Enhancing HIV PrEP Coverage Through Primary Care Initiation: A French Nationwide Study

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BACKGROUND

❖ **HIV PrEP in France:**
- Based on Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate + Emtricitabine (TDF-FTC) (available and reimbursed since January 1, 2016)
- **84 997 new users** in France from 2016 to June 2023 (Epi-Phare team)[1]
- Low diversity of users profiles (2016 to June 2023): **men (97.0%),** ≈36 years old, living in **large metropolitan areas (71.0%)**, socio-economically **advantaged (92.4%)**

❖ To improve access to PrEP, PrEP initiations (PrEP*in*) has been extended to any practitioner, including primary care practitioners from June 1st, 2021[2]

OBJECTIVE

Depiction of the deployment and characteristics of the PrEP*in* in primary care (from June 2021 to December 2022) using the French National Health Data System (*Système National des Données de Santé*, SNDS)

METHODS

❖ **Data sources**: SNDS (reimbursements of health expenditures for more than 99% of residents in France)

❖ **Study population**: all people aged 15 years or over, receiving at least **1 reimbursement of TDF-FTC alone** prescribed in primary care between June 1st, 2021 and December 31st, 2022 and HIV-negative at the first dispensation (date of initiation)

RESULTS

❖ Total of PrEP*in* (June 2021-December 2022) = 13 500

❖ Total of prescribers : 5125 (only private practitioners could be identified)

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of PrEP users at the time of PrEP*in* (June 1st, 2021-December 31st, 2022)

	PrEP*in* (N = 13 500)	
	N	**%**
Gender		
Men	**12 996**	**96.3**
Women	504	3.7
Age (years)		
Mean (SD)	36.0 (11.8)	
Median (IQR)	33 (27-44)	
Low Socioeconomic level		
Yes	**1012**	**7.5**
No	12 488	92.5
Size of the urban area of residence (number of inhabitants)		
<2000	1090	8.1
2000-9999	749	5.5
10 000-49 999	757	5.6
50 000-199 999	1108	8.2
≥200 000	**9581**	**71.0**
Missing information	215	1.6

Main findings/ Conclusion

- PrEP initiations (PrEP*in*) increased in primary care in France, since their authorization in June 2021
- PrEP*in* beneficiaries were mainly men (96.3%), living in large metropolitan areas (71%), socioeconomically advantaged (92.5%)
- Prescribers were mainly General Practitioners (88%), but a low rate (44.7%) were the user's family practitioner: this highlights potential barriers of sharing sexual health concerns with the family practitioner
- Improving PrEP*in* coverage fails to enhance its access to women and socio-economically disadvantaged people, further requiring additional awareness-raising measures among target users and practitioners.

Figure 1: Monthly numbers of PrEP initiations (June 1, 2021-Decembre 31, 2022)

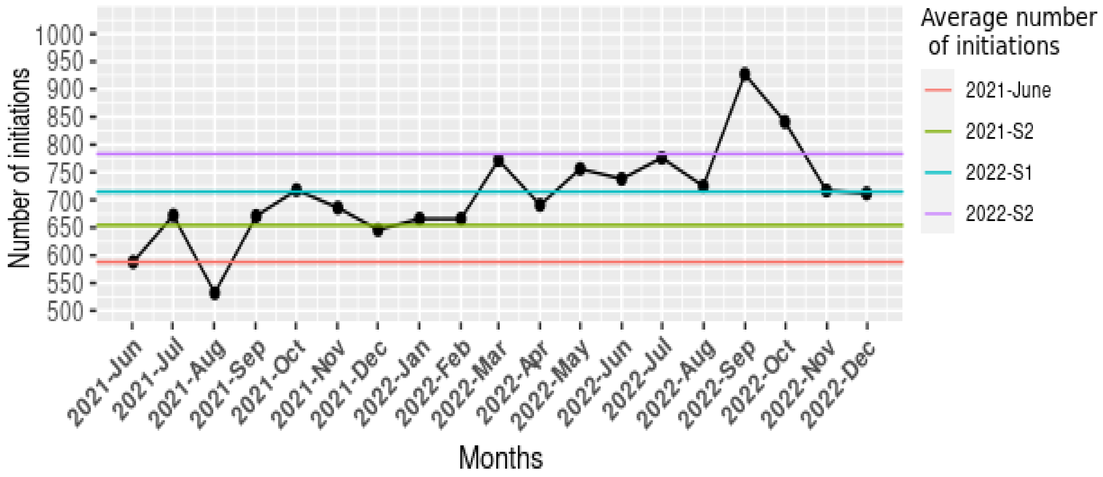


Figure 2: Percentages distribution of PrEP*in* by French regions

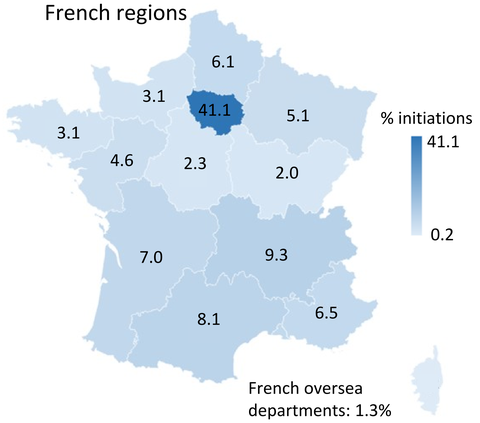


Figure 3: Medical specialties of prescribers of PrEP*in* over the period and renewals within the 6 months following PrEP*in*

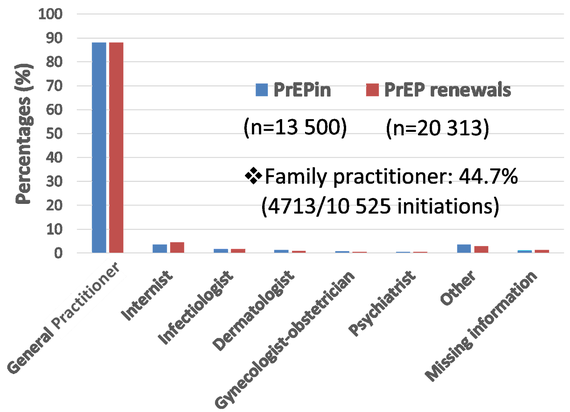


Table 2: Renewals within the 6 months following PrEP*in*

	Users in renewal within the 6 months (N*= 8783)
Number of PrEP renewals	
Mean (SD)	**3.3 (2.1)**
0	2567 (29.2)
1-2	2453 (27.9)
3-4	1866 (21.2)
≥ 5	1897 (21.6)

*Individuals who initiated PrEP between June 1st, 2021 and June 30, 2022 after excluding 19 HIV-infected people

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DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The authors have declared no conflicts of interest.

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