

# Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) indication, use, and adherence among transgender women in eastern and southern US: Interim findings from the LITE cohort, 2018-19

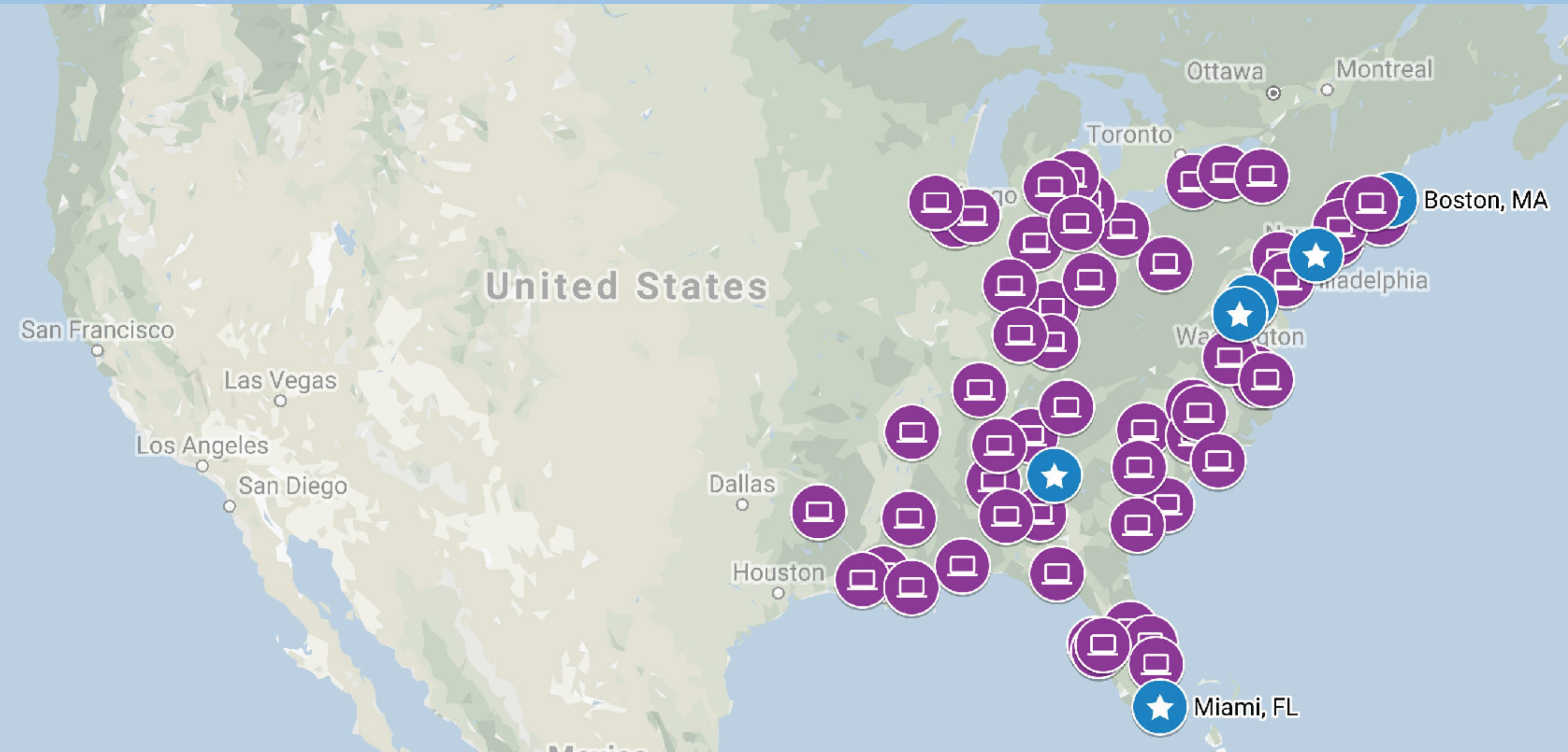
Andrea Wirtz<sup>1</sup>, Tonia Poteat<sup>2\*</sup>, Ken Mayer<sup>3</sup>, Asa Radix<sup>4</sup>, Erin Cooney<sup>1</sup>, Christopher Cannon<sup>5</sup>, Allan Rodriguez<sup>6</sup>, Andrew Wawrzyniak<sup>6</sup>, Jason Schneider<sup>7</sup>, Sonia Haw<sup>7</sup>, Chris Beyrer<sup>1</sup>, Keri Althoff<sup>1</sup>, Oliver Laeyendecker<sup>1</sup>, Sari Reisner<sup>3,8,9</sup>, and the American Cohort to Study HIV Acquisition among Transgender Women (LITE) Study Group

<sup>1</sup>Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, Baltimore, US, <sup>2</sup>University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, US, <sup>3</sup>The Fenway Institute, Boston, US, <sup>4</sup>Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, New York, US, <sup>5</sup>Whitman Walker Health, Washington, DC, US, <sup>6</sup>University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, US, <sup>7</sup>Emory University, Grady Hospital, Atlanta, US; <sup>8</sup>Boston Children’s Hospital, Boston, US, <sup>9</sup>Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

TUPEC482

### Introduction and Objectives

- Transgender women (TGW) in the U.S. experience a disproportionate burden of HIV
- Effective and acceptable prevention interventions, including PrEP are warranted
- The LITE study is a multi-site cohort of TGW across eastern and southern U.S. cities assessing HIV acquisition
- This analysis aims to describe baseline patterns of PrEP use and experiences among TGW enrolled in the LITE cohort to-date.



**Figure 1.** LITE study sites (Blue: Boston, New York City, Baltimore, Washington DC, Atlanta, and Miami) and online cohort locations (purple)

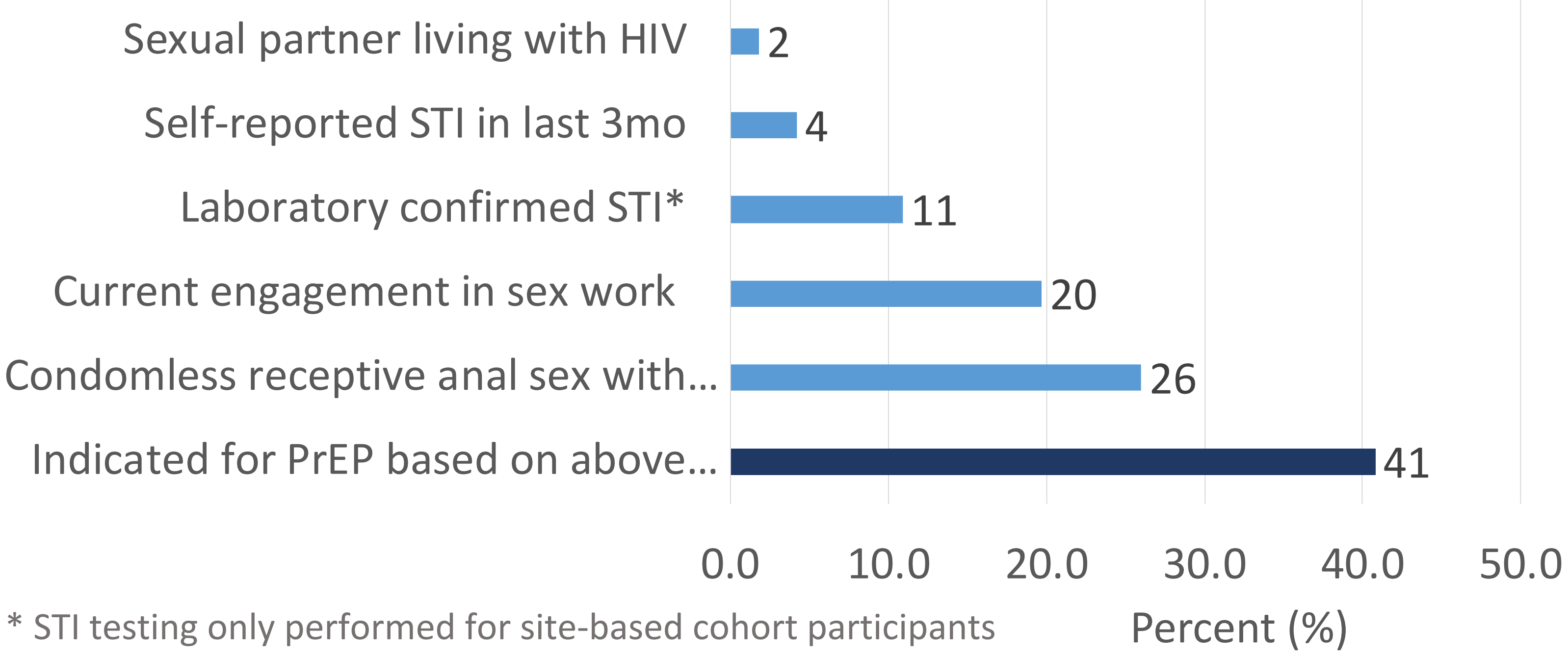
### Methods:

- Adult TGW, regardless of HIV status, were recruited and enrolled into a baseline cohort screening visit.
- Candidate participants can participate in-person in six cities (Boston, New York City, Baltimore, Washington DC, Atlanta, and Miami) or online in over 50 eastern and southern cities.
- Participants completed a socio-behavioral survey (English or Spanish), oral HIV screening with confirmatory testing, and STI testing (Neisseria gonorrhea, Chlamydia trachomatis, syphilis).
- Participants with negative HIV test results are eligible to continue in the cohort, which includes surveys and HIV self-tests conducted every 3months and STI testing\* every 12months for 24months.

### Results:

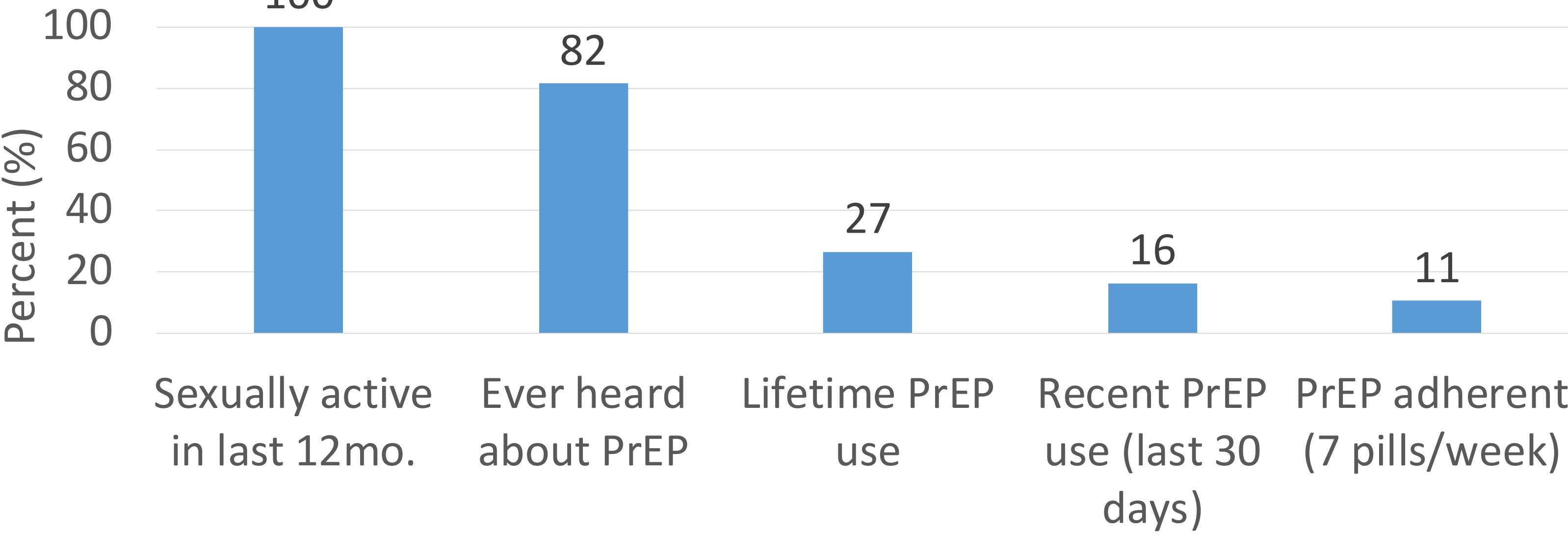
- Enrollment for the in-person cohort launched in March 2018 and the online cohort launched in January 2019.
- As of June 2019, 1,125 TGW completed the baseline visit in-person (70%) or online (30%)
- Among HIV-uninfected participants, 41% met modified CDC indications for PrEP (Figure 2)
- Of those PrEP indicated, 24% reported using PrEP within the last 30 days (13% of all HIV-uninfected).
- 6% reported PEP use within the last 3 mo.
- 97% of current PrEP users reported exogenous hormone use.
- 65% of current PrEP users reported adherence based on zero missed doses in prior 7days.
- 18% of participants (any HIV status) reported lifetime PrEP use; experiences on PrEP varied (Figure 4)

**Figure 2.** PrEP indication among HIV uninfected transgender women



\* STI testing only performed for site-based cohort participants

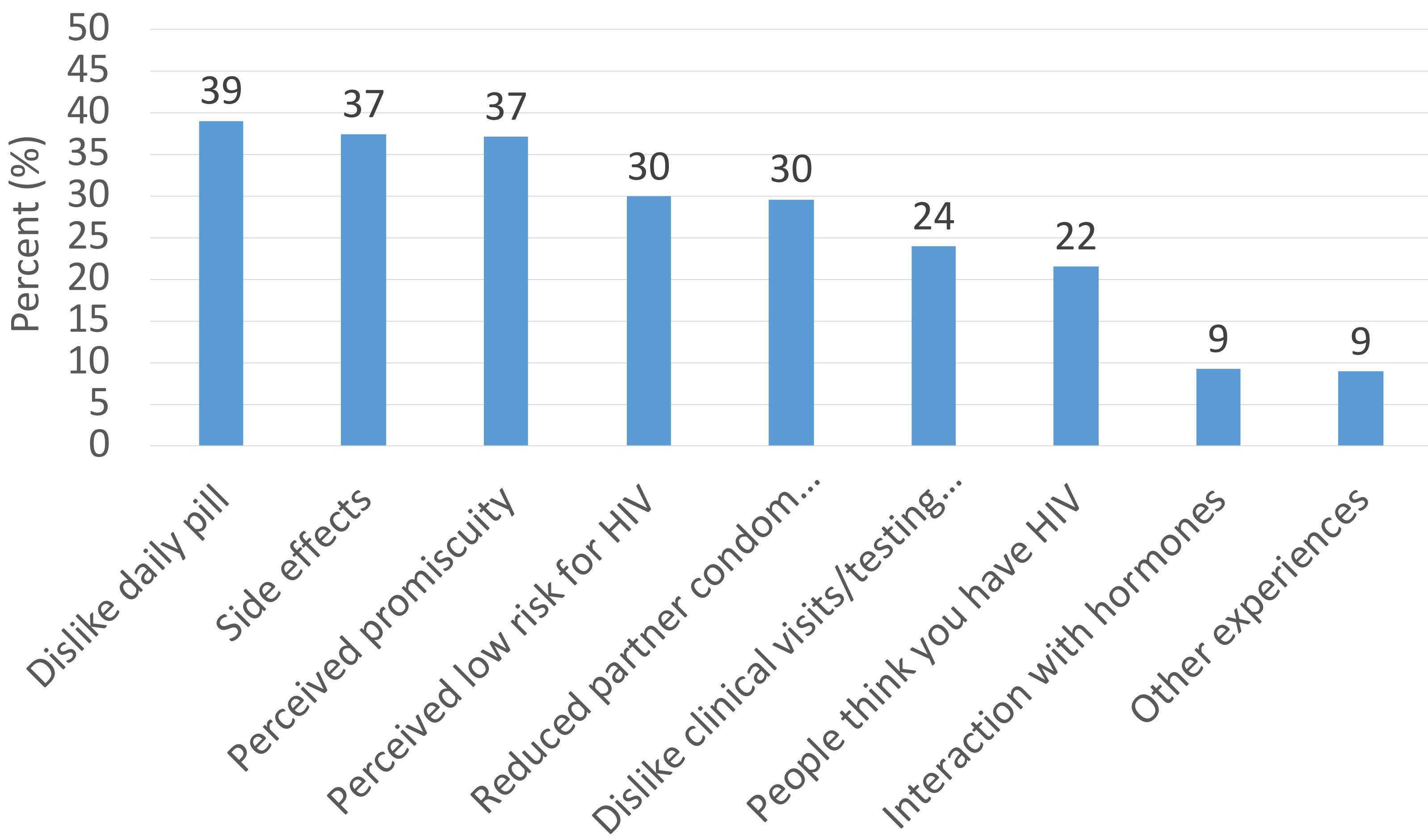
**Figure 3.** PrEP Continuum among sexually active, HIV uninfected transgender women



### Results:

- Controlling for in-person or online cohort status and Medicaid expansion, current PrEP use was **more common** among participants who were currently engaged in **sex work** (aOR: 2.3; 95%CI: 1.4-3.7), and report **substance misuse** (DAST >3; aOR: 1.7; 95CI: 1.1-2.8). Participants who were **aged 18-24** were **less likely** to report PrEP use (aOR: 0.6; 95%CI: 0.3-0.9)

**Figure 4.** Experiences while using PrEP



### Conclusions:

- Almost half of HIV-uninfected TGW in this study met clinical indication for PrEP use, but current use was low.
- Findings highlight the need to address concerns about PrEP and investigate innovations in demand generation and distribution
- Monitoring PrEP use over time among cohort participants will provide insight into PrEP use patterns and adherence among TGW in the U.S.