

# LOWER PREP AWARENESS AND USE AMONG RECENTLY ARRIVED OVERSEAS-BORN GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN IN AUSTRALIA: RESULTS FROM NATIONAL HIV BEHAVIOURAL SURVEILLANCE

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## Background:

Australia's HIV epidemic has been worsening in overseas-born gay and bisexual men, particularly among those who have recently arrived in Australia. We assessed HIV prevention needs by country of birth and recency of arrival.

## Methods:

The Gay Community Periodic Surveys recruited men at gay venues/events and online. Data were from non-HIV-positive men from the last available round for participating jurisdictions (2019 or 2020), grouped by country of birth and recency of arrival: Australian-born (AB), recently arrived overseas-born (R-OSB; in Australia for <2 years) and non-recently arrived overseas-born (NR-OSB; in Australia for ≥2 years). Groups were compared using chi-square and analysis of variance tests.

## Results:

8,814 survey responses from non-HIV-positive men were included: 6,175 (70.1%) were AB, 441 (5.0%) R-OSB, and 2,198 (24.9%) NR-OSB. R-OSB were youngest (AB mean=37.6, R-OSB mean=31.2, NR-OSB mean=38.6;  $p<0.001$ ) and most likely to be studying (AB=8.7%, R-OSB=20.7%, NR-OSB=8.7%;  $p<0.001$ ). Recent condomless anal intercourse with casual partners was equally likely in the three groups (CLAIC; range=36.3-37.4%;  $p=0.593$ ). R-OSB were most likely to have had an HIV test in the previous year (AB=62.6%, R-OSB=70.5%, NR-OSB=68.1%;  $p<0.001$ ), but least likely to test at GPs (AB=46.1%, R-OSB=15.7%, NR-OSB=39.0%) and most likely at sexual health clinics (AB=31.3%, R-OSB=41.7%, NR-OSB=39.7%), hospitals (AB=2.5%, R-OSB=14.8%, NR-OSB=4.1%) or community sites (AB=6.4%, R-OSB=10.5%, NR-OSB=7.9%;  $p<0.001$ ). R-OSB were least aware of PrEP (AB=87.1%, R-OSB=81.2%, NR-OSB=88.0%;  $p<0.001$ ); however, there was no difference in awareness among participants who had CLAIC ( $p=0.177$ ). Overall, PrEP use was lowest among R-OSB (AB=29.5%, R-OSB=27.0%, NR-OSB=34.2%;  $p<0.001$ ); this difference was more pronounced among those having CLAIC (AB=63.9%, R-OSB=53.1%, NR-OSB=65.5%;  $p<0.001$ ). R-OSB PrEP-users were most likely to obtain PrEP online (AB=4.6%, R-OSB=27.1%, NR-OSB=13.0%;  $p<0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Although CLAIC and testing levels were similar, awareness and use of PrEP was lower among recently arrived men. Targeted PrEP education and assistance with navigation of online ordering may increase awareness and use.

## Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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