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# Behind closed doors

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**M**OST young adults we spoke to seem to know of "friends of friends" who have been to sex parties. It seems like sex parties are not that uncommon, but it's certainly not something that people talk about openly. None of these "friends" wanted to talk to us directly; they only agreed to share their stories through people they trust.

It seems that everyone is lying low for the moment, spooked by the recent publicity on sex parties.

It may be due to the fear of being busted by the authorities, or of their friends finding out that they have betrayed the group's unspoken code of secrecy, or of other people somehow finding out about their extracurricular activity.

Those who engage in group sex are generally discreet and careful as they fear raids by religious authorities, and also because they believe what they do behind closed doors are private matters.

Maya, 24, said she didn't even believe sex parties happened in Malaysia until she was invited to one last year. She has only attended sex parties among friends she knows.

Strangers are never admitted into the group as it would be too risky, and a new member has to be approved by everyone.

Maya and her friends usually organise their parties during holidays, and they do it over social networking sites and by sending text messages.

"Our groups are smaller, about seven to eight regular people, with about three or four girls. Bigger parties are risky because then it would have to be held at someone's house or apartment, locations which aren't as safe as hotel rooms," said Maya, explaining that nobody really cares what goes on in hotels.

According to her, there is a lot of chatting and dancing at the party before sex comes into the picture.

"Usually we sit around, talk and dance like people do in regular parties. Sometimes we watch pornography. When the music is on,

we dance and pair up and swap partners later on," she shared.

However, some sex parties are unplanned, but happen when people become less inhibited after consuming drugs and alcohol.

Adam didn't even know he was walking into a sex party when he attended his first one at age 22.

"They don't call it a sex party because that's being crass and 'low class'. They just say it's a 'happening' event. I got invited because I was known as a guy whom girls liked to have around. But they usually invite people based on flimsy references such as they are good-looking or cute," he noted.

He reckons people engage in group sex because "it enables a person to obtain gratification and affirmation with no commitments from several people, and of course, a lot of people just want to have fun."

Most people who attend sex parties like to think that they are making informed choices, but not everyone is so vigilant about protecting themselves from sexually

transmitted diseases (STDs).

"Condoms are always available but it is optional. We usually buy boxes of them, but tend to forget to use them. But we know everybody in the group, so it's not really necessary," said Maya.

Adam said that sometimes the men would take advantage of the situation, and persuade the girls to have unprotected sex. He once distributed condoms at the parties, and was promptly labelled a "party pooper".

Maya is also not too worried about contracting HIV.

"I don't know anyone who has gone for HIV treatment. What for, really? Because we look and feel fine, and nobody has said anything so there is no reason to. I think we are all more worried about getting pregnant, but we have morning after pills," she continued.

To Maya, attending sex parties is her way of having fun. She attended three last year.

"I am not harming anyone," she said.

Adam, meanwhile, has stopped going to sex parties because it's just not his thing.



**Enter at your own risk:** There are different types of sex parties – those organised by friends, and those organised by exclusive groups, which occasionally have a theme to them. — Pictures posed by models

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**Unsafe:** Though condoms are readily available at sex parties, some sources reveal that those involved often assume they are safe from sexually transmitted diseases.

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