

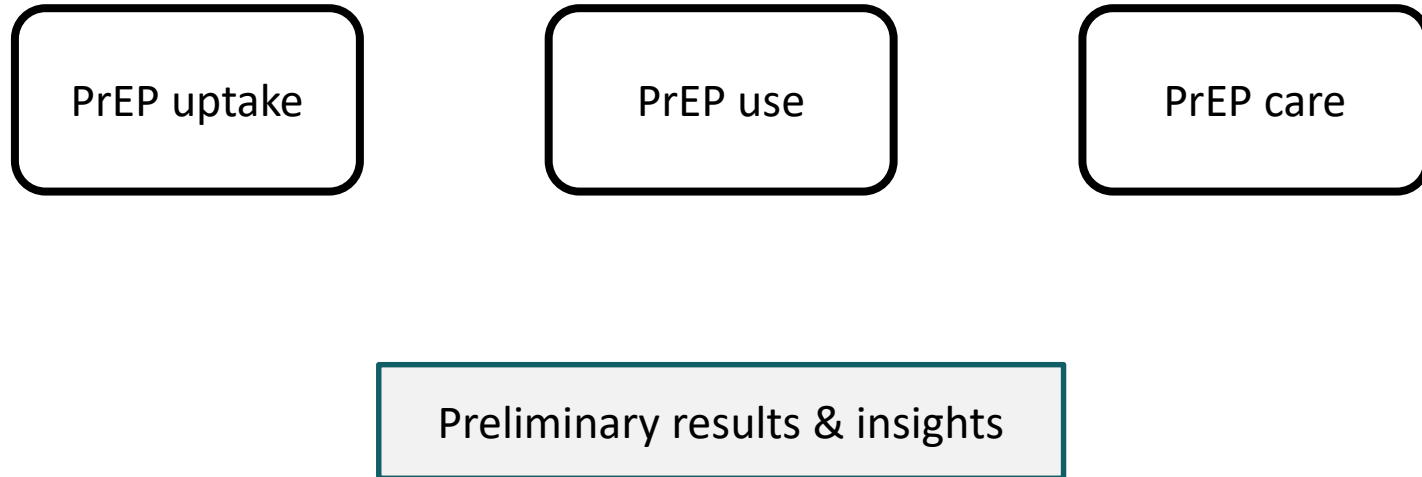
PROMISE project: update



THIJS REYNIERS
(ON BEHALF OF THE PROMISE TEAM)



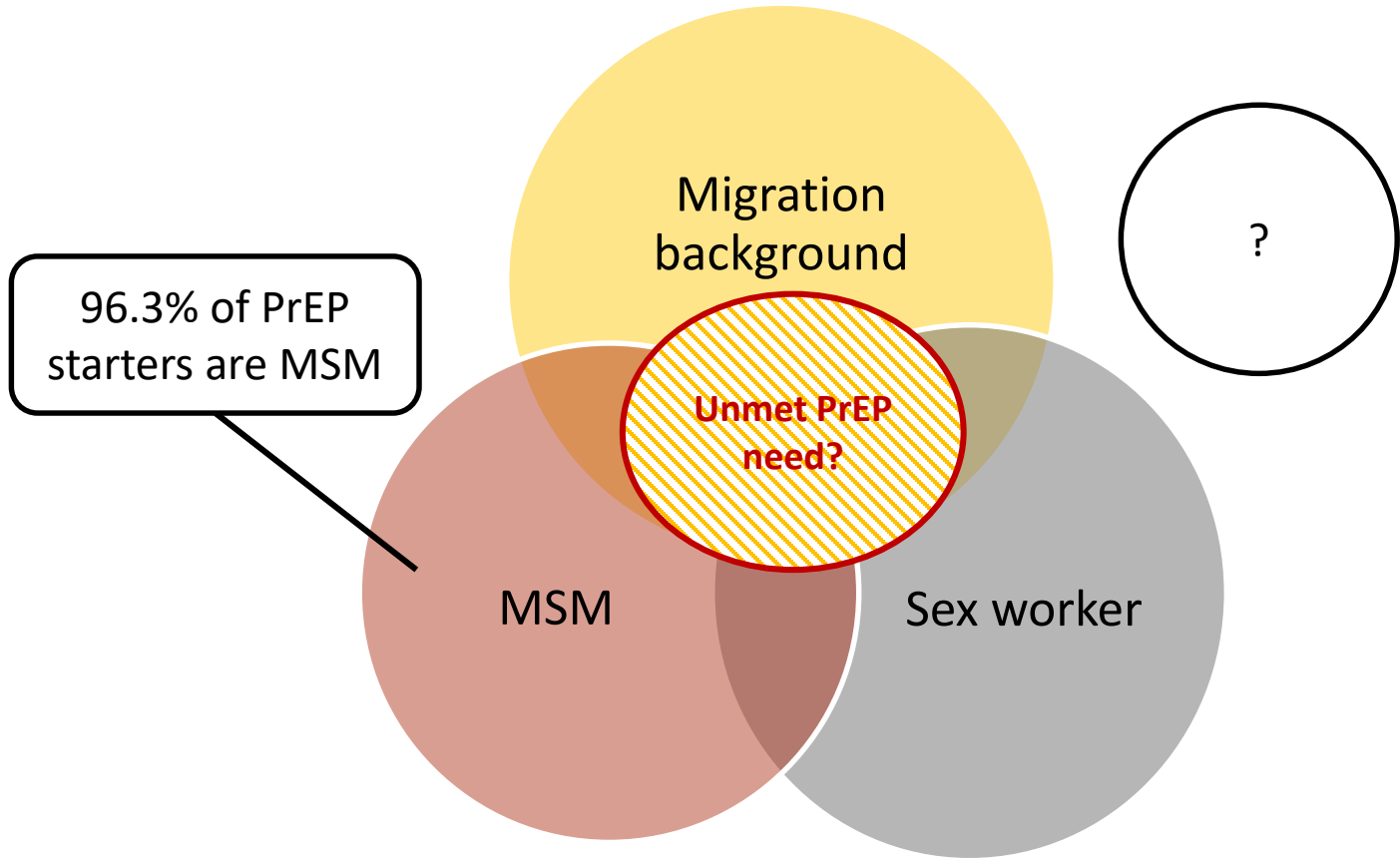
PROMISE: Optimise PrEP to maximise impact



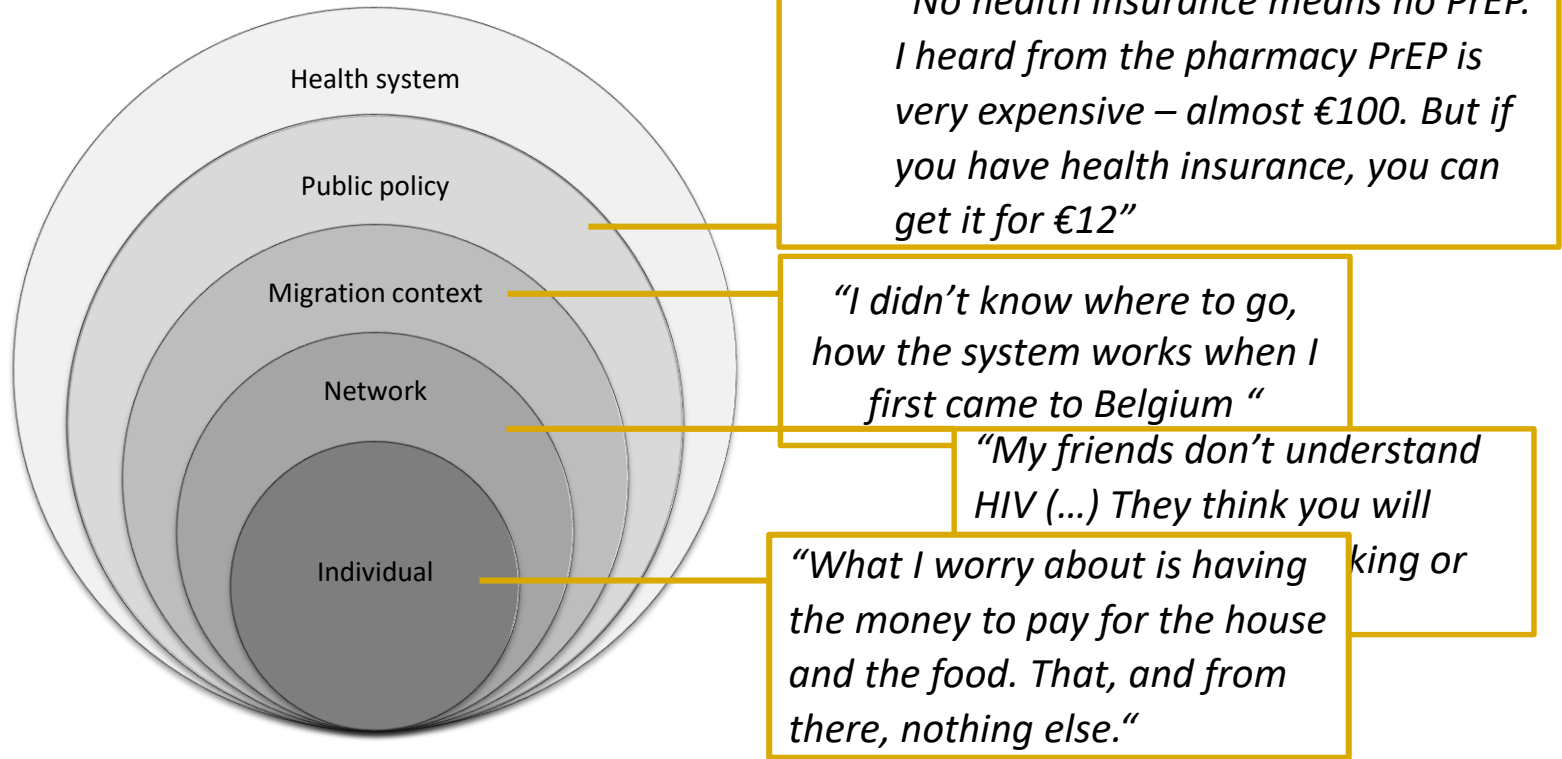
PROMISE: Optimise PrEP to maximise impact



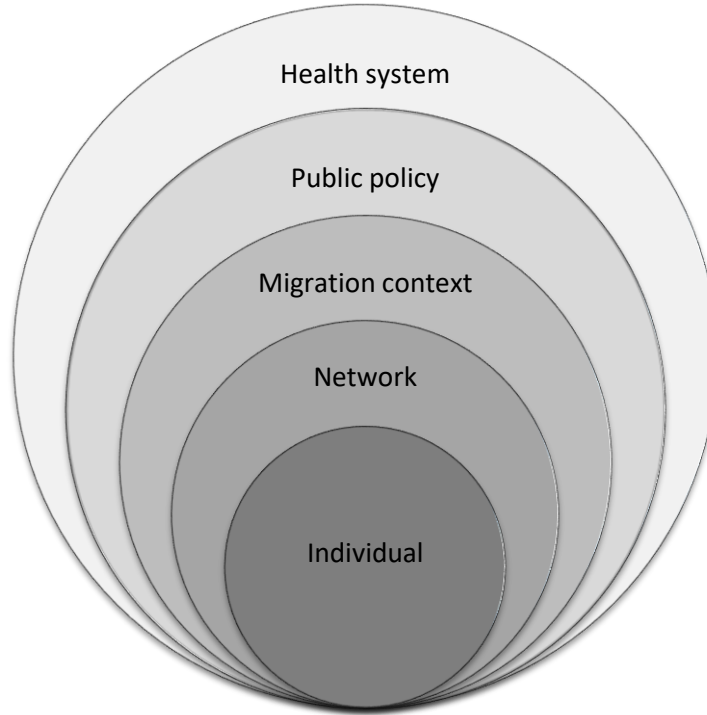
Are we reaching those most in need for PrEP?



Barriers experienced among people with migration background – in-depth interviews (n=23)



Barriers experienced among people with migration background – in-depth interviews (n=23)



To optimise PrEP uptake we need more structural support on different levels for people with a migrant background

Ella Van Landeghem et al., “As a rejected person, this is difficult for me” – leaving a structurally disadvantaged group behind in PrEP care; Poster presented at BREACH symposium La Hulpe. Nov 2021

PROMISE: Optimise PrEP to maximise impact

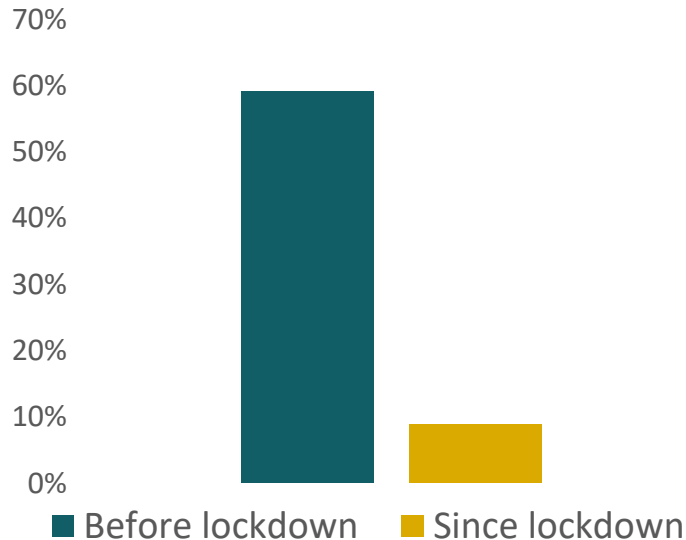


What was the impact of the first COVID-19 lockdown on PrEP use?

How well do PrEP users know how to safely start/stop with PrEP?

Reduced PrEP use among Belgian MSM during first COVID-19 lockdown – online survey (April 2020, n=694)

Proportion of MSM who had sex with non-steady partners

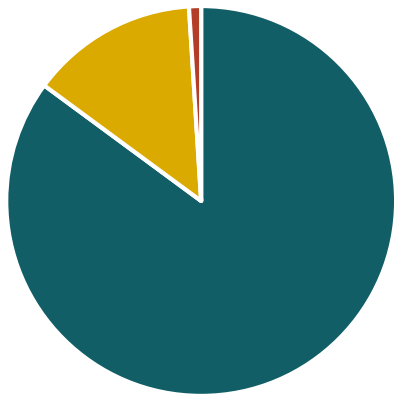


PrEP use before lockdown		PrEP use during early lockdown		
	Total	None	Event-driven	Daily
	n (%)	n (% of 'before')	n (% of 'before')	n (% of 'before')
Event-driven	90 (45.5)	51 (56.7)	35 (38.9)	4 (4.4)
Daily	108 (54.5)	42 (38.9)	4 (3.7)	62 (57.4)
Total	198 (100%)	93 (47.0)	39 (19.7)	66 (33.3)

Thijs Reyniers et al. Reduced sexual contacts with non-steady partners and less PrEP use among MSM in Belgium during the first weeks of the COVID-19 lockdown: results of an online survey. STI 2021; 97:414-19

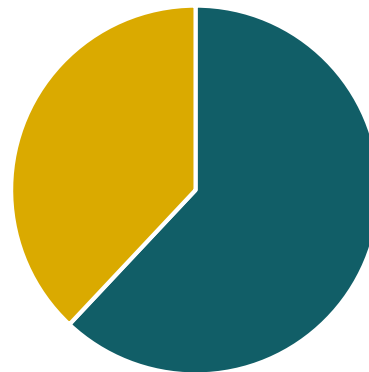
Knowledge on safely starting and stopping with PrEP – online survey among PrEP users (June 2021, n=208)

Self-perceived knowledge



■ Very good knowledge ■ General knowledge ■ Unsure

Actual knowledge



■ Correct ■ Incorrect

 Sensoa
Gesponsord · 

Jezelf beschermen tegen hiv hoeft niet complex te zijn. Herbeginnen met PrEP hangt af van hoelang geleden je een laatste pil nam. Ontdek hier hoe je dat concreet aanpakt. 📌

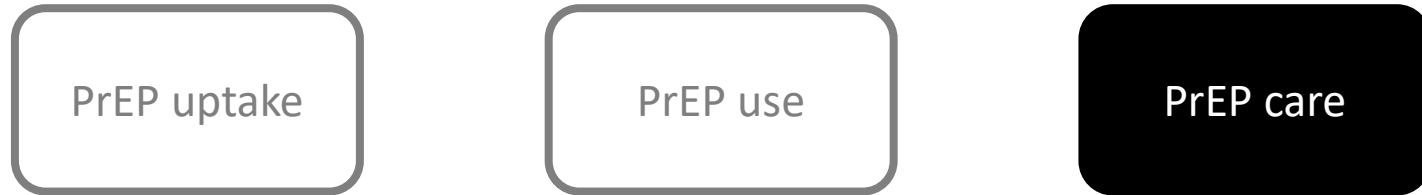
FAQ Is opnieuw starten met PrEP complex?



ALLESOVERSEKS.BE
Zo herstart je met PrEP
PrEP werkt preventief tegen een hiv-besmetting. Je kan PrEP enk...

[Meer informatie](#)

PROMISE: Optimise PrEP to maximise impact

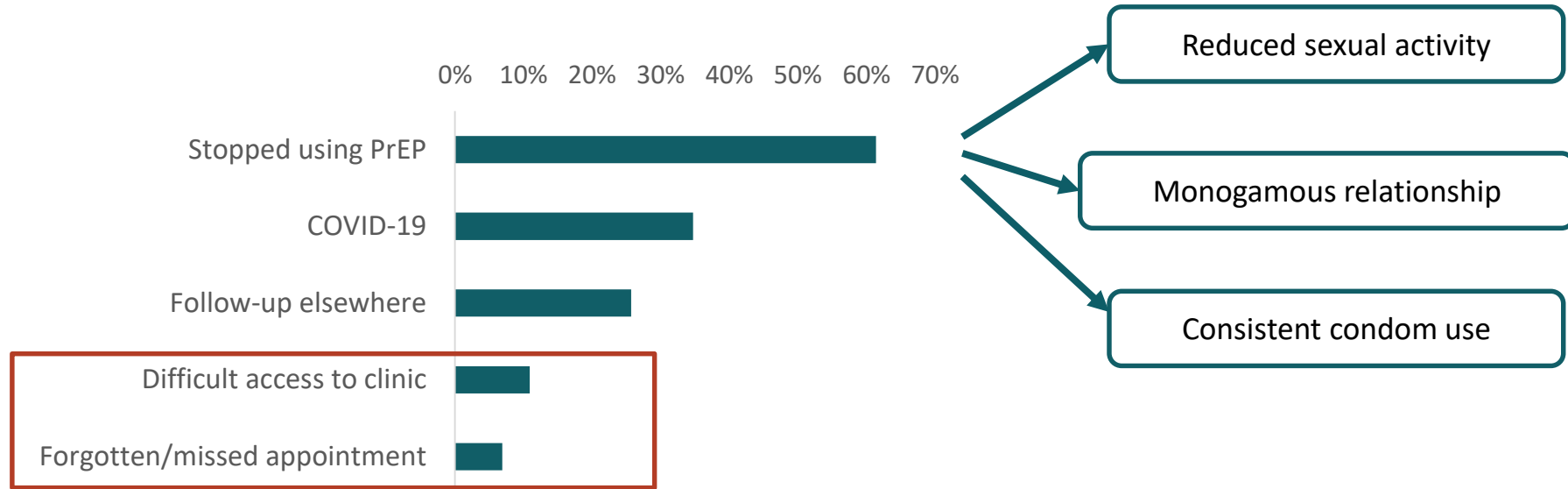


What are the reasons why PrEP users do not return for follow-up?

How do HIV reference centers cope with the growing demand?

Which other care providers can be involved?

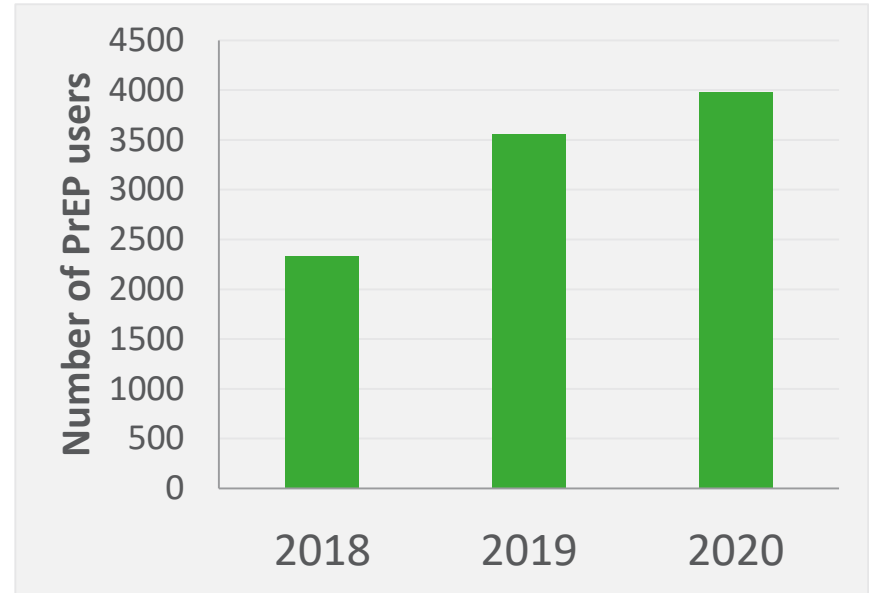
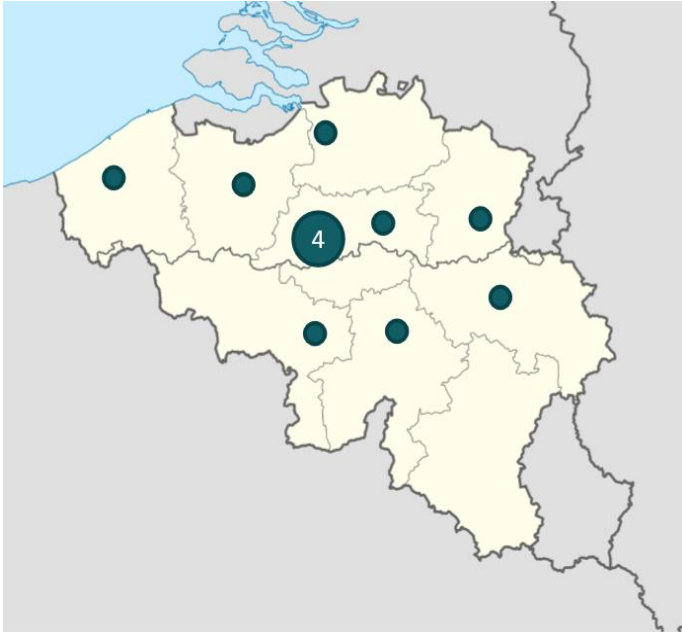
Reasons for not returning – telephone and email survey among ITM PrEP patients lost-to-follow-up (n=101)



A minority of PrEP users may need additional support to remain in follow-up

Thibaut Vanbaelen et al., “Why do PrEP users not return for their follow-up?; Poster presented at BREACH symposium La Hulpe. Nov 2021

Current PrEP provision in Belgium



Sciensano, Epidemiologie van aids en hiv-infectie in België. Toestand op 31 december 2020. Nov 2021

Adaptations to the organization of PrEP care – Multiple case study among Belgian HRCs

Simplification

- E.g. remove 1-month visit after initiation

Task-shifting

- E.g. counseling done by nurse

Differentiation

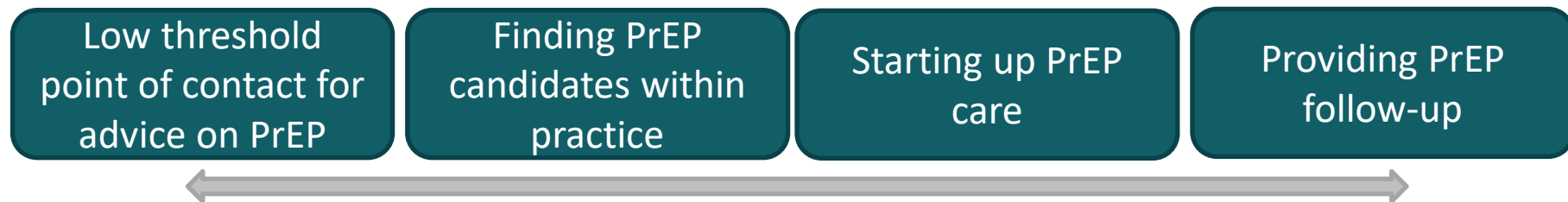
- E.g. 'stable' vs. 'vulnerable' patients

De-centralization

- E.g. alternating visits with family physician

family physicians' self-perceived roles in PrEP care— Focus group discussions (n=16; 105 participants)

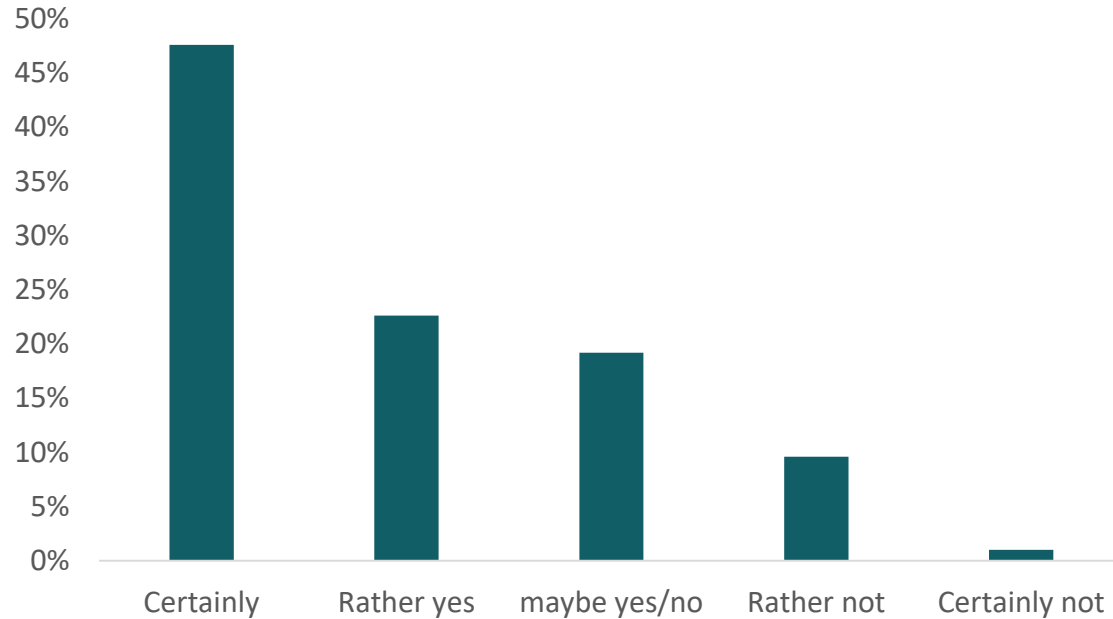
- Despite **low awareness** of PrEP
- **High interest and willingness** to be engaged



Jef Vanhamel., Roles and opportunities for the family physician in providing PrEP; Poster presented at BREACH symposium La Hulpe. Nov 2021



Willingness to use injectable PrEP – online survey among PrEP users (n=208)



Lessons learned

- To optimise **PrEP uptake**: need for strengthening efforts on multiple levels to reach migrant population with an unmet PrEP need.
- To optimise **PrEP use**: need to better support users in stopping and (re)starting the use of PrEP.
- To optimise **PrEP care**: consider the involvement of family physicians in the provision of PrEP to cope with the growing demand.

Acknowledgements

- All study participants
- All collaborating HRCs:
 - ITM Antwerp
 - AZ Sint-jan Brugge-Oostende
 - UZ Gent
 - Jessa Ziekenhuis
 - ULB Erasme
 - CHU St Pierre
 - UZ Brussel (Jette)
 - UCL Saint-luc
 - CHU Charleroi

■ Advisory Board

