

HIV PREVENTION NEEDS AND STRATEGIES AMONG GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN AND NON-BINARY PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT GENDERED PARTNERS: RESULTS OF MODIFIED BEHAVIOURAL SURVEILLANCE IN AUSTRALIA

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[300 words max.]

Background:

HIV behavioural surveillance has largely focused on sex between men, potentially excluding some aspects of gay and bisexual men's (GBM's) sex lives, including female and non-binary partners. In 2024, the GBQ+ Community Periodic Surveys (GCPS), introduced questions to improve gender and sexuality inclusivity. This analysis reports on sample diversity, HIV prevention coverage, and use of different prevention strategies with partners of different genders.

Methods:

Recruitment of GBM and non-binary people who have sex with men took place at LGBTQ festivals/venues and online in five Australian states/territories during 2024. Participants were classified into groups based on the gender/s of their casual partners: men only, multi-gender (male and female or non-binary), and only women or non-binary people. Each group was characterised in terms of participants' sexuality, prevention strategies used, and HIV prevention coverage (use of any safe strategy).

Results:

7,226 survey responses were included. Median age was 36 years, 76.8% identified as gay, 14.0% as bi+, 90.2% were cisgender men, 2.9% transgender men, and 5.8% non-binary. 41.9% of participants reported no casual partners, 48.1% had only male partners, 7.7% multi-gender partners, and 2.3% only female or non-binary partners. Participants with only male partners were the most likely to be gay (86.6%), use PrEP (67.9%), and had the highest level of prevention coverage (77.9%). Among participants with multi-gender partners, 37.5% were bi+, 62.2% reported PrEP use, and 69.8% reported prevention coverage. Participants with only female or non-binary partners were most commonly bi+ (47.1%), had the lowest PrEP use (14.6%), highest level of condom use (25.8%), and lowest prevention coverage (46.6%).

Conclusion:

HIV prevention coverage is higher among GBM and non-binary people with male and multi-gender partners, driven by higher PrEP use. Promoting combination prevention (daily or on-demand PrEP, or condom) to those with female and non-binary partners may help improve prevention coverage.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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