



sex, drugs and
rock'n'roll

Big Day Out 2009 Results

We conducted the fifth survey of young people at the Big Day Out in 2009, asking them about their sexual history, knowledge of sexually transmitted infections, and their alcohol and drug use.

1,243 people aged 16-29 years participated. In addition, participants were asked if they would like to be sent a chlamydia testing kit in the mail.

SEXUAL HEALTH:

- 76% had ever had sex
- 26% had had more than 10 partners in their lifetime
- 47% had more than one sexual partner in the past year
- 36% had a new sexual partner in the last 3 months
- 35% were at risk of an STI because they didn't always use a condom with new or casual partner(s) or had multiple partners and didn't always use a condom

KNOWLEDGE OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs):

- 73% knew that people infected with chlamydia often don't have any symptoms and won't know they are infected
- 57% knew that chlamydia could make you infertile
- 40% knew that a pap test cannot be used to diagnose all the main STIs
- 51% knew that gonorrhoea, syphilis, and chlamydia can all be easily treated with antibiotics
- 68% knew that chlamydia could be diagnosed with a urine test

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE:

- 30% binge drink (six or more drinks at a time) at least weekly
- 49% had ever used drugs
- 28% had used drugs in the past month
- The most common drugs used in the past month were: marijuana (83%), ecstasy (56%), speed/ice/crystal meth (31%), acid/LSD/mushrooms (23%), and cocaine (17%)

CHLAMYDIA TESTING:

- 37% of those who had ever had sex had ever had an STI test
- One-third of participants elected to have a chlamydia testing kit sent to them in the mail
- Only one out of five people who were sent a test returned a sample to the laboratory for testing
- People who were older, knew that chlamydia can make women infertile, reported more than three lifetime sexual partners or reported inconsistent condom use were more likely to consent to receive a chlamydia testing kit

For any more information regarding this year's results please contact Alyce Vella:

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