The National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR) is in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales. It is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.
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Since its establishment in 1990 by the Australian Government, the National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR) has undertaken a program of social research related to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), sexually transmissible infections and hepatitis C.
NCHSR's major research priorities are:

- to conduct research that contributes to the management of HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases in the most affected communities
- to conduct studies of the shared, everyday understandings of sexuality, sexual practice and illicit drug use, with particular reference to the normative structures and cultural and subcultural understandings that inform those practices
- to conduct studies of the individual, interpersonal and cultural impact of HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases on those directly affected, their carers and their communities, and to identify the strategies and health care models appropriate to deal with that impact
- to identify effective prevention strategies and to identify the barriers to their adoption by those at risk of HIV, hepatitis C and sexually transmissible infections
- to conduct research into the personal, social, economic and cultural impact of HIV, hepatitis C and sexually transmissible infections
- to conduct studies of the social and personal aspects of the conduct of clinical trials, including vaccines.
Director's report

Professor Susan Kippax was appointed Director of the National Centre in HIV Social Research in July 1994 after serving as Deputy Director from 1990 to June 1994.

Since 1985 Professor Kippax has worked almost exclusively on researching the impact of HIV and AIDS on individuals and communities, and on documenting social and psychological responses to the epidemic among homosexually active men and heterosexuals, including those living with HIV and AIDS. Her other major research interest concerns emotions, where her work has uncovered some of the processes in the social construction of emotions and illustrates the advantages of ‘memory work’, a method that has been used in researching sexuality. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

In 2006 Australia saw an increase in HIV and in other sexually transmissible infections (STIs). The HIV transmission rate in New South Wales levelled off in 2006, but there were increases in HIV transmission rates in Victoria and Queensland. In the area of hepatitis C and injecting drug use, the long-awaited report of hepatitis C estimates and projections was released in 2006. Although this report offered good news in that there has been an overall reduction in the incidence of hepatitis C, it remains extremely concerning that almost 10,000 Australians will acquire hepatitis C this year.

In 2006 the National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR) focused much of its efforts on uncovering and understanding the drivers of these increases in HIV and STIs and of the continuing significant levels of hepatitis C infection. Much of our HIV research in 2006 focused on the analysis of available data from the cohort studies (Positive Health and Health in Men) conducted in Sydney, and the cross-sectional gay community periodic surveys conducted in most states of Australia. These analyses showed a strong relationship between a rise in unsafe sex among gay men and increases in HIV transmissions, but the reasons for the increases in unsafe sexual practice are at present far from clear. Further research is sorely needed. The very large and growing number of people at risk of and living with hepatitis C also points to the need for a renewed effort in hepatitis C social research programs. In general, however, our research capacity is hampered by a lack of funding, uncertainty surrounding long-term funding and, somewhat more indirectly, the increasingly difficult environment in which Australian universities find themselves.

Despite these difficulties, 2006 was a successful year for NCHSR and new research projects were funded, notably by NSW Health.

The appointment of Associate Professor John Imrie gave impetus and renewed vigour to the HIV area. Research work started on a number of projects funded in 2005. These included: the Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage project, in collaboration with the Universities of Sydney and New England and with our industry partners (the state AIDS councils and state health departments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia), which is investigating the role of the internet in the sexual lives of gay and other homosexually active men in Australia; the Depression project, funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and in
collaboration with the Department of General Practice Medicine at the University of Sydney, investigating how depression is diagnosed and managed by general practitioners working with gay men in New South Wales and South Australia; and the NHMRC-funded project, in collaboration with the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, focusing on sexual practice and the role of sexually transmissible infections in the transmission of HIV among gay men in Sydney. With NSW Health funding, and in collaboration with the Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service, NCHSR is coordinating a large-scale study of barriers to testing among people who do not make contact with health services until they have advanced HIV infection, particularly among people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Also with NSW Health funding, NCHSR began its work on the QUICKIE (qualitative interviews concerning key issues and experiences) project. We also continued our Straightpoz study of the experiences of heterosexuals living with HIV.

The Sexual Health and Attitudes of Australian Prisoners study, funded by NHMRC, got into the swing of data collection in NSW prisons, using telephone interviews. The long-running Sydney Women and Sexual Health survey of women in contact with the gay and lesbian community was carried out for the sixth time, giving us valuable data on sexual and drug-using behaviour. The Australian Longitudinal Study of Health and Relationships, led by our colleagues at the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society at La Trobe University in Melbourne, recontacted about 7000 people first recruited in 2005, enabling us to start analysing people's sexual, relationship and childbearing behaviour over time.

NSW Health also awarded NCHSR additional funds to support our research into hepatitis C and injecting drug use, particularly to expand our surveillance projects. Innovative research conducted at the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, using video recordings of injecting episodes, was presented at the NSW Needle and Syringe Program workers' meeting and at the APSAD (Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs) conference in Cairns. In 2006 the final round of interviewing for the NHMRC Methadone Takeaways project was completed. This project was the basis of a well-attended symposium session at the APSAD conference.

In the international arena, the Strengthening HIV Social Research Capacity in PNG project, a collaboration between NCHSR and the PNG Institute for Medical Research, began in September. This is funded by an AusAID HIV/AIDS Partnership Initiative (AHAPI) grant and aims to train ten Papua New Guinean graduates in all aspects of social research. Dr Angela Kelly was appointed Team Leader. The Sri Lanka Behavioural Surveillance project, funded by the World Bank, continues under the guidance of Dr Patrick Rawstorne, and by the end of 2006 the first round of data collection was almost complete. Both these researchers have done a great job in building social research capacity in quite difficult circumstances.

Again in the area of capacity building, this time in the area of Aboriginal social research, NCHSR, in collaboration with the Sax Institute, has been successful in attracting NHMRC funding for five years to develop capacity in Aboriginal health research among both young Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal researchers. A related NHMRC project grant was also awarded in 2006. The Experiences of Cancer in Aboriginal People project is a collaboration between NCHSR, the Cancer Council of NSW and the University of Sydney. This large five-year project will build on the work done as part of a project funded by the Cancer Council Australia. In collaboration with researchers from the University of Sydney and the Sax Institute, we also received NHMRC funding to study resilience in Aboriginal families in New South Wales.

As this shows, and as is described in this annual report, we continue to collaborate successfully with a growing number of organisations and individual
researchers including the state health departments, NSW Department of Corrective Services, a number of universities, and community partners such as the state and national AIDS councils and associations of people living with HIV, the state and national hepatitis councils, and associations of injecting drug users.

The 9th Social Research Conference on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases, StigmaPleasurePractice, was hosted by NCHSR at the University of New South Wales in April 2006. We were pleased to welcome over 140 delegates from around Australia and overseas. The conference showcased the latest social research on sexual practice, drug use, living with HIV or hepatitis C, and a range of related issues. Over 60 presentations were given on topics as diverse as the politics of prosecuting ‘drug mules’, community responses to gay men’s crystal methamphetamine use, the impact of living with HIV for heterosexual men and women, and the experience of hepatitis C treatment. The conference prompted stimulating debate about the continuing stigma attached to HIV, hepatitis C and illicit drug use, the difficulty of acknowledging pleasure in harm reduction research and policy, and the ongoing challenges inherent in developing innovative social research and educational approaches to HIV and hepatitis C, particularly in a constrained funding environment. I would like to thank the conference organising committee, particularly the co-convenors Dr Martin Holt and Dr Robert Reynolds, for the time they invested in producing such a successful event. We look forward to our next conference in 2008.

The Consortium for Social and Policy Research in HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases received a second round of funding from NSW Health for the period 2006 to 2009. This program will allow us to support a number of postgraduate students via scholarship programs and to continue the program of workshops, internships and practicums aimed at building research capacity in the government and non-government agencies. This funding, which kick-started the MA by Research program in Health, Sexuality and Culture, is going from strength to strength.

There have been a number of staffing changes at NCHSR in 2006. As well as welcoming John Imrie, we welcomed Shanley Chong, Andrew Frankland and Angela Kelly. We also welcomed Augustine Asante and Diana Bernard who took up positions funded by NSW Health projects. During the year we farewelled Ruth Braunstein, Erol Digiusto, Andrea Fogarty and Peter Hull.

We welcomed a number of visitors in 2006, including our Visiting Fellows—Professor Peter Aggleton from the UK, Professor Harm Hospers from the Netherlands and Dr Raymond Donovan from the University of Newcastle, NSW. We also welcomed Professor Yanning Gao from China, Dr Sam Friedman from the US and Professor Ian Lubek from Canada and Cambodia.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Patrick Rawstorne who was awarded his PhD in 2006 and Limin Mao who was promoted to Research Fellow. Congratulations are also due to Christina Rofe and Christy Newman on the births of their daughters in December 2006 and January 2007.
Scientific Advisory Committee

NCHSR is advised by the Scientific Advisory Committee, a group of experts from social science, public health and non-government organisations. Its major role is to oversee NCHSR’s research, including its annual work plan.

Chairs

Professor Allan Kellehear, Director, Palliative Care Unit, La Trobe University, City Campus*
Emeritus Professor Sheila Shaver, formerly Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research, University of Western Sydney*

Members

Ms Gayle Anderson, Director, Hepatitis C & HIV/AIDS Section, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing*
Professor Ian Anderson, Director, Centre for Health and Society, and Director, Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit, The University of Melbourne
Mr Simon Donohoe, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)
Ms Sharon Flanigan, Director, Hepatitis C & HIV/AIDS Section, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing*
Professor Annette Hamilton (ex-officio), Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of New South Wales
Professor John Kaldor, National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, The University of New South Wales
Professor Susan Kippax, Director, National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales
Professor Pranee Liamputtong, School of Public Health, La Trobe University
Professor Martyn Lyons, Associate Dean, Research, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of New South Wales
Ms Sharyn McGregor, Director, Hepatitis C Section, Targeted Prevention Programs Branch, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
Ms Annie Madden, Executive Officer, Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)
Professor Jake Najman, Professor of Sociology, The School of Social Science, The University of Queensland
Professor Marian Pitts (ex-officio), Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University
Dr John Rule, Manager, HIV Living and International Unit, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS
Dr Carla Treloar (observer), Deputy Director, National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales
Professor Bryan Turner (corresponding member), Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
Ms Helen Tyrrell, Executive Officer, Australian Hepatitis Council

Associate Professor Catherine Waldby, International Research Fellow, Sociology and Social Policy, University of Sydney

Dr David Wilson, Centre for International Health, Curtin University of Technology

Dr Heather Worth (observer), Deputy Director, National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales

*part-year
Staff

Director and Professor
Susan Kippax, BA(Hons), PhD, FASSA

Head, International program, Deputy Director and Senior Research Fellow
Heather Worth, BA, MA(Hons), PhD

Head, Hepatitis C program, Deputy Director and Senior Research Fellow
Carla Treloar, BSc(Hons), PhD

Head, HIV program and Associate Professor
John Imrie, BA(Hons), MA, MSc, DipLSHTM, PhD

Head, Sexual Health program and Senior Research Fellow
Juliet Richters, BA, MPH, PhD

ARC Research Fellow
Robert Reynolds, BA(Hons), PhD, Master of Counselling

Research Fellows
Augustine Asante, BA (Hons), MSocSci, PhD*
Erol Digiusto, BSc(Hons), GradDipSocSci, PhD
Suzanne Fraser, BA(Hons), PhD
Martin Holt, BSc(Hons), MSc, PhD
Henrike Körner, BA(Hons), DipEd, MA, PhD
Limin Mao, BMed, MEdAdmin, PhD
Christy Newman, BA(Hons), PhD*
Patrick Rawstorne, BA(Hons), MA, PhD
Iryna Zablotska, MD(Hons), MPH, PhD

Research Officers
kylie valentine, BA(Hons), PhD
Lorraine Yap, BA(Hons), PhD

Research Associates
Diana Bernard, BSocStud, GradDipEarlyChildhoodStudies, MPH*
Joanne Bryant, BSc, MSc, PhD
Shanley Chong, BA, MAppStats, PhD*
Max Hopwood, BA(Hons)
Asha Persson, BA(Hons), PhD

Lecturer
Kane Race, BA, LLB, PhD

Research Consultants
Jeanne Abelson, BA(Hons), MPsych(Clin), DPhil†
June Crawford, BA(Hons), PhD†

Work placement student
Louise Redsull (University of Bath, United Kingdom)*§

Visiting honorary staff
Peter Aggleton, BA, DipEd, MEd, MA, PhD
Raymond Donovan, BA(Hons), PhD
Anne Grunseit, BA(Hons), PhD
Harm Hospers, MSc, PhD
Sasho Lambevski, Dipl.pol.mo, PhD
Ian Lubek, BA (Hons), PhD
Marsha Rosengarten, BA, GradDipComms, MA, PhD
About NCHSR

New staff

John Imrie, Head, HIV program

In 2006 John joined NCHSR as Associate Professor overseeing the Centre’s HIV research program. John has come to NCHSR from the Centre for Sexual Health and HIV Research at University College London where he headed the epidemiology and social science research program. John’s work has focused on evaluating complex behavioural and health service interventions and he has spent considerable time researching the behavioural and social aspects of sexual health, including the impact of advances in HIV treatment and care. John’s research interests include sexual health and HIV prevention, particularly among gay men and minority and asylum-seeking populations. He is also interested in developing and evaluating sexual health promotion and health-service interventions and in the social impact of biomedical prevention and treatment.

Augustine Asante, Research Fellow

Augustine is a health policy and equity expert with substantial experience in HIV research. At NCHSR he is working with Henrike Körner on a qualitative project, funded by NSW Health, in culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Born in Ghana, Augustine was educated at the University of Ghana where he did his bachelor’s degree, and later at Stockholm University in Sweden where he completed a Masters. He holds a PhD in Health Administration from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the University of New South Wales. Augustine has worked in various research positions in Australia and overseas and as a government bureaucrat in his native Ghana.

Diana Bernard, Research Associate

Diana has a background in early childhood, public health and sociology. She spent some years in a clinical capacity in the areas of mental health, HIV/AIDS and sexual health before moving into project management in a diverse range of public health areas, including working on projects with sex workers, marginalised youth, the elderly and mental health services. Over the past five years she has been involved with applied qualitative research projects. At NCHSR Diana is working on the QUICKIE study, a series of key informant interviews around rising HIV rates and the community debate around crystal. She enjoys working with marginalised young people and in sexual health/HIV and would like to pursue some public health work overseas.

Non-Contract Staff

Carolyn Eccles, BA*‡
Abigail Groves, BA(Hons), MA*‡
Magdalena Harris, BA(Hons), MA‡

Research Resource Manager

Maude Frances, BA(Hons), GradDiplInf&LibMgt

Librarian

Cristina Scott, BSc, DTPH, GradDiplInf&LibMgt*

Research Manager

Christy Newman, BA(Hons), PhD*

Editor and Publishing Manager

Sarah Fitzherbert, BA(Hons)†

Publications Officer

Judi Rainbow‡

Community Liaison Officer, HIV

Michael Salter, BA(Hons)

Community Liaison Officer, Hepatitis C

Ruth Braunstein, BA, GradDipPsych*‡

Consortium Events Coordinator

Rodney McDonald, BAppSci*

Finance Manager

Christina Rofe

Executive Assistant

Janice Knapman, AssocDipSocSci

Administrative Officer

Joseph Lopes

Administrative Assistant

Annie Whitelaw

* part-year † part-time ‡ casual § honorary
Shanley Chong, Research Associate

Shanley is a statistician specialising in statistical analysis. At NCHSR she is responsible for analysing social, behavioural and biomedical survey data on a range of HIV/AIDS research studies. Shanley holds a Masters degree in Applied Statistics from Macquarie University, where she recently submitted her PhD. She has worked on various research projects, such as on suicide in Australia and England, on ethnic differences in suicide mortality in Australia, on dengue haemorrhagic fever in Songkla, Thailand, and on the efficacy of a chiropractic treatment in reducing asthma attacks.

Andrew Frankland, Research Officer

Andrew will be working on the gay community periodic surveys and Health in Men and Positive Health studies at NCHSR. He has an Honours degree in Psychology at the University of Sydney and a Master's degree in Criminology. Andrew is currently undertaking a PhD in Psychology at Macquarie University, exploring domestic violence in same-sex relationships.
Our research

Research at the National Centre in HIV Social Research falls into five broad areas:

- Mapping risk practice
- Negotiating the medical field
- Exploring cultural dynamics: risk and health
- Health knowledges, policies and practices
- International studies

More information about the following studies and a summary of results from many of them are published in our Annual report of trends in behaviour.
Mapping risk practice

The studies listed under this category are all concerned with the mapping of safe and unsafe practices—both sexual and drug use practices. All the studies examine sexual and drug use practice with reference to the interpersonal and social lives of the populations under study. They explore the meanings of practice and the determinants of risk, enabling researchers to monitor practice and reliably assess changes in risk over time.

Health in men (HIM) cohort study
Kippax, Crawford and Mao

An open cohort enrolling approximately 500 HIV-negative gay men per annum was established in Sydney in July 2001 to monitor risk practice and HIV incidence in the context of vaccine initiatives. By December 2004, 1427 men had been recruited into the study and the project stopped recruiting new participants. The study examines risk from sexual behaviour and drug use, beliefs and understandings of prophylactic and therapeutic vaccines, expectations of vaccines, and motivations for taking part in vaccine trials.

Data are collected on the nature of sexual relationships, HIV status of respondents and their partners, sexually transmissible infections, HIV optimism–scepticism, and reported hepatitis A, B and C infections. The aims of the study are to establish a baseline of risk practice among potential vaccine trial participants and to inform community-based organisations and other agencies engaged in health promotion about men’s current understandings of vaccine initiatives. The study is conducted by NCHSR in collaboration with the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations and the AIDS Council of NSW (ACON).

Between 2002 and 2005 around 80% of the men recruited into the cohort had been followed up. An 18-month extension of the study starting from January 2006 was funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council. In 2006 NCHSR published a joint report presenting data from both the Positive Health (see page 15) and HIM cohorts to provide a more comprehensive analysis of sexual health and general well-being of HIV-positive and HIV-negative gay and homosexually identified men in Sydney. The report, The Health in Men and Positive Health cohorts: a comparison of trends in the health and sexual behaviour of HIV-negative and HIV-positive gay men, 2002–2005, is available on the NCHSR website. The study team is now focusing on the determinants of HIV seroconversion and other sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and the role played by STIs in the transmission of HIV.

Gay community periodic surveys
Zablotska, Hull and Frankland

The gay community periodic surveys are funded by state and territory health departments and conducted jointly by NCHSR and the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research in collaboration with local AIDS councils. The first periodic survey of gay men’s sexual practice was conducted in Sydney in February 1996 and the survey has been repeated every six months since then. Gay community periodic surveys are now conducted regularly in other states as well, annually in Melbourne and Brisbane, every other year in Adelaide and Perth, and every three years in Canberra. In 2006 these surveys took place in Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Canberra and twice in Sydney (in February and August). Sample sizes vary from 3732 in Sydney (combined sample) to 270 in Canberra, and men are recruited from a range of sites, including sex venues, social venues
and sexual health clinics, as well as from annual events such as the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day.

These data provide useful monitoring of self-reported HIV status and changes in the sexual practice and drug use of gay men. The results of each survey are presented in an individual report. In 2006 NCHSR also launched a new initiative, a brochure providing feedback on the survey data to participants of the Queensland Gay Community Periodic Survey; the 2007 brochure will be prepared by the Queensland Association for Healthy Communities (formerly the Queensland AIDS Council). A similar brochure will be prepared by ACON to disseminate the results of the Sydney periodic survey. Discussions will also take place about the possibility of extending this initiative to the participants of surveys conducted in other cities.

**Periodic surveys of drug use among young people**

Bryant and Treloar

Monitoring of drug use among young people is largely limited to secondary school surveys from which older youths are excluded, or large population surveys that tend to under-represent people who live in unstable situations, such as young people. This project complements those other surveys by collecting data on the drug use of young people who attend music festivals, young people who are beyond school age and in a changeable time of life. Annual surveys of young people recruited from music festivals (mainly the Big Day Out) provide data on their recent licit and illicit use of drugs, their knowledge of how hepatitis C is transmitted, their attitudes to drug use and the contexts in which they use. A pilot study testing various recruitment methods was conducted in New South Wales in 2004 and 2005. Periodic surveys are now conducted annually in New South Wales, with plans to expand data collection to other states in 2008.

**Australian longitudinal study of health and relationships**

Richters

The main aim of the study is to follow a nationally representative group of Australians over their lifetime, documenting the natural history and patterns of health and relationships, using telephone interviews. Among other areas, the study explores reproductive and sexual health behaviours and attitudes, the formation of relationships and changes in them, health status and behaviour, and family demographics. A total of 8205 people have been recruited into the study, of whom 7804 have agreed to be followed up over time. This project is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council and is based at the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society at La Trobe University in Melbourne.

**Sydney women and sexual health**

Richters

This is a study of women in contact with Sydney gay and lesbian communities, based on a self-complete questionnaire survey that has been handed out every two years since 1996 at gay and lesbian community events such as Mardi Gras Fair Day. It was initiated by staff at the AIDS Council of NSW (ACON) in order to inform health promotion programs for gay and lesbian drug users and for women partners of bisexual men. ACON staff approached NCHSR for help with the design of the survey instrument and the analysis and reporting of findings. Since then, the project's aims have broadened beyond that of ascertaining risks of transmission of HIV and other blood-borne viruses, extending to wider issues of lesbian sexuality and health (use of dental dams, smoking, Pap smears and domestic violence). As well as resulting in scholarly publications, for example on the complexities and contradictions of sexual behaviour and identity, this project has had practical outcomes such as ACON's decision to cease distribution of dental dams (for protected oral sex between women) at community events. Data on ten years of trends in health among women who have sex with women were presented to the Australian Lesbian Medical Association conference in September 2006.
Sexual health and attitudes of Australian prisoners (SHAAP)
Richters and Yap

The Sexual Health and Attitudes of Australian Prisoners study, carried out in conjunction with the Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice, combines qualitative and quantitative research methodologies to learn more about the patterns of sexual contact within jails and the physical and institutional structures and practices that prevent or enable sexual coercion. When complete, the quantitative study will have recruited 2000 men and 400 women from jails in Queensland and New South Wales and will compare the sexual health and related behaviours of prisoners from each state. This research includes the implementation, for the first time, of innovative research survey strategies inside jails, using the latest communication and Bluetooth wireless technologies. The study’s qualitative component uses fieldwork in prisons and in-depth interviews and discussion among focus groups to find out more about the social and cultural dynamics of sex and sexual violence in jail. The study addresses the sexual health, attitudes and behaviours of members of society, who, even when they are out of jail, tend to be less likely to respond to surveys. It will also make practical recommendations for the prevention of sexual assaults in prison.

Survey of knowledge, risk practice and access to services in Aboriginal people in New South Wales
Worth, Bryant and Richters

This project is conducted through a unique partnership between NCHSR and the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of New South Wales. It will survey Aboriginal people aged 16 to 30 years in New South Wales, collecting data about levels of knowledge, risk practice and access to health services in relation to sexually transmissible infections and blood-borne viruses. Convenience samples will be recruited from key events with a high proportion of attendees aged 16 to 30 years old who identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. Participants will complete a short, self-complete questionnaire administered in standard paper and pencil format, or, depending on their availability, by means of state-of-the-art MP3 players via which questions are read to the participant through headphones and answers recorded on a handset. This will ensure maximum confidentiality and counter any potential issues with literacy. The project is currently under ethical review, with plans to collect data in October 2007 and January and October 2008.

A mixed-method exploration of access to sterile injecting equipment and information among people who do not attend needle and syringe programs
Hopwood and Bryant

Little is known about an estimated significant proportion of injecting drug users who do not access equipment and information from needle and syringe programs, but instead use pharmacies for this purpose. This study, funded through a UNSW Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2006 Faculty Research Grant, combined qualitative and quantitative methods to explore and critique commonly held assumptions that appear in the published research into illicit drugs regarding access to injecting equipment and information about harm. In-depth, semi-structured interviews with 15 injecting drug users who did not usually attend needle and syringe programs explored a range of issues related to access and harm reduction. The quantitative arm of the study measured and described the demographic and risk profiles of 247 people who obtained injecting equipment from pharmacies, to explore the risks of injecting drug use for the transmission of hepatitis C infection. The findings from this study will increase knowledge about where equipment and information is obtained. A report of the study is due in the latter part of 2007.
Negotiating the medical field

The studies listed here are concerned with the interface between health/illness and clinical practice. They include surveys as well as studies focused on in-depth explorations of embodied response to medical practice and/or the social production and construction of meaning and practice.

Positive health: HIV-positive men who have sex with men
Zablotska and Kippax

The Positive Health study is an open cohort study of HIV-positive gay and other homosexual men living in New South Wales. The study is focused on HIV testing and markers of health, treatment and care, sexual practices and attitudes, sexual health testing and other issues. A major goal of the study is to assess the lived experience of HIV-positive people over time. Participants are recruited in clinics and community groups of HIV-positive people in urban and rural settings and are interviewed annually. In 2006, 270 men were interviewed and 29 of them were new recruits. Testing for sexually transmissible infections was offered to all participants for the second consecutive year.

This study is conducted in collaboration with the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations and the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS.

A joint report that presents data from both the Positive Health and Health in Men cohorts was published in 2006. The report, The Health in Men and Positive Health cohorts: a comparison of trends in the health and sexual behaviour of HIV-negative and HIV-positive gay men, 2002–2005, is available on the NCHSR website.

Barriers and incentives to drug treatment for illicit drug users with mental health comorbidities and complex vulnerabilities
Treloar, Holt and Kippax

This study used qualitative research methodology to provide contextual, in-depth information about barriers and incentives to treatment by illicit drug users with common mental health problems and complex vulnerabilities. The project was the continuation of a collaborative partnership between NCHSR, the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) and LMS Consulting. Seventy-seven illicit drug users with histories of depression and/or anxiety participated in interviews at four sites across Australia. In addition, 18 service providers from the drug and alcohol, mental health and community sectors were interviewed. A report for the Australian Government was completed in 2006 and is expected to be published in 2007. The research team intends to publish a number of peer reviewed articles in 2007 based on findings from the study.

Primary health care project on HIV and depression
Mao, Newman, Körner and Kippax

This three-year project commenced in 2006 with funding from the General Practice Clinical Research Program of the National Health and Medical Research Council. The project aims to explore depression among homosexual men (with and without HIV) and heterosexual men and to assess the diagnosis and management of depression by general practitioners and patients. Expected outcomes and benefits to the community include: a detailed picture of the complex interactions between HIV infection and depression; the building of research capacity among
participating health care professionals; a set of recommendations for health care professionals specifically relevant to the assessment and management of depression in people living with HIV/AIDS; the development of education courses and training manuals for general practitioners working with people living with HIV/AIDS; and the production of a web-based self-help management tool for those living with HIV/AIDS. In 2006 we have completed semi-structured interviews with GPs who prescribe s100 medications for the treatment of HIV.

The Straightpoz study: living heterosexually with HIV
Persson

The Straightpoz study is a qualitative longitudinal study of experiences of living heterosexually with HIV. The first phase of the study was completed in 2006. The aim of this part of the study was to investigate a broad range of issues and build a picture of the experiences of both men and women who live heterosexually with HIV, including diagnosis, disclosure, stigma, everyday living with HIV, social and sexual relationships and contact with services and peers. In November the first report from the Straightpoz study was launched by Professor Roger Garsia at the Redfern Technology Park. Key research findings were presented by Dr Asha Persson and workshoped by delegates from across the sector. The report, *Men and women living heterosexually with HIV: the Straightpoz study, Volume 1*, is available on the NCHSR website. Towards the end of the year, the study moved into its second phase, the aim of which is to examine issues around health and treatments, sexual health and sexual practice, and interactions with health professionals and health services. Participants from the original cohort were interviewed for a second time and we also interviewed a number of new participants. Analysis and dissemination will continue throughout 2007.

Barriers to HIV testing among people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
Körner, Asante and Kippax

This project investigates the reasons for delayed HIV testing, particularly among people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The project has two components, one quantitative, the other qualitative. The quantitative component collects demographic and socio-economic data, along with data about people’s use of health services, attitudes towards HIV and perceptions of stigma. These will be linked with the patients’ HIV-related clinical data to identify patients who were diagnosed late and the reasons for their late diagnosis. The qualitative component follows up the survey and interviews approximately 20 HIV patients from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. These interviews explore in depth some of the issues covered in the survey, in particular issues relating to patients’ use of health services. Ethics approval for the project has been obtained from the UNSW Ethics Committee and area health services. Data collection starts in February 2007 and the project will be completed in 2008.

Periodic survey of knowledge and perceptions of HIV and the use of HIV services among people from priority CALD communities in New South Wales
Körner, Asante and Kippax

The aim of this study is to investigate knowledge and perceptions of HIV and the use of health services among the general populations of four ethnic communities in Sydney that have a high prevalence of HIV infection: the Thai, Cambodian, Sudanese and Ethiopian communities. The study investigates people’s knowledge and use of health services in Sydney; patterns of movement between Australia and their country of birth; knowledge about and perceptions of HIV, including HIV transmission and living with HIV; and the manner in which people living with HIV are perceived within these four communities, including their experiences of stigma and discrimination.
National treatment service users project
Bryant, Holt and Treloar

This project is conducted through a partnership between NCHSR and the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL). The project evaluated the opportunities for, attitudes towards and barriers to consumer participation in the planning and delivery of Australian drug treatment services. The inclusion of health service consumers in the planning and delivery of health services has become the norm in many areas of health service delivery in Australia, such as mental health. However, it is unknown to what extent this has occurred within drug treatment services. The project used a cross-sectional design and structured interviews to collect data from a randomly selected sample of 64 service providers and a convenience sample of 179 consumers in Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. Consultations with relevant consumer organisations and other key stakeholders were also conducted. Data collection was completed in mid-2006. Findings were presented at the conference of the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs in Cairns in November 2006. A report on the project will be released by AIVL in early 2007, with two academic papers to follow. The second stage of the project is under development and expected to begin in mid-2007.

Intimate technologies
Race

The focus of this study is the negotiation of matters of intimacy, pleasure, shame, experimentation, danger and consumption in the context of medical practice. This project was funded through a Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Faculty Research Grant in 2006 and, after several interviews with general practitioners, it was decided that the community debate around crystal methamphetamine was an appropriate focus for the research. Materials were gathered from the gay media for analysis in 2007.

Exploring cultural dynamics: risk and health

The focus of these studies is on the cultural and social contexts in which health and risk are practised. The studies include examination of the social and other contextual factors around sexual practice, and the interpersonal and discursive production of risk practices and health-seeking activities.

Seroconversion study: gay men’s accounts of HIV seroconversion
Kippax and Ellard

This study aims to document and analyse understandings of the risk of HIV transmission in men’s narrative accounts of the events that they believe led to their becoming infected with HIV. Men who have recently seroconverted are interviewed within 12 months of a documented infection. This ongoing study began in 1993 and 139 interviews have been conducted to date. The purpose of the interviews is to identify which sexual practices may increase the risk of seroconversion and to explore men’s understanding of sexual risk. The interviews follow a thematic schedule that invites open-ended answers. Because this project is ongoing, it allows identification and understanding of changes in perceptions of risk over time. This is a collaborative study between NCHSR, the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research and the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society.
Pleasure consuming medicine
Race

This is a study of how discourses that regulate the use of drugs, specifically compliance and drug abuse, provide an avenue for the exercise of power in consumer society. The study uses historical, critical and textual methods, and the observations of participants, to examine how queer practices have reframed these dominant discourses to create new practices of care and service delivery. The research is based on Kane Race’s doctoral thesis and the manuscript is being revised this year for publication by Duke University Press.

The role of the internet in building social capital among homosexually active men: ‘virtual’ communities in HIV prevention
Kippax, Worth, Rawstorne and Holt

This study focuses on the role of the internet in producing social capital for gay and other homosexually active men. Social capital is defined as the quality of people’s relationships that affects their capacity to come together to solve collective problems. The idea is that people with stronger and more wide-ranging social connections (higher social capital) have more resources to draw upon, particularly during times of crisis, and therefore have an improved ability to negotiate risks, e.g. the risk of HIV transmission. There is scepticism in some quarters about whether the ‘virtual communities’ of the internet can support social capital. The study will explore the potential benefits, as well as harms, to those homosexually active men who use the internet to access health information, meet sexual partners and build friendships and relationships.

The study will employ online surveys to gather information from gay and other men who have sex with men who live in Australia. A pilot survey was conducted in late 2006 and the main survey will be conducted in 2007. The project runs until 2009, funded by the Australian Research Council Linkage scheme. The Linkage partners include ACON, the Queensland Association for Healthy Communities, the Victorian AIDS Council, NSW Health, Queensland Health and the Victorian Department of Human Services. The Western Australian AIDS Council and the Western Australian Department of Health also support the project.

The QUICKIE study
Holt, Race and Bernard

The QUICKIE (qualitative interviews concerning key issues and experiences) project is a two-year study in the form of an annual series of qualitative, one-on-one interviews with sexually active gay men in Sydney. The project aims to provide data on gay men’s lives in order to monitor changing experiences of sexual relationships and community engagement. Each year the QUICKIE study will examine participants’ relationships, sex and drug practices, engagement with social scenes, experiences of health and services, and their personal, political and social views. Interviews will also include discussion of one-off issues (determined each year) to provide an opportunity for community members to inform researchers and educators about upcoming issues and concerns. The study will complement existing quantitative survey data by providing contextual material on gay men’s relationships, social lives and sex and drug practices.

The QUICKIE study is funded from 2006 to 2008 by NSW Health and employs a reference group of key stakeholders to provide advice on the project. Interviewing began in late 2006 and results from the first round of interviews will be released in mid-2007.
The making of HIV and heterosexuality in the mainstream
Australian print media
Newman and Persson

The aim of this pilot study was to explore the role of the mainstream media in the production and circulation of social and cultural knowledge about HIV and as an important source of information about HIV for the broader population in Australia, which is not explicitly targeted by HIV prevention campaigns. The study produced two manuscripts analysing selected articles drawn from an archive of news stories on the subject of HIV that were published in *The Sydney Morning Herald* between 2000 and 2005.

Comparing the role of takeaways in methadone maintenance treatment in New South Wales and Victoria
Kippax, Treloar and Fraser

New South Wales and Victoria have very different policies concerning ‘takeaway’ methadone (methadone consumed at home rather than on clinic or pharmacy premises). This three-year project, funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, compares these two policy environments by interviewing methadone clients, dosing nurses, dispensing pharmacists, prescribing doctors and drug policy makers. It also investigates the social and cultural meanings given to takeaways by clients and workers, and the circumstances under which diversion of methadone to street sale takes place. The purpose of this study is to better understand the significance of takeaways to clients and workers, and to provide recommendations for future policy.

During 2006 all data collection was completed and data analysis and the writing up of results continued. Several refereed journal articles were written, and a report and book manuscript based on the study are now in preparation.

Substitution, enhancement, autonomy: making treatment regimes with hormones and methadone
Fraser and Valentine

This investigation combines research into substitution pharmacotherapies (methadone) and hormone replacement to illuminate the forces at work in both and provide new insights into the connections between these very different treatment regimes. The project draws on empirical evidence and theoretical scholarship. It will investigate the importance of concepts such as dependence, choice, rationality, gender, knowledge and volition in these relationships. In doing so, it will contribute to feminist science and technology studies, scholarship and debates around the materiality of drugs and the body, and technologies of the self.

Collaboration commenced in early 2005. Since then, a paper has been written and an international workshop held. Papers presented at this workshop are now being compiled for a special issue of the journal *Science as Culture*, to be edited by the chief investigators of the project.

The real deal in hepatitis C prevention: automatic influences on injecting behaviour
Treloar

The analysis of data collected during the course of this innovative project was completed in 2006. Presentations were made to the NSW Needle and Syringe Program workers’ meeting (by invitation) and to the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs (APSAD) conference. A paper was accepted
for publication in the *International Journal of Drug Policy*. This project, which used video recordings of injecting by clients of the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, has the capacity to generate a new raft of health education messages. These will be further developed in 2007.

**Automatic injecting: analysis of videotaped data from two sources**

**Treloar**

Dr Susan Carruthers from the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI), Curtin University of Technology, visited NCHSR in October 2006 to work with Carla Treloar on comparing video data collected in two projects, Carla's recent work at the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre and Susan's work with injecting drug users in Western Australia. This comparison will be used as the basis for academic publications written as collaborations between NCHSR and NDRI.

**Cancer in Aboriginal people**

**Kippax and Newman**

This pilot study, funded by the Cancer Council Australia, has been slow to collect data because of our inability to date to secure ethics approval from the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council in New South Wales. It is anticipated, however, that the pilot focus groups and interviews will be completed by the first half of 2007. This pilot study has led to a National Health and Medical Research Council proposal, which has been funded for 2007.

**Living with uncertainty: creating the postmodern self in contemporary Australia**

**Reynolds**

How well are individuals negotiating the uncertainties and choices of postmodernity? What are the opportunities and dangers of postmodern life? What are the distinctive pressures and stresses of inhabiting a post-traditional world, a world in which traditional identities appear to be dissolving? These questions will be investigated through a case study of a particular social group, gay men. This population is especially apposite for an analysis of the self in postmodernity. As a social category and as an individual identity, being homosexual is a relatively recent invention. The objective of this project is thus to study the everyday practices and beliefs that make up a sense of self in gay subcultures, especially as they pertain to emotional life. Life-history interviews were conducted with gay men of various ages, professional status and ethnicities, and have been written up as a monograph, entitled *What happened to gay life?*, for publication by UNSW Press in 2007.

**Sex, drugs and representation**

**Race and Murphy**

The key focus of this study is on how the ethics of HIV prevention and drug safety are made normatively intelligible and the distortions, risks and identities that materialise in this process. Community debate about serosorting and barebacking emerge as a significant theme in these materials. Kane Race, Dean Murphy and Jeanne Ellard made up a panel that presented at the AFAO Educators Conference in May and the AFAO AGM in November 2006. An article examining the emergence of community prevention strategies and their negotiation in various public media was submitted for publication by Kane Race in *Gendered Risks*, a forthcoming anthology from Glasshouse Press due to be published in 2007.
SEARCH (Study of environment on Aboriginal resilience and child health)
Kippax and Newman

The project aims to investigate the relationship between a healthy environment and a range of health outcomes in Aboriginal children and young people over a twenty-year period. The project involves the establishing of a cohort of Aboriginal families with children aged 16 years and under who will agree to participate over a number of years. Six Aboriginal medical services have agreed to participate. The proposal was submitted and funding approved in May 2005.

Preliminary discussions with communities indicate that, within existing resource constraints, it will be possible to recruit 400 families. Information will be collected using a variety of measures including: observational measures of housing quality and safety; surveys and questionnaires to assess self-reported health, resilience, social and emotional well-being, family structure, social support and community engagement; and medical records held by Aboriginal medical services. NCHSR's role in the study is to focus on resilience and a set of questions assessing resilience have been incorporated into the 'carer' questionnaire. Ethics approval has been granted. In 2007 baseline survey data will be collected and analyses begun.

Substance and substitution: methadone subjects in liberal society
Fraser and Valentine

Prescription of opioids to heroin addicts is often derided as an absurdity. Clients themselves describe methadone as 'liquid handcuffs', and clinics in Australia and elsewhere are highly visible sites of contention. Yet clinical and evaluation research demonstrate that methadone maintenance programs are effective for many people and the continued existence of the programs indicates productive approaches to understanding the management of addiction. To date, however, methadone has attracted comparatively little attention from social sciences and humanities scholars. Yet, in its role as oft-maligned substitute for a similar yet highly illicit substance, and in its combination of pharmacological, interpersonal, psychological and legal factors, methadone offers fascinating insights into contemporary tensions and contradictions around the production of the proper, law-abiding, 'stable' subject of liberal society. In 2007 the last chapters of this book-length study will be written and the whole manuscript finalised for publication.

Structural, social and behavioural influences on the preparedness for, response to, and mitigation of the impact of, a public health emergency in Australia
Worth

The aim of this multidisciplinary study is to examine preparedness for a public health emergency by exploring current perceptions, knowledge, social practices and expectations in selected communities. Its goal is to ascertain that public health measures employed as the threat of a public health emergency materialises are guided by a body of evidence on communities' aspirations, expectations and coping capacity so that the response management structure can perform more efficiently. Most research on public health emergencies, however, does not take into account community engagement and participation; rather it focuses on technical elements of responding to a public health emergency. This study will examine structural, social and behavioural factors that influence the implementation of strategic responses to public health emergencies from multiple perspectives: societal factors (community expectations and risk perceptions, likely responses and social practices), ethical, legal and human rights implications (potential human resources barriers, best practice), structural factors (public health policy, governance, communication) and integrated analysis (development of proposals, international cooperation). This project has received a UNSW Goldstar Award.
Our research

Health knowledges, policies and practices

This program focuses on policy. In particular it is concerned with levels of knowledge in the community about health issues, and modes of education and health promotion delivery in Australia and other countries. These activities are also aimed at strengthening the capacity of Australian and other researchers to undertake ‘best practice’ social research into HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C.

Consortium for social and policy research on HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases

Treloar, Worth, McDonald and Frances

The primary purpose of the Consortium is to build and strengthen research capacity in the intersection between academic, community and health service organisations in the area of HIV, hepatitis C, sexually transmissible infections and the harms associated with sexual practice and illicit drug use in New South Wales, and to encourage collaborative research and the formation of healthy public policy in these fields. (See page 27 for information about the activities of the Consortium in 2006.)

Making a difference: building research capacity for health interventions to improve Aboriginal health

Kippax and Newman

NCHSR will work with Aboriginal researchers to build their research skills and their capacity to engage in qualitative research. This capacity building will be carried out in conjunction with the project Patterns of Cancer Care for Aboriginal People in New South Wales, run by the Cancer Council of New South Wales.

Responding to the needs and quality-of-life experiences of advanced non-small-cell lung cancer patients

Treloar

A number of instruments exist to measure the quality of life of cancer patients. However, direct reporting of the experiences of patients with advanced lung cancer and their carers, with regard to their quality of life and unmet needs for care and support, is extremely limited. This project aims to enhance understanding of the needs and quality-of-life issues of people living with advanced non-small-cell lung cancer and to contribute to resources and strategies to improve the experience for both patients and their carers. People with advanced non-small-cell lung cancer, and their carers, will be invited to participate in focus group discussions. Participants will be recruited from a range of hospitals in a range of health care
International studies

These studies are undertaken in regions of the world significantly affected by HIV/AIDS. The emphasis is on countries in the Asia–Pacific region and on working collaboratively with local health policy and education sectors to build sustainable research and response capacity.

AIDS and imperialism: the political economy of a pandemic
Worth

This project is an in-depth examination of the socio-economic and political aspects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. It will examine in detail: the global spread of the virus from the margins to the centre of both the developed and developing world; the economic co-factors, including global debt, that facilitate the differential spread of HIV; the politics of drug therapies and vaccines; national and international security issues; migration, forced and voluntary; issues of gender; and the intersections between movements of capital, global politics, policies and practices of AIDS prevention and support. A monograph is expected to be published in 2008.

Strengthening HIV-related social research capacity in Papua New Guinea
Worth

This project, a partnership between NCHSR and the PNG Institute for Medical Research (PNGIMR) and funded by AusAID, is training ten Papua New Guinean graduates to undertake HIV social research. It is based in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, PNG. NCHSR and PNGIMR will also oversee the development and submission of applications to international funding bodies on HIV-related social research projects. Enhanced research capacity will support multisectoral approaches and leverage new resources to inform interventions. The project commenced in September 2006 and will run until September 2008.

Global science/Women’s health
Worth

This project seeks to characterise and model knowledge translation in cases in which knowledge generated in global partnerships is applied in national and local contexts. It requires the development of a new model of, and methods for analysing, the relationship between macroscientific–macroeconomic systems and their microsocial effects. In an effort to draw upon the widest possible styles of
addressing gender-related health issues, the Global Science/Women’s Health project will draw together policy analysts, historians of medicine, media critics, philosophers and social scientists to understand the ways in which globalisation of scientific information affects women’s health. While bringing together the best of each discipline, collaborators also share several theoretical positions in relation to this area of study. Funding has been received and, following a workshop in 2006, a book proposal has been forwarded to Duke University Press.

4-Centre HIV and AIDS research initiative
Kippax and Worth

The 4-Centre HIV and AIDS Research Initiative (4-CHARI) is now 5-CHARI, with the addition of the University of São Paulo, Brazil, which became part of the initiative in 2005. We had a very successful meeting in São Paulo in 2005 at which members of the initiative presented aspects of their research to public health and social researchers at the University of São Paulo. The major output from the group this year was the editing of a special issue of the journal AIDS, focusing on the experience of living with HIV. The special issue was edited by Susan Kippax and Peter Aggleton (both part of 5-CHARI) and Jean-Paul Moatti, Director of INSERM Research Unit, Marseilles.

National HIV/AIDS prevention project behavioural surveillance system, Sri Lanka
Kippax, Worth and Rawstorne

While the current prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Sri Lanka is low, the Government of Sri Lanka has committed to a program to prevent the spread of the epidemic, including establishing and implementing a behavioural surveillance system in Sri Lanka and providing geographical and other relevant information regarding at-risk and vulnerable populations. This is to give logistical support to the National STD AIDS Control Program for the on-going HIV serosurveillance work.

This project is funded by the World Bank to the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka and carried out by NCHSR in collaboration with NewSouth Global at the University of New South Wales, together with sociologists from the University of Sri Jayawardenepura in Colombo.

The first round of Sri Lanka’s behavioural surveillance survey began in 2006 and will continue in 2007. The project is mapping the size and location of populations in a number of geographical areas and conducting about 7000 interviews across six groups: factory workers (both men and women), three-wheel drivers, female sex workers, men who have sex with men, beach boys and drug users. Results of the first round will be reported on at the 8th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) in August 2007. The second round of data collection interviews will commence in November 2007.

Randomised controlled trial of three different approaches to the taking of sexual histories in sexual health services
Imrie

Computers play an increasingly important part in clinical consultations. The purpose of this study is determine whether it is possible to improve patient health outcomes in sexual health services by using computer-assisted interviews to collect information about patients’ sexual history and use the information provided to determine the most appropriate diagnostic screening for the individual. The project involves a collaboration between the Centre for Sexual Health and HIV Research at University College London; Camden Primary Care NHS (National Health Service) Trust; St George’s Hospital NHS Trust, Tooting, London; the Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit, London; and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. It is funded by the UK Medical Research Council. Fieldwork on this randomised controlled trial is now complete.
Data analysis is ongoing and preliminary results are expected to be ready for presentation by mid-2007.

**Addressing the need for innovative HIV testing strategies among UK African communities**

Imrie

This study involves the translating of a model of community-based voluntary counselling and HIV testing (VCT) that has been running successfully in Kenya in East Africa into a format that is acceptable and feasible to deliver to different African and other vulnerable communities resident in east London, UK. The translated intervention will then be promoted to different clinical units in the UK and funding sought for a full-scale implementation and evaluation. The work involves a collaboration between the Centre for Sexual Health and HIV Research at University College London; the UK African HIV Policy Network, London; Newham Primary Care NHS Trust, East London; Liverpool VCT and Care, Nairobi, Kenya; and the Medical Research Council Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, Glasgow, Scotland. It is funded by the Clinical Research and Development Committee, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, London.

**National descriptive, case-control and in-depth interview study of HIV seroconversion among men who have sex with men in England (InSIGHT Project)**

Imrie

This study aims to describe risk factors associated with HIV seroconversion among men who have sex with men in England in the early years of the 21st century. The study involves a large collaboration with other researchers from: the Health Protection Agency; the University College London Centre for Sexual Health and HIV Research; Sigma Research; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta; Imperial College Medical School, London; and eight hospitals in London, Manchester and Brighton. Fieldwork is complete and the main results are submitted for publication.

**Replicating a proven intervention to meet the sexual and reproductive health needs of young, black Caribbean women**

Imrie

This project addresses the question of whether and how we should go about translating culturally specific interventions, already shown to be effective in one setting, into another setting and into another population group. In this study we take an intervention originally developed for African–American and Mexican–American women, which has been shown to be effective in multiple experimental evaluations, and attempt to translate it into a format appropriate for young, black Caribbean women living in north-west London. The study is funded by the UK Medical Research Council and involves a collaboration with: the University College London Centre for Sexual Health and HIV Research; the University of Texas Health Sciences Centre at San Antonio, Texas, US; the Northwest London Hospitals NHS Trust; The African Child, Brent, London; and the Health Protection Agency.
NCHSR’s contribution to social research goes beyond the implementation and reporting of our own research projects. Staff members act as co-investigators in research studies based in other institutions, liaise with communities, disseminate information and run conferences. They also sit on committees locally, nationally and internationally, and act as peer reviewers, journal board members and informal advisers.
Consortium for social and policy research on HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases

The Consortium for Social and Policy Research on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases was formed in 2003 to:

- increase the skills of the research workforce in the area of HIV, hepatitis C and illicit drug use
- ensure that area health services and non-government organisations have the skills to assist in the formulation of good research questions and to contribute fully to research in the field
- assist in the implementation of the policy and practice outcomes from research.

Members of the Consortium are NCHSR and the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC), both at the University of New South Wales, the AIDS Council of NSW (ACON), People Living with HIV/AIDS NSW and the Hepatitis C Council of NSW. The Consortium Board also includes representatives from the NSW Users and AIDS Association, the AIDS and Infectious Diseases Branch of NSW Health, the NSW Health Workforce Development Program and the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council.

In 2006 the Consortium was successful in its application for a second round of funding from 2006 to 2009 to increase social research capacity within the HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases sector.

Workshops

The Consortium runs workshops the aims of which are to assess the research needs of the HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases sector, investigate new and innovative research methods and provide non-researchers with the opportunity to learn about basic research methods. In 2006 five workshops were conducted, as follows:

**Responses to hepatitis C reporting**
Guest speakers included Dr Carla Treloar, NCHSR; Dr kylie valentine, SPRC; Associate Professor Matthew Law, National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research; Stuart Loveday, Hepatitis C Council of NSW; and Michael Lodge, Executive Officer, NSW Users and AIDS Association.

**Finding and reading published research**
Guest speakers were Dr Jeanne Ellard, Dr Limin Mao and Maude Frances, NCHSR.

**Developing a proposal for research with Aboriginal communities**
The guest speaker was Dr Joanne Bryant, in association with Dr Christy Newman, NCHSR.

**HIV prevention, diagnosis and support for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds**
Guest speakers included Dr Augustine Asante and Dr Henrike Körner, NCHSR; Effie Katsaros and Leighan Kerr, Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service; and Associate Professor Lisa Maher, National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research.

**Partnerships in prevention: a summit on hepatitis C prevention**
Guest speakers included Dr Sam Friedman, Center for Drug Use and HIV Research at the National Development and Research Institutes, New York City; Troy Combo, Australian Hepatitis Council; Lisa Ryan, Manager, Harm Minimisation Unit, AIDS/Infectious Diseases Branch, NSW Health; and Dr Carla Treloar, NCHSR.
Internships

The Consortium internships aim to allow employees working within the HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases sector, in either non-government organisations or area health services, to learn something about how research is conducted and how they can be involved in research in the future. The academics involved, on the other hand, benefit from an insight into the front line of HIV and hepatitis C prevention and treatment programs. The internship program allows an intern to work full-time for up to six weeks within either NCHSR or SPRC and is a vital component of the Consortium’s attempt to build research capacity within the sector.

In 2006 interns were Becky Laybutt from Sylvania Community Health Centre, South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service, NSW Health; and Grenville Rose from the Hepatitis C Council of NSW, whose internship will extend into 2007.

Consortium Clearinghouse

The Consortium Clearinghouse, a searchable web-based database, was launched in February 2005. It provides links and access to Australian resources and documents that support research, policy and practice relating to HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and illicit drug use. Clearinghouse records include research articles and reports, conference presentations, policy documents, theses, media releases and community media articles. As a central point of access to material housed in university, government, community and other locations, the Clearinghouse is intended to facilitate resource sharing across the sector, along with understandings of the necessary links between research, policy and practice.

Community liaison

The Research Link project has been funded since 1999 by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing to strengthen the links between social researchers and community-based health promoters and educators in the HIV, sexual health and hepatitis C sectors.

The ongoing aims of the Research Link project are to:

- assist and support evidence-based practice in health promotion interventions
- encourage dialogue between researchers and educators to identify areas needing investigation
- facilitate productive links between researchers and educators.

The project is run by a full-time community liaison officer, whose primary tasks are research dissemination, capacity building and the development of strategic relationships. In 2006 those duties were shared by a part-time community liaison officer who worked exclusively in the hepatitis C sector.

Research dissemination

The Community Liaison Officers organised a series of feedback sessions and workshops designed to bring together researchers, health promoters, educators, workers and community members. These sessions involved discussing the findings of research, reflecting on their implications, and generating feedback on research methodology and future directions.
In 2006 the following feedback sessions were undertaken:

- a feedback session in Brisbane on the results of the Queensland Gay Community Periodic Survey
- a feedback session in Melbourne on the results of the Melbourne Gay Community Periodic Survey and on the findings of the Health in Men study
- a conference workshop entitled ‘The secret life of research’, which provided participants with an introduction to social research, at the HIV Educators Conference of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations
- the launch of the report *Living with HIV and cultural diversity in Sydney* and resulting dissemination workshop
- the launch of the report *Men and women living heterosexually with HIV* and resulting dissemination workshop
- two feedback sessions with staff of ACON (the AIDS Council of NSW), providing an overview of a variety of research findings
- a joint presentation by NCHSR and the Australian Hepatitis Council entitled *Closing the loop: models of research participation and knowledge transfer for hepatitis C communities and social research partnerships*, at the 5th Australian Viral Hepatitis Conference.

The community liaison officers represented NCHSR on a number of boards and committees across the community-based and public health sectors. In 2006 regular meetings were held with stakeholders, and presentations were given to various community organisations on topical issues. The publications *Social research briefs*, funded by NSW Health and co-edited by the Community Liaison Officer, were an important avenue for research dissemination and community engagement.

**NCHSR Charter of community engagement**

Throughout 2005 and 2006, in collaboration with community stakeholders, the community liaison officers formulated the NCHSR *Charter of community engagement* to describe NCHSR’s commitment to best practice in working with communities affected by HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and related diseases. The Charter is now available online at [http://nchsr.arts.unsw.edu.au/reports/charter.pdf](http://nchsr.arts.unsw.edu.au/reports/charter.pdf)

**Collaborations**

Internationally, NCHSR continues to work with researchers in a number of countries including Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, Canada and South Africa, and with a group of researchers who are members of the Global HIV Prevention Working Group. In Australia, NCHSR continues to work collaboratively on several projects with the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, Melbourne, and with the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, UNSW. It also works closely with organisations that support those affected by HIV and hepatitis C.

In 2006 NCHSR also collaborated with:

- 407 Doctors, Sydney
- Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW
- ACON (AIDS Council of NSW)
- AIDS Action Council of ACT
- AIDS Council of South Australia
AIDS/Infectious Diseases Branch, NSW Health
Albion St Clinic
AusAID, Canberra
AusAID, PNG
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations and its state bodies
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
Australian Hepatitis Council and its state bodies
Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League
Barts and The London, Queen Mary, University of London, UK
BBV/STI Program, Department of Human Services, Victoria
Bigge Park Centre (Liverpool Hospital Sexual Health)
Cancer Council, NSW
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, US
Centre for Health Record Linkage
Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice
Centre for Sexual Health and HIV Research, University College London, UK
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust, London, UK
City University, London, UK
Clinical Research Unit of Anxiety and Depression, St Vincent's Hospital
Communicable Diseases Unit, Queensland Health
Department of General Practice, University of Sydney
Department of Health, Western Australia
Department for International Development (DFID), UK
Discipline of General Practice, University of Sydney
Drug and Alcohol Health Services
Health Protection Agency, London, UK
Hepatitis C Council of NSW
HepLink
Heterosexual HIV/AIDS Service, NSW (Pozhet)
Holdsworth House Medical Practice, Sydney
Kirketon Road Centre
Livingstone Road Centre
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK
Medical Psychology Research Unit, School of Psychology, University of Sydney
Medical Research Council Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, Glasgow, Scotland
Mid North Coast Division of General Practice, Coffs Harbour
Mildura Street Surgery, Coffs Harbour
Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service
National African HIV Prevention Programme, London, UK
National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS
National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research
National Development and Research Institutes, Inc.
National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University of Technology, Perth
NewSouth Global, UNSW
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust, London, UK
NSW Department of Corrective Services
NSW Health
NSW Pharmacy Guild
NSW Primary Health Care Research Capacity Building Program
NSW Users and AIDS Association
O'Brien Street Practice and the Care and Prevention Program, Adelaide
Parramatta Sexual Health Clinic
People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW)
People Living with HIV/AIDS (Vic)
PNG Institute for Medical Research, Goroka, PNG
Public Health Association of Australia
Queensland Association for Healthy Communities
Queensland Health
Sax Institute, NSW
School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW
School of Public Health, Fudan University, Shanghai, China
School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies, University College London, London, UK
South Australian Department of Health
South East Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service
St George’s Hospital School of Medicine, London, UK
Sydney Hospital
Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre
Sydney Sexual Health Centre
Taylor Square Private Clinic, Sydney
Terrence Higgins Trust, London, UK
The African Child, London, UK
UNAIDS, PNG
UNAIDS Technical Support Facility, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
UNDP Asia–Pacific Region
University of Bath
University of New Brunswick
University of New England, Armidale
University of Sydney
University of Texas Health Sciences Center, San Antonio, Texas, US
Victorian AIDS Council
Victorian Drug Users Group (VIVAIDS)
Western Australian AIDS Council
Western Australian Centre for Health Promotion Research
Workforce Development Project, NSW Health
World Vision Australia
World Vision International.

HIV/AIDS Library Network

All new items received in the NCHSR library catalogue during 2006 were added to the HIV/AIDS Library Network Database, available online through RMIT University.

The HIV/AIDS Database covers 1980 to the present time and includes journal articles, books, reports and audiovisual titles from the catalogues of the NSW HIV/AIDS Library Network. It deals extensively with clinical, medical, social and psychological aspects of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C and is designed to provide information support for doctors, health care workers and allied professionals, students, researchers, and people with HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C.

The HIV/AIDS Database includes selected holdings from the following library catalogues:

- AIDS Council of NSW
- Albion Street Centre
- Drug and Alcohol Services Library
- Family Planning NSW
- NCHSR.
Committees

NCHSR has established relationships with other research institutions, universities, government bodies, non-government organisations and the community.

In 2006, members of NCHSR served on committees of the following, listed below:

National and international

XVIth International AIDS Conference:
   Track D: (Social, Behavioural and Economic Science) Scientific Program Committee (Susan Kippax)

African HIV Policy Network, UK (John Imrie)

AIDS Impact Conference 2007:
   Scientific Committee (Heather Worth)

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing:
   Hepatitis C Subcommittee of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis (MACASHH) (Susan Kippax)

Australian National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System:
   National Surveillance Committee (Iryna Zablotska)

Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society:
   Scientific Advisory Committee (Susan Kippax)

Bill & Melinda Gates and Kaiser Foundations:
   Global HIV Prevention Working Group (Susan Kippax)

Liverpool VCT and Care, Nairobi, Kenya (John Imrie)

Ministry of Health, Ontario, Canada:
   Routine HIV-Testing Task Force (John Imrie)

National African HIV Prevention Programme (NAHIP), England (John Imrie)

UK Department of Health:
   Syphilis Monitoring Group (John Imrie)

UK Health Protection Agency:
   National Behavioural Surveillance Collaborating Group (John Imrie)

State and community

ACON:
   Alcohol and Other Drug Advisory Committee (Max Hopwood)
   Mental Health Promotion Strategy Reference Group (Martin Holt)

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations:
   Biomedical Prevention Advisory Group (Limin Mao)
   Safe Sex Resource, Development Group (Jeanne Ellard)

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations and National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS Educators Managers Committee:
   Serosorting Working Group (Kane Race)

Australian Hepatitis Council:
   Health Reference Group (Carla Treloar)

Metro Gay Men’s HIV Interagency:
   Peer Education Working Group (Michael Salter)

HIV/AIDS Library Network (Maude Frances)

NSW Health:
   New South Wales Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS (Susan Kippax)
   New South Wales Ministerial Advisory Committee on Hepatitis (Carla Treloar)
   New South Wales Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS and STIs, Health Promotion Sub-Committee (John Imrie, Juliet Richters, Michael Salter)
NSW CALD HIV/AIDS Interagency (Henrike Körner)
Heterosexual HIV/AIDS Service Advisory Group (Asha Persson)
Sexually Transmissible Infections in Gay Men Action Group:
   Alcohol and Other Drugs and Sexual Risk Working Group (Michael Salter)
People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW):
   HIV Visibility/Positive Education Working Group (Michael Salter)
Queensland Association for Healthy Communities:
   Program Advisory Group (Michael Salter)

The University of New South Wales
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
   Dean’s Advisory Committee (Susan Kippax)
   Faculty Web Advisory Committee (Maude Frances)
   Human Research Ethics Advisory Panel, Health and Social Research (Henrike Körner)
   Library Committee (Maude Frances)
   Occupational Health and Safety Committee (Max Hopwood)
   Postgraduate Affairs Committee (Kane Race)
   Research Committee (Heather Worth, Iryna Zablotska)
   Social Sciences Standing Committee (Susan Kippax)
National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research:
   Australian HIV/AIDS Observational Database Steering Committee (Iryna Zablotska)
   Pharmacology and Toxicology Working Group (Iryna Zablotska)
   Primary HIV Infection Working Group (Henrike Körner)
National Centre in HIV Social Research
   Organising Committee of the 9th Social Research Conference on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases, StigmaPleasurePractice (Martin Holt and Robert Reynolds [co-chairs], Erol Digiusto, Rodney McDonald, Christy Newman, Kane Race, Patrick Rawstorne, Juliet Richters, Carla Treloar)

Scholarly journals
NCHSR staff contribute to scholarly journals as members of editorial boards and as peer reviewers.

Editorial board members

AIDS (Susan Kippax)
AIDS Care (Susan Kippax)
AIDS Education and Prevention: An Interdisciplinary Journal (Susan Kippax)
Culture, Health and Sexuality (Heather Worth)
International Journal of Critical Psychology (Susan Kippax)
Reproductive Health Matters (Juliet Richters)
Sexual Health (Juliet Richters)
Sexualities (Susan Kippax)
Sexually Transmitted Infections (John Imrie, Associate Editor)
Peer reviewing for journals

In 2006 NCHSR staff reviewed papers submitted to the following national and international scholarly journals:

African Journal of AIDS Research
AIDS
AIDS and Behavior
AIDS Care
AIDS Education and Prevention
American Ethnologist
Asia–Pacific Journal of Public Health
Australian Feminist Studies
Australian Health Review
Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health
BMC Public Health
British Medical Journal
Cultural Studies Review
Culture, Health and Sexuality
Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases
Drug and Alcohol Review
Ethnicity and Health
Feminism and Psychology: An International Journal
Feminist Media Studies
Health
Health Education Research
Health Psychology
Health, Risk and Society
Health Sociology Review
International Journal for Equity in Health
International Journal of Drug Policy
Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health
Journal of Sociology
Medical Journal of Australia
Reproductive Health Matters
Sexual Health
Sexualities
Sexually Transmitted Diseases
Sexually Transmitted Infections
Social Science and Medicine
Sociological Perspectives
Theory, Culture and Society.
Reviewing other than for journals

Staff at NCHSR have also reviewed grant applications, conference abstracts, strategy documents and other materials for:

5th Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference
9th Social Research Conference on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases
XVI International AIDS Conference, Toronto
18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine
AIDS Fonds, Netherlands
Australian Hepatitis Council
Australian Research Grants Committee
MIT Press
National Health and Medical Research Council, including NHRMC Grant Reviewing Panel
National Hepatitis C Testing Policy, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
South African Human Sciences Research Council
The Hep C Review, Hepatitis C Council of NSW
UK Department for International Development
UK Department of Health
UK Health Technology Assessment
UK Medical Research Council.

Conferences attended

NCHSR staff members attended the following conferences in 2006:

5th Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference, Increasing Access, February, Sydney
7th Rural Victorian Drug and Alcohol Conference, August, Warrnambool
9th Annual CHAPS Conference (C9), March, Leeds, UK
9th Social Research Conference on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases, StigmaPleasurePractice, April, Sydney
11th World Congress on Public Health, August, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
14th International Oral History Conference, Dancing with Memory: Oral History and Its Audiences, July, Sydney
XVI International AIDS Conference, Time to Deliver, August, Toronto, Canada
17th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm, April to May, Vancouver, Canada
18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, October, Melbourne
37th Public Health Association of Australia Annual Conference, September, Sydney
Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs Conference, November, Cairns
Australasian Sexual Health Conference 2006, October, Melbourne
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations HIV Educators Conference, May, Wollongong
Australian Lesbian Medical Association Conference, September, Coffs Harbour
Australian Sociological Association Annual Conference, Sociology for a Mobile World, December, Perth
Biomedicine, Pharmaceuticals and Society roundtable, May, Sydney
CIDM (Centre for Infectious Diseases & Microbiology) Public Health symposium, Sydney
Council of Social Services (NCOSS) 2006 Conference, November, Sydney
Dangerous Consumptions IV: Commodification, Pleasure, Difference, December, Canberra
Design History Society Annual Conference 2006, Design and Evolution, August, Delft, The Netherlands
Discourse and Health Conference, November, Sydney
Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia 2006 Conference, July, Sydney
European Association for the Study of Science and Technology Conference 2006, Reviewing Humanness: Bodies, Technologies and Spaces, Lausanne, Switzerland
Inaugural Conference on Disease-Mongering, April, Newcastle, NSW
Institute for Research on Women and Gender Conference, Against Health: Resisting the Invisible Morality, October, Michigan, US
International Committee of Design History and Studies (ICDHS) 5th Conference, Connecting: A Conference on the Multivocality of Design History and Design Studies, August, Helsinki, Finland
Statewide Needle and Syringe Program Workers Meeting, September, Sydney
Substitution, Enhancement and Autonomy workshop, April, Sydney

Conference hosted by NCHSR

StigmaPleasurePractice, the 9th Social Research Conference on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases, 20–21 April 2006, University of New South Wales, Sydney

The 9th Social Research Conference on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases (HHARD) was hosted by NCHSR in April 2006. Over 140 delegates from the fields of social research, policy and health education travelled from around Australia and overseas to attend.

The conference was a great opportunity for networking, and showcased cutting-edge research on HIV, hepatitis C and drug use from Australia and abroad. Over 60 presentations were given on topics as diverse as the issue of gay men becoming sperm donors, the politics of prosecuting ‘drug mules’, community responses to gay men’s crystal methamphetamine use, the experience of hepatitis C treatment, the impact of living with HIV for heterosexual men and women, and risk factors for HIV seroconversion among affected populations.
The plenary sessions organised for the conference were particularly well received and generated lively discussion throughout the event. Plenary speakers included Dennis Altman (La Trobe University), Ingrid van Beek (Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre), Gary Dowsett (Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society), Bridget Haire (Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations), Annie Madden (Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League), David Menadue (National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS), David Moore (National Drug Research Institute) and Christos Tsiolkas (author of *Loaded* and *Dead Europe*).

The quality of individual papers, plenary sessions and symposia presented at the conference prompted stimulating debate between delegates, and garnered the interest of local and national media, including the ABC. Following the success of StigmaPleasurePractice, NCHSR will host the 10th HHARD conference at the University of New South Wales in 2008.

**Colloquium series 2006**

NCHSR hosts regular colloquia for local and international academics to present their research. In 2006 they were:

16 February  ‘Does anybody in cyberspace wear a condom?’ Real eroticism and virtual sex  
Abigail Groves  
National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales

16 March  Men, sexuality and cultural representations: examining heterosexual men’s negotiation of hegemonic truths of male sexuality  
Dr Julie Mooney-Somers  
Gender, Culture and Health Research Unit: PsyHealth, School of Psychology, University of Western Sydney

13 April  From the ‘methodology wars’ to feminist fractured foundationalism: using FFF to research representations of children in war  
Professor Liz Stanley  
Sociology Department, University of Edinburgh

18 May  Maternal habits: mothering and drug use in Canberra  
Dr Cathy Banwell  
National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University

22 June  Gay/gei: contemporary Japanese ‘gay identity’ in historical context  
Dr Mark McLelland  
School of Social Science, Media and Communication, University of Wollongong

13 July  Heroin overdose responses in Melbourne: how effective are they?  
Associate Professor Paul Dietze, Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre
24 August  HIV in Papua New Guinea: its future social and economic impact
Klara Henderson and Dr Heather Worth
National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales

7 September  Intensifying HIV prevention: what does it mean and can it work?
Professor Peter Aggleton
Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London

12 October  Biowaste and biopolitics: dumping, recycling, privatising
Dr Gay Hawkins¹ and Dr Catherine Waldby²
¹School of Media, Film and Theatre, The University of New South Wales
²School of Social and Philosophical Inquiry, The University of Sydney

7 December  The causes and fatal consequences of alcohol and drug use among young people in CIS countries
Gerry Redmond and Dr Catherine Spooner
Social Policy Research Centre, The University of New South Wales.

Visitors

NCHSR welcomed the following visitors in 2006:

Professor Peter Aggleton
Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London

Professor Raymond Donovan
(Professor Donovan came to NCHSR in January 2006 to take up a three-year position as Adjunct Senior Research Fellow.)

Dr Sam Friedman
National Development and Research Institutes, New York

Professor Yanning Gao
School of Public Health, Fudan University, Shanghai, People’s Republic of China
(Professor Gao was awarded the 2006 Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Award, worth up to A$25000, for a six-month visit to NCHSR.)

Dr Lawrence Hammar
Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea

Professor Harm Hospers
Faculty of Psychology, Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Professor Ian Lubek
Department of Psychology, University of Guelph, Canada

Dr Jennifer Wilkinson
Department of Sociology, University of Sydney.
Education and research training

The interdisciplinary program in Health, Sexuality and Culture at NCHSR offers students the opportunity to undertake postgraduate research in any area of sex, culture, health and/or the politics of medicine. Our MA by Research equips students with the conceptual, practical and critical skills necessary for advanced work in the fields of sex, drugs, body politics and health. NCHSR staff also contribute their expertise across a variety of disciplines by giving lectures and running workshops in both the academic and community sectors.
Health, sexuality and culture program

The postgraduate program in Health, Sexuality and Culture has expanded since the introduction of the MA by Research degree in 2004. By the end of 2006 there were 20 postgraduate students supervised wholly or partly at NCHSR. At this time we also introduced a new degree, the Graduate Diploma by Research, to enable students who did not have independent research experience equivalent to an Honours year, and were thus ineligible for admission into our postgraduate program, to gain such experience. With this new degree we hope to attract budding researchers in the HIV and hepatitis C sectors who might otherwise not have considered postgraduate research. During 2006 we also worked to strengthen links with other programs at the University of New South Wales, in particular with research concentrations emerging within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in gender and sexuality and biosocial studies.

Dr Kane Race took on the role of Postgraduate Research Coordinator in mid-2006, and Magdalena Harris was appointed as student representative at the beginning of the year.

Lectures and workshops

**Dr Augustine Asante** spoke on ‘Barriers to HIV testing among people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds’ at a workshop on HIV prevention, diagnosis and support for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds for the Consortium for Social and Policy Research on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases on August 31.

**Dr Joanne Bryant** was facilitator of ‘Developing a proposal for research with Aboriginal communities’, a workshop for the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council, NSW, funded by the Consortium for Social and Policy Research on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases and held on 19 May 2006 at the University of New South Wales. The content of the workshop was developed in collaboration with Dr Christy Newman.

**Jeanne Ellard** spoke on ‘Agreements within relationships and HIV prevention’ at the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations’ Research into Practice workshop on Relationship Agreements in February 2006. Jeanne also delivered a lecture on qualitative methods at Workshop 14 of the Consortium for Social and Policy Research on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases in May. She delivered a workshop entitled ‘Serosorting: part of the problem or part of the solution’ at the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations HIV Educators Conference in May, in collaboration with Limin Mao, Dean Murphy and Kane Race. Jeanne spoke on ‘Gay men, responsibility and agency’ at the AFAO workshop on Criminalisation of HIV Transmission in November.

**Maude Frances** provided training on the use of the Clearinghouse of the Consortium for Social and Policy Research on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases at the Greater Southern Area Health Service in Queanbeyan in August, at the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League in October, at the Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Initiative 2005–2008 Multilateral Meeting in November, and at the Greater Western Area Health Service in Orange, Dubbo and Broken Hill in November.

**Dr Suzanne Fraser** and **Dr Kylie Valentine** collaborated with Dr Celia Roberts from the University of Lancaster, UK, to organise a one-day workshop entitled ‘Substitution, enhancement, autonomy’. This was run to coincide with the 9th Social Research Conference on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases, StigmaPleasurePractice, held at NCHSR in April. The workshop aimed to explore the connections within medical care between ideas of dependence, rationality, volition and knowledge, as well as the broad themes of substitution,
enhancement and autonomy. It focused specifically on drugs (both licit and illicit), pharmaceutical products and other aspects of medical treatment, and the clinical encounter.

Max Hopwood delivered a lecture entitled ‘Resilience and coping during interferon-based treatment for hepatitis C infection’ at the HepLink Interagency, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, in March. He spoke at the Hepatitis Council of Queensland’s National Hepatitis C Awareness Week Seminar in Brisbane in October about self-management, disclosure of being in treatment for hepatitis C and subsequent discrimination. In November, at the Corrective Services Academy, Brush Farm, Max gave a lecture entitled ‘The psychosocial impacts of treatment for hepatitis C’ to nurses working for Justice Health.

Dr John Imrie spoke on ‘Increasing sexually transmitted infection morbidity among HIV-positive men who have sex with men: is there an easy explanation?’ at the Royal College of Physicians Specialist Registrar Training Day, South of England Group, in London in March.

Professor Susan Kippax provided a paper with Dr Iryna Zablotska to the Victorian Department of Human Services on ‘Changes in behaviour of gay men in the context of increases in HIV’ at a roundtable of researchers, community representatives and policy makers in March. Also in March, Professor Kippax gave the plenary presentation, entitled ‘The treatment–prevention debate: public or privatised health?’, at the Implementation Forum, run by NSW Health, for the new NSW HIV/AIDS and STI strategies. Professor Kippax also spoke at the AIDS, Law and Human Rights in Southern Africa workshop at Pretoria University, South Africa, in July.

Dr Henrike Körner gave two presentations at the launch and feedback session of her report Living with HIV and cultural diversity in Sydney in March, entitled ‘Living with HIV and cultural diversity: migration, diagnosis and access to care’ and ‘Living with HIV and cultural diversity: social relationships, disclosure and support’. She also spoke on ‘Managing stigma, disclosure and social relationships’ at Workshop 15 of the Consortium for Social and Policy Research on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases in August.

Dr Limin Mao gave a guest lecture on ‘Social aspects of HIV/AIDS’ to the undergraduate course Human Behaviour 2 at the School of Social Work, University of New South Wales. She spoke on ‘The role of serosorting and HIV transmission’ at the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Education Managers Forum on 16 March and on ‘Factors related to HIV transmission: update from the Health in Men (HIM) study’ at the HIV and STI Strategies Implementation Forum of NSW Health on 22 March. She also presented on ‘Finding and reading published research’ at Workshop 14 of the Consortium for Social and Policy Research on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases on 16 May.

Dr Asha Persson spoke on the findings of the research report ‘Men and women living heterosexually with HIV’ at the launch of the report and feedback workshop on 29 November.

Dr Kane Race provided two lectures on ‘Gender and pharmaceuticals’ for Women’s Studies at the University of New South Wales. He collaborated with Jeanne Ellard, Limin Mao and Dean Murphy on a serosorting workshop for the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) HIV Educators Conference in May, and he spoke at the AFAO Criminalisation Workshop in November 2006 on ‘Responsibility, recognition and unprotected gay sex’. Kane also provided an information session on postgraduate opportunities at the NCHSR conference StigmaPleasurePractice in April.

Dr Robert Reynolds delivered two lectures in September to Women’s Studies at the University of New South Wales on the history of homosexuality in Australia in the post-war period.

Dr Juliet Richters spoke at a seminar held by the University of New South Wales’ Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences on how to get published in a journal, and provided a lecture on the Australian Study of Health and Relationships at Sydney University’s Post-Registration Sexual Health Nurses Course.
Michael Salter worked with Martin Holt and Limin Mao to develop a workshop called ‘The secret life of research: a workshop on understanding social research’ for the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations HIV Educators Conference in May.

Dr Heather Worth spoke with Klara Henderson at an NCHSR colloquium on ‘HIV in Papua New Guinea: its future social and economic impact’ in August, and delivered a paper on ‘Human rights and sexuality’ at the Initiative on Health and Human Rights in December in Sydney.

Dr Iryna Zablotska gave two lectures at the University of Sydney as part of the Masters of International Public Health course. The first lecture, entitled ‘Sexual transmission of HIV’, was delivered in July and the second, ‘Family planning in low-income countries’, was given in August. She also spoke on alcohol use and HIV incidence in Uganda to staff of the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research in February, and to staff at NCHSR in September.

Postgraduate students

In 2006 there were seven PhD students enrolled with NCHSR

Sexual attitudes and behaviour of international backpackers visiting Australia

**Cari Egan**

Using theories derived from anthropology, sociology and psychology, this project examines the sexual attitudes and behaviour of young international travellers to Australia, specifically comparing their casual sexual behaviour and use of condoms prior to and during travel. In addition to exploring travellers’ sexual behaviour both quantitatively and qualitatively, this study will also explore the perceptions held by hostel and sexual health/travel clinic employees of travellers’ sexual safety while abroad. The importance of self, adventure, liminoid space and place for the traveller will also be explored.

Supervisors: Dr Juliet Richters and Professor Susan Kippax (NCHSR)

Press ‘enter’: information technologies and the textual construction of sex

**Abigail Groves**

Generated by new information technologies, ‘cybersex’ has emerged as a new site of sexuality within popular culture. This project examines the cybersex text and its implications for discourses of technology, subjectivity and the body. Utilising qualitative data drawn from interviews with authors of these texts, the project also examines users’ experiences of internet sexuality, as well as their ethical practices in generating the collaborative text of cybersex.

Supervisors: Dr Heather Worth and Dr Kane Race (NCHSR)

Living with hepatitis C in Auckland and Sydney: a comparative study

**Magdalena Harris**

This qualitative research project compares the lived experiences of people with hepatitis C in Auckland and Sydney, focusing on issues of social support, stigma, disclosure and treatment options. The study will draw upon 20 semi-structured
Education and research training

Interviews conducted in Auckland in 2004, and a further 30 interviews conducted with individuals living with the virus in Sydney. The project is theoretically informed by the sociology of chronic illness, in particular the concepts of biographical disruption and illness narrative.

Supervisors: Dr Suzanne Fraser and Dr Kylie Valentine (NCHSR)

Safe-sex campaigns in Australia and New Zealand

**Justin McNab**

In New South Wales and New Zealand in the mid-1990s, AIDS councils launched two very different safe-sex campaigns aimed at increasing safer sexual practices in gay communities, particularly within gay men's primary relationships. This qualitative study will research and compare these campaigns by reviewing literature and other materials from or about the campaigns themselves, interviewing key HIV/AIDS prevention workers in New South Wales and New Zealand, and analysing qualitative interview data collected by NCHSR in which gay men were asked about issues that the New South Wales campaign hoped to address. This comparison will be situated in the wider context of social and public health policy and will also attempt to tease out some of the assumptions underlying public health and policy messages and campaigns.

Time frame: 2004–2007
Supervisors: Dr Heather Worth and Dr Robert Reynolds (NCHSR)

Understandings of parenting and parenthood among gay men involved in known donor insemination or surrogacy

**Dean Murphy**

An increasing number of gay men are becoming sperm donors and entering into parenting arrangements either through known donor insemination or via surrogacy agreements (usually negotiated through agencies based in the United States). This project will examine these men's understandings and social meanings of parenting and parenthood. Of particular interest are motivations for becoming a sperm donor, understandings of family and kinship and relatedness, and the production of a 'known sperm donor' identity. Data will be collected through interviews in Australia and the United States and analysis of advertisements on gay and lesbian parenting websites.

Time frame: 2004–2008
Supervisors: Dr Suzanne Fraser (NCHSR) and Dr Marsha Rosengarten (University of London)

Identity, agency and social change: exploring hepatitis C as a site for social movement

**Paul Simpson**

Borrowing from theories stemming from psychology, sociology and political science, identity and agency will be explored in people affected by hepatitis C. Specifically, ethnographic research methods will be employed to examine a network of people affected by hepatitis C who are engaged in protecting the health and human rights of illicit drug users. This research will consider available democratic and biomedical interventions around hepatitis C and the political possibilities of those affected by hepatitis C, and will add to current theories on identity and social movements.

Supervisors: Dr Kylie Valentine and Dr Limin Mao (NCHSR)
Sexual meanings and subcultures among homosexually active Sri Lankan men

Matthew Tyne

Using ethnographic research methods, this project explores sexual practices and subcultures among homosexually active men in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It will document how these men socialise, organise and create sexual meanings in the context of local attitudes to homosexuality, criminalisation and internationalist queer influences. In addition, the study will gauge opinion from health and community activists, as well as from the men themselves, on the vulnerability of homosexually active men to HIV and to what extent interventions have addressed these vulnerabilities.

Time frame: 2004–2007
Supervisors: Dr Heather Worth and Dr Asha Persson (NCHSR)

Implicit and explicit attitudes of health care workers and their hepatitis-C-positive clients: is this related to quality of care?

Loren Brener

This research examines the health care experiences of people who have hepatitis C and assesses how the attitudes and behaviours of both clients and their health care workers affect health care experience, quality of care and treatment outcomes. It addresses some limitations of previous research by using various instruments, not only self-report measures, to assess both the implicit and explicit attitudes of the target groups.

Supervisors: Professor Susan Kippax (NCHSR) and Associate Professor William von Hippel (School of Psychology)

Factors influencing men’s participation in programs for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Tanzania

Michael Burke

This study examines the role of men in community acceptance and support of opportunities to reduce the risk of vertical transmission of HIV in a rural African setting. Factors and themes related to gender roles, stigma and communication are explored.

Supervisors: Professor John Kaldor (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research) and Professor Susan Kippax (NCHSR)

HIV testing, condom use and agreements in gay men’s relationships

Ben Bavinton

This project will examine how men make sense of their relationships with other men in relation to both technologies such as testing, condom use and negotiated safety agreements, and discourses such as romance, pleasure and risk.

Time frame: 2004–2008
Supervisors: Dr Kane Race and Dr Martin Holt (NCHSR)
Dynamics of subjection and subjectification in the PLWHA movement  
**Glenn Flanagan**  
This project will examine how stigma has continued to produce identity in different ways at different historical points of the PLWHA (people living with HIV/AIDS) movement. Through a study of key texts of the local movement, this study will look at how and why some of these processes take place.  
Supervisors: Dr Asha Persson and Dr Kane Race (NCHSR)

The relevance of gender and sexuality to self-identity among homosexually active men in Thailand and Australia  
**David Fowler**  
This project will examine the relative importance of gender and sexuality in self-identity among homosexually active men in Australia and Thailand. Relevant research from both countries will be reviewed and additional research undertaken to identify similarities and differences in the relative importance of, and the relationship between, gender and sexuality in constructions of identity.  
Supervisors: Dr Kane Race and Dr Heather Worth (NCHSR)

Barriers to hepatitis C treatment among Vietnamese people in south-western Sydney  
**Melissa Fraser**  
Using semi-structured, in-depth interviews, this project aims to better understand the views of hepatitis C treatments among the Vietnamese community in south-western Sydney.  
Time frame: 2004–2007  
Supervisors: Dr Carla Treloar and Dr Henrike Körner (NCHSR)

The dynamics of shame: implications for the drug and alcohol counsellor when working in residential rehab  
**Rebecca Gray**  
Using ‘shame’ as an axis, this research aims to explore the relationship between counsellor and client in residential rehab and then how this therapeutic dynamic is affected by the institution. The research will include an analysis of the language used in the promotional material of these services, as well as qualitative data drawn from interviews with counsellors who work in this clinical space.  
Supervisors: Dr Robert Reynolds and Dr Kylie Valentine (NCHSR)

‘Getting on with it?’ Understanding the employment experiences of people living with hepatitis C  
**Nadine Krejci**  
This study explores the employment experiences of people living with chronic hepatitis C. The primary focus of the research is the impact of hepatitis C on people’s work lives and the ways in which potential or real disruptions (both physical and social) are managed. It is anticipated that a better understanding will also be gained of the ways in which labour market participation enables or constrains the medical or self-management of this chronic viral infection.  
Supervisors: Dr Carla Treloar (NCHSR) and Dr Tony Eardley (SPRC)
Impact and effectiveness of sexually explicit HIV/AIDS social marketing campaigns targeting the gay community

**Brent Mackie**

Government and non-government health organisations target the gay community with sexually explicit social marketing campaigns that aim to educate about preventing the transmission of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmissible infections. This study examines the impact and effectiveness of these health promotion campaigns.

Time frame: 2004–2007
Supervisors: Dr Robert Reynolds (NCHSR) and Dr Leong Chan (College of Fine Arts)

‘More than a liver’: the role of the social work practitioner in hepatitis C treatment centres

**Marlize Mouton**

In this study the roles and actions of social workers in hepatitis C treatment centres are explored through interviews with social workers in the field, in order to identify and propose a suggested model of best practice for social workers in the field of hepatitis C treatment.

Time frame: 2004–2007
Supervisors: Dr Carla Treloar (NCHSR) and Dr Elizabeth Fernandez (School of Social Work)

Cultural understandings of health and human rights, and their implications for global HIV policy development and implementation

**Edward Reis**

This project seeks to assess the adequacy of concepts of human rights in relation to cultural understandings of health. It will examine the implications of human rights concepts for the development and implementation of global HIV policy.

Supervisors: Dr Kane Race and Dr Heather Worth (NCHSR)

Oral sex: impacts of sexual identity on sexual practices

**Jackie Ruddock**

Drawing upon reference materials from media and popular culture, this qualitative study will examine representations of oral sex, in particular how oral sex is framed in relation to broader sexual practices, and associated cultural meanings of health and well-being in contemporary Australia.

Supervisors: Dr Juliet Richters and Dr Heather Worth (NCHSR)

An investigation of information needs and information-seeking practices of people with hepatitis C

**Maude Frances**

This study aims to understand how people with hepatitis C use the internet, in conjunction with other media, to access information. By situating internet use within people’s everyday realities, the research will provide insights into the sociocultural conditions that facilitate or impede its use. Particular attention
will be paid to the impact on information practices of discrimination and stigma experienced as a result of having hepatitis C. Drawing on theories from sociology and information studies, as well as on findings from public health research, the study will enable an integrated approach to providing appropriate information for this group. Qualitative and quantitative data collection were completed during 2005 and data analysis was completed in 2006.

Supervisors: Associate Professor Connie Wilson (School of Information Systems, Technology and Management) and Dr Carla Treloar (NCHSR)

Living with hepatitis C: a psychosocial exploration of hepatitis C infection and its treatment
Max Hopwood

This thesis applies a mixed-method approach to investigate the lived experience of hepatitis C infection. Data were obtained from a cross-sectional survey of 504 people and in-depth interviews with 45 people living with hepatitis C in New South Wales. Analyses explore hepatitis C diagnosis, hepatitis-C-related discrimination and interferon-based treatments for the viral infection. The thesis comprises aspects of both the interpretive and critical theoretical perspectives used in the social sciences. The findings will inform health education and promotion to improve the health and quality of life of those living with hepatitis C.

Supervisors: Professor Harm Hospers (Department of Experimental Psychology, Faculty of Psychology, University of Maastricht, Netherlands) and Dr Carla Treloar (NCHSR).

Theses examined

NCHSR staff are often called upon to examine honours, masters and doctoral theses at other universities. Because of confidentiality agreements, full details cannot be given here. Theses marked in 2006 included:

PhD, Medical Faculty, University of Toronto
DEd, Education, Deakin University
PhD, Faculty of Education and Arts, Edith Cowan University

One NCHSR staff member is completing his doctorate from Maastricht University, Netherlands
Publications
Monographs


Gay community periodic survey reports


Book chapters


### Refereed conference proceedings


### Other publications


Conference presentations


presented at the XVI International AIDS Conference, Time to Deliver, Toronto, Canada.


Harris, M. (2006, February). *'I think there is no support at all; you are a total lone wolf': The importance of social supports in coping with hepatitis C.* Paper presented at the 5th Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference, Increasing Access, Sydney.

Harris, M. (2006, February). *'I was told I have five years to live': Hepatitis C and the medical encounter.* Paper presented at the 5th Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference, Increasing Access, Sydney.

Harris, M., (2006, April). *'I felt like it was a death sentence, a death sentence to all my dreams and hopes.' Hepatitis C: Stigma, narrative and meaning.* Paper presented at the 9th Social Research Conference on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases, StigmaPleasurePractice, Sydney.

Harris, M., (2006, October). *Chronic illness, stigma and social exclusion.* Invited workshop/seminar presentation at the Institute for Research on Women and Gender Conference, Against Health: Resisting the Invisible Morality, Michigan, US.

Harris, M., Bones, K., Malpas, G., Middleton, P., & Loveday, S. (2006, April). *'It serves you right you silly bugger; you should have died in the gutter anyway.' Living with hepatitis C: Stigma, disclosure, and support.* Paper presented at the 9th Social Research Conference on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases, StigmaPleasurePractice, Sydney.


## NCHSR funding (excluding GST) received in 2006

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## Statement of financial performance for the year ended 31 December 2006

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*Excludes debtors (unpaid invoices)