

From PrEP Desert to PrEP Oasis:

Addressing the barriers to PrEP access for young gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men

Background

PrEP
Proven effective against HIV
Uptake in YGBMSM in rural NSW is low

“PrEP Deserts”

Areas where people must travel over 30 minutes to access PrEP

Challenges
Stigma, confidentiality concerns, and low health literacy.
Limited healthcare infrastructure and transport.
Pharmacy reluctance to stock/dispense PrEP.
Lack of LGBTQ+ inclusive care and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Key Terms	
PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
GBMSM	Gay, Bisexual, and other Men who have Sex with Men
YGBMSM	Young GBMSM (aged 18-25)
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, and others

Methods

Sequential Exploratory Mixed Methods Approach

Survey instrument

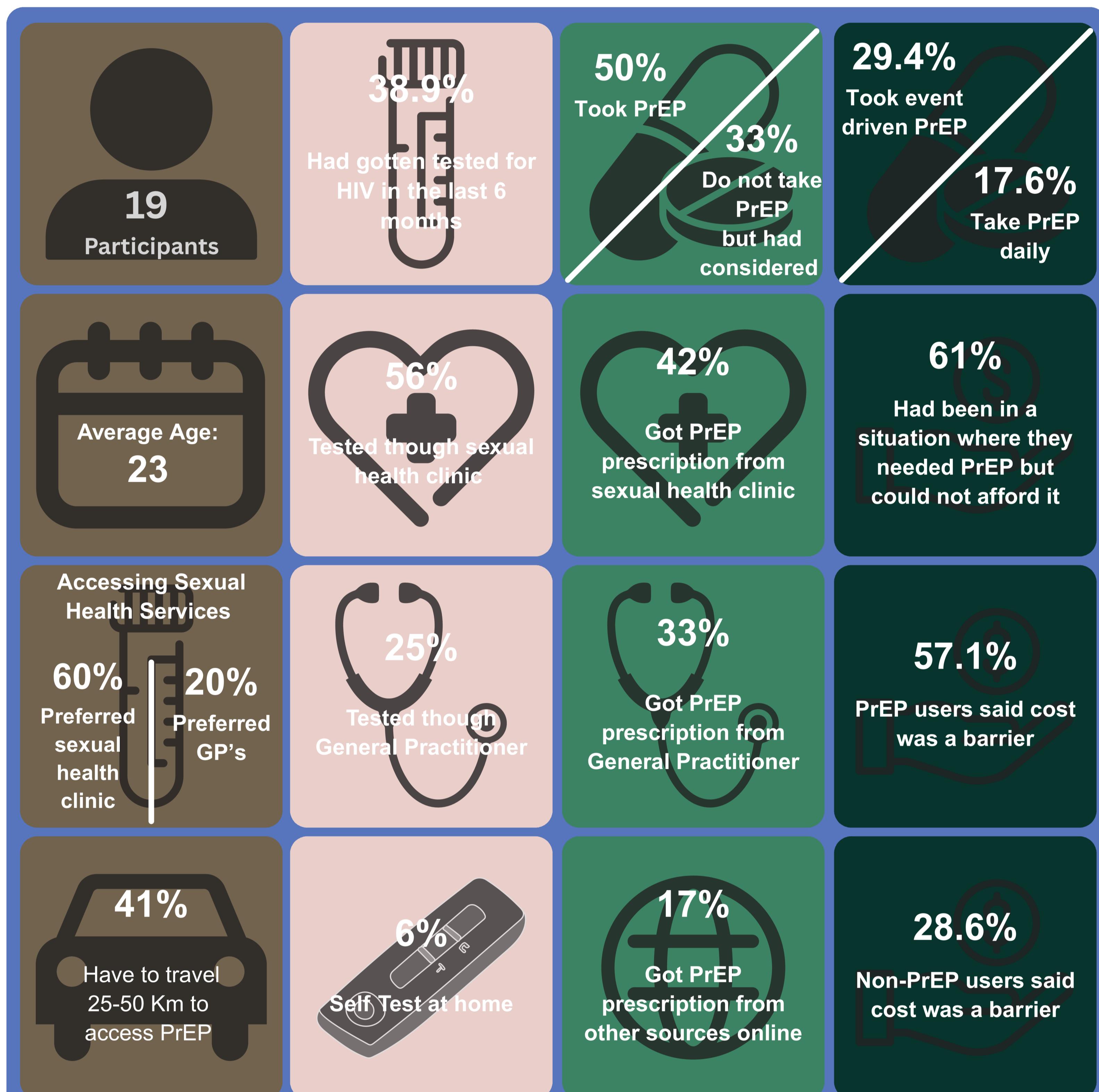
Developed by Research Team

Reviewed through two Round Nominal Group Technique

Semi-Structured Interviews

Quantitative Analysis

Data Analysis



Conclusions & Recommendations

Expand Sexual Health Services

With flexible hours and youth-friendly, discreet environments.

Train Rural GPs

Training in inclusive care and PrEP guidelines to reduce stigma and improve confidence

Prioritise Bulk Billing

For sexual health consultations and PrEP access.

Support pharmacists

Promote routinely stocking and discreetly dispensing PrEP.

Promote peer-led education

Normalise PrEP and reduce fear.

Implement mobile clinics and telehealth

Reach those in PrEP deserts.

NEW RESEARCH



csu.edu.au/research/prep-empowerment-project

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