



sex, drugs and
rock'n'roll

Big Day Out 2012 Results

In 2012, we conducted the eighth 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 1329 people aged 16-29 years participated (64% female).

DEMOGRAPHICS:

- 64% of participants were female
- 50% were aged 18 years or less
- 92% were born in Australia
- 40% had completed or were in the process of completing post-high school education
- 61% reported personal income (before tax) under \$400 per week (\$21,800 per year)

SEXUAL HEALTH:

- 12% reported sex with a same-sex partner OR self-identified as homosexual, gay, bisexual, lesbian, or queer
- 72% had ever had sex

Of those who were sexually active:

- 20% had had more than 10 partners in their lifetime
- 42% had more than one sexual partner in the past year
- 33% had a new sexual partner in the last 3 months
- 34% 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
- 37% had ever had a STI test
- The most common forms of contraception used the last time they had sex were: condoms (65%), the pill (47%), withdrawal (8%), Implanon (7%), or no contraception (6%).
- 6% of females reported ever having an unplanned pregnancy

KNOWLEDGE OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs):

- 72% knew that people infected with chlamydia often don't have any symptoms and won't know they are infected
- 54% knew that chlamydia could be diagnosed with a urine test



- 47% knew that gonorrhoea, syphilis, and chlamydia can all be easily treated with antibiotics

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE:

- 97% drank alcohol in the past 12 months
- 50% drank their first full serve of alcohol at age 15 years or younger

Of those who drank alcohol in past 12 months:

- 24% reported binge drinking (six or more drinks at a time) at least weekly
- 38% had ever been injured, or someone else injured, because of their drinking
- 8% don't remember what happened the night before because of drinking, at least monthly

- 41% had ever used drugs
- 27% had used drugs in the past month
- *Of those using drugs in the past months*, the most commonly used drugs were: marijuana (92%), speed/ice/crystal meth (20%), acid/LSD/mushrooms (18%), ecstasy (18%), and cocaine (11%).
- 8% had tried Spice/Kronic and 20% had used "herbal highs" in the past month
- 11% reported being a daily smoker of tobacco

LIFESTYLE AND MENTAL HEALTH

- 18% reported experiencing any mental health problems in the past six months
- Based on self-reported height and weight, 23% were classified as overweight or obese
- 26% drank soft drink four or more times a week (excluding diet soft drink)
- 92% had less than the recommended five+ serves of vegetables daily
- 40% spent more than two hours watching television on week days and 45% more than two hours watching TV on weekend days
- 36% spent more than two hours per day using social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter)

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. This study was funded by the Victorian Department of Health & Victorian Law Enforcement Drug Fund (VLEDF). If you have any questions about the study or its results, please email Alyce Vella: alyce@burnet.edu.au