

# The challenge of providing follow-up STI testing for sexual assault victims. Can we predict who will attend?

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**2017 Australasian Sexual Health Conference**

Canberra



## Background

- Low rates of medical f/u after sexual assault worldwide<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>
- Pro-active referral pathway developed between sexual assault service and sexual health clinic

### Aims:

- to identify characteristics of people who attend f/u and those who do not to better target those missing out
- to assess the rate of STIs among victims of assault in Sydney Local Health District

1. Ross JDC et al *JRSM* 1991; 84: 657-659.
2. Hageman CT et al, *Sex Transm Infect* 2014; 90: 283-289
3. Morgan L et al, *Int J STD AIDS* 2015; 26: 86-92
4. Herbert CP et al, *Can Med Assoc J* 1992; 147: 1177-1184



## Methods

- Presentations to acute sexual assault service January 2014 to June 2016
- Compare 2 groups:
  - referred to sexual health and attended
  - did not attend sexual health or declined referral
- Ethics approval obtained
- Analysis STATA/IC 14.2
- Univariate analysis

## Results

- 438 individuals included:
  - 389 females (88.8%)
  - 46 males (10.5%)
  - 3 transgender M→F (0.7%)
- Median age: 26 Range: 14 – 77
- 60% born in Australia, 12% Asia
- 183 accepted referral (42%)
- 90 attended (49% of referrals)
  - More likely younger (p trend=0.009)

## Results

- At baseline 8.9% had STI
  - Chlamydia: n=29, 67%
- 5.5% diagnosed with new STI at follow-up
  - Chlamydia: n=4, Gonorrhoea: n=1
- Baseline STI not assoc with attending f/u: (p=0.5)

### Factors assoc with attending f/u:

- Consuming alcohol prior to assault (p=0.004)
- Absence of non-genital injury (p=0.02)

## Non significant results (p > 0.05)

- Demographic characteristics
- Type of assault
- A belief they were drugged p= 0.89
- Presence of anogenital injuries p=0.26
- Place of assault p=0.95
- Known vs stranger assailant p=0.4
- Number of assailants p=0.09
  - 10% (n=43) multiple assailants

## Conclusion

- Difficult accessing vulnerable group
- Few predictors of attending f/u
- STI rates indicate importance of STI testing
- Other options such as home based testing?