

PrEP becomes most common HIV prevention strategy used by gay and bisexual men in Australia and 'net prevention coverage' increases: results of repeated, national behavioural surveillance, 2014-19

Martin Holt, Tim Broady, Curtis Chan,
Limin Mao, Darryl O'Donnell, John Rule,
Jeanne Ellard, Garrett Prestage, Ben Bavinton

Disclosures

- Funding: Australian Government Department of Health; state/territory health departments
- No pharmaceutical funding was received for this research.

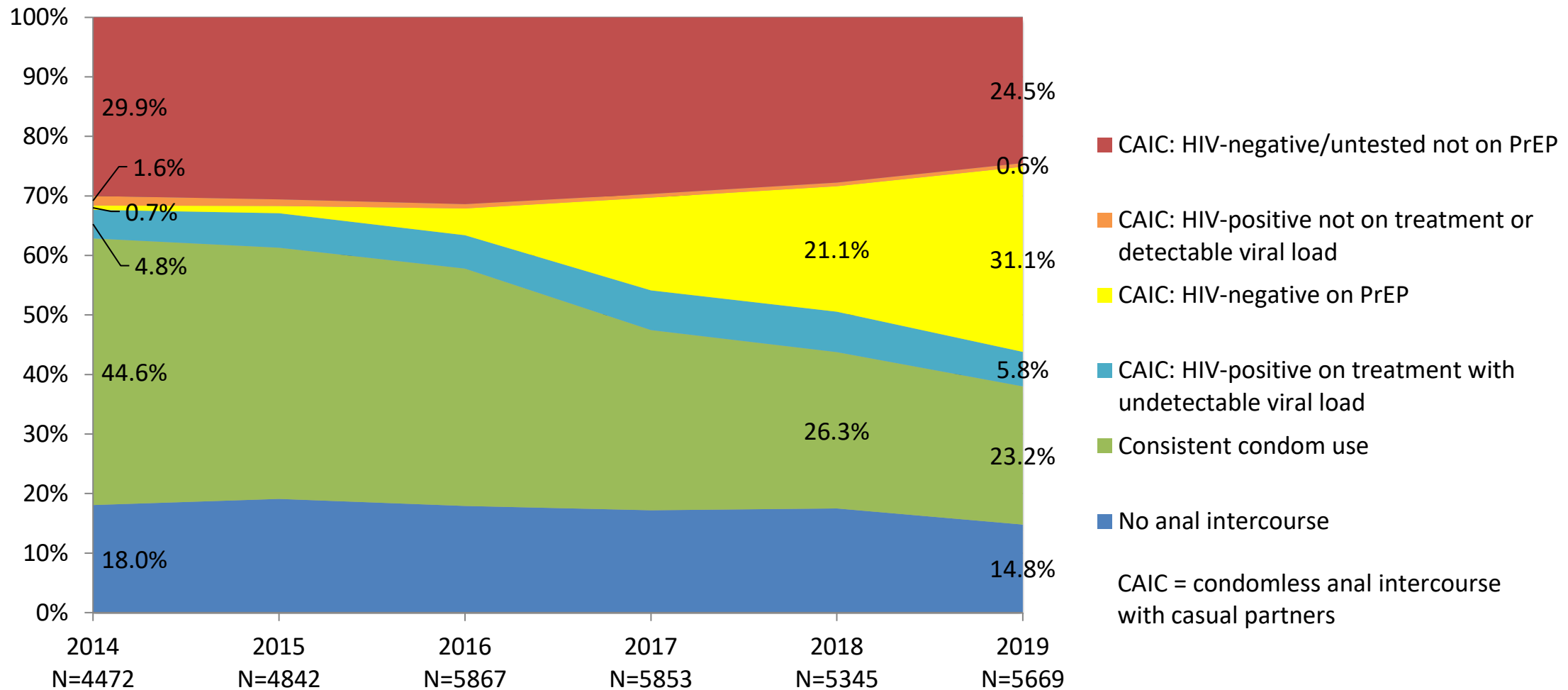
Background

- Combination prevention raises the possibility that sexual transmission of HIV can be eliminated in Australia
- Combination prevention = condoms, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and HIV treatment as prevention
- We assessed trends in these strategies and the proportion of gay and bisexual men (GBM) protected by any of them – what we are referring to as *net prevention coverage*
- We also assessed trends in the characteristics of GBM at risk of HIV, to see if this group had become more/less at risk over time

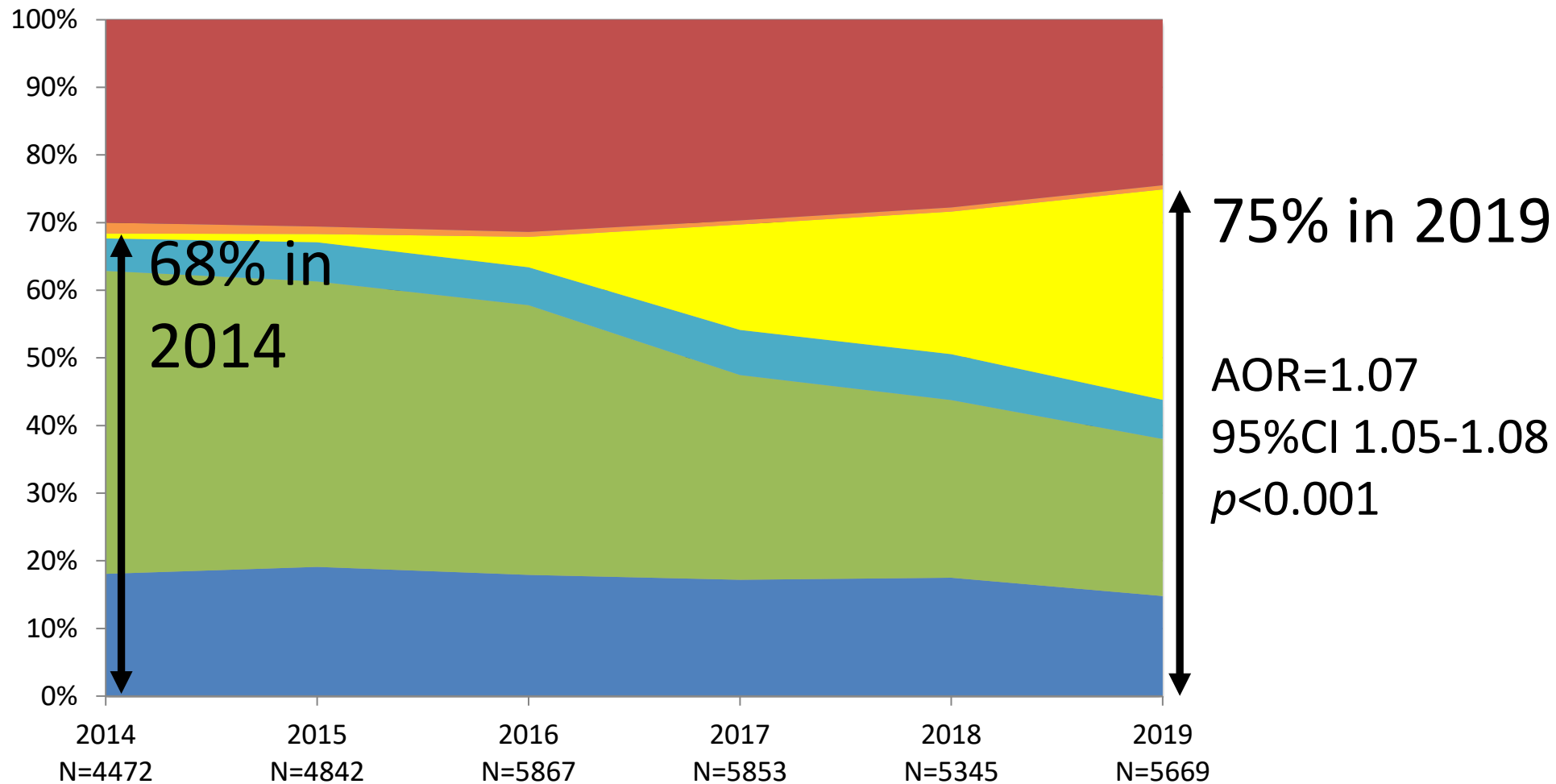
Sample

- Gay Community Periodic Surveys, national data, 2014-19
- n=32,048 GBM who had casual partners
- Median age 34 yrs (IQR 27-45)
- 90% gay, 7% bisexual
- 70% Australian born
- 3% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 82% HIV-negative, 10% HIV-positive, 9% untested/unknown

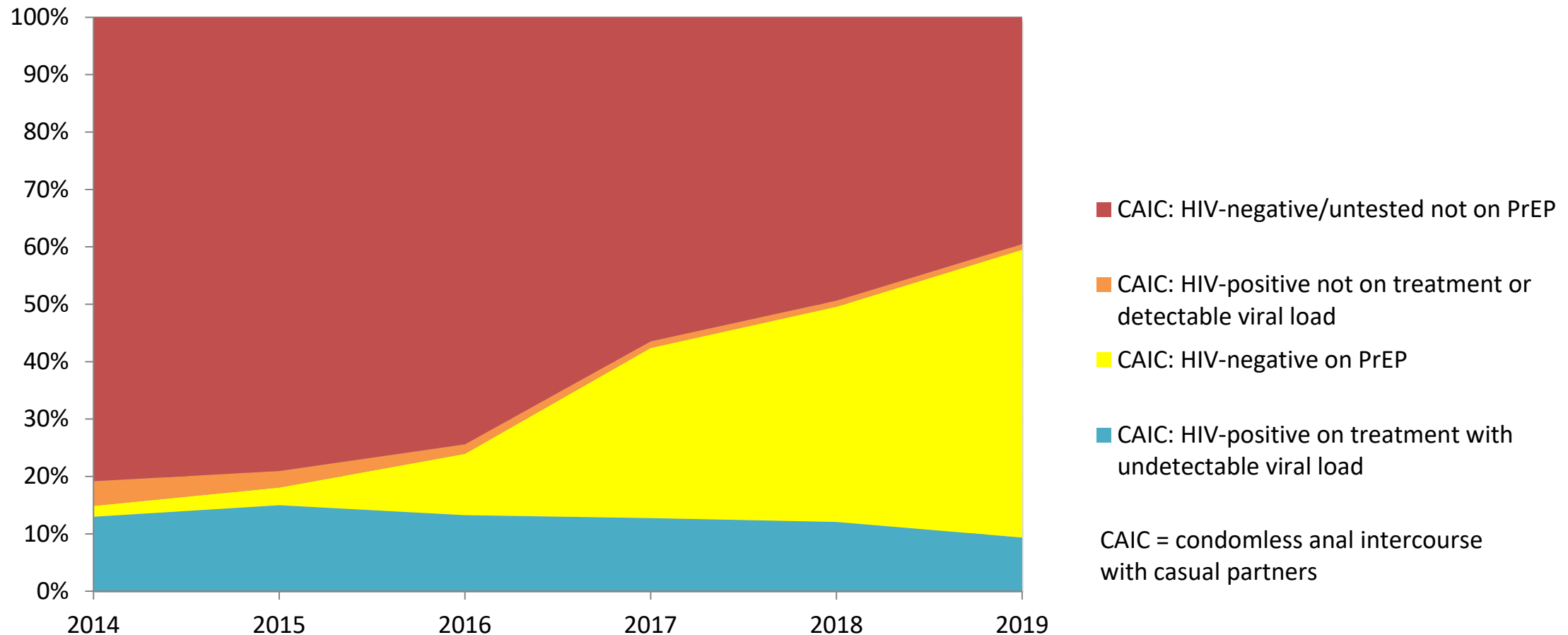
Sexual practices with casual male partners in the 6m prior to survey



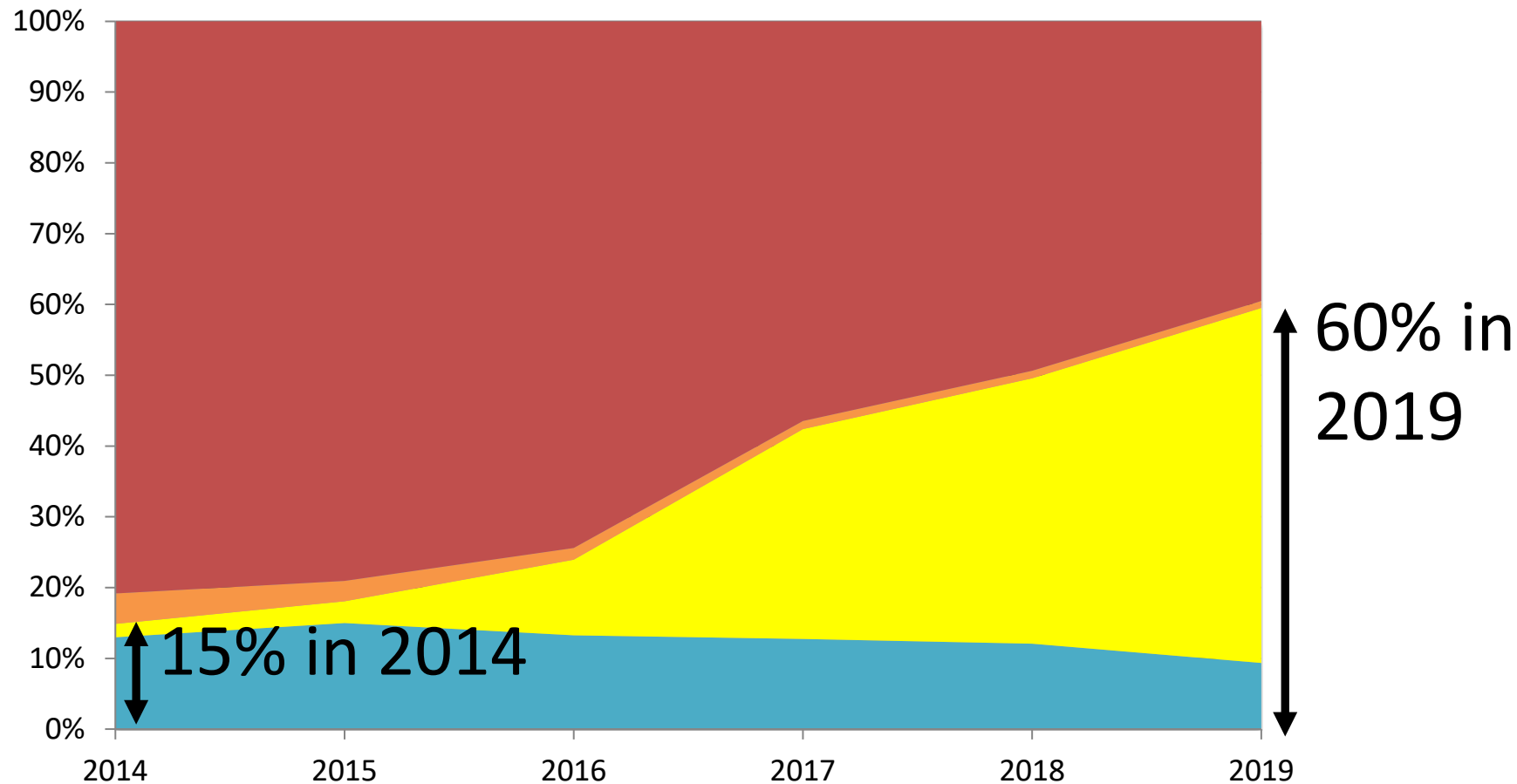
Net prevention coverage



Biomedical prevention coverage during CAIC



Biomedical prevention coverage during CAIC



Analysis of 'at risk' group (the men in red)

	2014	2019	<i>p</i> value	Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI)
Mean age	34.3 yrs	35.2 yrs	.014	1.17 (1.00-1.37)
Gay identity	90.2%	87.3%	.009	0.95 (0.90-0.99)
Bisexual identity	7.2%	9.5%	.008	1.07 (1.01-1.12)
Born overseas	24.2%	30.2%	<.001	1.05 (1.01-1.08)
University degree	41.5%	50.7%	<.001	1.05 (1.03-1.08)
No. of male partners last 6m				
0-1	4.5%	7.7%	.002	1.08 (1.02-1.15)
...				
>10	39.6%	30.3%	<.001	0.91 (0.88-0.94)
Any CAIR	49.8%	54.7%	.011	1.03 (1.00-1.06)
Frequent CAIC	23.7%	30.1%	<.001	1.10 (1.07-1.14)

Analysis of 'at risk' group cont.

	2014	2019	<i>p</i> value	Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI)
Serosorting	49.9%	51.7%	.696	-
Viral load sorting	9.6%	14.9%	<.001	1.08 (1.04-1.13)
PrEP sorting	21.4% [in 2017]	33.9%	<.001	1.37 (1.27-1.49) [crude OR]
HIV test last 6m	61.6%	68.5%	<.001	1.06 (1.03-1.09)
PEP last 6m	5.6%	5.4%	.745	-
Any injecting	7.5%	3.7%	<.001	0.87 (0.82-0.94)
Party drugs for sex	31.0%	22.3%	<.001	0.96 (0.92-0.99)

Summary

- In 2019, PrEP replaced condoms as the most commonly used HIV prevention strategy by GBM
- Net prevention coverage increased to 75% in 2019
- PrEP/TasP coverage during CAIC reached 60% in 2019
- The 'at risk' group appears less at risk than before
- These conditions are likely to have contributed to falling HIV infections in Australia
- If coverage can be further increased, virtual elimination of sexual transmission between GBM may be possible

Acknowledgments

- All the gay and bisexual men who participate, particularly HIV-positive men
- The state/territory AIDS councils who make recruitment possible
- Gay Community Periodic Survey team: Ben Bavinton, Tim Broady, Curtis Chan, Limin Mao, Garrett Prestage
- State/territory health departments
- Australian Government Department of Health



GAY COMMUNITY PERIODIC SURVEY