

# Staff in Ryan White centers demonstrate improved awareness related to PrEP

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CONFERENCE  
ON HIV CARE & TREATMENT

# Introduction

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is crucial for ending the HIV epidemic, yet it is underutilized by people at risk for HIV.



In 2016 there were 77,000 people on PrEP in the US out of an estimated 1.2 million at high risk for contracting HIV (6.4%)

[AIDSVU 2016 PrEP Utilization](#)

Barriers to PrEP may be due to a lack of clinical staff awareness.



Question: Does Ryan White funding impact awareness of PrEP?

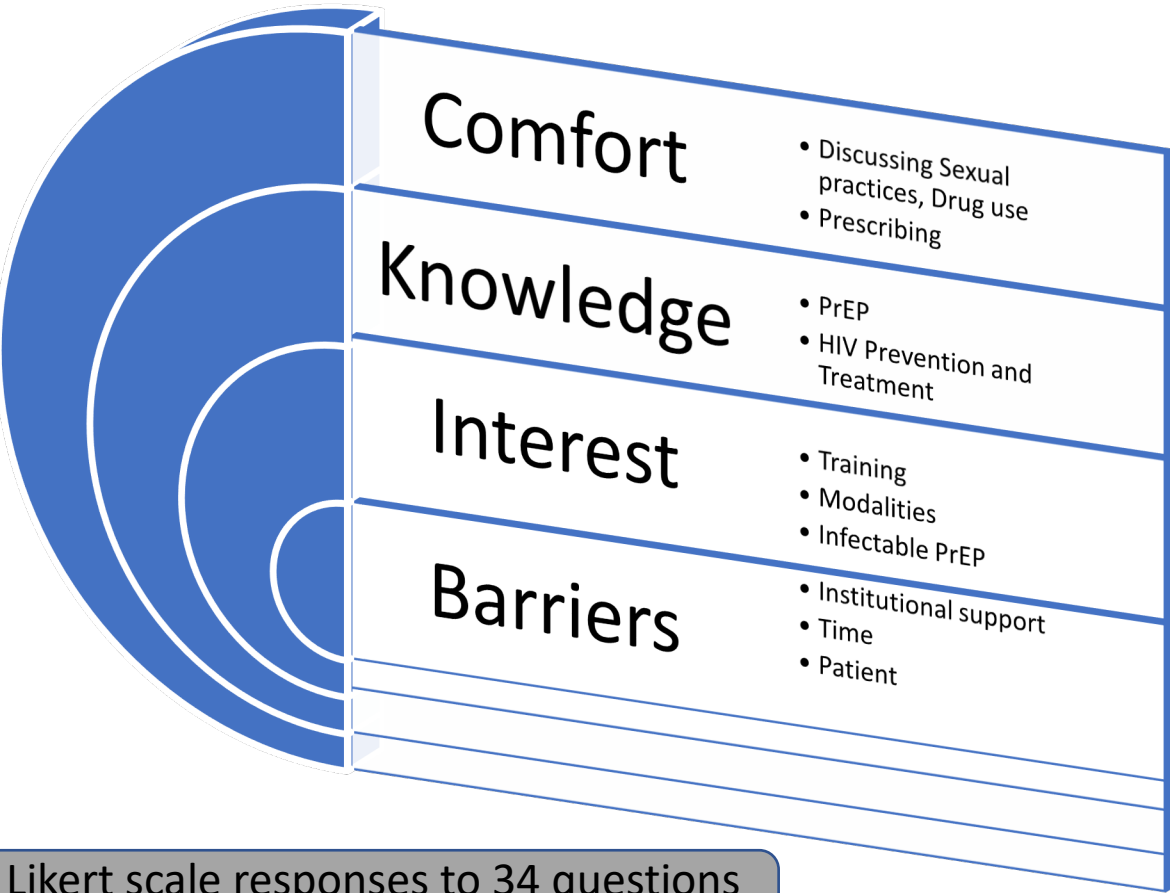
Three FQHCs in Connecticut were surveyed for PrEP awareness. Two were Ryan White funded (RW) and one was not (NRW).



The project was part of a larger Practice Transformation project of the CT Regional Partner of the New England AIDS Education and Training Center

The survey was adapted from Tortelli et al, 2019 ([Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 80\(2\): e49–e52.](#)) and administered over several months to prescribing and non-prescribing providers, as well as non-clinical staff.

# Survey Content and Respondents



Likert scale responses to 34 questions in four general categories

## Respondents

Ryan White (RW)



Total respondents: 50

Aged 25-35: 40%  
 Aged 36-45: 20%

Identified as female: 76%

Non-Prescribers: 68%

Non-Ryan White (NRW)



Total respondents: 64

Aged 25-35: 30%  
 Aged 36-45: 30%

Identified as female: 80%

Non-Prescribers: 72%

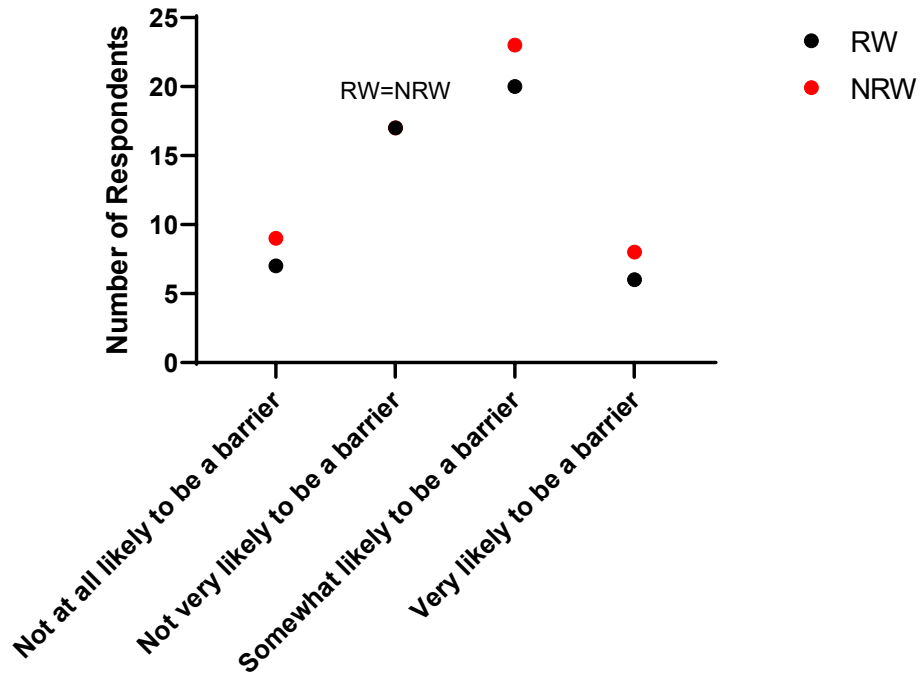
# Concordant vs. Discordant response patterns

Most responses were concordant across RW and NRW clinics

Some responses were discordant across RW and NRW clinics

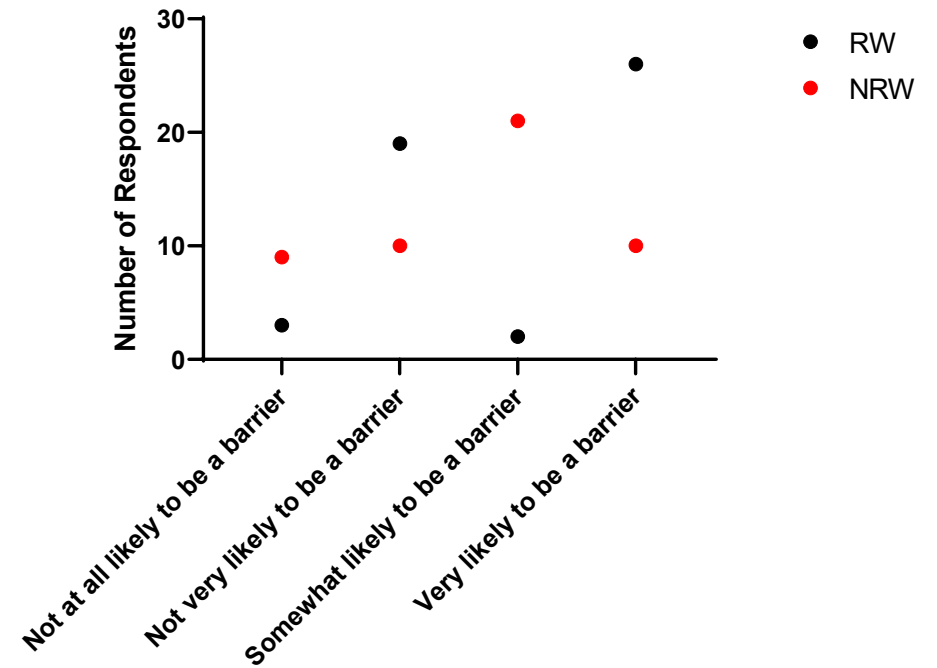
Staffing/time constraints related to risk reduction and PrEP adherence counseling

Chi-square
0.2883, 3
0.9622
ns



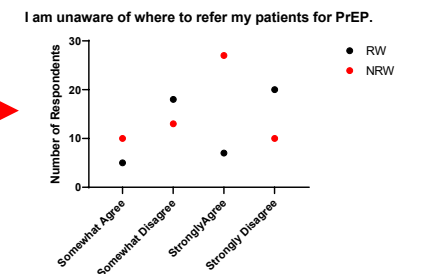
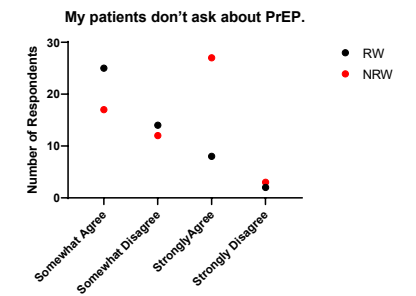
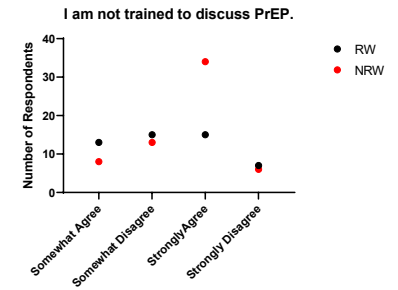
Chi-square
28.60, 3
<0.0001
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Lack of provider training/education regarding PrEP



# Key Discordant Responses

Survey Statement	RW Strongly Agree	NRW Strongly Agree	Chi-Square
I am not trained to discuss PrEP	30%	56%	p=0.05
My patients don't ask about PrEP	16%	46%	p=0.01
I am unaware of where to refer my patients for PrEP	14%	45%	p=0.008



## Conclusions

- Healthcare professionals at the three FQHCs show similar response patterns to most statements about PrEP
- Several discordant responses reveal some potential educational/resource gaps that may reflect differences in the clinical culture of RW funded facilities

## Future Directions

- Outreach to NRW clinics to promote
  - PrEP education for all levels of staff
  - PrEP awareness materials for patients
  - Resources to help clinics promote PrEP awareness among their patients and staff