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
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 snowballing 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

AMs 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 ≥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

NSW Government Health Sydney Local Health District
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 ¼ 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
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
- ≥ 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

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 ↑ odds
  - Also current smokers
  - As age ↑ odds of use in past 30 days ↓
  - Females ↓ 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

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