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Big Day Out 2005 Results

We conducted a survey of people at the Big Day Out in 2005, asking them about their sexual history, drug use, knowledge of sexually transmitted infections and blood borne viruses, and about music. 939 people between 16-29 years participated, including 507 females and 432 males.

SEXUAL HEALTH

- 86% had experienced oral sex.
- 80% had ever had vaginal or anal sex.
- 14% of men had ever had sexual contact (including touching genitals with hands, oral sex, deep kissing, and anal sex) with another man.
- 35% of women had ever had sexual contact (including touching genitals with hands, oral sex, and deep kissing) with another woman.
- Males reported an average of 9.6 lifetime partners, women reported 7.5.
- In the past year males reported an average of 3.4 partners, women reported 2.3 partners on average.
- Males had 2.2 new partners in the past three months, women had 1.5.
- More than half first had anal or vaginal sex at 16 or younger.
- In the last year 30% of respondents always used a condom during sex, 30% used one most of the time, 31% did some of the time, and 9% never did.
- Nearly two thirds had experienced unwanted sex because they were drunk or high, and 43% had not used a condom when they normally would have because they were drunk or high.
- The most common reasons for not using a condom were using other contraception, trusting ones partner, and heat of the moment.
- Only about a third of people had ever had an STD test.
- 6% reported that they had previously been diagnosed with an STD.

KNOWLEDGE OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs)

- The average score for knowledge about STIs was 4.7 out of 8. Females got more questions right on average than males.
 - 38% didn't know Chlamydia can make women infertile,
 - 48% didn't know Chlamydia could be diagnosed with a urine test,
 - 55% didn't know that Chlamydia, syphilis and gonorrhoea are easily treatable,
 - 75% of people knew that HIV cannot be spread by kissing.

DRUGS

- The most common age of first use of illegal drugs was 16 years.
- 77% of people had ever used at least one illicit drug.
 - 74% had used cannabis,
 - 40% had used ecstasy,
 - 40% had used speed,
 - 22% had used cocaine,
 - 21% had used LSD,
 - 11% had used inhalants,
 - 5% had used heroin.
- These results were much higher than levels of drug use that have been found in surveys of the Australian general population.
- 2.5% had ever injected drugs, whereas in the general population 3.3% have injected drugs.
- The average score for knowledge about blood-borne viruses was 4.4 out of 8. Again, women got more answers correct than men.
 - Just 34% knew there is no vaccine for Hep C,
 - But 58% knew that there is a vaccine for Hep B,
 - Only 29% knew you can't get Hep C from sharing food or drinks,
 - Only 25% knew that stepping on a needle is not a common way of getting Hep C or HIV (in fact it has never happened!)



The study researchers would like to thank all those who participated for their help.

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