

# Asian gay, bisexual and other MSM Australia: HIVSTI and beyond

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Photo credit: ACON

# Questionnaire

In Thai, Chinese (simplified & traditional), translation was checked by community members

Themes	Examples of variables
<b>Demographics</b>	Socio-economic status; migration-related factors; disability status; religion and spiritual beliefs
<b>Gender and sexuality</b>	Sexual and gender identities; sexual orientations
<b>Relationship status</b>	Serodiscordant; interracial
<b>Sexual practices</b>	Safer sex practices; overseas sex; condom failure; non-consensual sex
<b>Testing practices</b>	HIV/STI and hepatitis testing; first test in Australia
<b>Biomedical prevention</b>	PrEP, PEP, UDVL
<b>Substance uses</b>	Illicit drugs, alcohol, smoking
<b>Culture and belonging</b>	Sense of belonging; community attachment; sexual racism
<b>Mental Health</b>	Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K6)

# N=970

March-June 2021 NSW; Aug-Sept 2021 national

**Overseas-born: 67%**

China Mainland, HK, TW 22%

SEA 27%

**PR/Citizens: 63%**

**Spoke another language at home: 50%**

**Mod/fully confident in speaking Eng. 82%**

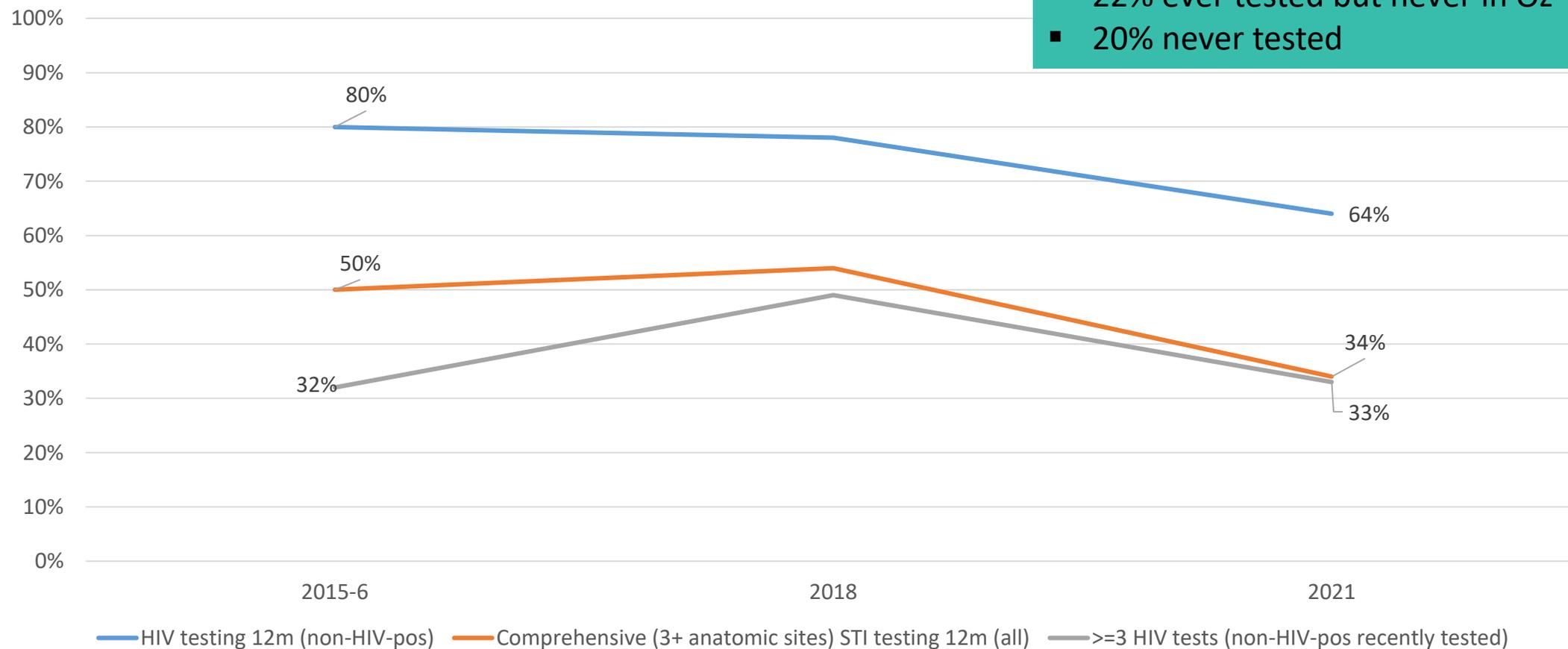
# Key clinical findings

1. Reduced HIV/STI screening during COVID
2. Increased PrEP uptake, associated with language, income & visa status; PrEP sharing common
  - PrEP diversion (sharing PrEP pills to someone with/without a prescription 6m): 23%
3. HIV self-test: new opportunities?

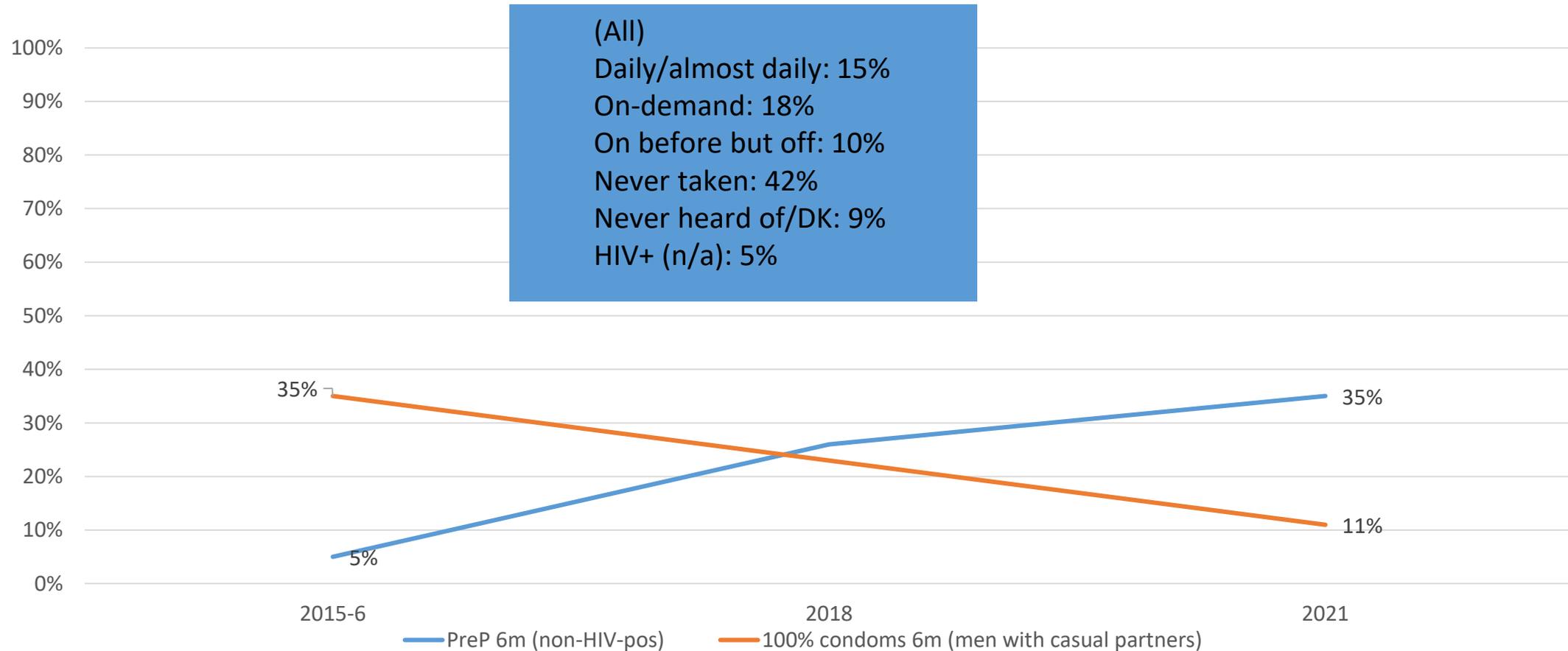
# Trends in HIVSTI testing

Among OS-born arrived within 5-yr recent migrants (n=201):

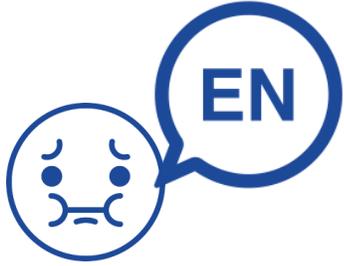
- 58% ever tested in Oz
  - 67% within 12m after arrival had their 1st HIV testing in Oz
- 22% ever tested but never in Oz
- 20% never tested



# 100% condoms CAI & PrEP (daily/on-demand) use



# Who were less likely to use PrEP in the past 6m?



**Low confidence in speaking English**



**Bridging visa holders**



**Weekly income below \$1500**

# Key findings on social support, language barriers and health literacy

1. Suboptimal knowledge on U=U
2. Racism: experiences of race-based rejection/discrimination within 12m  
Summary (impacting on mental health mostly!):
  - any experiences 89%; >4 types 43%!
  - Any experiences Always/Often 47%; >1 types Always/Often 30%
3. Mental health: 25% K6  $\geq 13$  indicating risk

# Who were more likely to be at risk for MH illness?



Having “always” or “often” experienced racism from members in the general Australian society



Having experienced domestic violence



Earning <500/week (under poverty line)



No LGBTI+ friends in Australia

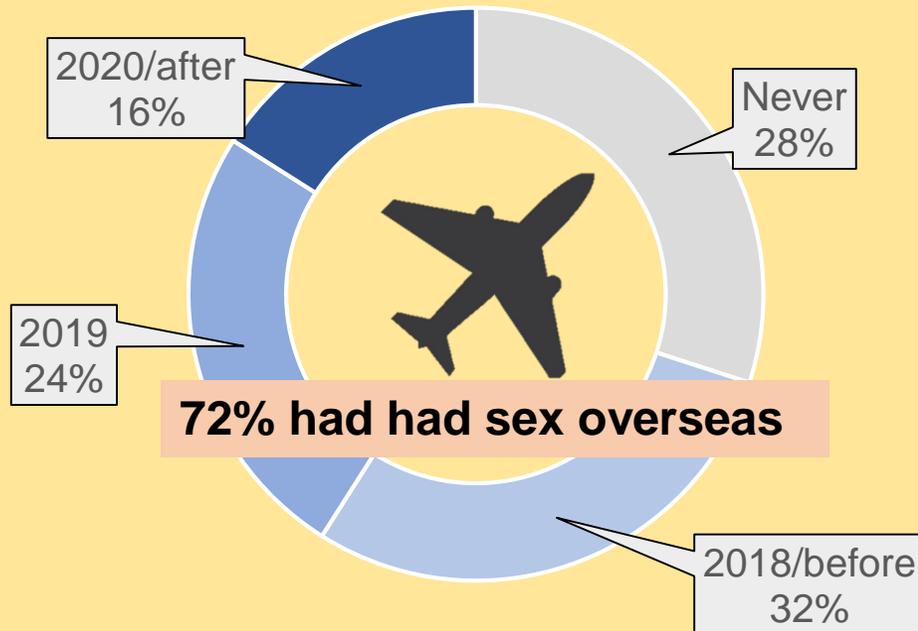
# Key findings on migration & mobility

Transnational ties:

sexual networks,  
online communication/hook-ups,  
domestic & international travel

# Transnational sex

When was the last time you had sex outside Australia? (n=970)



Top 3 destinations:



# Q&A