

Timothy Broady<sup>1</sup>, Evelyn Lee<sup>1</sup>, Limin Mao<sup>1</sup>, Ben Bavinton<sup>2</sup>, Tim Duck<sup>3</sup>, Craig Cooper<sup>4</sup>, Brent Mackie<sup>5</sup>, Garrett Prestage<sup>2</sup>, Martin Holt<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW; <sup>2</sup> Kirby Institute, UNSW; <sup>3</sup> NSW Health; <sup>4</sup> Positive Life NSW; <sup>5</sup> ACON

Australasian HIV & AIDS Conference, 24-26 September, 2018

#### **Acknowledgements**



- Research Participants
- Co-authors: Evelyn Lee, Limin Mao, Ben Bavinton, Tim Duck, Craig Cooper, Brent Mackie, Garrett Prestage, Martin Holt
- Funding: The Sydney Gay Community Periodic Surveys are funded by the Blood Borne Virus Research, Intervention and Strategic Evaluation program of the New South Wales Ministry of Health
- The Centre for Social Research in Health and the Kirby Institute are supported by the Australian Government Department of Health





## Background

- Increased PrEP usage (Holt et al., 2018)
- Increased ART / undetectable viral loads (De Le Mata et al., 2015; Holt et al., 2017)
- Minority of GBM rarely use any strategies
  - Who are they?



CSRH

#### **Methods**

- 2017 Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey
  - Face-to-face and online
  - Male
  - 18+ years old (face-to-face) / 16+ years old (online)
  - Live in Australia
  - Have had sex with a man in the past 5 years
  - Identify as gay or bisexual

(Holt et al., 2017; Zablotska et al., 2011)





## Analysis

- Infrequent risk reduction strategy users (n=116)
  - HIV negative or unknown/untested
  - Had anal sex without a condom with casual male partner(s) in the last 6 months
  - Never / Occasionally
    - Condoms
    - Serosorting
    - Strategic positioning
    - Withdrawal
    - ➢ PrEP
    - Undetectable viral load
- Regular condom users (n=661)





#### **Demographics**

	Infrequent risk reduction (n=116)	Regular condoms (n=661)	p value
Age (SD)	35.7 (13.5)	33.0 (10.9)	.02
Born overseas	32.5%	40.3%	.11
Employed fulltime	67.2%	62.5%	.33
University education	50.0%	60.8%	.03
<b>HIV-negative</b>	83.2%	94.7%	<.001





#### Results

		Infrequent risk reduction (n=116)	Regular condoms (n=661)	p value
Number of sex partners	0-1 2-5 6-10 11-20 >20	9.6% 32.2% 24.4% 13.0% 20.9%	6.1% 33.7% 25.2% 19.0% 16.1%	.27
Meet partners via	Mobile apps	<b>62.9%</b>	75.8%	.004
	Venues	44.0%	41.6%	.63



# CSRH

## Results

		Infrequent risk reduction (n=116)	Regular condoms (n=661)	p value
Agreement about sex with casual partners	No agreement	56.5%	<b>39.1%</b>	.01
	No sex	3.2%	7.3%	.24
	Anal with condom	17.7%	45.7%	<.001
	Anal without condom	22.6%	6.2%	<.001





#### Results

		Infrequent risk reduction (n=116)	Regular condoms (n=661)	p value
Ever tested for HIV		84.1%	95.0%	<.001
Time since last test	< 1 month	39.8%	34.4%	.30
	1-6 months	26.5%	43.3%	.002
	7-12 months	15.3%	13.3%	.59
	> 1 year	18.4%	8.9%	.004





## Results

	Infrequent risk reduction (n=116)	Regular condoms (n=661)	p value
Amyl	61.7%	58.4%	.53
Marijuana	42.1%	38.2%	.45
Viagra	35.5%	18.9%	<.001
Ecstasy	34.6%	29.8%	.32
Speed	11.3%	10.5%	.80
Cocaine	37.4%	24.4%	.01
Crystal	17.6%	10.8%	.05
GHB	18.7%	14.4%	.26
Ketamine	8.5%	7.5%	.72
Total (M)	2.5	2.0	.01



6

## Results

- Infrequent risk reduction strategy users
  - Less likely to have university education (OR=.58)
  - More likely to have **no agreement** with regular partners about casual sex (OR=2.51)
  - More likely to have agreement with regular partners permitting casual condomless anal sex (OR=4.40)
  - Less likely to have been tested for HIV recently (OR=.79)
  - More likely to have used Viagra (OR=2.84)
  - More likely to have used **cocaine** (OR=1.73)

## Conclusion

- Infrequent high risk sex practices
- Need to recognise potential risk for HIV transmission
- Need to increase frequency of HIV testing
- Need to implement effective HIV prevention strategies
  - E.g. event-based PrEP





UNSV

CSRH



#### References

- De La Mata, N. L., Mao, L., De Wit, J., Smith, D., Holt, M., Prestage, G., . . . Petoumenos, K. (2015). Estimating antiretroviral treatment coverage rates and viral suppression rates for homosexual men in Australia. Sexual Health, 12(5), 453-457. doi:10.1071/SH15037
- Holt, M., Lea, T., Mao, L., Kolstee, J., Zablotska, I., Duck, T., . . . Prestage, G. (2018). Community-level changes in condom use and uptake of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis by gay and bisexual men in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia: Results of repeated behavioural surveillance in 2013-17. *The Lancet HIV, 5*(8), E448-E456. doi:10.1016/S2352-3018(18)30072-9
- Holt, M., Lea, T., Mao, L., Zablotska, I., Lee, E., de Wit, J. B. F., & Prestage, G. (2017). Adapting behavioural surveillance to antiretroviral-based HIV prevention: Reviewing and anticipating trends in the Australian Gay Community Periodic Surveys. *Sexual Health*, 14(1), 72-79. doi:10.1071/SH16072
- Zablotska, I. B., Kippax, S., Grulich, A., Holt, M., & Prestage, G. (2011). Behavioural surveillance among gay men in Australia: Methods, findings and policy implications for the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmissible infections. *Sexual Health*, 8(3), 272-279. doi:10.1071/SH10125

