HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis continuum and reasons for never using pre-exposure prophylaxis among transfeminine persons in the United States: results from the Transgender Women's Internet Survey and Testing (TWIST)

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Background

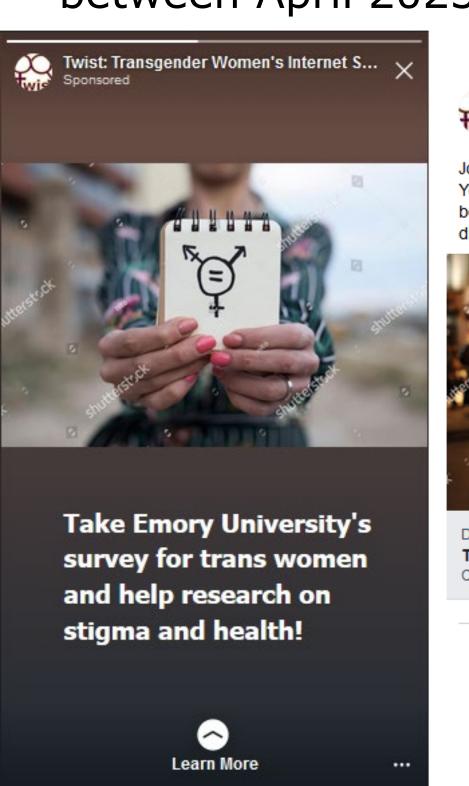
- > The estimated HIV incidence is 5.5 per 1000 person-years in the eastern and southern US among transfeminine persons (TFP)
- > Information about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) utilization among TFP remains scarce.

OBJECTIVE: We examined current PrEP use, adherence, persistence and reasons for never using PrEP among a US nationwide sample of TFP.

Methods

> Recruitment

- Online survey recruitment through banner ads on social media, sexseeking websites and apps
- Participants completed the survey between April 2023 to June 2024





> Eligibility Criteria

- 15 years of age or older
- Assigned male sex at birth
- Identify as female, transgender women, and/or transfeminine nonbinary people
- Reported ever oral, anal or vaginal sex

> Additional analytic criteria

- Reported oral, anal, or vaginal sex in the past 12 months
- No self-report of prior HIV diagnosis

> Measures

 PrEP use, dose, duration, and reasons for never using PrEP (stratified by age).

> Statistical Analysis

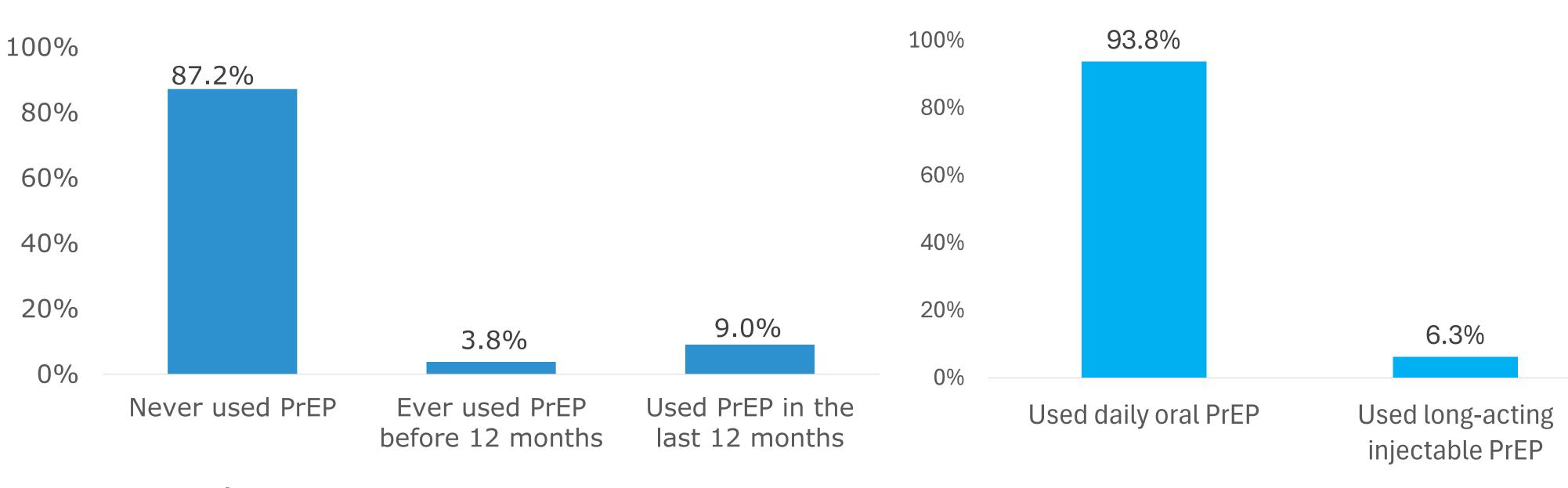
- We descriptively examined PrEP use characteristics
- We examined reasons for never using PrEP, stratified by age

Results

- > Of 1625 TFP not living with HIV (median age:24),
- 76% (1236/1625) were non-Hispanic White,
- 11% (185/1625) were Hispanic/Latino,
- 65% (1058/1625) resided in large central/fringe metro counties

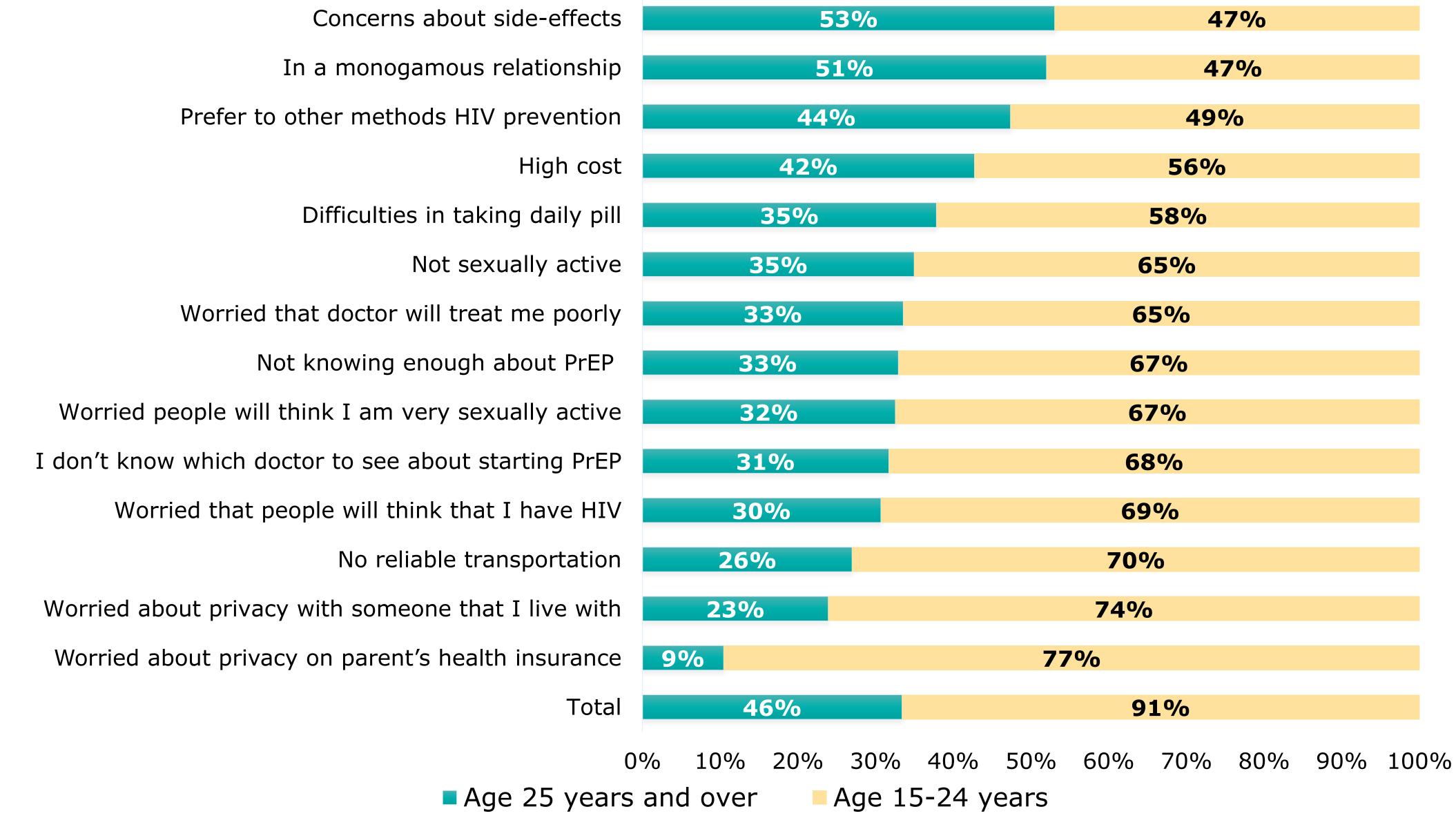
Of 1625 TFP not living with HIV:

Among 96 TFP who were currently using PrEP:



- >Among oral PrEP users,
- 64% (58/90) used 30 pills in the last 30 days
- 28% (25/90) persisted taking PrEP more than 24 consecutive months
- \triangleright Among those who didn't use PrEP daily, 25% (8/32) were taking PrEP when they had sex.
- > Among those who never used PrEP, 67% (947/1417) were aware of PrEP

Figure. Reasons for never using PrEP among transfeminine persons, stratified by age group, The Transgender Women's Internet Survey and Testing (TWIST) project, United States, 2023-2024 (n=1417)



* Total number of participants aged 15-24 years were 770 and participants aged 25 years and over were 647. Participants were allowed to choose more than one option.

Conclusions

- > PrEP use among TFP remains low even though PrEP has been available for more than a decade in the US.
- > Strategies to increase PrEP use among TFP could be tailored to address needs of specific age groups.
- > LA PrEP may address difficulties in taking a daily pill, long term side effects as well as worries about "disclosure" and privacy, particularly among young TFP.

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