

Generational differences in timing of first MSM-specific prevention advice among MSM in Switzerland

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Purpose of the study

- Observational study
- reconstruct retrospectively the timing of the first MSM-specific prevention advice received by men who have sex with men (MSM)
- ascertain generational differences in the timing of this first contact

Methods

- Data from the 2009 survey of MSM in Switzerland
- Convenience sample analyzed as a retrospective cohort
- time-to-event Kaplan-Meier analysis
- Inclusion criteria for the study: Swiss nationals, residence in Switzerland at time of survey
- n=1546 participants, complete case analysis

Questions

- *What is your year of birth? [year]*
- *How old were you when you received prevention advice regarding sex between men for the first time? [age in years]*
- *In what context did you receive prevention advice regarding sex between men for the first time?*

Results

Cohort statistics

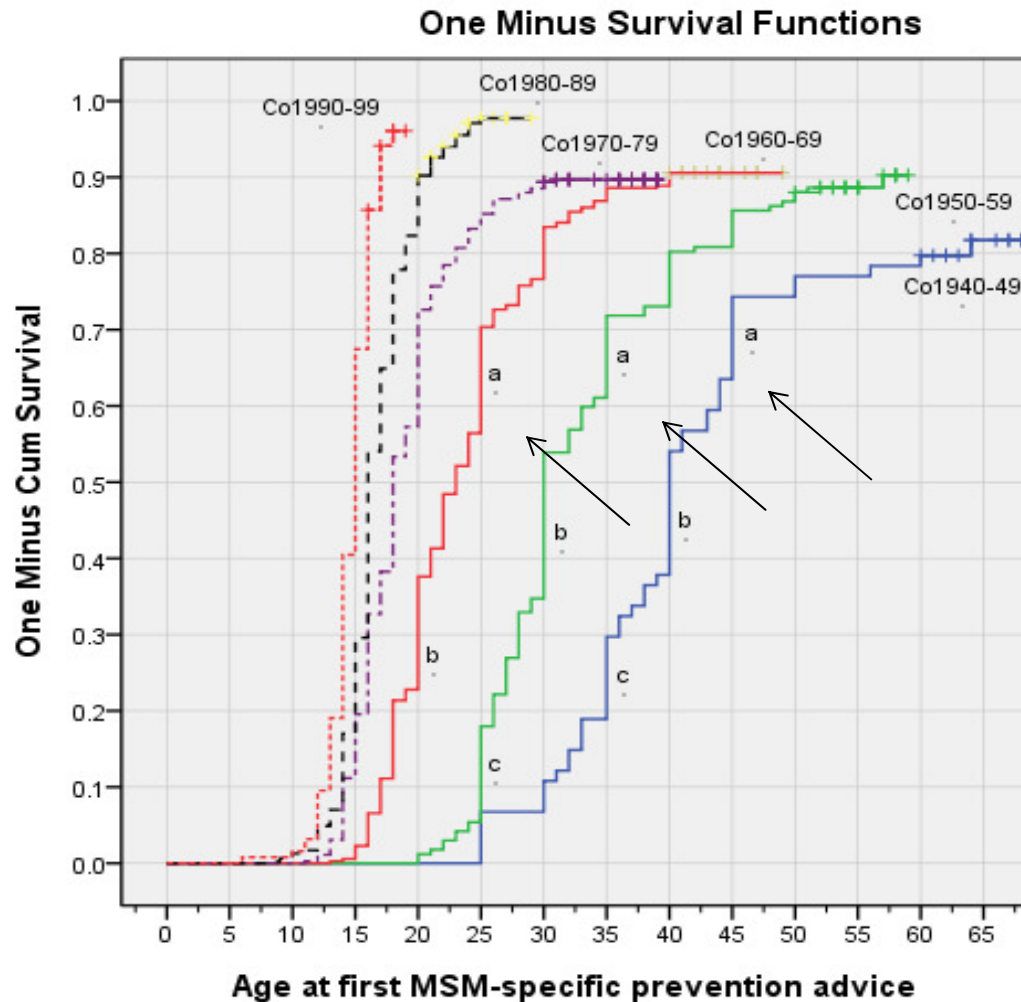
	Birth cohort						Total
	1940-49	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	
Cohort statistics							
number of participants	74	167	351	358	470	126	1546
Mean age in 2009 (survey time)	64.4	53.9	44.1	34.1	24.3	17.9	35.7
% censored (right)	18.9	10.8	9.4	10.3	3.2	4.8	8.0

Results (2) : Estimated time to First MSM-specific prevention advice

	Birth cohort						Total
	1940-49	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	
Estimated time to First MSM-specific prevention advice							
Mean age at event	44.5	34.7	25.5	20.5	17.0	14.8	23.6
Std. Error	1.591	.827	.488	.378	.150	.168	.337
Calendar year²	1989	1990	1990	1995	2002	2006	1997
Time (years) 25% to 75%	15	13	8	5	3	2	9
Breslow test p-value^a	n.a.	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001^b

^a test for difference between adjacent cohorts. ^b overall test.

Age at first prevention advice, by cohort



a: 1990: 949 HIV+ tests (1989)

b: 1985: Swiss AIDS Foundation, MSM-specific interventions

c: 1980: AIDS as a 'Gay disease' in US media

Conclusion: Two modes and timing of contact with first MSM-specific prevention advice

	Event-driven experience	Routinized institutionnalized experience
Main context	diverse contexts (not school)	school-based sex education
Period	earlier phases of HIV/Aids epidemics	current
Population	older cohorts	current younger generations
Coverage	unknown	nearly full
Rythm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - event-driven - same year, different ages - spread over long period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - routinized, institutionalized - concentrated into mandatory/post mandatory education
Relation to first intercourse	after	before or around that time

Limitations of the study

- retrospective study : recall bias
- No definition provided for "prevention advice regarding sex between men"
- imprecision due to mobility
- survival bias
- recruitment bias: not generalisable

Thank you for your attention

Warm thanks to the participants who responded to the survey, and to the associations, establishments, Web sites, and magazines that distributed the questionnaire.

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