

**Table 12** Sexual limit-setting self-efficacy by sex and age group (%), population aged 16 to 30 years old, Nunavik, 2017

Strongly agree or agree with the following statements...	Sex		Age group		Total
	Men	Women	16-20	21-30	
Able to date someone without feeling obligated to engage in sexual activity	62.4	58.6	55.8	63.6	60.6
Able to choose when and where to engage in sexual activity	58.2	60.2	47.9	66.1 <sup>1</sup>	59.2
Able to refuse sexual activity with someone whom they are not comfortable with	66.8	84.1 <sup>1</sup>	64.5	82.0 <sup>1</sup>	75.3
Total score [0-15]	10.8	11.1	10.5	11.2 <sup>1</sup>	11.0

**NOTE**

1. Statistically significant difference observed using the 5% threshold compared to the other group.

## 4.5 SEXUAL ATTRACTION

Sexual orientation is a component of one's identity that has multiple dimensions, including sexual and emotional attraction to another individual and the behaviour and/or social affiliation that may result from this attraction (American Psychological Association 2015). A growing body of evidence has shown a higher propensity for risky behaviours and poorer mental health among individuals reporting minority sexual orientations (i.e., homosexual, bisexual, asexual) due to discrimination, bullying and the feeling of being different (Blondeel et al., 2016; King et al., 2008; Plöderl & Tremblay, 2015; Vrangalova & Savin-Williams, 2014).

*Qanuilirpitaa?* 2017 included the first question on sexual attraction in a survey in Nunavik. Participants were asked about their sexual attraction using a question derived from the *National Survey of Family Growth*: "To whom are you sexually attracted to: men, women, both or none?". While same-sex attraction is correlated with same-sex sexual orientation, it does not mean that participants who report same-sex, both-sex or no sexual attraction have the corresponding sexual behaviour or identify with the corresponding sexual identity (Johns et al., 2013). It is

important to note that concepts such as gender, sex and sexuality have been understood through colonial knowledge and institutions, and hardly apply to Indigenous peoples' own definitions of these terms (Hunt, 2016). This could partly explain why many participants reported this question as difficult to answer. It is also worth mentioning that the sexual attraction question was asked very early in the interview, which may have contributed to creating a certain discomfort for the participant and the interviewer.

Results from *Qanuilirpitaa?* 2017 showed that most people reported being attracted to the opposite sex (87%), while 5% reported being attracted to the same sex or to both sexes. Eighty-six percent (86%) of men reported being sexually attracted to women. Four percent (4%\*\*) of men reported being sexually attracted exclusively to other men and 2%\*\* to both men and women. Among women, 88% reported being sexually attracted to men, whereas 2%\* declared being sexually attracted exclusively to other women and 1%\*\* to both men and women. Approximately 8%\* of men and 8% of women declared not being attracted to either sex. Further documenting sexual orientation and its dimensions, as well as gender identity from an Indigenous perspective, in future surveys would provide a more comprehensive portrait.