HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Services, Provision, and Delivery in the NEAT ID Network

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Background:

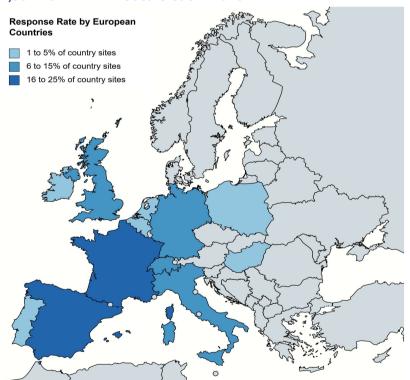
Despite a decrease in the number of new HIV infections over the last decade, nearly 105,000 new HIV infections occurred in the European Union in 2020. To tackle the epidemic, HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) of HIV has been integrated into HIV prevention packages in many European Countries. However, few surveys have provided a comprehensive picture of PrEP use in Europe. The European treatment network for HIV, hepatitis, and global infectious diseases (NEAT ID) performs and coordinates clinical research on HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, and viral hepatitis across 342 sites in 11 European countries. We conducted a survey within the network to evaluate PrEP services implementation in European centers.

Materials and Methods:

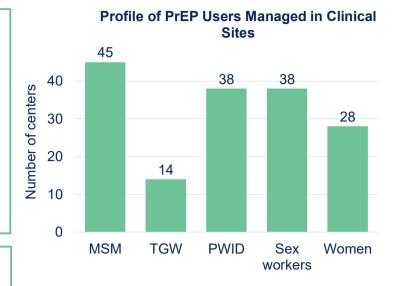
We designed a survey comprising 23 questions to derive information on the following areas: PrEP use, PrEP services provision, user profiles, structure and delivery of services, barriers to PrEP roll-out, and PrEP research experience. The questionnaire was sent via a secure electronic tool to centers involved in the NEAT ID Network. The survey started in November 2020 and closed on October 31st, 2021. The content was designed by the infectious diseases department of Saint-Louis hospital in Paris in collaboration with NEAT ID. The survey administration, data management, and analysis were carried out by Research Organisation (KC) Ltd on behalf of NEAT ID.

Results:

- > 50 of 342 sites from 11 countries provided a response (15% response rate)
- > 45 sites provided PrEP services
- All sites were in Western Europe, except two sites in Poland and one in Hungary
- The responding sites represent a total of 27,416 users, rising by 1,361 new PrEP initiators each month

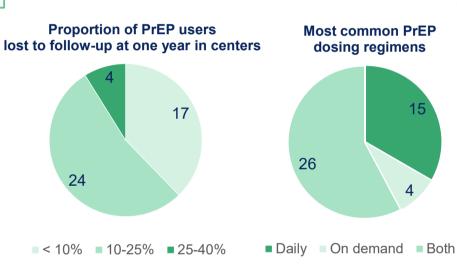


Country	Number of sites	PrEP Users in Follow-up	New Monthly PrEP Initiators
Poland	1	25	5
Hungary	1	100	10
Italy	5	645	15
Ireland	1	750	41
Portugal	2	900	55
Switzerland	4	1,340	56
Belgium	2	2,272	76
Germany	6	2,337	146
Spain	8	3,800	284
France	9	6,147	328
UK	6	9,100	345
Total	45	27,416	1361

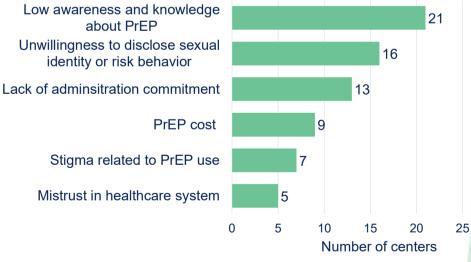


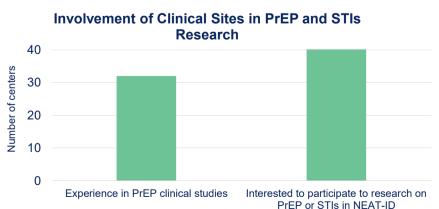
Of the 45 sites that responded:

- > 17 (38%) provide PrEP for minors.
- > 35 (78%) involve community-based organization.
- > 24 (53%) use new medical technologies (mobile health...) to engage and retain individuals in PrEP.
- > 27 (60%) participate in communication campaigns for PrEP promotion.
- ➤ 15 (33%) develop demedicalization processes with nurses (11/15), pharmacists (5/11), or key-populations (2/15).



Barriers to PrEP Roll-out





Conclusion:

PrEP is mainly implemented in Western European sites with a large and growing pool of PrEP users. These centers express a high interest in conducting research on PrEP and STIs. This supports the scope extension of research within NEAT ID toward HIV and STIs Prevention.