



sex, drugs and
rock'n'roll

Big Day Out 2013 Results

In 2013, we conducted the ninth annual survey of young people at the Big Day Out, asking them about their sexual behaviour, knowledge of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and their alcohol and drug use. A total of 1423 people aged 16-29 years participated.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

- 66% of participants were female
- 50% were aged 19 years or less
- 87% were born in Australia
- 29% were still at high school
- 45% had completed or were in the process of completing post-high school education
- 50% reported personal income (before tax) under \$150 per week (<\$7,799 per year)

SEXUAL HEALTH:

- 89% reported being heterosexual
- 15% reported that they had had sex with a same-sex partner OR self-identified as homosexual, gay, bisexual, lesbian, or queer
- 77% had ever had sex

Of those who were sexually active:

- 19% had had more than 10 partners in their lifetime
- 42% had more than one sexual partner in the past year
- 35% were at risk of a STI because they don't always use a condom with new or casual partner(s) or had multiple partners and didn't always use a condom
- 38% had ever had an STI test
- The most common forms of contraception used the last time they had sex were: condoms (64%), the pill (40%), withdrawal (10%) Implanon (7%), or no contraception (6%).
- 5% of females reported ever having an unplanned pregnancy

KNOWLEDGE OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs):

- 74% knew that people infected with an STI often don't have any symptoms and won't know they are infected
- 57% knew that chlamydia could be diagnosed with a urine test
- 52% knew that gonorrhoea, syphilis, and chlamydia can all be easily treated with antibiotics

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE:

- 94% drank alcohol in the past 12 months

Of those who drank alcohol in past 12 months:

- 18% reported binge drinking (six or more drinks on a single occasion) at least weekly
- 34% had ever been injured, or injured someone else, because of their drinking
- 17% don't remember what happened the night before because of drinking, at least monthly
- 54% had consumed alcohol with energy drinks in the past 12 months

- 49% had ever used drugs
- 35% had used drugs in the past month
- *Of those using drugs in the past months*, the most commonly used drugs were: marijuana (91%), ecstasy (25%), speed/ice/crystal meth (13%), acid/LSD/mushrooms (13%) and cocaine (8%).
- 10% reported being a daily smoker of tobacco
- 16% had used prescription drugs without a prescription or not as directed in the past month. The most commonly used were over-the-counter codeine **not** for pain relief (40%), antidepressants (31%) and opiates (e.g. panadeine forte, oxycodone) (28%).

OTHER ISSUES

- 25% reported experiencing any mental health problems in the past six months
- 45% had gambled in the past 12 months. Participants were most likely to report gambling via Tatts/Scratchies (25%), the TAB (20%), the pokies (20%) and the casino (20%).
- 40% had ever sent or received a sexually-explicit image or text, also known as "sexting"

The study researchers would like to thank all those who participated for their help. The full results of the study are currently being prepared for publication in scientific journals and presentation at national and international conferences. If you have any questions about the study or its results, please email Alyce Vella:

alyce@burnet.edu.au



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