**Background**

- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is an effective HIV prevention option for heterosexual active women.1,2
- PrEP initiation has increased dramatically among U.S. men since its FDA approval, but available data suggest no similar increase among women.3
- While a few prior studies have indicated low PrEP awareness among U.S. women,4 scant research exists on the correlates of awareness or use among women at highest risk of HIV acquisition.

**Objective**

Using data collected in a survey of women of color in New York City (NYC), we examined the prevalence of PrEP awareness, use, and interest, and correlates of PrEP awareness.

**Methods**

Study Design: Fall 2016 data from annual cross-sectional survey conducted among Black and/or Hispanic/Latina women in NYC.

Recruitment: Street-intercept at transit hubs and commercial centers in areas in top quartile of HIV diagnoses rates among women.

Survey Administration: 15-minute anonymous, interviewer-administered survey; in English or Spanish via tablet; $15 gift card given upon completion.

Participant eligibility: NYC resident; age 18-64; assigned female sex at birth; self-reported Black and/or Hispanic/Latina at least 1 male sexual partner (prior 6 months); women reporting HIV-positive status excluded from this analysis.

**Results**

Among 420 survey participants, 411 were eligible for this analysis based on not reporting HIV-positive diagnosis.

Among eligible respondents:
- Median age was 34
- 37% were Hispanic/Latina, 63% were Black and non-Hispanic/Latina
- 23% were foreign-born
- 83% lived in a high-burden neighborhood
- 48% earned <$20,000/year
- 84% had a high school diploma, GED, or higher education
- 25% reported being in a monogamous relationship

**PrEP Indication and Use**

- While 13% of women in the analytic sample had indications for PrEP based on guidelines, 2/411 women (1%) reported ever using PrEP

**Other Key Results (Table 1):**

- PrEP awareness among participants was low (24%).
- Among those aware, 89% either had or would be comfortable asking their doctor about PrEP.
- 40% of those aware of PrEP believed it was very effective.
- An even smaller proportion (19%) were interested in using PrEP.

**Limitations**

- Data collected by self-report and potentially subject to recall error and social desirability bias.
- Modest sample size and small numbers of those aware of PrEP may limit ability to identify statistically significant correlates of outcomes.
- Generalizability of our findings outside NYC may be limited.

**Discussion**

- Only one in four Black or Hispanic/Latina women in high-diagnosis NYC neighborhoods were aware of PrEP.
- In multivariable analysis, only income was significantly associated with PrEP awareness.
- In spite of 13% of respondents having indications for PrEP based on recent sexual behavior and partner characteristics, almost none had used it.
- Among those aware of PrEP, 19% reported interest in use.
- Standardization of guidelines regarding indications for PrEP use among women may help identify more individuals who could benefit from this prevention option.
- NYC DOHMH is utilizing these data to inform social marketing and provider education campaigns to increase PrEP awareness among women and PrEP provision by women’s healthcare providers.

| Table 2. Bivariate and multivariable associations with PrEP awareness among women with HIV-negative or unknown status, New York City, Fall 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Variable | *AWARE* | *PREP* | *AWARE* | *PREP* |
| Total | 347 | 67 | 32 | 34 |
| Hispanic/Latina | 32 0.8 | 0.5, 1.2 | 0.3 0.1 | 1.4 0.6 |
| White | 32 1.3 | 0.3, 1.6 | 0.1 0.0 | 1.7 0.9 |
| Black | 32 1.0 | 0.7, 1.9 | 0.1 0.0 | 1.9 1.1 |
| Other race | 32 2.2 | 0.5, 15.0 | 0.1 0.0 | 1.8 1.5 |
| Education | 32 0.9 | 0.6, 1.5 | 0.1 0.0 | 1.3 0.8 |
| Income | 32 0.6 | 0.3, 1.2 | 0.1 0.0 | 1.4 0.8 |
| Partnership | 32 0.6 | 0.3, 1.3 | 0.1 0.0 | 1.4 0.8 |

**References**


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