



Re-framing PrEP to sceptical audiences

Andrew Grulich

IUSTI Asia Pacific Sexual Health Congress | 2 November 2018



PrEP scepticism

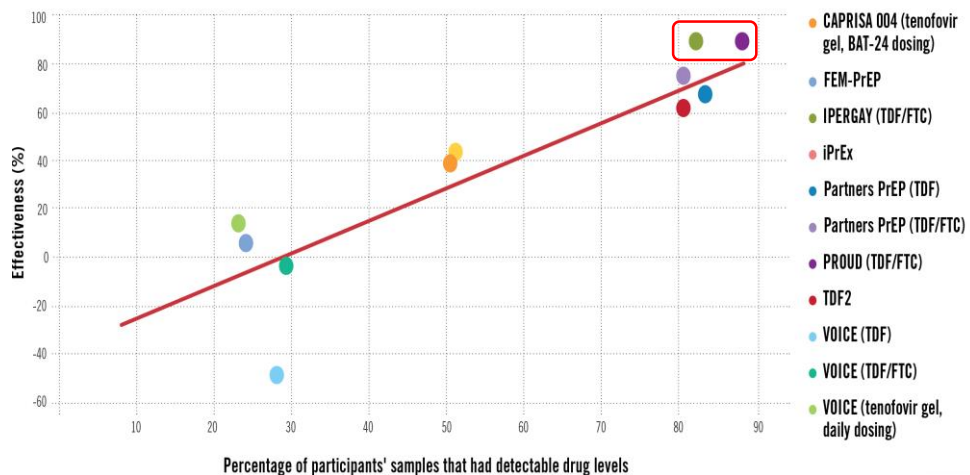
- **It won't work**
- **It wont help us end HIV**
 - ..and even if it did it would cost too much
- **It will cause increased risk behaviour and a wave of STIs**

PrEP's individual level efficacy

"If something comes along that's better than condoms, I'm all for it, but Truvada is not that," said Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. "Let's be honest: It's a party drug."

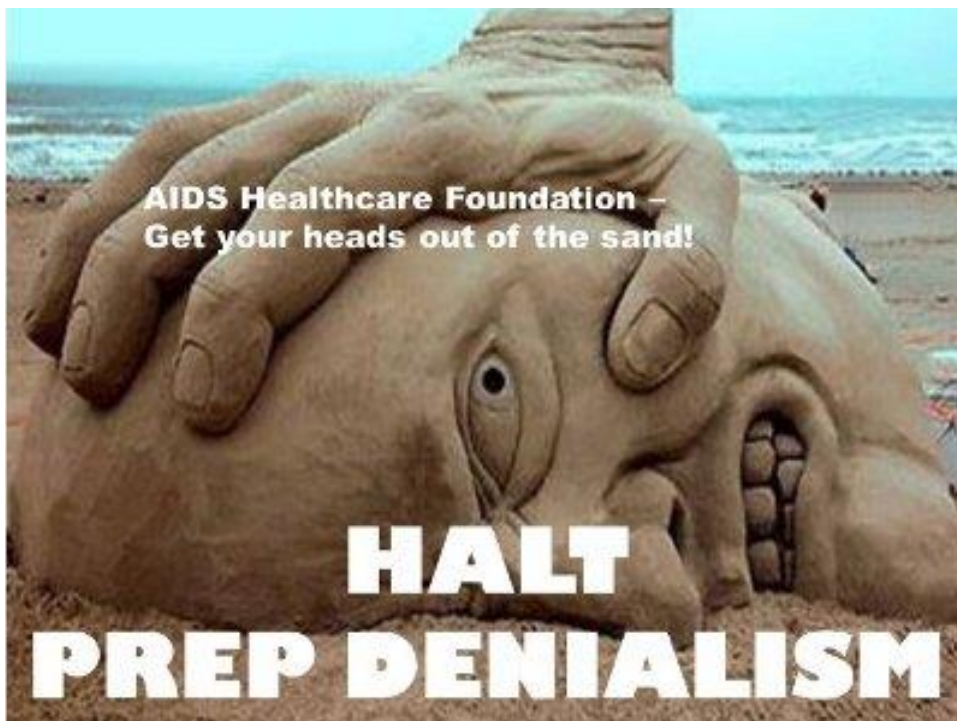


PrEP Works if You Take It — Effectiveness and Adherence in Trials of Oral and Topical Tenofovir-Based Prevention



PrEP efficacy: summary

- Oral TDF/FTC PrEP is extremely effective in adherent individuals
- Oral TDF/FTC PrEP works best in the rectum
 - The regimen is forgiving for missing up to 3 pills/week
 - However, daily adherence is required for vaginal protection
- Daily TDF/FTC PrEP is close to 100% effective in adherent gay men
 - Case reports of failure in adherent individuals are rare (approx. 5)
 - Drug resistant HIV explains most of these



Does PrEP help reduce HIV at the population level?

An Open Letter To The



What if you're wrong about PrEP?

AHF believes that while Truvada may work to protect a small segment of the population of HIV-negative individuals, all of the scientific studies have shown that it will not work on a community-wide basis because of consistently bad adherence by study subjects—even under ideal circumstances.

Both the community and the government must be accountable for the guidance they give to vulnerable populations. The debate about safer sex goes back to the beginning of the epidemic and every time we didn't heed advice to protect ourselves, we paid a terrible price. AHF will do everything possible to make sure that doesn't happen again, but if we are wrong we will take responsibility for our decisions. We hope everyone else will do the same.

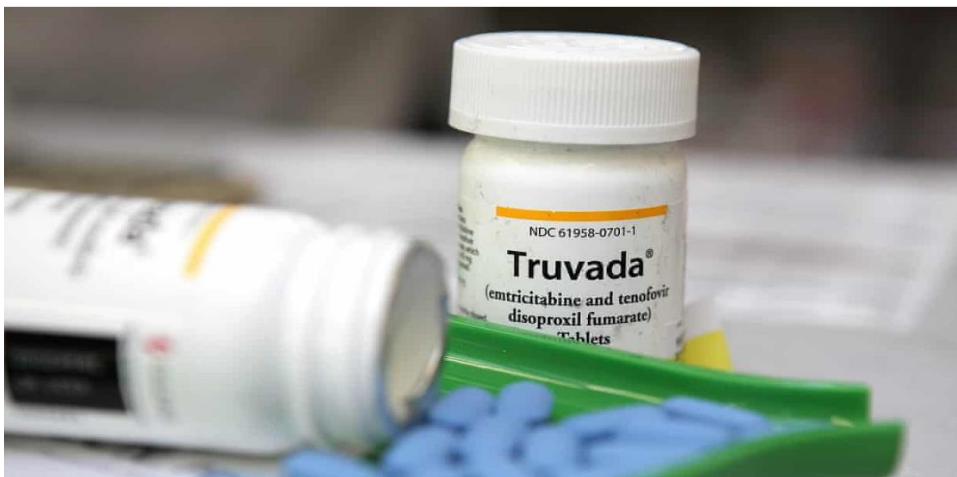
How the HIV-prevention drug could break the NHS

Ross Clark



NHS refusal to fund HIV prevention treatment is shameful, say charities

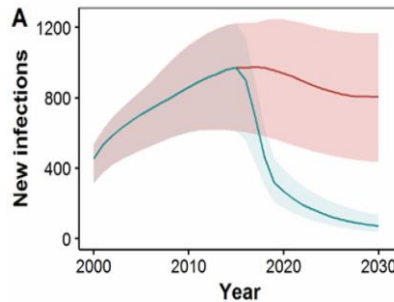
PrEP, which can reduce risk of HIV infection by up to 86%, falls outside health service remit, says NHS England



Will PrEP work at the population-level?

Modelling suggests impact will be maximised if...

- Targeted to **high-risk** gay men
- With **high coverage** (90%)
- Rolled out **quickly** (1-2 years)
- Lower levels of roll out lead to much lower reductions in incidence
- **Herd protection** is a critical part of the population-level effect



13

Slide courtesy of Richard Gray

Population-level effectiveness of rapid, targeted, high-coverage roll-out of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis in men who have sex with men: the EPIC-NSW prospective cohort study



- **Rapid**
 - 3,700 gay and bisexual men started PrEP in 8 months, almost 10,000 in 2 years
- **Targeted**
 - high risk criteria, based on local data
 - State-wide across NSW
- **High-coverage**
 - Aimed for 100% coverage of high-risk men
 - No upper limit on recruitment

14

EPIC-NSW results

32% decline in new HIV infections diagnoses state-wide within 12 months of full recruitment

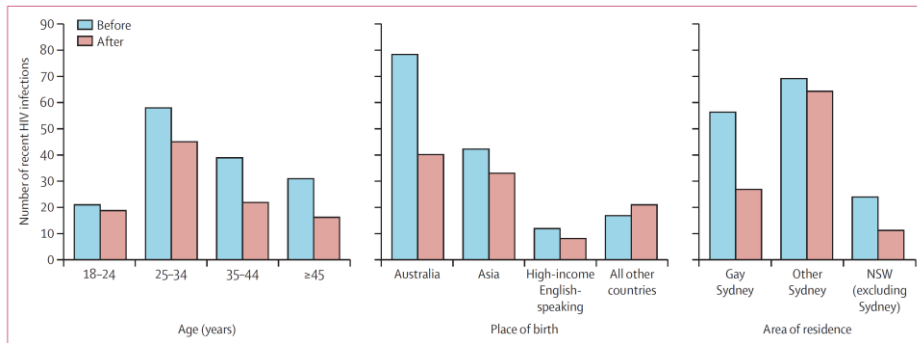


Figure 2: Number of recent HIV infections in New South Wales

Lancet HIV 2018

Published Online
October 17, 2018

15

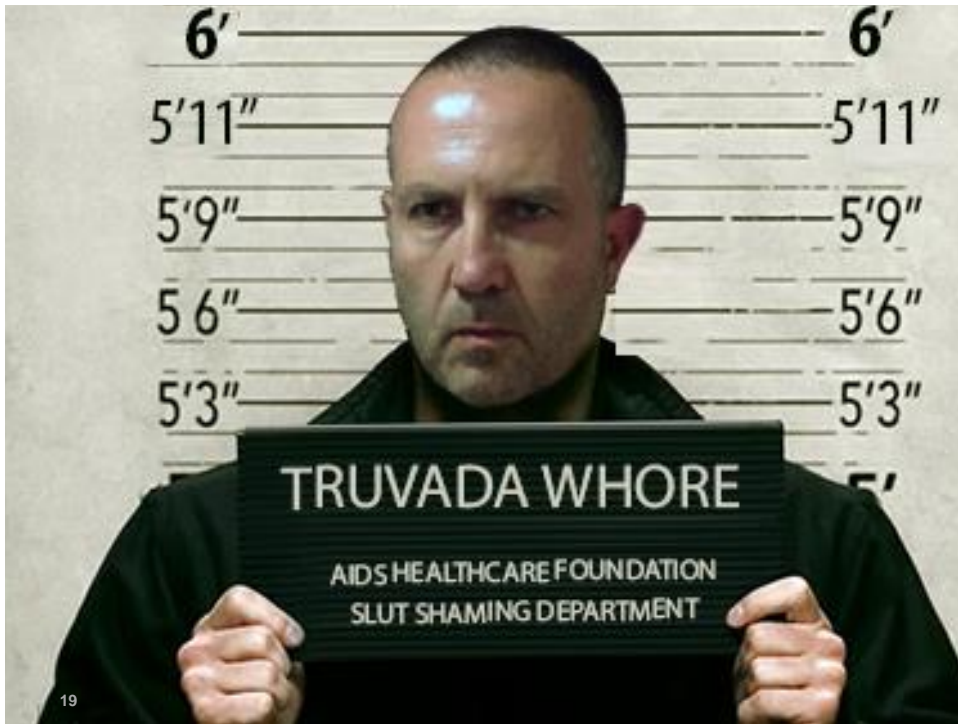
News > Health

PrEP: NHS 'must urgently offer' HIV breakthrough nationwide as study shows infections cut 25% in a year

'Unacceptable' that PrEP provision in England is capped when there are no limits in other UK nations, National Aids Trust chief says

Risk compensation

Increasing condomless sex



The New York Times

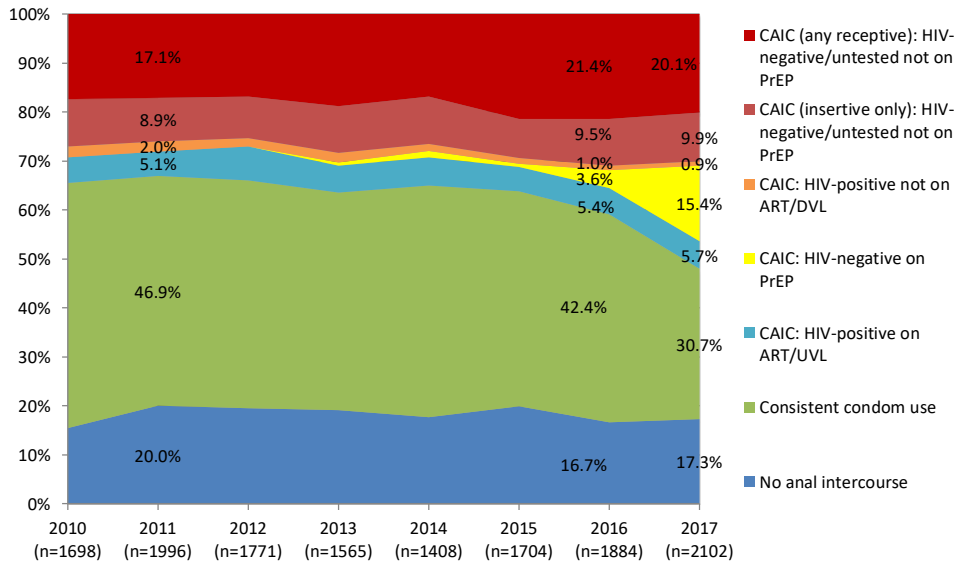
The End of Safe Gay Sex?

By Patrick William Kelly June 26, 2018



Gay men with casual partners, Sydney/Melbourne Periodic surveys, 2011-17

Arts & Social Sciences
Centre for Social Research in Health

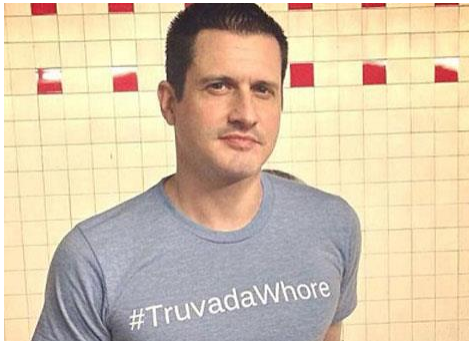


Source: [Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey 2017](#)

M Holt et al, *Lancet HIV* 2018

Increasing condomless sex

- **Condomless sex increases in men taking PrEP**
- **There is no increased HIV transmission in adherent men**
 - Potential for increased HIV if men who are not taking PrEP also increase condomless sex
- **Frequent STI testing is critical to contain the increased STI risk**
- **Additional interventions are required for STIs**

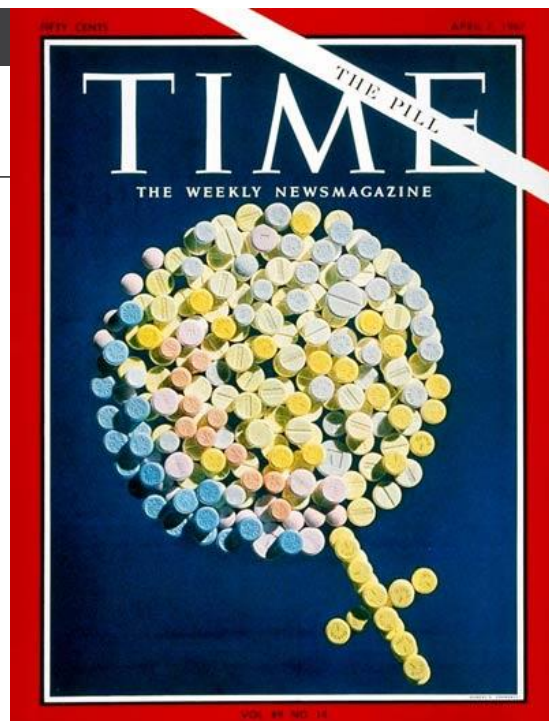


2 Years Of Responsible Whores

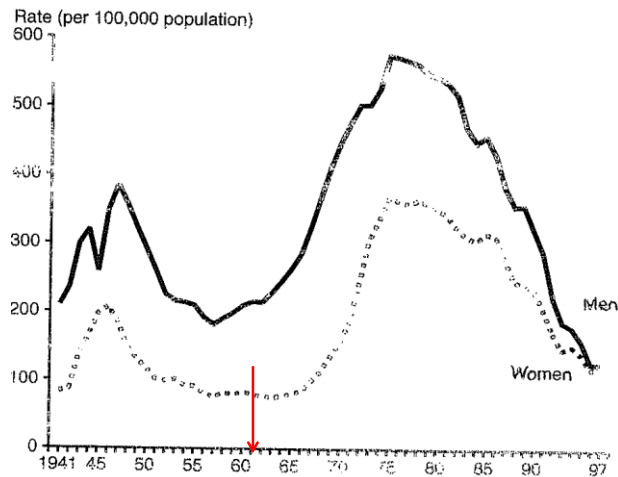
PrEP prevents HIV, 99% Efficacy, 1 pill / day



Déjà vu?



Gonorrhoea incidence, US, 1941-1997



Kirby Institute	NSW Ministry of Health	Site investigators	Site investigators
David Cooper	Jo Holden	Anna McNulty	David Smith
Andrew Grulich	Christine Selvey	Robert Finlayson	Nathan Ryder
Rebecca Guy	Heather-Marie Schmidt	Mark Bloch	Catrina Ooi
Jeff Jin	Dale Halliday	David Baker	Emanuel Vlahakis
Janaki Amin	Kerry Chant	Christopher Camody	Rohan Bopage
Iryna Zablotska	Bill Whittaker	Andrew Carr	Sarah Martin
Barbara Yeung	Barbara Telfa	Katherine Brown	Tuck Meng Soo
Ges Levitt	Community Organisations	Kym Collins	Don Smith
Erin Ogilvie	Nic Parkhill	Rosalind Foster	Nick Doong
Shawn Clackett	Karen Price	Debbie Allen	David Townson
Stefanie Vaccher	Matt Vaughan	Eva Jackson	Daniel Chanisheff
Mo Hammoud	Scott McGill	David Lewis	Bradley Forssman
Lucy Watchirs-Smith	Craig Cooper	Josephine Lusk	
Denton Callander		Catherine O'Connor	
Tobias Vickers		Phillip Read	
Nila Dharan			

The EPIC-NSW study team thanks the over 9,700 participants. EPIC-NSW is funded by the NSW Ministry of Health. We thank Gilead for providing a donation of Truvada for use in EPIC-NSW. Study drug is also purchased from Mylan pharmaceuticals.

PrEP is part of Combination Prevention



HOW DO YOU DO IT?

CONDOMS PrEP UVL

TEST OFTEN + TREAT EARLY + STAY SAFE = ENDING HIV 2020

ENDINGHIV.ORG.AU/YOUCHOOSE

I DO IT ON THE GO
Choosing condoms keeps me safe from HIV and STIs. How do you do it?

I DO IT WITH MY DOCTOR
Knowing I'm undetectable keeps me healthy and my partners safe. How do you do it?

I DO IT EVERY DAY
Choosing daily PrEP keeps me HIV negative. How do you do it?

I DO IT ALL THE TIME
Choosing condoms keeps me safe from HIV and STIs. How do you do it?

I DO IT DAILY
Staying undetectable keeps me healthy and my partners safe. How do you do it?

I DO IT WITH MY MOUTH
Choosing daily PrEP keeps me HIV negative. How do you do it?

ENDINGHIV.ORG.AU/YOUCHOOSE