

EVALUATION OF A CO-DESIGNED SEXUAL HEALTH AND PORNOGRAPHY LITERACY RESOURCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Authors:

Raggatt M^{1,2}, Davis A^{1,2}, Wright C^{1,2,3,4}, Lim M^{1,2,5}

¹Burnet Institute, ²School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine, Monash University, ³Menzies School of Health Research, ⁴Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, La Trobe University, ⁵Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne

Background:

The overarching aim of this project was to co-design a digital resource to improve pornography literacy with young people who have limited access to relevant education and resources about sexual health and relationships. Co-designers were young people with backgrounds including being disengaged from mainstream education, culturally and linguistically diverse, LGBTQA+, and experiences of family conflict. A prototype web-based application was developed that provides information about sexual health and relationships with embedded pornography literacy messages. This study aimed to evaluate the prototype among marginalised young people.

Methods:

Young people were recruited through alternative-education providers in Melbourne. A total of 33 young people aged 15-24 years participated in activity-based evaluation workshops. Workshop activities explored participants' feedback about the resource's design, usability, content, and perceived influence on knowledge and confidence with safe and healthy sex, relationships and pornography literacy. Data collection involved researchers' observational notes, audio-recordings and physical materials created by participants.

Results:

Findings about how the resource met young people's needs and areas for improvement will be presented using the thematic framework: 1) usable and accessible, 2) desirable and relevant, 3) inclusive and safe, and 4) knowledge, attitudes and confidence. Overall, the resource was perceived as destigmatising of topics that were not normally spoken about, particularly pornography. Despite similarities in participants' global characteristics, there was wide variation in their previous experiences and knowledge, and reactions to the resource's design and content.

Conclusion:

This study provides evidence for a resource aimed at young people who have limited access to relevant existing sexual health and relationships education. We identified recommendations to ensure information and design caters to a wide range of experience and comfort levels. The methods used are relevant to educators, health professionals and researchers interested in using creative methods to engage young people in evaluation.

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