



Sexual Health Knowledge, Behaviour and Health Service Use among International MSM Students in Australia

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Disclosures:

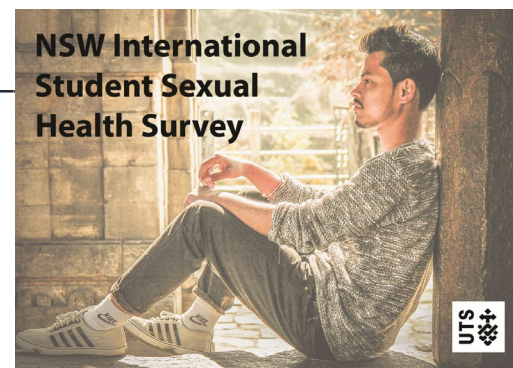
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BACKGROUND/AIMS & METHODS:

- NSW HIV notification rates have increased among overseas-born men
 - Almost 230,000 international students are enrolled at tertiary institutions in NSW
 - Study aim: to explore knowledge, behaviour and barriers to accessing health services and PrEP among international MSM students
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- Cross-sectional online survey available in 9 languages
- Promotion and recruitment online and via student and collegiate networks
- Data collected: demographics, sexual health knowledge and behaviour, HIV & STI testing and diagnoses, HIV treatment, PrEP and PEP use, access and barriers to health services
- Data exported to SPSS; analyses - frequencies, chi-square

RESULTS

DEMOGRAPHICS

- 168 tertiary international MSM students, median age 25 years (IQR=6)
- Top three countries of birth: China (13.1%), India (10.1%), Brazil (8.9%)

KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge about HIV, BBV, STIs and PrEP and PEP availability moderately high
- No difference by region of birth with respect to PrEP/ PEP knowledge or learning about HIV in school

BEHAVIOUR

- <50% participants reported consistent condom use; <1/3 of those with inconsistent condom use reported currently using PrEP
- 20% never been tested for HIV; 30% not tested in the past year; almost 40% had never tested for syphilis

BARRIERS

- Most frequently cited barriers to health care were **confidentiality (37.5%)** and **cost (33.9%)**; these were not associated with duration of being in Australia
- Participants from Asian countries were **more likely to cite confidentiality** than those from Europe, North and Latin America.

CONCLUSIONS/IMPLICATIONS:

- Despite reasonable HIV, STI and PReP/PEP knowledge, HIV and STI testing rates are suboptimal
- Confidentiality as a barrier is high compared to NSW youth population (see Access 3 final research report)
- Focus groups with university health providers have been conducted to understand provider perspectives on these findings – analyses underway
- To improve access to testing and PReP/PEP, strategies to address cost and confidentiality need to be developed as well as a range of health promotion activities

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