

Background

- Shift in the epidemiology of HIV in Australia towards men who have sex with men born overseas (MSM)¹. Among international MSM students²:
 - Higher prevalence of HIV and other STIs
 - Lower levels of sexual health services use
 - Lower levels of PrEP uptake
- Limited research around sexual health knowledge, behaviours and services use³

Methods

- Multi-language cross-sectional online survey (N=168)
- Enrolled at university/higher education provider in New South Wales in 2018
- Variables: demographics, sexual identity and behaviour, sexual health knowledge and behaviour (including PrEP use), sexual health services use
- Analysis: descriptive and correlational analyses, binary logistic regression

References

1 Gunaratnam, P. et al. (2019). HIV diagnoses in migrant populations in Australia—A changing epidemiology. *PloS One*, 14(2)

2 Bourne, C. (2019). *Health service, peer and/or structural and policy interventions to respond to sexual health for international students*. Paper presented at the 2019 Australasian HIV&AIDS Conference, Perth, Australia.

3 Parker et al. (2020). International Students' views on sexual health: a qualitative study at an Australian University. *Sexual Health* 17(3)

Results

- Generally high knowledge of HIV transmission routes
- Limited knowledge regarding pre-exposure prophylaxis (20%) and post-exposure prophylaxis (28%)
- 44% report inconsistent condom use
- Only 14% use PrEP
- PrEP use not correlated with increased or decreased condom use
- Use of sexual health services positively correlated with LGBT community connectedness and condom use
- High level of inconsistent condom use and low levels of PrEP use and strong correlations between sexual health behaviour and HIV/STI testing, and connectedness with other sexual minority men
- Participants do not feel included in the local LGBT community but demonstrate desire to be. Those included were more likely to use vital sexual health services

Conclusion

- International MSM students are an emerging priority population for sexual health research and practice
- Future health promotion campaigns should consider incorporating strong community building and connectedness elements