Arts & Social Sciences tre for Social Research in Health

### Cascades for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis eligibility and use by Australian gay and bisexual men

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## Overview

- Acknowledgments
- Public listing of PrEP has intensified interest in who is aware of and using PrEP, and gaps in coverage and uptake
- Australian eligibility criteria recommend targeting PrEP to gay/bi men at high risk of HIV (<u>Wright et al, 2017</u>)
- US and Canadian researchers have developed PrEP cascades looking at eligibility, willingness, access, use, retention and adherence (Liu et al. 2012; Parsons et al. 2017; Wilton et al. 2016)
- We developed two PrEP cascades, to illustrate change over time, gaps, and factors that may influence uptake

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### Data sources

#### **Gay Community Periodic Surveys**

- repeated, community-based surveys of gay/bi men about HIV/sexual health
- peer-led and online recruitment in 7 states/territories every 1-2 years (ACT, NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC, WA)
- metropolitan, gay community samples
- data from 36,914 non-HIV-positive participants, 2014-18

#### **PrEPARE Project**

- repeated, national, online surveys of gay/bi men about PrEP/TasP
- broader geographic sample, but still gay community-focused
- data from 1,038 non-HIV-positive participants in 2017



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# **PrEP eligibility**

Derived from Australian PrEP guidelines (Wright et al, 2017)

GCPS	PrEPARE
Any condomless sex with a HIV- positive regular partner not on treatment or with a detectable viral load in last 6 mths	HIV-positive partner not on treatment or with a detectable viral load (at time of survey)
Any receptive condomless sex with casual partners in last 6 mths	Any condomless sex with casual partners in last 6 mths
Any sexually transmitted infection in last 12 mths	Any sexually transmitted infection in last 12 mths
Any crystal meth use last 6 mths	Any crystal meth use last 6 mths

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# National PrEP cascade (PrEPARE, 2017) N=1,038

## Discussion

- PrEP cascades can be developed from ongoing monitoring systems to guide implementation
- The GCPS cascade is relatively simple, 'top-down' but longitudinal and from 7 jurisdictions
  - Shows large increases in eligibility, awareness & use, 2016-18
  - Eligibility is increasing as condomless sex & STIs increase
  - 38.8% of eligible men using PrEP in early 2018
  - · Suggests access is an issue



# Discussion

PrEPARE cascade is more complex, user-focused, but infrequent (every 2 yrs):

- 37.8% of eligible men using PrEP in mid 2017
- Noticeable gaps in willingness to use PrEP, discussing PrEP with a doctor
- Lower levels of use recorded outside of eastern states and capital cities, and by GBM without full-time employment
- Suggests access, acceptability of taking medication, raising PrEP with GPs and socioeconomic factors may be issues

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