

BACKGROUND

- Initiatives to increase HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) uptake have predominantly focused on men who have sex with men and indications via sexual behaviors.
- Persons who inject drugs (PWID) may be at risk for HIV via both injection and sexual behaviors, yet few programs target PrEP outreach to PWID.
- Information on changes in PrEP awareness and use over time are limited. According to 2018 National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS), only 1% of U.S. PWID had used PrEP in the past year.
- This analysis examined changes in PrEP awareness and use among U.S. PWID between 2018 and 2022 overall and by key characteristics.

METHODS

- We analyzed data from 2018 and 2022 NHBS among eligible, HIV-negative PWID recruited via respondent-driven sampling in 19 U.S. cities.
- We obtained adjusted prevalence ratios (aPRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) using log-linked Poisson models with robust standard errors accounting for clustering by recruitment chain and adjusting for city and participant network size to assess changes over time in PrEP outcomes:
 - PrEP awareness
 - PrEP use in the past 12 months

RESULTS

- PrEP awareness** increased from 25.6% (2,333/9,118) in 2018 to 35.3% (2,141/6,058) in 2022 (Figure 1).
- PrEP use remained low and stable, from 1.2% (108/9,115) in 2018 to 1.2% in 2022 (75/6,055) (Figure 1).**

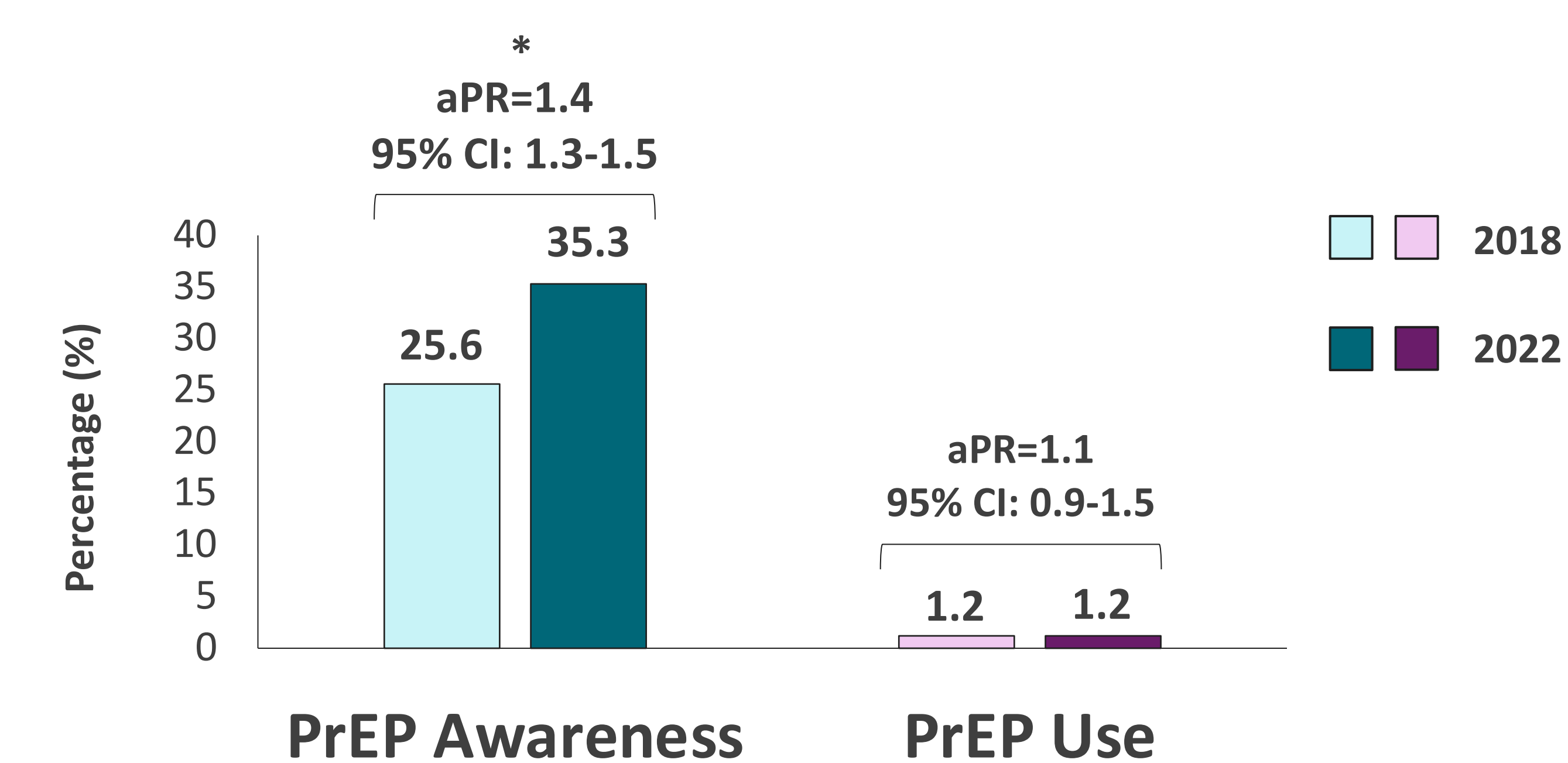
- Significant increases in **PrEP awareness** were consistent across subgroups (Figure 2).
- Some behavioral subgroups did experience significant increases in **PrEP use**; however, these increases were small. Most subgroups had stable and suboptimal proportions using PrEP (Figure 2).

CONCLUSIONS

- Consistent increases in **PrEP awareness** across subgroups suggest that PrEP messaging is reaching groups with a greater risk of HIV acquisition, yet changes may be due to a generalized increase in awareness overall.
- Despite increases, **only 1 in 3 PWID were aware of PrEP** in 2022.
- PWID at higher risk of injection-related HIV acquisition and those who obtained HIV-related services did experience significant increases in PrEP use unlike other subgroups.
- Nevertheless, **PrEP use remained suboptimal, with only 1 in 100 PWID having used PrEP** in the past year.
- Efforts to **improve PrEP messaging, provider training, and access specifically for PWID** may further increase PrEP awareness and use.

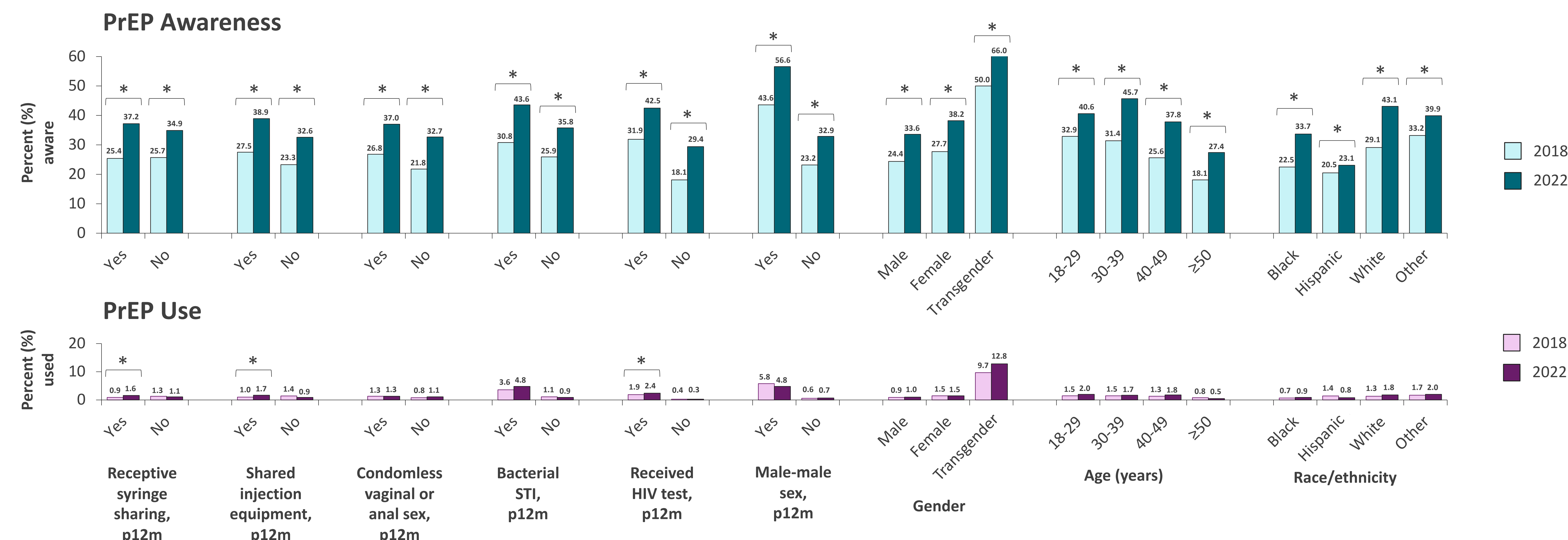
From 2018 to 2022
among persons who inject drugs:
PrEP awareness significantly increased
PrEP use remained low and stable

FIGURE 1. Changes in PrEP awareness and use among HIV-negative persons who inject drugs – NHBS, 2018 and 2022



Abbreviations: aPR, adjusted prevalence ratio; CI, confidence interval
Notes: Models used log-linked Poisson regression with generalized estimating equations, accounting for clustering by respondent-driven sampling recruitment chain and adjusted for city and participant network size.
*Significant at $p < 0.05$

FIGURE 2. Changes in PrEP awareness and use among HIV-negative persons who inject drugs by key characteristics – NHBS, 2018 and 2022



Abbreviations: aPR, adjusted prevalence ratio; CI, confidence interval
Notes: Models used log-linked Poisson regression with generalized estimating equations, accounting for clustering by respondent-driven sampling recruitment chain and adjusted for city and participant network size.
*Significant at $p < 0.05$

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