

Attitudes and Beliefs of Implementing Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in Correctional Facilities



Introduction

- HIV seropositive rate is 5 times higher amongst the prison population, than those not imprisoned. ¹
- Correctional system demographics do not reflect U.S. population trends. ^{1, 2, 3}
- Imprisonment is associated with non-adherence to antiretroviral therapies (ART), including PrEP. ⁴
- PrEP suppresses HIV loads below the lower limit of quantification (LLQ). ⁴
- **Aim:** To examine the attitudes and beliefs of implementing PrEP services in the United States correctional system in order to decrease the prevalence of HIV amongst high-risk populations.

Methods

- 10 formerly incarcerated individuals (FIT participants) completed an in-person semi-structured interview.

Variable	Value
Sex (female / male)	4 / 6
Race (Caucasian / African American / Hispanic / Mixed)	4 / 4 / 1 / 1
Age (years)	45.4 ± 11
Correctional Facility (Prison / Jail / Both)	0 / 5 / 5

Values expressed as mean ± standard deviation

- Iterative approach to refine 3 themes.

Results

Education:

- “The way to like make [PrEP] more appealing to people, is to educate them about it...the more they know, the more they’re willing to participate.” (34-year-old male)
- “A lot of people are not just going to get out [of jail] and be like, let me go learn about this pill.” (34-year-old male)
- “Educate everybody in the system...[be]cause you never know who's living with [HIV].” (64-year-old female)

Behaviors:

- “[Anyone] could get [HIV] in [jail].” (36-year-old female)
- “Honestly, [PrEP] probably would be a good thing...to take when you’re in jail...because... it’s not clean and if you have a cut or... are raped...you just never know when [HIV] could be transferred to you.” (36-year-old female)
- “You might find yourself in a...situation where you wouldn't normally find yourself in... and... [PrEP] might come in handy.” (46-year-old female)
- “A lack of disclosure of partners and unprotected sex...And then... people that are doing drugs. It can be wild.” (60-year-old male)

Transition:

- “If you've already started [PrEP]...it'll make the transition from [incarceration] to out here a lot more easier to continue... [be]cause once you get out you gonna hit the floor running.” (57-year-old male)
- “Transitioning...should [start] before people come out of prison...especially after doing a long time.” (40-year-old male)
- “You could already have [PrEP] instilled into your daily function... it would be like brushing your teeth.” (46-year-old female)
- “Do it while...in jail so that if there is any type of side effect, you know...what it’s from.” (32-year-old female)

Conclusion

- PrEP adherence would be most effective if implemented while in correctional facilities.
- Participants harbor a positive attitude towards implementing PrEP in correctional facilities.
- Participants are aware of their individual risks and understand that PrEP could reduce HIV transmission.
- Participants expressed a desire to learn more about PrEP services.
- Formerly incarcerated individuals state that they would adhere PrEP in correctional facilities.

Future Directions

- Assess the role of HIV education on PrEP uptake
- Examine how the FIT program approaches HIV care
- Explore the barriers of PrEP use in correctional facilities
- Identify HIV transmission in sexual and social networks of incarcerated individuals

References

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