

Assessing PrEP awareness, perceptions, and consultation experience among staff in community pharmacies

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INTRODUCTION

Pharmacists' engagement with patients have transcended beyond traditional medication dispensing as they now play a key role in direct patient care and consultation. Community pharmacies can potentially accelerate the diffusion of PrEP awareness and knowledge to hard-to-reach at-risk populations. As such, community pharmacies have become critical partners in HIV prevention.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this study was to identify PrEP awareness, knowledge, and perceptions related to dispensing PrEP to patients and related consultation.

METHODS

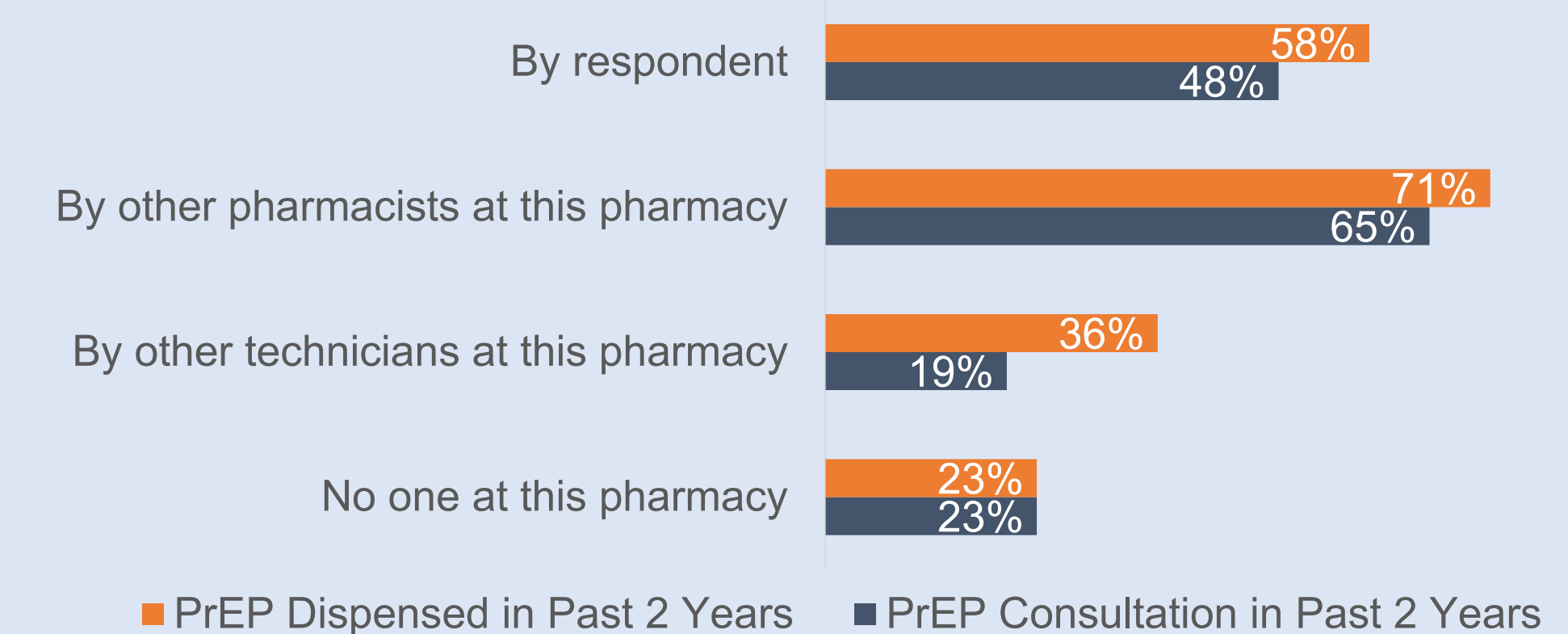
- Thirty-one pharmacists and pharmacy staff were surveyed electronic surveys were collected from pharmacists and pharmacy staff located in Chicago, Illinois; Northwest Indiana; and Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Variables assessed the number of PrEP inquiries, consultations, PrEP prescriptions filled, and PrEP referrals.
- Data percentages were calculated in SPSS to interpret community pharmacists' knowledge and experiences consulting and dispensing PrEP.

RESULTS

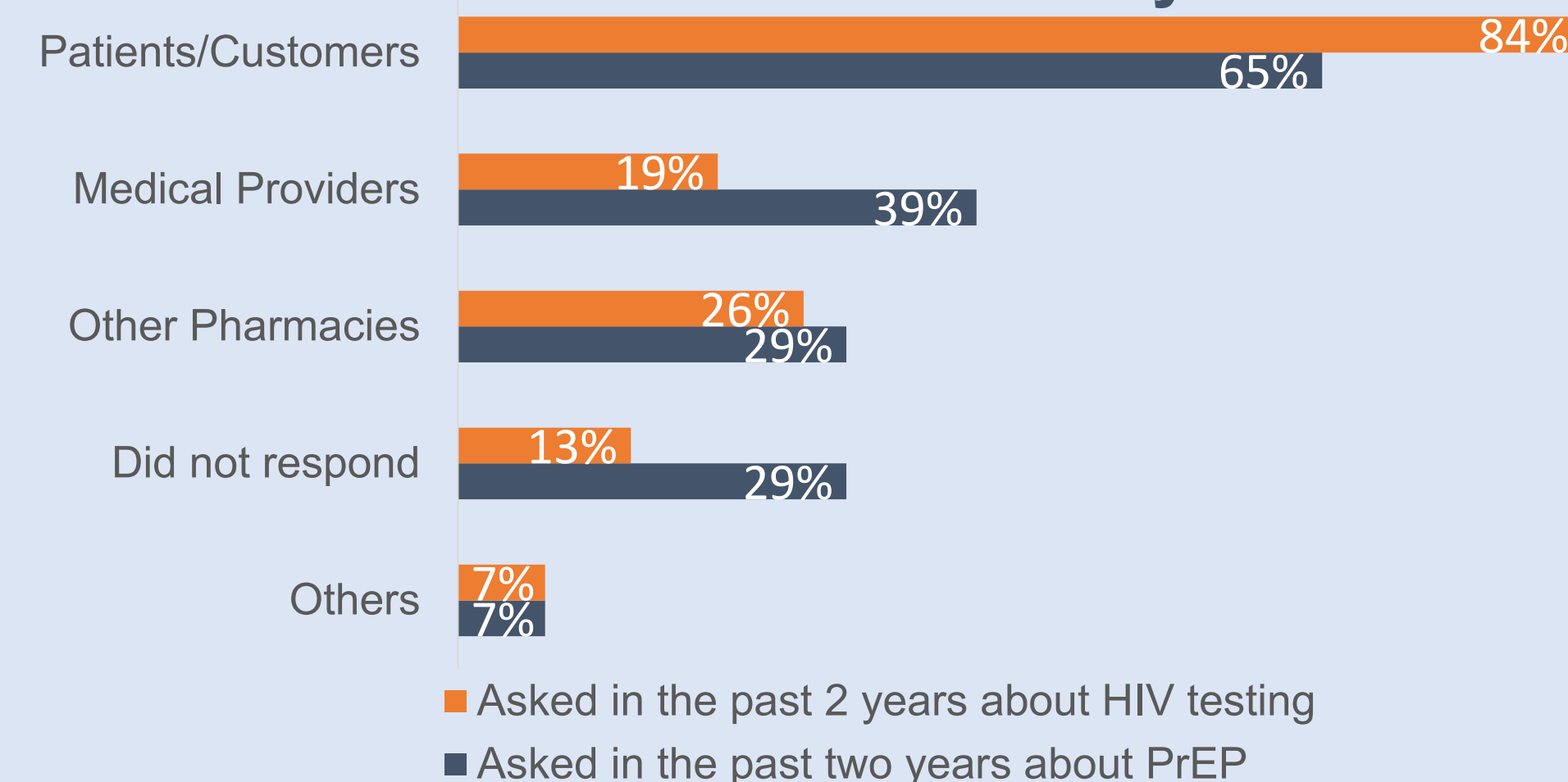
Summary of Results

- 84% of participants were previously aware of PrEP.
- 58% of participants received continuing education for PrEP within the past 2 years.
- 74% of participants reported believing there was a need for PrEP in their communities.
- 48% of participants had PrEP consultation experience.

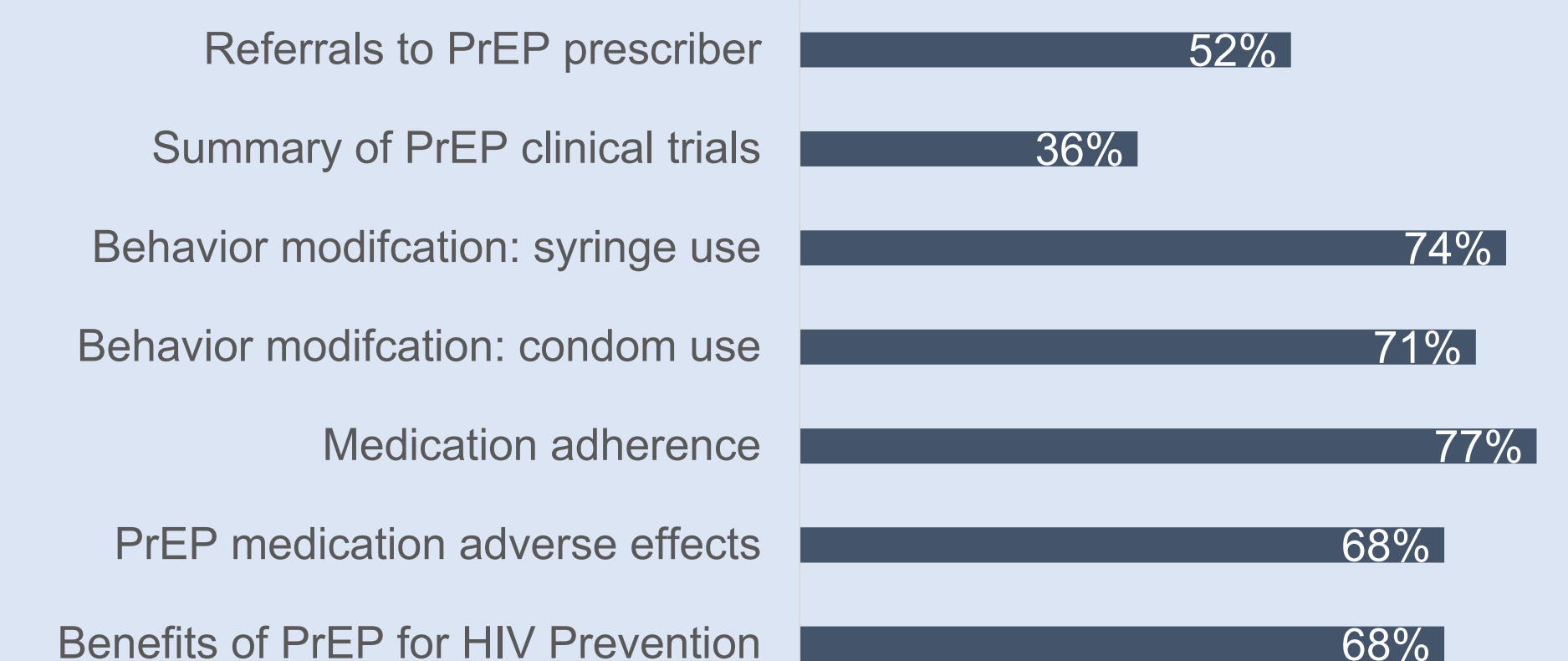
Pharmacy Practices



Indicators of Community Need



Comfort level with aspects of PrEP Consultation



DISCUSSION

- Improving community pharmacy training and knowledge of PrEP strengthens HIV prevention strategies in patients.
- The results of this study emphasize a need for recurring PrEP training for pharmacists and pharmacy staff.
- The findings of this study will be used to inform the development of such a training for pharmacy staff.