

Examining differential success in participant recruitment using respondent-driven sampling (RDS) in a Canadian multi-site study of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM)



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Introduction

- Using respondent-driven sampling (RDS), the Engage Study launched in February 2017 in Montreal and Vancouver, and in May 2017 in Toronto.
- To understand variations in recruitment success, we examined seed and participant characteristics, as well as motivation for participation, by city.

Methods

- All sites initiated recruitment with 30 seed participants (seeds), followed by adding more seeds if needed.
- We examined characteristics of seeds versus early-wave recruits (recruitment waves 1-3) and later-wave recruits for each study site.
- We described the proportion of seeds who recruited ≥1 participant (productive seeds) and participants in terms of their reported gbMSM social network size, motivation for study participation and from whom they received study invitations.
- Proportions are not RDS-adjusted.

Results

- Recruitment began with **27 seeds in Montreal**, of which 78% were productive.
- Vancouver recruited 81 seeds** (64% productive).
- Toronto recruited 55 seeds** (55% productive).
- Montreal enrolled an average of 69 participants per month; Vancouver, 24 per month; and Toronto,19 per month.
- The median reported **social network size was 30 in Montreal** (Q1-Q3 15-80), **35** (Q1-Q3 15-100) **in Vancouver, and 50** (Q1-Q3 20-100) **in Toronto.**
- Across cities, seeds reported that their main reasons for participation were interest in sexual health/HIV or gay men’s issues (see Table).
- Only **8-11% of participants reported financial motivation for participation.**
- Most early recruits reported receiving their study invitation from a friend.

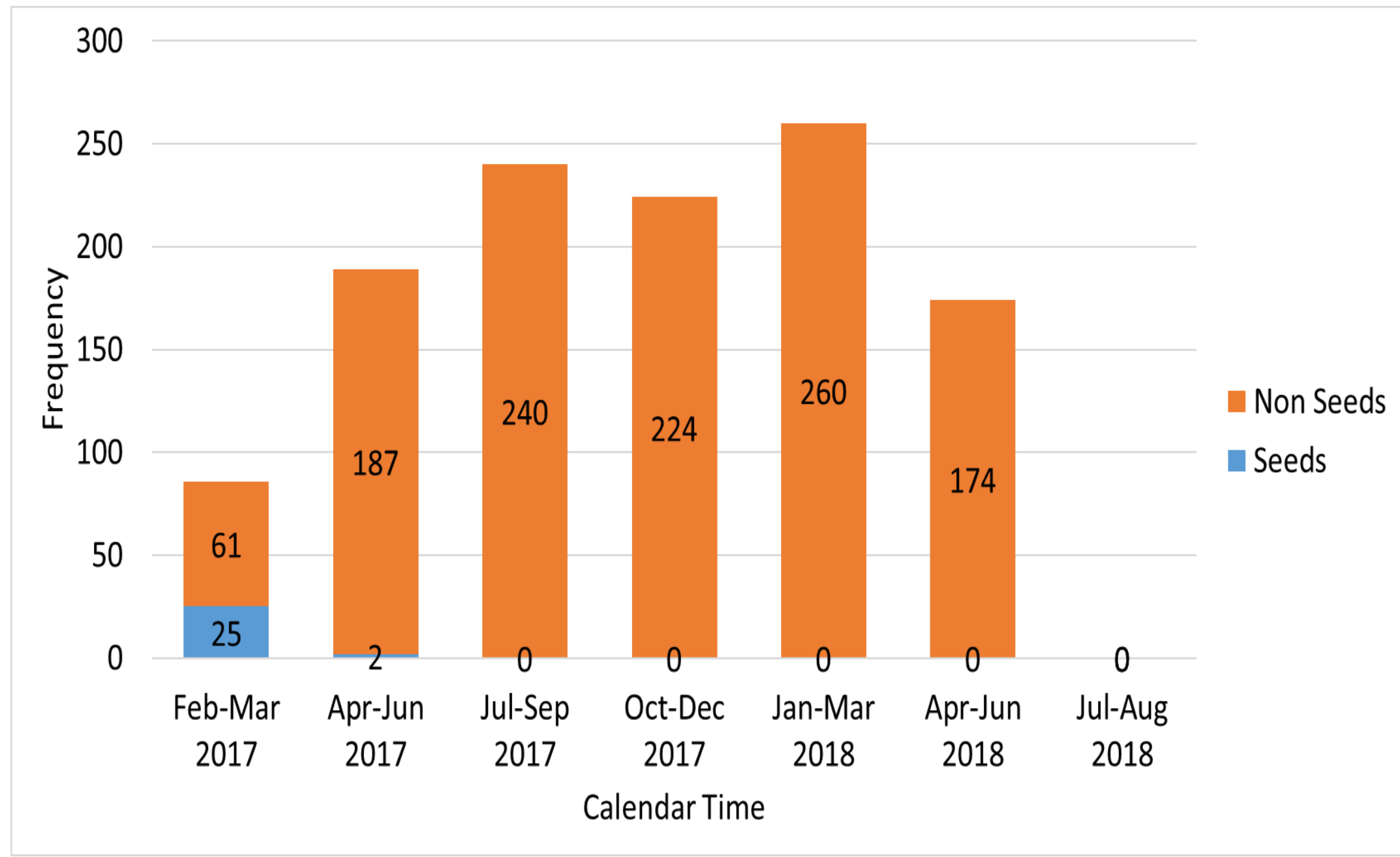
Conclusion

- We found few differences to explain the differences in recruitment success.
- Study participants in Montreal reported smaller network sizes and lower incomes.
- Financial incentives were not a motivating factor for many Engage participants.

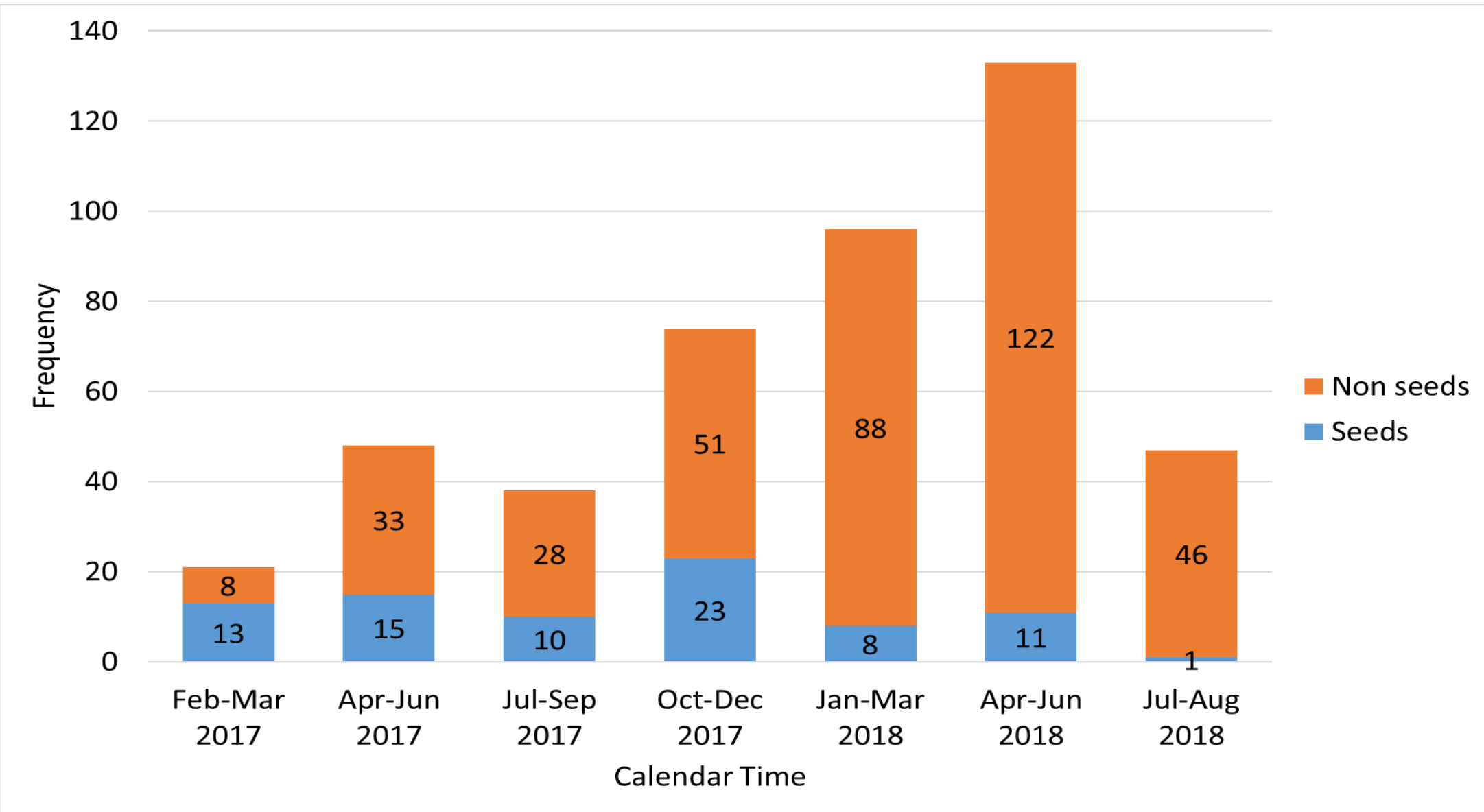
Abstract EPHP5.03

We did not identify differences in participant characteristics or motivation for participating to explain differences in recruiting success across Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal

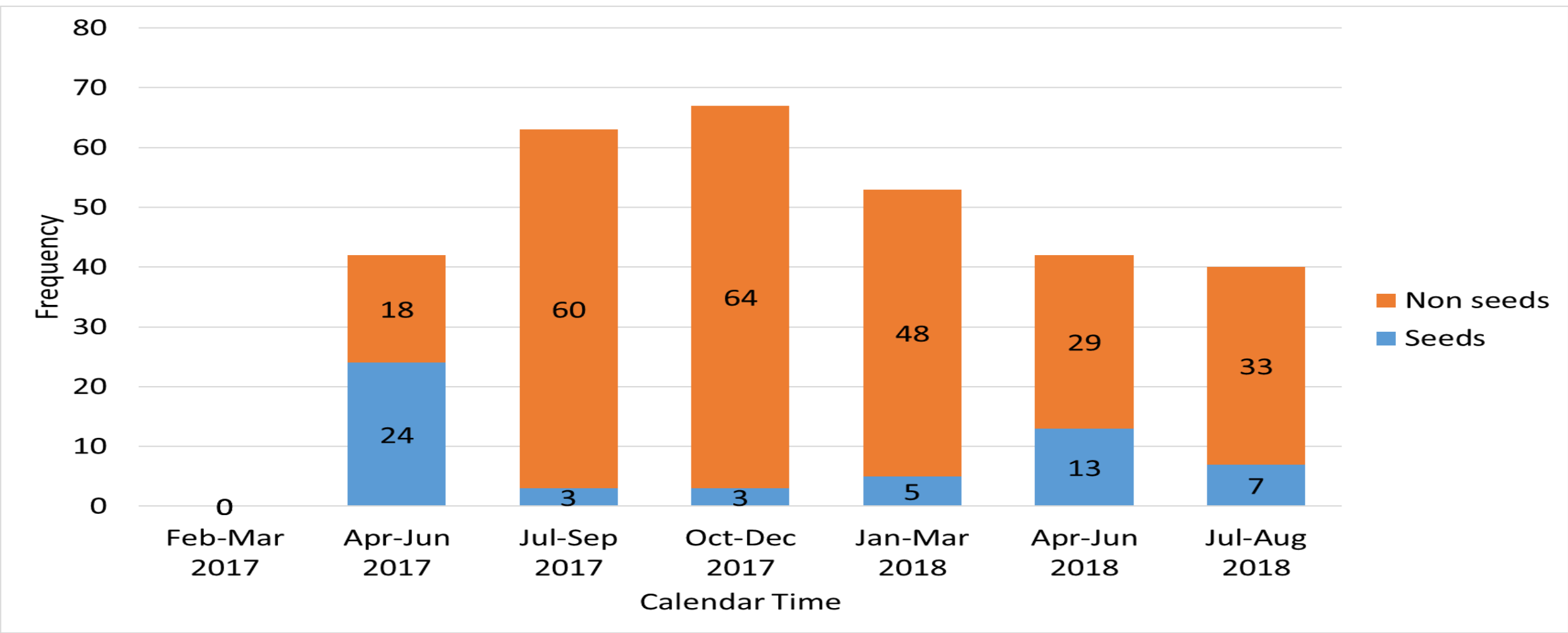
Recruitment Montreal



Recruitment Vancouver



Recruitment Toronto



Variable	Montreal			Vancouver			Toronto		
	Seeds (N=27)	Early Recruits (N=218)	Later Recruits (N=928)	Seeds (N=81)	Early Recruits (N=269)	Later Recruits (N=107)	Seeds (N=55)	Early Recruits (N=177)	Later Recruits (N=75)
Age N (%)									
Under 30	11 (40.7)	78 (35.8)	294 (31.7)	33 (40.7)	107 (39.8)	52 (48.6)	15 (27.3)	61 (34.5)	46 (61.3)
30 to 44	9 (33.3)	86 (39.4)	324 (34.9)	25 (30.9)	95 (35.3)	45 (42.1)	24 (43.6)	89 (50.3)	23 (30.7)
45 and over	7 (25.9)	54 (24.8)	310 (33.4)	23 (28.4)	67 (24.9)	10 (9.3)	16 (29.1)	27 (15.3)	6 (8.0)
Annual income N (%)									
< \$30000	13 (48.1)	135 (61.9)	524 (56.5)	31 (38.3)	121 (45.0)	47 (43.9)	19 (34.5)	74 (41.8)	43 (57.3)
\$30000 - \$59999	11 (40.7)	59 (27.1)	292 (31.5)	30 (37.0)	82 (30.5)	34 (31.8)	24 (43.6)	62 (35.0)	20 (26.7)
≥\$60000	3 (11.1)	24 (11.0)	112 (12.1)	20 (24.7)	66 (24.5)	26 (24.3)	12 (21.8)	41 (23.2)	12 (16.0)
Sexual identity N (%)									
Gay	20 (74.1)	181 (83.0)	749 (80.7)	67 (82.7)	232 (86.2)	93 (86.9)	35 (63.6)	142 (80.2)	58 (77.3)
Bisexual	2 (7.41)	10 (4.6)	85 (9.2)	6 (7.4)	11 (4.1)	4 (3.7)	4 (7.3)	3 (1.7)	3 (4.0)
Other	5 (18.5)	27 (12.4)	94 (10.1)	8 (9.9)	26 (9.7)	10 (9.3)	16 (29.1)	32 (18.1)	14 (18.7)
Self-reported HIV status N (%)									
HIV Negative	20 (74.1)	158 (72.5)	684 (73.7)	56 (69.1)	209 (77.7)	88 (82.2)	34 (61.8)	131 (74.0)	61 (81.3)
HIV Positive	4 (14.8)	40 (18.3)	152 (16.4)	19 (23.5)	39 (14.5)	8 (7.5)	18 (32.7)	38 (21.5)	6 (8.0)
Unknown	3 (11.1)	20 (9.2)	92 (9.9)	6 (7.4)	21 (7.8)	11 (10.3)	3 (5.5)	8 (4.5)	8 (10.7)
Reason for study participation									
Interested in sexual health and HIV	10 (37.0)	59 (27.1)	299 (32.2)	23 (28.4)	89 (33.1)	29 (27.1)	15 (27.3)	62 (35.0)	26 (34.7)
Interested in gay men’s issues	8 (29.6)	41 (18.8)	184 (19.8)	29 (35.8)	56 (20.8)	22 (20.6)	13 (23.6)	30 (16.9)	14 (18.7)
Friend/partner wanted me to participate	7 (25.9)	27 (12.4)	99 (10.7)	4 (4.9)	34 (12.6)	18 (16.8)	5 (9.1)	20 (11.3)	10 (13.3)
Wanted to help the community	1 (3.7)	62 (28.4)	226 (24.4)	21 (25.9)	61 (22.7)	22 (20.6)	18 (32.7)	47 (26.6)	4 (5.3)
Mostly interested in the \$50 incentive	1 (3.70)	26 (11.9)	107 (11.5)	4 (4.9)	27 (10.0)	16 (15.0)	4 (7.3)	17 (9.6)	2 (2.7)
None of the above	0	3 (1.4)	13 (1.4)	0	2 (0.7)	0	0	1 (0.6)	0
Given participation voucher by:									
Partner	2 (7.4)	64 (29.4)	254 (27.4)	10 (12.3)	66 (24.5)	31 (29.0)	4 (7.3)	53 (29.9)	25 (33.3)
Friend	0	116 (53.2)	464 (50.0)	22 (27.2)	167 (62.1)	66 (61.7)	17 (30.9)	124 (70.1)	45 (60.0)
Acquaintance	3 (11.1)	57 (26.1)	272 (29.3)	11 (13.6)	48 (17.8)	18 (16.8)	7 (12.7)	28 (15.8)	14 (18.7)
Other	22 (81.5)	9 (4.1)	34 (3.7)	44 (54.3)	16 (5.9)	7 (6.5)	31 (56.4)	5 (2.8)	5 (6.7)