

Diversifying PrEP delivery choices to enhance PrEP access in two cities of Brazil, 2020–2024

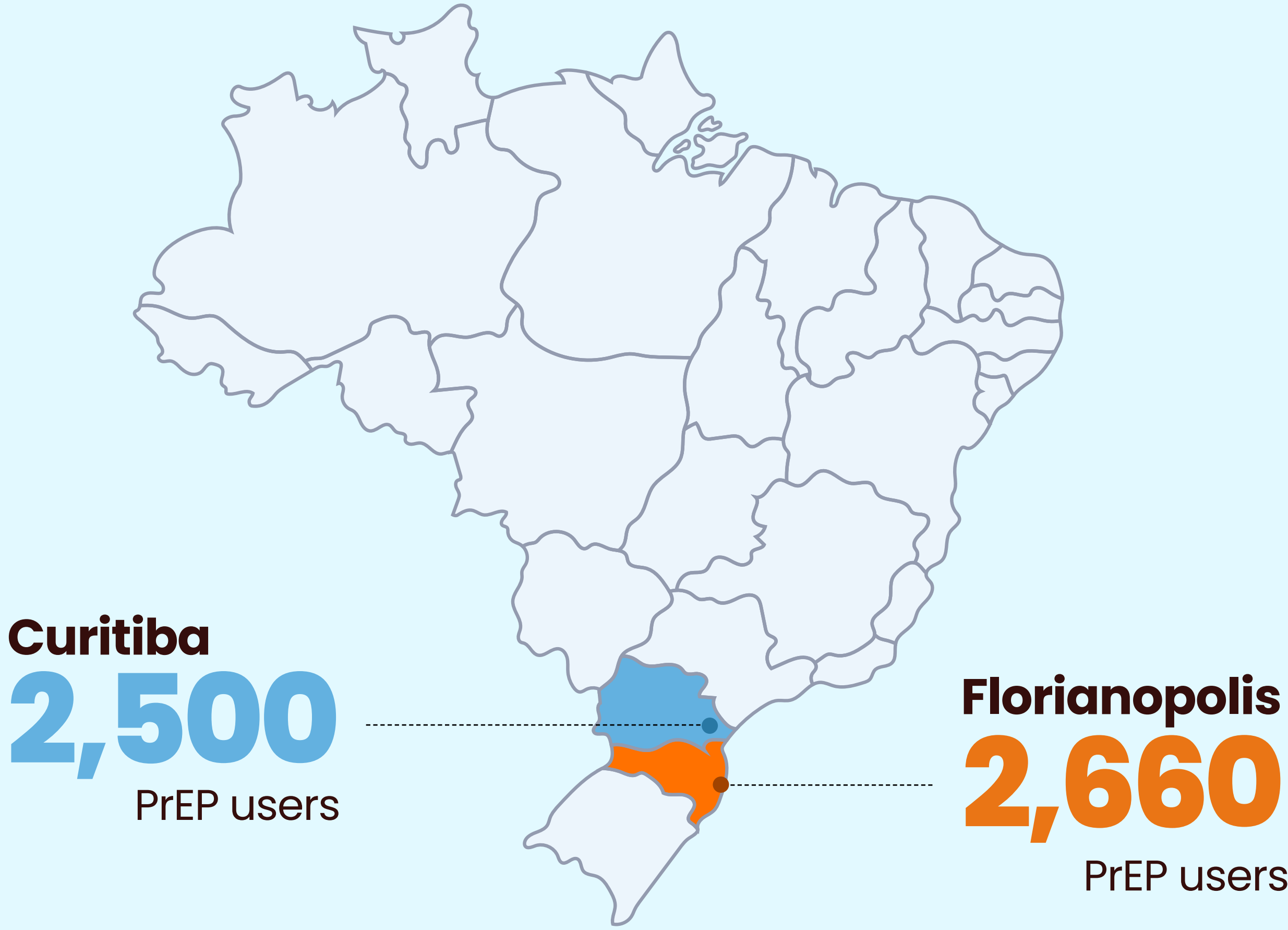
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BACKGROUND

The Time is Now (A Hora e Agora) Project, implemented by Fiocruz with PEPFAR funds, supports differentiated pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) service delivery choices in Florianopolis and Curitiba to expand oral PrEP access in Brazil

Since 2020, it has provided telehealth appointments and online messaging, with oral PrEP and HIV self-tests (HIVST) by mail delivery. By 2024, Curitiba and Florianopolis provided oral PrEP to around **2,500** and **2,660** users respectively.



DESCRIPTION

In 2020, Florianopolis began offering private online messaging between oral PrEP users and providers, using standard forms. Online messaging allows PrEP users to use services at their convenience, including non-business hours and weekends. Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) screenings and online HIVST assistance are also offered. As another Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD) model, Curitiba offers live virtual appointments through a city telehealth center since 2022. During TelePrEP, clients are supported to perform HIVST, followed by appropriate counseling and up to 120-day supply of oral PrEP by mail delivery. Both models include trained nurses, pharmacists, and doctors as prescribers. In 2024, HIVST home delivery was included for PrEP initiation, with clients sending results via digital photos for verification.



LESSONS LEARNED

In 2021, HIV specialized public health services comprised 96% of PrEP offer in Curitiba and 100% in Florianopolis. In 2024, TelePrEP was responsible for 53% of PrEP prescriptions in Florianopolis and 23% in Curitiba. Considering the first year PrEP offer, the number of young PrEP new users (15–24 y.o) in Florianopolis rose 145% (2020–2021), and in Curitiba, it was 47% higher (2022–2023). In both cities, these models were adapted based on existing healthcare infrastructure, available resources, and local contexts.



CONCLUSIONS/NEXT STEPS

The implementation of TelePrEP and PrEP-delivery integrated with HIVST were key factors contributing to the expansion of PrEP in both cities. Further opportunities remain to use these approaches to address inequities in access among most vulnerable people to HIV. The choice for PrEP delivery by mail has still potential to be expanded, with the use of targeted social media.

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