

Implementing a Community-engaged Equity Approach to Identify Barriers and Facilitators to the PrEP Care Continuum in Long Beach, CA

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Background

- **Ending the HIV Epidemic Primary Pillar:** Prevent
- This study aims to address the HIV epidemic by improving consistent PrEP use along the care continuum (*i.e., initiation to effective adherence*) among Black and Latinx same-gender loving men, transgender women, and other gender-diverse persons in Long Beach, CA who are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS yet, according to the CDC, have low engagement in the HIV Prevention Continuum.
- Notwithstanding extensive scholarship on PrEP-related attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors in various populations, there is a paucity of information about the systems, community contexts, and individual factors affecting consistent PrEP use by Black and Latinx individuals in places such as Long Beach.
- Our research team engaged in an equity-focused approach to identifying PrEP-related needs through partnerships with the community: the Long Beach Comprehensive HIV Planning Group's PrEP and Trans Wellness Workgroups, which include individuals affected by HIV.
- This is a mixed methods, exploratory study that combines elements of the PRISM (Practical, Robust Implementation and Sustainability Model) and EPIS (Exploration, Preparation, Implementation, Sustainment) frameworks.

Research Questions



- 1) Among community members, what are the experiences and perceived barriers resulting in low engagement along the PrEP care continuum?
- 2) Among existing and potential PrEP providers, what are the gaps and feasibility of providing culturally tailored PrEP-related services?
- 3) How can barriers be addressed effectively?

Study Methods

- Conduct focus groups (n=~30 participants) with Black and Latinx same-gender loving men, transgender women, and other gender-diverse persons, and interviews (n=25) with PrEP providers (HIV prevention clinicians, PrEP navigators, pharmacists, other providers less familiar with PrEP) to explore barriers to and facilitators of PrEP engagement.
- To obtain, using survey methods, locally relevant estimates of the scope and magnitude of PrEP experiences, barriers and facilitators, and services (n=400).
- To disseminate and implement study results to increase PrEP care continuum engagement in ways that are contextualized for the Long Beach community.



Anticipated Study Outcomes

IS Outcomes: Acceptability, appropriateness, and feasibility (for providers) of providing culturally-appropriate PrEP services.

- 1) Inform the Long Beach HIV Prevention Strategic Plan;
- 2) Develop a culturally-appropriate PrEP readiness and facilitation tool; and
- 3) Identify future intervention opportunities to increase PrEP care continuum engagement in ways that are meaningful for the Long Beach community.

Potential outcomes for future research: Service - equity in availability and quality, patient-centeredness, and effectiveness of PrEP services, and clinical/patient – satisfaction and increased engagement (function).

Progress to Date

- Community-engaged process to develop focus group and interview guides
- IRB submission
- Begin provider interviews in December 2022
- Focus groups to begin early 2023



Thank you!

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