

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic look. The shapes are primarily triangular and polygonal, with some areas appearing more translucent than others.

PrEP

Northern Ireland

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Brief

- ▶ Political challenges
- ▶ Impact of Brexit
- ▶ Impact of religion
- ▶ Access to data

Northern Ireland Politics

- ▶ Political conflict 1968-1998 (“the troubles”)
- ▶ Good Friday Agreement 1998
- ▶ NI Executive & NI Assembly formed 1998
 - ▶ Suspended 2017
 - ▶ DUP Arlene Robinson- First Minister
 - ▶ SF Michelle O’Neill- deputy first minister
- ▶ Politics continues to be about sectarian representation

Religious issues

- ▶ 90% children still go to separate faith schools
- ▶ High numbers with traditional views
 - ▶ TOP is illegal
 - ▶ Love-for-life (school sex education)
- ▶ Civil partnerships available for same-sex couples since 2005.
- ▶ Equal marriage has been voted on 5 times by the Assembly
 - ▶ was passed by a slim majority on the fifth attempt
 - ▶ consistently vetoed by the DUP using the petition of concern
- ▶ 2015, an Ipsos Mori poll found that 68% of people in NI support equal marriage

Need for PrEP-HIV in NI

- ▶ HIV Prevalence in Northern Ireland remains lower than in the other UK countries
- ▶ In the ten years since 2005 Northern Ireland has seen an 81% increase in new cases in contrast to the UK overall where there has been a fall of 23%
- ▶ 93% of those diagnosed with HIV are on treatment, which equates to approximately £6,500 treatment costs per patient per annum
- ▶ 56% of new diagnoses in 2015 were MSM (58/103)
- ▶ 53% (666/1253) of all new diagnoses made to date MSM
- ▶ 14% (10/69) of the newly diagnosed HIV infections tested were recent infections

There is need, where is PrEP...

- ▶ Group established to consider the proposed approaches to HIV-PrEP adopted in England, Scotland, Wales, Republic of Ireland and France
- ▶ To review the eligibility criteria
- ▶ To estimate the NI population at risk
- ▶ To identify staffing / infrastructure requirements
- ▶ To explore drug costs associated with HIV- PrEP
- ▶ To consider unintended consequences of provision of PrEP
- ▶ To produce a document considering the potential approaches to HIV prevention, including HIV-PrEP, for people at high risk of HIV in NI

Findings from the group

- ▶ 2,000 HIV negative MSM attend GUM clinics annually
- ▶ If PrEP available how many would want it?
- ▶ Cost projections including infrastructure & risk reduction sessions

Current access to PrEP in Belfast Trust

- ▶ Created Lillie codes to capture PrEP discussions, initial or on-going monitoring
- ▶ Poster snapshot from june-jan 2017/18, 57 pts
- ▶ 46% (26/57) already on PrEP prior to attendance
- ▶ 23/26 had attended specifically for monitoring
- ▶ Those not on PrEP, discussion initiated
- ▶ BASHH states that it is clear that a doctor's duty is to give patients the information they want and need about options for treating and managing their condition, the potential benefits, burdens and risks for each option and any treatments that they think have greater potential benefit for the patient than they or their organisation can offer

Conclusion

- ▶ Political stalemate
- ▶ Impact of religious climate
- ▶ Ring fenced money for HIV medications and lab costs
- ▶ Document produced and with department