

Monopoly  
Monogamy? Polygamy?



## Making relationships work: How much is age a factor?

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## Background

- Over half of gay men have a regular partner
  - About half are monogamous
  - Over half have an agreement about sex with each other & with other men
- Negotiated safety was recognised as a risk-reduction strategy in the early 1990s.
- Has been an explicit aspect of HIV prevention in Australia since the mid 1990s.
- Recently seen decline in explicit agreements between regular partners.
- Young gay men tend to have 'regular' partners
  - But tend to be short-term
  - And tend to be assumed monogamous
  - And less likely to have an explicit agreement




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## About the Monopoly study

- Gay men's relationships study
  - Study of understandings of monogamy and its place in HIV-prevention
- Collaboration between Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society, & Kirby Institute.
- Initiated by Professor Anthony Smith.
- Online national survey conducted late 2013
  - Mainly recruited through Manhunt and Facebook
- 4215 usable records.
  - 65% identified a 'primary' regular partner
  - 2212 men described their relationship agreements.




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## Sample

Not unlike other samples of gay & bisexual men:

- Mean age 38.6 years
- 52% had university education
- 87% gay & 11% identified as bisexual
- 85% tested for HIV
  - 6.4% were HIV-positive




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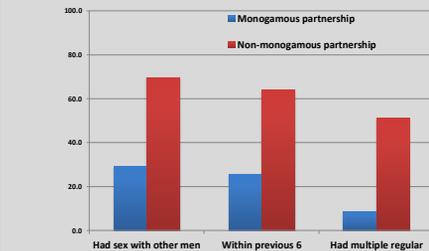
## Relationship agreements

- 19% had been with their regular partner <6 months
- 61% said they were 'in a relationship'
  - 36% had multiple regular partners
- 35% described their partnership as monogamous
  - 45% had not explicitly discussed outside sex with their partner
  - 19% regularly discussed their agreement




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## Monogamous & open relationships



Category	Monogamous partnership (%)	Non-monogamous partnership (%)
Had sex with other men	~30	~70
Within previous 6 months	~25	~65
Had multiple regular partners	~10	~55

