

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.

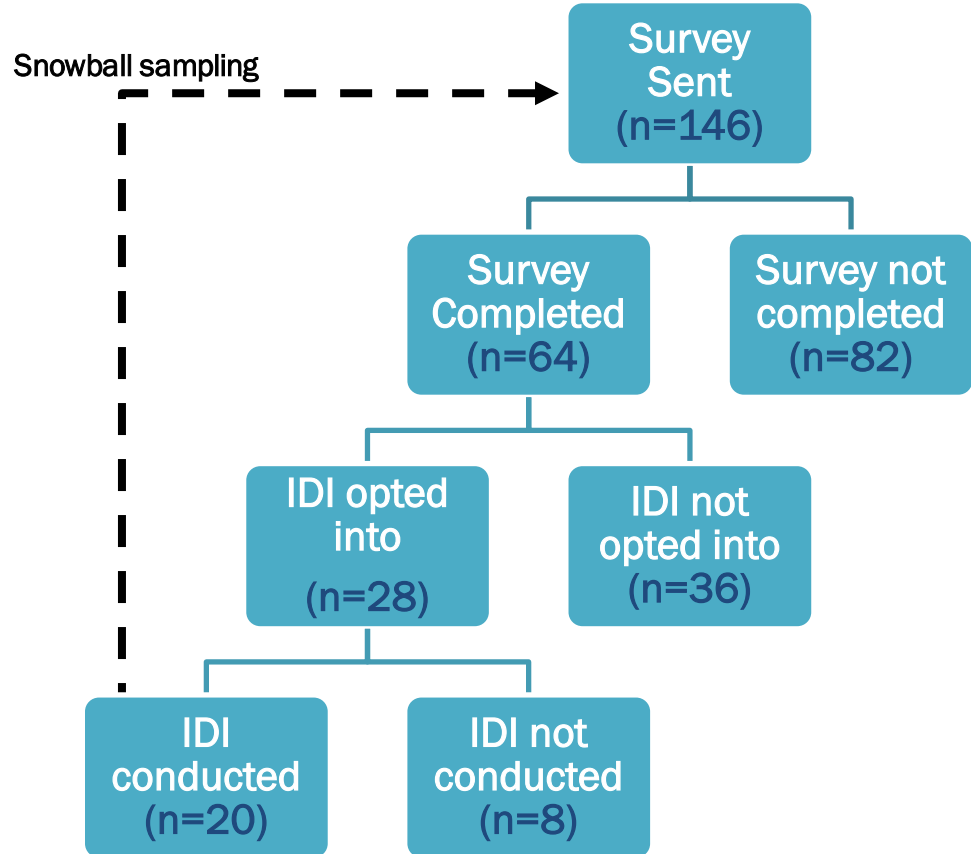
Methods

- **Provider feedback**

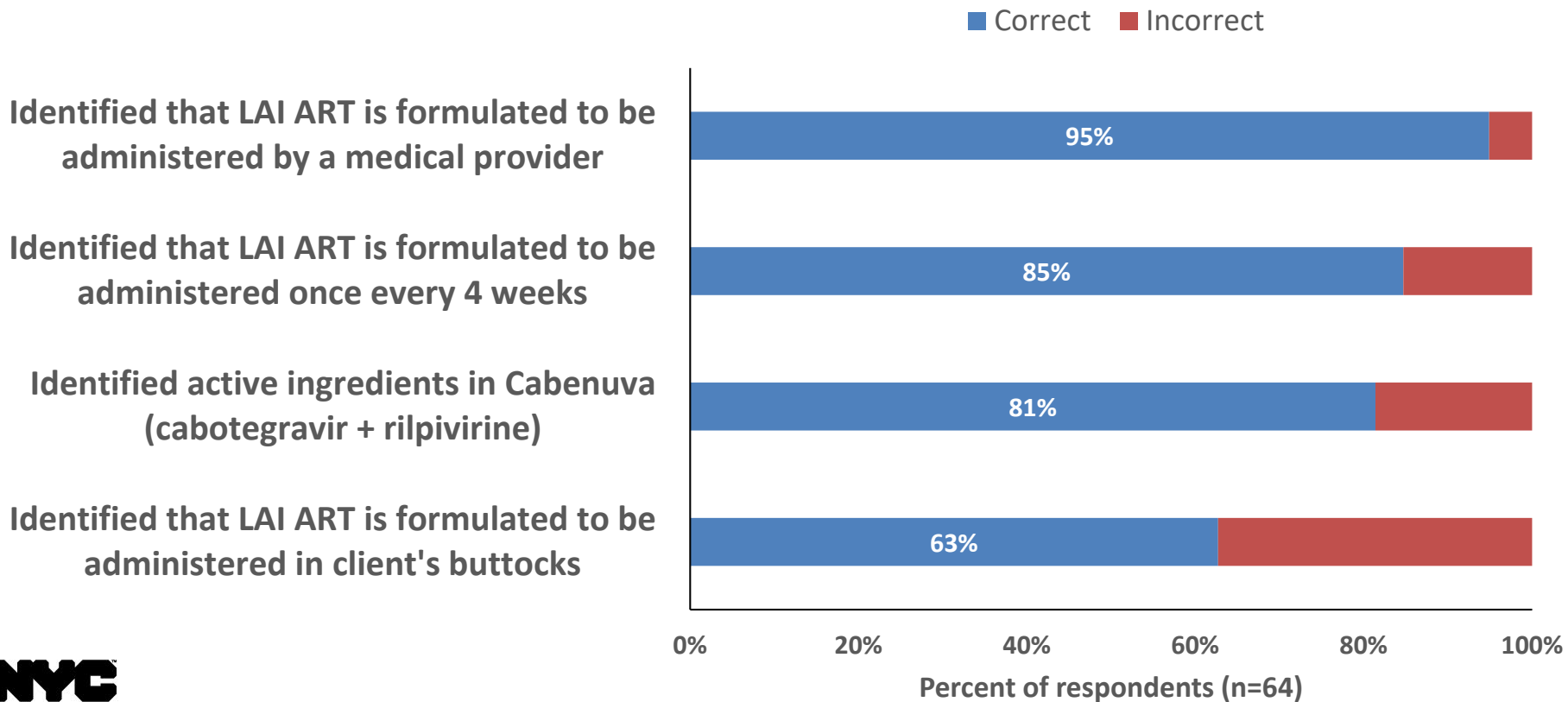
- Online surveys and in-depth interviews (IDI) conducted February to August 2021
- Purposive sampling
- Sampled clinics located in EHE counties in NYC
- ≥ 1 clinical and ≥ 1 administrative staff member selected from each site

- **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

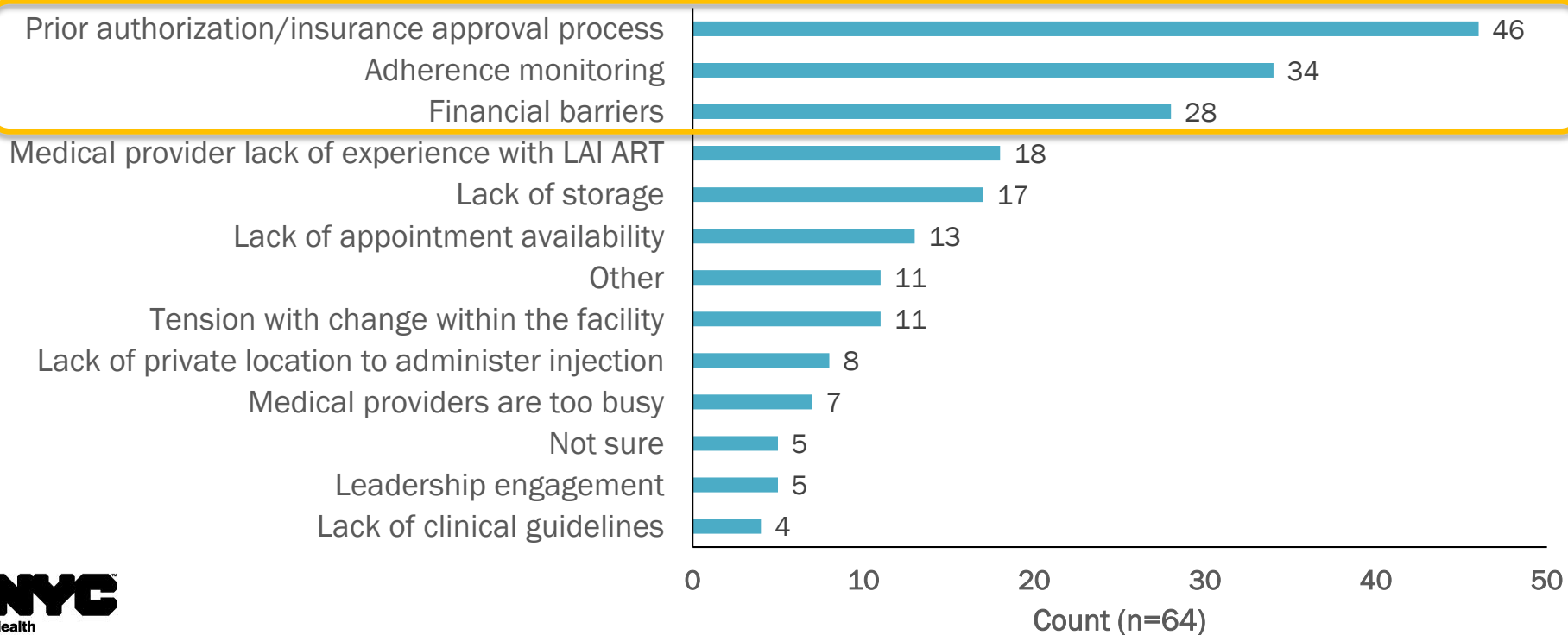


Provider Results: Knowledge



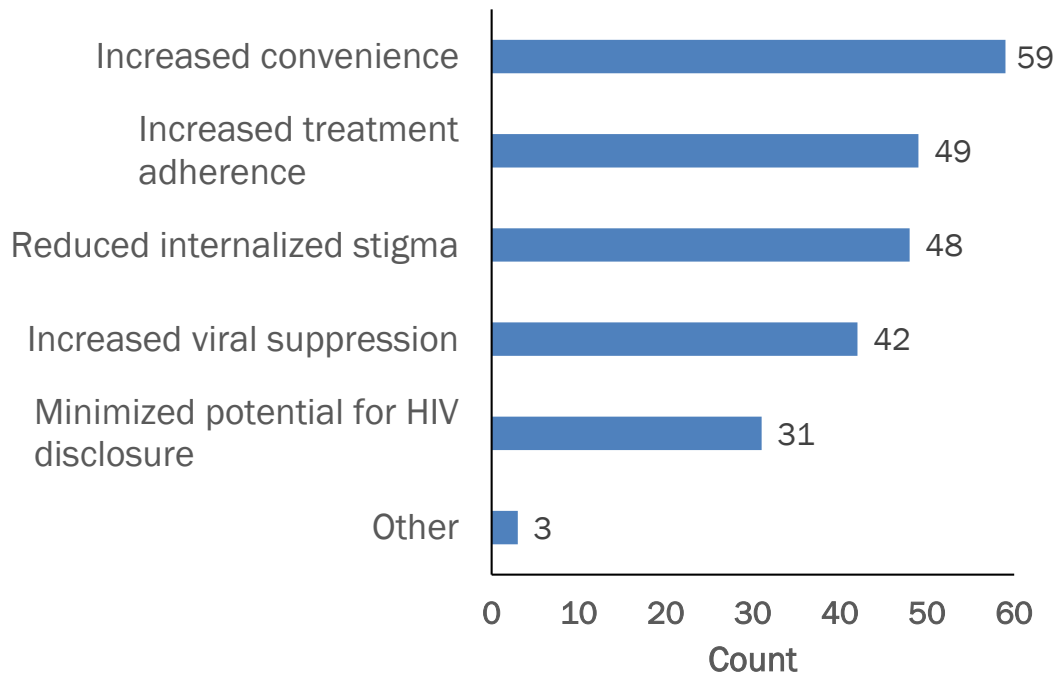
Provider Results: Facility-level Challenges

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).