



## Big Day Out 2014 Results

In 2014, we conducted the tenth 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 913 people aged 15-29 years participated (62% female).

### **DEMOGRAPHICS:**

- 62% of participants were female
- 50% were aged 18 years or less
- 90% were born in Australia
- 37% were still at high school

### **SEXUAL HEALTH:**

- 88% reported being heterosexual
- 14% reported sex with a same-sex partner OR self-identified as homosexual, gay, bisexual, lesbian, or queer
- 76% had ever had sex

#### ***Of those who were sexually active (698 participants):***

- 23% had had more than 10 partners in their lifetime
- 45% had more than one sexual partner in the past year
- 39% 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
- 43% had ever had an STI test
- The most common forms of contraception used the last time they had sex were: condoms (55%), the pill (42%), Implanon (8%), or no contraception (10%)
- 8% had ever had sex that resulted in an unplanned pregnancy

### **KNOWLEDGE OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs):**

- 55% answered more than half of the STI knowledge questions correctly
- 70% knew that people infected with an STI often don't have any symptoms and won't know they are infected
- 50% knew that gonorrhoea, syphilis, and chlamydia can all be easily treated with antibiotics
- Only 33% knew that a pap smear could *not* be used to diagnose all the main STIs

### **ALCOHOL USE:**

- 90% drank alcohol in the past 12 months

#### ***Of those who drank alcohol in past 12 months (824 participants):***

- 26% reported risky drinking (six or more drinks at a time) at least weekly
- 21% don't remember what happened the night before because of drinking, at least monthly
- 56% had consumed alcohol with energy drinks in the past month (this was only asked to 409 participants)
- 32% had **ever** been injured, or injured someone else, because of their drinking



## **DRUG USE:**

- 56% had ever used drugs

### ***Of those that have taken drugs (513 participants):***

- 72% had used drugs in the past month
- *Of those using drugs in the past months*, the most commonly used drugs were: marijuana (88%), ecstasy (30%), speed/ice/crystal meth (19%), acid/LSD/mushrooms (18%) and cocaine (13%).
- 15% reported being a daily smoker of tobacco
- 4% had ever used drugs (illicit or not as prescribed) to improve physical appearance

Some (444 participants) were asked about their use of new psychoactive substances. Of those:

- 9% had used new psychoactive substances like synthetic cannabis or mephedrone in the past month

## **MENTAL HEALTH & BULLYING**

Some (444 participants) were asked about their mental health and bullying experiences. Of those:

- 51% reported their overall mental health as fair or poor
- 11% had used antidepressant medication in the last month
- 32% reported having mental health problems in the last six months
- 14% had been the victim of bullying in the past six months

## **SEXTING, PORN & APPS:**

- 48% had ever sent or received a sexually-explicit image or text, also known as “sexting”
- Of those that ‘sexted’, 17% sent images weekly/daily and 24% received images weekly/daily.
- 25% knew that it was illegal to forward sexts without permission in Victoria

Some (469 participants) were asked about their opinions on various elements relating to sexting, their use of dating and social apps and their viewing of pornographic material of these:

- 77% agreed it should be illegal for people to pass on a ‘sext’ without permission
- 40% of people viewed porn at least monthly in the past 12 months (more common among males)
- 50% of people were 14 or younger when they first viewed porn
- 79% had used either a dating app or a socialising app in the past 12 months; Snapchat was the most common, followed by Tinder

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](mailto:alyce@burnet.edu.au)