

# HIV- and STI- related behaviour among gay and bisexual men in WA

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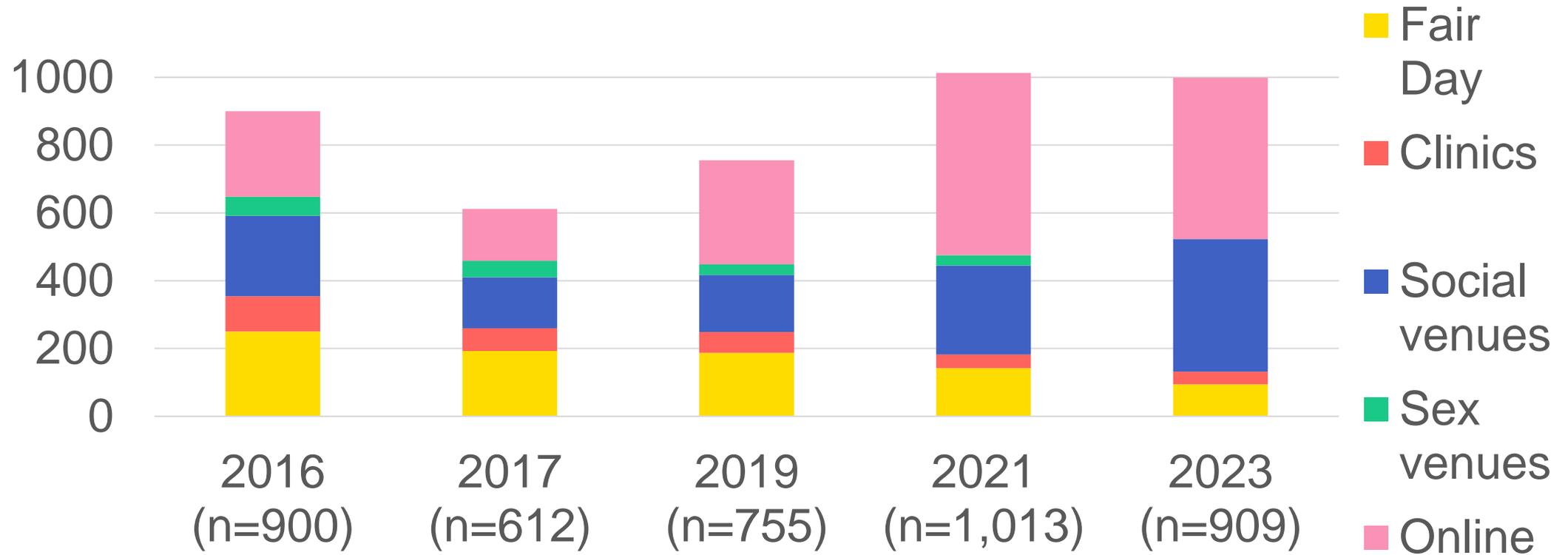
# GBQ+ Community Periodic Survey

- Repeated cross-sectional surveys of gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men
- Conducted every two years since 1998 in WA around PrideFEST
- Surveys conducted face-to-face by peer recruiters from WAAC, plus online advertising



Picture from WAAC Facebook 2021

# Recruitment sources and sample



# Sample characteristics (2023)

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	4%
Australian born	67%
Lives in Greater Perth area	88%
University educated	53%
Full-time employed	64%
Cisgender men	90%
Trans men	4%
Non-binary	6%

## Gay Community Periodic Survey

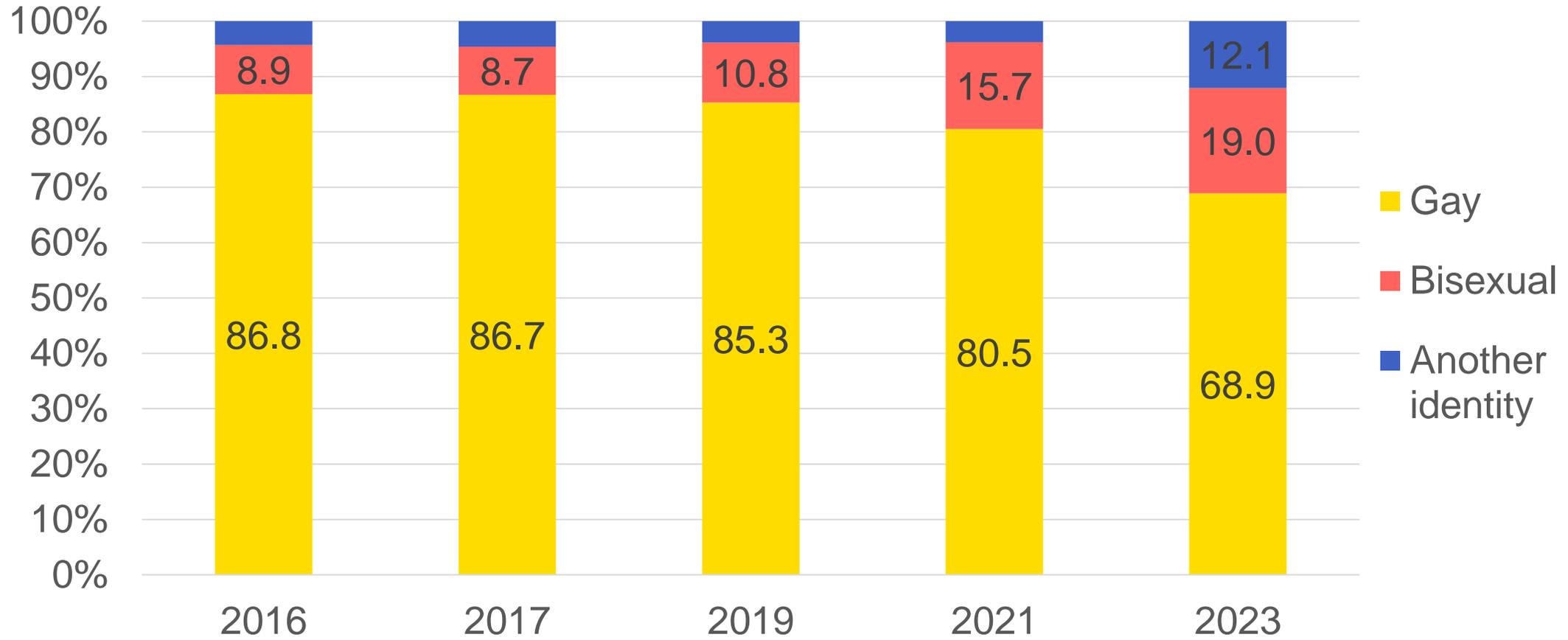
Perth 2023

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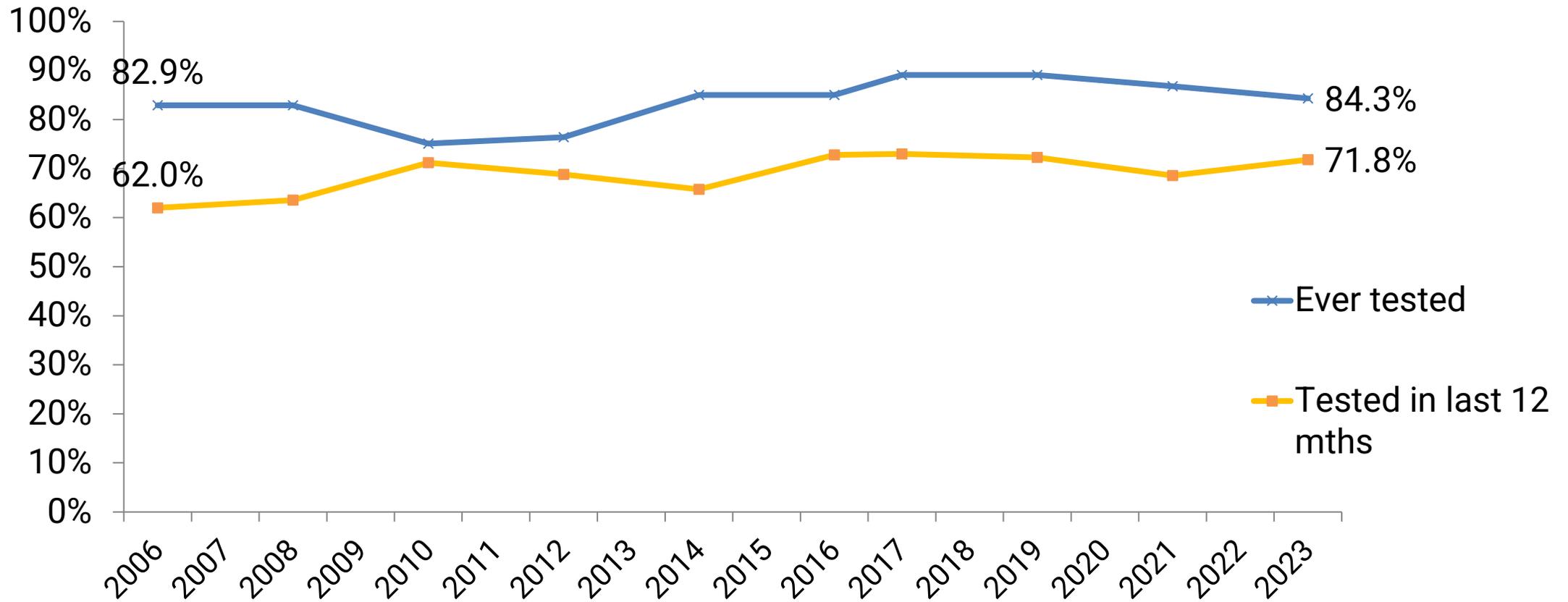
1. The Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney  
2. Centre for Social Research in Health,  
UNSW Sydney  
3. Durni University  
4. WAAC  
5. Department of Health, Western  
Australia



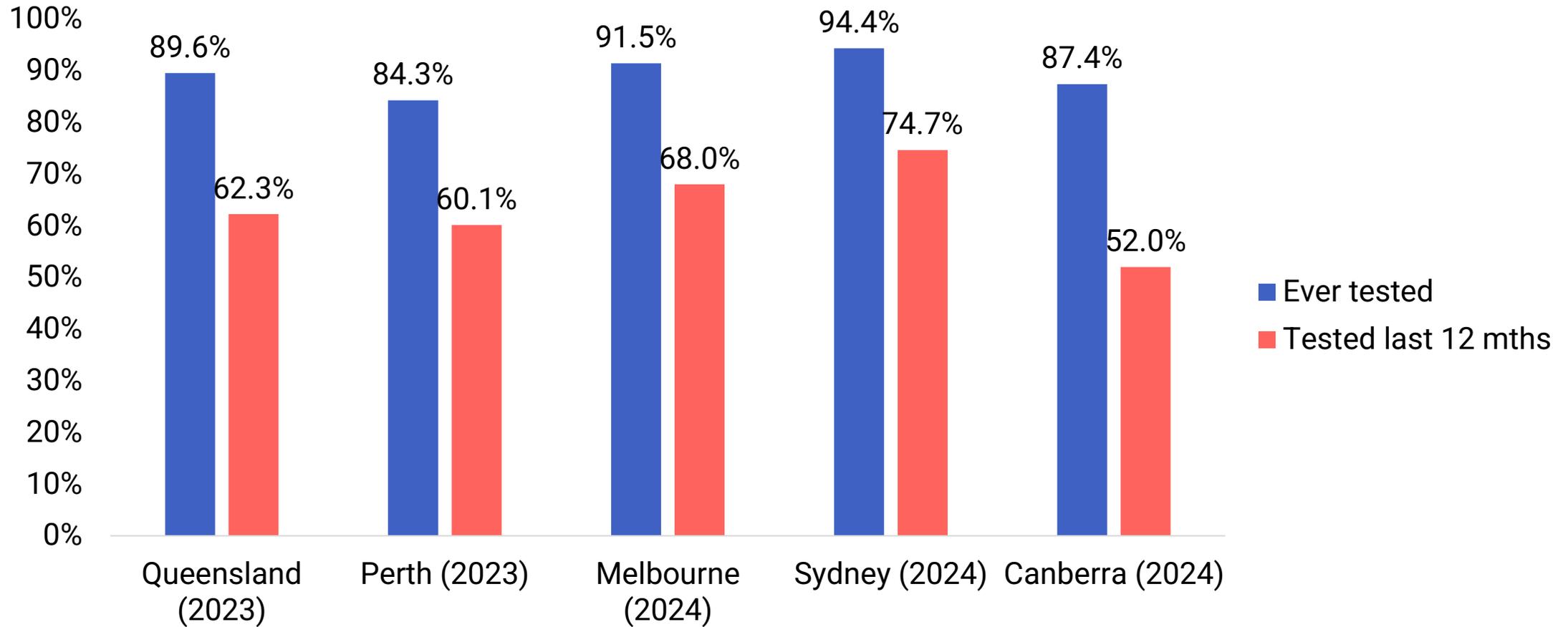
# Sexual identity



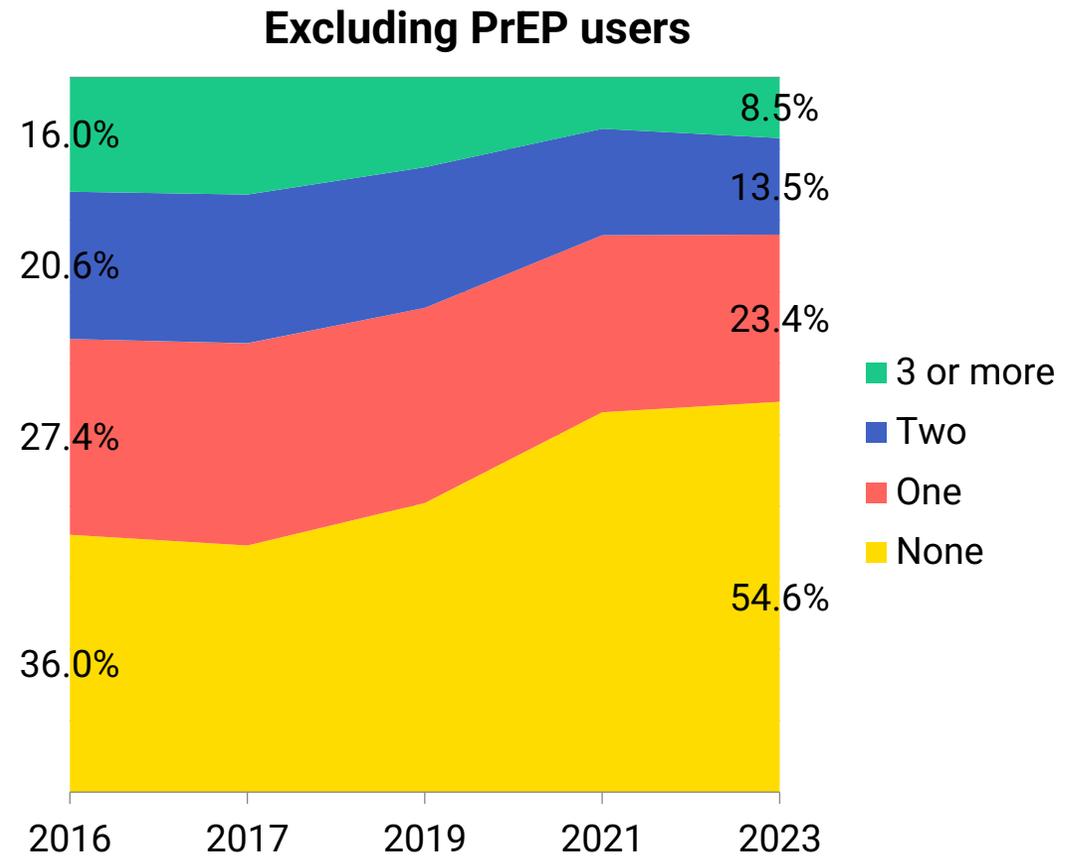
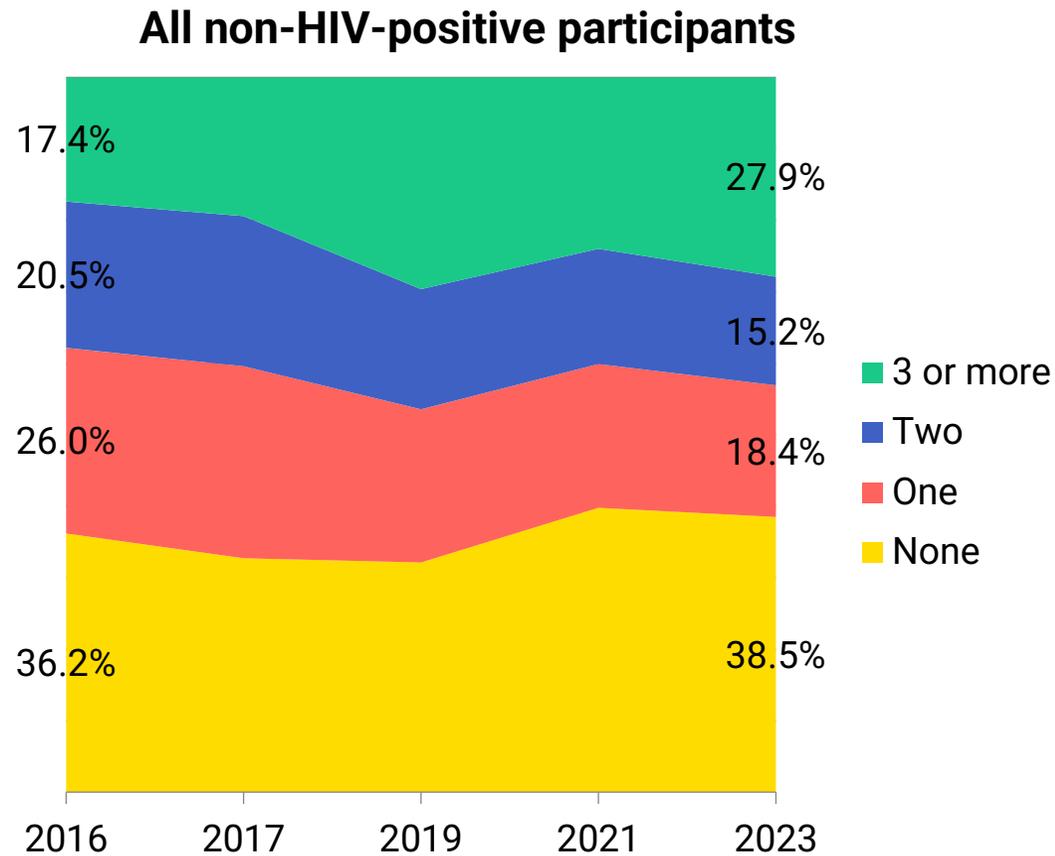
# HIV testing



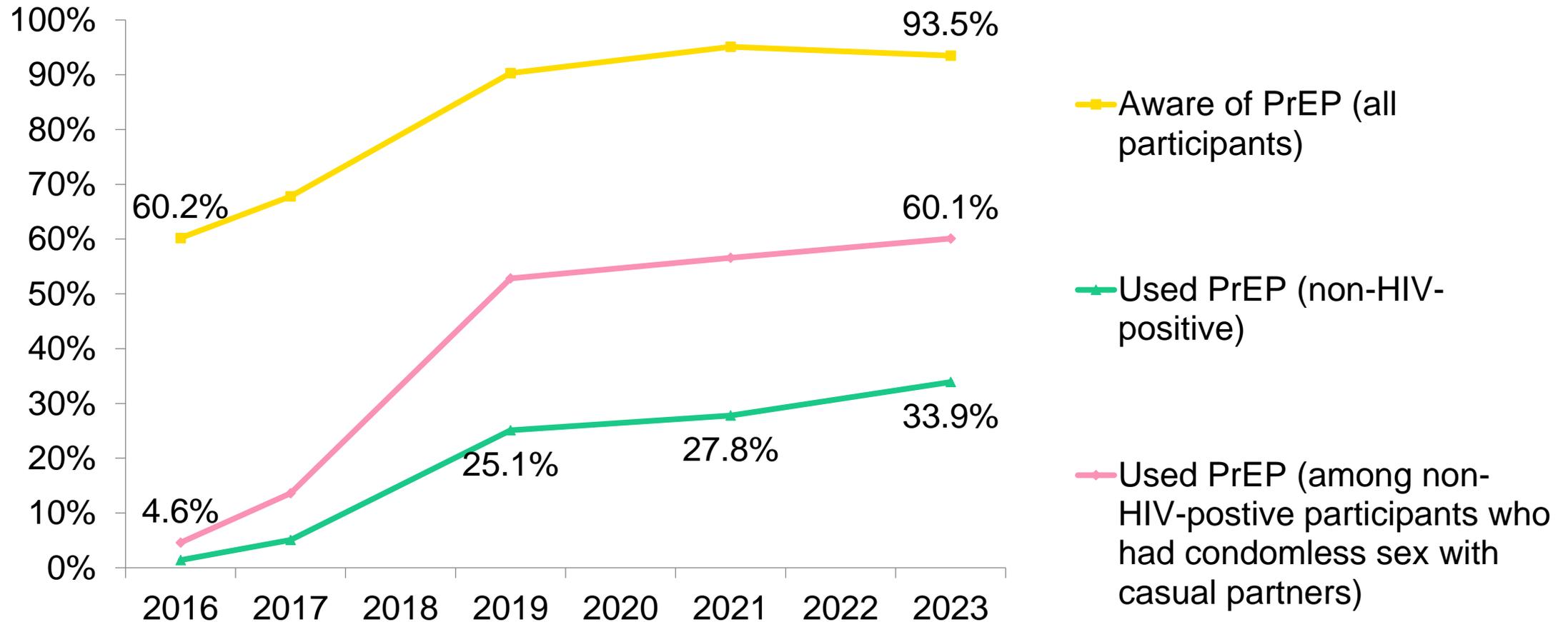
# HIV testing (interstate)



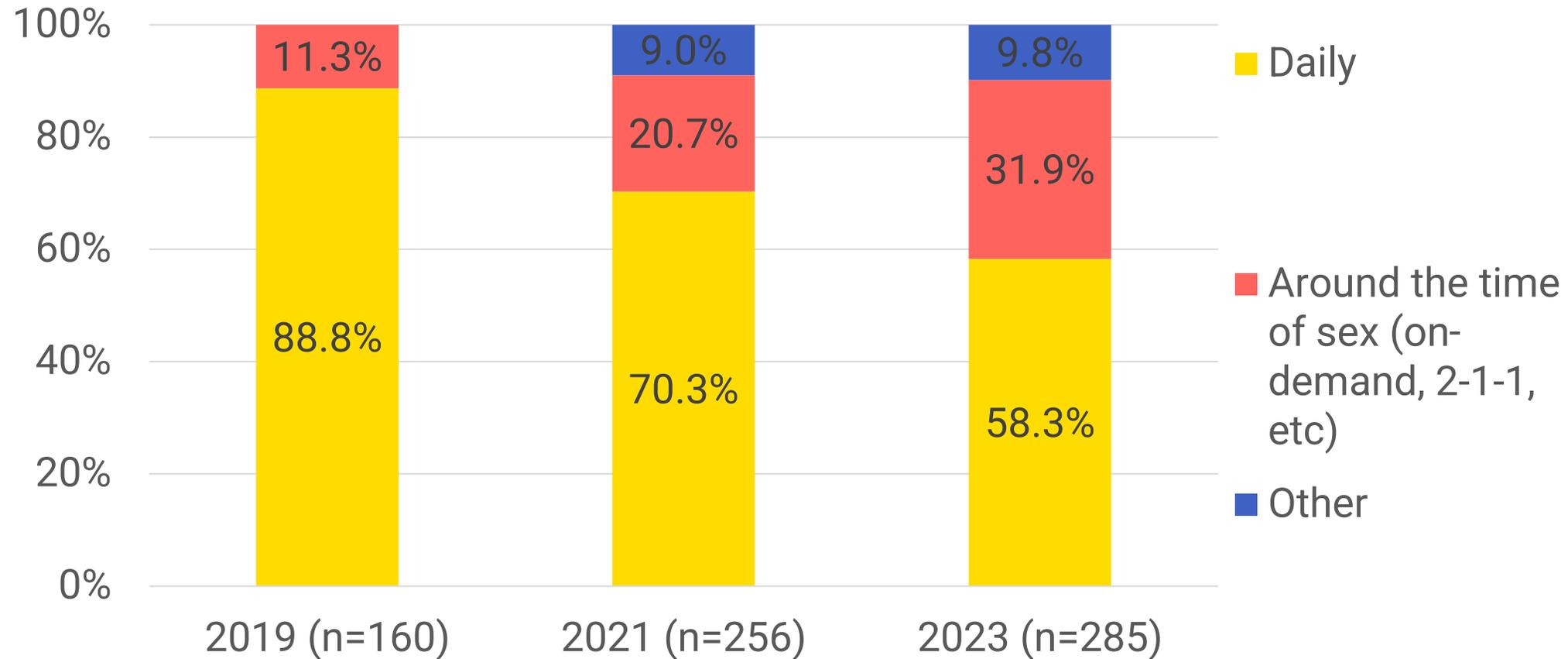
# No. of HIV tests (last 12m)



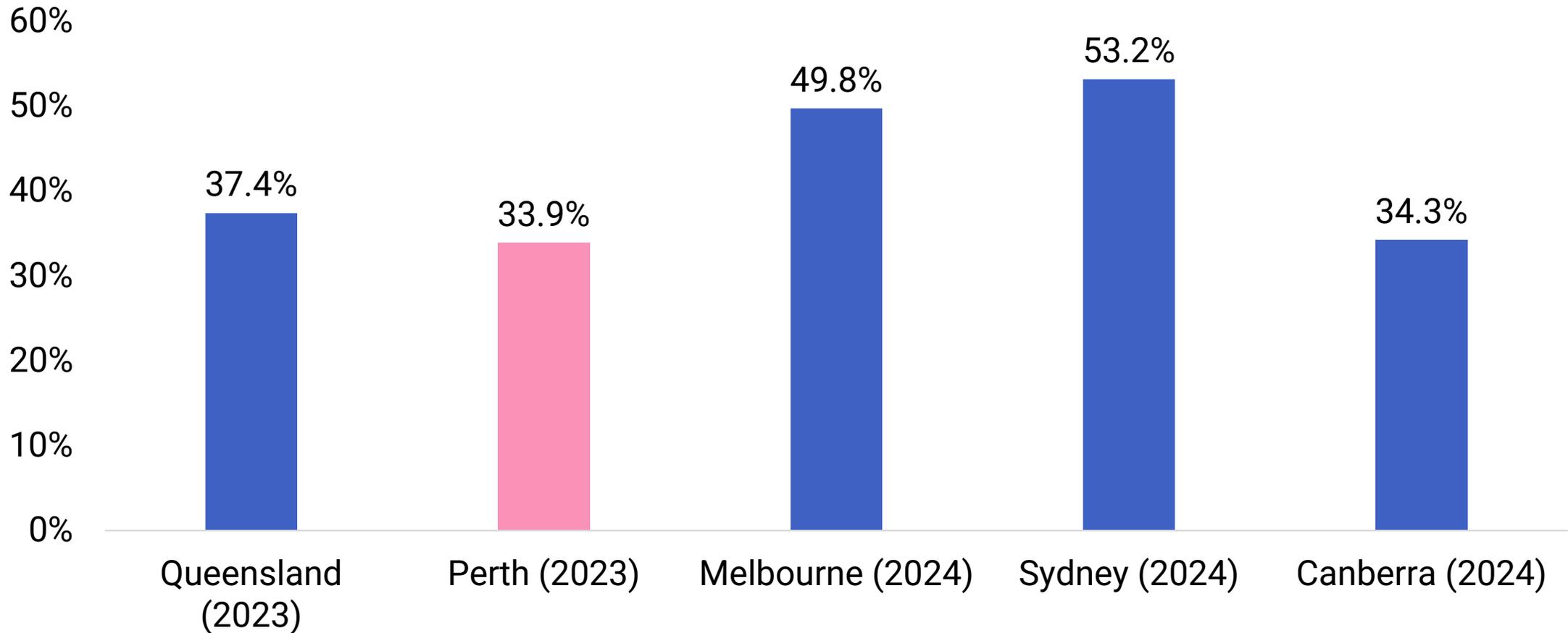
# PrEP awareness and use (last 6m)



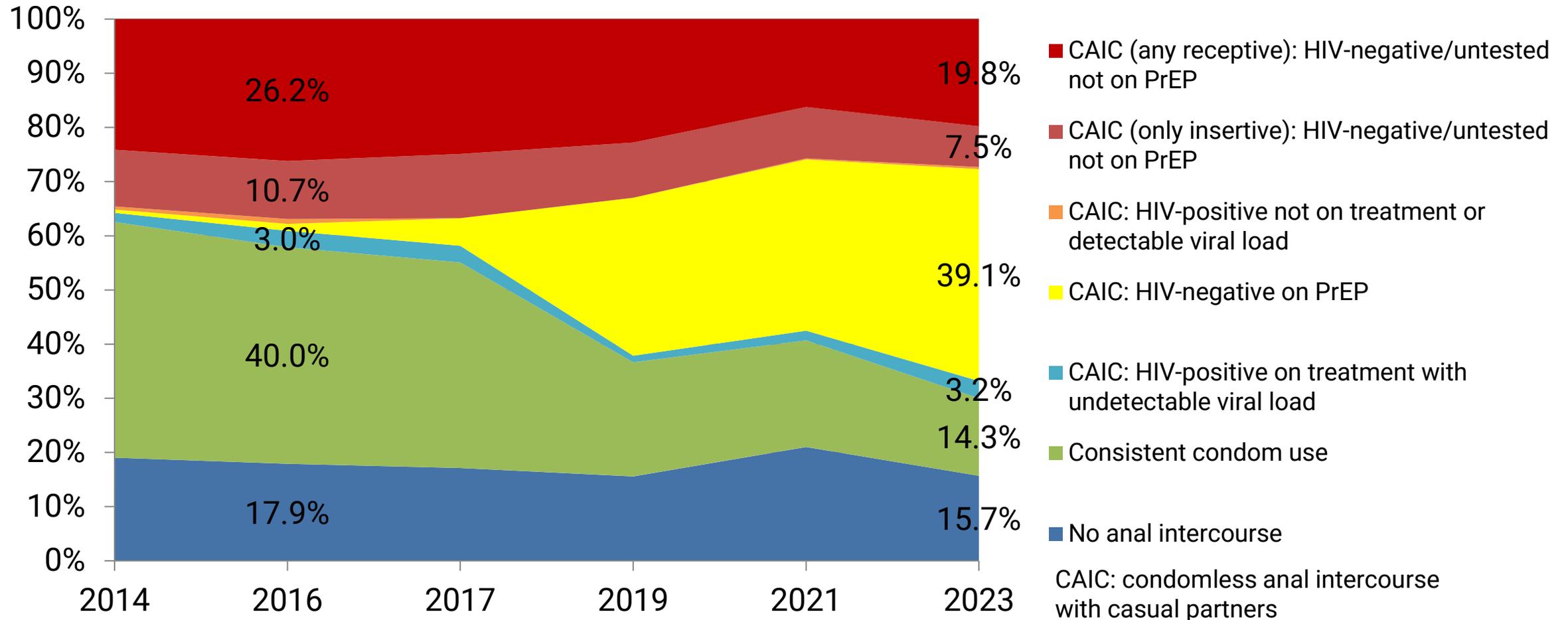
# PrEP dosing regimen



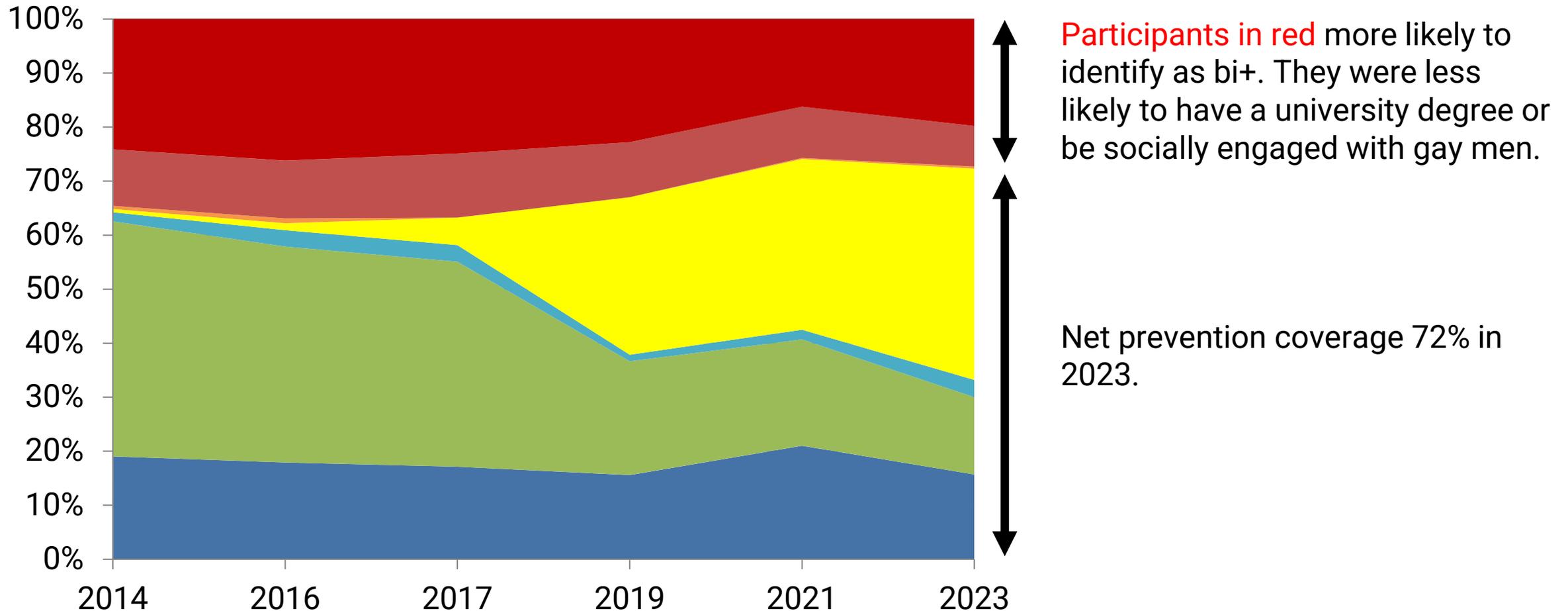
# PrEP use (interstate)



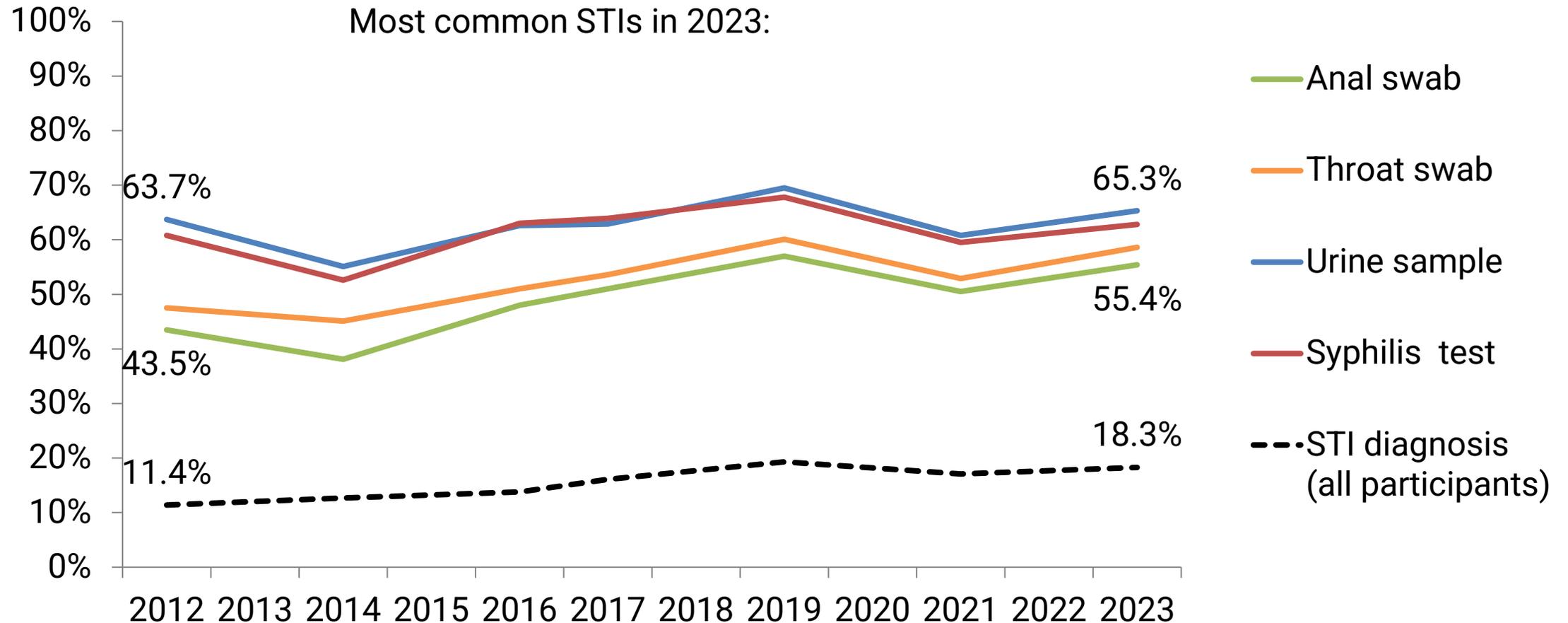
# Sex with casual male partners (last 6m)



# Sex with casual male partners (last 6m)



# STI testing and diagnoses (last 12m)



# STIs

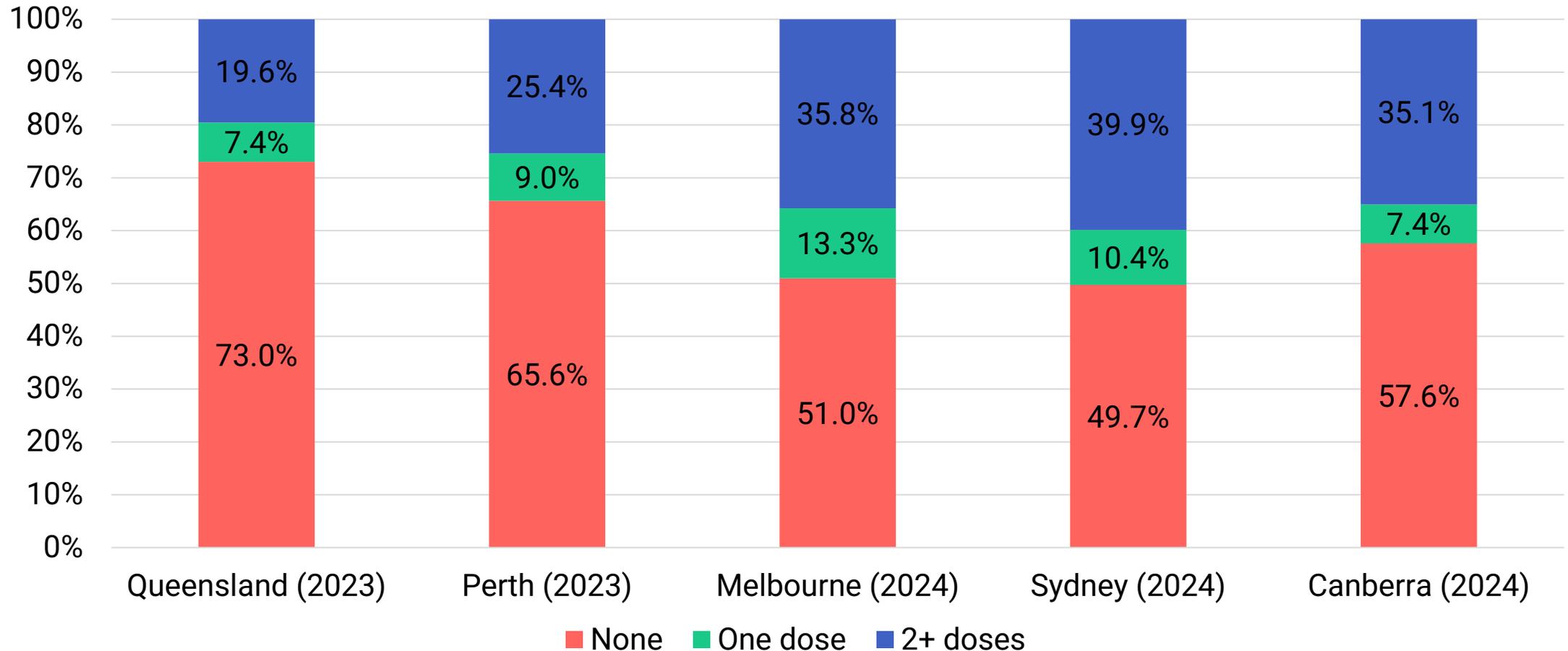
Most commonly diagnosed STIs in 2023:

- Chlamydia 12%
- Gonorrhoea 9%
- Syphilis 3%
- Other STIs 3%
- Mpox 1%

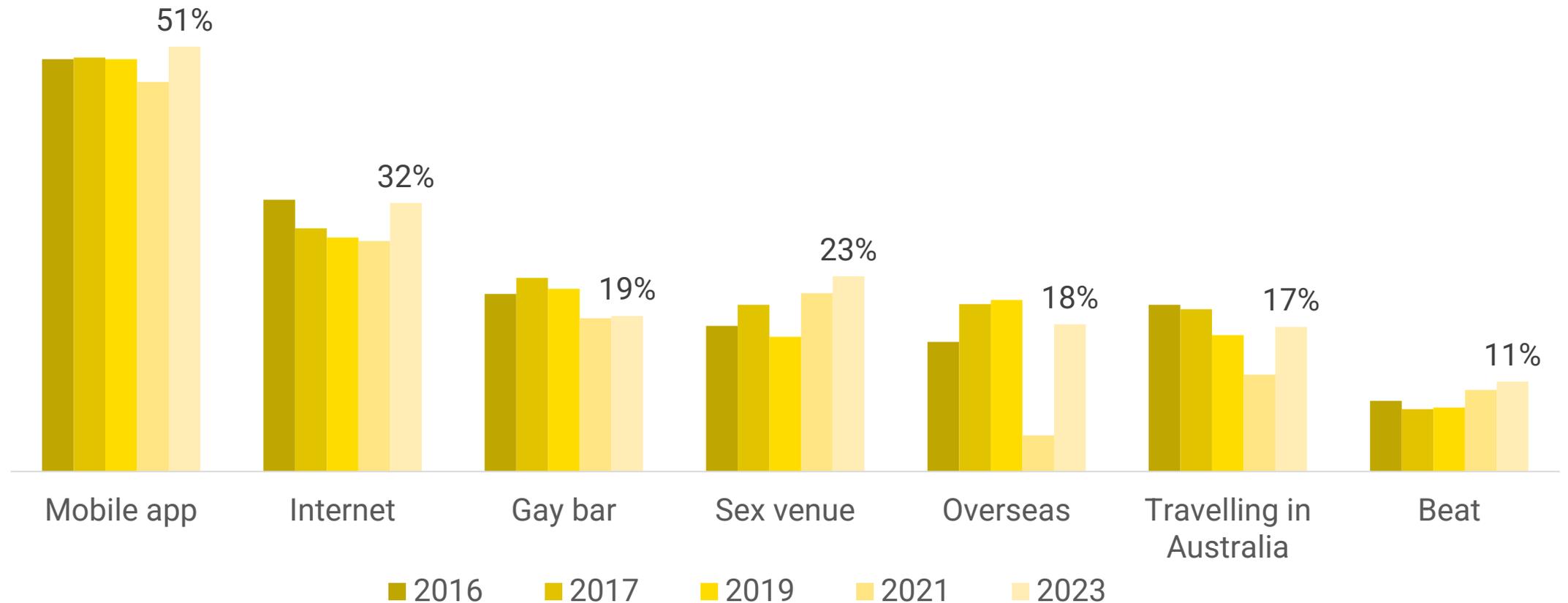
Groups more likely to be diagnosed with a STI in 2023:

- PrEP users 35%
- Participants who reported condomless sex with casual partners 36%

# Mpox vaccination (interstate)



# Where participants met their sex partners (last 12m)



# Doxy-PEP

ORIGINAL STUDY

OPEN

## Acceptability of Doxycycline Prophylaxis, Prior Antibiotic Use, and Knowledge of Antimicrobial Resistance Among Australian Gay and Bisexual Men and Nonbinary People

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Consensus statement

## Australian consensus statement on doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis (doxy-PEP) for the prevention of syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhoea among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men

Vincent J Cornelisse<sup>1,2</sup>, Benjamin Riley<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas A Medland<sup>2</sup>

In Australia, diagnoses of bacterial sexually transmitted infections (STI), especially syphilis and gonorrhoea, have increased substantially over the past decade, particularly among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM).<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

**Introduction:** Doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis (doxy-PEP) involves consuming 200 mg of doxycycline up to 72 hours after a condomless sex act to reduce the risk of bacterial sexually

- 76% of gay and bisexual men and non-binary people were willing to use doxy-PEP
- 8% had previously used/3% were currently using ABX for STI prevention
- Previous use of ABX for STI prevention was associated with greater interest in using doxy-PEP, concern about AMR with less interest
- Large gap between level of interest and suggested prescribing scenarios

# Summary

Among GBMSM, primarily from the Perth region, in 2023:

- HIV testing was stable overall but has fallen among non-PrEP-users
- PrEP use (and condomless sex) have increased, particularly on-demand use
- 27% reported casual sex with risk of HIV transmission
- STI testing was stable (with swabs less common than other samples)

- 18% diagnosed with a STI (more common among PrEP users)
- 25% fully mpox vaccinated
- Sex at venues & travelling has returned to pre-COVID levels

In 2023 national sample:

- High level of interest in doxy-PEP (76%)
- 3% already using ABX for STI prevention

# Acknowledgments

- All the gay, bisexual, and non-binary people who participate, particularly people living with HIV
- WAAC and the team of peer recruiters who make recruitment possible
- Funding from WA Dept of Health, Australian Government Dept of Health, and NHMRC

# Publications/further information

Perth 2023 GCPS report

<https://doi.org/10.26190/zsy6-q796>

PrEPARE Project 2023 report

<https://doi.org/10.26190/bptf-jj64>

Acceptability of doxy-PEP,  
published in *Sexually  
Transmitted Diseases*

<https://doi.org/10.1097/OLQ.0000000000002079>

Australian Consensus  
Statement on doxy-PEP

<https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.52258>