

TITLE

HIV prevention and treatment cascades among young Brazilian MSM: results from the Conectad@s project

PRESENTER

Cristina Moreira Jalil

AUTHORS

C. Moreira Jalil¹, T. Silva Torres¹, E. Moreira Jalil¹, R. Oliveira Scarparo¹, D. Carrica Nazareth¹, G. Teixeira Ribeiro¹, S. Barbc Silva Cerqueira¹, J.D. Nunes Lima¹, D. Rodrigues Barros Bezerra¹, B. Hoagland¹, S. Wagner Cardoso¹, S. Arayasirikul², E.C. Gonçalves Veloso¹, W. McFarland², B. Grinsztejn¹, Conectad@s Study Group

INSTITUTIONS

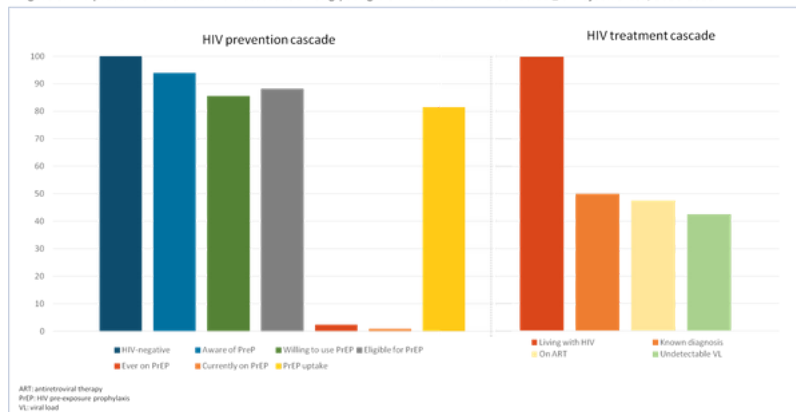
¹Oswaldo Cruz Foundation - FIOCRUZ, Evandro Chagas National Institute of Infectology, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, ²Centr Health Research, San Francisco Department of Public Health, San Francisco, United States

BACKGROUND: Oral HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and antiretroviral therapy (ART) are universally available in Br Public Health System. Nevertheless, the HIV epidemic continues to rise, especially among young gay, bisexual, and oti sex with men (YMSM). We evaluated HIV prevention and treatment cascades among Brazilian YMSM.

METHODS: Using baseline data from a respondent-driven sampling study conducted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, between and October 2022, we assessed HIV status, PrEP outcomes, linkage to HIV care, ART use, and virological suppression ar eligibility was determined according to Brazilian guidelines. Same-day PrEP and ART were offered as applicable.

RESULTS: We recruited 409 YMSM, 40(9.8%) were living with HIV and 369 (90.2%) were HIV-negative; median age was 21 range:20-23); 70.3%(n=291) self-reported as Black/*Pardo*/Indigenous. Among YMSM living with HIV, 50%(n=20) were awc serostatus, 47.5%(n=19) were currently on ART, and 42.5%(n=17) were virologically suppressed. Same-day ART was initia newly diagnosed HIV individuals. Among the HIV-negative participants, 94.0%(n=347) knew about PrEP, 85.6%(n=316) v but only 2.4%(n=9) had ever used it, and 0.8%(n=3) were currently using it. PrEP eligibility was 88.1%(n=325) and 246(75.7) initiated PrEP at baseline. Among 79 (24.3%) participants not initiating PrEP at baseline, 54(16.6%) had no interest and post-exposure prophylaxis, after which 19(76.0%) started PrEP. Final PrEP uptake was 81.5%(n=265).

Figure 1. HIV prevention and treatment cascades among young MSM enrolled in the Conectad@s Project, Brazil, 2021-2022.



CONCLUSIONS: Our findings show that less than half of HIV+ YMSM were virally suppressed, with a considerable propc unawareness. Despite high PrEP awareness, willingness, and eligibility, very few YMSM had ever used it. Once offered, F substantial. These results highlight major challenges that YMSM face to access health services, with homophobia anc barriers. HIV prevention/care models must address these barriers to respond to the needs of YMSM.