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Exploring drug use in the context of sex among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men using PrEP and testing for HIV at PRONTO! in Melbourne, Australia

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Equity Through Better Health
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Background

- PrEP use is associated with increased condomless sex and STI incidence^{1,2}
- Inconsistent findings that PrEP may be associated with increased drug use in the context of sex^{3,4}

Aim

- To explore drug use in the context of sex among people accessing PrEP at PRONTO!

1. Traeger, et al., CID, 2017; 2. Traeger, et al. International AIDS Conference, Amsterdam, 2018; 3. Prestage International AIDS Conference, Amsterdam, 2018; 4. Hammoud International AIDS Conference, Amsterdam, 2018

Method

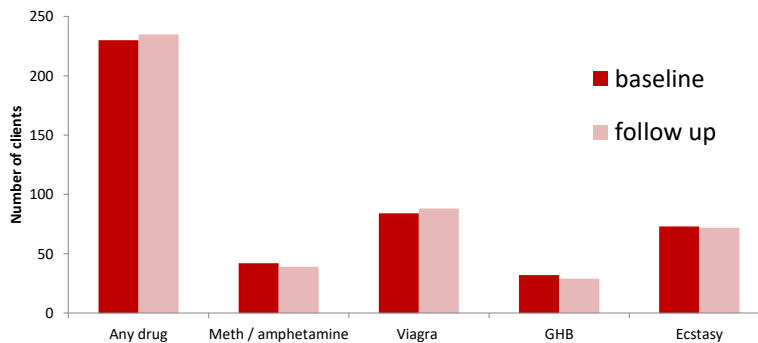
- ACCESS behavioural data linked to PrEP appointment flag – 01 January 2016- 31 December 2017
- Behavioural outcome - **drug use before or during sex in the past six months**



- Compared 1) any drug use, 2) methamphetamine, 3) Viagra, 4) GHB, 5) ecstasy use
- Test of proportions, significance $p < 0.05$

Results

- 316 people included in analysis
- At baseline - median age 33 years; 97% cis-male; 99% report sex with men; 73% report condomless sex with casual partner; 53% report group sex; 28% report >10 anal sex partners in past six months

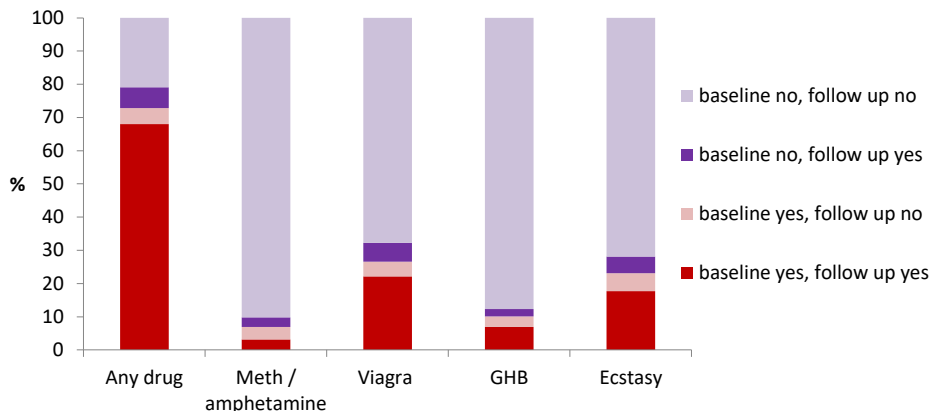


- No significant differences observed

Any drug use includes reporting any of: Amyl nitrate, cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy, GHB, methamphetamine

Results

- Most clients who reported drug use at baseline continued to report drug use at follow up
- Smaller proportions of clients shifted into and out of drug use from pre- to post-PrEP periods




Conclusions


- What does constituting PrEP as a 'gateway' imply?
 - A key motivation for GBM not using drugs within specific contexts is the avoidance sexual risk.
 - PrEP mitigates risk and therefore a key motivation for avoiding drug use in no longer there.
- Commencing PrEP at PRONTO did not contribute to meaningful changes in the proportion of GBM reporting drug use before or during sex
- We did not measure potential changes in the patterns or 'intensity' of drug use among GBM reporting drug use at baseline
- More work is needed to explore the relationship between drugs, sex and HIV/STI risk among men using PrEP

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