

Willingness to use long-acting injectable PrEP among key populations at a large HIV prevention clinic in Kampala, Uganda

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BACKGROUND

- HIV prevention programs have been very successful however there have been high drops in some settings (1).
- This is partly attributable to challenges with use of daily oral PrEP formulations (2).
- FDA and WHO recently approved long acting injectable formulations of PrEP (LAI-PrEP) that is Cabotegravir[®] injection (3).
- LAI-PrEP is discreet hence causing less stigma and negates need for daily oral PrEP intake (4).
- We determined the acceptability of use of LAI-PrEP among key populations (KPs) attending Most at Risk Populations Initiatives-HIV prevention clinic in Kampala, Uganda.

METHODS

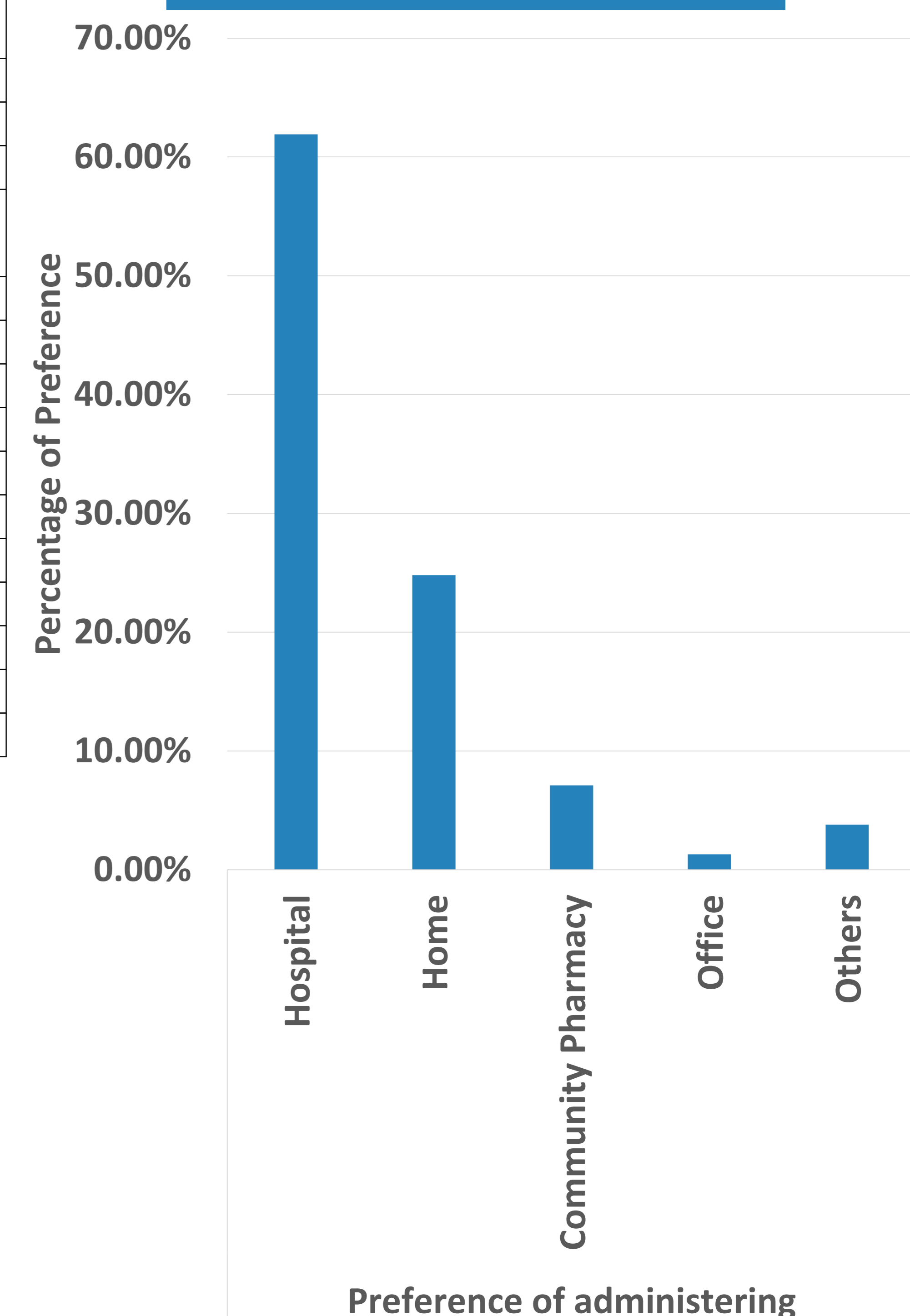
- A cross-sectional study between November and December 2021 using interviewer-administered semi-structured questionnaires
- We conveniently sampled participants ≥ 18 years through community and facility HIV prevention activities for KPs.
- We determined knowledge on and level of willingness (yes, not sure, no) to use LAI-PrEP when it becomes available and performed multinomial regression analysis to determine associated factors.
- Preferences for location of administration were also determined.

RESULT

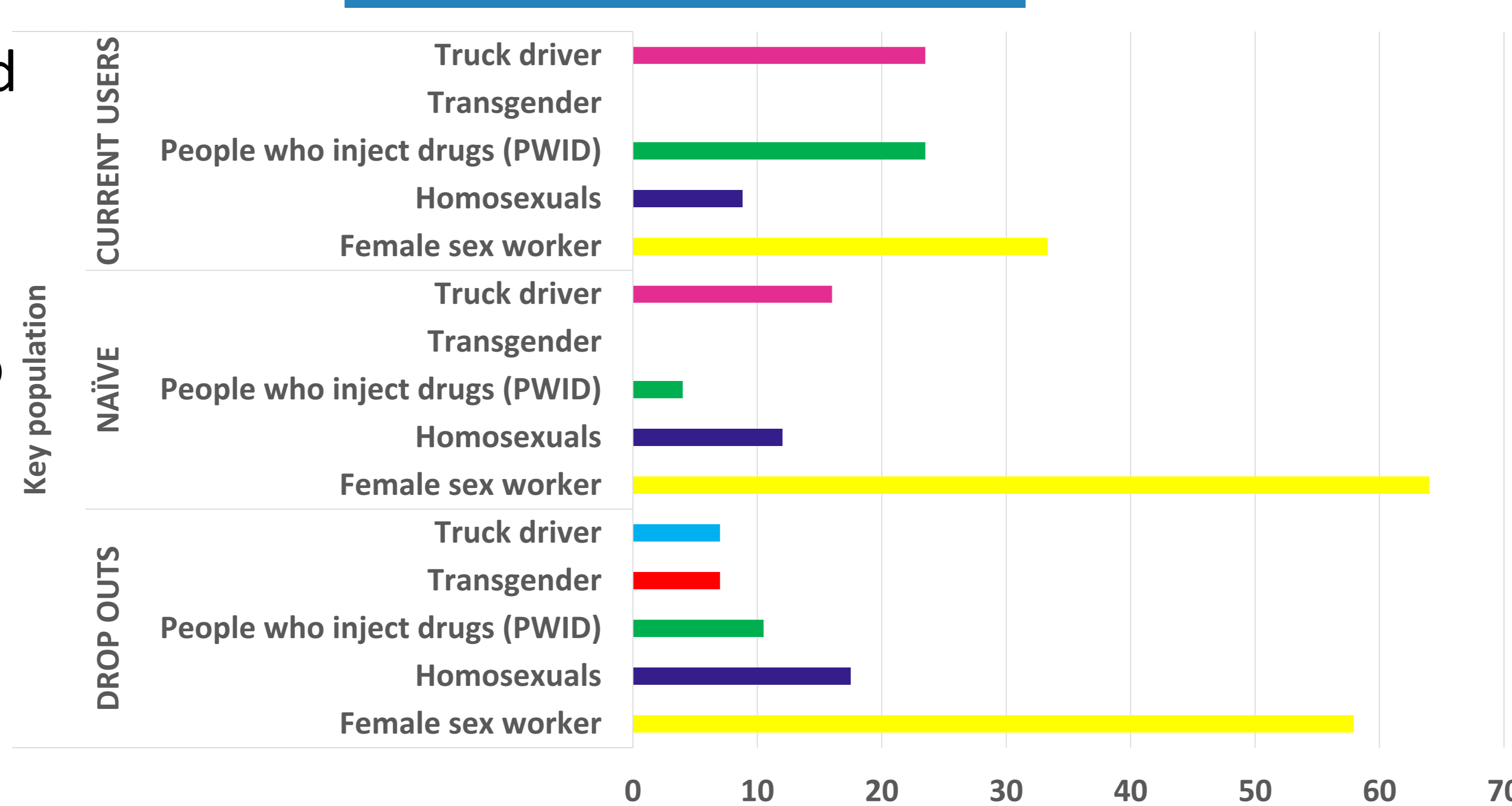
Characteristic	Previously on oral PrEP but discontinued use (n=57)	At risk but are naïve about PrEP (n=75)	Currently on oral PrEP (n=102)	Total (n=234)
Gender				
Frequency (percentage)				
Female	35 (61.4)	48 (64.0)	52 (51.0)	135 (56.7)
Male	22 (38.6)	27 (36.0)	50 (49.0)	99 (42.3)
Education*				
None	9 (16.1)	6 (8.0)	2 (2.0)	17 (7.3)
Primary	25 (44.6)	33 (44.0)	34 (33.3)	92 (39.5)
Secondary	22 (39.3)	36 (48.0)	23 (22.6)	81 (34.7)
University/graduate	0	0	43 (42.2)	43 (18.5)
Marital Status				
Single	24 (42.1)	21 (28.0)	16 (15.7)	61 (26.1)
Cohabiting	7 (12.3)	2 (2.7)	27 (26.5)	36 (15.4)
Married (Polygamous)	3 (5.3)	10 (13.3)	31 (30.4)	44 (18.8)
Divorced/separated	21 (36.8)	42 (56.0)	23 (22.6)	86 (36.8)
Widowed	2 (3.5)	0	5 (4.9)	7 (3.0)
Number of sex partners previous month				
None	0	0	3 (2.9)	3 (1.3)
One	0	0	23 (22.6)	23 (9.8)
Two	2 (3.5)	0	29 (28.4)	31 (13.3)
More than two	55 (96.5)	75 (100)	47 (46.1)	177 (75.6)
Had unprotected sex in the last 3 months				
No	4 (7.0)	0	22 (21.6)	26 (11.1)
Yes	53 (93.0)	75 (100)	61 (59.8)	189 (80.8)
Not sure	0	0	19 (18.6)	19 (8.1)
Used illicit drug before sex in past 6 months*				
Yes	0	15 (20.3)	41 (40.2)	56 (24.0)
Sometimes	34 (59.7)	0	0	34 (25.6)
Very frequently	23 (40.4)	0	0	23 (9.8)
No	0	32 (43.2)	49 (48.0)	81 (34.8)
Not sure	0	27 (36.5)	12 (11.8)	39 (16.7)
Use condoms				
All the time	0	0	15 (14.7)	15 (6.4)
Sometimes	0	22 (29.3)	51 (50.0)	73 (31.2)
Very frequently	0	53 (70.7)	23 (22.6)	76 (32.5)
Yes	51 (89.5)	0	0	51 (21.8)
No	6 (10.5)	0	13 (12.8)	19 (8.1)

- Majority were female 135 (56.7%) (Fig 1)
- Unemployment rates were low at 5.6% (13) and use of illicit drug use before sex was moderate (59.4%)
- There was a high awareness of PrEP (82.5%)
- Preferred site of administration was in the hospital.
- Disengaged users (OR=3.13, CI: 1.33 – 7.39) and those at risk but had never initiated oral PrEP (OR=3.99, CI: 1.63 – 9.79) were more willing to receive LAI-PrEP compared to those currently on oral PrEP.

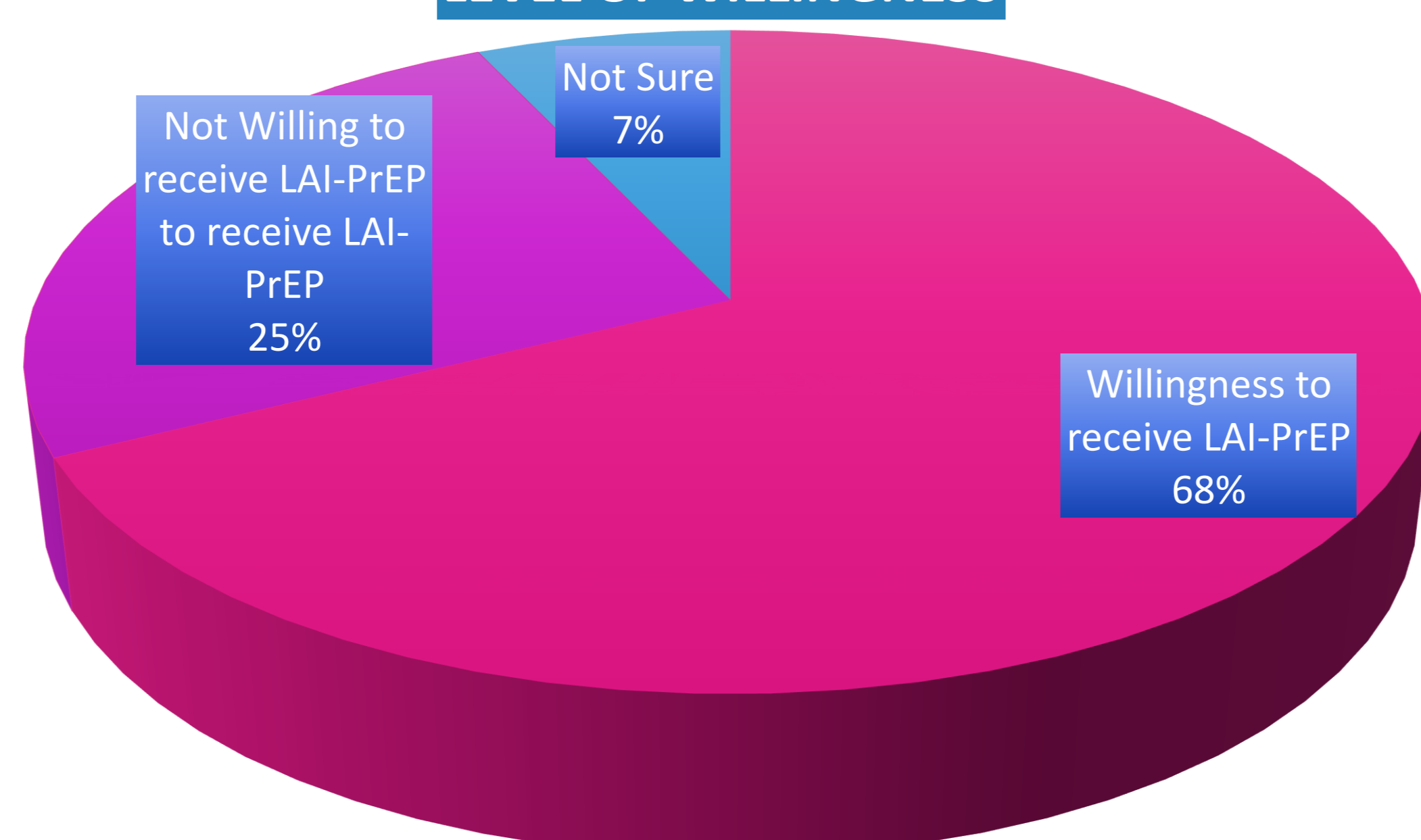
SITE OF PREFERRED ADMINISTRATION



PROPORTION OF KEY POPULATIONS PER STRATA



LEVEL OF WILLINGNESS



- ## CONCLUSION
- There is high willingness by key populations to use LAI-PrEP including among those who have previously disengaged. Efforts to accelerate the availability of LAI-PrEP will meet this need.

REFERENCES

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Injectable Long-Acting Cabotegravir Shows Promise As PrEP in Early Safety Trial - POZ



MOST AT RISK POPULATION INITIATIVE (M.A.R.P.I.)