



## PrEParing for the future of prevention

### SC 17 INTEREST FOR LONG-ACTING PREP USE IN THE ITALIAN LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY: A MULTICENTRIC SURVEY

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**Background:** Oral PrEP is currently the only option available in Italy. Nevertheless, long-acting drugs have been approved by EMA and will be available in the future. Our aim is to explore the interest and acceptability of long-acting PrEP (LA PrEP) among key populations and characteristics possibly correlated with this interest.

**Material and methods:** The survey was designed by Plus Roma with the support of the collective PrEP in Italia, to investigate interest in LA PrEP among people already on PrEP or intending to start it. It was distributed through the network and social media channels of the two organizations, the website gay.it and the Grindr app. These channels were chosen to reach members of key populations within the LGBTQIA+ community. The survey was administered online through Google Forms. Both current and prospective PrEP users were included. Demographic characteristics of participants were described and compared among those interested in LA PrEP or not interested, by Chi-square test. A univariable and multivariable binary logistic regression model was used to analyse possible predictors of higher interest in LA PrEP among all participants and among those already on PrEP.

**Results:** 1419 individuals belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community completed the survey. Of the participants, 199 (14%) were under 25 years old, and 707 (50%) came from Northern Italy. 1372 (96.7%) were male (sex assigned at birth), 1297 (91.4%) identified as male (cis or trans). 756 (53.3%) reported having a university or higher degree. 378 (27%) were currently on PrEP. The demographics of respondents are reported in Table 1 and LA PrEP interest by PrEP users' characteristics in Table 2.

In the overall population, being already on PrEP (AOR 2.71, 95%CI 1.96-3.73,  $p < .001$ ), knowing about U=U (AOR 1.43 95%CI 1.11-1.84,  $p = 0.005$ ) was associated with a significantly higher probability of being interested in LA PrEP; by contrast, not having a regular job decreased this probability (AOR 0.72 95%CI 0.52-0.98,  $p = 0.039$ ). Among current PrEP users, people struggling to find time to attend visits for PrEP had a lower probability of being interested in LA PrEP (QOR 0.55 95%CI 0.31-0.98,  $p = 0.044$ ).

**Conclusions:** LA PrEP is currently more desirable among people informed about HIV prevention. Increasing awareness of PrEP, especially among undocumented migrants and those reporting a state of social and employment insecurity, could be a tool to raise HIV prevention awareness and increase interest in innovative drugs. Furthermore, facilitating and simplifying access to PrEP is crucial to scale up its use among those who can benefit from it.

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