



Feasibility and Acceptability of a Community Partner-Guided Approach to Provider HIV Education in the Dominican Republic

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Background

The Caribbean has the second highest HIV prevalence in the world, and 80% of the region's HIV-infected (HIV+) persons reside in Hispaniola. There are up to 52,000 HIV+ individuals in the Dominican Republic (DR), with a prevalence approaching 12% in concentrated epidemics in Haitian migrants. Trained infectious diseases/HIV subspecialists are rare. The WHO prioritizes integrating HIV into primary care, yet accessible HIV training tailored to Dominican primary care provider needs is lacking.

Objective

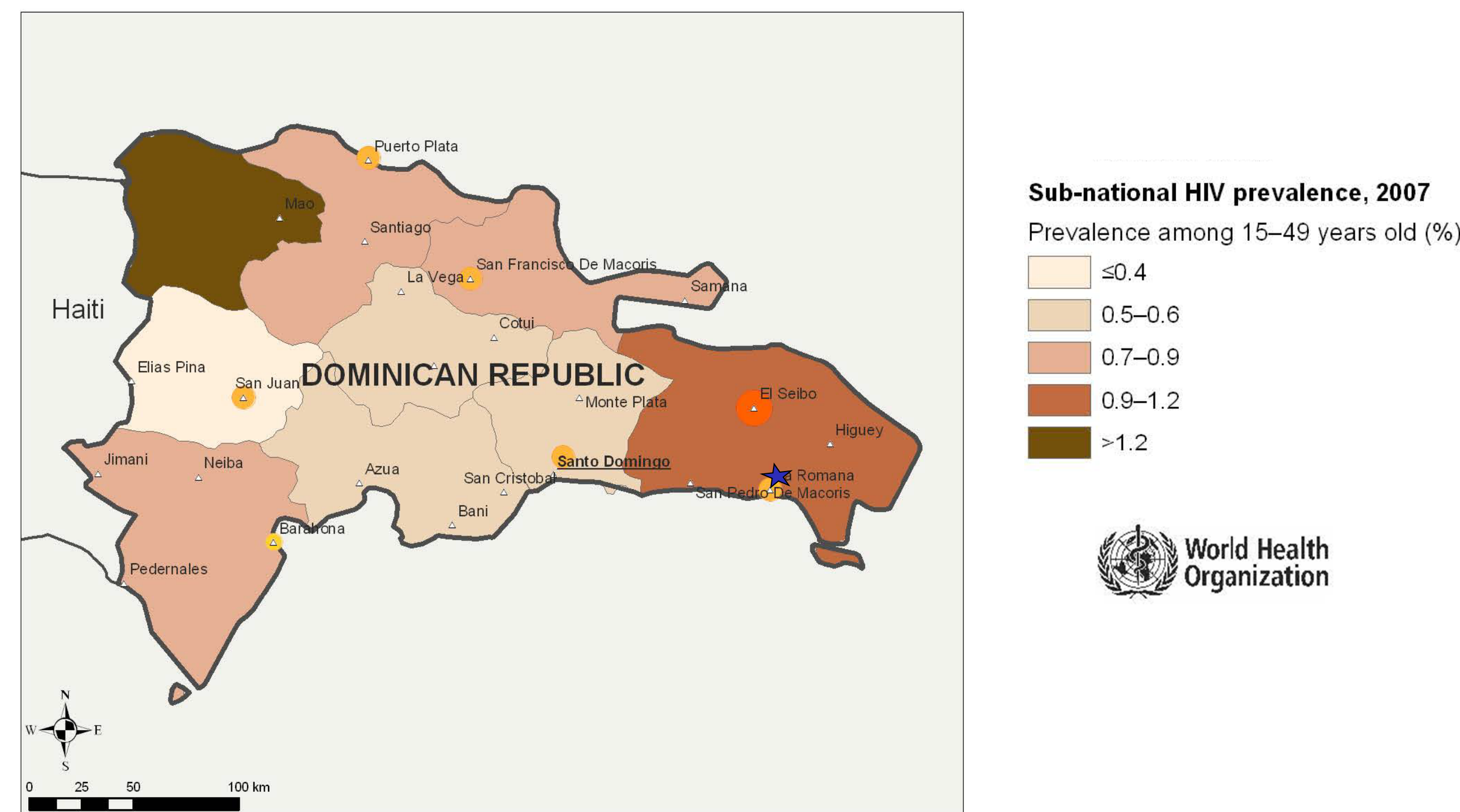
Our objective was to develop a HIV curriculum responsive to the needs of Dominican primary care providers at our partner site.

Methods

Partnership building and needs assessment occurred on-site with the Clínica's medical and executive directors. Guided by their needs, we adapted an established online WHO-based HIV course by translating to Spanish; incorporating 2013 DR national HIV Guidelines; tailoring to topics relevant to Clínica providers; and developing written materials. We taught the curriculum live in Spanish in 2 parts (HIV Fundamentals and HIV Clinical Knowledge) separated by 1 month in 2013. Each part was divided into 2, 2-hour interactive classes based on the Clínica schedule. Participants were Clínica providers (physicians, residents, medical students). We developed open-ended course evaluations and multiple-choice, knowledge-based pre-and post-tests that we gave before and up to 3 months after each part, respectively. We calculated percent of correctly answered questions.

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Description



Clínica de Familia La Romana is the second largest integrated HIV primary care community clinic in the DR. There are 4 general physicians and 1 internist providing free services to 1,600 HIV+ patients, including a large population of Haitian migrants from surrounding bateyes.



Results

Table 1. Pre- and Post-Test Results

	N	Mean (SD)
HIV Fundamentals		
Pre-Test	15	36 (22)
Post-Test	8	71(17)
HIV Clinical Knowledge		
Pre-Test	17	44(18)
Post-Test	9	62(29)

Table 2. Course Evaluation Demographics (N=11)

Male, %	36
Age in Years, Mean (SD)	34 (11)
Years of HIV Experience, %	
0-5	55
5-10	27
NA	18
Participant Type, %	
Intern/Resident	27
Attending	27
Student	18
Administration	9
Social Worker	9
Other/Unknown	9

Fig. 1. Course Evaluation Since attending the course...

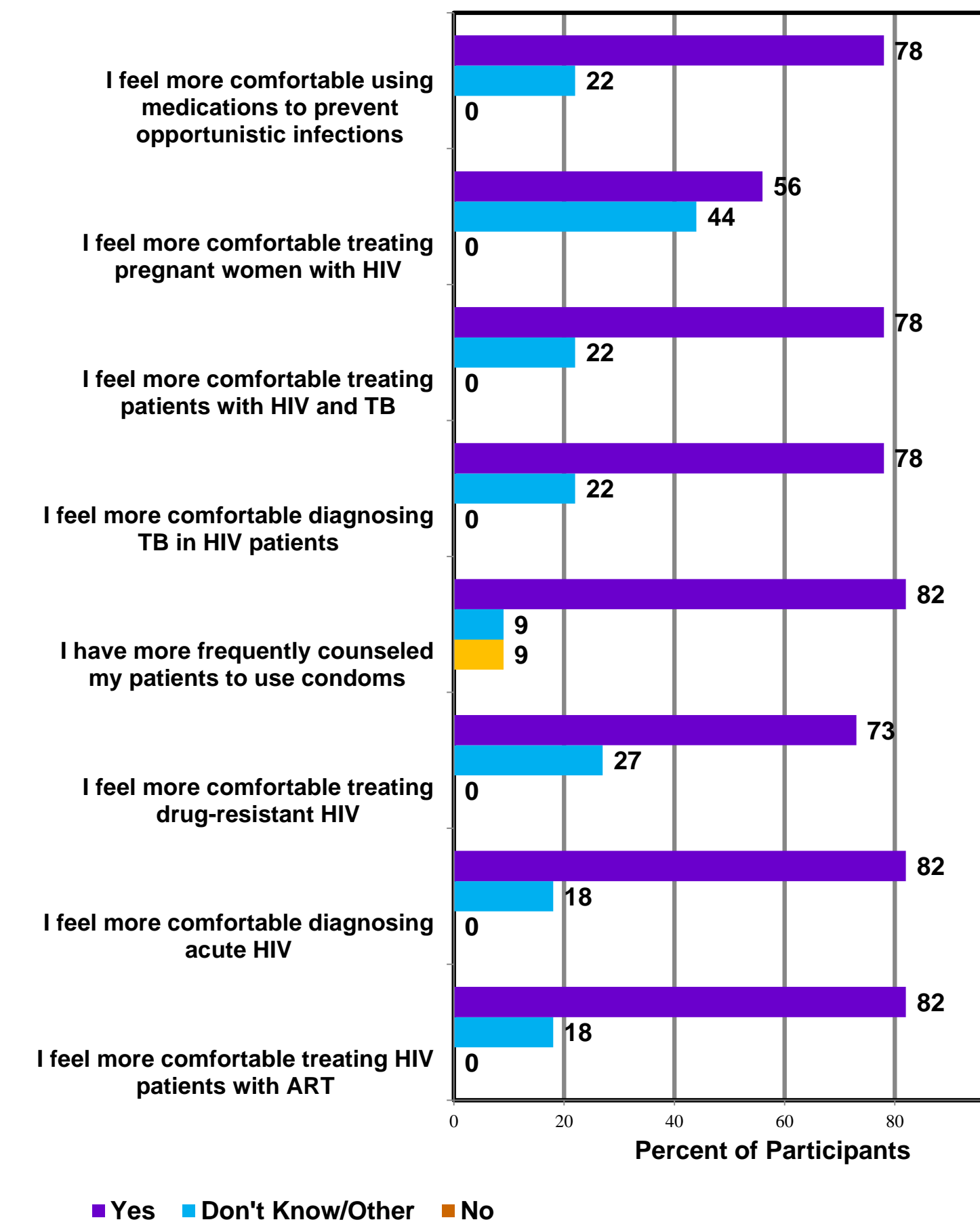
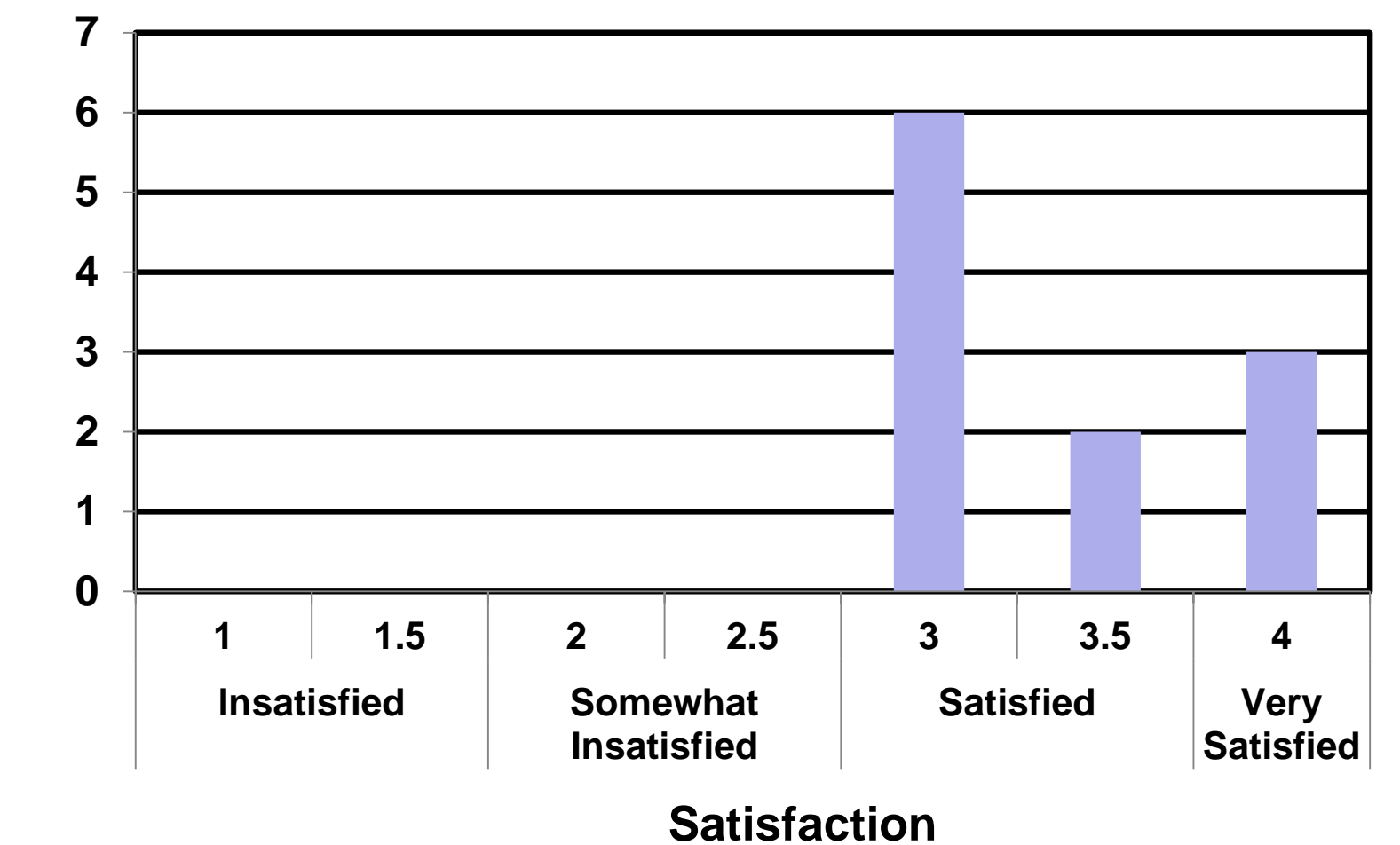


Fig.2. Overall Course Satisfaction (N=11)



Conclusions and Lessons Learned

- Developing a partner-guided HIV curriculum for primary care providers in the DR is feasible and acceptable (Fig. 2)
- Dominican primary care provider HIV education may positively impact HIV knowledge (Table 1) and practices (Fig. 1)
- Future work must evaluate longitudinal outcomes, sustainability, and the need for scale-up of HIV provider education in the DR