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Foreword by Bibi Lynch

Lovehoney are the Sexual Happiness People. So it makes every kind of sense for them to want to know more about our sexual happiness: what makes our sex lives joyful and, indeed, how joyful our sex lives can make us.

To that end, they undertook quite the challenge - to find out what sexual happiness in 2019 looks like.

By conducting an international survey - we're talking 3,000 people across Lovehoney's biggest markets, America, Australia and the UK, aged 18 to 65+ - they probed our sex psyches to ascertain exactly what role sex plays in our happiness (physically and emotionally) and how that function changes throughout our lives.

What a task. But what a brilliant idea. Because the findings give an eye-opening insight into sexual happiness in 2019: what it is, why it is and, by extension, how we can learn to make everyone sexier and happier and happier and sexier in this year and beyond.

From 'Where have you had sex?' (23% of us admit to having got our rocks off at work) and 'Who do you discuss your sex life with?' (2% spill the beans to retail assistants) to a quarter of those surveyed saying sex improves their mental health, this report ranges from fun to fascinating to really very important indeed.

Important for relationships (21% fantasise about their crush during sex, while 37% of 18-24 year olds are too tired to even have sex); important for education (the report found sexual satisfaction decreases with age, but the importance of intimacy and carefree sex



increases); and important to know when to knock (26% of people masturbate twice a week, and 5% several times a day).

Important not to dwell on the swell sex we're having right now, but to look forward, too: 34% of people want to spice up their sex lives by using toys, and technology is already creating quite the buzz (12% are enjoying sex toy apps, and virtually 5% are into VR).

There are big questions to be answered. Will partners soon be defunct? (25% are very satisfied with their sex toy orgasms and 21% orgasm with toys alone.) Must we always mind the sex gap? (Men focus on orgasms whilst women worry about feeling self-conscious. Is that why 91% of men orgasm every time they have sex compared to 71% of women?) And, perhaps the biggest question: if two-thirds of us believe sex plays an important role in our overall happiness, how can we convince the other third?

Lovehoney's report on Sexual Happiness in 2019 is as huge, intriguing and revealing as the subject itself. How satisfying.

Bibi Lynch is a journalist in many national and Stella, The Telegraph, Metro, Grazia, Red, Zealand Herald. She is a new contributor to Barry Nicholls' ABC radio on BBC Radio. She also hosts Metro's Good



A comment by Sammi Cole, Lovehoney

We built the Lovehoney brand on an ethos of delivering sexual happiness to all, but as time has progressed, so has what sexual happiness means across age, gender and location. This study was important to us to really get to know what our customers want in the bedroom and what's stopping them from having a truly fulfilling sex life in 2019.

This study shows how our sex lives evolve throughout our lives, how adventurous different nations are prepared to be and how sexually fulfilled we feel, both physically and emotionally. It will ultimately ensure we're able to continue fulfilling our brand promise to customers in the future.

Sammi Cole is Lovehoney's sex and relationships writer. She works on sex-positive content on Lovehoney's websites that span three continents, nine countries, and twenty time zones.



Study Methodology

- We surveyed 3,000 people online, across the US, UK and Australia
- Ages ranged from 18 to 65+
- We chose a representative panel across gender, ethnicity, relationship status and sexual orientation, living in small towns, big cities and rural areas
- The research was independently conducted by Savanta

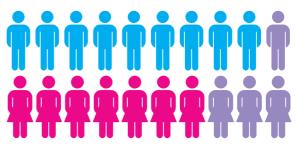


What Sexual Happiness looks like in 2019

The Lovehoney Sexual Happiness report delves deep into the relationship between sex and happiness throughout our lives and asks the big questions about the impact that sex has on our overall health, happiness and mental wellbeing. But are we getting enough? What's distracting us from having more sex? And what are we fantasising about? Here are some of the key findings...



of us know that having sex improves our mental health



Nine out of ten men, but only seven in ten women, orgasm during sex

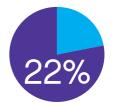
two-thirds

of us believe sex plays an important role in our overall happiness



of gay couples spice things up with massage oils or sexy props 8%

of women are turned on by the idea of sex with more than one person



of men fantasise about having sex with more than one person

32%

of 18-24s say they have never been sexually fulfilled OFSUS

95% of over 65s say they have!

of women enhance their pleasure levels with sex toys

1 in 10

fantasise about being with someone of a different gender to their usual preference



of men enhance their pleasure levels with sex toys

What Does Sexual Happiness Mean in 2019?

Half of those surveyed felt that the biggest benefit of sex was strengthening their relationship

This rose to a huge 65% amongst people engaged to be married.

The most popular benefits of sex



GENERATION SEX

The findings reveal a noticeable difference between age groups. Almost a quarter (23%) of over-65s reported not feeling physically satisfied versus almost three-quarters of 25-34 year olds claiming they do feel satisfied, both physically and emotionally.

LET'S GET IT ON

The 'average' amount of sex people are having turns out to be something of a movable feast. Only 8% of people are having sex every day, but 28% of us actually wish we were. However, it

seems that the optimum number of times to slip between the sheets is a couple of times a week, with 37% of respondents citing that as their ideal, and 26% stating that it was their reality. It also turns out there really is more to do in the city, too. Urban dwellers are at it more frequently, with around two-thirds (59%) of those who have sex every day living in bigger conurbations. Across the Atlantic, the US is having more sex than the UK and Australia, with one in five having sex once a day or more, versus only one in ten of those in the UK and Australia.

What's my age again?

restricted by age or our marital status either. Perhaps surprisingly 12% of over-65s would like to be having sex once a day or more, and an impressive 15% of people having sex once a day (or more) are single!

Three-quarters agreed that a healthy sex life can reduce stress



NOT TONIGHT BABY...

From the results of the study, it's clear that our other bed-based activities can affect our sexual happiness. Being too tired is the most common barrier to having more sex, with Brits reporting being more worn out than the rest of the world. Over a third (37%) of 18-24 year olds also give this as the main reason for a lack of sexytime, and unsurprisingly, having children in the house is a passion killer for people in their mid-20s to mid-40s. Other common reasons for not having sex include body confidence worries, work stress, or a lack of privacy, with a fifth saying it was because their partner sometimes just didn't want to fool around.

It's also time to turn off the TV and smartphones if you're looking for a boost in bedroom play. One in ten gay respondents blamed the TV for getting in the way of getting physical, while 4% of all respondents gave looking at social media as a reason for not getting hot and steamy.

BRITAIN AND SATISFACTION

When asked about their overall sexual happiness right now, two-thirds of respondents say they are currently sexually satisfied - a figure that's slightly higher for the UK (63%), followed by the US (60%), and then Australia (54%). On a sadder note, of those who aren't satisfied at present, a fifth say they have never been sexually satisfied at all.

Lovehoney then probed a little further to find out more about where that satisfaction came from. Was is emotional, or physical. or both? The results showed that Americans currently lead the way in physical satisfaction with an impressive seven out of ten claiming to be physically satisfied with their sex lives, but just under two-thirds of Aussies feel the same way. When it comes to emotional satisfaction, both Americans and the British come out on top at 65%, with Australians not coming in far behind at 59%.

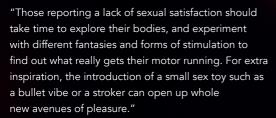
SEX AND WELLBEING

It was also widely recognised that sex plays an important role in overall wellbeing. Three-quarters of those surveyed agreed that a healthy sex life can help reduce stress levels: a crucial detail when two-thirds (61%) claim to be under significant stress every day. The findings also revealed 71% feel sex helps you feel better mentally, and two-thirds (66%) agreed sex plays an important role in overall happiness.

When asked what the best things are about having sex, feeling close to a partner narrowly pips the orgasm to the post. Two-thirds (62%) chose intimacy and connecting emotionally as the best thing about doing it. The orgasm is still important though, with around three-fifths selecting this as the most enjoyable part of pleasure. Interestingly, this rose to 65% for the over-65s.

On the other hand, when asked about the biggest sexual frustrations, it was the length that caused most tension: almost a third of us would prefer our sex sessions to last longer. Americans are the most frustrated about not reaching orgasm, with 28% stating this was one of the worst things about sex, whilst a similar number of Brits find body confidence to be their biggest concern.

"The key to sexual satisfaction is the ability to clearly communicate sexual needs and desires, but if people don't take the time to find out what those are, then how can they pass it on to their partners?"



- Sammi Cole, Lovehoney

Mind the Fulfilment Gap



Men and women have different experiences when it comes to sexual satisfaction

Men and women have quite different journeys when it comes to sexual satisfaction, with nearly two-thirds of all women (63%) using sex toys to spice up their sex lives (versus 54% of men). And when it comes to the main event, the orgasm gap is still alive and kicking, with only 71% of women enjoying regular orgasms during sex, compared to a whopping 91% of men. In fact, a fifth of all women have never felt sexually fulfilled, which contrasts starkly with the 58% of men saying they have.

When it comes to having an orgasm, the UK, US and Australia are on a par, with an average of 80% of all respondents regularly achieving orgasm during sex and only 5% in each country admitting they never had an orgasm.

When we chart our sexual journey into older age, time and experience give us the opportunity to have enjoyed greater satisfaction - 89% of the over-55s reported having been sexually fulfilled at some point in their lives. Comparatively, 32% of 18-24 year olds said they'd never been sexually fulfilled.

50+ fulfilment

The over-55s can teach Gen Z a thing or two about sexual fulfilment with only 5% claiming that they've never been sexually fulfilled, compared to 32% of 18-24s.



Sexual intimacy gets more important as we age

LET'S GET PHYSICAL (AND EMOTIONAL)

Physical satisfaction correlates directly with different relationship stages in our lives. Just over half of all single people suggest they're at the lower end of being physically satisfied, but everything changes when we are in relationships, when 82% say they are most sexually satisfied.

Similar life-stage patterns are repeated when it comes to emotional satisfaction, with only 50% of singletons saying they are satisfied with their emotional sex lives, jumping up to 77% when in a relationship, or even further when they become engaged (82%).

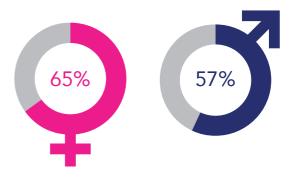
Overall, the sweet spot for the highest levels of physical satisfaction are the 82% who are in a relationship. Married or cohabiting couples are equally as physically satisfied as they are emotionally, with seven out of ten scoring highly for both.

GETTING INTIMATE

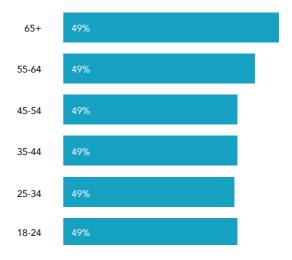
It seems that our sexual activity peaks in our 20s and 30s, then decreases with age, and by the time we reach 45, with families and careers taking a toll on our love lives, a third say that sex is less important than it was 10 years previously.

By contrast, as we age, intimacy in sex becomes more important than the heart-fluttering fun we seek in our teens and twenties. This is evidenced by respondents in their 60s, with three-quarters saying that intimacy and connecting emotionally are the best things about sex.

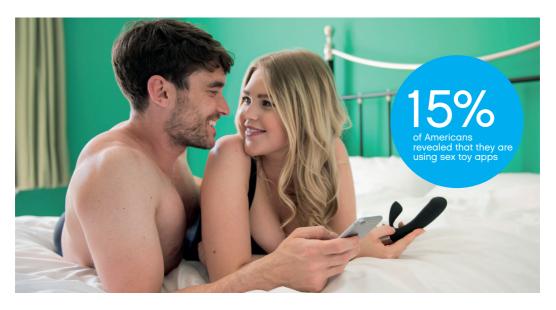
Intimacy varies depending on stage in life and gender



% saying that 'intimacy/connecting emotionally' is one of the best things about sex



Does Technology Make You Happier?



The great tech turn-on: half of us go hi-tech to improve sexual happiness

As technology becomes more prevalent in every aspect of our lives, it's no surprise that it's playing a role in our sexual happiness too. What may be more surprising is the role technology plays across the age groups, with 10% of over-55s using video sex as part of their sexual repertoire.

Americans are the most willing to let tech do the talking, with more of them embracing sexting, video sex and sending sexy images than the UK or Australia. 15% of Americans are using sex toy apps, such as app-controlled vibrators, compared to 12% of Brits and one in ten Australians.

PUT A RING(TONE) ON IT

Delving deeper into the use of sex toy apps, these are most popular amongst engaged couples. Couples are also leading the naturist charge, with over a third (36%) claiming to send nude images. Perhaps absence really can make the heart grow fonder – so long as you have your phone with you.

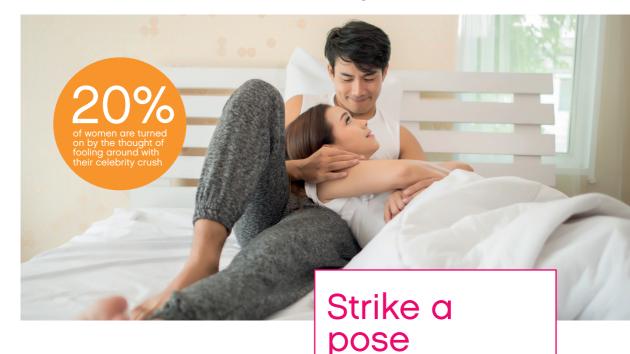
Toy tech

Sex toy tech has exploded in recent years, especially with the growth of "teledildonics" (the technology that allows users to control sex toy functions from practically anywhere on the globe). Now, with the advances made by companies like We-Vibe and Lovense, and Lovehoney's Desire collection, long-distance couples can enjoy intimacy from thousands of miles away with just the touch of a button.

Sammi Cole, Lovehoney

The Role of Fantasy In Having a Fulfilling Sex Life

Sex with an ex, or fooling around with a celebrity crush?



With so many people reporting high levels of stress and anxiety, it's no surprise that we spend so long creating elaborate escapism fantasies to keep us relaxed. But what is it that's keeping us (happily) up all night, and are there differences when it comes to what men and women daydream about?

The biggest turn-on for over half of us is the thought of trying a new sex position, followed by an erotic massage (38%), using a sex toy (34%) or changing the location of our lovemaking (34%).

Pillow talk, or sharing sexual fantasies, is still surprisingly popular with the over-65s, but is most favoured by the under-34s (who are also even more focused on achieving orgasm).

Switching up your usual sex positions is a simple (and free!) way to shake up a sexual routine. As alternative positions offer different stimulation and have lots of different benefits, getting creative with the shapes

your bodies make can help you to discover new kinds of arousal (and ways to climax).



1 in 4 men fantasise about having sex with an ex

MEN ARE FROM MARS

When it comes to the differences between male and female fantasies, the Lovehoney team were keen to know more. One of the most revealing statistics uncovers that whilst 56% of men are fantasising about having sex with a work colleague or friend, less than a quarter (24%) of women are dreaming of the same thing. 22% of men are also dreaming about having sex with more than one person, while only 8% of women are turned on by a three-(or more-) some.

However, there are some fantasies that both men and women agree on, with one in every ten men and women fantasising about being with someone of a different gender to their usual sexual preference. 20% of men and women also say role play or being watched while getting down and dirty tick their fantasy box.

For those who don't wish to identify as straight, gay or bisexual, sex in a public place tops the fantasy charts, with 50% selecting this as their top fantasy.

Other turn-ons include half of 18-24 year olds wanting to give their sex lives a boost with some sexy lingerie or blindfolds, while 64% of gay lovers are most likely to spice things up with massage oils or sexy props.

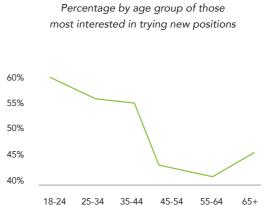
Fantasy is a popular way to liven things up, but it doesn't stop the day-to-day creeping into the bedroom. The research delved into the mundane things people think about whilst having sex, finding that just under a fifth of us are actually thinking about something as dull as paying a bill, family responsibilities or even our work to-do list. It's not just our sexual appetites being satisfied when we're in the moment, either - one in ten respondents have even found themselves planning their next meal!



Men and women are open to experimentation in sex

% selecting each way of adding more variety to their sex life





SURPRISING CELEBRITY CRUSHES

A surprisingly familiar face can sometimes pop into our thoughts at a possibly inappropriate time, but who would have thought that Whoopi Goldberg would be amongst them? Asking respondents to name their crushes resulted in a wide and varied list, with Chris Hemsworth, Adam Lambert, Tom Hardy, Keanu Reeves, Channing Tatum, Idris Elba, Ryan Gosling, Will Smith and Rupert Grint amongst the men and Mila Kunis, Demi Lovato, Tina Turner, Ellen Page, Beyoncé, and Jennifer Lawrence featuring amongst the women.

LOVE IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

While most reserve the bedroom for nights of passion, our study reveals that many people also enjoy more adventurous haunts, such as the 44% who have either had sex at a family event or would consider it. Topping the sex-in-a-car statistic is the US, with 76% saying they have already tried it. And whilst we like to think The Mile High Club is still going strong, only 6% have ever been daring enough to have a sexual encounter in an aeroplane, although a significant 43% would like to. Half of us admit to having enjoyed the freedom that sex in a field can give, and astonishingly, two-thirds of 55-64 year olds have already taken their sex al fresco (that's double the amount of 18-24 year olds).



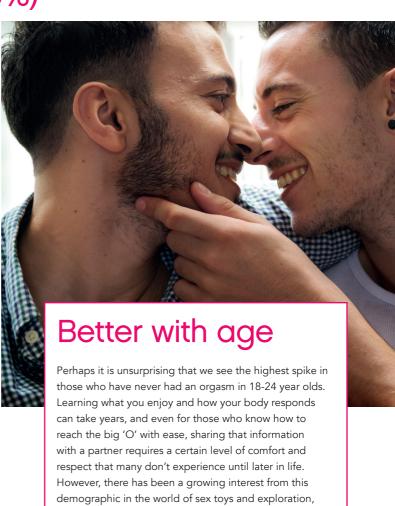
Is It All About the Big Finish?

Over half of men (56%) orgasm every time they have sex, compared to just a quarter of women (26%)

A huge 88% of us feel that having an orgasm during sex is important, but despite this, many of us are going without, with a fifth of women admitting they have rarely orgasmed during sex and 5% revealing they never have.

Same sex respondents are more likely to orgasm every time they have sex and, if they haven't achieved orgasm, are the most likely to continue afterwards to achieve an orgasm, with 30% of all respondents saying they use their hand or 24% climaxing with a sex toy. One in five of us continue on to orgasm after sex if it hasn't already been achieved, with half of these choosing to use a sex toy and half preferring manual stimulation. As we get older, we're less inclined to bother though, reinforcing the fact that the intimacy of sex is more important with age than the physical release it brings.

The findings do suggest there is no substitute for experience however, as orgasming during sex every time increases with age, with just under half of over 65s getting their rocks off every time they have sex.



which could help to support sexual discovery and lay the foundations for a more sexually happy generation.

- Sammi Cole, Lovehoney

Top 5 worst things about sex by gender





Men focus on orgasms whilst women don't like feeling self-conscious

Feeling self-conscious (30%)

Over too guickly (34%

Over too quickly (29%)

Not getting your partner to orgasm (30%)

Not having an orgasm (28%)

Interruptions (28%)

Interruptions (27%)

Not having an orgasm (21%)

Not enough foreplay (24%)

Catching an STI (17%)

DREAMING OF MORE?

It's well documented that the millennial generation are turning away from the sexually charged lives of older generations, to enjoy a less frequent, but more fulfilling love life, but we wanted to explore whether there really is a wider trend towards having less, but better sex.

Backing up recent opinion is the 25-34 year old group, who seem very happy with the amount they're having sex. When asked, the 25% who have sex once a day, the 37% who couple up twice a week and the 13% who enjoy sex once a week have no desire to change the frequency.

In stark contrast, more than one in ten 45-54 year olds, many of whom are sandwiched between caring for their children and older parents are only currently having sex once a week, with just under half dreaming of making whoopee twice a week.

HAPPY SEX

HAPPY MENTAL HEALTH?

When it comes to the benefits of sex, a quarter of us believe that having sex improves our mental health, with half believing that regular sex can strengthen the relationship with our partners, half acknowledging that

sex puts us in a better mood and a significant four in ten revealing that stress relief is the biggest benefit of a healthy sex life.

It's well known that sex helps you sleep, and more sleep often leads to better sex, so it's not surprising that a third of men say that sex helps them have better quality of sleep. A quarter of women believe that sex can help boost their confidence, with one in 10 saying that having regular sex stops them from feeling unhappy.

What's that, Mum?

Having a bit of fun along the way, Lovehoney couldn't resist asking about some of the strangest or most ingenious places people have hidden their sex toys. This question prompted some interesting responses!









First aid box

Under the bed

Car glove box

In the fridge

...and in a box of chocolates and even the dishwasher!

Masturbation and Wellbeing: the Truth About Going It Alone

Masturbation goes mainstream: 90% of us are doing it and more than half (53%) at least once a week



Men are masturbating more than women, with two-thirds claiming to do it at least once a week. Women are quite a way behind at 44%. Despite slightly higher numbers for younger age groups, the variance between different ages and sexual orientations is negligible. Sex toys are being embraced all over the world too, with half of respondents using them as part of their masturbation repertoire.

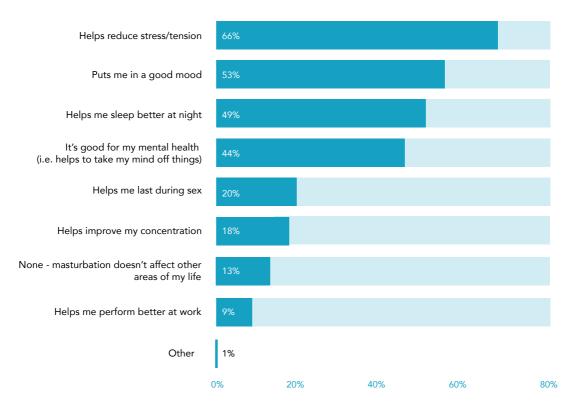
FEMALES FLYING SOLO

The findings are more surprising when looking at physical satisfaction from masturbation. Here we see women leading the charge, with more than eight in ten saying it leaves them physically satisfied, compared to

three-quarters of men. This theme continues when we study emotional satisfaction from masturbation too, with more women than men achieving emotional satisfaction, and those who use toys saying they are more likely to achieve satisfaction (64%) than those who don't (48%).

When it comes to overall sexual satisfaction, more women are taking control of their sex lives to enhance their pleasure levels. Four in ten say they sometimes use sex toys for added sexual satisfaction, compared to a third of men. Bisexuals are the most frequent sex toy users though, with 31% stating that they use them often.

The most popular benefits of masturbation



SEX IN THE CITY

Interestingly, when looking at emotional satisfaction through masturbation, there is a difference between those living in a big city and those living in a large town, with six in ten big city dwellers achieving emotional satisfaction by themselves, compared to half of all townies.

STRESS-FREE AND SMILING

Overall, our results show that masturbation is clearly linked to happiness and wellbeing. Almost 90% of those who masturbate believe it has a positive impact on other areas of their lives, from reducing stress levels, to putting people in good moods, or helping to sleep better at night. With nearly two-thirds of us feeling significant levels of stress on a daily basis, this is no bad thing.

Self-pleasure is no longer something secretive and hidden: in 2019, we are embracing our own pleasure. Half of us say that masturbating helps us sleep better at night and the findings show it is clearly recognised as an important part of sex and sexual happiness for many of us across the world.

Self love

With four in ten of us feeling under constant pressure to be perfect and a third caring a lot about what people think of them, masturbation is a great way to build confidence in yourself. Getting to know your own body and relieving some stress can be really beneficial to your mental health.

- Sammi Cole, Lovehoney

"It's a fact that most of our sexual education is based around sexual health, with little emphasis on pleasure or sex play for different sexualities. Lovehoney believes everyone should know how to enjoy their sex life."

"Which is why we offer endless expert advice on pleasure, including blogs, guides, the Lovehoney TV YouTube channel, the Sexual Happiness Podcast, and of course, our highly-trained 24-hour customer care team."

- Sammi Cole, Lovehoney

Toying with Sexual Pleasures

40% of 25-34 age group have the highest desire to shake

things up

VARIETY IS THE SPICE

When it came to asking if people want more variety in their sex lives, over a third said they would welcome new ideas, with 40% of the 25-34 age group having the highest desire to shake things up in the bedroom. Four in ten small-town dwellers are keen to spice things up, versus a third of those living in big cities.

Changing the setting for passion would spice things up for women, with a third dreaming of moving out of the bedroom and into a candlelit bath, whilst men appear happier with their current location. Only a sixth consider it important to change things up.

And while you might think that politics or world affairs could keep us up at night in the wrong way, a healthy 98% say their sex lives are completely unaffected by global political unrest.

A HELPING HAND

And finally, although over a third say they don't seek any advice about sex at all, the top source for those looking for help or inspiration is via online search (29%), with less than one in ten seeking help from health professionals. But when it comes to our most trusted sources, 31% still seek advice from our partners and 16% from best friends.



A final word from Sammi Cole

If this study into the true meaning of sexual happiness shows us anything, it's that there's no single way to live a sexually happy life.



We see that aging doesn't mean the death of our sexual desires, with the importance of intimacy and sexual fulfilment only increasing over time; sexual satisfaction peaks among those in relationships, but a spot of 'self-love' can still quench the thirst; and though the bedroom remains our favourite place to get down and dirty, switching up our sex spots is enormously popular.

Some of us are finding that technology is an inhibitor to releasing our inhibitions, particularly when it comes to social media; others are embracing the age of the smartphone as an extension of their sexual repertoire, and look set to continue to do so over the coming years. In fact, sex toys in general are becoming de rigueur, appearing in bedside tables of over half of those surveyed - and given the variety presented in affordable sex toy bundles like the Lovehoney Wild Weekend, it's not hard to see why.

Though orgasms are important, and many agree that sex more than once a week is the ideal, we know it's not the be-all and end-all. We're allowing ourselves increasing freedom to explore our sexualities and fantasies, from co-workers to Keanu Reeves, and we're raring to try new positions and erotic massage as well as vibes, blindfolds, and butt plugs.

Clearly, we have some way to go when it comes to building on our confidence levels in our bodies and in the bedroom, and that 'orgasm gap' between the sexes isn't going anywhere just yet. But we can conclude that the majority of respondents agree that a sexually happy life is instrumental in decreasing stress and anxiety; sex can help us to build emotional (and physical) intimacy; and, despite recent claims, sex is still alive and well across the globe, with the majority of respondents claiming that they're sexually satisfied right here, right now.

THE LOVEHONEY SEXUAL HAPPINESS STUDY 2019

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