



AUSTRALASIAN HIV&AIDS CONFERENCE 2015

## PASH.tm: Gay, bisexual and queer transgender men in the HIV response

Presenters: Jeremy Wiggins & Teddy Cook

**This presentation will contain pornographic material.**

### Who are MSM?



and?...

### Transgender men...



*"Men who have sex with men" can include men who identify as gay or bisexual, transgender men who have sex with men, and men who identify as heterosexual.*

United Nations Population Fund, Global Forum on MSM & HIV, United Nations Development Programme, World Health Organization, United States Agency for International Development, World Bank, Implementing comprehensive HIV and STI programmes with men who have sex with men: practical guidance for collaborative interventions. New York (NY): United Nations Population Fund; 2015.

## WHO POLICY BRIEF Transgender People and HIV, July 2015

*"high vulnerability and specific health needs of transgender people necessitates a distinct and independent status in the global HIV response"*

*"All published studies on HIV prevalence among transgender men are from North America, and while they suggest a lesser burden of disease than among transgender women."*



## CURRENT EVIDENCE BASE (U.S)

- 63% (n=77) of trans men surveyed reported having condomless receptive non-anal sex with a cis man
- 27% (n=33) reported having condomless receptive anal sex with a cis man
- 31% (n=38) had a history of sex work
- Participants in a San Francisco trans male focus group reported condomless sex (with cis male partners) as part of exploring one's new gender experience and sexual identity

Melendez, R. M., Bonem, L. A., & Sember, R. (2006). On bodies and research: Transgender issues in health and HIV research articles. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, 3(4), 21-38.

## CURRENT EVIDENCE BASE (U.S)

- 43.8% reported condomless sex with a cis male partner of unknown HIV sero status in the past 12 months
- 25.0% had not been tested for HIV in the prior 2 years
- 31.1% had not screened for STIs in the prior 12 months

Reisner, S., (2010). A Mixed Methods Study of the Sexual Health Needs. *AIDS PATIENT CARE and STDs*. 21 (8), 501-515.

## CURRENT EVIDENCE BASE (U.S)

- A retrospective cohort study at Callen-Lorde Community Health Centre, New York found:
  - Between 2006 and 2010, 11 (6%) of the 183 newly diagnosed HIV cases among trans people were in trans men.
  - 57.2% of the transgender men accessing the service had never tested for HIV
  - 1.7% of all transgender men sampled were HIV positive
  - The men who identified themselves as transgender and also queer, bisexual or gay 3.7% were HIV Positive
- In a retrospective cohort of people who attended sexual health clinics from 2006 to 2009 in San Francisco, HIV infection rates were similar for trans men (10%) and trans women (11%).

Radix et al. (2011)

# AUSTRALIAN CONTEXT

## SEVENTH NATIONAL HIV STRATEGY: 2014-2017

*"Gay men and other men who have sex with men, such as bisexually and homosexually active men who do not identify as being gay, are the population group most affected by HIV in Australia with the highest prevalence and incidence."*

### NSW HIV Notification Form

NSW HIV Number \_\_\_\_\_

**PATIENT INFORMATION**

Family name (first two letters only)

Given name (first two letters only)

Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Gender  M  F  Transgender

Postcode of usual place of residence

Patient/clinic record number: \_\_\_\_\_

**14. Please indicate your patient's HIV exposure history:**

**Sexual exposure (tick one box ONLY)**

Sex with person of same sex

Sex with both sexes → see Q15

Sex only with persons of opposite sex → see Q15

Sexual exposure not known

No sexual contact

Source: Dept of Health

### VIC HIV Notification Form

**5. What is the patient's sex**

Male  Female  Transgender

Note: Consider testing children of HIV positive mother if applicable

**1. Sexual exposure (tick all that apply)**

Sex only with person of SAME sex – complete section A →

Sex with BOTH sexes → If male complete section A →

→ If female complete section B →

Sex only with person of OPPOSITE sex – complete section B →

Sex with a person from another country → specify country

Source: Dept of Health

### Gender identity (new question in 2015)

	Cisgender male (n=2,773)	Transgender male (n=32, 1.1%)	p value
Mean age	35 yrs	30 yrs	<0.05
Australian born	64%	72%	ns
Employed	78%	66%	ns
Ever tested for HIV	92%	91%	ns
Tested last year	74%	83%	ns
HIV-positive	8%	0%	ns
Condomless anal sex (last 6 mths)			
Regular partners	39%	22%	ns
Casual partners	21%	25%	ns
Recent injecting	5%	4%	ns

Note. Adapted from Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey 2015, by M. Holt, 2015, Sydney NSW: Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW Australia.

### Sexual identity of trans men in the Private Lives 2 study, 2011 (n=47)

Sexual identity	Number	Percentage
Gay	9	19.2
Bisexual	5	10.6
Queer	21	44.7
Other	12	25.5

Note. Adapted from Private Lives 2: The second national survey of the health and wellbeing of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) Australians, by Leonard, W., Pitts, M., Mitchell, A., Lyons, A., Smith, A., Patel, S., ... Barrett, A, 2012, Melbourne, VIC: The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, La Trobe University.

### Trans men who have ever been tested for HIV/AIDS in the Private Lives 2 study by sexual identity, 2011 (n=47)

	No n(%)	Yes n(%)
Gay	4 (44.4)	5 (55.6)
Bisexual	1 (20.0)	4 (80.0)
Queer	8 (38.1)	13 (61.9)
Other	5 (41.7)	7 (58.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>18 (38.3)</b>	<b>29 (61.7)</b>

Note. Adapted from Private Lives 2: The second national survey of the health and wellbeing of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) Australians, by Leonard, W., Pitts, M., Mitchell, A., Lyons, A., Smith, A., Patel, S., ... Barrett, A, 2012, Melbourne, VIC: The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, La Trobe University.

- ### ABORIGINAL BROTHERBOYS
- Challenge of staying connected to culture in transition
  - Transition from women's business to men's business
  - Intersection of racism and transphobia

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Research and data collection
- Meaningful inclusion and consultation in health promotion
- New online HIV and sexual health promotion resources targeting trans men
- Training for clinical and non-clinical practitioners

## 'SEXY TESTS' VIDEO CAMPAIGN



## CONCLUSION

- TransMSM are not identified as a priority population and are largely overlooked when it comes to sexual health promotion and HIV prevention.
- Global research indicates that testing rates in trans masculine communities is low and condomless sex is higher than other men.
- TransMSM have also been overlooked from all major PrEP clinical and demonstration trials

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