

Implementation of HIV PrEP in Scotland

HIV PrEP in Scotland: First Year Summary and Key points

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland (Experimental)

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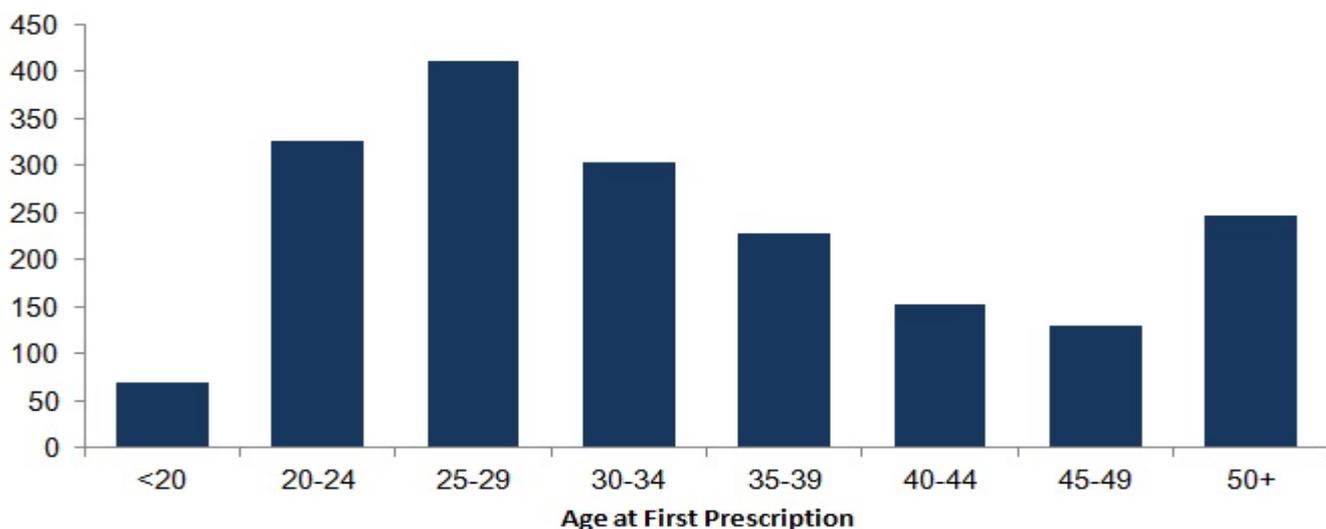
About this release

This release by Health Protection Scotland in collaboration with Information Services Division reports on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) uptake and attempts to evaluate the wider impact of PrEP in Scotland, since implementation of the national programme in July 2017.

Main Points

- During the first year of NHS PrEP implementation 1,872 individuals were prescribed PrEP in sexual health settings throughout the country.
- Of those prescribed, 99% were identified as men who have sex with men (MSM).
- The largest proportion of patients (39%) prescribed PrEP were aged 20-29 at their first prescription and almost a third were aged 40 or above (28%).

Individuals by Age at First Prescription



- Around one fifth of those prescribed PrEP were attending sexual health services for the very first time or for the first time in the previous 10 years.
- The wider impact of PrEP on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections remains unclear at such an early stage of the programme.

Background

Despite major advances in testing and treatment, HIV still has a major impact on individual health and the economy. Although Scotland has met international targets for diagnosis, initiation and maintenance on therapy, new infections are still occurring.

HIV PrEP is a novel prophylactic biomedical intervention comprising of two HIV antiretroviral drugs. Studies published in 2014 and 2015 demonstrated that when PrEP is prescribed to HIV negative people (especially MSM) at risk of becoming infected sexually, their probability of HIV infection acquisition is reduced by approximately 86%.

In April 2017, the Scottish Medicines Consortium approved Truvada (Tenofovir/Emtricitabine) for use within NHS Scotland and in July 2017 PrEP became available in sexual health clinics throughout the country. Scotland was the first country in the UK to approve the provision of PrEP by the NHS.

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Further Information

Find out more in the [full report](#). The data from this publication is available to download [from our web page](#).

For more information on sexually transmitted infections see the [blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections section of our website](#).

The next release of this publication will be February 2020.



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