

## **HIV retesting among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men in Australia by PrEP status.**

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### **Background:**

Prior to 2019, STIGMA guidelines recommended gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBM) are tested for HIV up to four times a year, depending on risk-based criteria. Guideline updates in 2019 recommend quarterly testing for all sexually active HIV-negative GBM. In Australia, monitoring community compliance with testing guidelines over time is complicated by pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) scale up and the associated regular HIV testing. Using data from the Australian Collaboration for Coordinated Enhanced Sentinel Surveillance (ACCESS), we examined trends in HIV retesting among HIV-negative GBM by PrEP status.

### **Methods:**

Retrospective data from HIV testing among GBM between 2013-2019 were extracted from 31 health services in each state and territory (except NT) that participate in ACCESS. PrEP users were defined as having evidence of a PrEP prescription within the study period. Annualised three- and 12-month retesting rate was disaggregated among GBM PrEP and non-PrEP users over the study period and calculated as the proportion of individuals whose first HIV test within a calendar year was preceded by at least one HIV test within three and 12 months, respectively. Poisson regression assessed trends in retesting rate over time.

### **Results:**

Of 71,085 HIV-negative GBM tested for HIV between 2013-2019, 54,183 (76%) never used PrEP. Between 2013 and 2019 the proportion of never-PrEP users retested within three months increased from 17% to 21% ( $p < 0.001$ ) and the proportion retested within 12 months increased from 48% to 54% ( $p < 0.001$ ). In ever PrEP users, the proportion retested within three months increased from 25% to 64% ( $p < 0.001$ ) and the proportion retested within 12 months increased from 62% to 89% ( $p < 0.001$ ).

### **Conclusion:**

PrEP users were more likely to adhere to HIV testing guidelines. A renewed focus on HIV risk and the importance of regular testing in GBM not using PrEP is required.

**Conclusion:**

Nothing to disclose.