

Risk Characteristics, Risk Perception, and Long-Acting PrEP Awareness and Interest Among Black and Hispanic Men in the US: A National Survey

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Key Takeaways

- A cross-sectional, online survey assessed the awareness of and interest in long-acting (LA) injectable PrEP among sexually active adult men who identify as Black or Hispanic in the United States
- Among 1728 Black or Hispanic men, 49% of participants were aware of LA PrEP and interest in LA PrEP was high (74%), illustrating the need to increase LA PrEP awareness in this population

Introduction

- Use of daily oral PrEP to reduce the risk of acquiring HIV has steadily increased over the past several years¹
- Racial disparities in PrEP usage exist in the United States, where Black and Hispanic people represent a minority of those accessing daily oral PrEP despite being disproportionately affected by HIV^{1,2}
- Newly available prevention options, such as LA injectable PrEP, may improve accessibility of PrEP for vulnerable populations,³ therefore assessing interest in LA PrEP among racial/ethnic minority groups is essential
- This analysis presents results on the risk characteristics, risk perception, and LA PrEP awareness and interest among sexually active adult men who identify as Black or Hispanic in the United States

Methods

- Participants were recruited through a geographically targeted social media campaign using Facebook, Instagram, Tinder, and Grindr and completed a self-administered, cross-sectional, online survey
- Eligible participants were cisgender adult (≥18 years) men living in the United States who identified as Black race and/or Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, had no prior HIV diagnosis, and reported anal or vaginal sex in the past 6 months
- The survey consisted of ~90 questions covering demographics, sexual health and behavior, awareness of LA PrEP before the survey, and interest in using LA PrEP after reading a brief product description
- This analysis presents data from 1728 men surveyed between November 2021 and March 2022
- Descriptive statistics and logistic regression were conducted using SAS software (version 9.4; Cary, NC)

Results

Demographic Characteristics

- This analysis included 1728 participants (Table 1)
- 53.2% of participants were from the South, 30.8% were from the West, 10.1% were from the Northeast, and 5.8% were from the Midwest

Table 1. Participant Demographics

Baseline characteristic, n (%)	Participants (N=1728)
Age, mean (range), y	29.8 (18.0-71.0)
Race, n (%)	
Black/Hispanic	614 (35.5)
Black/Non-Hispanic	775 (44.8)
White/Hispanic	170 (9.8)
Another race/Hispanic ^a	169 (9.8)
Relationship status, n (%)	
Single/Dating	790 (45.7)
Domestic partnership/civil union/married	864 (50.0)
Widowed/Separated/Divorced	66 (3.8)
Prefer not to answer	8 (0.5)
Sexual orientation, n (%)	
Gay	496 (28.7)
Heterosexual	1060 (61.3)
Bisexual	98 (5.7)
Another sexual orientation ^b	55 (3.2)
Prefer not to answer	19 (1.1)

^aIncludes participants who reported they were Hispanic and American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, other race, or prefer not to answer/don't know. ^bIncludes participants who reported they were asexual, pansexual, polysexual, or another sexual orientation.

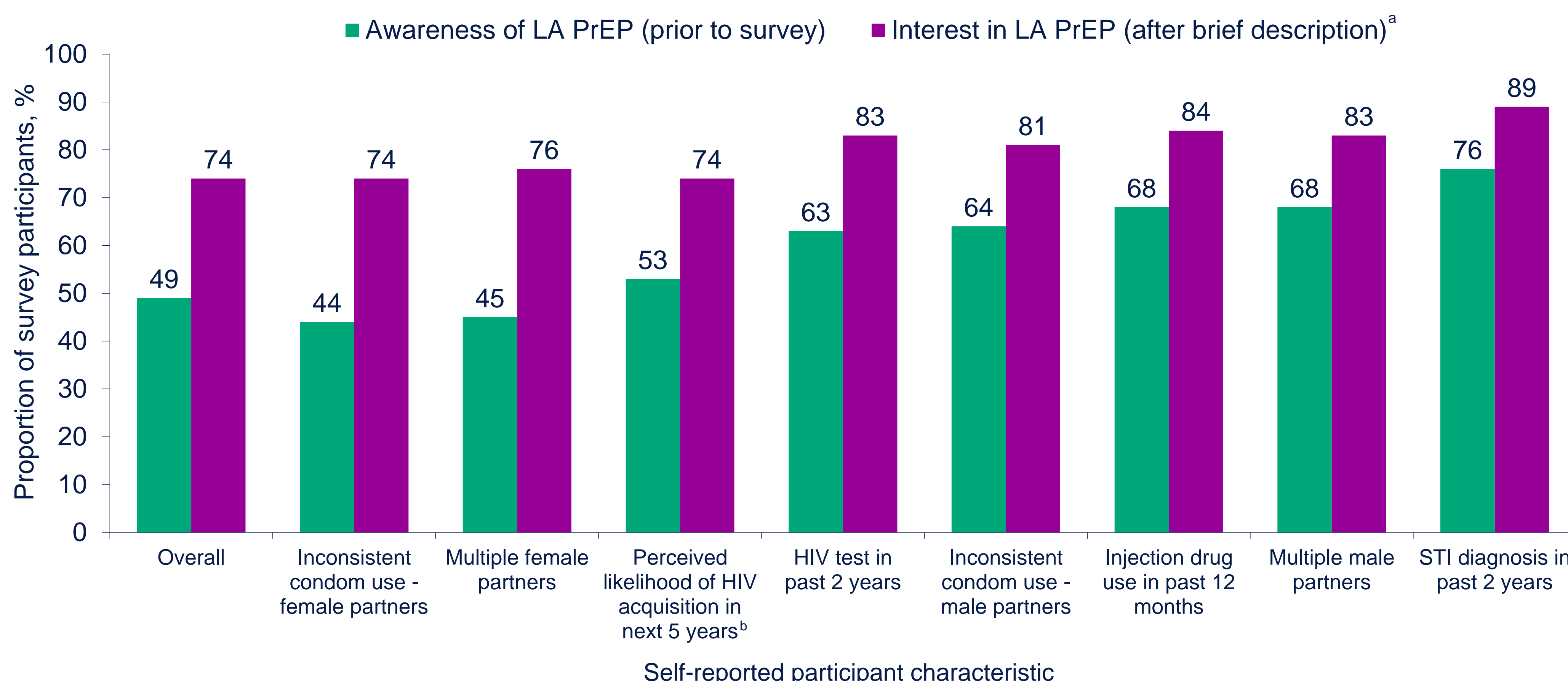
LA PrEP Awareness

- 48.5% of participants reported having ever heard of an injectable form of PrEP (Figure 1)
- Awareness of LA PrEP was higher among participants aged ≥40 years (n=102/156, 65.4%) compared with younger participants (n=736/1572, 46.8%)
- LA PrEP awareness differed by ethnicity. At 64.7% (n=110/170), awareness was highest among participants who identified as White/Hispanic compared with 59.8% (n=367/614) of Black/Hispanic participants and 41.4% (n=70/169) of Hispanic participants of another race. Black/Non-Hispanic participants had the lowest level of LA PrEP awareness at 37.5% (n=291/775)
- LA PrEP awareness was higher among participants who had been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the past 2 years (n=246/326, 75.5%) compared with those who had not (n=584/1377, 42.4%)
- LA PrEP awareness was also higher among participants who reported multiple (>1) male partners (vs multiple [>1] female partners), injection drug use in the past year (vs none), and inconsistent condom use with male partners (vs with female partners)

LA PrEP Interest

- 74.5% of participants reported being very or somewhat likely to use LA PrEP after reading the description (Figure 1)
- A higher proportion of participants with an STI diagnosis in the past 2 years indicated they would be very likely to use injectable PrEP (n=195/326, 59.8%) compared with those who had not had an STI diagnosis (n=536/1377, 38.9%)
- Almost two-thirds (n=151/229, 65.9%) of participants who thought they were very likely to acquire HIV reported they were very likely to regularly use any prevention options compared with participants who thought acquiring HIV was very unlikely (n=337/670, 50.3%), somewhat unlikely (n=222/541, 41.0%), and somewhat likely (n=77/279, 27.6%)
- A higher proportion of participants who used non-injection drugs in the past year reported that they were very likely to regularly use any prevention options (n=236/384, 61.5%) compared with participants who did not use non-injection drugs (n=550/1299, 42.3%)
- When stratifying by condom use frequency with male partners, a higher proportion of participants who used condoms all of the time reported being very likely to regularly use any HIV prevention option (n=130/178, 73.0%) compared with participants who used condoms most of the time (n=94/195, 48.2%), a little to none of the time (n=29/64, 45.3%), and some of the time (n=60/170, 35.3%)

Figure 1. Awareness and Interest to Use LA PrEP Among Black and Hispanic Men by Select Characteristics



^aParticipants reporting they were very or somewhat likely to use LA PrEP. ^bParticipants reporting they were very or somewhat likely to acquire HIV.

Conclusions

- Following a survey of 1728 sexually active adult Black and Hispanic men in the United States, nearly half of participants were aware of LA PrEP and nearly three-fourths of participants reported interest in using LA PrEP after reading a brief description
- These results illustrate high interest for LA PrEP among Black and Hispanic men in the United States and the need to increase LA PrEP awareness and access in this population

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References: 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/hiv-surveillance.html>. Accessed June 20, 2023. 2. Huang et al. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2018;67:1147-1150. 3. Blackwell et al. *J Nurse Pract*. 2022;18:947-950.

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