

Assessing the hiv prevention needs of trans and nonbinary participants in the australian gay community periodic surveys 2019-23

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Background:

The HIV-related needs of transgender and gender diverse (TGD) people in Australia are under-researched, affecting the effective use and targeting of HIV and sexual health services. This study used behavioural surveillance data to compare TGD and cisgender participants on a range of factors, including demographics, sexual health, and the use of HIV testing and PrEP.

Methods:

All participant responses from the Gay Community Periodic Surveys in 2019-23 were included. Participants were classified into three groups: transgender men, nonbinary people, and cisgender men (women are not eligible to participate). Multivariable multinomial logistic regression was used to compare the groups (with cisgender men as the reference group).

Results:

41,883 survey responses were included (974/2.3% from trans men and 1,117/2.7% from nonbinary people). Compared with cis men, trans men and nonbinary people were younger, more likely to identify as bisexual or queer (than gay), and less likely to have a degree or to be employed full-time. Compared with cis men, trans men were less likely and non-binary participants more likely to be socially engaged with gay men. Trans men were more likely to have never tested for HIV (31.8% vs. 9.0%, AOR=4.61, 95%CI=3.98–5.34, $p<.001$) and to not be on PrEP (74.2% vs. 56.6%, AOR=2.32, 95%CI=1.60–3.17, $p<.001$). Non-binary participants were more likely than cis men to have never tested for HIV (19.9% vs. 9.0%, AOR=2.35, 95%CI=2.00–2.75, $p<.001$), as likely as cis men to have tested in the past year (60.0% vs. 63.9%), and similarly likely to be on PrEP (23.9% vs. 30.8%, AOR=0.86, 95%CI=0.66–1.11, $p=0.25$).

Conclusion:

Encouraging HIV testing and PrEP uptake among trans men and nonbinary people could help improve HIV prevention coverage in these population groups. Free or low-cost services that are gender inclusive may be particularly important for gender diverse people on lower incomes.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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