
Using An Interactive Systems Approach With Community Organizing To Improve PrEP Reach Among Cisgender Women In Metro Atlanta

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Center for
AIDS Research

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- I have nothing to disclose
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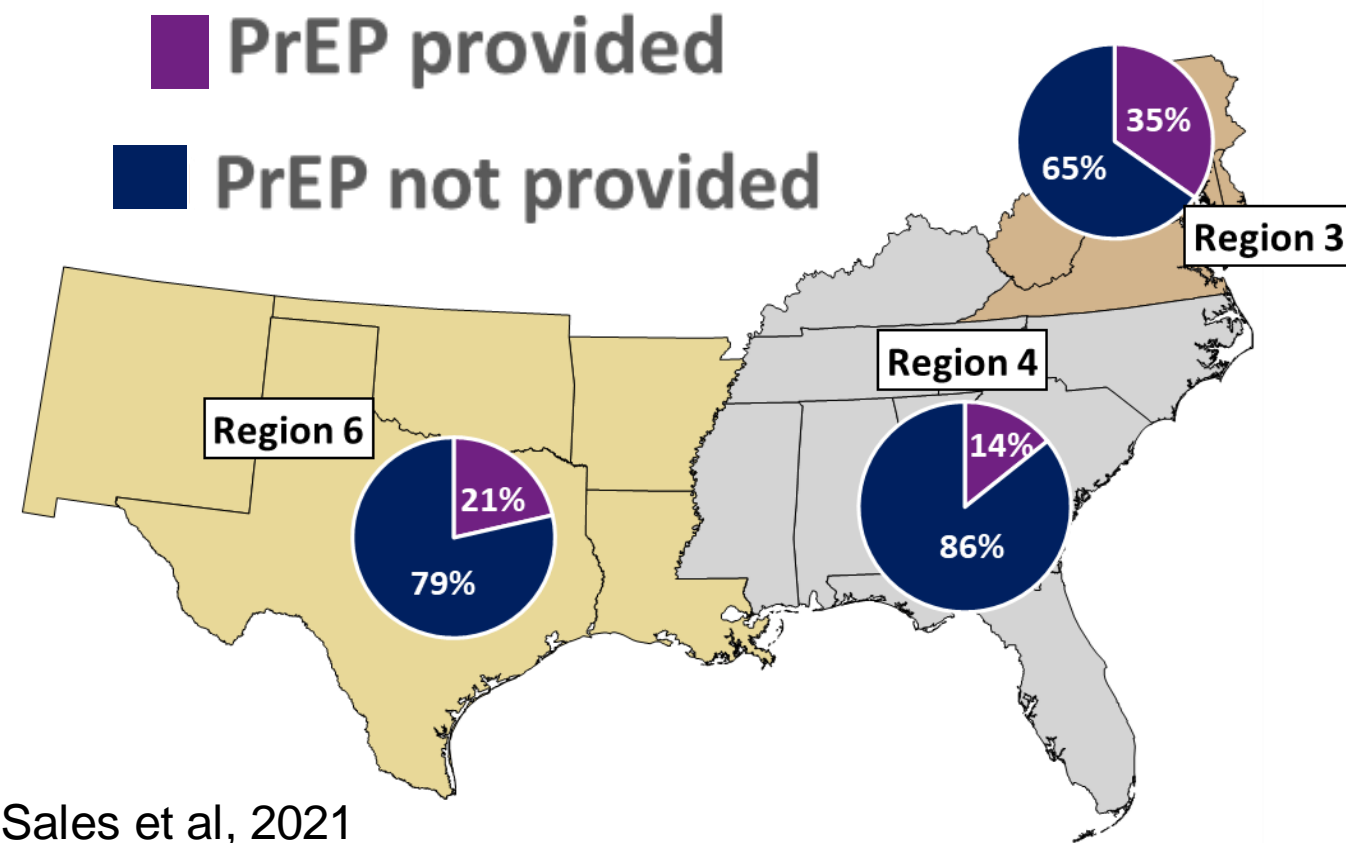
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Background

PrEP Provision in Title X Clinics Across the South (Feb-June 2018: N=286)



Jurisdiction: 4 Metro Atlanta, GA EHE counties: Gwinnett, Cobb, Fulton, DeKalb

Priority population: Cisgender women

Public health context:

- ~20% of new HIV diagnoses are among women; majority of newly diagnosed women live in the South
- PrEP is grossly underutilized by women across all regions, but especially in the Southeastern US

Key challenges:

- Women's health care providers aren't providing PrEP (supply challenge)
- Women don't know about PrEP (demand challenge)

GOAL: Mount a coordinated, collaborative approach to sustainably address the supply and demand constraints for scaling and reaching cisgender women with PrEP in Metro Atlanta

Partnering with Community

Collaborating organizations:

SisterLove is an Atlanta-based women's HIV and reproductive justice community-based organization.



Georgia Family Planning System (GFPS), is the GA Title X grant recipient that as of 2022, provided funds to 31 sites across the four EHE counties in Atlanta



Community engagement strategy:

- GFPS – facilitated access to clinics; collaborated to make trainings
- SisterLove – led listening sessions with other CBOs to develop partnerships for community organizing

Approach

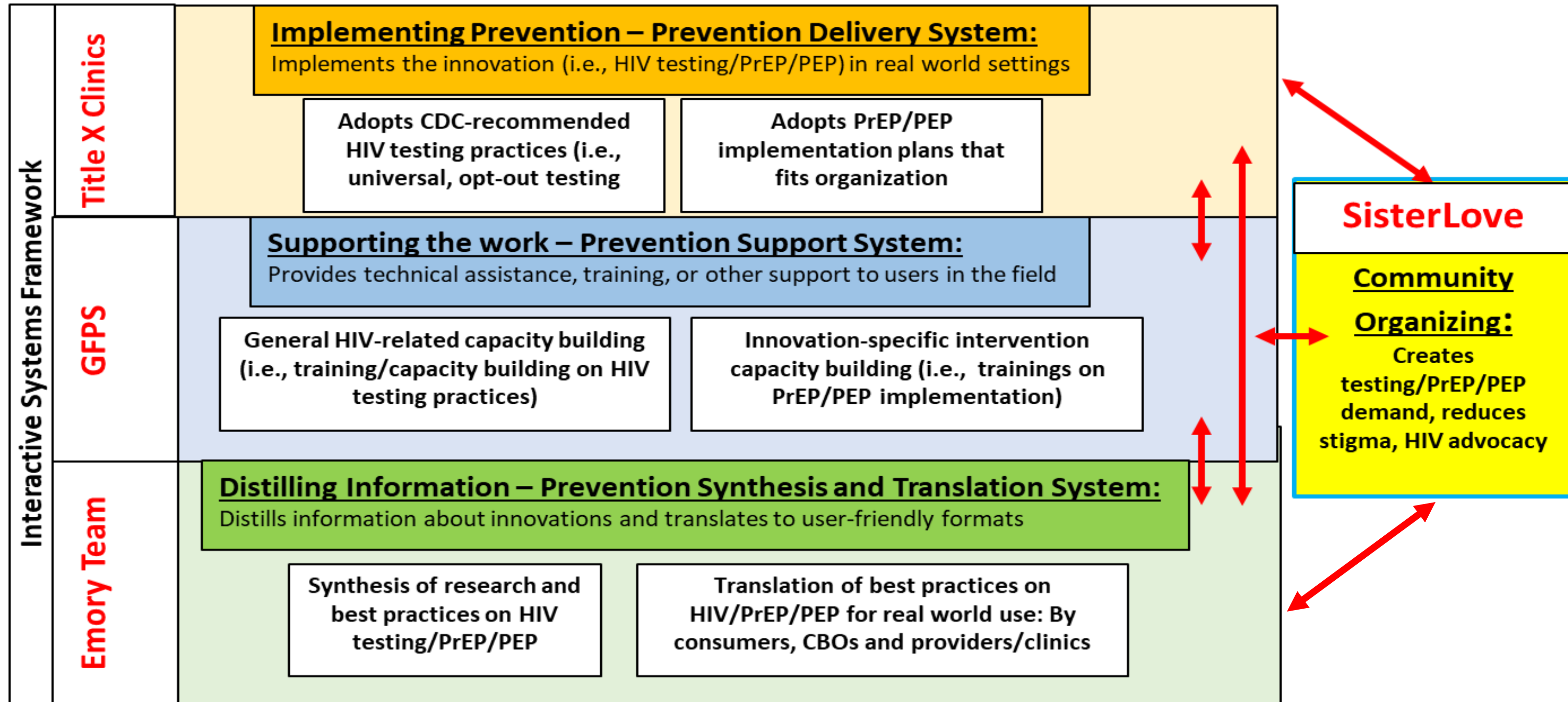
Addressing Supply
Determine current practices & training needs in Title X clinics

Addressing Demand
Build community partnerships to reach diverse communities of women

- Conducted 15 focus group discussions with 195 providers, staff, and administrators from 25 Title X clinics
- Developed menu of PrEP trainings, technical assistant protocols, and resources

- Held a series of community meetings led by SisterLove, to build collaborations with other CBOs
- Identified 4 CBOs across Metro Atlanta interested in participating in the PrEP focused community organizing

Outcomes and Local EHE Impact



Trainings Offered Through GFPS

-  **Overview of HIV Testing and PrEP**
Entire Clinic Staff (30 min)
-  **PrEP Care for Clinicians**
Clinicians (1 hour)
-  **PrEP Insurance Navigation**
Insurance, Pharmacy, and/or Admin (15-20 min)
-  **PrEP: What's on the Horizon**
Clinicians (15-20 min)

-  **Alternative PrEP Delivery**
GFPS Quick Tips
-  **Reporting PrEP Metrics**
GFPS Quick Tips
-  **Taking a Sexual History**
Entire Clinic Staff (30 minutes)
-  **STIs (2021 Guidelines)**
Recorded Lecture Available

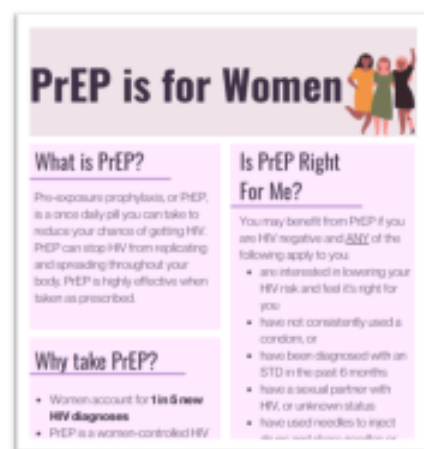
Technical Assistance Offered Through GFPS

one-on-one consultation or additional supporting materials

- ✓ Follow-in support for any of the in-person PrEP trainings
- ✓ Consultation on PrEP implementation planning
- ✓ EMR data collection assistance
- ✓ Consultation on alternative PrEP delivery strategies

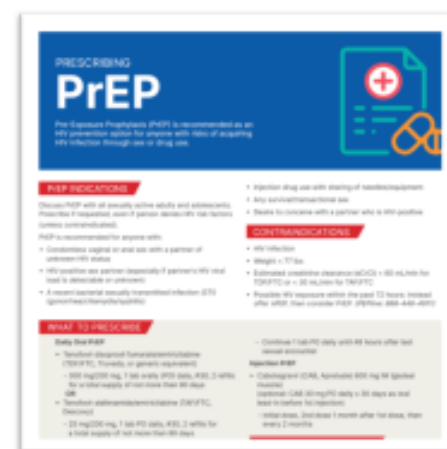
Resources Offered Through GFPS

electronic or paper materials to facilitate HIV testing & PrEP delivery



Patient-facing PrEP materials

- Flyers, handouts, posters
- English and Spanish



Provider-facing PrEP materials

- Reference sheets
- HIV testing, PrEP steps, etc.



Sexual health assessments

- Standardized tools to collect comprehensive sexual health history



Opt-out HIV testing consent

- Example template for opt-out consent

- Developed all trainings/resources and trained GFPS to provide them to their network (sustainability)
- Thus far, provided trainings in 21 Metro clinics, reaching ~375 providers/staff

Why Black women face barriers

pbs.org/newshour/health/why-black-women-face-barriers-to-accessing-prep-an-hiv-preventin

Left: Alexis decided to participate in health education, realizing her own risk. The crucial tool against the epidemic. From Sam Whitehead News

By Sam Whitehead, Kaiser Health News

Leave your feedback

Why Black women face barriers to accessing PrEP, an HIV-preventing drug

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- Based on community input, with community we created content for informal community health education events called “Healthy Love Parties”
- Assembled and trained 2 cohorts of “Action Team Members” = 32 community influencers, organizers and leaders across Metro Atlanta to host parties – events started in December (10 to date; 6 scheduled with many, many more to come)

Generalizable Lessons Learned

- The interactive system approach allows for a scalable, sustainable solution to supporting clinics to implement new practices, especially in environments where there is an established entity responsible for the training needs of clinics (e.g., the Title X program, the Ryan White Program)
- This approach could be used in other jurisdictions, but agencies engaged must come to a mutual understanding of the role each agency plays in the process (e.g., written scope of work for each group that is discussed and agreed upon)
- Relationship building and garnering buy-in takes time, trust, and accountability – this approach has worked for us because:
 - Are willing to commit for the long-term
 - Show up for each other
 - Evaluate, share back progress and pain points, and willing to continually improve