

Gay Community Periodic Survey: Sydney February 2007

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Publication Date:

2008

DOI:

https://doi.org/10.4225/53/5750E85C36A7A

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Edited by Deborah Cassell and Sarah Fitzherbert Design by Point Communications Layout by Judi Rainbow

The National Centre in HIV Social Research is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and is affiliated with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales.

Suggested citation:

Zablotska, I., Prestage, G., Frankland, A., Chong, S., Sutherland, R., Corrigan, N., Honnor, G., & Kippax, S. (2007). *Gay Community Periodic Survey: Sydney, February 2007*. Sydney: National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales. http://doi.org/10.4225/53/5750E85C36A7A

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Acknowledgments

We acknowledge the following individuals and organisations for contributing to the success of this project:

NSW Health

who funded the project

ACON (formerly the AIDS Council of NSW)

who collected the data and supported the study

Project Coordinator

Rob Sutherland

Recruiters

who gave of their time to administer the survey

National Centre in HIV Social Research

Sarah Fitzherbert, Judi Rainbow

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor

Survey participants

The 2342 men who contributed their time to ensure that the study was fully inclusive of their particular circumstances

Venues

The management and staff of the various gay community venues and clinics who gave generous permission for the survey to be conducted on their premises and assisted in the administration of the survey.

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Glossary

AIDS acquired immune deficiency syndrome

ART antiretroviral treatment

HIV human immunodeficiency virus

HIV-seroconcordant relationship a relationship in which both partners are of the same HIV serostatus, either HIV-positive or HIV-negative

HIV-serodiscordant relationship a relationship in which both partners are known (as a result of testing) to be of different HIV serostatus, e.g. HIV-positive and HIV-negative

HIV-serononcordant relationship a relationship in which the HIV serostatus of at least one partner in the relationship is not known, e.g. HIV-positive and untested, HIV-negative and untested or both untested

HIV serostatus a person's antibody status in relation to HIV infection, i.e. HIV-negative (confirmed by testing), HIV-positive (confirmed by testing), or unknown (i.e. untested)

MSM men who have sex with men

STI sexually transmissible infection

UAIC unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners

UAIR unprotected anal intercourse with regular partners



In February 2007, 2342 men were recruited at 14 data collection sites in Sydney: social venues, gay sex-on-premises venues, sexual health clinics and the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day.

Demographic profile

 As in previous surveys, men in the sample were primarily of Anglo-Australian background, lived in metropolitan Sydney, were well educated and in full-time employment.

HIV testing and serostatus

- In February 2007, the majority of men (90%) had 'ever' been tested for HIV. Of the total sample, 79.6% reported being HIV-negative, 11.3% reported being HIV-positive and 9.2% were unsure of their HIV serostatus.
- Since 2001 an increasing proportion of men have reported that their most recent HIV test was in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Sexual practices

- In February 2007, 30.1% of men reported having a regular partner at the time of the survey, 23.5% had had casual partners only and 31.1% had had both regular and casual partners. A small proportion (15.2%) of men had no sexual relationships with men at the time of the survey.
- Among men who had regular partners, most (61.7%) were in HIV-negative seroconcordant relationships, while smaller proportions were in HIV-positive seroconcordant relationships (7.5%) or HIV-serodiscordant relationships (13.5%).
- The occurrence of unprotected anal intercourse with regular partners (UAIR) varied according to the match of HIV serostatus between partners. The proportion of men who reported having engaged in UAIR was lowest for men in HIV-serodiscordant relationships (46.7%), and highest for men in HIV-positive seroconcordant relationships (85.3%).
- Over half (57.2%) of all men with regular partners reported having had some unprotected anal intercourse with their regular partner, while about a third (32.4%) reported that condoms had *always* been used for anal intercourse in the six months prior to the survey.
- Use of condoms for anal intercourse was more likely with casual partners than with regular partners. Less than a third (29.7%) of men with casual partners had

had unprotected anal intercourse with these partners, while nearly half (48.4%) reported having always used condoms. Since 2001 the proportion of men reporting any unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners (UAIC) has been steadily decreasing.

- More HIV-positive men (58.2%) than HIV-negative men (23.9%) and men of unknown HIV serostatus (36.1%) reported having engaged in UAIC. Since 2001 decreasing proportions of HIV-positive and HIV-negative men have reported having engaged in UAIC.
- The level of disclosure of HIV serostatus to casual partners has been increasing over time. More than half (51.3%) of all participants who had had casual partners reported having disclosed their HIV serostatus to any of their casual partners, with disclosure highest among HIV-positive men (72.5%).
- Since 2001 there has been a shift away from using sites such as gay bars and beats
 to look for sexual partners, with a significant increase in the proportion of men
 who reported having used the internet to find partners.

Sexual health

- In February 2007 a higher proportion of HIV-positive than HIV-negative men reported having been tested for sexually transmissible infections (STIs). Blood tests and urine sample tests were the most common forms of testing undertaken.
- Since 2001, respondents have been reporting more comprehensive testing for STIs, with testing of anal, throat and penile swabs and urine samples increasingly common.

Drug use

- Recreational drug use was common among the sample. The most commonly reported drugs used were amyl/poppers (by 42.8% of men), ecstasy (by 41.9%), marijuana (by 34.5%), cocaine (by 20.4%) and Viagra (by 20.4%). Very few men (6.3%) reported having injected any drug.
- From 2001 to 2007 the use of Viagra and crystal meth increased and the use of speed decreased among both HIV-positive and HIV-negative men. There were significant declines in the use of ecstasy among HIV-positive men and amyl among HIV-negative men.



Introduction

The Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey is a cross-sectional survey of gay and other homosexually active men recruited through a range of gay community sites in Sydney. The major aim of the survey is to provide a snapshot of gay men's sexual practices related to the transmission of sexually transmissible infections including HIV. Similar recruitment strategies and questionnaires have been used since the first survey in 1996, facilitating the examination of changes and trends in these practices over time (Zatblotska et al., 2007a).

The survey uses a short, self-administered questionnaire that takes about 10 minutes to complete (see Appendix). It collects information on types of sexual relationships and number of partners, anal and oral intercourse, unprotected anal intercourse, testing for HIV and other STIs, HIV serostatus and recreational drug use, as well as demographic characteristics such as sexual identity and age. To compare gay men's sexual practices across different states and territories of Australia, similar gay community periodic surveys have been regularly carried out in other capital cities using questionnaires designed to maximise comparability (Frankland et al., 2007; Zablotska et al., 2007b).

The project has been funded by the AIDS/Infectious Diseases Branch of the NSW Department of Health and implemented in association with ACON (formerly the AIDS Council of NSW) and People Living with HIV/AIDS, NSW. The most recent Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey, the twenty-third carried out in Sydney and the subject of this report, was conducted in February 2007.

Methods

Study design

As with previous gay community periodic surveys, this study employed the time—location sampling frame. Men who had sex with men (MSM) were recruited at certain types of locations (gay social venues, gay sex-on-premises venues, sexual health clinics and Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day) and at times when they were most likely to attend them. This survey methodology produces convenience samples which may not be able to be generalised to the whole population of MSM, but the data collected are highly informative for the purposes of determining policy and intervention strategies.

Sample

In February 2007, 2342 men were recruited at 14 data collection sites including social venues, gay sex-on-premises venues, sexual health clinics and Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day. This survey employed the same recruitment distribution that has been used in previous years.

Sample sizes of men recruited from all sites, and from each category of site, i.e. gay social venues, gay sex-on-premises venues, sexual health clinics and Fair Day, are presented in Table 1. In February 2007, 3055 men were asked to complete the questionnaire and 2342 did so, providing a response rate of 77%. The February 2007 sample therefore consisted of 2342 men.

Table 1: Sample sizes across time for men recruited from all sites, and from gay social venues, gay sex-on-premises venues, sexual health clinics and Fair Day

Year	Month	of su	l no. rveys oleted	•	social iues	prer	ex-on- nises nues		al health inics	Fair	Day
		N	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
2001	February	2134	100	270	12.7	233	10.9	305	14.3	1326	62.1
	August	728	100	353	48.5	215	29.5	160	22.0		
2002	February	2050	100	232	11.3	231	11.3	155	7.6	1432	69.9
	August	834	100	358	42.9	313	37.5	163	19.5		
2003	February	1854	100	302	16.3	304	16.4	182	9.8	1066	57.5
	August	687	100	340	49.5	211	30.7	136	19.8		
2004	February	1908	100	383	20.1	213	11.2	171	9.0	1141	59.8
	August	913	100	517	56.6.	209	22.9	187	20.5		
2005	February	2230	100	458	20.5	244	10.9	205	9.2	1323	59.3
	August	1183	100	623	52.7	277	23.4	283	23.9		
2006	February	2594	100	517	19.9	206	7.9	314	12.1	1576	60.1
	August	1138	100	609	53.5	256	22.5	273	24.0		
2007	February	2342	100	511	21.8	152	6.5	266	11.4	1413	60.3

Reporting

This report presents the results of the February 2007 survey and compares them with data from previous surveys conducted twice yearly (in February and August) from 2001 to 2006. Except where indicated, data are provided for all sites.

All comparisons of groups are made using Pearson's chi-squared test for independence (χ^2 test) and trends over time are assessed using the chi-squared test for trend (χ^2 test for trend).

Following the August survey each year, data from the February and August surveys are combined so that yearly trends can be analysed without the fluctuation that occurs when data collected in both February and August are analysed separately. The reason for this fluctuation is that a large number of men are recruited to the February survey each year at Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day, which is held only in February. Men recruited at Fair Day tend to differ in a number of ways from those recruited at gay social venues, sex-on-premises venues and sexual health clinics.



In February 2007 the Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey recruited 2342 men. Their sociodemographic characteristics are presented below.

Residential location

In February 2007 the majority (80.7%) of participants resided in the metropolitan Sydney region (city and suburbs), 2.7% came from Newcastle or Wollongong, 1.4% lived in rural New South Wales and 15.2% were from other states or overseas. The proportion of respondents from metropolitan Sydney decreased significantly compared with last year (χ^2 test, p < .001).

Trend over time: From 2001 to February 2007 there has been a small but significant decrease in the proportion of respondents from metropolitan Sydney (χ^2 test for trend, p < .01).

Age

In February 2007 the median age of participants was 34 years and the maximum age was 91 years. About a quarter of respondents were aged under 30, about 35% were 30 to 39 years old, 28% were 40 to 49 years old and 12% were aged 50 or over. Compared with the previous survey there have been significant decreases in the proportions of men aged under 25, 25 to 29 years, and 30 to 39 years (χ^2 test, p < .05 for each). There have also been significant increases in the proportions of men aged 40 to 49 years and 50 years or older (χ^2 test, p < .001 for each).

Trend over time: From 2001 to February 2007 there has been a significant increase in the proportion of men aged 50 or older (χ^2 test for trend, p < .05).

Ethnicity

As in all previous surveys, the February 2007 sample was predominantly composed of men of Anglo-Australian background (71.3%), while 13% of men were European and 3.3% were of Aboriginal or Torres Straight Islander origin. Since the previous survey there has been a significant increase in the proportion of men of Anglo-Australian background (χ^2 test, p < .05).

Trend over time: From 2001 to February 2007 there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of men of Anglo-Australian background (χ^2 test for trend, p < .001).

Education

As in previous surveys, this sample was relatively well educated. More than half (55%) of all respondents had completed a university degree, while 17.7% had completed some other form of tertiary education (trade diploma or certificate). The remaining men had been educated up to Year 12 (17.6%) or Year 10 (9.7%) only. There was no overall change in these proportions compared with the previous survey.

Trend over time: Since 2002, when the question was reintroduced, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of men who had completed a university degree (χ^2 test for trend, p < .01) and a significant decrease in the proportion of men who had obtained a trade diploma (χ^2 test for trend, p < .05).

Employment

In February 2007 almost 75% of respondents reported being in full-time employment, with another 8% employed part-time. The proportion of men who were not in the workforce was fairly high compared with the general population (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2007) and can in part be attributed to a relatively high percentage of HIV-positive men who did not participate in the workforce and received some form of social security payment. In February 2007, 29% of HIV-positive men and 14.6% of HIV-negative men were unemployed. There has been a significant decrease in the proportion of men in part-time work compared with the 2006 survey (χ^2 test, p < .01).

Trend over time: From 2001 to February 2007 there has been a significant increase in the proportion of men in full-time employment (χ^2 test for trend, p < .05) and a corresponding decrease in the proportion of men in part-time work (χ^2 test for trend p < .05).



HIV testing and serostatus of participants

In February 2007 only 10% of all respondents, excluding those recruited at sexual health clinics, indicated that they had never been tested for HIV (see Figure 1). This proportion has increased significantly compared with the 2006 survey (χ^2 test, p < .05). Men recruited from sexual health clinics were excluded from this analysis, as these men differ considerably from the general sample in that they are being tested while attending the clinic.

Trend over time: Since 2001 there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of men who had never been tested for HIV (χ^2 test for trend, p < .001).

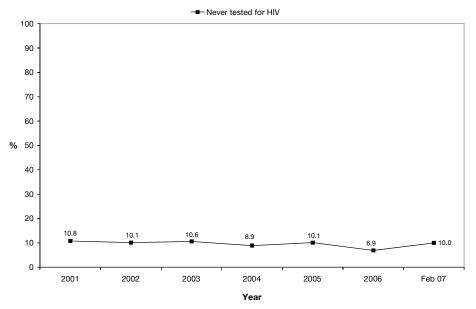


Figure 1: Proportion of men who had never been tested for HIV, excluding those recruited at sexual health clinics

Figure 2 shows the HIV serostatus of all men, excluding those recruited at sexual health clinics. In February 2007 about 80% of these respondents indicated that they were HIV-negative, 9.2% were HIV-positive and 11.3% did not know their HIV serostatus. Compared with the 2006 survey, the proportion of men who reported being HIV-negative has decreased significantly (p < .05).

Trend over time: Since 2001 there has been a significant increase in the proportion of HIV-negative participants (χ^2 test for trend, p < .01). In the same period there have also been corresponding decreases in the proportions of HIV-positive respondents and men whose HIV serostatus was unknown (χ^2 test for trend, p < .01 for each).

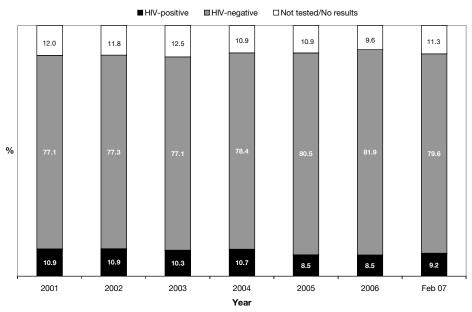


Figure 2: Reported HIV test results among all men, excluding those recruited from sexual health clinics

In February 2007, 72% of non-HIV-positive men who had ever been tested for HIV reported that their most recent HIV test had been in the 12 months prior to the survey (see Figure 3). This proportion has remained stable since the previous survey.

Trend over time: From 2001 to February 2007 there has been a significant increase in the proportion of non-HIV-positive men who had been tested for HIV in the 12 months prior to the survey (χ^2 test for trend, p < .001).

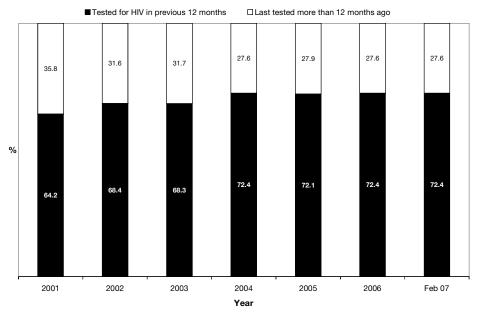


Figure 3: Proportion of non-HIV-positive men tested for HIV in the 12 months prior to the survey, among men who had ever been tested, excluding men recruited at sexual health clinics

HIV-positive men: antiretroviral treatment and viral load

Among HIV-positive respondents surveyed in February 2007, about two-thirds indicated that they were taking combination antiretroviral therapies (see Figure 4). This is consistent with figures reported in 2006.

Trend over time: Since 2001 the proportion of HIV-positive men taking combination antiretroviral therapies has remained stable.

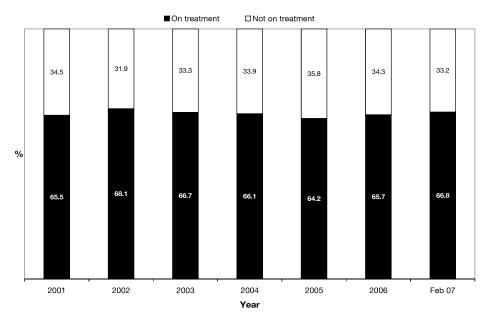


Figure 4: Use of combination antiretroviral therapies

In February 2007, 85% of men who were using antiretroviral therapies reported having an undetectable viral load. In comparison, 22.5% of those who were not using this treatment had an undetectable viral load (χ^2 test, p < .001).

Table 2: Use of combination antiretroviral therapies (ART), and viral load (VL)

	20	03	20	04	20	05	20	06	20	007
	Using ART n (%)	Not using ART n (%)								
Undetectable viral load	163 (75.1)	26 (24.1)	207 (77.5)	35 (24.8)	250 (81.7)	36 (21.6)	281 (85.2)	31 (18.0)	159 (85.0)	20 (22.5)
Detectable viral load	50 (23.0)	74 (68.5)	52 (19.5)	95 (67.4)	51 (16.7)	112 (67.1)	43 (13.0)	127 (73.8)	23 (12.3)	62 (69.7)
Don't know/ Unsure	4 (1.8)	8 (7.4)	8 (3.0)	11 (7.8)	5 (1.6)	19 (11.4)	6 (1.8)	14 (8.1)	5 (2.7)	7 (7.9)
Total	217 (100)	108 (100)	267 (100)	141 (100)	306 (100)	167 (100)	330 (100)	172 (100)	187 (100)	89 (100)



4 Sexual practices

Sexual contact with other men

In February 2007, 30.1% of men reported having had sex with regular partners only, 23.5% had had casual partners only and 31.1% reported having had both regular and casual partners (see Figure 5). The remaining 15.2% reported having no sexual relationships with men at the time of the survey. The proportion of men who reported having had only casual partners has decreased significantly since 2006 (χ^2 test, p < .05).

Trend over time: From 2001 to February 2007 there have been slight decreases in the proportions of men who reported having only regular partners or only casual partners (χ^2 test for trend, p < .01 for each). There have also been increases in the proportions of men who reported having both regular and casual male partners and who reported having no relationships with men at the time of the survey (χ^2 test for trend, p < .01 for each).

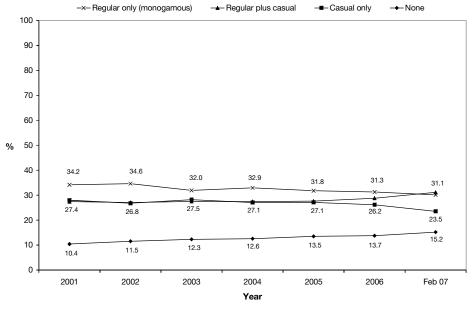


Figure 5: Relationships with men at the time of completing the survey

In February 2007 two questions were introduced to elicit information about group sex with regular and casual partners. Among those men with regular partners, 32.4% had engaged in group sex involving their partner and at least one other man. Among those with casual partners, a much higher proportion (57.3%) indicated that they had engaged in group sex involving at least two other men.

Agreements about sex

In February 2007 most participants who reported having a regular male partner also reported having a clear, spoken agreement with their partner about sex *within* the relationship (see Figure 6). As in previous years, about 40% of the men in regular relationships had agreed to have anal intercourse without a condom within the relationship.

Trend over time: There have been no significant changes in these proportions since 2001.

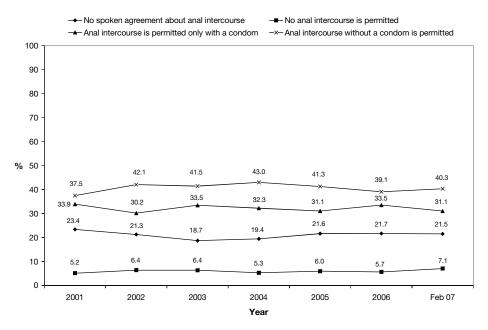


Figure 6: Agreements with regular male partners about sex within the relationship, among men who had regular partners

In February 2007 about a third of the men reported that they had no spoken agreement with their regular partner about sex *outside* the relationship (see Figure 7). Just under a third (32.0%) of men in regular relationships reported that no sexual contact was permitted with men outside the relationship, while 29.9% had agreements that permitted anal intercourse outside the relationship as long as a condom was used. These proportions are consistent with those observed in 2006.

Trend over time: There have been no significant changes in these proportions since 2001.

- → No spoken agreement about casual sex
- -- No sexual contact with casual partners is permitted
- → No anal intercourse with casual partners is permitted
- -x- Anal intercourse with casual partners is permitted only with a condom
- -*- Anal intercourse with casual partners is permitted without a condom

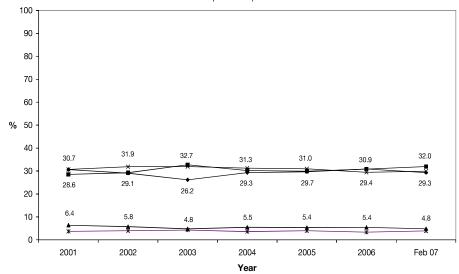


Figure 7: Agreements with regular male partners about sex *outside* the relationship, among men who had regular partners

Sexual practices within regular relationships

Match of HIV serostatus in regular relationships

In February 2007 the majority (61.7%) of men in regular relationships reported being in an HIV-negative seroconcordant relationship. This proportion has remained unchanged compared with the 2006 survey. A sizeable proportion (17.3%) of men in regular relationships were in HIV-serononconcordant relationships, while a smaller proportion (13.5%) were in HIV-serodiscordant relationships (see Figure 8).

Trend over time: From 2001 to February 2007 there has been a significant increase in the proportion of HIV-negative men in seroconcordant relationships (χ^2 test for trend, p < .001), and significant decreases in the proportions of men in HIV-serodiscordant relationships (χ^2 test for trend, p < .05) and HIV-serononconcordant relationships (χ^2 test for trend, p < .05).

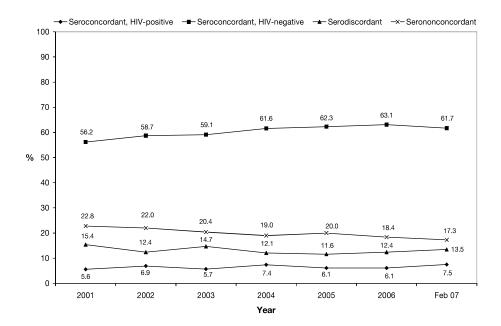


Figure 8: Match of HIV serostatus between regular partners

Anal intercourse with regular partners

Among men who reported having a regular partner in the six months prior to the survey, about 57% reported having sometimes engaged in anal intercourse with their partner without a condom (see Figure 9). About a third (32.4%) reported that they had always used condoms for anal intercourse within the relationship. These proportions have not changed significantly since the previous survey.

Trend over time: There have been no significant changes in these proportions since 2001.

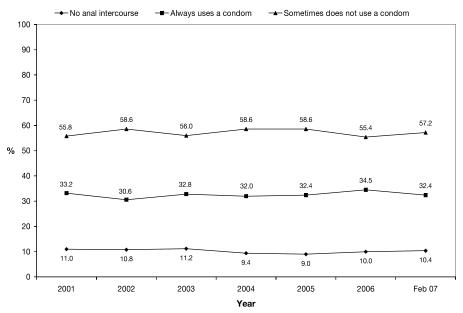


Figure 9: Anal intercourse and condom use with regular partners, among men who reported having regular partners

Figure 10 shows the proportion of men who had engaged in unprotected anal intercourse with regular partners (UAIR) based on the match of HIV serostatus between regular partners. In February 2007, 85.3% of men in HIV-positive seroconcordant relationships had had UAIR, as had 67.4% of men in HIV-negative seroconcordant relationships. In the two remaining categories, where there was a potentially greater risk of HIV transmission, noticeably smaller proportions of men reported having had any UAIR. There have been no significant changes in these figures since the previous survey.

Trend over time: Since 2001 there have been no significant changes in the proportions of men who reported having had UAIR, based on the match of HIV serostatus between regular partners.

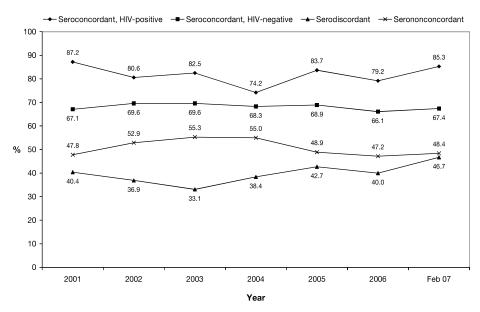


Figure 10: Proportion of men who had engaged in UAIR, by match of HIV serostatus in regular relationships

Safer sex practices with regular partners

In February 2007, 46.5% of all HIV-negative men in seroconcordant relationships reported having engaged in receptive UAIR that included ejaculation, while smaller proportions of HIV-negative men in serononconcordant relationships reported this practice (see Figure 11).

Trend over time: Since 2001 there have been no changes in the proportions of HIV-negative men in either seroconcordant or serononconcordant relationships who reported having engaged in receptive UAIR with ejaculation.

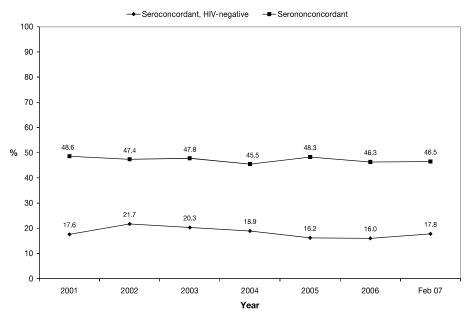


Figure 11: Proportion of HIV-negative men who reported having engaged in receptive UAIR that included ejaculation, by match of HIV serostatus

In February 2007, 41% of HIV-negative men in seroconcordant relationships reported having engaged in receptive UAIR that involved withdrawal prior to ejaculation. In comparison, about 24% of HIV-negative men in serononconcordant relationships reported this practice (see Figure 12).

Trend over time: From 2001 to February 2007 there were no significant changes in the proportions of HIV-negative men in seroconcordant and serononconcordant relationships who reported having engaged in receptive UAIR involving withdrawal prior to ejaculation.

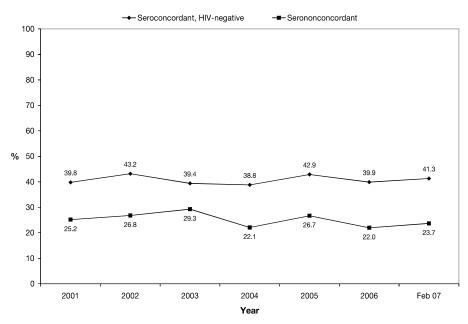


Figure 12: Proportion of HIV-negative men who reported having engaged in receptive UAIR with withdrawal prior to ejaculation, by match of HIV serostatus

Sexual practices with casual partners

Unprotected anal intercourse

In February 2007, among those who reported having had casual partners in the previous six months, about 22% indicated that they had not engaged in anal intercourse with those partners (see Figure 13). Nearly half (48.4%) of all men with casual partners indicated that they had always used a condom during anal intercourse, while 29.7% reported that some unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners (UAIC) had occurred. Compared with the previous year, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of men who reported having had no anal intercourse with casual partners, and a decrease in the proportion of men who had always used condoms during anal intercourse with casual partners (χ^2 test, γ < .01 for each).

Trend over time: Since 2001 there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of men who reported having engaged in some UAIC (χ^2 test for trend, p < .001) and a significant increase in the proportion of men who had always used condoms during anal intercourse (χ^2 test for trend, p < .001).

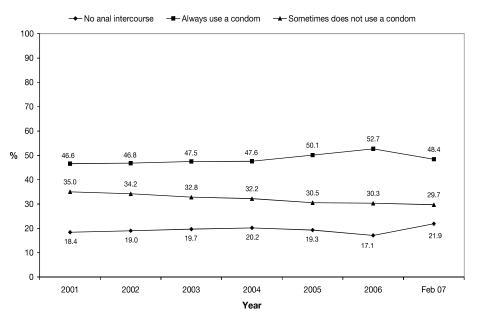


Figure 13: Anal intercourse and condom use with casual partners, among men who reported having had casual partners

Figure 14 shows the proportion of men who had engaged in UAIC in the six months prior to the survey. In February 2007, 58.2% of HIV-positive men, 23.9% of HIV-negative men and 36.1% of men of unknown HIV serostatus reported having had any UAIC. Since the previous survey there has been a significant increase in the proportion of men of unknown HIV serostatus who reported any UAIC (χ^2 test, p < .05).

Trend over time: Since 2001 there have been significant decreases in the proportions of HIV-positive and HIV-negative men who reported having engaged in UAIC (χ^2 test for trend, p < .05 for each).

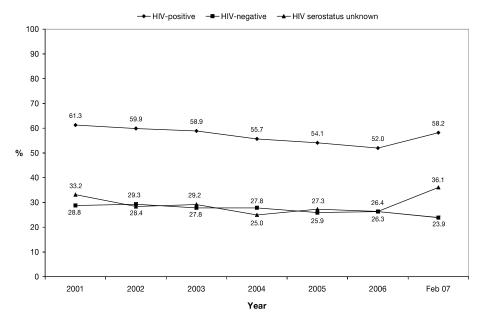


Figure 14: Proportion of men who had engaged in UAIC in the six months prior to the survey, by HIV serostatus of respondent

Safer sex practices with casual partners

In February 2007 about 62% of all respondents with casual partners reported having always used condoms during anal intercourse (see Figure 15). A significantly higher proportion (69.2%) of HIV-negative men reported having always using condoms with casual partners than men of unknown serostatus (52.3%) or HIV-positive men (29.7%). The proportion of HIV-positive men who had always used condoms for anal intercourse with casual partners was significantly lower than in the previous year (χ^2 test, p < .01).

Trend over time: From 2001 to February 2007 there has been a significant increase in the proportion of HIV-negative men who reported having always using condoms for anal intercourse with casual partners (χ^2 test for trend, p < .01).

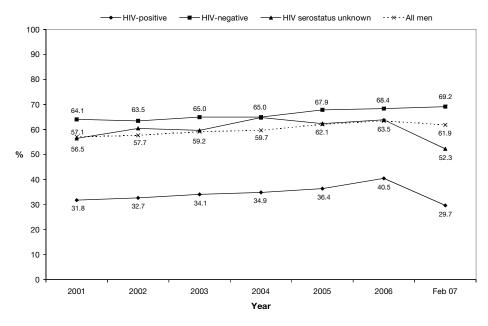


Figure 15: Proportion of men who had always used condoms for anal intercourse with casual partners, by HIV serostatus of respondent, among men who reported having had anal intercourse with casual partners

In February 2007, 51.3% of all respondents with casual partners reported having disclosed their HIV serostatus to 'some' or 'all' of these partners (see Figure 16). Disclosure was highest among HIV-positive men, about 73% of whom had disclosed their HIV serostatus to some of their casual partners. No significant changes were seen compared with the previous year.

Trend over time: Since 2001, disclosure to casual partners appears to have increased slightly among all men who had had casual partners, as well as specifically among HIV-positive and HIV-negative men in this category (χ^2 test for trend, p < .05 for each).

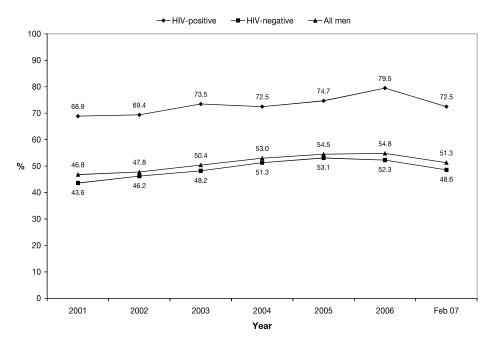


Figure 16: Proportion of men who had disclosed their HIV serostatus to 'some' or 'all' of their casual partners, by HIV serostatus of respondent, among men who reported having had casual partners

Note: In 2006 the question relating to disclosure was modified to elicit information only about disclosure that occurred 'before' sex. This new format does not appear to have produced substantially different results.

When asked about disclosure by casual partners, just under half of all HIV-negative men reported that 'some' or 'all' of their casual partners had disclosed their HIV serostatus before sex (see Figure 17). This represents a significant decrease in this proportion since the previous year (χ^2 test, p < .05).

Trend over time: Since 2001 there have been significant increases in the proportions of casual partners who had disclosed their HIV serostatus to respondents, and specifically to HIV-negative respondents (χ^2 test for trend, p < .001 for each).

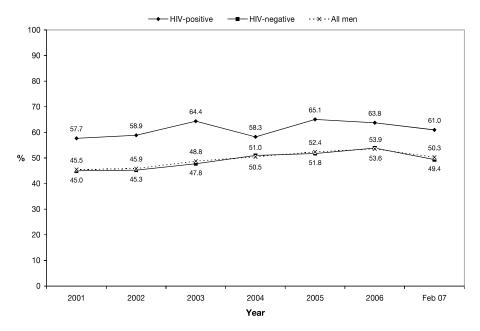


Figure 17: Proportion of men who reported that 'some' or 'all' of their casual partners had disclosed their HIV serostatus, by HIV serostatus of respondent

In February 2007, among men who reported having engaged in some UAIC, 27.1% indicated that they had disclosed their HIV serostatus to 'all' of their casual partners (see Figure 18). This proportion has not changed significantly from the previous survey.

Trend over time: Since 2001 there has been a significant increase in the proportion of men who had engaged in UAIC and who reported having disclosed their HIV serostatus to 'all' of their casual partners (χ^2 test for trend, p < .001).

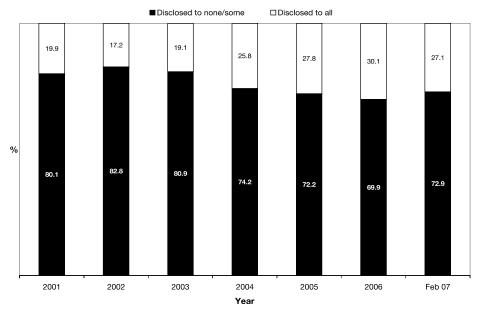


Figure 18: Disclosure of HIV serostatus to casual partners, among men who reported having engaged in UAIC

Note: In 2006 the question relating to disclosure was modified to elicit information only about disclosure that occurred 'before' sex. This new format does not appear to have produced substantially different results.

In February 2007, among HIV-positive men who reported having had casual partners, the majority reported having had reciprocal (both receptive and insertive) unprotected

anal intercourse (see Figure 19). This proportion has remained unchanged compared with the previous year.

Trends over time: Since 2001, among HIV-positive men, there have been no significant changes in positioning during UAIC.

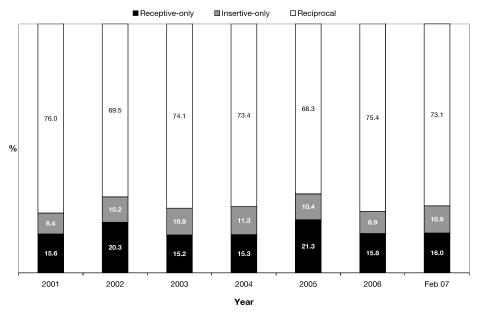


Figure 19: Positioning in anal intercourse among HIV-positive men who reported having engaged in UAIC

In February 2007, among HIV-negative men who had had casual partners, roughly half reported having engaged in reciprocal UAIC, with smaller proportions reporting having had insertive-only (32.7%) or receptive-only (16.4%) UAIC. These proportions have not changed significantly since the previous year.

Trends over time: Since 2001, among HIV-negative men, there have been no significant changes with regards to positioning during UAIC.

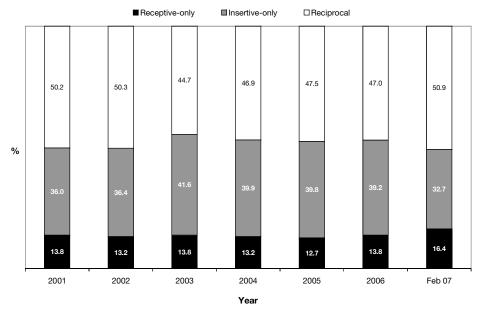


Figure 20: Positioning in anal intercourse among HIV-negative men who reported having engaged in UAIC

Where men looked for sex partners

In February 2007 the majority of participants who responded to this section of the survey reported having visited gay bars (62.8%) or having used the internet (57.5%) to find sex partners (see Table 3). Just under half of all men had looked for male sex partners at gay dance parties (48.5%) or in gay saunas (47.9%). Compared with the 2006 sample, there have been significant decreases in the proportions of men who had looked for male sex partners in gay bars, dance parties, saunas and other sex venues (χ^2 test, p < .001 for each), at the gym (χ^2 test, p < .01) or at beats (χ^2 test, p < .05).

Trend over time: From 2001 to February 2007 there has been a significant increase in the proportion of men who had looked for male sex partners online (χ^2 test for trend, p < .001) and significant decreases in the proportions of men who had looked for partners in gay bars, beats or sex venues (χ^2 test for trend, p < .001).

Table 3: Where men looked for sex partners in the six months prior to the survey

	2002 n (%)	2003 n (%)	2004 n (%)	2005 n (%)	2006 n (%)	2007 n (%)
Internet						
Never	343 (50.9)	777 (51.0)	1276 (49.7)	1229 (42.7)	1298 (41.1)	849 (42.5)
Occasionally	265 (39.3)	562 (36.9)	905 (35.3)	1147 (39.9)	1289 (40.8)	804 (40.2)
Often	66 (9.8)	185 (12.1)	386 (15.0)	500 (17.4)	574 (18.2)	345 (17.3)
Total	674 (100)	1524 (100)	2567 (100)	2876 (100)	3161 (100)	1998 (100)
Gay bar						
Never	161 (22.5)	489 (30.1)	877 (33.6)	884 (29.7)	971 (30.2)	744 (37.2)
Occasionally	433 (60.6)	831 (51.2)	1293 (49.5)	1585 (53.3)	1728 (53.7)	957 (47.8)
Often	120 (16.8)	302 (18.6)	441 (16.9)	507 (17.0)	521 (16.2)	300 (15.0)
Total	714 (100)	1622 (100)	2611 (100)	2976 (100)	3220 (100)	2001 (100)
Beat						
Never	403 (61.3)	996 (66.7)	1781 (70.3)	1874 (68.0)	2086 (70.6)	1358 (73.9)
Occasionally	204 (31.1)	403 (27.0)	591 (23.3)	699 (25.4)	710 (24.0)	375 (20.4)
Often	50 (7.6)	94 (6.3)	160 (6.3)	183 (6.6)	160 (5.4)	104 (5.7)
Total	657 (100)	1493 (100)	2532 (100)	2756 (100)	2956 (100)	1837 (100)
Sex venue						
Never	193 (26.0)	701 (44.0)	1225 (47.2)	1342 (45.7)	1637 (52.9)	1238 (67.2)
Occasionally	362 (48.8)	596 (37.4)	950 (36.6)	1222 (41.6)	1139 (36.8)	465 (25.2)
Often	187 (25.2)	295 (18.5)	420 (16.2)	372 (12.7)	319 (10.3)	139 (7.5)
Total	742 (100)	1592 (100)	2595 (100)	2936 (100)	3095 (100)	1842 (100)
Dance party						
Never		678 (44.3)	1317 (51.6)	1288 (45.8)	1410 (46.0)	978 (51.4)
Occasionally		689 (45.1)	991 (38.8)	1230 (43.7)	1351 (44.1)	738 (38.8)
Often		162 (10.6)	244 (9.6)	296 (10.5)	302 (9.9)	185 (9.7)
Total Gym		1529 (100)	2552 (100)	2814 (100)	3063 (100)	1901 (100)
Never		1079 (74.6)	1920 (76.4)	1997 (73.8)	2135 (72.7)	1390 (76.2)
Occasionally		324 (22.4)	502 (20.0)	626 (23.1)	701 (23.9)	367 (20.1)
Often		44 (3.0)	91 (3.6)	82 (3.0)	99 (3.4)	67 (3.7)
Total		1447 (100)	2513 (100)	2705 (100)	2935 (100)	1824 (100)
Private sex party						
Never				2272 (85.2)	2459 (84.4)	1501 (83.7)
Occasionally				340 (12.7)	385 (13.2)	243 (13.6)
Often				55 (2.1)	68 (2.3)	49 (2.7)
Total				2667 (100)	2912 (100)	1793 (100)
Gay sauna						
Never					426 (44.2)	1028 (52.1)
Occasionally					410 (42.6)	721 (36.5)
Often					127 (13.2)	224 (11.4)
Total					963 (100)	1973 (100)

In February 2007 a greater proportion (58.1%) of HIV-negative men reported having used the internet to locate male sex partners than HIV-positive men (56.1%) and those of unknown HIV serostatus (55%) (see Figure 21). These proportions were unchanged from the previous year.

Trend over time: Since 2001 there has been a significant increase in the use of the internet to find sex partners by HIV-positive men, HIV-negative men and men whose HIV serostatus was unknown (χ^2 test for trend, p < .01, p < .001 and p < .05, respectively).

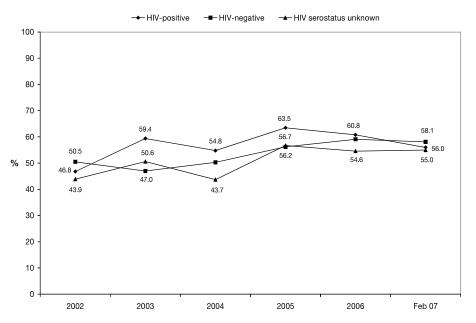


Figure 21: Use of the internet to find male sex partners, by HIV serostatus of respondent

Among those men who had used the internet to look for male sex partners, the majority (74.6%) reported having found at least one partner by this means. Roughly half (52.8%) of the men who said they had found partners via the internet indicated that they had found between one and five partners in this way, while much smaller proportions reported having found between six and 10 (12.3%) or more than 10 partners (10%).

In February 2007 just over a quarter of those men who had sought out sexual partners online reported having engaged in some UAIC, compared with 11.1% of those who had not used the internet for this purpose. Reported UAIC was also higher among men who reported having visited sex-on-premises venues to find partners (29.6%) compared with men who had not looked for partners at these venues (8.3%).



In February 2007, HIV-positive men reported high rates of testing for sexually transmissible infections (STIs) (see Figure 22). Blood tests for STIs other than HIV were the most common tests undertaken (by 73.7% of HIV-positive men), followed by urine sample tests (by 60.4%). There have been no changes in these proportions since the previous year.

Trend over time: Since 2003 there have been significant increases in the proportions of HIV-positive men reporting having had anal and throat swabs, as well as urine sample tests (χ^2 test for trend, p < .05 for each).

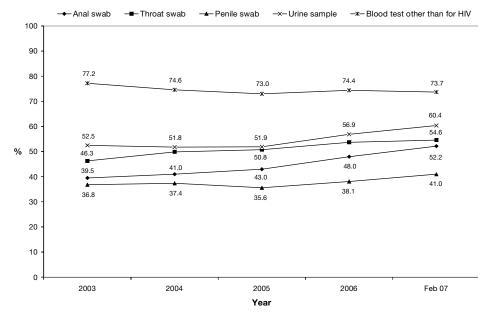


Figure 22: Trends in STI testing among HIV-positive men

In February 2007 a smaller proportion of HIV-negative men than HIV-positive men reported having been tested for STIs other than HIV (see Figure 23). Approximately half of all HIV-negative men reported having had urine sample tests and a slightly higher proportion reported having had blood tests other than for HIV. These proportions have decreased significantly compared with the previous year (χ^2 test, p < .05 for each).

Trend over time: Since 2003 there have been significant increases in the proportions of HIV-negative men who reported having undertaken anal, throat or penile swabs or urine sample tests (χ^2 test for trend, p < .001 for each).

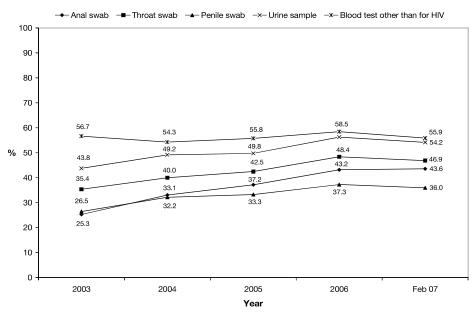
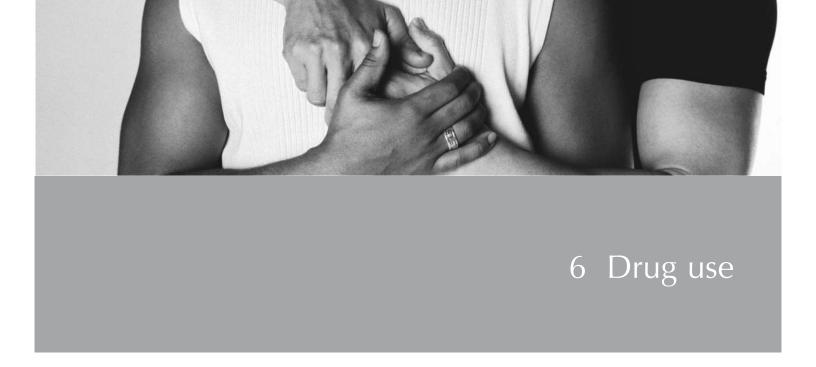


Figure 23: Trends in STI testing among HIV-negative men



In February 2007 the drugs most commonly used in the six months prior to the survey were amyl/poppers (used by 42.8% of men), ecstasy (by 41.9%) and marijuana (by 34.5%). Smaller proportions of men reported having used speed (19.0%), cocaine (20.4%), Viagra (20.4%), crystal meth (16.8%) or Special K (15.5%). Very few men reported any recent use of GHB (12.7%), LSD (4.1%), heroin (0.8%) or steroids (2.6%). Since the previous survey there have been significant decreases in the reported use of ecstasy, speed, and crystal meth (p < .001 for each) as well as marijuana and LSD (p < .05 for each).

In February 2007, among HIV-positive respondents, use of party drugs was generally higher than among the total sample (see Figure 24). Amyl had been used by 57.0% of all HIV-positive men, with 47.4% reporting having used ecstasy and 33.4% having used crystal meth in the six months prior to the survey (see Figure 24).

Trend over time: From 2001 to February 2007 there have been significant decreases in the proportions of HIV-positive men who had used ecstasy or speed (χ^2 test for trend, p < .001 for each), while there has been an increase in the proportion who had used Viagra (χ^2 test for trend, p < .01). Since 2002 there has been a significant increase in the proportion of HIV-positive men who had used crystal meth (χ^2 test for trend, p < .001).

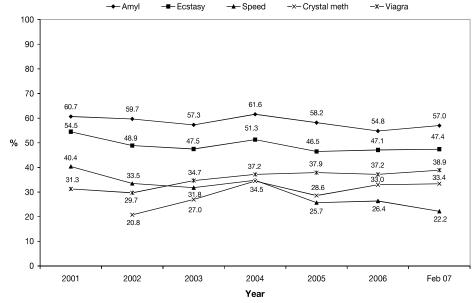


Figure 24: Trends in drug use among HIV-positive men

In February 2007, patterns of reported drug use among HIV-negative participants were consistent with those of the overall sample (see Figure 25). Since the previous survey, among HIV-negative men, there have been significant decreases in the reported use of ecstasy, speed and crystal meth (χ^2 test, p < .001 for each).

Trend over time: Since 2001 there have been significant decreases in the proportions of HIV-negative men who had used amyl/poppers and speed (χ^2 test for trend, p < .001 for each). There have also been significant increases in the proportions of HIV-negative men who reported having used Viagra and crystal meth (χ^2 test for trend, p < .001 for each).

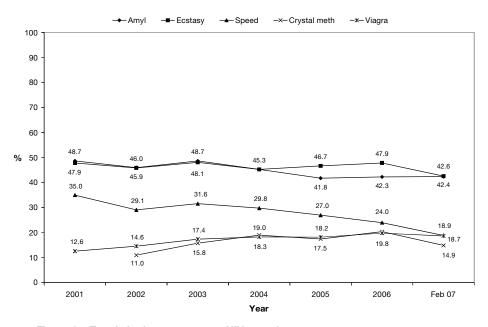


Figure 25: Trends in drug use among HIV-negative men

In February 2007 the majority of respondents (93.7%) reported that they had not injected any drugs in the six months prior to the survey, while 3.5% of all participants had done so occasionally. Only 2.8% had injected drugs on a regular basis.

In February 2007, 71.6% of respondents had not used any party drugs for the purposes of sex in the six months prior to the survey, 20.2% had done so less often than monthly and 6.6% had done so on a monthly basis (see Figure 26). The proportions of men who had not used party drugs or who had used them less often than monthly have increased significantly since the previous survey (χ^2 test, p < .001 for each). There has been a corresponding significant decrease in the proportions of men who had used party drugs for sex either weekly or monthly (χ^2 test, p < .001 for each).

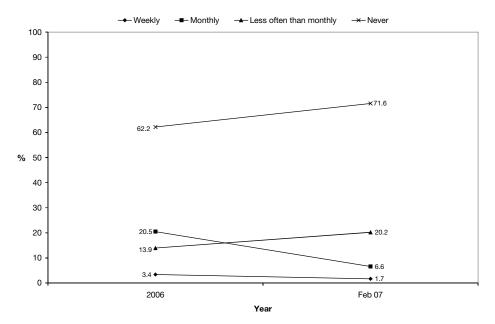


Figure 26: Use of party drugs for the purposes of sex

In February 2007 an additional question was introduced to elicit information about whether or not group sex occurred while using party drugs or after using them. Only 17.1% of the total sample indicated that group sex associated with drug-taking had occurred in the six months prior to the survey, with most of these men reporting that it had occurred only 'once or a few times'.

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Appendix Questionnaire

National Centre in HIV Social Research National Centre in HIV Epidemiology & Clinical Research THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PLWHA (NSW)

Community Periodic Survey Gay Sydney

This survey is for men who have had sex with another man in the past five years.

PLEASE DO NOT COMPLETE IF YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE SO THIS WEEK

For each question, please TICK one box only

AII D How many of your friends are gay or homosexual men? Some □₃ Most □₄ A few \square_2 None \square_1

2. How much of your free time is spent with gay or homosexual men?

Some □₃ A lot □₄ A little \square_2 Do you think of yourself as None \square_1

Gay/homosexual □₁ Bisexual □₂ Heterosexual □₃

Other (please specify)

REGULAR (boyfriend/lover) and CASUAL partners In this survey we distinguish between

No □1 Yes □2 Do you currently have sex with casual male partners?

5. Do you <u>currently</u> have sex with a **regular** male partner? No \square_1 Yes \square_2

How would you describe your sexual relationship with your current 6. How would you describe your regular male partner? (tick one)

we are monogamous – neither of us has casual sex \Box_1 both my partner and I have casual sex with other men \Box_2 I have casual sex with other men but my partner does not \Box_3 my partner has casual sex with other men but I do not \Box_4 I have **several regular** male partners \square_5 no current regular male partner \square_6

7. If you are in a regular relationship with a man, for how long has it 6–11 months \Box_2 1–2 years \Box_3 More than 2 years \Box_4 Not in a regular relationship with a man \Box_5 Less than 6 months \square_1

LAST SIX MONTHS . . .

8. How many different men have you had sex with in the past six months? None \Box_1 6–10 men \Box_4 More than 50 men □₆ 11–50 men □₅ 2–5 men □₃

9. How many different women have you had sex with in the past six months?

6–10 women □₄ More than 10 women □₅ None \square_1 One \square_2 2–5 women \square_3

Regular male partners — last 6 months

10. Have you had sex with regular male partner/s in the last six No □₂ Go directly to Q. 21 Yes \square_1 months?

In the past SIX MONTHS which of the following have you done with any or your REGULAR male partner/s?

11. Oral sex: I sucked his cock but he did NOT come in my mouth Often 🔲 3 Never □₁ Occasionally □₂

Oral sex: He sucked my cock but I did NOT come in his mouth Often 🗖 3 Occasionally \square_2 Never □₁

Occasionally □₂ Often □₃ Oral sex: I sucked his cock and he came in my mouth Never □₁

Often 🗆 3 14. Oral sex: He sucked my cock and I came in his mouth Occasionally \square_2 Never □₁

Anal sex

15. I fucked him with a condom

Never □₁ Occasionally □₂

Occasionally \square_2 16. He fucked me with a condom Never □₁

Often \square_3

Often 🗆

17. I fucked him **without a condom** but pulled out before I came Often 🗖 3 Never □₁ Occasionally □₂

18. He fucked me without a condom but pulled out before he came Often \square_3 Occasionally \square_2 Never □₁

Often 🗆 3 19. I fucked him without a condom and came inside Occasionally \square_2 Never □₁

Often \square_3 20. He fucked me without a condom and came inside Occasionally \square_2 Never □1

21. How often did **you and your regular partner** have **group sex** that included <u>at least one other man</u> in the past six months?

Every week □₁ At least monthly □₂ Never □5 Once or a few times □₄ Every 3 months □3

Casual male partners — last 6 months

22. Have you had any sex with any casual male partner/s in the last No □₂ Go directly to Q. 37 six months? Yes □1 In the past SIX MONTHS which of the following have you done with 23. Oral sex: I sucked his cock but he did NOT come in my mouth any of your CASUAL male partners?

 Oral sex: He sucked my cock but I did NOT come in his mouth Often 🗖 3 Never □₁ Occasionally □₂ Occasionally \square_2 Never □1

ũ 25. **Oral sex:** I sucked his cock and he came in my mouth Occasionally \square_2 Never □₁

ű Often 26. Oral sex: He sucked my cock and I came in his mouth Never □₁ Occasionally □₂

Anal sex 27. I fucked him with a condom

Often 🗖 Often 🗖 Never □₁ Occasionally □₂ Occasionally \square_2 He fucked me with a condom Never □₁

28

29. I fucked him without a condom but pulled out before I came Often \square_3 Never \square_1 Occasionally \square_2 He fucked me without a condom but pulled out before he came Often 🗖 Never □₁ Occasionally □₂ 30.

Often 🗖 3 31. I fucked him **without a condom** and came inside Never □₁ Occasionally □₂

Never □₁ Occasionally □₂ Often □₃ 32. He fucked me without a condom and came inside

How often did you have group sex involving at least two othe 33. How often did you have *group sex* involving at least <u>two oth</u> <u>men</u> (**apart from your regular partner**) in the past six months?

Every week □₁ At least monthly □₂

ű Once or a few times □4 Never Every 3 months □₃

In the last 6 months:

34. How many of your **casual** partners did you tell <u>your HIV statu</u>s

How many of your casual partners told you their HIV status ⊒ ⊟ \Box_1 Some \Box_2 None before sex? 35.

In the last 6 months, who usually talked about HIV status first? ຶ equally often them or me l did □₁ s did □₂ casual partners did ⋛ 36.

Ď continues other side

37. Have you ever had an HIV antibody test? No \square_1 Yes \square_2		55. Which of these sexual health tests have you had in the last 12
38. When were you last tested for HIV antibodies?	45. What country were you born in? Australia □₀₁	Once
Never tested \Box_1 7–12 months ago` \Box_5 Less than a week ago \Box_2 1–2 years ago \Box_6 1–4 weeks ago \Box_3 2–4 years ago \Box_7	Other (please specify)	None □ Once □ 2 Twice □ 3 Ormore None □ 1 Once □ 2 Twice □ 3 Ormore None □ 1 Once □ 2 Twice □ 3 Ormore None □ 1 Once □ 2 Twice □ 3 Ormore
1–6 months ago \square_4 More than 4 years ago \square_8	47. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?	HIV None \Box_1 Once \Box_2 Twice \Box_3 sst None \Box_1 Once \Box_2 Twice \Box_3
39. Based on the results of your HIV antibody tests, what is your HIV status?		[
No testroof it know \Box_1 Negative \Box_2 Positive \Box_3	Anglo-Australian only □01 Other (please specify)	in Syaney are Decreasing \(\text{Stable} \) Stable \(\text{Intreasing } \text{Intreasing } \) In Melbourne are Decreasing \(\text{Intreasing } \text{Intreasing } \) Stable \(\text{Intreasing } \) Increasing the resource materials on the reverse side of the
If you are HIV positive, please complete the next two questions. 40. Are you on combination antiretroyiral therapy?		Information Sheet. Which ones have you seen before? A: No \square_1 Yes \square_2 B: No \square_1 Yes \square_2 C: No \square_1 Yes \square_2 D: No \square_1 Yes \square_2
No □, Yes □ ₂ 41. Is your viral load? Undetectable □, Detectable □,	On pension / social security \square_3 On pension / social security \square_3 Other \square_6 50. What is your occupation? (eg bar manager, bank manager,	drugs in the past 6 1 6-10 10-20 1
Don't know / unsure ☐3	IT support, welder) (please snecify)	Nevel unless unless so \square_1 \square_2 \square_3 \square_4
IF you are in a regular relationship with a man at present please complete the next three questions	est level of education you have had?	
42. Do you know the result of your regular partner's HIV antibody	Less than or up to 3 years of nign school/rear 10 \square_1 Year 12 / HoC \square_2 Toding dialoms or to the continuate / TACE \square_2	
Yes—Positive \Box_1	Terriary uploins of trade certificate 1 Are \Box_3 University or CAE \Box_4	a) Meth \Box_1 \Box_2 \Box_3 \Box_4 trips \Box_1 \Box_2 \Box_3 \Box_4
I don't know / He hasn't had a test \square_3	52. Where do you live? Postcode	K 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
43. Do you have a clear (spoken) agreement with your regular partner about anal sex (fucking) <u>within your relationship?</u>	OR Suburb/Town: 53. Where do you look for male sex partners?	Heroin
No agreement □1	Internet Never □₁ Occasionally □₂ Often □₃ Gay har Never □ Occasionally □₂ Often □₃	nave you injected drugs in the past 6 month
Agreement: No arial set a rail \square_2 Agreement: All anal sex is with a condom \square_3	e party Never □1 Occasionally □2	Every week □₁ At least r
Agreement: Anal sex can be without a condom \square_4	Gym Never \Box_1 Occasionally \Box_2 Often \Box_3 Beat Never \Box_1 Occasionally \Box_2 Often \Box_3	Every 3 months \Box_3 Once or a few times \Box_4 Never \Box_5
44. Do you have a clear (spoken) agreement with your regular	sauna Never □ Occasionally □2 seuna Never □ Occasionally □2	
painter about sex <u>with casual painters</u> ? No agreement □,	s Never \Box_1 Occasionally \Box_2	Every week \Box_1 At least monthly \Box_2 Every 3 months \Box_3 Once or a few times \Box_4 Never \Box_5
Agreement and a social Discounts of the social Discoun	54. In the last 6 months, how many of your male sexual partners did you find on the Internet?	61. In the past 6 months , how often have you had group sex after or
Agreement: Anal sex to with a condom □4 Agreement: Anal sex can be without a condom □5	lone 🗖 1	wrine using party drugs? Every week □₁ At least monthly □₂
	One \Box_2 11–50 men \Box_5 2–5 men \Box_3 More than 50 men \Box_6	Ne
		THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME 1-2007/