

Awareness, use of PrEP on rise among men who have sex with men

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(HealthDay)—There has been a recent increase in the awareness and use

of HIV preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among men who have sex with men (MSM), according to research published in the July 12 issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Teresa Finlayson, Ph.D., from the CDC in Atlanta, and colleagues collected data from the CDC National HIV Behavioral Surveillance in 20 U.S. urban areas in 2014 and 2017 to assess changes in awareness and use of PrEP among MSM.

The researchers observed a 50 percent increase in awareness of PrEP overall; in 2017, more than 80 percent of MSM in 17 of 20 urban areas reported PrEP awareness. Use of PrEP increased by about 500 percent, from 6 to 35 percent among MSM with likely indications for PrEP (e.g., [sexual risk behaviors](#) or recent bacterial sexually transmitted infection). In all [urban areas](#) and in almost all demographic subgroups, significant increases were seen. PrEP use among MSM remained low despite this progress, especially among black and Hispanic MSM.

"HIV PrEP awareness and use is increasing in the United States among MSM who are at risk for acquiring HIV, but higher coverage is needed, especially among black and Hispanic MSM, to end the HIV epidemic in the United States by 2030," the authors write. "By routinely testing their patients for HIV, assessing HIV-negative patients for risk behaviors, and prescribing PrEP as needed, health care providers can play a critical role in this effort."

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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