

MEDIA RELEASE
Tuesday 6 June, 2006

JUST SEX

Two-thirds of young Australians aged 18-25 (69 per cent) are practising safe sex and only one-third (32 per cent) have engaged in a one-night stand with a stranger, according to a Just Car Insurance youth survey*.

“Our results show that two-thirds of Australian youth take precautions in their sexual relationships, which is very positive when you consider that almost half of our survey respondents are single,” said Andrew O’Hara, National Manager of Just Car Insurance.

“Our survey shows youth are quite liberal about sex but ensure they are also being responsible and smart in their choices.

“One-quarter (28 per cent) think that at their age it is not OK to have had multiple sexual partners and only 32 per cent of respondents said they had engaged in a one-night stand.

“Almost one-quarter (23 per cent) have not had sex in the last 12 months – a scenario actually more common among men than women (30 per cent versus 17 per cent).

“When 64 per cent say that they are happier when in a romantic relationship (62 per cent of women and 66 per cent of men), it stands to reason that sex is more than just superficial for today’s youth.

“The trend is that women are somewhat more conservative than men. Young women are less likely to believe it is OK to have sex before age 18 (51 per cent versus 61 per cent of men), fewer women have had multiple partners (47 per cent versus 53 per cent) and women are more likely to always practice safe sex (73 per cent versus 66 per cent).

“This trend of women having a more conservative view is also evident in young Australians’ views about workplace relationships – women are less likely than men to believe it’s OK to have an intimate relationship with a work colleague (57 per cent of men versus 44 per cent of women) and they are less likely than men to say it’s OK to flirt with your boss (15 per cent of women versus 32 per cent of men),” said Mr O’Hara.

As well as differences between the sexes, there are differences between different income brackets in attitudes towards flirting with superiors: 25 per cent of those who earn less than \$10K; 23 per cent of those earning \$10-45K, 30 per cent of those earning more than \$45K, all thought it was OK to flirt with the boss.

“It seems that the more someone earns, the more appropriate they think it is to flirt with the boss – an interesting finding considering the workforce Generation Y have grown up in – one where policies against sexual harassment are a standard part of job training and orientation,” said Mr O’Hara.

Relationships and mobile phones going hand in hand

Four in ten young Australians (42 per cent) agree that text messaging has played a key role in the start of a romantic relationship and a similar proportion (37 per cent) regularly flirt using SMS.

One in three (34 per cent) have sent their most recent partner a sexually explicit SMS – this proportion is higher among women than men (37 per cent versus 32 per cent).

* National survey of 1053 18-25 year olds conducted on behalf of Just Car Insurance by independent research company, *amr interactive*.

“Technology plays an important role in romantic relationships for young people whether it is starting a relationship, flirting or even ending a relationship – one in ten young people (10 per cent) admit they have broken up with someone via an SMS which seems a bit harsh,” said Mr O’Hara.

“On a more positive note, one-quarter of young people (28 per cent) have met someone via online/Internet dating: this is higher among men than women (31 per cent compared to 24 per cent).

Where on earth do you meet someone these days?

When those in a relationship were asked how they met their current partner, the top three ways were through family/friends (35 per cent), Uni/school/TAFE (17 per cent) and via the Internet (11 per cent).

According to the survey, the top three ‘best ways to deal with breaking up’ are to spend lots of time with friends and family (43 per cent), meet someone else (15 per cent), and talk about the issues with the person who you broke up with (15 per cent).

“Friends and family have a major influence on young people and their relationships: our survey found they are the number one way to meet people, and the number one way to help deal with a break up,” said Mr O’Hara.

Top ten places young Aussies are doing ‘it’

1. At their parents’ place when parents aren’t home (38%)	6. At their own house (17%)
2. At a friends place (34%)	7. At work (5%)
3. At their parents’ place when parents are home (31%)	8. In a nightclub (4%)
4. In a car (26%)	9. At their partner’s house (3%)
5. In a public area (23%)	10. At a hotel (1%)

Men are more likely to have sex at a friend’s place (40 per cent compared to 29 per cent of women) and in a public area (28 per cent versus 18 per cent of women). However, women are more likely to have sex at their own home than their male counterparts (28 per cent of women versus 10 per cent of men),” said Mr O’Hara.

Dating etiquette and Generation Y – women are feminists and men value a bit of chivalry

Men are more likely to believe that feminism and political correctness have confused the dating/relationship rules (54 per cent versus 39 per cent of women) and they are more likely to think that men should always pay on the first date (25 per cent of men versus 18 per cent of women).

“Young men still seem to have a few old-fashioned values, while it is the young women who are holding their ground on equality. Two-thirds of young people surveyed (65 per cent) say that doors being opened for women is old-fashioned and this view is much higher among women than men (74 per cent compared to 55 per cent),” said Mr O’Hara.

Will you marry me?

Of the 18-25 year olds surveyed, half (49 per cent) say they have already met the person with whom they want to spend the rest of their life.

“Again, there are clear differences between the sexes on the topic of having found a life-long partner – only 36 per cent of men believe they have found ‘the one’ but 62 per cent of women say they have. Unsurprisingly, men are more likely to say that it is hard to find someone they want to marry (58 per cent of men versus 42 per cent of women),” said Mr O’Hara.

Just Car Insurance specialises in insurance for young drivers and drivers being insured for the first time. Just Car Insurance is underwritten by AAMI, one of Australia’s leading car and home insurance companies.

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