

Who is Prescribing PrEP?

A Characterization of Ontario Clinicians Prescribing HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

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Conflict of Interest: In the past 3 years, DHST's institution has received research support for investigator-initiated research studies from Gilead Sciences and Viiv Healthcare, outside the submitted work. DHST is a Site Principal Investigator for clinical trials sponsored by Glaxo Smith Kline, outside the submitted work. All other co-authors report no conflict of interest.

Background

For HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to have maximal population impact, widespread access to prescribers is needed.

Our objective was to characterize Ontario clinicians who wrote at least one PrEP prescription that was filled between March 2018 and February 2019 to inform future efforts to expand access.

Methods

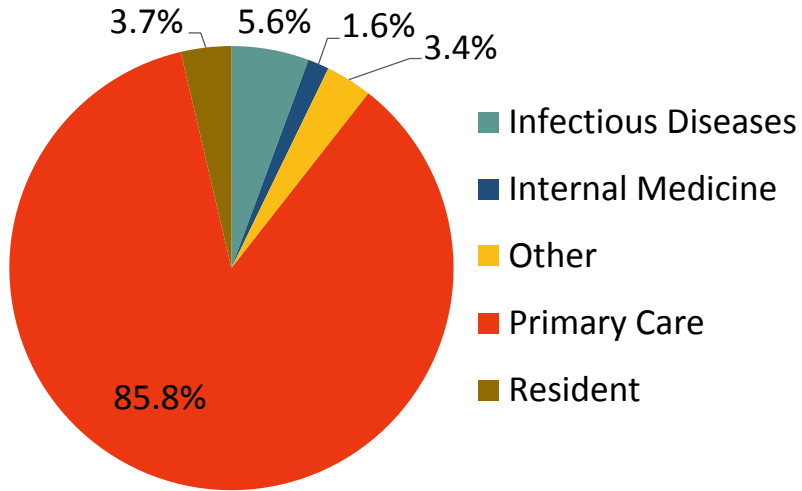
We obtained data from IQVIA, a pharmaceutical informatics company whose drug dispensation databases reflect two thirds of prescriptions in Ontario.

PrEP prescriptions were identified using an algorithm that inferred whether TDF/FTC prescriptions were for PrEP (used in the current analysis) or for other indications such as hepatitis B therapy, post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) or antiretroviral therapy (ART) (all excluded from the current analysis).

Descriptive statistics including chi-square Fisher's exact tests and ANOVA tests were performed to determine any significant differences in PrEP prescribers by gender, primary language, primary specialty, office type, region in Ontario and medical school graduation year.

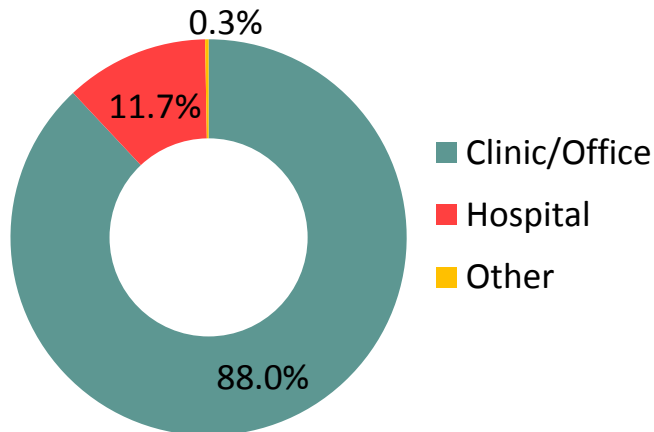
Results

Primary Specialty of PrEP prescribers

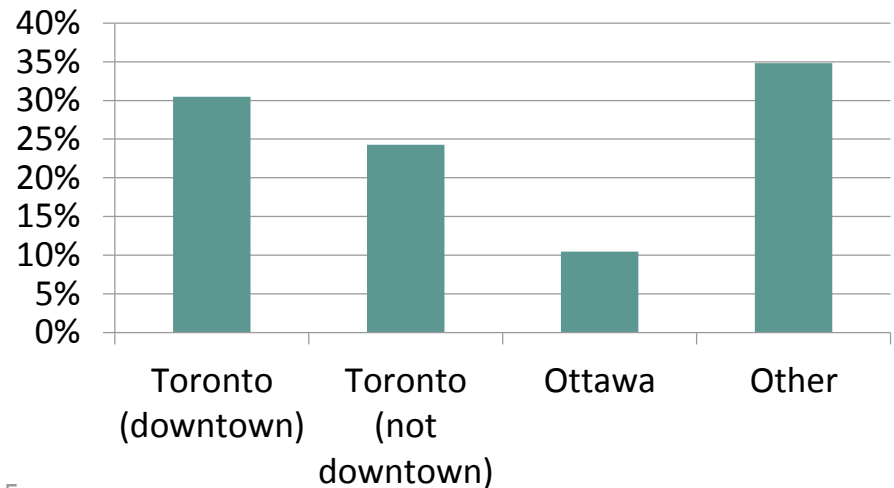


- 709 prescribers wrote at least one PrEP prescription that was filled between 03/2018-02/2019 in Ontario.
- 0.7% were French as first-language.
- The majority of prescribers were primary care providers (family medicine/general practice).
- 55% of prescribers were located in Toronto and the primary office type was at a clinic/office.

Primary office type of PrEP prescribers



Region in Ontario of PrEP prescribers

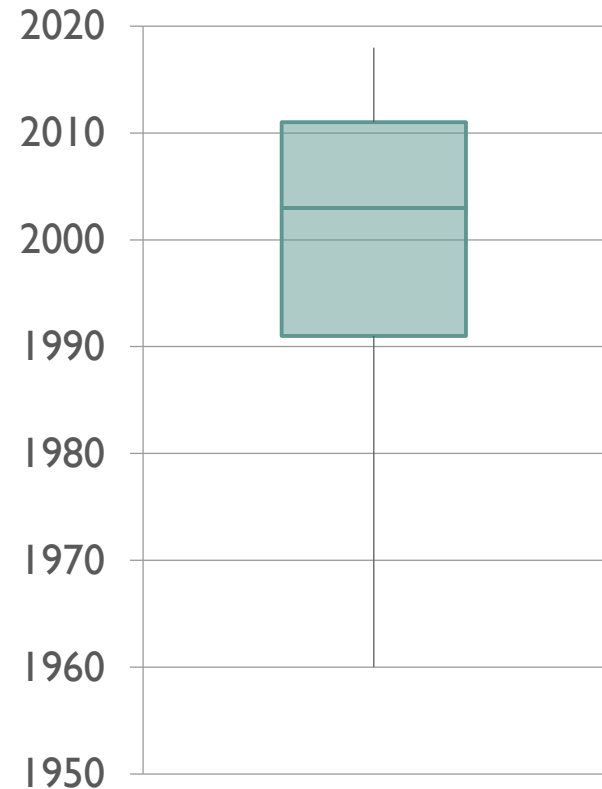


Results

	Toronto / Ottawa	Other Ontario regions	p-value
Male	53.7%	68.4%	
Female	46.3%	31.6%	p<0.001
Medical school graduation year	2001	1998	p=0.0012

- 41.2% of prescribers were female.
- Female prescribers were significantly more likely to be prescribers in Toronto/Ottawa.
- Prescribers in Toronto/Ottawa were significantly more likely to be more recent medical school graduates.

Medical school graduation year of PrEP prescribers



- Median (interquartile range) year of medical school graduation was 2003 (1991, 2011).

Conclusions and Implications

- The majority of clinicians prescribing PrEP were primary care providers in Toronto and Ottawa.
- Prescribers in these cities were more commonly female and more recent graduates but not differ by office type or primary specialty.
- Next steps include:
 - Incorporating data on prescription frequency (number of prescriptions filled by patients per physician) and its association with geographic region and other important sociodemographic characteristics to inform PrEP uptake.
 - Comparisons of PrEP uptake (via prescription and dispensation data) with HIV diagnosis data to identify opportunities for targeted PrEP education.

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge IQVIA for providing the data for these analyses.

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