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LONG ACTING PREP AS A NEW MODALITY

Recently, long-acting injectable PrEP for HIV (LA-PrEP), Cabotegravir/Apretude®, has been approved for use in Europe. Understanding who shows interest and intent to use LA-PrEP is pivotal to help ending the HIV epidemic. Even in decreasing epidemics, such as in Europe, all available modalities should be available as HIV prevention options. Thus, it is paramount to investigate who is most interested and can benefit from this modality. So far, the focus of oral PrEP use has been on key populations such as MSM, trans* individuals, sex workers, but overlooking the HIV prevention needs of heterosexual populations, who experience increasing infection numbers in certain jurisdictions.

The Pre-exposure pRophylaxis mOdalities for HIV prevention in the European CommuniTies (PROTECT) Survey was a cross-sectional online survey that collected data in 20 European countries. This is the analysis of data collected in the UK, Germany, Spain, Italy and France from October 2023 to March 2024 among heterosexuals older than 18 years. A total of 4.960 surveys were completed by heterosexual men (n=2547) and women (n=2413) and included in this analysis.

SAMPLE AND SAMPLING CHARACTERISTICS

- 4960 heterosexual men and women participated in 20 European countries
- Onling sampling occurred between October 2023 and March 2024

For cis-men (N=2,554):

Median age of 30 (IQR 25-38)

Highly educated (66% had a at least bachelor degree)

Mostly non-migrant (75%)

Mostly in a monogamous relationship (61%), with only very few in an open/polyamorous relationship (1%)

Mostly never tested for HIV (91%) and other STIs (61%)

Only 2 current oral PrEP users

For cis-women (N=2,415):

Median age of 29 (IQR 25-38)

Highly educated (74.3% had a at least bachelor degree)

Mostly non-migrant (67%)

Mostly in a monogamous relationship (66%), with only very few in an open/polyamorous relationship (1%)

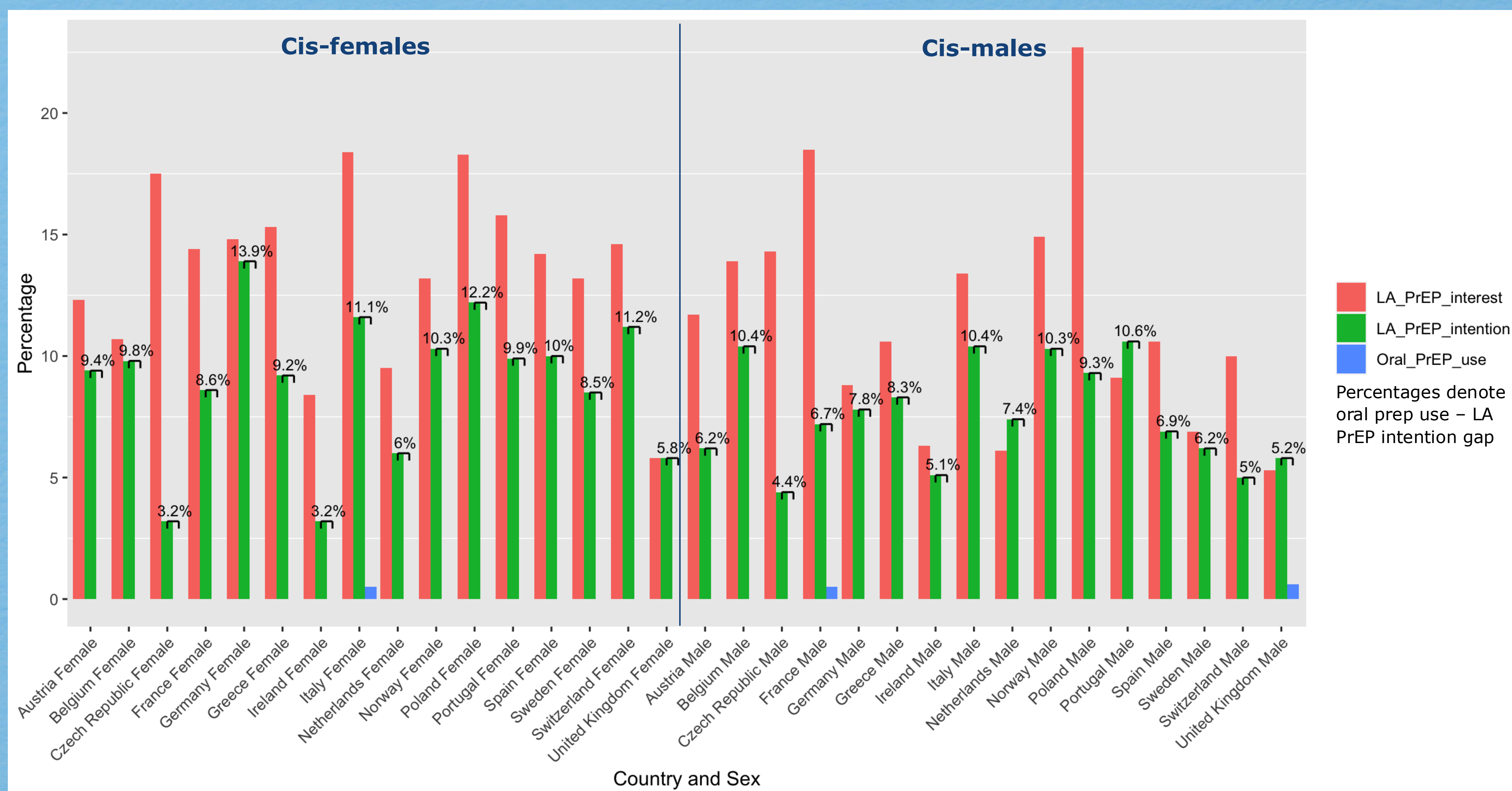
Mostly never tested for HIV (87%) and other STIs (49%)

Only 1 current oral PrEP users

DETERMINANTS OF INTEREST AND INTENTION TO USE LA-PREP

Women				Men			
	aOR	95% CI	p-value		aOR	95% CI	p-value
Employment				Population			
employed(REF)				local population (REF)			
other	1.07	.68-1.61	.74	first gen migrant	2.02	1.43-2.83	.004*
retired	.25	.01-1.3	.19	second gen migr	1.28	.68-2.24	.4
student	1.43	1.01-2.03	.04*	Substance use (lifetime)			
unemployed	1.70	1.02-2.75	.03*	No (REF)			
Population				Yes	1.92	1.13-3.13	.01*
local population (REF)				STI testing frequency			
first gen migrant	1.45	1.04-2.02	.02*	every 3 months (REF)			
second gen migrant	1.40	.85-2.22	.16	every 6 months	13.89	2.34-269.79	.01*
Place of residence				once per year	4.19	.75-79.86	.18
city (1mil+, REF)				less than once per y.	3.15	.59-59.04	.27
city (500-999k)	.62	.39-.98	.04*	never	3.36	.064-62.88	.25
city (100-499k)	.56	.36-.84	.006**	Transactional sex (paying)			
town (10-99k)	.67	.44-1.01	.06	No (REF)			
village (<10k)	.5	.28-.84	.01*	Yes	1.37	.91-2.00	.11
Condomless anal intercourse				Vaginal intercourse (past 6 months)			
no (REF)				No (Ref)			
yes	.61	.33-1.19	.12	Yes	1.84	1.27-2.73	.001***
Number of sex partners (past 6 months)				Worry about HIV infection (recoded)			
0 (REF)				No (REF)			
1	.88	.61-1.2	.5	Yes	1.48	1.17-1.85	.0001***
2-10	1.71	1.06-2.74	.02*	Concern about HIV infection (recoded)			
11-50	2.1	.44-7.2	.28	No (REF)			
51-100	NA	NA	NA	Yes	1.42	1.19-1.68	.0001***
101-150	NA	NA	NA	Legend:			
Worry about HIV infection (recoded)				* denotes p < .05			
No (REF)				** denotes p < .01			
Yes	1.65	1.36-1.98	1.0	*** denotes p < .001			
Fear of needles							
No (REF)							
Yes	.88	.79-.98	.02*				
Menopause							
No (REF)							
Yes	.55	.26-1.03	.08				

LA-PREP INTEREST AND INTENTION, AND ORAL PREP USE BY COUNTRY



KEY MESSAGE 1: HETEROSEXUAL MEN AND WOMEN SHOWED NEGLIGIBLE HIV AND STI TESTING RATES, AND VIRTUALLY NO ORAL PREP USE

KEY MESSAGE 2: INTEREST AND INTENTION IS CONSIDERABLE (GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBERS OF HETEROSEXUALS), BETWEEN 3-14%, DENOTING SIGNIFICANT UNMET HIV PREVENTION NEEDS

KEY MESSAGE 3: MAIN DRIVERS ARE FOR WOMEN BEING A STUDENT OR UNEMPLOYED, A MIGRANT AND HAVING 2-10 SEX PARTNERS, WHEREAS FEAR OF NEEDLES AND LIVING IN NON-BIG CITIES (< 1 MIL) DECREASED INTENTION. FOR MEN MAIN DRIVERS WHERE BEING A MIGRANT, SUBSTANCE USE, STI TESTING (BI-ANNUAL), HIV WORRY AND CONCERN, AND HAVING VAGINAL INTERCOURSE

