







Presidenza del Congresso A. Cattelan, P. Meli, S. Parisi, S. Rusconi

No boundaries in Infection Research and Care

Access to prevention in different settings

OC 58 IS PREP KNOWLEDGE A PRIVILEGE? THE UNEQUAL ACCESS TO PREP INFORMATION FOR CIS AND TRANS WOMEN AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING INDIVIDUALS AT HIV TESTING SITES

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Background: In Italy, the majority of PrEP users are gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM), while other populations - cisgender women, transgender women, transgender men and non-binary individuals with a cervix - face considerable barriers in accessing PrEP information and services. This study explores potential barriers to PrEP awareness and HIV testing for these populations. The initial hypothesis was that these groups are not being adequately informed about PrEP when tested for HIV.

Materials and Methods: To validate this hypothesis, Brescia Checkpoint and Anlaids Torino conducted a survey targeting cisgender women, transgender women, transgender men and non-binary individuals with a cervix. It was distributed across multiple regions and informal networks, including social media and community-based platforms. The responses were collected through Google Forms. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. The survey complied with GDPR regulation.

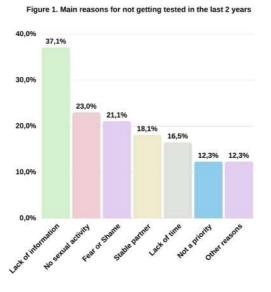
Results: A total of 765 respondents participated in the survey (Table 1), with 56.3% not having been tested for HIV in the past two years, mainly due to lack of knowledge on where or how to get tested (37.1%), absence of recent sexual activity (23%), fear or shame (21.1%), the misconception that monogamy is a protection (18.1%), and lack of time (16.5%) as described in Figure 1.

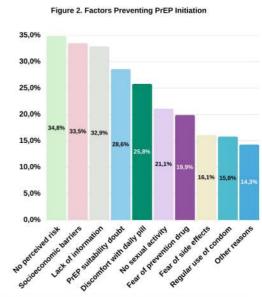
Among those tested, 72.2% were not informed about PrEP by testing providers (Table 2). Only 20% of those tested in STI/infectious disease departments had access to information. In contrast, checkpoints were more effective, with 55% receiving PrEP-related guidance. However, HIV associations provided information to only 29% of those tested. Indeed, insufficient information (32.9%) is one of the key factors preventing these populations from initiating PrEP, along with no perceived risk (34.8%) and socioeconomic barriers (33.5%) as displayed in Figure 2. Twelve people of all respondents reported using PrEP.

Conclusion: This study confirms our initial hypothesis that these populations are not being adequately informed about PrEP, particularly in institutional healthcare settings. Checkpoints' work to inform cisgender women, transgender women, transgender men and non-binary individuals with a cervix about PrEP remains insufficient. It is crucial that STI/infectious disease departments, together with the Italian HIV community, join forces to expand HIV testing awareness and provide comprehensive PrEP education and combination prevention counseling to ensure equitable HIV prevention access for all.

Attach: https://www.icar2025.it/upload/abstractAttach/Attach ABS 32.jpg

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Non-binary person, Bigender person Transgender man Genderqueer or genderfluid person Transgender woman Questioning prefer not to reply Agender person	38			Transport		
Transgender man Genderqueer or genderfluid person Transgender woman Questioning i prefer not to reply Agender person	77	68,3%	310	71,9%	538	70,3%
Genderqueer or genderfluid person Transgender woman Questioning I prefer not to reply Agender person	14	11,4%	43	10,0%	81	10,6%
Transgender woman Questioning I prefer not to reply Agender person		4,2%	19	4,4%	33	4,3%
Questioning I prefer not to reply Agender person	16	4,8%	16	3,7%	32	4,2%
t prefer not to reply Agender person	18	5,4%	14	3,2%	32	4,2%
Agender person	9	2,7%	13	3,0%	22	2,9%
	6	1,8%	9	2,1%	15	2,0%
Contraction and ad blook	5	1,5%	. 7	1,6%	12	1,6%
sex assigned at utilit	,			0		
Female	312	93,4%	416	96,5%	728	95,2%
Male	17	5,1%	13	3,0%	30	3,9%
Intersex	3	0,9%	0	0,0%	3	0,4%
prefer not to reply	2	0,6%	2	0,5%	4	0,5%
Sexual orientation			- A			
Heterosexual	88	26.3%	162	37,6%	250	32,7%
Risevual	87	26.0%	94	21,8%	181	23.7%
Pansexual	64	19.2%	47	10,9%	111	14,5%
Lesbian	24	7,2%	42	9,7%	66	8,6%
Ouger	29	8.7%	34	7.9%	63	8.2%
Questioning	11	3.3%	21	4,9%	32	4,2%
Asexual	- 11	2,7%	13	3,0%	22	2,9%
	- 17	1000		CONTRACT.	10000	2404.0
Fluid	14	4,2%	3	0,7%	17	2,2%
prefer not to reply	3	0,9%	6	1,4%	9	1,2%
Gay	2	0,6%	2	0,5%	4	0,5%
Demisexual	1	0,3%	4	0,9%	5	0,7%
Aromantic	1	0,3%	2	0,5%	3	0,4%
Polysexual	1	0,3%	1	0,2%	2	0,3%
Work Situation				,		
Employee	155	46,4%	194	45,0%	349	45,6%
Student	72	21,6%	108	25,1%	180	23,5%
Self-employed	54	16,2%	79	18,3%	133	17,4%
Unemployed	32	9,6%	35	8,1%	67	8,8%
Sex Worker	18	5,4%	4	0,9%	22	2,9%
Retired	0	0,0%	3			
PhD student and research scholar	-10			0,7%	3	0,4%





	Informed		Not Informed		Total							
N.	76	22,80%	258	72,20%	334							
Testing provider												
STI Center/Infectious Diseases Dept.	34	20%	135	80%	169	50,6%						
Private clinic	1	2%	55	98%	56	16,8%						
Checkpoint	30	55%	25	45%	55	16,5%						
HIV association	9	29%	22	71%	31	9,3%						
Public clinic	1	8%	12	92%	13	3,9%						
Blood donation center	1	10%	9	90%	10	2,9%						