

Preferences and Willingness to Use Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV Among Men Who Have Sex With Men in Mainland China and Hong Kong

Sun J^{1,2}, Ong JJ^{1,2,3}, Schmidt HMA^{4,5}, Chan C⁶, Bavinton BR⁶, Green K⁷, Phanuphak N^{8,9}, Poonkaseltattana M¹⁰, Suwandi N¹¹, Fraser D⁶, Tang W¹², Cassell M^{11,13}, Choi E¹⁴, Zhang L^{1,2,15,16}, Tiesapjaroen W^{1,2}

1 School of Translational Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
2 Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, Alfred Health, Melbourne, Australia
3 Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom
4 Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Geneva, Switzerland
5 World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
6 Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
7 PATH, Hanoi, Vietnam
8 Institute of HIV Research and Innovation (IHRI), Bangkok, Thailand

9 Centre of Excellence in Transgender Health (CETH), Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
10 Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM), Bangkok, Thailand
11 Asia Pacific Transgender Network, Bangkok, Thailand
12 The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Project-China, Guangzhou, China
13 Family Health International (FHI) 360, North Carolina, United States
14 School of Nursing, LKS Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China
15 China-Australia Joint Research Centre for Infectious Diseases, School of Public Health, Xi'an Jiaotong University Health Science Centre, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China
16 Phase I clinical trial research ward, The Second Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China.

Background

- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) uptake remains low in mainland China and Hong Kong.
- Only oral PrEP is currently available, and oral PrEP availability is still limited and only available through the private sector.
- We aimed to examine preferences for different PrEP modalities among men who have sex with men (MSM) in mainland China and Hong Kong.

Methods

- We conducted a cross-sectional online survey from May to November 2022 in mainland China and Hong Kong.
- Eligible participants were aged ≥ 18 years, identified as MSM and self-reported HIV-negative or unknown.
- Random forest models and SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations) analysis were used to identify key factors influencing preferences for six PrEP options: **daily oral, on-demand oral, monthly oral, 2-monthly injectable, 6-monthly injectable, and implant PrEP.**

Results

- A greater proportion of participants from **mainland China** expressed an interest in **on-demand PrEP** compared to those from Hong Kong (55.7% vs. 48.1%, $p < 0.01$), while more participants from **Hong Kong** expressed an interest in **monthly oral PrEP** (53.2% vs. 47.3%, $p = 0.02$).
- Willingness to use **non-oral options** was **lower**. 2-monthly injectable PrEP expressed an interest by 21.1% in mainland China vs. 15.4% in Hong Kong ($p < 0.01$).
- Among **Hong Kong** participants, **condom use frequency** and **migration status** were important predictors of willingness to use both **oral and injectable PrEP** options. **Peer influence** played a more significant role for **mainland Chinese** participants.
- Current PrEP use status** and **PrEP attitudes** were important predictors.
- Individuals who are willing to use **six-monthly injectable PrEP** tended to dislike the **two-monthly option**.

Figure 2. Radar and Bar Charts Comparing Preferences for Different PrEP Options in Mainland China and Hong Kong

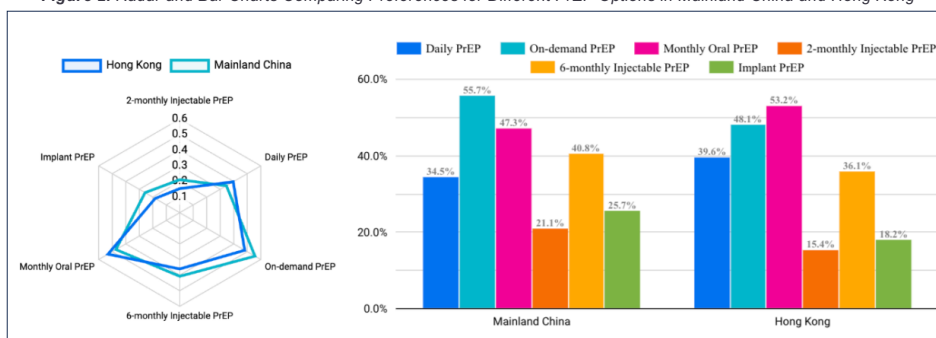


Figure 3. Comparison of On-demand PrEP between Mainland China and Hong Kong.

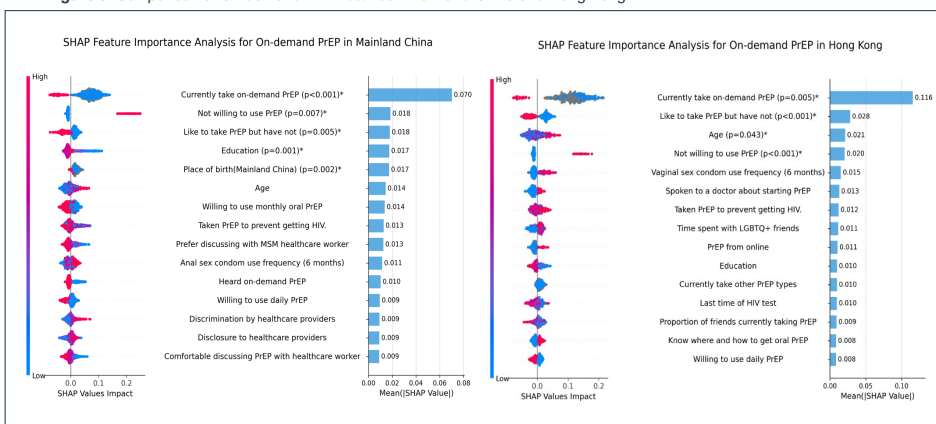
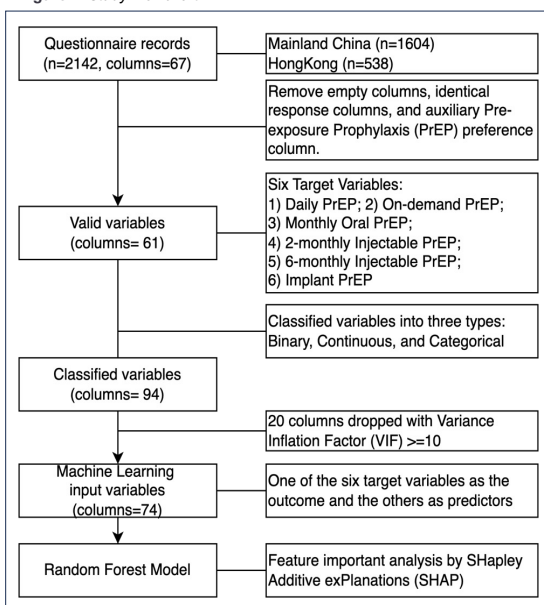


Figure 1. Study Flowchart.



Conclusion

- While oral PrEP remains the preferred choice among MSM in both mainland China and Hong Kong, there was diversity in preferences for different PrEP options.
- In Hong Kong, condom use frequency during vaginal sex showed strong positive associations with willingness to use various PrEP modalities, while this factor was less influential in mainland China.
- These findings highlight the importance of tailoring PrEP implementation strategies between Hong Kong and mainland China.

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Contacts

For further information, please contact

- Jason Ong (Jong@mshc.org.au)
- Jiajun Sun (Jiajun.Sun@monash.edu)
- Warittha Tiesapjaroen (WTiesapjaroen@mshc.org.au)
- Lei Zhang (lei.zhang1@monash.edu)

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre
580 Swanston Street, Carlton, VIC, 3053, Australia

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