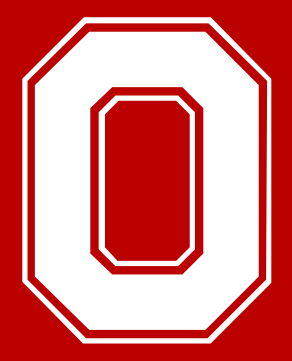


Changes in Levels of PrEP Awareness, Willingness to Recommend PrEP and Recent PrEP use by an HIV-Negative Partner in a Cohort of HIV-Positive Men who Have Sex with Men

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Poster WP 66

INTRODUCTION

- HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is effective in preventing HIV acquisition in men who have sex with men (MSM)¹
- High-risk HIV-negative MSM account for the majority of new HIV infections in the US²
- More than half of new HIV-infections in high-risk MSM result from exposure to an HIV-positive main sex partner³
- High-risk HIV-negative MSM are a key target audience for HIV prevention campaigns⁴
- Few studies have reported levels of PrEP awareness among HIV-positive MSM⁵⁻⁷

OBJECTIVE

- Examine levels of PrEP awareness, willingness to recommend PrEP, and recent PrEP use by HIV-negative sex partners, in a cohort of in-care, HIV-positive MSM before and after a citywide PrEP media campaign on May 11, 2015

METHODS

Study Design, Setting, and Population

- Cross-sectional behavioral study at a university HIV clinic in a large, urban Midwestern U.S. city.
- Analysis period included March to September 2015
- Eligibility
 - Male
 - HIV-positive
 - 18 years or older
 - Sexual contact with another male in the last year

Study Measures

- Collected data via self-administered survey on tablet including: demographics, recent sexual behaviors, and awareness, willingness to recommend, and partners' use of PrEP
- Divided participants into 2 groups for analysis:
 - Pre-media campaign (before May 11, 2015)
 - Post-media campaign (after May 11, 2015)

METHODS

Data Management and Analysis

- Survey data were captured using REDCap⁸
- All data were analyzed using SAS (Version 9.4, Cary, NC)
- Compared categorical variables using χ^2 or Fisher's exact tests; compared medians of continuous variables using Mann-Whitney tests

Ethical Approval

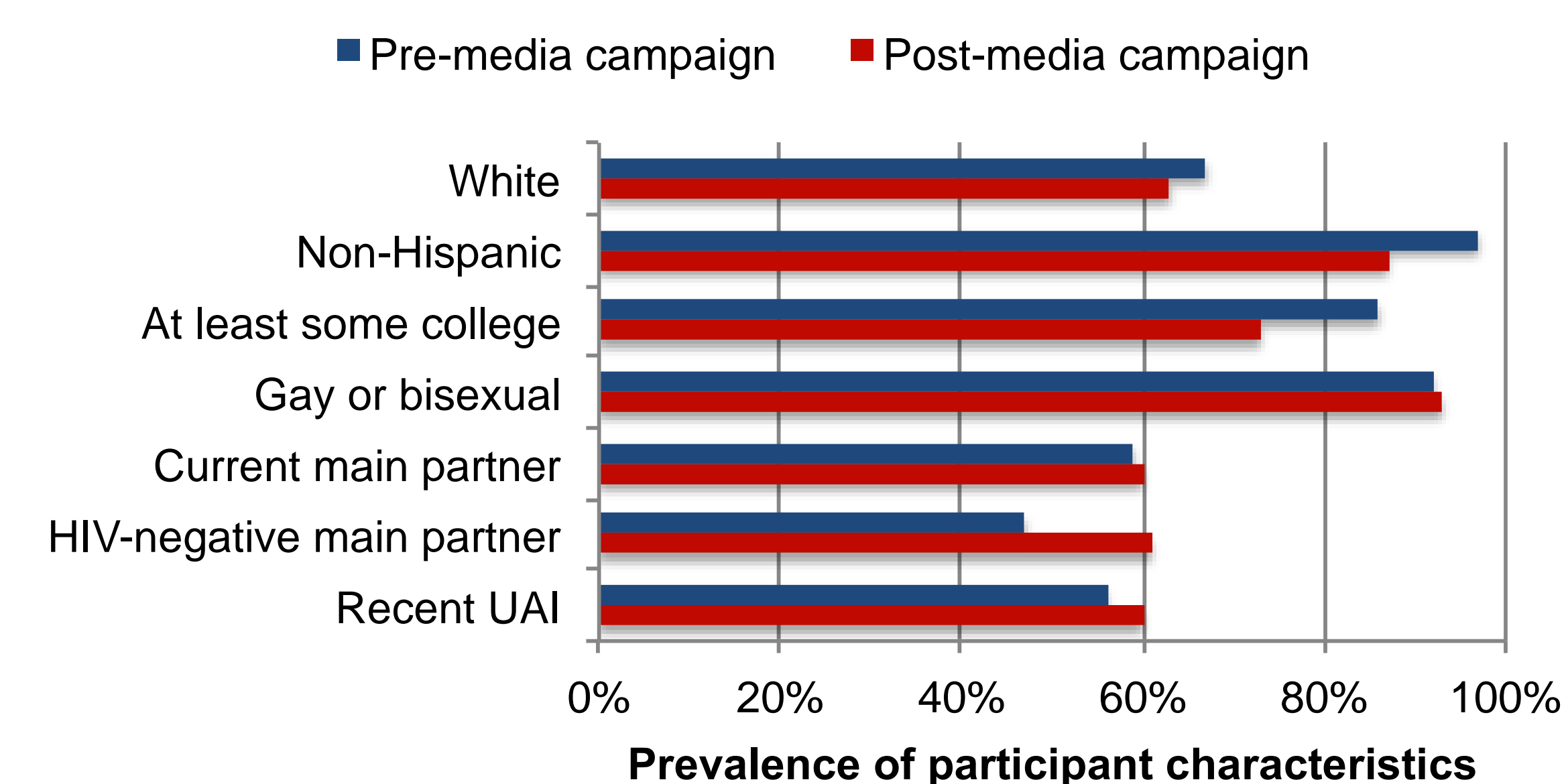
- The study was approved by the Ohio State University Institutional Review Board (IRB).

RESULTS

Participant Characteristics

- Of the 141 participants enrolled through September 2015, 73 participated prior to the PrEP media campaign and 68 after the campaign
- No significant differences emerged in age, race, education, main sex partner status, and sexual orientation
- Median age of pre-media campaign participants:
 - 43 years (IQR: 30-52)
- Median age of post-media campaign participants:
 - 40.5 years (IQR: 32-50)

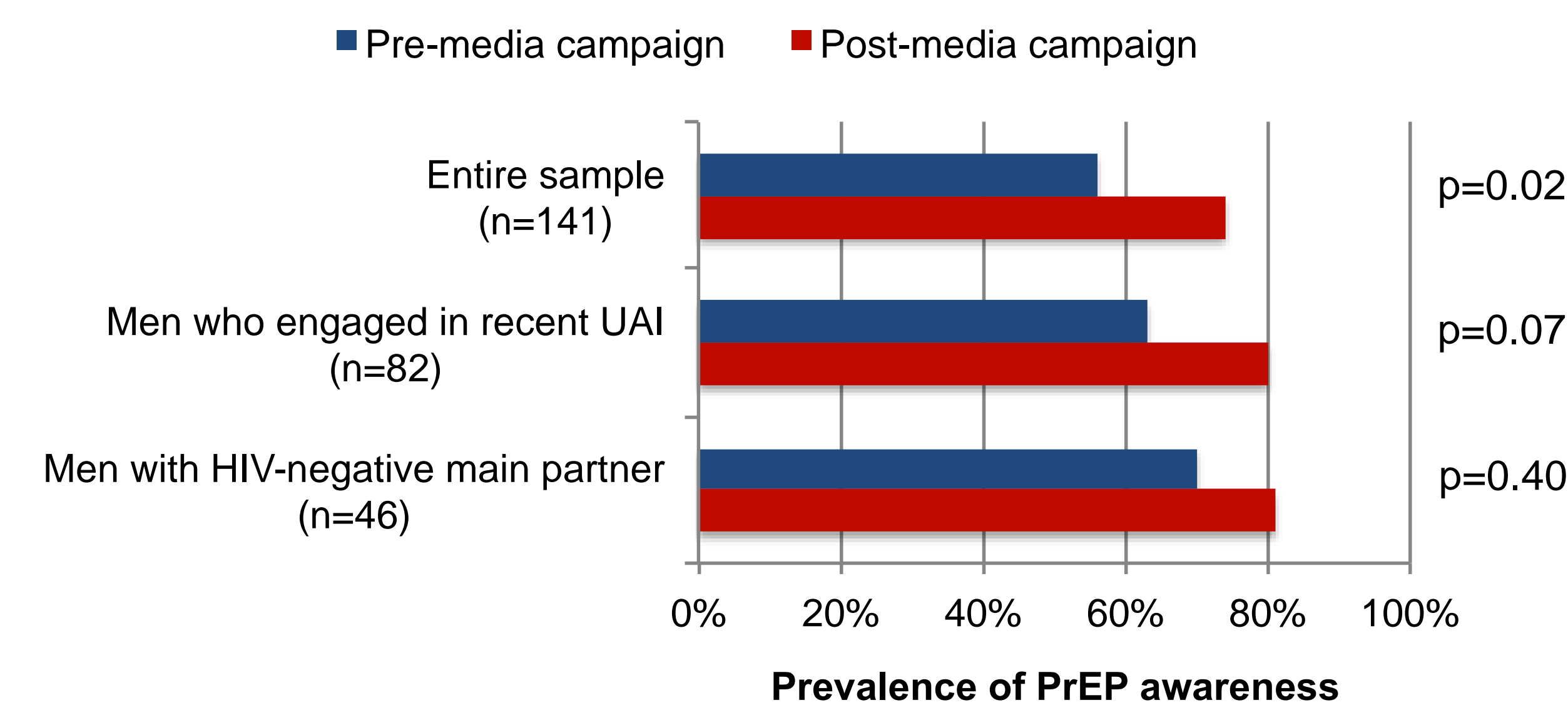
Figure 1: Prevalence of characteristics of HIV-positive MSM surveyed pre- and post-media PrEP campaign (n=141)



RESULTS

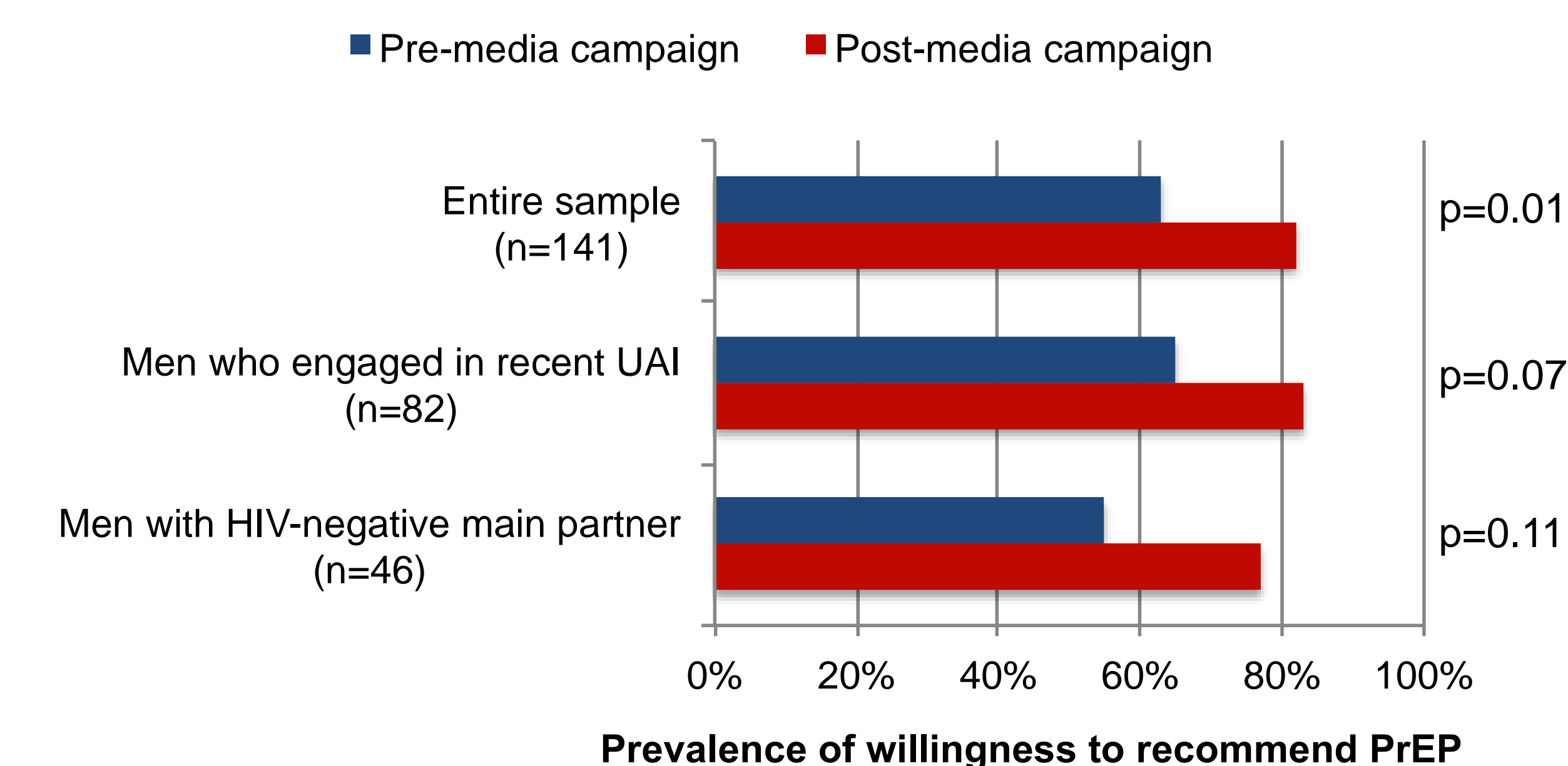
PrEP Results

Figure 2: Prevalence of PrEP awareness among HIV-positive MSM surveyed pre- and post-media PrEP campaign (n=141)



Participants were asked: *Have you ever heard of an HIV-negative person taking medicine before sex to prevent HIV (also called pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP)?*

Figure 3: Prevalence of willingness to recommend PrEP to HIV-negative sex partner(s) among HIV-positive MSM surveyed pre- and post-media PrEP campaign (n=141)



Participants were asked: *If you had an HIV-negative partner, would you encourage him/her to take PrEP to lower his/her chance of becoming HIV-positive?*

Recent PrEP Use by HIV-Negative Sex Partner(s)

- Among HIV-positive MSM who were aware of PrEP, reports of partners' recent PrEP use were higher post-media PrEP campaign compared to pre-campaign
 - Any HIV-negative partners (n=89, 29% vs. 15%, p=0.13)
 - HIV-negative main partners (n=35, 29% vs. 7%, p=0.14)

CONCLUSIONS

- More than half of the in-care, HIV-positive MSM enrolled in our study were aware of PrEP
- Following a citywide media campaign on PrEP awareness, we observed higher levels of PrEP awareness, willingness to recommend PrEP, and reports of recent PrEP use by HIV-negative sex partners
- Educating high-risk HIV-positive MSM on the benefits of PrEP could potentially influence levels of PrEP awareness and use by HIV-negative sex partners
- PrEP awareness among HIV-positive MSM who engage in high-risk sexual practices with HIV-negative sex partners may have important implications for HIV transmission

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