

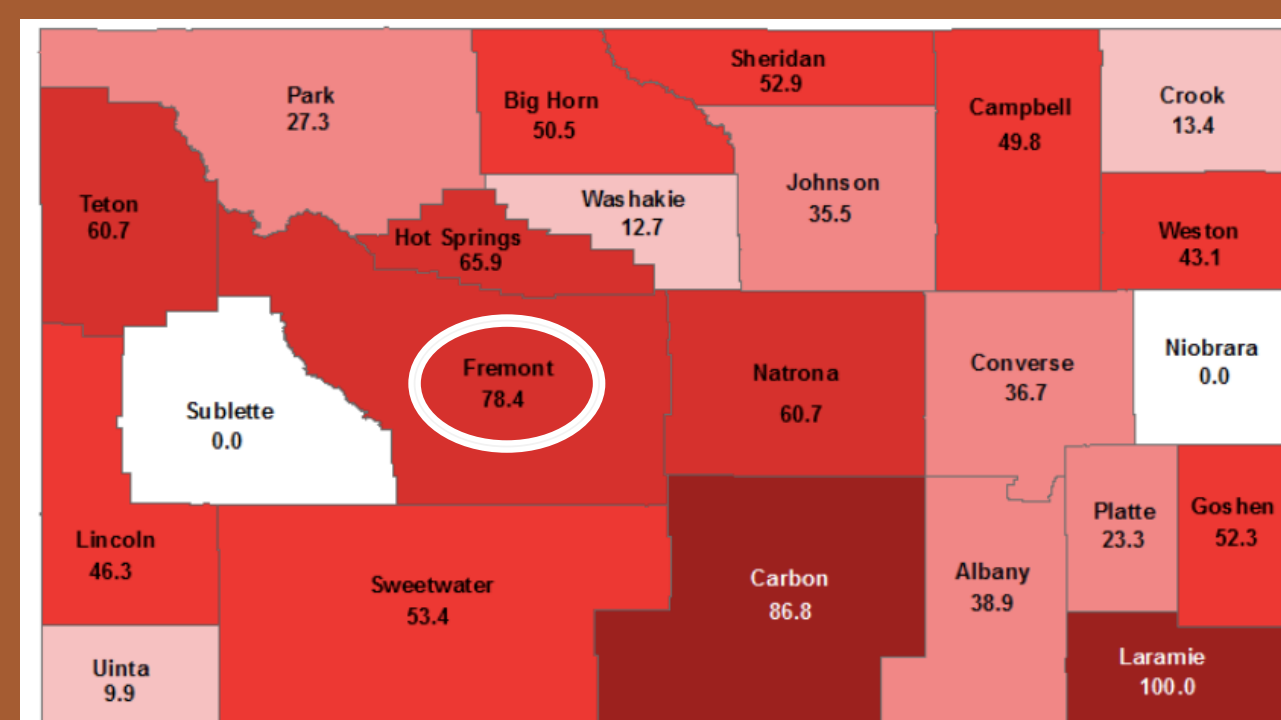
Telemedicine Solutions to Improve HIV PrEP Access in Fremont County, WY

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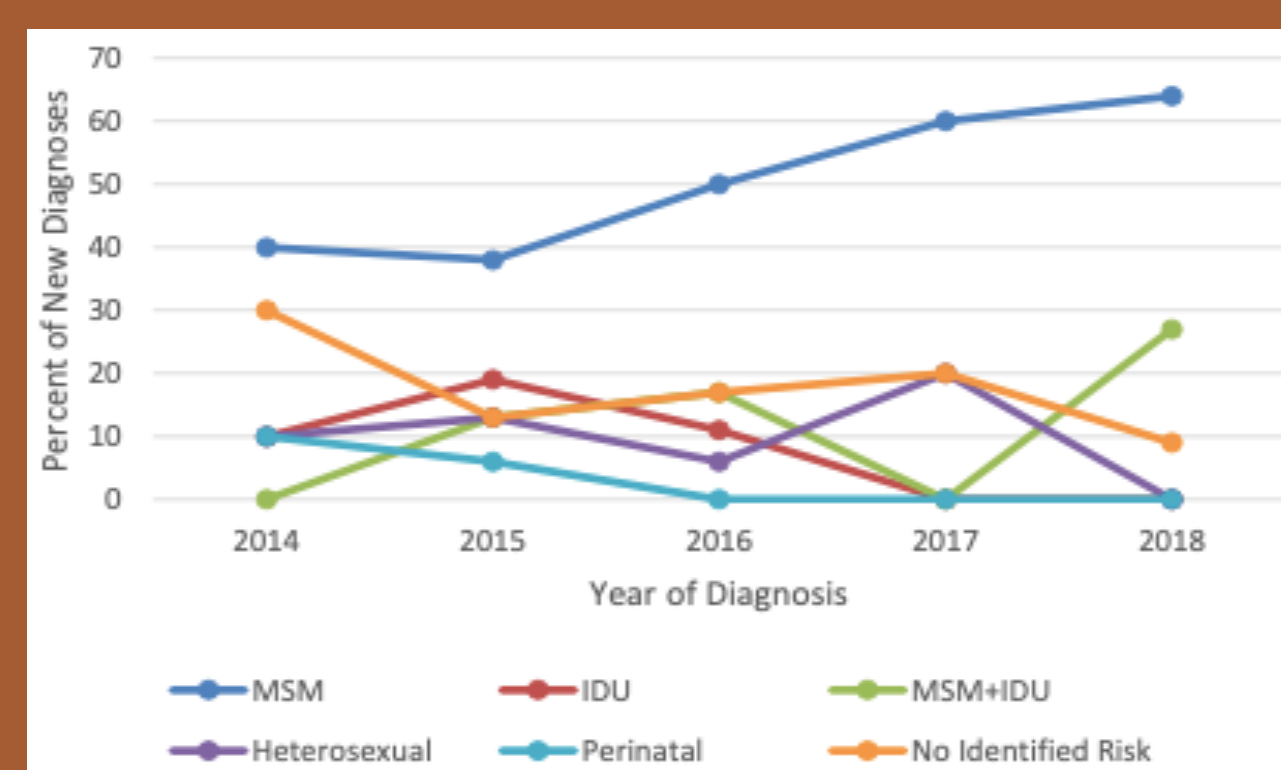
Rural Underserved Opportunities Program, 2020, University of Washington School of Medicine

Background:

- Population: 39,803 (6% of WY population)
- Poverty rates above WY average (14.1% vs 11.6%)
- Ranked lowest county in WY in health outcomes and health behaviors
- STIs well above WY average during 2007-2017, and rising
- 332 HIV cases in WY, 9% in Fremont county (31)



Wyoming HIV prevalence rate in 2018



Percent of new HIV cases in WY by exposure category, men, 2014-2018

- Barriers to PrEP access:
 - No PrEP providers in Fremont County
 - Information is hard to find
 - 2+ hours to nearest PrEP provider
 - Stigma and privacy concerns (small-town)
 - No funding for non-HIV related PrEP seekers

A public telemedicine program could improve access to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis for high-risk individuals in Fremont County, WY.

Community assets for implementation:

- Fully funded Communicable Disease Treatment Program provided by Fremont County Public Health
- 3 HIV case managers coordinate comprehensive care to HIV patients (treating 97% of HIV+ individuals in county)
- Strong relationship between public health and PrEP/HART providers in Casper
- Public access to tools required for telemedicine
- Pharmacy collaborative practice



Anticipated challenges:

- Funding for PrEP seekers not related to ongoing HIV cases managed by public health
- Creating awareness of WY TelePrEP Program
- Finding PrEP providers or pharmacists



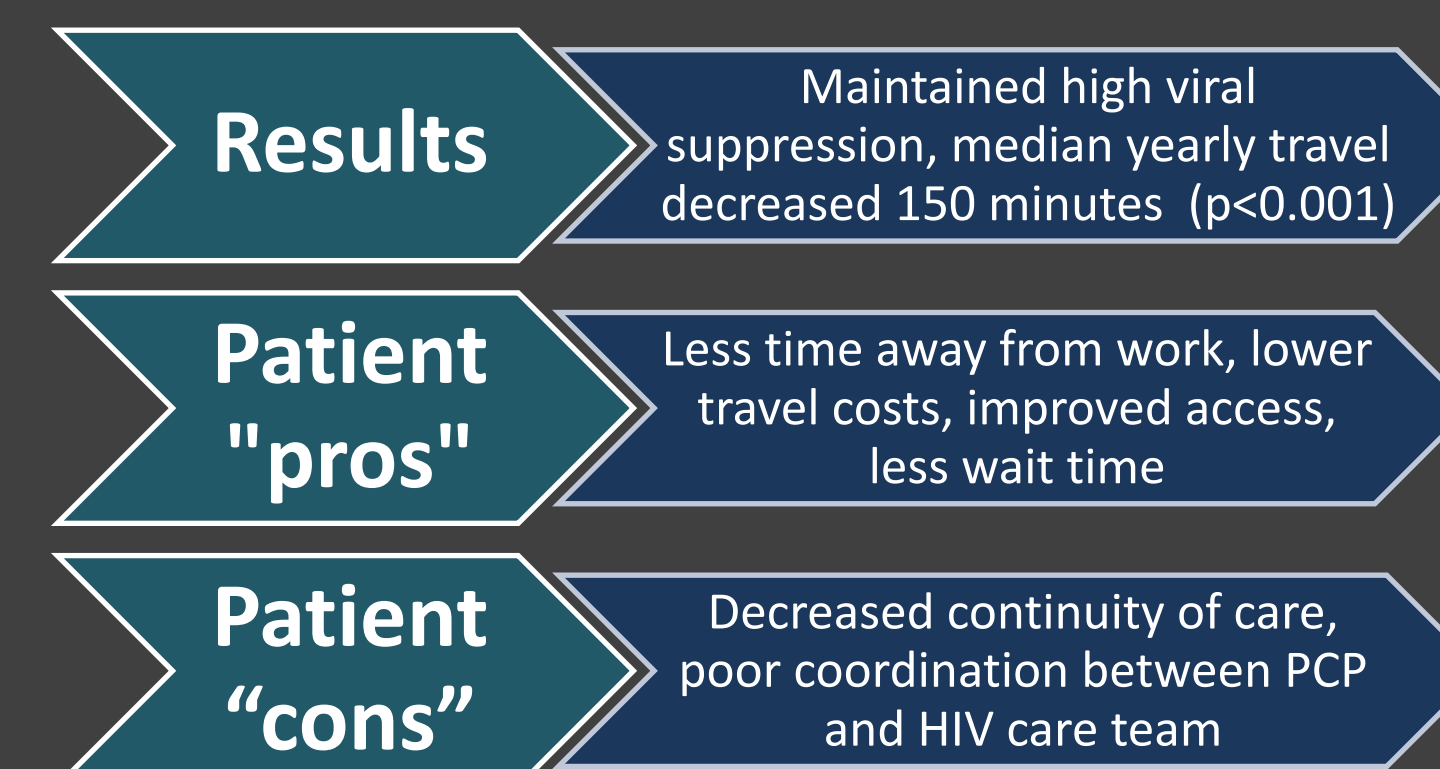
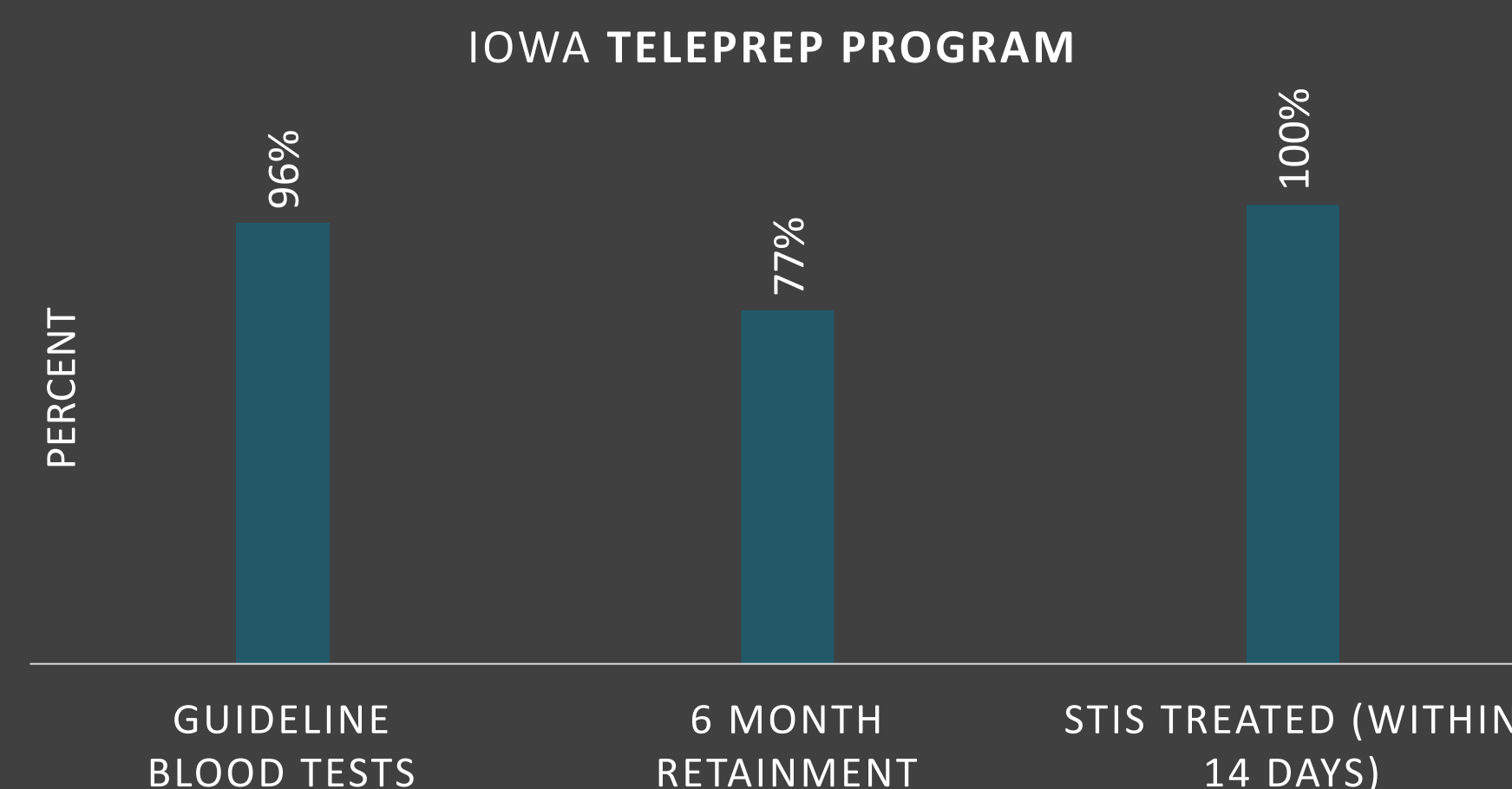
Findings from literature review

Rural "TelePrEP" program in Iowa demonstrated PrEP access feasibility

- 187 patients across 5 rural counties
- Referral sources: self, public health, STI testing centers, providers
- Website for enrollment
- Live video stream visits with collaborative care pharmacists
- Linked to local public health for STI testing and treatment
- Lack of control groups limits demonstration of outcome differences

Rural VA clinics incorporated video telemedicine visits with HIV specialists into appointments with HIV patients

- HIV specialty care teams covered HIV related concerns and PCPs provided routine care – team-based approach
- 30 patients enrolled; all chose to remain with the program
- Initial barriers: long drive time, lack of local specialists, privacy concerns, and stigma
- Small sample size and lack of control groups limits demonstration of outcome differences



Conclusion

Thoughtful implementation of a Fremont County TelePrEP program could significantly reduce the challenges to PrEP access in Fremont County while utilizing community assets already in place.

If successful, there is great potential for expansion to a statewide program

Scan for more information:



Acknowledgements

Special thanks Brian Gee MD, Chelsea Adams RN, Larry Kirven MD, and employees of Rocky Mountain Infectious Disease