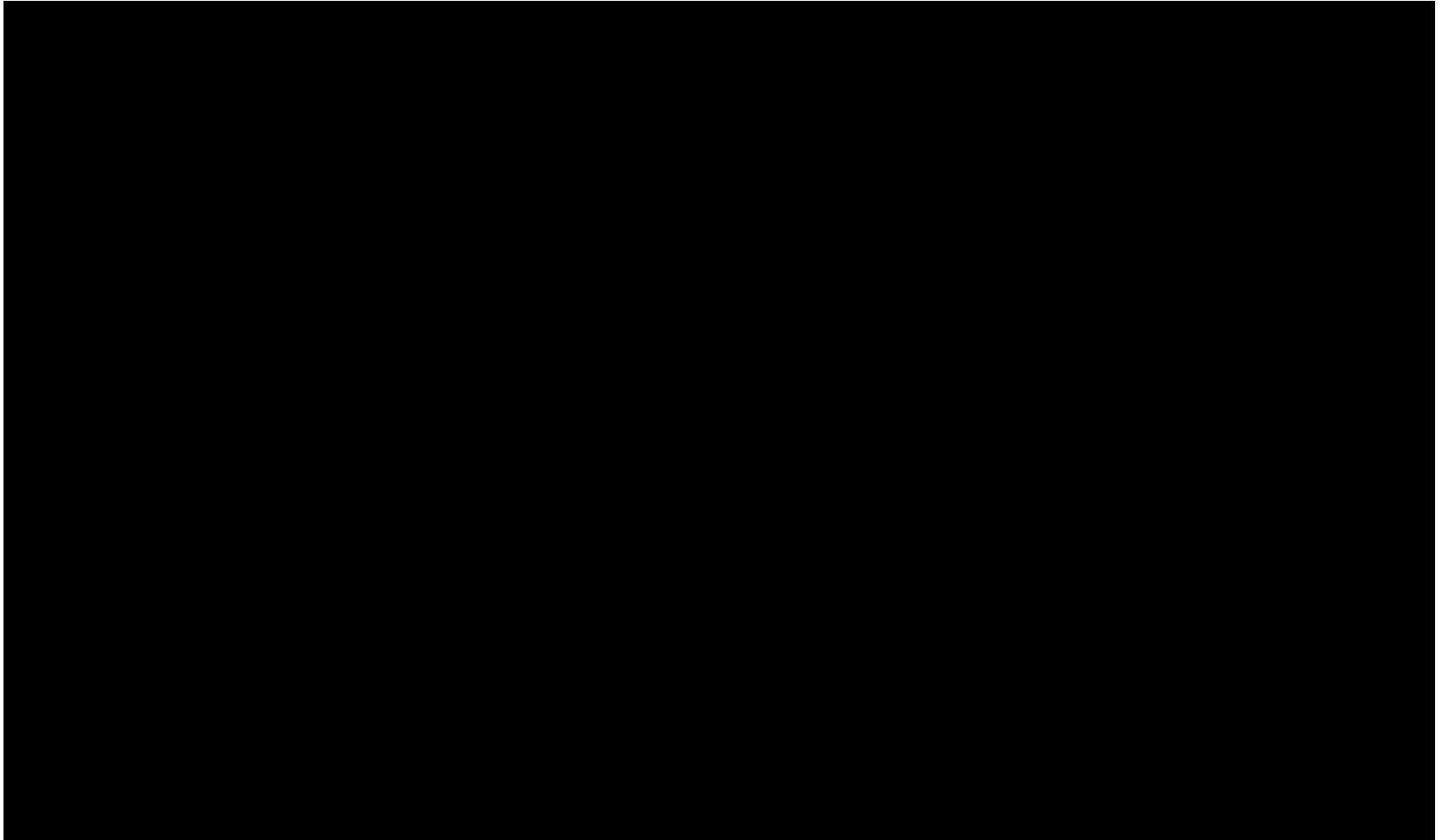


Attitudes and beliefs regarding teenage sexual behaviour



The third UK National Survey of sexual attitudes and Lifestyles (Natsal 3, **2013**)



Key messages and recommendations: 2015 data



Public Health
England

- Prevention should focus on groups at highest risk, including young adults, MSM and black ethnic minorities
- Consistent and correct use of condoms can significantly reduce risk of infection
- Rapid access to treatment and partner notification can reduce infection spread
- Regular testing for HIV and STIs is essential for good sexual health:
- Anyone under 25 who is sexually active should be screened for chlamydia annually, and on change of sexual partner
- MSM should test annually for HIV and STIs and every 3 months if having condomless sex with new or casual partners

'Protect against STIs' campaign

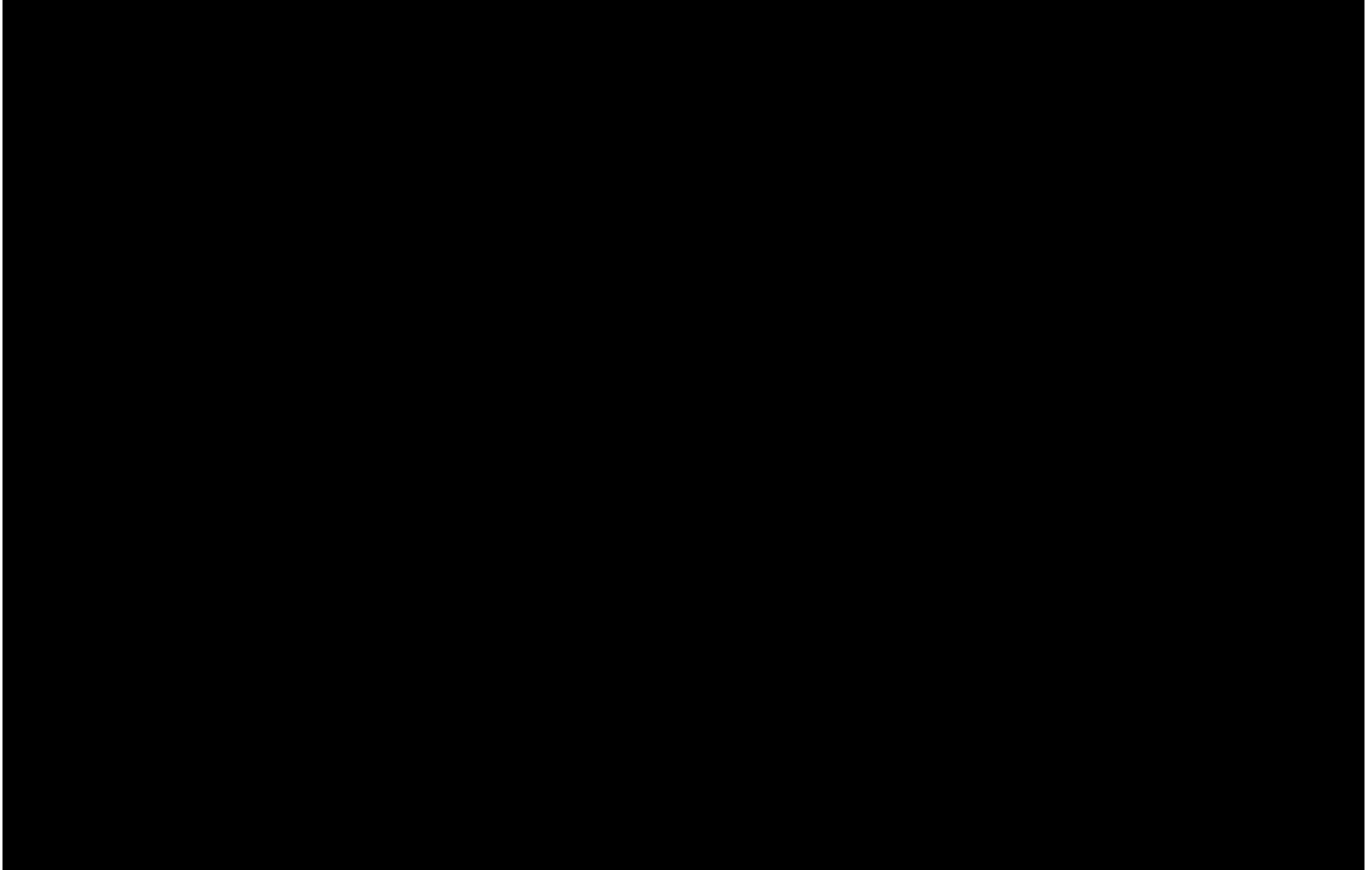
Key messages and **2018** data



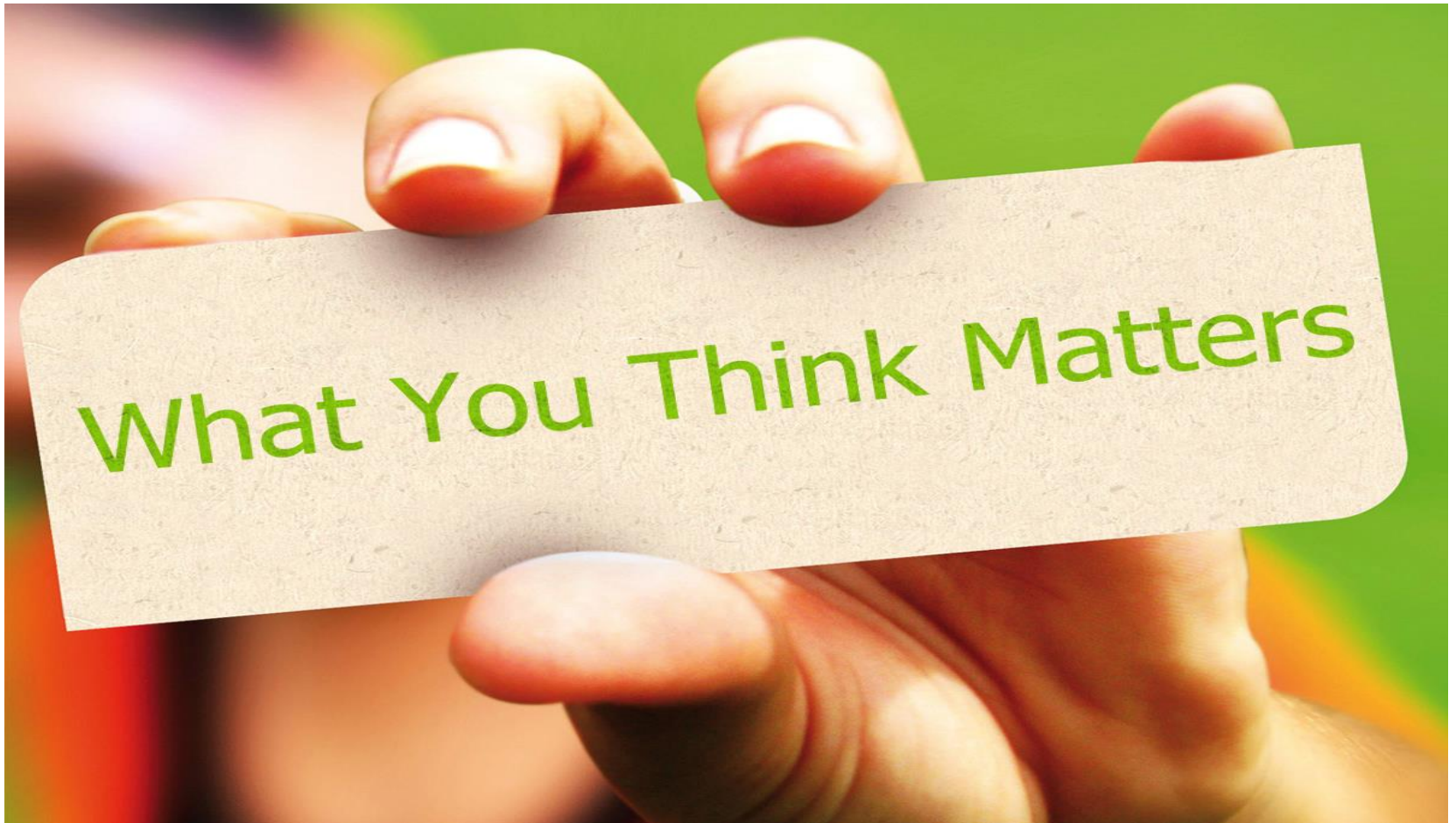
Public Health
England

- A case of chlamydia or gonorrhoea is diagnosed in a young person every 4 minutes in England (144,000 diagnoses in people aged 15 to 24 in 2017).
- Rates of STIs in England remain high across England, and there has been a significant year-on-year increase in certain cases like gonorrhoea (22% increase from 2016 to 2017).
- A large proportion of these STI diagnoses are amongst young people aged 15 to 24, who account for 63% of chlamydia diagnoses and 37% of gonorrhoea diagnoses.
- The majority of STIs are symptomless, and gonorrhoea is becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics and at risk of becoming untreatable in the future.
- PHE's campaign, therefore, encourages condom use, as prevention is better than cure.

'Protect against STIs' video



Attitudes and beliefs – IOW



Combined findings

Combined as adults and CYP predominantly found to give similar answers or be in agreement in their responses

Legal definition of a child – what should it be?



- 76.41% believe we have it right at U18
- 12.31% thought it should be U16
- 0% thought it should be U13

- 21 was the most popular alternate age suggested, increasing to 25 for those deemed “vulnerable”

Who do you mean when you say young people ?



- Everyone U25 33.3%
- Everyone U18 43.08%
- Age 16 – 18 9.23%
- U13 0%

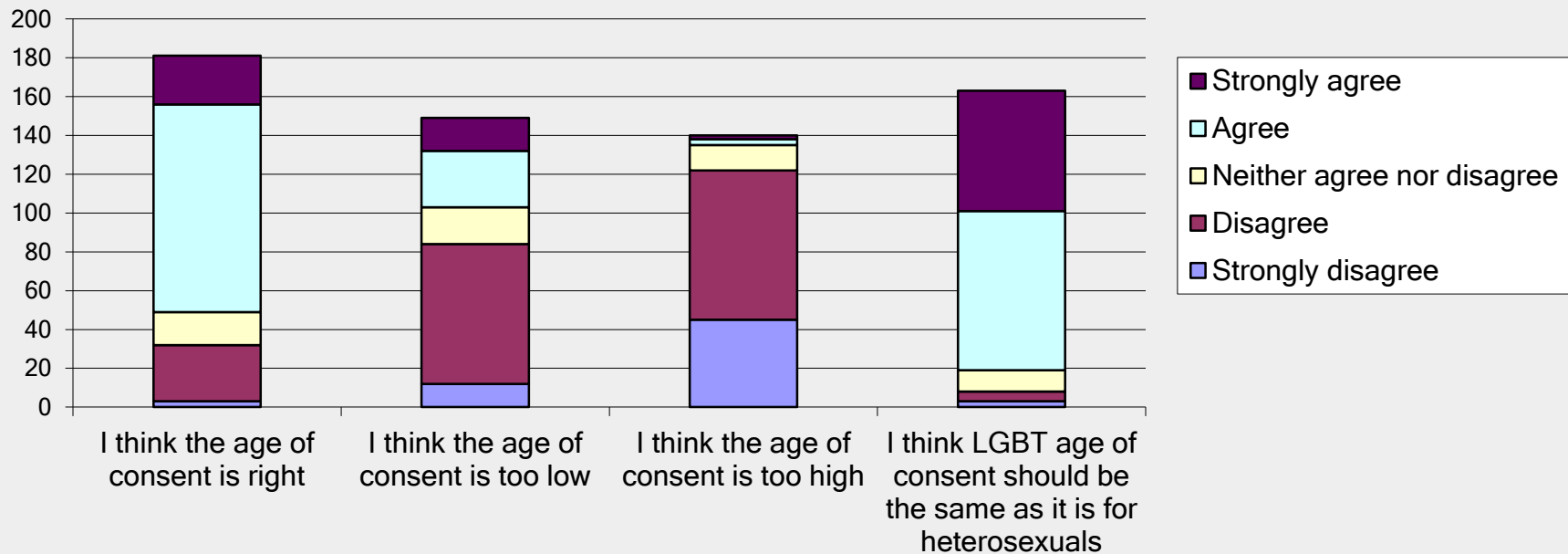
Free text

- Ages identified as a young person was 13/14, extending up to 18 – 25
- Some referred to 17/18 year olds as young adults

Age of consent for sex – do we have it right ?



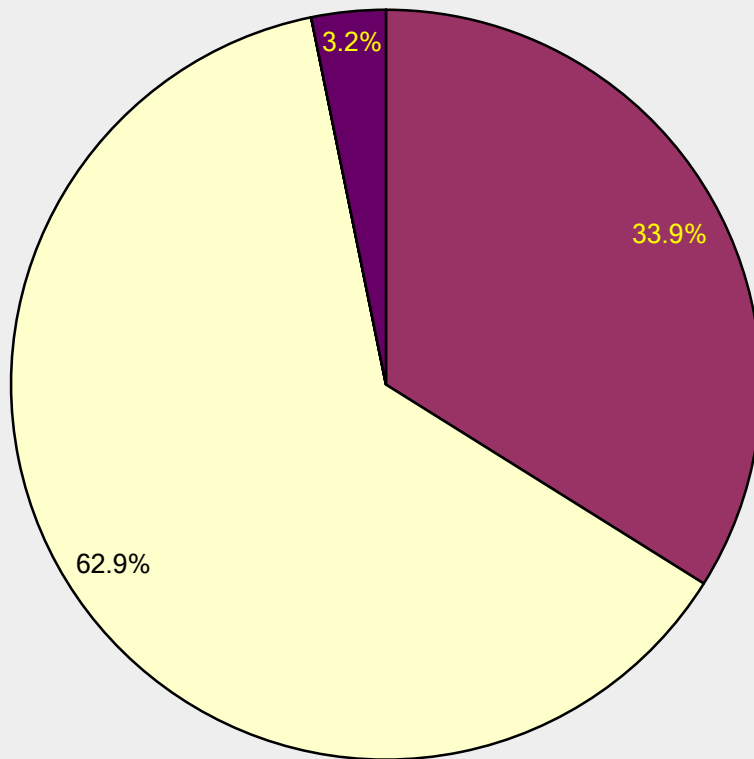
In the UK a person can legally consent to sex at the age of 16? The legal age of consent is the same for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals.



What would you make the age of consent ?



Based on your experience, if you could choose, what do you think that the age of consent in should be in the UK?



■ 25

■ 18

■ 16

■ 13

■ Other (please specify)

Why did you choose that age ?

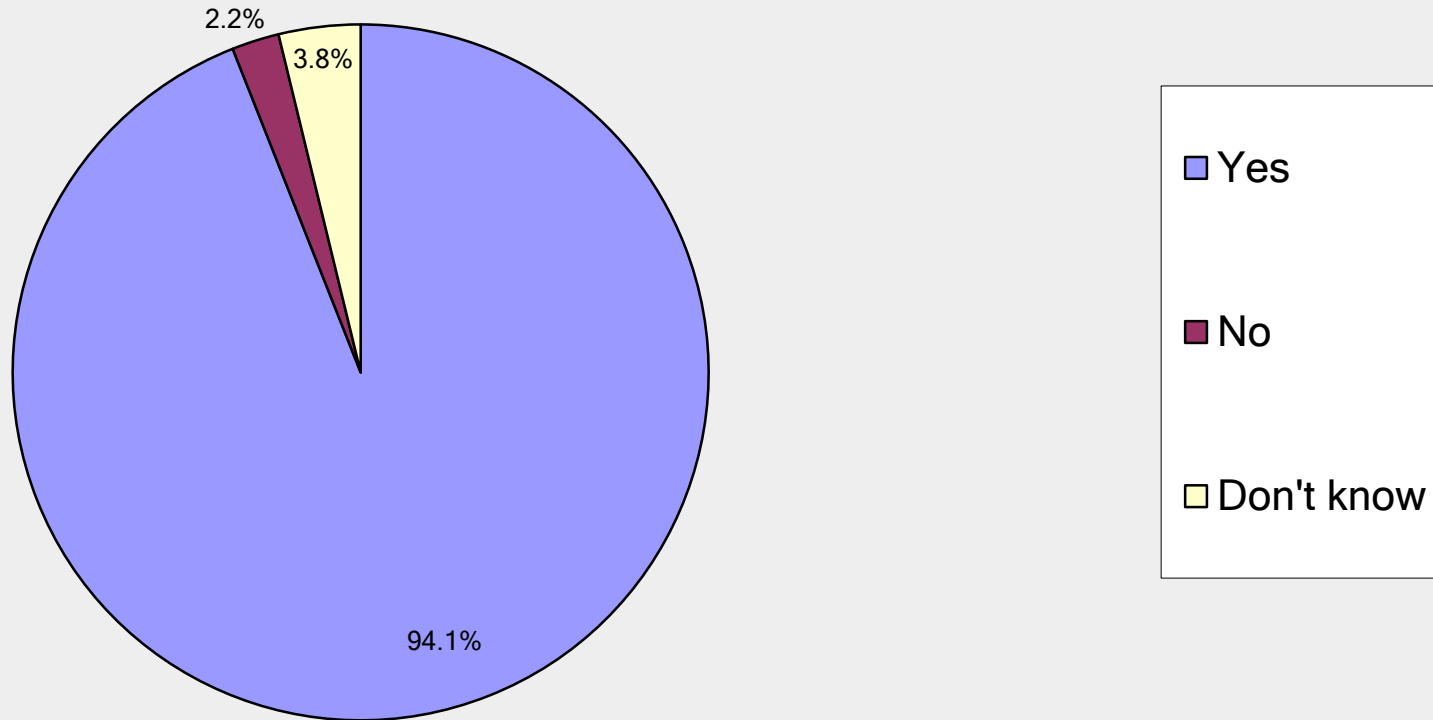


- At 16 you can leave school, drive, get married, and be a parent **BUT** you cannot drink or vote !!!
- Should be a maximum age for partner – exploitation
- Influence of personal experience or that of own children and their friends
- Need to be able to deal with the consequence
- Age can be a pressure in itself – just get it done
- Being 18 is perceived of as significantly more mature
- Risk of criminalisation if rises – enforcement
- Need to be more sex positive
- Need for SRE and PHSE
- Maturity and capacity recognised as a major consideration
- Generally very balanced and 16 – 18
- BUT – lack of confidence in emotional maturity 16 or under

Should there be LGBT equity ?



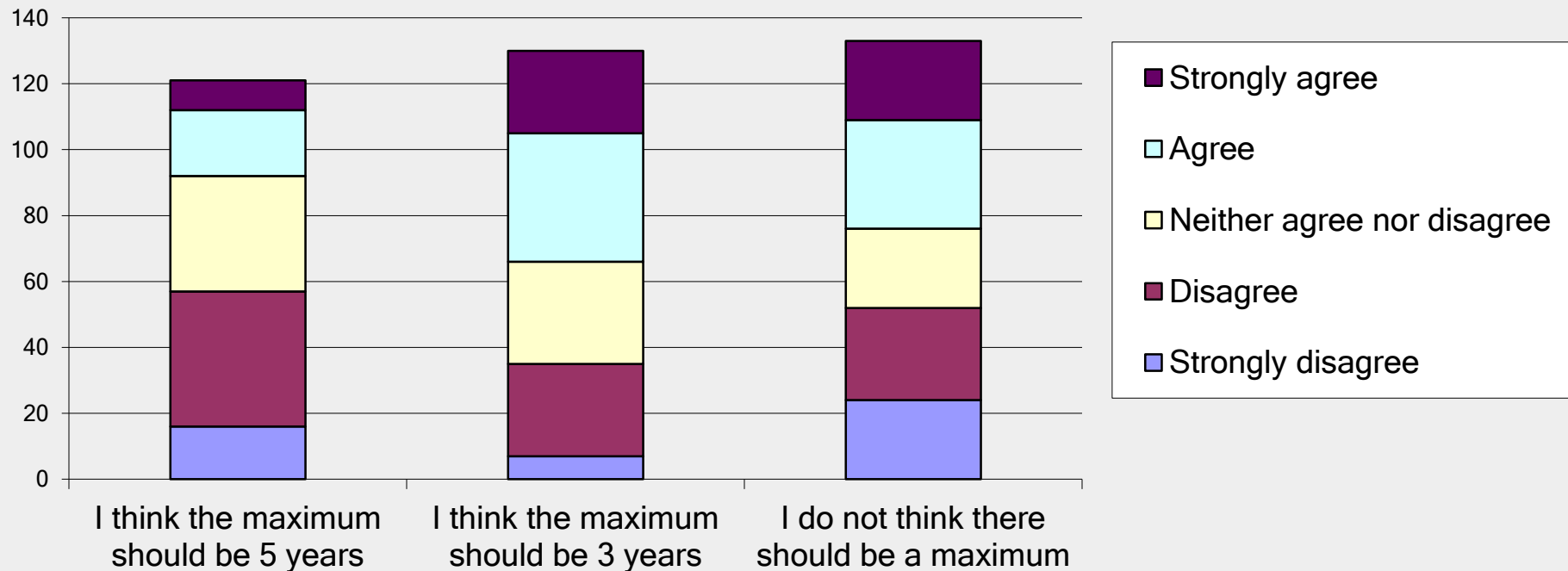
Do you believe that the age you suggested should be the same for everyone: heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender?



Should partners have a max age difference ?



When a person is in a relationship with somebody younger than 18, there is no law which states the maximum number of years older they can be, in comparison to their partner?



What age difference should it be ?



- Overwhelmingly 2 to 3 years is the preferred age difference and less commonly up to 5
- Some suggested more, but 11% felt it could be in excess of 5 years, often qualified by maturity and check on nature of relationship
- Some also commented on this as being almost a crude question and stated that it should be more dependent upon the individual young person and the nature of the relationship

Why suggest this age difference ?

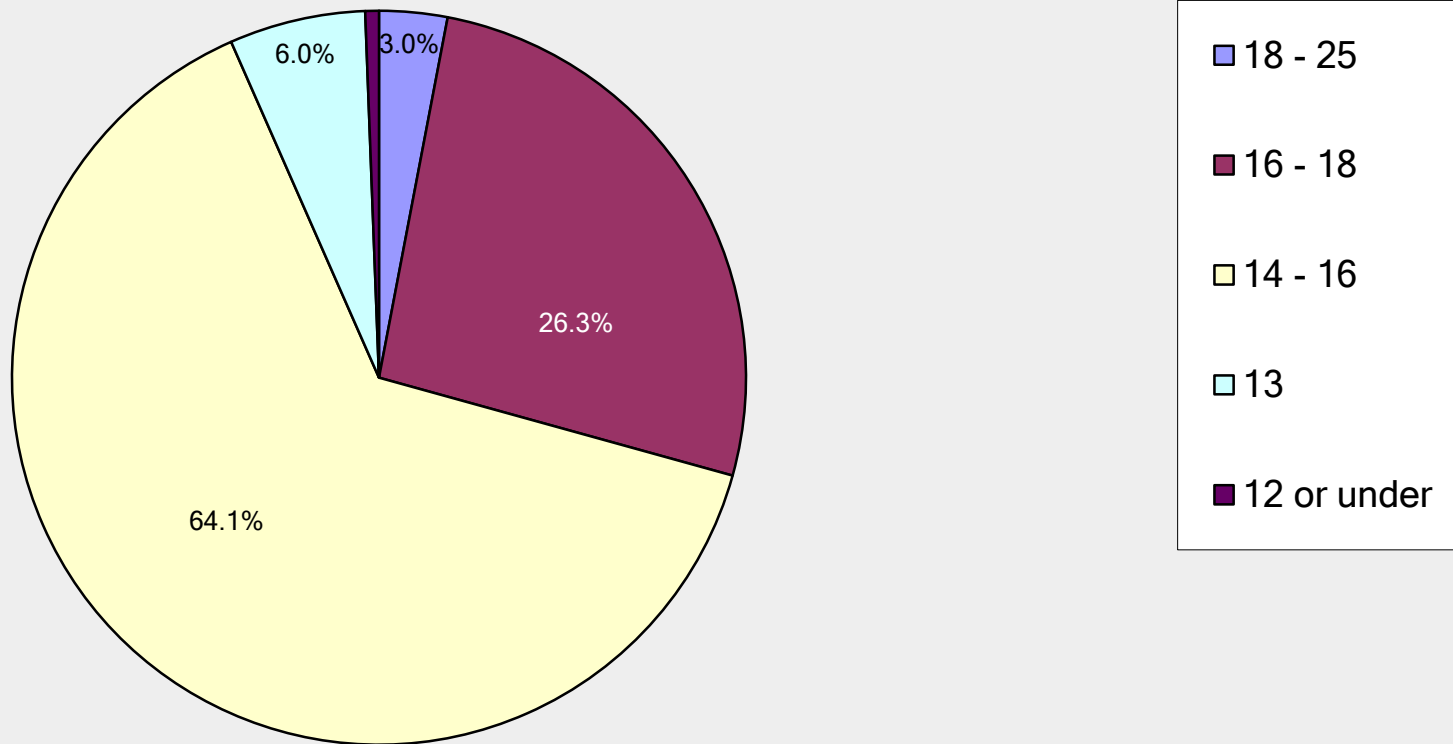


- Risk of exploitation – perceived of as a higher risk for LGBT, so age difference is protective
- Still strong feeling that needs to be an individual decision based on maturity and nature of relationship
- Gender difference strongly perceived in relation to maturity
- Too many boundaries could drive young people to lie and hide behaviour
- Enforcement issue and criminalisation risk
- This question led to a number of personal disclosures and evoked some cross responses

What age do you think people start having sex on IOW ?



What is the average age you believe young people on the Isle of Wight start to have sex?



Why do you think its that age ?



- Own personal experience and listening to own children, their friends, social media
- Social media as a medium of pressure and misrepresentation as well as a support to say no
- Teenage pregnancy rate and impression it gives
- Nothing else to do on IOW !
- No evidence to say YP having sex younger than average and no evidence in school survey
- Need data for those with a disability
- Too much focus on bad news stories – not all YP having sex
- Validity and truth of some claims to be sexually active

YP : accessing services



- They don't know where they are
- They don't know where to access them
- Well established services are now gone –
Connexions
- Lack of schools based provision
- Embarrassment factor
- Services need a sex positive approach

What services are needed to keep YP safe ?



- Drop-in, drop-in, drop-in
- School based services – starting in primary school
- Outreach teams
- LGBT provision
- Disability focus
- counselling and CAMHS access
- GP and Practice Nurses linked to schools
- Parental support is strongly recommended
- One to one support – continuity for the vulnerable
- Use of technology to support, eg SKYPE, apps
- Safe Housing
- PHSE and SRE
- NOT Newport centric

Understanding Consent



Both parties

Agreement

Understanding

Capacity

Can withdraw

Permission

Social v legal

Checking out

Shared responsibility

May have conditions

No power imbalance

No means no

Awareness of consequence

Lack of substance use

Lack of coercion

Age issue

Empowerment

Lack of exploitation

Includes touching

Lack or repercussion

Confidence to say no

U13 not possible

Home Office Guidance

Wanting and choosing

Without risk of harm – physical or emotional

Understanding consent - adults



- Generally confident
- Many perceived grey areas
- Training needed and updates
- Special needs considerations
- Cup of tea video
- Variable perception of own skill base – “ I am not an expert”

Why do you feel there is a lack of understanding re: consent ?



- Perceived lack of knowledge and so understanding
- Perceived lack of consideration of consequence by YP
- More education required
- Lack of understanding of long term implications of no consent
- Lack of honest education
- Need for empowerment work
- Peer pressure impact
- Lack of both school and parental addressing of the issues related to consent
- Need to recognise variability of understanding in YP

When is the right age to explore this information with children/YP



- Primary school but not sex focused at this point in time – focus on healthy relationships and right to say no to something you don't want to do
- On starting high school
- Issue of faith schools and resistant parents
- Needs to be reinforced annually
- Single session is inadequate
- Lack of consistency across schools
- General lack of knowledge about when YP gain access to such information
- Overall – don't get it early enough

What specific training do you feel that you need as adults?



- Legal focus training is by far the greatest perceived need – applied to practice and using examples
- More updates and training at Level 3
- LGBT focused training
- Training regarding sex and people with a learning disability or difficulty
- CAMHS training in emotional wellbeing
- CSE and the law

Summary



- Range of attitudes and beliefs, but generally positive and supportive of attitudes and beliefs of both children and CYP.
- Significant lack of confidence in the maturity of young people by some
- Lack of confidence in self and validity of existing knowledge as parent/carer/professional/CYP
- Age 18 and entry into adulthood is somehow an answer to everything!
- Lack of confidence in knowledge of law

wish list



Common wish list



- Schools based services
- Drop-in, drop-in, drop-in services
- Parental support
- Greater visibility of school nurse
- More training and updates – particularly L3 and focusing on the law
- Need for access to emotional and psychological wellbeing – CAMHS/counselling
- More targeted training, eg LGBT, LD, disability etc.