

Peer-led community-based testing is reaching recently arrived people who have never tested for HIV and are PrEP naïve

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Background

- Overseas born migrants remain overrepresented in HIV notifications in Australia

(Australian Government

Department of Health And Aged Care, 2024)



- Recently arrived GBM are priority population

Ministry of Health, 2021)

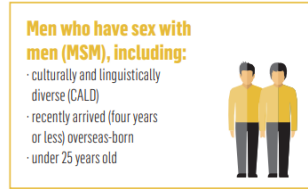
(NSW

- Greater barriers to accessing sexual healthcare services

(Wells et al., 2024)

- Peer-led community-based services have been identified as an effective model for targeted HIV testing

(Chan et al., 2021)



Research Question

Is our peer-led community-based testing service reaching recently arrived GBM most at need of HIV testing?



Community-based setting



Clinic-based setting

Method

- Cross-sectional study
- GBM and TGD people recently arrived between January 2022 and January 2024
- Categorized by the setting of first HIV test – a[TEST] v SSHC
- Demographics plus previous HIV test, PrEP use and recency of arrival (<6m or >6m)
- Exclusion criteria – Australian born, arrival outside study period or known to be living with HIV

Analysis

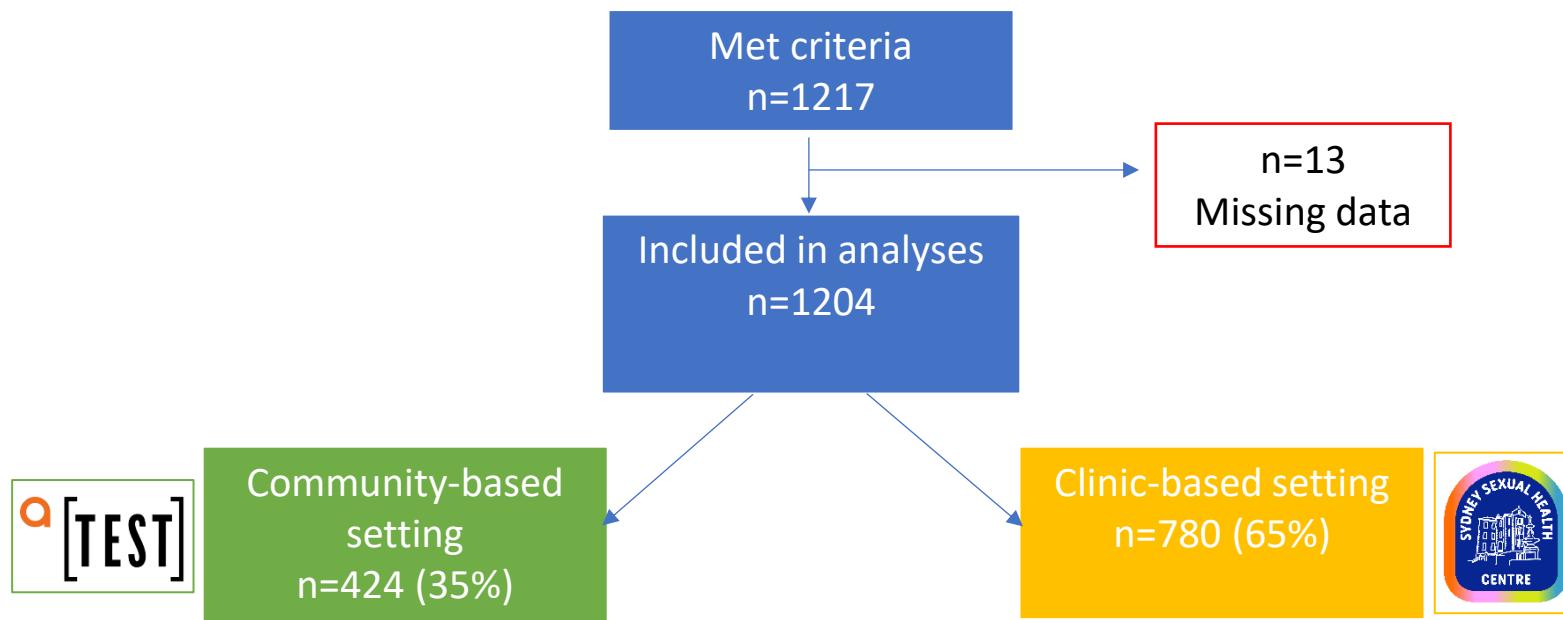
- **Univariate analysis**

Chi-squared test used to find differences between the settings

- **Multivariate analysis**

Logistic regression model to find factors associated with first test at a[TEST]

Results



Results - Univariate analysis



	Community n=424 (35%)	Clinic n=780 (65%)	p-value (chi-squared test)
No previous HIV test	159 (38%)	134 (17%)	p<0.001
Never used PrEP	355 (84%)	571 (73%)	p<0.001
Region of birth [#]			
High income	204 (48%)	329 (42%)	p<0.001
High to middle income	159 (38%)	397 (51%)	
Lower-middle/lower income	61 (14%)	54 (7%)	
Preferred language - English	297 (70%)	445 (56%)	p<0.001
Recency of arrival more than 6 months ago	283 (67%)	210 (27%)	p<0.001
Gender - Cisgender male	417 (98%)	738 (95%)	p=0.002
No Medicare	396 (93%)	702 (90%)	p=0.047
Median age (IQR)	27 (24-31)	27 (24-31)	p=0.419

Results – Multivariate analysis

- No previous HIV test: **aOR** 2.11 (1.48-3.02), $p < 0.001$
- Recency of arrival more than six months ago: **aOR** 5.47 (4.03-7.42), $p < 0.001$

Conclusion

- Community-based setting is engaging overseas born people who are HIV testing and PrEP naive
- Overseas born migrants experience heightened barriers to access *(Wells et al., 2024)*
- While the group are presenting later to the service, a[TEST] is connecting with this cohort in a unique way compared to the clinic-based setting
- Culturally appropriate tailored engagement strategies to facilitate earlier testing



Thank you

