

Results Definitions of sexting, the scope of the problem and the role of technology were key themes across the documents. Safeguarding prioritised the welfare of young people with advice and scenarios on legal issues. Immediate and longer-term consequences considered peer pressure, coercion, bullying and control, psycho-social distress, reputation damage and internet related crime. Advice focused on how to say 'no', minimising risk, dealing with the problem, relationship advice, safety and harm reduction including how to use social media.

Discussion Sexting may play an important part in normative sexual development and sexual enquiry. Online digital relationships also create concern for some children and young people. This research found that there was a wealth of information and advice available and the nature of it is consistent across agencies. Harm reduction could be strengthened through a multi-agency commitment to promote inclusive, cross-curricular online safety and healthy peer relationship messages.

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THE CLAP TRAP: THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PARTNER NOTIFICATION FOR GONORRHOEA IN MSM IN AN LGBT COMMUNITY SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

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Introduction High rates of partner change, multiple casual partners, and complex sexual networks are thought to contribute to outbreaks of *Neisseria gonorrhoea* (GC) in men who have sex with men (MSM), who account for 42% of diagnoses in the UK. Prompt, appropriate treatment and effective partner notification are key to reducing transmission. We audited partner notification for GC in MSM attending an LGBT community sexual health clinic.

Methods A retrospective audit over 12 months (2015–16). A total of 33 episodes of GC were diagnosed in 31 patients. Data was recorded on a spreadsheet for analysis.

Results 25(76%) were asymptomatic. 29(88%) underwent triple site testing and 4(12%) dual site. Gonorrhoea was detected in the pharynx in 23(70%), urethra in 7(21%), and rectum in 14(42%). 7(21%) had dual and 2(6%) triple site infection. 29/33(88%) were informed of the diagnosis within 10 days (target 95%). 28/33(85%) were treated within 2 weeks. 6 attended as contacts of GC and were treated on the day they attended. A total of 109 contacts were given. 50 (46%) were untraceable. Of the traceable contacts, 31/59 (53%) were confirmed as treated, 23 at the same clinic. A total of 0.9 contacts were treated per index case (target 0.6).

Discussion The high frequency of unknown casual partners in MSM with GC means there is often inadequate information to trace partners. Nevertheless, this audit has shown good outcomes for partner notification in a community LGBT sexual health clinic. This should contribute to reducing onward transmission in a high risk MSM population.

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THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL FEATURES OF HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS CASES IN A CORK STI CLINIC

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Introduction Herpes simplex virus (HSV) is the leading cause of genital lesions worldwide. The transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STI's) and human behaviour are intrinsically linked. A clear understanding of the characteristics that increase the risk of acquiring these infections is vital for STI control. European evidence lists large intracountry and intercountry differences in the epidemiology of genital herpes across Europe

Methods Retrospective chart review, examining demographic, behavioural and diagnostic data of patients who attended a Cork STI clinic from 2011 to 2015 inclusive. Multivariate logistic regression models were used to study the epidemiological features of patients with a genital HSV infection (n=296) in comparison to a control group of patients with negative screen (n=307).

Results

Females (OR 3.942, P<0.001) and those aged between 25 to 30 years (OR: 8.397, P<0.001) had increased odds of acquiring genital HSV. Subjects of non-Irish ethnicity (P=0.032) and females who engaged in sexual intercourse younger than 17 years of age were more likely to present with the infection (OR: 7.427, P<0.01). Alcohol and drug use were not significant predicting factors of HSV infection. High number of sexual partners was not associated with increased risk of the infection. Consistent condom use was very low in all subjects.

Discussion Public health campaigns directed at young people, especially those engaging in sexual activity at a young age and non-Irish ethnic groups, may be beneficial. Increased distribution of condoms to at risk age groups should be considered. It is relevant to public policy design that classic risk taking behaviours were not associated with increased risk of genital HSV infection.

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THE USE OF ANABOLIC STEROIDS IN MALES ATTENDING A SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

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Introduction A 2013 study by Public Health England stated 'Men who inject anabolic steroids (AS) and tanning drugs are at higher risk of HIV and viral hepatitis'. Injectors of AS are now the biggest client group at many needle and syringe programmes in the UK. The British Crime Survey on AS use among 16–59 year olds in England and Wales found in 2009/2010 0.7% had ever used and 0.2% had used in the last year. There have been no studies looking specifically at prevalence in sexual health clinic attendees and we wondered whether this might represent a different population.

Methods All male attendees to the sexual health clinic were invited to participate in the survey by self-completing an anonymous questionnaire about use of anabolic steroids, basic demographic details and details of known pre-existing blood borne virus infections.

Results 96 respondents. Age range: 3% <18, 55% 18–25, 42% >25. 82% self-identified as heterosexual. Only 1 patient admitted to having known HIV infection, none to hepatitis and 5 individuals opted not to answer this question. 4.1% admitted previous use of anabolic steroids. All were heterosexual, had injected and had used within the last year.