

INTRODUCTION

Inappropriate treatment of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infection (GC) may contribute to antimicrobial resistance. We sought to evaluate compliance with CDC treatment recommendations for GC in a four-state region covered by the St. Louis STD/HIV Prevention Training Center (PTC). The objective was to identify specific types of providers who may benefit from additional training.

METHODS

State-level GC treatment reports between January 2015 and June 2015 were requested from seven states in our PTC coverage area. Data from four states (IA, IL, KY, MO) were received.

Provider type was defined according to the National Electronic Telecommunications System for Surveillance (NETSS) classification. GC treatment was assessed as “appropriate,” “adequate but not recommended,” or “inappropriate,” based on CDC treatment guidelines in effect for that time period.

GC TREATMENT CRITERIA

Appropriate

- Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM PLUS [azithromycin 1 g PO or doxycycline 100 mg PO BID x 7 d]

Adequate but not recommended

- Cefixime 400 mg PO PLUS [azithromycin 1 g PO or doxycycline 100 mg PO BID x 7 d]
- Azithromycin 2 g PO

Inappropriate

- All other regimens

Figure 1: Percentage of patients receiving appropriate, adequate, or inappropriate treatment

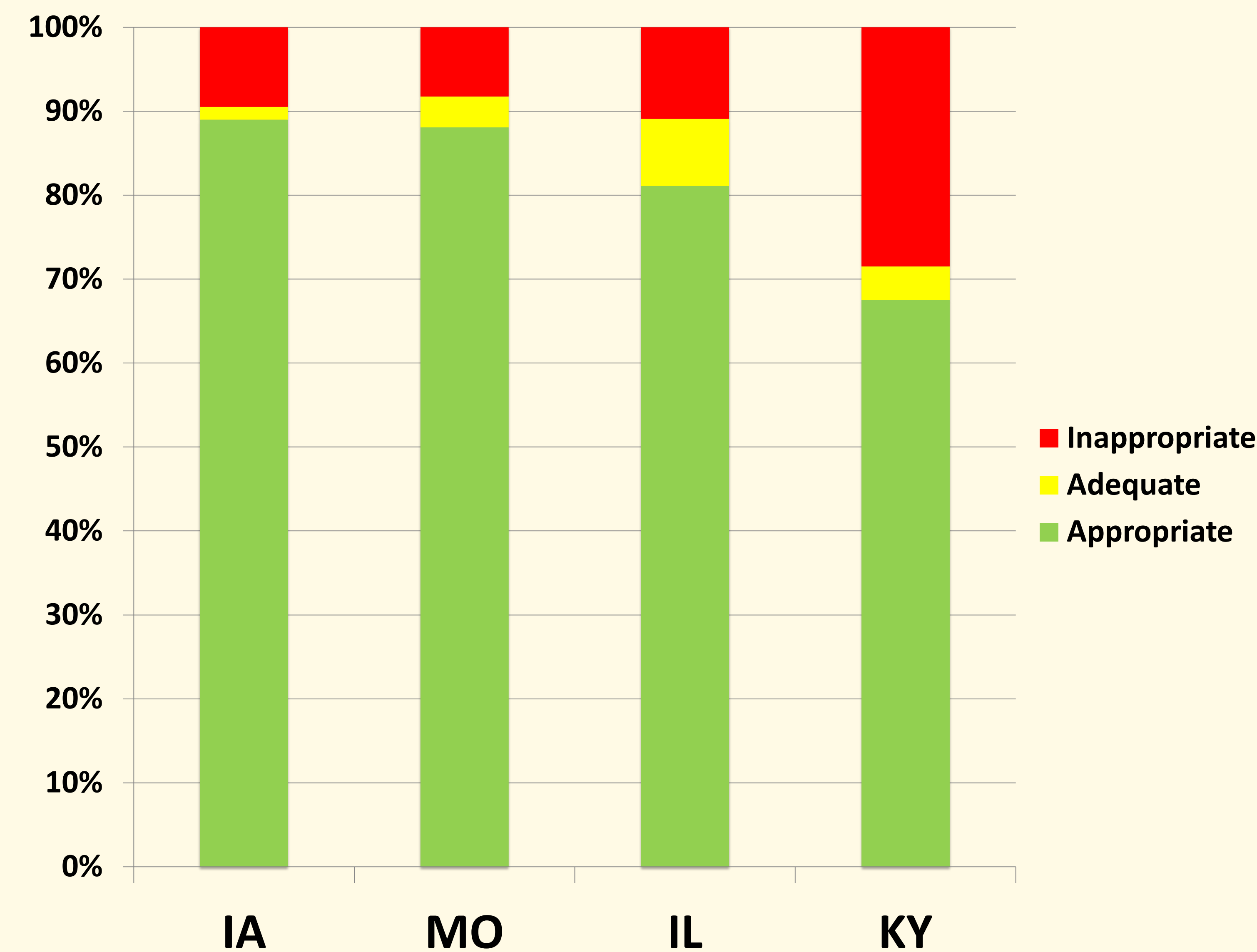


Table 1: GC treatment compliance by state

State	Inappropriate treatment	Appropriate treatment	Adequate but not recommended treatment
Iowa (n=935)	89 9.5%	832 89.0%	14 1.5%
Illinois (n=5,658)	616 10.9%	4,587 81.1%	455 8.0%
Kentucky (n=1,137)	324 28.5%	768 67.5%	45 4.0%
Missouri (n=3,137)	260 8.3%	2,776 88.5%	101 3.2%
TOTAL	1,289 11.9%	8,963 82.5%	615 5.7%

Table 2: GC treatment compliance by provider type

Provider type	Inappropriate treatment	Appropriate treatment	Adequate but not recommended treatment
Hospital (n=3,415)	369 10.8%	2,903 85.0%	143 4.2%
Private /HMO (n=2,143)	402 18.8%	1,518 70.8%	223 10.4%
Other (n=1,821)	241 13.2%	1,494 82.0%	86 4.7%
STD Clinic (n=1,614)	131 8.1%	1,421 88.0%	62 3.8%
Family Planning (n=674)	60 8.9%	580 86.1%	34 5.0%

CONCLUSIONS

- Across four Midwestern states, 82.5% of patients received appropriate GC therapy.
- Private physicians/HMOs reported the lowest rates of appropriate treatment, and represent an important target for additional education and training.
- Despite efforts to homogenize data reports, important discrepancies exist which impede cross-state comparisons.
- Greater standardization in treatment reporting and delineation of provider type may lead to better verification system of GC treatment.