First heterosexual sex and sexual activity in the last year

2014/15 New Zealand Health Survey

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Contact details and future research

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• Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF)

• Questionnaires:

Background

• 2014/15 Health Survey: **First** comprehensive, nationally representative survey of sexual behaviour & reproductive health in NZ

• Based on UK National Survey of Sexual Attitudes & Lifestyles (Natsal), undertaken: 1990, 2000 & 2010
Research questions

First time sex with the opposite sex (since turned 13-yrs)
• What was the median age for first sex?
• What % of people had sex < 16 years?
• What % of people used condoms at first sex?
• What % said both partners ‘equally willing’ at first sex?

Heterosexual behavior in last 12 months
• What % of people had sex with 2+ partners last year?
• What % had 2+partners last year & used condoms?

Definition of sex: vaginal, oral or anal

Methods

• Voluntary continuous survey
• Questionnaire: self-complete for module
• Sample: 10,198 adults aged 16-74 years
  • 87% of 16-74 year olds who completed core NZHS (NZHS response rate = 79%)
  • Results are weighted to be representative of total population aged 16-74 years.
• Thank you to the thousands of New Zealanders who participated in the survey
Median age at first sex
17 for both men and women (16-74 years)

Graph excl 16-24 yrs. Many have not yet had sex, so median age likely to rise

Median age at first sex
Māori, 16-yrs. Asian, 21-yrs
First sex under the age of 16
20% of adults had sex before turning 16

First sex under the age of 16
Most common for Māori, 39%, least for Asian, 4%
Condom use at first penetrative sex
54% used a condom the first time they had sex

Condom use at first penetrative sex
Māori & Pacific: 48%
‘Both equally willing’ the first time they had sex
87% ‘both equally willing’

Number of sexual partners in last year
11% of adults had 2+ partners in last year
57% of adults who had sex with 2+ sexual partners in last year did not use a condom every time had sex last year.

Summary – key findings

- At age 17, half of adults have had sex
- 20% of adults had sex < 16 yrs. Māori, 39%
- 80% of 16-24 yr-olds used condom at first sex
- 16% women said partner ‘more willing’ than them at first sex, vs 4% of men
- Sex with 2+ partners in last year: 40% sexually experienced 16-24 yr-olds, vs 16% of 25-34 yrs
- 57% of people who had 2+ sexual partners in last yr didn’t use condom every time had sex