

SPOTS

Sex and Prevention of Transmission Study

EARLY STUDY FINDINGS

BLOOD DONATION



~4000 people

3838 people aged 16 and over completed SPOTS. This includes men who have sex with men (MSM), trans women and non-binary people who have sex with MSM.

Who took part?

13% identified as Māori 10% identified as Asian 3% identified as Pasifika



Two out of five (43%) were aged under 30



One in 22 (4.5%) were living with diagnosed HIV



Four out of five participants were interested in donating blood



43% had donated blood at least once in their life

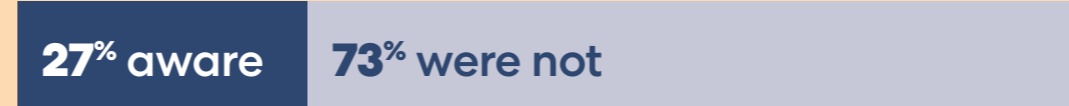
Awareness of current rules

Awareness of the current blood donation policy
i.e. a 3-month stand-down after anal or oral sex with another man



Awareness of rules in relation to recent HIV prevention practices

Awareness that you can't donate blood if you have taken HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in the last 3 months



Awareness that people living with diagnosed HIV could not donate – even if they have an undetectable viral load (UVL)

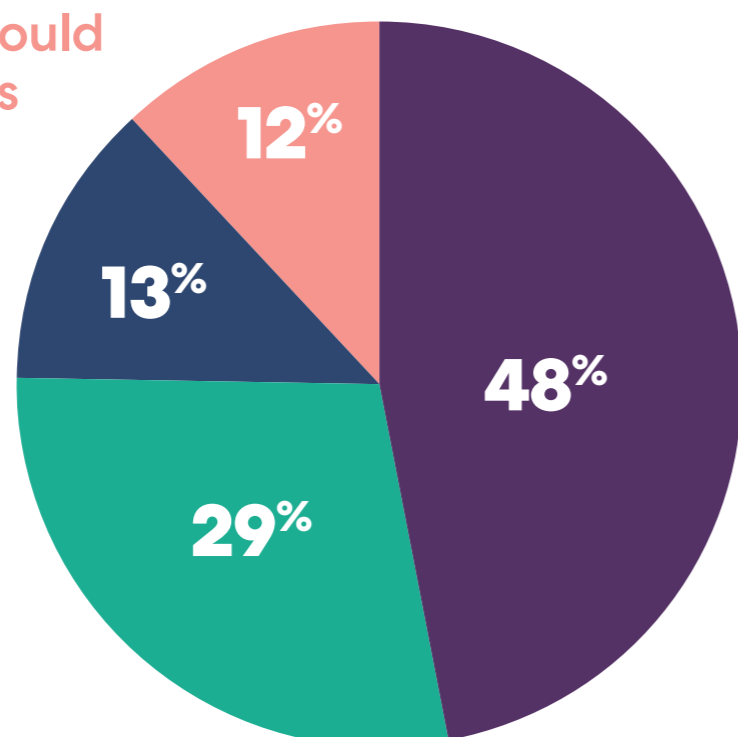


Reasons participants gave for having donated blood included:

I was confident the blood screening process would detect any infections

I believed I was at low risk for HIV

I'd never had sex with a man



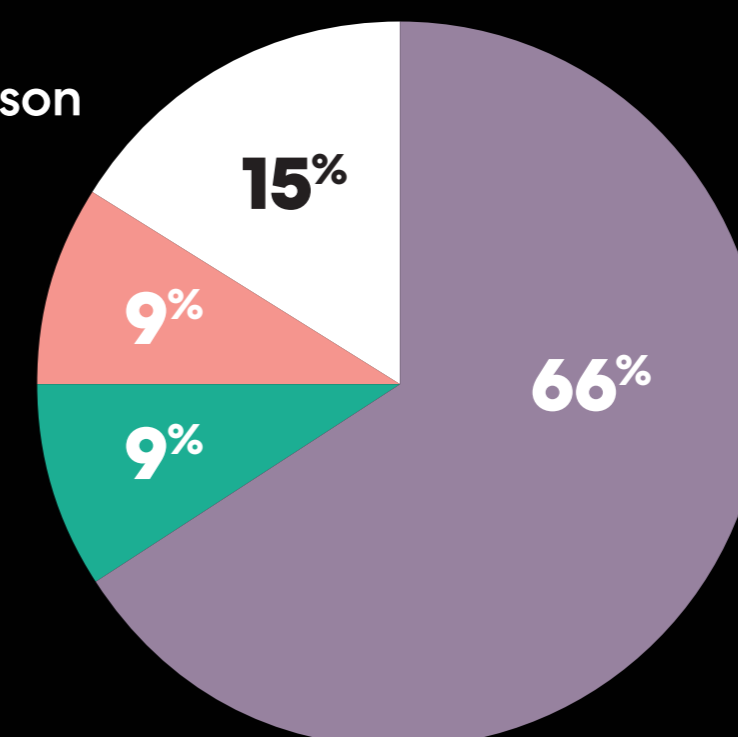
I was compliant with the policy at the time

In contrast, participants who had never donated blood gave reasons like:

Another reason

I'm not interested

I was deferred i.e. I tried to donate but was asked not to

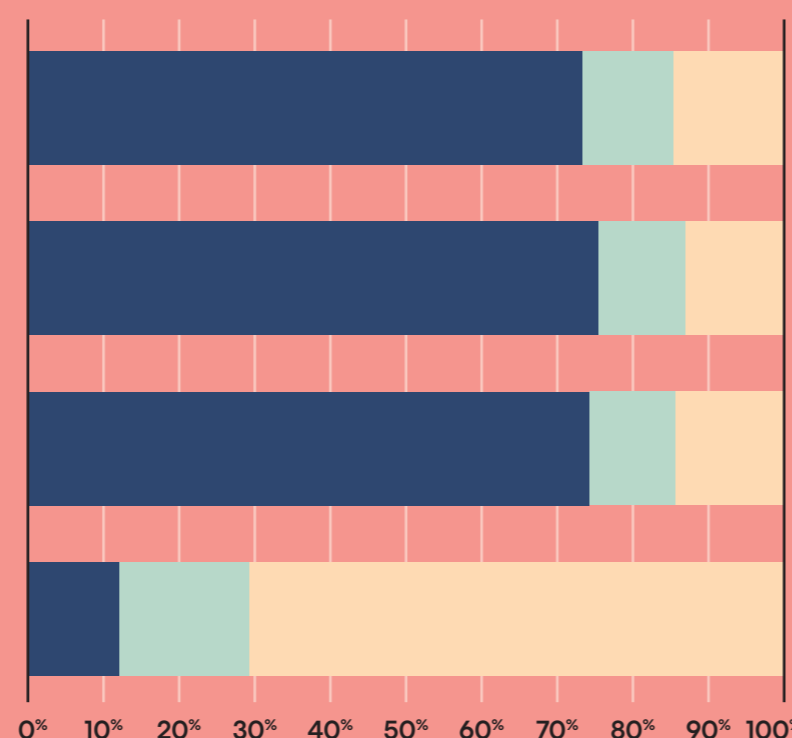


I self-deferred i.e. I was aware I was not allowed to donate

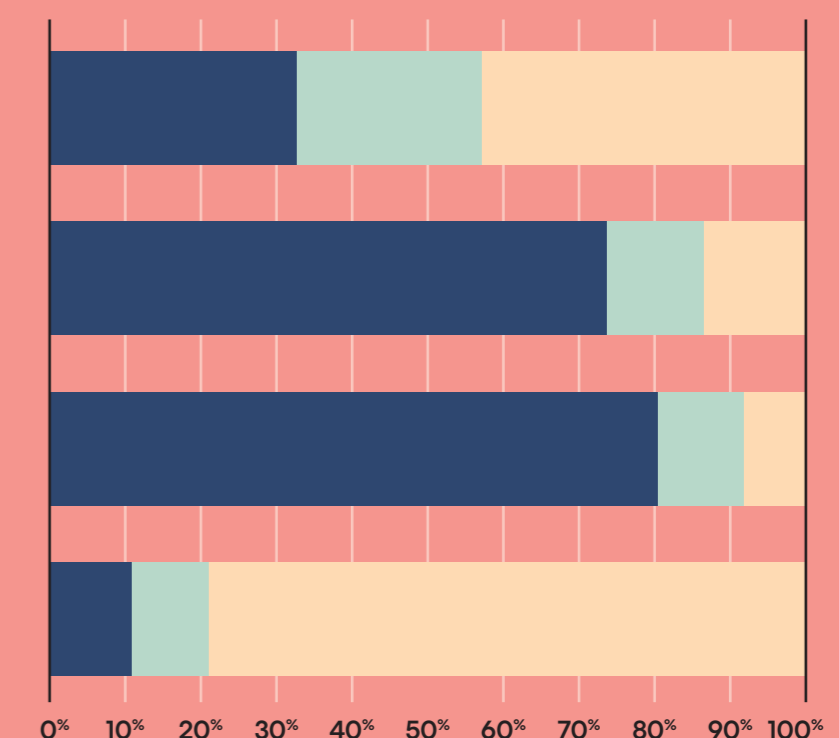
Attitudes about donor rules

● Agree ● Neutral ● Disagree

The current blood donation policy is discriminatory against MSM



I trust the NZ Blood Service to weigh the interests of gay and bisexual men fairly



The current policy is unfair towards MSM

Being excluded from donating blood prevents me from helping others

I support the current blood policy for MSM in Aotearoa New Zealand

I don't believe there's a risk of me harming others by donating blood

I believe it's safe for me to donate blood

I think that my donated blood will pose a risk to blood recipients

