



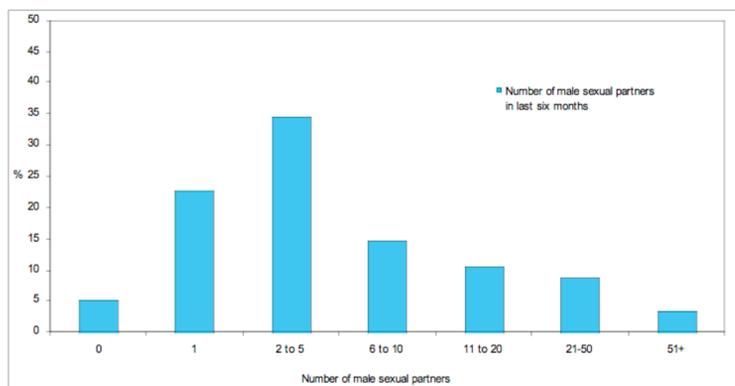
Sexual behaviour in the GAPSS and GOSS studies

In 2006 the Gay Auckland Period Sex Survey (GAPSS) recruited 1228 men from the Big Gay Out, gay bars, saunas and cruise clubs. Afterwards, the Gay men's Online Sex Survey (GOSS) recruited 2141 respondents from Internet dating sites, 647 of whom lived in Auckland.

The study attracted a broad range of men who have sex with men (MSM) and provides important information about how men are responding to HIV in different ways.

This poster describes some aspects of sexual behaviour and condom use among the 1875 MSM recruited in that year.

Figure 1. Number of male sexual partners in the six months prior to survey



The most common number of recent sexual partners reported by respondents was 2-5 male partners in the previous six months, followed by 1 sexual partner (Figure 1).

Around 1 in 8 respondents had engaged in sex with more than 20 different sexual partners in the previous six months.

Many respondents reported complex combinations of sexual partnering even over a relatively short period of time (Figure 2).

Around 20% reported one main regular sexual partner only during the last six months, and a further 20% reported only engaging in casual sex.

Over half of all respondents therefore reported combinations of both regular and casual partnering, or multiple regular partnering.

The study also analysed behaviours performed within three types of sexual partner contexts:

- casual sex (67% of respondents)
- sex with a regular fuckbuddy (14% of all respondents)
- sex with a regular partner described as a boyfriend / long-term partner (33% of all respondents)

Among men having anal sex, condom use varied according to the relationship context.

The rate of any unprotected anal intercourse (anyUAI) in the last six months was similar for sex with casual partners and fuckbuddy partners, and was highest for sex with boyfriend partners (Figure 3).

As Figure 3 also shows, half the respondents who reported anyUAI with a casual partner still used condoms most of the time.

The study was also able to explore “overlapping” or “concurrent” sexual relationships i.e respondents who reported two sexual relationships at the same time.

This found that:

- Half (53%) of men with a “boyfriend”-type partner of at least six months duration reported concurrent casual or regular partnering in the previous six months
- 93% of men with a “fuckbuddy”-type partner of at least six months duration reported concurrent casual or regular partnering in the previous six months

The study examined factors that predicted non-condom use within each of the three relationships types.

For casual sex for example, recent unprotected sex was more likely among MSM who had any of the following characteristics:

- were aged under 30
- had high numbers of recent sexual partners
- were recruited through Internet dating sites
- didn't use a condom the very first time they had anal sex
- used anyUAI at least twice a month
- were diagnosed HIV positive
- agreed that “HIV/AIDS is a less serious threat than it used to be because of new treatments”
- disagreed that “condoms are OK as part of sex”
- agreed that “I don't like condoms because they reduce sensitivity”
- did not know, or were unsure, that “HIV cannot pass through an undamaged latex condom”

Figure 2. Sexual partnering in the six months prior to survey

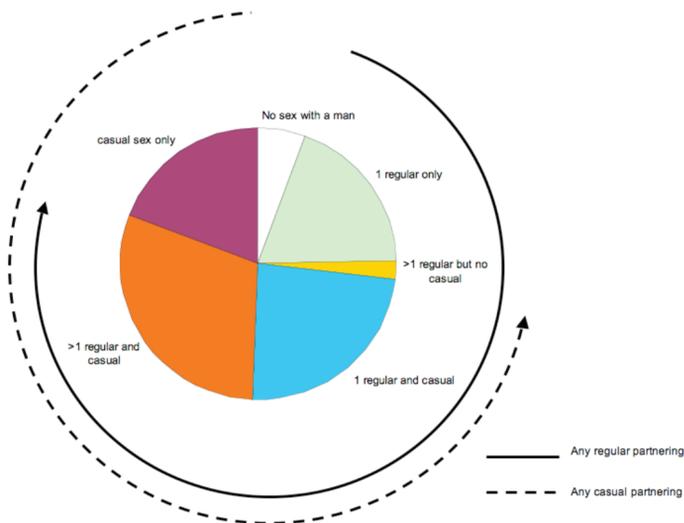


Figure 3. Condom use during anal sex within three different sexual partner contexts over the previous six months

