

HIV RISK PERCEPTION, PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS PERSPECTIVES AND USE AMONG WOMEN: ISSUES OF DISCLOSURE AND TRUST

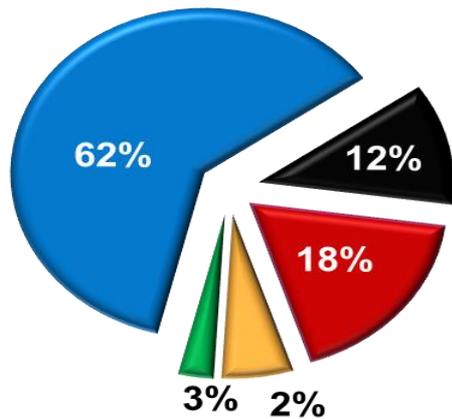
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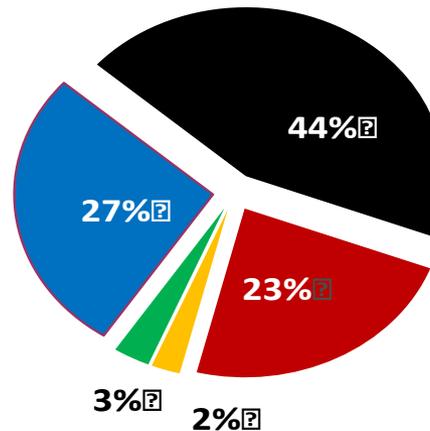
Why We Did this Study

- Women of color comprise a disproportionate number of new HIV infections in the US, yet have limited uptake of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

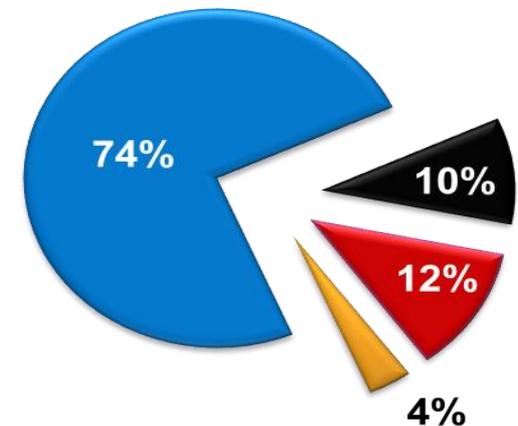
Estimated Population Distribution by Race/Ethnicity, 2014, US^a



Estimated New HIV Infections, 2014, US^b



Total FTC/TDF for PrEP Utilization by Race/Ethnicity, Sept 2015, US^c



■ AA ■ White ■ Hispanics ■ Asians ■ Multiracial/Other

PrEP use among AA and Hispanics is low relative to the rate of new HIV infections

Bush S, et al. ASM/ICAAC 2016; Boston, MA. #2651

What We Did

- Prospective Cohort Study
 - Of 271 people testing HIV negative and screened for PrEP, 183 followed-up for MD evaluation, HIV education and adherence counseling.
 - This sample was restricted to women, n=109
 - Recruited from Harris Health System
- Mixed methods data
 - Assessed knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about HIV, HIV prevention, PrEP
 - Assessed the potential impact of PrEP on sexual relationships
- Data sources included:
 - Surveys
 - Individual interviews
 - Chart review
- Descriptive statistics and summary measures of demographic variables, key risk behaviors and PrEP attitudes were compared with:
 - t-tests, Chi-square tests and logistic regression using the statistical program STATA 14.
- Qualitative data analysis
 - Thematic content analysis
 - ATLAS.ti

What We Found

- Of the 109 women surveyed, 68.8% were African-American, 18.4% Hispanic, 11% white non-Hispanic and 1.8% Native American.
- 49.5% were working full or part time
- 78.9% had household income of less than \$25,000 per year.
- The majority were stably housed (67.9%). Although most participants (56%) had no health insurance, patients without health insurance could access care through the Harris Health System eligibility program.
- In the past 6 months, 81.7% of participants had a male sexual partner, 2.8% had a female partner and 1 had a trans partner.
- 27.5% reporting a steady partner and 32.1% reporting a spouse. Only, 26.1% reported multiple partners in the prior 6 months and 18.4% reported casual partners.
- A relatively small subset of these women attended an HIV prevention program appointment (n=27) and a smaller subset actually started PrEP (n=20)

Risk Profile of Female Participants N=109		N	%
In the last 6 months, would you describe any of your sex partner(s) as a steady partner?	Yes	30	27.5
In the last 6 months, would you describe any of your sex partner(s) as a spouse?	Yes	35	32.1
Do you use condoms when having sexual intercourse?	Yes, always	22	20.6
	Yes, sometimes/rarely	35	32.1
	No, never	50	45.9
Do you have a sexual partner with HIV?	Yes	42	38.9

PrEP Interest, N=109		N	%
Are you interested in PrEP?	Yes	94	86.2
Do you have any concerns regarding PrEP?	Yes, 1 concern	41	37.6
	Yes, multiple concerns	45	41.3
	No	21	19.3

Sample quotes

Disclosure	<p>“Well of course, nobody’s going to say, “Oh, Hi, my name is such and such, I have HIV. But eventually he told me. He didn’t want to tell me.”</p> <p>-25 y/o, married, spouse HIV+</p>
	<p>“So but recently, he just—he went to jail. ... Next thing I know, I get a phone call, and he’s saying that—he’s not really telling me. He’s beating around the bush. I had to pull it out of him for him to tell me that he was positive.”</p> <p>-29 y/o, serodiscordant marriage</p>
Risk Perception	<p>“I had heard that my ex-husband was with someone that did [have HIV], and it was like—let me get me checked out.”</p> <p>-41 y/o married</p>

Impact of PrEP on relationship

“Yes, because when we did have sex and I wasn’t on the medicine but we used condoms, I wasn’t able to like, you know how you are able to like get into it and be relaxed with no worries. I was like okay, hurry up, come on. And then let me check the condom and make sure it didn’t break. Now it’s a little more enjoyable. It’s not like me worrying.”

-25 y/o in a serodiscordant relationship

PrEP Motivators

“He wanted me to be on it [PrEP] because he wants to protect me as well. Because we have children so the most important thing is keeping him healthy and keeping me healthy so we can be better parents.”

– 30 y/o single woman

What Our Results Mean and Why this Matters

- Self-assessing risk among women poses challenges as risk is often dictated by partner factors.
 - Women described barriers to disclosure
 - A perception of personal risk, often emerging from partner disclosure of HIV status, was often needed for women to take the necessary steps to overcome existing barriers to PrEP uptake.
- Overall there was limited condom use.
- Most women felt positively about the idea of PrEP.
- PrEP interest did not always translate to program enrollment with adequate linkage to care or to PrEP use.
- Women who actually began taking PrEP noted positive experiences.

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