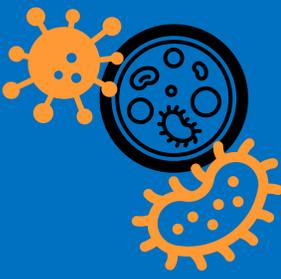


# 'Future problems': Perceptions and knowledge of antibiotic resistant sexually transmitted infections among men who have sex with men in Wales



**Adam DN Williams MSc**, Dr David Gillespie, Prof Fiona Wood, Dr Kathryn Hughes, Prof Kerenza Hood [Cardiff University] Zoë Couzens MPH [Public Health Wales]

**Adam DN Williams, MSc**  
WilliamsAD7@cardiff.ac.uk  
@adamdalnewman1

## PROBLEM

- 1 Antimicrobial resistance [AR] is a pressing international public health concern.
- 2 Growing concern and surveillance is focused on sexually transmitted infections [STI].
- 3 STI rates are higher among men who have sex with men [MSM].
- 4 With concerns that a future outbreak of an AR strain of STI may occur within this population.
- 5 It is important to understand the opinions of MSM relating to AR, especially for STIs.

### AIM OF STUDY

Explore the awareness and concerns surrounding STIs and AR among MSM in Wales.

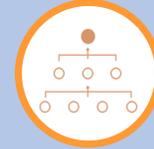
## METHOD



Semi-structured interviews conducted virtually via Zoom.

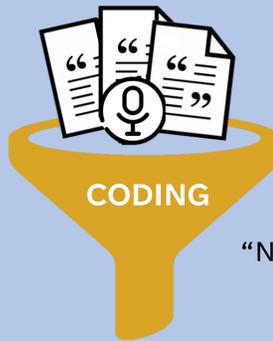
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MSM were interviewed from across Wales.



Reflexive thematic analysis adopted.

## ANALYSIS



CODING

THEMES



"Not particularly [concerned]. At least not until there's a bit more antibiotic resistance." P06

"...if you take too many antibiotics you become... you slowly become resistant to them." P11

"No. I don't know what that is [antibiotic resistance]." P15

"... if you don't think there's a risk, then you're not going to take the precautions." P03

"I've heard of it in regards to gonorrhoea and how it's developed to super gonorrhoea and stuff like that." P20

## FINDINGS

Awareness and understanding of AR varied from no knowledge to expert level understanding. Of those aware, some described it correctly as the microbe developing resistance, but some reported the body developing resistance.



'Super gonorrhoea' was a term known to some but presented little to no concern.

NOW

AR had little to no impact on changing behaviours, being perceived as a 'future problem'.

FUTURE

Participants believed that awareness of AR among the wider public was poor, particularly in relation to STIs.

PAST

Education was important, but it was felt that any campaigns should not verge into fear campaigns.

## TAKE AWAYS

1



Ambivalence towards AR appeared to be linked to the knowledge that STIs, such as chlamydia and gonorrhoea were easily treatable.

2



Public understandings of AR are improving, but more needs to be done, particularly around improving awareness of that AR is a current problem not a future one.

3



Future health messaging needs to be developed thoughtfully to avoid causing stigma and fear.

Current application: MPXV

### RESEARCHER PERSPECTIVE

MSM populations will not become concerned about AR or alter behaviours until it becomes perceived as a direct threat to them.