

# Population-Based HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in British Columbia (BC): A 24-Month Update on Client Enrolment and Prescriber Participation

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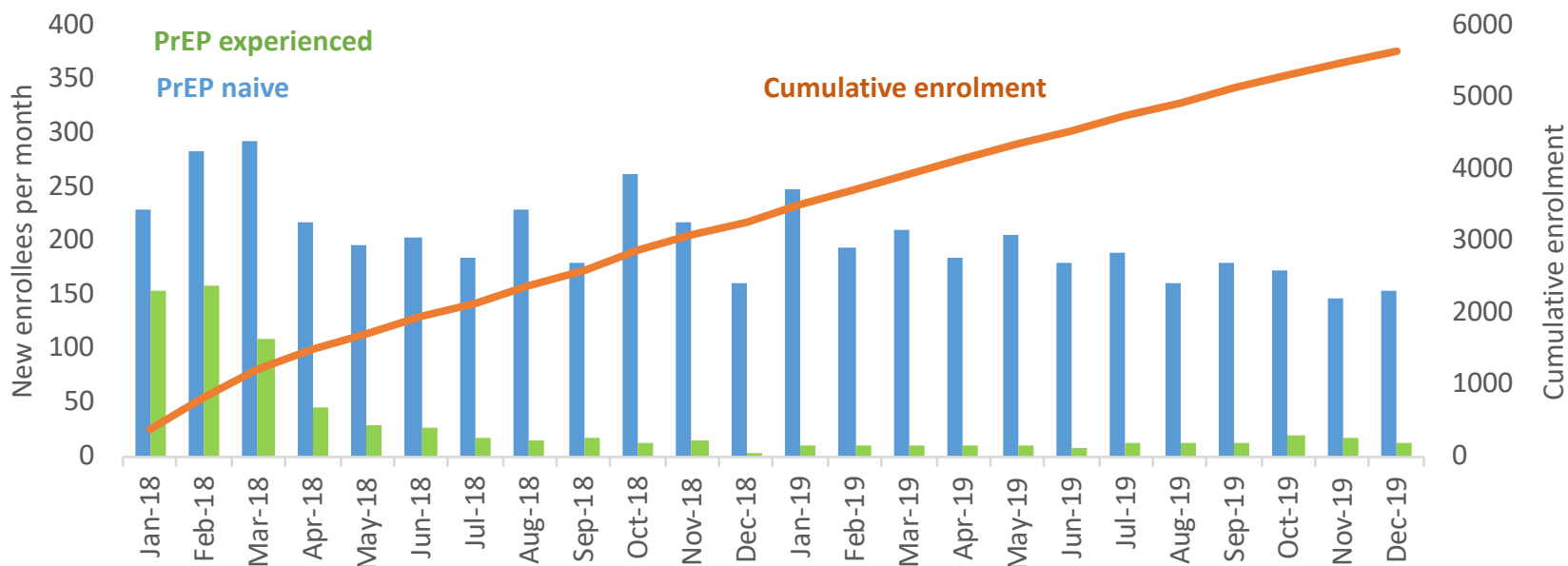
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
CENTRE *for* EXCELLENCE  
*in* HIV/AIDS



## BC-PrEP Program

- **Background:**
  - In January 2018, a centralized, province-wide HIV PrEP program launched in BC.
  - PrEP is available through the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS at no charge to BC residents at high-risk of HIV infection (as defined by BC PrEP Guidelines).
  - Any licensed BC prescriber or qualified HIV prevention nurse practitioner may request enrolment of clients in the BC-PrEP program.
- **Methods:** Individuals enrolled in the BC PrEP program from 01-Jan-2018 to 31-Dec-2019 (follow-up until 31-Jan-2020) were characterized by clinical, demographic and prescriber characteristics.
- **Results:** During the first 24-months, 5653 individuals enrolled for PrEP, with a median monthly uptake of 207 new enrollees (range, 150-451; Figure 1).

Figure 1: BC-PrEP program cumulative and monthly enrolment by prior PrEP experience





## BC-PrEP Prescribers

- There were 809 PrEP requesting prescribers in the first 24 months of the program.
- Prescribers were located in all provincial health authorities (Figure 2), with 7.4% (n = 60) practicing in a rural location.
- Of requesting prescribers, 455 (56.2%) had no prior HIV treatment prescribing experience in BC.

Figure 2: PrEP prescribers by location

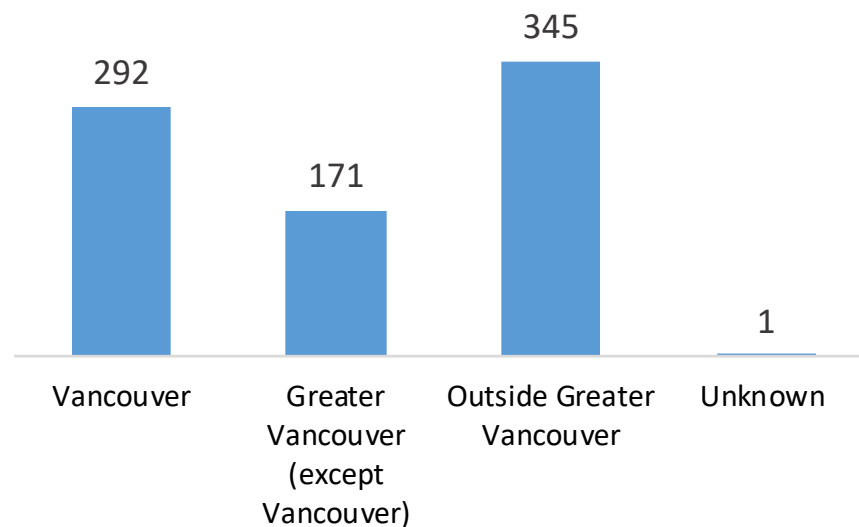
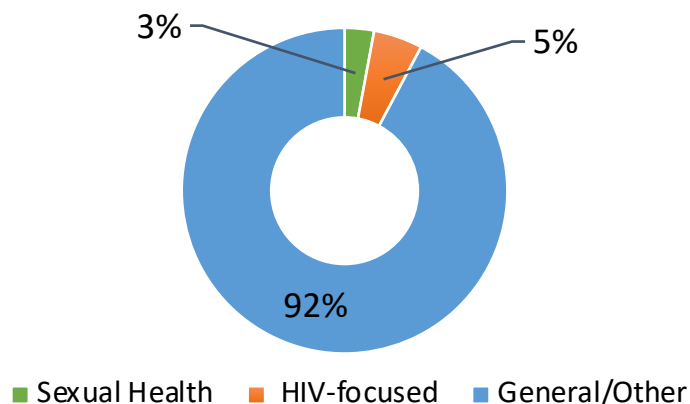


Figure 3: PrEP prescribers by clinic type



- Providers primarily practiced at general practice/other settings (92%, n = 757; Figure 3)
- Nurse practitioners made up 1.2% (n = 10) of enrolling prescribers and 4.4% (n = 36) of follow-up prescribers
- Prescribers had median 1 (Q1-Q3, 1-2) PrEP client enrolled during the study period.



## BC-PrEP Clients

- Of 5653 PrEP enrollees, 98.1% were cis-male (n = 5544; Figure 4), with a median age of 33 years (Q1-Q3, 27-44; Figure 5).
- Clients resided in all health authorities, with the majority of clients residing in the Greater Vancouver Area (n = 4599, 81.4%; Figure 6).
- The majority of clients identified as MSM (n = 5597, 99.0%) and had no prior experience with PrEP at time of enrollment (n = 4827, 85.4%).
- Clients received care in sexual health clinics (47.6%, n = 2690), HIV focused clinics (20.9%, n = 1183), and general health/other clinics (31.5%, n = 1780).

Figure 4: PrEP clients by gender

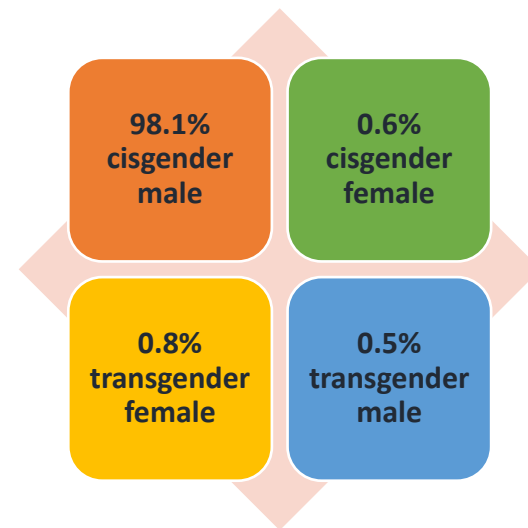


Figure 5: PrEP clients by age category

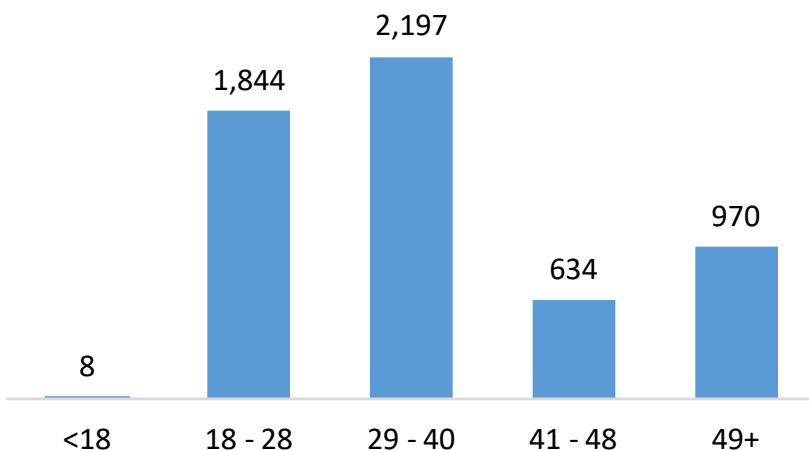
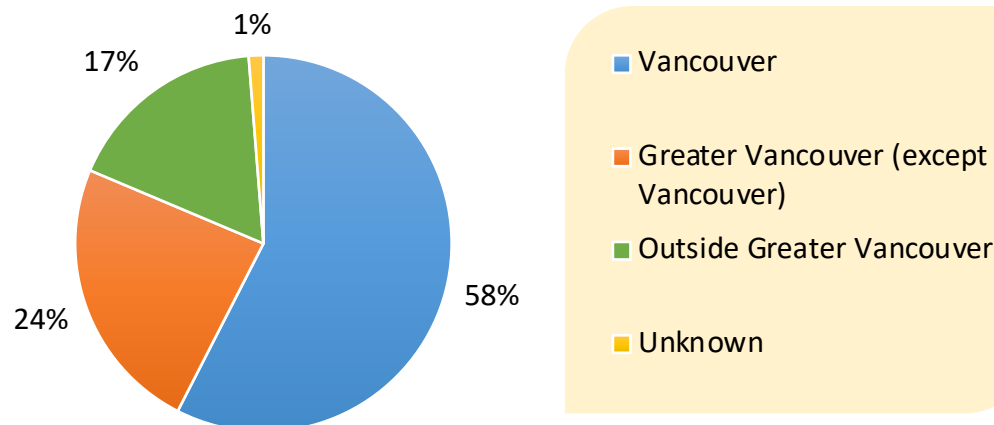


Figure 6: PrEP clients by location





## BC-PrEP Clients Cont.

- Table 1 summarizes the program-qualifying risk factors for clients enrolled in the BC-PrEP program.
- Among those enrolled in the BC-PrEP program, there were 12 new HIV diagnoses during the study period
  - 2 occurred in clients who were prescribed, but never initiated PrEP
  - 4 occurred in clients with a >6 month lapse beyond expected PrEP refill date
  - 5 occurred in clients with a >1 month (but <6 month) lapse beyond expected PrEP refill date
  - 1 occurred in a client who had drug in possession at time of diagnosis

### Conclusion

- Client and prescriber participation in the BC PrEP program increased steadily in the first 24-months.
- At-risk MSM residing in Greater Vancouver continue to make up the majority of the cohort.

**Table 1: BC-PrEP Program-qualifying risk factor(s) for HIV acquisition\*** **N = 5653**

<b>Men who have sex with men, transgender women (n, %)</b>	5597 (99.0)
Median HIV Incidence Risk Index for MSM (Q1-Q3)	19 (15 – 25)
HIRI score 10 – 24 (n, %)	3899 (69.0)
HIRI score ≥25 (n, %)	1218 (21.5)
Infectious syphilis or rectal bacterial sexually transmitted infection (n, %)	1136 (20.1)
HIV-positive sexual partner** (n, %)	284 (5.0)
Recurrent non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (NPEP) use (n, %)	155 (2.7)
<b>Heterosexual men and women who have an HIV-positive sexual partner (n, %)**</b>	31 (0.5)
<b>Persons who inject drugs who have an HIV-positive injecting partner (n, %)**</b>	8 (0.1)
<b>Public health referral following phylogenetic identification of an HIV cluster (n, %)</b>	29 (0.5)
<b>Other risk factors (n, %)</b>	63 (1.1)
* More than one risk factor per client may be reported	
** Partner not receiving stable antiretroviral therapy and/or viral load not < 200 copies/mL	