

## Gay Community Periodic Survey: Canberra 2003

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NATIONAL CENTRE IN HIV SOCIAL RESEARCH  
NATIONAL CENTRE IN HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY AND  
CLINICAL RESEARCH  
AIDS ACTION COUNCIL OF THE ACT



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**Monograph 5/2004**

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# Description of the study

The Canberra Gay Community Periodic Survey, funded by ACT Health, is a cross-sectional survey of gay and homosexually active men recruited through a range of gay community sites in Canberra. It provides a snapshot of sexual and HIV-related practices among gay and other homosexually active men. This is the second time the survey has been conducted in Canberra. Data from this survey may be used to make comparisons with the previous survey conducted in 2000 (Aspin et al., 2001).

The major aim of the survey is to provide data on levels of safe and unsafe sexual practice in a broad cross-sectional sample of gay and homosexually active men. To this end, men were recruited from a number of gay community venues. In 2003 they were recruited from three sites: the SpringOUT Festival Fair Day and two gay community venues/events. Trained volunteers recruited participants and administered the questionnaire at each of these venues over a one-week period.

This latest study was conducted in November 2003. It was similar to the previous survey in that it was conducted at the same time of the year and employed the same recruitment strategies. This makes it possible to examine changes and practices over time.

The questionnaire (appended to this report) is short, self-administered and typically takes five to ten minutes to complete. Questions focus on anal intercourse and oral sex, the use of condoms, the nature of sexual relationships, HIV testing practice and serostatus, aspects of social attachment to gay community, recreational drug use and a range of demographic items including sexual identity, age, education, occupation and ethnicity. In the main, to facilitate as direct a comparison as possible, the questions asked in 2003 were the same as those asked in the previous survey; however, some additional questions were included in the 2003 survey to address issues of using the internet to find sex partners, sexual health testing, and drug use and injecting drug use.

This report describes data from the second Canberra Gay Community Periodic Survey and compares this with data from the previous survey. More detailed analyses of the data will continue and be disseminated as they are completed. As with any data analysis, further examination may lead to minor reinterpretations of the findings.



# Sample and recruitment

Respondents were recruited through two venues in Canberra and at a large public gay-community event, SpringOUT Festival Fair Day. In all, 307 men were asked to complete the questionnaire and 255 did so. This represented a sound response rate of 83%, similar to that of the previous survey. Significantly fewer men participated in the survey in 2003 than in 2000. In contrast to the previous survey, significantly more men (58%) were recruited at the Fair Day event (see Table 1).

Previous studies, such as Sydney Men and Sexual Health (SMASH) (Prestage et al., 1995), have demonstrated that HIV serostatus is an important distinguishing feature among gay men, particularly with regard to sexual behaviour. For this reason, some of the data on sexual practices have been reported separately in the case of men who are HIV-positive, those who are HIV-negative, and those who have not been tested or do not know their serostatus.

Also, as indicated in previous periodic surveys, men recruited from events such as the Fair Day are different in some respects from those recruited at gay social venues. Nonetheless, most of the data reported here are for the sample as a whole, giving an account of practices drawn from a *broad* cross-sectional sample of Canberra gay men.

**Table 1: Source of recruitment**

	2000	2003
Fair Day	168 (48.0%)	148 (58.0%)
Other venues/ events	182 (52.0%)	107 (42.0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>350 (100%)</b>	<b>255 (100%)</b>

# Demographic profile

In terms of demographic variables, survey participants in the 2000 and 2003 surveys were remarkably similar.

## Geographic distribution

The men were living primarily in the Canberra area (see Table 2). Just under 10% of the sample came from Sydney and a similar proportion came from other areas in NSW.

## Age

The age of respondents ranged from 17 to 90 years with a median age of 38 (see Table 3). Although age range and distribution were relatively similar to those of men in the previous survey, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of men aged under 25 participating in the study in 2003 ( $p < .05$ ). About 65% of the men in the sample were aged between 30 and 49.

## Ethnicity

As in the previous survey, the respondents were predominantly 'Anglo-Australian' (based on responses to Question 44). In response to Question 43, ten men (4.4%) indicated that they were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. In Question 44, only one of these men reported his ethnic background as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (see Table 4).

## Employment and occupation

As in the previous survey, the sample was comprised of a larger proportion of men who were not in the work force compared with the general population (see Table 5). This was particularly true among HIV-positive men, a relatively high percentage of whom were most likely in receipt of some form of social security payment. In comparison with other cities where periodic surveys were conducted, the proportion of respondents in full-time work was higher, e.g. approximately 10% higher than that reported in Queensland (Hull et al., 2003d), with fewer part-time and unemployed/other respondents.

Approximately 85% of the men surveyed worked in professional/managerial or clerical/sales occupations (see Table 6). As in the previous survey, and as in most studies of male homosexual populations, there was a substantial over-representation of professionals/managers and an under-representation of manual workers in comparison with the general

**Table 2: Residential location**

	2000	2003
Canberra area	272 (77.7%)	209 (82.0%)
Sydney	37 (10.6%)	21 (8.2%)
Other NSW	41 (11.7%)	25 (9.8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>350 (100%)</b>	<b>255 (100%)</b>

**Table 5: Employment status**

	2000	2003
Full-time	252 (73.9%)	201 (79.1%)
Part-time	29 (8.5%)	18 (7.1%)
Unemployed/other	60 (17.6%)	35 (13.8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>341 (100%)</b>	<b>254 (100%)</b>

**Table 3: Age**

	2000	2003
Under 25	52 (15.0%)	22 (9.0%)
25–29	50 (14.5%)	26 (10.6%)
30–39	99 (28.6%)	88 (35.9%)
40–49	104 (30.1%)	73 (29.8%)
50 and over	41 (11.8%)	36 (14.7%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>346 (100%)</b>	<b>245 (100%)</b>

**Table 6: Occupation**

	2000	2003
Professional/managerial	113 (40.4%)	87 (41.6%)
Paraprofessional	14 (5.0%)	20 (9.6%)
Clerical/sales	144 (51.4%)	94 (45.0%)
Trades	5 (1.8%)	2 (1.0%)
Plant operation/labouring	4 (1.4%)	6 (2.9%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>280 (100%)</b>	<b>209 (100%)</b>

Note: Missing data here are mainly N/A (i.e. not currently employed)

**Table 4: Ethnicity**

	2000	2003
Anglo-Australian	253 (80.6%)	189 (82.5%)
European	22 (7.0%)	16 (7.0%)
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander*	6 (1.9%)	10 (4.4%)
Other	33 (10.5%)	14 (6.1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>314 (100%)</b>	<b>229 (100%)</b>

\*Proportion of Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander men is calculated on responses to Question 43

**Table 7: Education**

	2000	2003
Up to Year 10 at high school	37 (10.8%)	26 (10.3%)
Up to Year 12/Senior Certificate	53 (15.4%)	34 (13.4%)
Trade certificate or diploma	56 (16.3%)	33 (13.0%)
University or CAE qualification	198 (57.6%)	160 (63.2%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>344 (100%)</b>	<b>253 (100%)</b>



population (Connell et al., 1991; Hood et al., 1994). There have been no significant changes since the last survey in 2000 in the proportion of men employed in each of the occupation categories.

As in other gay-community-based studies, this sample was relatively well educated in comparison with the general population. About two-thirds of the men had undertaken university or CAE education (see Table 7, page 5). There was no significant change from the previous survey in 2000 in the proportions of men in each of the educational categories.

## Sexual relationships with men

In the 2003 periodic survey, about 55% of the men in the sample were in a regular sexual relationship with a man at the time of completing the survey (see Table 8). About a quarter of study participants were monogamous (i.e. had sex only with a regular partner). Over half the men were 'currently' having sex with casual partners, while 14% had no sexual partners.

As in the 2000 survey, about 70% of the men who were in a regular relationship had been in that relationship for at least one year (see Table 9).

**Table 8: Relationships with men**

	2000	2003
None	51 (14.6%)	33 (13.0%)
Casual only	107 (30.6%)	81 (32.0%)
Regular plus casual	88 (25.1%)	76 (30.0%)
Regular only (monogamous)	104 (29.7%)	63 (24.9%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>350 (100%)</b>	<b>253 (100%)</b>

**Table 9: Length of relationships with men**

	2000	2003
Less than one year	56 (29.5%)	42 (30.7%)
At least one year	134 (70.5%)	95 (69.3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>190 (100%)</b>	<b>137 (100%)</b>

Note: Includes only those men who answered Question 7 and had a regular partner at the time of the survey

# Association with gay community

In several respects, and not surprisingly given the recruitment strategies used in this study, this was a highly gay-identified and gay-community-attached sample.

## Sexual identity

In 2003, as in the 2000 survey, most men identified as 'homosexual'. Homosexual identification included 'gay/homosexual' and there was also a small number of men who identified as 'queer'. The proportion of men who identified as homosexual was similar to that observed in other periodic surveys of gay men in Australia, including the Queensland survey (Hull et al., 2003d) and Perth survey (Hull et al., 2003a). About 8% of the men identified as 'bisexual'. Very few were heterosexual or identified themselves as 'other' (see Table 10).

## Gay community involvement

The men in the 2003 sample were quite socially involved with gay men, as were their earlier counterparts (see Table 11). Almost half of the men in the sample reported that 'most' or 'all' of their friends were gay men. Of the seven men who had no gay friends, five of them identified as bisexual.

Consistent with the percentages in Table 11, about 87% of the men reported spending 'some' or 'a lot' of their free time with gay men (see Table 12). There was no change in the proportions in each category since the previous survey in 2000.

**Table 10: Sexual identity**

	2000	2003
Gay/homosexual/ queer	316 (90.8%)	230 (90.2%)
Bisexual	26 (7.5%)	21 (8.2%)
Heterosexual/other	6 (1.7%)	4 (1.6%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>348 (100%)</b>	<b>255 (100%)</b>

**Table 11: Gay friends**

	2000	2003
None	1 (0.3%)	7 (2.7%)
Some or a few	173 (49.4%)	132 (51.8%)
Most or all	176 (50.3%)	116 (45.5%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>350 (100%)</b>	<b>255 (100%)</b>

**Table 12: Proportion of free time spent with gay men**

	2000	2003
None	2 (0.6%)	1 (0.4%)
A little	50 (14.3%)	33 (13.0%)
Some	131 (37.5%)	101 (39.8%)
A lot	166 (47.6%)	119 (46.9%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>349 (100%)</b>	<b>254 (100%)</b>

# HIV testing

Most of the men had been tested for antibodies to HIV (see Table 13). Of these men, the vast majority reported a negative result from their most recent HIV test. About 15% of the men had not been tested or had failed to obtain their test results. Few men in the sample, about 5% altogether, reported being HIV-positive. These proportions had not changed since the previous survey in 2000.

## **Time since most recent HIV antibody test**

Among the non-HIV-positive men who had ever been tested for HIV, the majority had done so within the previous 12 months. Almost 40% of the sample had not been tested for at least 12 months (see Table 14). These proportions were quite stable across the two survey periods. The proportion who had not been tested for at least 12 months was comparable to that reported in the Melbourne survey (37%) (Hull et al., 2003c) but higher than the proportion of their counterparts in the Sydney (32%) (Van de Ven et al., 2003b) and Queensland (31%) (Hull et al., 2003d) surveys.

## **Combination therapies**

All but one of the HIV-positive men surveyed in 2003 was using combination antiretroviral therapy (see Table 15). The small number of HIV-positive men in the sample makes comparisons with previous surveys unreliable, although the proportion in 2000 was comparable to that in periodic surveys conducted in 2000 in Melbourne (Hull et al., 2003c) Queensland (Hull et al., 2003d) and Sydney (Van de Ven et al., 2003b). However, in most cities the proportion of men using antiretroviral therapies has decreased over time (Van de Ven et al., 2003).

## **Regular partner's HIV status**

Participants were asked about the serostatus of their current regular partner. As the question only referred to current partners, fewer men responded to this item than indicated sex with a regular partner during the previous six months. Approximately three-quarters of the men who were in a regular relationship at the time of the survey had an HIV-negative partner (see Table 16). Approximately 17% had a regular partner whose serostatus they did not know. The proportions in each category were unchanged since the previous survey in 2000.

HIV-negative men were most likely to be in a regular relationship with another HIV-negative man (see Table 17). It was not possible to determine that a preference for (or likelihood of) a relationship with a man of the same serostatus applied to HIV-positive men or men of unknown status due to the small number of such men in the sample.

**Table 13: HIV test results**

	2000	2003
Not tested/no results	59 (17.0%)	38 (15.0%)
HIV-negative	270 (77.8%)	202 (79.8%)
HIV-positive	18 (5.2%)	13 (5.1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>347 (100%)</b>	<b>253 (100%)</b>

**Table 14: Time since most recent HIV test**

	2000	2003
Less than 6 months ago	91 (33.5%)	82 (40.8%)
7–12 months ago	63 (23.2%)	41 (20.4%)
1–2 years ago	59 (21.7%)	37 (18.4%)
Over 2 years ago	59 (21.7%)	41 (20.4%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>272 (100%)</b>	<b>201 (100%)</b>

Note: This table includes only non-HIV-positive men who had ever been tested for HIV

**Table 15: Use of combination antiretroviral therapies**

	2000	2003
Yes	12 (70.6%)	12 (92.3%)
No	5 (29.4%)	1 (7.7%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 (100%)</b>	<b>13 (100%)</b>

Note: Includes only HIV-positive men and is based on relatively small numbers

**Table 16: HIV status of regular partner**

	2000	2003
HIV-positive	12 (6.9%)	7 (6.2%)
HIV-negative	127 (73.0%)	87 (77.0%)
HIV status unknown	35 (20.1%)	19 (16.8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>174 (100%)</b>	<b>113 (100%)</b>

Note: Includes only those men who had a regular partner at the time of completing the survey

**Table 17: Match of HIV status in regular relationships**

Serostatus of regular partner	Participant's serostatus		
	HIV-positive	HIV-negative	Unknown
<b>2000</b>			
HIV-positive	1	10	0
HIV-negative	8	108	11
HIV status unknown	2	20	13
<b>Total (N = 273)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>2003</b>			
HIV-positive	2	5	0
HIV-negative	6	77	4
HIV status unknown	0	13	6
<b>Total (N = 242)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>10</b>

Note: Includes only those men who had a regular partner at the time of completing the survey. We list the count only as the sample was too small to calculate reliable proportions.

# Sexual practice and 'safe sex'

## Sexual behaviour between men

Participants were asked to report on a limited range of sexual practices (separately for regular and casual partners): anal intercourse with and without ejaculation, and oral intercourse with and without ejaculation.

Based on the responses to the sexual behaviour questions and the type of sexual relationships with men indicated by the participants, in the six months prior to the survey about 70% of the men had sexual contact with casual partners and two-thirds had sex with regular partners (see Table 18). Since the previous survey in 2000 there had been a significant increase in the proportion of respondents reporting sex with casual partners ( $p < .001$ ).

In the six-month period preceding the 2000 survey, men recruited at Fair Day were significantly less likely to have had casual partners than their counterparts recruited at the gay venues ( $p < .05$ ). However, there was no significant difference in the proportions of men recruited at Fair Day or gay venues who had casual partners in 2003 (see Table 19), nor was there a significant difference in the proportions of men with regular partners recruited at Fair Day or gay venues in 2000 or 2003.

The majority of the men had engaged in sex with between one and ten partners 'in the previous six months', while 24% of the men reported having had sex with more than ten partners during that time (see Table 20). There was no significant change in these proportions since the previous survey in 2000.

## Overview of sexual practices with regular and casual partners

Almost 60% of the men with regular male partners had engaged in oral intercourse with ejaculation with their partners and were equally likely to have done so in the insertive as in the receptive position (see Table 21).

The vast majority (about 85%) of men with a regular male partner had engaged in anal intercourse with their partners. In 2003 almost three-quarters of the men with regular partners had engaged in insertive anal intercourse, while a slightly smaller proportion had engaged in receptive anal intercourse. These percentages were similar to those reported in the previous survey.

**Table 18: Reported sex with male partners in previous six months**

	2000	2003
Any sexual contact with regular partners	215 (61.4%)	160 (62.7)
Any sexual contact with casual partners	225 (64.3%)	180 (70.6%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>350 (100%)</b>	<b>255 (100%)</b>

Note: These categories are not mutually exclusive.

**Table 20: Number of male sex partners in previous six months**

	2000	2003
None	54 (15.6%)	29 (11.4%)
1	75 (21.5%)	52 (20.5%)
2–10	149 (43.1%)	112 (44.1%)
11–50	57 (16.5%)	52 (20.5%)
More than 50	11 (3.2%)	9 (3.5%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>346 (100%)</b>	<b>254 (100%)</b>

**Table 19: Reported sex with male partners in previous six months by type of recruitment site**

	Fair Day	Venues
<b>2000</b>		
Any sexual contact with regular partners	100 (59.5%)	115 (63.2%)
Any sexual contact with casual partners	98 (58.3%)	127 (69.8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>182</b>
<b>2003</b>		
Any sexual contact with regular partners	89 (60.1%)	71 (66.4%)
Any sexual contact with casual partners	101 (68.2%)	79 (73.8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>107</b>

Note: These categories are not mutually exclusive.

**Table 21: Sexual behaviour with regular male partners**

	Total sample	Those with regular partners
<b>2000</b>	<b>N = 350</b>	<b>n = 215</b>
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	136 (38.9%)	136 (63.3%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	103 (29.4%)	103 (47.9%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	103 (29.4%)	103 (47.9%)
Any anal intercourse	184 (52.6%)	184 (85.6%)
Insertive anal intercourse	155 (44.3%)	155 (72.1%)
Receptive anal intercourse	141 (40.3%)	141 (65.6%)
<b>2003</b>	<b>N = 255</b>	<b>n = 167</b>
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	95 (37.3%)	95 (59.4%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	82 (32.2%)	82 (51.3%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	84 (32.9%)	84 (52.5%)
Any anal intercourse	136 (53.3%)	136 (85.0%)
Insertive anal intercourse	120 (47.1%)	120 (75.0%)
Receptive anal intercourse	102 (40.0%)	102 (63.8%)

Note: These items are not mutually exclusive. The percentages do not sum to 100% as some men engaged in more than one of these practices and some in none of these practices.

Fewer respondents engaged in either oral intercourse with ejaculation, or anal intercourse, with casual male partners; these practices were more likely to occur with regular male partners (see Table 22). About 40% of the men who had casual partners engaged in oral intercourse with ejaculation, more commonly in the insertive position. About 80% of those who had sex with casual male partners engaged in anal intercourse with those partners, again more usually in the insertive position.

## **Sex with regular male partners**

### **Condom use**

Based on the entire sample, approximately a third of the men who participated in the survey engaged in any unprotected anal intercourse with regular male partners (UAIR) in the six months prior to the survey (see Table 23). Of the men with regular partners, half had engaged in UAIR with their partner in the previous six months. There was no change in these proportions from the previous survey in 2000.

In 2003 four of the eight HIV-positive men in regular relationships reported UAIR in the previous six months (see Table 24). Just over half of the HIV-negative men with regular partners reported some unprotected anal intercourse in the previous six months. For a breakdown of condom use by match of serostatus among regular partners, refer to Table 28.

In Table 25 the serostatus of each participant who had anal intercourse with a regular partner has been compared with that of his regular partner. In the case of each of the nine serostatus combinations, sexual practice has been divided into 'no unprotected anal intercourse' and 'some unprotected anal intercourse'. The numbers overall are very small and these figures should be treated cautiously (i.e. not interpreted as significant trends).

In 2003 most of the unprotected anal intercourse within regular relationships of six months or more was between seroconcordant (positive–positive or negative–negative) couples. However, nine men engaged in unprotected anal intercourse in a relationship where seroconcordance was absent or in doubt<sup>1</sup>.

### **Agreements**

At the time of completing the survey, most participants with regular male partners had agreements with their partners about sex within the relationship (see Table 26). In 2003 almost half of the men in relationships agreed to anal intercourse without a condom. Of these 53 men, the majority were in a seroconcordant (positive–positive or negative–negative) relationship, while a relatively small number, four in all, were in a relationship where seroconcordance was in doubt.

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<sup>1</sup>These figures may represent a slight overestimation of the number of relationships in which seroconcordance was in doubt at the time couples were engaging in UAIR. The doubt exists because questions about sexual practice were asked in the context of the preceding six months, whereas knowledge of a partner's HIV status was at the time of completing the survey. Hence, some couples may have engaged in UAIR when serostatus of both partners was known, but subsequently stopped engaging in the practice if the serostatus of one or both became uncertain.

**Table 22: Sexual behaviour with casual male partners**

	Total sample	Those with casual partners
<b>2000</b>	<b>N = 350</b>	<b>n = 225</b>
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	95 (27.1%)	95 (42.2%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	78 (22.3%)	78 (34.7%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	61 (17.4%)	61 (27.1%)
Any anal intercourse	170 (48.6%)	169 (75.1%)
Insertive anal intercourse	154 (44.0%)	154 (68.4%)
Receptive anal intercourse	118 (33.7%)	117 (52.0%)
<b>2003</b>	<b>N = 255</b>	<b>n = 180</b>
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	72 (28.2%)	71 (39.4%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	59 (23.1%)	58 (32.2%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	51 (20.0%)	50 (27.8%)
Any anal intercourse	147 (57.6%)	145 (80.6%)
Insertive anal intercourse	130 (51.0%)	128 (71.1%)
Receptive anal intercourse	111 (43.5%)	110 (61.1%)

Note: These items are not mutually exclusive. The percentages do not sum to 100% as some men engaged in more than one of these practices and some in none of these practices.

**Table 23: Condom use with regular male partners**

	Total sample	Those with regular partners
<b>2000</b>		
No regular partner	135 (38.6%)	—
No anal intercourse	31 (8.9%)	31 (14.4%)
Always uses condom	65 (18.6%)	65 (30.2%)
Sometimes does not use condom	119 (34.0%)	119 (55.3%)
<b>Base</b>	<b>350 (100%)</b>	<b>215 (100%)</b>
<b>2003</b>		
No regular partner	95 (37.3%)	—
No anal intercourse	24 (9.4%)	24 (15.0%)
Always uses condom	52 (20.4%)	52 (32.5%)
Sometimes does not use condom <sup>1</sup>	84 (32.9%)	84 (52.5%)
<b>Base</b>	<b>255 (100%)</b>	<b>160 (100%)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Of the 84 men who engaged in UAIR 'in the previous six months', 13 (15%) practised only withdrawal prior to ejaculation, 38 (45%) practised only ejaculation inside and 33 (39%) engaged in both withdrawal and ejaculation inside.

**Table 24: Serostatus and condom use among regular male partners**

	HIV-positive	HIV-negative	Unknown
<b>2000 (ns)</b>			
No anal intercourse	—	24 (14.5%)	7 (17.9%)
Always uses condom	7 (70.0%)	44 (26.7%)	13 (33.3%)
Sometimes does not use condom	3 (30.0%)	97 (58.8%)	19 (48.7%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 (100%)</b>	<b>165 (100%)</b>	<b>39 (100%)</b>
<b>2003 (ns)</b>			
No anal intercourse	1 (12.5%)	21 (15.2%)	7 (35.0%)
Always uses condom	3 (37.5%)	45 (32.6%)	5 (25.0%)
Sometimes does not use condom	4 (50.0%)	72 (52.2%)	8 (40.0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 (100%)</b>	<b>138 (100%)</b>	<b>20 (100%)</b>

ns = non-significant

Note: Includes only those men who had a regular partner 'in the previous six months'. Data to be treated cautiously as it is based on small numbers



**Table 25: Condom use and match of HIV serostatus in regular relationships**

Partner's serostatus		Participant's serostatus		
		HIV-positive	HIV-negative	Unknown
<b>2000</b>				
HIV-positive	No UAI	–	5	–
	Some UAI	–	3	–
HIV-negative	No UAI	5	15 (17.9%)	2
	Some UAI	3	69 (82.1%)	6
Unknown	No UAI	1	3	3
	Some UAI	–	5	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>2003</b>				
HIV-positive	No UAI	–	3	–
	Some UAI	2	1	–
HIV-negative	No UAI	3	13 (22.0%)	–
	Some UAI	1	46 (78.0%)	–
Unknown	No UAI	–	3	1
	Some UAI	–	4	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>4</b>

Note: UAI = unprotected anal intercourse. This analysis includes only men who had anal intercourse with their 'current' regular partner 'in the previous six months' and had been in that relationship for at least six months. With the exception of negative-negative partners, the sample is too small to calculate reliable proportions for comparison.

**Table 26: Agreements with regular male partners about sex *within* the relationship**

	2000	2003
No spoken agreement about anal intercourse	46 (25.0%)	24 (21.4%)
No anal intercourse between regular partners is permitted	9 (4.9%)	6 (5.4%)
Anal intercourse permitted only with condom	50 (27.2%)	29 (25.9%)
Anal intercourse without condom is permitted	79 (42.9%)	53 (47.3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>184 (100%)</b>	<b>112 (100%)</b>

Note: Based on the responses of men who had a regular partner at the time of the survey

**Table 27: Agreements with regular male partners about sex *outside* the relationship**

	2000	2003
No spoken agreement about sex	68 (37.2%)	25 (22.1%)
No sexual contact with casual partners is permitted	53 (29.0%)	34 (30.1%)
No anal intercourse with casual partners is permitted	14 (7.7%)	5 (4.4%)
Anal intercourse permitted only with condom	48 (26.2%)	43 (38.1%)
Anal intercourse without condom is permitted	–	6 (5.3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>183 (100%)</b>	<b>113 (100%)</b>

Note: Based on the responses of men who had a regular partner at the time of the survey

In 2003 almost a quarter of the men in a 'current' relationship had no spoken agreement with their partner about sex outside the relationship, a significant decrease from the 2000 survey ( $p < .01$ ) (see Table 27). Conversely, the proportion who allowed anal intercourse with casual partners only with a condom had increased ( $p < .01$ ). Where couples did have an agreement, very few permitted unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners.

## Sex with casual male partners

### Condom use

Based on the entire sample, 41 (16.1%) of the men who participated in the 2003 survey had engaged in some unprotected anal intercourse with their casual male partners (UAIC) in the previous six months (see Table 28). A separate analysis revealed that 17 of these 41 men also had unprotected anal intercourse with a regular partner during that time<sup>2</sup>. The proportions of respondents who always used condoms and those who sometimes did not use condoms were unchanged from the 2000 survey.

A comparison of data in Tables 23 and 28 confirms that more men had unprotected anal intercourse with regular than with casual partners. Furthermore, unprotected anal intercourse *with ejaculation inside* was more common within regular relationships than between casual partners (see footnotes to both tables).

In 2003, as in the previous survey, there was no difference in the proportions of HIV-negative and 'untested' men who engaged in UAIC (see Table 29). The sample was not sufficiently large to enable valid comparisons across serostatus groups. Some of the HIV-positive men's unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners may be explained by positive-positive sex (Prestage et al., 1995), which poses no risk of seroconversion *per se*.

### Disclosure of serostatus

Two questions were included in the questionnaire to obtain a sense of the incidence of disclosure and sex between casual partners. Many more questions, well beyond the scope of the brief questionnaire used here, would need to be asked to fully understand the issue. Furthermore, the inclusion of the two questions was not intended to endorse sexual negotiation between casual partners.

Approximately two-thirds of respondents who had sex with casual partners did not disclose their HIV status to any of these partners<sup>3</sup> (see Table 30). About 13% of men disclosed their status to 'all' of their casual partners. The rates of disclosure were unchanged between 2000 and 2003.

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<sup>2</sup>It is not possible to determine within the six-month period how closely occurrences of UAIC followed occurrences of UAIC and vice versa, nor the level of risk, if any, posed to regular partners by UAIC. This is because some men may not have been in a regular relationship at the time they had UAIC, and/or UAIC may have been with seroconcordant partners.

<sup>3</sup>Please note that Questions 32 and 33 do not distinguish the type of sex related to HIV disclosure.

Similarly, about two-thirds of participants were not told the serostatus of their casual partners (see Table 31). About 7% of respondents were disclosed to by all of their casual partners. Overall rates of disclosure did not change over the period of the two surveys to 2003.

The strong similarities between the data in Tables 30 and 31 indicate that disclosure in casual contexts tends to be reciprocal.

## Post-exposure prophylaxis

One question aimed at assessing people's awareness of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) was added to the survey in 2003 (see Table 32). Over half of all respondents (57%) knew that PEP was now available, a considerably higher proportion than that reported in Queensland (Hull et al., 2003d) and Melbourne (Hull et al., 2003c), although lower than that reported in Sydney (Van de Ven et al., 2003b). Thirty-seven per cent of respondents had never heard of PEP.

## Finding sex partners on internet chat sites and negotiating online

In the 2003 survey, respondents were asked how many male sex partners they had found on the internet. About two-thirds of the men had not found any sex partners on the internet (see Table 33). Approximately a quarter of the men surveyed had found 'a few' or 'some' of their male sex partners on the internet and about 8% of respondents had found most or all of their sex partners on the internet.

**Table 28: Condom use with casual male partners**

	Total sample	Those with casual partners
No casual partner	125 (35.7%)	–
No anal intercourse	56 (16.0%)	56 (24.9%)
Always uses condom	119 (34.0%)	119 (52.9%)
Sometimes does not use condom	50 (14.3%)	50 (22.2%)
<b>Base</b>	<b>350 (100%)</b>	<b>225 (100%)</b>
No casual partner	75 (29.4%)	–
No anal intercourse	35 (13.7%)	35 (19.4%)
Always uses condom	104 (40.8%)	104 (57.8%)
Sometimes does not use condom <sup>1</sup>	41 (16.1%)	41 (22.8%)
<b>Base</b>	<b>255 (100%)</b>	<b>180 (100%)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Of the 41 men who engaged in unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners 'in the previous six months', 20 (49%) practised only withdrawal prior to ejaculation, 3 (7%) practised only ejaculation inside, and 18 (44%) engaged in both withdrawal and ejaculation inside.

**Table 29: Serostatus and condom use with casual male partners**

	HIV-positive	HIV-negative	Unknown
<b>2000 (ns)</b>			
No anal intercourse	3 (30.0%)	45 (25.7%)	8 (21.1%)
Always uses condom	5 (50.0%)	92 (52.6%)	20 (52.6%)
Sometimes does not use condom	2 (20.0%)	38 (21.7%)	10 (26.3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 (100%)</b>	<b>175 (100%)</b>	<b>38 (100%)</b>
<b>2003 (ns)</b>			
No anal intercourse	3 (27.3%)	26 (18.8%)	6 (19.4%)
Always uses condom	4 (36.4%)	83 (60.1%)	17 (54.8%)
Sometimes does not use condom	4 (36.4%)	29 (21.0%)	8 (25.8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 (100%)</b>	<b>138 (100%)</b>	<b>31 (100%)</b>

Note: Includes only those men who had any casual partners 'in the previous six months'. Data to be treated cautiously, as it is based on small numbers

**Table 30: Participants' disclosure of serostatus to casual partners**

	2000	2003
Told none	139 (65.0%)	140 (65.1%)
Told some	42 (19.6%)	46 (21.4%)
Told all	33 (15.4%)	29 (13.5%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>214 (100%)</b>	<b>215 (100%)</b>

Note: Includes only those men who had casual partners in the preceding six months

**Table 31: Casual partners' disclosure of serostatus to participants**

	2000	2003
Told by none	141 (65.3%)	137 (63.7%)
Told by some	49 (22.7%)	62 (28.8%)
Told by all	26 (12.0%)	16 (7.4%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>216 (100%)</b>	<b>215 (100%)</b>

Note: Includes only those men who had casual partners in the preceding six months

**Table 32: Knowledge about post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)**

	2003
It's readily available now	137 (57.1%)
It will be available in the future	14 (5.8%)
I've never heard about it	89 (37.1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>240 (100%)</b>

**Table 33: Male sex partners found on the internet**

	2003
None	163 (64.4%)
A few	42 (16.6%)
Some	27 (10.7%)
Most	13 (5.1%)
All	8 (3.2%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>253 (100%)</b>

Three items were added in 2003 to obtain some understanding of whether or not men disclosed their HIV status when visiting gay internet chat sites, and whether or not they expected disclosure of other men's HIV status over the internet. There was no significant difference between HIV-positive and non-HIV-positive men on responses to these statements. (It should be noted that, because of the small number of HIV-positive men who completed the questionnaire, reliable comparisons are difficult so these proportions are not presented here.)

Approximately 60% of the men surveyed agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: 'I am likely to tell my HIV status to men I make contact with on gay chat sites before meeting them' (see Table 34). Of all the men surveyed, about two-thirds agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: 'On gay chat sites I usually seek partners who are the same HIV status as me.' About three-quarters of the men surveyed either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: 'I expect men who I meet through gay chat sites to be honest about their HIV status.'

**Table 34: Responses to questions about internet gay chat sites**

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
'I am likely to tell my HIV status to men I make contact with on gay chat sites before meeting them.'	70 (30.8%)	68 (30.0%)	62 (27.3%)	27 (11.9%)
'On gay chat sites I usually seek partners who are the same HIV status as me.'	74 (35.2%)	68 (32.4%)	46 (21.9%)	22 (10.5%)
'I expect men who I meet through gay chat sites to be honest about their HIV status.'	91 (41.9%)	73 (33.6%)	33 (15.2%)	20 (9.2%)

# Health and sexual health

A question asking respondents to rate their general health was included for the first time in the 2003 survey. Approximately 70% of HIV-positive men reported their health to be either 'excellent' or 'very good' compared to about 80% of non-HIV-positive men. Although this difference was similar to that found in other cities where periodic surveys were conducted, in this relatively small sample the difference was not statistically significant.

Almost three-quarters of the men sampled in 2003 had had a sexual health check-up in the previous year, with the majority obtaining check-ups at an ACT sexual health clinic or a local GP or doctor (see Table 35). There were only two HIV-positive respondents who did not have a sexual health check-up in the 12 months prior to completing the survey.

A question was added in the 2003 survey asking which tests for sexually transmitted infections respondents had had in the previous 12 months. Of the total sample in 2003, about half reported having had their blood tested for HIV and a similar proportion reported having had a blood test for other infections (see Table 36). Just under a quarter reported having had anal swabs, just over a quarter had had throat swabs, and a slightly smaller proportion reported having had penile swabs. About 40% had had their urine tested.

**Table 35: Place of sexual health check-up in previous 12 months**

	2003
ACT STRIP Project	16 (6.3%)
ACT sexual health clinic	46 (18.0%)
ACT GP/doctor	76 (29.8%)
Outside ACT	35 (13.7%)
No check-up in previous year	73 (28.6%)

**Table 36: Sexual health tests in previous 12 months**

	2003
Anal swab	56 (22.0%)
Throat swab	69 (27.1%)
Penile swab	49 (19.2%)
Urine sample	101 (39.6%)
Blood test for HIV*	125 (52.1%)
Other blood test	126 (49.4%)

\* Includes non-HIV-positive men only

# Drug use

Based on responses to Question 57, half of the men in the sample had, during the preceding six months, used one or more of the drugs listed. The most commonly used drugs were marijuana, amyl/poppers, speed and ecstasy, with about 30% of the total sample saying that they had used amyl/poppers or marijuana and almost a quarter reporting ecstasy use in the preceding six months (see Table 37). The proportion of men using speed (15%) and crystal meth (5%) was relatively low compared to that reported in the most recent surveys conducted in Sydney (Van de Ven, et al., 2003b), Melbourne (Hull et al., 2003c) and Queensland (Hull et al., 2003d). About 8% of the sample reported using drugs in addition to those listed in Question 57. As in other Australian cities, relatively few men reported using heroin.

As in other Australian cities, relatively few men indicated that they had injected drugs/steroids in the previous six months (see Table 38). The most commonly injected drug was speed (1.6%) with only two men surveyed indicating that they had injected heroin or ecstasy, and one cocaine.

**Table 37: Drug use in the previous six months**

	2003
Amyl/poppers	77 (30.2%)
Marijuana	74 (29.0%)
Viagra	27 (10.6%)
Ecstasy	58 (22.7%)
Speed	37 (14.5%)
Cocaine	18 (7.1%)
LSD/trips	9 (3.5%)
Crystal meth	12 (4.7%)
Heroin	3 (1.2%)
Steroids	2 (0.8%)
Any other drug	20 (7.8%)
Any of the above	126 (49.4%)

Note: Percentages are based on the total sample (N = 255). Responses were not mutually exclusive.

**Table 38: Injecting drug use in the previous six months**

	2003
Ecstasy	2 (0.8%)
Speed	4 (1.6%)
Crystal meth	3 (1.2%)
Cocaine	1 (0.4%)
LSD/trips	1 (0.4%)
Heroin	2 (0.8%)
Steroids	—
Any other drug	—
Any of the above	4 (1.6%)

Note: Percentages are based on the total sample (N = 255). Responses were not mutually exclusive

# Discussion

The findings from the second Canberra Gay Community Periodic Survey provide an important snapshot of the social and sexual lives of gay men in Canberra. In the main, the findings are quite similar to, and thereby corroborate, the evidence from the 2000 survey. Furthermore, many of the results reported here parallel findings from the gay community periodic surveys undertaken in other Australian cities, such as Sydney (Hull et al., 2003b), Melbourne (Hull et al., 2003c) and Queensland (Hull, et al., 2003d), reinforcing the notion that in some respects the gay cultures of the state capitals in Australia are similar.

The 255 participants were recruited at two gay community venues in Canberra and at Fair Day held during the SpringOUT Festival. Most of these men lived in the Canberra area. They were predominantly of 'Anglo-Australian' background, in professional/managerial or white-collar occupations and well educated.

Most of the participants identified as gay or homosexual. As a whole, the sample was quite involved socially in gay community, with high levels of gay friendships and much free time spent with gay men.

Consistent with the results of the previous survey in 2000, 15% of the men had not been tested for HIV. The majority of those who had been tested for HIV had done so 'within the past year'. Overall, 5.1% of the men surveyed were HIV-positive, a similar proportion to that in the previous survey. Although most of the men in regular relationships were aware of the HIV status of their partners, this was not the case for 17% of the men.

Of the 13 HIV-positive participants, only one was not using combination antiretroviral therapies. Just over half of the men surveyed knew that PEP was currently available, although about a third had never heard of it.

Most men reported 'current' sexual contact with at least one other man: about a quarter of the men had a regular partner only and a similar proportion had only casual partners; about a third had a regular partner, with either or both partners also having casual partners. In the six months prior to the survey, about two-thirds of the men had had sex with regular partners and approximately 70% with casual partners.

Of the total sample, and 'in the previous six months', 84 men (33%) had engaged in some unprotected anal intercourse with regular partners and 41 men (16%) had had in some unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners. Some of these men (17 in all) had had unprotected anal intercourse with both regular and casual partners. In total, 108 men reported having engaged in UAIR or UAIC or both. The remainder of the men in the overall sample (147 men) indicated no unprotected anal intercourse with either regular or casual partners. In Canberra, unlike in most other cities in Australia, there has not been a statistically significant increase in unprotected anal intercourse with regular or casual partners over time.



Not unexpectedly, more men had engaged in unprotected anal intercourse with regular than with casual partners. Over three-quarters of the men with regular partners had agreements about sex within the relationship and a similar proportion had agreements about sex outside the relationship. In the two surveys since 2000 there was no change in the proportion of men who had an agreement with their regular partner about sex within the relationship; however, there was a significant increase in the proportion of men who had an agreement with their partner about sex outside the relationship. The proportion of those who had an agreement about sex within the relationship was consistent with that in other parts of Australia, including Melbourne (Hull et al., 2003c) and Queensland (Hull et al., 2003d); however, a larger percentage of men had agreements about sex outside the relationship. Whereas about 47% of these agreements permitted unprotected anal intercourse within the relationship, very few men had agreements that allowed unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners.

About a third of the men surveyed had found sex partners on the internet. When visiting gay chat sites, the majority of men surveyed were likely to disclose their HIV status before meeting in person, would usually seek partners with the same HIV status and would expect partners met through gay chat sites to be honest about their HIV status.

In general, the men did not routinely disclose their serostatus to casual partners. Similarly, they generally did not know the serostatus of their casual partners. Two-thirds of the men never disclosed their serostatus to casual partners and a similar proportion were never disclosed to by casual partners.

Over a quarter of respondents had not had a sexual health check-up in the previous 12 months. Most of the men had had check-ups by a GP or doctor in the ACT or at an ACT sexual health clinic. About half of the men had reported having a blood test for HIV and a similar proportion had had a blood test for other infections. A slightly smaller number had reported having urine tested.

Whereas 50% of the men had used recreational drugs in the previous six months, almost all of the men (98%) had not injected any recreational drugs/steroids during that time.

In conclusion, these data provide evidence of a sustaining safe sex culture among gay-community-attached men in Canberra.

The 2003 Canberra Gay Community Periodic Survey was conducted very successfully. Recruitment at the three diverse sites attracted a useful sample of gay men from the Canberra metropolitan area. The resulting data are robust and comparisons of that data with that from the previous survey and other studies suggest sound reliability. The findings from this survey continue to provide hard evidence useful to community members, educators, policy planners and the like to tailor programs that aim to sustain and improve gay men's sexual and social health.

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# Appendix

See next page.

**Canberra Gay Community Periodic Survey**

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.

- 1 How many of your friends are gay or homosexual men?  
None ☐ A few ☐ Some ☐ Most ☐ All ☐
- 2 How much of your free time is spent with gay or homosexual men?  
None ☐ A little ☐ Some ☐ A lot ☐
- 3 Do you think of yourself as:  
Gay/homosexual ☐  
Bisexual ☐  
Heterosexual ☐

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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

- 4 Do you currently have sex with **casual** male partners?  
No ☐ Yes ☐
- 5 Do you currently have sex with a **regular** male partner?  
No ☐ Yes ☐
- 6 How would you describe your sexual relationship with your **current regular** male partner? (*tick one*)

We are monogamous – **neither of us** has casual sex ☐  
**Both my partner and I** have casual sex with other men ☐  
I have casual sex with other men but **my partner does not** ☐  
**My partner** has casual sex with other men but **I do not** ☐  
I have **several regular** male partners ☐  
I have **no current regular male partner** ☐

- 7 If you are in a **regular** relationship with a man, for how long has it been?  
Less than 6 months ☐  
6–11 months ☐  
1–2 years ☐  
More than 2 years ☐  
I am not in a regular relationship with a man ☐

**LAST SIX MONTHS . . . . .**

- 8 How many different **men** have you had sex with in the past six months?  
None ☐ One ☐  
2–5 men ☐ 6–10 men ☐  
11–50 men ☐ More than 50 men ☐
- 9 How many different **women** have you had sex with in the past six months?  
None ☐ One ☐  
2–5 women ☐ 6–10 women ☐  
More than 10 women ☐

**Regular male partners — past 6 months**

- 10 Have you had sex with regular male partner/s in the past six months? Yes ☐ No ☐ Go directly to Question 21.

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

- 11 **Oral sex:** I sucked his cock but he did NOT come in my mouth  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐
- 12 **Oral sex:** He sucked my cock but I did NOT come in his mouth  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐
- 13 **Oral sex:** I sucked his cock and he came in my mouth  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐
- 14 **Oral sex:** He sucked my cock and I came in his mouth  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

**Anal sex**

- 15 I fucked him **with a condom**  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐
- 16 He fucked me **with a condom**  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐
- 17 I fucked him **without a condom** but pulled out before I came  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐
- 18 He fucked me **without a condom** but pulled out before he came  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐
- 19 I fucked him **without a condom** and came inside him  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐
- 20 He fucked me **without a condom** and came inside me  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

**Casual male partners — past 6 months**

- 21 Have you had sex with casual male partner/s in the past six months? Yes ☐ No ☐ Go directly to Question 34.

In the past **SIX MONTHS** which of the following have you done with any of your **CASUAL** male partners?

- 22 **Oral sex:** I sucked his cock but he did NOT come in my mouth  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐
- 23 **Oral sex:** He sucked my cock but I did NOT come in his mouth  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐
- 24 **Oral sex:** I sucked his cock and he came in my mouth  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐
- 25 **Oral sex:** He sucked my cock and I came in his mouth  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

**Anal sex**

- 26 I fucked him **with a condom**  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐
- 27 He fucked me **with a condom**  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐
- 28 I fucked him **without a condom** but pulled out before I came  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐
- 29 He fucked me **without a condom** but pulled out before he came  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐
- 30 I fucked him **without a condom** and came inside him  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐
- 31 He fucked me **without a condom** and came inside me  
Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

**PAST SIX MONTHS . . . . .**

- 32 How many of your casual partners in the past 6 months did you tell your HIV status? None ☐ Some ☐ All ☐
- 33 How many of your casual partners in the past 6 months told you their HIV status? None ☐ Some ☐ All ☐

Continues on other side

34 Have you ever had an HIV antibody test?

No ☐ Yes ☐

35 When were you last tested for HIV antibodies?

- Less than a week ago ☐  
1–2 years ago ☐  
2–4 years ago ☐  
1–6 months ago ☐  
More than 4 years ago ☐

36 Based on the results of your HIV antibody tests, what is your HIV status?

- No test/Don't know ☐  
Negative ☐  
Positive ☐



37 If **positive** are you on combination antiretroviral therapy?

No ☐ Yes ☐

**IF you are in a regular relationship with a man at present, please complete the next three questions.**

38 Do you know the result of your regular partner's HIV antibody test?

- Yes—positive ☐  
Yes—negative ☐  
I don't know/He hasn't had a test ☐

39 Do you have a **clear (spoken) agreement** with your regular partner about anal sex (fucking) within your relationship?

- No agreement ☐  
Agreement: No anal sex at all ☐  
Agreement: All anal sex is with a condom ☐  
Agreement: Anal sex can be without a condom ☐

40 Do you have a **clear (spoken) agreement** with your regular partner about sex with casual partners?

- No agreement ☐  
Agreement: No sex at all ☐  
Agreement: No anal sex at all ☐  
Agreement: All anal sex is with a condom ☐  
Agreement: Anal sex can be without a condom ☐

How old are you?

\_\_\_\_\_ years

41 What country were you born in?

Australia ☐

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

42 Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

No ☐ Yes ☐

43 What is your ethnic background? (e.g. Australian Aboriginal, Dutch, Greek, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chinese)

Anglo-Australian only ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

44 Are you: (tick one only)

- Employed full-time ☐  
Employed part-time ☐  
Unemployed ☐  
A student ☐  
A pensioner or on social security benefits ☐  
Other ☐

45 What is your occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

46 What is the highest level of education you have had?

- Less than or up to 3 years of high school / Year 10 ☐  
Year 12 / HSC ☐  
Tertiary diploma or trade certificate / TAFE ☐  
University or CAE ☐

47 Where do you live? Postcode

**OR** Suburb/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

48 **In the past 6 months**, how many of your male sex partners did you find on the internet?

None ☐ A few ☐ Some ☐ Most ☐ All ☐

49 I am likely to tell my HIV status to men I make contact with on gay chat sites before meeting them.

strongly agree ☐ agree ☐ disagree ☐ strongly disagree ☐

50 On gay chat sites I usually seek partners who are the same HIV status as me.

strongly agree ☐ agree ☐ disagree ☐ strongly disagree ☐

51 I expect men who I meet through gay chat sites to be honest about their HIV status.

strongly agree ☐ agree ☐ disagree ☐ strongly disagree ☐

52 Which of these sexual health tests have you had *in the past 12 months*?

- Anal swab No ☐ Yes ☐  
Throat swab No ☐ Yes ☐  
Penile swab No ☐ Yes ☐  
Urine sample No ☐ Yes ☐  
Blood test for HIV No ☐ Yes ☐  
Other blood test No ☐ Yes ☐

53 Where did you have a **sexual health check-up** *in the past 12 months*?

- ACT STRIP Project No ☐ Yes ☐  
ACT Sexual health clinic No ☐ Yes ☐  
ACT GP/doctor No ☐ Yes ☐  
Outside ACT No ☐ Yes ☐  
*I have had no sexual health check-up in the past 12 months* ☐

54 What do you know about post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)?

- It's readily available now ☐  
It will be available in the future ☐  
I've never heard about it ☐

55 Please look at the resource materials on the reverse side of the Information Sheet. Which ones have you **seen** before?

**A:** No ☐ Yes ☐

**B:** No ☐ Yes ☐

**C:** No ☐ Yes ☐

**D:** No ☐ Yes ☐

56 Which of these drugs have you **used** or **injected** in the past **six months**?

	Used		Injected	
Amyl/Poppers	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Marijuana	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Viagra	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Ecstasy	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Speed	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Cocaine	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Crystal Meth	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
LSD/trips	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Heroin	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Steroids	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Any other drug	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME**

1-2003/3