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## Clinical Education Session



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# Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health

Journal Club 20th March 2018  
Loretta Healey  
RPA Sexual Health



## The journal

- Impact fact 1.69
- Open access journal. Cost to publish \$600 if member of Public Health Association- \$1800 if not.
- Most cited journal articles last 3 years:
  - Interpreting scores on the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10)
  - How can I deal with missing data in my study?
  - Population-based linkage of health records in Western Australia: development of a health services research linked database
  - Generating best evidence from qualitative research: the role of data analysis



**Alec Hope and Bridget Haire: 'No-one's driving this bus'-  
qualitative analysis of PrEP health promotion for Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander gay and bisexual men 2019, 43: 18-23**

- Aboriginal peoples experience higher rates of STIs.
- The disparity in sexual health outcomes also occurs in HIV.
- Aboriginal HIV notifications are ↑. Aboriginal people underrepresented in EPIC (though not significant). 2.1% of enrolees but 3.4% of population.
- Study to assess the ways PrEP is promoted as part of HIV risk reduction strategy in Aboriginal GBM and to identify gaps.
- Respondents specialising in HIV and sexual health
- Convenience based snow balling recruitment
- Semi-structured in depth interviews

**Hope and Haire cont**

- Transcripts were coded for themes and concepts
- 18 participants 5 of whom were Aboriginal
- Most worked for AIDS organisations in city, ½ interviews face to face.
- Respondents identified unwillingness for Aboriginal men to identify with mainstream gay communities
- Confidentiality difficulties identified
- Racism in healthcare
- AMSs overburdened dealing with chronic disease
- Lack of government leadership and funding
- Effective, culturally appropriate targeted health promotion is required

## Hope and Haire cont

- Aboriginal GBM have not been researched re barriers to accessing PrEP
  - People experiencing different forms of intersecting marginalisation may struggle to access preventative healthcare
  - Complex struggle with identity identified
  - Currently dearth of PrEP health promotion material directed to Aboriginal GBM
  - View that use of PrEP may lead to further ↑ in STIs
  - Collaboration gay community organisations and Aboriginal community organisation to ensure nuanced, targeted and appropriate promotion
- Condoman!

## Emma Quin et al, Culture-positive shigellosis cases are epidemiologically different to culture-negative/ PCR-positive cases 2019; 43: 41-45

- Between 2007 & 2016 rates in NSW increased 3 fold
- Most males 30-39 in SLHD and SESLHD. 60% acquired in Australia, 29% OS
- Mostly MSM
- Consideration should be given as to whether PCR could be considered definitively diagnostic for shigellosis in addition to culture testing
- In study period notifications of culture-negative PCR-positive cases were followed up- demographics, symptoms, risk factors
- Comparison of culture-positive and culture-negative cases

### Quinn et al

- 148 cases notified, 26 excluded LTFU
- 85 culture positive and 37 culture negative
- No difference in median age
- Most frequent symptoms: diarrhoea, abdo pain, fever
- Culture positives more likely to have experienced 3 or more symptoms
- More likely to have been hospitalised
- Culture negatives had longer duration of symptoms (9.5 vs 7 days  $p < 0.05$ )
- Positives had shorter duration between symptom onset and specimen collection
- Positives more likely to have had MSM exposure

### Quinn et al

- Study suggests culture positives experience more clinically severe illness
- PCR targets ipaH gene also present in EIEC. Further research needed to determine true prevalence Shigella vs EIEC in PCR+ Culture- cases
- Were subset of cases in culture- group EIEC or were differences in clinical severity due to inherent differences in clinical presentation of shigellosis?
- True burden unlikely to be known until more specific test developed
- Until a more specific PCR assay is available consideration should be given to the use of 'probable Shigella/EIEC' case definition with f/u likely to reduce public health burden of these 2 diseases.

**Alexandra L Barratt et al 'Knowledge of current abortion law and views on abortion law reform: a community survey of NSW residents' 2019; 43: 88-93**

- Women's access to abortion regulated in states and territories
- In NSW unlawful abortion is a criminal offence
- Under case law is lawful if doctor considers ongoing pregnancy harmful
- Bill to reform the law defeated in May 2017. Community survey 2015
- Online by market research agency, aged  $\geq 18$ , NSW residents belonging to online survey panel- receive points towards a reward
- Attitudes to decriminalisation, attitudes to obligations of medical practitioners with conscientious objections and attitudes to exclusion zones
- Use of chi square to compare proportions.



**Barratt et al**

- 1015 surveys: 431 men and 584 women aged 18 to 65
- 40% identified with a religious belief
- 76% unaware abortion remains a criminal offence
- Rural/regional respondents more likely to know this 71% vs 77%  
 $p=0.045$
- 73% agreed with decriminalisation, 13% opposed, 14% uncertain
- Support consistent across gender and age, education levels
- Weak evidence for support among regional/rural people  $p=0.068$
- 78% supported referral from doctors who object, 50% agreed doctors should have the right to refuse an abortion, 36% disagreed
- Strong support 89% for people seeking abortion to be free from harassment



## **Barratt et al**

47% reported knowing someone who had an abortion. More likely rural/ regional 53% vs 46% p= 0.030

58% thought abortion should be obtained readily, 29% in some circumstances 5.6% in no circumstances

More support in rural/regional. Abortion clinics in some rural centres subject to protest.

Consistent with previous surveys

NSW bill to stop harassment passed in June 2018

Abortion not available in NSW public hospitals

Conclusion: law needs to change

## **Rebecca Kate Hodder et al "The association between adolescent condom use and individual and environmental resilience protective factors, 2018: 42, 230-233**

- Study aimed to examine association between condom use and individual and environmental resilience protective factors in sexually active adolescents
- 28 Govt high schools- 1688 year 10 students online survey- 39% participation rate. Those reported having sex n=521, 34.4%
- 6 individual and 8 environmental protective factor subscales (51 items)
- Validated survey tool. Likert scale- 1. Never true, 4. True all the time
- 60% of sexually active students used condom, 28% sometimes and 12% never

### Hodder et al

- Students with higher total environmental protective factors scores were 2.59 times more likely to always use a condom
- Significant univariate assoc between all protective factor subscales and condom use except 'self-awareness'
- 3 of 14 subscales were assoc with always using a condom
  - Individual: goals and aspirations
  - Environmental: community participation and pro-social peers
  - Pro-social peer example 'my friends try to do what is right'
- Provides a guide for intervention targets.

### Timothy R Broady et al Responding to a national policy need: development of a stigma indicator for bloodborne viruses and sexually transmitted infections, 2018; 42: 513-515

- Objective in 5 strategies to eliminate the negative impact of stigma, discrimination and legal and human rights issues on people's health
- Funding provided to Centre for Social Research in Health to develop an indicator of stigma among priority groups in national strategies

*"In last 12 months, to what extent have you experienced any stigma or discrimination (e.g. avoidance, pity, blame, shame, rejection, verbal abuse, bullying) in relation to your:"*

Sexual orientation, use of drugs for injecting, HIV status, Hepatitis B/C status, sex work, other

Never, rarely, sometimes, often, always, N/A

**Jennifer H. MacLachlan, Benjamin C. Cowie, Cultural and linguistic diversity of people living with chronic hepatitis B in 2011-2016: changing migration, shifting epidemiology, 2018; 42: 441-443**

- Paper aims to assess changes in distribution of priority populations for CHB over time
- Comparison of 2011 and 2016 Censuses using published seroprevalence estimates COB, linkage of notifications
- Estimated no of people 197,815 → 237,894.
- Increase of 20%. Population increase of 8%
- People from China 1/5 to 1/4 of all people with CHB
- Largest proportional ↑ people from Pakistan rank 26→16
- Taiwan, Nigeria, Afghanistan, India ↑
- ↓England, Italy, Poland, Germany, Greece

**Laura Twyman et al, Electronic cigarette use in NSW, Australia: reasons for use, place of purchase and use in enclosed and outdoor places, 2018; 42: 491-496**

- Conclusive evidence that switching from tobacco cigarettes to e-cigarettes exposes users to lower levels of toxic chemicals
- May be negative short-term outcomes
- Long-term outcomes unknown
- Estimated rates of ever use 11-13% in high-income countries
- Current use 1-5%
- In Australia 1.2% classified current users- daily, weekly, monthly or less than monthly

## Twyman et al cont

### Objective

- To monitor patterns of use of e-cigarettes to understand their potential impact on NSW population

### Methods

- Online cross-sectional survey for 1 month in 2016
- Survey to measure community attitudes and behaviours on range of cancer related topics
- $\geq 18$  years, resident of NSW, not currently having cancer treatment. Quotas set using 2011 Census data
- Email invitations sent to people on existing database
- Some financial reward



## Twyman et al cont

### Results

- 114,976 invitations, 3188 completed survey (5% participation)
- 399 (13%) had ever used an e-cigarette
- 137 (4%) in past 30 days
- 16 people reported using it every day in past 30 days.
- Logistic regression analysis for ever use
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people  $\uparrow$  odds
  - Also current smokers
  - As age  $\uparrow$  odds of use in past 30 days  $\downarrow$
  - Females  $\downarrow$  odds
  - Also those who did not attend university



## Twyman et al cont

- Current smokers' reasons for use
  - To quit
  - Smoke less
  - Stop smoking but still get nicotine
- Ex-smokers' reasons
  - To help quit
  - To still get nicotine
  - Higher perceived acceptability
- Non-smokers' reasons
  - Novelty
  - Different flavours
  - other

## Twyman et al cont

- Most common response to where obtained: by others
- Retail outlets 35.2%, internet 23.6%
- Most often used at home 59.4%, outdoor dining 36.8%

### Discussion

- Prevalence of ever use comparable with US, Canada and New Zealand
- Novel finding: positive association between Indigenous status and e-cigarette ever use
- Conflicting findings on education level and income
- Non-smokers- novelty. Concern