



PROTECH

Factsheet



Italy

**Men who
have sex
with men**



Inject PrEP to protect?

The first Pan European study exploring the willingness to use long-acting injectable PrEP to prevent HIV.



Maastricht University

What is the PROTECT Survey?

This online survey was conducted across Europe (Oct 2023 to March 2024) and sought to uncover who may benefit from the innovation that is long-acting injectable PrEP.

The European Commission (EC) has authorized Apretude ® (cabotegravir long-acting [LA] injectable and tablets) for HIV prevention.

It is important for health services and policy makers to understand who may be interested in taking long-acting injectable PrEP so that resources can be most effectively allocated.

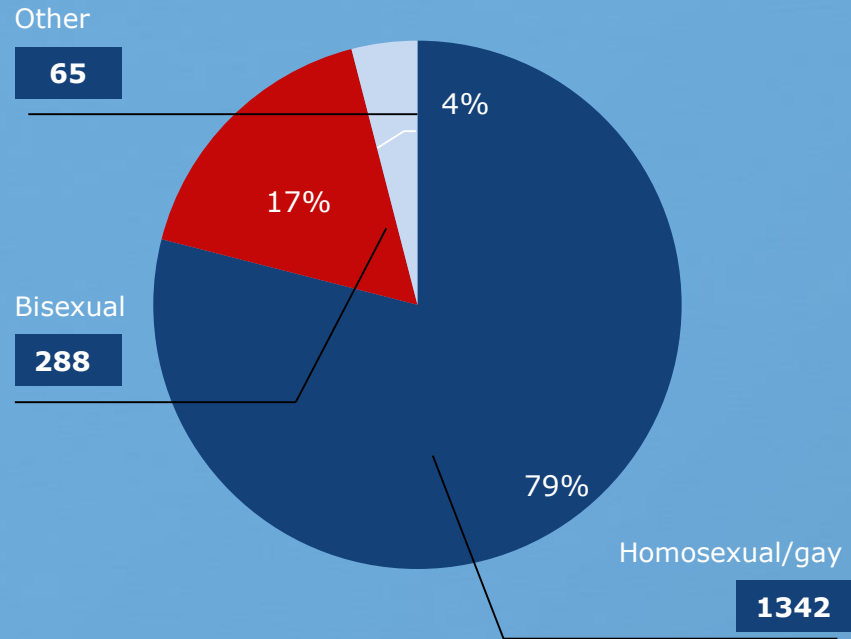
This factsheet reports on data from the PROTECT Survey collected in Italy from men who have sex with men N= 1707.

Italy

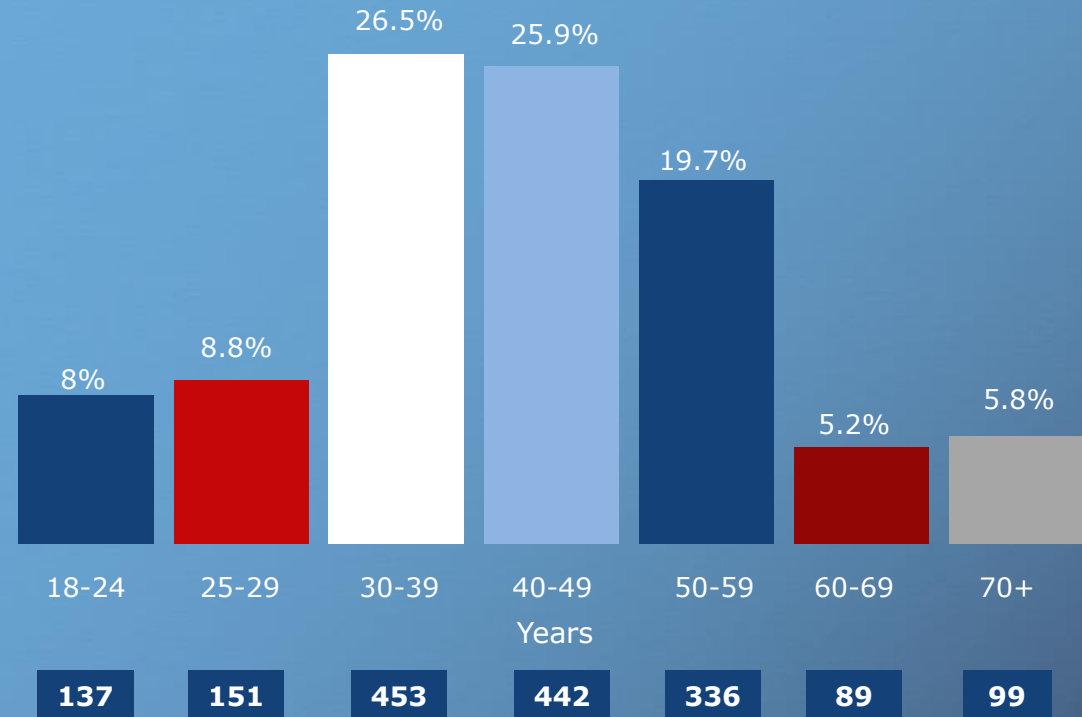
1707



SEXUAL ORIENTATION



AGE

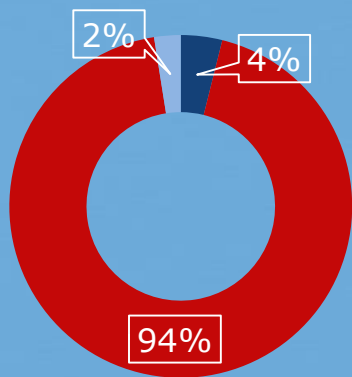


Italy

1707

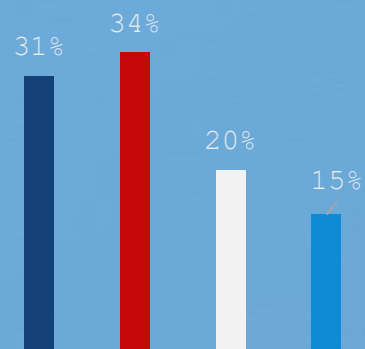


MIGRANT STATUS



- First Generation migrant: 67
- Local population: 1597
- Second Generation migrant: 43

RELATIONSHIP STATUS



- Single, not dating: 528
- Single, dating: 571
- In a relationship: 347
- In an open/polyamorous relationship: 261

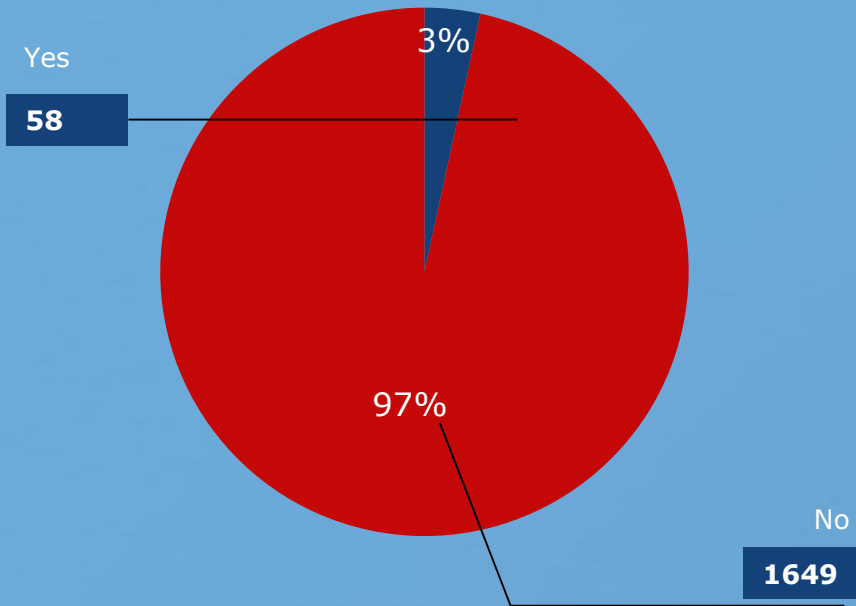


Italy

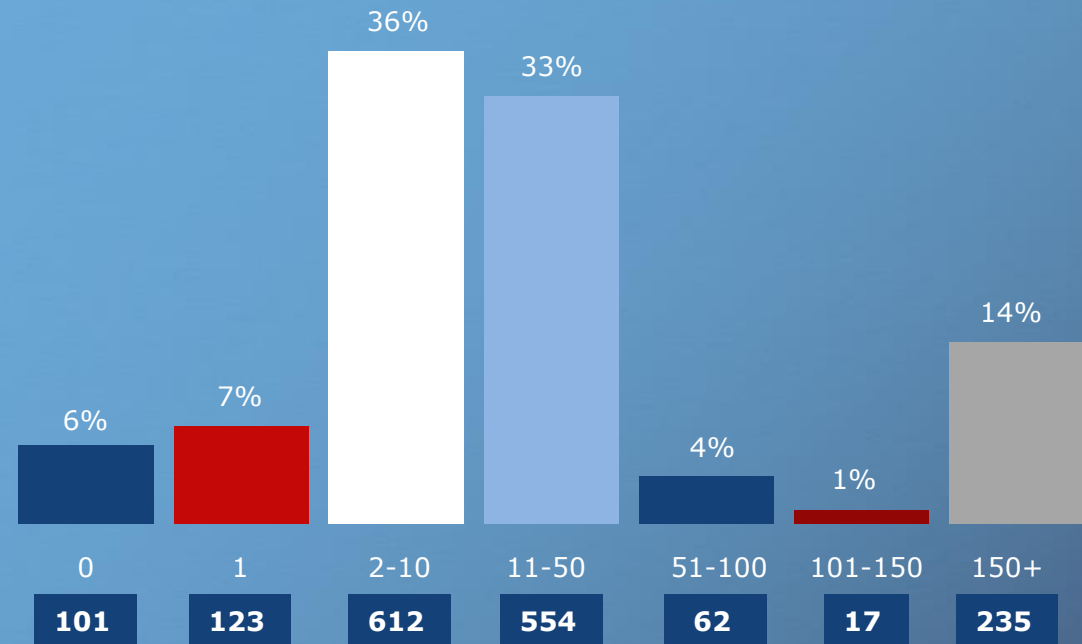
1707



CHEMSEX (in the past 6 months)



NUMBER OF SEXUAL PARTNERS (in the past 6 months)



Italy

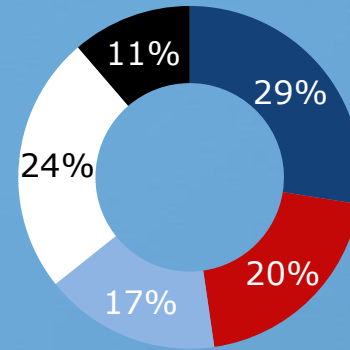
1707



Example of campaign image



HIV TESTING FREQUENCY



- More than every 6 months: 470
- Every 6 months: 344
- Less than once a year: 283
- Once a year: 417
- Never: 193

ORAL PrEP USE HISTORY & CURRENT PrEP REGIMEN

- Naive: 1242
- Current: 416
- Former: 49

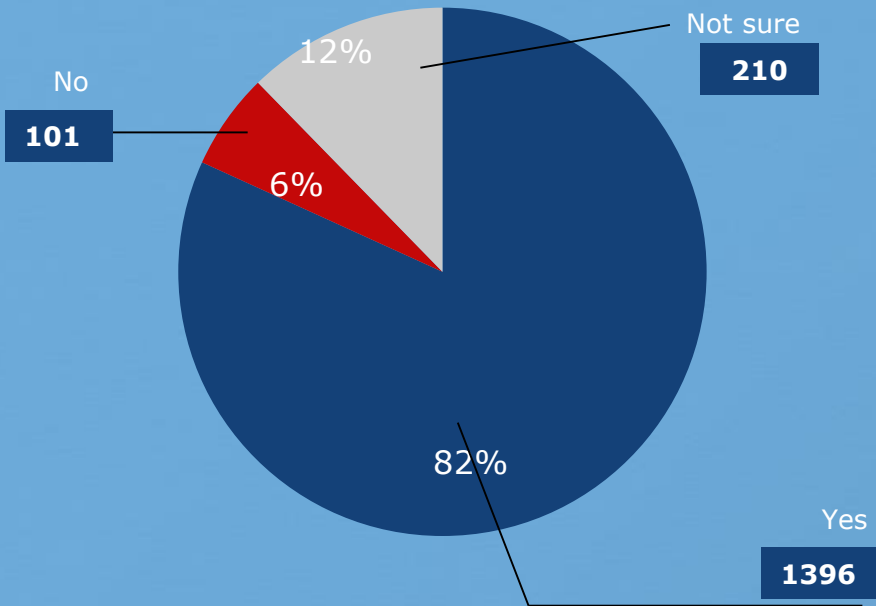
Naive: 1242	Current: 416	
	On-demand: 181	Daily: 160
	Mixed use: 75	
	Former: 49	

Italy

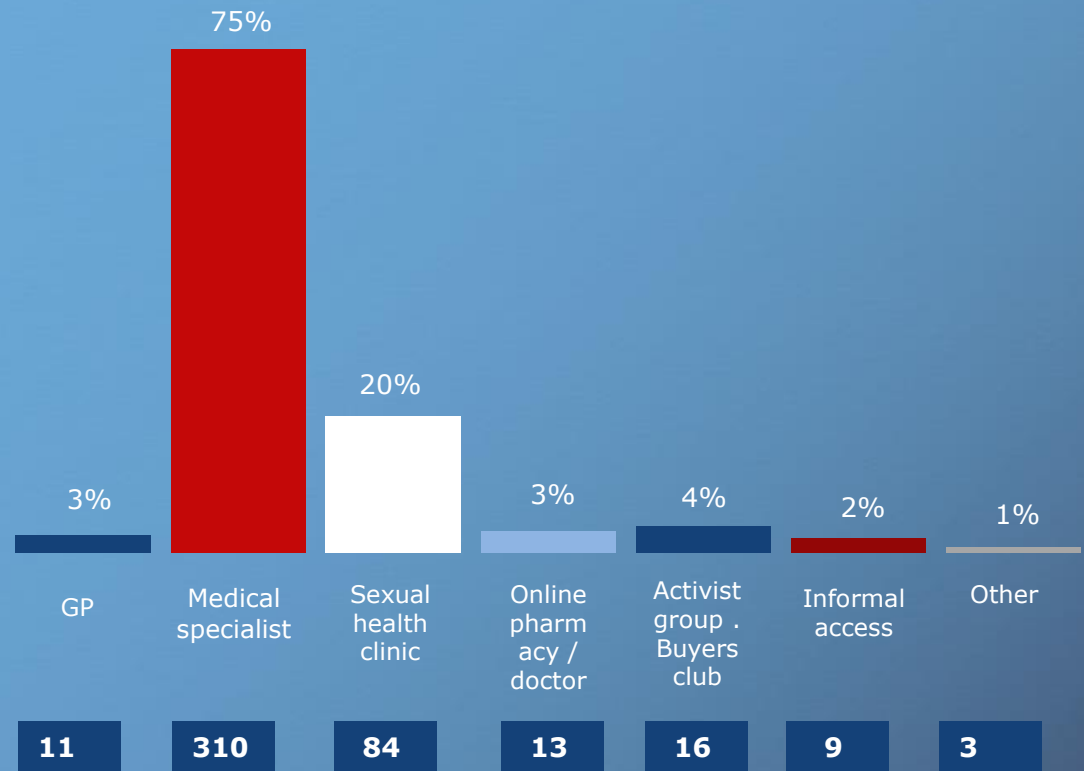
1707



AWARENESS OF ORAL PrEP



CURRENT PREP USERS – ACCESS TO ORAL PREP



Barriers to oral PrEP use

- **18% of the MSM said:**
 - Oral PrEP was too costly (either the pills or the tests associated with PrEP use)
- **15% of the MSM said:**
 - The procedure took too long to obtain oral PrEP when they needed it
- **17% of the MSM said:**
 - Their healthcare provider did not offer oral PrEP to them
- **9% of the MSM said:**
 - There was a waiting list at their healthcare provider for oral PrEP and the service was not available



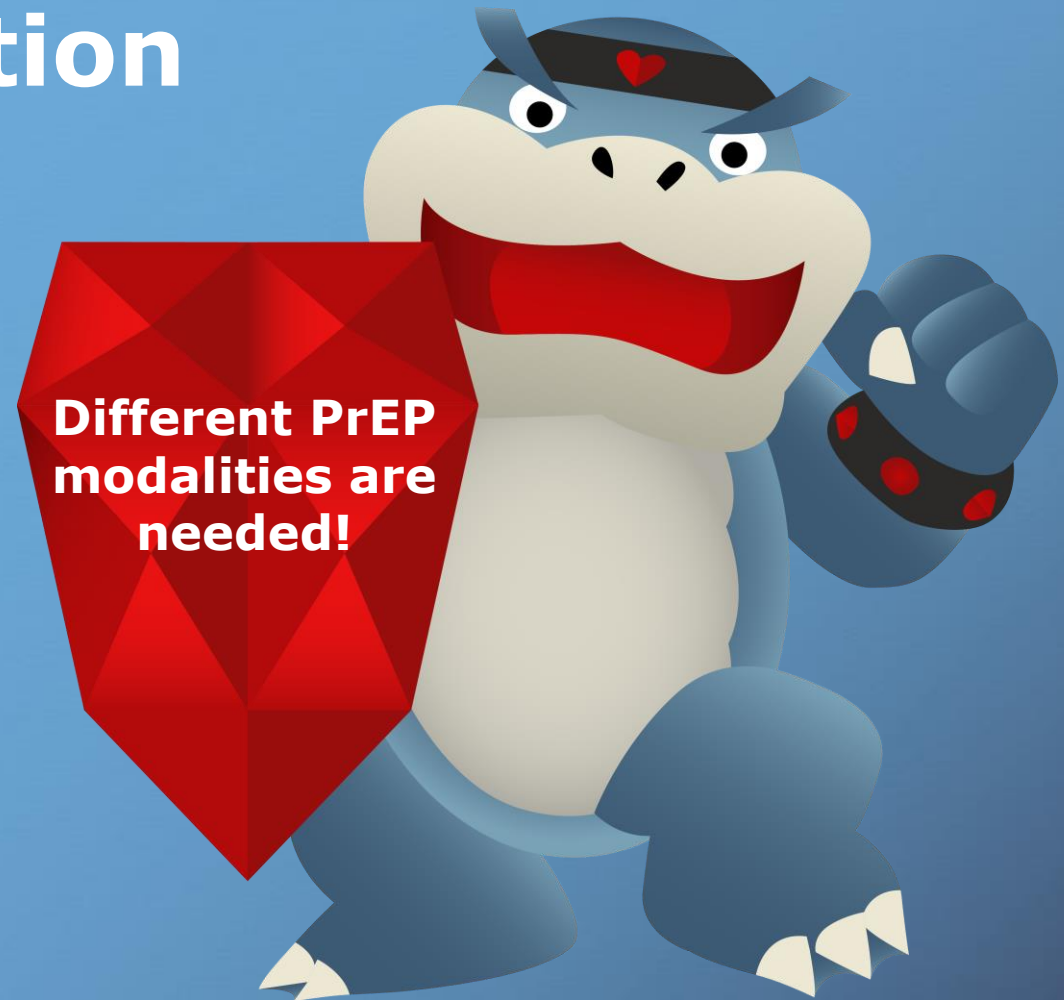
Long-acting PrEP: interest and intention

59%

are interested in using LA-PrEP if it becomes available.

53%

intend to use LA-PrEP if it becomes available.



What LA-PrEP could mean to participants

This word cloud was generated from responses that participants provided to a question asking them what LA-PrEP could mean to them, if it were to become available.



Summary & Contact Information

SUMMARY

- Italian MSM are aware of PrEP and have taken up oral PrEP
- Barriers to starting PrEP still exist
- Interest and intention to use LA-PrEP among MSM in Italy is high
- LA-PrEP may provide an opportunity for greater HIV prevention in Italy

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Prof. Dr. Kai J. Jonas
Email: kai.jonas@maastrichtuniversity.nl
- Dr. Johann Kolstee
Email:
johann.kolstee@maastrichtuniversity.nl
- Maastricht University postal address
P.O. Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht, The Netherlands