

Update on PrEP Knowledge and Attitudes Among Adults Attending Public Health Clinics in Southern Arizona

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Introduction

In 2020, there were 301,033 individuals taking HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), representing 24.8% of the 1,216,210 individuals who met indications for PrEP [1].

- Only 10.4% of women meeting indication were taking PrEP
- Only 15.6% of LatinX meeting indication were taking PrEP

We sought to identify what barriers prevail in improving PrEP uptake

Methods

- Written questionnaires were administered from November 2021 through April 2022 to patients attending family planning and sexually transmitted infection (STI) public health clinics in southern Arizona
- Individuals who were not fluent in English were offered the questionnaire in Spanish.
- Data collected was compared to data collected in 2018 [2].

Table 1. Patient Characteristics

Patient Characteristic	Summary Statistics
Age	30.97 ± 9.73, 29 (18 - 77), n = 578
Gender	
Female	367 (63% of 579)
Male	196 (34% of 579)
Transgender/Non-Binary/Non-Conforming/Other	14 (2% of 579)
Prefer Not to Respond	1 (0% of 579)
NA	1 (0% of 579)
What is your racial background?	
White	409 (71% of 579)
Black or African American	63 (11% of 579)
American Indian or Alaska Native	22 (4% of 579)
Asian	12 (2% of 579)
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1 (0% of 579)
Other	99 (17% of 579)
Are you Hispanic or Latino?	
Hispanic	396 (68% of 579)
Non-Hispanic	182 (31% of 579)
NA	1 (0% of 579)
Survey Language	
English	482 (83% of 579)
Spanish	97 (17% of 579)
Do you have health insurance?	
Yes	301 (52% of 579)
No	255 (44% of 579)
Prefer Not to Respond	8 (1% of 579)
Do Not Know	14 (2% of 579)
NA	1 (0% of 579)
Sexual Orientation	
Heterosexual Man	94 (23% of 402)
Heterosexual Woman	221 (55% of 402)
MSM	46 (11% of 402)
Lesbian	5 (1% of 402)
Bisexual	31 (8% of 402)
NA	5 (1% of 402)
What do you think your risk of getting HIV is with 1 being the lowest risk and 5 being the highest?	
1	382 (66% of 579)
2	99 (17% of 579)
3	72 (12% of 579)
4	20 (3% of 579)
5	5 (1% of 579)
NA	1 (0% of 579)

Figure 1. Prior Knowledge of PrEP - Percent answering yes when asked "Before today, did you know that there was a pill that can prevent HIV infection?" for all participants in 2018 (red) and 2021-2022 (blue)

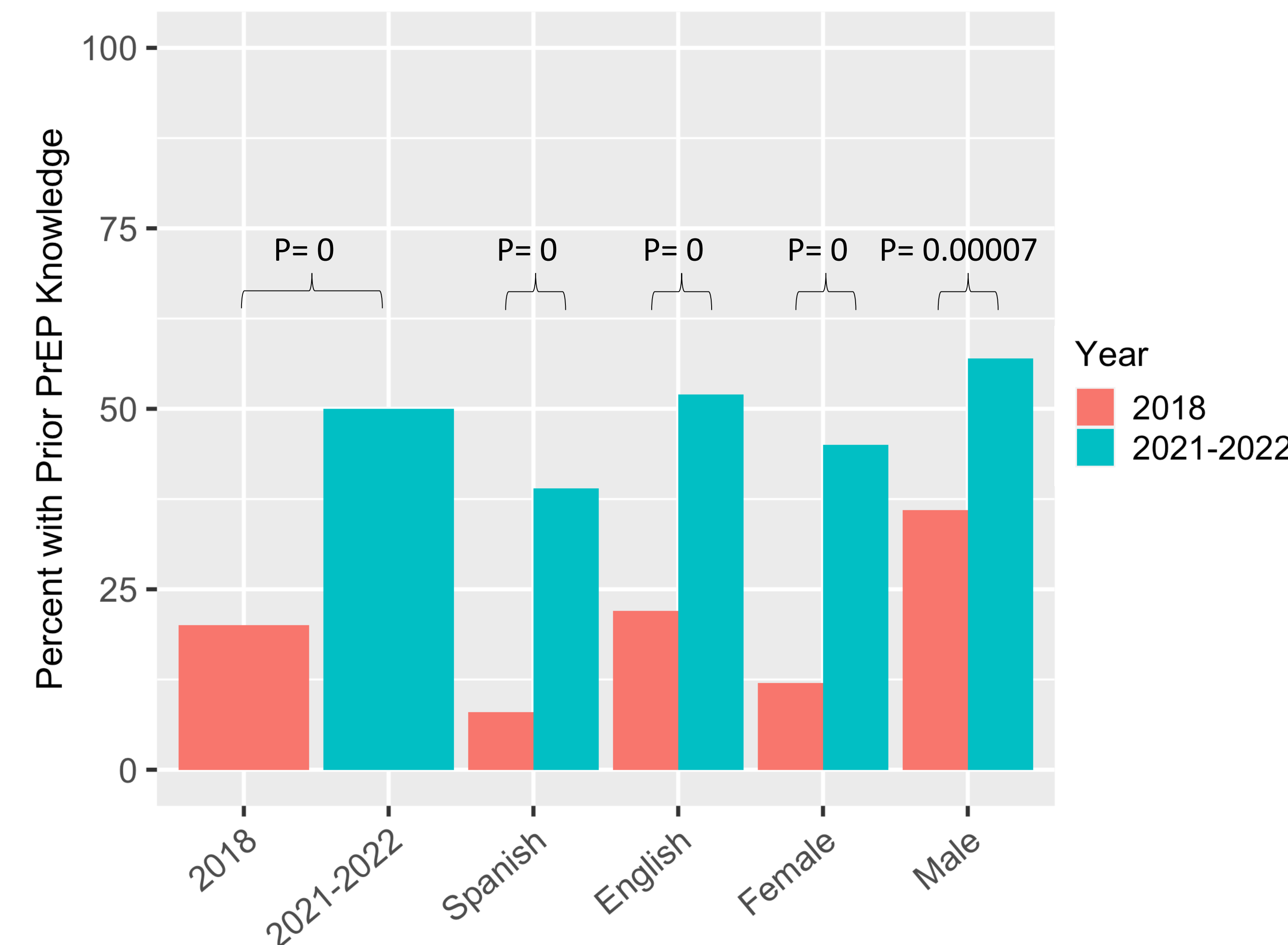
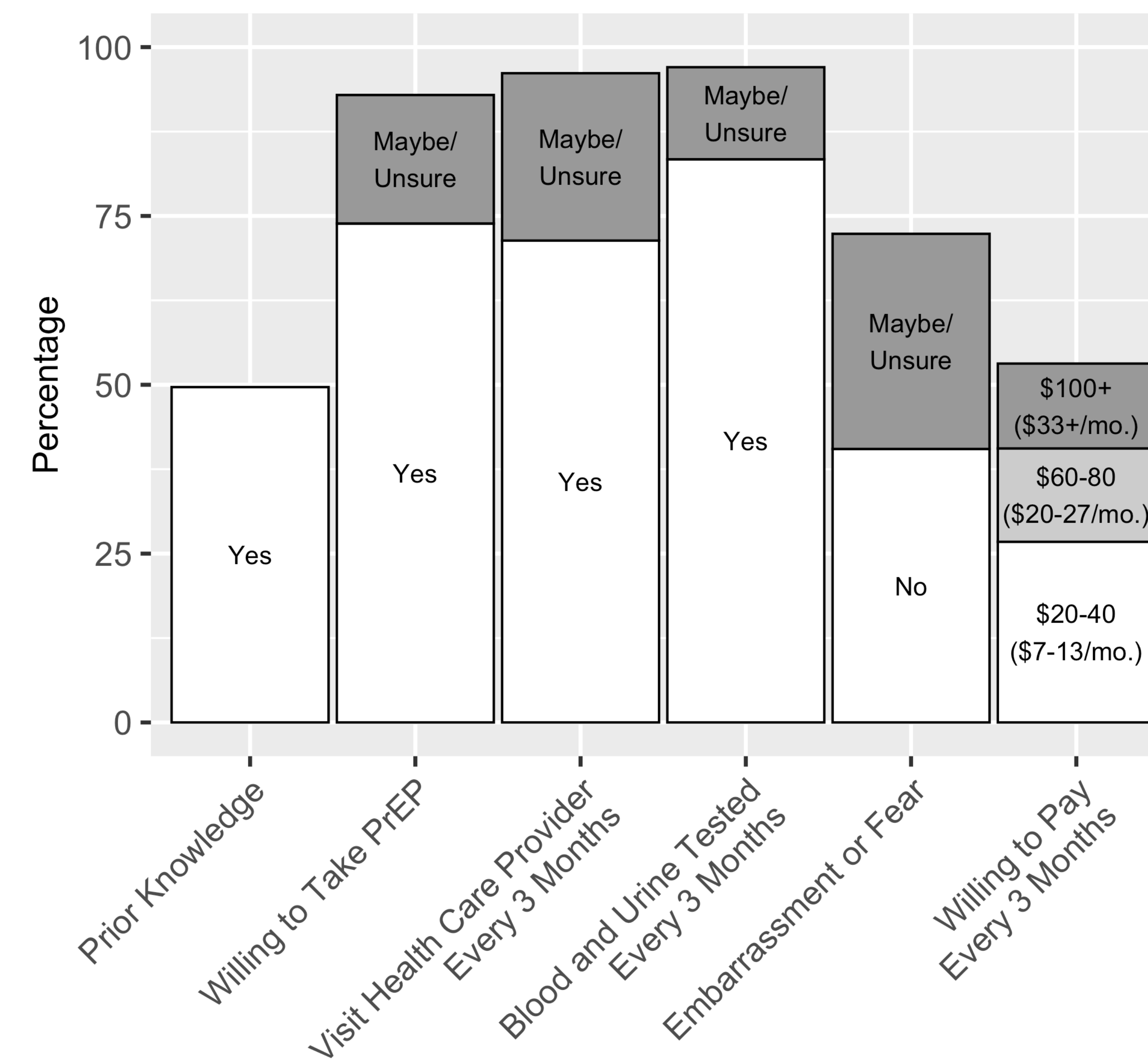


Figure 2. PrEP Knowledge and Attitudes



Results

- Prior knowledge of PrEP increased from 2018 to 2021-2022
- Prior knowledge was lower in participants completing Spanish surveys compared to English surveys
- Prior knowledge differed among females, males, and people of other genders with females having the lowest percentage of prior knowledge
- Most participants indicated willingness to take PrEP and attend necessary appointments and get necessary labs if they perceived themselves to be at risk of HIV
- Many participants indicated no fear or embarrassment about taking PrEP
- Those who perceived themselves at higher risk for acquiring HIV were more likely to be aware of PrEP

Table 2. Factors Influencing PrEP Knowledge

Predictor	Odds Ratio	95% CI on Odds Ratio
(Intercept)	0.89	(0.579, 1.367)
Gender: Female	0.83	(0.563, 1.215)
Gender: Transgender Woman	0.54	(0.024, 6.064)
Gender: Non-Binary/Non-Conforming/Trans Man/Other	3.70	(0.91, 24.925)
Health Insurance Status: No/Do Not Know	1.03	(0.718, 1.479)
Survey Language: Spanish	0.77	(0.46, 1.282)
Ethnicity: Non-Hispanic	1.17	(0.799, 1.724)
Perceived Risk of HIV: Greater than or Equal to 2	1.74	(1.193, 2.548)

Predictor	χ^2	df	p-value
Gender	5.15	3.00	0.16
Health Insurance Status	0.03	1.00	0.87
Survey Language	1.00	1.00	0.32
Ethnicity	0.66	1.00	0.42
Perceived Risk of HIV	8.28	1.00	0.00

Conclusion

- Our study shows a significant increase in PrEP knowledge from 20% to 50% between 2018 and 2021-2022.
- There are significant differences in prior PrEP knowledge between Spanish monolingual and English-speaking patients, and across genders. These at-risk groups may benefit from increased PrEP awareness interventions.

References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Core indicators for monitoring the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative (preliminary data): National HIV Surveillance System data reported through June 2021; and preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) data reported through March 2021. HIV Surveillance Data Tables 2021;2(No. 4). <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/hiv-surveillance.html>. Published October 2021. Accessed 9/26/2022.
- Shende, T. Fisher, J., Perez-Velez, C., Guido, A., Sprowl, K., Drake, T., Adelus, M., Bedrick, E., Fantry, L. (2020). PrEP Knowledge and Attitudes Among Adults Attending Public Health Clinics in Southern Arizona. Journal of Community Health 45:400-406.

