

Piloting TelePrEP Information Sessions: An Implementation Strategy to Increase PrEP Awareness and Optimize PrEP Uptake among Latina Cisgender Women

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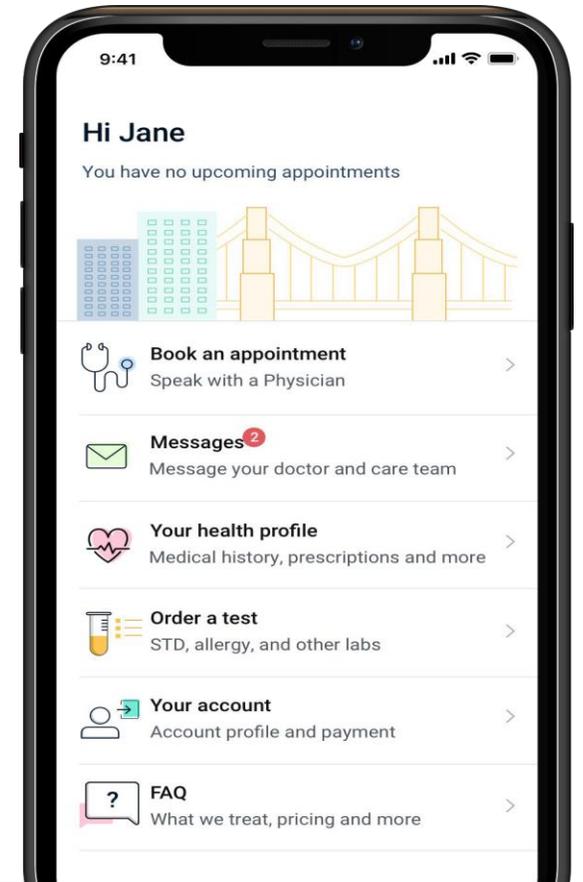
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Background

- As part of an NIMH EHE supplement project, CHIPTS received funding to pilot an implementation strategy to increase PrEP awareness and optimize PrEP uptake among Latina cisgender women (LCW) through use of PlushCare.
- PlushCare is a stand-alone telemedicine “app” that exclusively provides virtual/remote delivery of clinical services, including PrEP.



Implementation Strategy: TelePrEP Information Sessions

The study team trained staff at East Los Angeles Women's Center to conduct TelePrEP Information Sessions with their LCW clients to:



Educate

- Raise awareness and knowledge of PrEP among LCW.



Motivate

- Motivate LCW to consider using PlushCare (a telemedicine application) as an option to access PrEP.

Methods

1

Agency staff completed monthly client engagement logs and submitted them to the study team.

- Descriptive statistics were calculated.

2

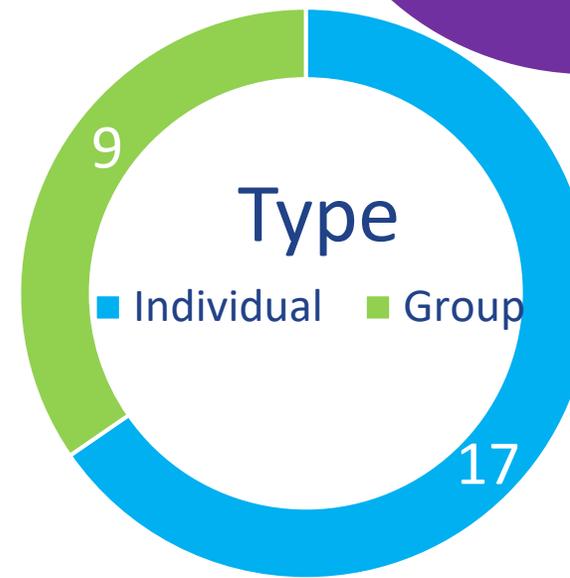
The study team conducted qualitative interviews with LCW clients (n=20) to assess the acceptability and appropriateness of the TelePrEP Information Sessions, PrEP, and PlushCare.

- Data were analyzed using standard thematic analysis methods.

Results: Client Engagement Logs



- 16 Interested in PrEP
- 6 Interested in PlushCare
- 7 Had Follow-Up Meetings



Participant Demographic Information

N=20

Characteristics	n	(%)
Age (years): mean (range)	41 (26-62)	
Straight/heterosexual	17/19	89.5 %
Completed some high school or received high school diploma/GED	13/20	65.0 %
Employed (full-time, part-time, or other)	13/19	68.4 %
Annual income of \$20,000 or less	12/17	70.6 %
Have health insurance	16/20	80.0 %

The majority of LCW did not know about PrEP and PlushCare

Characteristics	n	(%)
Knew nothing at all about PrEP	12/20	60.0 %
Knew nothing at all about PlushCare	18/18	100.0 %

“If I’m being honest, I knew nothing about PrEP before. I was totally unaware. When I attended the talk, I thought it was very interesting because they talked about things I’d never heard of...” (Spanish speaker, age 46)

The Information Sessions increased knowledge and awareness of PrEP and PlushCare

“One of the things I learned is that you can take that pill daily, just like contraceptive pills...Women need to take it for more than a week to stay protected. It prevents HIV from entering the body in case you are with someone who’s HIV-positive. I like that information because it’s another way you can protect yourself as a woman, as a man.” (Spanish speaker, age 54)

LCW viewed the Information Sessions as acceptable and appropriate

*"I liked learning about this medication because I didn't know it existed. I hadn't heard of it. It was very informative. There wasn't anything I didn't like. I found everything interesting."
(Spanish speaker, age 42)*

"I feel like she was very knowledgeable on the subject, and I just feel like she presented herself in a way where I could ask any questions. I felt comfortable talking to her. I felt like I was in a safe place to talk." (English speaker, age 34)

"We're women. We're experimenting with sexual relationships, and we're in a process where such basic information is needed. To me, that information is very useful." (Spanish speaker, age 40)

LCW generally expressed positive attitudes about PrEP and PlushCare

*"You don't have to go anywhere. So, if you didn't have a car, you want to save gas or save the trip of not going, it can all be done at home or at work or whatever the case may be. So, I think that would be its convenience."
(English speaker, age 34)*

"For me, it is very important to know more about [PrEP] and be able to get the medication because the moment I have a sexual relationship, I know I will be protected in many ways." (Spanish speaker, age 50)

"I feel like it's faster to just message a doctor and ask a question. I feel like you get responded to quickly with the apps. It's a lot easier just to schedule your appointment with an app, and you can see your test results and everything. So, it's good. I really love it." (English speaker, age 34)

The majority of LCW did not feel they were at sufficient risk to warrant PrEP use

Characteristics	n	(%)
Not at all or only slightly concerned about HIV	15/20	75.0 %

“Although I don't have a relationship right now, I am interested, and I am concerned about what they explained to us because...For me, it is very important to know more about this and be able to get the medication because the moment I have a sexual relationship, I know I will be protected in many ways.” (Spanish speaker, age 50)

“I don't take these measures because I have a stable partner, but just to be safe, gain confidence, and avoid mistakes, you need to take care of yourself when you have several relationships...” (Spanish speaker, age 46)

Conclusions



- The TelePrEP Information Sessions were very successful in raising awareness and knowledge of PrEP and PlushCare among LCW clients.
- LCW generally viewed the TelePrEP Information Sessions as acceptable and appropriate, and expressed positive attitudes about PrEP and PlushCare.
- The majority of LCW who participated in the Information Sessions did not believe they were at sufficient risk to warrant using PrEP and/or PlushCare to access PrEP.

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Q&A

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