

# Intention vs. Reality: PrEP use in Queensland following PBS listing

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## Disclosure of Interest Statement

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# Background

QPrEPd (n = 2331)

QPrEPd-X (n = 598)

## Participant surveys

Enrolment  
n=2903

Month 3  
N=1677

Month 12  
n=973

Month 24  
n=75

Exit (1)  
Not enrolled  
1 Oct. 2018  
n=282

Exit (2)  
Closure  
Enrolled on  
1 Oct. 2018  
n=602

## Participants (N=209)

- ✓ Enrolled on 1 Oct. 2018
- ✓ Completed Exit Survey
- ✓ 6 month Follow-up Survey

Consent provided for  
contact by M&E Team

6 month  
Follow-  
up n=265

Rolling enrolment

# Participant Snapshot (n=209)

- 81.8% (171) Gay
- 77.5% (162) Australian born
- 1.5% (3) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- 1.9% (4) Medicare Ineligible
- 57.4% (120) University degree
- Study Site
  - 50.2% (105) General Practice
  - 30.6% (64) Sexual Health Service
  - 19.1% (40) Community General Practice
- Location
  - 82.3% (172) Reside in Major QLD City
  - 5.7% (12) Reside in Inner Regional QLD
  - 10.0% (21) Reside in Outer Regional QLD
- Distance to study Site
  - 68.4% (143) Travelled <10km to service
  - 4.8% (10) Travelled >50km to service

Age groups	n	%
18-19	2	1.0%
20-29	34	16.3%
<b>30-39</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>25.8%</b>
<b>40-49</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>23.0%</b>
<b>50-59</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>24.9%</b>
60-69	14	6.7%
70-79	4	1.9%
80-89	1	0.5%

# Sexual Partners

Partners in last 6 months	n	%
None	2	1.0%
1	5	2.4%
2 to 5	48	23.0%
6 to 10	48	23.0%
<b>More than 10</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>49.3%</b>
Unknown	3	1.4%

Sex Partner	Regular	Fuck Buddy	Casual
<b>Male</b>	<b>141 (67.5%)</b>	<b>165 (78.9%)</b>	<b>184 (88.0%)</b>
None	58 (27.8%)	36 (17.2%)	7 (3.4%)
Transgender men, Transgender women or Women	5 (2.4%)	5 (2.4%)	14 (6.7%)
Did not answer	4 (1.9%)	3 (1.4%)	4 (1.9%)

# Intention to use & actual PrEP use

- **At closure**
  - 94.7% (198/209) intended to continue taking PrEP
- **At 6 months post closure**
  - 90.0% (188/209) had continued PrEP

PrEP use (6mths post closure)	Intention to use PrEP (Exit Survey)		
	Take PrEP	Cease PrEP	Total
Taking PrEP	183	5	188
Ceased PrEP	15	6	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>209</b>

**Statistically significant difference** in proportion intending to continue PrEP and PrEP use 6 months post closure (McNemar's Test  $p = 0.04$ )

# Intended to continue - Ceased use

PrEP use (6 mths post closure)	Intention to use PrEP (Exit Survey)		
	Take PrEP	Cease PrEP	Total
Taking PrEP	183	5	188
Ceased PrEP	15	6	21

Median age (range)	37 years (18-62 years)
Average months enrolled	18
Resides in city	11 (73.3%)
Ceased PrEP immediately	6 (40%)
Reasons for stopping PrEP*	6 (40%) Monogamous relationship with HIV- partner 4 (26.7%) Currently not sexually active 4 (26.7%) Worried about long term PrEP side effects 3 (20%) Difficult to attend regular medical appt. 3 (20%) Reduced numbers of sexual partners
* Multiple responses allowed	
Condomless sex off PrEP	9 (60%)
Likelihood of restarting	6.9/10 (0=Very unlikely, 10=Very likely)

# Barriers to Accessing PrEP via PBS

**Getting a prescription** 94.1% (177/188) no difficulties

- GPs poor knowledge and unwillingness to prescribe
- Poor availability of appointments

**Getting PrEP dispensed** 81.4% (153/188) no difficulties

- No or limited stock held,
- Feeling judgement, perceived and enacted stigma

Types of dispensing pharmacy used *	n	%	% of Cases
<b>Local community pharmacy</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>70.0%</b>	<b>84.7%</b>
Importing PrEP from overseas on-line pharmacy	38	16.0%	19.4%
Sexual Health Clinic Pharmacy	22	9.3%	11.2%
Local public hospital pharmacy	9	3.8%	4.6%
Buying PrEP from an Australian on-line pharmacy	2	0.8%	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>120.9%</b>

\*Multiple responses allowed

# PrEP dosing (PrEP continued n=188)

Likelihood of using PrEP on demand	Current PrEP use				
	6-7 days	4-5 days	On demand	Total	%
Extremely unlikely	113	1	1	115	61.2%
Unlikely	27	0	2	29	15.4%
Neutral	14	3	6	23	12.2%
Likely	7	1	1	9	4.8%
Extremely likely	7	2	3	12	6.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
	<b>89.4%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Likelihood of using PrEP on demand	Current PrEP use	
	On Demand	Not On Demand
Likely	4	17
Unlikely	9	158

Association between ‘likelihood’ to use PrEP on demand and PrEP use six months post QPrEPd. Fishers Exact Test p=0.42

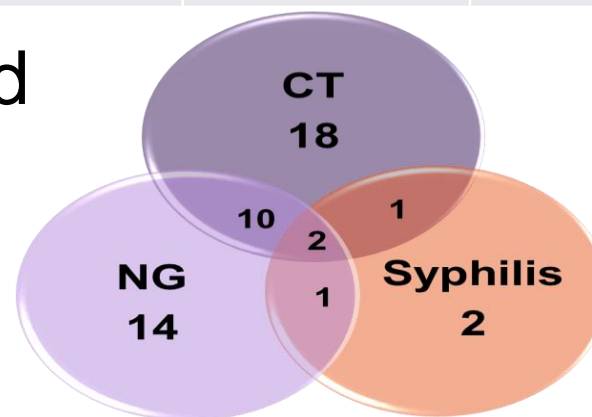


# STI diagnoses by participant (PrEP continued n=188)

- 27.1% (51/188) reported an STI diagnosed since the closure with 51 participants reporting 68 STIs

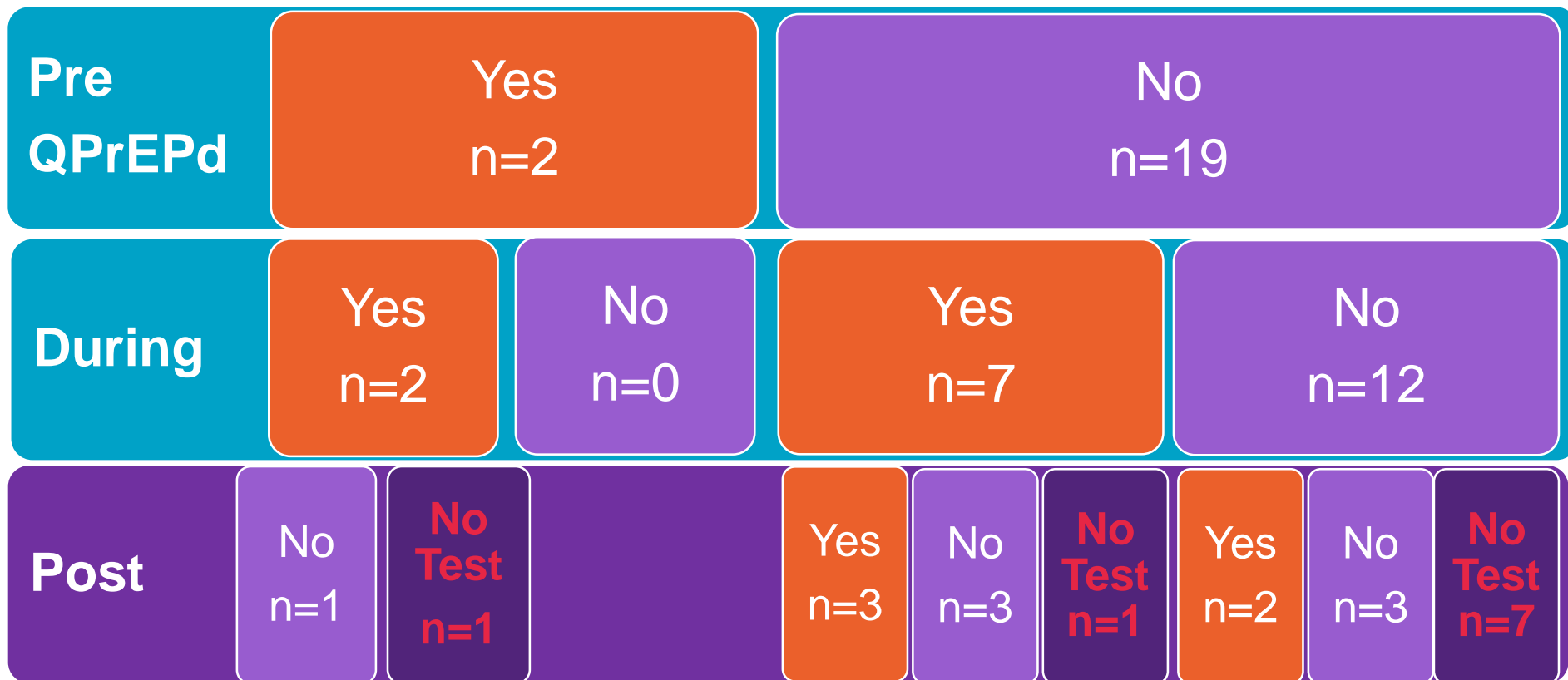
STI diagnosed#	n	%	% of cases
Chlamydia	31	45.6%	60.8%
Gonorrhoea	27	39.7%	52.9%
Syphilis	6	8.8%	11.8%
Herpes simplex virus	3	4.4%	5.9%
Human papilloma virus	1	1.5%	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>133.3%</b>

- 29.2% (14/48) diagnosed with more than one STI



# Multiple responses allowed

# STI diagnoses by participant (PrEP discontinued n=21)



## Number of STI detected post study

Chlamydia

1

1

Gonorrhoea

1

1

Mycoplasma Genitalium

1

# Intended service to access PrEP prescription

Intended service	Service being accessed					Total
	SHC Study site (SS)	SHC Not SS	S100 GP SS	GP Not SS	Regular GP	
<b>Study site (SS)</b>						
Sexual Health Clinic (SHC)	79	3	10	5	1	98
S100 GP	5	2	43	2	3	55
<b>Not study site</b>						
GP	1	1	2	2	1	7
Regular GP before study	2		3	2	16	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>183</b>

17.5% (32/183) PrEP accessed via non-S100 GP prescriptions

# Thank you

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- ❖ QPrEPd Study Participants
- ❖ Staff of the QPrEPd study sites
- ❖ QPrEPd Steering Committee
- ❖ Study Management Team at Cairns Sexual Health Service
  - Data Management Team
  - Pharmacy Team
- ❖ Queensland AIDS Council
- ❖ Dr Iryna Zablotska (PRELUDE)
- ❖ Associate Professor Edwina Wright (VicPrEP Demonstration Project)

## Human Research Ethic Committee Approval

Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service Human Research Ethics Committee HREC/14/QGC/182

The University of Queensland Human Research Ethics Committee 2016001664