

Sexual Health

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Challenges in rolling out rapid HIV testing in Australia <i>M. Holt and P. Keen</i>	101–102	Responding to the recent call by Chen and Estcourt to encourage the wider use of rapid HIV testing, Holt and Keen suggest that there are a number of challenges to implementing this testing technology in Australia. In particular, they point to the difficulty in gaining regulatory approval for the routine use of rapid tests, and the need to adjust pre- and post-test discussion procedures to accommodate rapid testing.
Cultural scripts for multiple and concurrent partnerships in Southern Africa: why HIV prevention needs anthropology <i>S. Leclerc-Madlala</i>	103–110	Focussed ethnographic discussions were held in southern Africa with participants who were asked to consider how culture played a part in encouraging the practice of multiple concurrent sexual partnerships, identified as the region's key behavioural driver of HIV. Several cultural scripts for the performance of sexuality that appear to be common across societies are discussed and analysed. The author argues that anthropological knowledge of cultural schemas and processes in relation to HIV transmission needs to become a vital component of the research evidence base that informs policies and programs.
Anal sex is a behavioural marker for laboratory-confirmed vaginal sexually transmissible infections and HIV-associated risk among African-American female adolescents <i>R. J. DiClemente, G. M. Wingood, R. A. Crosby, L. F. Salazar, S. Head, E. Rose, J. McDermott Sales and A. M. Caliendo</i>	111–116	This observational study describes the prevalence of anal sex and its association with a range of HIV/sexually transmissible infections (STI)-associated risk behaviours and adverse health outcomes. Findings indicate that adolescent girls reporting recent anal sex have a higher prevalence of other sexual risk behaviours and laboratory-confirmed STIs. Anal sex may be an important marker for other sexual risk behaviours and can be easily used as a screening question during routine paediatrician visits.
Delayed diagnosis of HIV infection in Victoria 1994 to 2006 <i>C. Lemoh, R. Guy, K. Yohannes, J. Lewis, A. Street, B. Biggs and M. Hellard</i>	117–122	The demographic and epidemiologic characteristics of individuals diagnosed with HIV and AIDS in Victoria from 1994 to 2006 are described using analysis of surveillance data. Delayed diagnosis of HIV infection was common, and was associated with older age, male gender, heterosexual and non-sexual exposure, and birth in Southern/Eastern Europe, South-east Asia or the Horn of Africa/North Africa.
The impact of immigration on the burden of HIV infection in Victoria, Australia <i>D. Horyniak, M. Stoové, Keflemariam Yohannes, A. Breschkin, T. Carter, B. Hatch, J. Tomnay, M. Hellard and R. Guy</i>	123–128	This study compares the characteristics of people first diagnosed with HIV in Victoria with those previously diagnosed with HIV interstate and overseas. Differences in demographic, behavioural and diagnostic characteristics highlight the impact of population movement on the burden of HIV infection in Victoria, and the need for appropriate targeted HIV prevention interventions and service provision and planning for the populations most at-risk.
Changes in mortality following HIV and AIDS and estimation of the number of people living with diagnosed HIV/AIDS in Australia, 1981–2003 <i>F. Nakhaee, D. Black, H. Wand, A. McDonald and M. Law</i>	129–134	This study investigates mortality rates following HIV and AIDS and the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Australia.
Young people and sexual risk-taking behaviour in Central England <i>J. Westwood and B. Mullan</i>	135–138	This cross-sectional analysis investigated the sexual risk-taking behaviours of a group of sexually active 12–15-year-old English adolescents. Female students were more likely than male students to report ever having had sex without contraception. Differences in sexual risk-taking behaviours between pupils in urban and rural locations, and males and females were found and are discussed in light of previous literature.
The consequences of substance use among gay and bisexual men: A Consensual Qualitative Research analysis <i>A. Mullens, R. Young, E. Hamernik and M. Dunne</i>	139–152	The consequences of substance use, across the <i>range</i> of substances used by men who have sex with men, have received little attention. This study mapped beliefs about effects of substance use to inform prevention, health promotion and clinical interventions. A diversity of consequences appear to have direct and indirect impacts on decision-making, sexual activity and risk-taking. Findings support the role of specific beliefs (e.g. expectancies) related to substance use on risk-related cognitions, emotions and behaviours

Confidentiality and access to sexual health services <i>N. Ryder and A. M. McNulty</i>	153–155	We surveyed clients attending an Australian sexual health clinic to explore the relative importance of confidentiality and anonymity, and attitudes toward the sharing of medical information. While confidentiality was important to many clients, anonymity was desired by very few clients. Few differences were found for clients from groups at higher risk of sexually transmissible infections. Most clients would accept information being shared with other health services.
The C-project: Use of self-collection kits to screen for <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> in young people in a community based health promotion project <i>L. Martin, E. Freedman, L. Burton, S. Rutter, V. Knight, A. D'Amato, C. Murray, J. Drysdale, S. Harvey and A. McNulty</i>	157–162	The C-project was a community-based, youth chlamydia testing study that used online, peer education and outreach methods to target 16–24-year-old local young people and encourage them undertake chlamydia testing. The study aimed to ascertain the acceptability of self-collected urine samples, as well as determine the effectiveness of drop-off and outreach collection methods and the rate of positive chlamydia tests.
The check is in the mail: piloting a novel approach to <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> testing using self-collected, mailed specimen <i>M. Buhrer-Skinner, R. Muller, S. Bialasiewicz, T. P. Sloots, J. Debattista, R. Gordon and P. G. Buettner</i>	163–169	This study develops, implements and evaluates the processes of a new approach to chlamydia testing which is based on a self-collection kit that can be returned by regular mail and a central management system for follow-up. The findings provide strong evidence that the testing approach is safe with high follow-up rates thus offering a new means of chlamydia testing for population that are difficult to access and/or geographically isolated.
Discrepancies between young people's self-reported sexual experience and their perceptions of 'normality' <i>M. S. Lim, C. K. Aitken, J. S. Hocking and M. E. Hellard</i>	171–172	We surveyed 445 people aged 16–29 years; 69% of participants believed they had fewer lifetime sexual partners than average. The mean number of lifetime partners reported was 5.5, significantly below the mean perceived (and overestimated) 'average' for their peers of 6.6. Adolescents are susceptible to the influence of peer norms, hence it is concerning that their perceptions of norms are distorted.
Book Review The Nature of Sexual Desire <i>Reviewed by Rosemary Coates</i>	173	