

# Sexual health and behaviour of men in New South Wales 2013–2014

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## Note

This report is based on an analysis of data from the Second Australian Study of Health and Relationships on men in New South Wales. Readers seeking national data on men and women are referred to the papers published in the November 2014 issue of the journal *Sexual Health*. Please see [www.ashr.edu.au](http://www.ashr.edu.au) for a data summary and news of further publications from the study.

## Abbreviations

AAPOR	American Association for Public Opinion Research
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACON	AIDS Council of NSW
ASHR	Australian Study of Health and Relationships
ASHR2	Second Australian Study of Health and Relationships
BDSM	bondage and discipline, 'somasochism' and/or dominance and submission
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
MSM	men who have sex with men (in this report, men who have had anal, oral or manual sex with at least one man in the last 12 months)
NSW	New South Wales
RDD	random digit dialling
SGCPS	Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey
STI	sexually transmissible infection



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is based on an analysis of data from men in NSW recruited as part of the Second Australian Study of Health and Relationships (ASHR2) combined with a separate oversample of 1015 men commissioned by NSW Health. The report presents detailed findings on men's sexual identity and sexual practices, protective behaviours such as condom use, experience of sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and STI testing (including HIV).

Results were weighted to adjust for the study design and to match Australian Bureau of Statistics data for age and area of residence (urban, regional, remote), resulting in an adjusted representative sample of 4190 men aged 16–69 in NSW.

Of the sample of NSW men, 4% self-identified as gay, bisexual, queer or 'other'. Asked about sexual attraction, 8% reported that they had ever been sexually attracted to a male and 7% had had at least one sexual experience with a male.

Men in NSW reported having had sex (vaginal or anal intercourse, oral sex or manual sex) with a median number of seven female partners in their lifetime and one in the past year. The median age at first intercourse with a female partner was 17 years and the age of their first female partner was also 17 years. Among the men who had had vaginal intercourse with a casual partner in the previous six months, 48% always used a condom.

Nearly 6% of men in NSW had had sex (anal intercourse, oral sex or manual sex) with at least one male partner, and 4% had had at least one male partner with whom they had ever had anal intercourse. Among the men who had had anal intercourse with a casual partner in the previous six months, around 60% always used a condom.

Nearly one in five (19%) men in NSW had ever paid anyone for sex (including oral and manual sex) in his lifetime; 2% had paid for sex with a woman in the previous year.

Most results in this report are given separately for men who had had sex with another man in the past year (referred to here as MSM) and for other men (non-MSM). MSM were similar to other men in age, country of birth, indigenous status, self-reported general health, employment status and household income, but were more likely to speak English at home, to be unmarried, and to have tertiary education.

Asked about a range of issues including premarital sex, abortion, pornography and homosexual activity, most men had fairly liberal attitudes, but 80% considered having an affair when in a committed relationship to be always wrong. MSM had more liberal sexual attitudes than other men.

Current smoking was more common among MSM (34%) than other men (18%).

Nearly 60% of MSM but only 11% of other men had been tested for any STI in the past year, reflecting higher rates of testing among those most at risk. MSM were more likely to report having had an STI in their lifetime and in the past year. Diagnosis of HIV was reported by 5% of MSM tested and <1% of other men tested.

Nearly 1 in 4 MSM and less than 1 in 20 of other men had ever experienced sexual coercion (being forced or frightened into doing something sexual they did not want).

Nearly 70% of MSM and 13% of other men had used an internet site or smartphone application to look for partners in the past year. Nearly all (95%) of the MSM and 63% of other men had looked at pornographic material in the past year.

Compared with men in the 2013 Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey (SGCPS), MSM in our sample were more likely to be under 25 or over 50 and less likely to be HIV positive. Figures for STI testing and unprotected sex with casual partners were similar.

Further public health efforts are needed to increase or maintain condom use and to increase HIV/STI testing, especially among men who have sex with men.



## INTRODUCTION

In 1998, the National Health and Medical Research Council funded the pilot study for the Australian Study of Health and Relationships (ASHR), the first large national representative-sample survey of sexual behaviour in the Australian population. The main study, conducted in 2001–2002, of 19,307 men and women aged 16–59 randomly selected from households across Australia, was funded by the Australian Department of Health and Ageing. It was conducted by computer-assisted telephone interview using landline phone numbers only. At that time, NSW Health recognised that specific geographical targeting of higher risk populations would be particularly valuable, as it would allow the comparison of representative population-based risk data with existing data collected through convenience samples such as the Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey (SGCPS). Accordingly, NSW Health funded a sample of 1000 extra interviews of men living in certain inner Sydney postcodes in order to oversample homosexual men. In addition, the then Central Sydney Area Health Service funded an oversample of 1000 men and women living in its catchment area. The resulting oversampling of inner Sydney in the first ASHR (ASHR1) enabled the first population-based enumeration of the gay male population of Sydney (Madeddu et al., 2006), and revealed that in certain inner Sydney postcodes, as many as 10% to 52% of the male population had same-sex experience and 4% to 48% identified as homosexual/gay or bisexual—up to 19 times as high a percentage as in Australia in general (6.0% same-sex experience; 2.5% gay or bisexual) (Smith et al., 2003a; Rissel et al., 2003).

In 2010, the same research team was awarded National Health and Medical Research Council funding covering the period 2011–2013 for the Second Australian Study of Health and Relationships (ASHR2), which recruited over 20,000 people aged 16–69 across the country. In 2013 the NSW Ministry of Health commissioned the investigators of ASHR2 to perform an oversample of men in New South Wales and to examine the population distribution of homosexually active men and trends in sexual risk behaviour over time, including partner numbers, sexual practices, condom use and reported experience of sexually transmissible infections (STIs). In 2013 it was not possible to target specific postcodes, as had been done for the 2001–2002 inner Sydney oversample, because of the use of sampling by mobile phone numbers and because the location of many landline numbers could not be identified, due to the allocation of numbers that are not specific to a telephone exchange (e.g. through bundled services).

This report includes men in NSW from the main ASHR2 study and the oversample, and presents detailed findings on men's sexual identity, sexual practices, risk and protective behaviours such as condom use, experience of sexually transmissible infections and of testing, including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Further, the addition of over 1000 men to those recruited within the national random sample increased the statistical power of subgroup analyses within the NSW data. This allows comparison with local gay-community-based samples already funded by NSW Health and/or ACON (formerly AIDS Council of NSW) and increases their credibility and usefulness for monitoring behaviour and health outcomes in this high-risk group.

The two main goals of this report are:

1. To record sexual and health behaviour relevant to HIV and STI in men who have sex with men and to compare them with other men in NSW
2. To evaluate the representativeness of the Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey sample in comparison with the population-representative sample of homosexually active NSW men in ASHR2.

## METHODS

This study is based on a combination of two datasets: the men located in NSW who responded to the Second Australian Study of Health and Relationships (ASHR2) survey in 2012–2013, and an oversample of men in NSW conducted in late 2013 and early 2014.

The methodology for ASHR2 is given in detail elsewhere (Richters et al., 2014a). Briefly, between October 2012 and November 2013, computer-assisted telephone interviews were completed by a representative sample of 20,094 Australian residents aged 16–69 years from all states and territories. Respondents were selected using dual-frame modified random digit dialling (RDD), combining directory-assisted landline-based RDD with RDD of mobile telephones. Of these, 3177 were men in NSW, 1528 of whom were recruited by landline and 1649 by mobile phone.

The oversample in NSW was conducted entirely by mobile phone. A total of 1018 men were recruited in the oversample.

In ASHR2 and in the oversample, in order to maximise the data collected from people who had engaged in less common or more risky behaviours, all respondents who had had no sexual partners in the previous year, who had had more than one partner in the previous year, or who reported having ever had same-sex sexual experience completed a long form of the interview, which collected detailed data on their sexual attitudes, relationships and behaviours. Of the larger proportion of respondents who reported one partner in the previous year and no same-sex experience, 20% were randomly selected to complete the long-form interview and the other 80% completed a short-form interview. As a consequence, 1732 men in NSW completed the long-form interview, and 2463 completed the short-form interview. Answers to questions that occurred only in the long-form interview are reported after weighting to reflect the sample as a whole. Note that this process has no effect on the results for homosexually active men in this report, as all such men completed the long form of the interview.

### *Sampling and response rates*

Over 70,000 telephone calls were made to achieve the 4195 interviews. The most common reasons for calls not resulting in interviews were that the telephone number was not allocated or that the household did not contain an eligible person. For landline interviews, where an eligible household was identified and an interview not completed, refusals by the selected participant were slightly more common than household refusals. The landline participation rate among eligible men contacted (i.e. American Association for Public Opinion Research 'cooperation rate 3') (AAPOR, 2011) was 64.4%. Within the national mobile phone ASHR2 sample, the participation rate was 66.2% and within the NSW oversample by mobile phone, 69.5%.

Of the 4195 interviews obtained with men in NSW, three had missing or poor data and were removed from the dataset for analysis, giving a total of 4192 usable interviews. Of these, 1528 (36.5%) were recruited by landline and 2664 (63.5%) by mobile phone.

## Questionnaire

The questionnaire was designed to maximise comparability with Australian and international studies and covered a broad range of topics, not all of which are covered in this report.<sup>1</sup>

Topics include:

- Sexual initiation: age at first sexual experience and first sexual intercourse; prior duration and nature of relationship with partner; sex of partner
- Sexual history: number of sexual partners ever; ever had same-gender sex; ever practised oral sex or vaginal or anal intercourse; ever had an STI; knowledge about STIs
- Condom use with regular and casual partners, including most recent sexual encounter; attitudes towards sexual exclusivity and STIs; paid sex ever or in the last 12 months as client or worker; knowledge of STI risks; use of the internet to seek partners
- Experience of selected autoerotic practices (masturbation, viewing pornography etc.) and less common practices (anal fingering, rimming, fisting etc.)
- Sociodemographic factors: standard sociodemographic questions (such as age, education, occupation, religion, number and age of any children, state and postcode), as well as standard behavioural questions associated with sexual behaviour and general health (such as alcohol, tobacco use and injecting drug use).

Respondents' ages were recoded into six groups (16–19, 20–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59 and 60–69 years). Languages spoken at home were recoded as English or a language other than English. Sexual identity (in answer to the question 'Do you think of yourself as ...') was coded as heterosexual, homosexual/gay, or bisexual; too few respondents stated that they were 'queer', 'other', or 'undecided' to allow analysis of these groups. Respondents' reports of their highest completed level of education were recoded to distinguish between those who had not (yet) completed secondary school, those who had completed secondary school, and those who had completed post-secondary education. Respondents' postcodes were used with the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) to determine whether respondents lived in a major city, a regional area, or a remote area (i.e. areas with relatively unrestricted, restricted, and very restricted access to goods, services and opportunities for social interaction, respectively) (DoHA, 2001). To approximate the gross annual household income quintiles reported by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for 2009–10, respondents' reported annual household incomes were grouped into five categories: less than \$28,000, \$28,001–\$52,000, \$52,001–\$83,000, \$83,001–\$125,000, and more than \$125,000 (ABS, 2011). Respondents' reported occupations were coded into the nine major categories of the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO), and then recoded to distinguish between managerial/ professional occupations, white-collar occupations and blue-collar occupations (ABS, 1997).

Reports of alcohol consumption frequency and volume were used to determine whether respondents exceeded the 2001 NHMRC guidelines of 28 standard drinks a week for men (NHMRC, 2001).

Respondents used a five-point scale (Strongly agree / Agree / Neither / Disagree / Strongly disagree) to indicate the extent of their agreement with 11 attitude statements (de Visser et al., 2014a).

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<sup>1</sup> Information based on the national sample on topics not covered in this report can be accessed in papers published in *Sexual Health* 11(5), November 2014, or from the investigators.

Psychological distress (negative mood) was measured by six items (Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.83$ ) from the Kessler-10 distress scale (Kessler et al., 2002). A five-point scale from 'All of the time' to 'None of the time' was offered for responses to items about depressive and anxious symptoms over the previous month.

### *Analysis*

The combined dataset of 4192 men was weighted to adjust for the probability of each respondent being selected for a landline or mobile phone interview, a long-form interview, and (for landline participants) the number of in-scope men in the household. Data were then weighted to match the NSW population on the basis of age, area of residence (i.e. ARIA category) and telephone ownership (i.e. mobile telephone only versus other), resulting in an adjusted sample size of 4190 men. The data were thus weighted to account for the specifics of our sample design and the fact that particular types of men were slightly over- or under-represented. Although data were adjusted to allow for the study design and adjusted to match ABS data for age and area of residence (urban, regional, remote), the sample is not perfectly representative of all men in NSW. As in most telephone surveys, men with higher levels of education and higher status occupations were more likely to participate. Further details of weighting and representativeness can be found elsewhere (Richters et al., 2014a).

Weighted data were analysed using the survey estimation commands in Stata Version 11.2.32 (StataCorp, 2009). Categorical variables (e.g. indigenous status) are presented as proportions of each category. Continuous variables (e.g. number of sexual partners) are summarised using median and range. Categories were compared using  $\chi^2$  tests with  $P < 0.05$  as the criterion for statistically significant difference. Continuous variables were compared between categories using the rank sum test with  $P < 0.05$  as the criterion for significantly different.

Many of the tables in this report show men who have sex with men (MSM) separately from other men. We defined an MSM as a respondent who reported having had sex (anal intercourse, oral sex or manual sex) with at least one man in the past 12 months.

Some estimates may not be reliable because they are based on very small numbers of men, especially when findings for the MSM subgroup are being tabulated. Rather than leave blanks, we have indicated such estimates with a double dagger (‡) sign where the numerator is less than 5 men or the denominator less than 100. For these estimates the standard error is large relative to the estimate itself. Note also that although most tables show all percentages to one decimal place, this does not necessarily reflect the precision of the point estimates. For estimates relating to MSM (as defined above), 95% confidence intervals (CIs) are  $\pm 5\%$  to  $10\%$ .

For the six questions (Kessler-6) (Kessler et al., 2002) about the frequency of negative feelings in the past month, we recoded the response to each question as 1 for 'all the time', 2 for 'most of the time', 3 for 'some of the time', 4 for 'a little of the time' and 5 for 'none of the time'. We calculated the total score for the six questions with a possible range of 6–30. Men who had a score of 18 or less were categorised as those suffering from psychological distress.

### *Comparisons with the Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey*

We compared demographic and behavioural characteristics of MSM in our sample with those from the 2013 Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey (SGCPS) (Hull et al., 2013). The SGCPS is a cross-sectional survey of gay and homosexually active men recruited at a range of gay community sites in Sydney conducted by the Centre for Social Research in Health and the Kirby Institute at the University of New South Wales. 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 STIs among gay men in Sydney. In February 2013, a sample of 2546 men was recruited at 21 data collection sites which included gay social venues (bars and gyms), sex-on-premises venues, sexual health clinics and Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day.

### *Terminology*

Although in colloquial usage the word ‘gay’, for example, is often used interchangeably to describe a man who says that he is gay, or a man who finds men sexually attractive, or a man who currently has a male partner, we have distinguished in our presentation of results between (1) how men think of themselves (sexual identity), (2) whether they are attracted to other men, and (3) whether they have had sex with males and/or females (sexual experience). We use the term ‘gay men’ only to refer to men who identify as gay or homosexual. Similarly, we use ‘bisexuals’ only to refer to men who identify in this way.

We have used the term ‘sexual practices’ to mean specific sexual acts such as fellatio or vaginal intercourse. We use ‘oral sex’ to mean oral-genital sex, i.e. fellatio and cunnilingus, but excluding kissing on the mouth or body (which we did not ask about) and rimming (oral–anal contact). We do not include oral sex in our definition of intercourse or coitus, which means vaginal or anal intercourse only. When discussing sexual practices men engaged in with a partner, we use the term ‘manual sex’ to mean manual or digital stimulation of the penis of one partner by the other. In discussion of autoerotic activities, ‘masturbation’ means self-stimulation while alone. We did not ask about self-stimulation in front of the partner or during sex with the partner.

In this report we use the term ‘sexual partner’ in the epidemiological sense to mean anyone the respondent had sex with, even if he does not think of them as a partner in a social sense. If we mean the respondent’s girlfriend, wife, de facto spouse, boyfriend or civil partner, we refer to the ‘regular partner’. Thus sexual partners can be regular or casual, even anonymous.

### *Ethics committee approval*

The study protocol for ASHR2 was approved by the Human Ethics Committee of La Trobe University (HEC 11-040) and ratified by the committees at the University of New South Wales, the University of Sydney and the University of Sussex. In November 2012 oversight of the project was transferred to the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of New South Wales, which also approved the extension of the project in November 2013 to include the men’s oversample in NSW (HC11431).



## RESULTS

### Sexual identity, sexual attraction and sexual experience

Among the 4190 NSW men in the weighted sample, just under 4% identified themselves as homosexual/gay, bisexual or queer. (Only two men identified as queer.) The majority of men (92%) were sexually attracted to females only, around 8% had ever been sexually attracted to males, and around 7% had had any sexual experience with males (Table 1). Overall, 7.3% of men identified as homosexual or bisexual, or had some same-sex attraction or same-sex experience. These figures are very similar to those in the national ASHR2 sample (Richters et al., 2014b) and indeed to those in other national representative-sample surveys in developed countries. Although there is high correlation between sexual identity, reported attraction and sexual experience, they do not entirely overlap. In the national sample, among men who have experienced both same-sex contact and same-sex attraction, more than a third identify as heterosexual rather than gay or bisexual. Of men who identify as gay, about half have also had sex with women (Richters et al., 2014b).

**Table 1 Self-reported sexual identity, lifetime sexual attraction and sexual experience among NSW men**

	NSW men %
Sexual identity ( <i>n</i> =4186)	
Heterosexual	96.4
Homosexual/gay	2.2
Bisexual	1.2
Queer	0.1‡
Other/Not stated	0.1‡
Sexual attraction ( <i>n</i> =4182)	
Only to women	92.2
Only to men	1.3
To both men and women	6.3
To no one	0.2
Sexual experience ( <i>n</i> =4186)	
Only with females	90.2
Only with males	1.1
With both males and females	6.2
With no one	2.4

‡Estimate unreliable due to small numbers.



## Sexual behaviour with women

### *Number of female partners*

Men reported a median of seven lifetime female partners for all forms of sex (vaginal or anal intercourse, oral sex or manual sex) and five lifetime female partners for vaginal and/or anal intercourse. In the past 12 months the median number of partners was one for both intercourse and any form of sex (Table 2). About 12% of men had had sex with two or more women in the previous 12 months.

**Table 2 Number of female sex partners among men in NSW (N=4184)**

	Lifetime %	Past 12 months %
For any form of sex		
0	6.9	15.5
1	12.5	72.2
2	6.9	4.5
3–9	30.8	6.5
10–49	35.7	1.2
50+	7.2	0.1
<i>Median</i>	7	1
<i>Maximum</i>	1288	400
For vaginal and/or anal intercourse		
0	7.7	16.3
1	15.8	72.6
2	8.3	4.6
3–9	31.5	5.5
10–49	32.1	0.8
50+	4.4	0.1
<i>Median</i>	5	1
<i>Maximum</i>	1000	400

\*Vaginal or anal intercourse, oral sex, manual sex.

### Age at first vaginal intercourse

The median age at first vaginal intercourse with a female partner was 17 years. The median age of their first vaginal intercourse partner was 17 years. Nearly one in five men first had intercourse with a female partner before the age of 16. About one in 12 men had intercourse with their first female partner within 24 hours of meeting her (Table 3).

**Table 3 First vaginal intercourse with a female partner, among those who had ever had vaginal intercourse**

	NSW men %
Age first had sex with a female partner (years) (n=3865)	
<16	18.9
16–17	34.7
18–24	40.3
25–34	6.0
35–44	0.3
45–54	0.0‡
≥55	0
Median (range)	17 (1–50)
Age of first female sex partner (years) (n=3845)	
<16	15.0
16–17	35.0
18–24	41.7
25–34	7.4
35–44	0.7
45–54	0.1‡
≥55	0
Median (range)	17 (6–50)
Time knew first female partner before having sex with her (n=3851)	
Less than 24 hours	8.0
More than a day but less than a week	4.5
More than a week, less than a month	9.1
More than a month, less than a year	37.4
A year or more	41.0

‡Estimate unreliable due to small numbers.

### *Condom use with women*

Although most men had used a condom at some time in their lives for sex with a woman, condom use was less common in regular relationships (Table 4). Among men who had had sex with casual partners in the previous six months, 48% had always used a condom with those partners. A quarter of the men who had vaginal intercourse at their most recent sexual encounter had used a condom, reflecting the high proportion of men whose most recent encounter was with a regular partner. Some of this condom use would have been for contraception and possibly not adequate for STI prevention. About 17% of men always used a condom with a regular partner over the previous six months.

**Table 4 Condom use with female partners**

	NSW men %
Ever used a condom in sex with a female partner in lifetime ( <i>n</i> =3921)	92.3
Frequency of condom use in vaginal intercourse with regular female partner(s) in past 6 months ( <i>n</i> =2885)*	
Never	67.6
Occasionally	9.4
Often	6.3
Always	16.6
Frequency of condom use in vaginal intercourse with casual female partner(s) in past 6 months ( <i>n</i> =419)†	
Never	30.0
Occasionally	9.3
Often	11.7
Always	49.0
Used condom for vaginal intercourse in most recent sexual encounter ( <i>n</i> =2469)	27.6

\*Among those who had a regular female partner.

†Among those who sex with at least one casual female partner.

## Sexual behaviour with men

### *Number of male partners*

Just under 6% of men reported having had at least one lifetime male partner for any form of sex (anal intercourse, oral sex or manual sex) and 4% reported any lifetime male partners for anal intercourse. Between 2% and 3% had had sex with a male in the past 12 months (Table 5).

**Table 5 Number of male sex partners among men in NSW (N=4187)**

	Lifetime %	Past 12 months %
For any form of sex*		
0	94.3	97.3
1	1.9	1.1
2	0.4	0.2
3–9	1.1	0.7
10–49	1.1	0.7
50+	1.2	0.1‡
Median	0	0
Maximum	1103	92
For anal intercourse		
0	95.7	97.6
1	1.6	1.2
2	0.3	0.2
3–9	0.8	0.4
1–49	0.8	0.5
50+	0.7	0.1‡
Median	0	0
Maximum	501	46

\*Anal intercourse, oral sex, manual sex.

‡Estimate unreliable due to small numbers.

### Age at first sex with a male partner

Among the 278 men who had ever had sex (anal intercourse, oral sex or manual sex) with a male, the median age the first time was 18 years. The median age of their first male partner was 22 years. Nearly one in five men first had sex with a male partner before the age of 16. About one in four men had sex with their first male partner within 24 hours of knowing him (Table 6).

**Table 6 First sex with a male partner among men in NSW**

	NSW men %
Age first had sex with a male partner (years) (n=236)	
<16	19.6
16–17	21.7
18–24	38.3
25–34	14.6
35–44	2.1
45–54	3.2
≥55	0.5‡
Median (range)	18 (5–60)
Age of first male sex partner (years) (n=111)	
<16	6.3
16–17	28.5
18–24	43.8
25–34	15.4
35–44	4.6
45–54	1.0‡
≥55	0.5‡
Median (range)	22 (10–64)
Time knew first male partner before having sex with him (n=236)	
Less than 24 hours	25.6
More than a day but less than a week	5.8
More than a week, less than a month	8.9
More than a month, less than a year	19.1
A year or more	40.7

‡Estimate unreliable due to small numbers.

## Condom use with men

In the previous six months, two thirds of men did not consistently use a condom in anal sex with a regular male partner (Table 7). However, some of these men may have a negotiated safety agreement in a seroconcordant relationship. Only 60% (95% CI 47–71%) of men having anal intercourse with casual partners in the last six months reported always using condoms with those partners. Figures for condom use at the most recent encounter reflect the fact that many of these encounters were with regular partners.

**Table 7 Condom use for sex with men, among men who had ever had sex with a male partner (N=238)**

	NSW men %
Ever used a condom in sex with male partners in lifetime	61
Frequency of condom use in anal intercourse with regular male partner in last 6 months (n=59)*	
Never	50‡
Occasional	13‡
Often	1‡
Always	37‡
Frequency of condom use in anal intercourse with casual male partners in last 6 months (n=71)†	
Never	31‡
Occasional	3‡
Often	7‡
Always	60‡
Used a condom for insertive anal intercourse in most recent sexual encounter with a male partner (n=27)	46‡
Used a condom for receptive anal intercourse in most recent sexual encounter with a male partner (n=22)	41‡

\*Among those who had a regular male partner.

†Among those who sex with at least one casual male partner.

‡Estimate unreliable due to small numbers.

## Commercial sex

Table 8 shows experience of commercial sex among men. Seventeen per cent of men had ever paid for sex with a woman in their lifetime and 2% had done so in the past 12 months. Less than 1% of men had ever paid for sex with a man in their lifetime. Only about 1% of men reported ever having been paid for sex with either women or men.

**Table 8 Commercial sex among men in NSW (N=4152)**

	NSW men %
Ever paid anyone for sex including oral and manual sex in lifetime	17.8
Ever paid for sex with women in lifetime*	17.3
Paid for sex with women in the past 12 months	2.1
Ever paid for sex with men in lifetime*	0.8
Paid for sex with men in the past 12 months	0.3
Paid for sex with men overseas in the past 12 months	0.1‡
Ever been paid for sex with anyone in lifetime	1.4

\*15 men who said they had ever paid for sex with anyone said no to both of these questions; presumably they interpreted 'sex' to mean intercourse, or some may have paid for sex with a transgender person.

‡Estimate unreliable due to small numbers.



## Men who have had sex with men in the past year

In the following sections, results for men who had had sex with another man in the previous 12 months, defined as MSM for the purposes of this report, are displayed separately from those for men who had not done so. Note that this category does not correspond to gay identity; quite a few gay-identified men who were not currently homosexually active are included in the 'non-MSM' category. Note also that although tables show all percentages to one decimal place, this does not reflect the accuracy of the point estimates. For estimates relating to MSM, 95% confidence intervals (CIs) are  $\pm 5\%$  to  $10\%$ .

As noted on p. 5, of the men with one female partner in the past year and no same-sex experience 20% completed the full interview and 80% completed a short form of the interview. To arrive at correct population-representative percentages for questions asked only in the long form of the interview, answers from the 20% were multiplied up to represent their proportion of the population as a whole. Other smaller adjustments were also made to allow for the chance of selection and for undersampling of some groups. However, the weight given to any one man's interview was constrained at a multiple of 5 to prevent any outliers being too influential on the final results. The result of the constraints is that the proportion of MSM shifts slightly between answers to questions asked in all interviews and those only asked in long-form interviews. Before weights were applied, an unadjusted total of 92 respondents who had had sex with a man in the past year took part in the study.

## Sociodemographic characteristics

As shown in Table 9, the MSM and non-MSM did not differ significantly in age, location, frame of interview (landline or mobile), country of birth, indigenous status, employment status or family income, but were different in language spoken at home, marital status and education. Significantly more MSM spoke English at home than non-MSM did. Unsurprisingly, few MSM were married. Significantly more MSM had tertiary education than their non-MSM counterparts. We have not adjusted for these differences when comparing MSM with non-MSM in the results that follow.

**Table 9 Sociodemographic characteristics of NSW men**

Characteristic	MSM* n=108 %	Non-MSM* n=4077 %	P
Age group			0.26
16–19	2.8‡	7.6	
20–29	29.9	20.1	
30–39	21.0	19.8	
40–49	18.2	19.4	
50–59	19.5	18.3	
60–69	8.6	14.8	
Location			0.14
Major city	83.6	73.0	
Regional	16.4	26.4	
Remote	0.0‡	0.6	
Frame of interview			0.25
Landline	24.2	31.6	
Mobile	75.8	68.4	
Country of birth			0.62
Australia	69.7	76.0	
Main English-speaking countries#	12.2	8.2	
Other countries	18.1	15.8	
Language spoken at home			0.01
English	98.3	92.2	
Other language	1.7‡	7.8	
Indigenous status			0.85
Indigenous†	2.4‡	2.0	
Other	97.6	98.0	
Marital status			<0.001
Married	3.2‡	52.2	
Divorced	4.2‡	7.1	
Separated	1.3‡	2.8	
Widowed	0.2‡	0.7	
Never married	91.0	37.2	
Employment status			0.89
Employed	82.8	80.0	
Full-time	68.7	66.3	
Part-time	14.1	13.7	
Unemployed	3.0‡	3.7	
Not in labour force	14.1	16.4	
Family income per year			0.03
<\$28,000	13.6	12.0	
\$28,001–\$52,000	26.7	14.1	
\$52,001–\$83,000	13.2	19.1	
\$83,001–\$125,000	13.1	19.2	
>\$125,000	32.8	28.4	
Refused/missing	0.6	7.2	
Education			<0.001
Tertiary or higher	54.8	34.9	
Secondary	36.8	50.2	
Lower secondary or lower	8.4	14.9	

\*MSM: Men who had had anal, oral or manual sex with a man in the previous 12 months. Men who did not answer the question about sex with men in the previous 12 months are excluded from this table.

#Main English-speaking countries: USA, UK, New Zealand, Canada, Ireland and South Africa.

†Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

‡Estimate unreliable due to small numbers.

## Attitudes

Table 10 shows the proportion of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed (these categories have been collapsed into one), neither agreed nor disagreed, or disagreed/strongly disagreed with each attitude statement. Significantly more MSM than non-MSM agreed with the statements 'Sex before marriage is acceptable' and 'If two people had oral sex, but not intercourse, I would still consider that they had had sex'. Significantly fewer MSM than non-MSM agreed with the statement that 'Having an affair when in a committed relationship is always wrong'. Compared to non-MSM, MSM were more likely to disagree with the statements that 'Sex between two adult women is always wrong' and 'Sex between two adult men is always wrong'. Compared to non-MSM, MSM were less likely to agree with the statements that 'Pornography degrades the women shown in it' and 'Pornography degrades the men shown in it', though the latter difference is not significant ( $P < 0.07$ ). MSM were also more likely to agree with the statement 'Pornography can improve sexual relations among adults'. MSM and non-MSM did not differ significantly in their views on the statements 'An active sex life is important for my sense of well-being', 'Abortion is always wrong' and 'Sexual health education for adolescents increases the likelihood of early sexual activity'. The differences found are reflected in the significantly higher scores on sexual liberalism of gay and bisexual men in the national sample (de Visser et al., 2014a).

**Table 10 Agreement with sexual attitude statements among NSW men  
(N=114 MSM\* and N=4059 non-MSM†)**

Statements		Agree %	Neither %	Disagree %	P
Sex before marriage is acceptable	MSM	99.2	0.8‡	0.0	0.04
	Non-MSM	87.4	9.2	3.5	
An active sex life is important for my sense of well-being	MSM	93.0	1.1‡	5.8	0.23
	Non-MSM	87.0	5.6	7.5	
If two people had oral sex, but not intercourse, I would still consider that they had had sex	MSM	84.7	3.7‡	11.7	0.03
	Non-MSM	66.7	7.1	26.2	
Having an affair when in a committed relationship is always wrong	MSM	59.6	16.6	23.9	<0.001
	Non-MSM	80.5	6.6	12.9	
Abortion is always wrong	MSM	10.8	8.0	81.2	0.32
	Non-MSM	18.4	12.5	69.2	
Sex between two adult women is always wrong	MSM	1.8‡	3.4‡	94.8	0.003
	Non-MSM	16.1	11.0	72.8	
Sex between two adult men is always wrong	MSM	4.5‡	1.1‡	94.4	<0.001
	Non-MSM	26.7	9.4	64.0	
Pornography degrades the women shown in it	MSM	21.5	30.2	48.3	0.009
	Non-MSM	43.3	17.9	38.9	
Pornography degrades the men shown in it	MSM	16.3	19.1	64.6	0.07
	Non-MSM	31.8	16.3	51.9	
Pornography can improve sexual relations among adults	MSM	80.2	9.4	10.3	0.05
	Non-MSM	64.3	17.1	18.6	
Sexual health education for adolescents increases the likelihood of early sexual activity	MSM	21.7	8.0	70.3	0.12
	Non-MSM	32.9	12.3	54.8	

\*MSM: Men who had had anal, oral or manual sex with a man in the previous 12 months.

†As detailed on p. 17, the adjusted *n* for MSM and non-MSM changes slightly for questions asked only in the long questionnaire. For MSM *n*=114, and for non-MSM, *n* varied between 3825 and 4059.

‡Estimate unreliable due to small numbers.

## General health

As shown in Table 11, MSM and non-MSM reported similar general health status. Although the psychological health of sexual minority people is often reported to be poorer than that of heterosexuals (Cochran et al., 2003; Conron et al., 2010; Smith et al., 2003b), MSM were no more likely to report negative feelings than non-MSM. A similar proportion of MSM and non-MSM were currently taking medication for a mental health condition prescribed by a doctor or medication for high blood pressure or a heart condition. MSM were somewhat less likely to have been diagnosed with diabetes or high blood sugar. Note that these comparisons are not corrected for confounders such as age or socioeconomic status.

**Table 11 General health among NSW men**

	MSM* n=114 %	Non-MSM* n=4067 %	P
Self-reported general health			0.57
Excellent	21.7	22.6	
Very good	37.0	41.1	
Good	34.0	25.7	
Fair	6.7	8.2	
Poor	0.6‡	2.4	
Negative feelings†			0.70
High	3.5‡	4.8	
Low	96.5	95.2	
Currently taking any medication for a mental health condition prescribed by a doctor	9.0	8.0	0.80
Currently taking any medication for high blood pressure or heart condition	12.3	13.2	0.80
Diagnosed with diabetes or high blood sugar	3.4‡	7.7	0.05

\*MSM: Men who had had anal, oral or manual sex with a man in the previous 12 months.

†Negative feeling or psychological distress was based on a high score on the Kessler 6; see Methods.

‡Estimate unreliable due to small numbers.

## Tobacco, alcohol and injecting drug use

As shown in Table 12, MSM were twice as likely to be current tobacco smokers as non-MSM. The two groups did not differ in the proportion who had smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime, or, among smokers, in their frequency of smoking. This suggests that these MSM differ from other NSW men in being less likely to have given up smoking. There were no significant differences between MSM and non-MSM in their frequency of consumption of alcohol or the amount they consumed on each occasion. MSM appeared twice as likely as non-MSM to have ever injected a non-prescribed drug in their lifetime, though this difference was not statistically significant.

**Table 12 Tobacco, alcohol and injecting drug use among NSW men**

	MSM* %	Non-MSM* %	P
Current smoker ( <i>n</i> =114 MSM*, <i>n</i> =4067 non-MSM)	33.6	17.7	0.008
Smoked ≥100 cigarettes over lifetime	33.6	35.8	0.76
Frequency of smoking			0.97
Do not smoke	66.4	82.2	
Less often than weekly	3.8‡	1.9	
At least weekly	1.5‡	1.0	
Daily	28.3	14.9	
Frequency of drinking alcohol ( <i>n</i> =114 MSM, <i>n</i> =4061 non-MSM)			0.70
Do not drink	16.2	13.3	
Less than once a week	27.0	23.6	
1–3 times a week	36.3	35.1	
4–6 times a week	12.9	14.5	
Daily	7.6	13.4	
Number of drinks consumed on a day he drank			0.35
Low risk† (1–4 drinks)	80.7	72.6	
Risky† (5–6 drinks)	13.4	15.9	
High risk† (>6 drinks)	5.9	11.4	
Ever injected non-prescribed drug in lifetime	8.8	4.0	0.12

\*MSM: Men who had had anal, oral or manual sex with a man in the previous 12 months.

†Based on NHMRC 2001 Australian alcohol guidelines: Health risks and benefits.

‡Estimate unreliable due to small numbers.

## Sexually transmissible infection (STI) and HIV testing and experience

### *STI testing in the past 12 months*

Respondents were asked whether they had been tested ‘for any sexually transmissible infection in the last year’. Men may have included HIV tests when answering about blood tests, but they were not asked specifically about HIV at this point. MSM were significantly more likely than non-MSM to have had any STI test, a urine test or a blood test in the past 12 months. Two in every five MSM had had a throat swab and one in three had had an anal swab in the past 12 months while none of the non-MSM had had either a throat or anal swab in the past 12 months (Table 13).

**Table 13 STI testing in the past 12 months among NSW men**

	MSM <i>n</i> =108 %	Non-MSM <i>n</i> =4078 %	<i>P</i>
Any STI test	57.0	10.5	<0.001
Urine test	51.4	8.0	<0.001
Blood test	56.4	9.1	<0.001
Throat swab	40.3	0.0‡	<0.001
Anal swab	32.9	0.0‡	<0.001
Other tests†	20.5	1.5‡	<0.001
<i>Median (range) number of STI tests</i>	<i>2 (1–6)</i>	<i>1 (1–20)</i>	<i>&lt;0.001</i>

\*MSM: Men who had had anal, oral or manual sex with a man in the previous 12 months.

†STI tests other than urine test, blood test, throat swab or anal swab.

‡Estimate unreliable due to small numbers.

### *STI history*

As shown in Table 14, MSM were more likely than non-MSM to report having ever had any STI (penile candidiasis not included in this grouping). In particular, they were more likely to have ever had pubic lice, chlamydia, genital herpes, gonorrhoea, anal warts and syphilis. MSM were also more likely to have had an STI in the past year, in particular pubic lice, gonorrhoea, anal warts and syphilis.



**Table 14 STI history among NSW men**

	Lifetime			Last 12 months		
	MSM* n=108 %	Non-MSM* n=4078 %	P	MSM* n=108 %	Non-MSM* n=4078 %	P
Any STI†	48.9	12.4	<0.001	7.6	1.2	<0.001
Pubic lice	39.1	6.1	<0.001	4.3	0.0‡	<0.001
Genital warts	5.0	3.5	0.42	0.0‡	0.4	0.62
Chlamydia	21.7	2.7	<0.001	0.9‡	0.3	0.24
Genital herpes episode	9.5	1.8	0.003	1.3‡	0.5	0.21
Gonorrhoea	18.6	1.8	<0.001	1.4‡	0.0‡	<0.001
Anal warts	7.6	0.0	<0.001	0.6‡	0.0‡	<0.001
Syphilis	6.3	0.5	<0.001	2.6‡	0.0‡	<0.001
Penile candida	4.9	5.4	0.86	0.0‡	1.3	0.53

\*MSM: Men who had had anal, oral or manual sex with a man in the previous 12 months.

†History of any of the listed STIs except penile candida (thrush), which is not necessarily sexually transmitted.

‡Estimate unreliable due to small numbers.

### *HIV testing*

MSM have a higher rate of HIV testing: 88% (n=94) said they had had a blood test for HIV, of whom 53 (49% overall, and 56% of those tested) had had a test within the last two years. In comparison, 36% of non-MSM had ever had a test and of these 16% had been tested within the last two years. The most common place for MSM to have an HIV test was at their usual GP (60%) or a sexual health clinic (35%). Only 5% of the non-MSM tested for HIV in the last two years had their last test at a sexual health clinic. Of those who had ever been tested, 5.5% of MSM and 0.4% of non-MSM said that they were HIV-positive.

Table 15 shows the distribution of HIV-positive status among all NSW men by sexual identity and lifetime experience of sex with men, confirming the very low prevalence of HIV in NSW men not exposed through sex with men.

**Table 15 HIV status of NSW men by sexual identity and sexual experience (N=4163)**

	HIV negative %	HIV positive %	P
Sexual identity			<0.001
Heterosexual	99.8	0.1‡	
Homosexual/gay	94.1	5.9	
Bisexual	95.4	4.6‡	
Sexual experience			<0.001
No same-sex experience	99.9	0.1‡	
Any same-sex experience	97.5	2.5	

## Experience of sexual coercion

As shown in Table 16, significantly more MSM than non-MSM had ever been forced or frightened by someone into doing something sexual that they did not want. However, MSM were on average older when this happened, suggesting that they were more likely to be coerced early in their adult sexual career. The median age when first forced or frightened by someone into having unwanted sex was 18.5 years among MSM and 16 years among non-MSM ( $P=0.06$ ). Only about a third of the men in either group had ever talked to someone else about it or sought help.

**Table 16 Sexual coercion ('ever forced or frightened into doing something sexual that you did not want') among NSW men**

	MSM* <i>n</i> =114 %	Non-MSM* <i>n</i> =4078 %	<i>P</i>
Ever coerced	22.6	4.4	<0.001
<i>Number of times coerced (median, range)†</i>	1 (1–10)	2 (1–100)	0.62
<i>Age first coerced (median, range)†</i>	18.5 (6–40)	16 (3–45)	0.06
<i>Ever talked to someone else or sought help about being coerced (n=26 MSM, n=172 non-MSM)†</i>	39.3	34.0	0.77

\*MSM: Men who had had anal, oral or manual sex with a man in the previous 12 months.

†Of those who had ever been coerced.

## Masturbation and other solo and partnered sexual practices

Table 17 shows masturbation and other solo and partnered sexual practices among both MSM and non-MSM. MSM were significantly more likely than non-MSM to have engaged in masturbation in the past 12 months. MSM had masturbated a median number of 10 times in the past four weeks and non-MSM three times ( $P$  for difference  $<0.001$ ). Compared to non-MSM, MSM were more likely to have used a sex toy in the past 12 months but not significantly more likely to have used a sex toy in sex with a partner. MSM were more likely than non-MSM to have engaged in role playing or dressing up, BDSM, anal fingering, fisting, rimming and group sex. Note that although any men who expressed discomfort with these questions were 'skipped out' of the module, the percentages reported are those for the whole sample; that is, men who were not asked questions or said 'I don't do that sort of thing' or words to that effect are assumed not to have engaged in the practice.

**Table 17 Masturbation and other solo and partnered sexual practices in the past 12 months among NSW men**

	MSM* %	Non-MSM* %	<i>P</i>
Masturbated ( $n=114$ MSM, $n=4059$ non-MSM)	96.2	72.5	$<0.001$
<i>Number of times masturbated in the last 4 weeks (median for all men)</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>2</i>	
Used a sex toy**	29.5	13.6	0.001
Using a sex toy during sex with a partner	20.1	12.7	0.10
Role play or dressing up	17.2	6.1	0.003
Involved in BDSM†	14.0	2.1	$<0.001$
Group sex	25.6	1.1	$<0.001$
Insertive or receptive anal fingering	65.8	16.0	$<0.001$
Fisting	8.1	0.6	$<0.001$
Rimming	54.1	5.7	$<0.001$

\*MSM: Men who had had anal, oral or manual sex with a man in the previous 12 months.

\*\*Here and in the rest of these questions, if respondent indicated discomfort, further questions were not asked and the respondent was counted as a 'No'. For MSM  $n=114$ , and for non-MSM,  $n$  varied between 3987 and 4059.

†Bondage and discipline, 'sadoomasochism', or dominance and submission.

‡Estimate unreliable due to small numbers.

## Internet use

Table 18 compares internet use for sexual purposes among MSM and non-MSM. MSM were more likely to use the internet for sexual purposes than their non-MSM counterparts. Significantly more MSM than non-MSM had ever used an internet site or a smartphone application to look for potential partners in their lifetime and in the past 12 months. About one in seven MSM had had online sex (i.e. virtual or cybersex) with someone in the past 12 months, while hardly any of the non-MSM had done so. The median number of people whom the respondent met first online and then in person in the past 12 months was five among MSM and two among non-MSM.

**Table 18 Internet use among NSW men**

	MSM* n=114 %†	Non-MSM* n=3935 %†	P
Used an internet site or smartphone application to look for potential partners in lifetime	69.1	13.0	<0.001
Used an internet site or a smartphone application to look for potential partners in the past 12 months	44.8	5.9	<0.001
Had online sex with someone in the past 12 months	17.7	0.5	<0.001
Met someone in person after meeting online in the past 12 months	33.4	2.6	0.001
<i>Number of people met first online and then in person in the past 12 months (median, range)</i>	5 (1–17)	2 (1–15)	<0.001
Had sex in person after meeting online	29.5	1.8	0.001

\*MSM: Men who had had anal, oral or manual sex with a man in the previous 12 months.

†All percentages are of the total sample.

## Viewing pornographic material

MSM were more likely than non-MSM to have looked at pornographic material in their lifetime and in the past 12 months (Table 19). The two groups were of a similar age when they first looked at pornographic material, with the most common ages being 13–15.

**Table 19 Use of pornographic material among NSW men**

	MSM* n=114 %	Non-MSM* n=4030 %	P
Looked at pornographic material ever	99.2	83.5	<0.001
Looked at pornographic material in last 12 months	95.1	62.7	<0.001

\*MSM: Men who had had anal, oral or manual sex with a man in the previous 12 months.

‡Estimate unreliable due to small numbers.

## Changes since 2001–2002

As shown in Table 20, there has been a significant improvement in STI knowledge scores over the past decade. This change was also apparent in the national data, which showed that men's scores had a greater improvement than women's, with the effect of reducing the difference between men's and women knowledge scores (Grulich et al., 2014). There is weak evidence that the proportion of men who report ever having had an STI has fallen. The question about STI testing was not asked in the first Australian Study of Health and Relationships (ASHR1; data collected in 2001–2002), so no comparison of testing rates can be made. Unfortunately, no increase in HIV testing was apparent; indeed the proportion of NSW men in general who have ever been tested for HIV has fallen since 2001–2002.

Attitude changes (Table 21) reflect those in the national data (de Visser et al., 2014a): disapproval of having an affair while in a committed relationship has risen, reflecting a strong commitment to monogamy, especially among heterosexuals. At the same time, attitudes towards same-sex activity have become more tolerant.

**Table 20 Comparison of STI and HIV testing and diagnosis in ASHR1 and ASHR2 for NSW men aged 16–59\***

	ASHR1 <i>n</i> =3122 %	ASHR2 <i>n</i> =2894 %	<i>P</i>
STI knowledge			
Mean score (0–8)	4.3	5.6	<0.01
STI history			
Ever had an STI	20.2	19.3	<0.01
Had any STI in the last year	2.5	1.6	0.05
HIV testing			
Ever had a blood test	45.8	39.4	<0.001
Tested in the last two years ( <i>n</i> =1471 ASHR, <i>n</i> =1109 ASHR2)	24.1	18.5	
HIV-positive result	0.4	0.9	<0.008†

\* ASHR1 only surveyed up to age 59.

† Higher proportion of respondents who 'didn't get results' in ASHR1 (2.6%) compared to ASHR2 (0.7%) contributes to this significant result.

**Table 21 Comparison of attitudes towards sex in ASHR and ASHR2 for NSW men aged 16–59\***

	ASHR† %	ASHR2† %	<i>P</i>
Sex before marriage is acceptable.			0.11
Agree**	82.7	87.0	
Neither	3.2	3.4	
Disagree**	14.2	9.5	
An active sex life is important for my sense of wellbeing.			0.16
Agree	89.0	86.7	
Neither	3.4	6.9	
Disagree	7.5	6.4	
If two people had oral sex, but not intercourse, you would still consider that they had had sex together.			0.16
Agree	70.8	65.1	
Neither	5.3	7.6	
Disagree	23.9	27.3	
Having an affair when in a committed relationship is always wrong.			0.02
Agree	77.8	81.5	
Neither	4.3	6.9	
Disagree	17.4	11.6	
Abortion is always wrong.			0.59
Agree	21.6	19.4	
Neither	10.4	12.2	
Disagree	68.0	68.4	
Sex between two adult women is always wrong.			0.004
Agree	24.0	15.0	
Neither	9.4	11.0	
Disagree	66.6	74.0	
Sex between two adult men is always wrong.			<0.001
Agree	39.5	24.8	
Neither	7.7	9.5	
Disagree	52.8	65.7	

\*ASHR only surveyed people up to age 59.

†For ASHR, *n* varied between 2804 and 3133, and for ASHR2, *n* varied between 3825 and 4059.

\*\*Agree includes the responses 'Agree' and 'Strongly agree', and Disagree includes the responses 'Disagree' and 'Strongly disagree'.

## Comparison with the Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey

Where similar data are available from the two surveys, this section compares MSM in our NSW sample and men recruited in the Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey (SGCPS) 2013. More MSM in this report were born in Australia. More MSM in this report were either under 25 years or 50 and over, and fewer were aged between 30 and 39 years (Table 22). This suggests that the community survey picks up more community-involved men aged in their 30s and 40s. As would be expected, the community survey also picks up more men from inner Sydney and fewer NSW men from outside Sydney. Lifetime HIV testing rates were similar for the two samples, but MSM in this report who been tested were less likely than SGCPS respondents to have been diagnosed with HIV. Recent STI testing rates appeared somewhat higher in the community survey, suggesting that SGCPS data may somewhat overestimate testing rates among current MSM in general. Rates of always using condoms for anal intercourse with casual partners were similar, but small numbers in our MSM sample preclude drawing any conclusions about differences.



**Table 22 Comparison between MSM in the ASHR2 NSW men's sample and the Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey 2013**

	ASHR2 NSW MSM* n=108 %	SGCPS 2013 n=2546 %
<b>Age</b>		
Under 25	19.1	11.4
25–29	13.6	16.4
30–39	21.0	29.9
40–49	18.2	24.9
50 and over	28.1	17.4
<b>Born in Australia</b>		
Born in Australia	69.7	61.6
<b>Residential location</b>		
Inner Sydney†	35.2	57.7
Other Sydney	28.9	29.8
Other NSW	34.6	7.7
Other Australia	0	2.4
Outside Australia	0	1.3
No answer	1.3	1.1
<b>Condom use with casual male partners in the past 6 months</b>		
Always	59.5	54.9
Sometimes not	40.5	45.1
<b>Ever tested for HIV</b>		
Positive	5.5	11.8
Negative	94.5	86.4
Unknown	0.0‡	1.7
<b>STI testing in the past 12 months among HIV-negative MSM (n=108 ASHR2, n=2227 SGCPS 2013)</b>		
Any STI test (including blood test)	57.0	73.8
Urine test	51.4	61.9
Blood test	56.4	n.a.**
Throat swab	40.3	55.1
Anal swab	32.9	52.3

\*MSM: Men who had had anal, oral or manual sex with a man in the previous 12 months.

†Inner Sydney includes the city centre and the inner western and inner eastern suburbs from Leichhardt to Woollahra.

\*\*Figures for any blood test not available from SGCPS.

## CONCLUSIONS

The majority of men (68%) reported between three and 49 lifetime female partners. For most men, the majority of these partners were amassed during the period from the late teens to the late 20s or early 30s when men are more likely to have casual sex or a series of short to medium-length regular relationships before ‘settling down’ (Rissel et al., 2014, Table 3, p. 423). For men in long-term regular relationships, sex with someone other than the regular partner is relatively uncommon (Richters et al., 2014c; Badcock et al., 2014).

Although ever-use of condoms for sex with women was high at 92%, this is not reflected in current practice. As most couples in regular relationships move from condoms to other contraceptive methods (mostly female hormonal methods such as the pill), men get accustomed to condomless sex and are less willing to engage with condoms in subsequent encounters, even those that are explicitly casual (Braun, 2013). The reported consistent use of condoms for casual sex in the past six months, at 49%, was consistent with national figures but not adequate for effective STI prevention. Despite excellent safe sex campaigns in NSW, the discourse of ‘natural’ sex together with the widespread assumption that only sluts or marginalised people are at risk of STIs produces a culture in which heterosexuals continue to exempt themselves from the need for safe sex, relying instead for protection on partner choice and on (often unnegotiated) monogamy in regular relationships. This attitudinal commitment is evidenced in the widespread disapproval of sex outside a committed relationship (Table 10). The risk associated with this pattern of sexual behaviour is compounded by low levels of STI testing: about one in 10 (11%) non-MSM reported STI testing in the last 12 months (Table 13). Perhaps future campaigns for heterosexuals will need to address under what conditions it is OK to stop using condoms, as in the ‘Talk, test, test, trust’ campaign in the gay community in the 1990s (Crawford et al., 2001; Mackie, 1996).

STI knowledge has improved since the first ASHR, but overall HIV testing has not increased, though these results from 2013–2014 would not show any effects of the most recent campaign to encourage testing, including rapid testing.

The decriminalisation of commercial sex in NSW does not seem to have had any effect on the size of the industry; having paid for sex was no more common among men in NSW than in the rest of Australia (Richters et al., 2014c). Indeed, the highest rates are found in the Northern Territory, where the law is more restrictive.

### *Homosexually active men*

Given that more men have had any same-sex experience than currently identify as gay or bisexual, there are quite a few men in the sample whose same-sex experience was occasional or experimental and who are mostly not currently exposed to the higher STI and HIV risks of the sexually active gay community. Because the broad category of men who have ever had sex with another man is thus not useful for analysing risk behaviour among currently homosexually active men, we created the category of currently homosexually active men, defined as men who had had sex with a man within the past 12 months, referred to as MSM in this report. Although this excludes some gay and bisexual men, particularly older men, who may not be currently homosexually active but might be seeking a male partner, it serves to roughly delineate a group who are more likely to be at risk and who represent those to whom STI and HIV prevention campaigns need to be directed.

Although the MSM (as defined above) were generally as healthy as the non-MSM, about twice as many were current smokers. This is a major health issue for sexual minority people's health (Mooney-Somers et al., 2015). Another issue that needs attention in relation to gay and bisexual men's health is sexual assault. Men who had had sex with other men in the past year were more likely than other men to have ever experienced sexual coercion; indeed the prevalence (23%) was similar to that among women in the national ASHR2 sample (22%) (de Visser et al., 2014b). The high rate of experience of sexual coercion among MSM may imply higher risk for STI and HIV transmission and poor mental health in this population.

Rates of STI and HIV testing were much higher among MSM than non-MSM, suggesting that testing is being directed where it is most needed and that MSM are successfully accessing services.

Potential avenues for safe sex promotion include the internet. MSM were far more likely to have used an internet site or smartphone app to look for potential partners and to have met a partner in person after making contact online. Almost all MSM had looked at pornography, suggesting that pornography sites might be a possible avenue for safe sex promotion, but also that pornography is likely to have an influence on accepted modes of sexual practice, including sex without condoms.

Further public health efforts are needed to increase or maintain condom use and to increase HIV/STI testing, especially among men who have sex with men.

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## APPENDIX: Questionnaire

### The questionnaire

This is a simplified and edited version of the questionnaire computer program used for the survey—skips and filters are not shown. Not all the questions shown were asked of all the respondents. Response options are not shown where questions invited a simple yes/no response or a number (such as number of sexual partners) or a large possible range of variables (such as country of birth). ‘Don’t know’ and ‘Refused’ response options are also not shown.

Roman print in square brackets is used for alternative or additional wording used where appropriate according to the answers to previous questions. It shows words actually read out by interviewers. Italic print in square brackets is used for (1) on-screen instructions to interviewers, (2) editorial descriptions of specific words or phrases used, such as phone number, and (3) explanations to the reader. Words in italics are not read out to the respondents. The **bold** headings are for the reader’s convenience and were not read out by the interviewers.

### Introduction

Hello, my name is [name]. I’m calling on behalf of a group of Australian universities that has been funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council to undertake the 2013 Australian Study of Health and Relationships (ASHR), our most important study of sexual and reproductive health. Conducted once a decade, it provides a snapshot of the sexual health and well-being of the Australian population and provides information essential for the development of policy and the delivery of sexual and reproductive health programs across Australia.

*[If necessary: The survey is anonymous and people aged 16–69 contacted through randomly generated mobile phone numbers or from randomly selected households are personally invited to take part. Households are chosen through generating lists of random numbers of the same format as household telephone numbers and then ringing those numbers. Clearly, the vast majority of numbers we generate this way are not actually telephone numbers. We use this strategy because it is important to include those households that are not listed in any telephone directories.*

Where possible, we check to see if our randomly generated number is listed in a telephone directory and, if so, we send the household a letter to inform

them they will be contacted. If the household contains more than one person aged 16–69, the potential participant is selected at random. People who are contacted via mobile are also sent a letter on request.

Participation in the survey is absolutely anonymous and entirely voluntary, and consists of answering a series of questions during a telephone interview. Those answers are almost always ‘yes’, ‘no’ or a number, which means that if anyone were to overhear a study participant, they would have no idea what information was being imparted. The survey is designed to accurately reflect the experiences of all Australians regardless of their relationship status or whether they are sexually active. In order to achieve this, the interview is specifically tailored to the history the participant reports and does not ask questions that, given the history of the participant, are not relevant.

Accordingly, we cannot predict what questions will be asked of particular individuals. However, the types of questions that might be asked include a sexual history, partnership status, health status, recent sexual activity, sexual difficulties, reproductive history, sexual coercion and intimate partner violence, information about sexually transmitted infections along with knowledge and attitudes related to sexuality and sexual health. Interviews average less than 20 minutes. The publications from our previous study give some indication of the range of topics that some participants may be asked about.] *[Offer letter/freecall/web page if household refusal]*

Did you receive the letter we sent?

Firstly, can you tell me how many men aged between 16 and 69 live in your household? *[Explain if necessary the respondent must be chosen by computer]*

The computer has chosen [person] as the one I should speak to from your household.

Would that be yourself? *[When would be the best time to call back to speak to this person?]*

*[When required person is on phone, repeat first paragraph of introduction]*

Did you receive our letter saying we would be calling your home? The letter said that we are conducting the 2013 Australian Study of Men’s Health and Relationships. *[Re-offer letter/freecall/web page if needed]*



You can choose to skip any questions you wish to. The answers to nearly every question are either 'yes' or 'no' or a number.

The results of the survey will appear in government and academic reports but only in a form which would never allow any individuals to be identified. These anonymous data will be retained as the study may be repeated in 2021. If you have any queries about this study, you should direct them to [provide phone and email details].

Do I have your consent to proceed? Is it OK to talk to you now?

Before we start, can you tell me how many landline phones you have in your household [Not including any phone lines that are used only for fax or a computer]?

How many working mobile phones are in your household, including yours?

How many people in your household have at least one working mobile phone?

## Demographics

Now I need to confirm that you are a man aged between 16 and 69. *[If person responds as transgender, code as such, unless he/she nominates otherwise]*

I need to ask what year you were born. *[If respondent hesitates, say: It's important we know your year of birth so we can compare responses of people of different ages. Prompt with age ranges if needed.]*

Now, to ensure we have a cross-section of people in our survey, we ask a few brief general questions about you.

Which country were you born in?  
Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

What year did you first arrive in Australia?  
What language do you usually speak at home?  
*[Prompt: By home we mean where you live now]*

What is the postcode of the place you live in?  
What is the name of the suburb or town? And the state?

Does anyone else beside you live in your household?  
Please answer Yes or No to each of the following people:  
Spouse or partner *[Includes same-sex partner]*  
Any children under 16 *[Children are defined as under 16 years of age. Resident children include*

*children under 16 who live there at least half the time.]* How many children under 5? How many children aged 5 to 15?

Any other family members or relatives, including children 16 and over?

Anybody else who is not a family member or relative?

And how many people is that all together, not including yourself?

In terms of legal marital status are you ... ? *[Read out options]*

1. Never married
2. Widowed
3. Divorced
4. Separated but not divorced
5. Married
6. Civil partnership or registered partnership

## Sexuality

Do you think of yourself as ... *[Read out categories 1–3, with numbers]*

1. Heterosexual or straight
  2. Homosexual or gay
  3. Bisexual
- ... Just tell me the number that best describes you.
4. Queer
  5. Not sure; undecided
  6. Something else/other

Which of these six statements best describes you? I will read them out and ask you to just give me the number.

1. I have felt sexually attracted only to females, never to males
2. ... more often to females, and at least once to a male
3. ... about equally often to females and to males
4. ... more often to males, and at least once to a female
5. ... only to males, never to females
6. I have never felt sexually attracted to anyone at all.

In the next question when we say 'Sexual experience' we mean any kind of contact with another person that you felt was sexual. It could be kissing or touching, or intercourse, or any other form of sex.

Which of these statements best describes you? Again I will read out the list and you tell me the number.

1. I have had sexual experiences only with females, never with males
2. ... more often with females, and at least once with a male
3. ... equally often with females and with males

4. ... more often with males, and at least once with a female
5. ... only with males, never with females
6. I have never had any sexual experience with anyone at all

Have you ever had vaginal intercourse?

### First sexual experiences

The next questions are about your first sexual experiences.

How old were you when you first had vaginal intercourse?

*[If he asks re sexual contact with adults as a child, say: You don't need to count anything that happened when you were very young.]*

How old was she? *[Prompt with age ranges if needed.]*

How long had you known her before you had sex for the first time?

1. Less than 24 hours
2. More than a day but less than a week
3. More than a week, less than a month
4. More than a month, less than a year
5. A year or more

*[Prompt: 'Known' counts from when you first met in person.]*

What was your relationship to her? *[If 'friend' probe to ascertain whether 'steady' or 'casual']*

1. Wife – you were married to her
2. Fiancée – you were engaged to her
3. Living together but not married
4. Steady partner *[Include girlfriend]*
5. Casual partner *[Include friend, workmate, etc.]*
6. Sex worker

What contraception or precautions did you or she use that first time, if any?

1. Condom
2. Other contraception [e.g. pill]
3. I withdrew
4. Made sure it was safe period
5. Don't know
6. No precautions

How old were you when you first had oral sex with a female? That's with your penis in her mouth, or your mouth on her vaginal area. *[If he asks re sexual contact with adults as a child, say: You don't need to count anything that happened when you were very young.]*

Have you ever had anal intercourse with a woman?

How old were you when you first had sex with a male, not counting children's sex play? *[Let respondent use own definition of 'had sex']*. *[If he asks re sexual contact with adults as a child, say: 'You don't need to count anything that happened when you were very young.']*

How old was he? *[Prompt with age ranges if needed.]*

How long had you known him before you had sex for the first time?

1. Less than 24 hours
2. More than a day but less than a week
3. More than a week, less than a month
4. More than a month, less than a year
5. A year or more

What was your relationship to him? *[If 'friend' probe to ascertain whether 'steady' or 'casual']*

1. Living together
2. Steady partner *[include: boyfriend]*
3. Casual partner *[include: friend, workmate, etc.]*
4. Sex worker

### Female sex partners

Now some questions about your sexual activity with women.

In your whole life, how many women have you had vaginal or anal intercourse with? That's your penis in the woman's vagina or anus. Please include your current partner, if you have one. *[If asks whether sex work is included, say: Yes, we ask more about that later. If asks re sexual contact with adults as a child, say: You don't need to count anything that happened when you were very young. Prompt: Would it be ... ? Read out categories – if fewer than 11 women, request an exact answer]*

1. 11–15
2. 16–20
3. 21–30
4. 31–40
5. 41–50
6. 51–100
7. 101–500
8. More than 500

Are there any more women that you had oral sex with? That's your penis in the woman's mouth, or your mouth on the woman's vaginal area. *[If asks re sexual contact with adults as a child, say: You don't need to count anything that happened when you were very young.]*

How many?



Are there any more women that you had some form of sexual contact with that involved stimulating the penis or vaginal area? How many?

Have you ever used condoms to have sex with a woman?

In the last 5 years – that is, since *[insert date]* – how many women have you had vaginal or anal intercourse with?

In the last 12 months – that is, since *[insert date]* – how many women have you had vaginal or anal intercourse with?

And still in the last 12 months, are there any more women that you had oral sex with?

In the last 12 months – that is, since *[insert date]*, how many women have you had oral sex with?

In the last 12 months, are there any more women that you had some form of sexual contact with that involved stimulating the penis or vaginal area? How many?

### Condom screen

Have you used condoms in the last 12 months to have sex with a woman?

Have you used condoms in the last 6 months to have sex with a woman?

### Regular female partners

Do you currently have a regular female sexual partner or partners? Someone you have an ongoing sexual relationship with. *[Includes wife or de facto. Ongoing means he expects the relationship to continue and to have sex with the partner again.]*

Is there more than one?

Do you live with your regular partner?

How many current regular female partners do you have?

Do you live with one of these partners?

The next questions are about the regular partner you most recently had sex with.

How long have you been in this relationship? Including any time before you were living together. *[If respondent unsure when it started say: Count from when you felt it became a regular relationship. Many people count from when they first had sex.]*

1. Less than 1 year
2. More than 1 year but less than 2 years
3. More than 2 years but less than 5 years
4. More than 5 but less than 10 years
5. More than 10 but less than 20 years
6. More than 20 years

How long had you known her before you had sex for the first time? *[Prompt: 'Known' counts from when you first met in person. Let respondent use his own definition of 'sex'.]*

1. Less than 24 hours
2. More than a day but less than a week
3. More than a week but less than a month
4. More than a month but less than a year
5. A year or more

How old is she?

In this relationship, do you expect that your partner would have sex only with you?

In this relationship, do you expect that you would have sex only with her?

Have you discussed these expectations with her?

And have you both explicitly agreed about this?

In this relationship, is any kind of contraception being used?

What form of contraception is being used? *[Read out]*

1. Contraceptive pill
2. IUD (intrauterine device)
3. Depo injection (Provera or Ralovera)
4. Implant (Implanon)
5. Vasectomy
6. Partner had tubal ligation
7. Condom
8. Safe period/natural family planning (rhythm method, Billings method, symptothermal, periodic abstinence, 'We only do it when it's safe')
9. Withdrawal (coitus interruptus, pulling out)
10. Nuva-Ring
11. Diaphragm/cervical cap. Do you also use spermicide foam or jelly?
12. Spermicide foam or jelly
13. Other non-prescribed *[incl. Femidom, douching, sponge]*
14. Partner is breastfeeding

*[If no method]* And have you been having sex without falling pregnant for the past 12 months?

Do you use that method every time, or another type or method as well?

Can you tell me why you are not using contraception? *[Prompt: Is it because you don't have intercourse, you want a baby, you are infertile, or do you have some reason you prefer not to?]*

1. Not having intercourse
2. Want a baby
3. Partner is pregnant now
4. Partner is breastfeeding now
5. Use safe period (periodic abstinence rhythm method, Billings method)
6. I withdraw (pull out)
7. Partner is infertile or subfertile
8. I am infertile
9. Have been sterilised (vasectomy)
10. Partner had tubal ligation
11. Partner had hysterectomy
12. Partner is past menopause
13. Don't worry/don't care
14. Don't know what to do/don't know about methods
15. Religious objection
16. Leave it to chance/fate/god when to have babies
17. Believe it unnatural or unhealthy
18. Partner experienced side effects/contraindications
19. Would like to but can't (partner/parent doesn't allow/no access/no confidential service)
20. Use method [*Go back to use of contraception question*]

How many times in the past 4 weeks have you had sex with your partner? Even if this wasn't typical for you. Not just intercourse, but including other forms of sex. [*Number of sessions, not number of acts: so a session of oral + intercourse + anal = 1. If they stopped for dinner or sleep and continued, that's 2 sessions.*]

Thinking now about your relationship with your partner. How physically pleasurable do you find sex with her to be? Is it ... [*Read out list 1–5*]

1. Extremely pleasurable
2. Very pleasurable
3. Moderately pleasurable
4. Slightly pleasurable
5. Not at all pleasurable

How emotionally satisfying do you find your relationship with her to be? Is it ... [*Read out list 1–5*]

1. Extremely satisfying
2. Very satisfying
3. Moderately satisfying
4. Slightly satisfying
5. Not at all satisfying

### Most recent female partner

I am now going to ask about sex with the woman that you most recently had sex with. [I only want to ask about four other recent sexual partners.]

When was the last time you had sex with this woman? [By 'sex' we mean any kind of contact you felt was sexual – not just intercourse.]

What was your relationship to her? [*Wait and prompt if necessary – if client in sex work, code as 5. 'other'*]

1. Live-in partner
2. Regular partner, but not living together
3. Occasional partner
4. Casual partner or one-night stand
5. Other

Was this regular partner the one you described before? The one you do not live with?

How old was she? [Would she have been ... ? *Read out age categories*]

How long had you known her before you had sex for the first time? [*Prompt: 'Known' counts from when you first met in person.*]

1. Less than 24 hours
2. More than a day but less than a week
3. More than a week, less than a month
4. More than a month, less than a year
5. A year or more

How long ago was the first time you had sex with her?

How often was a condom used when having vaginal intercourse with her? Was that never, occasionally, often or always?

How many times had you had sex with her in the past 4 weeks?

Did you use any contraception?

What form of contraception did you use? [*Response options as for previous question on contraception*]

Do you use that every time, or another type or method as well?

Can you tell me why you are not using contraception?

The last time you had sex, did you put your penis into her vagina?

Was a condom used?

Was the condom put on before your penis touched her vagina?

Did you ejaculate inside her? [*If yes, clarify whether ejaculation was in the condom*]

The last time you had sex, did you put your penis into her anus?

Was a condom used when you did this?

Was the condom put on before your penis touched her anus?

Did you ejaculate inside her rectum? [*If yes, clarify whether ejaculation was in the condom*]

The last time you had sex, did you have oral sex with your penis in her mouth?  
Was a condom used? [*If necessary clarify: 'that is, for the oral sex'*]  
Did you have oral sex with your mouth on her vaginal area?

Did she stimulate your penis with her hand?  
Did you stimulate her clitoris or vaginal area with your hand?

And the last time you had sex with her, did you have an orgasm?

In the past 12 months have you had sex with any woman other than the one [ones] you have already [just] told me about?

In the past 2 years have you had sex with any woman other than the one [ones] you have already [just] told me about?

And now some questions about your practice in general over the past 6 months.

During the past 6 months, how often was a condom used when having vaginal intercourse with your regular partner/s? Was that never, occasionally, often or always?

## Sex with men

[*Check: 'You said earlier that you have had no sexual contact with men' or 'You said earlier that you have had sexual contact with men.'*]

Now some questions about your sexual activity with men.

In your whole life, how many men have you had anal intercourse with? That's penis-in-anus sex. Please include your current partner, if you have one. [*If asks whether sex work is included, say: Yes, we ask more about that later. If asks re sexual contact with adults as a child, say: You don't need to count anything that happened when you were very young. Prompt: Would it be ... ? Read out categories – if fewer than 11 men, request an exact answer*]

1. 11–15
2. 16–20
3. 21–30
4. 31–40
5. 41–50
6. 51–100
7. 101–500
8. More than 500

Are there any more men that you had oral sex with? That's his penis in your mouth, or your penis in his mouth. Men that you didn't have anal sex with. [*If he asks re sexual contact with adults as a child, say: You don't need to count anything that happened when you were very young.*]

In your whole lifetime, how many men have you had oral sex with? That's his penis in your mouth, or your penis in his mouth?  
How many? [*Prompt: Would it be ... ? Read out categories as above*]

Are there any more men that you had some form of sexual contact with that involved touching the penis? Men that you didn't have anal or oral sex with.  
How many? [*Prompt: Would it be ... ? Read out categories as above*]

In the last 5 years – that is, since [*insert date*] – how many men have you had anal sex with? [*Prompt: Would it be ... ? Read out categories as above*]

In the last 12 months – that is, since [*add date*] – how many men have you had anal sex with?  
[*Prompt: Would it be ... ? Read out categories as above*]

In the last 12 months, are there any more men that you had oral sex with? Men that you didn't have anal sex with?

In the last 12 months – that is, since [*insert date*], how many men have you had oral sex with?  
[*Prompt: Would it be ... ? Read out categories as above*]

In the last 12 months, are there any more men that you had some form of sexual contact with that involved touching the penis with the hand?  
How many? [*Prompt: Would it be ... ? Read out categories as above*]

Have you used condoms in the last 12 months to have sex with a man?

Do you currently have a regular male sexual partner or partners? Someone you have an ongoing sexual relationship with. [*Ongoing means he expects the relationship to continue and to have sex with the partner again.*]

Is there more than one?

Do you live with him?

## Regular male partners

How many current regular male partners do you have?

Do you live with one of these partners?

The next questions are about the regular male partner you most recently had sex with. *[The same questions are then asked about the respondent's second most recent regular male sexual partner]*

How long have you been in this relationship? Including any time before you were living together. *[If respondent unsure when it started say: Count from when you felt it became a regular relationship. Many people count from when they first had sex.]*

How long had you known him before you had sex for the first time? *[Prompt: 'Known' counts from when you first met in person. Let respondent use his own definition of 'sex'.]*

1. Less than 24 hours
2. More than a day but less than a week
3. More than a week but less than a month
4. More than a month but less than a year
5. A year or more

How old is he? *[Prompt: Would he be ... ? Read out age categories]*

In this relationship, do you expect that he would have sex only with you?  
In this relationship, do you expect that you would have sex only with him?  
Have you discussed these expectations with him?  
And have you both explicitly agreed about this?

How many times in the past 4 weeks have you had sex with [this] / [your] partner? Even if this wasn't typical for you. Not just intercourse, but including other forms of sex. *[Number of times: number of sessions, not number of acts: so a session of oral + intercourse + manual = 1. If they stopped for dinner or sleep and continued, that's 2 sessions.]*

Thinking now about your relationship with 'this', 'your' partner. How physically pleasurable do you find sex with him to be? Is it ... *[Read out list 1–5]*

1. Extremely pleasurable
2. Very pleasurable
3. Moderately pleasurable
4. Slightly pleasurable
5. Not at all pleasurable

How emotionally satisfying do you find your relationship with him to be? Is it ... *[Read out list 1–5]*

1. Extremely satisfying
2. Very satisfying

3. Moderately satisfying
4. Slightly satisfying
5. Not at all satisfying

## Most recent male partner

I am now going to ask about sex with the man that you most recently had sex with. *[I only want to ask about four other recent sexual partners.]*

When was the last time you had sex with him? *[By 'sex' we mean any kind of contact you felt was sexual – not just intercourse.]*

What was your relationship to him? *[Wait and prompt if necessary – if client in sex work, code as 5. 'other']*

1. Live-in partner
2. Steady partner, but not living together
3. Occasional partner
4. Casual partner or one-night stand
5. Other

Was this regular partner one of the men you described before? *[Prompt if yes, for example: 'Which one, the one you don't live with, or the first or the second?']*  
How old was he?

How long had you known him before you had sex for the first time?

1. Less than 24 hours
2. More than a day but less than a week
3. More than a week, less than a month
4. More than a month, less than a year
5. A year or more

How long ago was the first time you had sex with him?

How often was a condom used when having anal intercourse with him? Was that never, occasionally, often or always?

How many times have you had sex with him in the past 4 weeks?

The last time you had sex, did you put your penis into his anus?

Was a condom used?

Was the condom put on before your penis touched his anus?

Did you ejaculate inside his rectum?

The last time you had sex, did he put his penis into your anus?

Was a condom used when he did this?

Was the condom put on before his penis touched your anus?

Did he ejaculate inside your rectum?

The last time you had sex, did you have oral sex with his mouth on your penis?  
Did you have oral sex with your mouth on his penis?  
Did he stimulate your penis with his hand?  
Did you stimulate his penis area with your hand?

And the last time you had sex with him, did you have an orgasm?

Is he ... *[read items]*

1. HIV negative
2. HIV-positive
8. Of unknown HIV status
9. Refused

In the past 12 months have you had sex with any man [person / people] other than the one [ones] you have already [just] told me about?

In the past 2 years have you had sex with any man [person / people] other than the one [ones] you have already [just] told me about?

### **Masturbation and other noncoital sexual behaviours**

The next section is about things that some people do to add to sexual stimulation. If you have not heard of any of the things I read out, just tell me.

Have you ever looked at pornographic material? *[This includes magazines, pictures, cards, films, books and material on the internet. Anything that the respondent considers to be porn or explicit erotic material.]* And have you looked at it in the last 12 months?

How old were you when you first looked at pornographic material? Would it be ... *[Read scale]:*

1. 0–5
2. 6–9
3. 10–12
4. 13–15
5. 16–17
6. 18–24
7. 25 or older

I'm now going to read a number of statements and I'd like you to tell me whether you: ... *[Read scale. Scale is randomly inverted by computer]*

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree

Pornography can enhance the pleasure of masturbation

You feel using porn has had a bad effect on you  
You feel that you are addicted to pornography

In the last 12 months, have you ever masturbated alone? *[Prompt: stimulated yourself. Orgasm is not required for activity to qualify as masturbation.]*  
In the last 4 weeks how many times have you masturbated alone?

In the last 12 months, have you watched an X-rated movie? *[If asked: 'X is classified as movies containing only sexually explicit content – from sex shops or mail order']*

In the last 12 months, have you used a sex toy such as a vibrator or dildo? *[Any other toys such as butt plugs, ben-wa balls etc. are included – do not include feathers, canes, massage oil, etc. Skip rest of section if respondent doesn't understand questions or expresses discomfort at any point in the next series of questions.]*

In the last 12 months, have you used a sex toy such as a vibrator or dildo during sex with a partner? *[Any other toys such as butt plugs, ben-wa balls etc. are included – do not include feathers, canes, massage oil, etc.]*

In the last 12 months, have you been involved in role playing or dressing up? *[Includes playing games like naughty schoolgirl, captain and cabin boy etc. or dressing up in fetish gear.]*

In the last 12 months have you been involved in B&D or S&M? That's bondage and discipline, sadomasochism, or dominance and submission. Do you think of yourself as...?

1. Top or Domme (dominant)
2. Bottom or submissive
3. Switch or versatile (does both)
4. Neither, not applicable to your practice

And in the last 12 months, have you been involved in group sex?

And in the last 12 months, have you been involved in swinging or partner-swapping? *[You and your partner engaging in sexual activity with another couple.]*

And in the last 12 months, have you used your fingers to stimulate a partner's anus, or had a partner do that to you?

And in the last 12 months, have you been involved in fisting? *[Do not explain – includes both receptive and insertive, vaginal and rectal fisting, if asks which]*

Oral-anal contact or rimming, in the last 12 months?



## Sexual coercion

The next section is about sexual situations that both women and men have encountered. We understand that sometimes these are difficult issues to discuss.

Have you ever had a sexual experience with a male or a female when you didn't want to because you were too drunk or high at the time?

Have you ever been forced or frightened by a male or a female into doing something sexually that you did not want to do?

How many times has this happened to you?

How old were you when it started?

Did you talk to someone about it or seek help?

Who did you talk to?

1. Brother or sister
2. Parent
3. Friend
4. Rape crisis centre
5. Hospital
6. Police
7. Teacher
8. Clergy
9. Counsellor, psychologist, etc.
10. Doctor or nurse
11. Magazines, newspapers, radio
12. Spouse/partner
13. Other relative

If you would like I can give you a phone number of someone to talk to (more) about this. The number is [provide appropriate phone details from contact sheet]

## Domestic violence

Can anyone else hear me asking you these questions? [Clarify: Can they hear the actual words I'm saying?]

During the last 12 months, how often has your current regular partner physically hurt you? [If more than one partner ask about the most frequent. Use range prompts below if needed]

1. Never
2. Rarely
3. Sometimes
4. Fairly often
5. Frequently

How often in the last 12 months has your partner insulted or talked down to you?

How often in the last 12 months has your partner threatened you with harm?

How often in the last 12 months has your partner screamed or sworn at you?

Was that regular current partner male or female?

How long have you been in this relationship? [If asked: Including any time before you were living together.]

## Sexual difficulties

The next questions are about your sexual life now.

During the last year has there been a period of one month or more when you lacked interest in having sex?

And did that last [Read out]

1. At least 1 month but less than 3 months
2. At least 3 months but less than 6 months
3. 6 months or more

How much of a problem was this? [Read out]

1. Not a problem
2. A minor problem
3. Somewhat of a problem
4. A major problem

And did you seek treatment for this problem? And where was that?

Has there been a period of one month or more when you were unable to come to orgasm?

And did that last [Read out as before]

How much of a problem was this? [Read out as before]

And did you seek treatment for this problem? And where was that?

Has there been a period of one month or more when you came to orgasm too quickly?

And did that last [Read out as before]

How much of a problem was this? [Read out as before]

And did you seek treatment for this problem? And where was that?

Has there been a period of one month or more when you experienced physical pain during intercourse?

And did that difficulty last [Read out as before]

How much of a problem was this? [Read out as before]

Has there been a period of one month or more when you did not find sex pleasurable?

And did that difficulty last [Read out as before]

How much of a problem was this? [Read out as before]

And did you seek treatment for this problem? And where was that?

Has there been a period of one month or more when you felt anxious about your ability to perform sexually?

And did that difficulty last *[Read out as before]*

How much of a problem was this? *[Read out as before]*

And did you seek treatment for this problem? And where was that?

Has there been a period of one month or more when you had trouble keeping an erection when you wanted to?

And did that difficulty last *[Read out as before]*

How much of a problem was this? *[Read out as before]*

And did you seek treatment for this problem? And where was that?

Have you ever used any treatment to help with erections? [for example, injections or tablets like Viagra, Cialis, Levitra]

1. Yes, injections
2. Yes, Viagra/Cialis/Levitra
3. Yes, both injections and Viagra/Cialis/Levitra
4. Yes, Other
5. Yes, Counselling

Have you used any of these treatments in the last 12 months?

How was this treatment obtained? *[read items]*

1. With a doctor's prescription?
2. Online without a prescription?
3. Some other way?

Ideally, how often would you like to have sex?

*[Pause – read list with numbers. If answer is between codes enter lower code.]*

1. More than once a day
2. Daily
3. 5–6 times a week
4. 3–4 times a week
5. 2–3 times a week
6. Once a week
7. Once every two weeks
8. Once every three weeks
9. Monthly
10. Less than monthly
11. Every six months
12. Annually
13. Never

## Sex and the internet

Have you ever used an internet site or a smart-phone application to look for potential partners? Have you done so in the past year?

Have you had online sex with someone during the last year?

In the last year have you met someone in person that you met first on an internet site?

How many? And did you have sex with that person?

Thinking about the most recent time, was the person male or female?

Was this man one of the men you described earlier? *[Or woman]*

Which man was it? *[Or woman]*

## Sex work

And now some questions about sex and money.

Have you ever paid anyone to have sex with you, including oral sex and manual stimulation?

Have you ever paid for sex with a woman?

Have you paid to have sex with a woman in the last 12 months?

Have you paid to have sex with a woman overseas in the last 12 months?

Have you ever paid money for sex with a male?

Have you paid to have sex with a man in the last 12 months?

Have you paid to have sex with a man overseas in the last 12 months?

Have you ever been paid to have sex, including oral sex and manual stimulation?

Has a man paid money for sex with you in the last 12 months?

Have you ever been paid money for sex with a woman?

Has a woman paid money for sex with you in the last 12 months?

## General health

Thank you. Now some questions about your general health.

In general, would you say your health is ...  
? [Read out options 1–5]

1. Excellent
2. Very good
3. Good
4. Fair
5. Poor

In the past 4 weeks, about how often did you feel nervous?

1. All of the time
2. Most of the time
3. Some of the time
4. A little of the time
5. None of the time

[Read scale as above if necessary for the following questions]

In the past 4 weeks, about how often did you feel so sad that nothing could cheer you up?

In the past 4 weeks, about how often did you feel restless or fidgety?

In the past 4 weeks, about how often did you feel hopeless?

In the past 4 weeks, about how often did you feel that everything was an effort?

In the past 4 weeks, about how often did you feel worthless?

Are you taking any medication for a mental health condition prescribed by a doctor?

Have you been diagnosed with prostate cancer?  
Did your treatment for prostate cancer involve surgery?

Do you currently smoke cigarettes, cigars, pipes or any other tobacco products?

Would that be ... [Read out]

1. Daily
2. At least weekly
3. Less often than weekly

Over your lifetime, would you have smoked at least 100 cigarettes or a similar amount of tobacco?

For how many years did you smoke? [For how many years have you smoked?]

When you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke a day, on average? [On average, how many cigarettes do you smoke a day?]

How often do you have an alcoholic drink of any kind? [Read out – if range given, use middle value if possible – or lower]

1. Every day
2. 6 days a week
3. 5 days a week
4. 4 days a week
5. 3 days a week

6. 2 days a week
7. 1 day a week
8. Fortnightly or less
9. Monthly or less
10. Do not drink alcohol

On a day that you have alcoholic drinks, how many drinks do you usually have? [If asked, a drink is a glass of wine or beer or a nip of spirits. If a range is given use middle value if possible – or lower]

Are you currently taking any medication for high blood pressure or a heart condition?

Have you ever been told by a doctor or nurse that you have diabetes or high blood sugar?

How old were you when you were first told you had diabetes or high blood sugar?

## Body modification

Have you been circumcised?

How old were you?

In the past 12 months have you had your pubic hair shaved, waxed or lasered? [If needed, clarify: Don't include times this was done before surgery.]

Have you ever had surgery to extend the length of your penis?

Did that surgery achieve what your surgeon indicated it would?

How pleased are you with that surgery? [Read scale]

1. Extremely pleased
2. Very pleased
3. Moderately pleased
4. Slightly pleased
5. Not at all pleased

## Sex education

Did you receive any sex education at school?  
Did it include contraception and condom use?

## Sexually transmissible infections

Have you been tested for any sexually transmitted infection in the last year?

How many times?

When you were most recently tested for a sexually transmitted infection in the past year, did it involve...? [Read items]

1. A urine test?
2. A blood test?
3. Some other test?



4. A throat swab?
5. An anal swab?

The next section is about sexual health. Not all the questions are about sexually transmissible infections.

In your lifetime, have you ever had any of the following? I'll read out a list, and ask you to say Yes or No to each one.

Pubic lice or crabs?

Have you had them in the past 12 months?

Where did you go for treatment for them? *[First place he went in the most recent occurrence.*

*Clarify what type of clinic if respondent just says 'clinic'. Sexual health clinic is also STD clinic or clap clinic.]*

1. Usual GP
2. New GP
3. 24-hour clinic
4. Sexual health clinic
5. Public hospital/outpatients
6. Private hospital
7. Family planning clinic
8. Alternative health professional
9. Chemist
10. Friend
11. Self treatment
12. No treatment

Genital warts?

Have you had them in the past 12 months?

Where did you go for treatment for them?

Anal warts?

Did this occur in the past 12 months?

Where did you go for treatment?

Chlamydia?

Have you had chlamydia in the past 12 months?

Where did you go for treatment for it?

Genital herpes?

Have you had an episode of genital herpes in the last 12 months?

Where did you go for treatment for it?

Syphilis?

Have you had syphilis in the past 12 months?

Where did you go for treatment for it?

Gonorrhoea?

Have you had gonorrhoea in the last 12 months?

Where did you go for treatment for it?

Non-specific urethritis or NSU.

Have you had NSU in the last 12 months?

Where did you go for treatment for it?

Penile candida or thrush?

Have you had candida/thrush in the last 12 months?

Where did you go for treatment for it?

### Knowledge of sexually transmissible diseases

I'm now going to read a number of statements and I'd like you to tell me whether you: ... *[Read scale. Scale is randomly inverted by computer.]*

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree

Sex before marriage is acceptable

If two people had oral sex, but not intercourse, you would still consider that they had had sex together

An active sex life is important for your sense of well-being

Abortion is always wrong

Having an affair when in a committed relationship is always wrong

Sex between two adult women is always wrong

Sex between two adult men is always wrong

Pornography degrades the women shown in it

Pornography can improve sexual relations among adults

Pornography degrades the men shown in it

Sexual health education for adolescents increases the likelihood of early sexual activity

People who are suspected of having HIV/AIDS lose respect in the community

It is acceptable for women to continue to work outside the home after they have children, if they want to

What would upset or distress you more: imagining your partner... *[Read items as presented]...?*

1. ... forming a deep emotional attachment to another person?
2. ... having sexual intercourse with another person?

[Not many more questions to go. The following statements are about sexually transmitted diseases and hepatitis. Please answer True or False for each.]

Chlamydia affects only women *[Correct answer = False]*

Chlamydia can lead to infertility in women *[True]*

Once a person has caught genital herpes, they will always have the virus *[True]*

People who have injected drugs are at risk for hepatitis C *[True]*

Hepatitis B can be transmitted sexually [True]  
 Gonorrhoea can be transmitted through oral sex [True]  
 Genital warts can only be spread by intercourse [False]  
 Cold sores and genital herpes can be caused by the same virus [True]

## HIV

We now have some questions about infections that may be transmitted by blood. As you may know, there is a blood test that tells you whether or not you have HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Have you ever had a blood test for HIV?

When did you have the last test? *[If in the last 2 years, ask: 'And where did you get your most recent test?']*

1. Usual GP
2. New GP
3. 24-hour clinic
4. Sexual health clinic
5. Public hospital/outpatients
6. Private hospital
7. Family planning clinic

Did your most recent test show that you...*[Read only 1 and 2]*

1. Have the virus (HIV positive)
2. Do not have the virus (HIV negative)
3. Waiting for the results
4. Did not get the results

Do you personally know, or have you personally known, someone who has AIDS or is HIV-positive?

## Drug use

Have you ever injected/(self-injected) any drugs, apart from prescribed drugs? *[Heroin, speed, cocaine, ecstasy, steroids or any recreational drugs – includes respondent being injected by someone else.]*

In the last 12 months, have you injected any drugs, apart from prescribed drugs?

Have you ever been detained in a prison or a juvenile detention facility for more than 24 hours?

## More demographics

Now, a few final questions.

Do you have a particular religion or faith?  
 What religion or faith do you follow?  
 How often do you attend services or meetings?  
*[Read out]*

1. Never
2. Only on special occasions [weddings, funerals, christenings etc.]
3. Less than monthly (include only Easter, Christmas, etc.)
4. Monthly
5. Weekly
6. Daily

How many children have you had? *[If he asks, = live births]*

What is the highest educational qualification you have completed? *[Pause, and prompt if necessary]*

1. No formal schooling
2. Primary school only
3. Lower secondary school/School certificate/Intermediate Certificate
4. Technical or trade certificate
5. Higher secondary school/ HSC/VCE/Leaving Certificate
6. College certificate/diploma
7. Undergraduate university degree
8. Postgraduate university degree

Which of the following best describes your work status now? You can pick more than one. *[Read out list]*

1. Employed full-time
2. Employed part-time [includes casually employed]
3. Home duties
4. Unemployed
5. Student
6. Permanently ill or unable to work
7. Retired

Have you ever worked?

What is your usual job? *[Probe for information allowing ASCO coding. Unemployed, use work done or looking for; retired, use last employment]*

1. Manager or administrator
2. Professional
3. Associate professional
4. Tradesperson and related
5. Advanced clerical and service
6. Intermediate clerical, sales, and service
7. Intermediate production and transport
8. Elementary clerical, sales, and service
9. Labourer and related

What is your approximate family income before tax and other deductions? That's the total for you, your partner and your children if they live at home. I'll read out the categories and you just give me the number. *[Clarify: before tax, super, health insurance etc. deducted. Read out list with numbers]*

1. Under \$28,000 per year
2. \$28,001 to \$52,000
3. \$52,001 to \$83,000
4. \$83,001 to \$125,000
5. Over \$125,000
6. Only know per week
7. Only know personal income

Would it be... ? *[If needed, clarify: before tax, super, health insurance etc. deducted. Read out list with numbers]*

1. Under \$540 per week
2. \$541 to \$1000
3. \$1001 to \$1600
4. \$1601 to \$2400
5. Over \$2400

What is your approximate personal income before tax and other deductions? I'll read out the categories and you just give me the number. *[Read out list with numbers]*

1. Under \$28,000 per year
2. \$28,001 to \$52,000
3. \$52,001 to \$83,000
4. \$83,001 to \$125,000
5. Over \$125,000
6. Only know per week

Would it be ... ? *[Read out list with numbers]*

Under \$540 per week

1. \$541 to \$1000
2. \$1001 to \$1600
3. \$1601 to \$2400
4. Over \$2400

## Conclusion

That's the end of the study questions but I'd also like to ask some quick questions about the questionnaire.

How embarrassing did you find the questionnaire?

1. Extremely embarrassing
2. Very embarrassing
3. Quite embarrassing
4. Slightly embarrassing
5. Not at all embarrassing

In percentage terms, how honest were you in your answers to the questionnaire?

Thank you for your help. My name is *[name]* calling on behalf of the Australian universities conducting the 2013 Australian Study of Health and Relationships (ASHR). If you would like to discuss further any of the issues covered in this interview, I can give you the phone number of a relevant service.

*[Refer to contacts sheet for relevant numbers]*

If you have any concerns or questions, you are welcome to call our free phone number [...].

*[If further contact required: Associate Professor Juliet Richters via [j.richters@unsw.edu.au](mailto:j.richters@unsw.edu.au); or: email [ethics.rmo@unsw.edu.au](mailto:ethics.rmo@unsw.edu.au)]*

