

# PREDICTORS OF SEXUALLY TRANSMISSIBLE INFECTIONS

There is limited information available on sexually transmissible infections (STIs) in Australia, but a recent study has examined the characteristics of women diagnosed with STIs to increase the understanding of sexual health as women reach their 30s. The study focused on three groups of women from the 1973-78 cohort of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health:

- those diagnosed with their first STI in their early 20s
- those diagnosed with their first STI in their late 20s and early 30s
- those never diagnosed with a STI.

**17%**  
of women born  
1973-78

had been diagnosed with a sexually transmissible infection at least once

Most common STI reported was  
**Genital warts**  
(HPV)

**48%**

■ of women diagnosed with their first STI in their early 20s reported having genital warts

**28%**

■ of women diagnosed with their first STI in their late 20s and early 30s reported having genital warts

*NOTE: The introduction of the HPV vaccine in 2007 has significantly reduced diagnoses of genital warts in young women*

## Trends in women who reported their first STI in their late 20s or early 30s

- had more sexual partners
- had never been pregnant
- were recently divorced or unpartnered
- had poorer access to Women's Health or Family Planning Clinics

*(when compared to those never diagnosed with a STI)*

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