

# GAPSS 2002

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**Findings on Maori respondents from the Gay Auckland Periodic Sex Survey**

**Peter Saxton, Nigel Dickson  
Tony Hughes, Te Herekiele Herewini**



New Zealand AIDS Foundation  
Te Tuuaapapa Mate Araikore O Aotearoa

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**March 2004**

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The principal investigators were Peter Saxton (NZAF) and Dr Nigel Dickson (AEG). Co-researchers on the GAPSS 2002 study were Tony Hughes (NZAF) and Associate Professor Charlotte Paul (AEG). The analysis and reporting of Maori data presented in this report was conducted with the assistance of Te Herekiele Herewini, Kaiwhakahaere o te Kaupapa Hauora Takataapui (NZAF). The study was funded by the Ministry of Health and received additional support from the New Zealand AIDS Foundation and the AIDS Epidemiology Group.

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# Contents

<b>Acknowledgements</b>	3
<b>Executive summary</b>	6
<b>Introduction</b>	8
Aims and objectives	8
<b>Study recruitment</b>	9
Sample selection	9
Questionnaire	9
Presentation of the data in this report and statistical analysis	10
<b>Characteristics of the sample</b>	11
Composition of the sample	11
Age	12
Education	12
Area of residence	13
Sexual identity	13
Amount of free time spent with gay men	14
<b>HIV testing and HIV status</b>	15
HIV testing	15
HIV status	16
<b>Sexual relationships</b>	17
Number of sex partners	17
Types of sexual relationships over the previous six months	18
Current regular sex partner	19
Concurrent relationships	22
<b>Condom use classifications</b>	23
Any unprotected anal sex	23
High, Medium, Low condom use	23
<b>Sex with a current regular partner</b>	25
Anal sex with a current regular partner	25
Any unprotected anal sex with a current regular partner	26
High, Medium, Low condom use with current regular partner	26
<b>Sex with casual partners</b>	28
Anal sex with a casual partner	28
Any unprotected anal sex with casual partner/s	29
High, Medium, Low condom use with casual partner/s	29
<b>Oral sex and sex with men met via the internet</b>	31
Oral sex	31
Sex with a man whom the respondent met via the internet	31

<b>Attitudes</b>	32
"HIV/AIDS is a less serious threat than it used to be because of new treatments"	32
"Condom s are ok as part of sex"	32
"I would sometimes rather risk HIV transmission than use a condom during anal sex"	33
"I don't like wearing condoms because they reduce sensitivity"	33
"The sex I have is always as safe as I want it to be"	34
"I'd expect a man who knew he had HIV to tell me he was positive before we had sex"	34
<b>Summary and discussion</b>	35
<b>References</b>	36

# GAPSS 2002: Maori respondents

## Executive summary

This report contains the basic results pertaining to Maori respondents in the Gay Auckland Periodic Sex Survey (GAPSS) undertaken in Auckland during the week of 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> March 2002. Of the 812 men enrolled, 65 men (8.0%) identified as Maori. Of the Maori respondents, 61.5% were recruited at the Big Gay Out fair day, 16.9% at gay bars, and 21.5% at gay saunas or sex-on-site venues.

The following figures have been rounded from the ones presented in the rest of the report.

### HIV testing

- 65% had ever tested for HIV and 23% had tested in the six months prior to survey.

### HIV status

- 5% of the Maori sample, and 7% of those who had ever tested for HIV, had tested HIV positive.

### Regular and casual sex partners

- 68% had engaged in sex with a regular sex partner and 74% had engaged in sex with a casual sex partner in the six months prior to survey.
- Half (49%) the total Maori sample were in a regular sexual relationship with a man at the time of survey.
- Over two-thirds (70%) of Maori respondents who were currently in a regular relationship of more than six months duration had also engaged in sex with another man during the previous six months. This represents 22% of the total Maori GAPSS sample.

### Condom use with regular and casual sex partners

- Condom use was higher during anal sex with casual rather than regular sex partners.
- Condom use frequencies were analysed in two ways; first by identifying those who 'always' used condoms for anal sex in the six months prior to survey, and second by classifying respondents into 'High', 'Medium' and 'Low' condom users. 'High' users were those who used condoms 'always' or 'almost always' for all insertive and receptive anal sex, 'Low' users were those who used condoms 'never' or 'very rarely' for all insertive

and receptive anal sex, with the remaining respondents classified as 'Medium' condom users.

- Higher proportions of Maori men having anal sex with a current regular partner were High condom users (67%) than were Low condom users (29%). In the context of the whole sample, 11% of all Maori respondents were classified as being Low condom users with a current regular partner.
- For those Maori participants having anal sex with a casual partner or partners, the majority were classified as being High (84%) compared to Low (4%) condom users. In the context of the total sample, Low condom use with casual partners equated to just 2% of all Maori respondents.

### Attitudes

- 19% agreed that "HIV/AIDS is a less serious threat than it used to be because of new treatments".
- 95% agreed that "condoms are ok as part of sex".
- 15% agreed that "I would sometimes rather risk HIV transmission than use a condom during anal sex".
- 32% agreed that "I don't like wearing condoms because they reduce sensitivity".
- 82% agreed that "the sex I have is always as safe as I want it to be".
- 83% agreed that "I'd expect a man who knew he had HIV to tell me he was positive before we had sex".

## Introduction

The Gay Auckland Periodic Sex Survey (GAPSS) 2002 is a cross-sectional study undertaken among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Auckland. It was conducted over one week in March 2002 during the annual “Hero” festival. It was designed as the first phase of periodic behavioural surveillance among MSM in New Zealand, in which a broad cross-section of MSM are surveyed about sexual practices and HIV with a view to monitoring changes in these behaviours and attitudes over time.

This report on the Maori respondents to the GAPSS survey is designed to accompany the main summary report, *GAPSS 2002: Findings from the Gay Auckland Periodic Sex Survey* (Saxton, Dickson, Hughes & Paul, 2002). The layout and analysis of findings is similar to this original report. Comparisons with the non-Maori GAPSS respondents have been avoided, since a focus in the broader GAPSS project is to monitor changes over time within population groups. Subsequent GAPSS surveys will provide data on Maori men who have sex with men that can be compared to the baseline 2002 results.

The 2002 GAPSS survey was a joint project involving the Research, Policy and Information Unit of the New Zealand AIDS Foundation (NZAF) in Auckland and the AIDS Epidemiology Group (AEG) based in the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine at the University of Otago Medical School in Dunedin. It was funded by the Ministry of Health with additional support from NZAF and AEG and received ethical approval from the Auckland Ethics Committee. See the notes on *Behavioural Surveillance* in Saxton et al. (2002) for further details of the GAPSS project.

### ***Aims and objectives***

The aim of *GAPSS 2002: Findings on Maori respondents* was to obtain baseline information on behaviours and attitudes of a sample of Maori MSM that was selected in a reproducible manner.

The specific objectives were to:

- Obtain a sample of Maori MSM attending a number of different sites;
- Collect information from this Maori sub-sample on demographic characteristics, sexual practices, HIV testing and status, and attitudes to HIV and safe sex behaviour;
- Communicate the findings on Maori MSM to increase their uptake in policy and health promotion planning.

## **Study recruitment**

### ***Sample selection***

The GAPSS study surveyed MSM attending: (1) the Big Gay Out (an annual gay pride fair/picnic at a park); (2) certain saunas and 'sex-on-site' venues frequented by MSM; and (3) certain bars specifically frequented by gay men. The sample was collected over a period of one week in March 2002.

All saunas known to cater specifically for MSM in the Auckland area were invited to participate and agreed, with the exception of one small sauna in which it was agreed that it would be too intrusive to have a recruitment team. In addition to the four saunas, the largest sex-on-site venue was also involved. All the four bars that were particularly frequented by gay men in the Auckland region at the time were included. Including the Big Gay Out, ten sites were therefore used to recruit MSM into the survey.

Men at these sites were invited to take part in the survey by trained recruitment staff. Participants were given a clipboard with a lid, which they could close over their questionnaire for privacy if they wished. The clipboards had a pen, questionnaire and information sheet attached to it and respondents were instructed to complete the survey themselves. Secure return boxes for the completed questionnaires were provided beside the recruitment staff, and when finished respondents were requested to place their questionnaire into these boxes themselves in order to ensure the confidentiality of their responses. Completion of the questionnaire took roughly five to ten minutes. In 2002, participants were offered the opportunity to enter a separate prize draw for double tickets to the HERO party that occurred at the end of the recruitment period.

### ***Questionnaire***

The questionnaire consisted of a series of core questions focusing on anal intercourse, use of condoms, oral sex, sexual partnerships, HIV testing and serostatus, aspects of social attachment to the gay community, and a range of demographic items including age, education, ethnicity, and area of residence. These core questions will be repeated in subsequent studies to provide information that can be compared over time. Additional questions formulated in consultation with NZAF's Gay Men's Health Programme and other key stakeholders were also included and may change in the future based on the priorities identified by these groups and by emerging questions in the field of HIV prevention.

The questionnaire was limited to a double-sided A4 sheet and was pilot-tested during development with a small group of MSM recruited by NZAF.

### ***Presentation of the data in this report and statistical analysis***

Although the proportion of Maori respondents to GAPSS was roughly similar to that found in the general population (see section on *Characteristics of the Sample*), the actual number of Maori participants was too low for statistical analysis of associations as conducted in the main report. As far as was practicable, the presentation of results in the Maori report have mirrored that in the main report, although in some cases categories were grouped together for more meaningful communication.

As subsequent GAPSS surveys strive to increase the participation among Maori MSM it should become possible to explore associations between variables (for example associations with HIV testing, safe sex and attitudes), and also to test for changes in the Maori sub-sample over time.

Column graphics in this report each total to 100%. Where the vertical bars fall short of 100% the difference is due to missing data or incomplete responses, unless otherwise stated.

## Characteristics of the sample

GAPSS respondents were allowed to identify in more than one ethnic category. In this report, respondents referred to as “Maori” are those who identified as Maori alone, or as Maori and another ethnicity. Of the 812 total respondents, 8% (65 men) identified as Maori.

Nationally, 12.8% of males aged between 15-59 identified as Maori at the 2001 Census, and around 10% did so in the Auckland region. Assuming that the prevalence of homosexuality among Maori is the same as among non-Maori, this means that the proportion of GAPSS respondents who identified as Maori was slightly lower than what might have been expected.

### Composition of the sample and response rate

The majority of the 812 respondents were recruited from the Big Gay Out fair day (61.5%) (Fig 1). Around 1 in 5 Maori respondents were recruited from a sauna/sex-on-site venue, and slightly fewer (16.9%) from a gay bar.

Figure 1. Composition of the sample

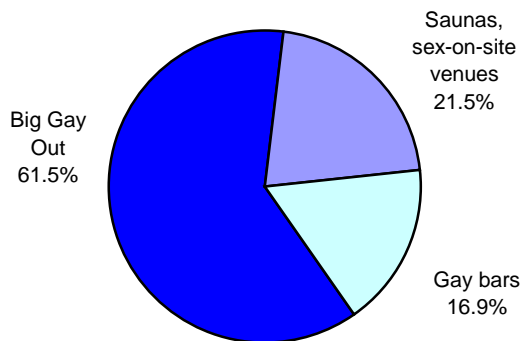


Table 1. Response rates by site of recruitment

Site	n	%
Big Gay Out	40	61.5
Gay bars	11	16.9
Saunas/sex-on-site	14	21.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100%</b>

Among the total GAPSS sample of 812, the response rate (the number who agreed divided by the total of agreed and declined) was 80% overall, being highest at the Big Gay Out and lowest at the saunas/sex-on-site venues. Separate response rates among Maori MSM were unable to be calculated as the demographic characteristics of those who were approached but who did not participate were not recorded by recruitment staff.

## Age

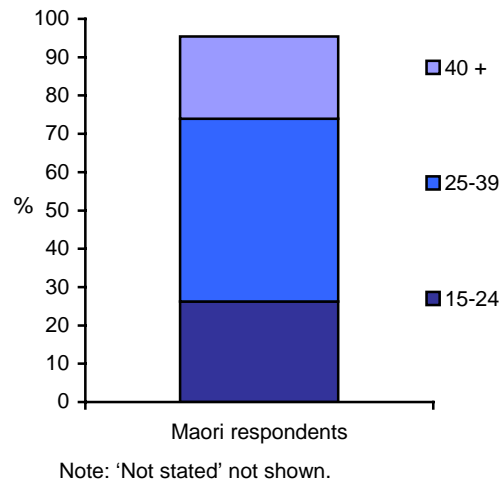
Overall a quarter (26.2%) of the Maori sample were under 25 years old, just under half aged 25 to 39 years, and about a fifth were aged 40 or older (Table 2).

**Table 2. Age group**

	Total	
	n	%
15-24	17	26.2
25-39	31	47.7
40 and over	14	21.5
Not stated	3	4.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Most of the Maori respondents recruited at the Big Gay Out were aged between 25-39 (47.5%), most of those recruited at the gay bars were aged between 15-24 (45.5%), and most of those recruited at the saunas/ sex-on-site venues were aged between 25-39 (57.1%).

**Figure 2. Age group of Maori respondents**



## Education

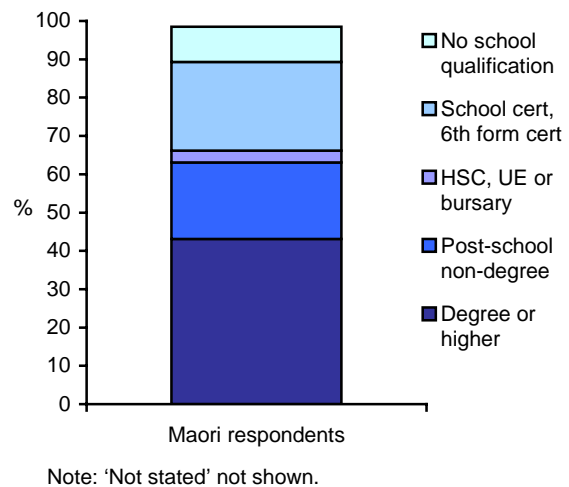
The education profile of the Maori sample was high, with two out of five having some form of university degree (Table 3). A third (32.3%) of the Maori sample had a highest education qualification of School Certificate or 6<sup>th</sup> Form Certificate.

**Table 3. Highest education qualification**

	Total	
	n	%
Degree or higher	28	43.1
Post-school non-degree	13	20.0
HSC, UE or bursary	2	3.1
School cert, 6 <sup>th</sup> form cert	15	23.1
No school qualification	6	9.2
Not stated	1	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The education profile of the Maori sample is likely to be influenced by the age profile of respondents. Over half (52.9%) of those with a highest education qualification of School Cert or 6th Form Cert were aged 15-24, and almost two-thirds (64.3%) of those with a degree or post-graduate degree were aged 40 or over.

**Figure 3. Highest education qualification of Maori respondents**



## Area of residence

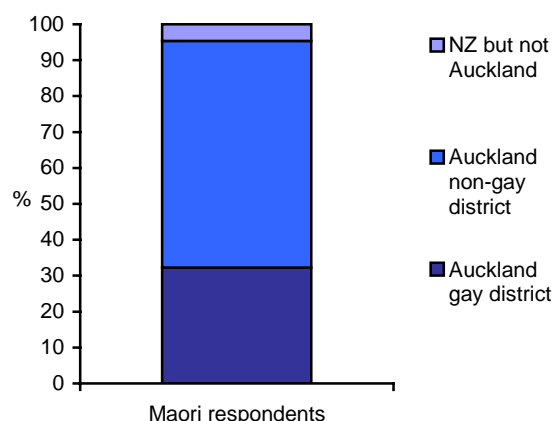
Area of residence information was categorised according to previous research that identified geographical clustering of MSM inside an area of the Census Central Auckland zone (Hughes and Saxton, unpublished data). A third of the Maori sample resided in this “gay district” (Table 4).<sup>1</sup>

**Table 4. Area of residence**

	Total	
	n	%
Auckland gay district	21	32.3
Auckland non-gay district	41	63.1
NZ but not Auckland	3	4.6
Not NZ	0	0.0
Not stated	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The age profile of Maori respondents who lived in Auckland’s “gay district” and those who lived in other parts of Auckland was the same.

**Figure 4. Area of residence of Maori respondents**



Note: ‘Not stated’ not shown.

## Sexual identity

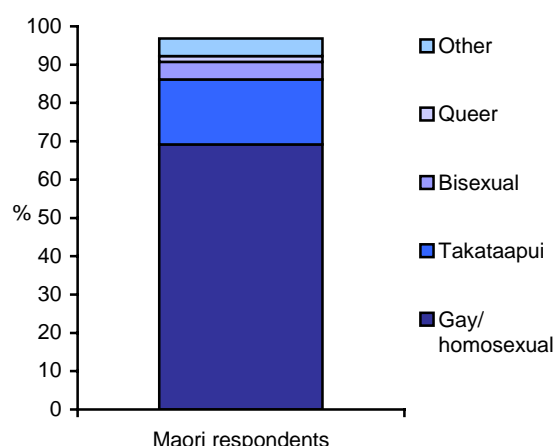
The majority of Maori respondents as gay/homosexual, with 1 in 6 identifying as takataapui (see overleaf). (Table 5).

**Table 5. Sexual identity**

	Total	
	n	%
Gay/homosexual	45	69.2
Takataapui	11	16.9
Bisexual	3	4.6
Queer	1	1.5
Heterosexual	0	0.0
Other	3	4.6
Not stated	2	3.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Maori respondents identifying as Takataapui were more likely to be aged 25-39 (54.5%) than were those who identified as gay/homosexual (40.0%).

**Figure 5. Sexual identity of Maori respondents**



Note: ‘Not stated’ not shown.

<sup>1</sup> Using 1996 census area unit definitions, the ‘gay district’ comprised of: Herne Bay, St Mary’s Bay, Auckland Central, Ponsonby West, Ponsonby East, Freeman’s Bay, Westmere, Grey Lynn West, Grey Lynn East, Newton, Grafton, Surrey Crescent, Arch Hill, Eden Terrace, Newmarket, and Kingsland.

Takataapui is a pre-European contact term for an intimate companion of the same sex. These same-sex relationships are recorded in oral traditions (Biggs, Hohepa and Mead, 1967) and support the notion that Maori, like other Polynesian cultures (see Maohi of French Polynesia, Kanaka Maoli of Hawai'i), were familiar and embraced a range of sexualities and gender identities before European colonisation.

Currently the term takataapui has re-emerged as the preferred description for Maori who maintain a Maori cultural identity and who seek or live in same-sex relationships. The term may also cover those who in the Western paradigm are referred to as “pre-op transgender” (see also Aspin et al., 1998).

Separate analyses of Maori respondents identifying as takataapui has not been conducted due to small sample sizes, however this should be considered with results from future GAPSS surveys if the numbers permit.

### **Amount of free time spent with gay men**

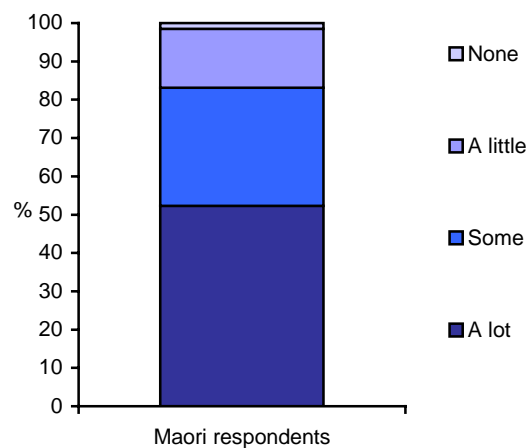
Half the respondents stated that they spent “a lot” of their free time with other gay or homosexual men. One in six respondents indicated that they spent “none” or only “a little” of their free time with gay men (Table 6).

**Table 6. Free time spent with gay men**

	Total	
	n	%
A lot	34	52.3
Some	20	30.8
A little	10	15.4
None	1	1.5
Not stated	0	0.0
Total	65	100.0

Proportionately more Maori respondents who were aged 25-39 (58.1%) spent “a lot” of their free time with other gay men, whereas this was true of 50% of those aged 40 and over, and 41.2% of those aged 15-254

**Figure 6. Free time spent with gay men of Maori respondents**



Note: 'Not stated' not shown.

## HIV testing and HIV status

### HIV testing

The initial question in this section of the questionnaire asked all the participants if they had ever had an “HIV antibody test to detect infection with the virus that causes AIDS”. Those who had ever tested were asked when the last test was undertaken, and what the result was.

Overall, 64.6% of the Maori sample reported that they had tested for HIV at least once in their life (Fig 7). Just under a third (30.8%) reported that they had never tested for HIV.

As HIV testing has been available in New Zealand since 1985, whether a man has ever been tested for HIV may not provide useful information on current HIV testing behaviours nor a participant’s current HIV status.

**Figure 7. Ever had an HIV test**

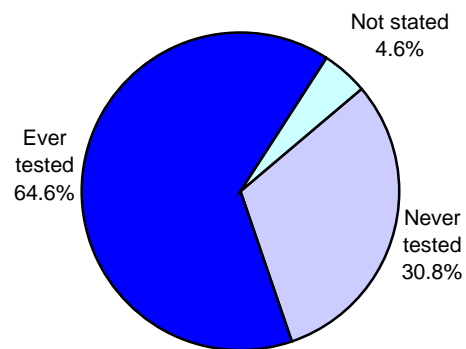
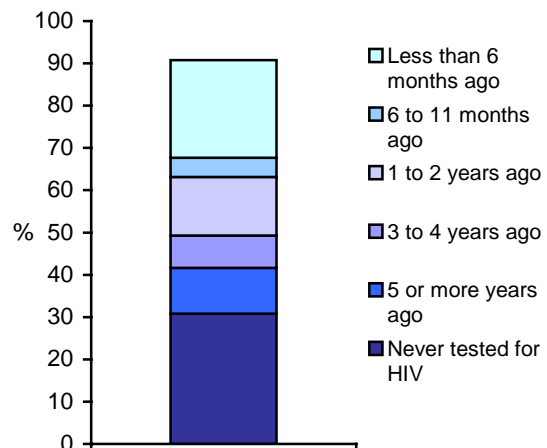


Fig 8 shows the timing of the most recent HIV test.

Overall 27.7% of the sample had had an HIV test in the previous year, and about a quarter of the sample (23.1%) had tested for HIV in the six months prior to survey.

Around 18.5% of the total sample, or 28.6% (over a quarter) of those who had tested for HIV at least once, had last tested three or more years ago.

**Figure 8. Time since last HIV test**

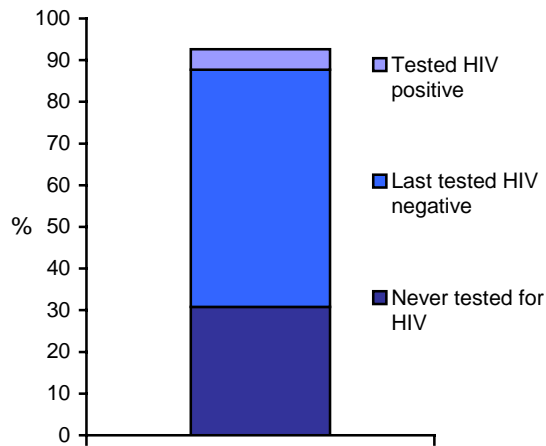


Note: 'Not stated' n=3. Tested but did not provide information on when this occurred n=3.

## HIV status

Respondents who had ever tested for HIV were asked what the result of their last HIV test was.

**Figure 9. HIV test status**



Note: 'Not stated' n=5

Overall, 4.9% of Maori respondents stated that they had received an HIV positive test diagnosis. This equates to around 7% of those who had ever tested for HIV (Fig 9).

This is likely to underestimate the actual prevalence of HIV infection among all Maori participants. This is because not all men had been tested, and some may have been infected with HIV since they received their last negative HIV test result.

In addition to asking respondents about their HIV testing history, respondents were also asked what they believed their current HIV status was (Table 7).

**Table 7. Current belief about HIV test status**

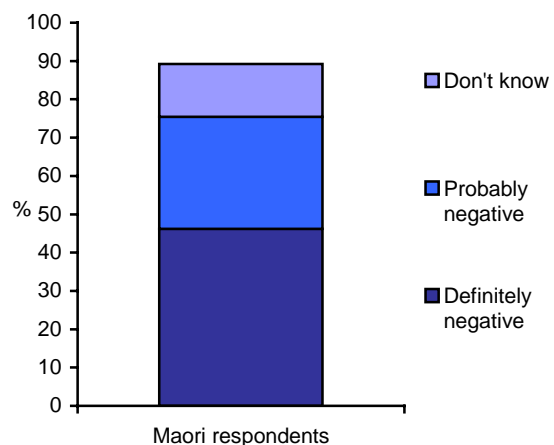
	Total	
	n	%
Definitely negative	30	46.2
Probably negative	19	29.2
Probably positive	0	0.0
Definitely positive*	0	0.0
Don't know	9	13.8
Not stated **	7	10.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Those who had tested HIV positive are not included here

\*\* includes those who had tested HIV positive

Proportionately more Maori respondents who had last received an HIV negative test believed they were currently “definitely negative” (54.1%), compared to those who had never tested for HIV (42.9%).

**Figure 10. Current belief about HIV test status among Maori respondents**



Note: 'Not stated' not shown.

## Sexual relationships

Sexual behaviour, including strategies used to avoid HIV infection such as condom use, differs according to the type of relationship between the partners. The GAPSS questionnaire therefore asked separately about sexual behaviour and safe sex practices with regular and with casual sex partners.

The questionnaire included definitions of several key concepts. The term “sex” was defined as meaning “any physical contact that you felt was sexual”. The definitions of casual and regular sex partners given (see box) differentiated between the partner types by the quantity of sexual interaction as opposed to the emotional nature of the relationship.

Those who currently had a regular male partner were also asked to describe this partner (e.g. boyfriend, friend I have sex with, someone who I pay to have sex with etc...).

### Definitions provided on the questionnaire

**Sex:** “Any physical contact that you felt was sexual”

**Regular sex partner:** “These are men you’ve had sex with 4 or more times in the last 6 months. They could be boyfriends, life partners, fuckbuddies etc...”

**Casual sex partner:** “Men you’ve had sex with 3 times, twice or once in the last 6 months”

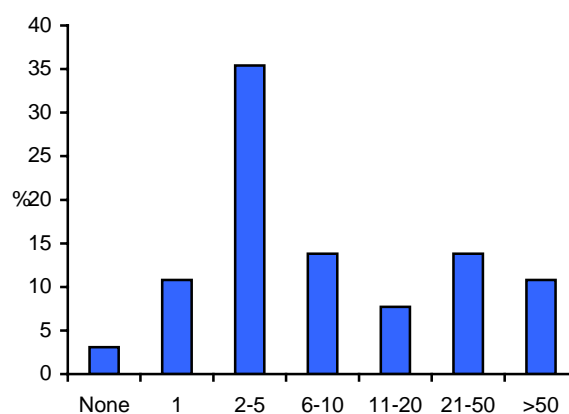
### Number of sex partners

Most of the respondents had had sex with a man in the six months prior to interview (Fig 11).

The most common category was two to five sexual partners. The median category was 6-10 partners, meaning that half the respondents had fewer sexual partners, and half had a higher number of sexual partners in the previous six months.

Around 1 in 10 (10.8%) Maori respondents had over 50 male sex partners in the six months prior to survey.

**Figure 11. Number of male sex partners in the previous six months among Maori respondents**

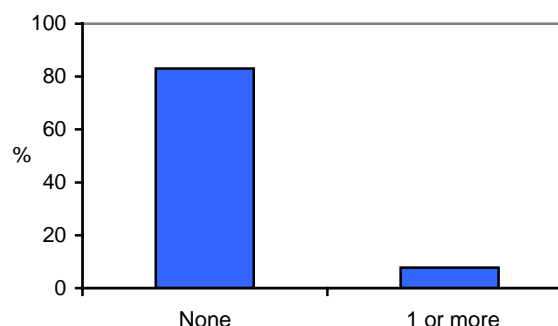


Note: 'Not stated' n=3.

Respondents who reported one or more male sexual partners were also asked if they had any female sexual partners in the previous six months.

The majority of Maori respondents had not, with only 7.7% of this sub sample reporting one or more female partners (Fig 12).

**Figure 12. Number of female sex partners in the previous six months among Maori respondents**



Note: Question only asked of respondents who had sex with a man in the previous 6 months. 'Not stated' n=4

### ***Types of sexual relationships over the previous six months***

Table 8 and Fig 13 combine the responses given to a number of questions on casual and regular sex partners to show the types of relationships men had had in the past six months.

**Table 8. Types of sexual relationships with men over the preceding six months among Maori respondents**

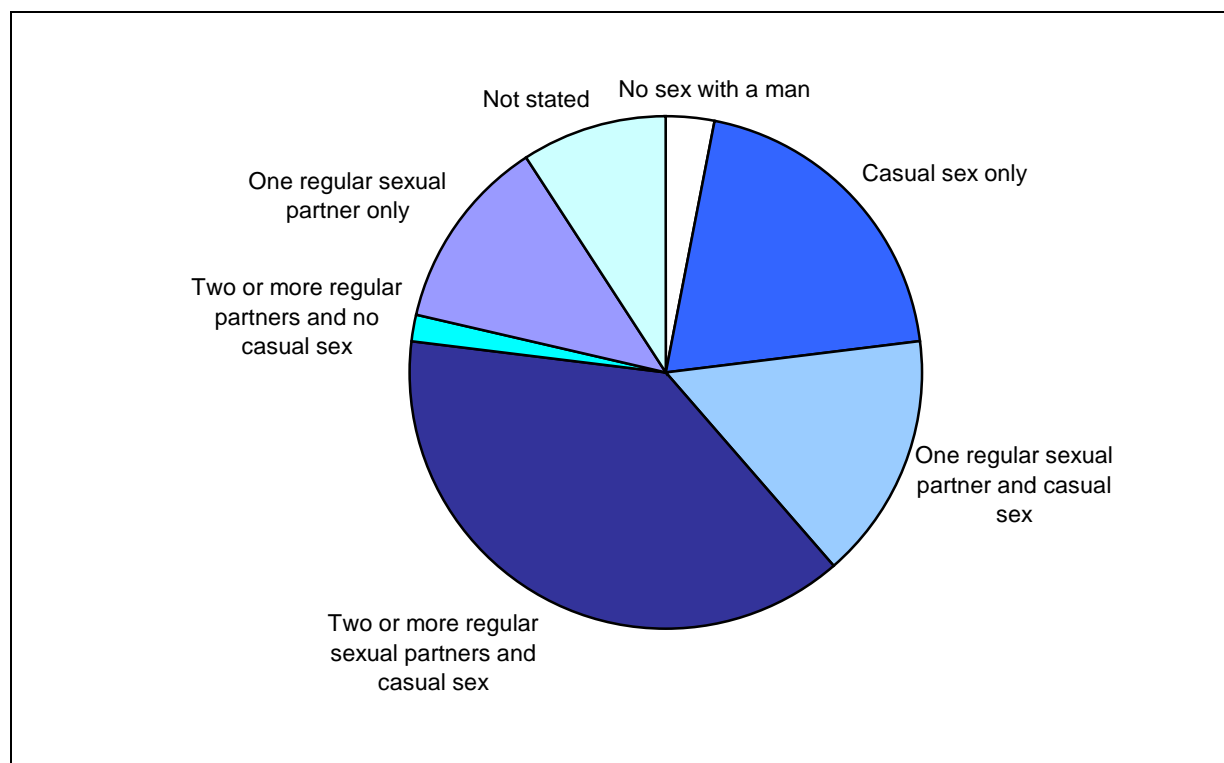
	n	%
No sex with a man	2	3.1
One regular sex partner only	8	12.3
Two or more regular sex partners and no casual sex	1	1.5
One regular sex partner and casual sex	10	15.4
Two or more regular sex partners and casual sex	25	38.5
Casual sex only	13	20.0
Not stated/ incomplete information	6	9.2
Total	65	100.0

Around two-thirds (67.7%) of the Maori sample had engaged in sex with a regular sex partner in the previous six months and just slightly more (73.9%) had engaged in sex with a casual sex partner.

As with the total GAPSS sample, the apparent partnering “overlap” in some of the categories in Table 8 does not necessarily indicate *simultaneous* sexual partnering among Maori respondents. Some of this partnering may have been sequential. For example, within the six-month period a regular sexual relationship may have ended and the respondent may have had sex, casual or regular, with other men after this occurred.

Of the Maori sample, 12.3% reported having sex with a single regular partner only and a fifth (20.0%) reported only casual sex, with just over half of the Maori sample having some combination of the two (Fig 13).

**Figure 13. Maori respondents' sexual relationships with men over the previous six months (n=65)**



The number of regular sex partners respondents had over the previous six month period is shown in Fig 14.

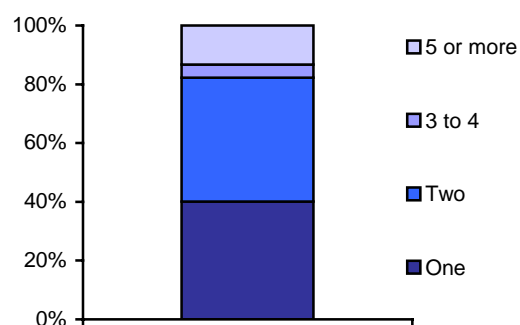
About the same proportion of Maori respondents who had sex with a regular male partner reported having one regular partner (40.0%) and two regular partners (42.2%) over this time.

A sizeable minority reported three or more regular male partners (17.8% of those who had sex with a regular partner).

### ***Current regular sex partner***

The survey limited questions about sexual practices, protective behaviours and HIV test status to a respondent's *current* regular sex partner. Since it is possible that some respondents had multiple regular sex partners at the time of survey, respondents were asked to focus on the current regular sex partner who they had the *most* sex with.

**Figure 14. Number of regular male sex partners over the previous six months among Maori respondents**



Note: Only includes Maori men who reported at least one regular sex partner in the previous six months (n=45).

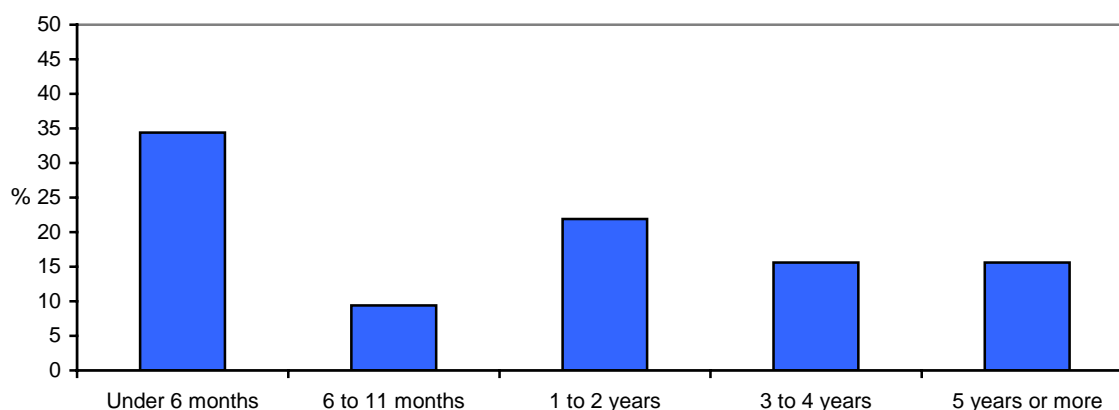
Whereas 45 Maori respondents had engaged in sex with a regular sex partner over the six months prior to interview, 32 Maori respondents or half (49.2%) of the total Maori sample of 65 men reported currently having a regular sex partner at the time of survey (Table 9).

**Table 9. Maori men reporting current regular male sexual partner**

	n	%
Current regular sexual partner	32	49.2
No current regular sexual partner	28	43.1
Not stated	5	7.7
Total	65	100.0

Over a third (34.4%) of respondents with a current regular sexual partner had been in this sexual relationship for under six months (Fig 15), and around 1 in 6 (15.6%) had been having sex with their current regular partner for five years or more.

**Figure 15. Length of current regular sexual relationship among Maori respondents**

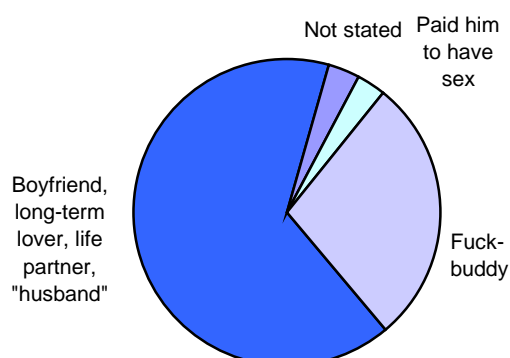


Note: Only includes Maori men with a current regular sexual partner. 'Not stated' relationship length n=1.

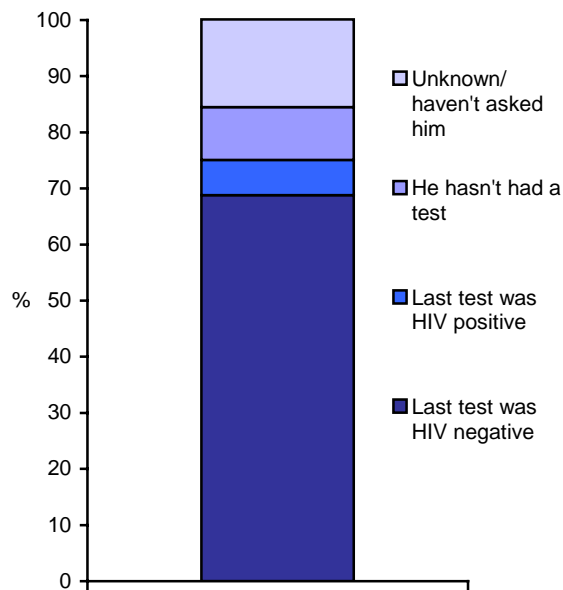
Two-thirds (65.6%) of respondents described their current regular sex partner as a "boyfriend, long-term lover, life partner, or husband" (Fig 16).

Over a quarter (28.1%) described this person as a "fuckbuddy / friend I have sex with", and 3.1% described them as "someone who I pay to have sex with".

**Figure 16. Description of current regular sex partner among Maori respondents**



**Figure 17. HIV test status of current regular sex partner among Maori respondents**



Note: Only includes Maori men with current regular sex partner.

Respondents with a current regular sex partner were asked what the result of his latest HIV test was (Fig 17).

Two-thirds (68.8%) reported that this partner's latest test was HIV negative, a small number (6.3%) reported that it was HIV positive, and 25% reported that they had either not asked this partner, they did not know, or that this partner had not ever had an HIV test.

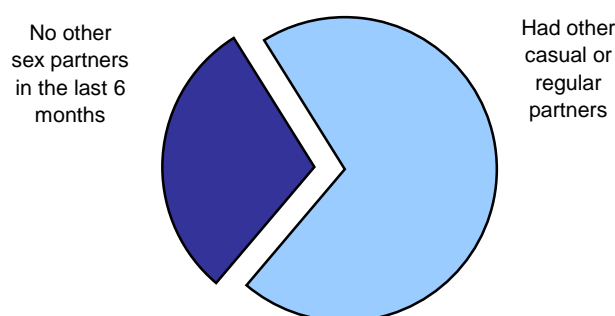
It is important to point out that these results relate to the last HIV test of the respondent's current regular sex partner. Respondents were not asked how long ago this last HIV test occurred.

### Concurrent (simultaneous) relationships

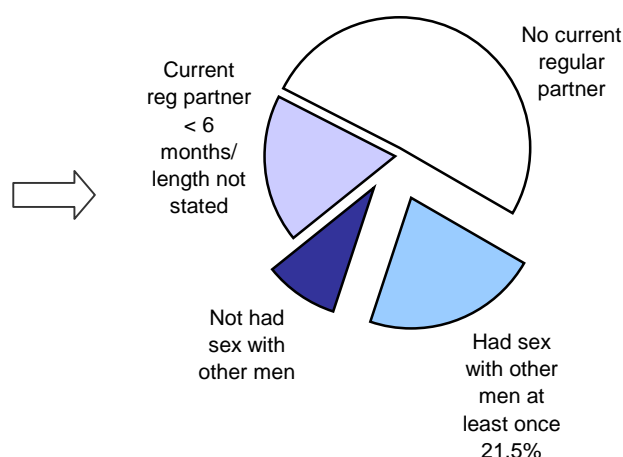
Multiple sexual partnering within a given time period increases the likelihood that men will have overlapping, or simultaneous sexual relationships with other men. Rather than ask respondents a direct question on whether they had been having concurrent sexual relationships, we examined for overlapping sexual partnering in the GAPSS survey indirectly. First, we isolated those respondents who reported being in a relationship with a regular partner for “more than six months”, and then examined whether these men reported any other regular or casual partners during this period.

Twenty of the 32 Maori respondents with a current regular partner had been seeing this partner for six months or longer. Of these 20 Maori respondents, 14 (70%) reported at least one concurrent regular or casual sexual partner (Fig 18).

**Figure 18. Concurrent sexual partnerships among Maori respondents with current regular sex partners of six or more months duration**



**Figure 19. Concurrent sex in the six months prior to survey: out of the whole Maori sample**



Overall, these 14 respondents who had concurrent sexual partnerships in the six month period prior to survey represent a fifth (21.5%) of the entire Maori sample (Fig 19).

## Condom use classifications

This chapter outlines the two ways of expressing condom use frequencies that are used in this report: *any unprotected anal sex* and *High, Medium and Low* condom use.

### Any unprotected anal sex

The first is the number of respondents who reported *at least once not using a condom during anal sex*. It distinguishes respondents who had any instances of unprotected anal sex from respondents who always used a condom when engaging in anal sex in the six months prior to survey (Fig 20).

“Always used a condom” =  A cells  
 “Not always used a condom” =  N cells

**Figure 20. Condom use classification: Any unprotected sex**

		When receptive, used condoms...					
		Not receptive	Always	Almost always	1/2 time	Very rarely	Never
When insertive, used condoms...	Not insertive		A	N	N	N	N
	Always	A	A	N	N	N	N
	Almost always	N	N	N	N	N	N
	1/2 time	N	N	N	N	N	N
	Very rarely	N	N	N	N	N	N
	Never	N	N	N	N	N	N

### High, Medium, Low condom use

The second utilises the five-point condom use frequency scale in the questionnaire (condom use ‘always’, ‘almost always’, ‘about half the time’, ‘very rarely’ and ‘never’) to extend the description of unprotected sex into a three-part categorisation of High, Medium and Low. Under this typology, “High” condom users are those who used a condom at least “always” or “almost always” when they engaged in either receptive or insertive anal sex, “Low” condom users are those who used condoms at most “very rarely” or “never” when they engaged in either receptive or insertive anal sex, with the rest categorised as having used condoms at a “Medium” level (Fig 21).

Some complexity arises because some men may have used condoms “always” for receptive anal sex and “never” for insertive anal sex and vice versa. These “asymmetric” condom users have been grouped into the “Medium” category for the purposes of this analysis.

This typology has been developed because it enables a respondent who used condoms 99% of the time to be differentiated from someone who very rarely or never used a condom for anal sex. It also acknowledges that men who are otherwise habitual condom users may ‘slip up’ from time to time, and that it may still be useful to distinguish such individuals from respondents who were less habitual condom users.

“High” =  H cells  
 “Medium” =  M cells  
 “Low” =  L cells

**Figure 21. Condom use classification: High, Medium, Low**

		When receptive, used condoms...					
		Not receptive	Always	Almost always	1/2 time	Very rarely	Never
When insertive, used condoms...	Not insertive		H	H	M	L	L
	Always	H	H	H	M	M	M
	Almost always	H	H	H	M	M	M
	1/2 time	M	M	M	M	M	M
	Very rarely	L	M	M	M	L	L
	Never	L	M	M	M	L	L

These condom use frequencies are expressed in three ways in various parts of this report: (a) as a proportion of the total sample; (b) as a proportion of those who reported a (casual/current regular) partner; (c) as a proportion of those who had anal sex with a (casual/current regular) partner.

## Sex with a current regular partner

This section focuses on the 32 respondents (around half the total Maori GAPSS sample) who had a regular male partner at the time of survey. A regular partner was defined in the survey as a man “you’ve had sex with four or more times in the previous six months. They could be boyfriends, life partners, fuckbuddies etc...”. Respondents were asked a number of questions relating to their sexual practices with current regular male partners. These included:

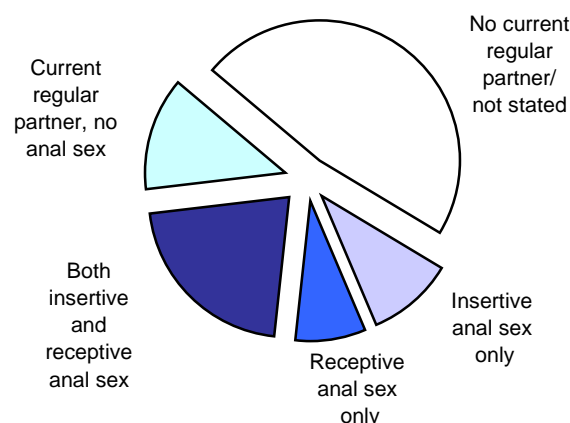
- whether they *had sex with a current regular male partner* in the previous six months,
- whether they had *insertive or receptive anal intercourse*,
- the *frequency of condom use* (always, almost always, about half the time, very rarely, never) during insertive and during receptive anal intercourse,
- the *frequency of withdrawing before ejaculation* for those respondents who sometimes did not use condoms.

### *Anal sex with a current regular partner*

Of the 32 Maori respondents who reported information about their current regular partner, 24 (75%) reported having anal sex with this partner in the six months prior to interview.

The majority of men who had anal sex had engaged in both insertive and receptive anal sex with their partner (13 respondents), with roughly equal proportions engaging in anal sex that was receptive only (five respondents) or insertive only (six respondents). These results are illustrated in the context of the total Maori GAPSS sample in Fig 22.

**Figure 22. Anal sex with current regular partner in the six months prior to survey: of whole Maori sample**



### ***Any unprotected anal sex with a current regular partner***

Of the 24 respondents who had anal sex with their current regular partner, 41.7% had used a condom each time and 58.3% had at least once not used a condom in the six months prior to survey (Fig 25).

This data is shown in the context of the whole sample in Table 10 and Fig 26. A fifth (21.5%) of the total Maori GAPSS sample reported at least once not using a condom with a current regular sex partner (this represents 23.3% of the 60 respondents who provided information).

**Table 10. Any unprotected anal sex with current regular partner: whole Maori sample**

	n	%
No current regular sex partner	28	43.1
Current regular partner but no anal sex	8	12.3
Current regular partner and anal sex:		
Always used a condom	10	15.4
At least once did not use a condom	14	21.5
Not stated	5	7.7
Total	65	100.0

### ***High, Medium, Low condom use with current regular partner***

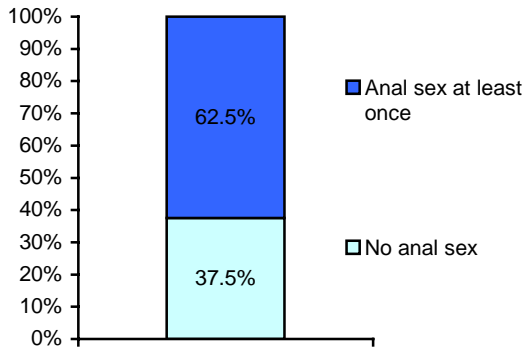
Analysing condom use by High, Medium and Low frequencies revealed that condom use in current regular sexual partnerships in the entire GAPSS sample was highly bi-modal (Saxton et al (2002). The pattern among Maori respondents appeared to be slightly different. Of respondents who had anal sex with a current regular partner, two-thirds of Maori respondents were High condom users (66.7%), 29.2% were Low condom users, with 4.2% categorised as Medium users (Fig 27).

In the context of the whole Maori GAPSS sample (Table 11 and Fig 28), expressing condom use in this way reveals that only half of those respondents who had “at least once not used a condom” (21.5%) were categorised as Low condom users (10.8%).

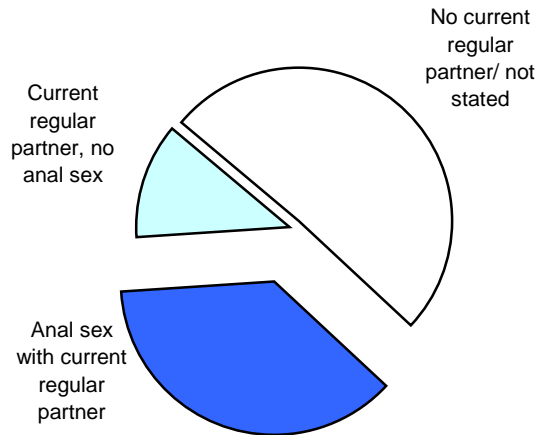
**Table 11. High, Medium, Low condom use with regular sex partner: whole Maori sample**

	n	%
No current regular sex partner	28	43.1
Current regular partner but no anal sex	8	12.3
Current regular partner and anal sex:		
High condom use	16	24.6
Medium condom use	1	1.5
Low condom use	7	10.8
Not stated	5	7.7
Total	65	100.0

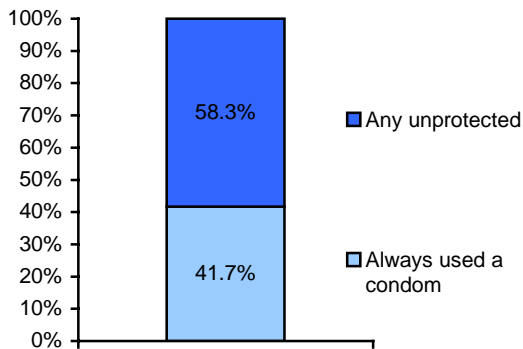
**Figure 23. Anal sex with current regular partner in the six months prior to survey**



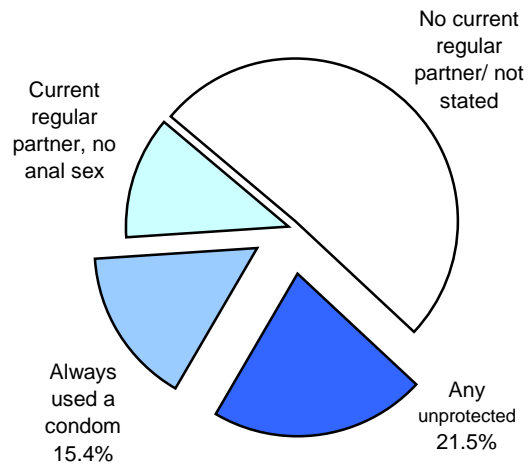
**Figure 24. Anal sex with current regular partner: of whole Maori sample**



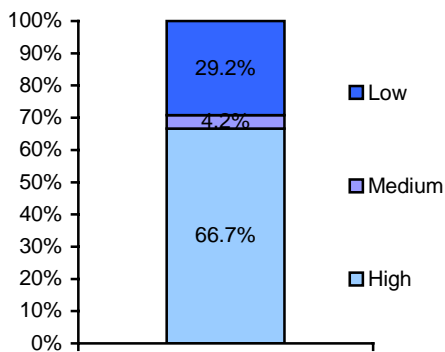
**Figure 25. Any unprotected anal sex: of those having anal sex with current regular partner**



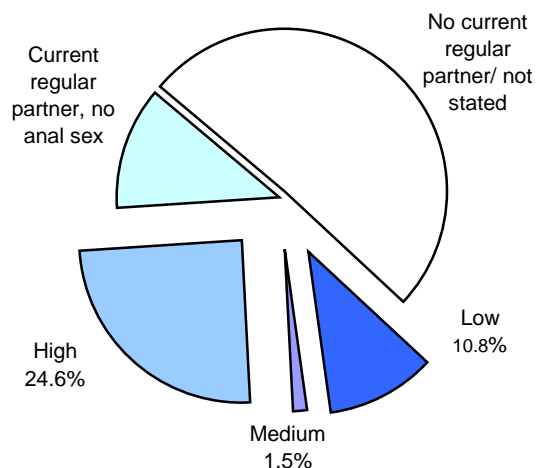
**Figure 26. Any unprotected anal sex: of whole Maori sample**



**Figure 27. High, Medium, Low condom use: of those having anal sex with current regular partner**



**Figure 28. High, Medium, Low condom use: of whole Maori sample**



## Sex with casual partners

This chapter focuses on anal sex and condom use with casual partners. As described earlier, casual partners were defined on the questionnaire as “men you’ve had sex with three times, twice or once in the last six months”. Respondents were asked a number of questions relating to their sexual practices with casual male partners. These included:

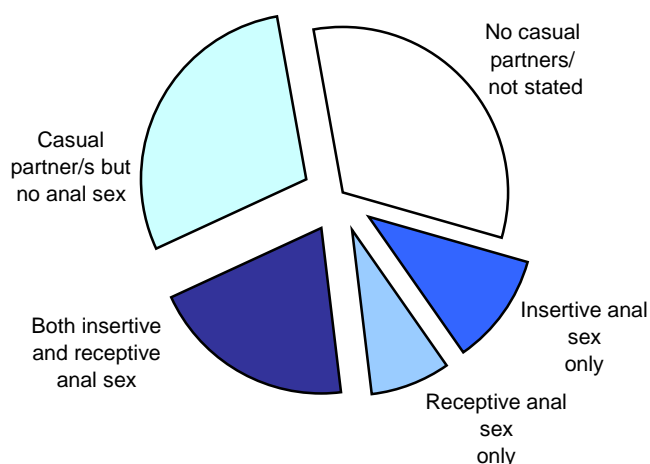
- whether or not they *had sex with a casual male partner* in the previous six months,
- whether they had *insertive or receptive anal intercourse*,
- the *frequency of condom use* (always, almost always, about half the time, very rarely, never) during insertive and receptive anal intercourse,

Three-quarters (73.9%, or 48 men) of the whole Maori sample of 65 respondents had a casual sex partner or partners in the previous six months. Of these, 44 respondents provided information sufficient for the analysis of casual sex outcomes (the remaining 4 men are categorised as “no casual partners/not stated” in the following pages).

### ***Anal sex with a casual partner***

Engagement in anal sex was less common among casual partners than among regular sex partners. Of the 44 respondents providing information on casual sex, 25 (56.8%) reported anal sex with one or more casual partners. Just over half reported both insertive and receptive anal sex (13 respondents) as opposed to receptive anal sex only (5 respondents) or insertive anal sex only (7 respondents). These findings are illustrated in the context of the whole sample in Fig 29.

**Figure 29. Anal sex with a casual partner/s: of the whole Maori sample**



### ***Any unprotected anal sex with casual partner/s***

Condom use was substantially higher during anal sex with casual partners than among respondents with their current regular partner. Just under two-thirds (64.0%) of Maori respondents who engaged in anal sex with a casual partner had always used a condom in the previous six months, and just over a third (36.0%) at least once did not (Fig 32).

Illustrated in the context of the whole sample, 13.8% reported at least once not using a condom with a casual partner or partners (or 15.8% of those providing full information (9/57)) (Table 12 and Fig 33).

**Table 12. Any unprotected anal sex with casual partner/s: whole Maori sample**

	n	%
No casual partners	13	20.0
Casual partners but no anal sex	19	29.2
Casual partners and anal sex:		
Always used a condom	16	24.6
At least once did not use a condom	9	13.8
Not stated	8	12.3
Total	65	100.0

### ***High, Medium, Low condom use with casual partner/s:***

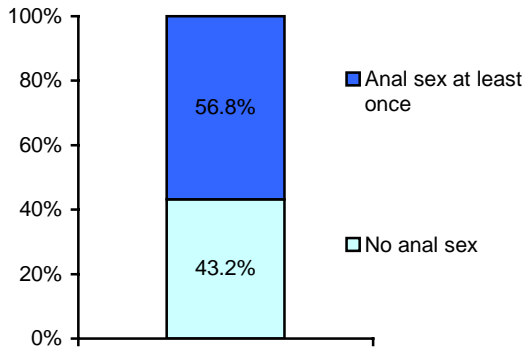
For casual sex, the overwhelming majority of the 25 Maori men having anal sex with a casual partner were classified as High (84.0%), 12.0% as Medium, and 4.0% as Low condom users (Fig 34).

Although Table 12 above indicated that 13.8% of the total sample at least once did not use a condom with a casual partner in the last six months, Table 13 and Fig 35 indicate that just 1.5% of the total Maori GAPSS sample were classified as “Low” condom users.

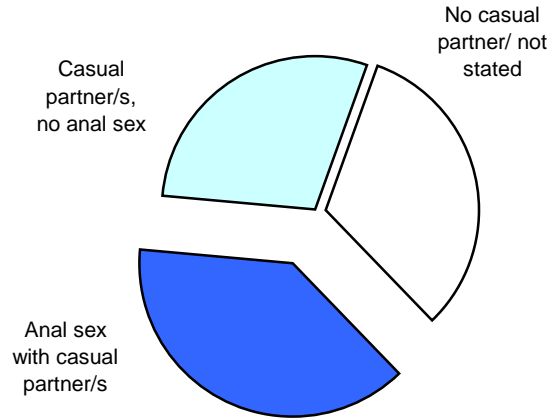
**Table 13. High, Medium, Low condom use with casual partner/s: whole Maori sample**

	n	%
No casual partner/s	13	20.0
Casual partner/s but no anal sex	19	29.2
Casual partner/s and anal sex:		
High condom use	21	32.3
Medium condom use	3	4.6
Low condom use	1	1.5
Not stated	8	12.3
Total	65	100.0

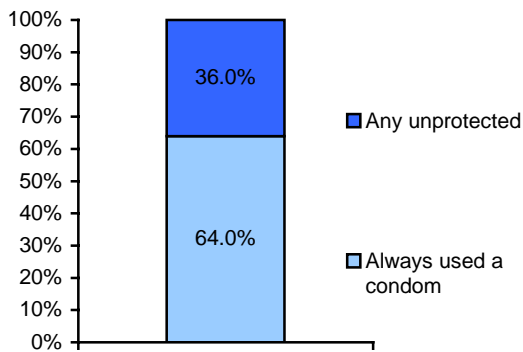
**Figure 30. Anal sex with casual partner/s in the six months prior to survey: of those with casual partners**



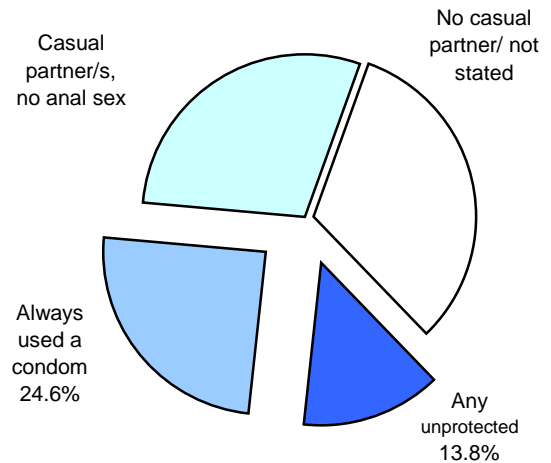
**Figure 31. Anal sex with casual partner/s: of the whole Maori sample**



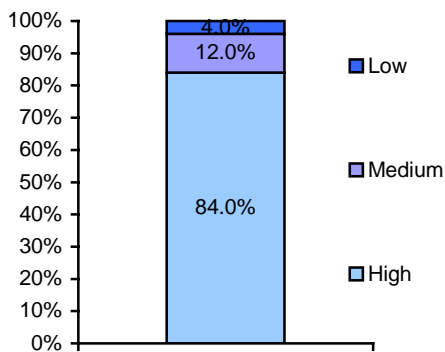
**Figure 32. Any unprotected anal sex: of those having anal sex with casual partner/s**



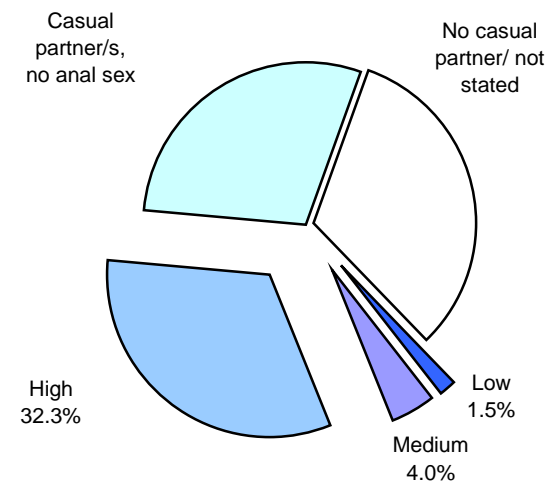
**Figure 33. Any unprotected anal sex: of whole Maori sample**



**Figure 34. High, Medium, Low condom use: of those having anal sex with casual partner/s**



**Figure 35. High, Medium, Low condom use: of whole Maori sample**



## Oral sex and sex with men met via the internet

### Oral sex

Regarding oral sex, the questions were restricted to receptive oral sex (sucking a man's penis) because this was felt to provide a better indicator of sexual risk taking by the respondent than insertive oral sex (having one's penis sucked), especially in the case of receptive oral sex where the sexual partner ejaculates into the respondent's mouth.

As shown in the far right-hand column of Table 14, receptive oral sex was a common activity among respondents, with 87.7% of the entire sample having engaged in this in the six months prior to survey, or 90.5% of those who had any sex with a man in the previous 6 months. In total, 36.9% of the whole sample had experienced receptive oral sex with ejaculation into their mouth.

**Table 14. Oral sex with man in the previous six months among Maori respondents**

	n	%
Any receptive oral sex	57	87.7
Sucked a penis without him cumming in your mouth	56	86.2
Sucked a penis and he came in your mouth	24	36.9
No sex with a man	2	3.1
Total	65	100.0

Note: 'Not stated' not shown.

### Sex with a man whom the respondent met via the internet

The wording of this question focused on the respondent's engagement in sex in the previous six months as opposed to the timing of their meeting with their internet sex partner.

Just under a quarter of the Maori respondents (23.1%) reported that they had engaged in sex with a man they met through the internet in the 6 months prior to survey (Table 15).

**Table 15. Respondent had sex with a man in the six months prior to survey whom he met via the internet**

	n	%
Yes	15	23.1
No	44	67.7
No sex with a man	2	3.1
Not stated	4	6.2
Total	65	100.0

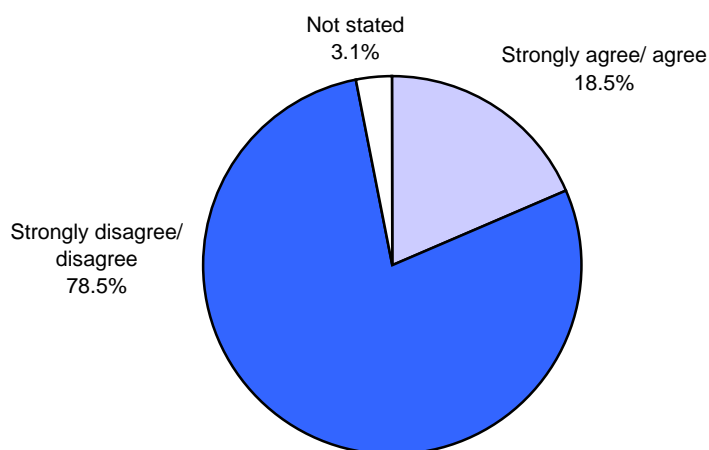
## Attitudes

All participants were asked how they felt about several statements to do with HIV, condom use and sex. The findings among Maori respondents are presented here.

### ***“HIV/AIDS is a less serious threat than it used to be because of new treatments”***

Overall only 18.5% of Maori participants agreed to the statement that HIV/AIDS is less of a threat than it used to be because of new treatments (Fig 36).

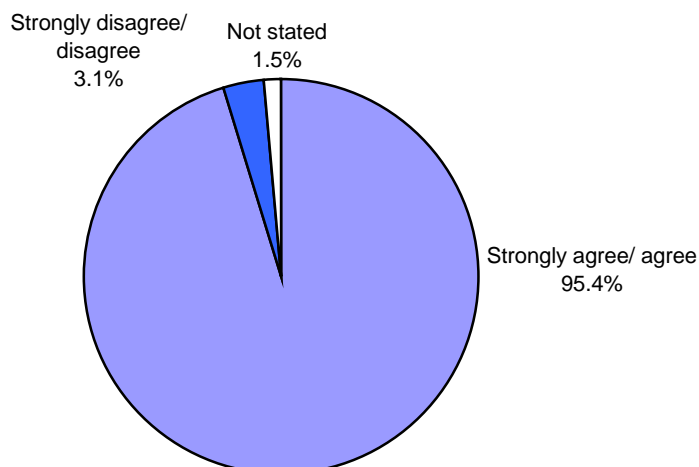
**Figure 36. “HIV/AIDS is a less serious threat than it used to be because of new treatments”**



### ***“Condoms are OK as part of sex”***

Most Maori respondents (95.4%) considered that “condoms are OK as part of sex” (Fig 37).

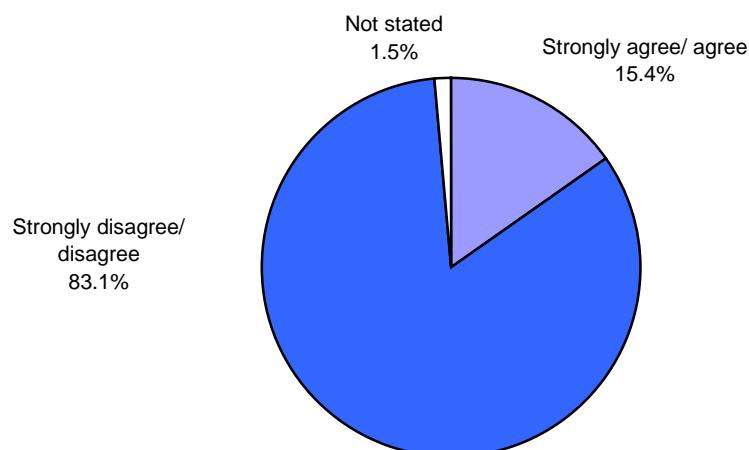
**Figure 37. “Condoms are OK as part of sex”**



***“I would sometimes rather risk HIV transmission than use a condom during anal sex”***

Overall few study participants (15.4%) agreed with the statement “I would sometimes rather risk HIV transmission than use a condom during anal sex” (Fig 38).

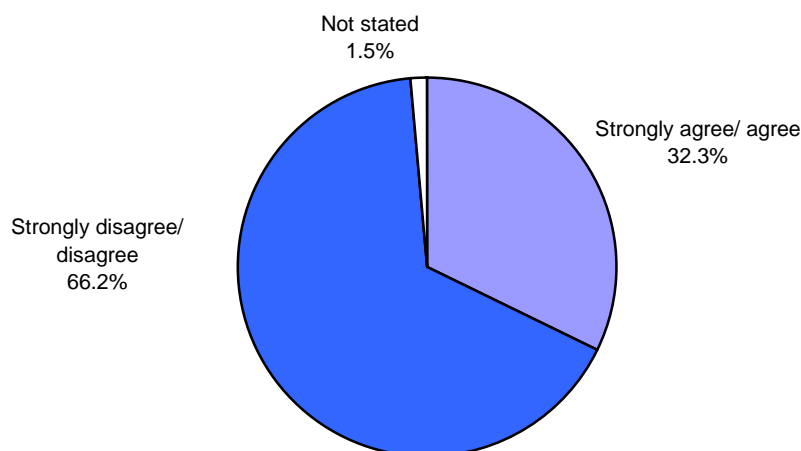
**Figure 38. “I would sometimes rather risk HIV transmission than use a condom during anal sex”**



***“I don’t like wearing condoms because they reduce sensitivity”***

Despite most Maori participants agreeing that “condoms are OK as part of sex” in a previous question, 40.1% agreed they did not like wearing them because they reduced sensitivity (Fig 39).

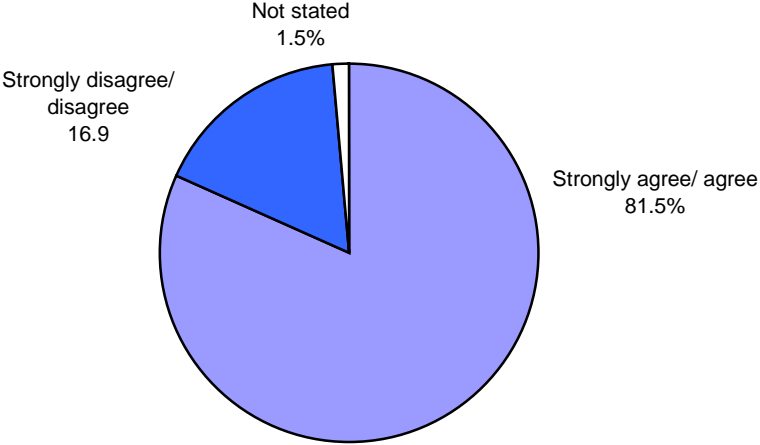
**Figure 39. “I don’t like wearing condoms because they reduce sensitivity”**



***“The sex I have is always as safe as I want it to be”***

Overall, 81.5% of Maori participants agreed that the sex they had was always as safe as they wanted it to be (Fig 40).

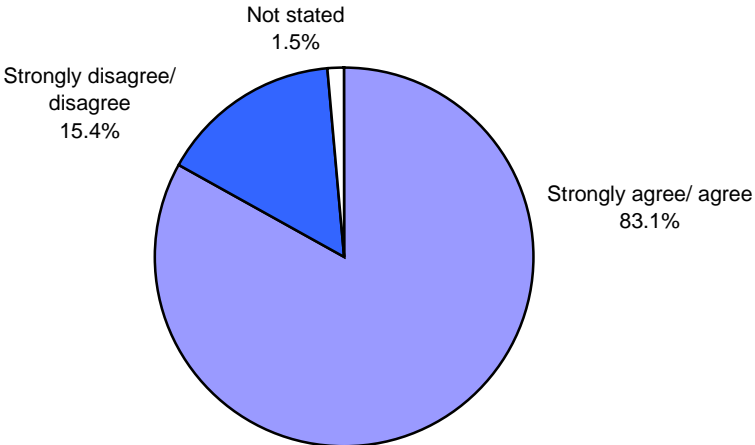
**Figure 40. “The sex I have is always as safe as I want it to be”**



***“I’d expect a man who knew he had HIV to tell me he was positive before we had sex”***

A large proportion (83.1%) of Maori participants in the survey agreed that they would expect a man to tell them if he had HIV before they had sex (Fig 41).

**Figure 41. “I’d expect a man who knew he had HIV to tell me he was positive before we had sex”**



## Summary and discussion

This report details the results relating to the 65 respondents who identified as Maori in the 2002 GAPSS survey. The small number of Maori respondents has not permitted an in-depth examination of the findings, and care must be taken not to over-interpret the outcomes presented here, especially when comparing them against the findings reported for the total 2002 GAPSS sample in the main summary report (Saxton et al., 2002).

In general however, the majority of the findings suggest that the Maori participants in the GAPSS sample exhibited very similar outcomes to that of the total GAPSS sample in respect of the survey's "key indicators". Half of the Maori participants had a regular partner at the time of survey, a quarter had tested for HIV in the six months prior to survey, 5% had received an HIV positive diagnosis, most of the attitudinal findings were identical to those reported for the whole sample, and the incidence of "any" unprotected anal sex with regular and with casual partners closely matched what was found for non-Maori respondents.

Having said this, there were some results that appeared to suggest differences between the Maori and total sample and which ought to be closely followed in the next data collection in 2004. Rates of "ever tested" for HIV were slightly lower among Maori than the figure overall, proportionately fewer Maori respondents appeared to be confident that their current HIV status was "definitely negative", and a greater proportion of current regular sexual relationships among Maori were under six months duration. It is possible that these results are influenced by the relatively young age profile of the Maori sample. Balanced with these findings were results that suggested high rates of protective behaviour, especially with regular sexual partners.

Many of these indicative findings correspond, while others differ, to previous quantitative research on Maori MSM on a national scale and with a larger sample (n=170) (Aspin et al., 1998). In particular, the fact that only 1 in 6 Maori respondents to GAPSS identified as takataapui was much lower than the finding in Aspin et al., where a third of Maori participants claimed this identity.<sup>2</sup> Further GAPSS research will be required before the robustness of the present findings can be assessed, and measures to increase the participation of Maori respondents in GAPSS will need to be explored.

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<sup>2</sup> This may be due to the fact that in Male Call/Waea Mai, Tane Ma 1996 respondents were allowed to choose multiple sexual identities, whereas in GAPSS 2002 respondents were only allowed to select one sexual identity.

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