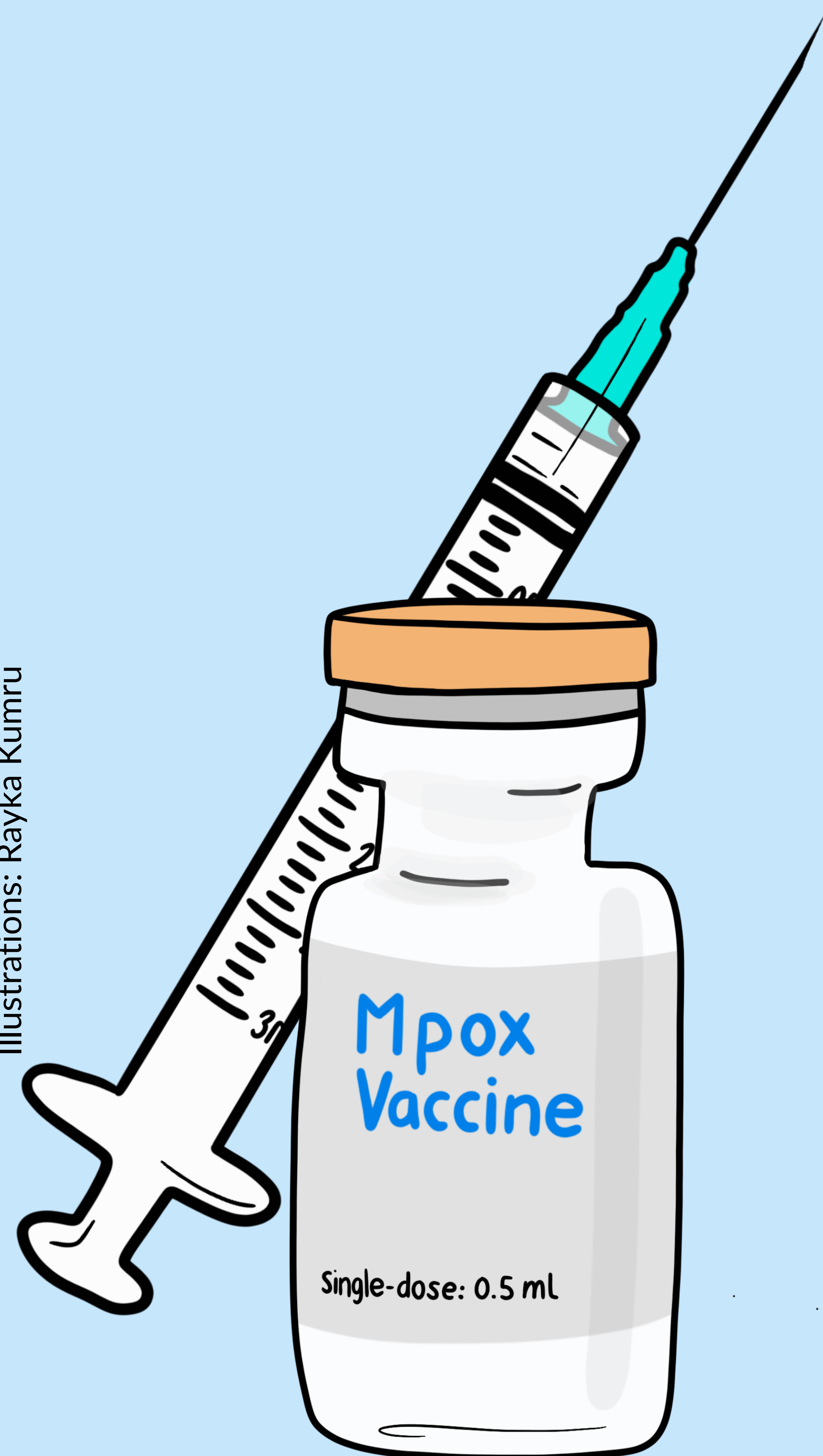


Illustrations: Rayka Kumru



Uptake of the first dose of mpox vaccine was high among eligible clients of an STI clinic in Vancouver, BC.

However, uptake was lower among those likely to be less engaged by available promotional channels.

The survey was conducted five to seven weeks after launch of the first dose mpox vaccine campaign in BC in August 2022.

Why is this important?

The rollout of mpox vaccine was key to containing the 2022 mpox outbreak. Vaccine coverage, and assessing who did and didn't receive the vaccine are important for evaluating vaccination programs. Our findings call for early and intentional and diverse engagement of transgender people, gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men in mpox and other targeted vaccine programs.

What did we do?

We invited clients to an online survey who had visited an STI clinic in Vancouver and consented to be contacted for research. We restricted the analysis to transgender people and gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (T/GBM), and used bivariate analyses to assess factors associated with vaccine uptake.

Mpox vaccine uptake and associated factors among transgender people and gay, bisexual and other men clients of an urban sexually-transmitted infection clinic in Vancouver, BC.

Mark Gilbert,^{1,2} Aidan Ablona,^{1,2} Hsiu-Ju Chang,^{1,2} Troy Grennan,^{1,2} Mike Irvine,^{1,3} Sarai Racey,^{2,5} Travis Salway,^{1,3} Monka Naus,^{1,2} Meena Dawar,^{2,4} Gina Ogilvie.^{3,5}

¹. BC Centre for Disease Control, ². University of British Columbia, ³. Simon Fraser University, ⁴. Vancouver Coastal Health, ⁵. BC Women's Hospital.

Being unvaccinated was associated with:

- Being bisexual, heteroflexible (mostly straight),
- Spending less time with other T/GBM,
- Having fewer sexual partners, and not going to sex venues,
- Lower awareness and perceived susceptibility to mpox,
- Increased constraints to vaccine access, and
- Fewer cues to action (e.g., seeing information about vaccine).

What did we find?

Among 222 eligible participants, 66% had received mpox vaccine. Many participants reported challenges accessing the vaccine, including physically accessing clinics (40%) or related to privacy or stigma (22%).



Acknowledgements & Conflict of Interest: This study was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (FRBeN: #CTW-1553878) and the authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose. We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the Digital & Sexual Health Initiative Community Advisory Board in pilot testing and contributing to survey design.