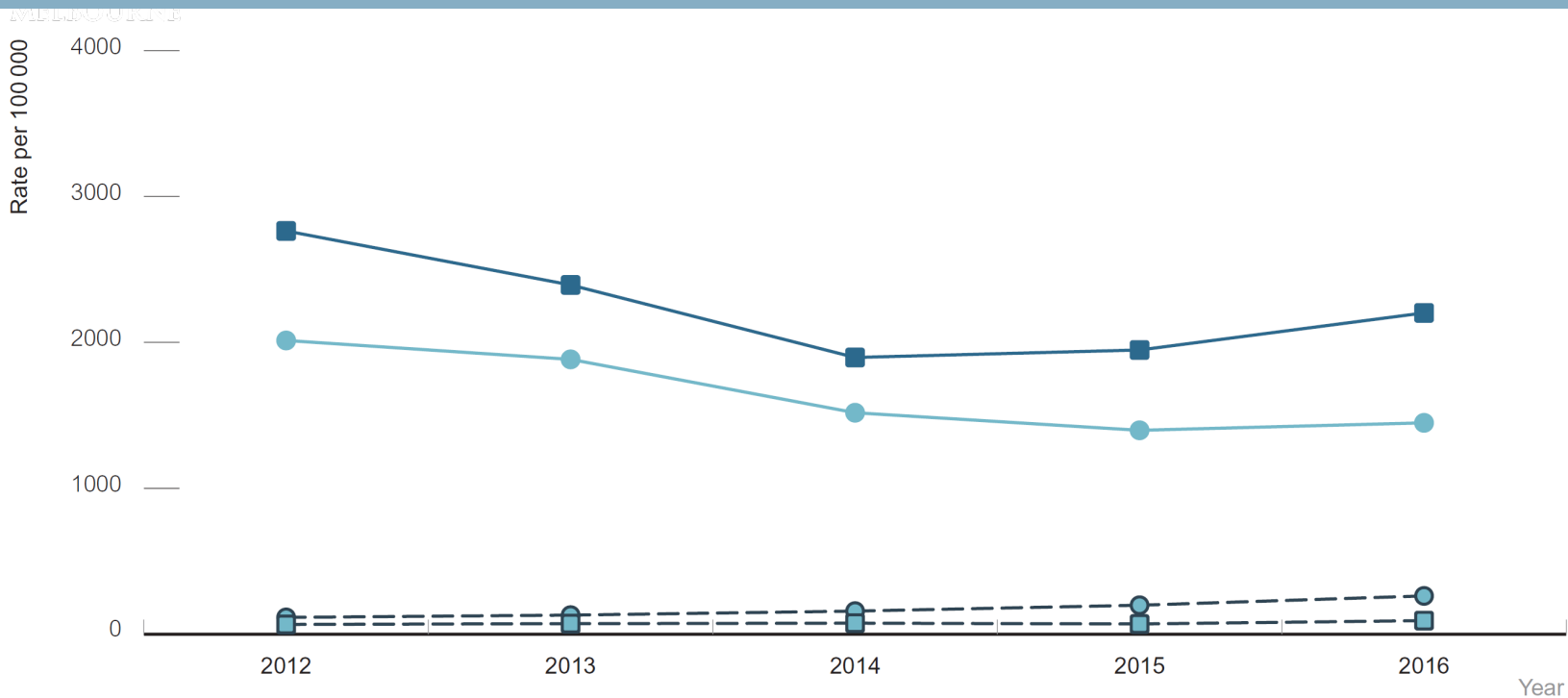
Gonorrhoea in Indigenous young people

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Secular trends in gonorrhoea rates by Indigenous status



■ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15–19

2763.8 2393.7 1896.6 1948.0 2202.0

● Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 20–29

2013.2 1883.6 1517.9 1397.4 1448.6

■ Non-Indigenous people aged 15–19

66.9 72.2 75.5 70.1 93.0

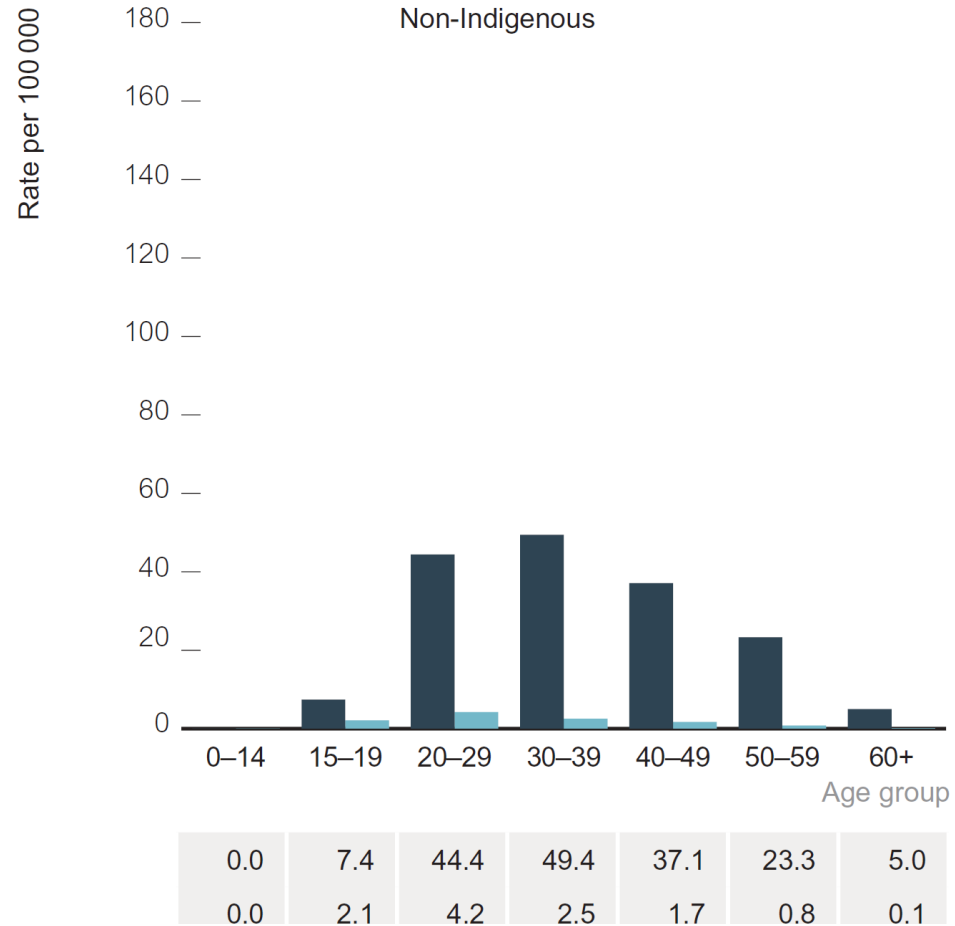
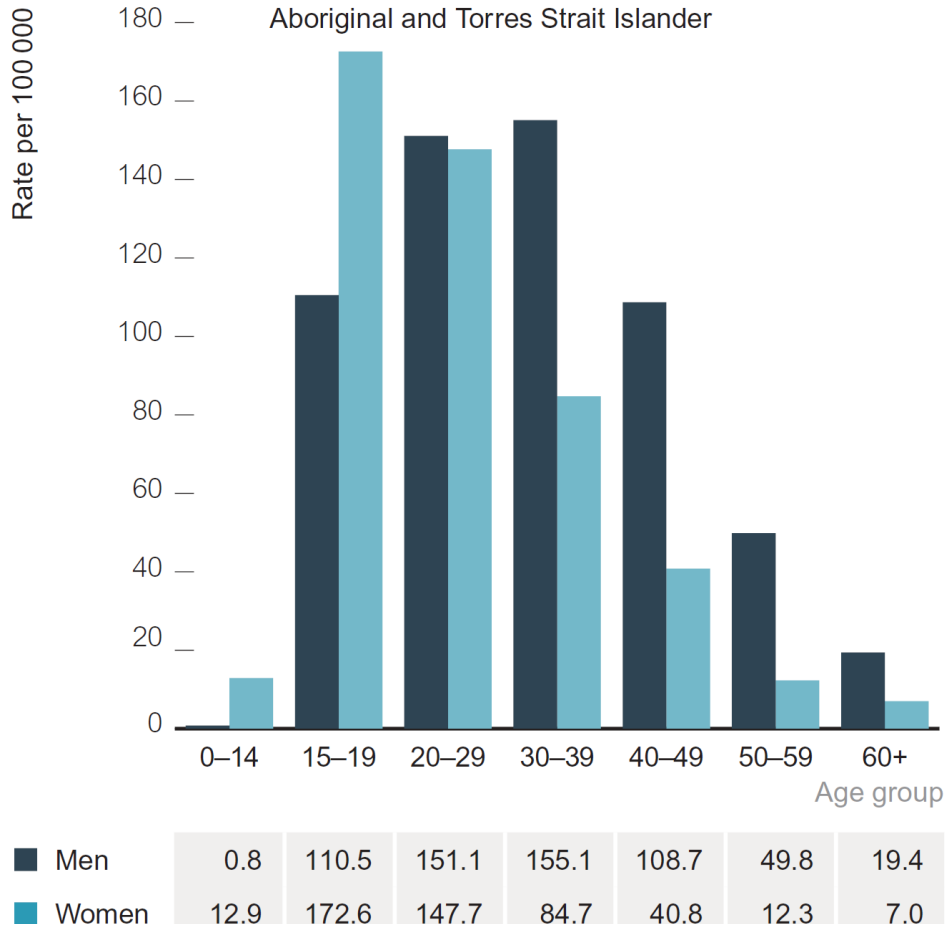
● Non-Indigenous people aged 20–29

115.2 130.8 158.3 198.5 262.4



Syphilis in Indigenous young people

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



- Most studies focus on a single domain of risky behaviour BUT
- Most adolescents are not so fussed
- Risky behaviours cluster across domains
- We need to take a more holistic approach to studying risky behaviour



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- Good news
 - Age at FSI stable at 17
 - Condom use looks promising
 - Pregnancy decreasing
- BUT
 - Room for improvement in risk behaviours
 - STIs are a problem
 - Vulnerable populations remain



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