

Related factors to the willingness to use PrEP among men who have sex with men from an HIV clinic in Mexico City

Vega-Ramírez, E.H., Fresán-Orellana, A., Robles-García, R., Díaz-Sosa, D.M., Torres, T.S., Konda, K.

Barcelona, Spain. June, 2019



INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE PSIQUIATRÍA
RAMÓN DE LA FUENTE MUÑIZ



Disclosure

- Speaker for Stendhal Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Introduction

- Daily **PrEP** is very **effective** for HIV prevention.
- Since 2015, **WHO** strongly **recommended** the use of **PrEP** among populations with HIV incidence $>3/100$ py.
- Countries in **Latin America** (LA) have **concentrated HIV** epidemics, but with high burden among key populations.
- **PrEP** in LA is only available in a **few countries** (4/17).
- **Reports** of awareness, willingness, facilitators and barriers to use PrEP **varies** by country and time.

Objective

To identify factors related to the willingness to use PrEP (WPr) among MSM from an HIV clinic in Mexico City

Methods

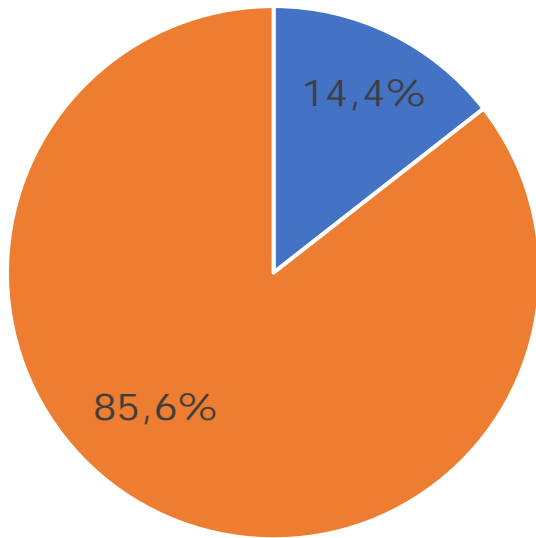
- **Cross-sectional** survey with a convenience sample approach.
- **Participants** were from the HIV Counseling Service at the biggest **HIV clinic** in **Mexico City**.
- **Sections** of the **survey**:
 - Sociodemographic data.
 - Sexual risk behavior in the last 6 mo.
 - Previous HIV tests & perceived HIV risk.
 - Substance use.
 - PrEP awareness and willingness.
 - Barriers and facilitators to use PrEP.

Results – General

N= 180 men

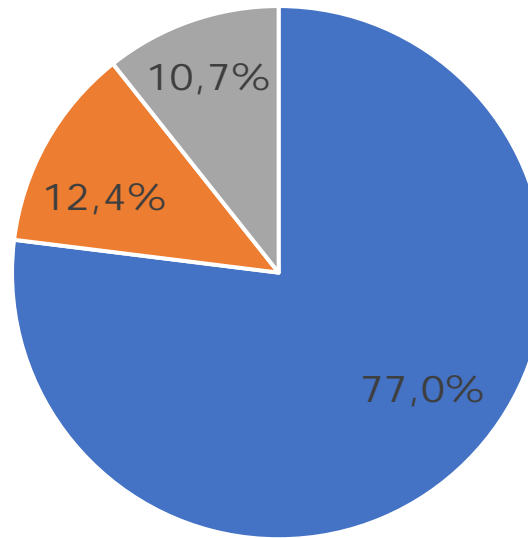
Age → 29.3 years (± 7.9)

Education



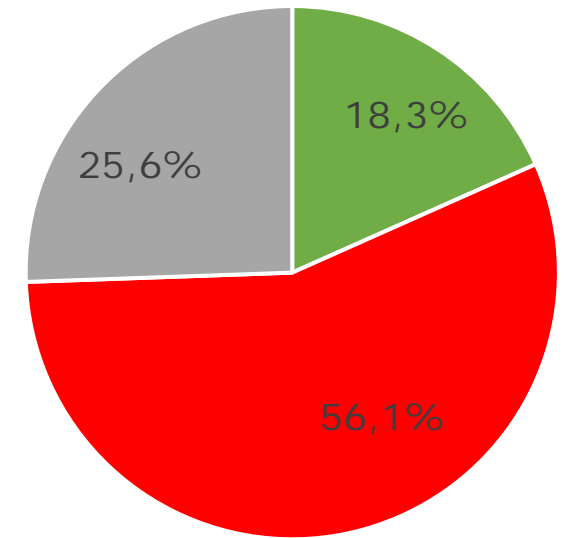
■ ≤Highschool incomplete
■ Highschool or >

Sexual attraction



■ Men ■ Women ■ Both

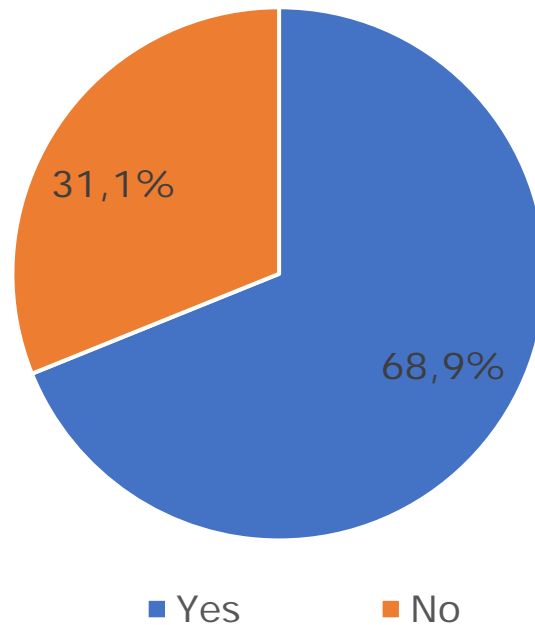
Monthly income



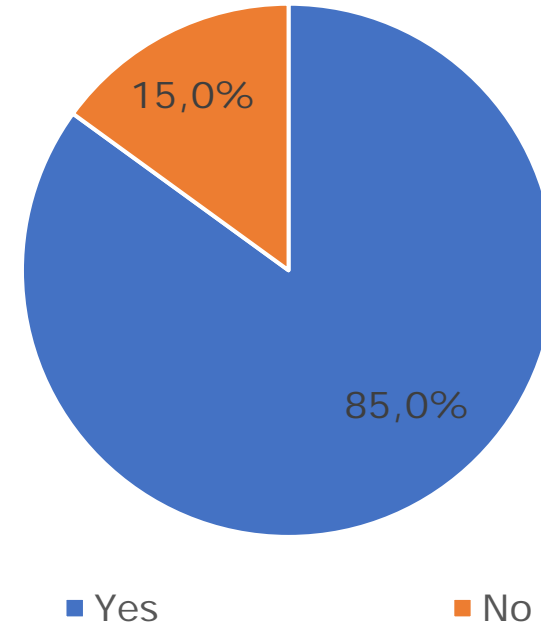
■ No income ■ <558 USD ■ >558 USD

Results – General

PrEP Awareness



Willingness to use PrEP



	Willingness to use PrEP		<i>p</i>
	Yes, n (%)	No, n (%)	
Awareness of PrEP	111 (72.5)	13 (48.1)	0.01
Use of daily PrEP	139 (90.8)	12 (44.4)	<0.001

Results – Sexual Behavior

No differences in:

- Condomless sex
- Frequency of HIV tests
- Risk compensation
- Perceived HIV risk acquisition

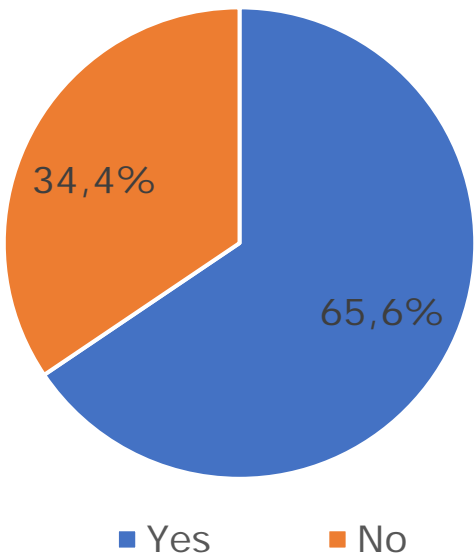
Behavior	Willingness to use PrEP		<i>p</i>
	Yes, n (%)	No, n (%)	
Sexual attraction			
Men	121 (79.1)	18 (66.7)	<0.001
Women	13 (8.5)	9 (33.3)	
Both sexes	19 (12.4)	0 (0.0)	
N° sexual partners (last 6 mo.)			
None	31 (20.3)	8 (29.6)	0.02
1-5	77 (50.3)	18 (66.7)	
>5	45 (29.4)	1 (3.7)	
Use of Grindr® for sexual encounters			
Never	57 (37.3)	19 (70.4)	<0.01
Monthly	34 (22.2)	5 (18.5)	
Weekly	31 (20.3)	3 (11.1)	
Daily	31 (20.3)	0 (0.0)	
Use of Facebook® for sexual encounters			
Never	64 (41.8)	20 (74.1)	0.01
Monthly	14 (9.2)	1 (3.7)	
Weekly	8 (5.2)	2 (7.4)	
Daily	67 (43.8)	4 (14.8)	

Results – Sexual Behavior

No differences in:

- Condomless sex
- Frequency of HIV tests
- Risk compensation
- Perceived HIV risk acquisition

WHO's high risk for HIV & PrEP



Behavior	Willingness to use PrEP		p
	Yes, n (%)	No, n (%)	
Sexual attraction			
Men	121 (79.1)	18 (66.7)	<0.001
Women	13 (8.5)	9 (33.3)	
Both sexes	19 (12.4)	0 (0.0)	
N° sexual partners (last 6 mo.)			
None	31 (20.3)	8 (29.6)	0.02
1-5	77 (50.3)	18 (66.7)	
>5	45 (29.4)	1 (3.7)	
Use of Grindr® for sexual encounters			
Never	57 (37.3)	19 (70.4)	<0.01
Monthly	34 (22.2)	5 (18.5)	
Weekly	31 (20.3)	3 (11.1)	
Daily	31 (20.3)	0 (0.0)	
Use of Facebook® for sexual encounters			
Never	64 (41.8)	20 (74.1)	0.01
Monthly	14 (9.2)	1 (3.7)	
Weekly	8 (5.2)	2 (7.4)	
Daily	67 (43.8)	4 (14.8)	

Results – Barriers for PrEP

Barriers	Willingness to use PrEP		<i>p</i>
	Yes, n (%)	No, n (%)	
Afraid of short-term side effects [^]	106 (69.3)	24 (88.9)	0.04
Afraid of not being protected 100% protected against HIV [^]	108 (70.6)	24 (88.9)	0.05
Afraid that people may think I am HIV(+)*	54 (35.3)	16 (59.3)	0.02
Afraid that people may ask why I am taking pills*	48 (31.4)	14 (51.9)	0.04
Taking PrEP means I am at risk of HIV infection*	79 (51.6)	22 (81.5)	<0.01
Concern for HIV/STI testing every 3 mo. ^μ	66 (43.1)	18 (66.7)	0.02

[^]Information barriers

*Beliefs barriers

^μBehavioral barriers

Results – Factors associated

- **Awareness** of PrEP (OR=**2.8**, 95% CI: 1.2-6.5), and **taking daily PrEP** (OR=**12.4**, 95% CI: 4.8-31.6) predicted **WPr**.
- Some **barriers** negatively predicted **WPr**:
 - Afraid of **short-term** side effects (OR=**0.2**, 95%CI: 0.1-0.9).
 - **Taking PrEP** would mean **be at risk** for:
 - **HIV** infection (OR=**0.2**, 95%CI: 0.1-0.7)
 - **Being** already **HIV+** (OR=**0.4**, 95%CI: 0.2-0.9).
 - Concern for **HIV/STI tests** every 3 mo. (OR=**0.4**, 95%CI: 0.2-0.9).

Conclusions

- **Awareness** and **WPr** were **high** among this sample which were also a sample at **high risk** for **HIV infection**.
- Participants who used **apps** to seek sexual encounters in **daily** basis the **WPr** was more frequently found.
- **Informational** and **belief barriers** could represent **obstacles** for **WPr**.
- **Communication** of evidence-based **information** about **PrEP** should be spread among **MSM** at high risk for HIV.

Limitations

- This was a convenience sample and a cross-sectional study in an urban clinic.
- The participants were highly educated.
- The HIV status was self-reported.
- Recall bias could be present at the moment of the data collection.
- Other PrEP regimens are poorly known among Mexican MSM.
- Direction of associations may not be inferred.

Thank you / ¡Gracias!

Hamid Vega
hamid.vega@gmail.com



INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE PSIQUIATRÍA
RAMÓN DE LA FUENTE MUÑIZ

