

Preparing for PrEP:

Assessing the readiness of front-line service providers for the implementation of Pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention

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What is Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)?

May refer to oral or topical preparations of ARVs used for prevention of HIV infection.



FTC-TDF (Truvada[®])



Tenofovir vaginal/rectal gels

PrEP efficacy

- iPrEX (MSM taking oral FTC-TDF daily):
 - **44%** reduction in HIV infection overall
 - **73%** reduction in patients with good adherence (medication taken on 90%+ days)
- Partners PrEP (serodiscordant couples (SDC) taking oral FTC-TDF daily):
 - **75%** reduction in HIV infection overall, 97% adherence
- FemPrEP and VOICE: 2 oral PrEP trials stopped early due to lack of efficacy.
 - Poor adherence noted

FDA Approval of Truvada®



FDA NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: July 16, 2012



FDA approves first drug for reducing the risk of sexually acquired HIV infection

Issues surrounding PrEP use

- Safety of medication
- Adherence
- Behavioural disinhibition
- Potential for drug resistance
- Cost-effectiveness



Acceptability of PrEP

Study	Population	interested in PrEP
Leonardi <i>et al.</i> , 2011	MSM presenting for HIV testing at Hassle Free Clinic (n=195)	33.3% Definitely 32.8% Maybe
Heffron <i>et al.</i> , 2010	SDC in Kenya	92.7% HIV- partners (vs. 60.2% HIV+ partners willing to use TASP)
Wheelock <i>et al.</i> , 2012	HCPs, NGOs and policy-makers	See benefits but also major challenges

Methodology

- Online survey of front-line service providers from ASOs across Canada
- Survey addressed:
 - Demographics
 - knowledge of PrEP
 - learning needs
 - opinions on PrEP and key issues related to its use
- Disseminated through CATIE's newsletters, website and social media as well as on partner organizations' websites
- 160 complete responses

Inclusion Criteria

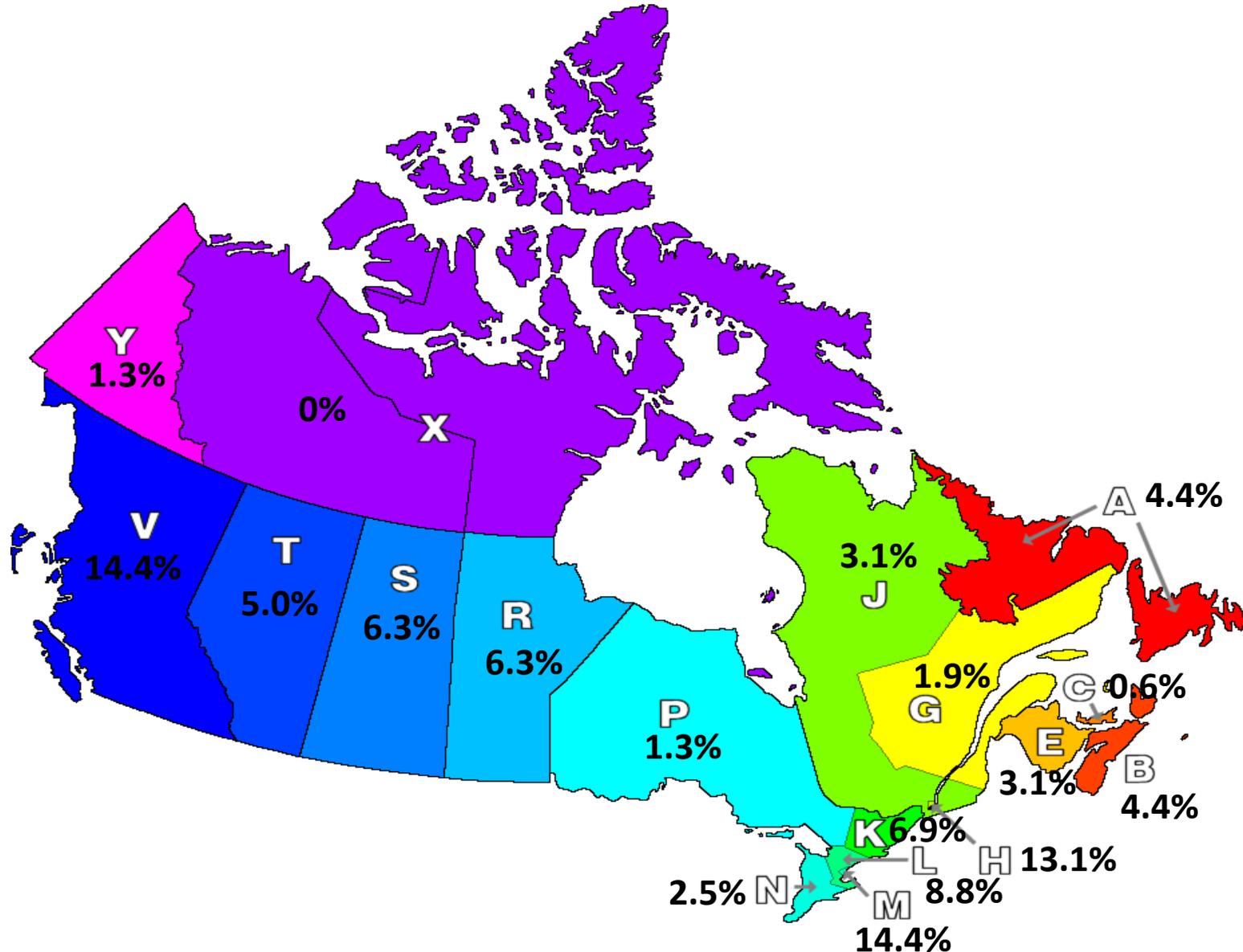
- Work for a Canadian organization interested in HIV prevention and treatment
- Daily work primarily consists of one or more of the following:
 1. Direct one-on-one counseling of clients regarding HIV
 2. Facilitating HIV-focused support/counseling groups
 3. HIV-related phone information or support
 4. Preparing educational materials about HIV
 5. HIV education and workshops
 6. Community outreach
- Prior knowledge of PrEP was **NOT REQUIRED** for study participation

Demographics of respondents

Demographic	Value
Response language:	
• English	85 %
• French	15 %
Gender:	
• Male	38 %
• Female	60 %
• Other	2 %
Age:	
• Median (IQR)	40 (30,49)
Years in industry:	
• Median (IQR)	5 (2,10)
Organization's focus:	
• People living with HIV/AIDS	13 %
• People at risk for HIV	13 %
• Both	74 %

Work involves:	%
Education and workshops	69
Preparing educational materials	66
Community Outreach	61
One-on-one counselling with clients	58
Phone information and support	57
Populations served:	%
MSM	91
IDUs	84
Women	83
At-risk youth	80
Sex workers and their clients	73

Demographics of respondents



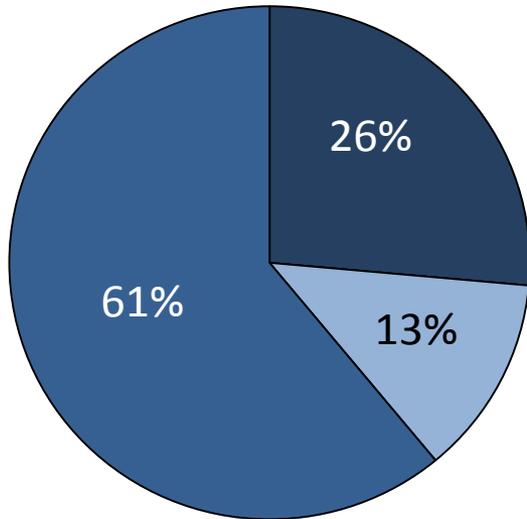
Experience with PrEP

- How would you describe your current knowledge about PrEP?

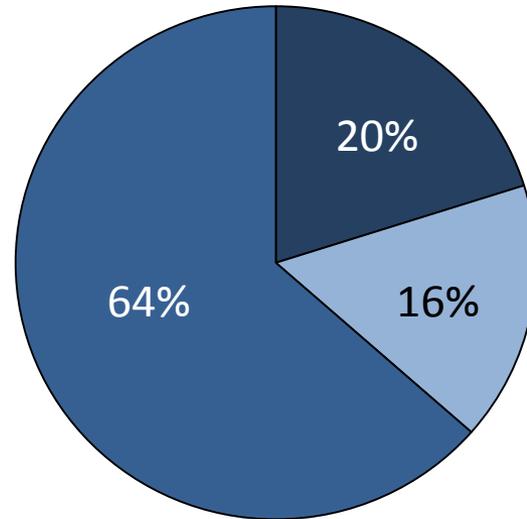
Response	%
Very familiar	19
Somewhat familiar	64
Not familiar at all	16
no response	1

- **26%** had been asked about PrEP in the past year
 - MSM, Serodiscordant couples (SDC), SDC trying to conceive, IDUs
- **11%** knew of at least one person in Canada who had used PrEP

Learning needs



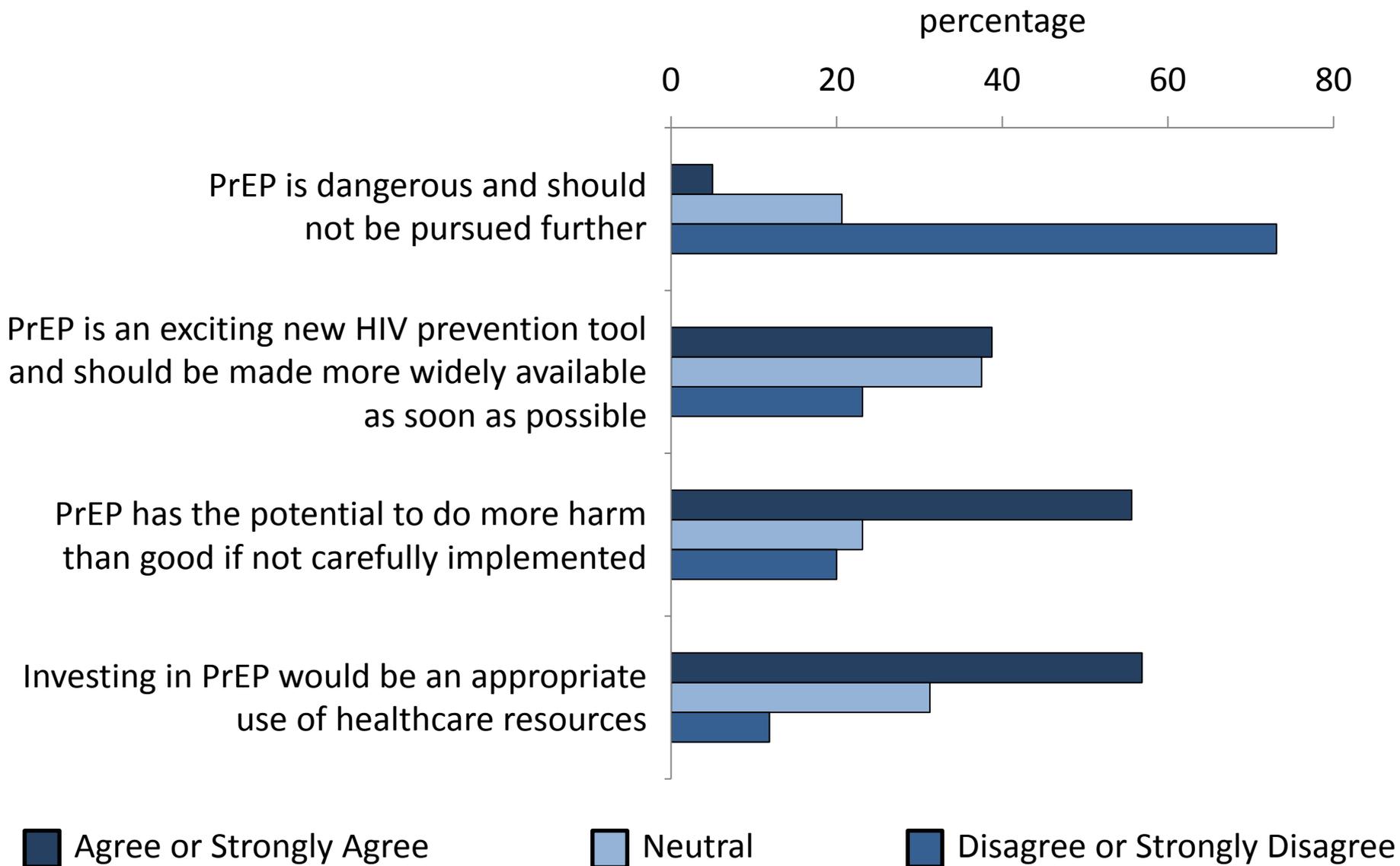
I have enough current knowledge about PrEP



My organization as a whole has enough current knowledge about PrEP

- Agree or Strongly Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree or Strongly Disagree

How do respondents feel about PrEP?



Should PrEP be approved in Canada?

- Considering [currently published levels] of protection, do you believe Health Canada should approve PrEP for use in Canada?

	%
Yes	49
Maybe	39
No	11

Conclusions

- PrEP use is rare, but is happening in Canada
- Canadians are aware of PrEP and front-line providers from ASOs are being questioned about it
- Most respondents had at least some knowledge of PrEP but > 60% believed themselves and/or their organizations did not have enough current knowledge
- Respondents' overall opinions on PrEP were cautiously optimistic and 49% believed it should be approved by Health Canada

Preparing for PrEP - future

- Physician survey
- Pharmacist survey

Acknowledgements

- University of Toronto UME DOCH2 course
- CATIE, COCQ-SIDA, Portail VIH, Pacific AIDS network
- Survey pilot test participants
- All survey respondents



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Top ranked concerns

% of respondents ranking concern as 1st or 2nd most important.

