



What are Australian gay and bisexual men's overall attitudes towards PrEP?

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Background and methods

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- Australia early to provide subsidised PrEP; many more who can benefit from it
- Now it is more available and established, what do gay and bisexual men think about it?

Methods

- Data are drawn from FLUX (Following Lives Undergoing Change), a national, online, cohort study of drug use and sexual health among 3,253 Australian GBM
- Free-text responses from 1,404 HIV-negative/untested men both using & not using PrEP:
 - **Would you like to tell us what you think about PrEP?**
- Thematic analysis of all free-text responses; Chi-square tests to establish association between citing of theme and demographic/ behavioural characteristics

Results

Theme	Example	n	Associated characteristics
Generic positive	"Easy and safe"	287	• Tested in prior 6 months • Taking PrEP • PrEP-eligible
Makes sex safer, but it's not safe	"PrEP is a great thing but I worry about proliferation of STIs"	210	• Men over 50 • Tested in prior 6 months
Negative social impact	"It's giving guys an excuse to practice unsafe sex"	183	• No associations
Overcoming fear, anxiety, and inhibition	"Certainly has taken a weight off my mind"	178	• Aged between 36-50 • Tested in prior 6 months • PrEP-eligible
Positive social impact	"I think everyone who is neg should get on PrEP"	165	• Taking PrEP • PrEP-eligible
Relevance and necessity	"Am a top so transmission risk not high"	148	• Under 25 • Over 50
Enhancing sexual pleasure and opportunity	"It's making gay sex great again"	96	• Tested in prior 6 months • Taking PrEP • PrEP-eligible
PrEP is an additional line of protection	"It's a great safety net, I'm very thankful for it"	57	• Taking PrEP
Navigating uncertainty	"PrEP has changed the landscape for casual sex"	38	• No associations

Conclusions

- Considerable interest in PrEP among gay and bisexual men in Australia
 - **Potential for further scale up**
- Pervasive concerns about the potential for negative impact on gay community
 - **Requires challenging by social marketing interventions**
- Pleasure is, and should be, a dominant feature of PrEP engagement
 - **Further potential to capitalize on this narrative in promotion**
- Continuing challenges with men not reliably recognizing their exposure to risk
 - **Still a role for basic HIV education**
- PrEP has changed the nature of safe sex negotiation
 - **How are we empowering men to have these new conversations?**