Background Associations between online sex seeking and increased risk for STDs and HIV among men who have sex with men (MSM) typically rely on convenience samples. We examined the prevalence of internet and mobile app use for finding sex partners among a nationally representative sample of MSM.

Methods We analyzed 2011–2017 data from the National Survey of Family Growth, a nationally representative sample of the civilian, non-institutionalized US population (15–44 years). The analytic sample was comprised of males who reported one or more same-sex partners in the past year. We also assessed associations between online sex-seeking and STD risk, sexual health service use, and condom use.

Results Of 13,320 male respondents, 442 (3.0%) reported sex with a man in the past year, of whom 227 (53.7%) had met a partner online. Between MSM who met partners online and those who did not, we found no differences by age, education, race/ethnicity or socioeconomic status. MSM with online partners were more likely to identify as gay (69.5% vs 56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.02), STD testing (57.4% versus 39.6%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more insertive (56.0% versus 40.4%, p <0.0001), and more inser...