

Development of a PrEP Candidate Screening Tool: An Assessment of PrEP Knowledge and Health Behaviors among Individuals at High- Risk for HIV

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Background

- **Using ARVs as PrEP for HIV prevention is effective in reducing HIV incidence**
- **Given high HIV prevalence in DC, PrEP has the potential to make a significant impact in reducing HIV incidence**
- **Widespread use will be predicated on adequate knowledge, health care access and use, and optimal adherence**
- **Assessing levels of PrEP knowledge and acceptability combined with health-seeking behaviors and adherence potential will assist in identifying optimal PrEP users**

Objectives

- **Short term: Evaluate PrEP knowledge, experience, acceptability, and potential uptake among high-risk populations in DC**
- **Long term: Utilize these data to develop a clinical screening tool to assist health care providers in identifying potential candidates for PrEP use based on risk, health-seeking behaviors, and potential levels of adherence**

Methods

- **Conducted a self-administered web-based survey on iPads**
- **Recruited convenience sample of high-risk populations attending three DC clinics from February-June 2012**
- **Captured information regarding:**
 - **Participant demographics**
 - **HIV risk behaviors**
 - **Health-seeking behaviors**
 - **PrEP knowledge, experience, acceptability, and potential uptake**
- **Calculated descriptive statistics and bivariate analyses to identify factors associated with willingness to use PrEP**

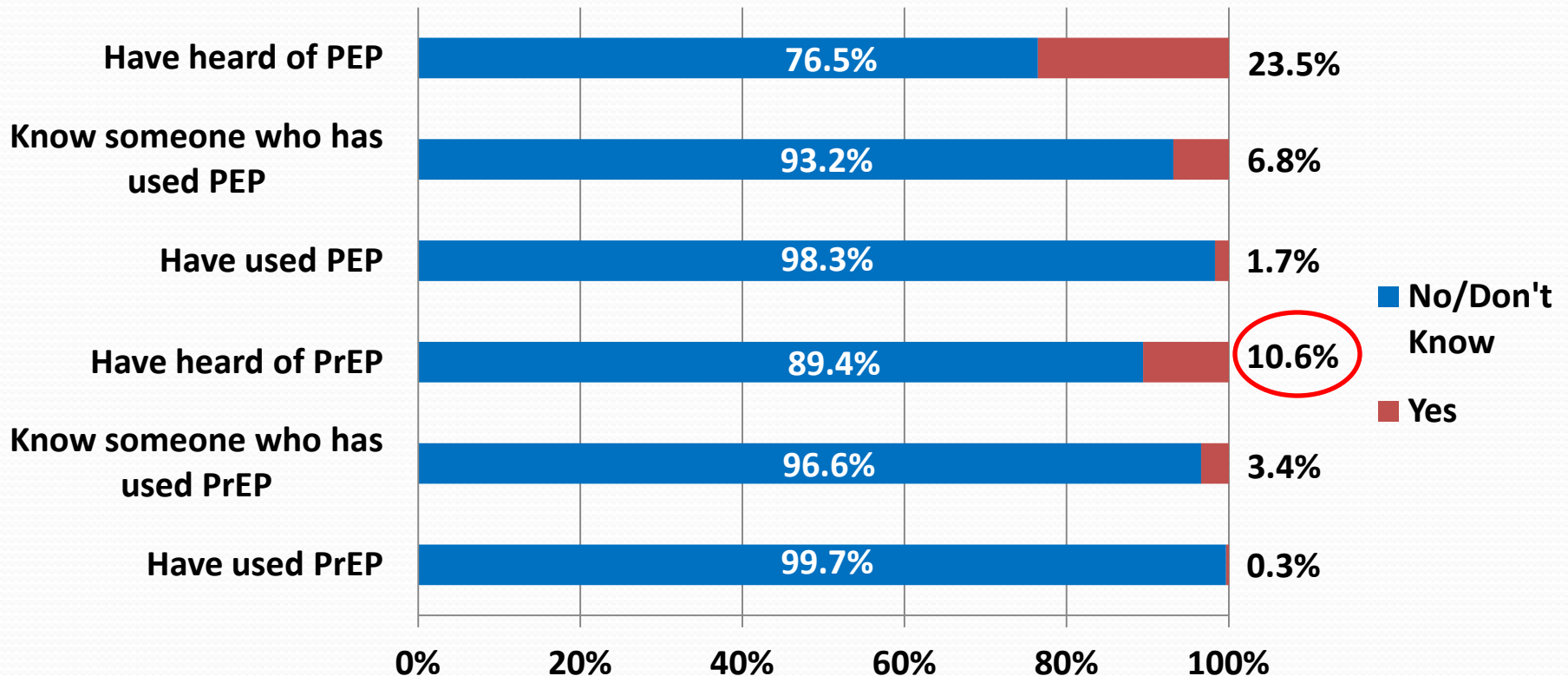
Participant Characteristics (N=293)

Characteristic	Number	%
Age (yrs)	Median: 26	Range: 14-66
Male	165	56.3
Non-Hispanic Black	212	72.4
Regular healthcare provider	179	61.1
In a committed relationship	174	59.4
Sexual behavior: Homosexual/bisexual male	67	22.9
No. casual sex partners	Median: 2	Range: 0-35
Self-reported HIV risk: none-low	192	65.5
Number of HIV tests in past 12 months	Median: 2	Range: 0-20

Reported Medication Adherence Behaviors (N=97)

Characteristic	Number	%
Sometimes forget to take medication	63	65.0
No. missed doses in past 14 days	Median: 2	Range: 0-14
Ever stopped medication due to side effects or feeling worse	29	30.2
Didn't tell HCP when cut back or stopped taking medication	31	32.3

Knowledge and Use of PEP and PrEP



Willingness to Use PrEP

- Interested in learning more about PrEP
 - 86.0% somewhat/strongly agree
- Would take PrEP if proven safe and effective
 - 77.5% somewhat/strongly agreed
- Willing to take as a daily medication
 - 60.8% yes
- Willing to pay median \$20/month
- Would take if free/insurance covered
 - 56.7% very likely

Differences in Willingness to Take PrEP by Gender, Age, and Sexual Behavior (N=130)

Characteristic	Yes n (%)	X ²	p-value
Gender			
Male	75 (45.5)	0.9429	0.3315
Female	65 (51.2)	-	-
Age			
13-24	60 (45.1)	0.7210	0.6973
25-39	47 (50.5)	-	-
40+	33 (49.3)	-	-
Sexual behavior			
Homosexual/bisexual male	34 (50.8)	1.3575	0.5072
Heterosexual male	41 (42.3)	-	-
Heterosexual female	52 (48.6)	-	-

Conclusions

- **High-risk populations in DC have low levels of PrEP awareness but are generally open to learning more about PrEP**
- **Potential obstacles to PrEP use in these populations may include:**
 - **Low levels of PrEP awareness**
 - **Lack of a regular healthcare provider**
 - **Difficulty taking medications as prescribed**
- **Clinical tool to identify persons at risk for HIV who are willing to use PrEP and likely to remain adherent will assist clinicians in identifying good candidates for PrEP use and will lead to optimal HIV prevention**

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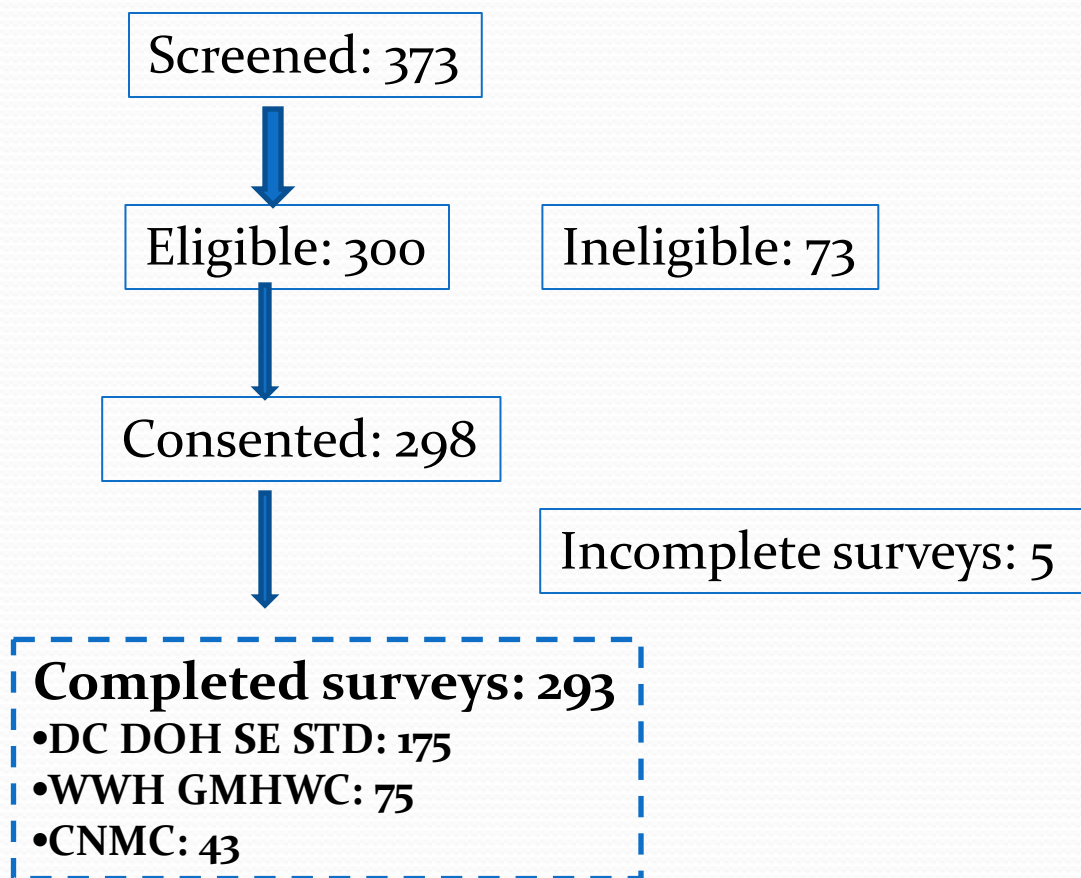
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Questions

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Results: Potential PrEP Users

- Eligibility criteria:
 - 13 or older
 - Self-reported HIV negative
 - Had sex in last 6 months
 - Able to complete survey in English
 - Able to provide informed consent



Significant Differences by Willingness

- **Perceived PrEP effectiveness**
- **Taking PrEP will help w partners that don't use condoms**
- **Take a daily pill if few to no side effects**
- **Willing to get tested regularly (eg. every 6 months)**
- **Would give me more control over whether get infected by a sex partner**
- **Would feel ashamed or embarrassed to use PrEP**

Demographics (N=293)

Characteristic	Number	%
Age (yrs)	Median: 26	Range: 14-66
Male	165	56.3
Non-Hispanic Black	212	72.4
DC resident	225	76.8
Education: Any college	152	51.9
Annual household income: \geq \$20K	136	49.5
Insurance: Medicaid	95	32.4
In a committed relationship	174	59.4
Sexual behavior		
Homosexual/bisexual male	67	22.9
Heterosexual male	97	33.1
Heterosexual/bisexual female	114	38.9

HIV Risk Factors and Behaviors (N=293)

Characteristic	Number	%
No. main sex partners	Median: 1	Range: 0-33
No. casual sex partners	Median: 2	Range: 0-35
Injected drugs	7	2.4
Use condoms most of time/always	142	48.5
Knew sex partner's HIV status most of time/always	155	52.9
Self-reported HIV risk: none-low	192	65.5

Health Seeking and HIV Testing Behaviors (N=293)

Characteristic	Number	%
Regular healthcare provider	179	61.1
Location for receipt of healthcare: Community health center	94	32.1
Number of healthcare visits in last year: 1-4	221	75.4
Previously tested for HIV	289	98.6
Last HIV test: 0-6 months prior	209	71.3
Number of HIV tests in past 12 months	Median: 2	Range: 0-20

Willingness to Use PreP

- **Would take PrEP if proven safe and effective**
 - 77.5% somewhat/strongly agreed
- **Would rather take preventative HIV med after sex**
 - 26.3% somewhat/strongly agreed
- **Willing to take as a daily medication**
 - 60.8% yes
- **Willing to pay median \$20/month**
- **Would take if free/insurance covered**
 - 56.7% very likely
- **Would participate in a PrEP clinical trial**
 - 30.0% very likely
- **Interested in learning more about PrEP**
 - 86.0% somewhat/strongly agree