

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sex message getting through

Young Australians are heeding the message on sexual health, with condom use and sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing on the rise.

This is the finding of a study published in the October issue of *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*.

A team of researchers from the Burnet Institute in Melbourne conducted a survey of patrons at the Big Day Out music festival between 2005 and 2008.

They found the proportion of people at high risk of STI decreased while people reporting a new partner showed an increase in consistent condom use.

Despite reported increases in STI notifications, researcher A/Prof Margaret Hellard suggested these figures were actually due to more people having STI tests than more infections.

“This is an extremely positive outcome as it may indicate that sexual health promotion campaigns targeting young people are successful,” she said.

“It is possible that the increase in notifications is due to improved testing rate and that in time, reduced risk behaviour will lead to reduced prevalence of STI in the community.”

ENDS

For more information about this research, contact the research author:

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