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**Hepatitis C risk factors, attitudes and knowledge among HIV-positive, HIV-negative and HIV-untreated gay and bisexual men in Australia**

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## **Section 1 Demographics**

1. How old are you (in years)?

[ ] [ ] years old

2. What is your gender?

- ☐ Male  
☐ Female  
☐ Transgender (male-to-female)  
☐ Transgender (female-to-male)  
☐ Other (please specify)

3. What is your sexual identity?

- ☐ Gay  
☐ Bisexual  
☐ Heterosexual  
☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you live in Australia?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

## **Section 2 About you**

5. Where were you born?

- ☐ Australia  
☐ Overseas (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

7. Which state or territory do you live in?

- ☐ Australian Capital Territory  
☐ Queensland  
☐ New South Wales  
☐ Northern Territory  
☐ Victoria  
☐ South Australia  
☐ Tasmania  
☐ Western Australia

8. Which of the following best describes the area where you live?

- ☐ Capital city of my state/territory  
☐ Other city in my state/territory  
☐ Regional centre/town  
☐ Rural or regional area

9. Are you...

- ☐ Employed full-time  
☐ Employed part-time  
☐ A student  
☐ Unemployed  
☐ On a pension/retired  
☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

10. What is your highest completed level of education?

- ☐ Before Year 10 at school  
☐ Year 10 at school  
☐ Year 12 at school  
☐ Trade certificate/TAFE  
☐ Undergraduate degree  
☐ Postgraduate degree

11. Do you currently have a regular male partner e.g. boyfriend, fuck buddy, partner or husband?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No [**Skip to Q 13**]

## **Section 3a HIV testing and status**

12. What is his HIV status?

- ☐ HIV-negative  
☐ HIV-positive  
☐ I don't know/he hasn't had a test

13. Have you ever had a HIV test?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No [**Skip to Q 21**]

14. When were you last tested for HIV?

- ☐ In the last month  
☐ 1-6 months ago  
☐ 7-12 months ago  
☐ 1-2 years ago  
☐ More than 2 years ago

15. Based on your last test, what is your HIV status?

- ☐ Don't know/no results yet [**Skip to Q 20**]  
☐ HIV-negative [**Skip to Q 20**]  
☐ HIV-positive

16. In which year were you diagnosed as HIV-positive?

[\_\_\_\_] [\_\_\_\_][\_\_\_\_] [\_\_\_\_]

17. Are you currently taking antiretroviral treatments for HIV?

- ☐ Yes [**Skip to Q 19**]  
☐ No

18. Have you ever taken antiretroviral treatments for HIV? Yes/No

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

19. What was your last viral load test result?

- ☐ Undetectable [**Skip to Q 21**]  
☐ Detectable [**Skip to Q 21**]  
☐ Don't know [**Skip to Q 21**]

20. How likely do you think it is that you will become HIV-positive?

- ☐ Very unlikely  
☐ Unlikely  
☐ Neither unlikely or likely  
☐ Likely  
☐ Very likely

### **Section 3b Hepatitis C testing and status**

21. Have you ever had a hepatitis C test?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No [**Skip to Q 28**]  
☐ Don't know [**Skip to Q 28**]

22. When were you last tested for hepatitis C?

- ☐ In the last month  
☐ 1-6 months ago  
☐ 7-12 months ago  
☐ 1-2 years ago  
☐ More than 2 years ago

23. Based on your last test, what is your hepatitis C status?

- ☐ Don't know/no results yet [**Skip to Q 27**]  
☐ Hepatitis C -negative [**Skip to Q 27**]  
☐ Hepatitis C -positive

24. In which year were you diagnosed as hepatitis C positive?

[\_\_\_\_] [\_\_\_\_][\_\_\_\_] [\_\_\_\_]

25. Are you currently taking treatments for hepatitis C?

- ☐ Yes [**Skip to Q 28**]  
☐ No

26. Have you ever taken treatments for hepatitis C?

- ☐ Yes [**Skip to Q 28**]  
☐ No [**Skip to Q 28**]

27. How likely do you think it is that you will become hepatitis C positive?

- ☐ Very unlikely  
☐ Unlikely  
☐ Neither unlikely or likely  
☐ Likely  
☐ Very likely

28. **If you have a regular partner**, what is his hepatitis C status?

- ☐ Hepatitis C -negative  
☐ Hepatitis C -positive  
☐ I don't know/he hasn't had a test

#### **Section 4 Sex with men in the last 6 months**

29. Have you had sex with any regular male partners (boyfriends, fuck buddies etc) in the last six months?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No [**Skip to Q31**]

30. In the last 6 months, how often did you use condoms for anal sex with your regular male partner(s)?

- ☐ Never [**Skip to Q34**]  
☐ Sometimes [**Skip to Q34**]  
☐ Always [**Skip to Q34**]  
☐ No anal sex with regular partners in the last 6 months [**Skip to Q34**]

31. Have you had sex with any casual male partners in the last six months?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No [**Skip to Q35**]

32. How many different men have you had sex with in the last six months?

- ☐ One  
☐ 2-5  
☐ 6-10  
☐ 11-20  
☐ 21-50  
☐ More than 50

33. In the last 6 months, how often did you use condoms for anal sex with casual male partners?

- ☐ Never  
☐ Sometimes  
☐ Always  
☐ No anal sex with casual partners in the last 6 months

34. How often in the last 6 months have you done the following with any of your sexual partners?

	Never	Occasionally	Regularly	Very Often
Receiving dildo/vibrator/toy	1	2	3	4
Giving dildo/vibrator/toy	1	2	3	4
Sharing dildo/vibrator/toy	1	2	3	4
Using cock rings	1	2	3	4
S/M dominance bondage ( <b>without</b> blood)	1	2	3	4
S/M dominance bondage ( <b>with</b> blood)	1	2	3	4
Group sex with both men and women	1	2	3	4
Group sex with other men only	1	2	3	4
Use amyl (to enhance sexual pleasure)	1	2	3	4
Use alcohol (to enhance sexual pleasure)	1	2	3	4
Using Viagra (or Cialis, Levitra, etc.)	1	2	3	4
Using penile injections	1	2	3	4

	Never	Occasionally	Regularly	Very Often
Using crystal methamphetamine, ice, tina (to enhance or prolong sexual pleasure)	1	2	3	4
Using other drugs (to enhance or prolong sexual pleasure)	1	2	3	4
Rimming your partner/s ( <b>giving</b> oral/anal sex)	1	2	3	4
Being rimmed by your partner/s ( <b>receiving</b> oral/anal sex)	1	2	3	4
Finger fucking your partner/s (your finger in your partner's anus (arse))	1	2	3	4
Being finger fucked (your partner's finger in your anus (arse))	1	2	3	4
Fisting your partner/s (your hand/fist in your partner's anus (arse))	1	2	3	4
Being fisted by (your partner's hand/fist in your anus (arse))	1	2	3	4
Water sports / pissing / golden showers	1	2	3	4

## **Section 5 Drug use**

35. Have you ever injected drugs?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No [**Skip to Q40**]

36. Did you inject drugs in the last three months?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No [**Skip to Q39**]

37. How often did you inject drugs last three months?

- ☐ More than once a day  
☐ Once a day  
☐ More than weekly but not daily  
☐ More than monthly but not weekly  
☐ Less than monthly

38. Have you injected in sexual situations in the last three months?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

39. Have you ever shared injecting equipment?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

40. Have you been in sexual situations where others around you were injecting in the last three months?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

## **Section 6 Perceptions of transmissibility**

	<b>Disagree strongly</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither disagree or agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Agree strongly</b>
The chance of getting hepatitis C from sex is very low	1	2	3	4	5
I don't believe hepatitis C can be passed on through sex	1	2	3	4	5
Condoms prevent hepatitis C from being passed on	1	2	3	4	5
There is no easy way to prevent hepatitis C being passed on	1	2	3	4	5
Being HIV positive makes passing on hepatitis C to sexual partners more likely	1	2	3	4	5
Having HIV makes you more vulnerable to getting hepatitis C from sexual partners	1	2	3	4	5
Only people who inject drugs get hepatitis C	1	2	3	4	5
Some sexual practices make transmission of hepatitis C more likely	1	2	3	4	5

## **Section 7 Relevance of hepatitis C to gay men**

	<b>Disagree strongly</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither disagree or agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Agree strongly</b>
Hepatitis C is not a big issue for gay men	1	2	3	4	5
The risk of hepatitis C is being over-exaggerated to scare gay men	1	2	3	4	5
Sexually transmissible infections are more of a worry for gay men than	1	2	3	4	5
Gay men should get tested regularly for hepatitis C	1	2	3	4	5
Hepatitis C is becoming more common among gay men	1	2	3	4	5
Only HIV-positive men are at risk of getting hepatitis C	1	2	3	4	5
Only men who are into fisting are at risk of hepatitis C through sex	1	2	3	4	5

41. What precautions do you take (if any) to reduce the risk of hepatitis C transmission during sex with either casual or regular partners?

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## **Section 8 Hepatitis C Knowledge**

42. The following are statements about hepatitis C. Please indicate whether each statement is true or false.

	<b>True</b>	<b>False</b>
People with hepatitis C can safely share their toothbrushes and razors with other people	1	2
There is a hepatitis C vaccine that can be used to prevent people from getting infected with the hepatitis C virus	1	2
Hepatitis C can be transmitted during sex	1	2
People can live with hepatitis C for many years without knowing that they have been infected with the virus	1	2
Having hepatitis C can lead to liver cancer	1	2
Using 'new' (ie never used before) needles, syringes and other equipment reduces the risk of being infected with hepatitis C	1	2
Hepatitis C treatments can result in the hepatitis C virus being completely removed (or cleared) from one's blood	1	2
Hepatitis C treatment is not recommended for people with HIV	1	2
Once someone's hepatitis C virus has been completely treated and cleared they cannot get re-infected with hepatitis C	1	2
People can get infected with hepatitis C from tattoos and body piercing	1	2
It is easier to be infected with hepatitis C if a person is already HIV positive	1	2
Some hepatitis C genotypes (strains) respond better to treatment than others	1	2

## **Section 9 Sexual exclusion and serosorting**

	<b>Never</b>	<b>Almost never</b>	<b>Occasionally</b>	<b>Almost always</b>	<b>Always</b>
I always ask sexual partners if they have been tested for hepatitis C	1	2	3	4	5
I always know if my sexual partners have hepatitis C or not	1	2	3	4	5
I expect sexual partners who have hepatitis C to tell me	1	2	3	4	5
I would refuse to have sex with someone who has hepatitis C	1	2	3	4	5
I am willing to have a partner/boyfriend who has hepatitis C	1	2	3	4	5

## **Section 10 Attitudes towards Injecting drug use**

	<b>Disagree strongly</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither disagree or agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Agree strongly</b>
I won't associate with known injecting drug users if I can help it	1	2	3	4	5
Injecting drug users have a perfect right to their lifestyle if that's the way they	1	2	3	4	5
Injecting drug use is just plain wrong	1	2	3	4	5
Injecting drug use is merely a different kind of lifestyle that should not be	1	2	3	4	5
Injecting drug users are mistreated in our society	1	2	3	4	5
People should feel sympathetic and understanding of injecting drug users	1	2	3	4	5
I avoid injecting drug users whenever possible	1	3	3	4	5
Injecting drug users should be accepted completely into our society	1	2	3	4	5

**IF YOU ARE HEPATITIS C POSITIVE GO TO SECTION 12**

## **Section 11- Hepatitis C negative participants**

	<b>Disagree strongly</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither disagree or agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Agree strongly</b>
I think I am unlikely to get hepatitis C	1	2	3	4	5
I am not worried about getting hepatitis C from sex	1	2	3	4	5
Only people who inject drugs can get hepatitis C	1	2	3	4	5
I do everything I can to prevent getting hepatitis C	1	2	3	4	5
The kind of sex that I like puts me at risk of hepatitis C infection	1	2	3	4	5
I am more worried about hepatitis C than HIV	1	2	3	4	5

43. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

<i>"Hepatitis C positive people..."</i>	<b>Not at all</b>				<b>Very strongly</b>
...only have themselves to blame"	1	2	3	4	5
...should be ashamed."	1	2	3	4	5
...are worthless."	1	2	3	4	5

<i>"Hepatitis C positive people..."</i>	<b>Not at all</b>				<b>Very strongly</b>
...got what they deserve."	1	2	3	4	5
...are dirty."	1	2	3	4	5
...don't care about infecting others."	1	2	3	4	5

44. To what extent do you experience the following when you are interacting with hepatitis C positive people?

	<b>Not at all</b>				<b>Very strongly</b>
Anger	1	2	3	4	5
Fear	1	2	3	4	5
Disgust	1	2	3	4	5
irritation	1	2	3	4	5
Pity	1	2	3	4	5

45. To what extent do you do the following in relation to hepatitis C positive people?

	<b>Not at all</b>				<b>Very strongly</b>
I keep a physical distance	1	2	3	4	5
I am careful not to touch them	1	2	3	4	5
I am indifferent to them	1	2	3	4	5
I feel awkward interacting with them	1	2	3	4	5
I avoid interacting with them	1	2	3	4	5
I am overly kind towards them	1	2	3	4	5
I am aggressive towards them	1	2	3	4	5
I do not invite them to social events	1	2	3	4	5
I pay particular attention to hygiene around them	1	2	3	4	5
I refuse to get romantically involved with them	1	2	3	4	5
I refuse to have sex with them	1	2	3	4	5

## **Section 12 Hepatitis C positive participants**

46. To what extent have you experienced the following in relation to you being hepatitis C positive?

<i>"Other people think that..."</i>	<b>Not at all</b>				<b>Very strongly</b>
...I only have myself to blame"	1	2	3	4	5
...I should be ashamed."	1	3	3	4	5
...I am worthless."	1	2	3	4	5
...I got what I deserved."	1	2	3	4	5
...I am dirty."	1	2	3	4	5
...I don't care about infecting others."	1	2	3	4	5

47. To what extent have you experienced the following reactions from hepatitis C negative people that you know in relation to you being hepatitis C positive?

	<b>Not at all</b>				<b>Very strongly</b>
Anger	1	2	3	4	5
Fear	1	2	3	4	5
Disgust	1	2	3	4	5
Irritation	1	2	3	4	5
Pity	1	2	3	4	5

48. What is your experience with hepatitis C negative people that you know in relation to you being hepatitis C positive?

	<b>Not at all</b>				<b>Very strongly</b>
They keep a physical distance	1	2	3	4	5
They are careful not to touch me	1	2	3	5	5
They are indifferent to me	1	2	3	5	5
They interact awkwardly with me	1	2	3	4	5
They avoid interacting with me	1	2	3	4	5

	Not at all				Very strongly
They are overly kind to me	1	2	3	4	5
They behave aggressively towards me	1	2	3	4	5
They exclude me from social events	1	2	3	4	5
They take excessive hygienic measures around me	1	2	3	4	5
They refuse to get romantically involved with me	1	2	3	4	5
They refuse to have sex with me	1	2	3	4	5

### **Section 13 Feeling thermometer**

49. What is your impression of the typical person with **hepatitis C**?

0-----25-----50-----75-----100  
*Very unfavourable* *Very favourable*

50. What is your impression of the typical person with **HIV**?

0-----25-----50-----75-----100  
*Very unfavourable* *Very favourable*

51. What is your impression of the typical person **who injects drugs**?

0-----25-----50-----75-----100  
*Very unfavourable* *Very favourable*

52. What is your impression of the typical person **with syphilis**?

0-----25-----50-----75-----100  
*Very unfavourable* *Very favourable*

53. What is your impression of the typical **gay man**?

0-----25-----50-----75-----100  
*Very unfavourable* *Very favourable*

## **Section 14 Staying in touch**

54. Which of the following best describes how you heard about this survey?

- |                          |                                    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | An advertisement on gaydar         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | An advertisement on recon          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | An email                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | An advertisement on Facebook       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Facebook page                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A friend on Facebook               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A friend                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | An ad on an organisation's website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Google                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other, please specify.             |

55. Would you like to receive feedback on this survey?

- |                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No  |

56. Would you like to be informed about future research projects conducted by the National Centre in HIV Social Research?

- |                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No  |

57. Please provide an email address so we can contact you.

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**Thank you for your time. If you elected to receive feedback, we will send you a summary of results later this year.**