

Context

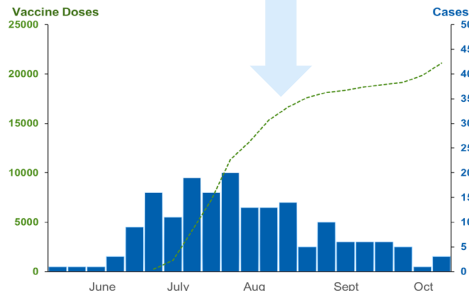
- BC launched a first dose Mpox vaccination campaign in July 2022 promoted to transgender people and gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (T/GBM)
- Health authorities partnered with T/GBM providers to implement the campaign
- We measured vaccine uptake and associated factors six weeks following campaign launch

Methods



- From Aug 6-22 we invited BCCDC STI clinic clients from the past 3 years to an online survey
- The survey included questions about vaccine eligibility, uptake and factors that may be associated with these outcomes, with a \$200 prize draw
- We used bivariate analyses to look at factors associated with vaccine uptake among eligible T/GBM

In our sample of 331 T/GBM clinic clients:
66% who were eligible for the Mpox vaccine had been vaccinated with a first dose
If unvaccinated, 85% were willing to receive the vaccine



Being eligible but unvaccinated was associated with:

- Identifying as bisexual or heteroflexible (mostly straight)
- Spending less time with other T/GBM
- Having < 2 sexual partners or not attending venues for sex
- Not aware most cases of Mpox in MSM or about symptoms
- Lower perceived susceptibility to Mpox
- Increased constraints to vaccine access
- Fewer cues to action (e.g., knowing someone who has received vaccine, seeing information promoting vaccine, vaccine recommended by others)



Many reported challenges to accessing the vaccine:

- 40% related to physical access to clinics (e.g., opening hours, distance)
- 22% related to privacy or stigma (e.g., concerns about being judged)

Implications for practice

- Uptake of the first dose of Mpox vaccine was high in this Lower Mainland health-seeking population of T/GBM (may be higher than in other BC settings)
- Uptake was lower among T/GBM who may be more difficult to engage by the promotional channels available
- Intentional and ongoing engagement of diverse groups of T/GBM is key in Mpox and other targeted vaccine programs to this population

Acknowledgements & Conflict of Interest:

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