NATIONAL CENTER FOR HIV, VIRAL HEPATITIS, STD, AND TB PREVENTION

CHANGES IN PREP AWARENESS AND USE AMONG MSM WHO INJECT DRUGS - 19 US CITIES, 2018 & 2022

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BACKGROUND

- Males who inject drugs who have sex with men (MWID-SM) may be at risk of acquiring HIV through injecting drugs and/or sex.
- HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) campaigns have focused on men who have sex with men, particularly gay/bisexual men, and may not be reaching heterosexual-identifying men or people who inject drugs.
- This analysis aimed to explore changes in PrEP awareness and use among MWID-SM in 2018 and 2022 by sexual orientation.

METHODS

- We analyzed data from 2018 and 2022 National HIV Behavioral Surveillance among people who inject drugs recruited via respondent-driven sampling (RDS) in 19 US urban areas.
- The analytic sample was restricted to HIV-negative males who inject drugs and who had sex with another man in the past 12 months (MWID-SM) and had no missing data on sexual orientation.
- Adjusted prevalence ratios (aPRs) and 95% confidence intervals (95% CIs) were obtained to estimate changes in PrEP awareness stratified by self-reported sexual orientation.
- Models were adjusted for age, race/ethnicity, city, and network size, and accounted for clustering by recruitment chain.

RESULTS

- Of HIV-negative MWID-SM, 71.5% (331/463) in 2018 and 66.8% (197/295) in 2022 identified as gay/bisexual.
- Between 2018 and 2022, there was a significant increase in PrEP awareness among gay/bisexual MWID-SM but not for heterosexual MWID-SM **(Figure 1)**.
- PrEP use was low among MWID-SM who were aware of PrEP in both years regardless of sexual orientation **(Figure 2)**.

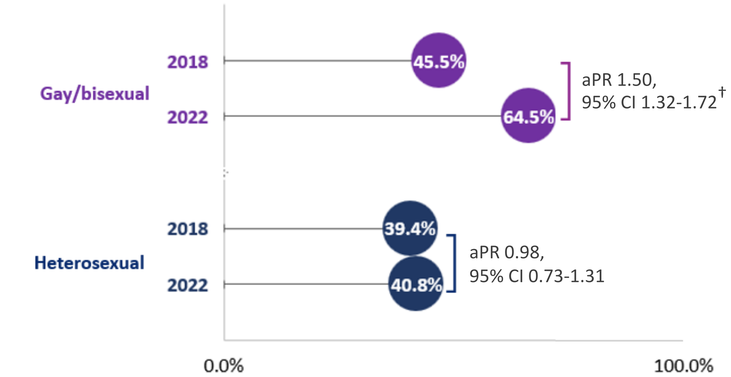
CONCLUSIONS

- The increase in PrEP awareness was limited to gay/bisexual men, however, PrEP use was low overall among MWID-SM regardless of sexual orientation.
- Without adequate HIV prevention, MWID-SM may be at risk of acquiring or transmitting HIV through injecting drugs and sex.
- Provider training may be useful to encourage assessment of both injection- and sex-related indications for PrEP during provider visits.
- Educational campaigns tailored to MWID-SM are warranted, particularly around risk behavior and benefits of PrEP regardless of one's sexual orientation.

Between 2018 and 2022, there was a **significant increase in PrEP awareness** among males who inject drugs who have sex with men (MWID-SM) who identified as **gay or bisexual, but NOT among those who identified as heterosexual.**

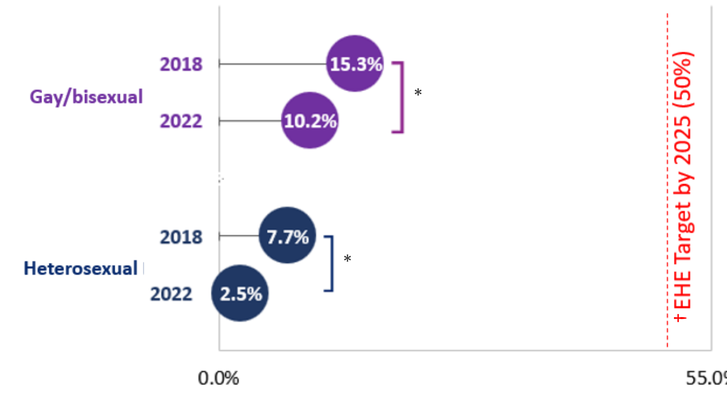
Educational campaigns on PrEP tailored to all **MWID-SM** are warranted.

FIGURE 1: Changes in **HIV PrEP awareness*** among males who inject drugs who have sex with men by sexual orientation (N=463 in 2018; N=295 in 2022)



Note: aPR – adjusted prevalence ratio, CI – confidence interval
* Log-linked Poisson regression, stratified by sexual orientation; models were adjusted for age, race/ethnicity, city, and network size and accounted for clustering RDS recruitment chain
† Significant at $p < 0.05$

FIGURE 2: Changes in **HIV PrEP use** among males who inject drugs who have sex with men who were aware of PrEP by sexual orientation (N=203 in 2018; N=167 in 2022)



* aPRs and 95% CIs were unable to be calculated due to small sample size.
† Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) in the U.S. by 2030 is an initiative coordinated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which aims to reduce HIV infections and advance health equity. https://www.cdc.gov/endhiv/index.html

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