syphilis may lead to more serious complications in this population. We sought to inductively explore syphilis-related knowledge, and attitudes around biomedical prevention options for syphilis in an age of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), with the goal of informing effective strategies to address the syphilis epidemic.

Methods We conducted in-depth, one-on-one interviews with a heterogeneous sample of GBM in Vancouver, including men living with HIV and/or with a history of syphilis. Our interviews focused on participants' knowledge around syphilis and perceptions regarding syphilis PrEP. Interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed verbatim, and analyzed using Grounded Theory.

Results Twenty-five GBM were interviewed (64% white; median age: 43 years). Four overarching themes emerged regarding men's views about syphilis. First, syphilis-related knowledge differed according to HIV and syphilis serostatus. Second, competing ideas emerged regarding men's concerns about syphilis. While our participants expressed concern about getting syphilis, they also described the importance of sexual intimacy and pleasure. Third, many participants said that syphilis was not perceived to be particularly alarming; preventing HIV infection remained a primary concern for many. Finally, although syphilis PrEP was appealing to some, participants were concerned about antibiotic resistance, cost, and side effects.

Conclusion Concern for syphilis appeared low among GBM. Our participants tended to organize their safer sex strategies around HIV, not syphilis. Although syphilis-related knowledge was relatively high among GBM living with HIV and those with a prior syphilis diagnosis, this knowledge did not appear to be associated with safer sexual practices, such as increased condom use. This work highlights the importance of examining other potential acceptable prevention solutions, such as syphilis PrEP.

Disclosure No significant relationships.

P736 EVALUATION OF THE PROVINCIAL INFECTIOUS SYPHILIS PARTNER NOTIFICATION PROGRAM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

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Background Infectious syphilis partner notification (PN) is centrally coordinated at the British Columbia (BC) Centre for Disease Control. Approaches include patient-initiated and provider-initiated PN, and outcomes include the proportion of partners (1) notified of possible exposure to syphilis, (2) tested and/or treated, and (3) diagnosed. Among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) who have the greatest burden of syphilis, we evaluated PN outcomes between patient-initiated and provider-initiated PN.

Methods All infectious syphilis diagnoses in 2016 in BC were included. Syphilis re-diagnosis was defined as a syphilis diagnosis in 2016 with at least one additional diagnosis in 2006–2016, while first-diagnosis was defined as a syphilis diagnosis in 2016 only. PN outcomes were calculated along a cascade-of-care framework, where the numerator is the denominator of the subsequent indicator. Chi-square tests compared PN

outcomes of patient-initiated versus provider-initiated PN, within strata of gbMSM first-diagnosed and re-diagnosed.

Results Of the 759 infectious syphilis cases in BC in 2016, 648 (85%) were among gbMSM, among whom 474 (73%) were first-diagnoses and 174 (27%) were re-diagnoses. A significantly greater proportion of gbMSM first-diagnosed chose patient-initiated PN compared to gbMSM re-diagnosed (62% vs 42%; $P < 0.01$). Among gbMSM first-diagnosed, patient-initiated PN resulted in a greater proportion of partners notified compared to provider-initiated PN (177/199; 89% vs 426/603; 70%; $P < 0.001$). There was no difference in the proportion of partners tested and/or treated, (156/177; 88% vs 380/426; 89%; $P \geq 0.05$), and diagnosed (24/156 15% vs 51/380 13%; $P \geq 0.05$). A similar trend in PN outcomes was observed among partners of gbMSM re-diagnosed.

Conclusion Patient-initiated and provider-initiated PN had similar outcomes among partners of both gbMSM first-diagnosed and re-diagnosed. However, gbMSM first-diagnosed were more likely to choose to notify their own partners. These findings demonstrate that patient-initiated PN have similar outcomes to provider-initiated PN and can increase the overall capacity for PN.

Disclosure No significant relationships.

P737 EVALUATING SYPHILIS PARTNER NOTIFICATION OUTCOMES IN SEVEN JURISDICTIONS

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Background The effectiveness of partner notification services (PNS) for limiting syphilis transmission relies on the ability of disease intervention specialists (DIS) to find and assure treatment of partners. We measured estimates of partners found and treated due to PNS in seven jurisdictions.

Methods We reviewed early syphilis cases (primary, secondary, early latent) reported during 2015–2017 in seven jurisdictions in the United States (Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Virginia, New York City, and San Francisco). We measured the numbers of: early syphilis (index) cases interviewed by DIS, (sex) partners reported (primary cases: ≤ 3 months; secondary cases: ≤ 6 months; early latent cases: ≤ 1 year), partners with enough locating information to begin PNS, partners treated prophylactically, and infected partners brought in for treatment resulting from PNS. We considered partners to be brought to treatment by PNS if: 1) a DIS-assigned disposition code indicated “brought to treatment” or 2) the partner was treated 0–90 days after the index case was interviewed.

Results DIS interviewed 23,428 index patients with early syphilis (range among jurisdictions 1,106–9,388), representing 78.9% of reported cases (50.1%–99.5%). Of those interviewed, 18,482 (78.9%) reported 78,960 partners, of whom