

FILLING THE GAP: HOW CAN A NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION TRACK ITS PROGRESS TOWARDS [ENDING HIV] IN THE ABSENCE OF BEHAVIOURAL SURVEILLANCE?

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Introduction:

In 2016 New Zealand recorded its greatest ever number of locally acquired HIV diagnoses among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBM). In this same year, funding for ongoing GBM-targeted HIV-related behavioural surveillance was not renewed. The New Zealand AIDS Foundation (NZAF) has developed and implemented online behavioural surveys to inform and evaluate its programmes and progress towards strategic goals.

Methods:

An online survey was launched three weeks after the end of each social marketing campaign run by NZAF on November 2016, July 2017 and December 2017. Participants were recruited nation-wide over five weeks through banner advertisements across social media, dating apps and other online channels targeting GBM. Each survey contains core questions on self-reported HIV-related knowledge, attitudes and behaviours to monitor progress towards NZAF's strategic goals. In addition, questions relating specifically to the most recent campaign were included.

Results:

Three survey rounds have been completed to date, recruiting 4,111 participants. Since baseline in November 2016 to the latest round in December 2017, after controlling for age and site of recruitment, there were increases in knowledge of PrEP (AOR=3.07, 95% CI: 2.55-3.69), knowledge of undetectable viral load (AOR=1.36, 95% CI: 1.14-1.62), agreement that "*we now have the potential to end HIV*" (AOR=2.20, 95% CI: 1.84-2.63), and recent HIV testing (AOR=1.24, 95% CI: 1.04-1.48). Self-reported behaviours including: number of male sexual partners (AOR=0.82, 95% CI: 0.59-1.15) and condom use with casual male partners (AOR=0.80, 95%CI: 0.63-1.02) have remained stable, after controlling for age and site of recruitment.

Conclusion:

Though these data have limitations, the information collected in these surveys fills a gap left by disinvestment in HIV-related behavioural surveillance and allows NZAF to be responsive and demonstrate its progress towards the goal of ending HIV by 2025.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

Adrian Ludlam is on the organising committee for the Epidemiology, Public Health and Programme Science stream of the IUSTI conference.