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## Background

Injectable anti-retroviral treatment is a new option for people living with HIV. Selected individuals can receive one intramuscular injection per month or bimonthly instead of a daily pill. We examined access to and interest in injectable ART within a cohort of people living with HIV (PLHIV).

## Results

The sample includes 1,997 respondents. 37 (1.9%) were already taking injectable ART, but another 63.7% said they probably or definitely would, if offered. Of those currently taking injectables, 11 (29.7%) were receiving it through a clinical trial, 16 (43.3%) through public insurance and 5 (13.5%) through private insurance. The greatest percentage of those already on injectables was in Ottawa/Eastern Ontario (3.3%) followed by Toronto (2.0%). 22.6% of participants said that they would do an injection as frequently as once a month and 30.9% would do once every six months. 40.7% prefer to get an injection in their HIV clinic, with 25.2% in pharmacy and 11.8% at home. People living with HIV for 1-10 years were more interested in injectables (71.2%) compared to those living with HIV for more than 20 years (59.0%) ( $p=0.006$ ). Interest appeared to differ slightly by key population (PWID 58.9%, Women 65.5%, GBMSM, 65.4%, ACB 69.6%).

## Who is taking injectable ART?

37 of 2180 participants currently receive injectable ARV (2%)

73% are gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM)

22% are African, Caribbean or Black (ACB)

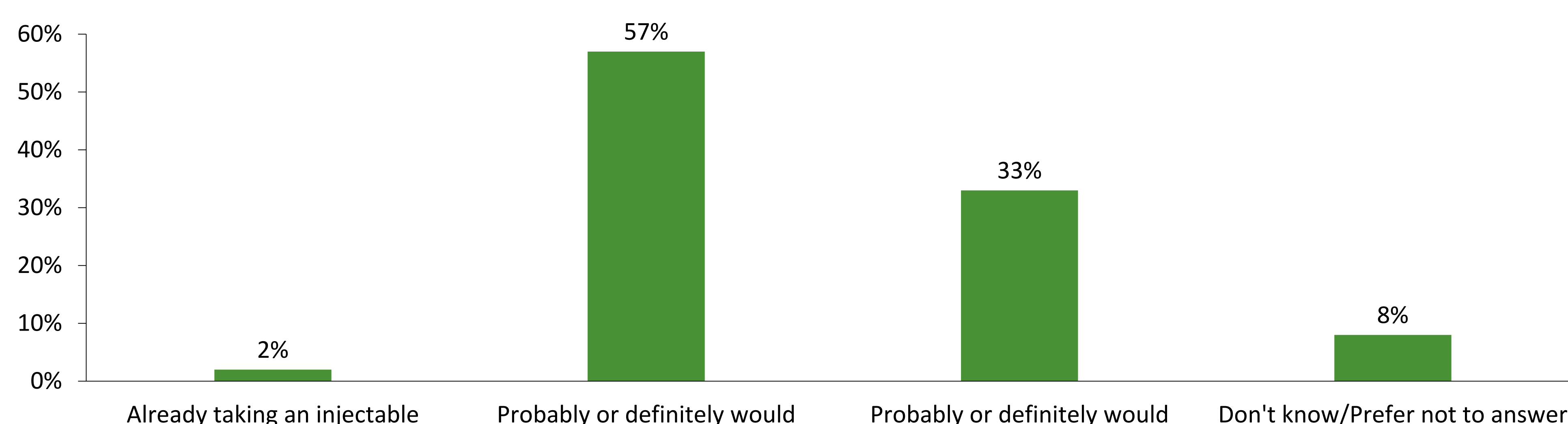
19% are women

54% had private drug coverage, while 46% had public drug coverage

49% had an income of <\$50,000 per year had an income of <\$50,000 per year

89% were living with HIV less than 20 years

**Figure 1: Percent who would take injectable ART if offered**



## Methods

The OHTN Cohort Study (OCS) is a longitudinal cohort following people living with HIV at 15 clinics in Ontario. Questions regarding injectables were added to the annual interviewer administered questionnaire in 2022. Participants were asked about preferences for injections, if they took injectables and how they covered the cost, and interest in injectables. Results were compared to the demographics and HIV risk factors.

## Who is interested taking injectable ART?

Of the 1,248 respondents (57%) who probably or definitely would take an injectable form of ARV:

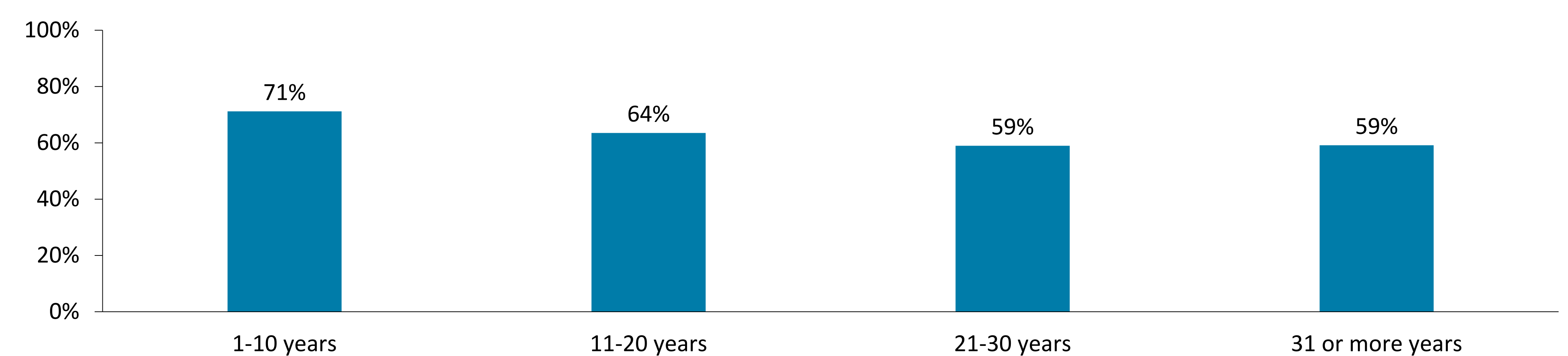
70% are ACB

65% are GBMSM

65% are women

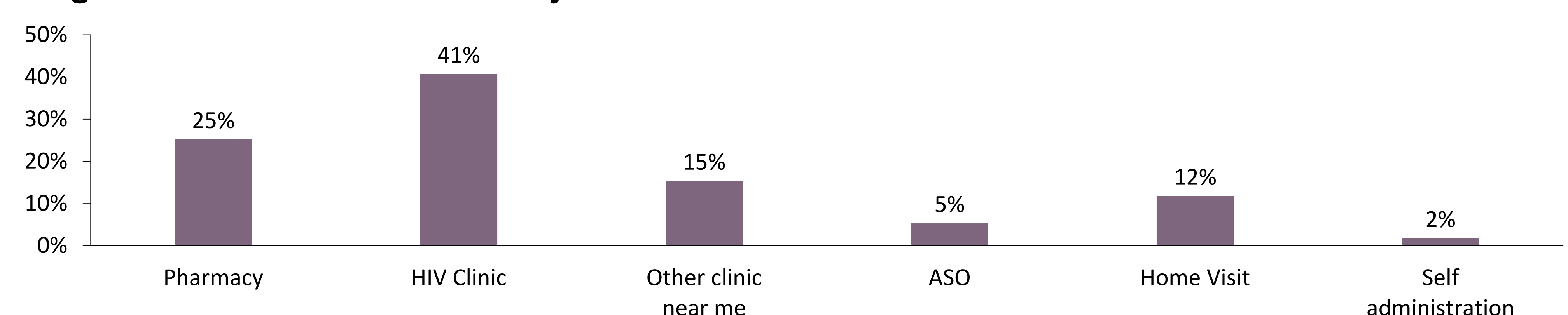
59% are people who use injection drugs

**Figure 2: Percent that Probably or Definitely Would Take Injectable by Length of Time with HIV**

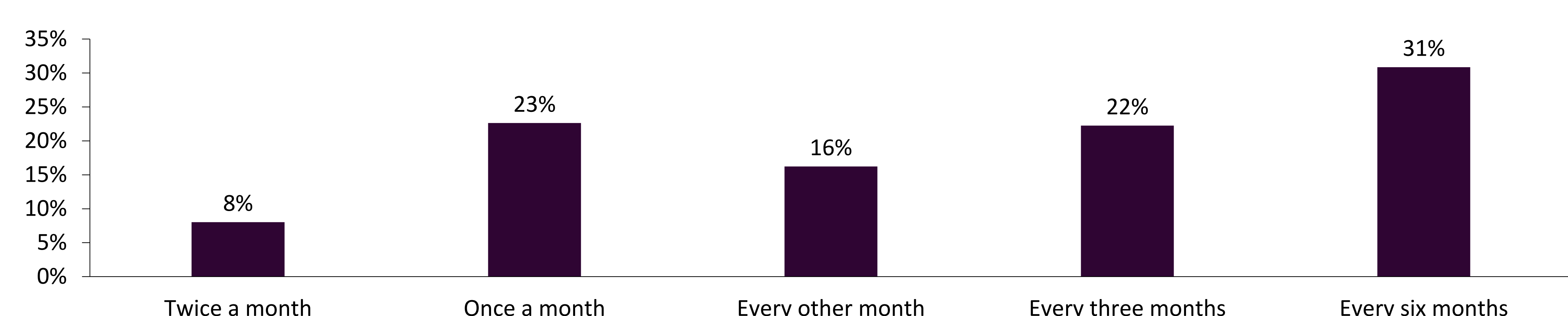


## How do people want to take it?

**Figure 3: Preferred Location of Injection**



**Figure 4: Preferred Frequency of Injection**



## Discussion

While uptake of injectable ART was low in the cohort, participants showed strong interest in the option of an injectable. As this new option is available, it is important for physicians to discuss injectables with their patients. .

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