

Visual abstract

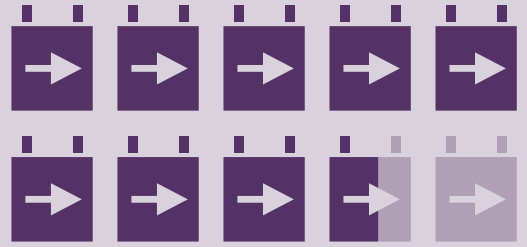


Four out of five
participants were interested
in donating blood



43% had donated blood
at least once in their life

Preferences for future donor deferral policy



86% Would support a more tailored policy, for example, more detailed personal questions about their behaviour, if it potentially allowed them to donate sooner

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

71% of participants are aware

29% were not



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

27% aware

73% were not

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

79% aware

21% were not

Attitudes about donor rules



46%
STRONGLY DISAGREE

I support the current deferral policy for MSM in NZ



35%
STRONGLY DISAGREE

The current policy fairly balances gay and bisexual men's interests in donating blood with our increased risk of HIV



49%
STRONGLY AGREE

Being excluded from donating blood prevents me from helping others