



Kirby Institute

Making choices about sexual partners based on HIV status among HIV-negative men

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Preferences for HIV positive partners



Background

HIV-positive men report stigma & rejection

- **Yet they disclose HIV status more often**

HIV-negative men commonly report contradictory expectations:

- **Expect HIV-positive men to always disclose**
- **If known HIV-positive then unlikely to have sex**

Little knowledge of actual behaviour

The Phwoar! Study

ARC grant to explore relationship between types of partner preferences and sexual practice

Quantitative and qualitative

Involves

- **Review of online profiles (2015)**
 - To look at whether men who express preferences for particular types of partners tend to be 'of a sort' themselves
- **Qualitative interviews (2015-16)**
 - To explore men's reflections on what they tend to prefer (& what they end up doing), and to what extent they think their expectations change according to partner type
- **Survey (2016)**
 - To quantify these sorts of preferences and the associations between them

Survey of sexual partnering & preferences

Survey conducted in late 2016

- 1843 Australian men responded

Complex questionnaire asked about:

- Overall preferences
 - Types of men preferred
 - Types of sex preferred

Selected 3 recent partners from 25 'types'

- Described last sex with those partners

Sample characteristics

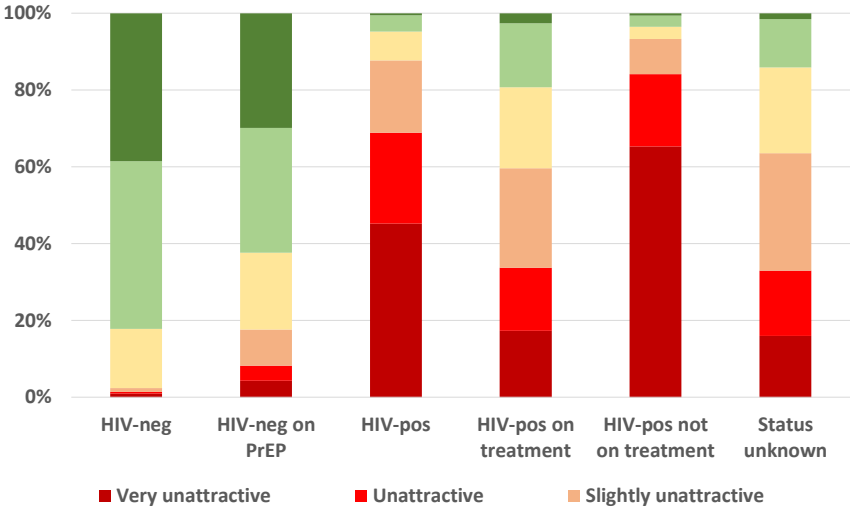
1843 respondents

1702 were not HIV-positive:

- **Mean age of 35**
 - Median of 32
- **88% gay, 8% bisexual, 3% other or no response**
- **70% Caucasian**
- **75% tested for HIV**
- **30% reported condomless anal intercourse with casual partners in the previous 6 months**
 - 23% in the receptive position

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Level of attraction & HIV status of partners



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Attraction to HIV-positive partners on treatment

	Is attracted	Not attracted	Univariate analysis		Multivariate analysis	
	N=684 (40.4%)	N=1008 (59.6%)	OR (CI)	P-value	OR (CI)	P-value
Mean age (SD)	35.8 (13.7)	32.1 (13.0)	0.98 (0.97-0.99)	<0.001	0.99 (0.98-0.99)	0.002
Sexual identity (%)						
Gay	46.6	53.4	1.00			
Other	30.3	69.7	1.81 (1.25-2.62)	0.002		
HIV testing (%)						
Tested	42.9	57.1	1.00			
Never tested	32.2	67.8	1.58 (1.24-2.01)	<0.001		
Sex with casual partners (%)						
No casual partners	35.3	64.7	1.00		1.00	
No anal intercourse	36.0	64.0	0.97 (0.63-1.49)	0.888	1.10 (0.68-1.77)	0.705
Always used condoms	39.6	60.4	0.83 (0.63-1.10)	0.199	0.83 (0.61-1.13)	0.244
Any CLAIC	50.8	49.2	0.53 (0.42-0.66)	<0.001	0.52 (0.40-0.67)	<0.001
Relationship status (%)						
No relationship	40.8	59.2	1.00			
In relationship	40.0	60.0	1.03 (0.85-1.25)	0.760		
Mean homonegativity score (SD)	16.57 (14.06)	21.52 (16.04)	1.02 (1.02-1.03)	<0.001	1.02 (1.01-1.03)	<0.001
Mean self-esteem score (SD)	20.14 (6.57)	19.07 (6.49)	0.98 (0.96-0.99)	0.002		
Mean number of partners (SD)	9.36 (20.72)	5.62 (13.36)	0.98 (0.98-0.99)	<0.001		
Mean gay social engagement (SD)	5.89 (1.41)	5.32 (1.41)	0.75 (0.70-0.81)	<0.001	0.82 (0.76-0.89)	<0.001

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Attraction to HIV-negative partners on PrEP

	Is attracted	Not attracted	Univariate analysis		Multivariate analysis	
	N=1387 (82.4%)	N=297 (17.6%)	OR (CI)	P-value	OR (CI)	P-value
Mean age (SD)	32.8 (13.0)	37.2 (14.2)	1.02 (1.02-1.03)	<0.001	1.03 (1.02-1.04)	<0.001
Sexual identity (%)						
Gay	82.5	17.5	1.00			
Other	78.2	21.8	1.31 (0.87-1.99)	0.198		
HIV testing (%)						
Tested	81.9	18.1	1.00			
Never tested	83.9	16.1	1.16 (0.85-1.57)	0.356		
Sex with casual partners (%)						
No casual partners	77.9	22.1	1.00		1.00	
No anal intercourse	73.5	26.5	1.27 (0.79-2.05)	0.324	1.09 (0.64-1.87)	0.748
Always used condoms	84.5	15.5	0.64 (0.45-0.93)	0.018	0.62 (0.41-0.95)	0.026
Any CLAIC	90.8	9.2	0.36 (0.25-0.51)	<0.001	0.38 (0.25-0.56)	<0.001
Relationship status (%)						
No relationship	7.80 (18.12)	4.90 (8.00)	1.00		1.00	
In relationship	18.73 (14.97)	22.69 (16.82)	1.38 (1.07-1.77)	0.013	1.45 (1.07-1.95)	0.015
Mean homonegativity score (SD)	18.73 (14.97)	22.69 (16.82)	1.02 (1.01-1.02)	<0.001	1.03 (1.02-1.04)	<0.001
Mean self-esteem score (SD)	18.73 (14.97)	22.69 (16.82)	1.01 (0.99-1.03)	0.245		
Mean number of partners (SD)	7.80 (18.12)	4.90 (8.00)	0.97 (0.95-0.98)	<0.001		
Mean gay social engagement (SD)	5.59 (1.44)	5.36 (1.41)	0.89 (0.81-0.98)	0.013	0.89 (0.81-0.99)	0.040

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Last occasion

76 men reported recent sex with an HIV-positive casual partner

- 8 were not on treatment
- 5 men did not know if they were on treatment
- 63 men reported sex with pos partner on treatment

682 men reported recent sex with an HIV-negative casual partner

- 100 of them were on PrEP
- 582 were not known to be on PrEP

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Last occasions of sex

	HIV-positive on ARV N=63	HIV-negative on PrEP N=100	HIV-negative not on PrEP N=582
Anal intercourse			
No anal intercourse	19.0	8.0	18.6
Condoms only	30.2	23.0	41.9
Any insertive CLAIC	21.8	42.0	22.5
Any receptive CLAIC	28.6	48.0	24.0
Ejaculation (respondent)			
In his arse	20.6	32.0	15.8
Over his arse	1.6	13.0	6.5
In his mouth	17.5	16.0	17.5
Did not cum	23.8	13.0	19.4
Ejaculation (partner)			
In my arse	25.4	28.0	16.2
Over my arse	7.9	8.0	7.9
In my mouth	11.1	19.0	23.9
Did not cum	23.8	17.0	10.3
Prior acquaintance			
Never previously met	39.7	40.0	33.6
Knew him well	19.0	20.0	29.4
Had previous sex	50.0	51.0	53.9

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Summary

Few non HIV-positive men include HIV-positive men among their potential sex partners

- Being on treatment only makes this somewhat more likely

HIV-negative men on PrEP are slightly less likely to be deemed than are those not on PrEP

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Summary

Those who were not attracted to HIV-positive men even if they were on treatments were:

- Younger
- Less socially connected to gay men
- Less likely to engage in CLAIC
- And showed evidence of internalized homophobia

Those who were not attracted to HIV-negative men on PrEP were:

- Older
- Less socially connected to gay men
- Less likely to engage in CLAIC
- More likely to be in a relationship
- And showed evidence of internalized homophobia

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Summary

At their most recent occasions of sex with casual partners

- They were more likely to engage in CLAIC, both receptive & insertive, with HIV-negative partners on PrEP
 - And to cum in or on his arse
- Partners' use of PrEP made little difference to the likelihood of letting those partners ejaculate inside them
- Prior acquaintance differed little according to partners' HIV status or partners' use of ARV

On these specific occasions, non HIV-positive men tended to behave similarly with HIV-positive partners on treatment as they did with HIV-negative partners who were not known to be on PrEP

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Discussion

Exclusion of HIV-positive men appears to be a product of lack of engagement with gay communities

- Possibly due to little contact with or awareness of HIV-positive men

Excluding HIV-positive men also appears to be associated with being 'less risky' in general

- The decision by many to exclude HIV-positive men is a bit redundant given their actual behaviour is unlikely to pose any risk anyway

Men with more homophobic attitudes also tend to exclude HIV-positive men in general

Among non HIV-positive men who actually do have sex with HIV-positive partners on treatment, their sexual behaviour is no more constrained than it is with most HIV-negative partners

- But, with HIV-negative partners on PrEP, they are considerably less constrained
 - This may reflect the wishes of these partners as much as their own preferences

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Acknowledgements

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