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Gay Community Periodic Survey: Sydney 2017



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Glossary

ART antiretroviral treatment

CAIC condomless anal intercourse with casual partners

CAIR condomless anal intercourse with regular partners

HIV human immunodeficiency virus

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

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

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

HIV status a person's antibody status established by HIV testing, e.g. HIV-negative, HIV-positive, or unknown (untested)

PEP post-exposure prophylaxis

PrEP pre-exposure prophylaxis

STI sexually transmissible infection

Executive summary

The Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey is a cross-sectional survey of gay and homosexually active men recruited at a range of gay community sites in Sydney. Since 1996 the project has been funded by the NSW Ministry of Health and supported by ACON and Positive Life NSW. The major aim of the survey is to provide data on sexual, drug use and testing practices related to the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmissible infections (STIs) among gay men in Sydney. The data presented in this report are from the period 2013 to 2017.

In 2017, 3,334 men were recruited at 17 data collection sites, which included gay social venues (bars and gyms), sex-on-premises venues, sexual health clinics, Fair Day (part of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras) and online. The response rate for offline recruitment was 74%. Online recruitment was introduced in 2015 and conducted through the social networking site Facebook. Men were directed to a website with an online version of the GCPS questionnaire (<http://gcpsonline.net>). The advertisements were targeted to all men aged 16 and above who were resident in New South Wales and indicated in their Facebook profile that they were 'interested' in men. In 2017, 17% of the sample was recruited online. When the online participants are excluded, there was an increase between 2016 and 2017 in the proportion of men recruited from social venues, and a decrease in men recruited from Fair Day. These changes should be borne in mind when interpreting the results.

There were some statistical differences between the men recruited online and those recruited at venues and events. Men recruited online were younger (34 vs. 36 years), more likely to be born in Australia (85% vs. 58%) and more likely to be in a monogamous relationship (32% vs. 27%). Online participants were less likely than offline participants to have ever been tested for HIV (85% vs. 88%) in the previous 12 months. Online participants were more likely to report condomless anal intercourse with regular partners in the previous six months (51% vs. 41%). Online participants also reported having fewer gay friends (25% vs. 46%) and spending less time with gay men (29% vs. 40%).

Although there are some differences between the online and offline participants, this report presents analyses including all participants (as is consistent with previous reports). The change in sampling may have affected some of the results, so caution should be used when interpreting changes in short or long-term trends.

Key points

- The proportion of men reporting that they had ever been tested for HIV remained stable at 87% in 2017.
- The proportion of non-HIV-positive men reporting a recent HIV test (in the 12 months prior to survey) has increased over time and was 78% in 2017. The proportion of non-HIV-positive men reporting three or more HIV tests in the previous 12 months increased to 31% in 2017.
- The proportion of HIV-positive men on antiretroviral treatment was 95% in 2017. Nearly all men on treatment in 2017 (95%) reported having an undetectable viral load.
- The proportion of men reporting any condomless anal intercourse with their regular partners (CAIR) increased to 62% in 2017.
- The proportion of men reporting any condomless anal intercourse with casual partners (CAIC) increased to 52% in 2017. The increase in CAIC between 2016 and 2017 was concentrated among HIV-negative men using pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).
- Recent PrEP use was reported by 14% of non-HIV-positive men in the 2017 survey (a large increase from 4% in 2016).
- The use of mobile apps to meet male sex partners remained stable at 49% in 2017.
- The proportion of men reporting any STI diagnosis (other than HIV) increased to 21% in 2017.

Demographic profile

As in previous surveys, the men in the sample were primarily of Anglo-Australian background, lived in the metropolitan Sydney area, were well-educated, gay-identified, and in full time employment. In 2017, 89.5% of the sample identified as gay and 6.0% as bisexual. In 2017, 97.0% of the sample identified as male, with small numbers of participants identifying as male and trans (n=45, 1.4%) or male and intersex (n=30, 0.9%). Since 2013 there have been some significant changes in the age profile of the sample, with an increase in the proportion of men aged under 30 years, and a decrease in the proportion of men aged 40 or more.

Three-fifths of the sample (62.4%) was born in Australia. The ethnic profile of the sample has been relatively stable since 2013. The proportion of Anglo-Australian men has ranged between 59% to 63%, while the proportions of European men ranged between 15% to 18% and non-European men from 17% to 21%. In 2017, 3.7% of the sample identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

HIV status and testing

In 2017, the majority of men in the sample reported having ever been tested for HIV (87.1%). The proportion of men ever tested for HIV has fallen slightly since 2013, but was stable between 2016 and 2017. Three-quarters of non-HIV-positive participants (78.4%) reported having an HIV test in the 12 months prior to the 2017 survey. Recent HIV testing has increased over the last five years and has stabilised at this high level between 2016 and 2017. The frequency of HIV testing has also increased, with almost a third of non-HIV-positive men (31.1%) reporting three or more HIV tests in the 12 months prior to the 2017 survey.

In 2017, the most common places to get tested remained general practices (38.9%) and sexual health clinics (45.4%), followed by community-based services (12.7%). Since 2013, the use of general practices for testing has declined while the use of community-based services has increased.

Of the participants that had been tested, in 2017 most reported that they were HIV-negative (90.1%), with smaller proportions reporting that they were HIV-positive (8.5%) or did not know their HIV status (1.5%).

Between 2013 and 2017 the proportion of HIV-positive men on antiretroviral treatment has increased (although this was not a statistically significant change). In the 2017 survey, 95.0% of HIV-positive men said they were receiving HIV treatment. In 2017, most of the HIV-positive men on treatment (94.8%) reported having an undetectable viral load. The proportion of men on treatment with an undetectable viral load has increased over time.

Sexual relationships with men

In 2017, over a quarter of men reported being in a monogamous relationship with a regular male partner (27.7%). A third reported having both regular and casual partners (34.1%), and just over a fifth had casual partners only (21.8%). Nearly one in six men (16.4%) reported no sexual relationships with men in the six months prior to the 2017 survey. These proportions have been relatively stable since 2013.

In 2017, mobile apps were the most common way that men met male sex partners in the six months prior to the survey (reported by 48.8%). Under a third of men (30.2%) said they had met partners through the internet. Other commonly reported ways to meet male sex partners were gay saunas (25.6%), gay bars (27.6%) and travelling overseas (22.6%). It is noticeable that between 2013 and 2016, as the use of mobile apps to meet partners increased, the use of the internet and physical venues and locations has declined. However, after consecutive years of changes in the use of mobile apps, internet and physical locations to meet partners, it appears there has been some stabilisation in the ways in which men find sex partners with only small changes between 2016 and 2017.

Regular male partners

Among men with regular partners in 2017, 51.9% reported they had an agreement with their regular partner about sex within the relationship and a smaller proportion (47.5%) reported having an agreement about sex outside the relationship. In 2017, the most commonly held agreements about sex within a relationship specified that anal intercourse could occur without a condom (33.8%) or that condoms must always be used (13.0%). The most commonly held agreements about sex outside a relationship specified that no sex with casual partners was allowed (20.8%) or that condoms must always be used (17.4%). The proportions of men with agreements about sex within or outside a relationship have fallen over time.

In 2017, among HIV-positive men with regular partners, 27.4% reported that they were in a seroconcordant relationship, 44.5% were in a serodiscordant relationship, and 28.0% said they were in a serononconcordant relationship. Since 2013 there has been a decline in the proportion of HIV-positive seroconcordant relationships.

In 2017, most HIV-negative men with regular partners reported being in a seroconcordant relationship (70.1%), with considerably smaller proportions in serononconcordant (26.2%) or serodiscordant relationships (3.7%). Since 2013 there has been a slight increase in serononconcordant relationships.

In terms of sex with regular partners, over half the men with regular partners (61.7%) reported condomless anal intercourse with their regular partners (CAIR), while 15.7% reported always using condoms for anal intercourse. In 2017, about one in four men with regular partners (22.5%) reported having no anal intercourse with their regular partner. Since 2013 there has been a decline in the proportion of men who always use condoms with regular partners and a corresponding upward trend in CAIR.

Rates of CAIR vary according to the HIV status of participants and their regular partners. In 2017, among HIV-positive men with regular partners, over a fifth (22.0%) reported seroconcordant CAIR, nearly half reported CAIR that was not concordant (44.5%), while a third of HIV-positive men in relationships (33.5%) avoided CAIR. The proportion of HIV-positive men with regular partners who report CAIR that is not concordant has increased over time.

Among HIV-negative men with regular partners in 2017, 48.1% reported CAIR that was seroconcordant, and 15.9% reported CAIR that was not concordant. Just over a third of HIV-negative men with a regular partner (35.9%) avoided CAIR. Since 2013, the proportions of HIV-negative men who report CAIR that is either concordant or not concordant have increased, while the proportion reporting no CAIR has declined.

Casual male partners

The use of condoms for anal intercourse remains more common with casual partners than with regular partners. In 2017, 30.7% of men with casual partners reported always using condoms for anal intercourse, while over half (52.0%) reported any condomless anal intercourse with casual partners (CAIC). Between 2016 and 2017, the proportion reporting any CAIC increased significantly while the proportion reporting consistent condom use with casual partners declined. Since 2013 there has been an upward trend in CAIC while the proportion reporting consistent condom use has fallen. Between 2016 and 2017 the large increase in CAIC was concentrated among the men who were HIV-negative and using PrEP (from 3.6% of casual partners in 2016 to 15.4% in 2017). Between 2016 and 2017 the proportion of casual partners who were HIV-negative or untested, engaged in CAIC but were not using PrEP did not change significantly (and remained steady at 30.0% of casual partners).

In 2017, HIV-positive men remained more likely to report any CAIC (81.2%) than HIV-negative men (50.6%) or untested men (39.2%). Since 2013, the proportions of HIV-negative and HIV-positive men reporting CAIC have increased significantly.

In 2017, HIV-positive men remained more likely to report any disclosure of their HIV status to casual sex partners compared with HIV-negative men (76.5% vs. 67.2%). However, HIV-negative men have become much more likely to report disclosure of HIV status to and from casual partners over time. Among men who reported any CAIC, a greater proportion of HIV-negative men (48.5%) consistently disclosed their HIV status to all casual partners compared with HIV-positive men (45.7%). Over time, HIV-negative men who engage in CAIC have become significantly more likely to disclose their HIV status to all casual partners, while the proportion of HIV-positive men disclosing to all casual partners has remained stable.

In 2017, the most commonly used risk reduction practice reported by HIV-positive men who had CAIC was having an undetectable viral load, frequently used by 80.4% of HIV-positive men who had CAIC. Just over a third (34.1%) of HIV-positive men who had CAIC said they frequently ensured that their partners were seroconcordant before CAIC (serosorting). The proportions of HIV-positive men who reported frequently using strategic positioning (21.7%) or withdrawal (7.3%) during CAIC were relatively small. The frequent use of undetectable viral load as a strategy by HIV-positive men has increased over time, while the use of serosorting has declined. The use of other strategies has remained stable.

Among HIV-negative men who engaged in CAIC, the most frequently used strategy was serosorting (reported by 48.5% in 2017), with smaller proportions reporting strategic positioning (22.6%), checking that HIV-positive partners had an undetectable viral load (20.3%), or withdrawal before ejaculation (14.4%). In 2017, the proportion of HIV-negative men who had CAIC who said they took PrEP significantly increased to 40.8% (from 11.5% in 2016). Among HIV-negative men who had CAIC, the frequent use of undetectable viral load and PrEP as risk reduction strategies have increased since 2013.

In 2017, we added a new question about whether men who had CAIC checked whether they knew their casual partners were on PrEP before sex. In 2017, 34.1% of HIV-positive men who had CAIC said they frequently knew their partner was on PrEP before sex, and 29.0% of HIV-negative men who had CAIC reported that their partners were on PrEP before sex.

Sexual health

As in previous surveys, in 2017 a higher proportion of HIV-positive men (89.3%) reported having any sexual health test (including a blood test for syphilis) compared with HIV-negative men (78.2%). Since 2013, there have been significant increases in the proportions of HIV-negative men reporting any STI test (with or without blood tests), while the rate of testing for HIV-positive men has been relatively stable. The use of anal and throat swabs, urine samples and blood tests for STI testing continues to improve among HIV-negative men, although HIV-positive men remain more likely to report these sampling techniques.

In 2017, a new question about STI diagnoses (other than HIV) was included in the questionnaire. In 2017, similar proportions of men reported being diagnosed with chlamydia (11.0%) or gonorrhoea (11.6%) in the year prior to the survey. A smaller proportion of men reported being diagnosed with syphilis (3.9%). One in five men (20.9%) said that they had been diagnosed with any STI in the 12 months prior to the 2017 survey. A small proportion of men (4.6%) was diagnosed with at least two different STIs in the 12 months prior to the 2017 survey.

Because of the relatively high level of STI diagnoses in the 2017 survey, we examined how STI diagnoses varied by HIV status, PrEP use, STI testing and sexual behaviour. In 2017, of those who had been tested for STIs, 28.6% of HIV-positive men, 37.3% of HIV-negative men on PrEP and 20.0% of HIV-negative and untested men not on PrEP reported a diagnosis with any STI other than HIV in the 12 months prior to survey. In 2017, 38.5% of men who had engaged in CAIC in the six months prior to the survey reported a STI diagnosis, compared with 12.4% of men who had not engaged in CAIC. It appears that STI diagnoses were concentrated among HIV-negative men on PrEP (who typically engage in higher frequency STI testing) and men who engage in condomless sex with casual partners (a higher risk practice for STI transmission).

Drug use

In 2017, recreational drug use remained common within the sample, with 63.2% reporting any drug use in the six months prior to the survey. After three consecutive years of falls in the proportion reporting the use of two or more drugs there was a significant increase in the 2017 survey. In 2017, the most frequently used drugs were amyl/poppers (43.8%), cannabis (32.2%), ecstasy (24.3%), cocaine (23.0%), Viagra (19.7%) and GHB (12.8%). Since 2013 there have been significant declines in the use of ecstasy, amphetamine/speed, crystal methamphetamine, Viagra and steroids, with a small but significant increase in the use of cocaine.

The use of party drugs for sex was reported by 18.5% of all participants in 2017, and a smaller proportion reported group sex during or after drug use (11.6%). Using party drugs for sex has declined slightly since 2013.

In general, HIV-positive men remain more likely to report drug use compared with HIV-negative men (78.7% vs 63.8% in 2016). HIV-positive men are disproportionately more likely to report using crystal methamphetamine compared with HIV-negative men (27.8% vs. 9.8% in 2017) and any injecting drug use (15.1% vs. 3.1%).

Knowledge and use of PEP and PrEP

In 2017, over seven in every 10 participants (73.1%) reported that they knew post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) was available. Over the period since 2013 there was a significant increase in knowledge of PEP, particularly between 2016 and 2017. Belief that PrEP is available has also increased sharply, particularly between 2016 and 2017, and was reported by 71.8% of men in 2017.

In 2017, 177 men (5.7%) said they had recently taken PEP and 429 men (13.9%) said they had recently taken prescribed PrEP. PrEP use increased sharply between 2016 and 2017. In 2017, the most common ways of obtaining PrEP were through a trial or study (85%), buying it online from overseas (4%) or repurposing PEP drugs (4%).

Reporting

Data are shown for the period 2013–2017. Each table includes the statistical significance (*p*-value), if any, of the change between 2016 and 2017 and the trend over time (2013–2017). An alpha level of 0.05 was used for all statistical tests. Changes between 2016 and 2017 were assessed with logistic regression (comparing one category with all the others). In tables where there are mutually exclusive categories (shown on separate rows), the *p*-value of the logistic regression test (if shown) indicates a statistically significant change within that category compared with all the others. For statistically significant trends over time, tested with logistic regression, the direction of the change (an increase or decrease) is indicated. Where there is no significant change, ns (non-significant) is shown. Where there are low frequencies or data over time are not comparable, tests have not been performed and are marked NA (not applicable). Please use caution when interpreting results where there are low frequencies. When data are missing or were not collected in a given year, this is indicated in the table by a dash (–).

Table 1: Recruitment venue

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
Fair Day	1,076 (42.3)	715 (32.2)	621 (21.8)	1,129 (37.5)	923 (27.7)	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Sexual health clinics	267 (10.5)	220 (9.9)	251 (8.8)	182 (6.0)	252 (7.6)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Sex-on-premises venues	378 (14.9)	370 (16.7)	266 (9.4)	242 (8.0)	361 (10.8)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Gay social venues	825 (32.4)	917 (41.3)	1,167 (41.0)	883 (29.3)	1,235 (37.0)	Increase <i>p</i> <.001	Increase <i>p</i> <.05
Online	-	-	541 (19.0)	579 (19.2)	563 (16.9)	Decrease <i>p</i> <.01	Decrease <i>p</i> <.05
Total	2,546 (100)	2,222 (100)	2,846 (100)	3,015 (100)	3,334 (100)		

Table 2: Age

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
Under 25	288 (11.4)	317 (14.3)	561 (19.8)	507 (16.9)	582 (17.5)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
25–29	416 (16.4)	390 (17.6)	539 (19.0)	598 (19.9)	666 (20.1)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
30–39	757 (29.9)	618 (27.9)	794 (28.0)	902 (30.1)	1,003 (30.2)	ns	ns
40–49	630 (24.9)	520 (23.5)	539 (19.0)	603 (20.1)	561 (16.9)	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
50 and over	440 (17.4)	369 (16.7)	404 (14.2)	391 (13.0)	509 (15.3)	Increase <i>p</i> <.05	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Total	2,531 (100)	2,214 (100)	2,837 (100)	3,001 (100)	3,321 (100)		

Table 3: HIV testing

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
All men							
Ever tested for HIV	2,262 (88.9)	1,985 (89.3)	2,555 (89.8)	2,629 (87.2)	2,905 (87.1)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.01
Total	2,546 (100)	2,222 (100)	2,846 (100)	3,015 (100)	3,334 (100)		
Non-HIV-positive men							
Tested for HIV in previous 12 months	1,412 (71.4)	1,306 (76.0)	1,750 (75.1)	1,887 (78.4)	2078 (78.4)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Total	1,977 (100)	1,718 (100)	2,330 (100)	2,408 (100)	2,649 (100)		

Table 4: Where non-HIV-positive men were last tested for HIV

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
General practice	1,029 (52.2)	842 (48.9)	811(43.6)	948 (39.6)	1,030 (38.9)	Decrease <i>p</i> <.05	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Sexual health clinic/hospital	892 (45.3)	677 (39.3)	864 (46.2)	1,064 (44.4)	1,202 (45.4)	ns	ns
At home	6 (0.3)	7 (0.4)	8 (0.4)	9 (0.4)	26 (1.0)	NA	NA
Community-based service	-	148 (8.6)	141 (7.5)	330 (13.8)	336 (12.7)	Increase <i>p</i> <.001	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Somewhere else	31 (1.6)	44 (2.6)	43 (2.3)	34 (1.4)	49 (1.9)	NA	NA
Total	1,970 (100)	1,722 (100)	1869 (100)	2,396 (100)	2,649 (100)		

Note: This table only includes data from men who have ever been tested for HIV.

Table 5: Number of HIV tests in the previous 12 months

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
None	628 (29.8)	511 (27.3)	608 (25.0)	695 (26.5)	727 (25.4)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
One	602 (28.6)	532 (28.4)	669 (27.5)	601 (22.9)	644 (22.5)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Two	573 (27.2)	493 (26.3)	629 (25.8)	695 (26.5)	604 (21.1)	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
3 or more	302 (14.4)	338 (18.0)	530 (21.8)	635 (24.2)	892 (31.1)	Increase <i>p</i> <.001	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Total	2,105(100)	1,847 (100)	2,436 (100)	2,626 (100)	2,867 (100)		

Note: This table only contains data from non-HIV-positive men.

Table 6: HIV test result

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
HIV-positive	267 (11.8)	254 (12.9)	217 (8.5)	213 (8.1)	246 (8.5)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
HIV-negative	1,950 (86.4)	1,697 (85.8)	2,309 (90.4)	2,369 (90.2)	2,616 (90.1)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Unknown status	39 (1.7)	30 (1.5)	29 (1.1)	44 (1.7)	42 (1.5)	ns	ns
Total	2,256 (100)	1,981 (100)	2,555 (100)	2,626 (100)	2904 (100)		

Note: This table only includes data from men who have been tested for HIV.

Table 7: Use of combination antiretroviral treatment among HIV-positive men at the time of the survey

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
On treatment	224 (87.8)	218 (89.0)	186 (90.7)	190 (92.2)	230 (95.0)	ns	ns
Total	255 (100)	245 (100)	205 (100)	206 (100)	242 (100)		

Table 8: Undetectable viral load and CD4 count among HIV-positive men at the time of the survey, by treatment status

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
Men using ART							
Undetectable viral load	199 (88.8)	205 (94.0)	178 (95.7)	181 (95.3)	218 (94.8)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.05
CD4 count > 500	108 (48.2)	126 (57.8)	114 (61.1)	98 (51.6)	132 (57.4)	ns	ns
Total	224 (100)	218 (100)	186 (100)	190 (100)	230 (100)		
Men not using ART							
Undetectable viral load	9 (29.0)	9 (36.0)	13 (68.4)	7 (43.6)	10 (83.3)	NA	NA
CD4 count > 500	11 (35.5)	15 (55.6)	11 (57.9)	4 (25.0)	3 (25.0)	NA	NA
Total	31 (100)	25 (100)	19 (100)	16 (100)	12 (100)		

Categories are not mutually exclusive.

Table 9: Current relationships with men

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
None	398 (16.6)	364 (17.2)	439 (16.1)	455 (15.6)	528 (16.4)	ns	ns
Casual only	616 (25.7)	545 (25.8)	667 (24.5)	688 (23.6)	703 (21.8)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Regular plus casual	687 (28.6)	626 (29.6)	781 (28.6)	926 (31.8)	1,097 (34.1)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Regular only (monogamous)	698 (29.1)	577 (27.3)	841 (30.8)	841 (28.9)	891 (27.7)	ns	ns
Total	2,399 (100)	2,112 (100)	2,728 (100)	2,910 (100)	3,219 (100)		

Note: Reliable data not available for 2010.

Table 10: Agreements with regular male partners about sex *within* the relationship

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
No agreement about sex within the relationship	611 (37.0)	637 (44.0)	872 (44.9)	910 (44.2)	1,113 (48.1)	Increase <i>p</i> <.01	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
No sex at all	46 (2.8)	62 (4.3)	82 (4.2)	65 (3.2)	79 (3.4)	ns	ns
No anal intercourse permitted	45 (2.7)	34 (2.4)	41 (2.1)	43 (2.1)	41 (1.8)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.05
Anal intercourse permitted only with a condom	397 (24.1)	298 (20.6)	338 (17.4)	356 (17.3)	300 (13.0)	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Anal intercourse permitted without a condom	551 (33.4)	418 (28.9)	611 (31.4)	684 (33.2)	782 (33.8)	ns	ns
Total	1,650 (100)	1,449 (100)	1,944 (100)	2,058 (100)	2,315 (100)		

Note: This table only includes data from men who reported having a regular male partner in the six months prior to the survey.

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

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
No agreement about casual sex	748 (45.3)	695 (48.0)	918 (47.2)	974 (47.3)	1,215 (52.5)	Increase <i>p</i> <.001	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
No sex with casual partners permitted	406 (24.6)	335 (23.1)	518 (26.7)	480 (23.3)	481 (20.8)	Decrease <i>p</i> <.05	Decrease <i>p</i> <.01
No anal intercourse with casual partners permitted	46 (2.8)	38 (2.6)	42 (2.2)	51 (2.5)	39 (1.7)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.05
Anal intercourse with casual partners permitted only with a condom	396 (24.0)	333 (23.0)	413 (21.2)	464 (22.6)	404 (17.4)	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Anal intercourse with casual partners permitted without a condom	54 (3.3)	48 (3.3)	53 (2.7)	89 (4.3)	176 (7.6)	Increase <i>p</i> <.001	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Total	1,650 (100)	1,449 (100)	1,944 (100)	2,058 (100)	2,315 (100)		

Note: This table only includes data from men who reported having a regular male partner in the six months prior to the survey.

Table 12: Match of HIV status between regular partners

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
HIV-positive men							
Seroconcordant	63 (40.4)	50 (34.7)	60 (40.8)	55 (37.4)	45 (27.4)	Decrease <i>p</i> <.05	Decrease <i>p</i> <.05
Serodiscordant	55 (35.3)	61 (42.4)	47 (32.0)	57 (38.8)	73 (44.5)	ns	ns
Serononconcordant	38 (24.4)	33 (22.9)	40 (27.2)	35 (23.8)	46 (28.0)	ns	ns
Total	156 (100)	144 (100)	147 (100)	147 (100)	164 (100)		
HIV-negative men							
Seroconcordant	967 (72.0)	857 (73.1)	1179 (70.9)	1,199 (71.2)	1,325 (70.1)	ns	ns
Serodiscordant	67 (5.0)	48 (4.1)	75 (4.5)	65 (3.9)	69 (3.7)	ns	ns
Serononconcordant	309 (23.0)	267 (22.8)	408 (24.6)	419 (24.9)	495 (26.2)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.05
Total	1,343 (100)	1,172 (100)	1,662 (100)	1,683 (100)	1,889 (100)		

Note: This table only includes data from men who reported having a regular male partner in the six months prior to the survey.

Table 13: Anal intercourse and condom use with regular partners

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
No anal intercourse	396 (24.0)	336 (23.2)	361 (18.6)	494 (24.0)	521 (22.5)	ns	ns
Always uses a condom	424 (25.7)	360 (24.8)	464 (23.9)	418 (20.3)	364 (15.7)	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Sometimes does not use a condom	830 (50.3)	753 (52.0)	1,119 (57.6)	1,146 (55.7)	1,430 (61.8)	Increase <i>p</i> <.001	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Total	1,650 (100)	1,449 (100)	1,944 (100)	2,058 (100)	2,316 (100)		

Note: This table only includes data from men who reported having a regular male partner in the six months prior to the survey.

Table 14: Condomless anal intercourse with regular partners, by match of HIV status

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
HIV-positive men							
Seroconcordant UAIR	48 (30.8)	37 (25.7)	45 (30.6)	42 (28.6)	36 (22.0)	ns	ns
Not concordant UAIR	33 (21.2)	43 (29.9)	41 (27.9)	50 (34.0)	73 (44.5)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
No UAIR	75 (48.1)	64 (44.4)	61 (41.5)	55 (37.4)	55 (33.5)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.01
Total	156 (100)	144 (100)	147 (100)	147 (100)	164 (100)		
HIV-negative men							
Seroconcordant UAIR	565 (42.1)	503 (42.9)	748 (45.0)	749 (44.5)	909 (48.1)	Increase <i>p</i> <.05	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Not concordant UAIR	133 (9.9)	120 (10.2)	223 (13.4)	219 (13.0)	301 (15.9)	Increase <i>p</i> <.05	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
No UAIR	645 (48.0)	549 (46.8)	691 (41.6)	715 (42.5)	679 (35.9)	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Total	1,343 (100)	1,172 (100)	1,662 (100)	1,683 (100)	1,889 (100)		

Note: This table only includes data from men who reported having a regular male partner in the six months prior to the survey.

Table 15: HIV-negative men who engaged in CAIR and always used risk-reduction strategies with partners who were not concordant

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
Took insertive position during CAIR	36 (27.1)	38 (31.7)	63 (28.3)	72 (32.9)	67 (22.3)	Decrease <i>p</i> <.01	ns
Partner withdrew before ejaculation when participant was receptive	33 (24.8)	32 (26.7)	54 (24.2)	40 (18.3)	45 (15.0)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Total (not mutually exclusive)	133	120	223	219	301		

Note: This table only includes data from men who reported having UAIR in the six months prior to the survey.

Table 16: Anal intercourse and condom use with casual partners

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
No anal intercourse	300 (19.2)	249 (17.7)	339 (19.9)	315 (16.7)	363 (17.3)	ns	ns
Always uses a condom	695 (44.4)	666 (47.3)	749 (44.0)	799 (42.4)	646 (30.7)	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Sometimes does not use a condom	570 (36.4)	493 (35.0)	616 (36.2)	770 (40.9)	1,093 (52.0)	Increase <i>p</i> <.001	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Subcategories of men who did not always use condoms:							
HIV-positive on treatment with undetectable viral load	85 (5.4)	81 (5.6)	84 (4.9)	101 (5.4)	120 (5.7)	ns	ns
HIV-negative on PrEP	11 (0.7)	18 (1.3)	12 (0.7)	68 (3.6)	324 (15.4)	Increase <i>p</i> <.001	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
HIV-positive not on treatment or detectable viral load	31 (2.0)	20 (1.4)	20 (1.2)	19 (1.0)	18 (0.9)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.01
HIV-negative/untested not on PrEP (only insertive anal intercourse)	149 (9.5)	137 (9.7)	136 (8.0)	179 (9.5)	208 (9.9)	ns	ns
HIV-negative/untested not on PrEP (any receptive anal intercourse)	294 (18.8)	237 (16.8)	364 (21.4)	403 (21.4)	423 (20.1)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.05
Total	1,565 (100)	1,408 (100)	1,704 (100)	1,884 (100)	2,102 (100)		

Note: This table only includes data from men who reported that they had any casual male partners in the six months prior to survey.

Table 17: Any condomless anal intercourse with casual partners, by HIV status of participants

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
HIV-negative men	406 (32.7)	348 (31.8)	466 (32.5)	600 (38.9)	875 (50.6)	Increase <i>p</i> <.001	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Total	1,240 (100)	1,102 (100)	1,434 (100)	1,543 (100)	1728 (100)		
HIV-positive men	116 (68.2)	101 (58.7)	105 (71.2)	120 (75.0)	138 (81.2)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Total	170 (100)	172 (100)	147 (100)	160 (100)	170 (100)		
Untested/unknown status men	48 (31.0)	41 (31.5)	45 (37.1)	50 (27.6)	80 (39.2)	Increase <i>p</i> <.05	ns
Total	155 (100)	130 (100)	123 (100)	181 (100)	204 (100)		

Note: This table only includes data from men who reported having casual male partners in the six months prior to the survey.

Untested and unknown status includes men who have never been tested for HIV and men who have been tested but do not know their results.

Table 18: Disclosure of HIV status to or from casual partners, by HIV status of participants

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
HIV-positive men							
Told casual partners	143 (84.1)	134 (77.9)	114 (77.4)	126 (78.8)	130 (76.5)	ns	ns
Told by casual partners	133 (78.2)	120 (69.8)	104 (71.2)	114 (71.3)	115 (67.7)	ns	ns
Total (not mutually exclusive)	170	172	146	160	170		
HIV-negative men							
Told casual partners	732 (59.0)	649 (59.3)	856 (59.7)	1,026 (66.5)	1161 (67.2)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Told by casual partners	733 (59.1)	659 (60.2)	870 (60.7)	1,018 (66.0)	1,170 (67.7)	Increase <i>p</i> <.01	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Total (not mutually exclusive)	1,240	1,095	1,434	1,543	1,728		

Note: This table only includes data from men who reported having casual male partners in the six months prior to the survey.

Table 19: Consistent disclosure of HIV status to casual partners among men who engaged in condomless anal intercourse, by HIV status of participants

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
HIV-positive men who disclosed to all	54 (46.6)	60 (59.4)	44 (41.4)	53 (44.2)	63 (45.7)	ns	ns
Total	116 (100)	101 (100)	105 (100)	120 (100)	138 (100)		
HIV-negative men who disclosed to all	162 (39.9)	133 (38.8)	216 (46.4)	291 (48.5)	418 (48.5)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Total	406(100)	343 (100)	466 (100)	600 (100)	862 (100)		

Note: This table only includes data from men who reported having CAIC in the six months prior to the survey.

Table 20: Positioning in condomless anal intercourse with casual male partners, by HIV status of participants

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
HIV-positive men							
Receptive only CAIC	28 (24.1)	18 (17.8)	18 (16.4)	23 (19.2)	22 (15.9)	ns	ns
Total	116 (100)	101 (100)	105 (100)	120 (100)	138 (100)		
HIV-negative men							
Insertive only CAIC	138 (34.0)	130 (37.1)	130 (27.9)	185 (30.8)	238 (27.2)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.05
Total	406 (100)	350 (100)	466 (100)	600 (100)	875 (100)		

Note: This table only includes data from men who reported having CAIC in the six months prior to the survey.

Table 21: Men who frequently used risk-reduction strategies when engaging in condomless anal intercourse with casual partners, by HIV status of participants

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
HIV-positive men							
Ensured partners were seroconcordant before CAIC (serosorting)	68 (58.6)	68 (67.3)	54 (51.0)	66 (55.0)	47 (34.1)	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Took receptive position during CAIC when partners were not concordant	22 (19.0)	22 (21.8)	14 (13.5)	24 (20.0)	30 (21.7)	ns	ns
Participant withdrew before ejaculation when he was insertive	15 (12.9)	16 (15.8)	10 (9.6)	16 (13.3)	10 (7.3)	ns	ns
Participant ensured he had an undetectable viral load before having sex	56 (48.3)	78 (77.2)	73 (69.2)	89 (74.2)	111 (80.4)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Participant knew partner was on PrEP before sex	-	-	-	-	47 (34.1)	NA	NA
Total (not mutually exclusive)	116	101	105	120	138		
HIV-negative men							
Ensured partners were seroconcordant before CAIC (serosorting)	195 (48.0)	166 (47.4)	255 (54.7)	312 (52.0)	424 (48.5)	ns	ns
Took insertive position during CAIC when partners were not concordant	88 (21.7)	88 (25.1)	98 (21.0)	140 (23.3)	198 (22.6)	ns	ns
Partner withdrew before ejaculation when participant was receptive	72 (17.7)	63 (18.0)	60 (12.9)	87 (14.5)	126 (14.4)	ns	ns
Ensured HIV-positive partner had an undetectable viral load before having sex	43 (10.6)	33 (9.4)	60 (12.9)	94 (15.7)	178 (20.3)	Increase <i>p</i> <.05	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Participant took PrEP before sex	14 (3.5)	11 (3.1)	15 (3.2)	69 (11.5)	357 (40.8)	Increase <i>p</i> <.001	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Participant knew partner was on PrEP before sex	-	-	-	-	426 (29.0)	NA	NA
Total (not mutually exclusive)	406	350	466	600	872		

Note: This table only includes data from men who reported having CAIC in the six months prior to the survey.

Table 22: Where men met their male sex partners in the six months prior to the survey

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
Internet	927 (36.4)	742 (33.4)	898 (31.6)	955 (31.7)	1,007 (30.2)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Mobile app e.g. Grindr	918 (36.1)	931 (41.9)	1308 (46.0)	1,491 (49.5)	1,627 (48.8)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Gay bar	704 (27.7)	615 (27.7)	747 (26.3)	760 (25.2)	921 (27.6)	Increase <i>p</i> <.05	ns
Other bar	-	-	243 (8.5)	264 (8.8)	301 (9.0)	ns	-
Dance party	432 (17.0)	330 (14.9)	360 (12.7)	322 (10.7)	458 (13.7)	Increase <i>p</i> <.001	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Beat	311 (12.2)	263 (11.8)	295 (10.4)	378 (12.5)	375 (11.2)	ns	ns
Gay saunas	770 (30.2)	603 (27.1)	728 (25.6)	792 (26.3)	852 (25.6)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Other sex-on-premises venues	361 (14.2)	297 (13.4)	264 (9.3)	316 (10.5)	344 (10.3)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Sex workers	91 (3.6)	65 (2.9)	81 (2.9)	82 (2.7)	123 (3.7)	Increase <i>p</i> <.05	ns
In other Australian cities	419 (16.5)	400 (18.0)	499 (17.5)	519 (17.2)	632 (18.9)	Increase <i>p</i> <.05	ns
Elsewhere in Australia	330 (13.0)	267 (12.0)	340 (12.0)	364 (12.1)	463 (13.9)	Increase <i>p</i> <.05	ns
Private sex parties	193 (7.6)	142 (6.4)	132 (4.6)	182 (6.0)	233 (7.0)	Ns	ns
Gym	210 (8.3)	175 (7.9)	190 (6.7)	234 (7.8)	266 (8.0)	ns	ns
Overseas	533 (20.9)	505 (22.7)	580 (20.4)	649 (21.5)	755 (22.6)	ns	ns
Total (not mutually exclusive)	2,546	2,222	2,846	3,015	3,334		

Table 23: STI testing among HIV-positive men in the 12 months prior to the survey

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
Anal swab	164 (61.4)	177 (69.1)	156 (71.1)	157 (72.7)	168 (66.7)	ns	ns
Throat swab	169 (63.3)	178 (69.5)	150 (68.4)	150 (69.4)	178 (70.6)	ns	ns
Penile swab	114 (42.7)	108 (42.2)	94 (42.7)	102 (47.2)	110 (43.7)	ns	ns
Urine sample	198 (74.2)	193 (75.4)	166 (75.7)	173 (80.1)	189 (75.0)	ns	ns
Blood test other than for HIV	193 (72.3)	179 (69.9)	155 (71.1)	177 (81.9)	194 (77.0)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.05
Blood test for syphilis	205 (76.8)	196 (76.6)	172 (78.4)	171 (79.2)	198 (78.6)	ns	ns
Any STI test (not including blood tests)	206 (77.2)	206 (80.5)	177 (80.7)	180 (83.3)	200 (79.4)	ns	ns
Any STI test (including blood tests)	232 (86.9)	227 (88.7)	191 (87.2)	192 (88.9)	225 (89.3)	ns	ns
Total (not mutually exclusive)	267	256	219	216	252		

Table 24: STI testing among HIV-negative men in the 12 months prior to the survey

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
Anal swab	1,001 (51.1)	876 (51.4)	1,209 (52.3)	1,442 (60.6)	1,603 (61.2)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Throat swab	1,059 (54.0)	945 (55.5)	1,268 (54.8)	1,466 (61.6)	1,647 (62.8)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Penile swab	709 (36.2)	563 (33.1)	724 (31.3)	812 (34.1)	874 (33.4)	ns	ns
Urine sample	1,181 (60.3)	1,066 (62.6)	1,450 (62.7)	1,625 (68.3)	1,832 (69.9)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Blood test other than for HIV	1,044 (53.3)	880 (51.7)	1,234 (53.4)	1,353 (56.9)	1,510 (57.6)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Blood test for syphilis	1,208 (61.6)	1,084 (63.7)	1,430 (61.8)	1,588 (66.7)	1,795 (68.5)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Any STI test (not including blood test)	1,255 (64.0)	1,131 (66.4)	1,522 (65.8)	1,683 (70.7)	1,896 (72.3)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Any STI test (including blood tests)	1,412 (72.0)	1,277 (75.0)	1,695 (73.3)	1,836 (77.1)	2,049 (78.2)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.001
Total (not mutually exclusive)	1,960	1,703	2,313	2,380	2,621		

Table 25: Recreational drug use among all men in the six months prior to the survey

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
Cannabis	775 (30.4)	692 (31.1)	864 (30.4)	888 (29.5)	1,075 (32.2)	Increase <i>p</i> <.05	ns
Amyl	1,090 (42.8)	934 (42.0)	1,139 (40.0)	1,269 (42.1)	1,459 (43.8)	ns	ns
Ecstasy	734 (28.8)	610 (27.5)	715 (25.1)	689 (22.9)	810 (24.3)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Amphetamine (speed)	270 (10.6)	217 (9.8)	231 (8.1)	214 (7.1)	269 (8.1)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Crystal methamphetamine	354 (13.9)	324 (14.6)	326 (11.5)	313 (10.4)	346 (10.4)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Viagra	579 (22.7)	472 (21.2)	529 (18.6)	589 (19.5)	657 (19.7)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.01
Cocaine	484 (19.0)	492 (22.1)	616 (21.6)	655 (21.7)	767 (23.0)	ns	Increase <i>p</i> <.01
Ketamine (special K)	218 (8.6)	162 (7.3)	223 (7.8)	185 (6.1)	278 (8.3)	Increase <i>p</i> <.001	ns
GHB	341 (13.4)	260 (11.7)	302 (10.6)	326 (10.8)	426 (12.8)	Increase <i>p</i> <.05	ns
Heroin	28 (1.1)	10 (0.5)	18 (0.6)	12 (0.4)	26 (0.8)	ns	ns
Steroids	-	78 (3.5)	82 (2.9)	58 (1.9)	92 (2.8)	Increase <i>p</i> <.05	Decrease <i>p</i> <.05
Other drugs	172 (6.8)	170 (7.7)	209 (7.3)	227 (7.5)	281 (8.4)	ns	ns
Total (not mutually exclusive)	2,546	2,222	2,846	3,015	3,334		
Number of drugs used							
None	968 (38.0)	762 (34.3)	1,080 (38.0)	1,164 (38.6)	1,226 (36.8)	ns	ns
One or two drugs	758 (29.8)	754 (33.9)	932 (32.8)	1,008 (33.4)	1,071 (32.1)	ns	ns
More than two drugs	820 (32.1)	706 (31.8)	834 (29.3)	843 (28.0)	1,037 (31.1)	Increase <i>p</i> <.01	ns
Total	2,546 (100)	2,222 (100)	2,846 (100)	3,015 (100)	3,334 (100)		

Table 26: Recreational drug use among HIV-positive men in the six months prior to the survey

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
Cannabis	106 (39.7)	106 (41.4)	84 (38.5)	82 (38.0)	97 (38.5)	ns	ns
Amyl nitrite (poppers)	149 (55.8)	134 (52.3)	115 (52.8)	132 (61.1)	142 (56.4)	ns	ns
Ecstasy	81 (30.3)	60 (23.4)	50 (22.9)	58 (26.9)	54 (21.4)	ns	ns
Amphetamine (speed)	30 (11.2)	26 (10.2)	10 (4.6)	19 (8.8)	16 (6.4)	ns	ns
Crystal methamphetamine	90 (33.7)	92 (35.9)	68 (31.2)	66 (30.6)	70 (27.8)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.05
Viagra	105 (39.3)	95 (37.1)	88 (40.4)	95 (44.0)	102 (40.5)	ns	ns
Total (not mutually exclusive)	267	256	219	216	252		
Number of drugs used							
None	59 (22.1)	55 (21.5)	51 (22.9)	46 (21.3)	53 (21.0)	ns	ns
One or two drugs	83 (31.1)	86 (33.6)	73 (33.5)	66 (30.6)	95 (37.7)	ns	ns
More than two drugs	125 (46.8)	115 (44.9)	95 (43.6)	104 (48.2)	104 (41.3)	ns	ns
Total	267 (100)	256 (100)	219 (100)	216 (100)	252 (100)		

Table 27: Recreational drug use among HIV-negative men in the six months prior to the survey

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
Cannabis	604 (30.8)	524 (30.8)	680 (29.4)	711 (29.9)	882 (33.7)	Increase <i>p</i> <.01	ns
Amyl nitrite (poppers)	871 (44.4)	735 (43.2)	950 (41.1)	1,046 (44.0)	1,225 (46.7)	Increase <i>p</i> <.05	ns
Ecstasy	607 (31.0)	515 (30.2)	602 (26.0)	584 (24.5)	702 (26.8)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Amphetamine (speed)	220 (11.2)	174 (10.2)	192 (8.3)	182 (7.7)	229 (8.7)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Crystal methamphetamine	238 (12.1)	216 (12.7)	236 (10.2)	233 (9.8)	258 (9.8)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Viagra	435 (22.2)	355 (20.9)	409 (17.7)	460 (19.3)	525 (20.0)	ns	ns
Total (not mutually exclusive)	1,960	1,703	2,313	2,380	2,621		
Number of drugs used							
None	701 (35.8)	551 (32.4)	871 (37.7)	861 (36.2)	877 (33.5)	Decrease <i>p</i> <.05	ns
One or two drugs	617 (31.5)	602 (35.4)	771 (33.3)	835 (35.1)	872 (33.3)	ns	ns
More than two drugs	642 (32.8)	550 (32.3)	671 (29.0)	684 (28.7)	872 (33.3)	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001	ns
Total	1,960 (100)	1,703 (100)	2,313 (100)	2,380 (100)	2,621 (100)		

Table 28: Injecting drug use in the six months prior to the survey, by HIV status of participants

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
All men	114 (4.5)	135 (6.1)	130 (4.6)	122 (4.1)	125 (3.8)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.01
Total	2,546 (100)	2,222 (100)	2,846 (100)	3,015 (100)	3,334 (100)		
HIV-positive men	47 (17.6)	55 (21.5)	44 (20.2)	40 (18.5)	38 (15.1)	ns	ns
Total	267 (100)	256 (100)	219 (100)	216 (100)	252 (100)		
HIV-negative men	60 (3.1)	71 (4.2)	77 (3.3)	69 (2.9)	81 (3.1)	ns	ns
Total	1,960 (100)	1,703 (100)	2,313 (100)	2,380 (100)	2,621 (100)		

Table 29: Party drug use and group sex among all men in the six months prior to the survey

	2013 <i>n</i> (%)	2014 <i>n</i> (%)	2015 <i>n</i> (%)	2016 <i>n</i> (%)	2017 <i>n</i> (%)	Change from 2016 (<i>p</i> -value)	Trend over time (<i>p</i> -value)
Used party drugs for sex	529 (20.8)	523 (23.5)	547 (19.2)	563 (18.7)	618 (18.5)	ns	Decrease <i>p</i> <.001
Engaged in group sex during or after drug use	310 (12.2)	292 (13.1)	315 (11.1)	343 (11.4)	388 (11.6)	ns	ns
Total (not mutually exclusive)	2,546	2,222	2,846	3,015	3,334		

Table 30: Knowledge and use of pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis

	2013 n (%)	2014 n (%)	2015 n (%)	2016 n (%)	2017 n (%)	Change from 2016 (p-value)	Trend over time (p-value)
Belief that PEP is available now (all men)	1,544 (60.6)	1,416 (63.7)	1,736 (61.0)	1,891 (62.7)	2,439 (73.1)	Increase $p < .001$	Increase $p < .001$
Total	2,546 (100)	2,222 (100)	2,846 (100)	3,015 (100)	3,334 (100)		
Belief that PEP is available now (non-HIV-positive men)	1,317 (57.8)	1,192 (60.6)	1551 (59.0)	1,709 (61.1)	2,211 (71.7)	Increase $p < .001$	Increase $p < .001$
Total	2,279 (100)	1,966 (100)	2,628 (100)	2,799 (100)	3,083 (100)		
Belief that PrEP is available now (all men)	-	605 (27.2)	1028 (36.1)	1,437 (47.7)	2,396 (71.8)	Increase $p < .001$	Increase $p < .001$
Total	-	2,222 (100)	2,846 (100)	3,015 (100)	3,334 (100)		
Belief that PrEP is available now (non-HIV-positive men)	-	489 (24.9)	906 (34.5)	1,290 (46.1)	2,177 (70.6)	Increase $p < .001$	Increase $p < .001$
Total	-	1,966 (100)	2,627 (100)	2,799 (100)	3,082 (100)		
Use of PEP by non-HIV-positive men in the six months prior to survey	73 (3.2)	79 (4.0)	96 (3.7)	139 (5.0)	177 (5.7)	ns	Increase $p < .001$
Total	2,279 (100)	1,966 (100)	2,627 (100)	2,799 (100)	3,082 (100)		
Use of PrEP by non-HIV-positive men in the six months prior to survey	24 (1.1)	28 (1.4)	37 (1.4)	110 (3.9)	429 (13.9)	Increase $p < .001$	Increase $p < .001$
Total	2,279 (100)	1,966 (100)	2,627 (100)	2,799 (100)	3,082 (100)		

Note: The question on awareness of PrEP was included from 2014. 'Use of PrEP' is limited to the prescribed use of PrEP in the six months prior to the survey.

Appendix

Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey 2017



Conducted by



This is a survey of sexual practices of men who have had sex with another man in the last five years. This survey is completely anonymous – please do not write your name on the questionnaire.

Your responses are very important – they provide valuable information that assists in HIV health promotion efforts. PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY ONCE ONLY THIS YEAR (including online).

Section A – About you

- How many of your friends are gay or homosexual men?
 None A few Some Most All
- How much of your free time is spent with gay or homosexual men?
 None A little Some A lot
- Which of the following best describes you:
 Male Trans male Intersex male
- Do you think of yourself as:
 Gay/Homosexual Bisexual Heterosexual
 Other _____ (please specify)
- How old are you?
 Years
- Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?
 No Yes
- What is your ethnic background? (e.g. Dutch, Greek, Vietnamese, Lebanese)
 Anglo-Australian Other _____
- Where were you born?
 Australia Overseas
- Where do you live?
 Postcode OR
 Suburb/Town
- Are you:
 Employed full-time A student
 Employed part-time Unemployed
 On pension/social security Other
- What is your occupation? (e.g. bartender, teacher, welder)
 (specify)
- What is the highest level of education you have completed?
 Up to Year 10
 Year 12 / HSC / QCE / SACE / VCE / WACE
 Tertiary diploma or trade certificate / TAFE
 University degree

Go to section B ↗

Section B – Your sex partners



In this survey we distinguish between **REGULAR** (boyfriends/fuck buddies) and **CASUAL** partners

- Do you **currently** have sex with **casual** male partners?
 No Yes
- Do you **currently** have sex with a **regular** male partner (or partners)?
 No Yes
- How would you describe your sexual relationship with your current **regular** male partner(s)? (choose 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 → **Go to Section C →**
- If you are **in a 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 relationship with a man → **Go to Section C →**
- Do you have a **clear (spoken) agreement** about sex **within your relationship**?
 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
- Do you have a **clear (spoken) agreement** in your relationship about sex **with casual male 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

Go to section C →

Section C – Sex in the last 6 months

19. How many different men have you had sex with in the last 6 months?

- 1 None 4 6–10 men 7 More than 50 men
 2 One 5 11–20 men
 3 2–5 men 6 21–50 men

20. In the last 6 months how often have you had sex with men you met at or through:

	Never	Occasionally	Often
Internet	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Mobile app e.g. Grindr, Scruff	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Gay bar	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Other bar	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Dance party	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Gym	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Beat	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Gay sauna	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Other sex venue	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Sex workers	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Private sex parties	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
In other Australian cities	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Elsewhere in Australia	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Overseas	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>

21. In the last 6 months, how often did you have group sex involving at least two other men?

- 1 Every week 3 Once / A few times
 2 Monthly 4 Never

22. In the last 6 months, how often have you been paid for sex?

- 1 Every week 3 Once / A few times
 2 Monthly 4 Never

Section D – Regular male partners – last 6 months

23. Have you had sex with regular male partner/s in the last 6 months?

- 1 Yes ↓ 2 No → **Go to section E ↗**

i In the last 6 MONTHS how often have you done the following with any of your REGULAR male partner/s?

Anal sex regular partner/s:

24. I fucked him with a condom.

- 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often

25. He fucked me with a condom.

- 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often

26. I fucked him without a condom but pulled out before I came.

- 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often

27. He fucked me without a condom but pulled out before he came.

- 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often

28. I fucked him without a condom and came inside.

- 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often

29. He fucked me without a condom and came inside.

- 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often

Section E – Casual male partners – last 6 months

30. Have you had any sex with any casual male partner/s in the last 6 months?

- 1 Yes 2 No → **Go to section F →**

i In the last 6 MONTHS how often have you done the following with any of your CASUAL male partner/s?

Anal sex casual partner/s:

31. I fucked him with a condom.

- 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often

32. He fucked me with a condom.

- 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often

33. I fucked him without a condom but pulled out before I came.

- 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often

34. He fucked me without a condom but pulled out before he came.

- 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often

35. I fucked him without a condom and came inside.

- 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often

36. He fucked me without a condom and came inside.

- 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often

HIV disclosure casual partner/s

37. How many of your casual partners did you tell your HIV status before sex?

- 1 None 2 Some 3 All

38. How many of your casual partners told you their HIV status before sex?

- 1 None 2 Some 3 All

HIV status of casual partner/s

39. In the last 6 months, did you have any sex with casual partners who were:

- HIV-positive 1 Yes 2 No 3 Don't know
 HIV-negative 1 Yes 2 No 3 Don't know
 Untested 1 Yes 2 No 3 Don't know

40. In the last 6 months, did you fuck or get fucked without a condom with casual partners who were:

- HIV-positive 1 Yes 2 No 3 Don't know
 HIV-negative 1 Yes 2 No 3 Don't know
 Untested 1 Yes 2 No 3 Don't know

Survey continues on next page



The following questions are for men who have had **any anal sex *without* a condom with casual male partner(s) in the last 6 months.**

If you have not had any anal sex without a condom with casual male partners, go to section F ↩

41. In the last 6 months, if you had anal sex without a condom with any casual male partner(s), how often did you do any of the following to avoid getting or passing on HIV?

- I made sure we were the **same HIV status** before we fucked without a condom 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often 4 Always
- I chose to take the **top role** (I fucked him) because his HIV status was different or unknown to me 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often 4 Always
- I chose to take the **bottom role** (he fucked me) because his HIV status was different or unknown to me 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often 4 Always
- When I fucked him, I chose to **pull out before cumming** because his HIV status was different or unknown to me 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often 4 Always
- When he fucked me, I made sure **he pulled out before cumming** because his HIV status was different or unknown to me 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often 4 Always
- I took anti-HIV medication (**PrEP**) before sex 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often 4 Always
- I knew my partner was on **PrEP** before we had sex 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often 4 Always
- When my partner was HIV-positive, I checked **he had an undetectable viral load** before we had sex 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often 4 Always
- I knew **I had an undetectable viral load** before we had sex 1 Never 2 Occasionally 3 Often 4 Always

Go to section F ↩

Section F – HIV testing and HIV status

42. Have you ever had an HIV test?

- 1 No 2 Yes

43. When were you last tested for HIV?

- 1 Never tested 5 7–12 months ago
 2 Less than a week ago 6 1–2 years ago
 3 1–4 weeks ago 7 2–4 years ago
 4 1–6 months ago 8 More than 4 years ago

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

- 1 No test/Don't know 3 Positive
 2 Negative

45. Where did you have your last HIV test?

- 1 No test/don't know 5 Private home
 2 GP 6 Community-based service
 3 Sexual health clinic e.g. a[TEST]
 4 Hospital 7 Somewhere else

46. How many HIV tests have you had in the last 12 months?

- 1 None (no tests) 4 3-4 tests
 2 One test 5 5 or more tests
 3 Two tests

47. If you have a regular partner, do you know the result of his HIV test?

- 1 Positive 3 I don't know/He hasn't had a test
 2 Negative 4 No regular partner

48. If your regular partner is HIV positive, what was his last viral load test result?

- 1 Undetectable 3 Don't know/unsure
 2 Detectable 4 No HIV-positive partner



If you are **HIV-positive** please complete the next five questions. If not, go to section G →

49. When were you first diagnosed as HIV-positive?

Year

50. In the last 12 months, how many clinical appointments about managing HIV have you attended?

- 1 None 2 1-2 3 3-4 4 5 or more

51. Are you on combination antiretroviral therapy (HIV treatment)?

- 2 Yes 1 No

52. What was your last viral load test result?

- 1 Undetectable
 2 Detectable
 3 Don't know/unsure

53. What was your last CD4 count?

- 1 ≤200 4 >500
 2 201-350 5 Don't know/unsure
 3 351-500

Go to section G →

Survey concludes on next page

Section G – STI testing

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

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

55. Have you ever been tested for **hepatitis C**?

- Yes No Don't know

56. Do you have chronic **hepatitis C**?

- Yes No Don't know

57. Which **sexually transmitted infection(s)** other than HIV were you diagnosed with in the last 12 months?

- Chlamydia Gonorrhoea
 Syphilis Other
 Not been diagnosed with an STI in the last 12 months

Go to section H ↓


Section H – Medication to prevent HIV

58. What do you know about **post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)**?
PEP is a month-long course of anti-HIV medication prescribed after an exposure to HIV.

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

59. What do you know about **pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)**?
PrEP is anti-HIV medication you take regularly to protect yourself from HIV.

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

 If you are **HIV-positive** you can skip the next two questions and go to **section I** ↗

60. In the **last 6 months**, did you take a prescribed course of **PEP** because you were exposed to HIV?

- No
 Yes, once
 Yes, more than once

61. In the **last 6 months**, did you take anti-HIV medication regularly to protect yourself from HIV (**PrEP**)?

- No → **Go to Section I** ↗
 Yes, I was prescribed anti-HIV medication to take every day
 Yes, I took anti-HIV medication that was not prescribed

Continues at top of page ↗

62. If you took **PrEP** in the **last 6 months**, where did you get it from?

- A trial or study I bought it online (from overseas)
 I used drugs prescribed for PEP
 Chemist Other

Go to section I ↓

Section I – Drug use

63. How often have you **used** these drugs in the **last 6 months**?

	Never	Once/ twice	At least monthly	Every week
Amyl/poppers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marijuana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Viagra/Cialis etc	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ecstasy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cocaine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crystal meth / ice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GHB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ketamine (special K)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heroin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steroids	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other drug	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

64. In the **last 6 months**, how often have you had **more than four alcoholic drinks on one occasion**?

- Every week Once or twice
 At least monthly Never

65. Have you **ever** injected drugs?

- Yes No

66. How often have you **injected** drugs in the **last 6 months**?

- Every week Once or twice
 At least monthly Never

67. In the **last 6 months**, how often have you used party drugs for the purpose of sex?

- Every week Once or twice
 At least monthly Never

68. In the **last 6 months**, how often have you had group sex after or while using party drugs?

- Every week Once or twice
 At least monthly Never

The survey concludes here.

Thank you for your time.



As this survey is anonymous, feedback cannot be provided directly. Please check the CSRH and ACON websites for the results of this survey.

<https://csrh.arts.unsw.edu.au>
<http://www.acon.org.au>