Awareness and Interest in PrEP Options Among US Cisgender Women - A 2021 National Survey

Tonia Poteat\textsuperscript{1}, Supriya Sarkar\textsuperscript{2}, Leigh Ragone\textsuperscript{2}, M Keith Rawlings\textsuperscript{2}, Alex Rinehart\textsuperscript{2}, Jennifer N Hill\textsuperscript{3}, Kyli Gallington\textsuperscript{3}, Karin Coyne\textsuperscript{3}, Vani Vannappagari\textsuperscript{2}

\textsuperscript{1}University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, NC, USA; \textsuperscript{2}ViiV Healthcare, Durham, NC, USA; \textsuperscript{3}Evidera, Bethesda, MD, USA
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Introduction

• Cisgender women make up almost 20% of incident HIV infections in the United States.¹

• PrEP uptake and coverage among cisgender women continues to be low, with women making up approximately 8% of all PrEP users in the US in 2021.²

• The large gap between women who can benefit from PrEP and women who use PrEP highlights the unmet need for HIV prevention among women.

• Understanding women’s PrEP awareness and preferences may help address this need, especially as newer PrEP options become available.

• This study implemented a national survey to assess the awareness, interest, and usage of PrEP as well as HIV prevention preferences among sexually active women in the US.

Methodology

• Participants were recruited through a social media campaign using Facebook, Instagram, and Tinder

• Eligibility criteria:
  • 18 years of age or older
  • Current resident of the US (including US territories)
  • Assigned female at birth
  • Self identifies as female
  • Reports penetrative (anal and/or vaginal) sex in the past six months
  • Reports HIV negative or unknown HIV status

• Survey consisted of ~90 questions covering demographics, healthcare access and experiences, PrEP knowledge and use, substance use, and sexual behavior and health

• This interim analysis presents data from the first 961 participants surveyed between November and December 2021

• Descriptive analyses and logistic regression were conducted using SAS v9.4
STUDY Objectives

Objective 1: Descriptive analyses
- Demographic characteristics
- Sexual health and behaviors
- Healthcare access
- Barriers to healthcare
- Social network
- History of oral PrEP

Objective 2: Analyze proportion of participants aware of LA PrEP

Survey Question: Before today, have you ever heard of an injectable form of PrEP that you get every couple months, as a way to reduce the risk of getting HIV?

- Yes
  - LA PrEP Aware

Objective 3: Examine factors associated with LA PrEP interest

Survey Question: How likely are you to regularly use any prevention options (condoms, vaginal ring*, daily oral PrEP pills, or long-acting injectable PrEP) to prevent HIV?

- Very Likely, Somewhat likely
  - LA PrEP Interested

Objective 4: Examine factors associated with LA PrEP disinterest

Survey Question: How likely would you be to use this injectable form of PrEP, if it were available, to reduce the risk of getting HIV?

- Very Unlikely, Somewhat unlikely, Neither likely nor unlikely
  - LA PrEP Disinterested

Objective 5: Examine factors associated with preference of HIV prevention modalities

- Prevention Conscious
  - Very likely, Somewhat likely, Neither likely nor unlikely, Somewhat unlikely

~2,000 women* (annually for three years)

*Current analysis includes results from the first 961 participants surveyed
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Geographic Representation

N = 961 women (Interim Data)

Northeast
- CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, PA, RI, VT
- 149

Midwest
- IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI
- 137

South
- AL, AR, DE, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV
- 224

West
- AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY
- 449

US Territories
- 2
## Participant Demographics

### Baseline characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (N=961)</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>597 (62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>289 (30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥40</td>
<td>75 (8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity (N=955)</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black/non-Hispanic</td>
<td>333 (35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/Hispanic</td>
<td>191 (20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White/non-Hispanic</td>
<td>205 (21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White/Hispanic</td>
<td>115 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another Race</td>
<td>111 (12)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship status (N=959)</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single/Dating</td>
<td>457 (48)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic partnership/civil union/married</td>
<td>447 (47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed/Separated/Divorced</td>
<td>55 (5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sexual Behavior and Risk Perception of STI/HIV Acquisition

Condom Use Frequency (N=732)

- None of the time: 5%
- A little of the time: 11%
- Some of the time: 32%
- Most of the time: 36%
- All of the time: 16%

Risk Perception of STI Acquisition (n=961)

- Very Unlikely: 49%
- Somewhat Unlikely: 36%
- Somewhat Likely: 12%
- Very Likely: 4%

Risk Perception of HIV Acquisition (n=961)

- Very Unlikely: 56%
- Somewhat Unlikely: 29%
- Somewhat Likely: 9%
- Very Likely: 5%

Ever tested for HIV: 54%
Exchanged sex for money or drugs: 19%
STI diagnosis in the past two years: 9%
PrEP Awareness (N=961)

- Proportion of participants who had spoken with a healthcare provider or who knew of someone who currently on PrEP was much lower than those with overall awareness.

- Among participants who knew of someone currently on PrEP, the most common relations were a friend (50.4%), relative (40.6%), or partner (19.1%).

- The most common places participants reported speaking with an HCP about PrEP were in a hospital (46.6%), primary care clinic (42.7%), and sexual health clinic (39.9%).

- 66% of participants who had spoken with their HCP about PrEP reported that their HCP had initiated the conversation.

- PrEP awareness was generally high among participants and across age and racial/ethnic groups.
- PrEP usage was low, as expected, with 19.7% of participants reporting ever PrEP use and 9.3% reporting current PrEP use. However, this is much higher than the proportion of women using PrEP in the general population.

- Among women who had discontinued PrEP, 40% cited starting a monogamous relationship as the primary reason for discontinuation.

- 49.2% of Black Hispanic women reported having ever taken PrEP, while 14.6% of Black non-Hispanic women reported this.
LA PrEP Awareness (N=961)

- Half of participants reported having ever heard of an injectable form of PrEP
- Awareness of LA PrEP decreased with age
- Trends in LA PrEP knowledge by race/ethnicity is similar to overall PrEP knowledge
  - White/Hispanic reporting highest
  - Black/Hispanic reporting lowest
- LA PrEP awareness is relatively high across various groups of participants

LA PrEP Awareness by age:

- 55% of participants were aware of LA PrEP when they were 18-29
- 43% of participants were aware of LA PrEP when they were 30-39
- 41% of participants were aware of LA PrEP when they were 40-49

LA PrEP Awareness by race/ethnicity:

- 51% of Black/Non-Hispanic participants were aware of LA PrEP
- 41% of Black/Hispanic participants were aware of LA PrEP
- 51% of White/Non-Hispanic participants were aware of LA PrEP
- 72% of White/Hispanic participants were aware of LA PrEP
LA PrEP Willingness (N=942)

Likelihood to use LA PrEP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Unlikely</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat Unlikely</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat Likely</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Likely</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
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Top Reasons for Interest (n=635)
1. Effective at preventing HIV (64.6%)
2. Effective at preventing other STIs (41.7%)
3. Easy to use (34.5%)

Top Reasons for Disinterest (n=307)
1. No need for LA PrEP (30.3%)
2. Not at risk for HIV (20.8%)
3. Would not be convenient (17.3%)

*Responses for interest and disinterest were provided to participants and selections were not mutually exclusive
Factors Associated with LA PrEP Willingness

Age (per 10 years)

Annual Income (Ref: $100k+)
- Up to $19,999
- $20,000 to $39,999
- $40,000 to $74,999
- $75,000 to $99,999

Current Mental Health (Ref: Excellent)
- Fair/Poor
- Good
- Very Good

Knows someone who has taken PrEP (Ref: No)
- Yes, knows of someone who currently takes PrEP
- Yes, knows of someone who took PrEP in the past

Current or prior use of oral PrEP (Ref: Never use)

Odds Ratio (95% CI)

0 1 10 20

Less Willing More Willing
HIV Prevention Preferences

Preference between oral PrEP and LA PrEP (n=946)

Likelihood to use any prevention option (N=961)

Prevention option of choice (N=893)
# HIV Prevention Preferences

## PrEP Awareness
- Most participants had heard of PrEP, and half surveyed had heard of LA PrEP
- Some HCPs are speaking to women about PrEP as an option
- A sizeable proportion of women mistakenly believed that LA PrEP could prevent other STIs, which underlines the need to properly educate women who could benefit from PrEP

## PrEP Usage
- A small proportion of participants reported ever or current use of oral PrEP, and less than half of current users reported high adherence to daily PrEP pills
- Main reason for discontinuation was related to new monogamous relationship; other reasons included concern around side effects and worry about external perceptions

## PrEP Willingness
- Interest in LA PrEP was consistently high across subgroups, and HCP-administered LA PrEP was the second most preferred choice of HIV prevention
- Reporting interest in PrEP may not be a proxy for PrEP uptake, and future surveys should also ask about willingness to start PrEP in the immediate future
Acknowledgements

Co-authors:
Supriya Sarkar, ViiV Healthcare
Leigh Ragone, ViiV Healthcare
M Keith Rawlings, ViiV Healthcare
Alex Rinehart, ViiV Healthcare
Jennifer N Hill, Evidera
Kyli Gallington, Evidera
Karin Coyne, Evidera
Vani Vannappagari, ViiV Healthcare

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