

LOOKING BEYOND IDENTITY

Health-seeking
behaviours among
MSMW: The role of
sexual identity,
attraction, and
behaviour



Curtin University



Tricia Reid-Moore | Sharyn Burns | Jacqueline Hendriks | Gemma Crawford
Curtin University | CERIPH

INTRODUCTION

Health-seeking behaviours among men who have sex with men and women (MSMW) are often understood through sexual identity. However, identity alone may not fully explain engagement with sexual health services. This study examined whether **sexual identity**, **sexual attraction**, and **sexual experience** were differently associated with health-seeking behaviours among Australian MSMW.

METHODS



DESIGN
Cross-sectional online survey



PARTICIPANTS
543 Australian men reporting sexual experiences with both men and women



MEASURES
Sexual identity
Sexual attraction
Sexual experience
Health-seeking behaviours



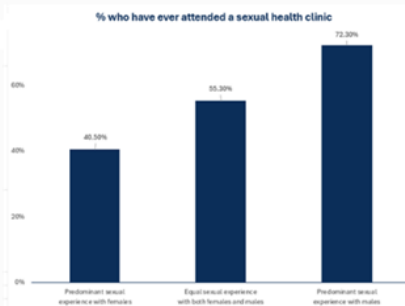
ANALYSIS
Chi-square analyses and binary logistic regression

KEY FINDINGS



ACCESSING CARE Sexual health clinic attendance

Sexual health clinic attendance differed across sexual experience.



TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

Sexual health clinic attendance was more common among men with predominantly male sexual experiences.

$\chi^2(2) = 30.35, p < .001$



SEEKING TESTING STI and HIV testing

STI and HIV testing differed across sexual attraction.



TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

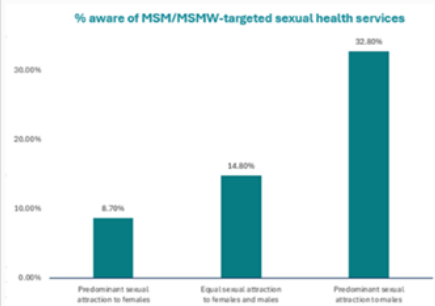
STI and HIV testing were more common among men with greater sexual attraction to men.

STI: $\chi^2(6) = 21.35, p = .002$; HIV: $\chi^2(6) = 19.54, p = .003$



FINDING SERVICES Awareness of sexual health services

Awareness of sexual health services differed across sexual attraction.



TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

Awareness of sexual health services was greater among men with greater sexual attraction to men.

$\chi^2(2) = 33.92, p < .001$



SEXUAL EXPERIENCE

Who people have sexual experiences with
e.g., men, women, both, others



SEXUAL ATTRACTION

Who people are attracted to
e.g., men, women, both, others



SEXUAL IDENTITY

How people identify
e.g., gay, bisexual, straight, queer, others



HEALTH-SEEKING BEHAVIOURS



ACCESSING CARE

- Sexual health-clinic attendance



SEEKING TESTING

- STI testing
- HIV testing



FINDING SERVICES

- Awareness of services (including online testing)



KEY FINDING

Health-seeking behaviours were more closely associated with **sexual attraction** and **sexual experience** than with **sexual identity** alone.

STRENGTH OF ASSOCIATION

Stronger association
Moderate association
Weaker association

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS



Move beyond identity-only approaches in sexual health promotion.



Support healthcare providers to discuss sexual behaviours without assuming identity.



Develop inclusive services that reflect the diversity of MSMW experiences.

LEARN MORE



Scan to learn more about this research

tricia.reid-moore@curtin.edu.au

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