Gay Community Periodic Survey: Melbourne 2005

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NCHSR

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GCPS Report 1/2006

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NCHSR

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Survey participants

The 1804 men who gave of their time to ensure that the study was fully inclusive of their particular circumstances

Venues

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

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Description of the study

The Melbourne Gay Community Periodic Survey is a cross-sectional survey of gay and homosexually active men recruited through a range of gay community sites in Melbourne. The project was funded by the Victorian Department of Human Services. The Periodic Survey provides a snapshot of sexual and HIV-related practices among gay and homosexually active men. This survey, the seventh conducted in Melbourne, was administered in February 2005. The six previous surveys (Van de Ven et al., 1998; Aspin et al., 2000; Rawstorne et al., 2001; Hull et at., 2002; Hull et al., 2003; Hull et al., 2004) were conducted annually between 1998 and 2004, with the exception of 1999.

The major aim of the survey is to provide data on levels of safe and unsafe sexual practice in a broad cross-sectional sample of gay and homosexually active men. To this end, men were recruited from a number of gay community venues. In 2005 six sites were used for recruitment: the Midsumma Carnival and five gay community venues (one social venue, three sex-on-premises venues and one sexual health clinic). Trained recruiters carried out recruitment at these venues over a one-week period.

The questionnaire used in this study is attached to this report (see Appendix 2). It is a short, self-administered instrument that typically takes 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Questions focus on anal intercourse and oral sex, the use of condoms, the nature of sexual relationships, testing for HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV serostatus, aspects of social attachment to gay community, recreational drug use, and a range of demographic items including sexual identity, age, occupation and ethnicity.

In general, the questions in the 2005 survey were the same as those in previous surveys, which ensures that direct comparisons with the six previous surveys are possible. Nonetheless, some questions in the current survey were included for the first time this year and, to make way for these new questions, certain items from the previous survey were omitted.

This report summarises the data from the seventh Melbourne Gay Community Periodic Survey and compares these with data from the six previous surveys. More detailed analyses of the data will continue and will be disseminated as they are completed. As with any data analysis, further examination may necessitate minor reinterpretation of the findings.

Sample and recruitment

Respondents were recruited at five sites in the Melbourne metropolitan area and at a large public gay community event (Midsumma Carnival). Significantly more men were recruited at gay venues in 2005 than in the previous survey in 2004 ($p < .01$). There was a corresponding fall in the proportion of men recruited at the Midsumma Carnival (see Figure 1). However, most of the sample was recruited at the Midsumma Carnival and the level of recruitment was on a par with the average proportion recruited at this event since the survey began in 1998.

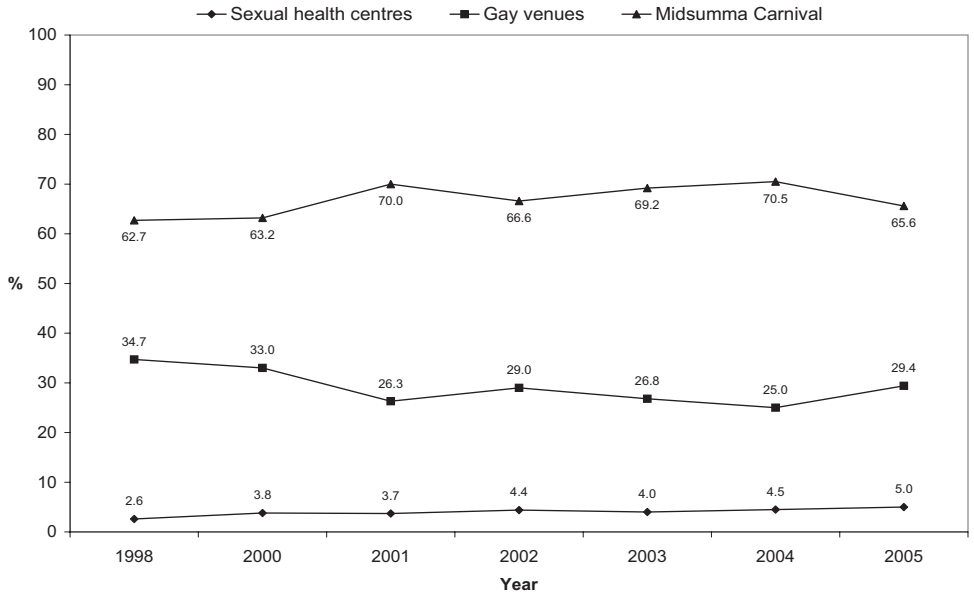

Figure 1: Source of recruitment

In 2005, 2794 men were asked to complete a questionnaire and 1804 did so. This represents a response rate of 64.6%, which is similar to response rates of about 65% since 2002, with the exception of the 2004 survey which had a response rate of 58%.

Previous studies such as Sydney Men and Sexual Health (SMASH) (Prestage et al., 1995) have demonstrated that HIV serostatus is an important distinguishing feature

among gay men, particularly with regard to sexual practice. For this reason some of the data on sexual practices are reported separately for men who are HIV-positive, those who are HIV-negative, and those who have not been tested or do not know their HIV serostatus.

As indicated in previous periodic surveys (Van de Ven et al., 1997), men recruited from events such as the Midsumma Carnival are different in some respects from those recruited from clinics and gay venues. Nonetheless, most of the data reported here are for the sample as a whole, giving an account of practices drawn from a *broad* cross-sectional sample of Melbourne gay men.

Demographic profile

In terms of demographic variables, survey participants in the seven surveys from 1998 to 2005 were quite similar.

Geographic distribution

There was little variation in the geographic distribution of participants from 1998 to 2005. In all seven surveys the men came primarily from the Melbourne metropolitan area. A small percentage of men, who indicated that they participated regularly in Melbourne gay community, came from other parts of Victoria or from outside the state (see Figure 2). Since 2001 there has been a slight increase in the proportion of participants who lived outside the state (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .01$) and a corresponding decrease in the proportion of participants who lived in 'Gay Melbourne' (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .05$). (For a definition of 'Gay Melbourne', see Table corresponding to Figure 2.)

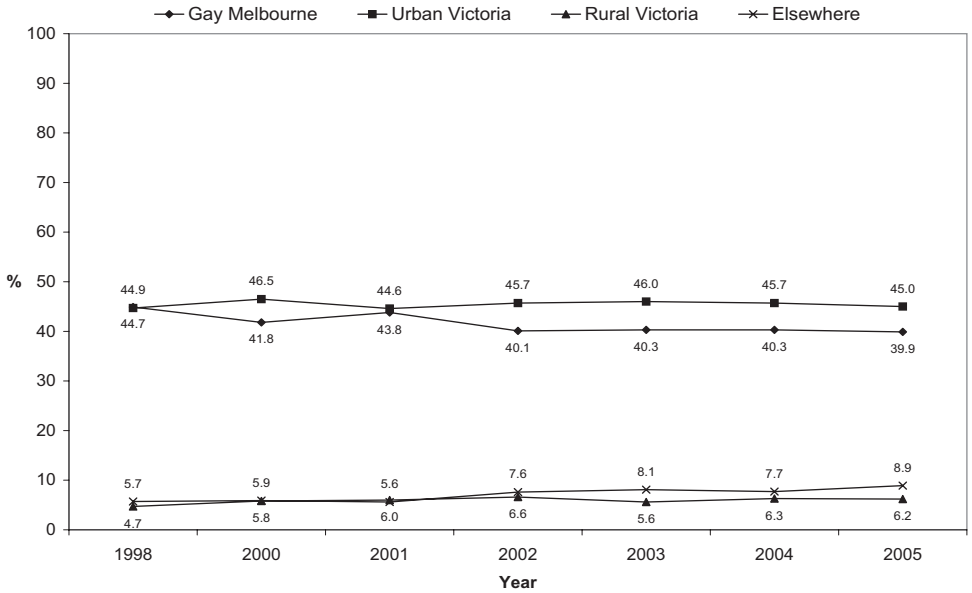

Figure 2: Residential location

Age

In the 2005 survey the maximum age of respondents was 73, with a median age of 34. Age range and distribution were fairly similar to those observed in the previous six studies (see Figure 3). However, since 2001 there has been a significant increase in the proportion of men aged 40–49 years (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .05$) and a decrease in those aged 30–39 years (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .001$).

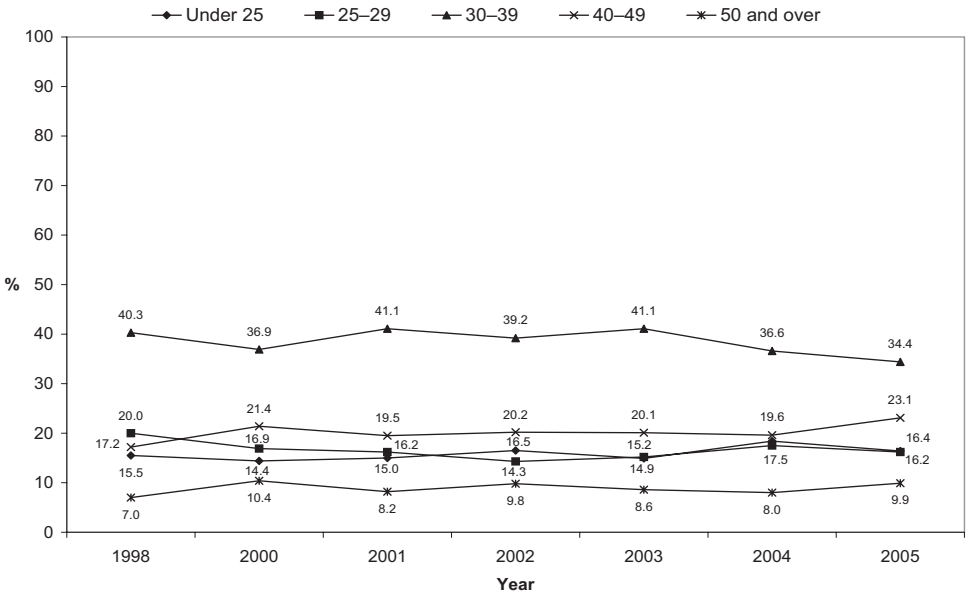

Figure 3: Age

Ethnicity

As in the six previous surveys, the sample was predominantly 'Anglo-Australian' (see Figure 4). Since 2001 there has been a significant downward trend in the proportion of men of Anglo-Australian ethnicity and a corresponding increase in the proportion of men whose ethnic background was neither Anglo-Australian nor European. However, in 2005 there was a significant increase in the proportion of Anglo-Australian men and a corresponding decrease in the proportion of men who were neither 'Anglo-Australian' nor European. Forty-nine men (2.8% of the total sample) reported being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

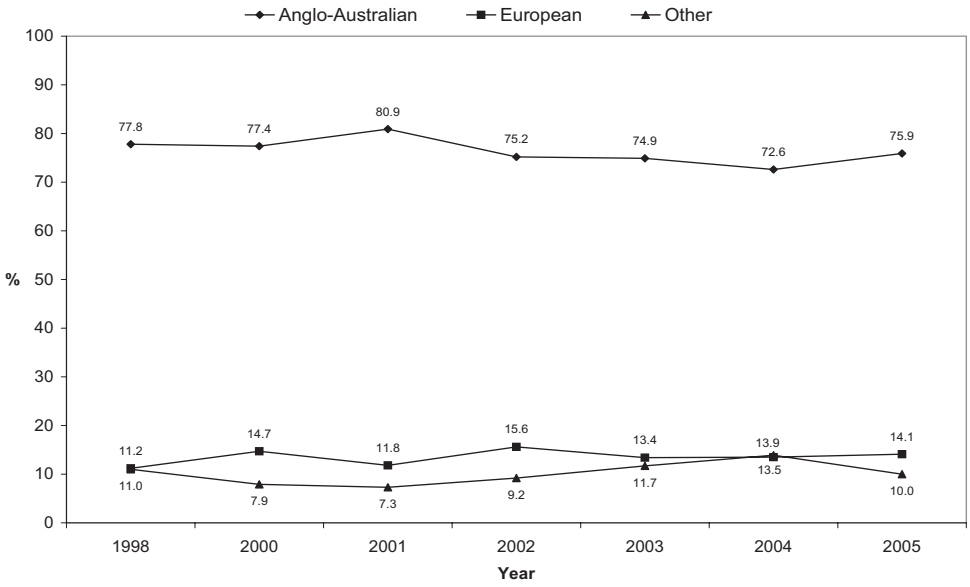

Figure 4: Ethnicity

Occupation

Most men in the sample were employed, with 70% of all respondents being in full-time employment and 12% engaging in part-time work (see Figure 5). The proportion of men who were not in the workforce was fairly high compared with the general population (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2005), although the result in 2005 was slightly lower than that reported in 2004. This figure is elevated because of the relatively high percentage of HIV-positive men who received some form of social security payment.

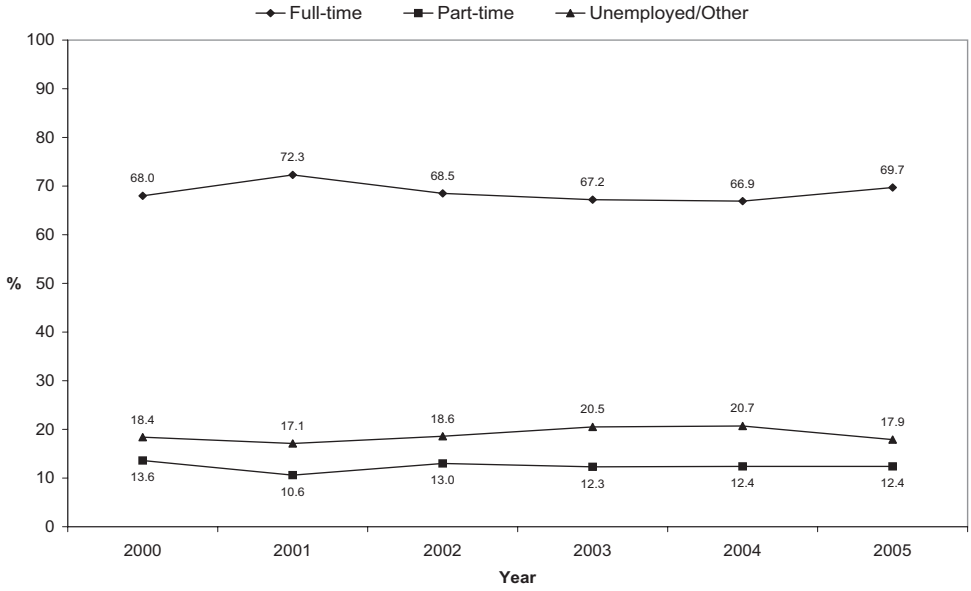

Figure 5: Employment status

As in the previous six survey periods, there was a substantial over-representation of professionals/managers and an under-representation of manual workers in comparison with the general population (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2005). Approximately two-thirds of respondents worked in professional or managerial occupations and about a quarter worked in clerical or sales positions (see Figure 6).

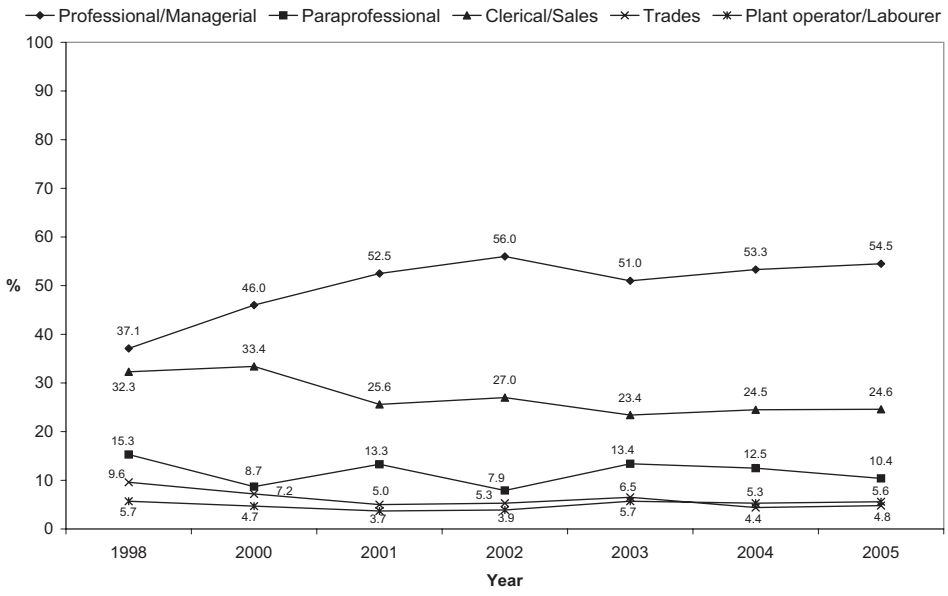

Figure 6: Occupation

Education

As is the case in other gay-community studies, this sample was relatively well educated in comparison to the general population (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2004). In 2005 about half of the men sampled had completed university or CAE and about 18% had completed other tertiary education, such as a trade certificate. Almost 10% had completed Year 10 and about 20% had completed Year 12 or the VCE/HSC. The proportions in each of the education categories have been quite stable since 2002 when the question about education level was reintroduced.

Sexual relationships with men

The majority of men in each of the seven samples were in a regular sexual relationship with a man at the time of completing the survey (see Figure 7). There were no changes since the previous survey in the proportions of men who were monogamous, who had had sex with casual partners only, or who had both a regular partner and casual partners. The small proportion of men who had not had sex with another man in the six months prior to the survey increased significantly between 1998 and 2003 (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .01$). However, since 2003 there has been no significant change in this proportion.

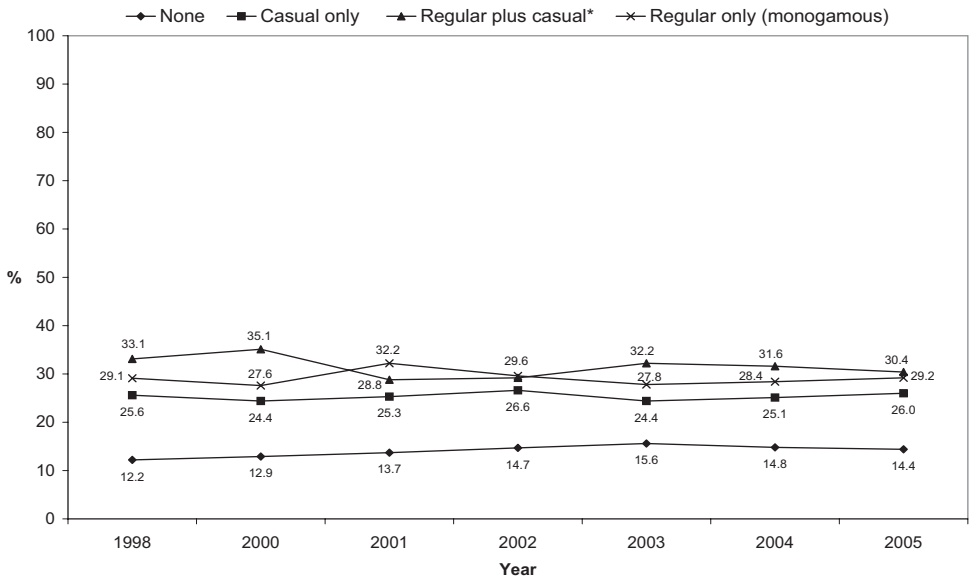

Figure 7: Current relationships with men

*This category may include either or both of the partners having had casual sex.

Just over 70% of the men in a regular relationship had been in that relationship for at least one year (see Figure 8). This result was significantly higher than that reported in 2004 ($p < .01$) and all other years except 2000. There was a corresponding fall in the proportion of men who reported having been in a relationship for less than one year.

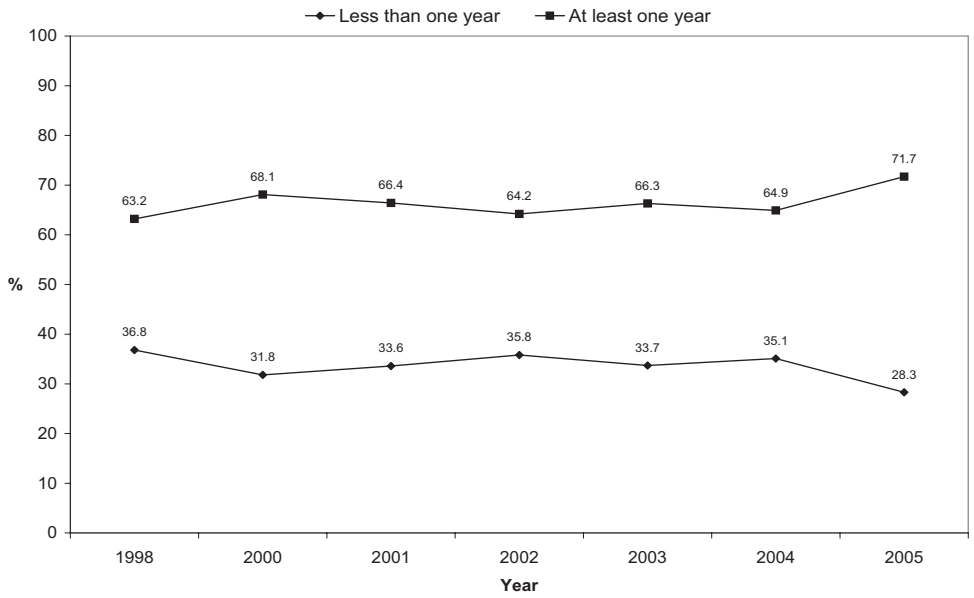

Figure 8: Length of relationships with men

Association with gay community

As in the previous six surveys, and as a result of the recruitment strategies employed, the 2005 participants were highly gay-identified and gay-community-attached.

Sexual identity

The data in all seven surveys show that the samples were composed predominantly of men who identified as gay or homosexual (see Figure 9), and these percentages are comparable with those in similar surveys conducted elsewhere. There were relatively few men in each sample who identified as bisexual or heterosexual, and the proportions have been quite consistent across the seven survey periods.

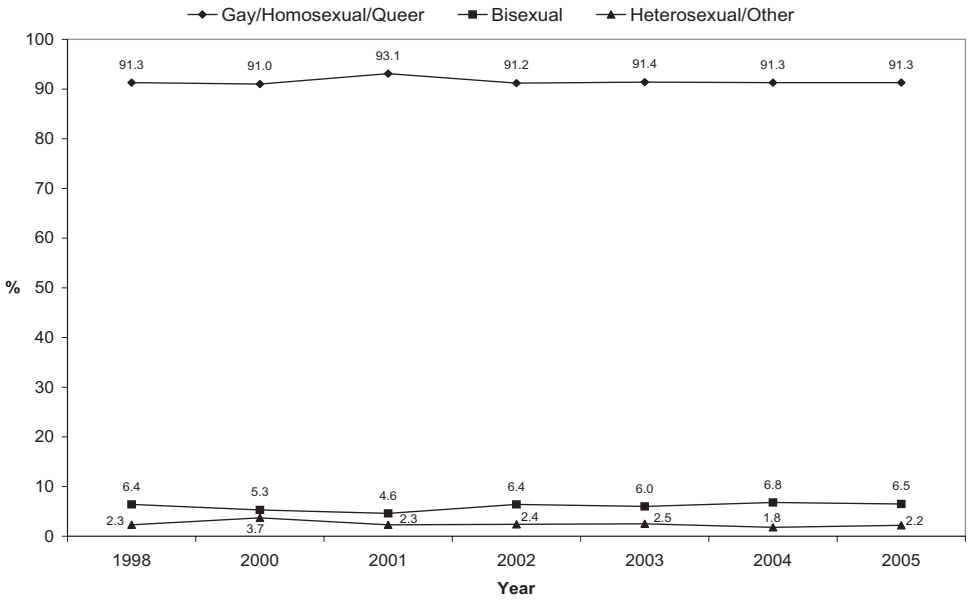

Figure 9: Sexual identity

Gay community involvement

As in the previous six surveys, men in the 2005 sample were highly socially involved with gay men (see Figure 10). Almost half of the men in the sample said that 'most or all' of their friends were gay men and just over half reported that 'some or a few' of their friends were gay.

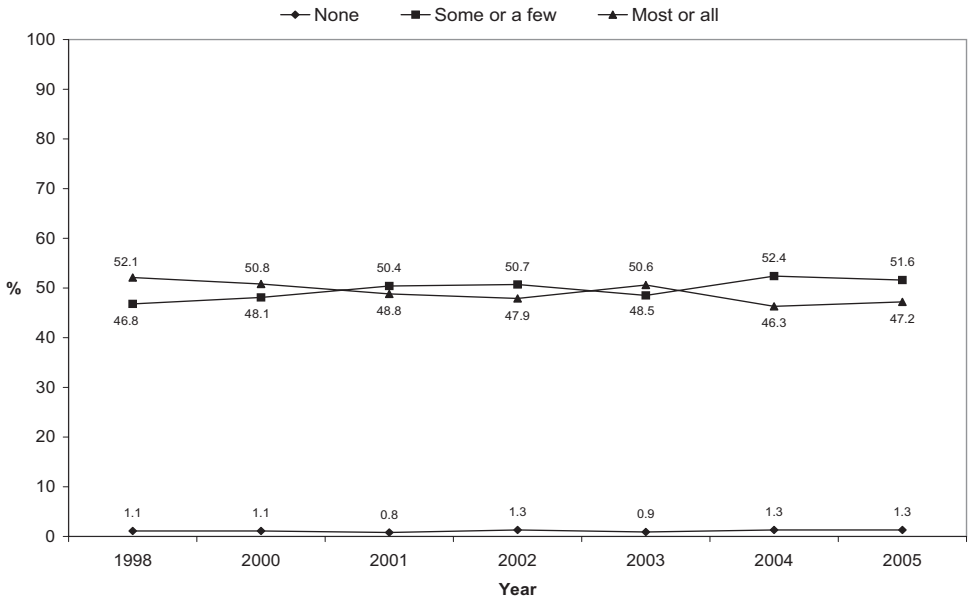

Figure 10: Proportion of friends who are gay

Correspondingly, in all seven surveys, about 85% of the men said that they spent 'some' or 'a lot' of their free time with gay men (see Figure 11). Since 2001 there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of men who spent 'a lot' of their free time with gay men (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .001$) and a corresponding increase in the proportion who spent 'some' (Mantel-Haenszel, $p > .05$) or 'a little' (Mantel-Haenszel, $p > .001$) of their free time with gay men. A similar change was found among gay men in Perth (Hull et al., 2005).

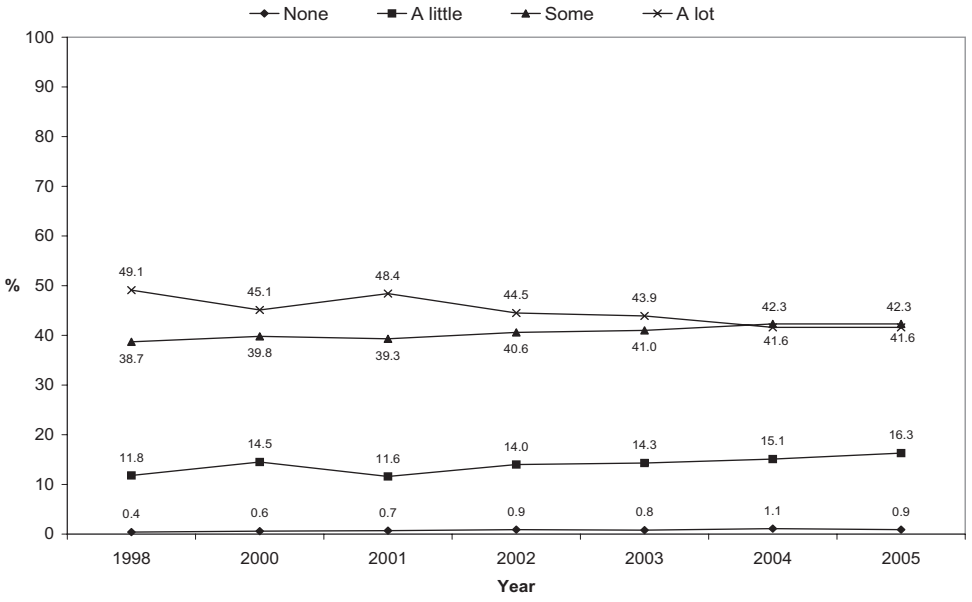

Figure 11: Proportion of free time spent with gay men

HIV testing and self-reported serostatus

Most of the men in each of the samples had been tested for antibodies to HIV, and the self-reported serostatus of these men was predominantly HIV-negative (see Figure 12). The respective proportions of men in the sample who reported being HIV-positive or HIV-negative have remained steady across the seven study periods. Also steady from 1998 to 2005 was the percentage of men who had not been tested or had not obtained their test results—about 15% in the most recent survey.

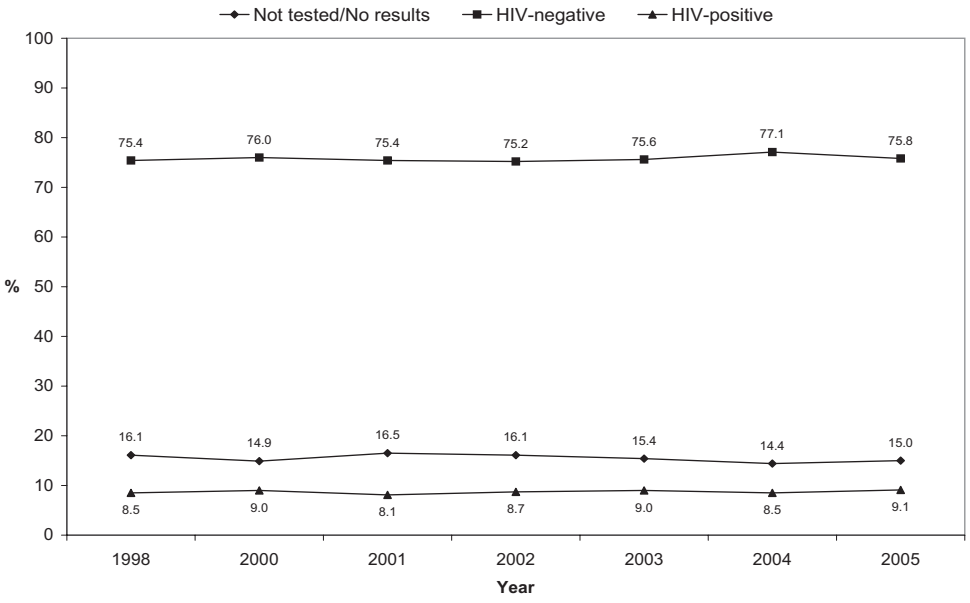

Figure 12: HIV test results

Time since most recent HIV antibody test

Among the non-HIV-positive men who had 'ever' had an HIV antibody test, the majority, about two-thirds, had done so within the previous 12 months (see Figure 13). Although the proportion of men who had been tested for HIV in the six months prior to the survey fell slightly in 2005, there was a corresponding increase in the proportion who had been tested 7–12 months before the survey. Analysis of these two groups combined shows that the proportion who had been tested in the 12 months prior to the survey has increased significantly since 2001 (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .01$).

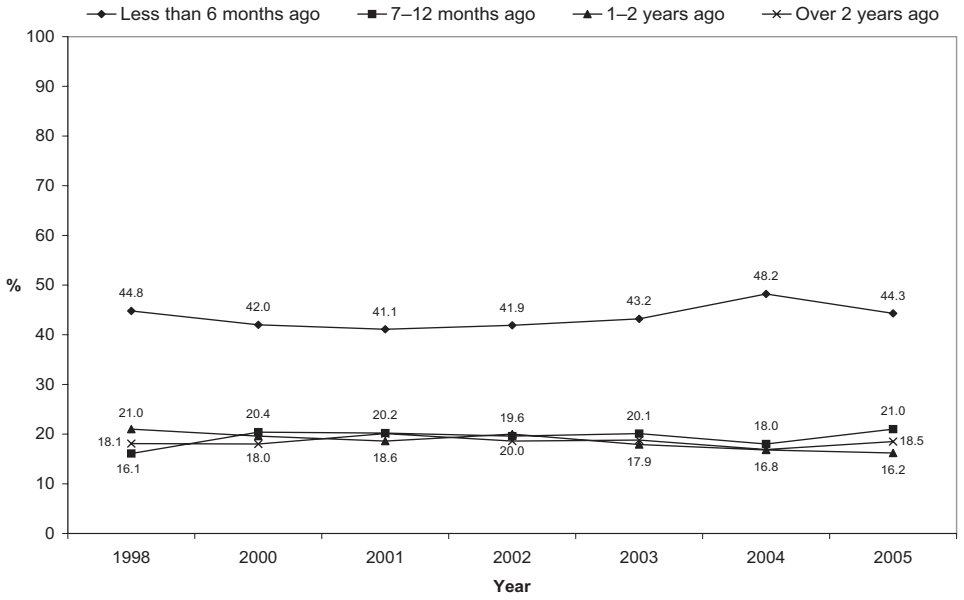

Figure 13: Time since most recent HIV test

Combination antiretroviral therapies

In the 2005 survey almost 60% of the HIV-positive men reported that they were taking combination antiretroviral therapies (see Figure 14). This result is slightly lower than that reported in Sydney and Brisbane in 2004 (Rawstorne et al., 2005b). Over the five survey periods from 2001 there has been a statistically significant downward trend in the proportion of HIV-positive men who reported that they were on combination antiretroviral therapy (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .05$). However, since 2003 there has been no significant change in the proportion of HIV-positive men who reported having taken antiretroviral treatments.

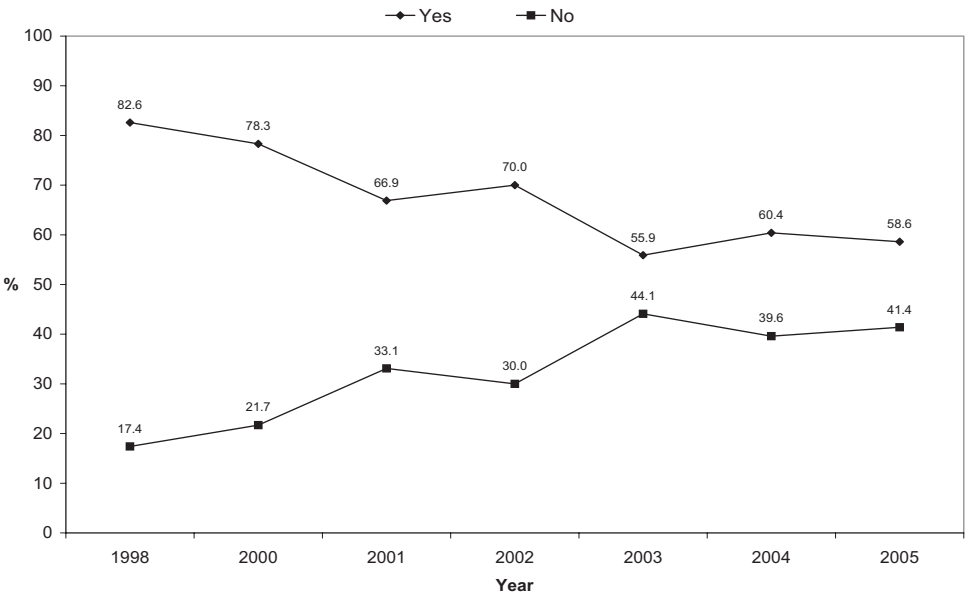

Figure 14: Use of combination antiretroviral therapies

Regular partner's HIV status

In all seven surveys, participants were asked about the serostatus of their current regular partner (see Figure 15). 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. The majority (about 70%) of the men in a regular relationship reported having a partner who was HIV-negative and just over 10% were with a partner who was HIV-positive. Over the five survey periods since 2001 there has been a significant downward trend in the proportion of men who did not know the HIV status of their regular partners (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .01$).

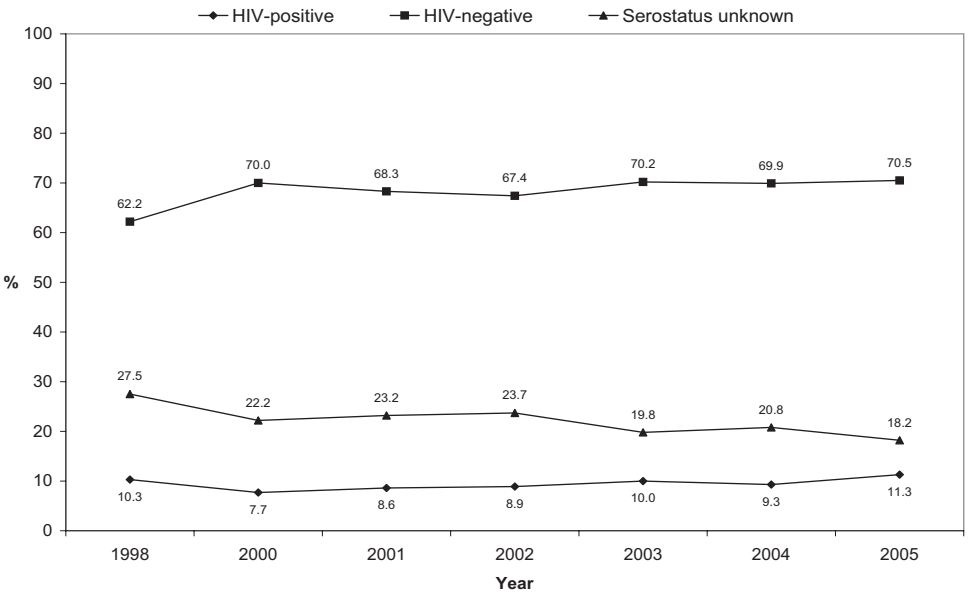

Figure 15: HIV status of regular partners

The 2005 survey revealed no change from the previous survey in the percentages of HIV-positive men with HIV-negative partners, HIV-positive partners or partners of unknown serostatus. In 2005 the percentage of HIV-positive respondents with HIV-positive partners was about 44% and the percentage of HIV-positive respondents with HIV-negative partners was about 47% (see Table 1). HIV-negative respondents were predominantly in relationships with other HIV-negative men and the proportion was similar to the previous year, as was the proportion of HIV-negative respondents with HIV-positive partners. As in the six previous surveys, men without knowledge of their own serostatus tended not to know the serostatus of their regular partners, or they had HIV-negative regular partners.

Table 1: Match of HIV status in regular relationships

Serostatus of regular partner	Respondent's HIV status		
	HIV-positive	HIV-negative	Unknown
1998			
HIV-positive	45 (46.9%)	50 (6.3%)	10 (7.4%)
HIV-negative	39 (40.6%)	553 (69.7%)	45 (33.0%)
HIV status unknown	12 (12.5%)	190 (24.0%)	81 (59.6%)
Total (*N* = 1025)	**96 (100%)**	**793 (100%)**	**136 (100%)**
2000			
HIV-positive	25 (37.9%)	30 (5.0%)	2 (2.6%)
HIV-negative	37 (56.0%)	458 (75.9%)	29 (37.7%)
HIV status unknown	4 (6.1%)	115 (19.1%)	46 (59.7%)
Total (*N* = 746)	**66 (100%)**	**603 (100%)**	**77 (100%)**
2001			
HIV-positive	37 (45.1%)	44 (5.7%)	2 (1.8%)
HIV-negative	40 (48.8%)	578 (74.7%)	42 (37.8%)
HIV status unknown	5 (6.1%)	152 (19.6%)	67 (60.4%)
Total (*N* = 967)	**82 (100%)**	**774 (100%)**	**111 (100%)**
2002			
HIV-positive	30 (36.6%)	42 (5.9%)	7 (6.3%)
HIV-negative	43 (52.4%)	521 (73.6%)	42 (37.8%)
HIV status unknown	9 (11.0%)	145 (20.5%)	62 (55.9%)
Total (*N* = 919)	**82 (100%)**	**708 (100%)**	**111 (100%)**
2003			
HIV-positive	34 (38.2%)	57 (7.1%)	10 (8.4%)
HIV-negative	47 (52.8%)	617 (76.6%)	47 (39.5%)
HIV status unknown	8 (9.0%)	131 (16.3%)	62 (52.1%)
Total (*N* = 1013)	**89 (100%)**	**805 (100%)**	**119 (100%)**
2004			
HIV-positive	44 (51.8%)	42 (5.4%)	5 (4.2%)
HIV-negative	35 (41.2%)	606 (78.6%)	41 (34.2%)
HIV status unknown	6 (7.1%)	123 (16.0%)	74 (61.7%)
Total (*N* = 976)	**85 (100%)**	**771 (100%)**	**120 (100%)**
2005			
HIV-positive	38 (43.7%)	51 (7.6%)	7 (7.4%)
HIV-negative	41 (47.1%)	512 (76.1%)	49 (52.1%)
HIV status unknown	8 (9.2%)	110 (16.3%)	38 (40.4%)
Total (*N* = 854)	**87 (100%)**	**673 (100%)**	**94 (100%)**

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

Sexual practice and 'safe sex'

Sexual behaviour between men

Participants were asked to report on a limited range of sexual practices (separately for regular and casual partners): anal intercourse with and without ejaculation, and oral intercourse with and without ejaculation. Based on the responses to the sexual behaviour items and the sorts of sexual relationships with men indicated by the participants, almost two-thirds of the men in all six surveys were classified as having had sex with a regular male partner, and a slightly higher proportion, almost 70%, reported sex with casual partners in the six months prior to the survey (see Figure 16). There was no significant change in reported sex from the previous survey and these proportions have been quite steady across the seven study periods.

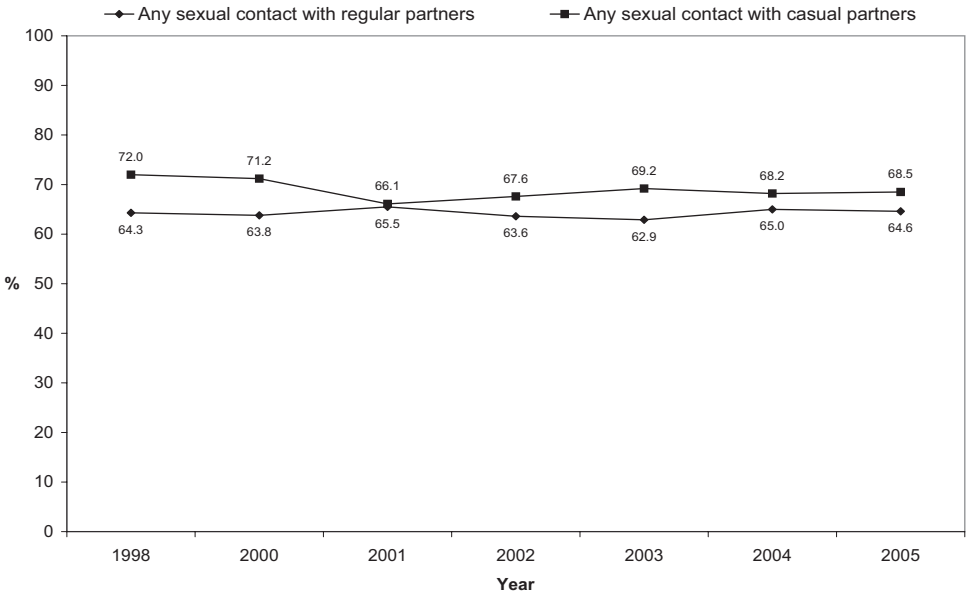

Figure 16: Sex with male partners in previous six months

As in the previous six surveys, men recruited at the Midsumma Carnival were more likely to have had regular partners and less likely to have had casual partners than their counterparts recruited at sex-on-premises and social venues or clinics (see Table 2). Such a finding is not surprising, as men attending the gay venues, particularly the sex-on-premises venues, often do so mainly to find casual sex partners.

Table 2: Sex with male partners in previous six months, by recruitment site

Sexual contact	Midsumma Carnival	Venues and clinics
1998		
Any sexual contact with regular partners	815 (68.8%)	400 (56.7%)
Any sexual contact with casual partners	762 (64.3%)	600 (85.0%)
Total (*N* = 1891)	**1185**	**706**
2000		
Any sexual contact with regular partners	684 (68.5%)	323 (55.7%)
Any sexual contact with casual partners	618 (61.9%)	505 (87.1%)
Total (*N* = 1578)	**998**	**580**
2001		
Any sexual contact with regular partners	894 (69.8%)	305 (55.8%)
Any sexual contact with casual partners	780 (60.9%)	428 (78.2%)
Total (*N* = 1830)	**1281**	**547**
2002		
Any sexual contact with regular partners	848 (67.8%)	345 (55.0%)
Any sexual contact with casual partners	768 (61.4%)	500 (79.7%)
Total (*N* = 1877)	**1250**	**627**
2003		
Any sexual contact with regular partners	960 (67.2%)	338 (53.2%)
Any sexual contact with casual partners	922 (64.5)	507 (79.8%)
Total (*N* = 2064)	**1429**	**635**
2004		
Any sexual contact with regular partners	939 (67.8%)	337 (58.3%)
Any sexual contact with casual partners	882 (63.7%)	456 (78.9%)
Total (*N* = 1962)	**1384**	**578**
2005		
Any sexual contact with regular partners	823 (69.5%)	342 (55.2%)
Any sexual contact with casual partners	722 (61.0%)	513 (82.7%)
Total (*N* = 1804)	**1184**	**620**

Note: These categories are not mutually exclusive.

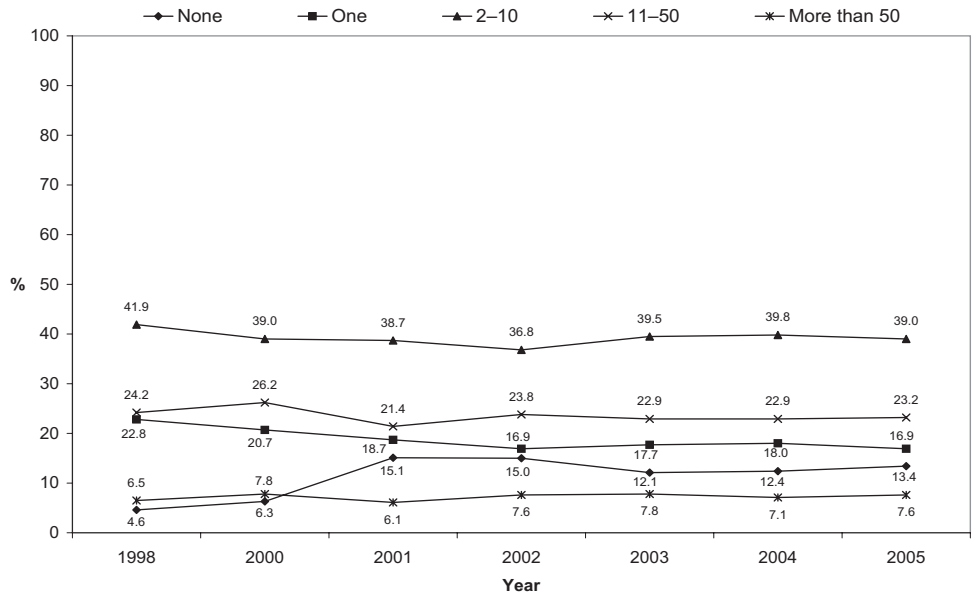

Figure 17: Number of male sex partners in previous six months

The majority of the men had engaged in sex with between one and 10 partners in the six months prior to the survey (see Figure 17). The proportion of men who reported having had no sexual partners during this period decreased slightly, though significantly, over time from 2001 (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .05$). Over the same period there were no significant changes in the proportions who had had one, 2 to 10, 11 to 50 or more than 50 partners.

Overview of sexual practices with regular and casual partners

Almost two-thirds of the men with regular male partners had engaged in any oral intercourse with ejaculation (receptive or insertive) with their partners (see Figure 18). Those who had engaged in oral intercourse with ejaculation with their regular male partners were equally likely to have done so in the insertive as in the receptive role. This result is consistent across the seven study periods. Since 2001 there has been a slight, though significant, upward trend in the proportion of men who engaged in insertive oral intercourse (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .05$). There was no significant change over the same period in the proportion who engaged in receptive oral intercourse.

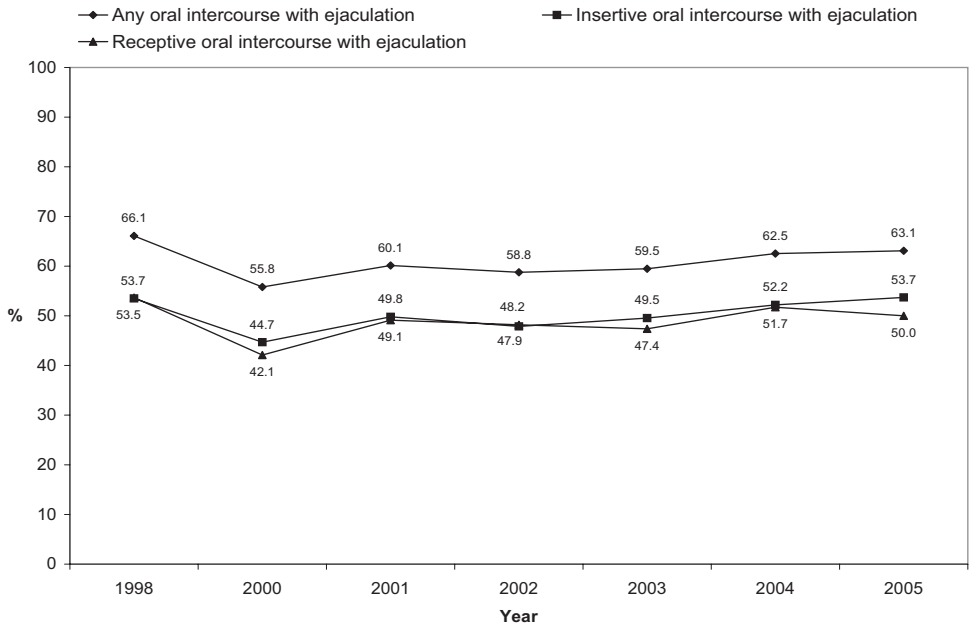

Figure 18: Sexual behaviour with regular male partners—oral intercourse

Most respondents had engaged in anal intercourse with their regular male partners. About 80% of the men with regular partners reported having engaged in insertive anal intercourse, while a slightly lower proportion, about 74%, reported having had receptive anal intercourse (see Figure 19). This discrepancy in the proportions who reported insertive and receptive anal intercourse may suggest a slight bias towards reporting being insertive rather than receptive. Over the five study periods from 2001 there has been an upward trend in the proportion of men reporting any anal intercourse with regular partners (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .001$). This upward trend is evident in the proportions of men reporting receptive (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .01$) and insertive (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .001$) anal intercourse with regular partners.

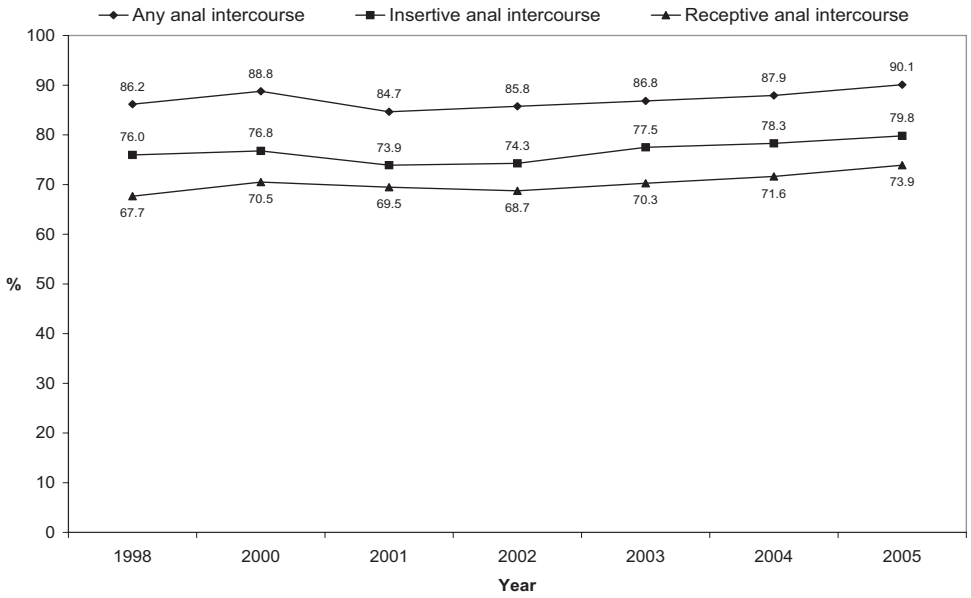

Figure 19: Sexual behaviour with regular male partners—anal intercourse

Fewer respondents engaged in either oral intercourse with ejaculation, or anal intercourse, with casual male partners than with regular male partners (see Figures 20 and 21). The percentage of men who reported having had receptive or insertive fellatio with ejaculation with their casual partners has not changed significantly since the previous survey in 2004. However, over the five survey periods from 2001 there were significant upward trends in the proportions of men who engaged in insertive fellatio (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .01$) and receptive fellatio (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .001$). About three-quarters of the men who had had sex with casual male partners had engaged in anal intercourse with those partners, and again more usually in the insertive than the receptive role (see Figure 21). These percentages have remained relatively steady across the past five study periods since 2001. However, over this period there has been a slight increase in the proportion who engaged in receptive anal intercourse and this increase approaches statistical significance (Mantel-Haenszel, $p = .055$).

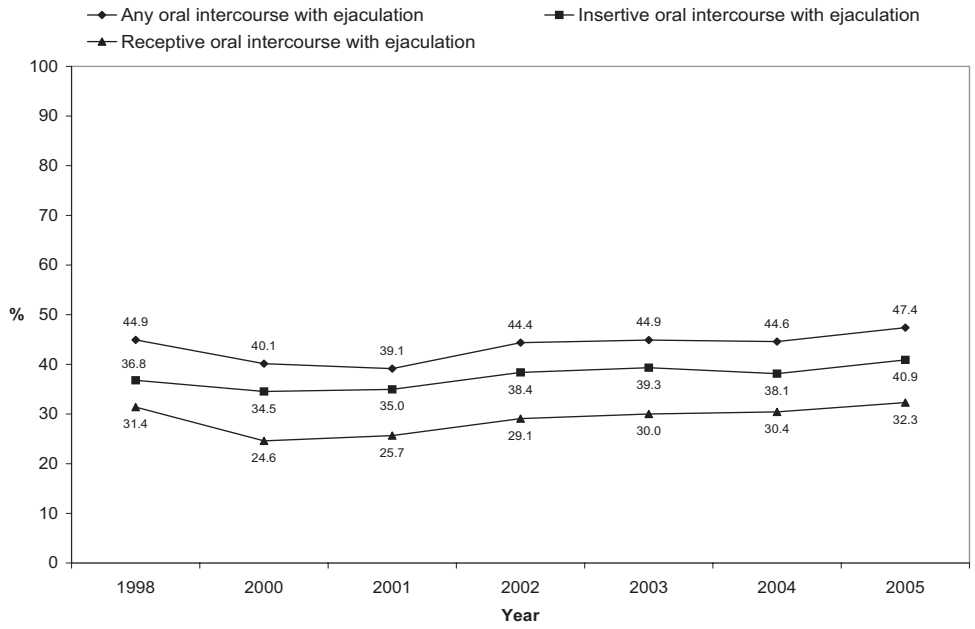

Figure 20: Sexual behaviour with casual male partners—oral intercourse

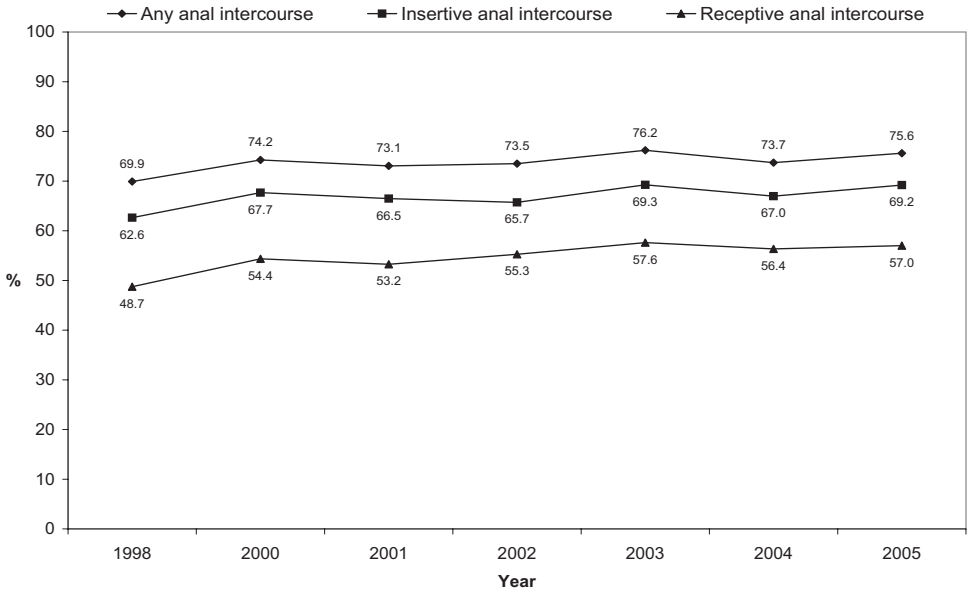

Figure 21: Sexual behaviour with casual male partners—anal intercourse

Sex with regular male partners

Condom use

In 2005 the percentage of men who had engaged in any unprotected anal intercourse (UAI) with their regular male partners in the six months prior to the survey was not significantly different from that reported in 2004 (see Figure 22). Similarly, there was no significant change in the proportion of men who indicated that they always used condoms. The proportion of men who reported having been in a regular relationship in the six months prior to the survey remained quite steady across the five study periods from 2001, while the proportion of men who had had a partner but had not engaged in any anal intercourse decreased significantly over this period (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .001$). The proportion of men who had always used condoms when having sex with a regular partner increased significantly from 2001 (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .01$). However, the most recent result is still lower than the results reported in 1998 and 2000.

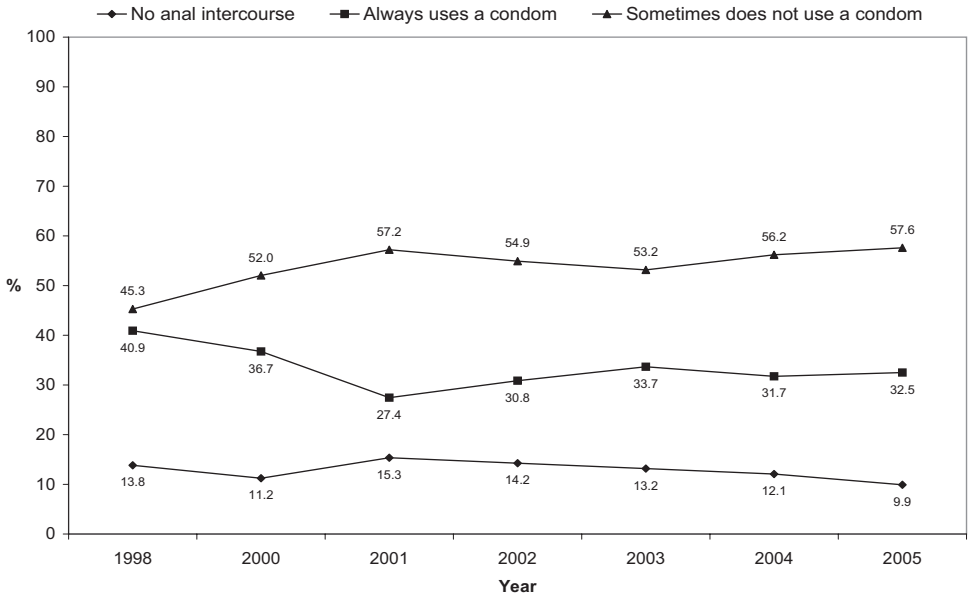

Figure 22: Condom use with regular partners (based on men with regular partners)

In 2005, HIV-positive men were no more likely to have had unprotected anal intercourse with their regular partners than HIV-negative men or men of unknown HIV status (see Figure 23). Over the five survey periods since 2001 there have been no significant changes in the proportions of HIV-negative men, HIV-positive men or men of unknown serostatus who engaged in unprotected anal intercourse with their regular partners. In the 2005 survey there were no differences in the proportions of HIV-positive men, HIV-negative men and men of unknown HIV status who always used condoms when engaging in anal intercourse with regular partners. However, these findings should be treated cautiously as they are based on small numbers of HIV-positive men.

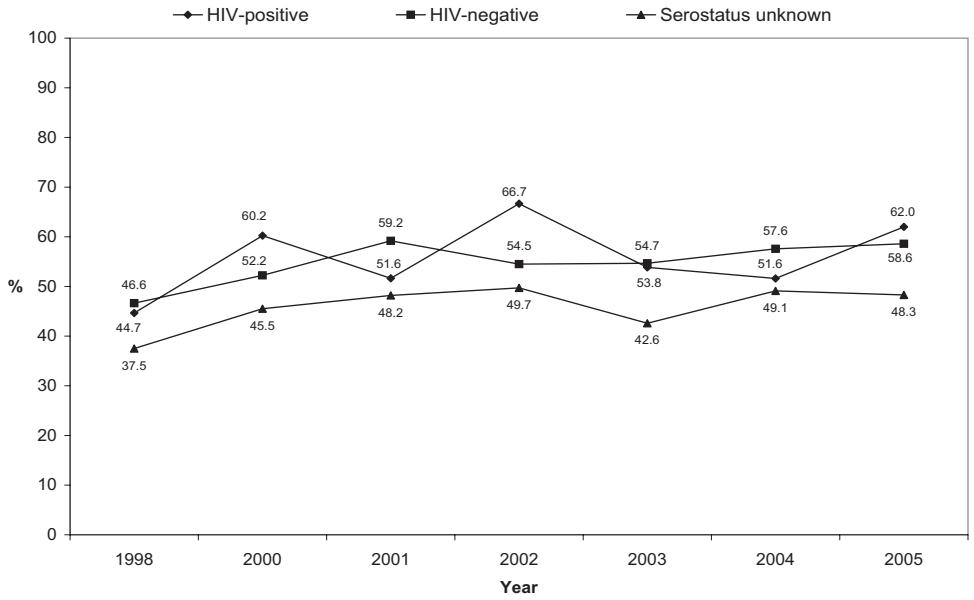

Figure 23: Unprotected anal intercourse with regular partners, by serostatus

Note: Based on those who had had sex with regular partners in the six months prior to the survey.

In Table 3 the serostatus 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 serostatus combinations, sexual practice has been divided into 'no unprotected anal intercourse' and 'some unprotected anal intercourse'. The numbers overall are small and these figures should be treated cautiously.

HIV-positive men were less likely to have had unprotected anal intercourse with HIV-negative partners or partners of unknown serostatus than with HIV-positive partners. HIV-negative men were more likely to have had unprotected anal intercourse with HIV-negative partners or partners of unknown serostatus than with HIV-positive partners. Whereas much of the unprotected anal intercourse occurred between seroconcordant (positive–positive or negative–negative) couples, 101 men in 2005 had had unprotected anal intercourse in a relationship where seroconcordance was absent or in doubt. Separate analyses of these 101 men showed that 53 of them had *never* used condoms for anal intercourse with their regular partners.

Table 3: Condom use and match of HIV serostatus in regular relationships

Regular partner's serostatus	Anal intercourse	Participant's serostatus		
		HIV-positive	HIV-negative	Unknown
1998				
HIV-positive	No UAI	10 (34.5%)	14 (56.0%)	_
	Some UAI	19 (65.5%)	11 (44.0%)	2 (100%)
HIV-negative	No UAI	13 (76.5%)	102 (29.7%)	9 (40.9%)
	Some UAI	4 (23.5%)	241 (70.3%)	13 (59.1%)
Unknown	No UAI	2 (50.0%)	29 (43.3%)	13 (34.2%)
	Some UAI	2 (50.0%)	38 (56.7%)	25 (65.8%)
Total		**50**	**435**	**62**
2000				
HIV-positive	No UAI	1 (6.7%)	8 (40.0%)	_
	Some UAI	14 (93.3%)	12 (60.0%)	_
HIV-negative	No UAI	10 (40.0%)	67 (23.5%)	5 (21.7%)
	Some UAI	15 (60.0%)	218 (76.5%)	18 (78.3%)
Unknown	No UAI	_	19 (38.0%)	6 (30.0%)
	Some UAI		31 (62.0%)	14 (70.0%)
Total		**40**	**355**	**43**
2001				
HIV-positive	No UAI	4 (17.4%)	13 (44.8%)	_
	Some UAI	19 (82.6%)	16 (55.2%)	_
HIV-negative	No UAI	16 (72.7%)	62 (15.8%)	10 (35.7%)
	Some UAI	6 (27.3%)	330 (84.2%)	18 (64.3%)
Unknown	No UAI	_	20 (29.4%)	7 (21.9%)
	Some UAI	2 (100%)	48 (70.6%)	25 (78.1%)
Total		**47**	**489**	**60**
2002				
HIV-positive	No UAI	4 (16.0%)	14 (48.3%)	1 (25.0%)
	Some UAI	21 (84.0%)	15 (51.7%)	3 (75.0%)
HIV-negative	No UAI	8 (30.8%)	86 (24.6%)	5 (23.8%)
	Some UAI	18 (69.2%)	263 (75.4%)	16 (76.2%)
Unknown	No UAI	_	12 (22.2%)	6 (20.7%)
	Some UAI	4 (100%)	42 (77.8%)	23 (79.3%)
Total		**55**	**432**	**54**
2003				
HIV-positive	No UAI	3 (13%)	14 (43.8%)	4 (57.1%)
	Some UAI	20 (87.0%)	18 (56.3%)	3 (42.9%)
HIV-negative	No UAI	19 (65.5%)	97 (24.1%)	5 (20.0%)
	Some UAI	10 (34.5%)	305 (75.9%)	20 (80.0%)
Unknown	No UAI	1 (33.3%)	23 (44.2%)	14 (56.0%)
	Some UAI	2 (66.7%)	29 (55.8%)	11 (44.0%)
Total		**55**	**486**	**57**
2004				
HIV-positive	No UAI	8 (28.6%)	14 (50.0%)	
	Some UAI	20 (71.4%)	14 (50.0%)	1 (100%)
HIV-negative	No UAI	15 (68.2%)	93 (22.4%)	5 (21.7%)
	Some UAI	7 (31.8%)	322 (77.6%)	18 (78.3%)
Unknown	No UAI	1 (33.3%)	10 (21.7%)	11 (39.3%)
	Some UAI	2 (66.7%)	36 (78.3%)	17 (60.7%)
Total		**53**	**489**	**52**
2005				
HIV-positive	No UAI	4 (15.4%)	13 (50.0%)	1 (25.0%)
	Some UAI	22 (84.6%)	13 (50.0%	3 (75.0%)
HIV-negative	No UAI	17 (54.8%	79 (21.9%)	18 (31.0%)
	Some UAI	14 (45.2%)	282 (78.1%)	40 (69.0%)
Unknown	No UAI	-	8 (28.6%)	11 (57.9%)
	Some UAI	4 (100%)	20 (71.4%)	8 (42.1%)
Total		**61**	**415**	**81**

Note: UAI = unprotected anal intercourse.
Includes only those men who had had anal intercourse with their 'current' regular partner 'in the previous six months'.

Agreements

Most participants who had a regular male partner (about 60% of the men in the sample) also had an agreement with their partner about sex *within* the relationship (see Figure 24). In 2005 there was no significant change from the previous survey in the proportions of men in each of the agreement categories. Approximately 40% of respondents had agreements allowing anal intercourse without condoms, while about 30% allowed anal intercourse only with condoms. Analysis of trends since 2001 shows there has been a slight, though significant, fall in the proportion of men who did not have a spoken agreement with their regular partner (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .05$). Over this same period there were no significant changes in the proportions of men who had any of the listed agreements.

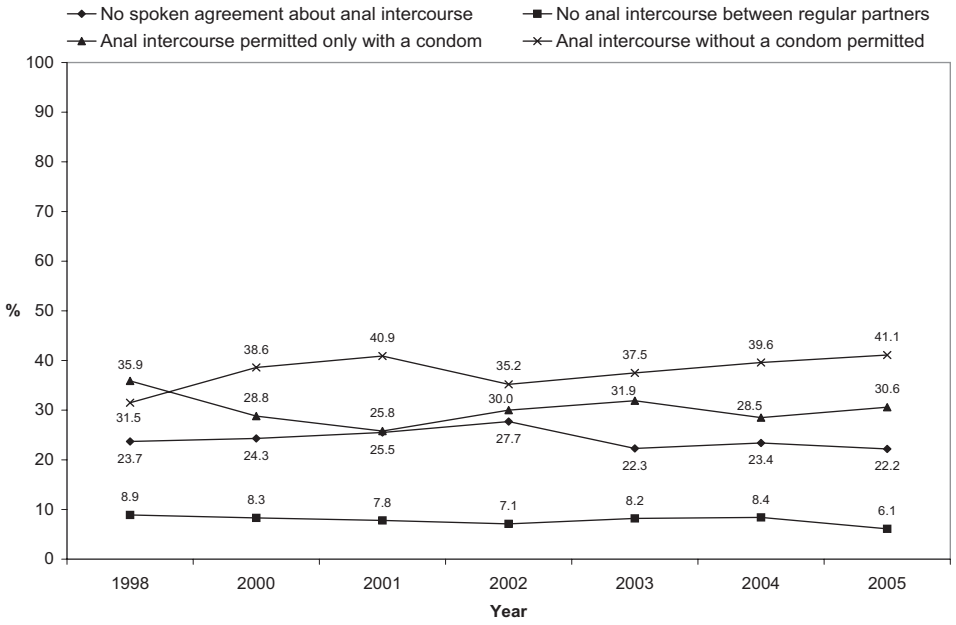

Figure 24: Agreements with regular male partners about sex *within* the relationship

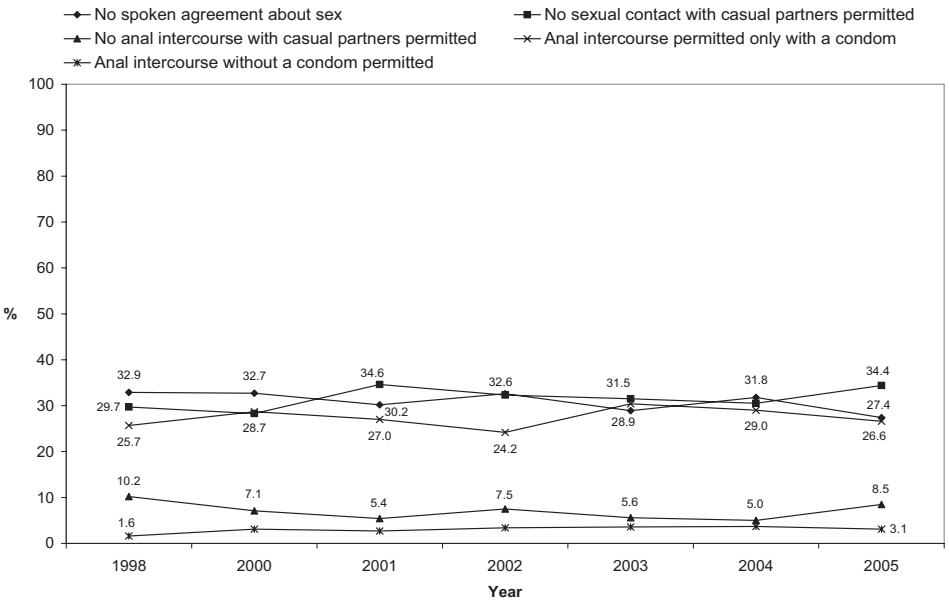

Figure 25: Agreements with regular male partners about sex *outside* the relationship

Most participants had made an agreement with their regular partner about sex with men *outside* the relationship (see Figure 25). The majority of these agreements either specified no casual partners or allowed anal intercourse with casual partners only on the proviso that condoms were used. Just over a quarter of the men had no spoken agreement about sex outside the relationship. Across the five time periods since 2001 there has been no significant change in the proportions of men in each of the agreement categories.

Sex with casual male partners

Condom use

Of the men who had had casual male partners, about 30% had engaged in any unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners (UAIC) in the six months prior to the survey, while almost half had always used condoms (see Figure 26). There were no significant changes from 2004 in the proportions who sometimes did not use condoms, always used condoms or did not have anal intercourse with casual partners in the six months prior to the survey. Similarly, over the five survey periods since 2001 there have been no significant changes in these proportions. A separate analysis revealed that, of the 367 men who reported having engaged in UAIC, 181 had also engaged in unprotected anal intercourse with regular partners (UAIR).

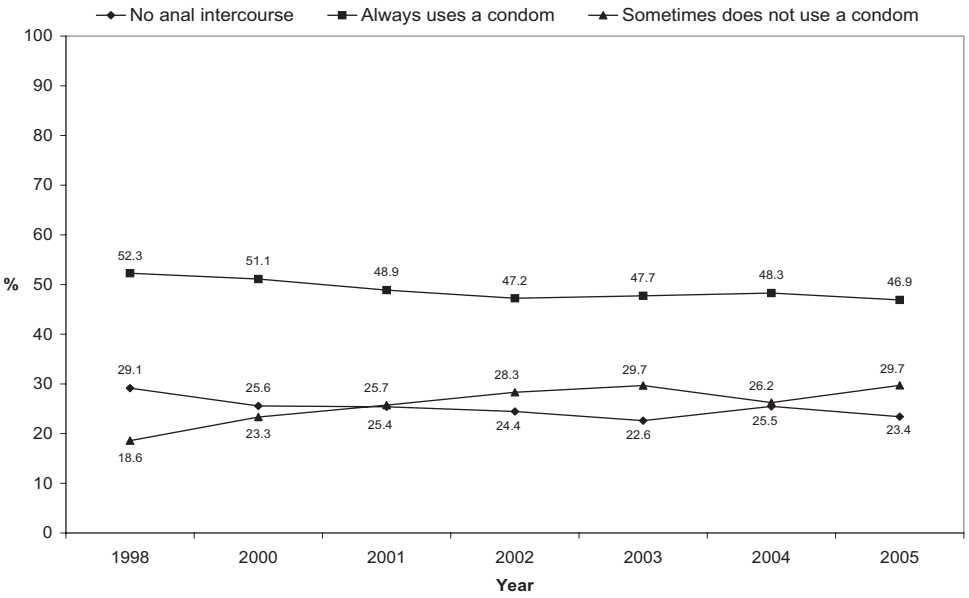

Figure 26: Condom use with casual male partners

A comparison of the data in Figures 22 and 26 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.

As in the previous five surveys, there were statistically significant differences between HIV-positive, HIV-negative and 'untested' men in their condom use with casual partners (see Figure 27). A higher proportion of HIV-positive men had engaged in UAIC than men who were HIV-negative or whose HIV status was unknown ($p < .001$). Over the five survey periods since 2001 there have been no changes in the proportions of HIV-positive men, HIV-negative men and men of unknown serostatus who had engaged in UAIC. Some of the UAIC practised by HIV-positive men may be explained by positive–positive sex (Prestage et al., 1995; Rawstorne, 2005a), which poses no risk of seroconversion per se.

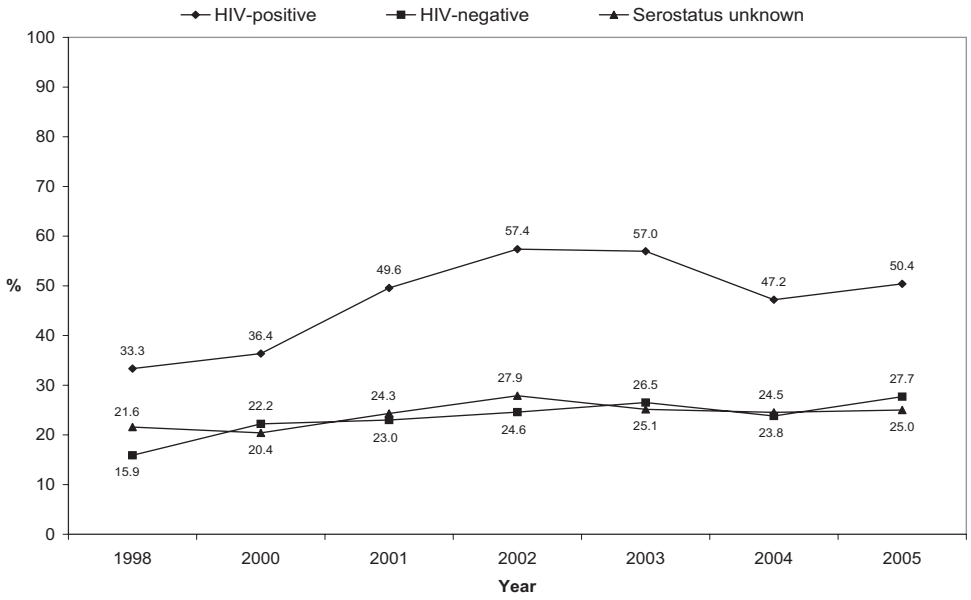

Figure 27: Unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners, by serostatus

Disclosure of serostatus

Questions 32 and 33 were included in the questionnaire to obtain a sense of how many casual partners disclosed their serostatus to each other. Many more questions—well beyond the scope of the brief questionnaire used here—would need to be asked to fully understand the issue. Furthermore, the inclusion of the two questions was *not* intended to endorse sexual negotiation between casual partners.

The majority of participants who had had casual partners (54% of the sample) had not disclosed their serostatus to any of their casual partners (see Figure 28). While there was no significant change from 2004, over the five survey periods since 2001 there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of men who 'told none' of their casual partners their HIV status (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .001$). Conversely, there have been significant increases since 2001 in the proportions of men who 'told all' (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .01$) and 'told some' (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .01$) of their casual partners their HIV status.

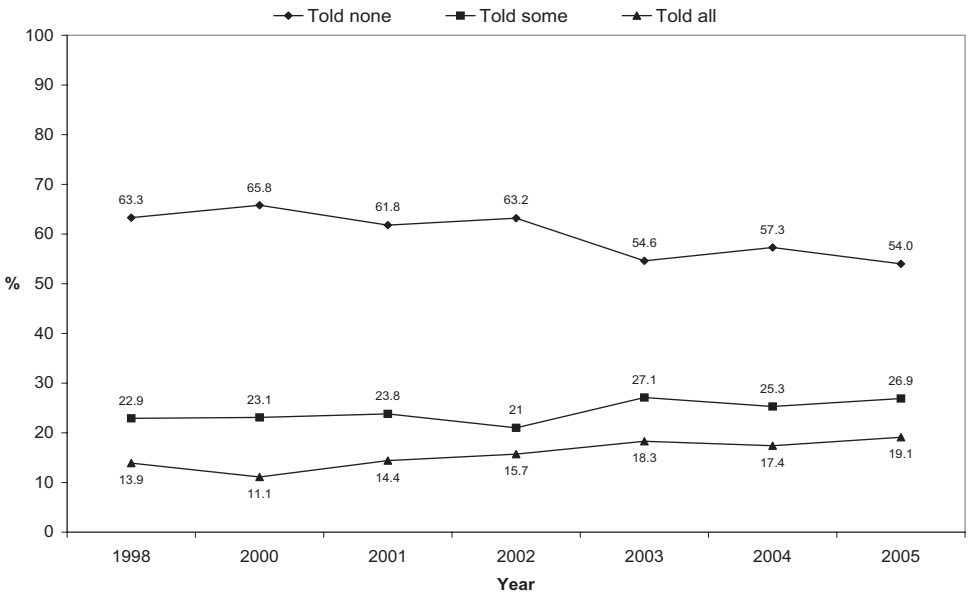

Figure 28: Participants' disclosure of serostatus to casual partners

Over half of the men who had had casual partners had not been told the serostatus of those partners in the context of sex (see Figure 29). Although there were no significant changes from the previous survey in the proportions in each of the disclosure categories, across the five study periods from 2001 to 2005 there was a significant decrease in the proportion of respondents to whom casual partners never disclosed their HIV status (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .001$). Conversely, there were significant increases in the proportions of respondents to whom casual partners always (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .05$) or sometimes (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .05$) disclosed their HIV status.

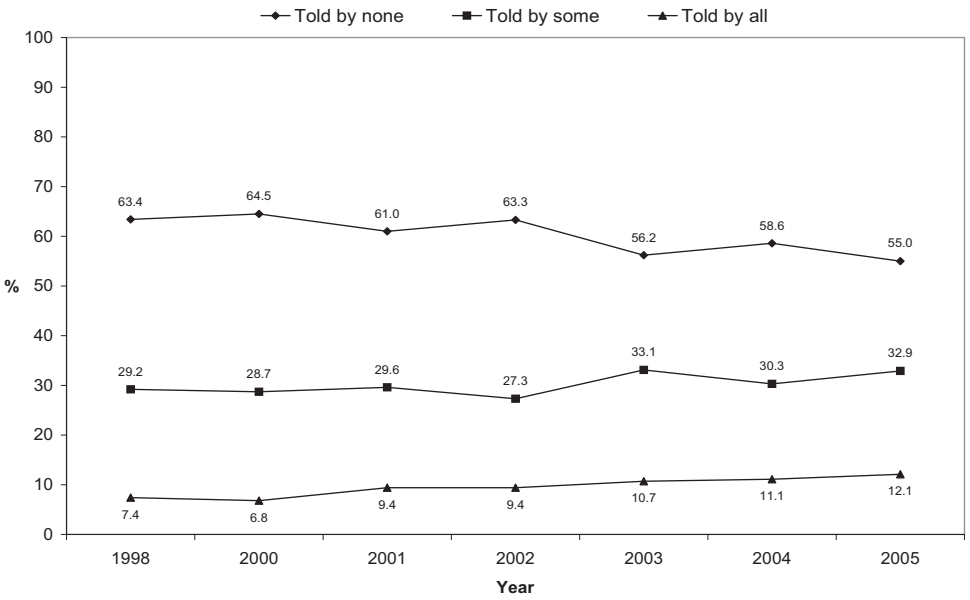

Figure 29: Casual partners' disclosure of serostatus to participants

Awareness of an STI epidemic

An additional question (Question 55) was included in the questionnaire in 2005 to assess gay men's understanding of current trends in rates of STIs. The three options to which men could respond appear in Table 4. Almost three-quarters of the men surveyed were aware that the number of men with an STI in Melbourne was increasing (see Table 4).

Table 4: Responses to the statement 'STI infections among gay men in Melbourne are …'

... increasing	... stable	... decreasing
1212 (72.8%)	404 (24.3%)	48 (2.9%)

Where men looked for sex partners

Around two-thirds of those who answered Question 51 had looked for male sex partners in gay bars. Just over half had looked for male sex partners in gay saunas and about a third had looked in other sex venues (see Table 5). In the 2005 survey, the proportion of respondents who had looked on the internet for sex partners increased significantly from the previous year ($p < .001$). Similarly, since the previous survey there were significant increases in the proportions who had looked in gay bars ($p < .001$) and dance parties ($p < .001$). Although not evident from Table 5, of the men who answered the question and indicated that they had engaged in sex with casual partners in the six months prior to the survey, around 80% of respondents had looked for partners in gay bars, 75% had looked in sex venues, 70% on the internet, about 60% at dance parties and 40% at beats. These proportions were also significantly larger than those reported in 2004.

Table 5: Where men looked for sex partners

Venue	Year	Never	Occasionally	Often	Total
Internet	2002	778 (52.9%)	519 (35.3%)	174 (11.8%)	1471 (100%)
	2003	755 (47.8%)	600 (38.0%)	225 (14.2%)	1580 (100%)
	2004	904 (51.1%)	614 (34.7%)	252 (14.2%)	1770 (100%)
	2005	661 (43.9%)	584 (38.8%)	260 (17.3%)	1505 (100%)
Gay bar	2002	495 (31.3%)	799 (50.5%)	288 (18.2%)	1582 (100%)
	2003	506 (29.9%)	885 (52.2%)	304 (17.9%)	1695 (100%)
	2004	699 (39.5%)	796 (44.9%)	276 (15.6%)	1771 (100%)
	2005	517 (33.0%)	797 (50.9%)	252 (16.1%)	1566 (100%)
Beat	2002	896 (60.3%)	432 (29.1%)	157 (10.6%)	1485 (100%)
	2003	959 (61.0%)	461 (29.3%)	151 (9.6%)	1571 (100%)
	2004	1207 (68.7%)	404 (23.0%)	146 (8.3%)	1757 (100%)
	2005	941 (66.5%)	365 (25.8%)	108 (7.6%)	1414 (100%)
Other sex venue	2002	645 (40.5%)	612 (38.4%)	335 (21.0%)	1592 (100%)
	2003	698 (40.2%)	665 (38.3%)	375 (21.6%)	1738 (100%)
	2004	815 (46.0%)	619 (34.9%)	339 (19.1%)	1773 (100%)
	2005	926 (66.5%)	337 (24.2%)	130 (9.3%)	1393 (100%)
Dance party	2003	830 (54.0%)	543 (35.3%)	164 (10.7%)	1537 (100%)
	2004	1110 (63.0%)	504 (28.6%)	149 (8.5%)	1763 (100%)
	2005	759 (52.7%)	536 (37.2%)	145 (10.1%)	1440 (100%)
Gym	2002	1144 (81.3%)	222 (15.8%)	42 (3.0%)	1408 (100%)
	2005	1072 (77.9%)	265 (19.3%)	39 (2.8%)	1376 (100%)
Sex worker	2005	1241 (93.6%)	72 (5.4%)	13 (1.0%)	1326 (100%)
Private sex parties	2005	1164 (86.2%)	161 (11.9%)	25 (1.9%)	1350 (100%)
Gay sauna	2005	707 (46.4%)	619 (40.6%)	199 (13.0%)	1525 (100%)

Health and sexual health

As expected, there were fewer HIV-positive men than non-HIV-positive men who reported that their health was 'excellent' or 'very good', and more who reported their health as 'fair' or 'poor'. In 2005 approximately 70% of HIV-positive men reported their health to be either 'excellent' or 'good' compared with about 80% of non-HIV-positive men (see Table 6). Conversely, very few non-HIV-positive men reported their health to be either 'fair' or 'poor' compared with about 7% of HIV-positive men. There has been no change over time in the self-rated health of HIV-positive men, HIV-negative men or men of unknown serostatus.

About 60% of respondents had had blood tests for sexually transmitted infections other than HIV in the 12 months prior to the survey (see Table 7). About 35% of respondents reported having had anal or penile swabs and about 40% had undergone

Table 6: Self-rated health, by HIV status

	2002	2003	2004	2005
HIV-positive men				
Excellent	59 (38.3%)	52 (29.1%)	42 (25.8%)	50 (32.5%)
Very good	55 (35.7%)	67 (37.4%)	58 (35.6%)	58 (37.7%)
Good	31 (20.1%)	47 (26.3%)	52 (31.9%)	35 (22.7%)
Fair	7 (4.5%)	12 (6.7%)	11 (6.7%)	10 (6.5%)
Poor	2 (1.3%)	1 (0.6%)	-	1 (0.6%)
Non-HIV-positive men				
Excellent	729 (43.6%)	743 (40.2%)	692 (39.5%)	623 (39.8%)
Very good	638 (38.2%)	738 (40.0%)	723 (41.3%)	647 (41.3%)
Good	259 (15.5%)	322 (17.4%)	294 (16.8%)	258 (16.5%)
Fair	43 (2.6%)	37 (2.0%)	34 (1.9%)	35 (2.2%)
Poor	2 (0.1%)	7 (0.4%)	7 (0.4%)	4 (0.3%)

Table 7: Sexual health tests in previous 12 months among men recruited at all sites

	2003	2004	2005
Anal swab	486 (24.2%)	491 (26.0%)	550 (35.0%)
Throat swab	574 (28.6%)	610 (32.3%)	655 (41.4%)
Penile swab	475 (23.7%)	513 (27.2%)	546 (35.1%)
Urine sample	726 (36.3%)	790 (42.0%)	800 (50.3%)
Blood test for HIV*	1027 (56.3%)	1009 (58.3%)	922 (60.3%)
Other blood test	1055 (53.0%)	1038 (55.4%)	913 (57.5%)

*Includes non-HIV-positive men only.

a throat swab in the previous 12 months. Over 40% of the men in the study had provided a urine sample in the previous 12 months. Since the 2003 survey, significantly more men had had anal swabs, throat swabs, penile swabs or provided urine samples (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .001$, all categories).

Just over half of the men in the sample had visited a GP/doctor for a sexual health check-up in the previous 12 months (see Table 8). Slightly less than a quarter had visited a sexual health clinic. Approximately 16% of respondents had not had a sexual health check-up in the previous 12 months, significantly fewer than in 2004 ($p < .001$). The Centre Clinic option was accidentally omitted from the 2004 questionnaire, making a comparison of figures for the Centre Clinic and sexual health clinic unreliable.

Men were asked to respond to the statement 'Men who always use condoms for anal intercourse don't need to have regular sexual health check-ups.' Most of the men surveyed appeared to be aware that condoms did not provide complete protection against all sexually transmitted infections and either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement (see Table 9). There have been no significant changes in the responses of participants to this statement since it was first included in 2003.

About 83% of the men who were currently using antiretroviral therapies had an undetectable viral load (see Table 10). In comparison, approximately 11% of the men who were not using this treatment had an undetectable viral load.

Table 8: Place of sexual health check-ups in previous 12 months

	2003	2004	2005
GP/Doctor	1018 (54.1%)	1031 (54.7%)	903 (53.0%)
Sexual health clinic	366 (19.5%)	449 (23.9%)	377 (22.5%)
Centre Clinic*	204 (10.9%)	–	133 (8.0%)
Other place	77 (4.1%)	64 (3.4%)	35 (2.1%)
No check-up in previous year	508 (24.6%)	511 (26.0%)	295 (16.4%)

*The Centre Clinic option was not included in the 2004 survey.

Table 9: Responses to the statement 'Men who always use condoms for anal intercourse don't need to have regular sexual health check-ups.'

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
2003	904 (44.8%)	912 (45.2%)	153 (7.6%)	48 (2.4%)
2004	886 (46.9%)	863 (45.7%)	113 (6.0%)	27 (1.4%)
2005	767 (43.8%)	846 (48.3%)	90 (5.1%)	49 (2.8%)

Table 10: Use of combination antiretroviral therapies (ART) and viral load (VL)

ART	Undetectable VL	Detectable VL	Don't know/ Unsure	Total
2003				
Using treatments	73 (74.5%)	22 (22.4%)	3 (3.1%)	98 (100%)
Not using treatments	13 (16.9%)	58 (75.3%)	6 (7.8%)	77 (100%)
2004				
Using treatments	68 (72.3%)	21 (22.3%)	5 (5.3%)	94 (100%)
Not using treatments	10 (16.4%)	45 (73.8%)	6 (9.8%)	61 (100%)
2005				
Using treatments	79 (83.2%)	12 (12.6%)	4 (4.2%)	95 (100%)
Not using treatments	7 (11.1%)	52 (82.5%)	4 (6.3%)	63 (100%)

Drug use

In 2005, as in the previous six surveys, the most commonly used recreational drugs in the six months prior to the survey were marijuana, amyl/poppers, ecstasy and speed (see Table 11). The proportions of men who had used any of marijuana, amyl/poppers, cocaine, steroids or heroin have not changed significantly since 2001. However, the proportions who had used ecstasy (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .001$) and Viagra (Mantel-Haenszel, $p < .001$) have increased significantly since 2001. Special K and GHB were listed in 2000 and then omitted; they were added to the list again in 2004 in response to anecdotal evidence of recent increases in their use. There was no significant change from 2004 in the proportion who reported having used these drugs.

Table 11: Drug use in previous six months

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Marijuana	606 (38.4%)	744 (40.7%)	715 (38.1%)	830 (40.2%)	784 (40.0%)	732 (40.6%)
Amyl/Poppers	633 (40.1%)	684 (37.4%)	677 (36.1%)	802 (38.9%)	698 (35.6%)	659 (36.5%)
Ecstasy	488 (30.9%)	593 (32.4%)	593 (31.6%)	745 (36.1%)	659 (33.6%)	689 (38.2%)
Speed	365 (23.1%)	423 (23.1%)	415 (22.1%)	526 (25.5%)	480 (24.5%)	455 (28.8%)
Crystal meth	100 (6.3%)	-	-	264 (12.8%)	254 (12.9%)	247 (13.7%
Cocaine	178 (11.3%)	201 (11.0%)	242 (12.9%)	246 (11.9%)	209 (10.7%)	253 (14.0%)
Viagra	-	116 (6.3%)	149 (7.9%)	263 (12.7%)	211 (10.8%)	250 (13.9%)
LSD/Trips	172 (12.1%)	-	-	151 (7.3%)	94 (4.8%)	90 (5.0%)
GHB	25 (1.6%)	-	-	-	74 (3.8%)	82 (4.5%)
Special K	99 (6.3%)	-	-	-	243 (12.4%)	243 (13.5%)
Steroids	23 (1.5%)	31 (1.7%)	35 (1.9%)	41 (2.0%)	39 (2.0%)	33 (1.8%)
Heroin	27 (1.7%)	25 (1.4%)	25 (1.3%)	25 (1.2%)	26 (1.3%)	20 (1.1%)
Any other drug	97 (6.1%)	192 (10.5%)	186 (9.9%)	229 (11.1%)	164 (8.4%)	131 (7.3%)

Note: Categories are not mutually exclusive.

A total of 84 men (4.7% of the overall sample) indicated that they had injected any drug/steroid in the six months prior to the survey (see Table 12). Forty-two men (2.4% of the overall sample) had injected more than one drug in that time. The most commonly injected drug in 2005 was speed, followed by crystal meth.

Table 12: Injecting drug use in previous six months

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Speed	58 (3.7%)	50 (2.7%)	59 (3.1%)	65 (3.2%)	66 (3.4%)	49 (2.7%)
Ecstasy	12 (0.8%)	21 (1.1%)	22 (1.2%)	19 (0.9%)	23 (1.2%)	16 (0.9%)
Crystal meth	17 (1.1%)	-	-	45 (2.2%)	51 (2.6%)	42 (2.3%)
Cocaine	17 (1.1%)	10 (0.5%)	23 (1.2%)	13 (0.6%)	20 (1.0%)	8 (0.4%)
Steroids	10 (0.6%)	15 (0.8%)	19 (1.0%)	13 (0.6%)	18 (0.9%)	12 (0.7%)
GHB	2 (0.1%)	-	-	-	8 (0.4%)	4 (0.2%)
Special K	8 (0.5%)	-	-	-	7 (0.4%)	10 (0.6%)
Heroin	10 (0.6%)	16 (0.9%)	12 (0.6%)	7 (0.3%)	14 (0.7%)	12 (0.7%)
LSD/Trips	2 (0.1%)	-	-	4 (0.2%)	6 (0.3%)	4 (0.2%)
Any other drug	9 (0.6%)	16 (0.9%)	21 (1.1%)	16 (0.8%)	13 (0.7%)	12 (0.7%)

Note: Categories are not mutually exclusive.

Discussion

The findings from the seventh Melbourne Gay Community Periodic Survey conducted during February 2005 provide an important update on the social and sexual lives of gay men in Melbourne. In the main, the findings are quite similar to (and thereby corroborate) the evidence from the six preceding surveys conducted between 1998 and 2004 (Van de Ven et al., 1998; Aspin et al., 2000; Rawstorne et al., 2001; Hull et al., 2002; Hull et al., 2003; Hull et al., 2004). Likewise, many of the results parallel findings from gay community periodic surveys conducted in other Australian cities, for example Sydney (Prestage et al., 1996; Van de Ven et al., 1997; Hull et al., 2003), reinforcing the notion that in some respects the gay cultures of the capital cities in Australia are alike.

The 1804 participants were recruited at four gay venues, one sexual health centre and the Midsumma Carnival. Most of the men lived in the Melbourne metropolitan area. They were predominantly of 'Anglo-Australian' background and worked in professional/managerial or white-collar occupations.

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

As in previous surveys, approximately 15% of the men had not been tested for HIV. The majority of those who had been tested for HIV had been tested in the previous 12 months. Overall, 9.1% of the men reported being HIV-positive, a percentage consistent with that of previous years. Three-quarters of respondents were aware that the number of men with STI infections in Melbourne was increasing.

Among the HIV-positive participants, the level of use of combination antiretroviral therapies did not change significantly in 2005. Over the period of the seven surveys, however, there has been a significant decline in the use of antiretroviral therapies, with about 60% of the HIV-positive men taking combination therapy at the time of the 2005 survey, compared with almost 83% in 1998.

Most men reported 'current' sexual contact with at least one other man; about 30% of the men had a regular partner only, a similar proportion had a regular partner with either or both partners also having had casual partners, and approximately a quarter of the men had had casual partners only. In the six months prior to the survey, about two-thirds of the men reported having had sex with regular partners and a slightly higher proportion had had sex with casual partners.

The rate of unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners (UAIC) in 2005 was the same as that reported in 2003, after a slight fall in 2004. Since 1998 there has been a significant upward trend in the rate of UAIC. However, analysis of trends since 2001 shows no significant change over time. Of the men who had had casual partners in

2005 and in the six months prior to the survey, 367 men (29.7%) had had any UAIC. The rate of unprotected anal intercourse with regular partners (UAIR) was unchanged in 2005. Of the men with regular partners, 671 men (57.6%) had had any UAIR. Some of these men (181 all told) had had unprotected anal intercourse with both regular and casual partners. The remainder of the men in the overall sample, far and away the majority, indicated no unprotected anal intercourse with either regular or casual partners. Not unexpectedly, more men had had unprotected anal intercourse with regular than with casual partners. Similarly, unprotected anal intercourse that involved ejaculation inside was much more likely to have occurred with regular than with casual partners.

The proportion of men who had an agreement with their partner about sex *within* the relationship has been quite steady since 2003. Also, the proportion of men in each of the various agreement categories has changed little since 2001. In 2005 the proportion of men in a regular relationship who had an agreement with their partner to have unprotected anal intercourse within the relationship reached its highest level since the first survey in 1998.

The proportion of men who had agreements about sex *outside* the relationship has remained quite steady since 2001 and there have been slight changes only in the types of agreements that partners have reached. Similar proportions of men had no agreements, agreements that did not allow sexual contact with casual partners or agreements that allowed anal intercourse only with condoms. Very few men had agreements that allowed for unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners.

The majority of the men surveyed did not routinely disclose their serostatus to casual partners. However, while there was no change from the previous survey in 2004, over the five survey periods from 2001 this proportion has decreased significantly. A similar proportion of survey respondents were never disclosed to by casual partners. Over the five survey periods since 2001 there has been an increase in the proportion of respondents who told their HIV status to all of their casual partners, and a similar, though smaller, increase in the proportion who were always informed by their casual partners of the casual partners' HIV status.

Detailed analyses of risk reduction strategies such as positive–positive sex (Prestage et al, 1995; Rawstorne et al., under review) and strategic positioning (Van de Ven et al., 2002) have not been reported here. However, interpretations of the findings in this report should take into account that some gay men's sexual practices involve such risk reduction strategies.

Respondents' self-rating of health indicated that non-HIV-positive men were generally in better health than HIV-positive men. Almost two-thirds of the men surveyed had had at least one sexual health test for an infection other than HIV, and the majority of men had visited a GP or doctor for a sexual health check-up.

Most of the men had not injected any recreational drugs/steroids in the six months prior to the survey, while a total of 84 men (4.7%) indicated that they had injected at least one drug/steroid. About 40% of all respondents had used marijuana and about a third had used amyl nitrate or ecstasy in the preceding six months. Just over a quarter of respondents indicated that they had used speed. The use of other drugs was uncommon. Over time there have been significant increases in the use of Viagra and ecstasy. Although few men in the sample used Special K or GHB, the use of these drugs has more than doubled since 2000 when their use was first surveyed in the Periodic Survey.

In conclusion, the 2005 Melbourne Gay Community Periodic Survey was conducted very successfully and has provided evidence that can be used by community members, educators, policy makers and others in developing programs aimed at sustaining and improving gay men's sexual and social health. Recruitment at the Midsumma Carnival and the five diverse sites attracted a large sample of gay men from the Melbourne metropolitan area. Except where indicated, the resulting data are robust and comparisons with the data from the previous six surveys and other studies suggest sound reliability.

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Appendix 1
Tables corresponding to the figures

Table corresponding to Figure 1: Source of recruitment

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Sexual health centres	49 (2.6%)	60 (3.8%)	68 (3.7%)	82 (4.4%)	82 (4.0%)	88 (4.5%)	90 (5.0%)
Gay venues	657 (34.7%)	520 (33.0%)	481 (26.3%)	545 (29.0%)	553 (26.8%)	490 (25.0%)	530 (29.4%)
Midsumma Carnival	1185 (62.7%)	998 (63.2%)	1281 (70.0%)	1250 (66.6%)	1429 (69.2%)	1384 (70.5%)	1184 (65.6%)
Total	**1891 (100%)**	**1578 (100%)**	**1830 (100%)**	**1877 (100%)**	**2064 (100%)**	**1962 (100%)**	**1804 (100%)**

Table corresponding to Figure 2: Residential location

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Gay Melbourne	850 (44.9%)	659 (41.8%)	802 (43.8%)	753 (40.1%)	832 (40.3%)	790 (40.3%)	720 (39.9%)
Urban Victoria	845 (44.7%)	734 (46.5%)	816 (44.6%)	857 (45.7%)	950 (46.0%)	897 (45.7%)	811 (45.0%)
Rural Victoria	89 (4.7%)	92 (5.8%)	109 (6.0%)	124 (6.6%)	115 (5.6%)	124 (6.3%)	112 (6.2%)
Elsewhere	107 (5.7%)	93 (5.9%)	103 (5.6%)	143 (7.6%)	167 (8.1%)	151 (7.7%)	161 (8.9%)
Total	**1891 (100%)**	**1578 (100%)**	**1830 (100%)**	**1877 (100%)**	**2064 (100%)**	**1962 (100%)**	**1804 (100%)**

Note: The suburbs defined as 'Gay Melbourne' are the same as those defined as such in previous studies, e.g. Project Male Call (Crawford et al., 1998) (i.e. postcodes 3000–3004, 3052, 3053, 3141–3146, 3181–3187). 'Urban Victoria' includes the rest of metropolitan Melbourne plus Geelong.

Table corresponding to Figure 3: Age

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 25	286 (15.5%)	223 (14.4%)	267 (15.0%)	307 (16.5%)	297 (14.9%)	342 (18.4%)	293 (16.4%)
25–29	371 (20.0%)	262 (16.9%)	289 (16.2%)	266 (14.3%)	304 (15.2%)	325 (17.5%)	289 (16.2%)
30–39	746 (40.3%)	572 (36.9%)	733 (41.1%)	728 (39.2%)	820 (41.1%)	681 (36.6%)	615 (34.4%)
40–49	319 (17.2%)	333 (21.4%)	347 (19.5%)	375 (20.2%)	401 (20.1%)	364 (19.6%)	413 (23.1%)
50 and over	129 (7.0%)	162 (10.4%)	147 (8.2%)	182 (9.8%)	172 (8.6%)	149 (8.0%)	176 (9.9%)
Total	**1851 (100%)**	**1552 (100%)**	**1783 (100%)**	**1858 (100%)**	**1994 (100%)**	**1861 (100%)**	**1786 (100%)**

Table corresponding to Figure 4: Ethnicity

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Anglo-Australian	1471 (77.8%)	1222 (77.4%)	1481 (80.9%)	1412 (75.2%)	1546 (74.9%)	1424 (72.6%)	1369 (75.9%)
European	212 (11.2%)	232 (14.7%)	215 (11.8%)	292 (15.6%)	277 (13.4%)	265 (13.5%)	255 (14.1%)
Other	208 (11.0%)	124 (7.9%)	134 (7.3%)	173 (9.2%)	241 (11.7%)	273 (13.9%)	180 (10.0%)
Total	**1891 (100%)**	**1578 (100%)**	**1830 (100%)**	**1877 (100%)**	**2064 (100%)**	**1962 (100%)**	**1804 (100%)**

Table corresponding to Figure 5: Employment status

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Full-time	1046 (68.0%)	1293 (72.3%)	1248 (68.5%)	1366 (67.2%)	1274 (66.9%)	1223 (69.7%)
Part-time	209 (13.6%)	190 (10.6%)	236 (13.0%)	249 (12.3%)	236 (12.4%)	217 (12.4%)
Unemployed/Other	283 (18.4%)	305 (17.1%)	338 (18.6%)	417 (20.5%)	395 (20.7%)	314 (17.9%)
Total	**1538 (100%)**	**1788 (100%)**	**1822 (100%)**	**2032 (100%)**	**1905 (100%)**	**1754 (100%)**

Table corresponding to Figure 6: Occupation

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Professional/Managerial							
Professional/Managerial	568 (37.1%)	591 (46.0%)	792 (52.5%)	863 (56.0%)	803 (51.0%)	809 (53.3%)	788 (54.5%)
Paraprofessional	235 (15.3%)	111 (8.7%)	201 (13.3%)	121 (7.9%)	211 (13.4%)	189 (12.5%)	150 (10.4%)
White collar							
Clerical/Sales	495 (32.3%)	429 (33.4%)	386 (25.6%)	416 (27.0%)	368 (23.4%)	372 (24.5%)	356 (24.6%)
Blue collar							
Trades	147 (9.6%)	93 (7.2%)	75 (5.0%)	81 (5.3%)	102 (6.5%)	67 (4.4%)	70 (4.8%)
Plant operator/Labourer	87 (5.7%)	61 (4.7%)	56 (3.7%)	60 (3.9%)	90 (5.7%)	80 (5.3%)	81 (5.6%)
Total	**1532 (100%)**	**1285 (100%)**	**1510 (100%)**	**1541 (100%)**	**1574 (100%)**	**1517 (100%)**	**1445 (100%)**

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

Table corresponding to Figure 7: Current relationships with men

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
None	225 (12.2%)	197 (12.9%)	227 (13.7%)	248 (14.7%)	294 (15.6%)	270 (14.8%)	238 (14.4%)
Casual only	472 (25.6%)	374 (24.4%)	420 (25.3%)	449 (26.6%)	460 (24.4%)	457 (25.1%)	431 (26.0%)
Regular plus casual*	612 (33.1%)	537 (35.1%)	478 (28.8%)	493 (29.2%)	607 (32.2%)	576 (31.6%)	503 (30.4%)
Regular only (monogamous)	538 (29.1%)	422 (27.6%)	535 (32.2%)	501 (29.6%)	523 (27.8%)	518 (28.4%)	483 (29.2%)
Total	**1847 (100%)**	**1530 (100%)**	**1660 (100%)**	**1691 (100%)**	**1884 (100%)**	**1821 (100%)**	**1655 (100%)**

*This category may include either or both of the partners having had casual sex.

Table corresponding to Figure 8: Length of relationships with men

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than one year	364 (36.8%)	268 (31.8%)	363 (33.6%)	381 (35.8%)	389 (33.7%)	400 (35.1%)	277 (28.3%)
At least one year	626 (63.2%)	574 (68.2%)	718 (66.4%)	683 (64.2%)	767 (66.3%)	738 (64.9%)	701 (71.7%)
Total	**990 (100%)**	**842 (100%)**	**1081 (100%)**	**1064 (100%)**	**1156 (100%)**	**1138 (100%)**	**978 (100%)**

Table corresponding to Figure 9: Sexual identity

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Gay/Homosexual/Queer	1705 (91.3%)	1426 (91.0%)	1693 (93.1%)	1695 (91.2%)	1871 (91.4%)	1781 (91.3%)	1638 (91.3%)
Bisexual	119 (6.4%)	83 (5.3%)	84 (4.6%)	119 (6.4%)	123 (6.0%)	133 (6.8%)	117 (6.5%)
Heterosexual/Other	43 (2.3%)	58 (3.7%)	41 (2.3%)	44 (2.4%)	52 (2.5%)	36 (1.8%)	40 (2.2%)
Total	**1867 (100%)**	**1567 (100%)**	**1818 (100%)**	**1858 (100%)**	**2046 (100%)**	**1950 (100%)**	**1795 (100%)**

Table corresponding to Figure 10: Proportion of friends who are gay

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
None	21 (1.1%)	17 (1.1%)	15 (0.8%)	25 (1.3%)	19 (0.9%)	26 (1.3%)	23 (1.3%)
Some or a few	882 (46.8%)	757 (48.1%)	919 (50.4%)	951 (50.7%)	1001 (48.5%)	1027 (52.4%)	930 (51.6%)
Most or all	981 (52.1%)	800 (50.8%)	891 (48.8%)	898 (47.9%)	1043 (50.6%)	908 (46.3%)	851 (47.2%)
Total	**1884 (100%)**	**1574 (100%)**	**1825 (100%)**	**1874 (100%)**	**2063 (100%)**	**1961 (100%)**	**1804 (100%)**

Table corresponding to Figure 11: Proportion of free time spent with gay men

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
None	8 (0.4%)	9 (0.6%)	13 (0.7%)	16 (0.9%)	16 (0.8%)	22 (1.1%)	17 (0.9%)
A little	222 (11.8%)	228 (14.5%)	212 (11.6%)	262 (14.0%)	295 (14.3%)	295 (15.1%)	293 (16.3%)
Some	728 (38.7%)	627 (39.8%)	718 (39.3%)	760 (40.6%)	842 (41.0%)	828 (42.3%)	763 (42.3%)
A lot	925 (49.1%)	711 (45.1%)	883 (48.4%)	832 (44.5%)	903 (43.9%)	814 (41.6%)	729 (40.5%)
Total	**1883 (100%)**	**1575 (100%)**	**1826 (100%)**	**1870 (100%)**	**2056 (100%)**	**1959 (100%)**	**1802 (100%)**

Table corresponding to Figure 12: HIV test results

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Not tested/No results	293 (16.1%)	232 (14.9%)	295 (16.5%)	281 (16.1%)	310 (15.4%)	277 (14.4%)	262 (15.0%)
HIV-negative	1371 (75.4%)	1180 (76.0%)	1347 (75.4%)	1313 (75.2%)	1526 (75.6%)	1484 (77.1%)	1321 (75.8%)
HIV-positive	154 (8.5%)	140 (9.0%)	145 (8.1%)	151 (8.7%)	182 (9.0%)	163 (8.5%)	159 (9.1%)
Total	**1818 (100%)**	**1552 (100%)**	**1787 (100%)**	**1745 (100%)**	**2018 (100%)**	**1924 (100%)**	**1742 (100%)**

Table corresponding to Figure 13: Time since most recent HIV test

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 6 months ago	632 (44.8%)	506 (42.0%)	571 (41.1%)	564 (41.9%)	686 (43.2%)	739 (48.2%)	615 (44.3%)
7–12 months ago	228 (16.1%)	246 (20.4%)	281 (20.2%)	264 (19.6%)	320 (20.1%)	276 (18.0%)	292 (21.0%)
1–2 years ago	296 (21.0%)	236 (19.6%)	259 (18.6%)	269 (20.0%)	284 (17.9%)	258 (16.8%)	225 (16.2%)
Over 2 years ago	256 (18.1%)	216 (18.0%)	279 (20.1%)	250 (18.6%)	299 (18.8%)	259 (16.9%)	257 (18.5%)
Total	**1412 (100%)**	**1204 (100%)**	**1390 (100%)**	**1347 (100%)**	**1589 (100%)**	**1532 (100%)**	**1389 (100%)**

Note: Includes only non-HIV-positive men who had been tested for HIV.

Table corresponding to Figure 14: Use of combination antiretroviral therapies

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Yes	128 (82.6%)	108 (78.3%)	101 (66.9%)	105 (70.0%)	99 (55.9%)	96 (60.4%)	95 (58.6%)
No	27 (17.4%)	30 (21.7%)	50 (33.1%)	45 (30.0%)	78 (44.1%)	63 (39.6%)	67 (41.4%)
Total	**155 (100%)**	**138 (100%)**	**151 (100%)**	**150 (100%)**	**177 (100%)**	**159 (100%)**	**162 (100%)**

Note: Includes only HIV-positive men.

Table corresponding to Figure 15: HIV status of regular partners

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
HIV-positive	106 (10.3%)	58 (7.7%)	84 (8.6%)	82 (8.9%)	101 (10.0%)	91 (9.3%)	97 (11.3%)
HIV-negative	640 (62.2%)	526 (70.0%)	669 (68.3%)	619 (67.4%)	711 (70.2%)	684 (69.9%)	604 (70.5%)
HIV status unknown	283 (27.5%)	167 (22.2%)	227 (23.2%)	218 (23.7%)	201 (19.8%)	203 (20.8%)	156 (18.2%)
Total	**1029 (100%)**	**751 (100%)**	**980 (100%)**	**919 (100%)**	**1013 (100%)**	**978 (100%)**	**857 (100%)**

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

Table corresponding to Figure 16: Sex with male partners in previous six months

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Any sexual contact with regular partners	1215 (64.3%)	1007 (63.8%)	1199 (65.5%)	1193 (63.6%)	1298 (62.9%)	1276 (65.0%)	1165 (64.6%)
Any sexual contact with casual partners	1362 (72.0%)	1123 (71.2%)	1209 (66.1%)	1268 (67.6%)	1429 (69.2%)	1338 (68.2%)	1235 (68.5%)
Total	**1891**	**1578**	**1830**	**1877**	**2064**	**1962**	**1804**

Note: These categories are not mutually exclusive.

Table corresponding to Figure 17: Number of male sex partners in previous six months

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
None	87 (4.6%)	99 (6.3%)	274 (15.1%)	279 (15.0%)	245 (12.1%)	240 (12.4%)	239 (13.4%)
One	427 (22.8%)	325 (20.7%)	339 (18.7%)	315 (16.9%)	360 (17.7%)	349 (18.0%)	303 (16.9%)
2–10	786 (41.9%)	611 (39.0%)	703 (38.7%)	685 (36.8%)	802 (39.5%)	773 (39.8%)	697 (39.0%)
11–50	454 (24.2%)	411 (26.2%)	388 (21.4%)	443 (23.8%)	465 (22.9%)	444 (22.9%)	414 (23.2%)
More than 50	122 (6.5%)	122 (7.8%)	111 (6.1%)	141 (7.6%)	159 (7.8%)	137 (7.1%)	135 (7.6%)
Total	**1876 (100%)**	**1568 (100%)**	**1815 (100%)**	**1863 (100%)**	**2031 (100%)**	**1943 (100%)**	**1788 (100%)**

Table corresponding to Figures 18 & 19: Sexual behaviour with regular male partners

	Total sample	Those with regular partners
1998		
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	803 (42.5%)	803 (66.1%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	650 (34.4%)	650 (53.5%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	652 (34.5%)	652 (53.7%)
Any anal intercourse	1047 (55.4%)	1047 (86.2%)
Insertive anal intercourse	923 (48.8%)	923 (76.0%)
Receptive anal intercourse	822 (43.5%)	822 (67.7%)
Base	**1891**	**1215**
2000		
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	562 (35.6%)	562 (55.8%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	450 (28.5%)	450 (44.7%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	424 (26.9%)	424 (42.1%)
Any anal intercourse	894 (56.6%)	894 (88.7%)
Insertive anal intercourse	773 (49.0%)	773 (76.8%)
Receptive anal intercourse	710 (45.0%)	710 (70.5%)
Base	**1578**	**1007**
2001		
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	721 (39.4%)	721 (60.1%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	597 (32.6%)	597 (49.8%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	589 (32.2%)	589 (49.1%)
Any anal intercourse	1015 (55.5%)	1015 (84.7%)
Insertive anal intercourse	886 (48.4%)	886 (73.9%)
Receptive anal intercourse	833 (45.5%)	833 (69.5%)
Base	**1830**	**1199**
2002		
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	701 (37.3%)	701 (58.8%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	571 (30.4%)	571 (47.9%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	575 (30.6%)	575 (48.2%)
Any anal intercourse	1023 (54.5%)	1023 (85.8%)
Insertive anal intercourse	886 (47.2%)	886 (74.3%)
Receptive anal intercourse	820 (43.7%)	820 (68.7%)
Base	**1877**	**1193**
2003		
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	772 (37.4%)	772 (59.5%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	643 (31.2%)	643 (49.5%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	615 (29.8%)	615 (47.4%)
Any anal intercourse	1127 (54.6%)	1127 (86.8%)
Insertive anal intercourse	1006 (48.7%)	1006 (77.5%)
Receptive anal intercourse	912 (44.2%)	912 (70.3%)
Base	**2064**	**1298**
2004		
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	798 (40.7%)	798 (62.5%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	666 (33.9%)	666 (52.2%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	660 (33.6%)	660 (51.7%)
Any anal intercourse	1122 (57.2%)	1122 (87.9%)
Insertive anal intercourse	999 (50.9%)	999 (78.3%)
Receptive anal intercourse	914 (46.6%)	914 (71.6%)
Base	**1962**	**1276**
2005		
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	735 (40.7%)	735 (63.1%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	626 (34.7%)	626 (53.7%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	582 (32.3%)	582 (50.0%)
Any anal intercourse	1050 (58.2%)	1050 (90.1%)
Insertive anal intercourse	930 (51.6%)	930 (79.8%)
Receptive anal intercourse	861 (47.7%)	861 (73.9)
Base	**1804**	**1165**

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 20 & 21: Sexual behaviour with casual male partners

	Total sample	Those with casual partners
1998		
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	624 (33.0%)	624 (45.8%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	511 (27.0%)	511 (37.5%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	436 (23.1%)	436 (32.0%)
Any anal intercourse	971 (51.3%)	971 (71.3%)
Insertive anal intercourse	870 (46.0%)	870 (63.9%)
Receptive anal intercourse	677 (35.8%)	677 (49.7%)
Base	**1891**	**1362**
2000		
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	452 (28.6%)	452 (40.7%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	389 (24.6%)	389 (35.0%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	277 (17.5%)	277 (25.0%)
Any anal intercourse	832 (52.7%)	832 (75.0%)
Insertive anal intercourse	762 (48.3%)	762 (68.6%)
Receptive anal intercourse	612 (38.8%)	612 (55.1%)
Base	**1578**	**1110**
2001		
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	488 (26.7%)	488 (40.4%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	436 (23.8%)	436 (36.6%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	320 (17.5%)	320 (26.5%)
Any anal intercourse	911 (49.8%)	911 (75.4%)
Insertive anal intercourse	829 (45.3%)	829 (68.6%)
Receptive anal intercourse	664 (36.3%)	664 (54.9%)
Base	**1830**	**1209**
2002		
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	586 (31.2%)	586 (44.4%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	507 (27.0%)	507 (38.4%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	384 (20.5%)	384 (29.1%)
Any anal intercourse	971 (51.7%)	971 (73.5%)
Insertive anal intercourse	868 (46.2%)	868 (65.7%)
Receptive anal intercourse	730 (38.9%)	730 (55.3%)
Base	**1877**	**1321**
2003		
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	660 (32.0%)	660 (44.9%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	578 (28.0%)	578 (39.3%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	441 (21.4%)	441 (30.0%)
Any anal intercourse	1120 (54.3%)	1120 (76.2%)
Insertive anal intercourse	1018 (49.3%)	1018 (69.3%)
Receptive anal intercourse	847 (41.0%)	847 (57.6%)
Base	**2064**	**1470**
2004		
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	614 (31.3%)	614 (44.6%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	525 (26.8%)	525 (38.1%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	419 (21.4%)	419 (30.4%)
Any anal intercourse	1015 (51.7%)	1015 (73.7%)
Insertive anal intercourse	922 (47.0%)	922 (67.0%)
Receptive anal intercourse	776 (39.6%)	776 (56.4%)
Base	**1962**	**1377**
2005		
Any oral intercourse with ejaculation	604 (33.5%)	604 (47.4%)
Insertive fellatio with ejaculation	521 (8.9%)	521 (40.9%)
Receptive fellatio with ejaculation	411 (22.8%)	411 (32.3%)
Any anal intercourse	963 (53.4%)	963 (75.6%)
Insertive anal intercourse	881 (48.8%)	881 (69.2%)
Receptive anal intercourse	725 (40.2%)	725 (57.0%)
Base	**1804**	**1273**

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 some in none of these practices.

Table corresponding to Figure 22: Condom use with regular partners

	Total sample	Those with regular partners
1998		
No regular partner	676 (35.7%)	—
No anal intercourse	168 (8.9%)	168 (13.8%)
Always uses a condom	497 (26.3%)	497 (40.9%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	550 (29.1%)	550 (45.3%)
Base	**1891 (100%)**	**1215 (100%)**
2000		
No regular partner	571 (36.2%)	—
No anal intercourse	113 (7.2%)	113 (11.2%)
Always uses a condom	370 (23.4%)	370 (36.7%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	524 (33.2%)	524 (52.0%)
Base	**1578 (100%)**	**1007 (100%)**
2001		
No regular partner	631 (34.5%)	—
No anal intercourse	184 (10.1%)	184 (15.3%)
Always uses a condom	329 (18.0%)	329 (27.4%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	686 (37.5%)	686 (57.2%)
Base	**1830 (100%)**	**1199 (100%)**
2002		
No regular partner	684 (36.4%)	—
No anal intercourse	170 (9.1%)	170 (14.2%)
Always uses a condom	368 (19.6%)	368 (30.8%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	655 (34.9%)	655 (54.9%)
Base	**1877 (100%)**	**1193 (100%)**
2003		
No regular partner	766 (37.1%)	—
No anal intercourse	171 (8.3%)	171 (13.2)
Always uses a condom	437 (21.2%)	437 (33.7%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	690 (33.4%)	690 (53.2%)
Base	**2064 (100%)**	**1298 (100%)**
2004		
No regular partner	686 (35.0%)	
No anal intercourse	154 (7.8%)	154 (12.1%)
Always uses a condom	405 (20.6%)	405 (31.7%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	717 (36.5%)	717 (56.2%)
Base	**1962 (100%)**	**1276 (100%)**
2005		
No regular partner	639 (35.4%)	
No anal intercourse	115 (6.4%)	115 (9.9%)
Always uses a condom	379 (21.0%)	379 (32.5%)
Sometimes does not use a condom[1]	671 (37.2%)	671 (57.6%)
Base	**1804 (100%)**	**1165 (100%)**

[1]Of the 671 men who had engaged in unprotected anal intercourse with regular partners in the six months prior to the survey, 142 men had practised on withdrawal prior to ejaculation, 200 had consistently ejaculated inside and 329 had engaged in both withdrawal and ejaculation inside.

Table corresponding to Figure 23: Condom use with regular partners, by serostatus

	HIV-positive	HIV-negative	Serostatus unknown
1998			
No anal intercourse	12 (11.7%)	115 (12.5%)	40 (23.0%)
Always uses a condom	45 (43.7%)	376 (40.9%)	70 (40.2%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	46 (44.7%)	429 (46.6%)	64 (36.8%)
Total	**103 (100%)**	**920 (100%)**	**174 (100%)**
2000			
No anal intercourse	3 (3.4%)	92 (11.8%)	15 (11.7%)
Always uses a condom	32 (36.4%)	281 (36.0%)	55 (43.0%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	53 (60.2%)	408 (52.2%)	58 (45.3%)
Total	**88 (100%)**	**781 (100%)**	**128 (100%)**
2001			
No anal intercourse	12 (13.2%)	141 (15.1%)	26 (17.6%)
Always uses a condom	32 (35.2%)	241 (25.7%)	49 (33.1%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	47 (51.6%)	554 (59.2%)	73 (49.3%)
Total	**91 (100%)**	**936 (100%)**	**148 (100%)**
2002			
No anal intercourse	6 (6.5%)	128 (14.1%)	33 (20.2%)
Always uses a condom	25 (26.9%)	286 (31.4%)	50 (30.7%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	62 (66.7%)	496 (54.5%)	80 (49.1%)
Total	**93 (100%)**	**910 (100%)**	**163 (100%)**
2003			
No anal intercourse	13 (11.1%)	126 (12.4%)	32 (19.8%)
Always uses a condom	41 (35.0%)	335 (32.9%)	61 (37.7%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	63 (53.8%)	556 (54.7%)	69 (42.6%)
Total	**117 (100%)**	**1017 (100%)**	**162 (100%)**
2004			
No anal intercourse	7 (7.5%)	110 (10.9%)	37 (22.2%)
Always uses a condom	38 (40.9%)	318 (31.5%)	48 (28.7%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	48 (51.6%)	581 (57.6%)	82 (49.1%)
Total	**93 (100%)**	**1009 (100%)**	**167 (100%)**
2005			
No anal intercourse	6 (6.0%)	88 (9.6%)	21 (14.5%)
Always uses a condom	32 (32.0%)	291 (31.8%)	54 (37.2%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	62 (62.0%)	537 (58.6%)	70 (48.3%)
Total	**100 (100%)**	**916 (100%)**	**145 (100%)**

Table corresponding to Figure 24: Agreements with regular male partners about sex *within* the relationship

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
No spoken agreement about anal intercourse	249 (23.7%)	209 (24.3%)	268 (25.5%)	281 (27.7%)	222 (22.3%)	228 (23.4%)	188 (22.2%)
No anal intercourse between regular partners	93 (8.9%)	71 (8.3%)	82 (7.8%)	72 (7.1%)	82 (8.2%)	82 (8.4%)	52 (6.1%)
Anal intercourse is permitted only with a condom	377 (35.9%)	247 (28.8%)	271 (25.8%)	305 (30.0%)	317 (31.9%)	278 (28.5%)	259 (30.6%)
Anal intercourse without a condom is permitted	331 (31.5%)	332 (38.6%)	429 (40.9%)	357 (35.2%)	373 (37.5%)	386 (39.6%)	348 (41.1%)
Total	**1050 (100%)**	**859 (100%)**	**1050 (100%)**	**1015 (100%)**	**994 (100%)**	**974 (100%)**	**847 (100%)**

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

Table corresponding to Figure 25: Agreements with regular male partners about sex *outside* the relationship

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
No spoken agreement about sex	329 (32.9%)	261 (32.7%)	303 (30.2%)	315 (32.6%)	279 (28.9%)	304 (31.8%)	228 (27.4%)
No sexual contact with casual partners is permitted	297 (29.7%)	226 (28.3%)	347 (34.6%)	312 (32.3%)	304 (31.5%)	291 (30.5%)	286 (34.4%)
No anal intercourse with casual partners is permitted	102 (10.2%)	57 (7.1%)	54 (5.4%)	72 (7.5%)	54 (5.6%)	48 (5.0%)	71 (8.5%)
Anal intercourse is permitted only with a condom	257 (25.7%)	229 (28.7%)	271 (27.0%)	234 (24.2%)	293 (30.4%)	277 (29.0%)	221 (26.6%)
Anal intercourse without a condom is permitted	16 (1.6%)	25 (3.1%)	27 (2.7%)	33 (3.4%)	35 (3.6%)	35 (3.7%)	26 (3.1%)
Total	**1001 (100%)**	**798 (100%)**	**1002 (100%)**	**966 (100%)**	**965 (100%)**	**955 (100%)**	**832 (100%)**

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

Table corresponding to Figure 26: Condom use with casual partners

	Total sample	Those with casual partners
1998		
No casual partner	529 (28.0%)	—
No anal intercourse	397 (21.0%)	397 (29.1%)
Always uses a condom	712 (37.7%)	712 (52.3%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	253 (13.4%)	253 (18.6%)
Base	**1891 (100%)**	**1362 (100%)**
2000		
No casual partner	468 (29.6%)	—
No anal intercourse	278 (17.6%)	278 (25.0%)
Always uses a condom	570 (36.1%)	570 (51.3%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	262 (16.6%)	262 (23.6%)
Base	**1578 (100%)**	**1110 (100%)**
2001		
No casual partner	621 (33.9%)	—
No anal intercourse	307 (16.8%)	307 (25.4%)
Always uses a condom	591 (32.3%)	591 (48.9%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	311 (17.0%)	311 (25.7%)
Base	**1830 (100%)**	**1209 (100%)**
2002		
No casual partner	609 (32.4%)	—
No anal intercourse	310 (16.5%)	310 (24.4%)
Always uses a condom	599 (31.9%)	599 (47.2%)
Sometimes does not use a condom[1]	359 (19.1%)	359 (28.3%)
Base	**1877 (100%)**	**1268 (100%)**
2003		
No casual partner	635 (30.8%)	—
No anal intercourse	323 (15.6%)	323 (22.6%)
Always uses a condom	682 (33.0%)	682 (47.7%)
Sometimes does not use a condom[1]	424 (20.5%)	424 (29.7%)
Base	**2064 (100%)**	**1429 (100%)**
2004		
No casual partner	624 (31.8%)	
No anal intercourse	341 (17.4%)	341 (25.5%)
Always uses a condom	646 (32.9%)	646 (48.3%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	351 (17.9%)	351 (26.2%)
Base	**1962 (100%)**	**1338 (100%)**
2005		
No casual partner	569 (31.5%)	
No anal intercourse	289 (16.0%)	289 (23.4%)
Always uses a condom	579 (32.1%)	579 (46.9%)
Sometimes does not use a condom[1]	367 (20.3%)	367 (29.7%)
Base	**1804 (100%)**	**1235 (100%)**

[1]Of the 367 men who had engaged in unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners in the six months prior to the survey, 126 had practised only withdrawal prior to ejaculation, 36 had consistently ejaculated inside and 187 had engaged in both withdrawal and ejaculation inside.

Table corresponding to Figure 27: Condom use with casual partners, by serostatus

	HIV-positive	HIV-negative	Serostatus unknown
1998			
No anal intercourse	25 (18.5%)	292 (28.7%)	72 (37.9%)
Always uses a condom	65 (48.1%)	565 (55.4%)	77 (40.5%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	45 (33.3%)	162 (15.9%)	41 (21.6%)
Total	**135 (100%)**	**1019 (100%)**	**190 (100%)**
2000			
No anal intercourse	14 (12.7%)	215 (24.9%)	57 (38.8%)
Always uses a condom	56 (50.9%)	457 (52.9%)	60 (40.8%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	40 (36.4%)	192 (22.2%)	30 (20.4%)
Total	**110 (100%)**	**864 (100%)**	**147 (100%)**
2001			
No anal intercourse	17 (14.8%)	231 (25.4%)	57 (31.5%)
Always uses a condom	41 (35.7%)	469 (51.6%)	80 (44.2%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	57 (49.6%)	209 (23.0%)	44 (24.3%)
Total	**115 (100%)**	**909 (100%)**	**181 (100%)**
2002			
No anal intercourse	13 (10.7%)	251 (25.8%)	45 (27.3%)
Always uses a condom	39 (32.0%)	482 (49.6%)	74 (44.8%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	70 (57.4%)	239 (24.6%)	46 (27.9%)
Total	**122 (100%)**	**972 (100%)**	**165 (100%)**
2003			
No anal intercourse	22 (13.9%)	248 (22.9%)	52 (27.8%)
Always uses a condom	46 (29.1%)	548 (50.6%)	88 (47.1%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	90 (57.0%)	287 (26.5%)	47 (25.1%)
Total	**158 (100%)**	**1083 (100%)**	**187 (100%)**
2004			
No anal intercourse	21 (16.8%)	268 (25.5%)	52 (32.7%)
Always uses a condom	45 (36.0%)	532 (50.7%)	68 (42.8%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	59 (47.2%)	250 (23.8%)	39 (24.5%)
Total	**125 (100%)**	**1050 (100%)**	**159 (100%)**
2005			
No anal intercourse	21 (16.5%)	224 (24.0%)	44 (25.6%)
Always uses a condom	42 (33.1%)	450 (48.3%)	85 (49.4%)
Sometimes does not use a condom	64 (50.4%)	258 (27.7%)	43 (25.0%)
Total	**127 (100%)**	**932 (100%)**	**172 (100%)**

Table corresponding to Figure 28: Participants' disclosure of serostatus to casual partners

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Told none	852 (63.3%)	699 (65.8%)	749 (61.8%)	845 (63.2%)	754 (54.6%)	781 (57.3%)	661 (54.0%)
Told some	308 (22.9%)	246 (23.1%)	288 (23.8%)	281 (21.0%)	374 (27.1%)	345 (25.3%)	329 (26.9%)
Told all	187 (13.9%)	118 (11.1%)	175 (14.4%)	210 (15.7%)	253 (18.3%)	237 (17.4%)	234 (19.1%)
Total	**1347 (100%)**	**1063 (100%)**	**1212 (100%)**	**1336 (100%)**	**1381 (100%)**	**1363 (100%)**	**1224 (100%)**

Table corresponding to Figure 29: Casual partners' disclosure of serostatus to participants

	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Told by none	866 (63.4%)	691 (64.5%)	740 (61.0%)	833 (63.3%)	770 (56.2%)	794 (58.6%)	668 (55.0%)
Told by some	398 (29.2%)	308 (28.7%)	359 (29.6%)	359 (27.3%)	454 (33.1%)	411 (30.3%)	400 (32.9%)
Told by all	101 (7.4%)	73 (6.8%)	114 (9.4%)	123 (9.4%)	146 (10.7%)	150 (11.1%)	147 (12.1%)
Total	**1365 (100%)**	**1072 (100%)**	**1213 (100%)**	**1315 (100%)**	**1370 (100%)**	**1355 (100%)**	**1215 (100%)**

Appendix 2
Questionnaire

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

VAC/GMHC **PLWHA (VIC)**

Melbourne Gay Community Periodic Survey

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

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

For each question, please TICK one box only.

1. How many of your friends are gay or homosexual men?
   None ☐ A few ☐ Some ☐ Most ☐ All ☐

2. How much of your free time is spent with gay or homosexual men?
   None ☐ A little ☐ Some ☐ A lot ☐

3. Do you think of yourself as: Gay/homosexual ☐
   Bisexual ☐
   Heterosexual ☐
   Other (please specify) _____

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

4. Do you currently have sex with **casual** male partners?
   No ☐ Yes ☐

5. Do you currently have sex with a **regular** male partner?
   No ☐ Yes ☐

6. How would you describe your sexual relationship with your **current regular** male partner? *(tick one)*
   ***we** are monogamous – **neither of us** has casual sex* ☐
   ***both my partner and I** have casual sex with other men* ☐
   *I have casual sex with other men but **my partner does not*** ☐
   my partner** has casual sex with other men but **I do not ☐
   *I have **several regular** male partners* ☐
   ***no** current regular male partner* ☐

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

LAST SIX MONTHS . . . .

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

Regular male partners — last 6 months

9. Have you had sex with regular male partner/s **in the last six months**? Yes ☐ No ☐ *Go directly to Question 20.*

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

10. ***Oral sex:*** I sucked his cock but he did NOT come in my mouth
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

11. ***Oral sex:*** He sucked my cock but I did NOT come in his mouth
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

12. ***Oral sex:*** I sucked his cock and he came in my mouth
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

13. ***Oral sex:*** He sucked my cock and I came in his mouth
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

Anal sex

14. I fucked him ***with a condom***
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

15. He fucked me ***with a condom***
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

16. I fucked him ***without a condom*** but pulled out before I came
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

17. He fucked me ***without a condom*** but pulled out before he came Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

18. I fucked him ***without a condom*** and came inside him
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

19. He fucked me ***without a condom*** and came inside me
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

Casual male partners — last 6 months

20. Have you had sex with casual male partner/s **in the last six months**? Yes ☐ No ☐ *Go directly to **Question 33**.*

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

21. ***Oral sex:*** I sucked his cock but he did NOT come in my mouth
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

22. ***Oral sex:*** He sucked my cock but I did NOT come in his mouth
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

23. ***Oral sex:*** I sucked his cock and he came in my mouth
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

24. ***Oral sex:*** He sucked my cock and I came in his mouth
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

Anal sex

25. I fucked him ***with a condom***
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

26. He fucked me ***with a condom***
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

27. I fucked him ***without a condom*** but pulled out before I came
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

28. He fucked me ***without a condom*** but pulled out before he came Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

29. I fucked him ***without a condom*** and came inside him
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

30. He fucked me ***without a condom*** and came inside me
    Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Often ☐

LAST SIX MONTHS . . . .

31. How many of your *casual* partners in the last 6 months did you tell your HIV status? None ☐ Some ☐ All ☐

32. How many of your *casual* partners in the last 6 months told you their HIV status? None ☐ Some ☐ All ☐

33. **In the last 6 months**, how many of your male sex partners did you find on the internet?
    None ☐ One ☐
    2–5 men ☐ 6–10 men ☐
    11–50 men ☐ More than 50 men ☐

Continues on other side

34. Are you circumcised? No ☐ Yes ☐

35. Have you ever had an HIV antibody test?
No ☐ Yes ☐

36. When were you last tested for HIV antibodies?
Less than a week ago ☐ 7–12 months ago ☐
1–4 weeks ago ☐ 1–2 years ago ☐
1–6 months ago ☐ 2–4 years ago ☐
More than 4 years ago ☐

37. Based on the results of your HIV antibody tests, what is your HIV status? No test/Don't know ☐
Negative ☐
Positive ☐

If you are **HIV positive**, please complete the next two questions.

38. Are you on combination antiretroviral therapy?
No ☐ Yes ☐

39. Is your viral load? Undetectable ☐
Detectable ☐
Don't know / unsure ☐

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

40. Do you know the result of your regular partner's HIV antibody test? Yes—Positive ☐
Yes—Negative ☐
I don't know/He hasn't had a test ☐

41. Do you have a **clear (spoken) agreement** with your regular partner about anal sex (fucking) within your relationship?
No agreement ☐
Agreement: No anal sex at all ☐
Agreement: All anal sex is with a condom ☐
Agreement: Anal sex can be without a condom ☐

42. Do you have a **clear (spoken) agreement** with your regular partner about sex with casual partners?
No agreement ☐
Agreement: No sex at all ☐
Agreement: No anal sex at all ☐
Agreement: All anal sex is with a condom ☐
Agreement: Anal sex can be without a condom ☐

43. How old are you? _____ years

44. What country were you born in? Australia ☐
Other (please specify) _____

45. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?
No ☐ Yes ☐

46. What is your ethnic background? (*e.g. Dutch, Greek, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chinese)*
Anglo-Australian only ☐ Other:_____

47. Are you: (tick one only) Employed full-time ☐
Employed part-time ☐
Unemployed ☐
A student ☐
A pensioner or on social security benefits ☐
Other ☐

48. What is your occupation? _____

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

50. Where do you live? Postcode ☐☐☐☐
OR Suburb/Town: _____

51. Where do you look for male sex partners?

Internet	Never ☐	Occasionally ☐	Often ☐
Gay bar	Never ☐	Occasionally ☐	Often ☐
Dance party	Never ☐	Occasionally ☐	Often ☐
Gym	Never ☐	Occasionally ☐	Often ☐
Beat	Never ☐	Occasionally ☐	Often ☐
Gay sauna	Never ☐	Occasionally ☐	Often ☐
Other sex venue	Never ☐	Occasionally ☐	Often ☐
Sex workers	Never ☐	Occasionally ☐	Often ☐
Private sex parties	Never ☐	Occasionally ☐	Often ☐

52. In general, would you say your health is?
Excellent ☐ Very good ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐

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

Anal swab	None ☐	Once ☐	Twice ☐	3 or more ☐
Throat swab	None ☐	Once ☐	Twice ☐	3 or more ☐
Penile swab	None ☐	Once ☐	Twice ☐	3 or more ☐
Urine sample	None ☐	Once ☐	Twice ☐	3 or more ☐
Blood test for HIV	None ☐	Once ☐	Twice ☐	3 or more ☐
Other blood test	None ☐	Once ☐	Twice ☐	3 or more ☐

54. Where did you have a **sexual health check-up** *in the last 12 months*?
GP/doctor No ☐ Yes ☐
Sexual health clinic No ☐ Yes ☐
Centre Clinic No ☐ Yes ☐
Other place No ☐ Yes ☐
No sexual health check-up in the last 12 months ☐

55. STI infections among gay men in Melbourne are …
Decreasing ☐ Stable ☐ Increasing ☐

56. Men who **always** use condoms for anal intercourse **don't** need to have regular sexual health check-ups.
strongly disagree ☐ *disagree* ☐ *agree* ☐ *strongly agree* ☐

57. Please look at the resource materials on the reverse side of the Information Sheet. Which ones have you **seen** before?
A: No ☐ Yes ☐ **B**: No ☐ Yes ☐

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

	Used		Injected	
Amyl/Poppers	No ☐	Yes ☐		
Marijuana	No ☐	Yes ☐		
Viagra	No ☐	Yes ☐		
Ecstasy	No ☐	Yes ☐	No ☐	Yes ☐
Speed	No ☐	Yes ☐	No ☐	Yes ☐
Cocaine	No ☐	Yes ☐	No ☐	Yes ☐
Crystal Meth	No ☐	Yes ☐	No ☐	Yes ☐
LSD / trips	No ☐	Yes ☐	No ☐	Yes ☐
GHB	No ☐	Yes ☐	No ☐	Yes ☐
Special K	No ☐	Yes ☐	No ☐	Yes ☐
Heroin	No ☐	Yes ☐	No ☐	Yes ☐
Steroids	No ☐	Yes ☐	No ☐	Yes ☐
Any other drug	No ☐	Yes ☐	No ☐	Yes ☐

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME 1-2004/1