

# ATTITUDES TOWARDS SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS IN SINGAPORE

**Press Release**

---

June 2022

GAME CHANGERS



# ABOUT THE STUDY

Between 25 May 2022 and 2 June 2022, Ipsos ran a nationally representative online survey of n=500 Singaporean Citizens and Permanent Residents aged 18 and above, in which respondents were asked about their attitudes towards Section 377A and other aspects of same sex-relationships.

## Why was this study performed?

The study comes five years after the first research was released by Ipsos in 2018 to mark the 10th year of Pink Dot SG, a not-for-profit movement organised to raise awareness of, and support for, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community in Singapore.

Ipsos is a world leader in understanding the perceptions of citizens, public service users and other stakeholders. In this capacity, Ipsos regularly performs self-funded research projects to better understand the social climate in countries across the globe.

## Client Commissioning the Research

This study did not have any external sponsors or partners. It was initiated and run by Ipsos, because we are curious about the world we live in and how citizens around the globe think and feel about their world.

## How do we ensure that the sample is representative?

Our sample of n=500 Citizens and Permanent Residents was representative of the Singapore population in terms of Age, Gender, and Ethnicity, based on the latest Department of Statistics population estimates.

## How accurate are the results?

At 95% confidence, a sample of n=500 has a maximum margin of error of  $\pm 5\%$  (based on a Bayesian Credible Interval). This means that, for example, if 50% of our sample indicated that they rode the MRT each week, we could be 95% sure that between 45% and 55% of the population do so. Credible intervals are wider among subsets of the population.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Tammy Ho

Associate Director, Marketing & Communications

Ipsos in Singapore

[tammy.ho@ipsos.com](mailto:tammy.ho@ipsos.com)

## Note To Readers

- Due to **rounding off**, some chart figures may not add up to 100%.
- For subgroup analysis with **sample size less than n=30**, result is indicative and should be read in caution.
- All significance testing was conducted at 95% confidence level.
- “**Total level**” represents the total sample base: n=500 (Total)
- “**T2B%**” denotes percentage of respondents answered top 2 boxes (e.g. “Strongly agree/ Agree”) of a 5-point scale.

# Research Design



## Methodology

Online survey  
Self-administered in English

Fieldwork period:  
25 May 2022 – 2 June 2022



## Sample

N=500 Singaporeans



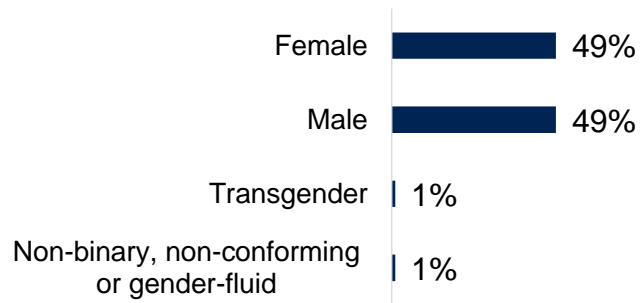
## Target audience

Singaporean Citizens and Permanent  
Residents aged 18 and above

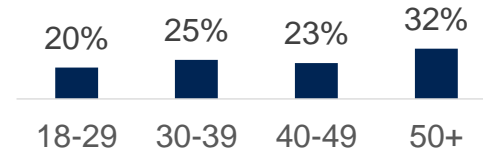
# Who we spoke to

## Profile of respondents

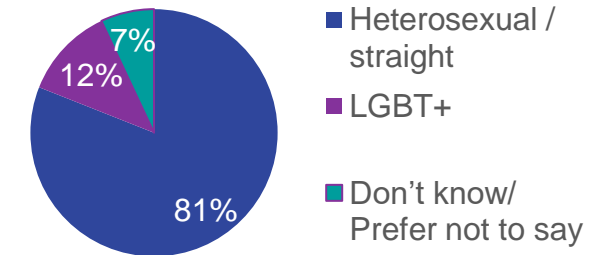
### Gender Identity



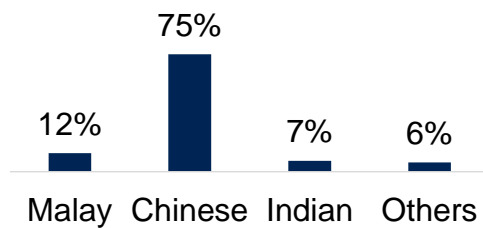
### Age



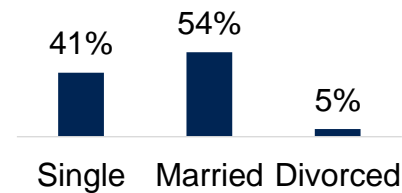
### Sexual Identity



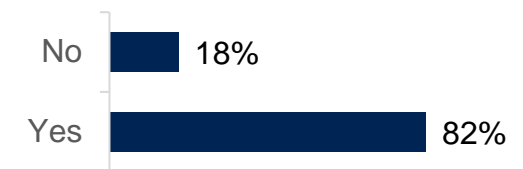
### Ethnicity



### Marital Status



### Parents among married respondents



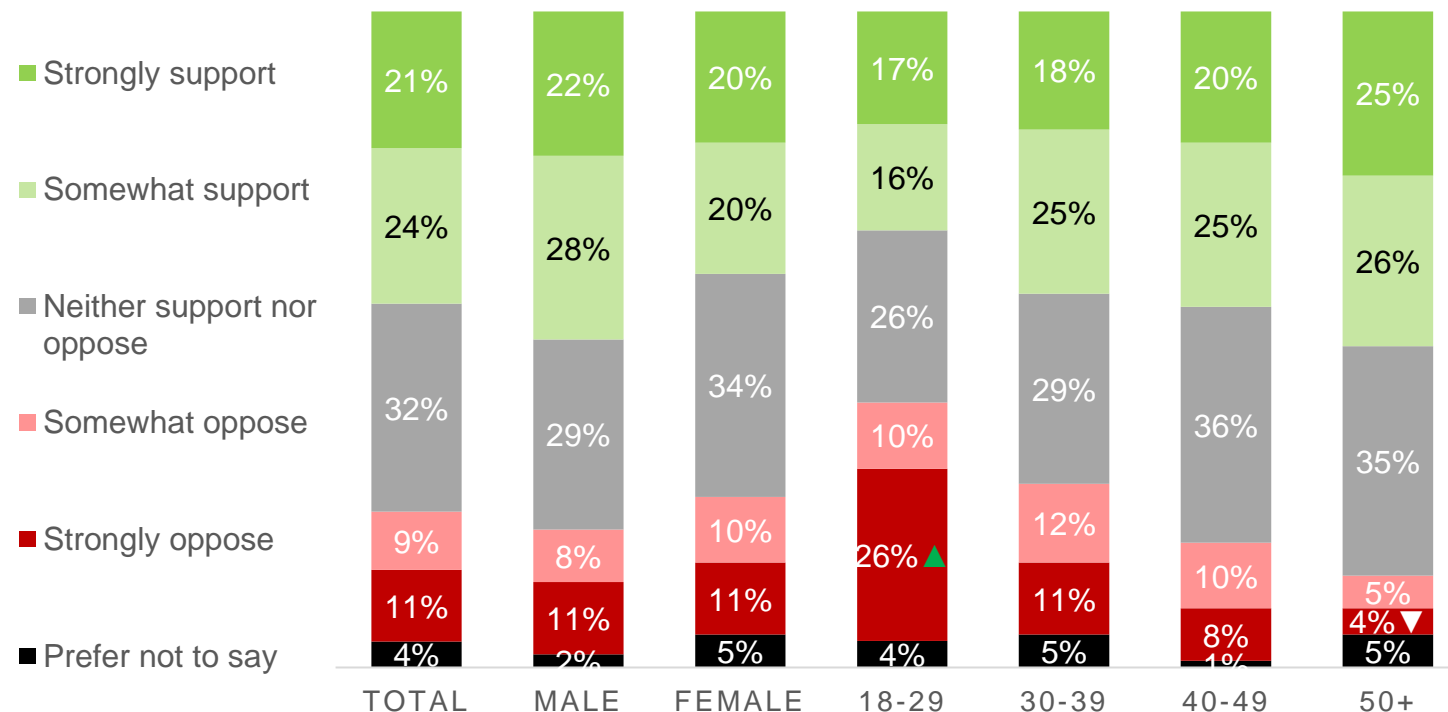
Overall, 1 in 5 oppose Section 377A.  
A sentiment more strongly felt by those aged 18-29 years.

Those aged 50 and above show significantly lower opposition compared to the total.

Question A5: Section 377A of the Singapore Penal Code states that:

*“Any male person who, in public or private, commits, or abets the commission of, or procures or attempts to procure the commission by any male person of, any act of gross indecency with another male person, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 2 years.”*

To what extent do you support or oppose this section?



▲ ▼ significantly higher/lower than Total at 95% CI

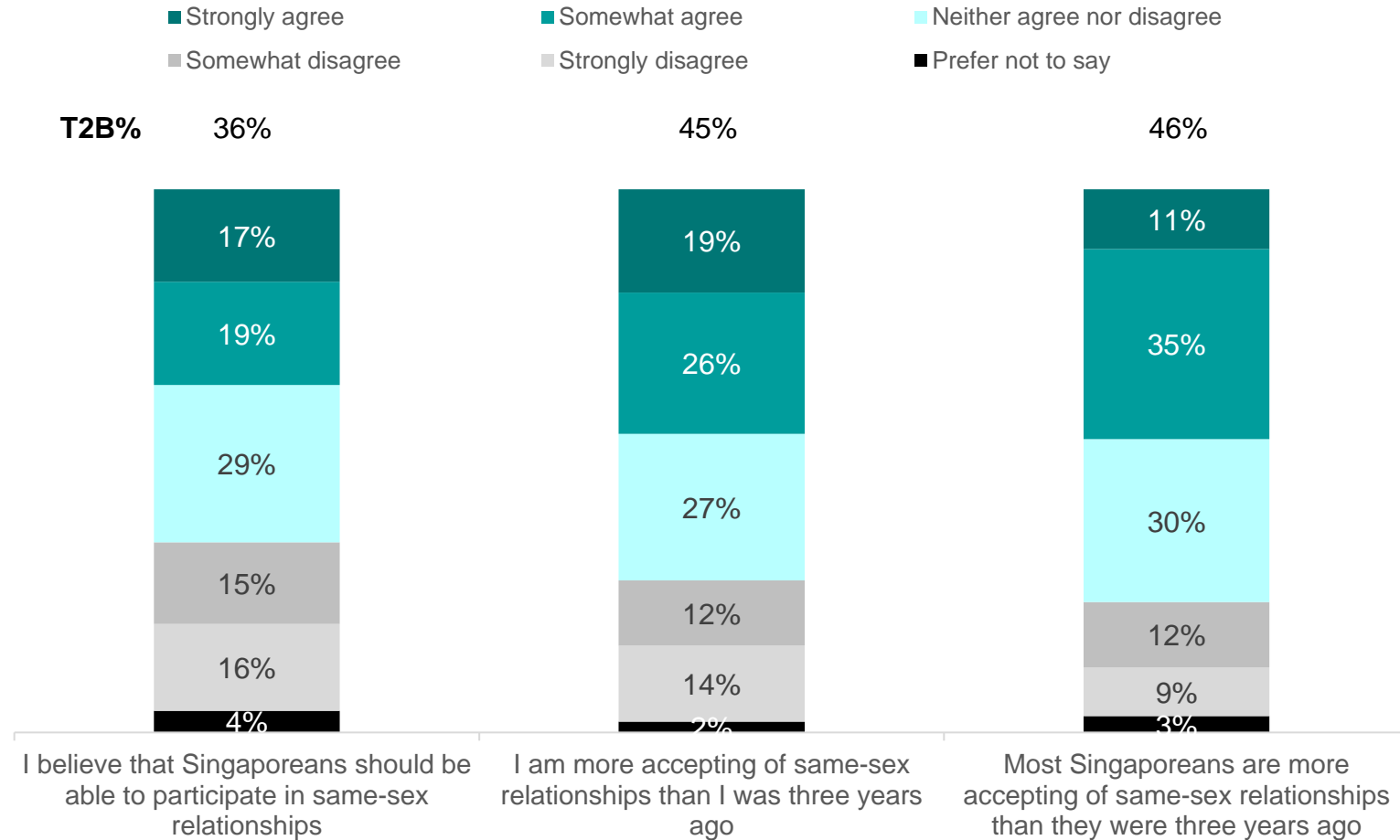
Base: Total (n=500); 18-29 (n=99), 30-39 (n=126), 40-49 (n=116), 50+ (n=159); Male (n=250), Female (n=250)

Over one-third of respondents believe that Singaporeans should be able to participate in same-sex relationships.

Nearly half indicated that they are currently more accepting of same-sex relationships than they were 3 years ago.

Question A5a: And to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

1. I believe that Singaporeans should be able to participate in same-sex relationships.
2. I am more accepting of same-sex relationships than I was three years ago.
3. Most Singaporeans are more accepting of same-sex relationships than they were three years ago.



Among those who do not support same-sex relationships, key reason revolved around the belief that it is unnatural, followed by the sentiment that it goes against Asian values.

Question A5b: You disagree to some extent that Singaporeans should be able to participate in same-sex relationships. Can you let us know why? You may select up to 3 or 4 options below that best describe your opinion.

Reasons for disagreement	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50+
I believe it is unnatural / goes against the laws of nature	57%	57%	57%	43%	48%	53%	67%
It is against our/Asian values	48%	55%	40%	22% ▼	30%	50%	63% ▲
I believe that it will upset our society and will cause social issues down the road	47%	46%	48%	57%	33%	39%	54%
It goes against my religion	42%	33%	52%	26%	41%	53%	43%
Singaporeans are not ready yet to accept same-sex relationships	38%	36%	40%	26%	37%	36%	43%
It goes against my goals or aspirations for my family	29%	29%	30%	35%	37%	36%	21%
The laws in Singapore around housing/education/ parental support currently do not favour LGBTQ relationships	26%	20%	32%	35%	22%	36%	19%
It goes against some religions	22%	22%	22%	13%	22%	19%	27%
I think it is a fad/trend	16%	18%	13%	26%	19%	19%	9%

▲ ▼ significantly higher/lower than Total at 95% CI

Base: Total (n=153); 18-29 (n=23\*), 30-39 (n=27\*), 40-49 (n=36), 50+ (n=67); Male (n=76), Female (n=77)



**Those who do support same-sex relationships are seeing a shift in societal norms. Their increased acceptance stem from a greater understanding through increased discussion, greater exposure to content through mass media and social channels, and having more direct exposure to same-sex relationships around them**

Question A5c: You agree to some extent that you are more accepting of same-sex relationships than you were in the past. In a few words, can you tell us why?

*There have been more positive portrayals of same-sex relationships especially in foreign media (movies, TV series) that go beyond past stereotypes. Even if one do not access to cable TV or do not go to cinemas, there are clips of such shows/movies available online. Local NGOs have also been working hard to raise awareness.*

*I did more research and became a bigger ally over recent years*

*There are more awareness create now as compared to before and also cultural shift means youngsters nowadays are more accepting including me*

*It is so because I see more Western countries openly accepting LGBTQ+ hence I have become more open minded and inclusive of differences.*

*more events are talking about it, and i feel that it is a person right to choose who they want to be, we as a society should not decide for them or even look down on them*

*As the world opens up, media is more representative of LGBTQ relationships, and it allows more people to understand that these relationships are as equally valid as hetero relationships.*

*Being more open minded nowadays. More accepting of the differences of others*

*Change in perspective and also having a friend in the community explain to me the importance of accepting*

*More and more experiences with it, on both a personal and societal level.*

*Each to their own. As long as it does no quantifiable harm to anyone outside the relationship then let people find love where they can.*

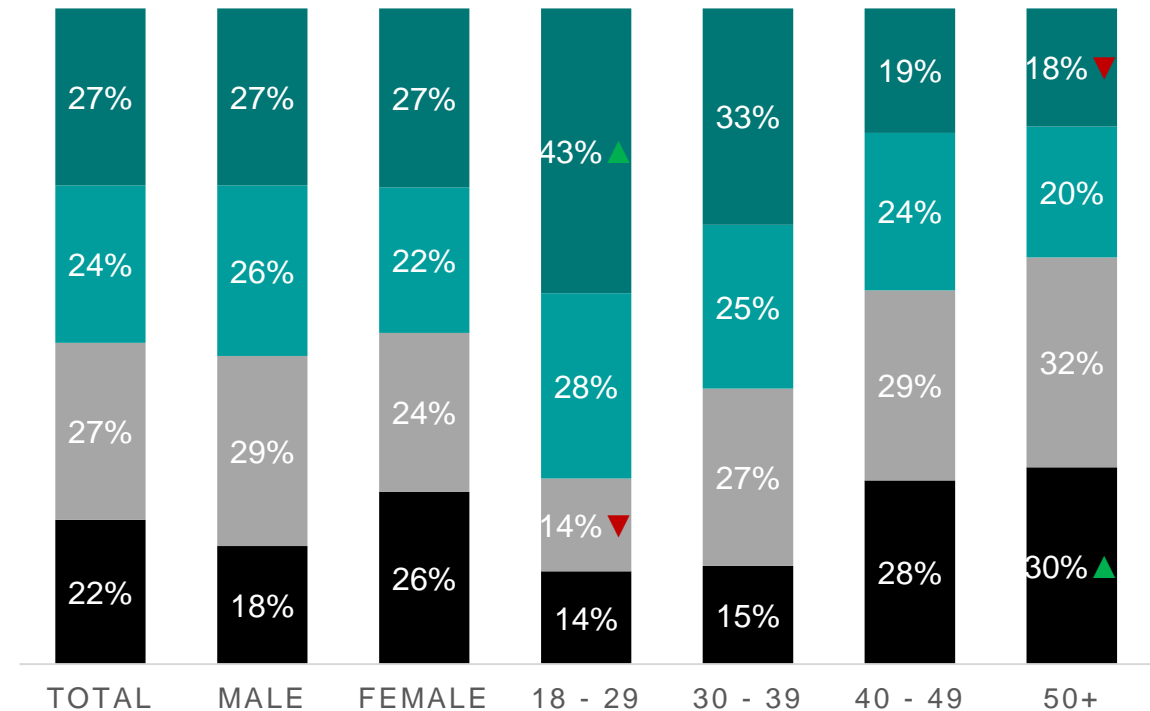
Verbatim responses. Base: Those who somewhat/strongly agree (n=180)

**1 in 4 (27%) believe same-sex couples should be allowed to legally marry in Singapore, an attitude especially felt among young people aged 18-29. This sentiment is significantly lower among those aged 50 and above.**

Question A6: When you think about the rights of same-sex couples in **Singapore**, which of the following comes closest to your personal opinion?

1. Same-sex couples should be allowed to marry legally in Singapore
2. Same-sex couples should be allowed to obtain some kind of legal recognition, but not to marry in Singapore
3. Same-sex couples should not be allowed to marry or obtain any kind of legal recognition in Singapore
4. Not sure

- Same-sex couples should be allowed to marry legally in Singapore
- Same-sex couples should be allowed to obtain some kind of legal recognition but not to marry in Singapore
- Same-sex couples should not be allowed to marry or obtain any kind of legal recognition in Singapore
- Not sure



▲ ▼ significantly higher/lower than Total at 95% CI

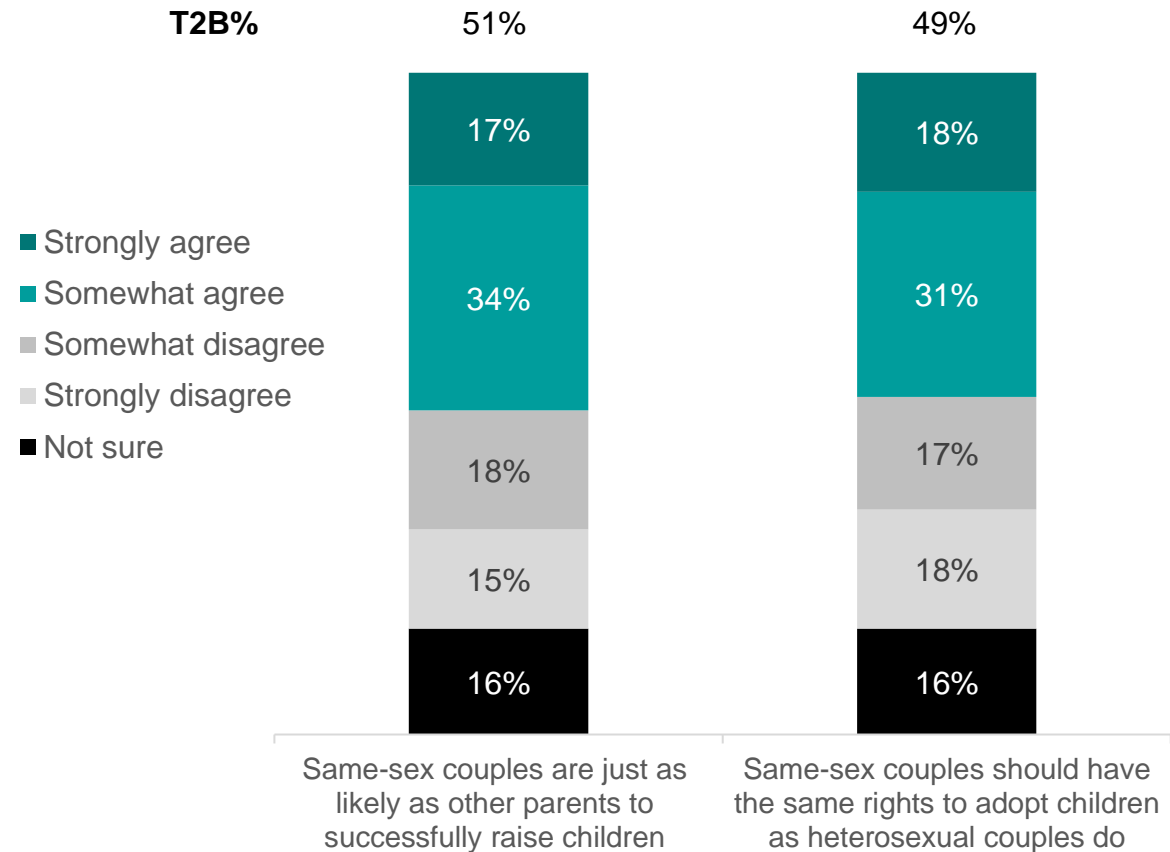
Base: Total (n=500); 18-29 (n=99), 30-39 (n=126), 40-49 (n=116), 50+ (n=159); Male (n=250), Female (n=250)

**1 in 2 believe that same-sex couples are just as likely as other parents to successfully raise children.**

**Similarly, 1 in 2 also believe that same-sex couples should have the same adoption rights as heterosexual couples.**

Question A7: Still thinking about same-sex marriage, to what extent do you agree or disagree that:

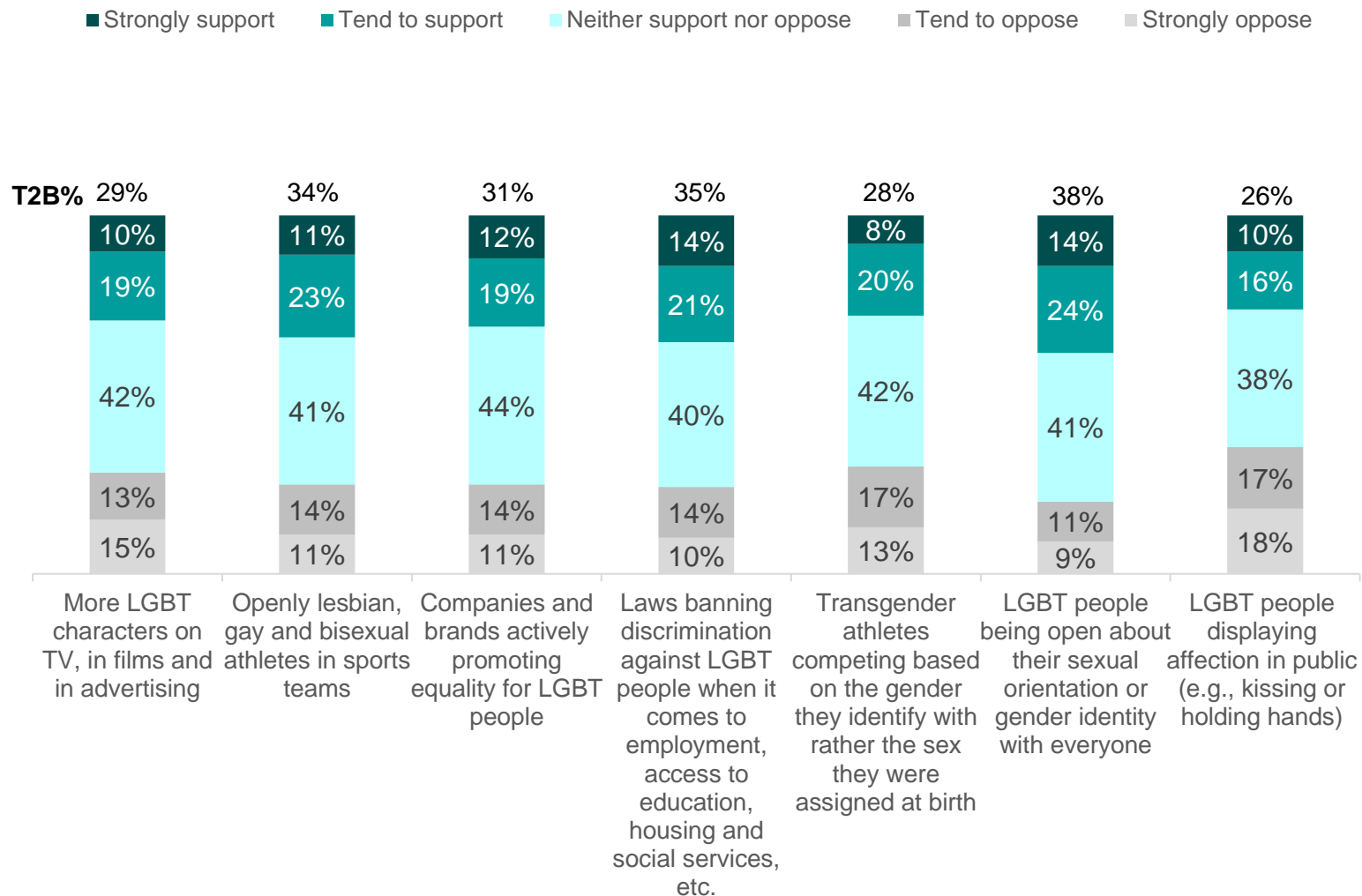
1. Same-sex couples are just as likely as other parents to successfully raise children
2. Same-sex couples should have the same rights to adopt children as heterosexual couples do



## In general, around 1 in 3 respondents are supportive of the LGBTQ community across various aspects.

Question A8: To what extent do you support or oppose the following:

1. More LGBT characters on TV, in films and in advertising
2. Openly lesbian, gay and bisexual athletes in sports teams
3. Companies and brands actively promoting equality for LGBT people
4. Laws banning discrimination against LGBT people when it comes to employment, access to education, housing and social services, etc.
5. Transgender athletes competing based on the gender they identify with rather the sex they were assigned at birth
6. LGBT people being open about their sexual orientation or gender identity with everyone
7. LGBT people displaying affection in public (e.g., kissing or holding hands)

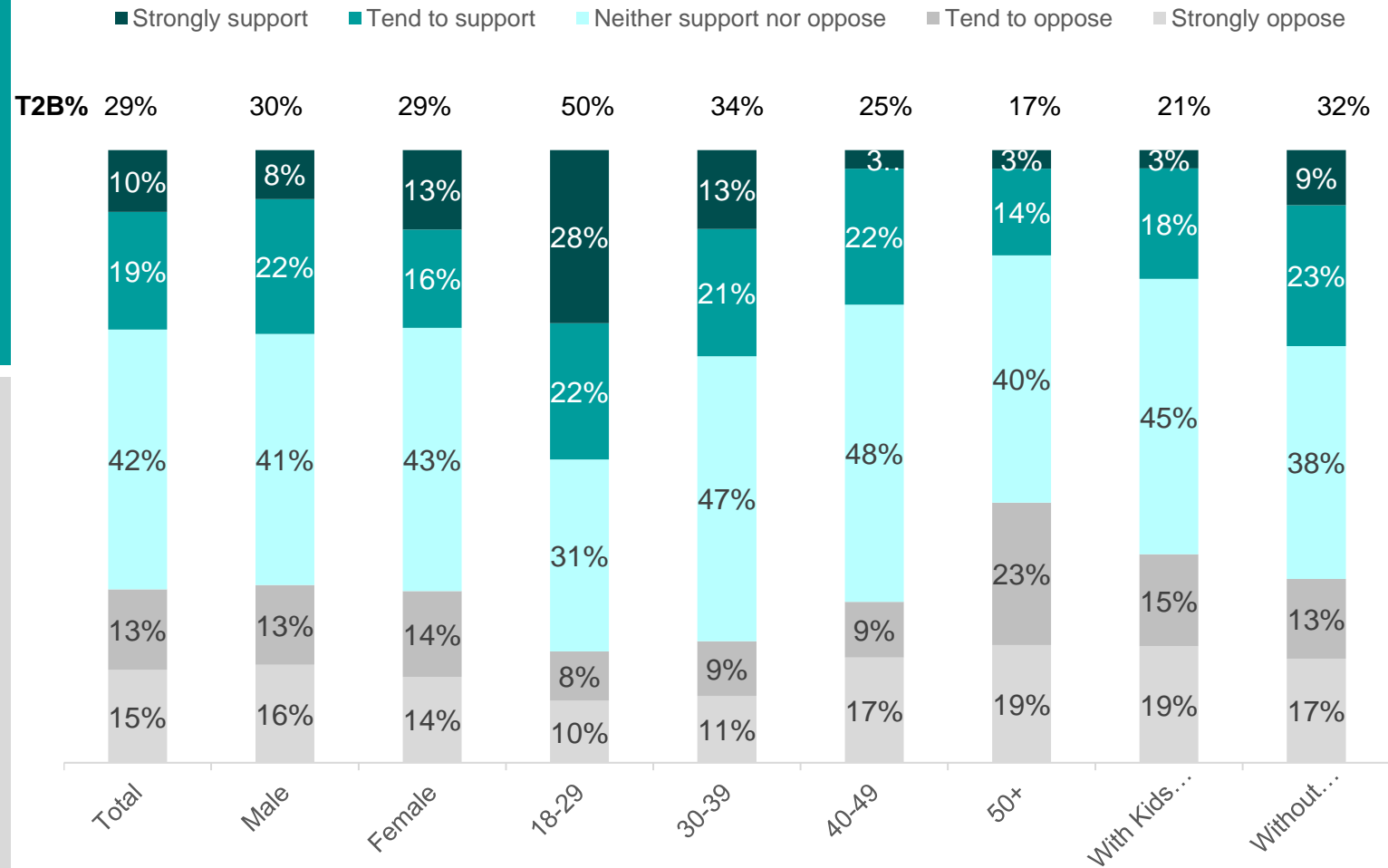


A third (29%) of respondents, are supportive of more LGBT characters on TV, in films and in advertising.

35% of parents oppose.

Question A8: To what extent do you support or oppose the following:

1. More LGBT characters on TV, in films and in advertising

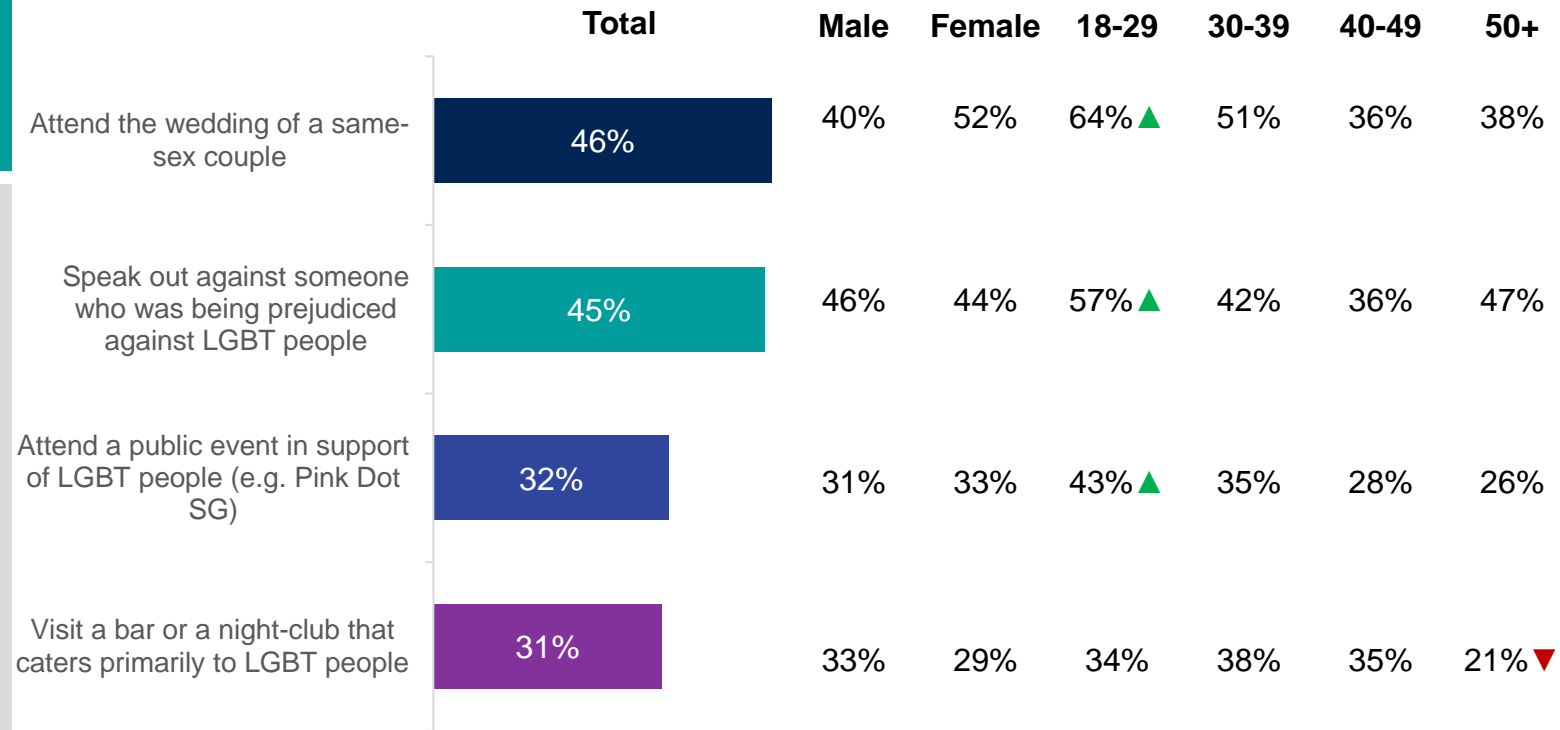


Base: Total (n=500); 18-29 (n=99), 30-39 (n=126), 40-49 (n=116), 50+ (n=159); Male (n=250), Female (n=250), With Kids (Married/Divorced/Widowed) (n=240), Without Kids (Married/Divorced/Widowed) (n=53\*) \*low base

# Close to half of Singaporeans are willing to attend the wedding of a same-sex couple and willing to speak out against someone who was being prejudiced against LGBT people.

Question A9: Are you open/willing to:

1. Attend a public event in support of LGBT people (e.g., Pink Dot SG)
2. Attend the wedding of a same-sex couple
3. Visit a bar or a night-club that caters primarily to LGBT people
4. Speak out against someone who was being prejudiced against LGBT people



▲ ▼ significantly higher/lower than Total at 95% CI

Base: Total (n=500); 18-29 (n=99), 30-39 (n=126), 40-49 (n=116), 50+ (n=159); Male (n=250), Female (n=250)

# ABOUT IPSOS

---

Ipsos is the third largest market research company in the world, present in 90 markets and employing more than 18,000 people.

Our research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers or employees. Our 75 business solutions are based on primary data coming from our surveys, social media monitoring, and qualitative or observational techniques.

“Game Changers” – our tagline – summarises our ambition to help our 5,000 clients to navigate more easily our deeply changing world.

Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

ISIN code FR0000073298, Reuters ISOS.PA, Bloomberg  
IPS:FP  
[www.ipsos.com](http://www.ipsos.com)

# GAME CHANGERS

---

In our world of rapid change, the need for reliable information to make confident decisions has never been greater.

At Ipsos we believe our clients need more than a data supplier, they need a partner who can produce accurate and relevant information and turn it into actionable truth.

This is why our passionately curious experts not only provide the most precise measurement, but shape it to provide True Understanding of Society, Markets and People.

To do this we use the best of science, technology and know-how and apply the principles of security, simplicity, speed and substance to everything we do.

So that our clients can act faster, smarter and bolder. Ultimately, success comes down to a simple truth:

**You act better when you are sure.**

**THANK**  
**YOU**

**GAME CHANGERS**

