

# HIV Clinic Staff and Community Perspectives on Long-Acting Injectable HIV Antiretroviral Treatment in New York City

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*Envisioning a New York City without transmission or illness related to viral hepatitis, HIV, and sexually transmitted infections.*

# Introduction

- Despite many improvements upon daily oral HIV antiretroviral treatment (ART), challenges still exist, including pill burden, adherence, and stigma.
- People with HIV (PWH) deserve autonomy to choose an ART modality that works for their life.
- The first long-acting injectable (LAI) ART regimen (Cabenuva) was FDA approved for monthly use in January 2021.
  - Approved for 2-month dosing in February 2022.
- Our formative work aimed to better understand providers and PWH's knowledge and opinions on LAI ART to inform the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's technical assistance strategy.

## HIV Clinic Staff and Community Perspectives on LAI ART in NYC

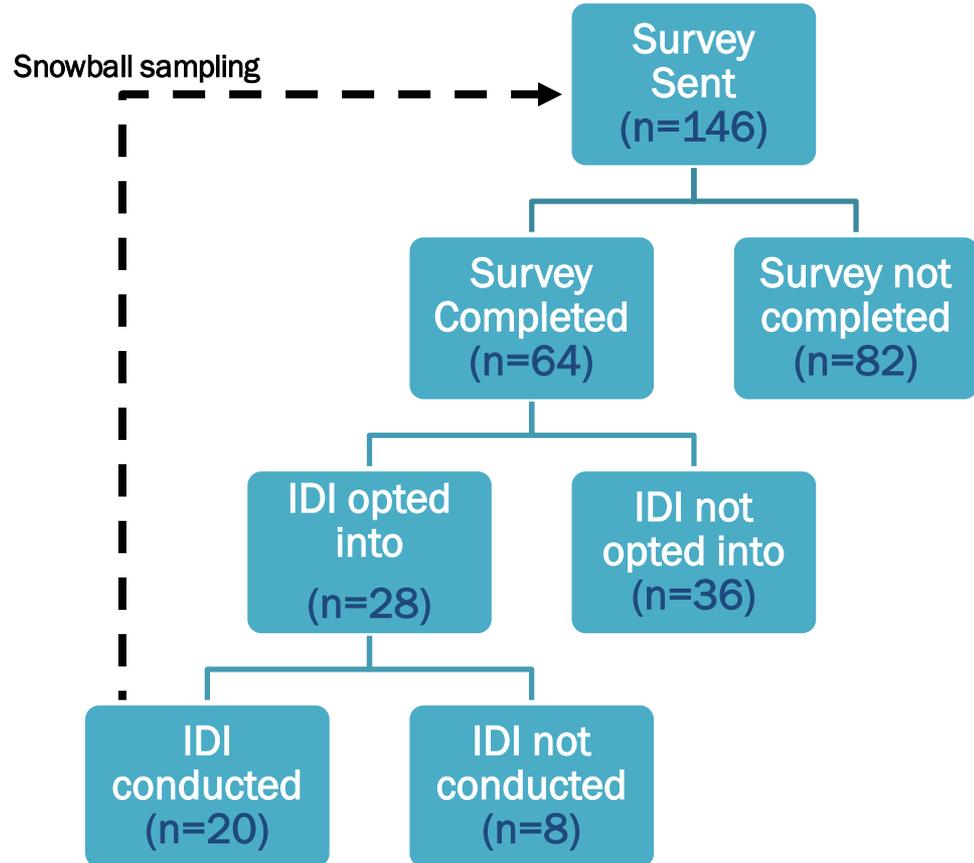
**Aim 1:** To assess HIV clinic staff knowledge, attitudes, practices, and perceived barriers and facilitators to implementing LAI ART.

**Aim 2:** To assess community members' knowledge, attitudes, practices, and perceived barriers and facilitators to utilizing LAI ART.

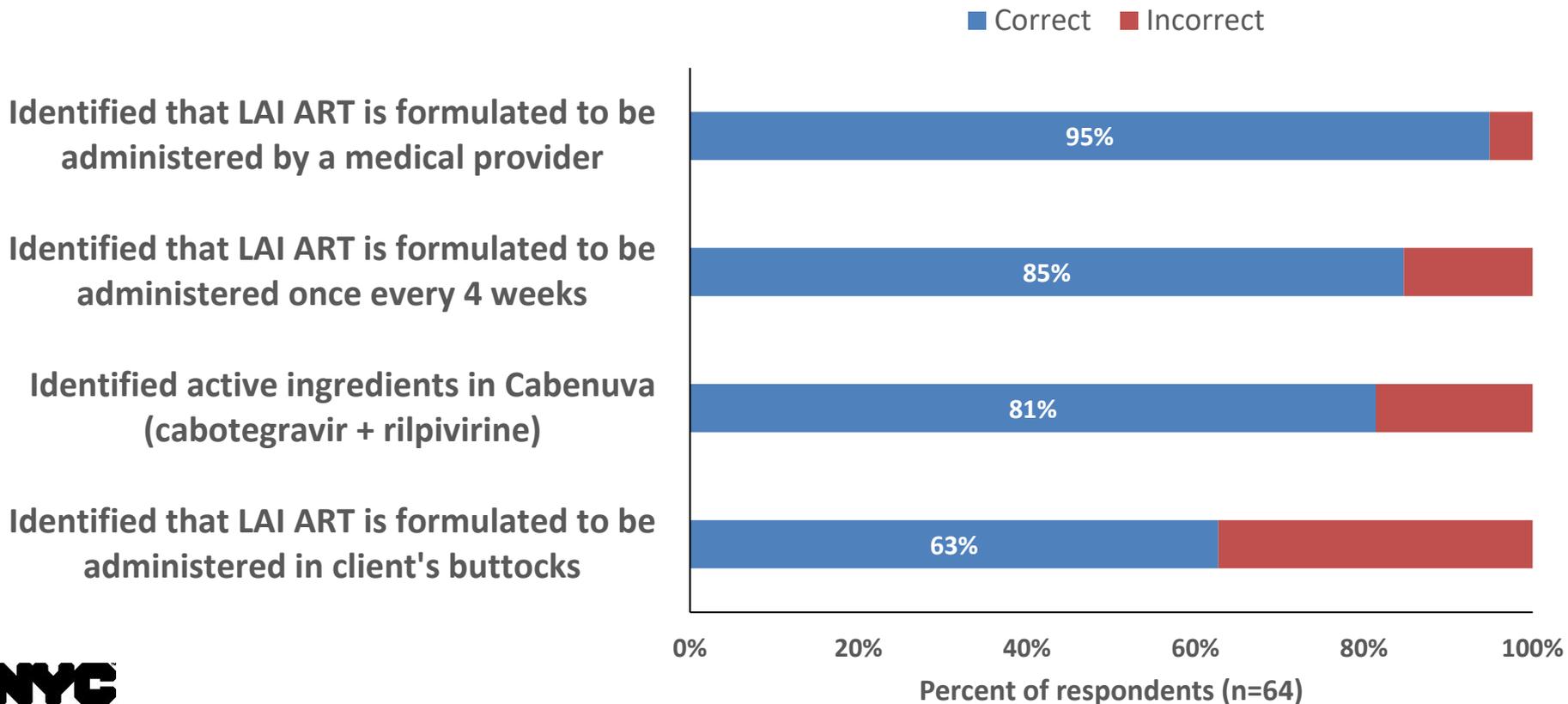
**Aim 3:** To develop a set of recommendations for LAI ART implementation to facilitate HIV clinic and community readiness to roll out LAI ART.

# Methods

- **Provider feedback**
  - Online surveys and in-depth interviews (IDI) conducted February to August 2021
  - Purposive sampling
  - Sampled clinics located in EHE counties in NYC
  - $\geq 1$  clinical and  $\geq 1$  administrative staff member selected from each site
- **Consumer feedback**
  - Inclusion criteria:
    - Live in an EHE county
    - Self-identify as living with HIV
  - Four community listening sessions with 29 total participants held virtually in August 2021

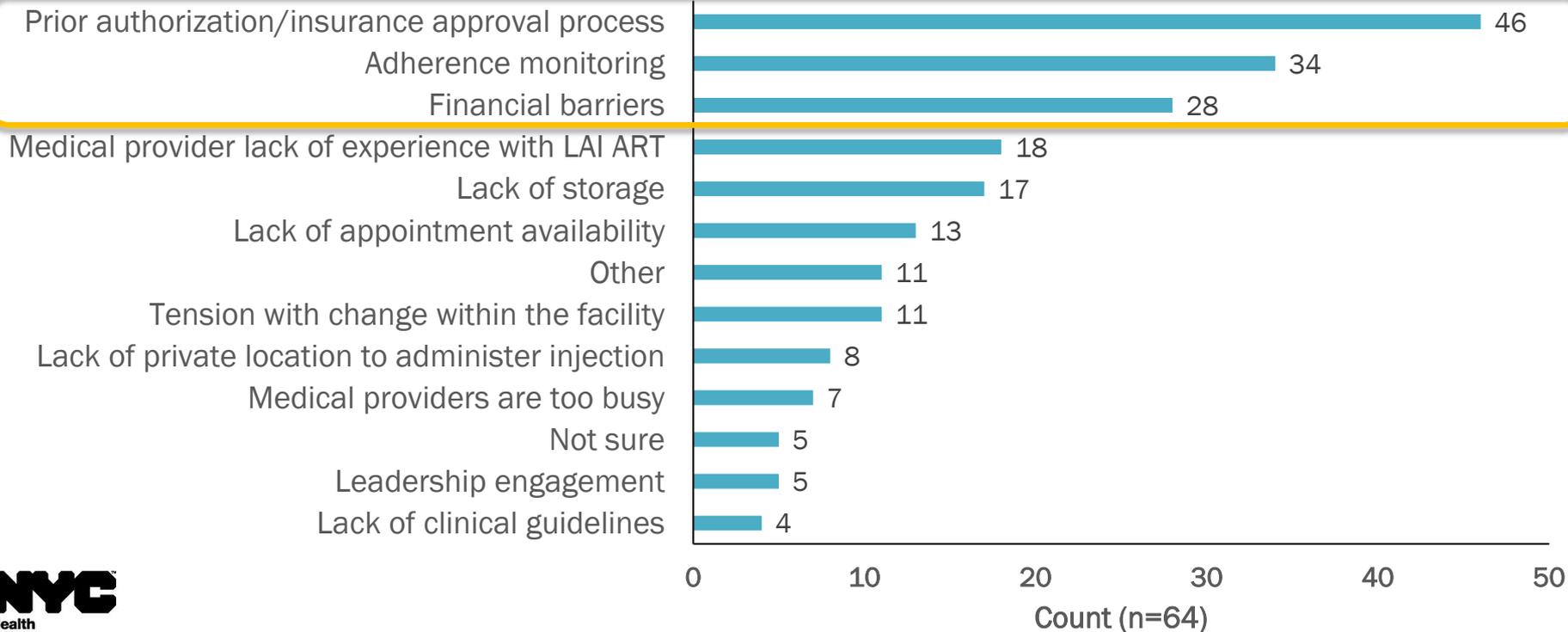


# Provider Results: Knowledge



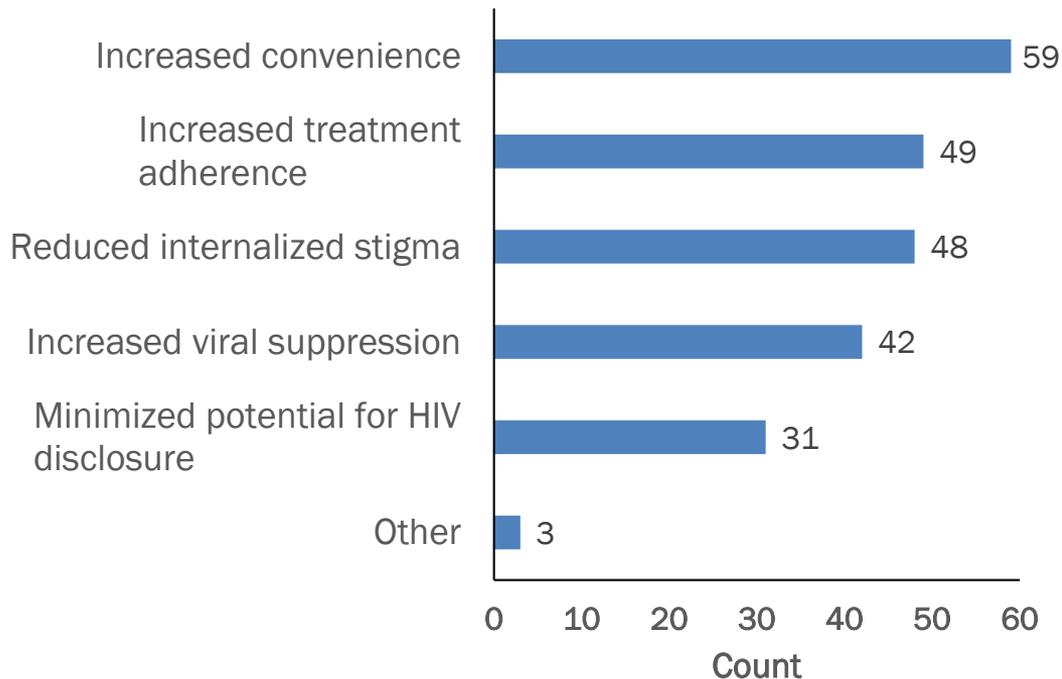
# Provider Results: Facility-level Challenges

Which of the following do you think will be challenges for your facility in the initiation of LAI ART?



# Provider Results: Perceived Client-Level Benefits and Challenges

## Perceived Client-Level Benefits



- Most providers (79%) believed that **fewer than half of their current HIV clientele would be interested in LAI ART** when available.
- Potential client-level challenges:
  - Appointment adherence
  - Cost
  - Vaccine hesitancy and medical mistrust

# Community Listening Session Results

## Knowledge

- Most had heard of LAI ART, mainly through providers or support groups

## Benefits

- No need to remember daily pill, enhanced privacy, convenience, reduced internalized stigma

## Concerns

- Increased number of clinic visits, lack of available educational materials and peer support, potentially triggering for people who use drugs, side effects

## Community Readiness

- Prioritize underserved communities, distinct messaging, social marketing, call for transparent messaging

## Consumer Preference

- Mixed!

# Discussion

- High level of provider knowledge, but identified significant implementation hurdles
- Acknowledgement of many potential client-level benefits
- Concerns about equitable access to LAI ART
- Providers and consumers appear to agree that LAI ART as currently formulated likely will not be adopted by a large percentage of PWH, but it is an important option to have
- Use Cabenuva as a learning experience for future long-acting ART regimens
- This formative work will be used to:
  - Develop materials and technical assistance to scale up LAI ART in NYC
  - Inform future research to improve the health of all New Yorkers



# THANK YOU!

Questions? Sarah Wiant ([swiant@health.nyc.gov](mailto:swiant@health.nyc.gov)).