

Town and Country Gay Community Survey: Sydney and Regional New South Wales, August - November 2009

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who gave of their time to administer the survey

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ACON AIDS Council of New South Wales

AIDS acquired immune deficiency syndrome

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-serononconcordant 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 established by HIV testing, e.g. HIV-negative, HIV-positive, or unknown (untested)

STI sexually transmissible infection

UAI unprotected anal intercourse

UAIC unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners

UAIR unprotected anal intercourse with regular partners

Executive summary

In August 2009, 1371 men were recruited for the Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey. 469 men were recruited between August and November 2009 for a survey of gay men in regional New South Wales. The following report compares these two groups of men (from the city and regional areas) on a range of indicators.

Overall, it would appear that gay men in Sydney and regional NSW are generally similar in their sexual practices. Men from regional areas do not appear to engage in particularly high risk practices with their regular or casual male sex partners (and do not report more risk-taking than their Sydney counterparts). Particular opportunities for education and prevention in regional NSW appear to be related to HIV and STI testing, given the lower overall rates of testing and the increased likelihood of nonconcordant relationships (where at least one partner does not know his HIV status). We therefore recommend that HIV and STI testing uptake and reinforcement activities are strengthened in regional NSW.

■ Men from Sydney and regional NSW were *different* in the following ways:

Age

Younger (<25) and older (>50) men were more likely to live in regional NSW than in Sydney.

Gay community

Men from regional NSW were more likely than men from Sydney to say that they were 'very involved' in gay community.

HIV and STI testing

Sydney men were more likely to have been tested for HIV and STIs than men from regional areas. Sydney men were also more likely to have been recently tested for HIV.

Agreements with regular partners

Men from regional NSW who had regular male partners were more likely than men in Sydney to say they had an agreement about sex outside the relationship.

HIV status of regular partners

Serodiscordant relationships were more common in Sydney. Seroconcordant relationships were more common in regional NSW.

Casual sex partners

Men from Sydney were more likely to report having casual male sex partners, and were more likely to report anal

intercourse (and condom use) with those partners (rates of unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners were similar in both samples).

Meeting sex partners

Sydney men were more likely to meet men in gay bars, gyms, saunas, sex-on-premises venues and when travelling overseas. Men from regional NSW were more likely to meet sex partners through friends.

■ Men from Sydney and regional NSW were *similar* in the following ways:

Regular sex partners

Similar proportions of men in Sydney and regional NSW reported a current regular male partner or partners.

Condom use with regular partners

Rates of condom use and unprotected anal intercourse between regular partners were similar in Sydney and regional NSW.

HIV disclosure

Rates of HIV disclosure to sex partners were similar among men in Sydney and regional NSW.

Meeting sex partners

Men from Sydney and regional NSW were equally likely to report using beats, dance parties, the internet, private sex parties or sex workers to meet other men.

Background

This report describes the similarities and differences between gay men in Sydney and regional areas of New South Wales, focusing in particular on sexual practices, HIV status and testing and perceptions of risk. The aim was to consider the views and experiences of men in a variety of locations across NSW to assist the development and targeting of local and state-wide responses to HIV and sexual health. The idea of assessing the health promotion and HIV prevention needs of men in regional NSW came about after the Health in Sex project, conducted by the (then) Hunter Area Health Service and ACON Hunter. During the project it was recognised that the routine Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey only reached a small number of men from rural and regional areas, and a targeted survey of men in regional areas would therefore be useful and timely. A proposal was put to NSW Health, who agreed to fund a regional survey. Undertaking the regional survey was a resource intensive but thoroughly worthwhile exercise.

In August 2009, 1371 men were recruited from 17 gay social and sexual venues and clinics in Sydney for the Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey (see Table 1). The Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey is conducted in February and August every year. Recruitment is coordinated by ACON, overseen by the National Centre in HIV Social Research and National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research and is funded by NSW Health. The response rate in August 2009 was 56.5%.

The regional NSW survey was a one-off survey conducted between August and November 2009. During this period, 469 men were recruited from 29 gay community events, social and sexual venues and clinics in regional New South Wales (in the Greater Southern, Illawarra, Hunter/New England, North Coast and Northern Rivers areas) (see Table 1). Recruitment was led by ACON, overseen by the National Centre in HIV Social Research and National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research and supported by Area Health Services. The regional survey was funded by NSW Health. The response rate for the regional survey was 78.3%.

The following report compares men in Sydney and regional NSW on a range of indicators. These indicators give us an insight into the sexual practices, perceptions of HIV, connections to local communities and gay social networks of men in Sydney and regional NSW.

Demographic profile

Just over a tenth of men who participated in the Sydney survey and a fifth of the men in the regional New South Wales survey were classed as visitors (based on their postcodes) and were excluded from subsequent analyses (see Table 2).

The age profiles of the two samples were significantly different (see Table 3). The regional NSW sample had higher proportions of younger and older men (men under 25 and men over 50) and the Sydney sample had higher proportions of men in their thirties and forties.

The ethnic profiles of the two samples were significantly different (see Table 4). Men from regional NSW were more likely to be Anglo-Australian and less likely to have an overseas ethnic background than men from Sydney. Both samples had similar proportions of men (around one in twenty) who were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

The Sydney sample had a much higher proportion of men in full-time employment than the regional sample (see Table 5). Men from regional NSW were more likely to be employed part-time, unemployed or in other forms of employment.

Involvement in gay community

Both samples were highly socially involved with gay men. 80.3% of men in Sydney and 76.9% of men in regional NSW said at least some of their friends were gay men. Men in Sydney were more likely than men in regional NSW to say they spent at least some of their time with gay men (81.2% vs. 70.2%).

Men from regional NSW were significantly more likely than men from Sydney to say that they were 'very involved' in the gay community in general or their local gay community (see Tables 6 and 7).

HIV testing and status

Men from Sydney were significantly more likely to have been ever tested for HIV than men from regional NSW (92.6% vs. 88.9%). In regional NSW there was a lower proportion of HIV-positive men and a higher proportion of untested/unknown status men than in Sydney (see Table 8).

Sydney men tended to have been tested for HIV more recently than men in regional areas (see Table 9). Sydney-based men were more likely to have been tested for HIV in the last 6 months than men from regional NSW (62.5% vs. 56.3%). However, the likelihood of having been tested for HIV in the last 12 months was very similar in both samples (71.1% vs. 70.1%). There was a higher proportion of men who had tested for HIV over 2 years ago in regional NSW, compared with Sydney (16.5% vs. 11.9%).

Sexual relationships with men

Similar proportions of men in Sydney and regional NSW reported a current regular male partner or partners (48.2% and 53.3% respectively). Men in Sydney were more likely to report sex with casual male partners than men in regional NSW (66.4% vs. 56.2%).

Men in Sydney and regional NSW who had regular male partners reported similar rates of agreements about sex within the relationship (see Table 10). The majority of men (around 80% of men with a regular partner) had an agreement about sex within the relationship. The most commonly reported agreement allowed anal intercourse without a condom within the relationship.

Men with regular male partners in regional NSW were more likely than their counterparts in Sydney to have an agreement about sex outside the relationship (see Table 11). For men in regional NSW, the most common reported agreement about sex outside the relationship was that sex was not permitted with casual partners i.e. the partners had agreed to be monogamous. In Sydney, the most common agreement about sex outside the relationship was that anal intercourse with casual partners was permitted, but only with a condom.

Nearly half the men in regular relationships in both samples reported that they were in a seroconcordant relationship where both they and their partner were HIV-negative (see Table 12). Serodiscordant relationships, in which one partner is HIV-positive and the other is HIV-negative, were twice as likely to be reported in Sydney as in regional NSW. Seroconcordant relationships, where at least one partner does not know his HIV status, were more common in regional NSW (see Figure 1).

Rates of condom use and unprotected anal intercourse between regular partners were similar in Sydney and regional NSW (see Table 13). 46.7% of men with regular partners in Sydney and 49.5% of men in regional NSW reported any unprotected anal intercourse with their regular partner.

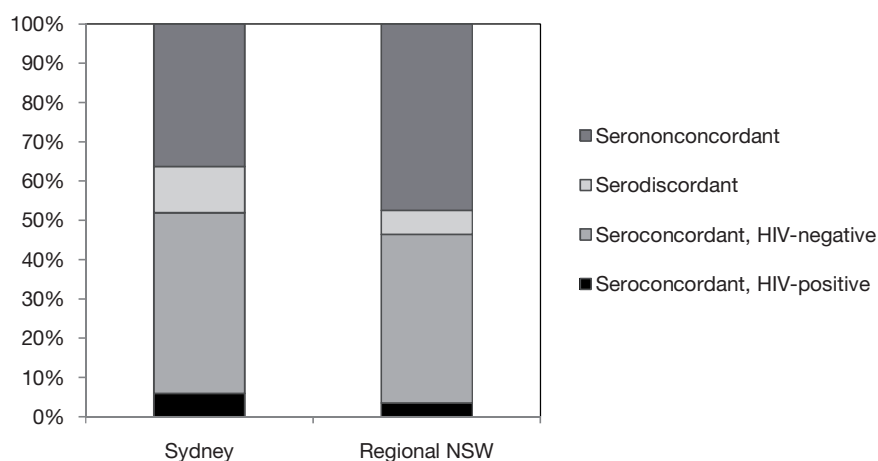


Figure 1: Match of HIV status between regular partners

Rates of anal intercourse and condom use with casual partners did, however, differ between the two samples (see Table 14 and Figure 2). Men in regional NSW who had casual partners were less likely to report anal intercourse with those partners, compared with Sydney men. Sydney men were more likely to report condom use for anal intercourse with casual partners than men in regional NSW (40.0% vs. 29.6%). Rates of unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners (UAIC) were similar in both samples (around one third of men with casual partners reported this practice).

The likelihood of UAIC varied according to the HIV status of casual partner(s) involved. UAIC was least likely with HIV-positive partners, more likely with men of untested or unknown status and most likely with HIV-negative men. This pattern was similar for both Sydney men and men from regional NSW. The surveys also assessed whether the likelihood of UAIC with men of different HIV statuses varied according to the geographical location in which sex occurred (Sydney, suburban NSW, somewhere else in NSW, interstate or overseas). Geographical location did not,

however, appear to affect rates of UAIC with partners of different HIV statuses for either Sydney men or men from regional NSW.

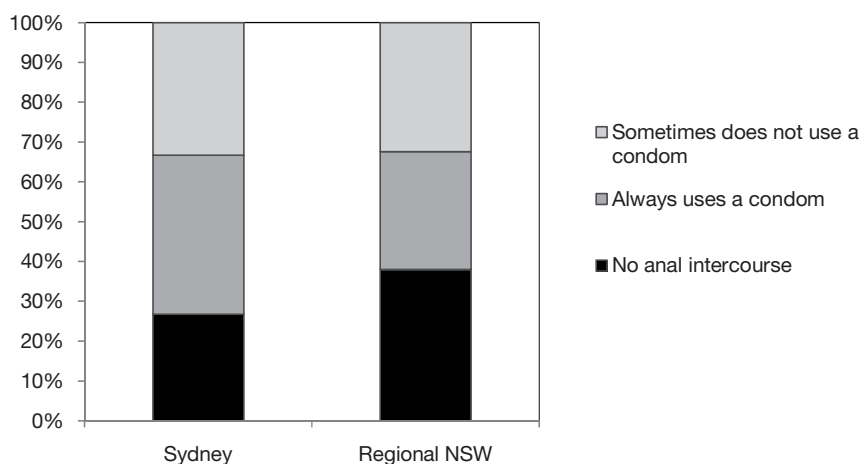


Figure 2: Anal intercourse and condom use with casual partners

Rates of HIV disclosure to sex partners were similar among men in Sydney and regional NSW (see Figure 3). In both samples, HIV-positive men were more likely than HIV-negative men to disclose to some or all of their sex partners e.g. 71.9% of HIV-positive men in Sydney and 80.0% of HIV-positive men in regional NSW reported disclosing to some or all of their sex partners. In contrast, 40.2% of HIV-negative men in Sydney and 50.8% of HIV-negative men in regional NSW reported disclosing to some or all of their sex partners.

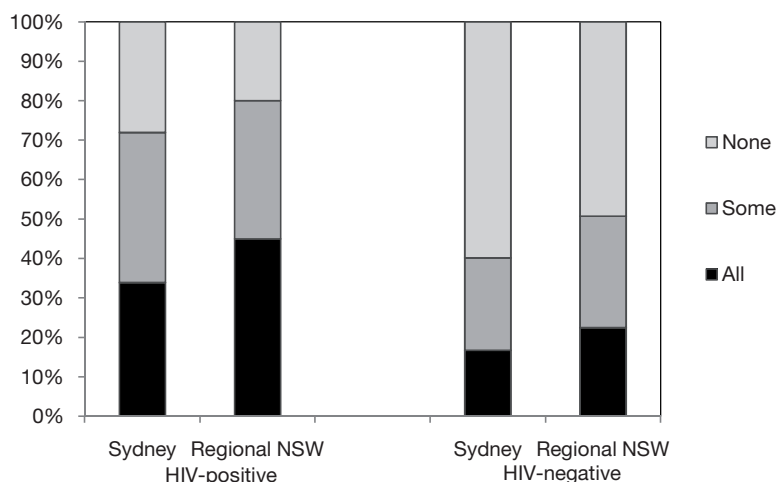


Figure 3: Disclosure of HIV status to sex partners (by respondents in their home town), among respondents who had sex partners

In general, men in Sydney had more male sex partners in the last six months than men in regional NSW (see Table 15 and Figure 4), although it should be noted that over 40% of both samples reported between two and ten male sex partners in the last six months. Men in regional NSW were more likely than men in Sydney to report that they had had no male sex partners (18.3% vs. 10.2%) or only one male sex partner (20.8% vs. 14.9%). Nearly one in five Sydney men (18.1%) had had more than 20 male sex partners in the last six months, compared with only 6.6% of men from regional NSW.

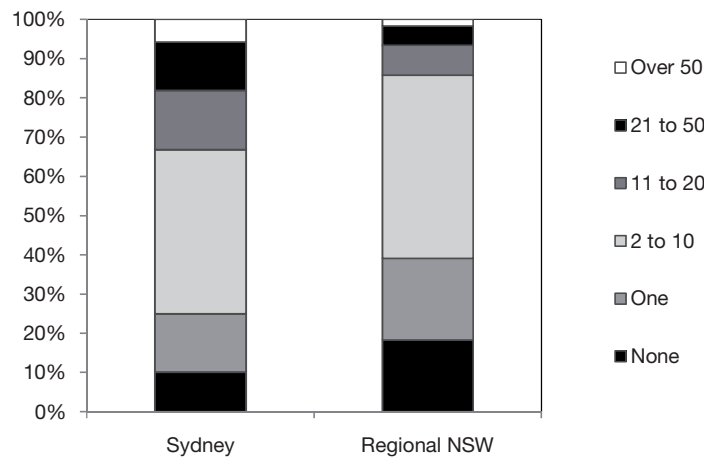


Figure 4: Number of male sex partners in the last six months

Meeting casual partners

Unsurprisingly, men were most likely to meet casual male sex partners in their local area (see Table 16). Three-quarters of men in Sydney but only a quarter of men in regional NSW said they had met casual partners in Sydney. Men from regional NSW were more likely than Sydney men to say they had met casual male sex partners in suburban areas or elsewhere in NSW. Sydney men were more likely to have met partners overseas.

In terms of venues or other ways to meet male sex partners, men from Sydney and regional NSW were equally likely to report using beats, dance parties, the internet, private sex parties or sex workers to meet other men (see Table 17 and Figure 5).

Reflecting access to venues, men from Sydney were more likely to meet men in gay bars (52.6% vs. 37.7%), gyms (16.7% vs. 5.4%), saunas (62.1% vs. 25.3%) and sex-on-premises venues (42.5% vs. 23.0%). Men from regional NSW were more likely than Sydney men to meet male sex partners through friends (46.6% vs. 32.3%).

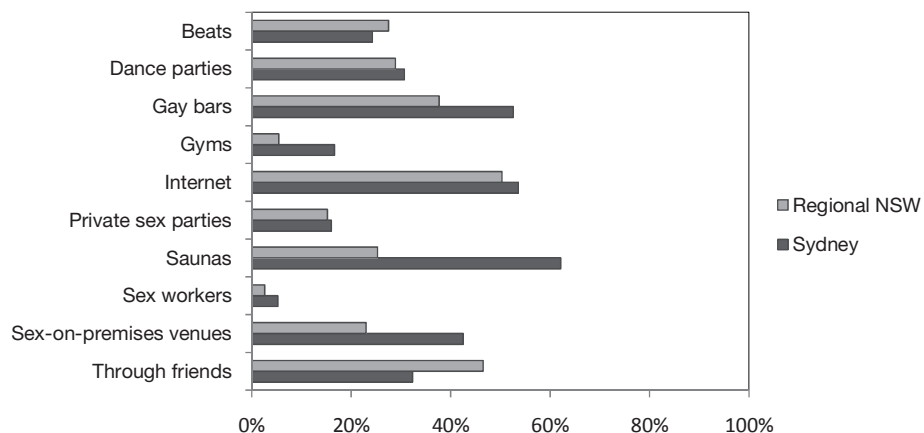


Figure 5: Where and how men met their male sex partners

Perceptions of HIV risk

To assess perceptions of HIV risk, participants in both surveys were asked how likely they thought it was that someone could get HIV if they had unprotected anal intercourse with a man in NSW, in another state/territory or overseas (compared with having UAI in Sydney). Interestingly, around half the men in both samples thought that the risk of UAI was similar in Sydney, NSW, in other states/territories and overseas. The perception of HIV risk overseas appeared slightly elevated, with 18.6% of men in Sydney and 18.3% of men in regional NSW indicating that they thought it was more likely to get HIV from UAIC when you were overseas compared with Sydney. However, it was of course not clear which overseas locations men were thinking of when they answered the question.

Sexual health

Men in Sydney were more likely than men in regional NSW to have ever been tested for sexually transmissible infections (95.0% vs. 90.1%). In both samples, HIV-positive men were more likely to have been recently tested for STIs (in the last six months) than HIV-negative men and men of unknown HIV status. HIV-positive men living in Sydney were more likely to have been tested for STIs in the last six months than HIV-positive men living in regional NSW (90.1% vs. 83.3%). HIV-negative men living in Sydney were just as likely as HIV-negative men in regional NSW to have been tested for STIs in the last six months (60.1% vs. 60.6%).

Men in Sydney and regional NSW differed in where they reported going for STI testing. Among HIV-positive men, the most common locations for STI testing were a 'regular doctor' in Sydney (72.4%) and a 'sexual health clinic' in regional NSW (74.5%), presumably reflecting the greater availability of high-caseload GPs (≥100 prescribers) in Sydney (see Figure 6). Among HIV-negative/untested men, the most common STI testing locations were regular doctors (54.1%) and sexual health clinics (34.3%) in Sydney and regular doctors (44.2%) and sexual health clinics (42.7%) in regional NSW (see Figure 7).

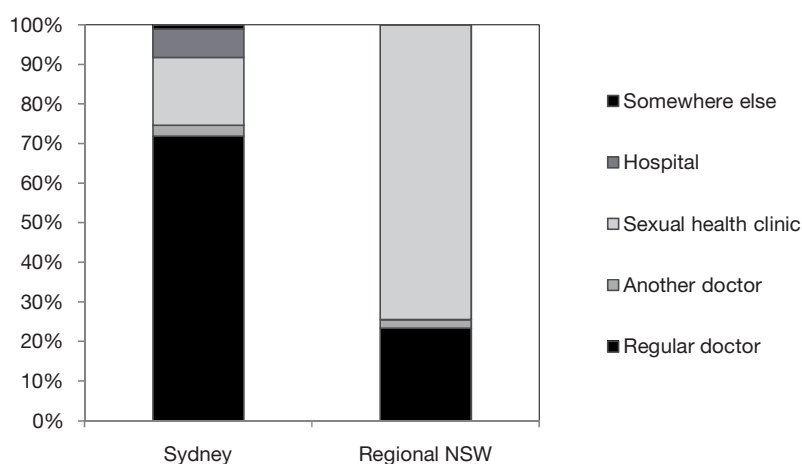


Figure 6: Where HIV-positive men underwent STI testing

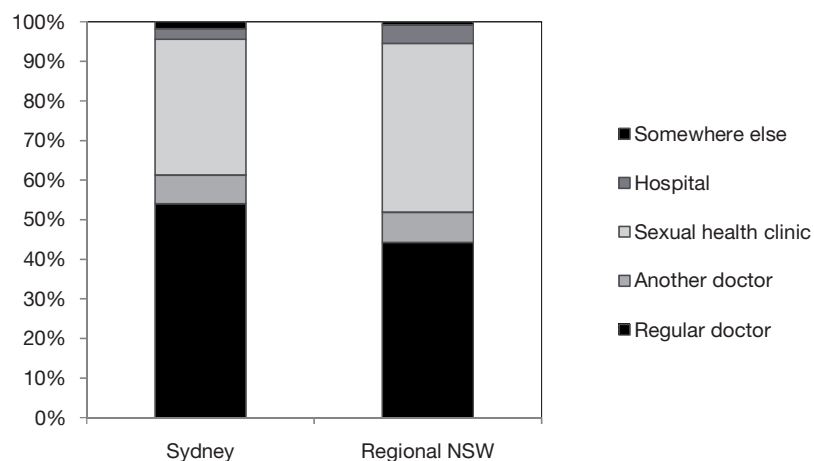


Figure 7: Where HIV-negative and untested men underwent STI testing

The vast majority of Sydney men (90.9%) went for STI testing at a doctor's surgery or clinic within the Sydney metropolitan area. The majority of men in regional NSW generally reported attending local doctors or clinics (73.1%), although noticeable proportions of men reported travelling to sexual health services in Sydney (7.5%) or somewhere else in NSW (13.0%).

Reporting

Where *p*-values are provided, the difference is statistically significant. Where there is no significant change, this is indicated by ns (non-significant).

Tables

The findings of the survey are presented in tables 1 to 17 below.

Table 1: Recruitment venue

	Sydney <i>n</i> (%)	Regional NSW <i>n</i> (%)
Gay community events ¹	0	269 (57.4)
Gay social venues ²	696 (50.8)	170 (36.2)
Sex-on-premises venues	457 (33.3)	0
Sexual health clinics/GP surgeries	218 (15.9)	30 (6.4)
Total	1,371 (100)	469 (100)

¹ Includes dance parties, festivals, trivia and film nights and youth events

² Includes bars, gyms, night clubs and community organisations

Table 2: Residential location

	Sydney <i>n</i> (%)	Regional NSW <i>n</i> (%)	Total <i>n</i> (%)
Lived in local area	1,217 (88.8)	374 (79.9)	1,591 (86.5)
Visiting	154 (11.2)	94 (20.1)	248 (13.5)
Total	1,371 (100)	468 (100)	1,839 (100)

Note: $\chi^2 = 23.44$, $p < 0.001$

Table 3: Age

	Sydney <i>n</i> (%)	Regional NSW <i>n</i> (%)	Total <i>n</i> (%)
Under 25	111 (9.2)	118 (31.9)	229 (14.6)
25–29	163 (13.6)	42 (11.4)	205 (13.0)
30–39	415 (34.5)	58 (15.7)	473 (30.1)
40–49	325 (27.0)	76 (20.5)	401 (25.5)
50 and over	188 (15.6)	76 (20.5)	264 (16.8)
Total	1,202 (100)	370 (100)	1,572 (100)

Note: $\chi^2 = 142.89, p < 0.001$

Table 4: Ethnicity

	Sydney <i>n</i> (%)	Regional NSW <i>n</i> (%)	Total <i>n</i> (%)
Anglo-Australian	797 (65.5)	323 (86.4)	1,120 (70.4)
European	160 (13.2)	26 (7.0)	186 (11.7)
Non-European	202 (16.6)	8 (2.1)	210 (13.2)
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	58 (4.8)	17 (4.6)	75 (4.7)
Total	1,217 (100)	374 (100)	1,591 (100)

Note: $\chi^2 = 72.44, p < 0.001$

Table 5: Employment

	Sydney <i>n</i> (%)	Regional NSW <i>n</i> (%)	Total <i>n</i> (%)
Full-time	849 (71.1)	168 (46.4)	1,017 (65.3)
Part-time	126 (10.5)	67 (18.5)	193 (12.4)
Unemployed/other	220 (18.4)	127 (35.1)	347 (22.3)
Total	1,195 (100)	362 (100)	1,557 (100)

Note: $\chi^2 = 74.69, p < 0.001$

Table 6: Involvement in broad gay community

	Sydney <i>n</i> (%)	Regional NSW <i>n</i> (%)	Total <i>n</i> (%)
Not at all involved	348 (29.0)	86 (23.4)	434 (27.7)
Somewhat involved	724 (60.4)	229 (62.4)	952 (60.9)
Very involved	127 (10.6)	52 (14.2)	179 (11.4)
Total	1,199 (100)	367 (100)	1,566 (100)

Note: $\chi^2 = 6.50, p < 0.05$

Table 7: Involvement in local gay community

	Sydney <i>n</i> (%)	Regional NSW <i>n</i> (%)	Total <i>n</i> (%)
Not at all involved	442 (42.4)	77 (24.3)	519 (38.2)
Somewhat involved	497 (47.6)	181 (57.1)	678 (49.9)
Very involved	104 (10.0)	59 (18.6)	163 (12.0)
Total	1,043 (100)	317 (100)	1,360 (100)

Note: $\chi^2 = 40.34, p < 0.001$

Table 8: Most recent HIV test results (excluding men recruited from sexual health clinics)

	Sydney n (%)	Regional NSW n (%)	Total n (%)
HIV-positive	201 (19.6)	50 (16.8)	251 (19.0)
HIV-negative	704 (68.9)	194 (65.3)	898 (68.0)
No tested/no results	119 (11.6)	53 (17.9)	172 (13.0)
Total	1,024 (100)	297 (100)	1,321 (100)

Note: $\chi^2 = 8.19$, $p < 0.05$

Table 9: Most recent HIV test among non-HIV-positive men (excluding men recruited from sexual health clinics)

	Sydney n (%)	Regional NSW n (%)	Total n (%)
Less than 6 months ago	513 (62.5)	143 (56.3)	656 (61.0)
7–12 months ago	71 (8.7)	35 (13.8)	106 (9.9)
1–2 years ago	139 (16.9)	34 (13.4)	173 (16.1)
More than 2 years ago	98 (11.9)	42 (16.5)	140 (13.0)
Total	821 (100)	254 (100)	1,075 (100)

Note: $\chi^2 = 11.06$, $p < 0.05$ Table 10: Agreements with regular male partners about sex *within* the relationship

	Sydney n (%)	Regional NSW n (%)	Total n (%)
No spoken agreement about anal intercourse	108 (20.3)	28 (15.9)	136 (19.2)
No anal intercourse permitted	31 (5.8)	14 (8.0)	45 (6.4)
Anal intercourse permitted only with a condom	187 (35.1)	52 (29.6)	239 (33.7)
Anal intercourse permitted without a condom	207 (38.8)	82 (46.6)	289 (40.8)
Total	533 (100)	176 (100)	709 (100)

Table 11: Agreements with regular male partners about sex *outside* the relationship

	Sydney n (%)	Regional NSW n (%)	Total n (%)
No spoken agreement about casual sex	149 (28.1)	28 (16.0)	177 (25.1)
Sexual contact with casual partners not permitted	151 (28.5)	75 (42.8)	226 (32.1)
Anal intercourse with casual partners not permitted	25 (4.7)	12 (6.9)	37 (5.3)
Anal intercourse with casual partners permitted only with a condom	173 (32.6)	45 (25.7)	218 (30.9)
Anal intercourse with casual partners permitted without a condom	32 (6.0)	15 (8.6)	47 (6.7)
Total	530 (100)	175 (100)	705 (100)

Note: $\chi^2 = 20.62$, $p < 0.001$

Table 12: Match of HIV status between regular partners

	Sydney n (%)	Regional NSW n (%)	Total n (%)
Seroconcordant, HIV-positive	34 (6.0)	7 (3.5)	41 (5.4)
Seroconcordant, HIV-negative	261 (46.0)	85 (42.9)	346 (45.2)
Serodiscordant	67 (11.8)	12 (6.1)	79 (10.3)
Serononconcordant	206 (36.3)	94 (47.5)	300 (39.2)
Total	568 (100)	198 (100)	766 (100)

Note: $\chi^2 = 11.34, p < 0.05$

Table 13: Anal intercourse and condom use with regular partners

	Sydney n (%)	Regional NSW n (%)	Total n (%)
No anal intercourse	186 (32.8)	68 (34.3)	254 (33.2)
Always uses a condom	117 (20.6)	32 (16.2)	149 (19.5)
Sometimes does not use a condom	265 (46.7)	98 (49.5)	363 (47.4)
Total	568 (100)	363 (47.4)	766 (100)

Table 14: Anal intercourse and condom use with casual partners

	Sydney n (%)	Regional NSW n (%)	Total n (%)
No anal intercourse	313 (26.8)	136 (38.0)	449 (29.4)
Always uses a condom	468 (40.0)	106 (29.6)	574 (37.6)
Sometimes does not use a condom	389 (33.3)	116 (32.4)	505 (33.1)
Total	1,170 (100)	358 (100)	1,528 (100)

Note: $\chi^2 = 19.72, p < 0.001$

Table 15: Number of male sex partners in the six months prior to the survey

	Sydney n (%)	Regional NSW n (%)	Total n (%)
None	121 (10.2)	67 (18.3)	188 (12.1)
One	177 (14.9)	76 (20.8)	253 (16.3)
2–10	498 (41.8)	171 (46.7)	669 (42.9)
11–20	180 (15.1)	28 (7.7)	208 (13.4)
21–50	148 (12.4)	18 (4.9)	166 (10.7)
Over 50	68 (5.7)	6 (1.6)	74 (4.8)
Total	1,192 (100)	366 (100)	1,558 (100)

Note: $\chi^2 = 59.22, p < 0.001$

Table 16: Where men met their male sex partners, by geographical area

	Sydney (%)	Regional NSW (%)	p-value
Sydney	77.7	25.1	$p < 0.001$
Town/suburb in NSW	39.9	57.0	$p < 0.001$
Elsewhere in NSW	16.8	29.4	$p < 0.001$
In other states/territories	20.1	17.7	ns
Overseas	21.5	6.4	$p < 0.001$

Note: These categories are not mutually exclusive.

Table 17: Where men met their male sex partners, by venue or source

	Sydney (%)	Regional NSW (%)	p-value
Beats	24.3	27.5	ns
Dance parties	30.7	28.9	ns
Gay bars	52.6	37.7	$p < 0.001$
Gym	16.7	5.4	$p < 0.001$
Internet	53.6	50.3	ns
Private sex parties	16.0	15.2	ns
Saunas	62.1	25.3	$p < 0.001$
Sex workers	5.2	2.6	ns
Sex-on-premises venues	42.5	23.0	$p < 0.001$
Through friends	32.3	46.6	$p < 0.001$

Note: These categories are not mutually exclusive.

National Centre in HIV Social Research & National Centre in HIV Epidemiology & Clinical Research
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES ACON PLWHA (NSW)
Sydney 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 if not otherwise specified

1. How many of your friends are gay or homosexual men? None ☐1 A few ☐2 Some ☐3 Most ☐4 All ☐5
2. How much of your free time is spent with gay or homosexual men? None ☐1 A little ☐2 Some ☐3 A lot ☐4
3. How old are you? _____ years 4. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? No ☐1 Yes ☐2
5. What is your ethnic background? (eg Dutch, Greek, Indian) Anglo-Australian only ☐01 Other _____
6. Are you: (tick one only) Employed full-time ☐1 Employed part-time ☐2 On pension / social security ☐3
A student ☐4 Unemployed ☐5 Other ☐6
7. Where do you live?? Postcode: OR Suburb/Town: _____
8. Are you ... Gay/Homosexual ☐1 Bisexual ☐2 Other ☐3 Unsure ☐4
9. How involved do you see yourself in the gay community?
The gay community in general Not at all involved ☐1 Somewhat involved ☐2 Very involved ☐3
Your local gay community Not at all involved ☐1 Somewhat involved ☐2 Very involved ☐3

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

10. Do you currently have sex with A. **CASUAL male partners**? No ☐1 Yes ☐2 B. **REGULAR male partner**? No ☐1 Yes ☐2

About your regular partner...
11. If you are in a **regular** relationship with a man, for how long has it been?
Less than 6 months ☐1 6–11 months ☐2 1–2 years ☐3 More than 2 years ☐4 Not in a regular relationship with a man ☐5
12. Where does your regular partner live? (skip to Q.22)
With me ☐1 Nearby, ☐2 In another town in NSW ☐3 In another state/territory ☐4 Overseas ☐5
13. If you and your regular partner do not live in the same city, how often have you met in the past six months?
Every week ☐1 once or twice a month ☐2 once every few months ☐3 only once ☐4 we did not meet in past six months ☐5
14. Do you have a **clear (spoken) agreement** with your regular partner about anal sex (fucking) within your relationship?
No agreement ☐1 Agreement: All anal sex is with a condom ☐3
Agreement: No anal sex at all ☐2 Agreement: Anal sex can be without a condom ☐4
15. Do you have a **clear (spoken) agreement** with your regular partner about sex with other male partners?
No agreement ☐1 Agreement: No sex at all ☐2 Agreement: All anal sex is with a condom ☐4
Agreement: No anal sex at all ☐3 Agreement: Anal sex can be without a condom ☐5
16. When was your regular partner's last tested for HIV?
In the last 6 months ☐1 More than 6 months ago ☐2 Never ☐3 I don't know ☐4
17. What is your regular partner's HIV status? No test / Don't know ☐1 Negative ☐2 Positive ☐3

If your regular partner is HIV positive: 18. Is your regular partner on combination antiretroviral therapy? No ☐1 Yes ☐2
19. Is his viral load...? Undetectable ☐1 Detectable ☐2 Don't know / unsure ☐3

20. In the last 6 months, have you had sex with a regular partner: Yes ☐1 No ☐2 (Skip to Q.22)
21. In the last 6 months, which of the following have you done with your regular partner?

	Never	Occasionally	Often		Never	Occasionally	Often
Oral Sex: I sucked his cock	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	He sucked my cock	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Anal Sex: I fucked him <u>with a condom</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	He fucked me <u>with a condom</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
I fucked him <u>without a condom, but pulled out before I came</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	He fucked me <u>without a condom, but pulled out before he came</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
I fucked him <u>without a condom</u> and came inside	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	He fucked me <u>without a condom</u> and came inside	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3

22. Have you **ever** had an HIV test? Yes ☐2 No ☐1 → Skip to Q.29 over the page
23. When were you **last tested** for HIV? Less than a week ago ☐1 1–6 months ago ☐3 1–2 years ago ☐5
1–4 weeks ago ☐2 7–12 months ago ☐4 Over 2 years ago ☐6 Never ☐7
24. Based on the results of your HIV tests, what is your HIV status? No test/Don't know ☐1 Negative ☐2 Positive ☐3

If you are **HIV positive:** 25. When were you **first diagnosed** as HIV-positive? Year

26. Where were you first diagnosed as HIV-positive?
Sydney ☐1 Town/suburb where I live ☐2 Somewhere else in NSW ☐3 Other state/territories ☐4 Overseas ☐5
27. Are you on combination antiretroviral therapy? No ☐1 Yes ☐2
28. Is your viral load? Undetectable ☐1 Detectable ☐2 Don't know / unsure ☐3

29. In the last 6 months, how many different **men** in total have you had sex with?
None ☐1 One ☐2 2–5 men ☐3 6–10 men ☐4 11–20 men ☐5 21–50 men ☐6 More than 50 men ☐7
30. In the last 6 months, which of the following have you done with other male partners?
- | | Never | Occasionally | Often | | Never | Occasionally | Often |
|-------------------|-------|--------------|-------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Oral Sex : | | | | I sucked his cock | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| | | | | He sucked my cock | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| Anal Sex : | | | | I fucked him with a condom | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| | | | | He fucked me with a condom | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| | | | | I fucked him without a condom, but pulled out before I came | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| | | | | He fucked me without a condom, but pulled out before he came | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| | | | | I fucked him without a condom and came inside | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| | | | | He fucked me without a condom and came inside | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
31. In the last 6 months, how often did you have sex with other male partners in any of the following places?
- | | Never | Occasionally | Often |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sydney | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| Town/suburb where I live | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| Somewhere else in NSW | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| Interstate | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| Overseas | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
- Was it in Victoria ☐1 Queensland ☐1 other state/territory ☐1 ? (tick all that apply)
- Please list countries where this happened: _____
32. In the last 6 months, did you fuck or were you fucked WITHOUT a condom by any man you knew to be
(Please tick all that apply)
- | | HIV-positive | HIV-negative | or | Whose HIV status you did not know |
|---------------------------------|--|--|----|--|
| ...in Sydney | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Town/suburb where I live | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Somewhere else in NSW | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Interstate | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Overseas | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
33. In the last 6 months, did you
- | A. Have group sex with at least two men? | | | B. Use party drugs for sex? | | |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
| ...in Sydney | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | | ...in Sydney | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | |
| Town/suburb where I live | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | | Town/suburb where I live | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | |
| Somewhere else in NSW | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | | Somewhere else in NSW | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | |
| Interstate | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | | Interstate | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | |
| Overseas | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | | Overseas | No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | |
34. In the last 6 months, when you had sex with other male partners in your home town, to how many of them did you tell your HIV status before sex? None ☐1 Some ☐2 All ☐3 No sex there with other male partners ☐4
35. In the last 6 months, if visiting the following places, how many of your other male partners told you his HIV status before sex?
- | | None | Some | All | No sex there with other male partners |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sydney | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Town/suburb where I live | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Somewhere else in NSW | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Interstate | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Overseas | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
36. In the last 6 months, how often did you meet men for sex in the following ways?
- | | Never | Occasionally | Often | | Never | Occasionally | Often |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Internet | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Gay sauna | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| Gay bar | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Other sex club/venue | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| Dance party | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Private sex party | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| Gym | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Through friends | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| Beat | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Sex workers | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
37. Compared with Sydney, how likely do you think it is to get HIV when having sex without a condom with men in?
- | | less likely than in Sydney | same as in Sydney | more likely than in Sydney | I don't know |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Other parts of NSW | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Other states | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Overseas | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
38. When did you last have a check for any sexually transmitted infection (STI or STD) other than HIV?
Less than a week ago ☐1 1–6 months ago ☐3 1–2 years ago ☐5
1–4 weeks ago ☐2 7–12 months ago ☐4 Over 2 years ago ☐6 Never ☐7
39. Where did you go the last time you had a test for any sexually transmitted infection (STI or STD) other than HIV?
My regular doctor ☐1 Another doctor ☐2 A sexual health clinic ☐3 Hospital ☐4 Somewhere else ☐5
40. Where was this service located?
Sydney ☐1 Town/suburb where I live ☐2 Somewhere else in NSW ☐3 Other state/territories ☐4 Overseas ☐5
41. Please look at the resource materials on the reverse side of the Information Sheet. Which ones have you seen before?
A: Yes ☐1 No ☐2 B: Yes ☐1 No ☐2 C: Yes ☐1 No ☐2 D: Yes ☐1 No ☐2

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

2 - 2009/