

"PrEP in a Hostile Climate" - PrEP and Treatment in Eastern Europe

ОДНА  ТАБЛЕТКА
PrEP В ДЕНЬ
ЗАЩИТИТ ТЕБЯ ОТ ВИЧ

Я МОГУ МНОГОЕ

ПАРНИ  SAFE  PrEP

The Context of HIV Prevention among MSM

- In the EECA region, 70% of new HIV diagnoses are ascribed to the Russian Federation (in 2019, there were 1 mln people with HIV)
- According to a bio-behavioral research of MSM conducted in 2017, the average HIV prevalence in the cities participating in the research was 18% (13% in Moscow, 24% in St. Petersburg, 16% in Yekaterinburg)
- According to official statistics, MSM represent only 3% on new infections. When getting registered, MSM conceal their homosexual relationships.

Three Major Systemic Problems of HIV Prevention among MSM

- **Problem #1:** Lack of epidemiological studies and a strategic approach to HIV prevention among MSM in the Russian Federation. Official data are scarce, if collected at all. That is why the official statistics differ significantly, in a dozen times, from the data obtained through independent scientific research
- **Recommendation #1:** The Russian authorities should urgently conduct sentinel bio-behavioral studies to plan a prompt and adequate response to the alarming data about the growing HIV epidemic among MSM.



Three Major Systemic Problems on HIV Prevention among MSM

- **Problem #2:** Authorities are either openly inactive, or often add to stigma and discrimination against MSM and TG. The broadly interpreted ban on the propoganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors has in practice turned into a prohibition on the dissemination of adequate information about HIV prevention among MSM and TG.
- **Recommendation #2:** The ban on the dissemination of information on non-traditional sexual relations should be abolished. The dissemination of adequate information on HIV prevention and human rights of LGBT, MSM and TG should not be hampered.
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Three Major Systemic Problems on HIV Prevention among MSM

- **Problem #3:** HIV-service organizations face difficulties because of the "foreign agent" law. In February 2016, authorities started to apply this law to organizations that disseminate information about HIV prevention and the protection of LGBT rights. If an organization is declared to be a foreign agent, it can't receive public funds for HIV prevention or cooperate with government authorities.

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Recommendation #3: The "foreign agent" law should be abolished as soon as possible.

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National HIV Prevention Strategy

- On October 25, 2016, the Ministry of Health announced the national strategy to combat the spread of HIV in Russia which will be in operation until 2020.
- The document consists of 18 pages but the group of MSM is mentioned only once (noted as "people entering non-traditional sexual relationships"). The national strategy does not provide for any specific measures for HIV prevention among MSM and TG.
- The Ministry of Health has not yet adopted guidelines on PrEP prescription.

Progress and Achievement

- In 2019, the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation prepared recommendations on working with key populations. The recommendations document the use of PrEP.
- Key specialists from the Ministry of Health and the Federal AIDS Center speak favorably of PrEP.

Evgeny Voronin, Chief Specialist of the Ministry of Health: “It is hard to imagine future without PrEP”.



Vadim Pokrovsky, Head of the Federal AIDS Center: “PrEP can be used, but under certain control”.



New Challenges – Chemsex

- Chemsex is becoming a part of gay subculture in Russia. New drugs, including injected ones, are widely used in the gay community (of big cities).
- Strategic information on the extent of the spread of chemsex among MSM in the Russian Federation is lacking.
- The stakeholders are at a loss over how to design HIV prevention programs among MSM in view of the latest trends of drug use among MSM.

Hydra — the Russian darknet trading site — has become the world's largest drug market. Drugs can be bought online just as easily as any other item.

The screenshot displays the Hydra marketplace interface. At the top, the 'HYDRA' logo is on the left, followed by a search bar containing 'Поиск...' and a button labeled 'Искать'. To the right are buttons for 'Войти' and 'Регистрация'. Below this is a navigation bar with 'КАТЕГОРИИ все', 'Магазины', 'Товары', and 'Записки'. On the far right of the navigation bar, it shows '1 BTC = 8 609 USD / 491 810 RUB' and a refresh icon.

The main content area is titled 'НАДЕЖНЫЕ МАГАЗИНЫ'. It features a search bar with 'Поиск...', a location dropdown set to '- город -', and a category dropdown menu. The category menu is open, listing various items: Категория, Марихуана, Бошка, Гашиш, План, Масло/Экстракты, СаппаFood, Семена, Каннабиноиды, Твердый Микс, Реагент, Россыпь/Микс, Стимуляторы, Альфа, Амфетанин, Кокаин, Метанфетамин, MDPV, Эйфоретики, and Мефедрон.

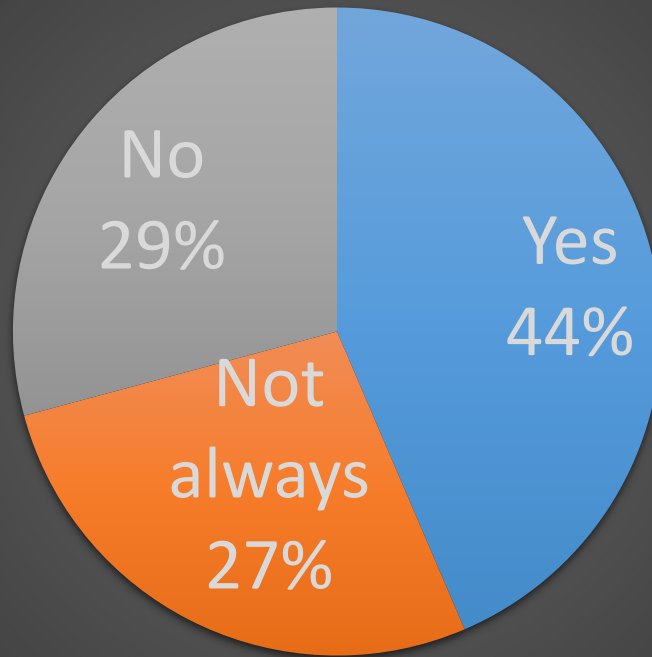
Below the search and category filters is a grid of shop listings. Each listing includes a shop logo, a name, and a five-star rating. The visible shops are:

- GangBang shop**: Logo with 'SHOP GANG BANG' and a red smiley face.
- [КОНТРАБАНДА]**: Logo with 'CONTRABAND' on a wooden background with a crown.
- Playboy Journal**: Logo featuring the Playboy bunny on a red tufted background.
- masterclad shop**: Logo with the Mastercard logo.
- WDC USA SHOP usa2txla...**: Logo with 'WDC WASHINGTON LEGENDARY MARKET' and an American flag.
- Лавка "Другое сознание"**: Logo with a hand holding a red object.
- Stuff-man**: Logo with 'STUFFMAN' and a large 'S' in a shield.

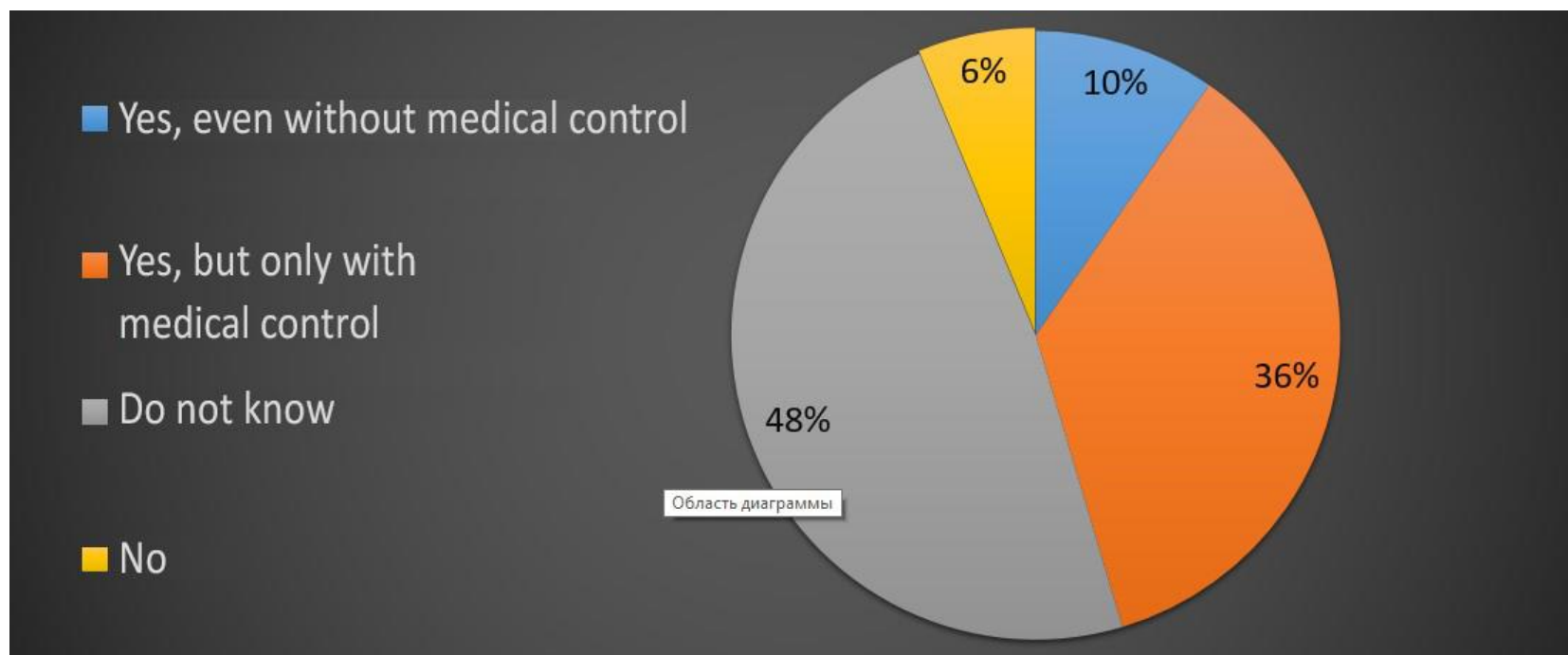
Needs Assessment in PrEP among MSM

- Methods: A self-administered web-based questionnaire. The survey of 677 MSM was conducted in February and March 2018.
- Goal. To assess current knowledge and intended future use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Russia

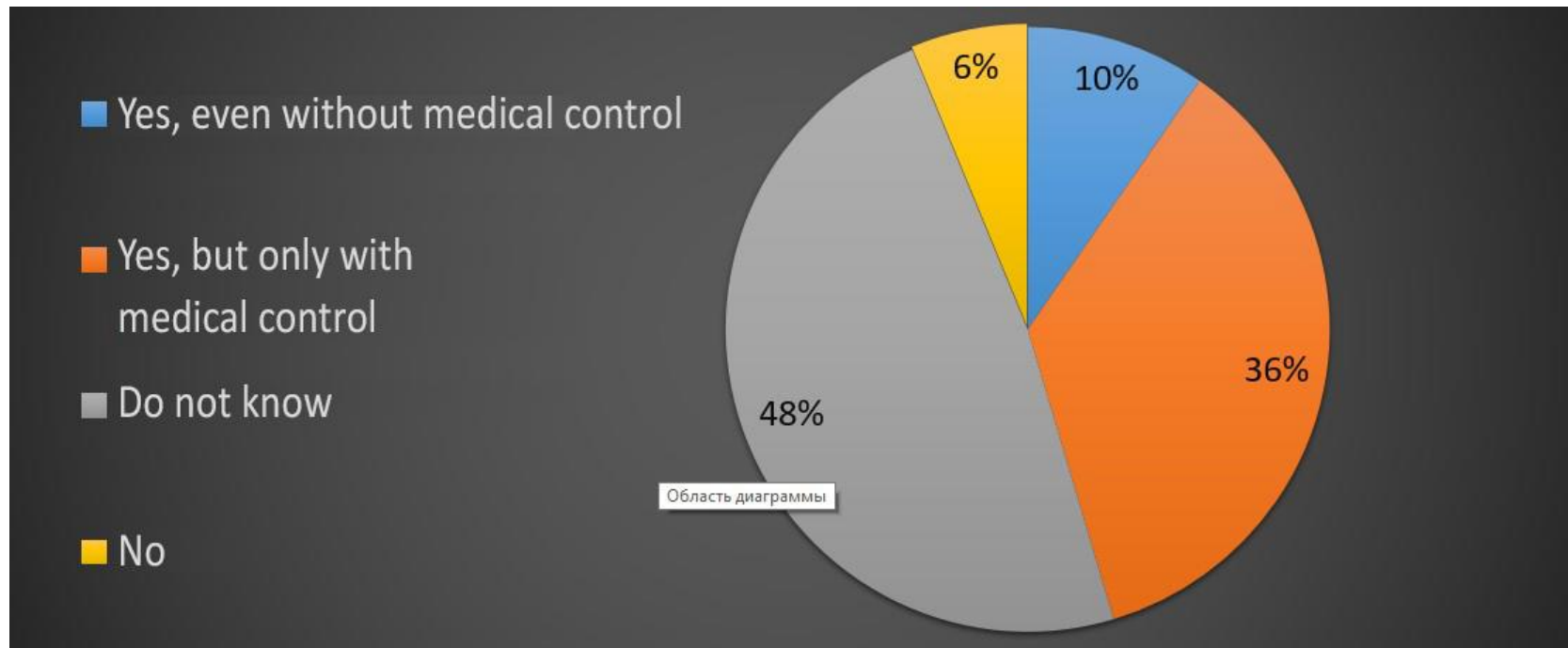
Did you use a condom when you had sex?



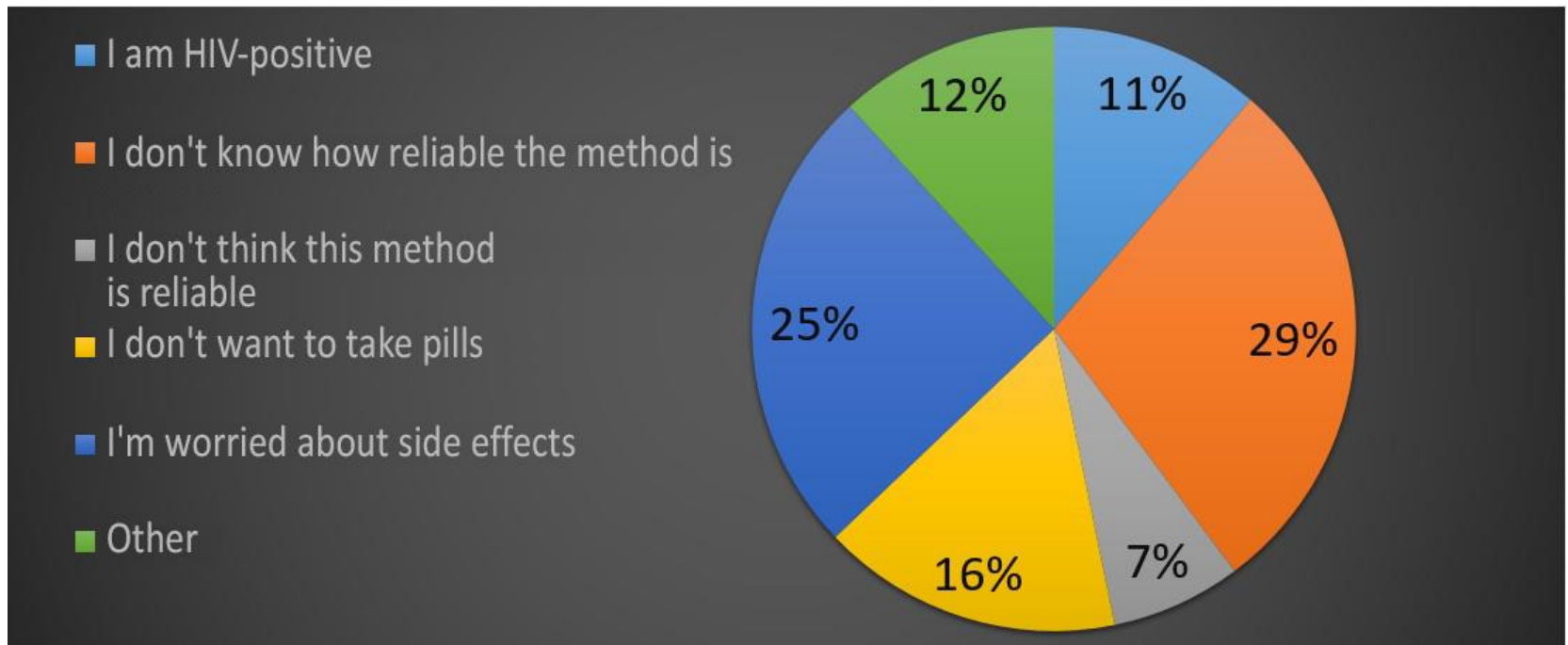
Have you heard of PrEP before?



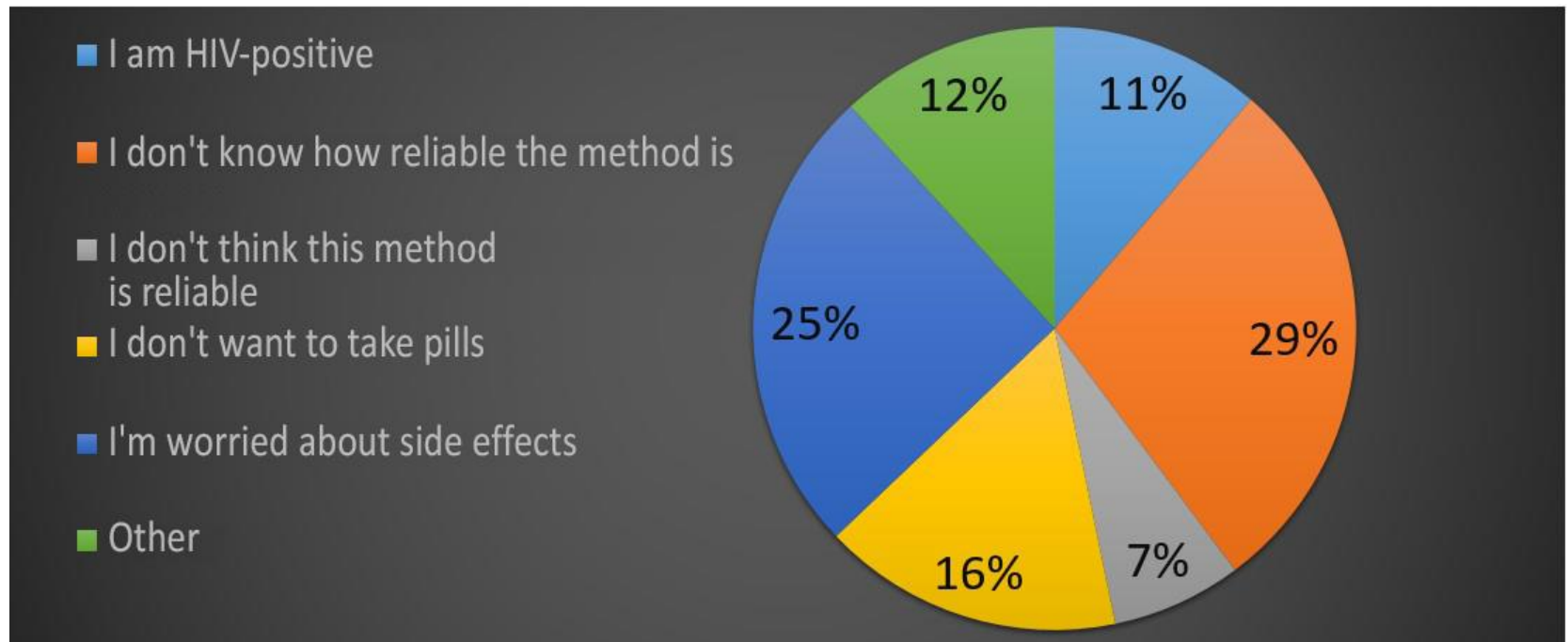
If your doctor suggested, would you use PrEP?



Why did you answer "No" or "Do not know"?

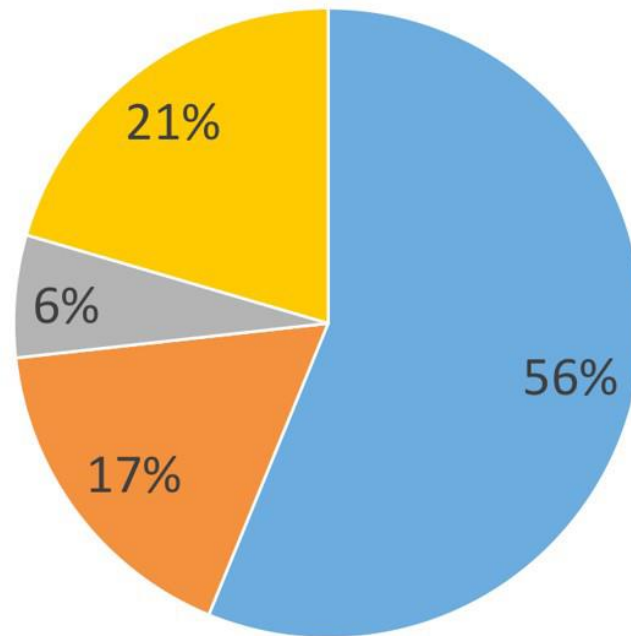


Do you think government should purchase PrEP for those who take risks and do not use condoms?



Are you ready to pay for PrEP yourself in the future?

- Yes, if the price does not exceed 1,000-2,000 RUR (a Russian generic)
- Yes, if the price does not exceed 3,000-5,000 RUR (an Indian generic)
- Yes, I would buy the original Truvada drug (≈12,000 RUR per month)
- No



Resume

- More than half of the respondents (61%) think that PrEP should be funded by the government to those who do not take risks and do not use condoms. Out of those who are theoretically ready to use PrEP, only few are ready to buy the original Truvada (6%). More than half (56%) can afford to buy inexpensive Russian generics, and much fewer respondents (17%) are ready to buy Indian generics. Every fifth (20%) is unwilling to pay for PrEP at all.
- 320 survey participants (half of the respondents) would agree to take part in the pilot project on PrEP (since they left their contact details) and get an opportunity to be the first people in Russia to use pre-exposure HIV prophylaxis for free.

PrEP Introduction Strategy

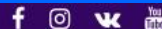
- There are currently no actors in Russia who would do their best to promote PrEP in Russia.
- There are no donors who can support a pilot project on PrEP (we were turned down by EJAF and the Global Fund left Russia in 2018)
- The most financially affordable tool for PrEP promotion is raising awareness online.

Parni PLUS [Guys PLUS] is a website dedicated to social challenges and health issues of LGBT communities. 2,5 mln visitors a year.



PrEP.Love is a website with the largest number of PrEP reference materials in Russian in EЕCA.

SAFE.PREP - ПРЕПЯТВИЙ НЕТ!



О PREP КОРОТКО

ЧТО ТАКОЕ ПКП?

О ПРОЕКТЕ



НОВОСТИ

ВИДЕО

Я – СКЕПТИК

ИНТЕРЕСУЮСЬ

ХОЧУ ПРИНИМАТЬ!

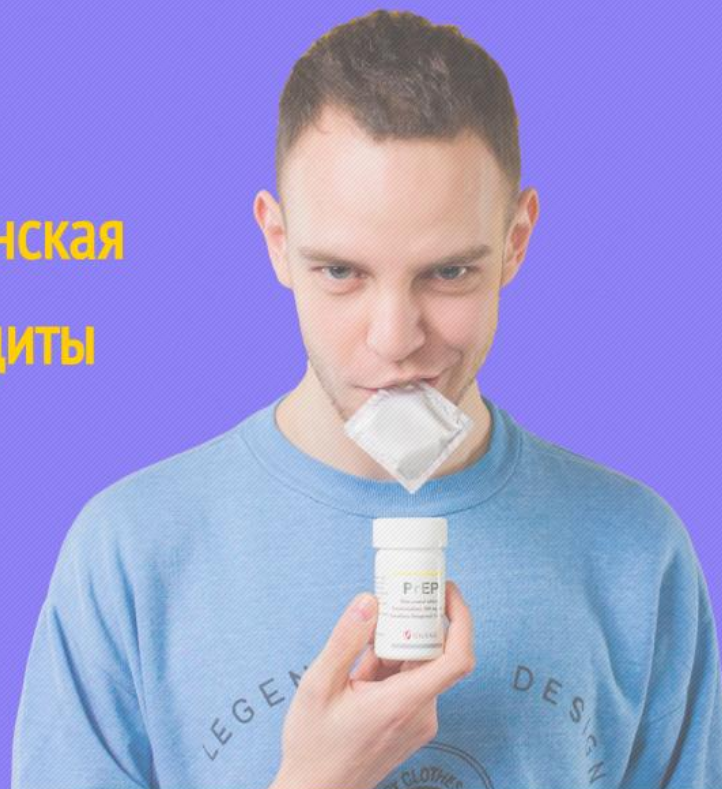
УЖЕ ПРИНИМАЮ



**PrEP – новая медицинская
технология твоей защиты
от ВИЧ!**

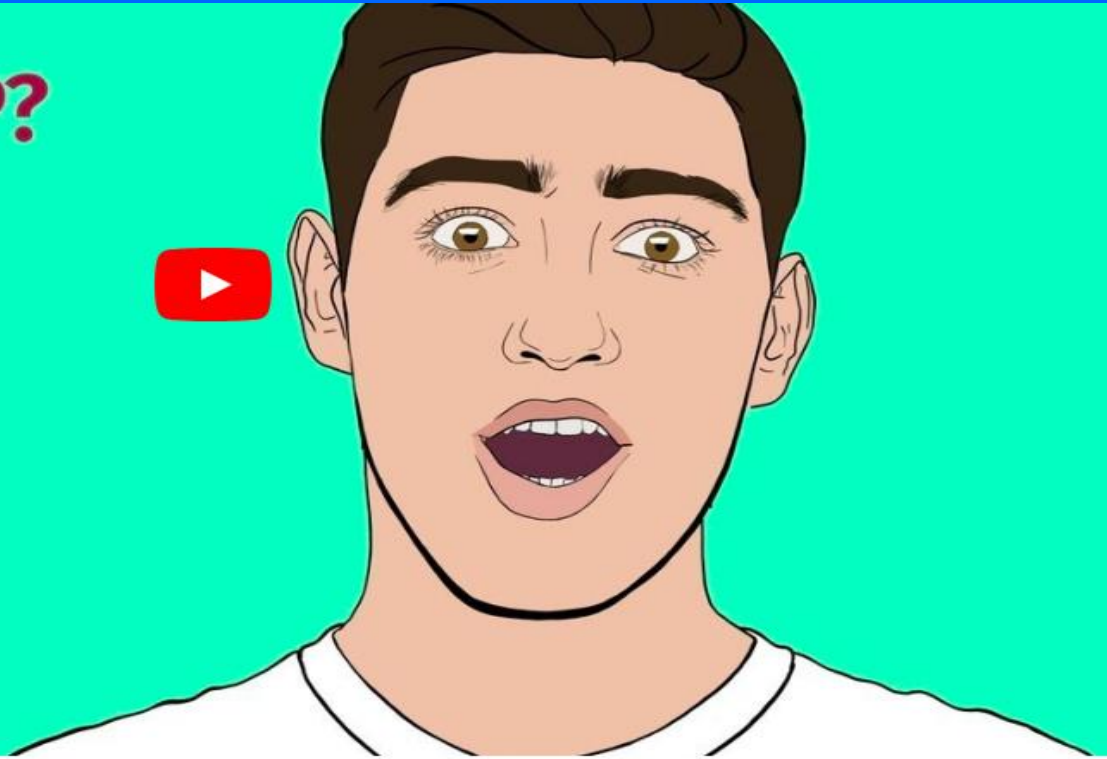
ЧТО ТАКОЕ PREP?

ГДЕ ПОЛУЧИТЬ?



The video content of the information campaign has ~ 350 thousand views

Что такое PrEP?



Что такое PrEP?



Вебинар:
Я хочу
использовать PrEP.
С чего начать?

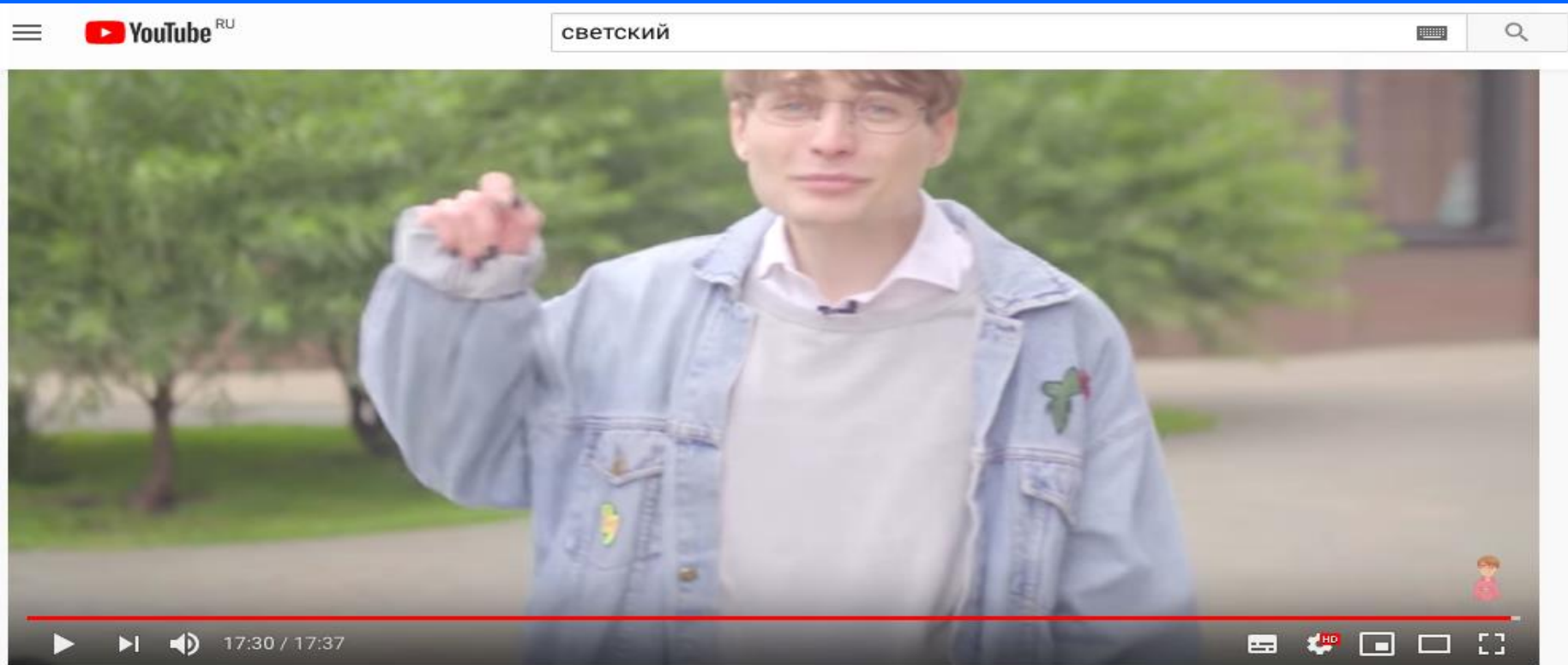


**не нервничай,
пей PrEP!**

[подробности на \[prer love\]\(http://prer love\)](#)



Gay blogger: Zhenya Svetsky — 106,000 views in one month



У МОЕГО ПАРНЯ ВИЧ! КАК ЗАЩИТИТЬ СЕБЯ? PrEP ПРОФИЛАКТИКА!

106 990 просмотров

👍 8,8 ТЫС. 💬 534 ➦ ПОДЕЛИТЬСЯ ⚙️ СОХРАНИТЬ ⋮



Женя Светски ✓
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ВЫ ПОДПИСАНЫ 286 ТЫС.

Я ЧУТЬ НЕ ОКАЗАЛСЯ ЗАРАЖЕН ВИЧ. ЧТО БЫВАЕТ, ЕСЛИ НЕ ПРЕДОХРАНЯТЬСЯ? ОЧЕНЬ ВАЖНОЕ ВИДЕО ДЛЯ ВСЕХ, КТО НЕ ХОЧЕТ ЗАРАЗИТЬСЯ! PrEP ПРОФИЛАКТИКА!
Сайт о PrEP на русском языке: <https://prep.love/>
больше видео на канале Парни ПЛЮС: <http://bit.ly/2SRyVA2>



Contact me at:

+79202848484

orelaid@gmail.com

www.parniplus.ru

<https://www.facebook.com/evgeny.pisemskiy>