



Hepatitis C: The Basics

Community informed education for hepatitis C care engagement

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AIM

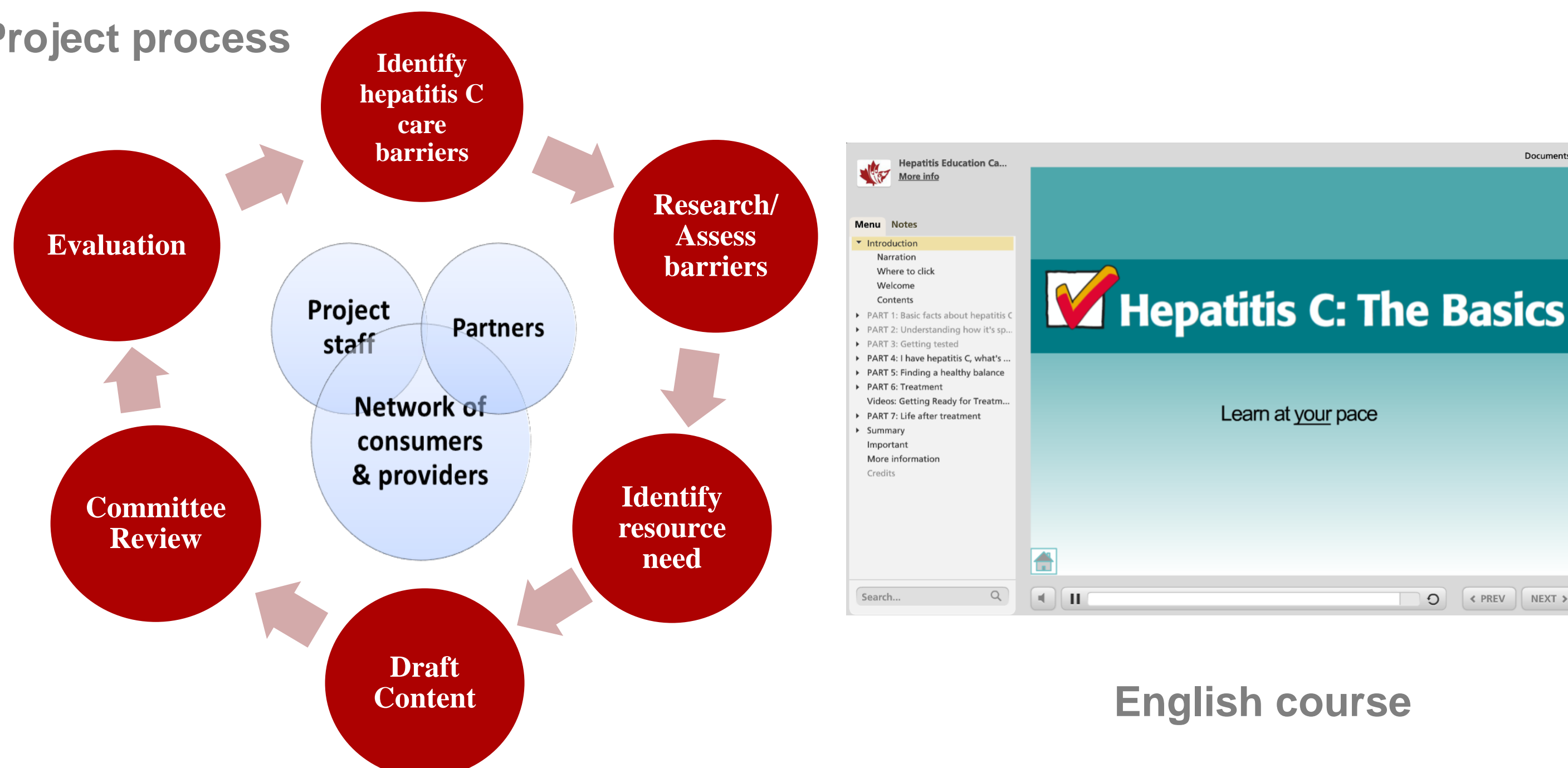
Address key hepatitis C patient & provider knowledge gaps across the illness and care journey to encourage care engagement.

BACKGROUND

- Hepatitis C is a curable chronic infectious disease & targeted for elimination by 2030 [1]
- Patient/provider knowledge gaps, poor communication & stigma discourage engagement with hepatitis C care, increase morbidity/mortality & present obstacles to elimination [2, 3]

INTERVENTION

Project process



A collaborative national project (including people affected by hepatitis C & service providers) created **Hepatitis C: The Basics** [4], an online course that addresses known knowledge gaps [2]. Partners required course to be:

- Accessible:** narrated, easy to understand, non-stigmatizing
- Effective:** Include pre & post-course tests, learning modules (e.g., basic facts, how it's spread, testing, treatment) & evaluation survey

Two formats:

- Online:** individual, self-paced course completion without a facilitator
- Facilitated Group:** in-person course presentation & evaluation

Outcome measures:

- Actual knowledge gains (pre/post tests)
- perceived knowledge gains
- (provider only) self-reported capacity increase to educate clients & encourage engagement in hepatitis C care

RESULTS [5]

511 total course participants

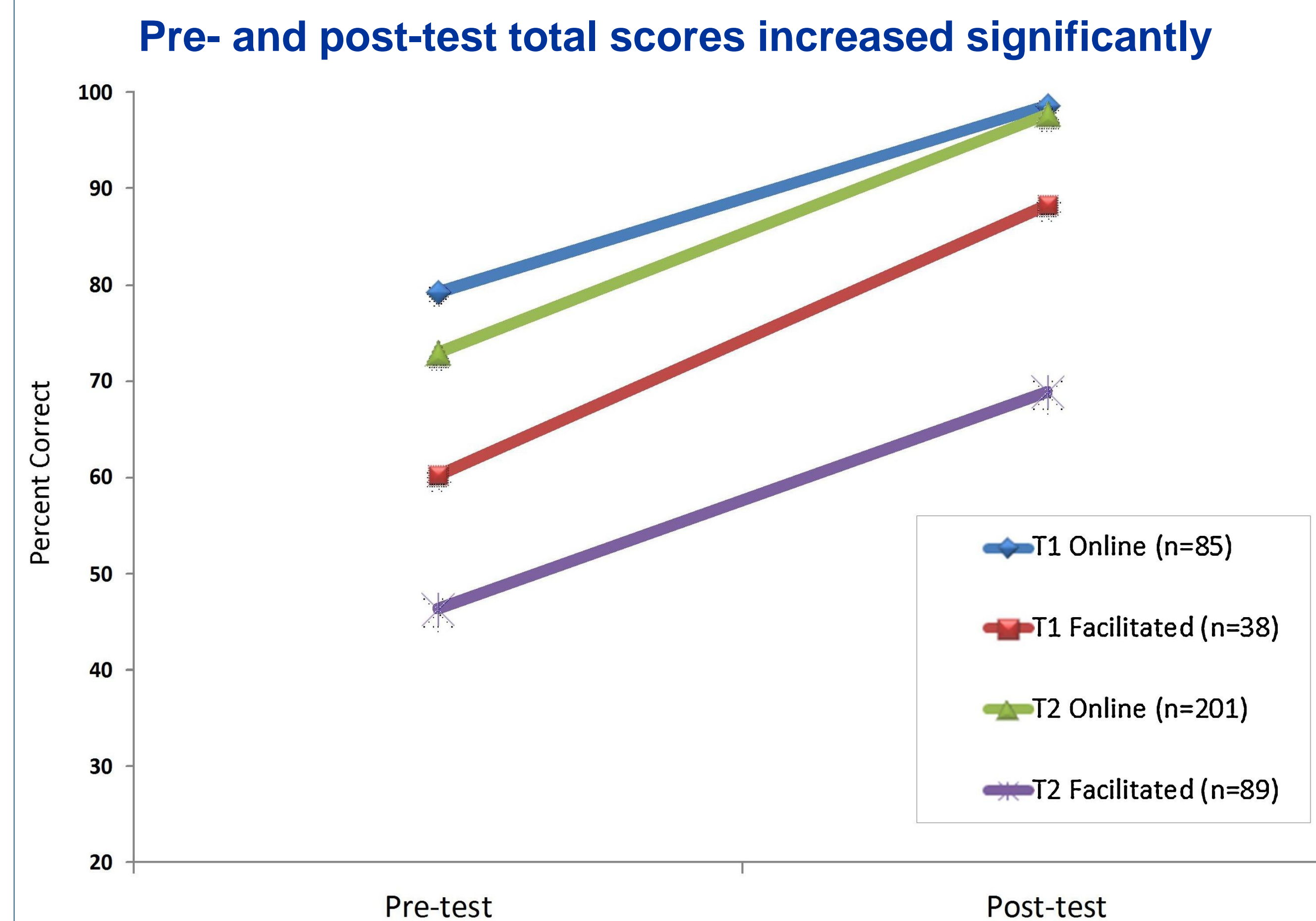
413 matched on pre- and post-course data

- 286 from **Online Group** (mostly providers)
- 127 from **Facilitated Group** (mostly patients or those at-risk)

2 time periods

- Time 1 = 8/31/2014-5/5/2016 with 6 pre/post questions
- Time 2 = 11/5/2016-12/31/2016 10 pre/post (4 new questions)

RESULTS Continued



Largest knowledge gains by question – **Online:**

Time 1 Q3 – pre = 34.1% ; post = 92.9%

Q3=What test tells if a person has a current hepatitis C infection?

Time 2 Q10 – pre = 36.3% ; post = 99.5%

Q10=Which of the following could cause liver damage when taken alone or with prescribed medicine?

Largest knowledge gains by question – **Facilitated:**

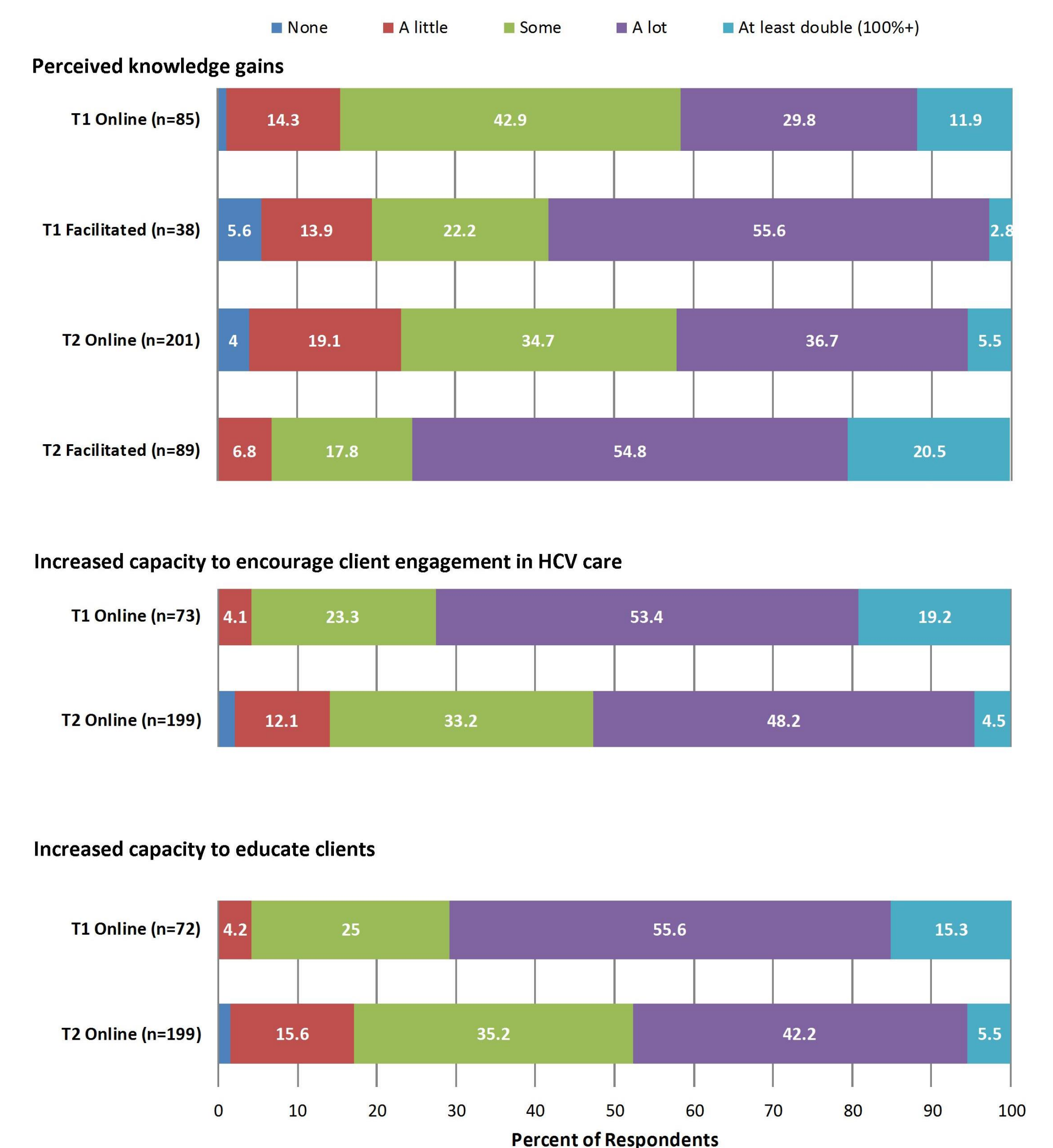
Time 1 Q1 – Pre-test = 39.5%; Post-test = 86.8%

Q1=Is there a vaccine to prevent hepatitis C?

Time 2 Question 5 – Pre-test = 50.6%; Post-test = 92.1%

Q5=If someone is living with hepatitis C, how often should they see a provider?

Perceived knowledge gains & increased capacity



- Most reported perceived knowledge gains of “some” or greater (range: 77% to 93%)

- Most providers (Online) reported increased capacity to educate clients or to encourage client engagement in care by “some” or greater (range: 83% to 96%)

KEY FINDINGS

Hepatitis C: The Basics significantly increased:

- hepatitis C actual & perceived knowledge
- provider capacity to educate/engage clients

The course is a non-stigmatizing, acceptable, adaptable, cost-effective way to address key patient/provider knowledge gaps in both formats.

Main knowledge gaps:

- tests used to diagnose an active hepatitis C infection
- how often those living with hepatitis C should see their provider; if there is a vaccine

Future Directions:

Follow up surveys needed to assess longer term behavioural & practice impacts of course content & formats

Acknowledgements



a place of mind



References

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- Access **Hepatitis C: The Basics** at hepatitiseducation.ca/resources/learninghub.phsa.ca/course/search
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