

# Oral PrEP persistence among key populations in a center from Buenos Aires, Argentina: Survival analysis of the program's first three years

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## BACKGROUND

- PrEP with TDF/FTC was implemented in a non-governmental organization in Buenos Aires in 2021.
- We aimed to analyze PrEP persistence in key populations and explore its correlates in real-life.

## METHODS

- Oral PrEP was offered at no cost to men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender women (TGW), and cisgender female sex workers (cFSW) at increased HIV risk.
- PrEP persistence was defined as the time to first PrEP discontinuation (TFD): user report or calculated as the date the last pill supply would run out if taken daily.
- TFD was assessed using survival analysis. Cox proportional hazard models examined associations between TFD and sociodemographic and behavioural factors.

PrEP discontinuation was higher among cisgender female sex workers, transgender women, younger users and those with recent cocaine use. To improve persistence we need interventions that address structural and behavioral barriers and targeted interventions for these groups

## RESULTS

Between Sep-2021/ Dec-2024

**958 participants initiated PrEP.**

- Median age: 31 years (IQR:26-36)
  - 670 (69.9%) MSM, 227 (23.7%) TGW, 61 (6.3%) cFSW
- Median follow-up time: 18 months (IQR:9-29)

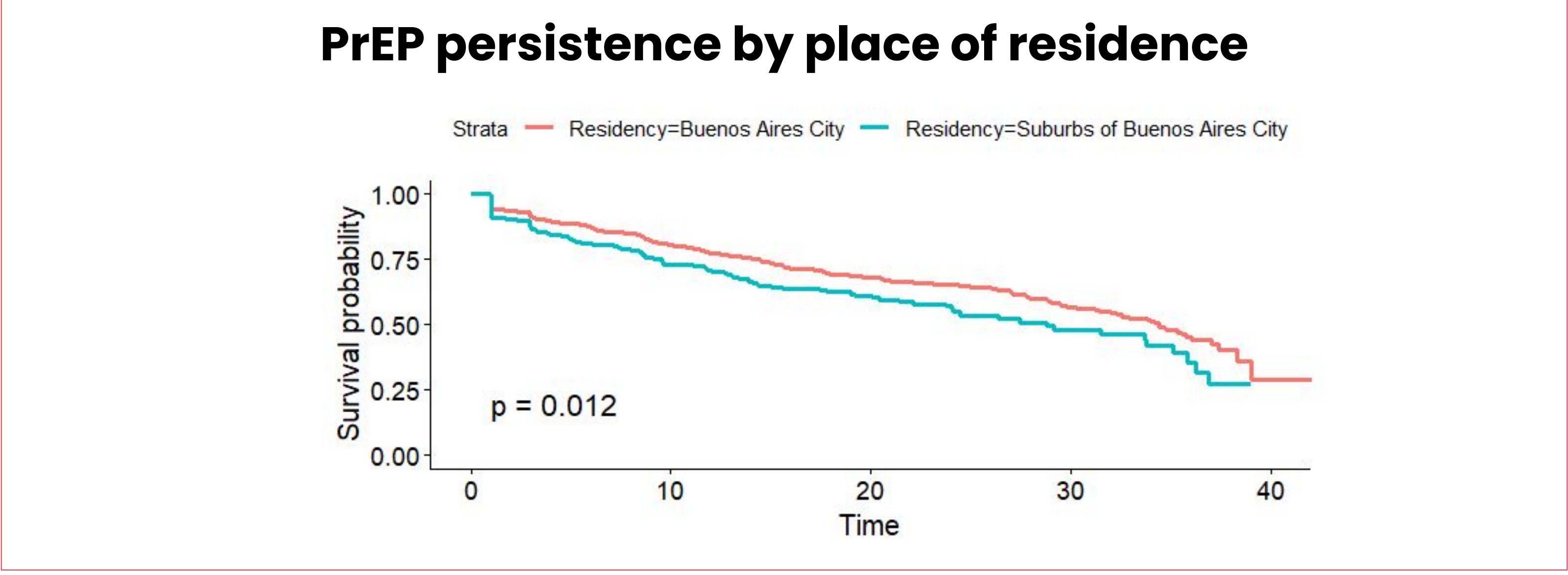
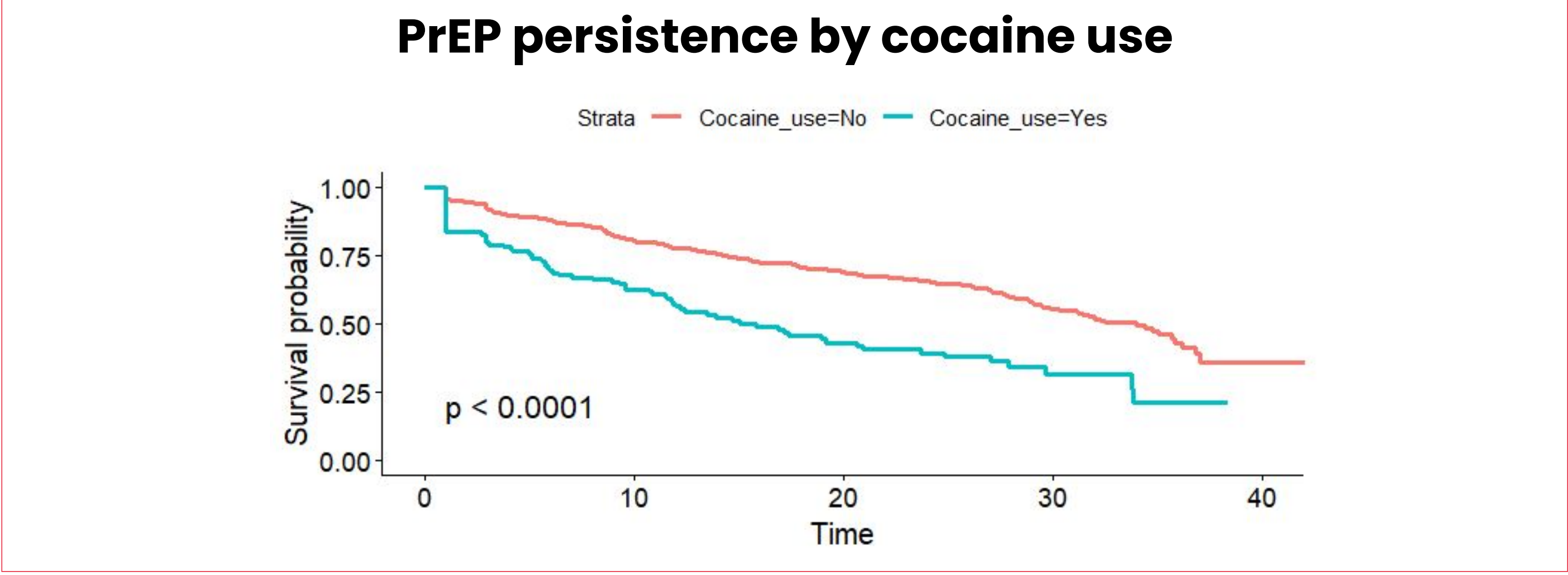
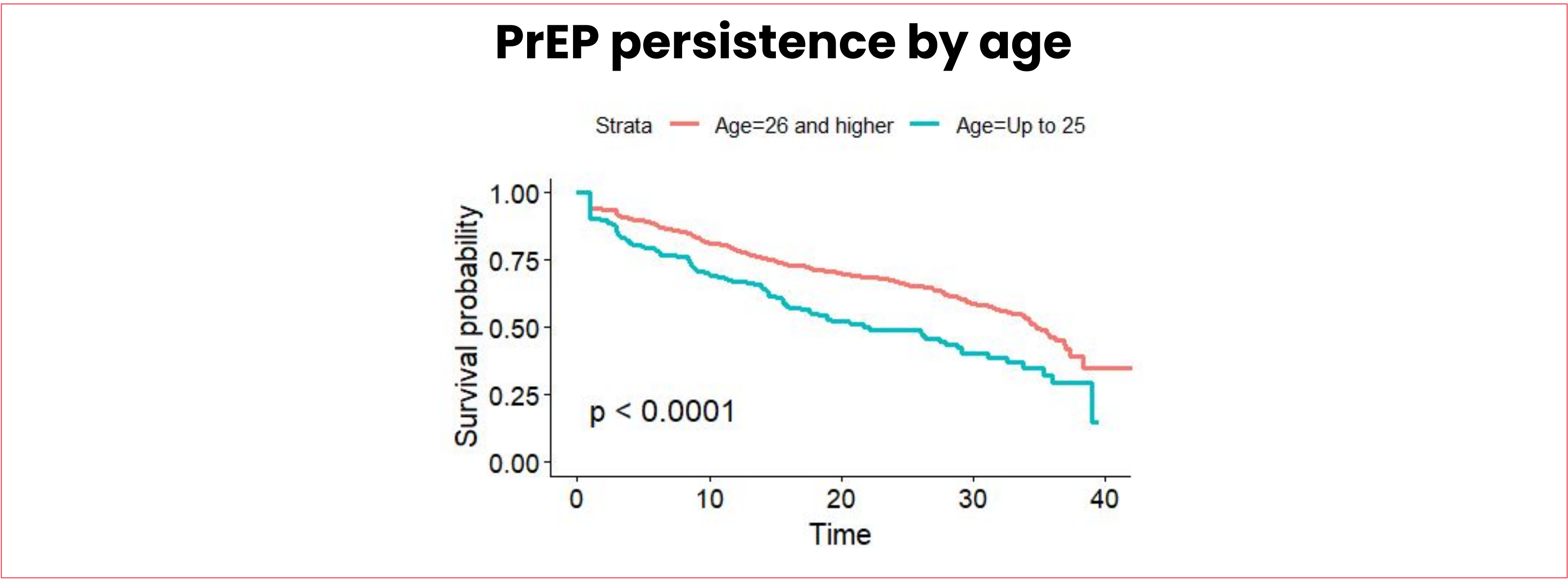
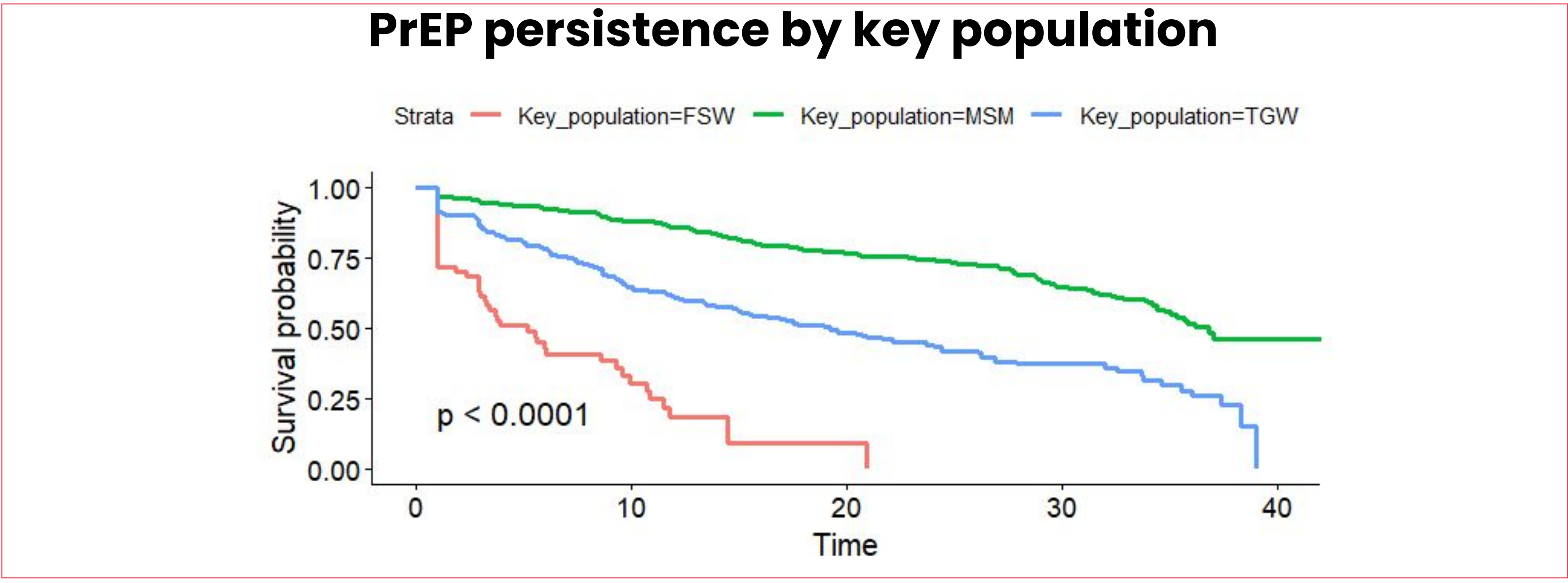
**Discontinuation rates by month**

Month	1	6	12	24	36
%	6.3%	14.1%	23.9%	36.7%	57.4%
95% CI	4.7-7.8	11.8-16.3	21.1-26.6	33.3-40.0	51.7-62.4

Higher risk of discontinuation was associated with younger age, cFSW and TGW compared to MSM, living in the suburbs compared to living in the city, lower education, sex work and cocaine use in last month (Table 2)  
After controlling for demographics and behavioral factors showed that age, key population, and cocaine use remained associated with PrEP TFD (Figure 1).

## CONCLUSIONS

- PrEP discontinuation was higher among cFSW, TGW, younger users and those with recent cocaine use.
- Targeted interventions addressing structural and behavioral barriers are essential to improve persistence in these populations.



**Table 1. Factors associated with PrEP discontinuation. Bivariate analysis**

Variable	HR (95% CI)	p-value
Age	0.98 (0.97-0.99)	0.004
Key population		
MSM	1*	<0.001
TGW	2.51 (2.02-3.12)	
cFSW	8.81 (6.24-12.45)	
Education		<0.001
Secondary school or higher	1*	
Less than secondary school	2.04 (1.61-2.58)	
Lifetime sex work		<0.001
No	1*	
Yes	2.07 (1.60-2.69)	
Cocaine use in last month		<0.001
No	1*	
Yes	2.14 (1.66-2.76)	
Place of residence		0.01
City of Buenos Aires	1*	
Suburbs	1.35 (1.07-1.70)	

\*Reference category

**Figure 1. Cox regression model**

Variable	N	Hazard ratio	p
Age	843	0.98 (0.97, 1.00)	0.01
Key population	592	Reference	
MSM	60	7.46 (4.70, 11.85)	<0.001
FSW	191	2.37 (1.67, 3.36)	<0.001
TGW	648	Reference	
Residency	195	1.21 (0.95, 1.56)	0.13
Buenos Aires City	707	Reference	
Suburbs of Buenos Aires City	136	1.03 (0.77, 1.39)	0.84
Education level	523	Reference	
High school or higher	320	1.14 (0.83, 1.58)	0.41
Lower than high school	709	Reference	
Sex work	134	1.33 (1.01, 1.75)	0.04
No			
Yes			
Cocaine use			
No			
Yes			

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