

Arts & Social Sciences
Centre for Social Research in Health

**Diversification of safe sex practices
among Australian gay and bisexual
men**

UNSW SYDNEY | Australia's
Global
University

A/Prof Martin Holt & Dr Toby Lea

m.holt@unsw.edu.au

@martinxholt

#ASHM17

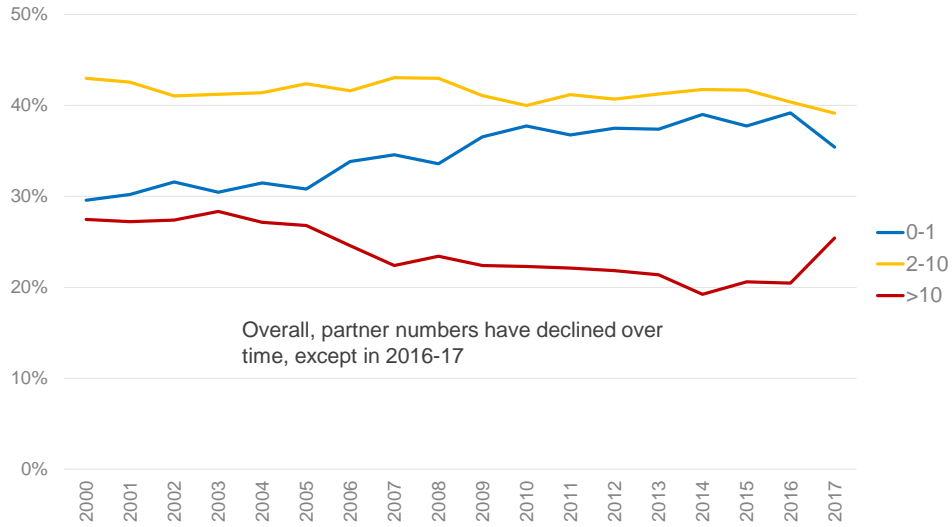


Background

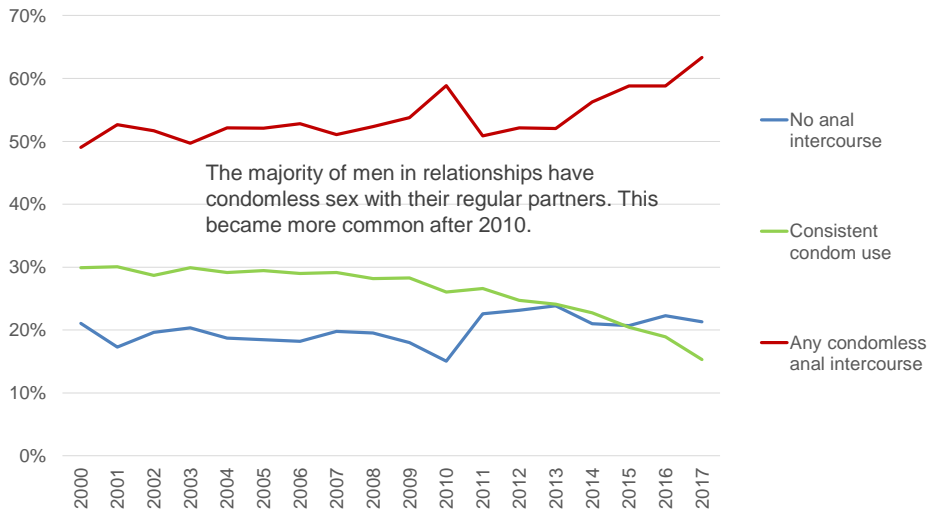
Arts & Social Sciences
Centre for Social Research in Health

- Gay and bisexual men's sexual practices have evolved throughout the HIV epidemic
- Protective strategies (e.g. condoms) have often been community led/generated
- Every technological innovation in HIV testing, treatment and prevention has prompted shifts in practice
- Australian GBM's practices have been monitored by the [Gay Community Periodic Surveys](#) since 1996
- What follows is a review of trends in selected practices since 2000 (national; unadjusted; 7 states/territories, >6000 participants per year; only NSW & VIC in 2017)

No. of male partners (last 6 mths)

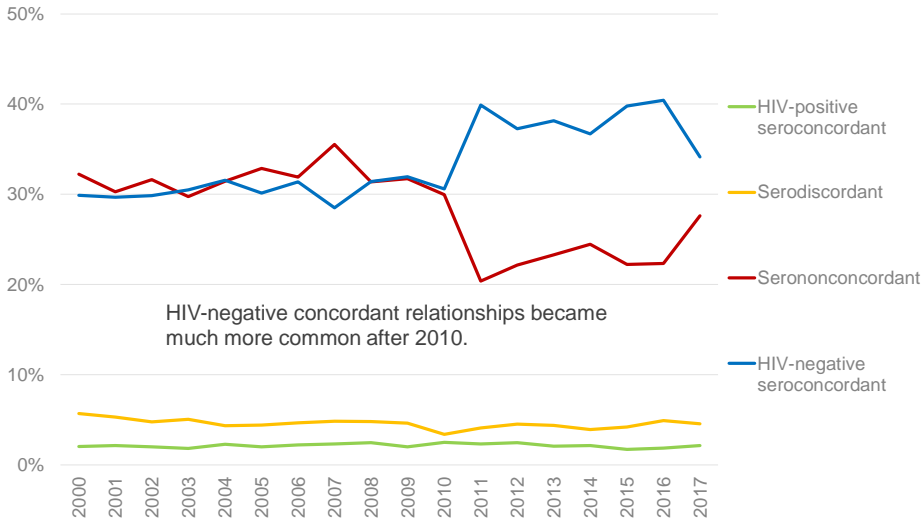


Sex with regular male partners



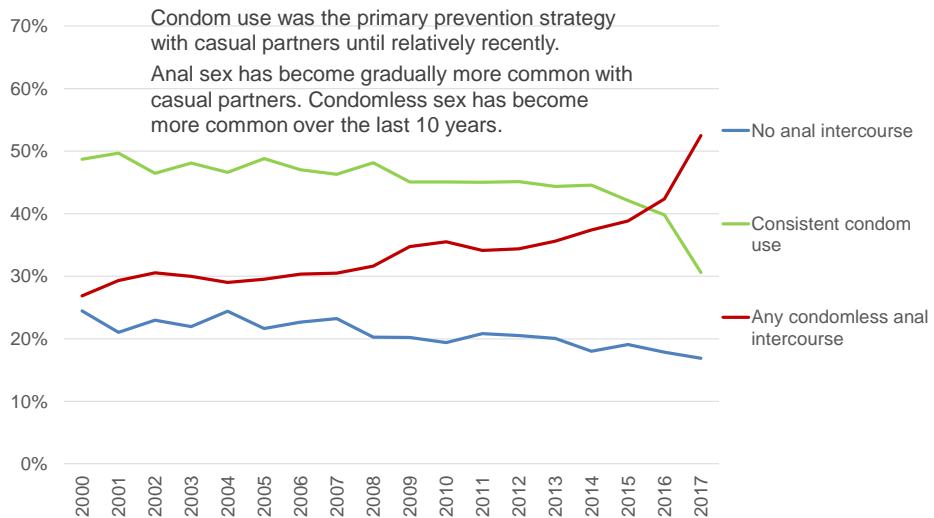
Match of HIV status, regular partners

Arts & Social Sciences
Centre for Social Research in Health

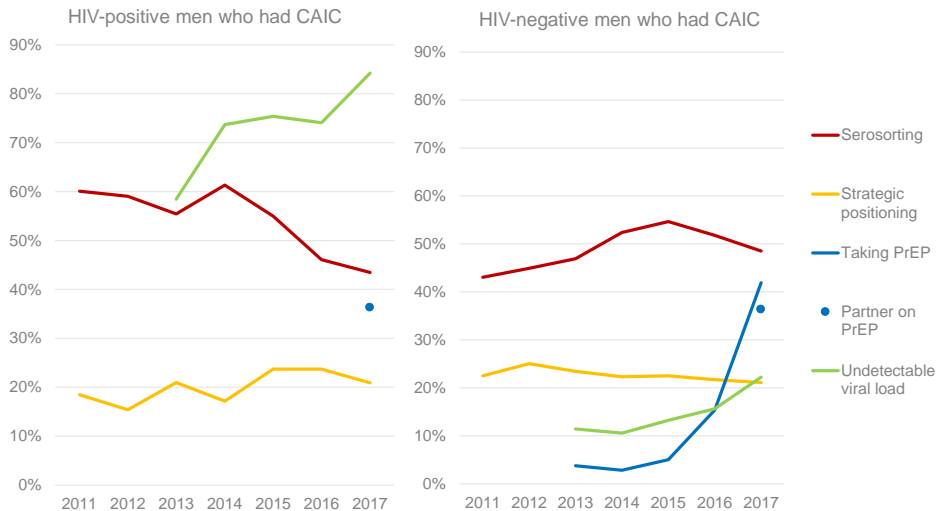


Sex with casual male partners

Arts & Social Sciences
Centre for Social Research in Health



Risk reduction strategies frequently used during condomless sex with casual partners



Summary

Arts & Social Sciences
Centre for Social Research in Health

- Up until recently, gay/bi men were reporting fewer male sex partners over time
- Since 2000, condomless sex has become more common
 - first emphasising serosorting (matching HIV status)
 - now harnessing PrEP and treatment as prevention
- In the last 5 years:
 - HIV-positive men have switched from serosorting to undetectable viral load as their primary strategy during condomless sex with casual partners
 - HIV-negative men have rapidly embraced PrEP, and many continue to serosort
- The vast majority of GBM continue to minimise HIV transmission risk, using an increased range of strategies



Acknowledgments

- Thanks to all the GBM who participate in the GCPS
- GCPS research team:
Tim Broady, Peter Hull, Toby Lea, Evelyn Lee, Limin Mao,
Garrett Prestage, John de Wit, Iryna Zablotska
- Partner organisations: AFAO, NAPWHA and their member organisations
- Funding: Australian Government Department of Health, state/territory health departments
- GCPS reports available [here](#)
- No conflicts of interest to declare.



GAY COMMUNITY PERIODIC SURVEY

