

PEER-LED INTERVENTIONS ADDRESSING HEALTH AND WELLBEING FOR GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN BETWEEN 2000 AND 2020: A SCOPING REVIEW

Authors:

Freestone J^{1,2}, Siefried KJ³, Bourne A^{2,4}, Hammoud M², Prestage G²

ACON¹, The Kirby Institute², National Centre for Clinical Research on Emerging Drugs³, Australian Research Centre for Sex Health and Society⁴

Background:

Peer-led interventions remain central to the HIV response for gay and bisexual men who have sex with men (GBMSM) globally. Over the last two decades advancements in HIV, societal changes, and recognition of new health and wellbeing priorities for GBMSM have impacted peer programs. This review was conducted to summarise the contemporary evidence-base for peer interventions targeting GBMSM, identify gaps in the literature, and highlight future priorities for peer led program implementation and research.

Methods:

This study used a scoping review methodology, literature was identified via subject heading and keywords searches across five electronic databases; titles, abstracts and full texts were reviewed for inclusion. Studies eligible for Inclusion were those that evaluated peer-led interventions for GBMSM and were published in a peer-reviewed journal between January 2000 and December 2020. A coding framework was developed to analyse extracted data against intervention implementation and research evaluation components.

Results:

Of the 90 included studies most found evidence of significant positive effect, only 4 did not. The majority (n=85) addressed HIV prevention, screening, or management. Interventions included peer education (n =46), groupwork (n=19), navigation (n=10), HIV testing (n=8) and counselling (n=7). Results demonstrate the enduring capacity of peers to deliver a diverse range of efficacious interventions across the HIV care continuum.

Conclusion:

Peers provide effective interventions and should be further embedded within HIV services to ensure the sector continues to prioritise lived experience. Despite disparities experienced by GBMSM in relation to alcohol and other drugs (AOD) and mental health, peer led interventions addressing these domains of health and wellbeing are rarely reflected in the published literature. Authors are currently working with AOD services and community health organisations to develop and evaluate peer led programs addressing AOD use among GBMSM, transwomen and non-binary people.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

NA