

## **A retrospective review of STI rates amongst Individuals accessing PrEP from Adelaide Sexual Health Centre (ASHC).**

Malden, C<sup>1</sup>, Shaw, D<sup>2</sup> & Bell, C<sup>1</sup>

1. Adelaide Sexual Health Centre, Adelaide, South Australia.
2. Infectious Diseases Unit, Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide, South Australia

### **Background:**

Tenofovir/Emtricitabine was listed on the PBS as Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in May 2018. Since then, more than 800 individuals have commenced PrEP through Adelaide Sexual Health Centre (ASHC). Little is known about the rates of STIs seen in South Australians accessing PrEP. The aims of this review were

1. To define the number and characteristics of individuals accessing PrEP at ASHC
2. Review rates of STI diagnoses
3. Identify factors which may contribute to STI diagnoses whilst accessing PrEP

### **Method:**

A retrospective review of all patients commenced on PrEP from ASHC from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018 until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 was performed. Data was manually retrieved from the ASHC electronic patient record. Data was collated in Microsoft excel for statistical analysis.

### **Results:**

206 patients were seen for PrEP commencement and 121 (59%) returned for a follow up visit. The majority of individuals were males (203/206) with 75% of individuals aged 18 – 39 years. 45% were diagnosed with an STI whilst on PrEP and 14% were diagnosed with an STI on more than one occasion. The majority of STIs were asymptomatic (83%) with a predominance of rectal infections (66%). Use of methamphetamines in the last 3 months and diagnosis of rectal chlamydia, rectal gonorrhoea or infectious syphilis in the 3 months prior to initiation of PrEP was independently associated with diagnosis of an STI on PrEP ( $p < 0.001$  and  $p = 0.028$  respectively).

### **Conclusion:**

PrEP offers individuals protection from HIV, we have demonstrated high rates of STIs in users accessing PrEP at ASHC, particularly rectal infections. Regular STI screening and looking towards pharmacological prophylaxis for STIs may be options for the future to control increasing rates of STIs within our community and PrEP users.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

None