

GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN WHO USE EVENT-BASED PREP HAVE A LOWER HIV RISK PROFILE THAN DAILY PREP USERS: RESULTS FROM NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN DATA 2019-2020.

Chan C¹, Broady TR², Mao L², Prestage G¹, Holt M², Bavinton BR¹

¹ Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney, Sydney NSW

² Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW Sydney

Background:

While daily PrEP remains the most common dosing regimen in Australia, gay and bisexual men (GBM) are increasingly using event-based dosing regimens. As event-based PrEP becomes more prevalent, understanding characteristics of those using event-based PrEP is important for targeted health messaging.

Methods:

Using data from the Gay Community Periodic Surveys collected in 2019-2020, we compared the characteristics of GBM who reported daily and event-based PrEP use in the last six months using bivariate and multivariate logistic regression.

Results:

Of 7,731 HIV-negative GBM, 2,746 (35.5%) reported PrEP use in the last 6 months. Of those, 285 (10.4%) reported event-based PrEP use. At the bivariate level, event-based PrEP users were less likely than daily PrEP users to identify as gay (86.9% versus 92.9%, odds ratio [OR]=0.51, $p<0.001$), be socially engaged with gay men (Mean=5.5 versus Mean=5.7, OR=0.89, $p=0.004$), or have had >10 male sexual partners in the last 6 months (25.2% versus 45.6%, OR=0.40, $p<0.001$), group sex in the last six months (49.1% versus 61.6%, OR=0.60, $p<0.001$), an STI diagnosis in the last 12 months (37.3% versus 51.2%, OR=0.57, $p<0.001$), or recent condomless anal intercourse with casual partners (64.6% versus 74.9%, OR=0.61, $p<0.001$) but were more likely to report recent injecting drug use in the last 6 months (6.0% versus 3.3%, OR=1.86, $p=0.023$). In multivariate analysis, event-based PrEP use was independently associated with not identifying as gay, having fewer male partners, no STI diagnosis in the last 12 months, and recent injecting drug use.

Conclusion:

Event-based PrEP users had a lower sexual risk profile and were less gay-identified. Event-based dosing is highly appropriate for GBM with infrequent risk; such men need clear health promotion messaging about how to take it correctly.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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