



Gay and bisexual men’s awareness and knowledge of treatment as prevention: findings from the Momentum Health Study in Vancouver, Canada

Importance of this study

- Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBM) are at high risk for HIV infection.
- Treatment as prevention (TasP), which involves the expansion of antiretroviral therapy to all people living with HIV, has been actively promoted in Vancouver since 2010.
- This is the first study in Canada to estimate TasP awareness and knowledge among GBM in a TasP-promoting setting.

What is the knowledge and awareness of TasP among HIV-positive and HIV-negative gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men living in the greater Vancouver area?

Treatment as Prevention (TasP) is a critical strategy for both **reducing HIV morbidity/mortality** and **preventing HIV transmission.**

How this study was conducted

- Survey data were analyzed for Vancouver-based GBM who were enrolled in the Momentum study through respondent driven sampling.
- Multivariable logistic regression identified social, behavioural, and clinical factors associated with TasP awareness.

What the study found

- A considerably higher proportion of HIV-positive GBM (69%) than HIV-negative GBM (41%) had previously heard of TasP.
- Only 14% of all GBM in the study demonstrated a full understanding of TasP.
- Aboriginal GBM and GBM not born in Canada were less likely to be aware of TasP.
- The leading information sources for TasP were doctors, community agencies, and gay media.

What this means

- The differences in TasP awareness and knowledge observed by HIV status are likely due to the fact that TasP messaging is mostly targeted at people living with HIV.
- Improving the engagement of HIV-negative GBM in TasP initiatives is also critical for improving sexual decision-making and augmenting the population-level preventive benefits of TasP.
- The structural and cultural barriers observed among Aboriginal and immigrant GBM stress the importance of tailoring health messaging that is culturally relevant and sensitive to literacy levels.

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