

Changes in PrEP Awareness and PrEP Use Among Trans Women in San Francisco: Comparing the PrEP Cascade Between 2019-2020 and 2023-2024

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BACKGROUND

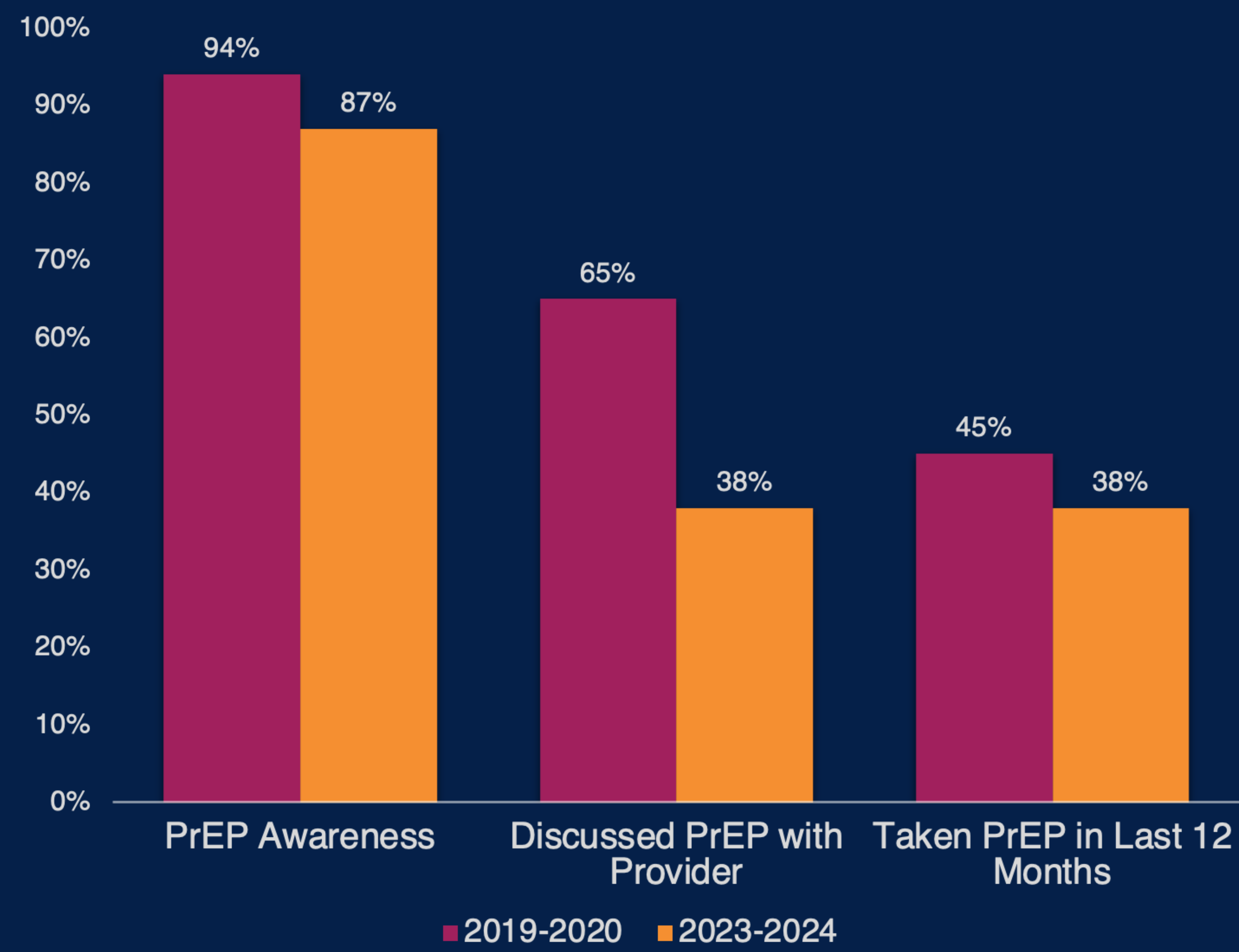
Improving the access and utilization of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a critical strategy for reducing HIV infection in transgender women (trans women) and ending the HIV epidemic. Although there has been an increase in awareness of PrEP among trans women in San Francisco in the past decade, PrEP use remains low.

METHODS

We analyzed data from the 2019-2020 and 2023-2024 cohorts of the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance Study in San Francisco. Trans women were recruited via respondent-driven sampling. Key indicators of the PrEP cascade were evaluated, including awareness, provider discussions, and recent use. Sample characteristics for each cohort were also collected and analyzed.

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Trans women in San Francisco have high awareness of PrEP, but discussions with providers and usage of PrEP continues to remain low.



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RESULTS

2019-2020 Sample Characteristics:
12% Black/AA, 42% Latinx, 22% White, 56% living at/below poverty level, 73% unemployed, 71% unstably housed/homeless, 9% IVDU.
2023-2024 Sample Characteristics:
19% Black/AA, 48% Latinx, 17% White, 77% living at/below poverty level, 67% unemployed, 38% unstably housed/homeless, 11% IVDU.

DISCUSSION

High awareness of PrEP among trans women in San Francisco has not translated to increased discussions with providers or increased use of PrEP. Interventions to increase trans women’s use of PrEP continue to be needed, especially at the provider and community level. Barriers to housing and income continue to negatively impact trans women, and programming to address these is essential for future efforts to improve HIV prevention.

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