



# High PrEP Awareness, Eligibility, Interest and Use among New York City Circuit Party Attendees

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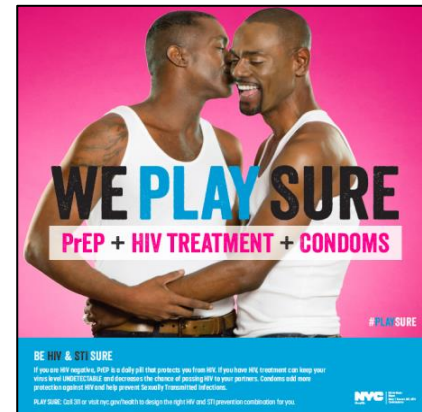
# HIV Prevention in New York City

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- In 2014, NYC had one of the largest HIV epidemics in the US
  - 2,718 new HIV diagnoses
  - More than 119,000 people living with HIV/AIDS
- High burden among men who have sex with men (MSM)
  - 59% of new diagnoses in 2014
  - Among men, MSM represent 74% of diagnoses
  - No significant decrease in new diagnoses between 2001 and 2014
- New focus on biomedical HIV prevention methods, specifically post-exposure (PEP) and **pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)**

# Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

- Daily pill (Truvada) taken to prevent HIV infection
- US FDA-approved July 2012
- >90% effective if taken every day
- Recommended as part of combination prevention
- Since 2012, NYC Health Department has been measuring PrEP awareness and use in a routine Sexual Health Survey (SHS) conducted among priority populations



# Black Party and NYC Health Department

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- Black Party is an annual, internationally recognized, circuit party attended by gay men
- March 21, 2015; held at a warehouse in Brooklyn
- NYC DOHMH collaborated with party organizers to:
  - Distribute safer sex products (e.g. condoms and lubricant)
  - Promote PrEP and PEP (postcards at coat check and medical tent)
  - Conduct survey assessing awareness of, attitudes towards and adoption of PrEP



# Black Party Survey Aims

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Among all Black Party attendees, to assess:

1. PrEP awareness
2. Associations between demographic and behavioral characteristics and recent PrEP use

Among all Black Party attendees who were not taking PrEP, to assess:

1. PrEP eligibility
2. Perceived eligibility for PrEP
3. Interest in daily PrEP
4. Interest in injectable PrEP

# Methods

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## Study Design

- Ad hoc cross-sectional survey that leveraged methods used by NYC's routinely conducted SHS
- Conducted at Black Party, March 21, 2015 from 10-3am at a warehouse in Brooklyn

## Eligibility:

- NYC residence (ZIP code)
- Male sex at birth

## Administration method

- Interviewer-administered to determine eligibility and obtain consent
- Tablet turned to respondent, who answered survey questions on their own

## Incentive

- \$5 drink voucher for non-alcoholic beverage

# Staffing & Logistics

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## Survey Location

- Venue entrance line

## Survey Team/Shifts

- Four hour shifts (2, staggered) ,
- Shift supervisors (3)
- Volunteer surveyors/recruiters (6-8 per shift)



# Measures

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## Sociodemographic Characteristics

- Age: (18-29 vs. 30-40 years)
- Race/ethnicity (black, Hispanic, white vs. other)
- Education (Graduate degree, Bachelors degree vs. some college or less)
- Income (Less than vs greater than \$60,000)
- Insurance (Yes vs. No)

## Recent Behaviors Reported (past 6 months)

- Number of partners with whom no condom used (receptive or insertive)
- Known HIV-positive sexual partner
- Stimulant drug use
- Injection drug use



# Outcomes and Analysis

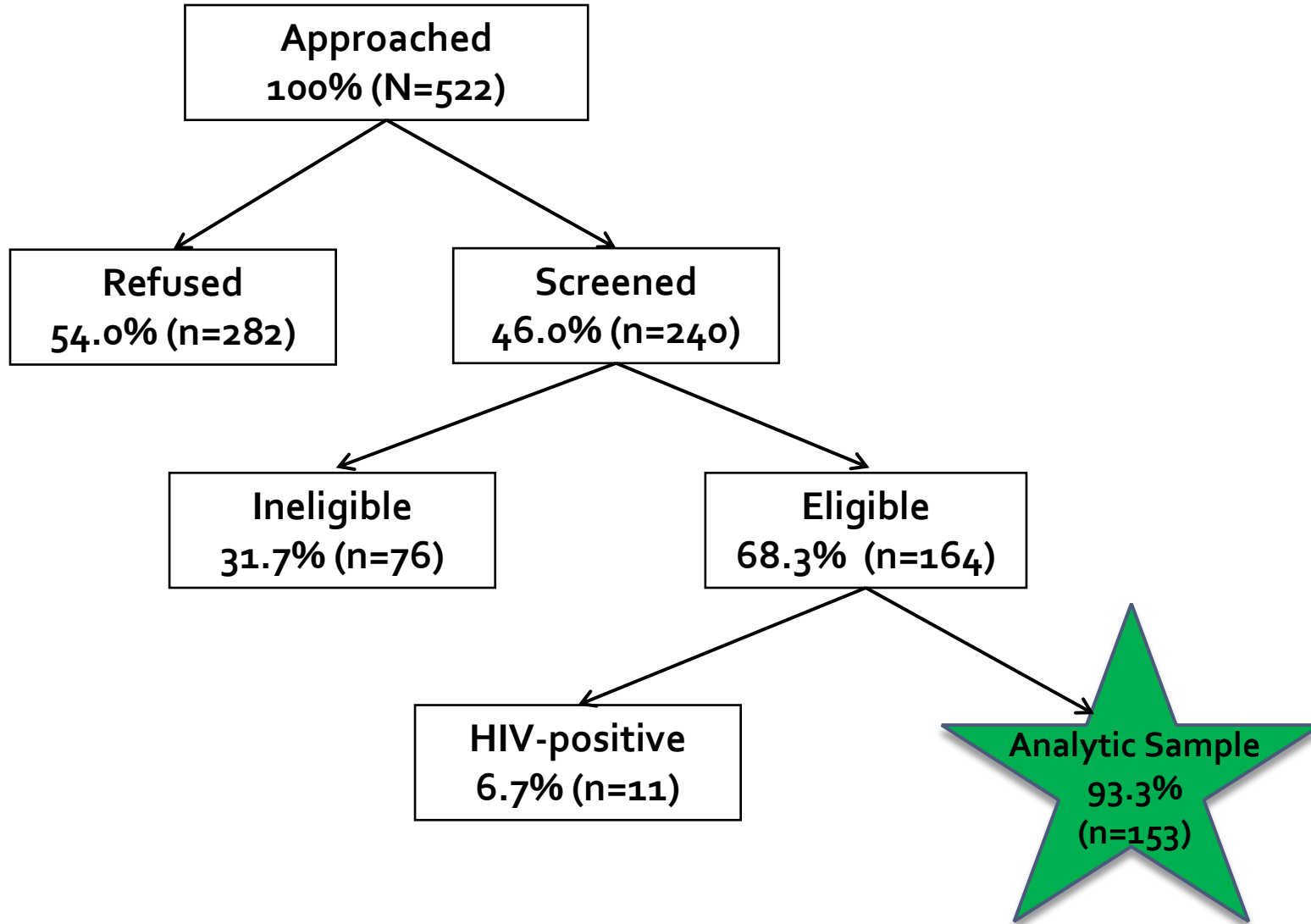
## Outcomes

- PrEP use, past 6 months
- Among non-users:
  - PrEP eligibility per NYS guidelines
  - Perceived eligibility for PrEP
  - Interest in daily PrEP
  - Interest in injectable PrEP

## Analysis

- Chi-square or Fisher's exact (significance level  $p < 0.05$ )
- Descriptive analysis among non-users

# Recruitment Summary



# Sample Characteristics, Black Party Participants with Self-reported HIV-negative/unknown Status, NYC, 2015

Characteristic	N	Column %
<b>Total</b>	153	100.0
<b>Age</b>		
18-29	73	47.7
30+	80	52.3
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
Black	19	12.4
Hispanic	26	17.0
White	78	51.0
Other	30	19.6
<b>Education</b>		
Some college or less	25	16.6
Bachelor's degree	72	47.7
Graduate degree	54	35.8
<b>Income</b>		
Less than \$60,000	51	36.2
\$60,000 or more	90	63.8
<b>Insured</b>	135	89.4
<b>Aware of PrEP</b>	141	92.8
<b>PrEP use, past 6 months</b>	43	28.5

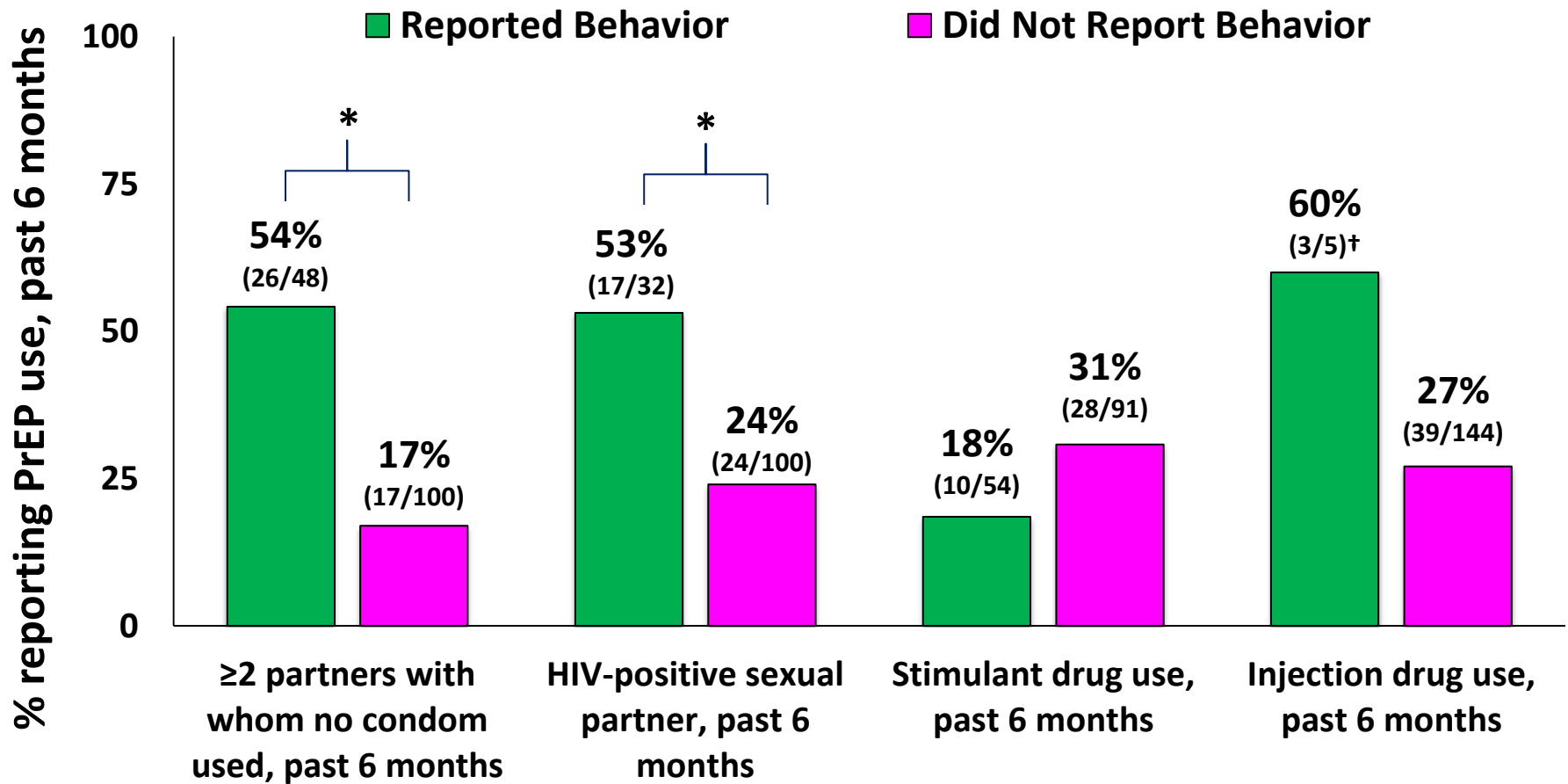
# PrEP Use by Sociodemographic Characteristics, Black Party Participants, NYC, 2015

Characteristic	n PrEP users*	% PrEP users*	p-value‡
Total	43	28.5	n/a
Age (mean, SD)			
18-29	17	23.6	0.21
30+	26	32.9	
Race/Ethnicity			
Black	3	15.8	0.47
Hispanic	9	34.6	
White	24	31.2	
Other	7	24.1	
Education			
Some college or less	4	16.0	0.26
Bachelor's degree	20	27.8	
Graduate degree	18	34.0	
Income			
Less than \$60,000	13	26.0	0.50
\$60,000 or more	28	31.5	
Insured			
Yes	39	29.3	0.97
No	2	12.5	

\*Self-reported use in the past 6 months

‡Chi-square or fishers exact

# PrEP Use by Behavioral Characteristics, Black Party Participants, NYC, 2015

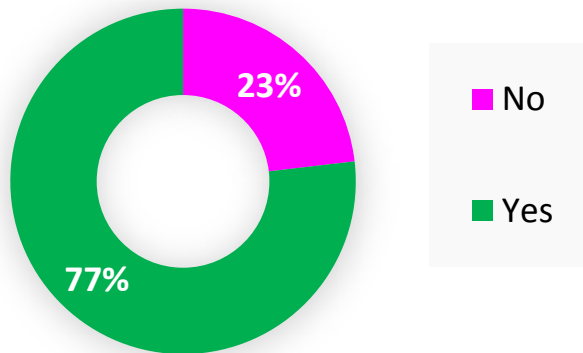


\*Significantly associated with PrEP use ( $p < 0.05$ )

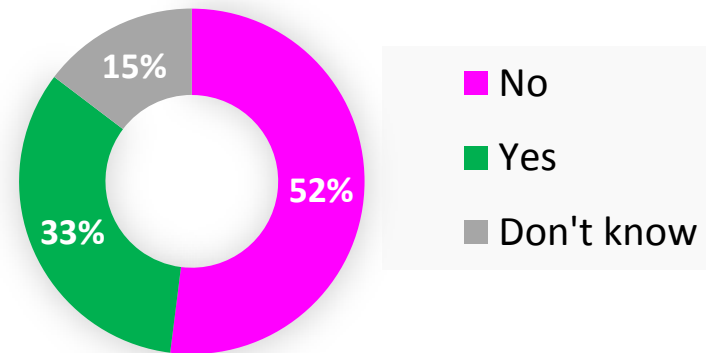
<sup>†</sup> Note small sample size

# PrEP Eligibility and Interest among PrEP Non-Users

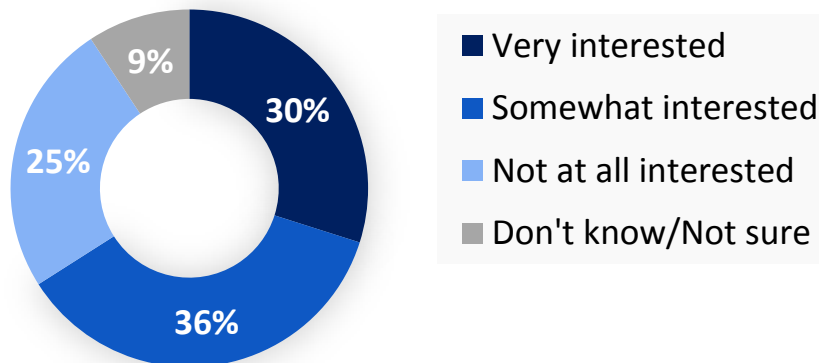
1. Reported behaviors consistent with PrEP eligibility (n=108)



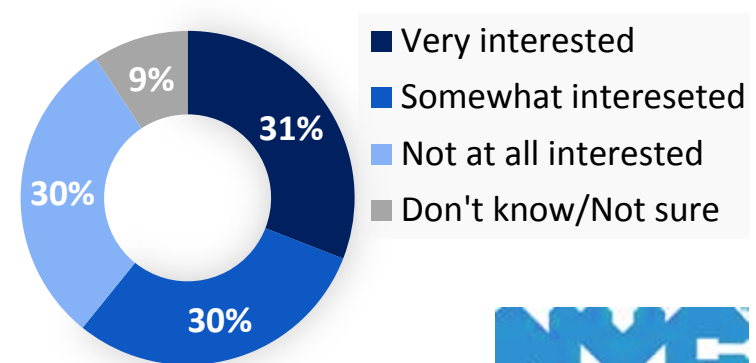
2. Among PrEP-eligible, perceived their risk was high enough to take PrEP (n=75)



3. Among those not taking PrEP, interest in daily PrEP (n=97)



4. Among those not taking PrEP, interest in injectable PrEP, (n=97)



# Limitations

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- Data self-reported
  - Potentially subject to recall error and social desirability bias
- Data anonymous and cross-sectional
  - Cannot measure individuals' changes over time or distinguish temporality between PrEP use and behaviors
- Convenience sample
  - Potential for selection bias
- Results may not be generalizable

# Summary

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- Report of PrEP use in the past 6 months was high in this special population
  - 29% compared to 16% in routine SHS, conducted approximately 3 months later
  - Sample was highly educated and affluent, which may affect access
- Sociodemographic factors were not associated with PrEP use in the last 6 months, however, use was higher among those with:
  - $\geq 2$  partners with whom no condom used, past 6 months
  - Reporting any HIV-positive sexual partner, past 6 months
- Discrepancy between perceived and actual eligibility for PrEP
  - 77% of PrEP non-users reported behaviors that indicate eligibility per NYS prescription guidelines
  - 52% of those eligible felt their risk of HIV was not high enough to take PrEP
- Among non-PrEP users, interest in taking daily PrEP was high, as was interest in injectable PrEP
- Successfully piloted new survey methodology

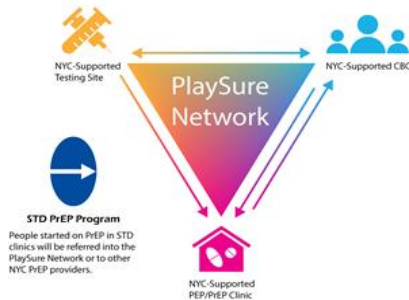


# Implications



- Although PrEP use appears to be associated with behaviors that increase HIV risk and not with sociodemographic factors, important to continue monitor for potential disparities
- Discrepancy between perceived and actual eligibility for PrEP, based on reported behaviors, underscores importance of discussions between patients and providers
- High interest in PrEP among non-users suggests unmet demand
- NYC DOHMH continues to support PrEP uptake with:
  - Campaigns targeting patients and providers
  - Programs to provide PrEP and related services

## #PlaySure Network



# Acknowledgements

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**Co-authors:** Zoe R. Edelstein, PhD MS, Nana P. Mensah, MPH, Julie E. Myers, MD MPH, Demetre C. Daskalakis, MD MPH

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