

# National Survey Highlights Potential Barriers to HIV Treatment Use

Despite advances in HIV therapy and access, **only 33% of the 1.1 million Americans living with HIV are taking the prescription medicines they need** to live healthier, longer lives and reduce the risk of passing the disease on to a partner.<sup>i</sup> **To help better understand why, ViiV Healthcare commissioned Harris Interactive to conduct a national online survey** in 2013 of HIV-positive adults (aged 18+). **The survey findings suggest that untreated patients' beliefs may be preventing them from seeking the care and treatment they need.**

## Knowledge gaps exist among untreated patients

- **Only 38% of untreated patients know that HIV attacks the immune system and body, even if a person does not feel sick**, compared to **63%** of treated patients.<sup>ii</sup>
- **39% of untreated patients believe – incorrectly – that the human body has a natural ability to fight HIV.**<sup>ii</sup>
- **One in three untreated patients do not report being sick enough to need HIV prescription medicine** even though early, widespread treatment is recommended for the benefit of the patient.<sup>ii</sup>
- **Only 25% of untreated patients are aware that taking HIV prescription medicine reduces the risk of passing the disease on to a partner.**<sup>ii,iii</sup>

## Untreated patients' perceptions are not consistent with treated patients' experiences

- **30% of untreated patients believe that the side effects of HIV prescription medicine are worse than HIV itself**, but **only 15%** of treated patients report that to be true.<sup>ii</sup>
- **20% of untreated patients don't take HIV prescription medicine because once they start, they'll be on it for the rest of their lives**, but **80% of treated patients say that their prescription medicine makes them feel better** and they can focus on the important things in their lives.<sup>ii</sup>

## Untreated patients are less positive about their overall well-being

- **Untreated patients are less likely** than treated patients to agree that their disease is well controlled (**84%** vs. **91%**) and also less likely to agree they will live a full life despite their HIV (**72%** vs. **83%**).<sup>ii</sup>

## More about the survey

- This survey was conducted online within the United States by Harris Interactive on behalf of ViiV Healthcare from May 16 to June 14, 2013, among 251 U.S. adults (aged 18+) who had been diagnosed with HIV and either had never taken HIV prescription medicine ("untreated patients") or were, at that time, taking prescription medicine and had begun treatment within the past five years ("treated patients"). The majority of respondents were male, aged 18 to 44.
- The survey was also conducted online in six local markets (New York, N.Y.; Miami, Fla.; Dallas-Ft. Worth, Texas; San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.; Chicago, Ill.; Atlanta, Ga.) from May 16 to October 8, 2013, among 729 adults (aged 18+) who had been diagnosed with HIV and either had never taken HIV prescription medicine ("untreated") or were, at that time, taking prescription medicine and had begun treatment within the past five years ("treated"). The unweighted national sample and the clinic-recruited local market data were combined to create statistically more viable subsamples of untreated patients (n=159) and treated patients (n=752).
- This online survey is not based on a probability sample and therefore no estimate of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

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<sup>i</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC Fact Sheet: "HIV in the United States: The Stages of Care." Updated July 2012. Accessed From [http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/research\\_mmp\\_StagesofCare.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/research_mmp_StagesofCare.pdf). Referenced on March 18, 2014.

<sup>ii</sup> ViiV Healthcare-Harris Interactive Survey.

<sup>iii</sup> National Institutes of Health. "Treating HIV-infected People With Antiretrovirals Protects Partners From Infection." Updated May 2011. Accessed From <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2011/pages/hptn052.aspx>. Referenced on March 18, 2014.