

DIFFERENCES IN HIV PREVENTION STRATEGIES USED BY GAY, BI+ AND QUEER MEN AND NON-BINARY PEOPLE WITH MALE, FEMALE, AND NON-BINARY CASUAL PARTNERS

Broady T¹, Smith AKJ¹, Bavinton BR², Gray J³, Lobo R⁴, Chan C², MacGibbon J¹, Mao L¹, Birbilis E⁵, Holt M¹

¹ Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW Sydney

² Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney

³ Health Equity Matters, Sydney

⁴ School of Population Health, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia

⁵ Victorian Department of Health, Melbourne, Victoria

Background:

Since 2024, the GBQ+ Community Periodic Surveys have included questions about casual sex with male, female and non-binary partners, to be more inclusive of gay, bi+ and queer (GBQ+) men and non-binary people's sex lives. This analysis reports on differences in HIV prevention strategies according to the gender/s of participants' casual partners, and factors associated with prevention coverage (use of condoms, PrEP, or U=U).

Methods:

GBQ+ people were recruited at LGBTQ festivals/venues and online between 2024-2025. Participants reporting any casual sex in the previous six months were included for analysis. Comparisons were made between non-exclusive groups of participants reporting casual sex with male, female, and non-binary partners. Factors associated with HIV prevention coverage were assessed using logistic regression.

Results:

Between 2024-2025, 9,177 participants reported casual sex in the previous six months (58.2% of all participants). Median age was 36 years, 78.5% were gay, 14.1% bi/pan, 92.1% cisgender men, 1.8% transgender men, 4.9% non-binary. Most participants (95.9%) reported male partners; smaller proportions reported non-binary (11.1%) or female (9.1%) partners. PrEP use was highest among participants with both male and non-binary partners (73.4%) and lowest among those with only female partners (9.8%). Consistent condom use was highest with female partners (29.2%), followed by non-binary (15.0%) and male partners (14.5%). Controlling for demographics, HIV prevention coverage was higher among participants with any male partners (aOR=1.88, 95%CI=1.46-2.42) and lower among participants with any female partners (aOR=0.36, 95%CI=0.30-0.43).

Conclusion:

HIV prevention coverage is highest among GBQ+ people with male partners, driven by higher PrEP use. While condom use is higher with female partners, overall prevention coverage is lower. People who have casual sex with both men and women have poorer overall coverage than those with male partners only. Combination prevention (daily/on-demand PrEP and/or condoms) among those with female/non-binary partners may help improve overall coverage.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

The Centre for Social Research in Health and the Kirby Institute receive funding from the Australian Government Department of Health. The GBQ+ Community Periodic Surveys are funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, state/territory health departments, and the National Health and Medical Research Council (GNT2002625). No pharmaceutical grants were received for this study.