Preparation for PrEP: Estimating the Need for HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Among Men Who Have Sex with Men Using Sexual Health Surveillance Data in England

Introduction To inform public health planning for a large-scale PrEP trial in England, we estimated the need for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among men who have sex with men (MSM) attending sexual health clinics.

Methods National STI surveillance data from the genitourinary medicine clinic activity dataset (GUMCADv2) were used to estimate the annual number of HIV-negative MSM who had a HIV test in the past year (which will be a criterion for accessing PrEP in England), for 2010–2015. To estimate the number and proportion of all MSM needing PrEP, we used bacterial STI diagnosis in the past year as a proxy for high-risk behaviour, and estimated HIV incidence (per 100 person-years) in both groups. We used these data to understand the likely geographical distribution of MSM who might need PrEP within the 152 English counties.

Results The number of HIV-negative MSM attending sexual health clinics increased by 68% from 69,392 in 2010 to 116,546 in 2015, and the number of HIV-negative MSM with a prior HIV test nearly doubled from 14,643 to 29,023 in the same period. Among HIV-negative MSM with a prior HIV test, the number with a recorded bacterial STI (past year) increased from 4,563 (30%) in 2010 to 10,276 (35%) in 2015 (33% on average). HIV incidence among MSM with a prior HIV test was 1.9 (95% CI 1.6–2.2) per 100py compared to 3.3 (2.7–4.0) per 100py in MSM with a prior HIV test and history of bacterial STI. The number of MSM in need of PrEP (according to bacterial STI history) was 200 men in 4% (6/152) of counties.

Conclusion We estimated that the need for PrEP among MSM in England in 2015 might be around 10,000 individuals with an annual HIV incidence of 3%. Need for PrEP was highly concentrated; in most English counties, the number of MSM with a prior HIV test was small, and only 33% of these men might be clinically assessed as eligible for PrEP. These data illustrate how the population need for PrEP might be estimated in advance of a national trial, and will inform future evaluations at a population level.

Attitudes of Church Leaders on HIV Prevention Among the Presbyterian Church Leaders of Aizawl, Mizoram, India

Introduction Knowledge about Church leader’s attitudes towards HIV prevention is essential to understand the factors that enable them to take on leadership role in facilitating HIV prevention efforts. Church leaders can have a significant contribution in a Christian dominated state like Mizoram. The study aims to explore attitudes of church leaders on HIV prevention among the Presbyterian Church leaders in Aizawl City, Mizoram.

Methods A cross-sectional study using in-depth interviews and focus group discussions were used. From 15 Presbyterian churches randomly selected all over Aizawl city, 293 Church leaders representing the four groups of leadership (Pastor/Elder, Women, Youth and Men) completed a self-administered questionnaire along with 12 in-depth interviews and 3 focus group discussions. Bivariate analysis was done to identify associated factors.

Results The proportion of Church leaders willing to advocate condom use for HIV prevention was 34.0 percent. Around 97.3 percent agreed that Church leaders should be concerned and intervene in HIV prevention. Nearly 90.4 percent felt it should be discussed in Church services. About 70 percent of the Church leaders, Biblical disobedience leads to HIV infection and almost 80 percent felt homosexuals deserve HIV infection. Abstinence (77.1%), marital fidelity (22.2%) and condom use (0.3%) were the preferred choice for HIV prevention. Although 66.9 percent agreed with the Church...