

## Gay Community Periodic Survey: Canberra 2006

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GCPS Report 2/2007

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# About the study

The Canberra Gay Community Periodic Survey, funded by ACT Health, is a repeated cross-sectional survey of gay and homosexually active men recruited through gay community sites in Canberra. The major aim of the survey is to provide data on sexual practices related to the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmissible infections (STIs) among gay and homosexually active men.

## Design of the study

The 2006 survey was the third gay community periodic survey to be conducted in Canberra. This survey was similar to the previous surveys in that it was conducted at the same time of the year and employed the same recruitment strategies.

The survey uses a short, self-administered questionnaire that takes about ten minutes to complete (see Appendix 2). Questions focus on anal intercourse and oral sex, the use of condoms, the nature of sexual relationships, HIV testing practice and HIV status, 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 2006 were the same as those asked in the previous survey. However, some questions in the current survey were included for the first time.

Data from this survey may be used to make comparisons not only with the previous surveys conducted in Canberra in 2000 (Aspin et al., 2001) and 2003 (Hull et al., 2004) but also with similar surveys in other states (Hull et al., 2006; Zablotska et al., 2007a; Zablotska et al., 2007b).

## Recruitment and sample

In November 2006, men were recruited from three sites in Canberra: the SpringOUT Festival Fair Day and two gay community venues/events. Trained volunteers recruited participants and distributed the questionnaires at each of these venues over a one-week period. In all, 389 men were asked to complete the questionnaire and 282 did so. This represents a response rate of 72%, similar to that of the previous survey.

In 2006, 56% of the respondents completed surveys at Fair Day. While this proportion was similar to that in 2003, there has been a significant upward trend since 2000 in the proportion of men recruited at Fair Day ( $\chi^2$  test for trend,  $p < .05$ ).

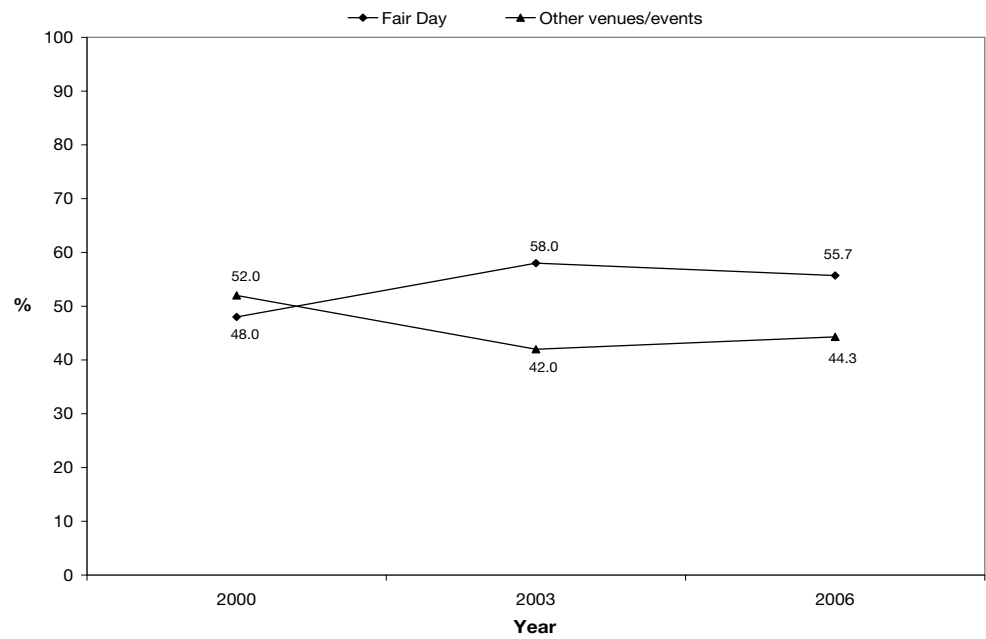


Figure 1: Source of recruitment

### Reporting

This report describes data from the third Canberra Gay Community Periodic Survey and compares it with data from the previous two surveys in 2000 and 2003.

Previous studies such as Sydney Men and Sexual Health (SMASH) (Prestage et al., 1995) have demonstrated that HIV status 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 cases of men who are HIV-positive, those who are HIV-negative, and those who have not been tested or do not know their HIV status.

More detailed analyses of the data will continue and will be disseminated as they are completed. As with any data analysis, further examination may lead to minor reinterpretation of the findings.



# Demographic profile

In terms of demographic variables, participants in the 2003 and 2006 surveys were remarkably similar.

## Residential location

The majority of respondents lived in the Canberra area; just under 10% were from Sydney and a similar proportion were from other areas of New South Wales (see Figure 2). These proportions have remained stable across the three surveys.

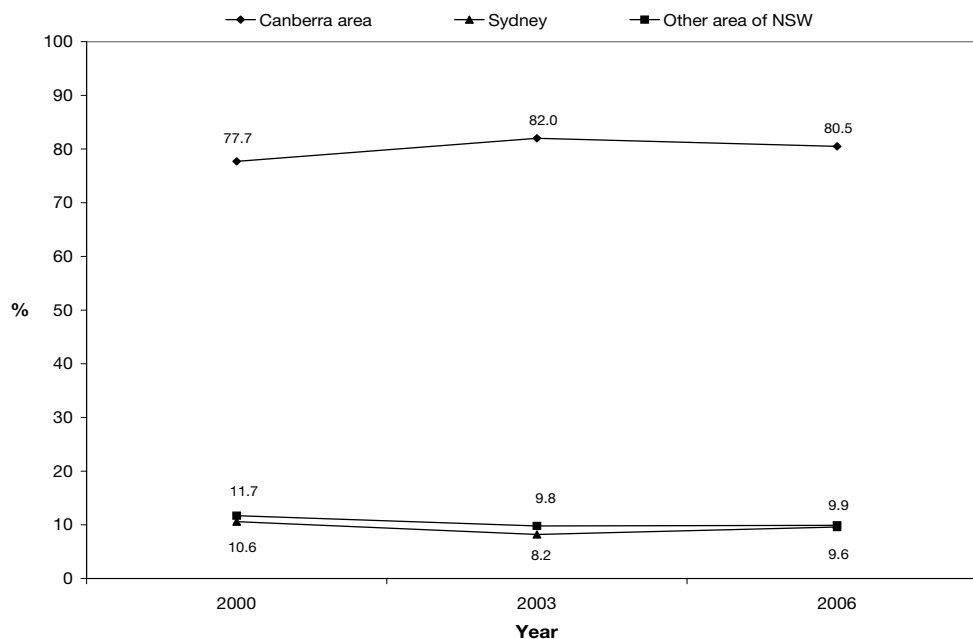


Figure 2: Residential location

## Age

In the 2006 survey the median age of respondents was 37 years (the maximum age was 70 years). Although the age distribution was not significantly different from that of the previous Canberra surveys, there has been a significant downward trend, from 15% in 2000 to 9.5% in 2006, in the proportion of men aged under 25 ( $\chi^2$  test for trend,  $p < .05$ ) (see Figure 3). In other cities where periodic surveys were conducted in 2006, the proportion of respondents aged under 25 was 18.5% in Melbourne (Hull et al., 2006), 11.9% in Sydney (Zablotska et al., 2007b) and 28.9% in Queensland (Zablotska et al., 2007a).



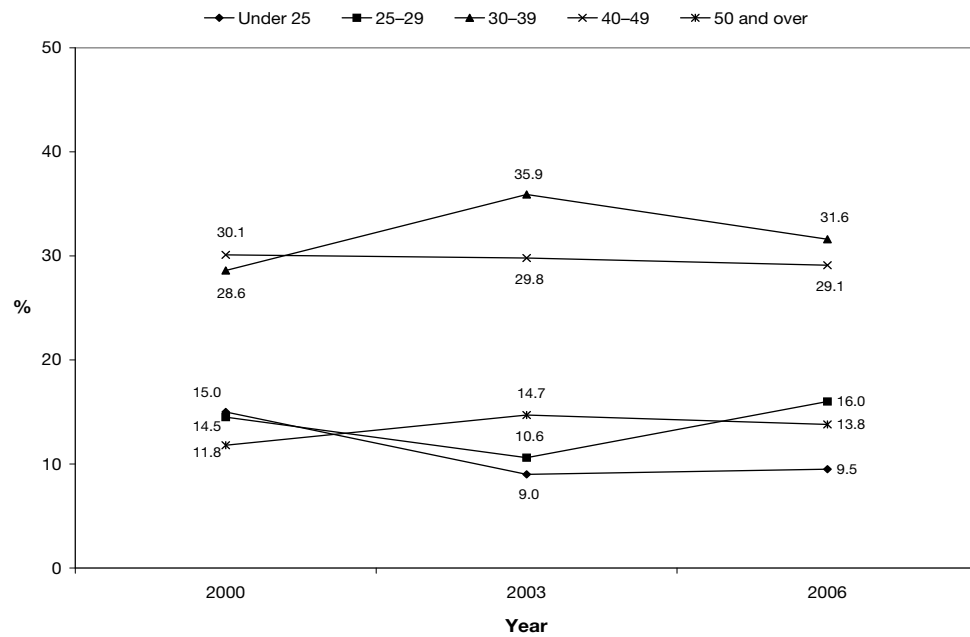


Figure 3: Age

## Ethnicity

As in the previous surveys, the respondents were predominantly of Anglo-Australian background (based on responses to Question 43) and 2.4% were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. These proportions have remained stable over the three survey periods (see Figure 4).

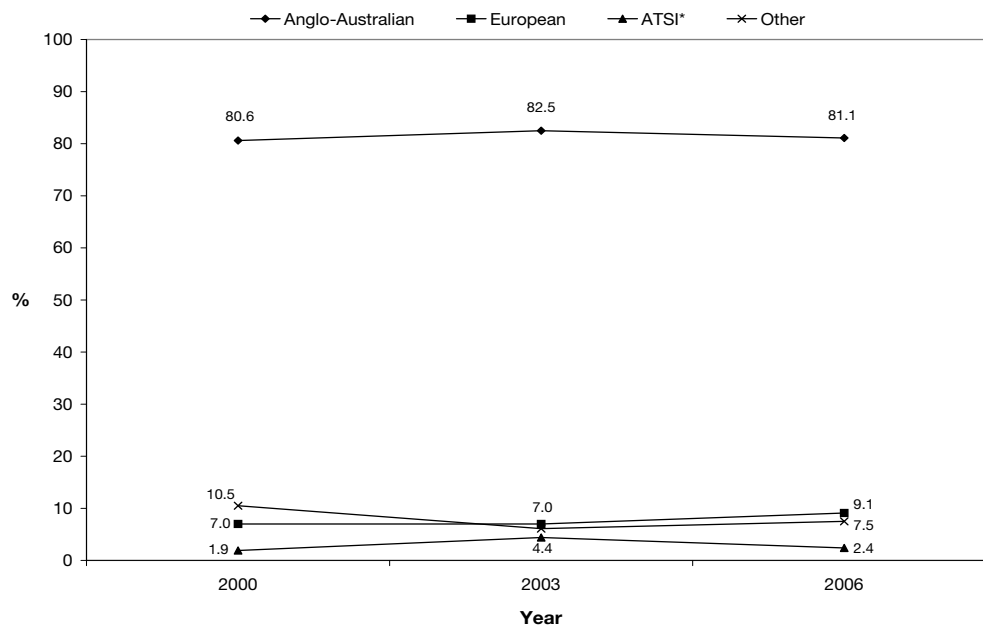


Figure 4: Ethnicity

\*The proportion of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander men is calculated on responses to Question 42.

## Education

As in other gay-community-based studies, this sample was relatively well educated in comparison with the general population. Almost 60% of the men had attended university or a college of advanced education (CAE) (see Figure 5). This was a slightly but not significantly smaller proportion than in the previous survey.

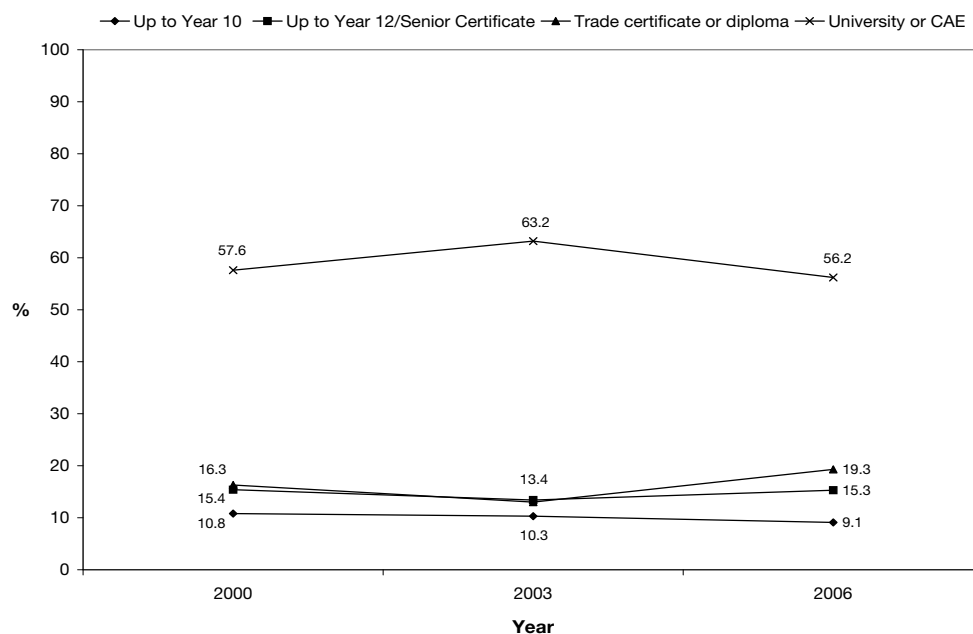


Figure 5: Education

## Employment and occupation

As in the previous surveys, a larger proportion of the men in the sample were unemployed than in the general population (see Figure 6). This was particularly true among HIV-positive men, of whom a relatively high percentage were most likely in receipt of some form of social security payment. The proportion of men in full-time employment was 81.2%, a significant increase since 2000 ( $\chi^2$  test for trend,  $p < .05$ ). This was a higher proportion than in other cities where periodic surveys were conducted in 2006; for example, 69.2% of respondents in Melbourne (Hull et al., 2006), 68.5% in Queensland (Zablotska et al., 2007a) and 74.1% in Sydney (Zablotska et al., 2007b) were in full-time employment.

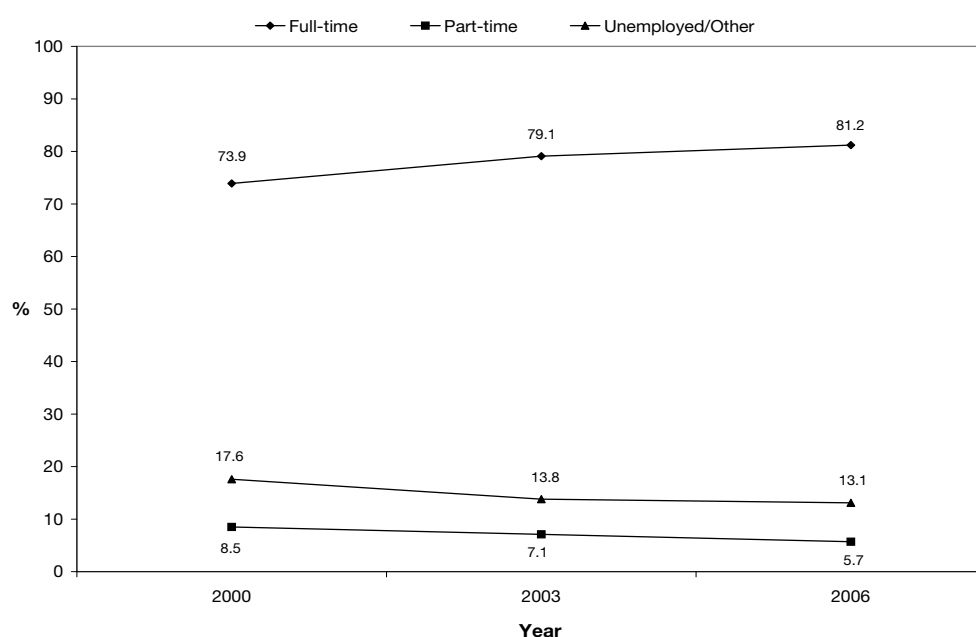


Figure 6: Employment status

Approximately 84% of the men surveyed worked in professional/managerial or clerical/sales occupations (see Figure 7). As in the previous surveys, and most studies of homosexual populations, there was a substantially higher proportion of professionals and managers

and a lower proportion of manual workers than in the general population (Connell et al., 1991; Hood et al., 1994; Australian Bureau of Statistics, February 2006). There has been a significant increase from 2000 to 2006 in the proportion of respondents working in paraprofessional roles ( $\chi^2$  test for trend,  $p < .05$ ).

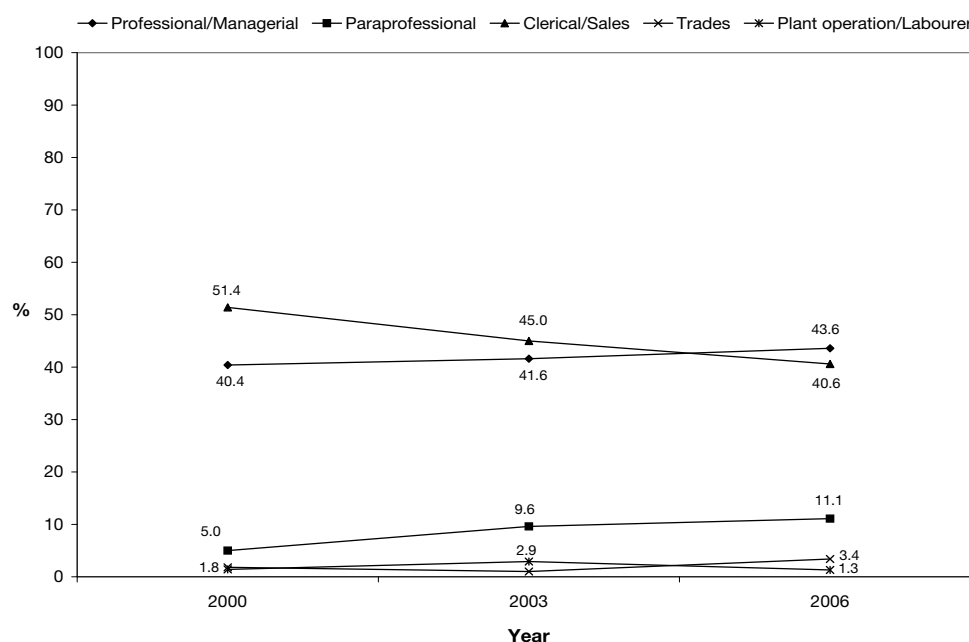


Figure 7: Occupation

## Sexual relationships with men

In the 2006 survey, about 60% of the men in the sample were in a regular sexual relationship with a man at the time of completing the survey (see Figure 8). About a third of study participants were in a monogamous relationship, i.e. the participant and his regular partner had sex only within their relationship. Over half the men reported having had sex with casual partners in the six months prior to the survey, while 15% had had no sexual partners.

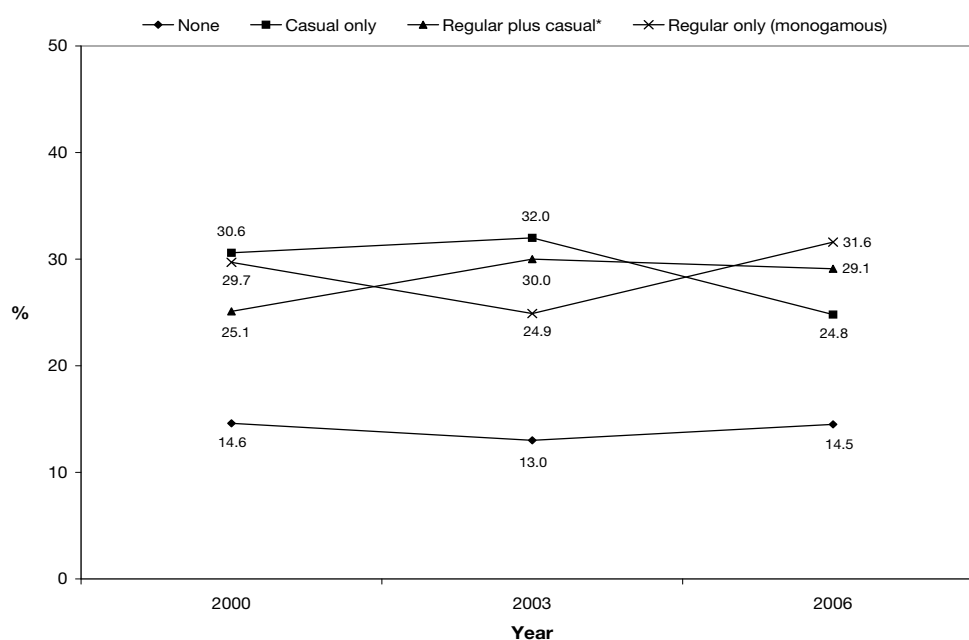
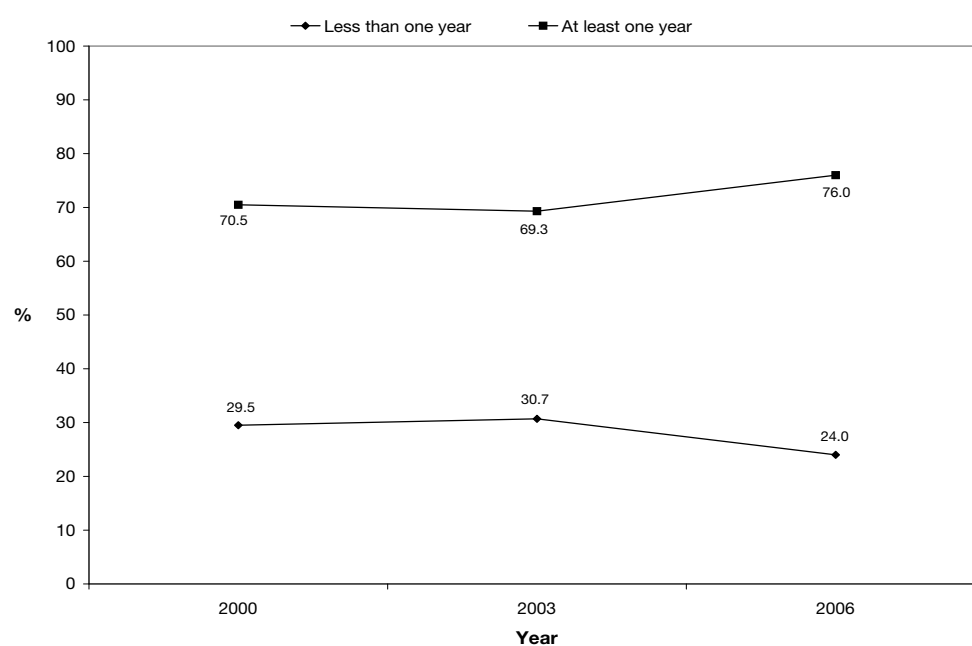


Figure 8: Relationships with men

\*This category includes one or both partners having had casual partners.

In 2006, 76% of the men who were in a regular relationship had been in that relationship for at least a year. Although this was a higher proportion than in the 2003 survey, the increase was not statistically significant (see Figure 9).



**Figure 9: Length of relationships among men who had regular male partners at the time of completing 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 2006, as in the 2003 survey, most men identified as homosexual. Homosexual identification included 'gay/homosexual' as well as 'queer' in the case of a small number of men. The proportion of men who identified as homosexual was similar to those observed in other periodic surveys of gay men in Australia, including surveys conducted in Melbourne (Hull, et al., 2006), Sydney (Zablotska et al., 2007b) and Queensland (Zablotska et al., 2007a). About 6% of the men identified as bisexual. Very few identified as heterosexual or 'other' (see Figure 10).

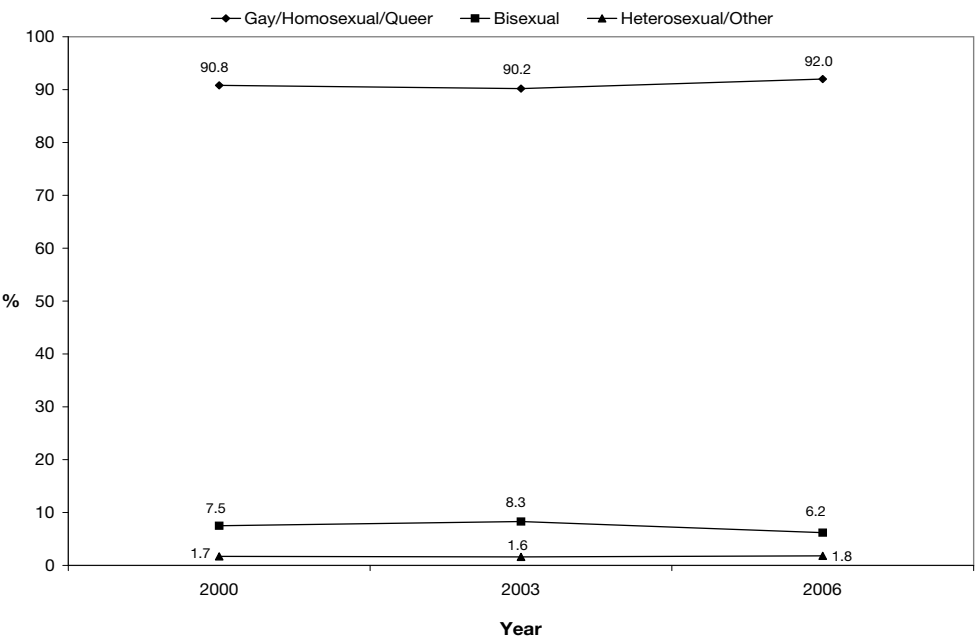
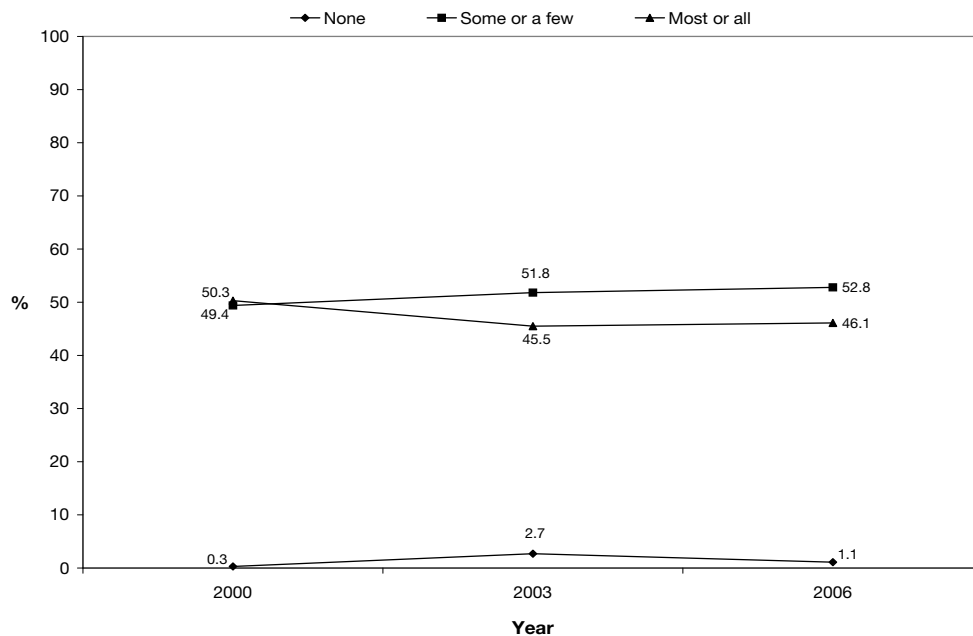


Figure 10: Sexual identity

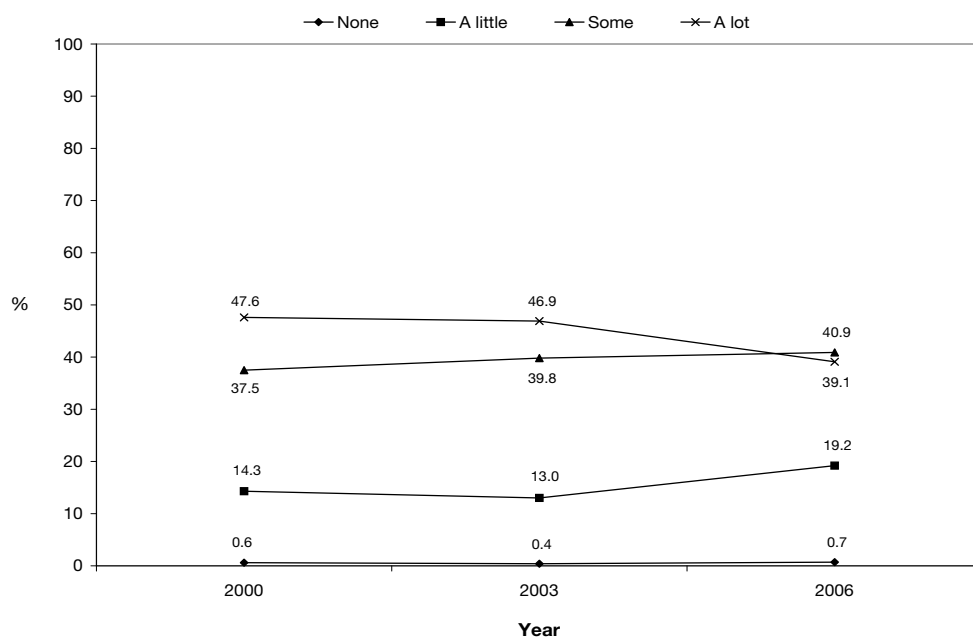
## Gay community involvement

The men in the 2006 sample reported having well-developed social networks with other gay men, as did the men in previous surveys (see Figure 11). Almost half of the men in the sample reported that ‘most’ or ‘all’ of their friends were gay men. Three men identified as gay/homosexual but reported that they had no gay friends. There have been no significant changes in gay community involvement over the survey period 2000 to 2006.



**Figure 11: Proportion of friends who are gay**

As is consistent with the data in Figure 11, 80% of the men reported spending ‘some’ or ‘a lot’ of their free time with gay men (see Figure 12). While there was no significant change in the proportion in each category since the previous survey in 2003, there was an apparent variation over time. Since 2000 there has been a significant downward trend in the proportion of men who spent a lot of their free time with gay men ( $\chi^2$  test for trend,  $p < .05$ ).



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



# HIV testing and treatment

## Contact with the HIV epidemic

Two questions were added to the 2006 survey asking participants (i) how many people they knew personally who had HIV and (ii) how many of these people had found out that they had HIV within the 12 months prior to the survey. These questions were introduced to enable an analysis of behaviour as a result of contact with the HIV epidemic.

Almost 65% of the men who answered the first question knew at least one person with HIV (see Table 1). Just over 17% knew more than five.

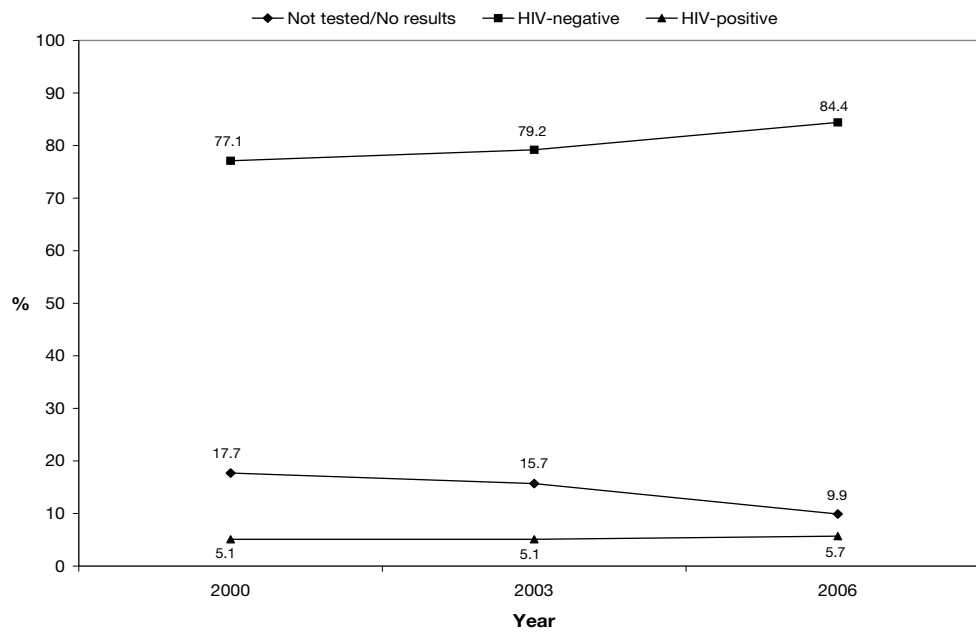
Of the men who answered the second question, almost 90% knew no one who had been diagnosed with HIV in the 12 months prior to the survey (see Table 1) and 3% knew three or more people who had been diagnosed in that period.

**Table 1: Number of people with HIV known personally to participants**

	Number of participants who knew someone with HIV	Number of participants who knew someone who had been diagnosed with HIV in the 12 months prior to the survey
	<i>n (%)</i>	<i>n (%)</i>
None	98 (35.1)	227 (86.6)
One	45 (16.1)	20 (7.6)
2	34 (12.2)	7 (2.7)
3–5	54 (19.4)	5 (1.9)
More than 5	48 (17.2)	3 (1.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>279 (100)</b>	<b>262 (100)</b>

## HIV testing and status

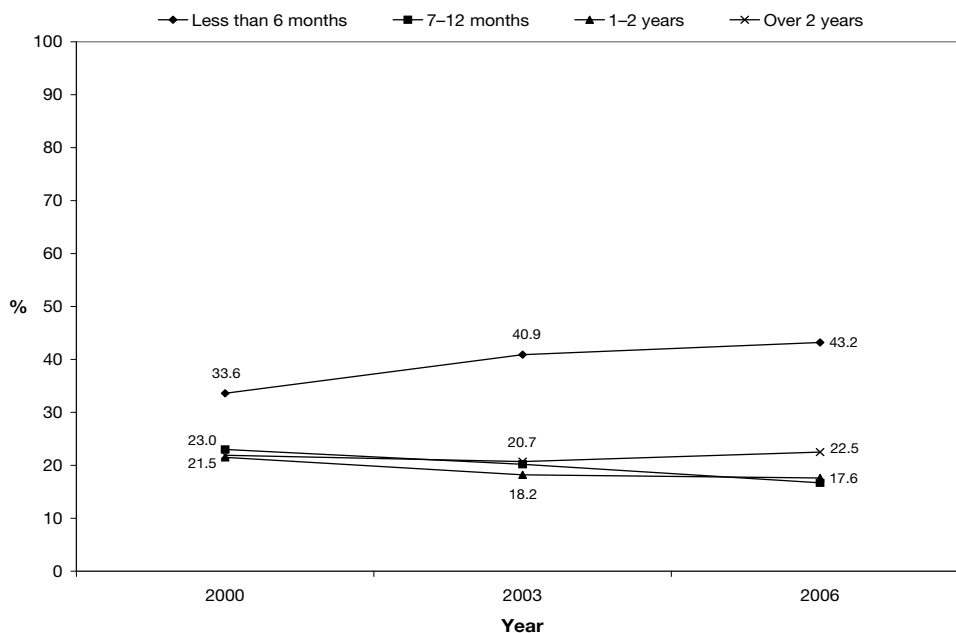
Most of the men in the 2006 sample had been tested for antibodies to HIV (see Figure 13). The vast majority of these reported a negative result from their most recent HIV test. About 6% reported being HIV-positive. About 10% of the men had not been tested or had failed to obtain their test results. This proportion was significantly lower than in 2003 ( $\chi^2$  test,  $p < .05$ ) and has significantly decreased since 2000 ( $\chi^2$  test for trend,  $p < .01$ ). There was a significant increase in the proportion of HIV-negative respondents from 2000 to 2006 ( $\chi^2$  test for trend,  $p < .05$ ).



**Figure 13: HIV test results**

### Time since most recent HIV antibody test

Among the non-HIV-positive men who had ever been tested for HIV, the majority had been tested within the 12 months prior to the survey. About 40% of the sample had not been tested for at least 12 months (see Figure 14). The proportion of men who had been tested in the six months prior to the survey increased significantly from the 2000 survey onwards ( $\chi^2$  test for trend,  $p < .05$ ).

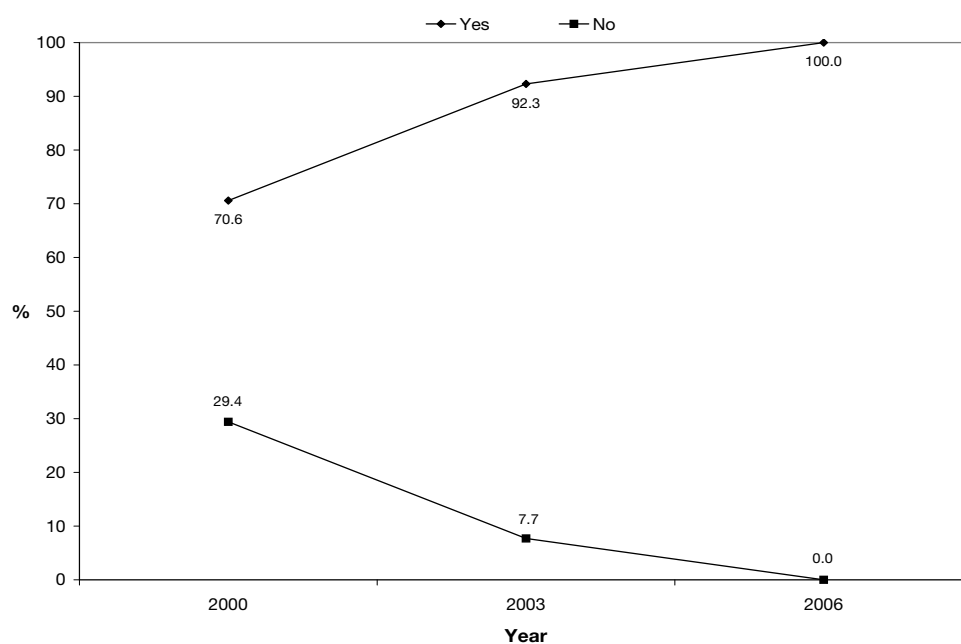


**Figure 14: Time since most recent HIV antibody test, among men who had not tested HIV-positive**



## Combination antiretroviral therapies

All HIV-positive men surveyed in 2006 were using combination antiretroviral therapies (see Figure 15). The small number of HIV-positive men in the sample makes comparison with the previous surveys unreliable.



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

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

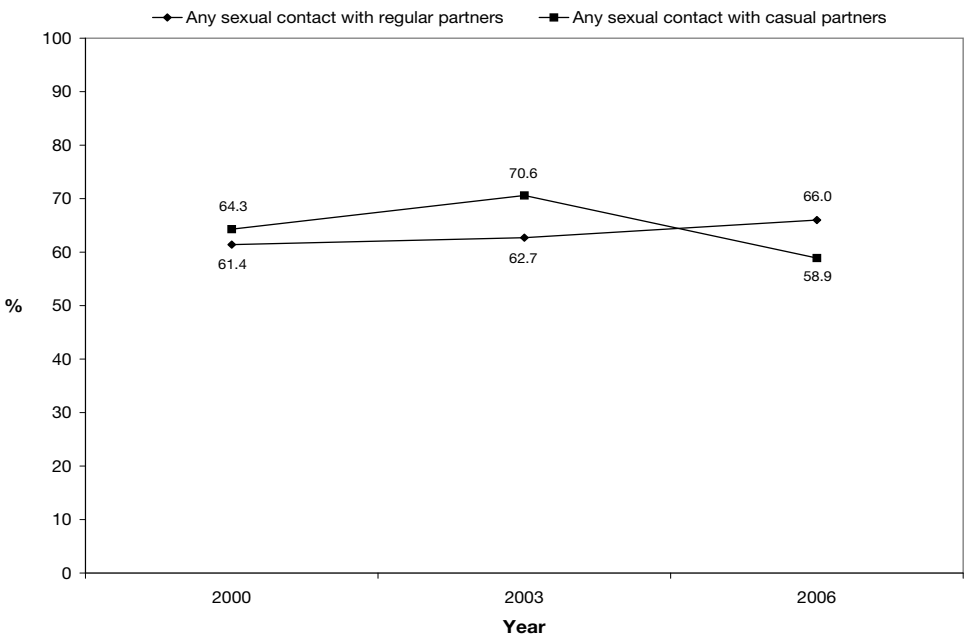


# Sexual practices between men

Participants were asked to report on a limited range of sexual practices, categorised according to whether they occurred with regular or casual partners: anal intercourse with and without ejaculation, and oral intercourse with and without ejaculation.

## Type and number of sex partners

Based on the responses to the sexual behaviour questions and the types of sexual relationships with men indicated by the participants, in the six months prior to the survey about 60% of the men had had sexual contact with casual partners. This was significantly lower than in the previous survey in 2003 ( $\chi^2$  test,  $p < .001$ ). Almost 70% had had sex with regular partners (see Figure 16), which was not a significant change from the previous survey.

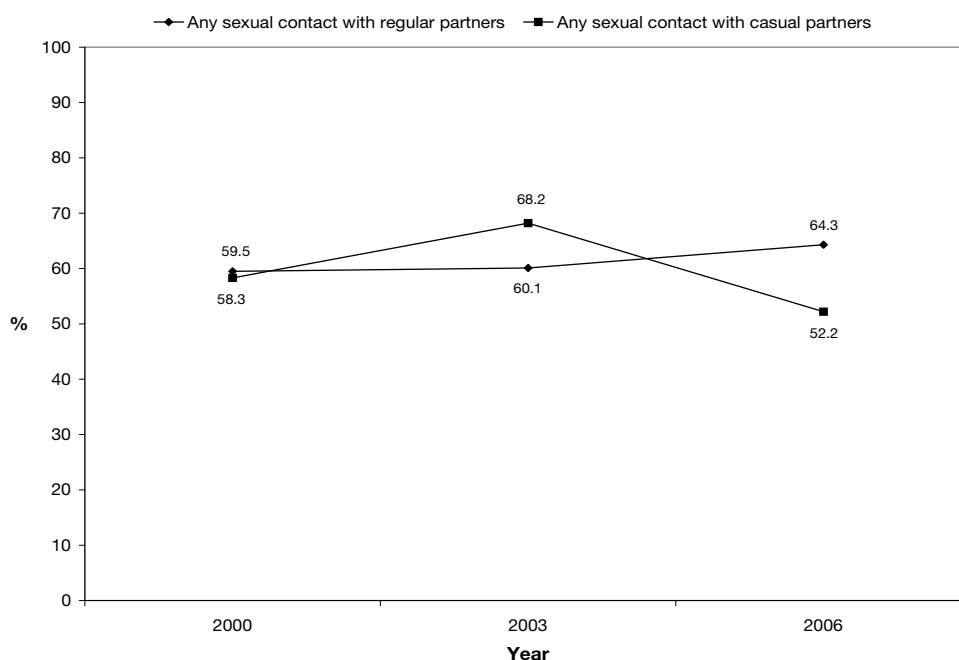


**Figure 16: Sex with male partners in the six months prior to the survey—all men**

Note: These categories are not mutually exclusive.

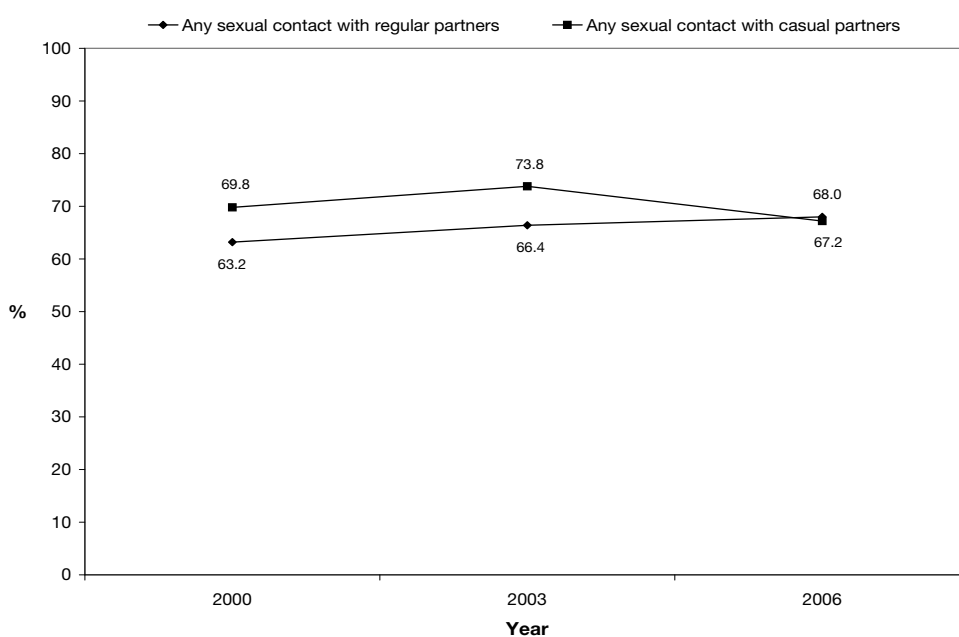
In the six months prior to the 2000 survey, men recruited at Fair Day were significantly less likely to have had casual partners than the men recruited at gay venues ( $\chi^2$  test,  $p < .05$ ). However, in 2003 and 2006 there was no significant difference between the proportions of men recruited at Fair Day and at gay venues who had had casual partners (see Figure 17).

In comparison with the previous survey, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of men recruited at Fair Day who had had casual partners ( $\chi^2$  test,  $p < .01$ ).



**Figure 17: Sex with male partners in the six months prior to the survey—men recruited at Fair Day**

In 2006 over two-thirds of the men recruited at gay venues reported having had sex with a casual partner in the six months prior to the survey (see Figure 18). This proportion was lower than that reported in 2003, but the decrease was not statistically significant. The increasing upward trend in the proportion of men with regular partners recruited at gay venues was also found not to be significant.



**Figure 18: Sex with male partners in the six months prior to the survey—men recruited at gay venues**

The majority of the 2006 respondents had engaged in sex with between one and 10 partners in the six months prior to the survey, while almost 20% of the men reported having had sex

with more than 10 partners (see Figure 19). The proportion of men who had had only one sexual partner in the six months prior to the survey increased significantly from the previous survey in 2003 ( $\chi^2$  test,  $p < .05$ ). Over the same period there have been no significant changes in the proportions of men who had had none, two to 10, or 11 to 50 partners.

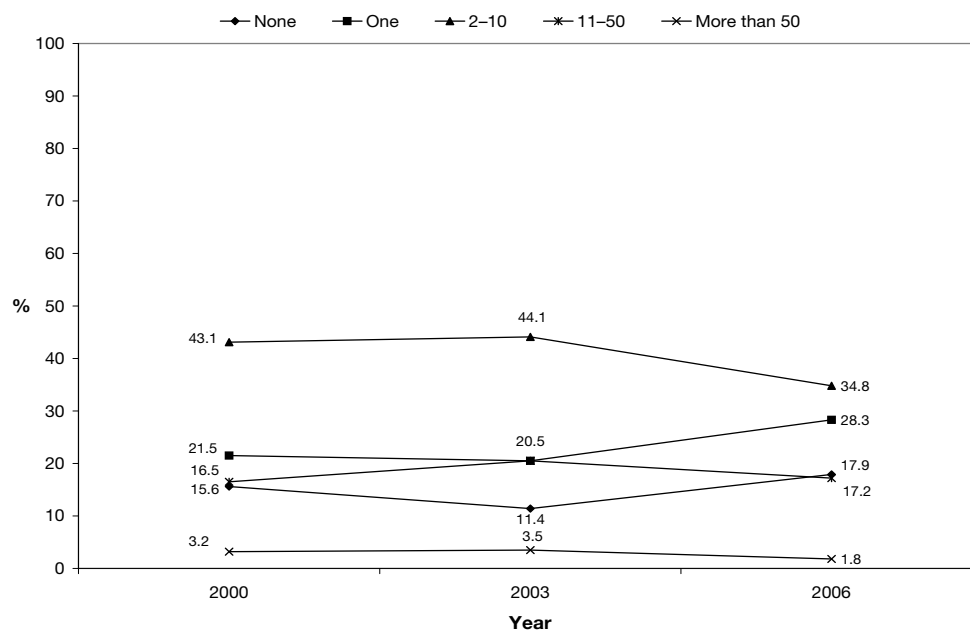


Figure 19: Number of male sex partners in the six months prior to the survey

## Where men looked for male sex partners

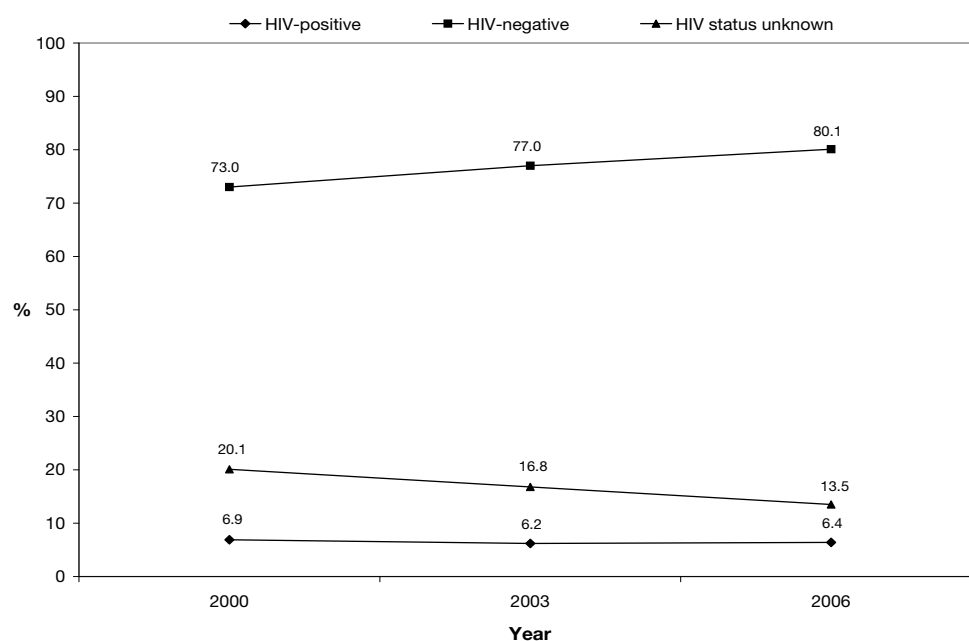
Almost 60% of the men who responded to the question had looked for male sex partners on the internet and 35% of them had found at least one partner in this way. Just over 50% of the men had looked for male sex partners in gay bars, while about a third had looked for partners at dance parties (see Table 2).

Table 2: Where men looked for male sex partners (2006)

	Never <i>n</i> (%)	Occasionally <i>n</i> (%)	Often <i>n</i> (%)	Total <i>N</i> (%)
Internet	101 (43.5)	85 (36.6)	46 (19.8)	232 (100)
Gay bar	110 (47.0)	96 (41.0)	28 (12.0)	234 (100)
Dance party	156 (71.9)	50 (23.0)	11 (5.1)	217 (100)
Gym	179 (86.1)	26 (12.5)	3 (1.4)	208 (100)
Beat	154 (68.1)	54 (23.9)	18 (8.0)	226 (100)
Sauna	142 (63.1)	68 (30.2)	15 (6.7)	225 (100)
Other sex venue	168 (75.3)	40 (17.9)	15 (6.7)	223 (100)
Private sex parties	196 (94.2)	12 (5.8)	–	208 (100)
Sydney or Melbourne	110 (47.4)	89 (38.4)	33 (14.2)	232 (100)

## HIV status of current regular partner

Participants were asked about the HIV status of their current regular partner. As the question referred to current partners only, fewer men responded to this item than indicated sex with a regular partner during the previous six months. Approximately 80% of the men who were in a regular relationship at the time of the survey had an HIV-negative partner (see Figure 20). The proportion of men with HIV-negative regular partners has increased over the three survey periods but this increase is not significant. Approximately 14% had a regular partner whose HIV status they did not know.



**Figure 20: HIV status of current regular partner**

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

HIV-negative men were most likely to be in a regular relationship with another HIV-negative man (see Table 3). Because of the small numbers of HIV-positive men and men of unknown HIV status in the sample, it is not possible to determine if men in either of those groups preferred a relationship with a man of the same HIV status.

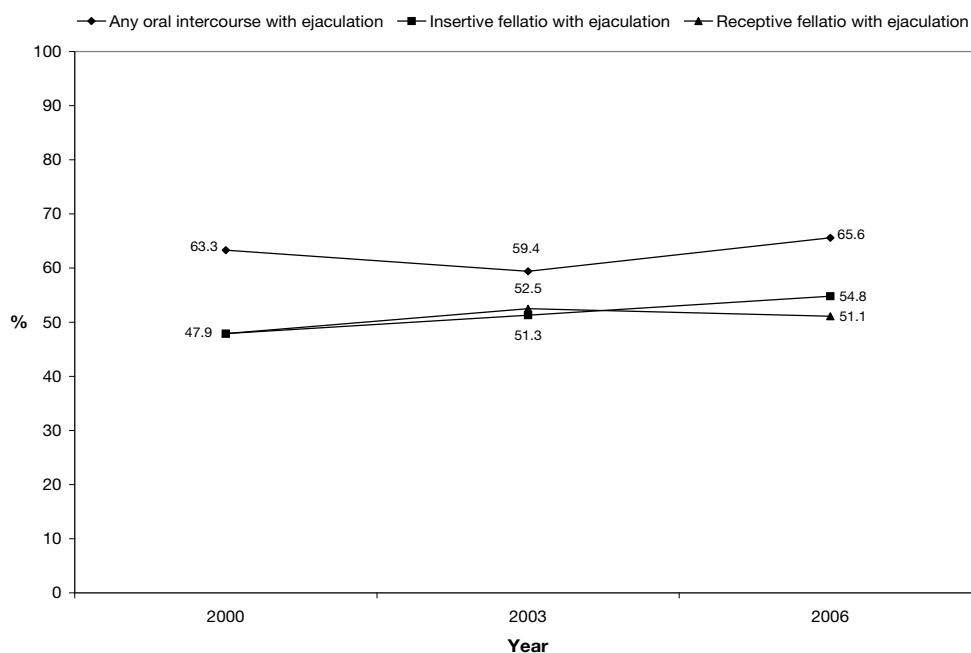
**Table 3: Match of HIV status in regular relationships**

HIV status of regular partner	Participant's HIV status		
	HIV-positive	HIV-negative	Unknown
<b>2000</b>			
HIV-positive	1	10	1
HIV-negative	8	108	11
Unknown	2	20	13
<b>Total (N = 174)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>2003</b>			
HIV-positive	2	5	–
HIV-negative	6	77	4
Unknown	–	13	6
<b>Total (N = 113)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2006</b>			
HIV-positive	3	6	–
HIV-negative	7	104	2
Unknown	2	9	8
<b>Total (N = 141)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>10</b>

Note: Includes only those men who had a regular partner at the time of completing the survey. This table lists numbers only, as the sample is too small to calculate reliable proportions.

## Specific sexual practices with regular and casual partners

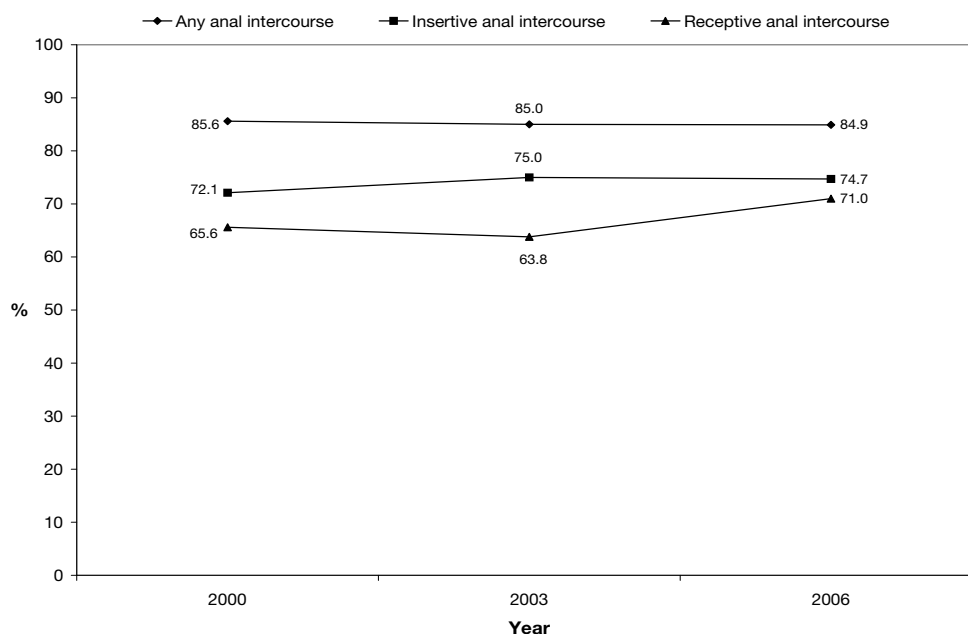
In 2006, 66% of the men with regular male partners had engaged in oral intercourse with ejaculation with their partners and were equally likely to have done so in the insertive as in the receptive position (see Figure 21). This pattern has been consistent across the three consecutive surveys.



**Figure 21: Positioning in oral intercourse with ejaculation with regular male partners in the six months prior to the survey**

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

The vast majority (about 85%) of the men with regular male partners had engaged in anal intercourse with their partners (see Figure 22). In 2006 almost three-quarters of the men with regular partners had engaged in insertive anal intercourse, while just over 70% had engaged in receptive anal intercourse. These proportions have remained stable over time.

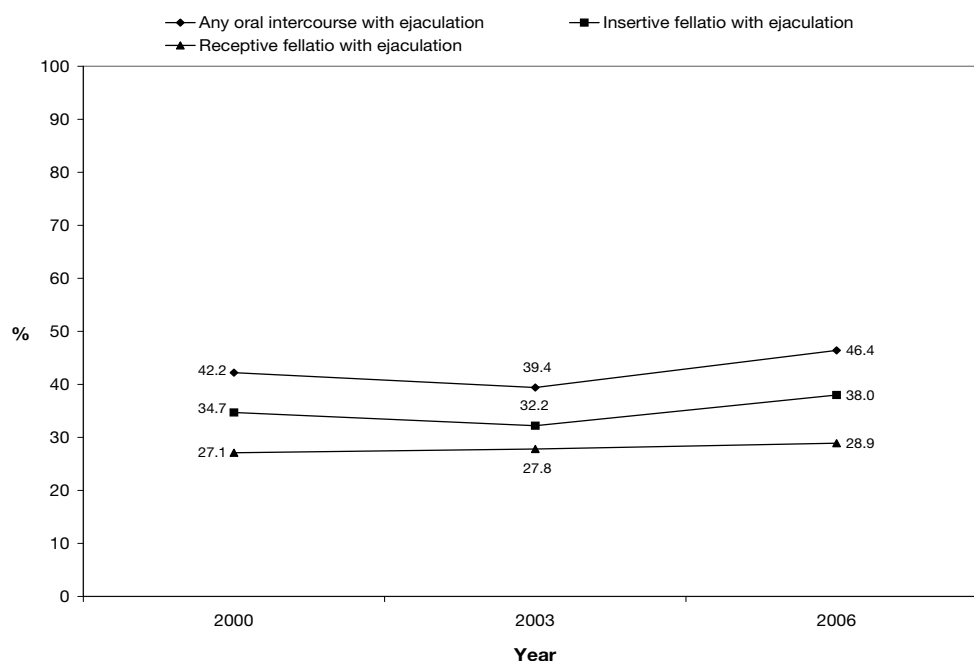


**Figure 22: Positioning in anal intercourse with regular male partners in the six months prior to the survey**

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

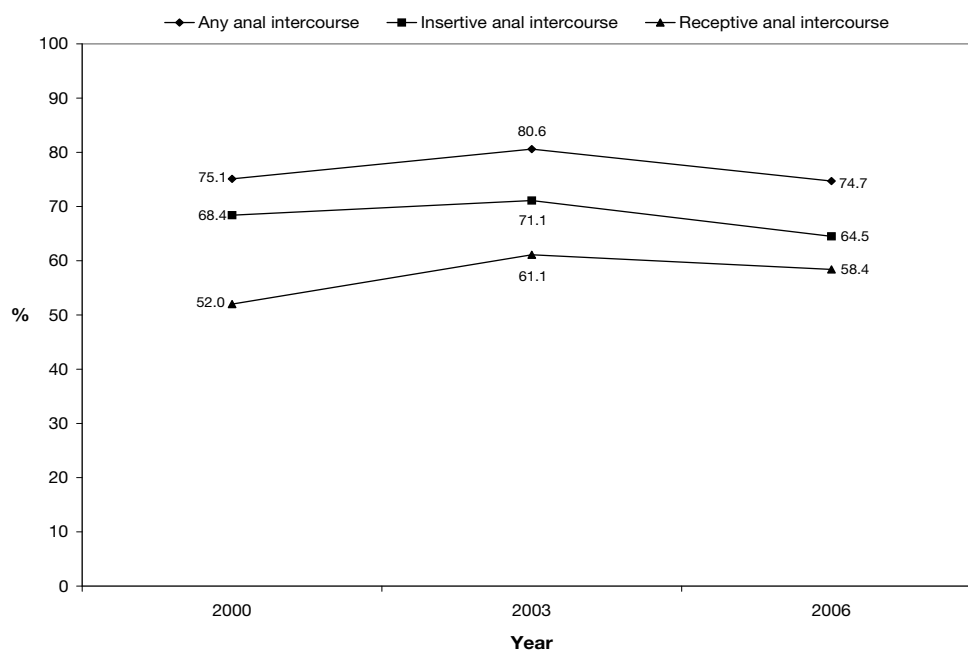
Fewer respondents had engaged in either oral intercourse with ejaculation, or anal intercourse, with casual male partners. These practices were more likely to have occurred with regular male partners.

About 50% of the men who had had casual partners had engaged in oral intercourse with ejaculation, more commonly in the insertive position (see Figure 23). The proportion of men who had engaged in any oral intercourse with their casual partners increased from the previous survey in 2003, but this increase was not statistically significant.



**Figure 23: Positioning in oral intercourse with ejaculation with casual male partners in the six months prior to the survey**

About 75% of the men who had had sex with casual male partners had engaged in anal intercourse with those partners, again more usually in the insertive position (see Figure 24). This was a slightly lower proportion than in the 2003 sample but the difference was not significant.

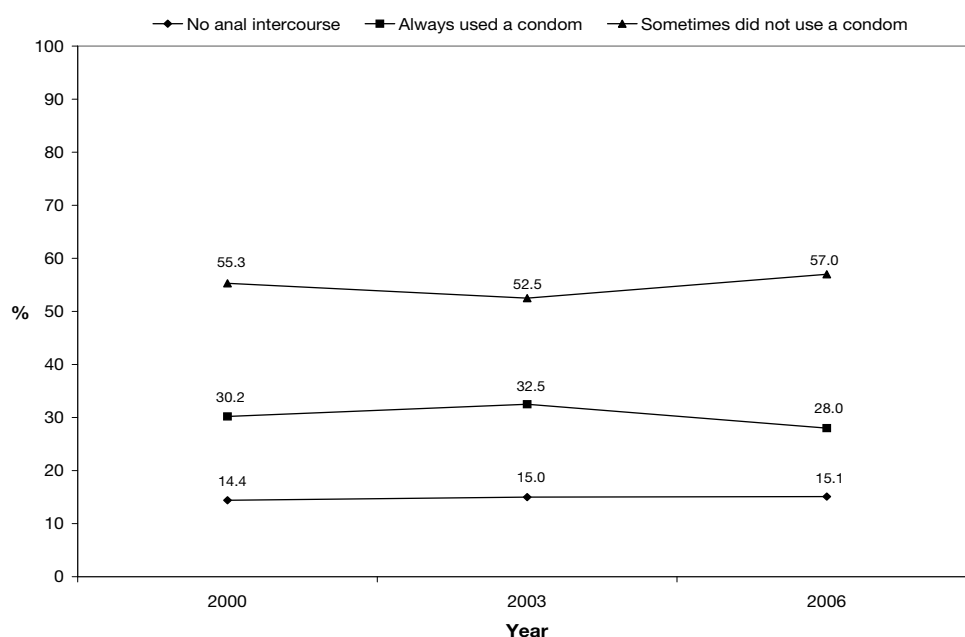


**Figure 24: Positioning in anal intercourse with casual male partners in the six months prior to the survey**

## Sex with regular partners

### Condom use

Based on the entire sample, almost 40% of all men who participated in the 2006 survey had engaged in any unprotected anal intercourse with regular male partners (UAIR) in the six months prior to the survey. Of the men with regular partners, almost 60% had engaged in UAIR in the six months prior to the survey and about 30% had always used condoms (see Figure 25). There was no significant change in these proportions from the previous survey and they have remained stable since 2000.



**Figure 25: Condom use with regular partners in the six months prior to the survey**

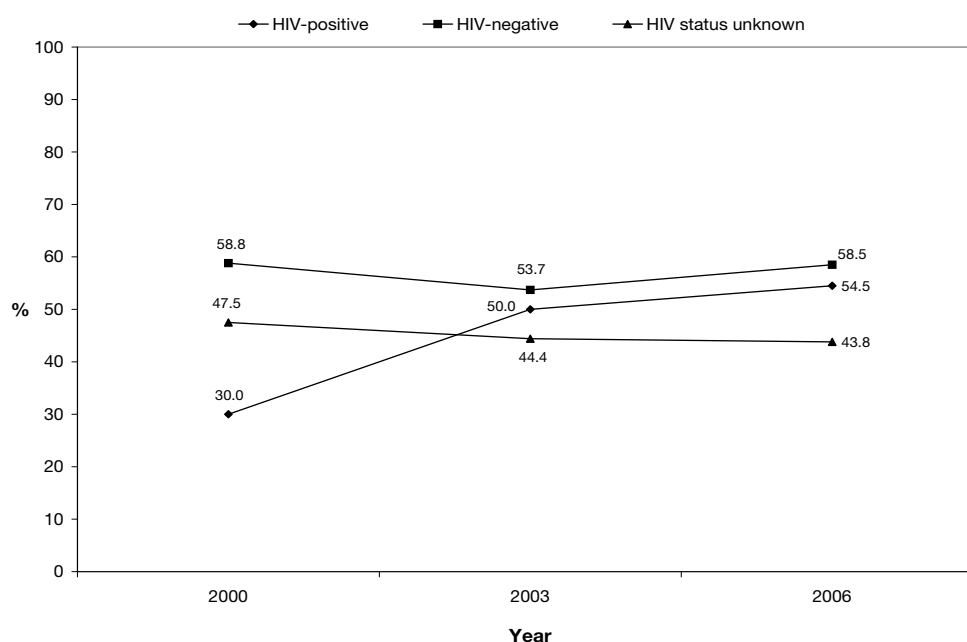
Of the 106 men who had engaged in UAIR in the six months prior to the survey, 16 (15%) had practised only withdrawal prior to ejaculation, 31 (29%) had practised only ejaculation inside and 59 (56%) had engaged in both withdrawal and ejaculation inside.

About 60% of the HIV-negative men with regular partners reported having had some unprotected anal intercourse in the previous six months (see Figure 26, page 20). These proportions have remained stable over the surveys from 2000 to 2006.

In Table 4 the HIV status of each of the participants who had had anal intercourse with a regular partner has been compared with that of his regular partner. For each of the nine HIV status combinations, sexual practice has been divided into 'no UAIR' and 'some UAIR'. The numbers overall are very small and these figures should be treated cautiously.

In 2006 most of the unprotected anal intercourse within regular relationships of six months or more was between HIV seroconcordant (positive–positive or negative–negative) couples. However, 13 men had engaged in unprotected anal intercourse in a relationship in which HIV seroconcordance was absent or in doubt (see Table 4).





**Figure 26: Proportion of men who sometimes did not use condoms with regular male partners in the six months prior to the survey, by HIV status**

**Table 4: Unprotected anal intercourse and match of HIV status in regular relationships**

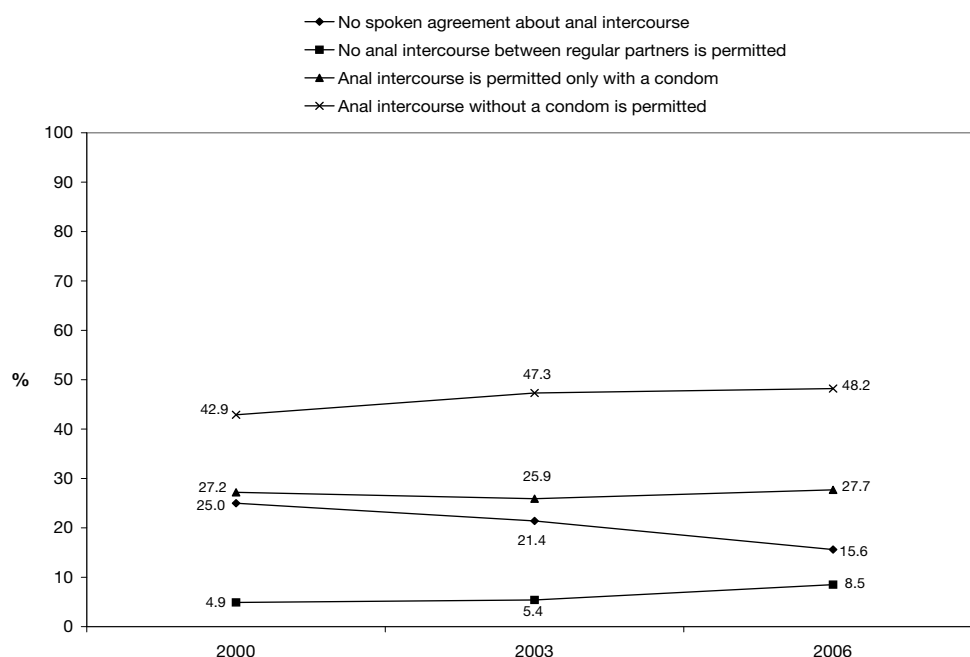
Partner's HIV status		Participant's HIV status		
		HIV-positive	HIV-negative	Unknown
<b>2000</b>				
HIV-positive	No UAIR	–	5	1
	Some UAIR	–	3	–
HIV-negative	No UAIR	5	15 (17.9%)	2
	Some UAIR	3	69 (82.1%)	6
Unknown	No UAIR	1	3	3
	Some UAIR	–	5	4
<b>2003</b>				
HIV-positive	No UAIR	–	3	–
	Some UAIR	2	1	–
HIV-negative	No UAIR	3	12 (20.7%)	–
	Some UAIR	1	46 (79.3%)	–
Unknown	No UAIR	–	3	1
	Some UAIR	–	4	3
<b>2006</b>				
HIV-positive	No UAIR	1	1	–
	Some UAIR	2	3	–
HIV-negative	No UAIR	3	20 (26.3%)	0
	Some UAIR	3	56 (73.7%)	2
Unknown	No UAIR	–	3	1
	Some UAIR	–	3	2

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

## Agreements about sex

Most participants who had regular male partners at the time of completing the survey had agreements with their partners about sex within the relationship (see Figure 27). In 2006 almost half of the men in relationships had agreed to anal intercourse without a condom.

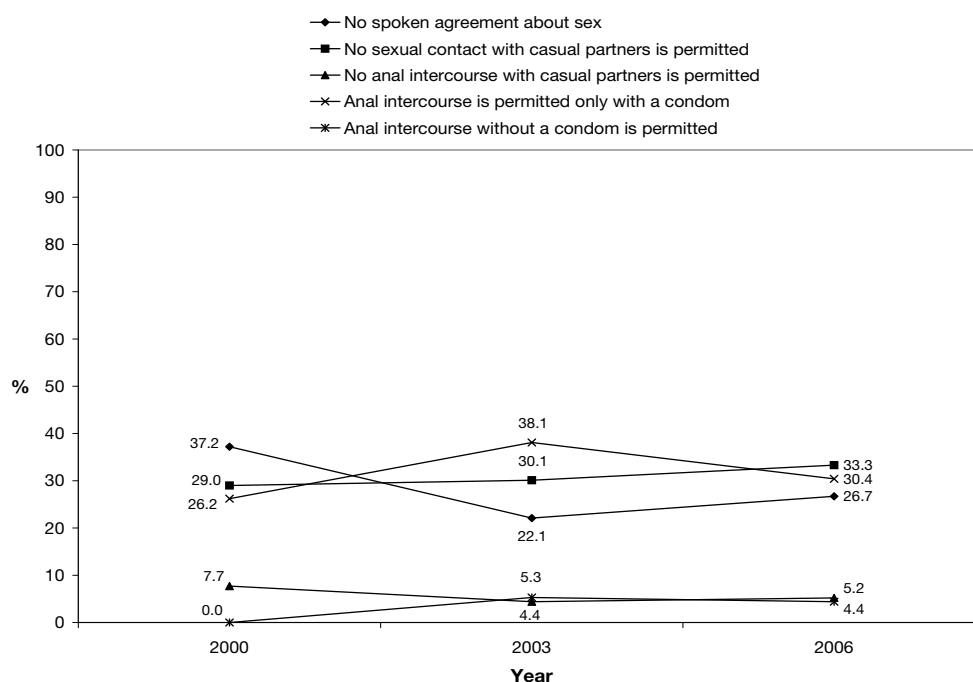
From 2000 to 2006 there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of men who had no spoken agreement about anal intercourse ( $\chi^2$  test for trend,  $p < .05$ ).



**Figure 27: Agreements with regular male partners about sex *within* the relationship**

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

In 2006 about a quarter of the men in a 'current' relationship had no spoken agreement about sex outside the relationship (see Figure 28). There has been a decrease in the proportion of men who allowed anal intercourse with casual partners as long as a condom was used, but this change was not significant.



**Figure 28: Agreements with regular male partners about sex *outside* the relationship**

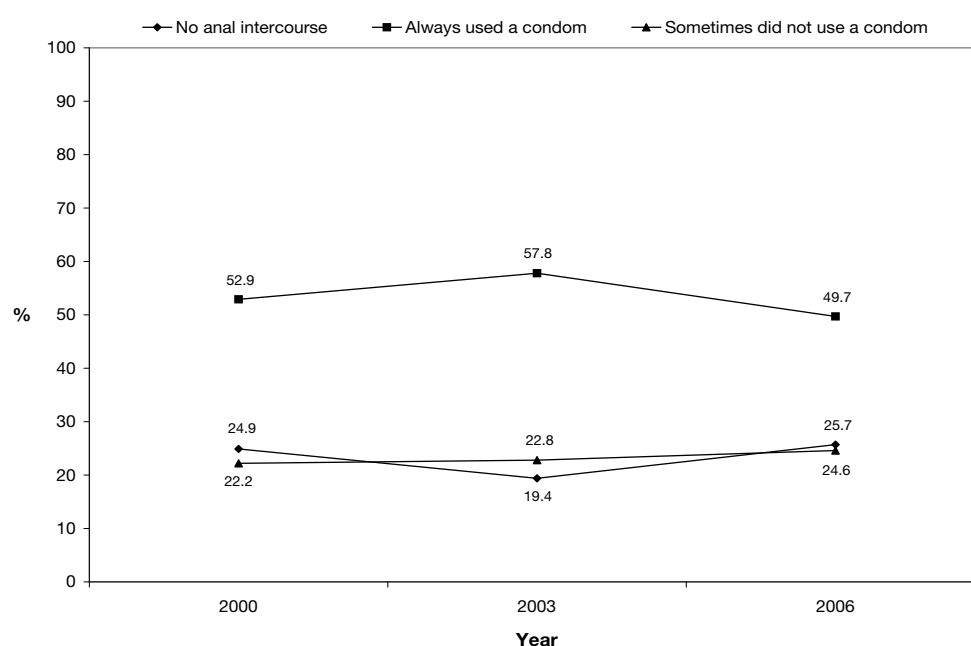
Note: Based on the responses of men who had a regular partner at the time of completing the survey.

## Sex with casual male partners

### Condom use

Based on the entire sample, 41 (14.5%) of the men who participated in the 2006 survey had engaged in some unprotected anal intercourse with casual male partners (UAIC) in the six months prior to the survey; 19 of these 41 men had also had unprotected anal intercourse with a regular partner during that time. From 2000 to 2006 the proportion of respondents who had always used a condom with casual partners decreased somewhat and the proportion who had sometimes not used a condom slightly increased, but these changes were not statistically significant (see Figure 29).

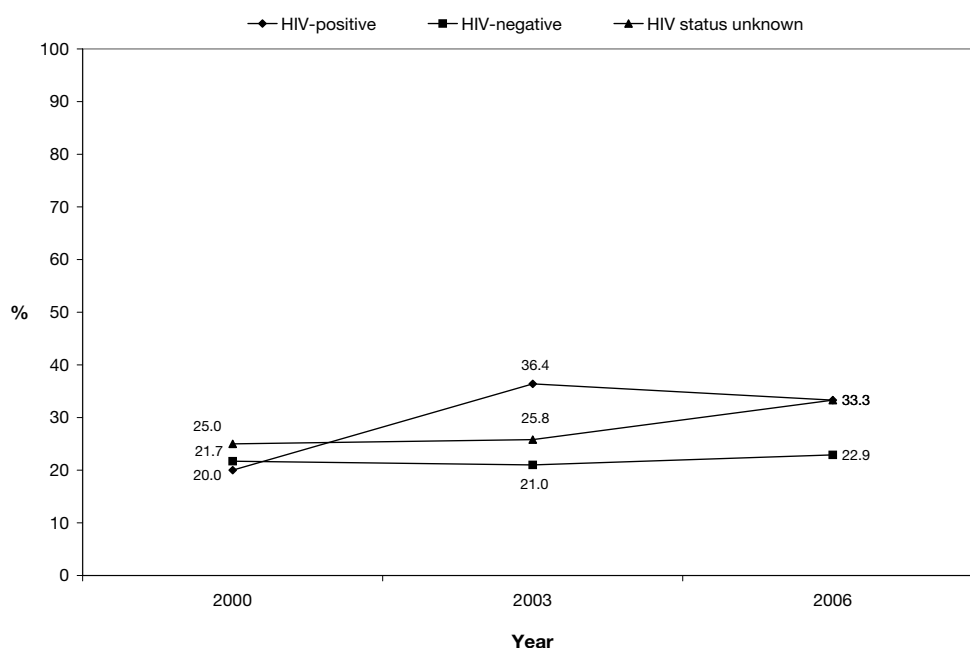
A comparison of data in Figures 25 and 29 confirms that more men had had unprotected anal intercourse with regular than with casual partners. Furthermore, unprotected anal intercourse with ejaculation inside was more common within regular relationships than between casual partners (see footnotes to both figures).



**Figure 29: Condom use with casual male partners in the six months prior to the survey**

Note: Of the 41 men who had engaged in unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners in the six months prior to the survey, 16 (39%) had practised only withdrawal prior to ejaculation, 7 (17%) had practised only ejaculation inside and 18 (44%) had engaged in both withdrawal and ejaculation inside.

In 2006, as in the previous survey, there was no significant difference in the proportions of HIV-negative men and men of unknown HIV status who reported having engaged in UAIC (see Figure 30). The sample was not sufficiently large to enable valid comparisons across HIV status 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).

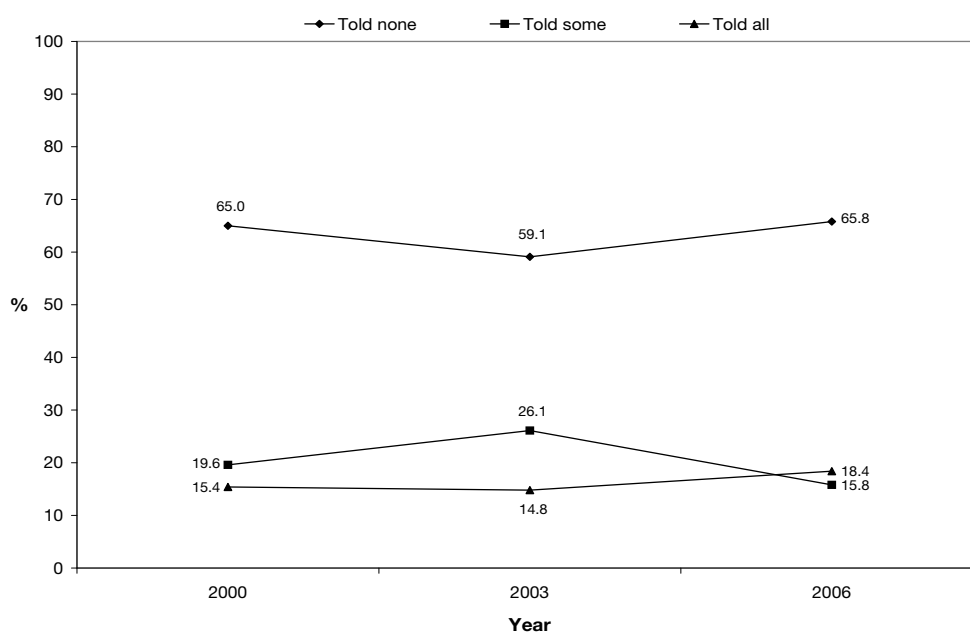


**Figure 30: Unprotected anal intercourse with casual male partners in the six months prior to the survey, by HIV status**

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

## Disclosure of HIV status

Almost two-thirds of respondents who had had sex with casual partners had not disclosed their HIV status to any of those partners before having sex<sup>1</sup> (see Figure 31). About 19% had disclosed their HIV status to all of their casual partners before having sex. The rates of disclosure were unchanged from 2000 to 2006.

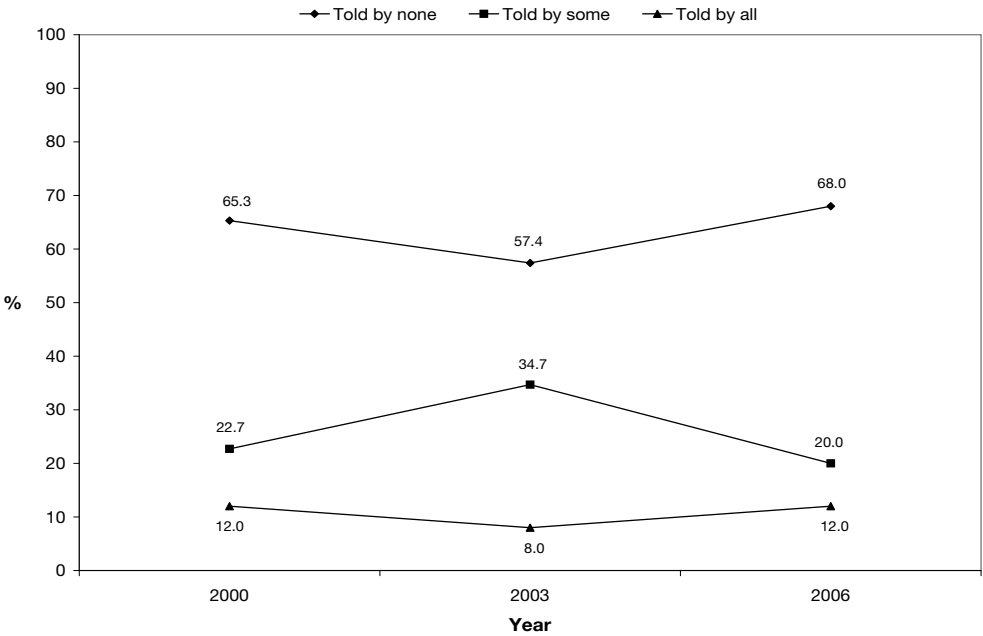


**Figure 31: Participants' disclosure of HIV status to casual male partners in the six months prior to the survey**

Note: Includes only those men who had had casual partners in the six months prior to the survey.

<sup>1</sup> Please note that Questions 32 and 33 do not distinguish the type of sex participants were about to engage in when they made the decision to disclose or not to disclose their HIV status to a casual partner.

Similarly, about two-thirds of participants had not been told the HIV status of any of their casual partners before having sex (see Figure 32). About 12% had been told the HIV status of all of their casual partners. Overall rates of disclosure by casual partners did not change from 2000 to 2006. However, compared with the previous survey there was a significant increase in the proportion of men who had not been told the HIV status of any of their casual partners ( $\chi^2$  test,  $p < .05$ )



**Figure 32: Casual male partners' disclosure of HIV status to participants in the six months prior to the survey**

Note: Includes only those men who had had casual partners in the six months prior to the survey.



## Sexual health

Almost three-quarters of the men sampled in 2006 had had a sexual health check-up in the 12 months prior to the survey, with the majority having had check-ups at an ACT sexual health clinic or a local GP/doctor (see Table 5). There were only two HIV-positive respondents who had not had a sexual health check-up during this period. There were no significant changes in any of these proportions from 2003 to 2006.

**Table 5: Place of sexual health check-up in the 12 months prior to the survey**

	<b>2003 n (%)</b>	<b>2006 n (%)</b>
ACT STRIP*	16 (6.3)	16 (5.7)
ACT sexual health clinic	46 (18.0)	61 (21.6)
ACT GP/doctor	75 (29.4)	74 (26.2)
Outside ACT	35 (13.7)	35 (12.4)
No check-up in the past year	73 (28.6)	75 (26.6)

\*STRIP = Sexual health Testing, Referral and Information Project

Of the total sample in 2006, about half reported having had a blood test for HIV, while a similar proportion reported having had a blood test for other sexually transmissible infections (see Table 6). About a third reported having had an anal swab and a similar proportion had had a throat swab. Just under a quarter had had a penile swab.

**Table 6: Sexual health tests in the 12 months prior to the survey**

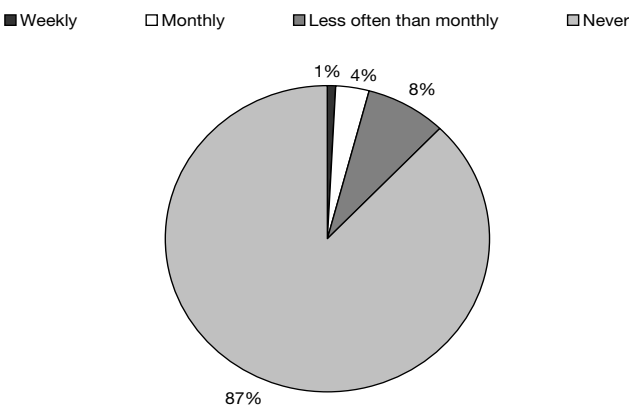
	<b>2003 n (%)</b>	<b>2006 n (%)</b>
Anal swab	56 (22.0)	91 (32.3)
Throat swab	69 (27.1)	97 (34.4)
Penile swab	49 (19.2)	70 (24.8)
Urine sample	101 (39.6)	121 (42.9)
Blood test for HIV*	125 (52.1)	142 (53.4)
Blood test other than for HIV	126 (49.4)	133 (47.2)

\* In the case of non-HIV-positive men only.



# Drug use

In the 2006 survey, respondents were asked how often they had used party drugs for the purpose of sex in the six months prior to the survey. Almost 90% of the men had never used drugs for that purpose and only 1% had used a drug for the purpose of sex on a weekly basis (see Figure 33).



**Figure 33: Use of party drugs for the purpose of sex**

Based on responses to Question 55, in the six months prior to the survey almost half of the men in the sample had used one or more of the drugs listed. The most commonly used drugs were marijuana, amyl/poppers, speed and ecstasy; almost 30% of the total sample had used amyl/poppers (see Table 7). About 6% of the sample had used drugs other than those listed. As in other Australian cities, relatively few men reported having used heroin. The proportions of men who reported having used particular drugs were unchanged from 2003 to 2006.

As in other Australian cities (Hull et al., 2006; Zablotska et al., 2007a; Zablotska et al., 2007b), relatively few men indicated that they had injected drugs in the six months prior to the survey (see Table 8). There was no significant change in the proportion who had injected drugs from 2003 to 2006.

**Table 7: Drug use in the six months prior to the survey**

	<b>2003 n (%)</b>	<b>2006 n (%)</b>
	<b>(N = 255)</b>	<b>(N = 282)</b>
Amyl/Poppers	76 (30.2)	83 (29.4)
Marijuana	73 (29.0)	62 (22.0)
Viagra	27 (10.6)	31 (11.0)
Ecstasy	58 (22.7)	48 (17.0)
Speed	37 (14.5)	30 (10.6)
Cocaine	18 (7.1)	21 (7.4)
LSD/Trips	9 (3.5)	4 (1.4)
Crystal meth	12 (4.7)	21 (7.4)
Heroin	3 (1.2)	1 (0.4)
GHB	–	8 (3.0)
Special K	–	11 (4.1)
Steroids	2 (0.8)	2 (0.7)
Any other drug	20 (7.8)	17 (6.0)
Any of the above	125 (49.4)	131 (46.5)

Note: Responses are not mutually exclusive.

**Table 8: Injecting drug use in the six months prior to the survey**

	<b>2003 n (%)</b>	<b>2006 n (%)</b>
Yes	4 (1.6)	5 (1.8)
No	251 (98.4)	277 (98.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>255 (100)</b>	<b>282 (100)</b>





## Discussion

The findings of the third Canberra Gay Community Periodic Survey provide data on sexual practices related to the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmissible infections (STIs) among gay and homosexually active men in Canberra. In the main, the findings are quite similar to, and thereby corroborate, the evidence from the 2000 and 2003 surveys. Furthermore, many of the results reported here parallel the findings of gay community periodic surveys undertaken in other Australian cities, such as Sydney (Zablotska et al., 2007b), Melbourne (Hull et al., 2006) and Queensland (Zablotska et al., 2007a), reinforcing the notion that in some respects the gay cultures in different capital cities of Australia are similar.

The 282 participants were recruited at two gay community venues in Canberra and at Fair Day, held during the SpringOUT Festival. Most of the 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 men in the sample reported that they had been quite involved socially in gay community, with high levels of gay friendship and free time spent with gay men.

Most of the participants had been tested for antibodies to HIV. Over time there has been a significant increase in the proportion of HIV-negative respondents. The majority of those who had been tested for HIV had been tested within the 12 months prior to the survey, which was consistent with the results of the previous survey in 2003. However, the proportion of men who had been tested in the six months prior to the survey has increased significantly.

All 16 HIV-positive participants were using combination antiretroviral therapies.

Most men reported 'current' sexual contact with at least one other man. About a third of the men had had sex with a regular partner only and a quarter with casual partners only; about a third had had sex with a regular partner, where either or both partners had also had casual partners. In the six months prior to the survey, 66% of the men reported having had sex with regular partners and approximately 60% with casual partners. The latter proportion was significantly smaller than in the 2003 survey.

Of the total sample, 106 men (38%) had engaged in some unprotected anal intercourse with regular partners and 41 (15%) with casual partners in the six months prior to the survey. Some of these men (19 in all) reported having had unprotected anal intercourse with both regular and casual partners. In total, 128 men reported having engaged in unprotected anal intercourse with a regular or casual partner or both. The remainder of the men in the overall sample (154) indicated that they had had no unprotected

anal intercourse with either regular or casual partners. An increase in the proportion of men reporting at least some unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners was not statistically significant.

Not unexpectedly, more men had engaged in unprotected anal intercourse with regular than with casual partners. Just under 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. Over the three survey periods there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of men who had no spoken agreement about anal intercourse within their relationship. About 48% of these agreements permitted unprotected anal intercourse within the relationship, while only 4.4% of men had agreements that allowed unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners.

About 60% of the men had looked for male sex partners on the internet, 50% had looked in gay bars and about a third had frequented dance parties for that purpose. Among men who had looked for male sex partners on the internet, 35% had found at least one partner that way.

In general, the respondents did not routinely disclose their HIV status to casual partners, nor did they generally know the HIV status of their casual partners. About 66% of men had never disclosed their HIV status to casual partners and a similar proportion had never been disclosed to by casual partners. The proportion of men to whom casual partners did not disclose their HIV status has increased significantly in comparison with the 2003 survey, but was similar to the 2000 figures.

About 40% 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 other doctor in the ACT or at an ACT sexual health clinic. About half of the men reported having had a blood test for HIV and a similar proportion had had a blood test for other infections. A slightly smaller number reported having had urine tested for a sexually transmissible infection.

Whereas almost 50% had used recreational drugs in the previous six months, very few men (about 2%) had injected any recreational drugs during that time.

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

The 2006 Canberra Gay Community Periodic Survey recruited a sample of gay men predominantly from the Canberra metropolitan area who provided useful information that will allow comparisons of sexual behaviour, STI testing and drug use over time. The findings of this survey provide valuable evidence to enable community members, educators and policy makers to design and better focus programs that aim to sustain and improve gay men's sexual and social health.

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# Appendix 1

## Tables corresponding to the figures

**Table corresponding to Figure 1: Source of recruitment**

	2000 <i>n</i> (%)	2003 <i>n</i> (%)	2006 <i>n</i> (%)
Fair Day	168 (48.0)	148 (58.0)	157 (55.7)
Other venues/events	182 (52.0)	107 (42.0)	125 (44.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>350 (100)</b>	<b>255 (100)</b>	<b>282 (100)</b>

**Table corresponding to Figure 2: Residential location**

	2000 <i>n</i> (%)	2003 <i>n</i> (%)	2006 <i>n</i> (%)
Canberra area	272 (77.7)	209 (82.0)	227 (80.5)
Sydney	37 (10.6)	21 (8.2)	27 (9.6)
Other NSW	41 (11.7)	25 (9.8)	28 (9.9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>350 (100)</b>	<b>255 (100)</b>	<b>282 (100)</b>

**Table corresponding to Figure 3: Age**

	2000 <i>n</i> (%)	2003 <i>n</i> (%)	2006 <i>n</i> (%)
Under 25	52 (15.0)	22 (9.0)	26 (9.5)
25–29	50 (14.5)	26 (10.6)	44 (16.0)
30–39	99 (28.6)	88 (35.9)	87 (31.6)
40–49	104 (30.1)	73 (29.8)	80 (29.1)
50 and over	41 (11.8)	36 (14.7)	38 (13.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>346 (100)</b>	<b>245 (100)</b>	<b>275 (100)</b>

**Table corresponding to Figure 4: Ethnicity**

	2000 <i>n</i> (%)	2003 <i>n</i> (%)	2006 <i>n</i> (%)
Anglo-Australian	253 (80.6)	189 (82.5)	206 (81.1)
European	22 (7.0)	16 (7.0)	23 (9.1)
Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander*	6 (1.9)	10 (4.4)	6 (2.4)
Other	33 (10.5)	14 (6.1)	19 (7.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>314 (100)</b>	<b>229 (100)</b>	<b>254 (100)</b>

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

**Table corresponding to Figure 5: Education**

	2000 <i>n</i> (%)	2003 <i>n</i> (%)	2006 <i>n</i> (%)
Up to Year 10	37 (10.8)	26 (10.3)	25 (9.1)
Up to Year 12/Senior Certificate	53 (15.4)	34 (13.4)	42 (15.3)
Trade certificate or diploma	56 (16.3)	33 (13.0)	53 (19.3)
University or CAE	198 (57.6)	160 (63.2)	154 (56.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>344 (100)</b>	<b>253 (100)</b>	<b>274 (100)</b>

**Table corresponding to Figure 6: Employment status**

	2000 n (%)	2003 n (%)	2006 n (%)
Full-time	252 (73.9)	201 (79.1)	229 (81.2)
Part-time	29 (8.5)	18 (7.1)	16 (5.7)
Unemployed/Other	60 (17.6)	35 (13.8)	37 (13.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>341 (100)</b>	<b>254 (100)</b>	<b>282 (100)</b>

**Table corresponding to Figure 7: Occupation**

	2000 n (%)	2003 n (%)	2006 n (%)
Professional/Managerial	113 (40.4)	87 (41.6)	102 (43.6)
Paraprofessional	14 (5.0)	20 (9.6)	26 (11.1)
Clerical/Sales	144 (51.4)	94 (45.0)	95 (40.6)
Trades	5 (1.8)	2 (1.0)	8 (3.4)
Plant operation/Labourer	4 (1.4)	6 (2.9)	3 (1.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>280 (100)</b>	<b>209 (100)</b>	<b>234 (100)</b>

Note: Missing data here are mainly not applicable (i.e. some men were not currently employed).

**Table corresponding to Figure 8: Relationships with men**

	2000 n (%)	2003 n (%)	2006 n (%)
None	51 (14.6)	33 (13.0)	41 (14.5)
Casual only	107 (30.6)	81 (32.0)	70 (24.8)
Regular plus casual	88 (25.1)	76 (30.0)	82 (29.1)
Regular only (monogamous)	104 (29.7)	63 (24.9)	89 (31.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>350 (100)</b>	<b>253 (100)</b>	<b>282 (100)</b>

**Table corresponding to Figure 9: Length of relationships among men who had regular male partners at the time of completing the survey**

	2000 n (%)	2003 n (%)	2006 n (%)
Less than one year	56 (29.5)	42 (30.7)	42 (24.0)
At least one year	134 (70.5)	95 (69.3)	133 (76.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>190 (100)</b>	<b>137 (100)</b>	<b>175 (100)</b>

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

**Table corresponding to Figure 10: Sexual identity**

	2000 n (%)	2003 n (%)	2006 n (%)
Gay/Homosexual/Queer	316 (90.8)	230 (90.2)	252 (92.0)
Bisexual	26 (7.5)	21 (8.3)	17 (6.2)
Heterosexual/Other	6 (1.7)	4 (1.6)	5 (1.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>348 (100)</b>	<b>255 (100)</b>	<b>274 (100)</b>

**Table corresponding to Figure 11: Proportion of friends who are gay**

	<b>2000 n (%)</b>	<b>2003 n (%)</b>	<b>2006 n (%)</b>
None	1 (0.3)	7 (2.7)	3 (1.1)
Some or a few	173 (49.4)	132 (51.8)	149 (52.8)
Most or all	176 (50.3)	116 (45.5)	130 (46.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>350 (100)</b>	<b>255 (100)</b>	<b>282 (100)</b>

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

	<b>2000 n (%)</b>	<b>2003 n (%)</b>	<b>2006 n (%)</b>
None	2 (0.6)	1 (0.4)	2 (0.7)
A little	50 (14.3)	33 (13.0)	54 (19.2)
Some	131 (37.5)	101 (39.8)	115 (40.9)
A lot	166 (47.6)	119 (46.9)	110 (39.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>349 (100)</b>	<b>254 (100)</b>	<b>281 (100)</b>

**Table corresponding to Figure 13: HIV test results**

	<b>2000 n (%)</b>	<b>2003 n (%)</b>	<b>2006 n (%)</b>
Not tested/No results	62 (17.7)	40 (15.7)	28 (9.9)
HIV-negative	270 (77.1)	202 (79.2)	238 (84.4)
HIV-positive	18 (5.1)	13 (5.1)	16 (5.7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>350 (100)</b>	<b>255 (100)</b>	<b>282 (100)</b>

**Table corresponding to Figure 14: Time since most recent HIV antibody test, among men who had not tested HIV-positive**

	<b>2000 n (%)</b>	<b>2003 n (%)</b>	<b>2006 n (%)</b>
Less than 6 months	92 (33.6)	83 (40.9)	98 (43.2)
7–12 months	63 (23.0)	41 (20.2)	38 (16.7)
1–2 years	59 (21.5)	37 (18.2)	40 (17.6)
Over 2 years	60 (21.9)	42 (20.7)	51 (22.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>274 (100)</b>	<b>203 (100)</b>	<b>227 (100)</b>

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

**Table corresponding to Figure 15: Use of combination antiretroviral therapies**

	<b>2000 n (%)</b>	<b>2003 n (%)</b>	<b>2006 n (%)</b>
Yes	12 (70.6)	12 (92.3)	16 (100.0)
No	5 (29.4)	1 (7.7)	0 (0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 (100)</b>	<b>13 (100)</b>	<b>16 (100)</b>

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

**Table corresponding to Figure 16: Sex with male partners in the six months prior to the survey—all men**

	2000 <i>n</i> (%)	2003 <i>n</i> (%)	2006 <i>n</i> (%)
	<i>N</i> = 350	<i>N</i> = 255	<i>N</i> = 282
Any sexual contact with regular partners	215 (61.4)	160 (62.7)	186 (66.0)
Any sexual contact with casual partners	225 (64.3)	180 (70.6)	166 (58.9)

Note: These categories are not mutually exclusive.

**Table corresponding to Figure 17: Sex with male partners in the six months prior to the survey—men recruited at Fair Day**

	2000 <i>n</i> (%)	2003 <i>n</i> (%)	2006 <i>n</i> (%)
	<i>N</i> = 168	<i>N</i> = 148	<i>N</i> = 157
Any sexual contact with regular partners	100 (59.5)	89 (60.1)	101 (64.3)
Any sexual contact with casual partners	98 (58.3)	101 (68.2)	82 (52.2)

Note: These categories are not mutually exclusive.

**Table corresponding to Figure 18: Sex with male partners in the six months prior to the survey—men recruited at gay venues**

	2000 <i>n</i> (%)	2003 <i>n</i> (%)	2006 <i>n</i> (%)
	<i>N</i> = 182	<i>N</i> = 107	<i>N</i> = 125
Any sexual contact with regular partners	115 (63.2)	71 (66.4)	85 (68.0)
Any sexual contact with casual partners	127 (69.8)	79 (73.8)	84 (67.2)

Note: These categories are not mutually exclusive.

**Table corresponding to Figure 19: Number of male sex partners in the six months prior to the survey**

	2000 <i>n</i> (%)	2003 <i>n</i> (%)	2006 <i>n</i> (%)
None	54 (15.6)	29 (11.4)	50 (17.9)
One	75 (21.5)	52 (20.5)	79 (28.3)
2–10	149 (43.1)	112 (44.1)	97 (34.8)
11–50	57 (16.5)	52 (20.5)	48 (17.2)
More than 50	11 (3.2)	9 (3.5)	5 (1.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>346 (100)</b>	<b>254 (100)</b>	<b>279 (100)</b>

**Table corresponding to Figure 20: HIV status of current regular partner**

	2000 <i>n</i> (%)	2003 <i>n</i> (%)	2006 <i>n</i> (%)
HIV-positive	12 (6.9)	7 (6.2)	9 (6.4)
HIV-negative	127 (73.0)	87 (77.0)	113 (80.1)
HIV status unknown	35 (20.1)	19 (16.8)	19 (13.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>174 (100)</b>	<b>113 (100)</b>	<b>141 (100)</b>

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

**Table corresponding to Figures 21 and 22: Positioning in oral intercourse with ejaculation, and in anal intercourse, with regular male partners in the six months prior to the survey**

	<b>All men n (%)</b>	<b>Those with regular partners n (%)</b>
<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 = 160</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)
<b>2006</b>	<b>N = 282</b>	<b>n = 186</b>
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	122 (43.3)	122 (65.6)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	102 (36.2)	102 (54.8)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	95 (33.7)	95 (51.1)
Any anal intercourse	158 (56.0)	158 (84.9)
Insertive anal intercourse	139 (49.3)	139 (74.7)
Receptive anal intercourse	132 (46.8)	132 (71.0)

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

**Table corresponding to Figures 23 and 24: Positioning in oral intercourse with ejaculation, and in anal intercourse, with casual male partners in the six months prior to the survey**

	<b>All men n (%)</b>	<b>Those with casual partners n (%)</b>
<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)
<b>2006</b>	<b>N = 282</b>	<b>n = 166</b>
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	78 (27.7)	77 (46.4)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	63 (22.3)	63 (38.0)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	49 (17.4)	48 (28.9)
Any anal intercourse	127 (45.0)	124 (74.7)
Insertive anal intercourse	110 (39.0)	107 (64.5)
Receptive anal intercourse	99 (35.1)	97 (58.4)

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



**Table corresponding to Figure 25: Condom use with regular partners in the six months prior to the survey**

	All men n (%)	Those with regular partners n (%)
<b>2000</b>		
No regular partner	135 (38.6)	–
No anal intercourse	31 (8.9)	31 (14.4)
Always used a condom	65 (18.6)	65 (30.2)
Sometimes did not use a condom	119 (34.0)	119 (55.3)
<b>Total</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 used a condom	52 (20.4)	52 (32.5)
Sometimes did not use a condom	84 (32.9)	84 (52.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>255 (100)</b>	<b>160 (100)</b>
<b>2006</b>		
No regular partner	96 (34.0)	–
No anal intercourse	28 (9.9)	28 (15.1)
Always used a condom	52 (18.4)	52 (28.0)
Sometimes did not use a condom*	106 (37.6)	106 (57.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>282 (100)</b>	<b>186 (100)</b>

\*Of the 106 men who had engaged in unprotected anal intercourse with a regular partner in the six months prior to the survey, 16 (15%) had practised only withdrawal prior to ejaculation, 31 (29%) had practised only ejaculation inside and 59 (56%) had engaged in both withdrawal and ejaculation inside.

**Table corresponding to Figure 26: Proportion of men who sometimes did not use condoms with regular male partners in the six months prior to the survey, by HIV status**

	HIV-positive n (%)	HIV-negative n (%)	Unknown n (%)
<b>2000</b>			
No anal intercourse	–	24 (14.5)	7 (17.5)
Always used a condom	7 (70.0)	44 (26.7)	14 (35.0)
Sometimes did not use a condom	3 (30.0)	97 (58.8)	19 (47.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 (100)</b>	<b>165 (100)</b>	<b>40 (100)</b>
<b>2003</b>			
No anal intercourse	1 (12.5)	18 (13.4)	5 (27.8)
Always used a condom	3 (37.5)	44 (32.8)	5 (27.8)
Sometimes did not use a condom	4 (50.0)	72 (53.7)	8 (44.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 (100)</b>	<b>134 (100)</b>	<b>18 (100)</b>
<b>2006</b>			
No anal intercourse	1 (9.1)	24 (15.1)	3 (18.8)
Always used a condom	4 (36.4)	42 (26.4)	6 (37.5)
Sometimes did not use a condom	6 (54.5)	93 (58.5)	7 (43.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 (100)</b>	<b>159 (100)</b>	<b>16 (100)</b>

Note: Includes only those men who had a regular partner in the six months prior to the survey. Data to be treated cautiously as they are based on small numbers.

**Table corresponding to Figure 27: Agreements with regular male partners about sex *within* the relationship**

	2000 n (%)	2003 n (%)	2006 n (%)
No spoken agreement about anal intercourse	46 (25.0)	24 (21.4)	22 (15.6)
No anal intercourse between regular partners is permitted	9 (4.9)	6 (5.4)	12 (8.5)
Anal intercourse is permitted only with a condom	50 (27.2)	29 (25.9)	39 (27.7)
Anal intercourse without a condom is permitted	79 (42.9)	53 (47.3)	68 (48.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>184 (100)</b>	<b>112 (100)</b>	<b>141 (100)</b>

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

**Table corresponding to Figure 28: Agreements with regular male partners about sex *outside* the relationship**

	2000 n (%)	2003 n (%)	2006 n (%)
No spoken agreement about sex	68 (37.2)	25 (22.1)	36 (26.7)
No sexual contact with casual partners is permitted	53 (29.0)	34 (30.1)	45 (33.3)
No anal intercourse with casual partners is permitted	14 (7.7)	5 (4.4)	7 (5.2)
Anal intercourse is permitted only with a condom	48 (26.2)	43 (38.1)	41 (30.4)
Anal intercourse without a condom is permitted	–	6 (5.3)	6 (4.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>183 (100)</b>	<b>113 (100)</b>	<b>135 (100)</b>

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

**Table corresponding to Figure 29: Condom use with casual male partners in the six months prior to the survey**

	All men n (%)	Those with casual partners n (%)
<b>2000</b>		
No casual partner	125 (35.7)	–
No anal intercourse	56 (16.0)	56 (24.9)
Always used a condom	119 (34.0)	119 (52.9)
Sometimes did not use a condom	50 (14.3)	50 (22.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>350 (100)</b>	<b>225 (100)</b>
<b>2003</b>		
No casual partner	75 (29.4)	–
No anal intercourse	35 (13.7)	35 (19.4)
Always used a condom	104 (40.8)	104 (57.8)
Sometimes did not use a condom	41 (16.1)	41 (22.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>255 (100)</b>	<b>180 (100)</b>
<b>2006</b>		
No casual partner	115 (40.8)	–
No anal intercourse	43 (15.2)	43 (25.7)
Always used a condom	83 (29.4)	83 (49.7)
Sometimes did not use a condom*	41 (14.5)	41 (24.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>282 (100)</b>	<b>167 (100)</b>

\*Of the 41 men who had engaged in unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners in the six months prior to the survey, 16 (39%) had practised only withdrawal prior to ejaculation, 7 (17%) had practised only ejaculation inside and 18 (44%) had engaged in both withdrawal and ejaculation inside.

**Table corresponding to Figure 30: Unprotected anal intercourse with casual male partners in the six months prior to the survey, by HIV status**

	HIV-positive <i>n</i> (%)	HIV-negative <i>n</i> (%)	Unknown <i>n</i> (%)
<b>2000</b>			
No anal intercourse	3 (30.0)	45 (25.7)	8 (20.0)
Always used a condom	5 (50.0)	92 (52.6)	22 (55.0)
Sometimes did not use a condom	2 (20.0)	38 (21.7)	10 (25.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 (100)</b>	<b>175 (100)</b>	<b>40 (100)</b>
<b>2003</b>			
No anal intercourse	3 (27.3)	26 (18.8)	6 (19.4)
Always used a condom	4 (36.4)	83 (60.1)	17 (54.8)
Sometimes did not use a 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>
<b>2006</b>			
No anal intercourse	3 (33.3)	36 (25.7)	4 (22.2)
Always used a condom	3 (33.3)	72 (51.4)	8 (44.4)
Sometimes did not use a condom	3 (33.3)	32 (22.9)	6 (33.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9 (100)</b>	<b>140 (100)</b>	<b>18 (100)</b>

Note: Includes only those men who had had any casual partners in the six months prior to the survey. Data should be treated cautiously as they are based on small numbers.

**Table corresponding to Figure 31: Participants' disclosure of HIV status to casual male partners in the six months prior to the survey**

	2000 <i>n</i> (%)	2003 <i>n</i> (%)	2006 <i>n</i> (%)
Told none	139 (65.0)	104 (59.1)	100 (65.8)
Told some	42 (19.6)	46 (26.1)	24 (15.8)
Told all	33 (15.4)	26 (14.8)	28 (18.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>214 (100)</b>	<b>176 (100)</b>	<b>152 (100)</b>

Note: Includes only those men who had had casual partners in the six months prior to the survey.

**Table corresponding to Figure 32: Casual male partners' disclosure of HIV status to participants in the six months prior to the survey**

	2000 <i>n</i> (%)	2003 <i>n</i> (%)	2006 <i>n</i> (%)
Told by none	141 (65.3)	101 (57.4)	102 (68.0)
Told by some	49 (22.7)	61 (34.7)	30 (20.0)
Told by all	26 (12.0)	14 (8.0)	18 (12.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>216 (100)</b>	<b>176 (100)</b>	<b>150 (100)</b>

Note: Includes only those men who had had casual partners in the six months prior to the survey.

**Table corresponding to Figure 33: Use of party drugs for the purpose of sex**

	2006 <i>n</i> (%)
Weekly	2 (0.7)
Monthly	10 (3.6)
Less often than monthly	22 (7.9)
Never	243 (87.7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>277 (100)</b>

# Appendix 2

## Questionnaire

**National Centre in HIV Social Research**  
**National Centre in HIV Epidemiology & Clinical Research**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
**AIDS Action Council of the ACT**

**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 MONTH.**

For each question, please TICK one box only.

- How many of your friends are gay or homosexual men?  
None ☐\_1 A few ☐\_2 Some ☐\_3 Most ☐\_4 All ☐\_5
- How much of your free time is spent with gay or homosexual men?  
None ☐\_1 A little ☐\_2 Some ☐\_3 A lot ☐\_4
- Do you think of yourself as:  
Gay/homosexual ☐\_1  
Bisexual ☐\_2  
Heterosexual ☐\_3  
Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**REGULAR** (boyfriend/lover) and **CASUAL** partners . . . .

- Do you currently have sex with **casual** male partners?  
No ☐\_1 Yes ☐\_2
- Do you currently have sex with a **regular** male partner?  
No ☐\_1 Yes ☐\_2
- How would you describe your sexual relationship with your **current regular** male partner? (tick one)  
we are monogamous – **neither of us** has casual sex ☐\_1  
**both my partner and I** have casual sex with other men ☐\_2  
I have casual sex with other men but **my partner does not** ☐\_3  
**my partner** has casual sex with other men but **I do not** ☐\_4  
I have **several regular** male partners ☐\_5  
**no current regular male partner** ☐\_6
- 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

**LAST SIX MONTHS** . . . .

- How many different **men** have you had sex with in the past six months?  
None ☐\_1 6–10 men ☐\_4  
One ☐\_2 11–50 men ☐\_5  
2–5 men ☐\_3 More than 50 men ☐\_6

- How many different **women** have you had sex with in the past six months?  
None ☐\_1 6–10 women ☐\_4  
One ☐\_2 More than 10 women ☐\_5  
2–5 women ☐\_3

**Regular male partners — last 6 months**

- Have you had sex with regular male partner/s in the last six months? Yes ☐\_1 No ☐\_2 Go directly to Q. 21

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

- Oral sex:** I sucked his cock but he did NOT come in my mouth  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3
- Oral sex:** He sucked my cock but I did NOT come in his mouth  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3
- Oral sex:** I sucked his cock and he came in my mouth  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3
- Oral sex:** He sucked my cock and I came in his mouth  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3

**Anal sex**

- I fucked him **with a condom**  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3
- He fucked me **with a condom**  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3
- I fucked him **without a condom** but pulled out before I came  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3
- He fucked me **without a condom** but pulled out before he came  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3
- I fucked him **without a condom** and came inside  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3
- He fucked me **without a condom** and came inside  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3

**Casual male partners — last 6 months**

- Have you had any sex with any casual male partner/s in the last six months? Yes ☐\_1 No ☐\_2 Go directly to Q. 34

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

- Oral sex:** I sucked his cock but he did NOT come in my mouth  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3
- Oral sex:** He sucked my cock but I did NOT come in his mouth  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3
- Oral sex:** I sucked his cock and he came in my mouth  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3
- Oral sex:** He sucked my cock and I came in his mouth  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3

**Anal sex**

- I fucked him **with a condom**  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3
- He fucked me **with a condom**  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3
- I fucked him **without a condom** but pulled out before I came  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3
- He fucked me **without a condom** but pulled out before he came  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3
- I fucked him **without a condom** and came inside  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3
- He fucked me **without a condom** and came inside  
Never ☐\_1 Occasionally ☐\_2 Often ☐\_3

**In the last 6 months:**

- How many of your **casual** partners did you tell your HIV status before sex? None ☐\_1 Some ☐\_2 All ☐\_3
- How many of your **casual** partners told you their HIV status before sex? None ☐\_1 Some ☐\_2 All ☐\_3
- Have you ever had an HIV antibody test? No ☐\_1 Yes ☐\_2
- When were you last tested for HIV antibodies?  
Never tested ☐\_1 7–12 months ago ☐\_5  
Less than a week ago ☐\_2 1–2 years ago ☐\_6  
1–4 weeks ago ☐\_3 2–4 years ago ☐\_7  
1–6 months ago ☐\_4 More than 4 years ago ☐\_8

continues other side ➤

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

No test/Don't know ☐\_1  
Negative ☐\_2  
Positive ☐\_3  
→

37. If **positive** are you on combination antiretroviral therapy?  
No ☐\_1 Yes ☐\_2

**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 ☐\_1  
Yes—Negative ☐\_2  
I don't know / He hasn't had a test ☐\_3

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

No agreement ☐\_1  
Agreement: No anal sex at all ☐\_2  
Agreement: All anal sex is with a condom ☐\_3  
Agreement: Anal sex can be without a condom ☐\_4

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

No agreement ☐\_1  
Agreement: No sex at all ☐\_2  
Agreement: No anal sex at all ☐\_3  
Agreement: All anal sex is with a condom ☐\_4  
Agreement: Anal sex can be without a condom ☐\_5

41. What country were you born in? Australia ☐\_01  
Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

42. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?  
No ☐\_1 Yes ☐\_2

43. What is your ethnic background? (e.g. Australian Aboriginal, Dutch, Greek, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chinese)  
Anglo-Australian only ☐\_01  
Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

44. How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_ years

45. Are you: (tick one only)  
Employed full-time ☐\_1 A student ☐\_4  
Employed part-time ☐\_2 Unemployed ☐\_5  
On pension / social security ☐\_3 Other ☐\_6

46. What is your occupation? (eg bar manager, bank manager, IT support, welder)  
(please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

47. What is the highest level of education you have had?  
Less than or up to 3 years of high school/Year 10 ☐\_1  
Year 12 / HSC ☐\_2  
Tertiary diploma or trade certificate / TAFE ☐\_3  
University or CAE ☐\_4

48. Where do you live? Postcode      
OR Suburb/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

49. In the last 6 months, how many of your male sexual partners did you find on the **Internet**?  
None ☐\_1 6–10 men ☐\_4  
One ☐\_2 11–50 men ☐\_5  
2–5 men ☐\_3 More than 50 men ☐\_6

50. Where do you look for male sex partners?

Internet	Never <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Often <input type="checkbox"/> _3
Gay bar	Never <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Often <input type="checkbox"/> _3
Dance party	Never <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Often <input type="checkbox"/> _3
Gym	Never <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Often <input type="checkbox"/> _3
Beat	Never <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Often <input type="checkbox"/> _3
Gay sauna	Never <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Often <input type="checkbox"/> _3
Other sex venue	Never <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Often <input type="checkbox"/> _3
Private sex parties	Never <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Often <input type="checkbox"/> _3
Sydney or Melbourne	Never <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Often <input type="checkbox"/> _3

51. Which of these sexual health tests have you had in the last 12 months?

Anal swab	None <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Once <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Twice <input type="checkbox"/> _3	3 or more <input type="checkbox"/> _4
Throat swab	None <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Once <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Twice <input type="checkbox"/> _3	3 or more <input type="checkbox"/> _4
Penile swab	None <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Once <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Twice <input type="checkbox"/> _3	3 or more <input type="checkbox"/> _4
Urine sample	None <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Once <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Twice <input type="checkbox"/> _3	3 or more <input type="checkbox"/> _4
Blood test for HIV	None <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Once <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Twice <input type="checkbox"/> _3	3 or more <input type="checkbox"/> _4
Other blood test	None <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Once <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Twice <input type="checkbox"/> _3	3 or more <input type="checkbox"/> _4

52. Where did you have a **sexual health check-up** in the last 12 months?

ACT STRIP Project	No <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> _2
Canberra Sexual health centre	No <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> _2
ACT GP/doctor	No <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> _2
Outside ACT	No <input type="checkbox"/> _1	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> _2
No sexual health check-up in the last 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	

53. How many people do you know personally who (a) have HIV?

None <input type="checkbox"/> _1	One <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Two <input type="checkbox"/> _3	3–5 <input type="checkbox"/> _4	More than 5 <input type="checkbox"/> _5
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(b) **in the past 12 months**, have found out they have HIV?

None <input type="checkbox"/> _1	One <input type="checkbox"/> _2	Two <input type="checkbox"/> _3	3–5 <input type="checkbox"/> _4	More than 5 <input type="checkbox"/> _5
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54. Please look at the resource materials on the reverse side of the Information Sheet. Which ones have you **seen** before?

A: No ☐\_1 Yes ☐\_2 B: No ☐\_1 Yes ☐\_2  
C: No ☐\_1 Yes ☐\_2 D: No ☐\_1 Yes ☐\_2

55. How often have you **used** these drugs in the past **6 months**?

	Never	1-5 times	6-10 times	10-20 times	More than 20 times
Amyl/Poppers	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Marijuana	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Viagra/Cialis etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Ecstasy	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Speed	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Cocaine	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Crystal Meth / Ice	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
LSD / trips	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
GHB	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Special K	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Heroin	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Steroids	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5
Any other drug	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	<input type="checkbox"/> _3	<input type="checkbox"/> _4	<input type="checkbox"/> _5

56. How often have you **injected** drugs in the past **6 months**?

Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	Less than monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> _3
Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	Never	<input type="checkbox"/> _4

57. How often do you use party drugs for the purpose of sex?

Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> _1	Less than monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> _3
Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> _2	Never	<input type="checkbox"/> _4

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME**

2006/