

2014 to 2021 saw increase in HIV testing, PrEP in transgender persons

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From 2014 to 2021, there was an increase in the number of transgender persons with an HIV test and who received preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP), according to a study published online Dec. 19 in the *Annals of*

Internal Medicine.

Ya-Lin A. Huang, Ph.D., from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and colleagues estimated the number of commercially insured [transgender women](#) (TGW) and transgender men (TGM) in the United States and their use of HIV prevention services in a retrospective analysis of secondary data from commercial databases from 2014 to 2021.

The researchers found that from 2014 to 2021, there was an [increasing trend](#) in the prevalence of transgender-related diagnosis codes and in the proportion of persons who used gender-affirming hormone therapy (GAHT). Persons aged 18 to 34 years drove the increases.

In 2021, 61.1 percent of the 10,613 TGW and 48.3 percent of 4,184 TGM with a test for or a diagnosis of a sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the previous 12 months had an HIV test; of these, 20.2 and 10.2 percent, respectively, were prescribed PrEP.

From 2014 to 2021, there was a substantial increase seen in the prevalence of TGW and TGM with a test for or a diagnosis of an STI, who had an HIV test, and who were prescribed PrEP.

"The health and well-being of transgender persons can be increased with holistic service models that include HIV prevention and other prevention services in addition to GAHT," the authors write.

More information: Ya-Lin A. Huang et al, HIV Testing and Preexposure Prophylaxis Prescriptions Among U.S. Commercially Insured Transgender Men and Women, 2014 to 2021, *Annals of Internal Medicine* (2023). [DOI: 10.7326/M23-2073](https://doi.org/10.7326/M23-2073)

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