



To what extent are
young migrants' sexual
rights being fulfilled in
Sweden?

BACKGROUND OCH METHOD

Sexual rights are part of the human rights. The purpose of this study was to describe the extent to which sexual rights are fulfilled among young migrants in Sweden.

The study includes five domains of sexual rights

- 1) The right to have access to sexual and reproductive health care.
- 2) The right to have access to information and knowledge related to sexuality as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).
- 3) The right to body integrity free from coercion and violence.
- 4) The right to freely decide on one's sexuality and sexual relations.
- 5) The right to have a satisfying and safe sex life without stigma and discrimination.

These rights are essential for achieving the right to the best possible sexual health.

The results are based on 1739 answers from young migrants aged between 16 and 29 years. We collected the data under 2018 through sending mails to home, through social media and through visiting schools and other places. The young migrants are those who came to Sweden from outside the European Union, North America or Australia regardless of their length of stay and reasons for migration.

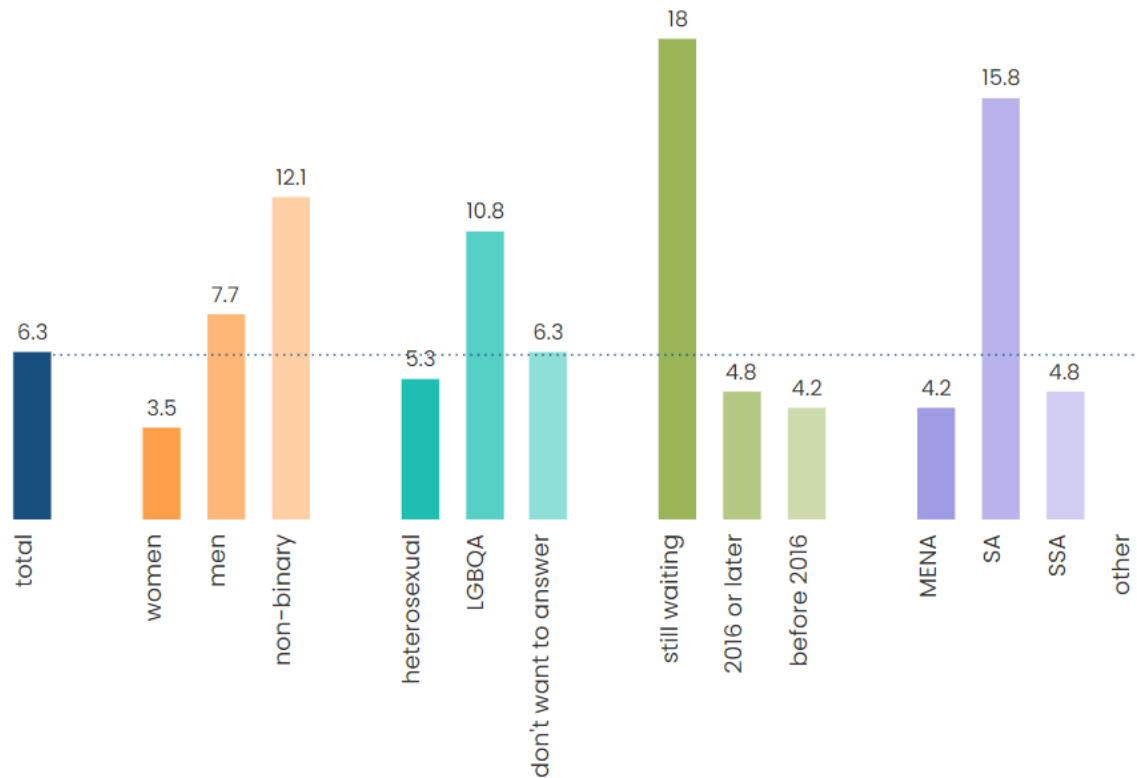
RESULTS

Sexual rights for non-binary, LGBTQ people, those waiting for residence permits in Sweden and those born in South Asia were fulfilled to a lesser extent compared to other groups. These groups reported good sexual health to a lesser degree and refrained from seeking care to a greater degree compared to the other groups.

Most participants rated their sexual health as good and were satisfied with their sex life. However, around 6% rated their sexual health as poor or very poor and 12% were not satisfied with their sexual life (Fig. 1).

The majority of those who sought sexual and reproductive health care were satisfied with the care they received. However, 17.4% of the participants stated that they refrained from seeking health care despite that they felt they need to seek health care.

Proportion of young immigrants with poor self-rated sexual health



About one third of the participants (38%) did not know where to get information about sexuality and SRHR. Another 21.4% did not know where to get contraception.

A quarter of the participants (25%) had been subjected to sexual violence, men to a greater extent (26%) than women (21%). However, the majority of the victims refrained from reporting it to the authorities or telling anyone.

Some of the participants (13%) felt limited by family members or countrymen when it came to who they could have an intimate relationship with.

CONCLUSION

The majority of participants reported good sexual health, but there are groups that are more vulnerable. Current information on sexual rights, gender equality, laws that protect sexual rights and available services in Sweden should be provided in collaboration with migrant associations and schools. Vulnerable groups should be given attention and their needs taken into account when designing and implementing initiatives.

*This facts sheet is based on the following article: "To what extent are young migrants' sexual rights being fulfilled in Sweden? A cross sectional study" by Baroudi, M. Hurtig, A-K. Goicolea, I. San Sebastian, M. Jonzon, R. Nkulu-Kalengayi, F.