

Secondary school students, sex and relationships education

The Australian National Survey of Secondary Students and Sexual Health explores young people's experiences of sex, relationships, sexual health and school-based Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE). The insights have been used to inform development of classroom resources. There have been 7 iterations of the survey since 1992. Data from 2021 have just been released – here are some of the findings.

Overview

6,841
surveyed

14-18
age
range

69.1%

had been in a romantic or sexual relationship

56.9%

currently in a relationship

60.6%

had had sexual experience or were currently active

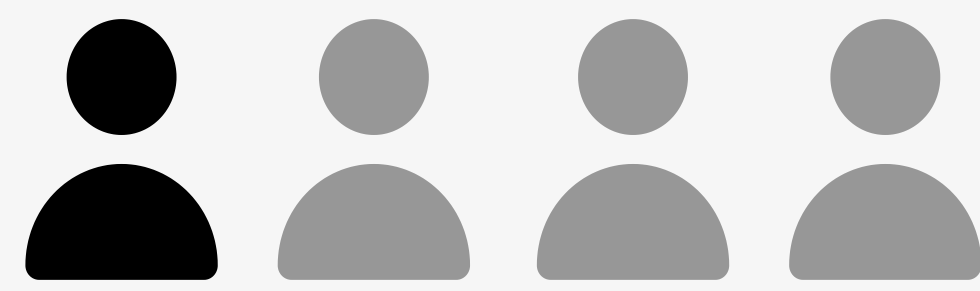
Value and relevance of RSE

95%

said RSE is an important part of the curriculum

93%

reported having received RSE (most commonly in Year 8 and 9)



24.8%

only one-quarter said the most recent RSE class was 'very' or 'extremely' relevant to them

How would you describe the best teachers for RSE?

91.5%

approachable and respectful

89.9%

knowledgeable

86.3%

having a sense of humour

82.6%

calm and unflappable

81.1%

willing to ask students what they want to learn

81.1%

relating well to students

Source: Power, J., Kauer, S., Fisher, C., Chapman-Bellamy, R., & Bourne, A. (2022).

The 7th National Survey of Australian Secondary Students and Sexual Health 2021 (ARCSHS Monograph Series No. 133). The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.

Teacher