

# **A LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF PREP ON SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR AND DRUG USE AMONG AUSTRALIAN GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN**

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## **Introduction:**

It is claimed that PrEP may change sexual and drug using behaviors among gay and bisexual men (GBM), but few studies have assessed this longitudinally.

## **Methods:**

Between 2014-2017, 1,246 gay and bisexual men (GBM) enrolled into the FLUX online cohort study who were not HIV-positive and who provided five rounds of follow-up data. We describe changes in sexual behavior and methamphetamine use following PrEP uptake.

## **Results:**

At baseline, 13 men (1.1%) were using PrEP, 228 men (15.1%) commenced PrEP during 24-months follow-up. The mean number of partners in the previous six months increased from 24 at baseline, to 44 at 24-months ( $p < 0.001$ ); the proportion reporting group sex increased from 25% to 49% ( $p\text{-trend} < 0.001$ ). Nearly 60% of men who commenced PrEP reported condomless anal intercourse (CLAIC) in the round prior to commencing, and almost 25% reported methamphetamine use. Receptive CLAIC increased from 45% at baseline to almost 80%, but methamphetamine use remained steady. Also, whereas 5% reported 'often' engaging in receptive CLAIC at baseline, this increased to 16% at 24-months.

Of 930 men who had never used PrEP throughout the study period, 23% reported recent CLAIC and 9% reported methamphetamine use at baseline; they reported a mean of 10 recent partners. Prevalence and frequency of these behaviours remained steady over time.

Among men who reported any receptive CLAIC during 24-months follow-up, 29% had commenced using PrEP and 15% who never used PrEP reported receptive CLAIC only with partners who were using PrEP.

## **Conclusion:**

Men who initiated PrEP became more sexually active and were more likely to engage in CLAIC. Methamphetamine use remained steady after commencing PrEP. GBM who commence using PrEP change their sexual behavior, though not necessarily their drug use behavior. These behavior changes appear not to have affected men who do not use PrEP.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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