PrEP in Australia
The lived experiences of MSM
I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet here today, the Wadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. I pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.
Aims

- To explore the lived experiences of MSM who have taken or are taking PrEP, including their motivations and healthcare experiences
Methods

- A descriptive cohort study design, utilising non-random sampling.

- 111 Australian cis-gender MSM completed the anonymous, one-time online survey.

- Only 91 participant responses were eligible for inclusion in the analyses due to level of completion.
Summary of findings - participants

- The average participant
  - aged between 35-39
  - lives in Victoria
  - lives in a capital or major city
  - identified as gay
  - single at the time of participation, and
  - had pursued education further than secondary school

- 2.47% of participants identified as Australian Aboriginal

- No participants from Tasmania or ACT

- 1.25% of participants identified as straight, specifically due to the need for discretion
Summary of findings - motivations

Participants' reasons which motivated them to start taking PrEP

- I did not want to worry about contracting HIV when having sex
- PrEP allows me to enjoy my sexual experiences more
- I felt safer using PrEP
- I felt I should take responsibility over my sexual health
- I wanted to control my sexual health
- I wanted to have anal sex without a condom
- I am fearful of contracting HIV
- I believe I am at high risk of contracting HIV
- I was taking PrEP as part of a trial or study
- My healthcare provider suggested it
- My partner is HIV+

Percentage of participants reporting this reason as a motivation to take PrEP:

- not at all important
- slightly important
- moderately important
- very important
- extremely important
Summary of findings – healthcare experiences

Professional support
- my GP/healthcare provider has been helpful while taking PrEP
- my GP/healthcare provider has not been helpful while taking PrEP
- I received enough professional assistance while taking PrEP
- I received little professional assistance while taking PrEP
- my GP/healthcare provider was helpful when I started taking PrEP
- my GP/healthcare provider was not helpful when I started taking PrEP

Preparedness
- I felt prepared to start taking PrEP
- I was unprepared to start taking PrEP
- I wish I had more information before taking PrEP
- I felt knowledgeable before taking PrEP

Percentage of participants:
- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree nor disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree
Summary of findings – overview

- I would not recommend PrEP to anyone
- I would recommend PrEP to my friends
- I would recommend PrEP to anyone considering it

- My experience with PrEP has been positive
- My experience with PrEP has been negative
- I wish I had never taken PrEP
- I wish I had started taking PrEP sooner

■ strongly agree ■ agree ■ neither agree nor disagree ■ disagree ■ strongly disagree
Overall conclusion

- Participants lived experiences of PrEP and experiences of healthcare providers are overwhelmingly positive.
Thank you

- Questions and comments

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