

P057 TRENDS IN RECORDED ABORTIONS IN UK GENERAL PRACTICE – COHORT STUDY USING CLINICAL PRACTICE RESEARCH DATALINK (CPRD)

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Introduction Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) is a database of health records from participating general practices in the UK. Patients in the CPRD are broadly representative of UK population. We studied trends in recorded abortions between 2004 to 2014 in participating general practices in England and Wales.

Methods We created a cohort of females between ages of 15 to 44, registered with practices in England or Wales, during period 2004 to 2014. We identified abortions using Read codes. We removed records that were: misclassified, inaccurate in event and birth dates, and duplicates. We present trends in abortion data in women aged 15 to 44 in England and Wales using descriptive statistics and compared them with national data published by Department of Health (DH).

Results There were over 114,000 recorded episodes of abortion between 2004 and 2014, with almost 5 million women of target age groups in the cohort. There appeared to be a consistent, year-on-year decrease in crude abortions rates from 2004 to 2014 using abortions data recorded on CPRD. The rate of decrease is less marked in the same period using national data. The age group 20–24 had the highest rate of abortions in every year, which correlates with national statistics.

Discussion There are similarities and differences in abortion data between CPRD and DH which might reflect differences in the way data are collected and recorded. We suggest abortion records on CPRD need further work on data validation before conducting robust epidemiological studies.

HIV Prevention, PEPSE and PrEP

P058 DEMAND FOR PRE EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS FOR HIV (PREP) AND THE IMPACT ON CLINICAL SERVICES: SCOTTISH MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN (MSM) PERSPECTIVES

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Introduction Studies have assessed awareness and interest in taking PrEP but there is less data on ability and willingness to self-fund. Our aim was to assess how many eligible (high risk, PROUD study criteria) may want PrEP, how many ineligible (lower risk) MSM would be willing and able to self-fund and how PrEP may impact on risk taking behaviour.

Methods

Self-completed anonymous questionnaire Questions included sexual risk and risk frequency, willingness to take PrEP, income, willingness to self fund and impact on risk taking.

Results Of 377 participants, 81.5% were aware of PrEP. 53 (15.5%) were eligible, of whom 50 (94.3%) aware of PrEP and 50 (94.3%) likely to want it. Of those ineligible, 229 (80%) aware of PrEP and 171 (60%) likely to want it. The majority of men reported they would not be more likely to have condomless sex or increase partner numbers.

Discussion Levels of awareness of PrEP in our population were much higher than the 30% previously reported in Scotland. Previous studies showed 50% would be willing to take PrEP. In this study, 94.3% of the 15.5% of men eligible and 60% of those ineligible were likely to want it. This will have implications for discussions and monitoring. A systematic review of PrEP⁶ found no difference in condom use or numbers of partners. Our study indicates that men believe that risk taking behaviour will likely not increase.

P059 “WHAT’S THE PROBLEM WITH CONDOMS?” A THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC RESPONSES TO ONLINE NEWS COVERAGE OF A MATHEMATICAL MODELLING STUDY OF HIV PREVENTION THROUGH THE USE OF PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS BY MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN IN THE UK

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Introduction Little is known about how the public perceive the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among MSM in the UK. The objectives of this study were to trace the media coverage of a mathematical modelling study by Punyacharoensin, et al, which estimates the effect of potential prevention programmes on HIV incidence among MSM in the UK and to explore the public perceptions through analysis of their online comments.

Methods Articles published prior to 7th March 2016 were included, and were identified using Altmetric software and through online searches. 16 news outlets were identified, with 19 published articles in total. Thematic analysis of the comments was conducted.

Results 119 comments left in response to 3 online articles were analysed. 19% of comments (n=23) were “positive” towards the use of PrEP, 52% (n=62) were “negative” and 29% (n=34) were “neutral” or included both “positive” and “negative” themes. The content of the online public discourse can be summarised into four main themes: “costs of PrEP,” “othering,” “framing of condom non-use” and “encouragement of risky behaviours.”

Discussion This study is the first of its kind to investigate public reactions to use of PrEP use by MSM in the UK through online platforms and social media. Results allow the exploration of common views and misconceptions among the public. This has implications for the development of social norms and helps to guide the approach required in policy and practice in order promote a more receptive public atmosphere towards PrEP use among MSM in the UK.

P060 DRUG RESISTANCE AMONG WOMEN ATTENDING ANTENATAL CLINICS IN GHANA

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Introduction Initial evidence from resource-limited countries using the WHO HIV drug resistance (HIVDR) threshold survey suggests that transmission of drug-resistance strains is likely to be limited. However, as access to ART is expanded, increased emergence of HIVDR is feared as a potential consequence. We have performed a surveillance survey of transmitted HIVDR among recently infected persons in the geographic setting of Accra, Ghana.