

Pre-exposure prophylaxis use and knowledge in young MSM in Aotearoa New Zealand

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BIG GAY SEX SURVEY

Background/ aims and methods:

- PrEP is publicly funded in NZ, but the uptake has been lower than expected.
- Anecdotal evidence and overseas research suggests young MSM were experiencing more barriers to accessing PrEP
- Ending HIV (or Big Gay Sex Survey) is an annual online survey organized by NZAF to track the changes in practices, knowledge, and attitudes of NZ key populations
- The aim of the analysis (n=902) was to provide insight into the rates of PrEP use, and willingness to use PrEP among young MSM in NZ
- The knowledge levels and attitudes around PrEP were assessed

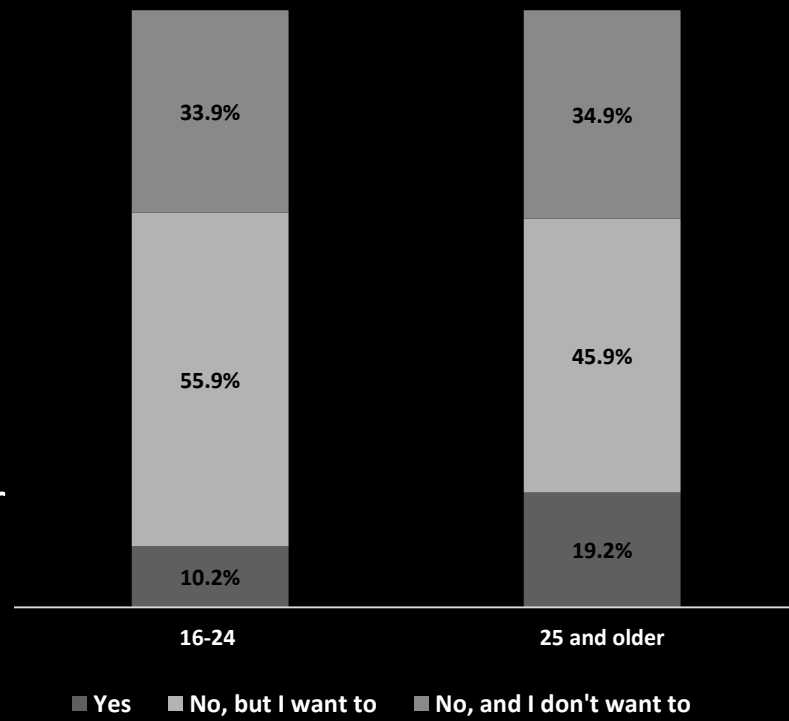
	<i>Age groups</i>			
	<i>16-24 (n=177)</i>		<i>25 and older (n=582)</i>	
<i>European</i>	118	66.7%	421	72.3%
<i>Māori</i>	20	11.3%	57	9.8%
<i>Asian</i>	33	14.9%	56	8.2%
<i>Grindr-recruited</i>	76	42.9%	202	34.7%
<i>Facebook-recruited</i>	69	39.0%	170	29.2%
<i>Reside in Auckland</i>	68	38.2%	244	41.2%

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Results:

- The proportion of PrEP users lower among younger MSM vs MSM over 25 (10.2% vs 19.2%)
- Younger age significantly associated with less PrEP use, after controlling for ethnicity, region of residence, and source of recruitment (AOR=0.53, 95% CI: 0.30-0.92).
- Younger PrEP users were *much* more likely to access it through importing generics (AOR=5.00, 95% CI: 1.17-21.31), than through public funding or PrEP trial
- Overall, knowledge levels were comparable; young age associated with not knowing PrEP did not offer protection from STIs (AOR=0.57, 95% CI: 0.37-0.88).

Current PrEP use



Conclusions:

BIG GAY SEX SURVEY

- Overall, two thirds of MSM in our sample wishes to use PrEP, or were currently using PrEP.
- Young MSM were as willing to use PrEP in NZ as their older counterparts.
- Barriers may exist hindering navigation in the public funding system – more research is needed to identify these
- Specific interventions are needed to support young MSM in accessing PrEP.

Ka pū te ruha, ka hao te rangatahi

When the worn out net lies heaped up, the new net goes fishing.

