

Flux Study COVID-19 Diary

Monthly Report

Report 05: Reporting week ending 15 November

Prepared by Daniel Storer

On behalf of the BRISE Reference Group for the Flux Study

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank all the study participants and the people and organisations who assisted with recruitment and referral of potential participants to the original Flux Study from which this study is based.

Funding

This study was funded by the NSW Ministry of Health.

Collaborating Organisations

COVID-19 Diary Study is a collaboration between the Kirby Institute, the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), the Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society (ARCSHS), the Centre for Social Research in Health (CSRH), University of Auckland, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO), National LGBTI Health Alliance, ACON, and Thorne Harbour Health.

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Executive summary

This is a report on the findings from the Flux Study COVID-19 Diary for the period 7th September 2020 to 15th November 2020. The report is a summary of data collected during the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia among gay and bisexual men (GBM). Weekly data are collected on key sexual and other risk behaviours, and monthly data collected on health seeking practices and social connectedness in relation to COVID-19.

Between 465 and 510 GBM completed online diary entries at weekly intervals followed by an extended weekly diary at Weeks 20, 24 and 28.

Summary of findings:

- The mean number of sexual partners among GBM remained relatively stable over the reporting period. Men in NSW continue to report higher partner numbers than men in other jurisdictions.
- The proportion of men in NSW that report sex with multiple non-relationship partners continues to be higher than other jurisdictions in this reporting period.
- Around half of men reported any type of sex each week over the reporting period, peaking at 53.8% in Week 28.
- The proportion of men reporting sex with fuckbuddies/friends with benefits has increased from 28.0% in week 19 to 35.2% in Week 28.
- Among men reporting receptive condomless anal intercourse with more than one fuckbuddy/friend with benefits/any casual partners the proportion not protected by biomedical prevention increased from 9.7% in Week 19 to 15.2% in Week 28.
- Among men reporting condomless anal intercourse with more than one fuckbuddy/friend with benefits/any casual partners the average proportion not protected by biomedical prevention for receptive CLAI was 19.2% and for insertive CLAI was 21.1%.
- After initial declines and then stabilised use throughout the study, PrEP use among non HIV-positive men has increased in recent weeks and peaked at 35.7% in Week 27.
- Between 70.1% and 81.5% of non-HIV-positive men reporting CLAI with more than one fuckbuddy/friend with benefits/any casual partners were protected by PrEP in the reporting period.
- Participation in group sex was uncommon with approximately one in 14 men at Week 20 and 24 and a slight increase in Week 28 with approximately one in 12 men.

- Recent (in the past 7 days) testing for COVID-19 has been between 2.5-4.8% of participants over the reporting period and peaked at 4.8% in Week 20.
- The proportion of men who indicated they were coping poorly with the current COVID-19 crisis over the reporting period is approximately one in five.
- Between Week 19 and 28, men in Victoria were more likely to indicate they were coping poorly and peaked at 40.4% in Week 20.
- Over the reporting period, the number of hours participants reported spending each day communicating with gay male friends has slightly increased with 0% reporting no contact with male friends in Week 28.
- Over the reporting period, between one in five and one in six men indicated they had been tested for STIs or HIV.

Previous reports

- [Flux Study COVID-19 Diary Monthly Report 04](#): 10 May 2020 to 6 September 2020
- [Flux Study COVID-19 Diary Monthly Report 03](#): 13 July 2020 to 9 August 2020
- [Flux Study COVID-19 Diary Monthly Report 02](#): 15 June 2020 to 12 July 2020
- [Flux Study COVID-19 Diary Monthly Report 01](#): 3 May 2020 to 14 June 2020

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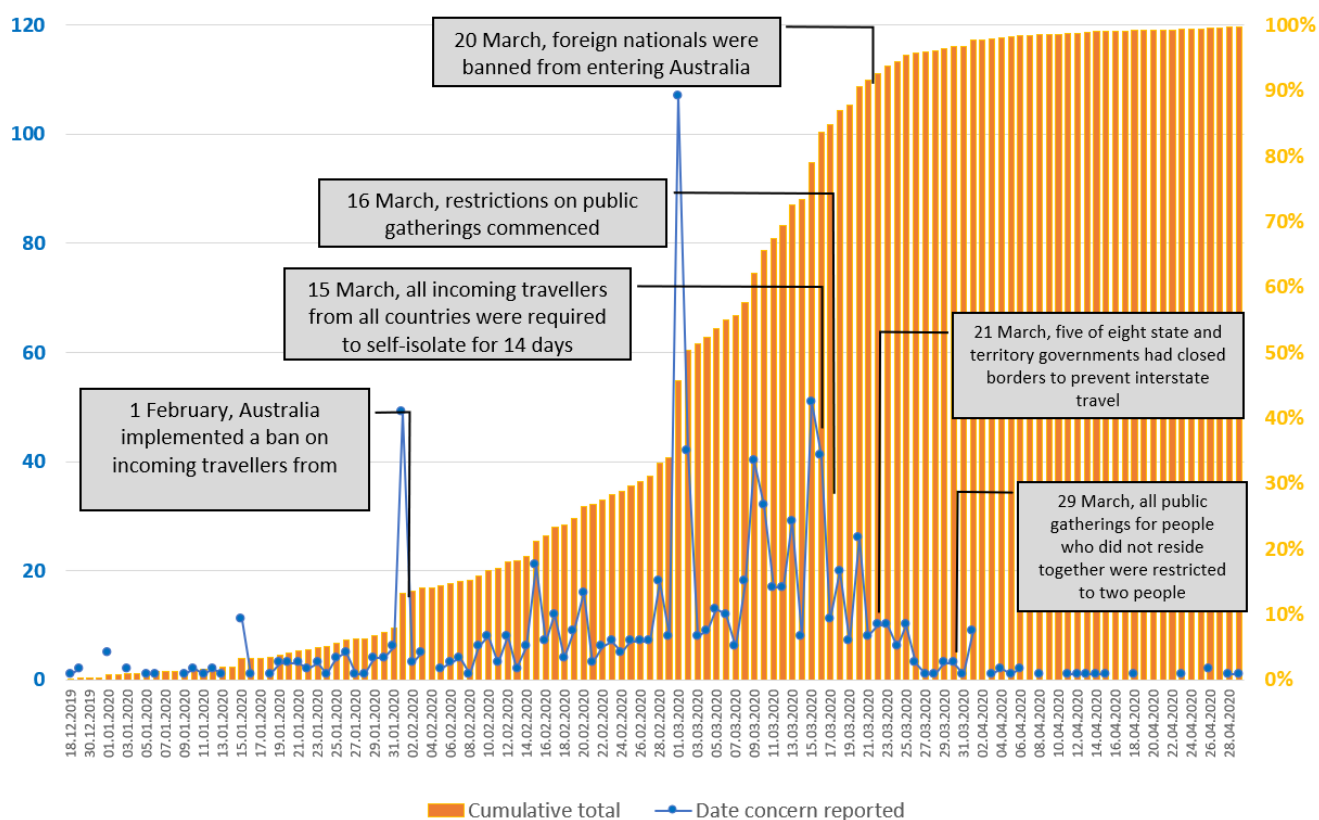
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Background

At baseline, gay and bisexual men reported the date they became concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic. Figure 1 details the cumulative percentage as men became concerned and the date concern started. This is accompanied by implementation of restrictions around the country.

Figure 1. Onset of concern about COVID-19 by date and cumulative frequency



Changes in restriction by study week

The COVID-19 Diary Study commenced collecting weekly diary entries from participants on 10th May 2020. Each Sunday thereafter participants are asked to complete their diary entries within 48 hours of receiving an emailed invitation. Below are the details of restrictions across each jurisdiction from Weeks 19-28 of the study.

Week 19 (7-13 September 2020)

NSW: Year 12 graduations and school formals able to take place.

SA: People travelling from South Australia from the ACT no longer required to quarantine for 14 days.

NT: Announcement that Greater Sydney will be removed from list of coronavirus hotspots from 9 October if cases remain low.

Week 20 (14-20 September)

NSW: Relaxed border restrictions with Victoria including Victorian residents not obliged to comply with stay-at-home orders imposed in regional Victoria while in NSW and Victoria residents will not be restricted to entering NSW for permitted purposes only. Restrictions expanded to other areas including Pleasant Hills, Lockhart, Benalla, Bright and Mount Beauty.

Queensland: Freeze on evictions for commercial and residential tenants extended to the end of 2020.

Week 21 (21-27 September)

NSW: Government releases COVID safe summer plan to ensure safe distancing in parklands and other highly visited public spaces, encouraging all beachgoers to 'Keep a beach towel length between you' and anyone not from the same household, a COVID Safe summer program of events, encouraging businesses to utilise outdoor dining, and partnering with councils on a 'new local' campaign to showcase alternative public spaces. Community Language Schools Program recommences face to face learning. Interschool activities can recommence where a COVID-19 Safety Plan is in place. Playing wind instruments, singing and chanting is permitted in schools with strict restrictions. Year 6 graduations and formals are permitted. Kindergarten orientation, Year 7 transition, excursions and camps can resume with strict guidelines. Musical ensembles can resume as long as members keep 1.5 metres from one another or three metres for players of non-reeded woodwind instruments. More than one parent now able to attend community sporting activities. Up to 20 people in official wedding parties able to dance on the dance floor. Tenancy moratorium extended for six months.

Queensland: ACT no longer considered a COVID-19 hotspot. Travel from ACT to Queensland must be by air, driving through NSW is not permitted. Quarantine will only be required for ACT residents if they have been overseas in the last 14 days, been in contact with someone who has COVID-19 in the last 14 days, been in a COVID-19 hotspot in the last 14 days, had COVID-19 in the last 14 days or had COVID-19 symptoms in the last 14 days.

WA: Public or private events with more than 500 guests that require local government approval will need an approved COVID Event Plan as part of the process. All events subject to of one person per two square metres.

SA: People travelling from NSW to South Australia are no longer required to quarantine for 14 days.

Tasmania: Outdoor gatherings of up to 1,000 people permitted. Maximum density of one person per two square metres. Indoor gatherings capped at 250 people.

Week 22 (28 September – 4 October)

NSW: Announcement of plan for public servants to return to the office as part of a COVID Safe transition. Theatres, cinemas and concert halls can increase capacity up to 50% to a maximum of 1,000 tickets. Corporate events and function centres can host up to 300 people, venues can only increase capacity following the one person per four square metre rule.

Queensland: Border zone with NSW expanded to include Byron Shire, Ballina Shire, City of Lismore, Richmond Valley and Glen Innes Sever Shire. Queensland border zone removed. Queensland residents can travel anywhere in the NSW border zone for any purpose. NSW border zone residents can travel anywhere in Queensland for any purpose. Roadmap for further easing of restrictions announced for October, November and December. Residents able to purchase a meal or a drink without having to be seated. A Summertime taskforce established to identify outdoor opportunities. Public Health Emergency Declaration extended to 31 December 2020.

SA: Food and beverages are now able to be consumed standing up in outdoor areas. Private functions, weddings and funerals of up to 150 people now permitted dancing with standing consumption of food and beverages for those indoors and outdoors. Caravan parks and camping grounds only permitted six people over the age of 16 per site. Houseboats and short-term accommodation only permitted the maximum number of sleep occupancy plus six visitors.

Tasmania: Announcement of investigation into easing border restrictions with low-risk jurisdictions (SA, WA, NT, Queensland, ACT and possibly NSW) by 26 October.

Week 23 (5-11 October)

NSW: No changes.

NT: Greater Sydney hotspot status revoked.

NT: Greater Sydney has hotspot status removed meaning that travellers from Greater Sydney will no longer be required to undergo mandatory quarantine.

Week 24 (12-18 October)

NSW: 500 people cap on outdoor seated music performances and rehearsals, subject to the four square metre rule and having a COVID-19 Safety Plan. Hospitality venues move from one person per four square metres to one person to two square metres in outdoor areas. Businesses must use electronic contact details such as QR codes to take advantages of the relaxing in restrictions. Corporate functions of up to 300 people can take place, including at restaurants, subject to a COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Victoria: Year 7 students in metropolitan Melbourne return to the classroom. Years 1-10 and VCE and VCAL students in regional Victoria return to the classroom. People identified as close contacts of a person with COVID-19 must get tested on day 11 or after of their quarantine period or their quarantine will be extended.

Queensland: Gatherings of up to 40 people allowed in households and in public. Up to 40 people can dance at a wedding with a COVID Safe Plan. Dancing permitted at school organised Year 12 formals. Aged care residents now able to go on excursions.

Week 25 (19-25 October)

NSW: Up to 30 people now allowed to gather in outdoor public spaces. 30 customers per booking and 30 customers per table now allowed at hospitality venues. Announced that from 1 December 300 people will be able to attend weddings subject to the four square metre rule indoors and two square metre rule outdoors.

Victoria: Changes to restrictions in metropolitan Melbourne: 5km limit on exercise and shopping extended to 25km, and there is no time limit on exercise; Outdoors sports facilities such as tennis courts, golf courses and skateparks able to reopen; All allied health professionals able to return to face-to-face care; Outdoor real estate auctions will be able to take place with up to 10 people on top of required staff; Hairdressers able to reopen under strict safety protocols; Groups of up to 10 from two households able to gather outdoor in public; Trade services able to undertake outdoor work, mobile pet groomers and photographers able to recommence work. Changes to regional Victoria: Regional libraries and toy libraries can reopen to a maximum of 20 people indoors; hospitality venues able to reopen for up to 40 customers indoors and up to 70 outdoors.

WA: Phase 4 of eased restrictions extended based on health advice with no new tentative date for moving to Phase 5. Selected venues for predominantly seated events (theatres, concert halls, auditoriums/amphitheatres, cinemas, comedy lounges, and performing arts centres) are exempt from

one person per two square metre rule and can reach up to 60% capacity for seated, ticketed performances.

Week 26 (26 October-1 November)

NSW: Religious gatherings/places of worship (excluding weddings and funerals) can have up to 300 people, subject to a COVID-19 Safety Plan. Gyms only required to have a COVID-19 Safety Marshal if there are more than 20 people in the gym at once.

Victoria: Years 8-10 students in metropolitan Melbourne return to the classroom. Changes for regional Victoria: Indoor gyms and fitness venues can reopen for up to 20 people with a maximum of 10 per space and one person per eight square metres; Indoor pools reopen for up to 20 people; indoor sport for people under 18 can recommence; Food courts able to operate again; Live music can resume in outdoor hospitality settings; School graduations can take place within school communities; Up to 20 people can gather indoors with faith leaders and 50 outdoors for religious gatherings. Greater Shepparton to come into line with the rest of regional Victoria. From 11:59pm Tuesday 27 October the following restrictions were eased for metropolitan Melbourne: Cafes, restaurants and pubs can reopen up to 50 outdoors and 20 indoors within density limits of one person per two square metres and one person per four square metres respectively; Retail businesses, beauty and personal services can all reopen with staff able to commence reopening preparations onsite immediately; Outdoor contact sport for people under 18 and non-contact sport for adults resumes; Personal training, fitness and dance classes can be conducted outdoors up to 10 people; Outdoor pools can increase up to 50 people subject to density limits; Libraries and community centres can reopen for outdoor events; Outdoor entertainment venues can reopen; Outdoor religious ceremonies can take place for up to 20 people on top of those required for the service, and indoor services can take place for up to 10 people; Weddings can increase to 10 people and funerals for up to 20; Workplaces are no longer needed to be on the permitted work list to open and advice changes to 'if you can work from home you must work from home'.

WA: List of exemptions for travellers from Victoria expanded to come in line with exemptions for travellers from all other states and territories under the current hard border regime. New Zealand travellers arriving in WA via other Australian cities will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days and present for a COVID-19 test on day 11 of their arrival in the state.

Tasmania: Travellers from low-risk areas (Queensland, the ACT, SA, WA, the NT and New Zealand) who have only been in these areas in the last 14 days will not be required to quarantine upon entry into

Tasmania. Travellers from these low-risk areas can also visit Tasmanian residential aged care services under the same conditions as Tasmanians.

Week 27 (2-8 November)

NSW: Announcement the border with Victoria will reopen 12:01am Monday 23 November.

Victoria: Boundary between Melbourne and regional Victoria removed and 25km limit on movement for people in metropolitan Melbourne removed. Metropolitan Melbourne comes in line with regional Victoria with the following changes: The maximum of two people visiting a household per day no longer have to be from the same household and can come at different times; Restaurants, pubs and cafes can have up to 40 customers indoors and 70 customers outdoors; Gyms and indoor sports venues can have up to 20 people; Indoor sport for people 18 and under can recommence; Religious ceremonies can now have up to 20 people indoors and 50 people outdoors with the same limits for funerals but no changes for weddings; Libraries, RSLs and other community spaces can now have up to 20 indoors with groups of up to 10; Accommodation providers are able to reopen. Changes across the state include: Indoor entertainment (theatres, galleries, museums, music halls, etc) venues can have up to 20 people per space; A household will now be able to visit aged care and hospitals together once per day and limited to two hours; People under 16 will be able to visit hospitals; The time limit for partners visiting maternity wards will no longer be in place; Hospitals are able to stipulate their own policies; The State of Disaster will not be renewed but the State of Emergency will be extended to 6 December. Announcements were also made about future easing of restrictions to come into place 22 November.

Queensland: 32 NSW Local Government Areas in Greater Sydney considered COVID-19 hotspots. No longer a border zone with NSW and any NSW residents who have not been in a COVID-19 hotspot in the last 14 days can travel anywhere in Queensland. Exemptions now possible for visiting hospitals, aged care facilities or disability accommodation services to visit someone who is near their end of life if you have been overseas or in a COVID-19 hotspot.

Tasmania: NSW categorised as low-risk and travellers from NSW are no longer required to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in Tasmania.

NT: All of regional Victoria, except the Mitchell Shire, has hotspot status removed.

Week 28 (9-15 November)

NSW: No changes.

WA: Travellers from states and territories deemed to be 'very low risk' (no community cases for 28 days and include Tasmania, Queensland, South Australia, the ACT and the NT) can enter WA as long as they comply with health screening and permit requirements.

Tasmania: Customers dining in at restaurants, cafes and pubs are required to provide the contact details of at least one group member. Customers are permitted to drink alcohol standing up in outdoor settings of pubs and clubs. Household gatherings increased to a maximum of 40 people on top of those who live at the premises. Victoria reclassified as a medium risk area and travellers from Victoria will still be required to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in Tasmania but can do so at home or at approved premises.

NT: The Mitchell Shire in Victoria has hotspot status removed.

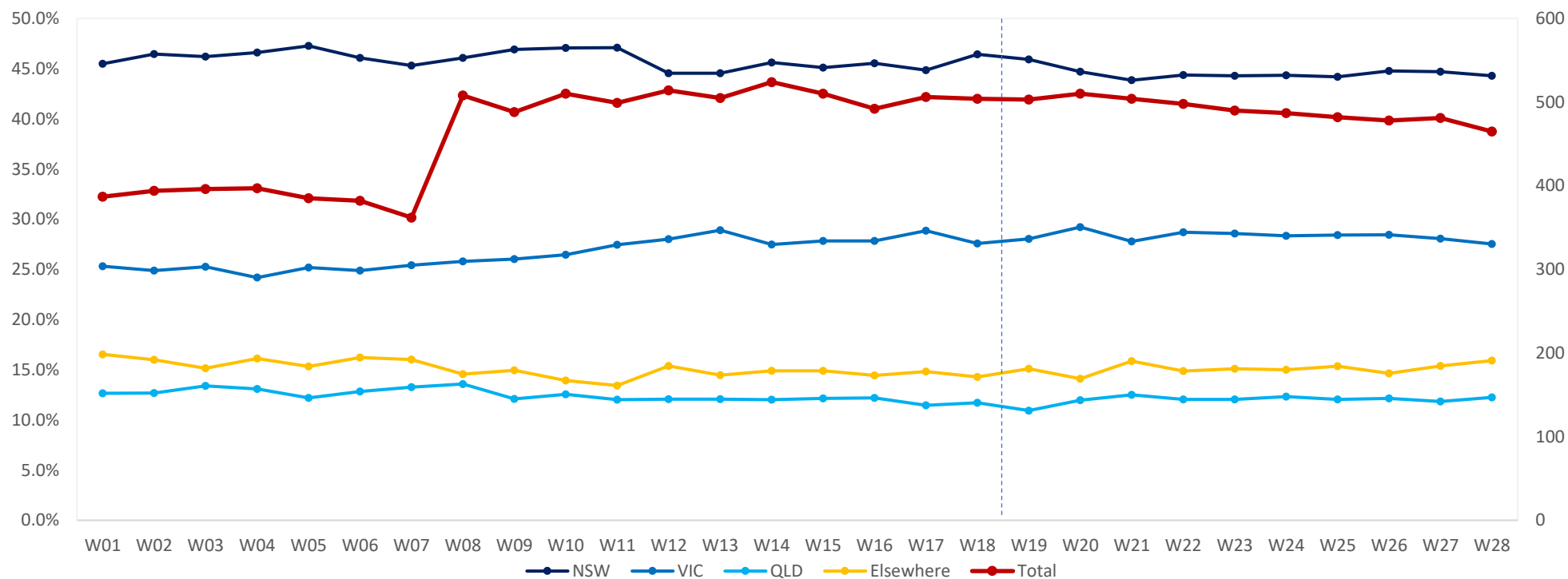
Responses

The proportion of men responding in each state and territory has remained stable between week 19 and week 28. However, the percentage of non-responders has increased from 28.2% to 34.0% over the reporting period. NSW remains the jurisdiction with the largest number of responders at just under half the sample, this remained consistent over the reporting period.

Table 1. Responses

| | Week 19 | Week 20 | Week 21 | Week 22 | Week 23 | Week 24 | Week 25 | Week 26 | Week 27 | Week 28 |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| NSW only | 231 (45.9) | 228 (44.7) | 221 (43.9) | 221 (44.4) | 217 (44.3) | 216 (44.4) | 213 (44.2) | 214 (44.8) | 215 (44.7) | 206 (44.3) |
| VIC only | 141 (28.0) | 149 (29.2) | 140 (27.8) | 143 (28.7) | 140 (28.6) | 138 (28.3) | 137 (28.4) | 136 (28.5) | 135 (28.1) | 128 (27.5) |
| QLD only | 55 (10.9) | 61 (12.0) | 63 (12.5) | 60 (12.0) | 59 (12.0) | 60 (12.3) | 58 (12.0) | 58 (12.1) | 57 (11.9) | 57 (12.3) |
| Other states/territories | 76 (15.1) | 72 (14.1) | 80 (15.9) | 74 (14.9) | 74 (15.1) | 73 (15.0) | 74 (15.4) | 70 (14.6) | 74 (15.4) | 74 (15.9) |
| Total sample | 503 | 510 | 504 | 498 | 490 | 487 | 482 | 478 | 481 | 465 |
| Initial enrolment | 2 (0.3) | 0 (0.0) | 2 (0.3) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 1 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 1 (0.1) | 0 (0.0) |
| Previous enrolment | 501 (71.8) | 510 (72.8) | 502 (71.4) | 498 (70.8) | 490 (69.7) | 486 (69.0) | 482 (68.5) | 478 (67.9) | 480 (68.1) | 465 (66.0) |
| Non-response | 198 (28.2) | 191 (27.2) | 199 (28.3) | 205 (29.2) | 213 (30.3) | 217 (30.8) | 222 (31.5) | 226 (32.1) | 224 (31.8) | 240 (34.0) |
| Cumulative total | 702 | 702 | 704 | 704 | 704 | 705 | 705 | 705 | 706 | 706 |

Figure 2. Number of respondents each week (by state and total)*



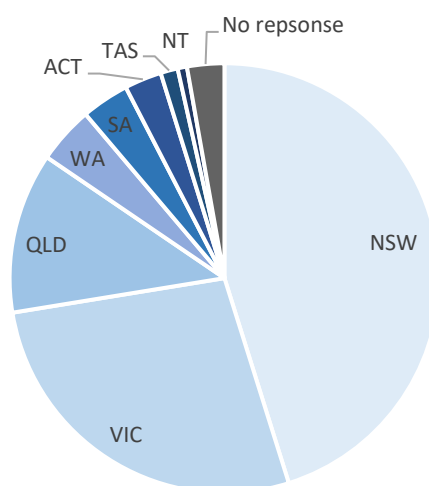
*Note: weeks to the right of the dotted line in all figures indicates the period covered by this report in all figures

Geographic distribution

Table 2. Geographic distribution of sample (*note: new enrolments began in Week 8)

| | Existing Flux cohort | Newly enrolled cohort* | Total |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------|
| State/Territory | | | |
| New South Wales | 243 (45.0) | 75 (45.7) | 318 (45.2) |
| Victoria | 141 (26.1) | 51 (31.1) | 192 (27.3) |
| Queensland | 74 (13.7) | 11 (6.7) | 85 (12.1) |
| Western Australia | 28 (5.2) | 2 (1.2) | 30 (4.3) |
| South Australia | 19 (3.5) | 6 (3.7) | 25 (3.6) |
| ACT | 17 (3.1) | 3 (1.8) | 20 (2.8) |
| Northern Territory | 8 (1.5) | 1 (0.6) | 9 (1.3) |
| Tasmania | 3 (0.6) | 2 (1.2) | 5 (0.7) |
| Unknown | 7 (1.3) | 13 (7.9) | 20 (2.8) |
| Postcode¹ | | | |
| Very highly gay populated | 49 (9.1) | 14 (8.5) | 63 (8.9) |
| Highly gay populated | 100 (18.5) | 24 (14.6) | 124 (17.6) |
| Moderately gay populated | 236 (43.7) | 66 (40.2) | 302 (42.9) |
| Sparsely gay populated | 130 (24.1) | 39 (23.8) | 169 (24.0) |
| Very sparsely gay populated | 15 (2.8) | 8 (4.9) | 23 (3.3) |
| No response | 10 (1.9) | 13 (7.9) | 23 (3.3) |

Figure 3. State of residence



¹ We draw on Callander et al.'s work estimating the number and prevalence of adult gay men and lesbian women in Australian postcodes. 'Prevalence categories assigned relative to jurisdictionally specific percentiles: very sparse (1st percentile), moderately sparse (1st–50th percentile), moderately populated (50th–95th percentile), highly populated (95th–99th percentile), very highly populated (99th percentile).' Callander D, Mooney-Somers J, Keen P, Guy R, Duck T, Bavinton BR, Grulich AE, Holt M, Prestage G, 2020, 'Australian 'gayborhoods' and 'lesborhoods': a new method for estimating the number and prevalence of adult gay men and lesbian women living in each Australian postcode', *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*, pp. 1 - 17, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13658816.2019.1709973>

Sample characteristics

Table 3a. Sample characteristics

| | | Existing Flux cohort | New enrolled cohort* | Total |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Age | Mean (SD) | 45.2 (13.9) | 44.8 (15.0) | 45.1 (14.1) |
| | Median | 45.0 | 44.0 | 45.0 |
| | Under 25 | 32 (5.9) | 11 (6.7) | 43 (6.1) |
| | | | | |
| HIV Status | Positive | 44 (8.1) | 30 (18.3) | 74 (10.5) |
| | Negative | 476 (88.1) | 122 (74.4) | 598 (84.9) |
| | Unknown | 20 (3.7) | 12 (7.3) | 32 (4.5) |
| | | | | |
| Sexuality | Gay | 456 (84.4) | 142 (86.6) | 598 (84.9) |
| | Bisexual | 36 (6.7) | 10 (6.1) | 46 (6.5) |
| | Other/unknown | 48 (8.9) | 12 (7.3) | 60 (8.5) |
| | | | | |
| Country of birth | Australia | 431 (79.8) | 121 (73.8) | 552 (78.4) |
| | Oceania | 14 (2.6) | 5 (3.0) | 19 (2.7) |
| | Asia | 29 (5.4) | 1 (0.6) | 30 (4.3) |
| | Other | 66 (12.2) | 37 (22.6) | 103 (14.6) |
| Level of education | Less than year 12 | 17 (3.1) | 4 (2.4) | 21 (3.5) |
| | Completed year 12 | 53 (9.8) | 17 (10.3) | 70 (9.9) |
| | Trade certificate | 68 (12.6) | 19 (11.6) | 87 (12.4) |
| | Undergraduate degree | 207 (38.3) | 52 (31.7) | 259 (36.8) |
| | Postgraduate degree | 194 (35.9) | 64 (39.0) | 258 (36.6) |
| | No response | 1 (0.2) | 8 (1.9) | 9 (1.3) |
| | | | | |

*Note: new enrolments began in Week 8

Table 3b. Employment status

| | Week 20 | Week 24 | Week 28 |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Laid off temporarily | 10 (1.4) | 10 (1.4) | 3 (0.4) |
| Laid off completely | 8 (1.1) | 9 (1.3) | 7 (1.0) |
| Reduced hours | 28 (4.0) | 21 (3.0) | 17 (2.4) |
| Working from home | 65 (9.2) | 59 (8.4) | 52 (7.4) |
| Redeployed due to COVID-19 | 3 (0.4) | 5 (0.7) | 2 (0.3) |
| Commenced new job | 16 (2.3) | 10 (1.4) | 16 (2.3) |
| Returned to workplace | 14 (2.0) | 24 (3.4) | 24 (3.4) |
| Increased hours | 26 (3.7) | 17 (2.4) | 33 (4.7) |
| Began taking payment for sex | 1 (0.1) | 0 (0.0) | 3 (0.4) |
| No changes | 372 (52.8) | 363 (51.5) | 341 (48.4) |

Sexual Behaviour

Number of sexual partners

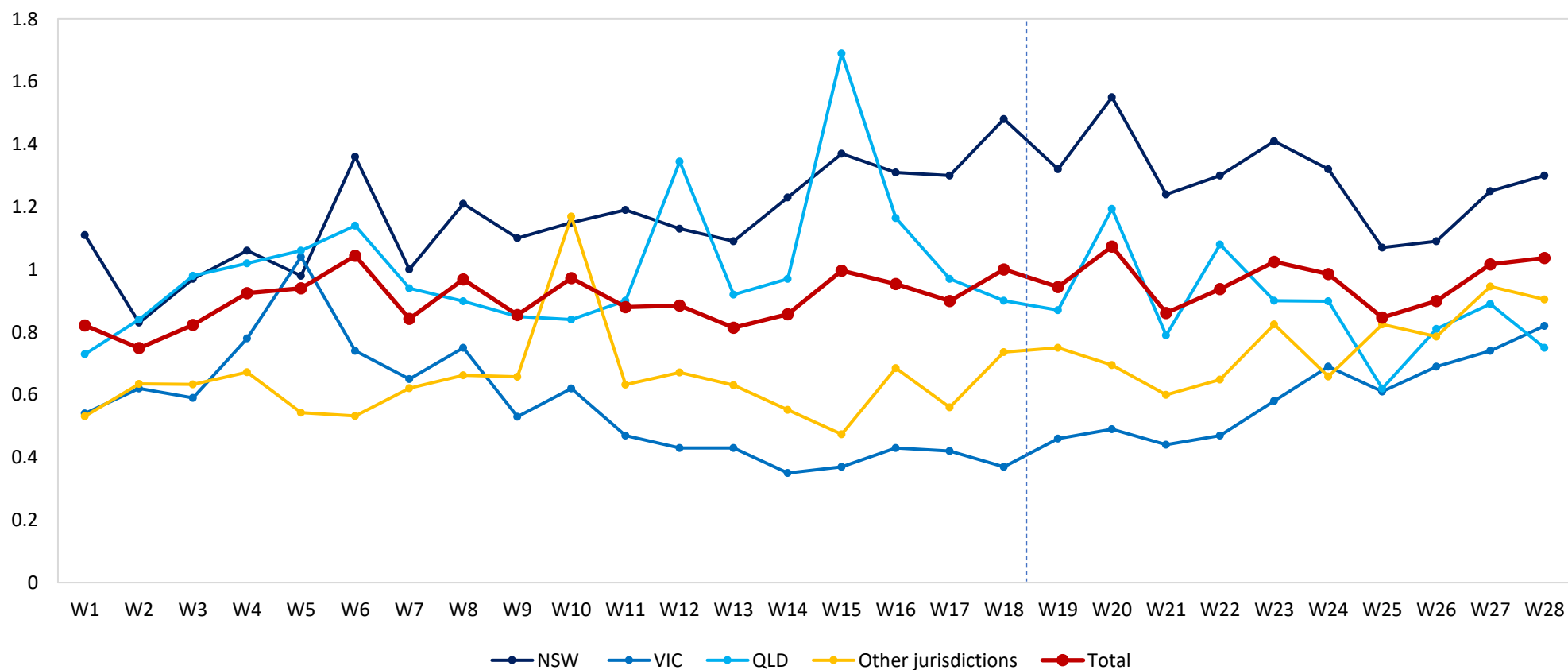
Across the total sample, mean number of partners remained relatively stable between Week 19 and Week 28. Men in NSW tended to have a higher mean number of partners than men in other jurisdictions and this decreased slightly over the period.

Table 4. Weekly number of sexual partners

| Mean (SD) | Week 19 | Week 20 | Week 21 | Week 22 | Week 23 | Week 24 | Week 25 | Week 26 | Week 27 | Week 28 |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| NSW | 1.32 (3.12) | 1.55 (3.29) | 1.24 (2.01) | 1.30 (2.59) | 1.41 (2.84) | 1.32 (2.21) | 1.07 (1.67) | 1.09 (1.58) | 1.25 (2.13) | 1.30 (1.85) |
| Victoria | 0.46 (0.84) | 0.49 (0.92) | 0.44 (0.78) | 0.47 (0.85) | 0.58 (1.00) | 0.69 (1.06) | 0.61 (0.96) | 0.69 (1.00) | 0.74 (1.07) | 0.82 (1.24) |
| QLD | 0.87 (1.61) | 1.19 (2.52) | 0.79 (1.36) | 1.08 (2.36) | 0.90 (1.45) | 0.90 (1.42) | 0.62 (0.93) | 0.81 (1.08) | 0.89 (1.35) | 0.75 (1.16) |
| Other jurisdictions | 0.75 (1.16) | 0.69 (1.36) | 0.60 (1.16) | 0.65 (0.93) | 0.82 (1.13) | 0.66 (0.86) | 0.82 (1.39) | 0.79 (1.24) | 0.95 (1.53) | 0.90 (1.43) |
| Total sample | 0.94 (2.30) | 1.07 (2.51) | 0.86 (1.58) | 0.94 (2.02) | 1.02 (2.10) | 0.99 (1.71) | 0.85 (1.39) | 0.90 (1.34) | 1.02 (1.72) | 1.04 (1.57) |
| Median | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |

Men in Victoria had an increase in mean partner numbers but were still less than those in NSW or other jurisdictions, except Queensland in Week 28 and other jurisdictions in Week 24. Men in other jurisdictions had a slight increase in partner numbers between Week 19 and Week 28. It should be noted that most men had one or no partners.

Figure 4. Mean number of sexual partners by week of response



Non-relationship partners and condomless anal intercourse (CLAI)

Men reporting any type of sex increased from 46.3% in Week 19 to 53.8% in Week 28, representing the highest proportion since the beginning of the study. The number of men reporting sex with more than one fuckbuddy/friend with benefits or any casual partners has also increased, from 28.0% in Week 19, to 35.2% in Week 28, this is again the highest proportion since the beginning of the study. Most CLAI reported in the current reporting period was protected by biomedical prevention. Although the proportion of reported CLAI not protected by biomedical prevention has fluctuated throughout the reporting period and peaked at Week 24 for both receptive (27.9%) and insertive (30.2%) CLAI.

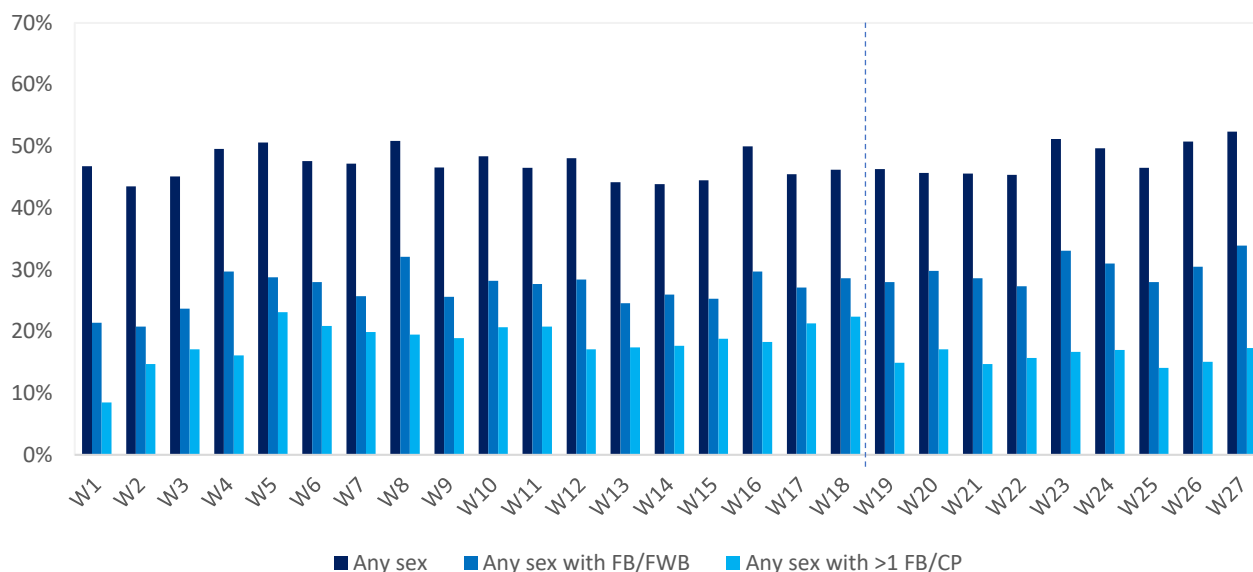
Table 5. Sex by partner type and CLAI for men reporting sex with multiple (>1) FB/any CP

| | Week 19 | Week 20 | Week 21 | Week 22 | Week 23 | Week 24 | Week 25 | Week 26 | Week 27 | Week 28 |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Any sex | 233 (46.3) | 230 (45.7) | 230 (45.6) | 226 (45.4) | 251 (51.2) | 240 (49.7) | 224 (46.5) | 243 (50.8) | 252 (52.4) | 249 (53.8) |
| Sex with 1 partner only | 142 (28.2) | 134 (26.6) | 142 (28.2) | 138 (27.7) | 154 (31.4) | 145 (30.0) | 143 (29.7) | 157 (32.8) | 158 (32.8) | 151 (32.6) |
| Any sex with FB/FWB | 141 (28.0) | 150 (29.8) | 144 (28.6) | 136 (27.3) | 162 (33.1) | 150 (31.0) | 135 (28.0) | 146 (30.5) | 163 (33.9) | 163 (35.2) |
| Any sex with >1 FB/any CP | 75 (14.9) | 87 (17.1) | 74 (14.7) | 78 (15.7) | 82 (16.7) | 83 (17.0) | 68 (14.1) | 72 (15.1) | 83 (17.3) | 81 (17.4) |
| Any receptive CLAI | 31 (41.3) | 42 (48.3) | 36 (48.6) | 37 (47.4) | 43 (52.4) | 43 (53.1) | 32 (47.1) | 27 (37.5) | 39 (47.0) | 46 (56.8) |
| No biomedical protection | 3 (9.7) | 11 (26.2) | 9 (25.0) | 7 (18.9) | 6 (14.0) | 12 (27.9) | 6 (18.8) | 5 (18.5) | 7 (17.9) | 7 (15.2) |
| Used TasP | 2 (6.5) | 2 (4.8) | 1 (2.8) | 4 (10.8) | 3 (7.0) | 3 (7.0) | 3 (9.4) | 3 (11.1) | 4 (10.3) | 2 (4.3) |
| Used PrEP | 26 (83.9) | 29 (69.0) | 26 (72.2) | 26 (70.3) | 34 (79.1) | 28 (65.1) | 23 (71.9) | 18 (70.4) | 28 (71.8) | 37 (80.4) |
| Any insertive CLAI | 44 (58.7) | 50 (57.5) | 47 (63.5) | 45 (57.7) | 49 (59.8) | 53 (65.4) | 37 (54.4) | 41 (56.9) | 48 (57.8) | 50 (61.7) |
| No biomedical protection | 9 (20.5) | 12 (24.0) | 10 (21.3) | 9 (20.0) | 9 (18.4) | 16 (30.2) | 5 (13.5) | 9 (22.0) | 10 (20.8) | 10 (20.0) |
| Used TasP | 1 (2.3) | 4 (8.0) | 3 (6.4) | 6 (13.3) | 4 (8.2) | 2 (3.8) | 4 (10.8) | 3 (7.3) | 3 (6.3) | 3 (6.0) |
| Used PrEP | 34 (77.3) | 34 (68.0) | 34 (72.3) | 30 (66.7) | 36 (73.5) | 35 (66.0) | 28 (75.7) | 29 (70.7) | 35 (72.9) | 37 (74.0) |

*Note: CLAI is reported specifically among men who had sex with >1 FB/ any CP.

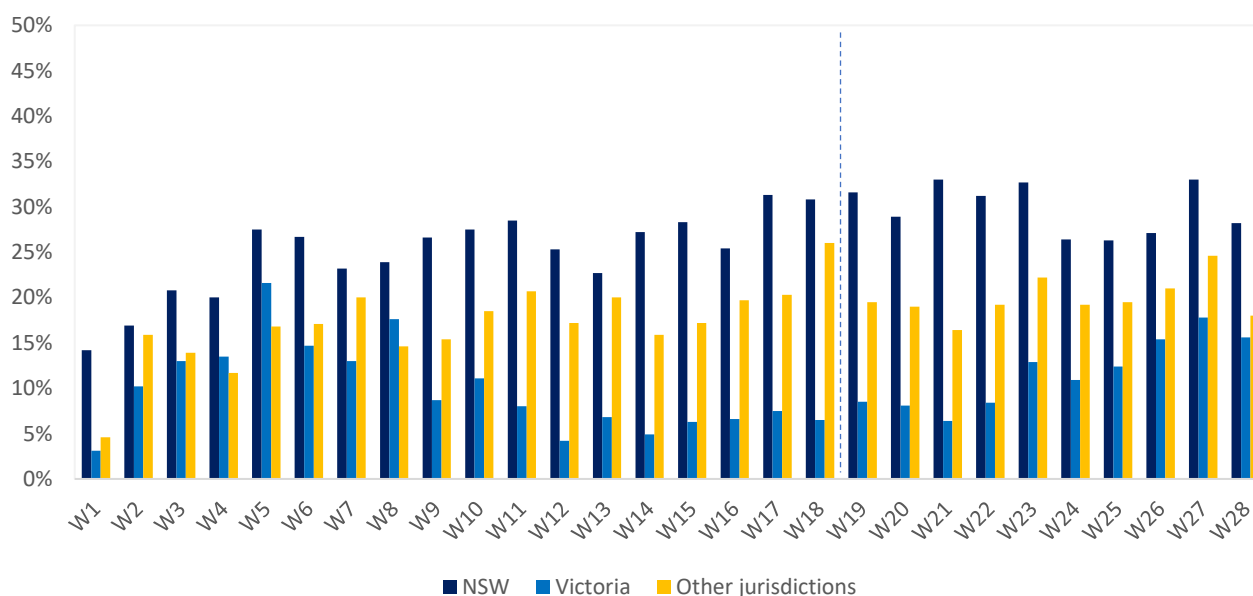
**Note: PrEP/TasP coverage is reported specifically among men who reported CLAI and had sex with >1 FB/ any CP.

Figure 5a. Proportion of men engaging in sex by partner type



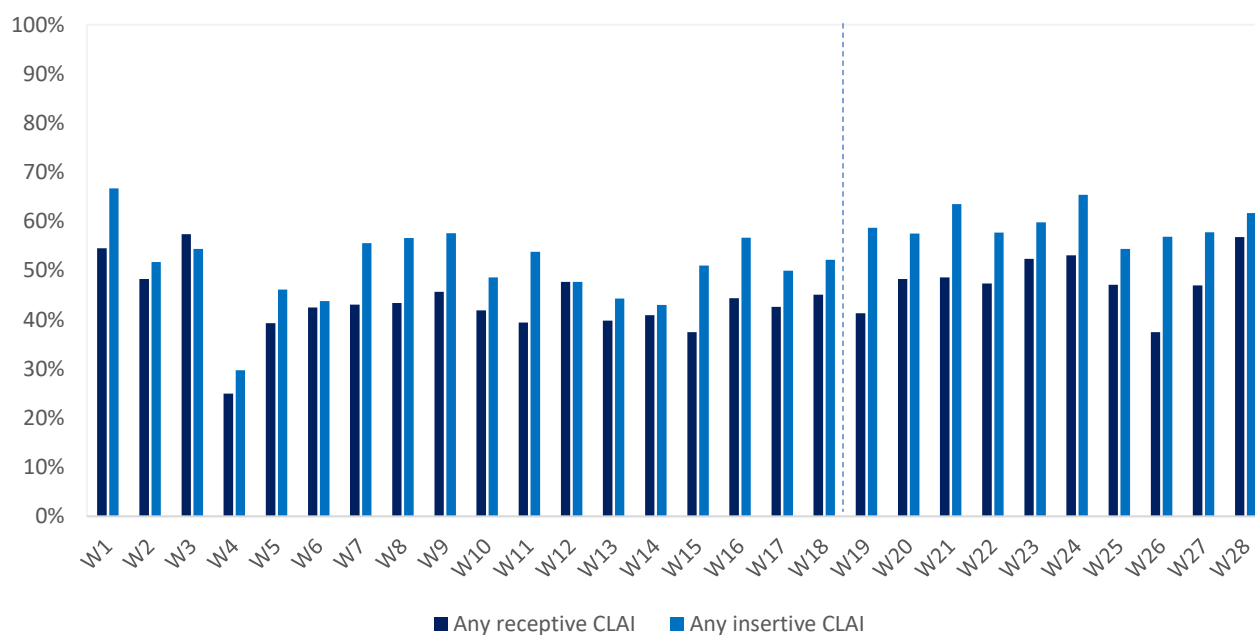
NSW respondents were generally more likely to report sex with more than one fuckbuddy/friend with benefits or any casual partners throughout the study period and have been more likely to do so over time. Although this has fluctuated for NSW participants over the current reporting period. Similarly, there have also been slight fluctuations in other jurisdictions during this reporting period. For participants in Victoria, reporting sex with more than one fuckbuddy/friend with benefits or any casual partners has increased over the reporting period after consistently lower numbers since Week 9. This is likely due to the easing of restrictions during this period.

Figure 5b. Proportion of men in NSW, Victoria and other jurisdictions engaging in sex with multiple (>1) non-relationship partners



Following initial declines in receptive CLAI and several weeks of relative stability, there was a slight decrease in Weeks 25 and 26 followed by increases in Weeks 27 and 28. Following similar initial declines in insertive CLAI, this has fluctuated over time, including in the current reporting period. Receptive CLAI peaked at 56.8% in Week 28 and insertive CLAI peaked at 65.4% in Week 24.

Figure 5c. Proportion of men engaging in CLAI among men reporting sex with multiple (>1) non-relationship partners



Group sex

Participation in group sex was uncommon with approximately one in 14 men at Week 20 and 24, with a slight increase in Week 28 to approximately one in 12 reporting engagement in group sex at some time during the previous four weeks.

Sex within the household and with fuckbuddies/casual partners

Of the men that had sex with any non-relationship partners over the reporting period, a small proportion indicated they lived with all the men with whom they had sex. Almost all sex was conducted with men outside of the participant's household. The proportion of men who described all of their non-relationship partners as either fuckbuddies or friends with benefits fluctuated between Week 19 and Week 28. Around one in seven of the small number of men who had sex with any non-relationship partners reported that they would describe all these partners as fuckbuddies or friends with benefits. This proportion has fluctuated throughout the study period but has slightly declined in recent weeks. Data were not collected to determine whether these were previously established or new regular partners.

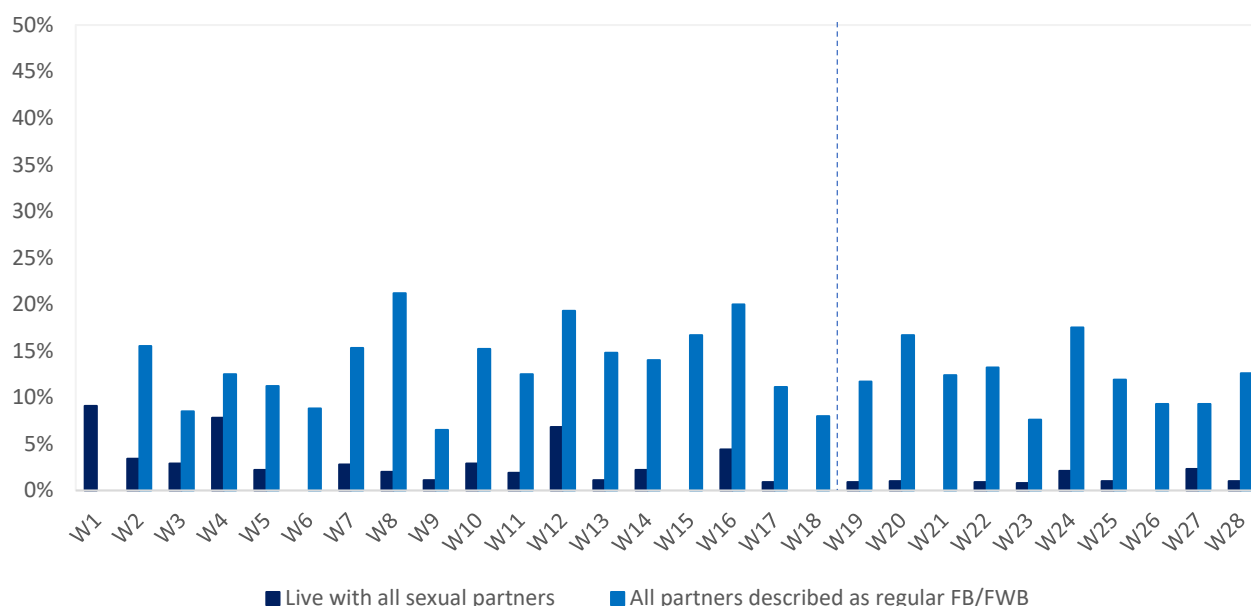
Table 6. Sex within the household and characterisation as FBs/CPs

| | W19 N=111* | W20 N=102* | W21 N=105* | W22 N=106* | W23 N=119* | W24 N=97* | W25 N=101* | W26 N=108* | W27 N=129* | W28 N=103* |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Live with all sexual partners | 1 (0.9) | 1 (1.0) | 0 (0.0) | 1 (0.9) | 1 (0.8) | 2 (2.1) | 1 (1.0) | 0 (0.0) | 3 (2.3) | 1 (1.0) |
| All partners described as FB/FWB | 13 (11.7) | 17 (16.7) | 13 (12.4) | 14 (13.2) | 9 (7.6) | 17 (17.5) | 12 (11.9) | 10 (9.3) | 12 (9.3) | 13 (12.6) |

*N = men each week who reported having >1 fuckbuddy or any casual partner

The proportion of men who reported living with all their sex partners has remained small throughout the study period, particularly within this reporting period where this proportion peaked at 2.3% in Week 27.

Figure 6. Proportion of men having sex with FBs/CPs within their immediate household and describe as FBs/FWBs



PrEP and PEP use

Prevalence of PrEP use increased from 32.6% in Week 19 to 35.4% in Week 28. On average, men who had PrEP pills had between 28-32 pills remaining between Week 19 and Week 28. PEP use during the reporting period was uncommon at less than 2% of non HIV-positive men.

Table 7. PrEP and PEP use among non HIV-positive men

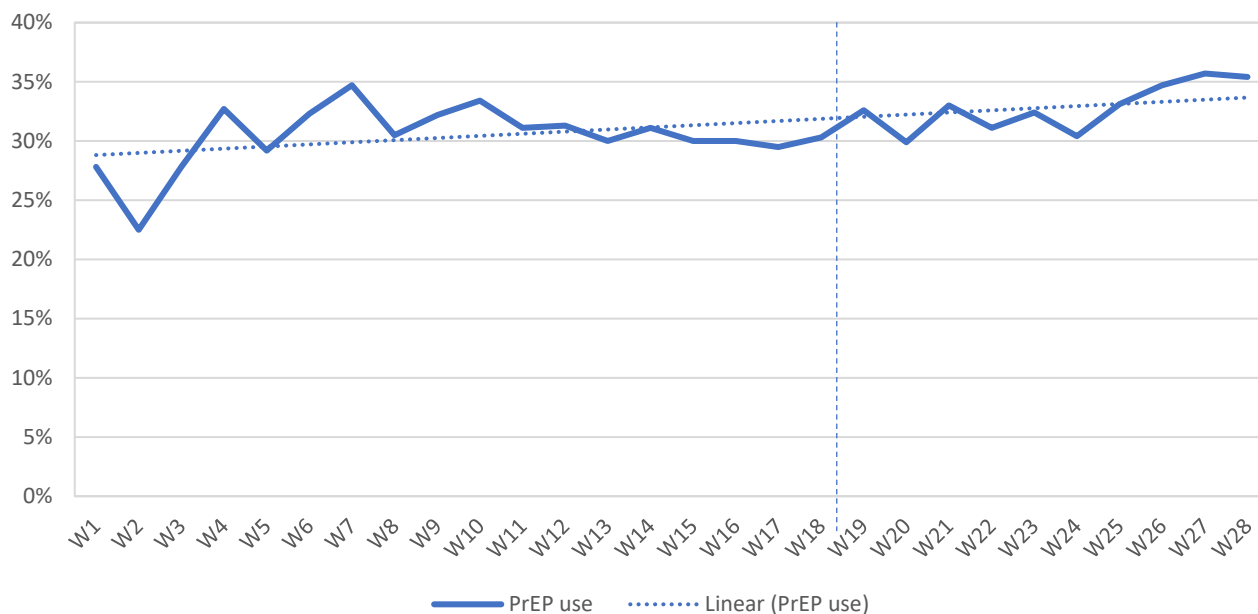
| | Week 19 | Week 20 | Week 21 | Week 22 | Week 23 | Week 24 | Week 25 | Week 26 | Week 27 | Week 28 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| No use | 306 (67.4) | 319 (70.1) | 305 (67.0) | 310 (68.9) | 300 (67.6) | 312 (69.6) | 293 (66.9) | 282 (65.3) | 281 (64.3) | 277 (64.6) |
| *PrEP use | 148 (32.6) | 136 (29.9) | 150 (33.0) | 140 (31.1) | 144 (32.4) | 136 (30.4) | 145 (33.1) | 150 (34.7) | 156 (35.7) | 152 (35.4) |
| Mean (SD) PrEP pills remaining | 35.9 (28.5) | 38.7 (30.7) | 34.2 (28.3) | 35.8 (28.9) | 36.4 (29.5) | 40.3 (30.6) | 36.5 (29.2) | 37.2 (30.4) | 40.2 (32.2) | 41.1 (31.6) |
| Median | 26 | 30 | 26 | 26 | 30 | 30 | 26 | 28 | 30 | 30 |
| *PEP use | | 6 (1.3) | | | | 7 (1.6) | | | | 5 (1.2) |
| Sex with >1 FB/any CP | 72 (15.8) | 81 (17.8) | 68 (14.9) | 69 (15.3) | 75 (16.9) | 76 (17.2) | 62 (14.2) | 67 (15.5) | 75 (17.2) | 76 (18.0) |
| PrEP use among men reporting sex with >1 FB/any CP | 54 (75.0) | 55 (67.9) | 53 (77.9) | 49 (71.0) | 57 (76.0) | 51 (67.1) | 44 (71.0) | 44 (65.7) | 56 (74.7) | 57 (75.0) |
| Any CLAI with >1 FB/any CP | 71 (69.6) | 68 (71.6) | 71 (73.2) | 59 (64.8) | 66 (60.6) | 67 (76.1) | 59 (66.3) | 62 (62.0) | 81 (68.6) | 73 (76.0) |
| PrEP use among men reporting CLAI with >1 FB/any CP | 57 (80.3) | 48 (70.6) | 56 (78.9) | 48 (81.4) | 52 (78.8) | 47 (70.1) | 46 (78.0) | 48 (77.4) | 66 (81.5) | 55 (75.3) |
| 4+ days/week PrEP use when reporting sex CLAI with >1 FB/any CP | 50 (87.7) | 46 (95.8) | 51 (91.1) | 44 (91.7) | 48 (92.3) | 45 (95.7) | 45 (97.8) | 44 (91.7) | 62 (93.9) | 51 (92.7) |

HIV-positive men excluded.

* Items not mutually exclusive

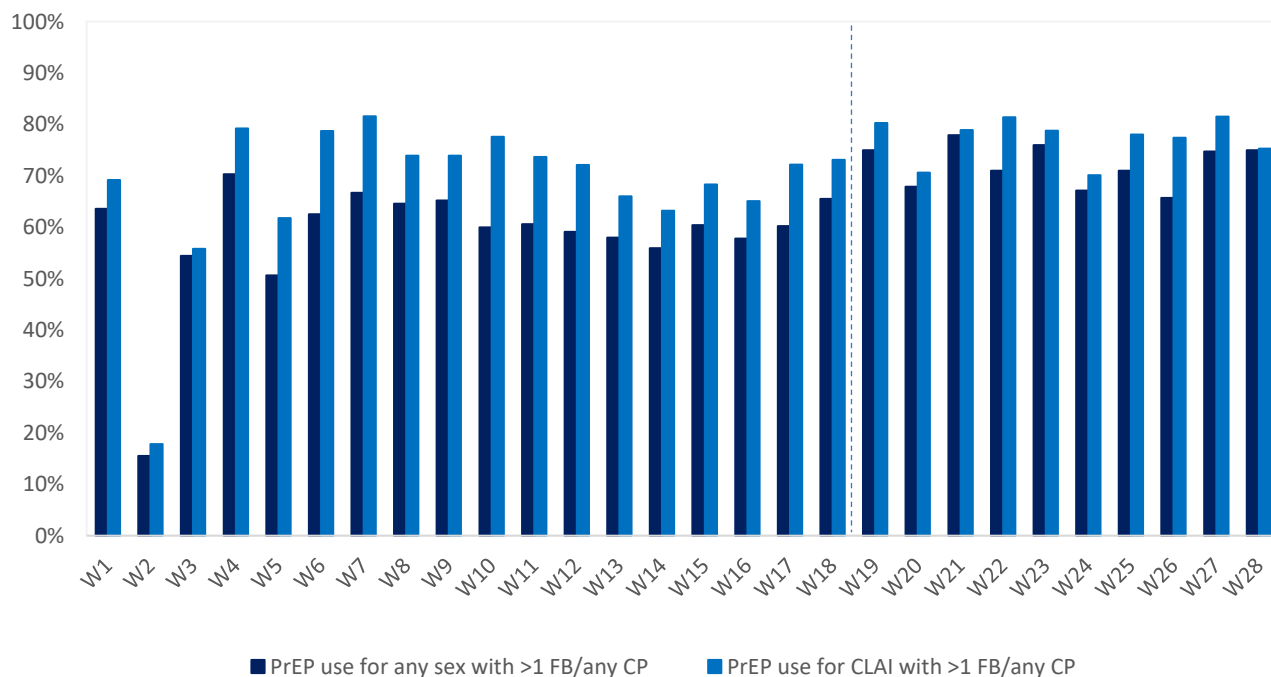
After initial declines, PrEP use has remained stable throughout the study. Although there has been a slight increase in the current reporting period in more recent weeks and peaked at 35.7% in Week 27.

Figure 7. Proportion of non HIV-positive men using PrEP



The majority of non HIV-positive men who reported CLAI with any casual partners or more than one fuckbuddy/friend with benefits remained protected by PrEP with a slight increase among these men during the current reporting period. This peaked at 81.5% in Week 27.

Figure 8. Proportion of men having CLAI with multiple non-relationship partners using PrEP



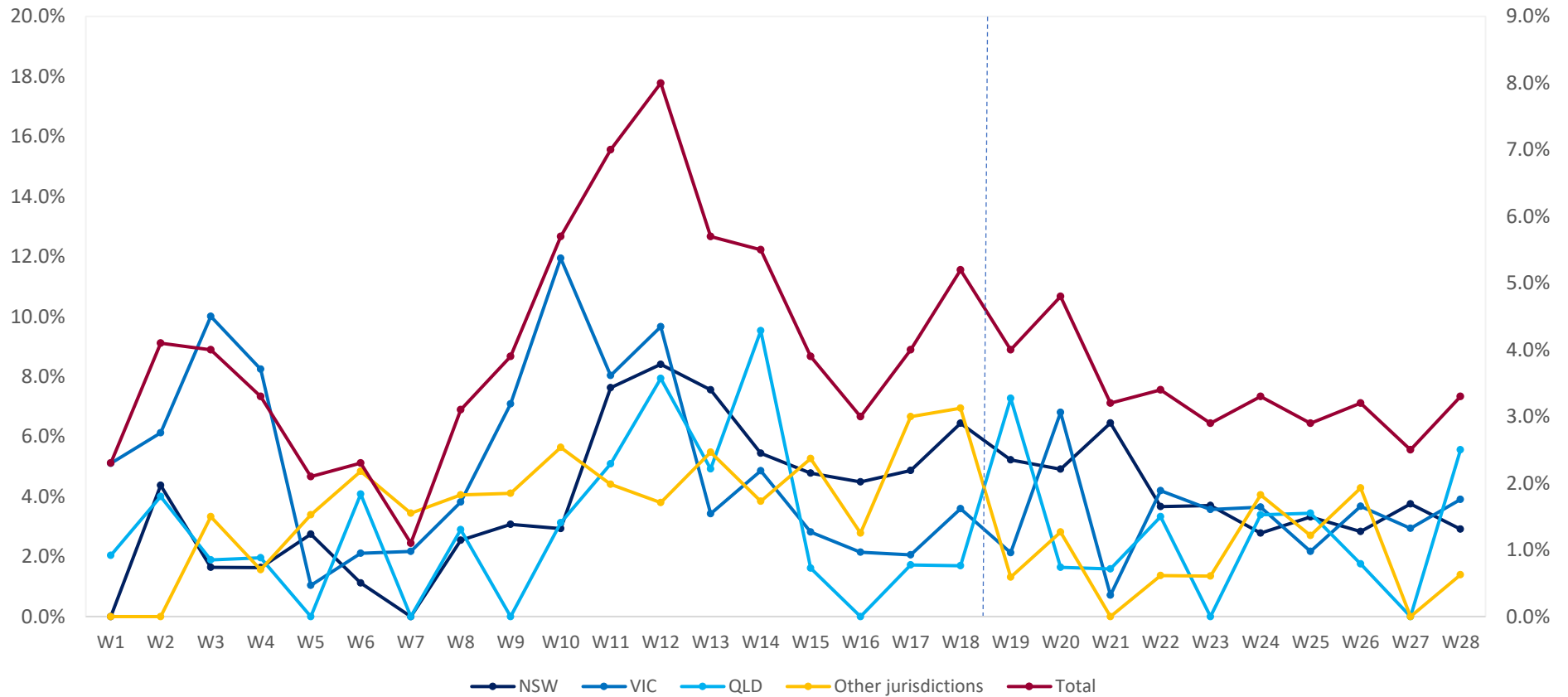
COVID-19 Testing

Recent (in the past 7 days) testing for COVID-19 has been between 2.5-4.8% of participants in the reporting period, with testing peaking at Week 20. Testing for COVID-19 in the reporting period has gradually declined, as well as declining from its peak at Week 12.

Table 8. COVID-19 testing

| | Week 19 | Week 20 | Week 21 | Week 22 | Week 23 | Week 24 | Week 25 | Week 26 | Week 27 | Week 28 |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| NSW | 12 (5.2) | 11 (4.9) | 14 (6.5) | 8 (3.7) | 8 (3.7) | 6 (2.8) | 7 (3.3) | 6 (2.8) | 8 (3.8) | 6 (2.9) |
| VIC | 3 (2.1) | 10 (6.8) | 1 (0.7) | 6 (4.2) | 5 (3.6) | 5 (3.6) | 3 (2.2) | 5 (3.7) | 4 (2.9) | 5 (3.9) |
| QLD | 4 (7.3) | 1 (1.6) | 1 (1.6) | 2 (3.3) | 0 (0.0) | 2 (3.4) | 2 (3.4) | 1 (1.8) | 0 (0.0) | 3 (5.6) |
| Other Jurisdictions | 1 (1.3) | 2 (2.8) | 0 (0.0) | 1 (1.4) | 1 (1.4) | 3 (4.1) | 2 (2.7) | 3 (4.3) | 0 (0.0) | 1 (1.4) |
| Total tested in previous week | 20 (4.0) | 24 (4.8) | 16 (3.2) | 17 (3.4) | 14 (2.9) | 16 (3.3) | 14 (2.9) | 15 (3.2) | 12 (2.5) | 15 (3.3) |

Figure 9. Proportion of men tested for COVID-19 in previous seven days



Test type

Nose and throat swabs remain the most common form of testing for COVID-19 with either one or no participants having blood tests for to test for COVID-19 infection. There has yet to be a participant report having tested positive for COVID-19.

Table 9. COVID-19 test type

| | Week 19 | Week 20 | Week 21 | Week 22 | Week 23 | Week 24 | Week 25 | Week 26 | Week 27 | Week 28 |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Blood test | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 1 (6.3) | 1 (5.9) | 0 (0.0) | 1 (6.3) | 1 (7.1) | 0 (0.0) | 1 (8.3) | 0 (0.0) |
| Nose and throat swab | 20 (100.0) | 23 (95.8) | 15 (93.8) | 16 (94.1) | 12 (85.7) | 14 (87.5) | 13 (92.9) | 15 (100.0) | 11 (91.7) | 15 (100.0) |
| Other | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 1 (7.1) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) |
| Unknown | 0 (0.0) | 1 (4.2) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 1 (7.1) | 1 (6.3) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) |
| Positive result | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) |

Social connectedness

Despite some fluctuations, contact with gay male friends remained fairly steady, with fewer than one in ten reporting no contact, including the small proportion who have no gay friends.

Table 10. Proportion of men having no contact with friends and family

| | Week 19 | Week 20 | Week 21 | Week 22 | Week 23 | Week 24 | Week 25 | Week 26 | Week 27 | Week 28 |
|--|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| No contact with gay male friends in the past 7 days (total) | 45 (9.0) | 6 (1.3) | 38 (7.6) | 45 (9.1) | 40 (8.2) | 6 (1.3) | 33 (6.9) | 30 (6.3) | 37 (7.8) | 13 (6.2) |
| NSW | 18 (7.8) | 1 (0.5) | 13 (5.9) | 12 (5.5) | 14 (6.5) | 2 (1.0) | 12 (5.7) | 13 (6.2) | 16 (7.5) | 7 (5.3) |
| VIC | 17 (12.1) | 1 (0.8) | 15 (10.7) | 16 (11.2) | 14 (10.1) | 0 (0.0) | 12 (8.8) | 10 (7.4) | 10 (7.4) | 10 (17.5) |
| QLD | 5 (9.1) | 2 (3.8) | 6 (9.5) | 9 (15.0) | 8 (13.6) | 2 (3.7) | 7 (12.1) | 5 (8.8) | 8 (14.3) | 3 (4.1) |
| Other jurisdictions | 5 (6.6) | 2 (3.0) | 4 (5.0) | 8 (10.8) | 4 (5.4) | 2 (2.8) | 2 (2.7) | 2 (2.9) | 3 (4.1) | 33 (7.0) |
| No contact with other friends or family in the past 7 days (total) | | 23 (4.5) | | | | 19 (3.9) | | | | 14 (3.0) |
| NSW | | 10 (4.4) | | | | 8 (3.7) | | | | 7 (3.4) |
| VIC | | 6 (4.1) | | | | 5 (3.7) | | | | 2 (1.5) |
| QLD | | 3 (4.8) | | | | 3 (5.1) | | | | 3 (5.3) |
| Other jurisdictions | | 4 (5.4) | | | | 3 (4.0) | | | | 2 (2.7) |

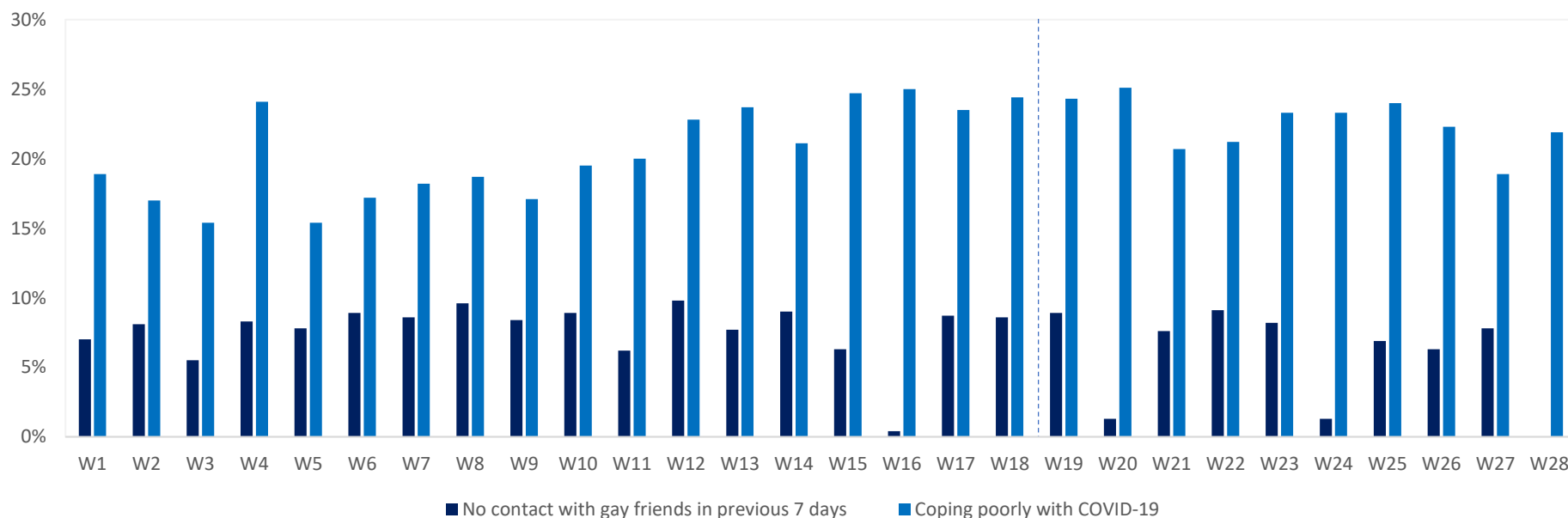
Contact with gay male friends has remained fairly stable throughout the study period. However, men in Victoria were more likely to indicate they were coping poorly, peaking in Week 19. Although most men reported coping with COVID-19 concerns and restrictions fairly well, the proportion who report coping poorly has been gradually increasing since early in the study period but has now started to slightly decline.

Table 11. Proportion of men coping poorly by jurisdiction and total

| | Week 19 | Week 20 | Week 21 | Week 22 | Week 23 | Week 24 | Week 25 | Week 26 | Week 27 | Week 28 |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| NSW | 46 (20.0) | 51 (22.6) | 38 (17.3) | 37 (16.9) | 49 (22.6) | 44 (20.4) | 43 (20.2) | 45 (21.1) | 43 (20.1) | 45 (21.7) |
| VIC | 57 (40.4) | 53 (35.8) | 46 (32.9) | 47 (32.9) | 46 (32.9) | 47 (33.8) | 52 (37.7) | 44 (32.6) | 33 (24.3) | 41 (31.8) |
| QLD | 7 (12.7) | 11 (18.3) | 8 (12.7) | 11 (18.3) | 11 (19.0) | 13 (21.7) | 10 (17.2) | 9 (15.5) | 8 (14.0) | 7 (12.3) |
| Other jurisdictions | 12 (15.8) | 12 (16.7) | 12 (15.0) | 10 (13.5) | 8 (10.8) | 10 (13.5) | 11 (14.9) | 8 (11.6) | 7 (9.5) | 9 (12.3) |
| Total | 122 (24.3) | 127 (25.1) | 104 (20.7) | 105 (21.2) | 114 (23.3) | 114 (23.3) | 116 (24.0) | 106 (22.3) | 91 (18.9) | 102 (21.9) |

About a quarter of men indicated that they felt they were coping poorly with the pandemic and its attendant restrictions, and this reached a peak in Week 20. There was a slight reduction in men indicating there were coping poorly in more recent weeks. Coping was measured on a six-point scale from 'Very well' to 'Very poorly'.

Figure 10. Proportion of men with no contact with gay male friends and coping poorly with COVID-19



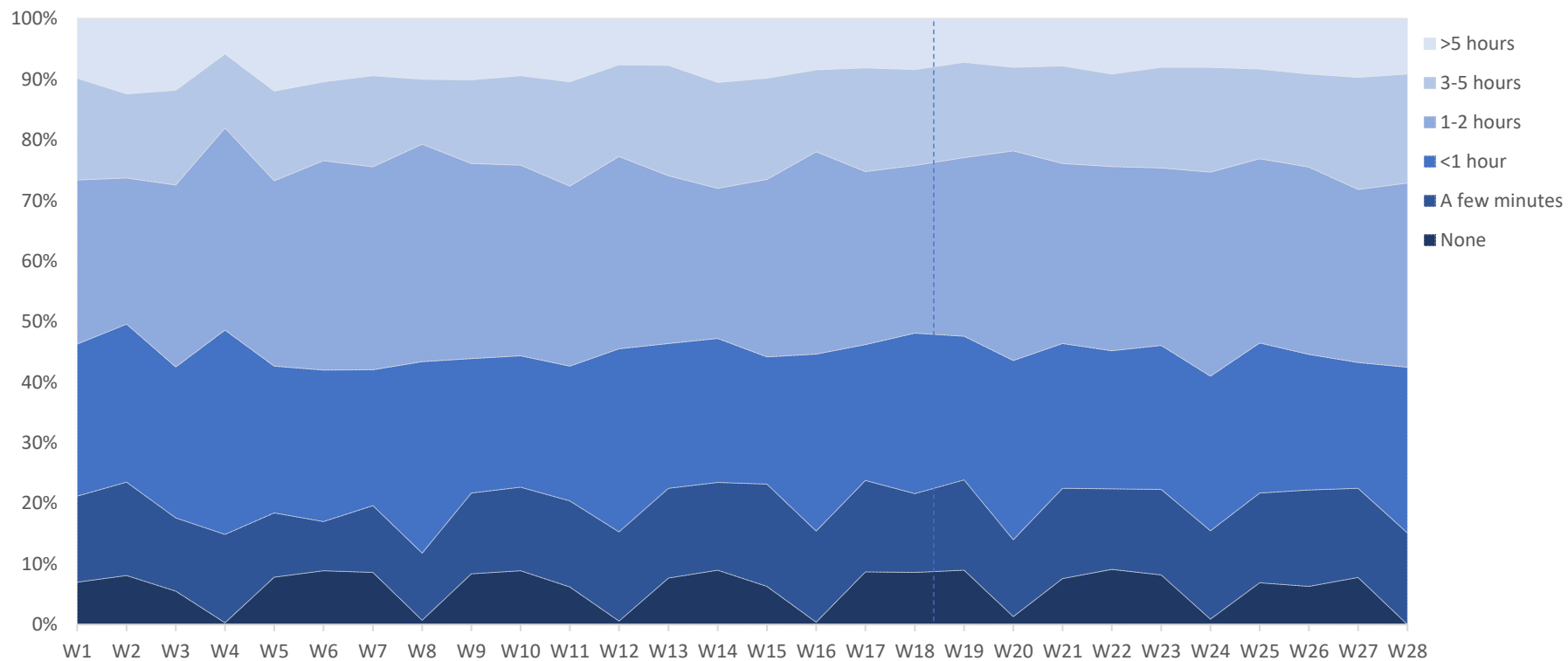
Time spent communicating with gay male friends

Despite some fluctuations, communication, in person, by phone or online, with gay male friends was fairly consistent during the reporting period. Throughout the study and during this reporting period, over half the sample consistently spent an hour or more each day communicating with gay male friends. The proportion of men not engaging in daily communication with gay male friends remained low over the reporting period, between 0-9.1%.

Table 12. Time spent communicating with gay male friends among all respondents

| | Week 19 | Week 20 | Week 21 | Week 22 | Week 23 | Week 24 | Week 25 | Week 26 | Week 27 | Week 28 |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| None | 45 (9.0) | 6 (1.3) | 38 (7.6) | 45 (9.1) | 40 (8.2) | 4 (0.9) | 33 (6.9) | 30 (6.3) | 37 (7.8) | 0 (0.0) |
| A few minutes | 75 (14.9) | 59 (12.7) | 75 (14.9) | 66 (13.3) | 69 (14.1) | 66 (14.6) | 71 (14.8) | 75 (15.9) | 70 (14.7) | 66 (15.1) |
| <1 hour | 119 (23.7) | 137 (29.6) | 120 (23.9) | 113 (22.8) | 116 (23.8) | 115 (25.5) | 119 (24.8) | 106 (22.4) | 99 (20.8) | 120 (27.4) |
| 1-2 hours | 148 (29.5) | 160 (34.6) | 149 (29.7) | 151 (30.4) | 143 (29.3) | 152 (33.7) | 146 (30.4) | 146 (30.9) | 136 (28.6) | 133 (30.4) |
| 3-5 hours | 79 (15.7) | 64 (13.8) | 81 (16.1) | 76 (15.3) | 81 (16.6) | 78 (17.3) | 71 (14.8) | 73 (15.4) | 88 (18.5) | 79 (18.0) |
| >5 hours | 36 (7.2) | 37 (8.0) | 39 (7.8) | 45 (9.1) | 39 (8.0) | 36 (8.0) | 40 (8.3) | 43 (9.1) | 46 (9.7) | 40 (9.1) |

Figure 11. Time spent communicating with gay male friends



Health-seeking behaviour

Influenza vaccine uptake

At Weeks 20, 24 and 28 there was little change in the proportion of men that had received the 2020 seasonal influenza vaccine compared to Report 01-04. Around three quarters of men indicated they had received the 2020 seasonal influenza vaccine.

STI/HIV testing

Over this reporting period, between one in five and one in six men indicated they had been tested for STIs or HIV. During this period, positive STI results were low: between 1.2% and 1.7% of men indicated they tested positive for chlamydia, between 1% and 1.6% had tested positive for gonorrhoea, and 1% for syphilis.

Most men reported being HIV negative (around 89%), almost one in 10 as HIV positive and around 23% reported an unknown HIV status. Around 80% of men who reported being HIV positive indicated they had a detectable viral load during this reporting period.

Appendix A – Methods

Data collection

The Flux Study COVID-19 Diary leverages the existing Flux cohort study infrastructure to investigate the experiences of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and its impact on pre-existing epidemics among GBM. Individual follow occurs systematically among consenting GBM every week for an initial three-month period, to be revisited at the end of each three-month period for up to a maximum of one year to collect specific information about sexual and other risk behaviours and direct impacts of COVID-19.

Baseline questionnaires are completed by newly enrolling participants to establish the characteristics, behaviours, and beliefs required to assess changes over time, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional information collected includes associated harms, health-seeking, social connectedness, COVID-19 physical distancing behaviours, mental health, and relevant personal characteristics.

Weekly diary questionnaires collect specific limited information on sexual behaviour, PrEP use, and COVID-19 health-seeking practices, to enable measurement of changes in behaviours against the rapid changes in physical distancing regulations as they are enforced, or relaxed. Every four weeks, a slightly expanded questionnaire will also collect specific information on physical distancing and social connections, drug use, and access to services.

Six-monthly follow-up questionnaires monitor changes in characteristics, behaviours, and beliefs over time, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, required to assess changes over time as specified in the study aims.

Data analysis

SPSS™, Version 26 (IBM Corporation) was used to analyse data. Percentage values exclude the proportion of respondents who did not answer the question and may not add to 100 because of rounding. Data may change slightly over time due to minor error checking.

Ethical approval for data collection was obtained from UNSW Human Research Ethic.

Appendix B – Glossary

CLAI – condomless anal intercourse

COVID-19 – the disease caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2

Fuckbuddy/Friend with benefits – a regular sexual partner with whom ongoing sexual contact occurs, generally in the absence of romantic attachment

GBM – gay and bisexual men

HIV – human immunodeficiency virus

HIV status – a person's antibody status established by HIV testing (e.g. HIV-negative, HIV-positive, or unknown [untested])

Non-relationship partner – a sexual partner that is not a boyfriend or husband with whom participants are in an ongoing romantic relationship, but characterised as a fuckbuddy, friend with benefits or casual partner

PEP – post-exposure prophylaxis; for the purpose of this report, it refers to the use of antiretroviral drugs by HIV-negative people to reduce the risk of HIV infection after a potential exposure has occurred

PrEP – pre-exposure prophylaxis; for the purpose of this report, it refers to the use of antiretroviral drugs by HIV-negative