

*Effects of LGBT Community Connectedness and Participation  
on Sexual Health in International MSM Students*



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**Acknowledgements :**

All survey participants, NSW Health  
Luke Shilson-Hughes, ACON, Limin Mao,  
NSW STIPU and consortium colleagues

**Disclosures:**

Supported by NSW Health

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## BACKGROUND/AIMS & METHODS:

- NSW HIV notification rates have increased among overseas-born men; lack of PrEP uptake
- Almost 230,000 international students are enrolled at tertiary institutions in NSW
- Study aim: to explore relationships between LGBT Community Connectedness and Participation on sexual health behaviours
- Cross-sectional online survey available in 9 languages
- Promotion and recruitment online and via student and collegiate networks
- Data collected: demographics including identity, sexual health knowledge and behaviour, HIV & STI testing and diagnoses, HIV treatment, PrEP and PEP use, and LGBT Community Connectedness and Participation

Are you an international Uni or Tafe student?

Participate in our study on sexual health. You could win one of five MYER gift cards valued at \$100. This study is completely anonymous and available in several languages.

Complete the survey

UTS

## RESULTS

### DEMOGRAPHICS

- 168 tertiary international MSM students, median age 25 years (IQR=6)
- Top three countries of birth: China (13.1%), India (10.1%), Brazil (8.9%)

### SEXUAL IDENTITY AND BEHAVIOUR

- Solely attracted to men: 71%; Identifies as gay: 67% (22% bisexual)
- Only male partners: 61% (life); 79% (past year)

### LGBT COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND CONNECTEDNESS

- 42% no LGBT friends and no to little time spend with LGBT people
- 65% desire for more LGBT friends; 60% spending more time with LGBT people, 57% more included in LGBT Community in Australia
- Participants from Asian countries were **more likely to report no or little connectedness and participation and higher desire to be included** than those from Europe, North and Latin America.

### PARTICIPATION, CONNECTEDNESS AND (SEXUAL) HEALTH

- Higher level of STI testing, knowledge and use of PrEP, sexual health knowledge in general, mental and psychological wellbeing, STI diagnosis, licit and illicit substance use
- No connection/participation: more likely to experience discrimination and marginalisation

## CONCLUSIONS/IMPLICATIONS:

- Racial divide regarding inclusion, participation in and connectedness to LGBT Communities
- Those included/participating more likely to be knowledgeable and use PrEP and health services
- Inclusion in LGBT Communities to foster connectedness and knowledge