WHO AREN'T WE REACHING? MEASURING GAPS IN PREP UPTAKE IN GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN (GBM) AT HIGH HIV RISK USING THE ACCESS SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

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Background: High PrEP uptake in high-risk GBM (HRGBM) is required to maximise HIV prevention impact. We used ACCESS, a sentinel surveillance system that collates data from over 100 clinics across Australia, to understand gaps in PrEP uptake in HIV-negative GBM in NSW.

Methods: We analysed PrEP use in 19,726 GBM attending 37 ACCESS clinics in NSW between July 2017-June 2018. GBM diagnosed with rectal chlamydia or gonorrhoea (n=1418) between April 2017-March 2018, were defined as high-risk GBM (HRGBM). Demographic characteristics of PrEP uptake were analysed using chi-squared tests.

Results: 28.7% of GBM attending NSW ACCESS clinics between July 2017-June 2018 had evidence of PrEP use. Among all GBM, PrEP use was higher ($p<0.001$) in GBM residing in suburbs with greater than 10% gay men (gay suburbs). PrEP use was less common in newly-arrived (<5 years) GBM (21.8, 95%CI:20.2-23.4) compared to those who arrived in Australia 5 or more years ago (28.2%, 95%CI: 26.5-29.9%).
Among HRGBM, 53% had a record of PrEP within 3 months of STI diagnosis. A lower proportion of HRGBM aged 25-34 (52.2%, 95%CI:48.0-56.4) were on PrEP compared to those aged 35-44 (61.4%, 95%CI: 56.0-66.6). HRGBM born in Africa or Middle East had the lowest PrEP uptake (36.4%, 95%CI:22.4-52.2). HRGBM living in 'gay suburbs' had higher PrEP uptake (60.6%, 95%CI: 55.0-65.9) compared to those living in other urban areas (52.0%, 95%CI:48.4-55.6).

Conclusion: Lower PrEP coverage was found in young GBM and those living outside of 'gay suburbs', potentially highlighting the role of community connectedness in influencing PrEP uptake. Although PrEP uptake among Asian-born HRGBM was similar to Australian-born HRGBM, uptake in HRGBM born in Middle East or Africa was lower. In addition to understanding gaps that exist in populations that don't access clinics for care, targeting subgroups attending clinics with lower uptake is important to maximize HIV prevention.

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