

Prescribers of HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in British Columbia in the First Year of the Provincial Program

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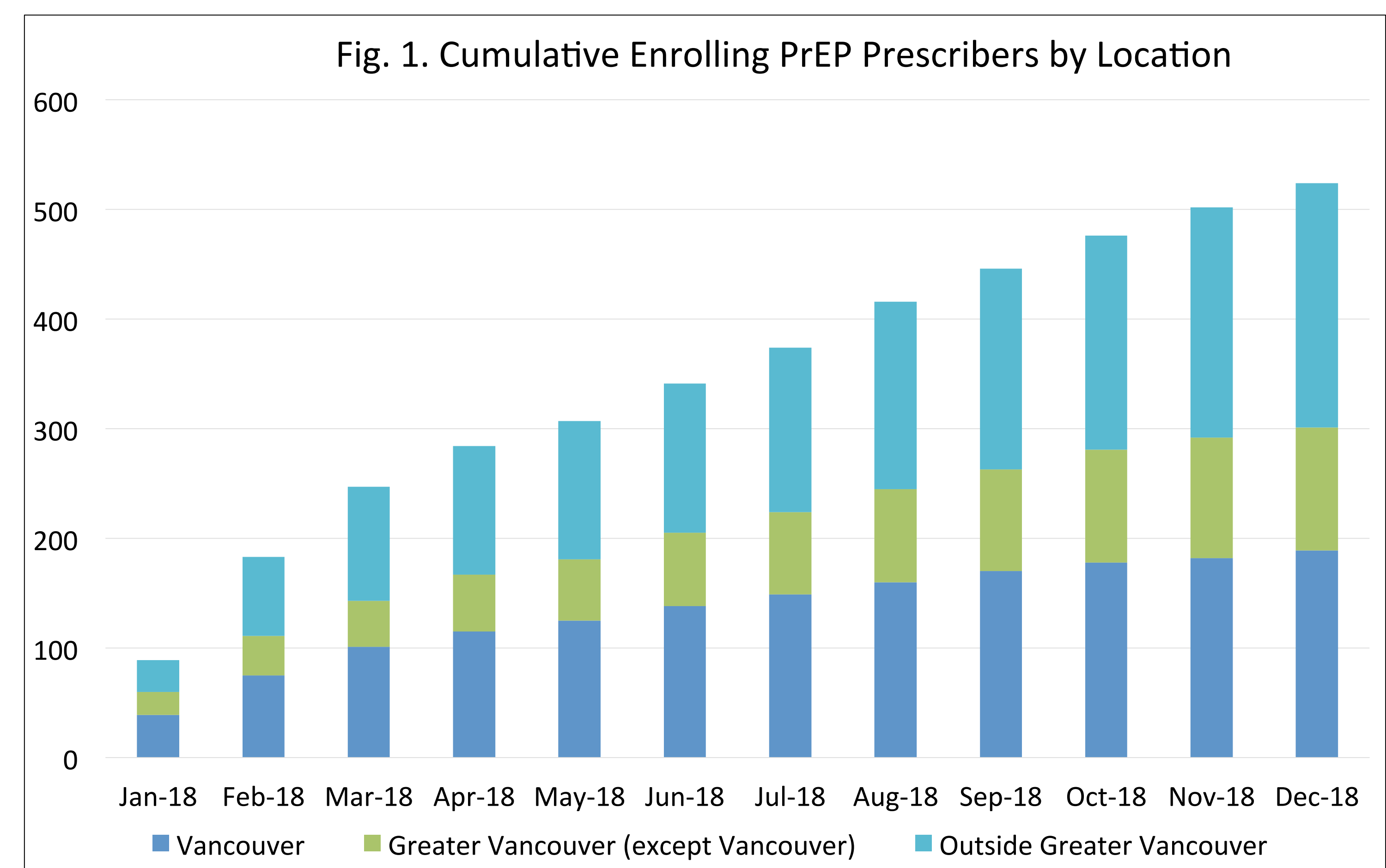
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Background

The centralized BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE) PrEP program was launched January 2018. PrEP is available at no charge to qualifying BC residents at high risk of HIV infection according to BC PrEP Guidelines. Any licensed BC physician may enroll clients in the program, regardless of practice setting or HIV care and treatment experience. The BC-CfE provides PrEP guidelines, educational programs and support to healthcare providers across the province. Here we describe prescribers who participated in the first year of the BC PrEP Program.



*As of November 2018. Information at: <https://education.cfenet.ubc.ca/>



Methods

- Healthcare providers who prescribed PrEP through the provincial program between 1-Jan-2018 through 31-Dec-2018 were characterized by location, practice setting, prior HIV treatment prescribing experience in BC and PrEP client volume.

Results

- In the 12 months after program launch, there were 554 PrEP requesting prescribers, of whom 525 enrolled at least one client (Fig. 1).
- Prescribers were located in all provincial health authorities (Table 1) with 7% practicing in a rural location.
- 289 (52%) of requesting providers had no prior HIV treatment prescribing experience in BC. Many (n=335) provided PrEP care for a single client (Fig. 3).
- Providers at sexual health clinics, HIV-focused primary care and HIV referral clinics (n=41) prescribed PrEP for 69% of program participants (Fig. 2).
- These prescribers had median (Q1-Q3) 21 (5-46) clients while providers in general medical and other practice settings (n=512) had median 1 (1-2) PrEP clients (p<0.001).
- Nurse practitioners (n=12) provided follow-up to 8.6% of enrolled clients.

Health Authority	Enrolling Prescribers* N=525	Clients by residence N=3284
	n (%)	n (%)
Vancouver Coastal	249 (47)	2255 (69)
Vancouver Island	101 (19)	296 (9)
Fraser Health	87 (17)	570 (17)
Interior Health	65 (12)	109 (3)
Northern Health	28 (5)	47 (1)

* A prescriber may be counted in > 1 health authority

Conclusion

- In one year, more than 500 prescribers across the province have enrolled clients in the BC PrEP Program.
- Healthcare providers from various practice settings have participated, half without prior HIV treatment prescribing experience.
- Most BC PrEP prescribers practice in general medical settings and carry a low PrEP client volume, in comparison to providers in sexual health or HIV-focused clinics.
- This emphasizes the importance of accessible PrEP guidelines, support and education for providers across the province.

Links to BC-CfE Resources:

- BC PrEP Guidelines and Program Information. Found at <http://cfenet.ubc.ca/hiv-pre-exposure-prophylaxis-prep>
- BC-CfE Clinical Education and Training. Found at <https://education.cfenet.ubc.ca/>

