





HIV prevention research - a new forum for advocacy on the latest

avac.org/project/choice-agenda

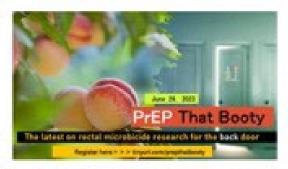


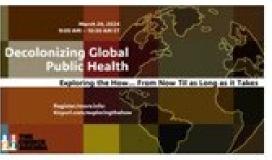
Over 2500 individuals from 40+ countries are subscribed to The Choice Agenda global discussion list.











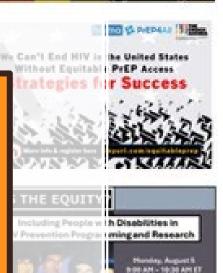


RESPONDING T

THREATS

Join us for a special HIV Vaccine Awareness Day weblear.

Check out all TCA webinar recordings, slides and info resources here: tinyurl.com/tcawebinarmaterials



PrEP Justice







Welcome and Introductions



Natalie Crawford



Noelle Esquire



Tamara McCants



Michael Murphy



Juan Carlos Loubriel



Sara Zeigler



Michael Elizabeth

















Agenda

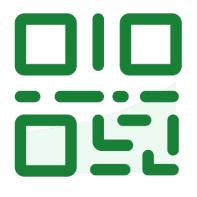
- What is the RxEACH Initiative
- Opportunities to Expand Equitable Access to Prevention Services
- Navigating Challenges, Increasing Opportunities for PrEP Access
- Pathways to Sustainable Pharmacy-Based HIV Prevention Programs
- States in Action: What's working and not working?
- Pharmacist Commitment to Ending the HIV Epidemic



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Which HIV Strategy do you think will contribute the most to ending the HIV epidemic by 2030?

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PHARMACIES EXPANDING ACCESS
TO COMMUNITY HIV SERVICES

Founding Partner



Managing Partner





Allied Partners

AIDS United

The AIDS Institute

Avita Care Solutions

Frannie Peabody Center

National Alliance of State Pharmacy

Associations

NASTAD

Southern AIDS Coalition

U.S. Business Action to End HIV

Our Goal

Accelerate Efforts to End the HIV Epidemic in the United States by 2030 by expanding access to HIV prevention services nationwide – through community pharmacies

Anticipated Challenges

Health Inequities Persist: Stigma, Access to Care, Racism, anti-LGBTQIA+ bias, Education

Equitable access to prevention services: disparities persist

Ensuring no cost-sharing for USPSTF Grade A and B services: HIV screening and HIV PrEP

Operationalizing pharmacy-based services efficiently across complex health care systems

Complicated and diverse state policies guide pharmacy practice

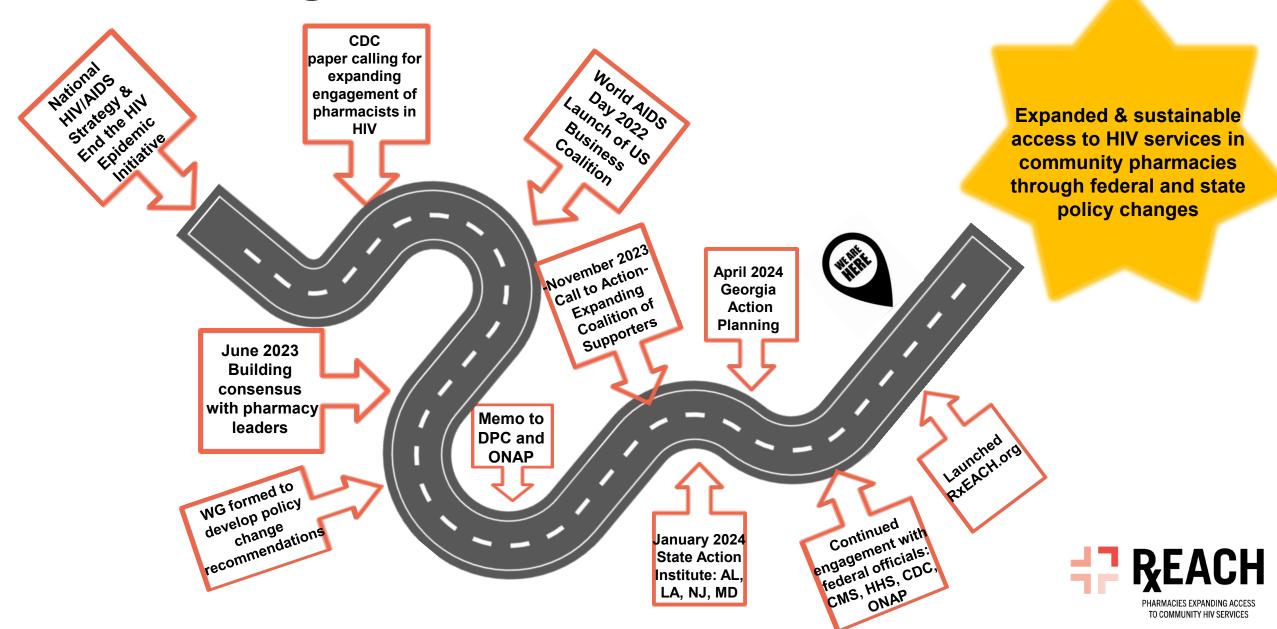
Ensuring effective collaborations across care disciplines

1.2 million people recommended for PrEP; ~250,000 people lack insurance, stark disparities

Incentivizing participation across commercial and public payors for community pharmacists as 'providers'



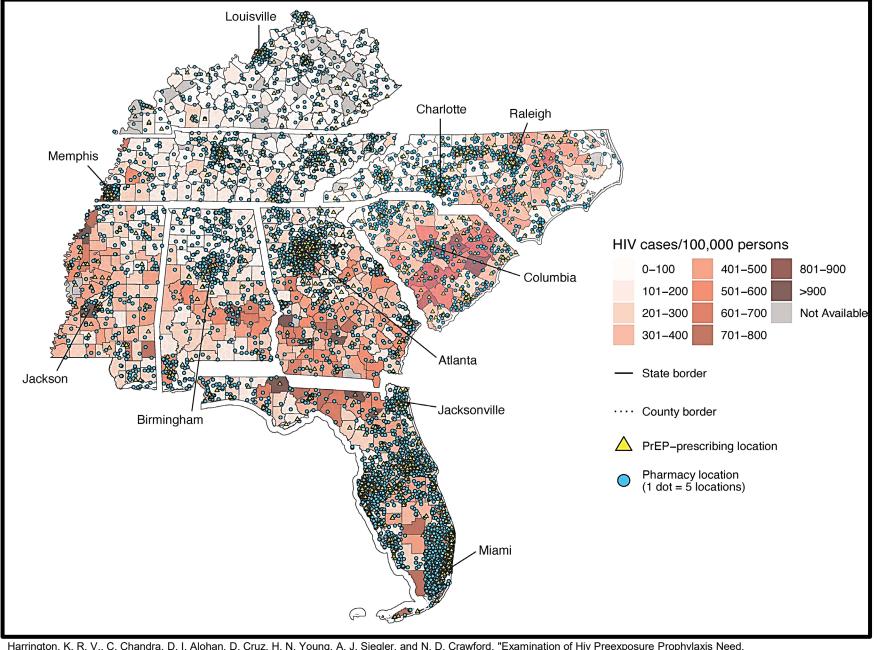
Path to Progress: Where are we now



Data indicates that enabling pharmacies to provide PrEP could increase access by 80-fold in these areas – making significant impact towards accelerating equitable access to life saving HIV prevention services.

Community pharmacies are accessible to a vast majority of the U.S. population, including those in rural and medically underserved areas. 90% of the U.S. population lives within 5 miles of a pharmacy.



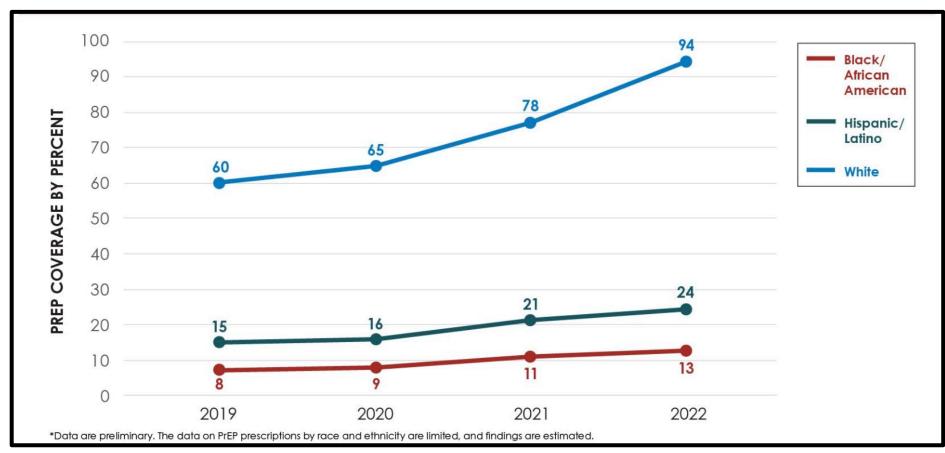


Harrington, K. R. V., C. Chandra, D. I. Alohan, D. Cruz, H. N. Young, A. J. Siegler, and N. D. Crawford. "Examination of Hiv Preexposure Prophylaxis Need, Availability, and Potential Pharmacy Integration in the Southeastern Us." *JAMA Netw Open* 6, no. 7 (Jul 3 2023): e2326028. https://dx.doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.26028.

Opportunities to Expand Equitable Access to HIV Prevention Services



Inequities for accessing PrEP prescriptions are getting worse

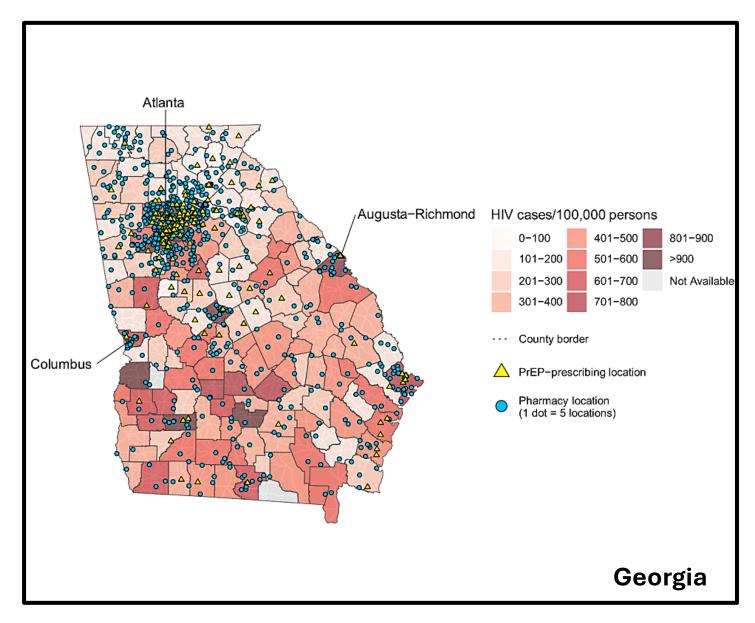


Trends in PrEP Prescriptions Among People Who Could benefit, Race/Ethnicity, 2019-2022, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



There Are Not Enough PrEP Clinics to Reach Racially Minoritized Populations





Harrington, K. R. V., C. Chandra, D. I. Alohan, D. Cruz, H. N. Young, A. J. Siegler, and N. D. Crawford. "Examination of Hiv Preexposure Prophylaxis Need, Availability, and Potential Pharmacy Integration in the Southeastern Us." *JAMA Netw Open* 6, no. 7 (Jul 3 2023): e2326028. https://dx.doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.26028.

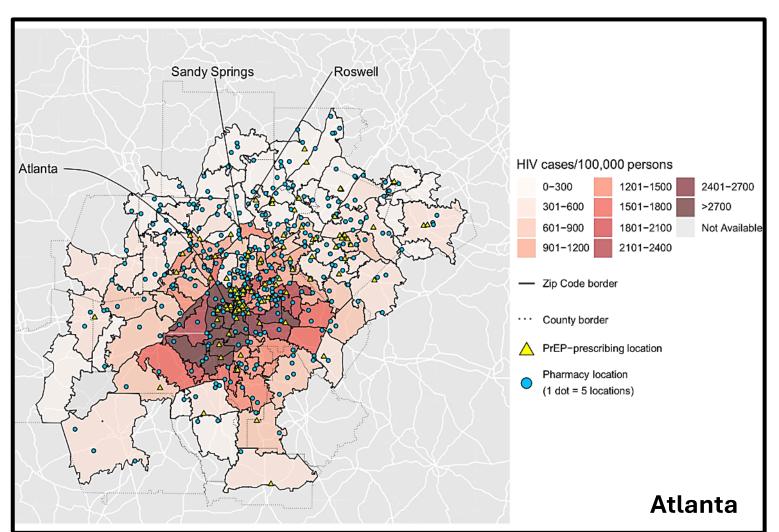
Bridging Gaps:

- Each blue dot represents 5 pharmacies. Yellow triangles indicate PrEP Prescribing Locations.
- Existing public health infrastructure is accessible in communities where services are needed most.

Boosting Equitable Access:

- >70,000 community pharmacies in the U.S.
- >800,000 pharmacy personnel
- 56% of community pharmacies are in
 Medically Underserved Areas/Populations

Even in our most populous communities, we see great opportunity in leveraging community pharmacies



- Empowering Choice:

 Individuals can choose to receive PrEP and other prevention services in a location that best suits their needs.
- Collaboration with medical providers is needed to ensure continuity of care beyond an initial HIV test or PrEP prescription from a pharmacist.

Harrington, K. R. V., C. Chandra, D. I. Alohan, D. Cruz, H. N. Young, A. J. Siegler, and N. D. Crawford. "Examination of Hiv Preexposure Prophylaxis Need, Availability, and Potential Pharmacy Integration in the Southeastern Us." *JAMA Netw Open* 6, no. 7 (Jul 3 2023): e2326028.

https://dx.doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.26028.

Impact for Increasing Equitable Access

GROWING EVIDENCE OF PHARMACIES ACROSS THE HIV PREVENTION AND CARE CONTINUUMS

HIV Testing	Syringe services	Post exposure prophylaxis	Pre exposure prophylaxis	Antiretroviral s
9 studies	11 studies	1 study	6 studies	5 studies
1 study among people who inject drugs	5 studies among people who inject drugs	0 among specific risk population	3 among men who have sex with men	4 among HIV positive patients



Impact for Increasing Equitable Access

GROWING EVIDENCE OF PHARMACIES ACROSS THE HIV PREVENTION AND CARE CONTINUUMS

HIV Testing

Syringe

Post

Pre

Antiretroviral

HIGHLY FEASIBLE EFFECTIVE FOR REACHING ALL POPULATIONS COST AND TIME EFFECTIVE STIGMA-NEUTRALIZING

among people who inject drugs among people who inject drugs

specific risk population

men who have sex with men

HIV positive patients





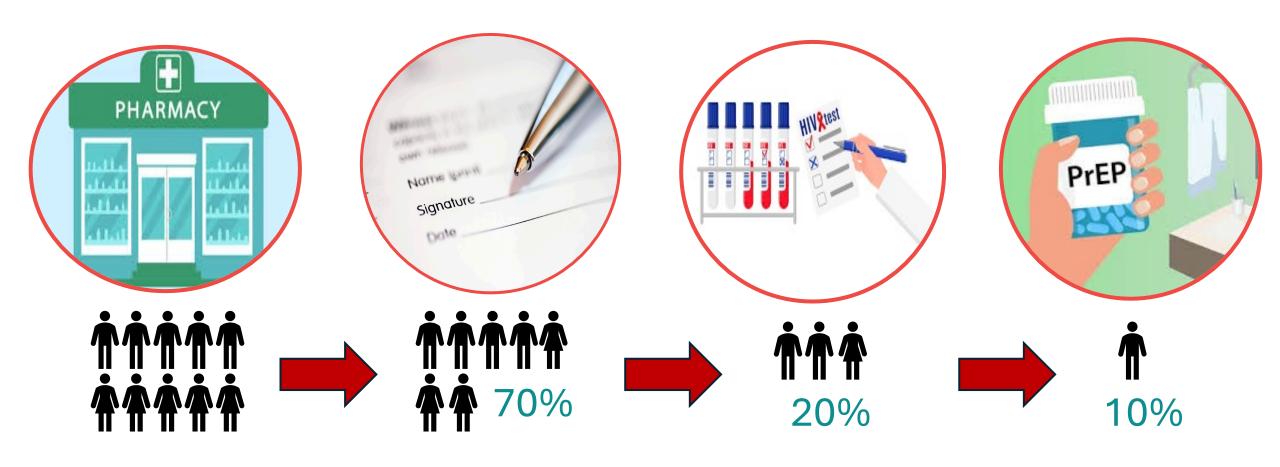
Opportunity: Mitigating Stigma

Pharmacies may offer a less-stigmatizing entry point for HIV prevention, and a neutral environment compared to traditional medical settings – with extended hours.

- General public communication campaigns
- Focus on prevention strategies, such as integrated health screening
- Normalizing HIV/STI prevention services with other "routine" health services



Sustainable Pharmacy Models Show Promise



Engagement on Multiple Levels is needed to increase access for HIV prevention in pharmacies

POLICY LEVEL

National policy Local policy State Board of Pharmacy

COMMUNITY LEVEL

HIV Stigma HIV Burden





Pharmacy Organization

Corporate and internal policy

Personnel

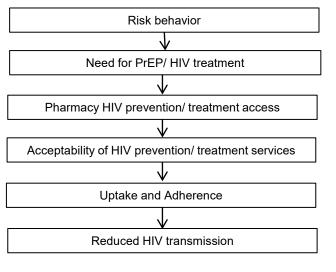
Pharmacists and technicians

Pharmacy Environment

Business flow
Internal (private space)



INDIVIDUAL LEVEL









What do you think are the reasons why PrEP access remains so challenging?

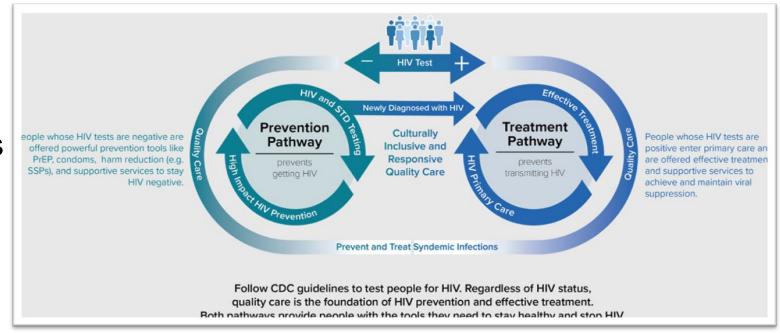
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Navigating Challenges, Increasing Opportunities for PrEP Access



Integrated Care: Status Neutral Approach

Scaling up PrEP and optimizing retention will require engaging community health workers or non-traditional trained health staff to work along the PrEP continuum of care.



Novel strategies are needed to reduce PrEP care disparities.



PrEP Navigation: Challenges



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, May 15). https://www.cdc.gov/public-health-gateway/php/about/social-determinants-of-health.html

Structural Barriers

- Transportation
- Inadequate screening
- Insurance Coverage Uninsured or underinsured
- Longer wait times
- Stigma and discrimination
- Language barriers
- Mistrust of healthcare system



Best Practices: Anticipating Access and Adherence-related barriers



Insurance-related barriers are a common reason individuals vulnerable to HIV do not start PrEP or fall out of PrEP care

PrEP Navigators assess medication coverage for uninsured clients and provide application support through Patient Assistance Programs as needed



PFP to PrFP

PrEP Navigators assist with transition from PEP to PrEP education and adherence



Continuing to monitor insurance and coverage changes is key. LAI CAB is still a new therapy, and coverage by payors is not always guaranteed

Dedicated pharmacy staff manage insurance eligibility and access to medication

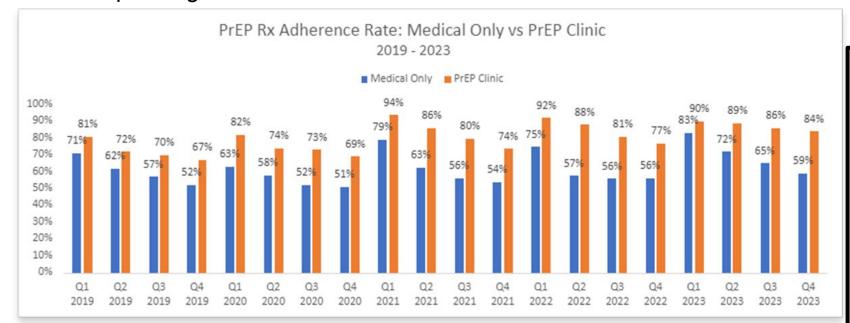


Retention — we conduct real time tracking of appointment windows and utilize software platforms to decrease missed appointments



PrEP Clinic Model

PrEP Clinic combines follow-up medical and pharmacy visits in one simple stop. Each appointment is approximately 20 minutes long and includes all necessary lab work and dispensing of medication.



PrEP Clinic: Peer PrEP Specialist-led

Services: Medication, Lab Draw, Counseling, Scheduling, Follow Up Visits, Reminders, Referral for Acute/Primary/Mental Health Care

- Creation of detailed workflow PrEP care protocols implemented by PrEP Specialists under the guidance of a PrEP user's primary care provider allowed for greater flexibility to potentially identify and resolve barriers to PrEP care for communities vulnerable to HIV.
- The PrEP clinic increases provider capacity for appointments, evening hours, and ensures care that is quick, convenient, and PrEP user-centered.



Best practices for screening and linkages

- Creation of detailed risk assessment questionnaire
- Screening for acute symptoms
- Screening for substance use
- Screening for adherence
- Follow up plan
- Referral to support services



CH-Substance Use Screening/Referral

rEP History: Has patient ever taken PrEP before? {...} PrEP Education: Provided education to patient on PrEP medication options {...} HIV: Reason for today's testing: {...} HIV: Have you been tested for HIV before (prior today's visit)? {...} HIV: Rapid Test Result: {...} HIV: Was result provided to patient? (...) Adherence: Approximately, how many PrEP pills do you have at home? 00 Adherence: For patients switching from oral PrEP, how many doses of PrEP medication have you missed in the past week? (...) Acute Infection: Have you had a flu-like illness with 2 or more of these symptoms at the same time since your last visit? {...} Do you have a new rash or other skin complaint? {...} STI: Have you been exposed to someone with a diagnosed STI and not been treated? {...} STI: Have you had burning when you urinate? (...) STI: Have you had discharge from your genitals? {...} STI: Have you had rectal pain or discharge from your rectum/backside? {...} Screening 1: In the past 3-6 months how often have you used tobacco or any other nicotine delivery products such as cigarettes, vapes, chewing tobacco, or Screening 2: In the past 3-6 month how often have you drank more than 14 alcoholic drinks in 1 week, or 5 or more drinks in one day? {...} Screening 3: In the past 3-6 months how often have you used substances including cocaine or crack, heroin, hallucinggens, or ecstasy/MDMA? (...) Screening 4: In the past 3-6 months how often have you used substances during sex such as poppers, Tina, Viagra, G, or ketamine? {...} If YES for screening 1-4: Would you like an appointment with a health care provider to discuss safer substance use information, ask questions, or discuss treatment options if you are unhappy with your current level of use or use patterns? {...} Additional Items: Patient had questions about the following: {...} Follow-Up Plan: Next PrEP Clinic appointment scheduled. {...} Apretude Clinic Status: (...) Visit Documented by: {...}

months how often have you used tobacco or any other nicotine delivery products newing tobacco, or cigars?

month how often have you drank more than 14 alcoholic drinks in 1 week, or 5 or

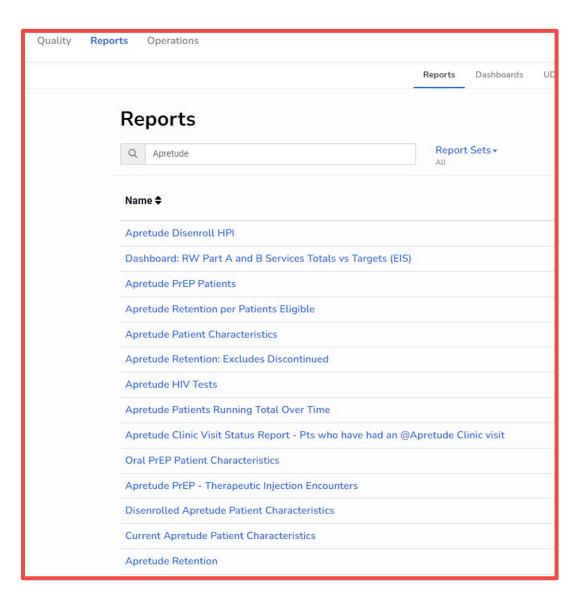
months how often have you used substances including cocaine or crack, heroin, DMA?

months how often have you used substances during sex such as poppers, Tina,

uld you like any safer substance use information?

uld you like an appointment with a health care provider to discuss safer substance ons, or discuss treatment options if you are unhappy with your current level of use or

Here are a few resources to support substance use and safer sex behaviors. Have questions? Call 202.745.7000 or text 202.978.6123 to schedule an appointment with a Health Care Provider to disc substance use, treatment, or support groups and other resources available at Whitman-Walker Healt		PrEP History: Has patient ever taken PrEP before
		PrEP Education: Provided education to patient on PrEP medication options
Chemsex.gay: Substance safety information and safer-use guides		HIV: Reason for today's testing:
Check out this guide on poppers! Check out this guide on Tina!		HIV: Have you been tested for HIV before (prior today's visit)?
		HIV: Rapid Test Result:
Check out this guide on G!		HIV: Was result provided to patient?
Dean.st/chems/: Advice and resources on Chemsex		Adherence: Approximately, how many PrEP pills do you have at home?
		Adherence: How many doses of PrEP medication have you missed in the past week?
Try this interactive Chemsex Care Plan to help guide you to make changes in your use!	☆	Adherence: Timing of tissue concentration and adherence reviewed?
Tweaker.org: Information, resources, and peer support especially for Chemsex/Tina use		Acute Infection: Have you had a flu-like illness with 2 or more of these symptoms at the same time since your last visit?
Check out the resource page on Tina/Crystal!	☆	Acute Infection symptom count:
 Check out the guide to safer slamming (injecting)! Check out this video walking through safer slamming (injecting)! 		Do you have a new rash or other skin complaint?
		STI: Have you been exposed to someone with a diagnosed STI and not been treated?
DanceSafe.org: Peer based information, and safer use supplies available for purchase- including tes check the quality and purity of your drugs		STI: Have you had burning when you urinate?
		STI: Have you had discharge from your genitals?
Hips.org: Syringe exchange, safer injection supplies, safer sex supplies, naloxone (Narcan), and other resources based here in DC		STI: Have you had rectal pain or discharge from your rectum/backside?
		Additional Items: Patient had questions about the following:
 Contact Erica (202) 441-1326 or Erica@Hips.org about Sidewalk Hours for supplies and resource Call 1-800-676-4477 or email Outreach@Hips.org about mobile outreach! 		Medication Dispensing
		Follow-Up Plan:
MyRecoveryDC.org: Information on substance use care facilities in the DC area	☆	Clinic status:
In crisis? Click here for resources.	·	



Adherence Monitoring

- Appointment scheduling system
- Missed appointment rescheduling within 1-7 days and follow up plan with Artera® texting and calls
- Real-time dashboard to identify inventory, missed appointments, and other information
- Quarterly re-engagement campaign
- Client satisfaction survey



Conclusion and Program Recommendations

- Peer CHWs can aid PrEP retention/adherence among vulnerable communities to prevent new HIV infections
- Programs that incorporate
 community health workers or non traditional trained health staff into the
 model of PrEP care can help scale up
 PrEP and curb HIV transmission.



Promise? Making good on the potential of long-acting injectables for Black communities

By Danielle M. Campbell, MPH, and John W. Meade, Jr., MPH



Getting Prepped: RECEIVING long-acting PrEP at Whitman Walker in Washington, D.C. (photo by Jimell Greene)



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What suggestions do you have for building better collaborations between pharmacies and other community-based health service organizations?

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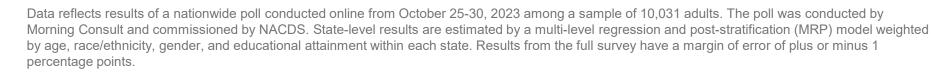
Pathways to Sustainable Pharmacy-Based HIV Prevention Programs



U.S. adults support expanding access to services

- 71% support
 pharmacists
 administering simple
 HIV tests at pharmacies.
- 65% support pharmacists prescribing PrEP
- 67% support pharmacists prescribing PEP
- 85% say
 pharmacists are easy to access

Pharmacist Actions	% Support (Strongly + Somewhat)
Helping patients prevent chronic disease such as heart disease and diabetes	73%
Helping patients to understand their nutritional choices	76%
Testing for and treating common illnesses (i.e. flu, COVID-19, etc.)	74%
Testing for and treating common minor conditions such as strep throat and urinary tract infections (UTIs)	70%
Screening for diabetes	72%
Initiating treatment for diabetes (if screening is positive)	65%
Screening for high cholesterol	73%
Testing for sexually transmitted infections	64%





Creating an Environment that Sustains Pharmacy-based HIV Prevention Services



Federal: Seeking modifications to expand coverage of HIV Prevention services to include community pharmacies

Possible pathways: Revising ACA Implementation Guidance and Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, National Coverage Determination for PrEP, identifying pharmacists as healthcare providers



State: State scope of practice policies through legislation, Board of Pharmacies, or other policy mechanism

Authority: Providing services (ordering, administering, consultation & management), **payment** for services, commercial and public insurance coverage without cost sharing, role of board of pharmacy



State Policy Components





Independent Prescriptive Authority, Authority to Order and Administer Tests and Medication



Removal of Referral Requirements & Prior Authorization, Support for Patient Choice



Recognition of pharmacists as providers eligible to bill for services



Comparable pay for providing services: patient assessment and management across public and commercial plans



No cost sharing, coverage for laboratory tests and all PrEP/PEP modalities – including telehealth



Pharmacy technician authorized to perform any duty that does not require clinical judgment of licensed pharmacist



Clear boundaries and timelines for Board of Pharmacy



Statewide Protocols, training, and education campaigns

State Action Playbook

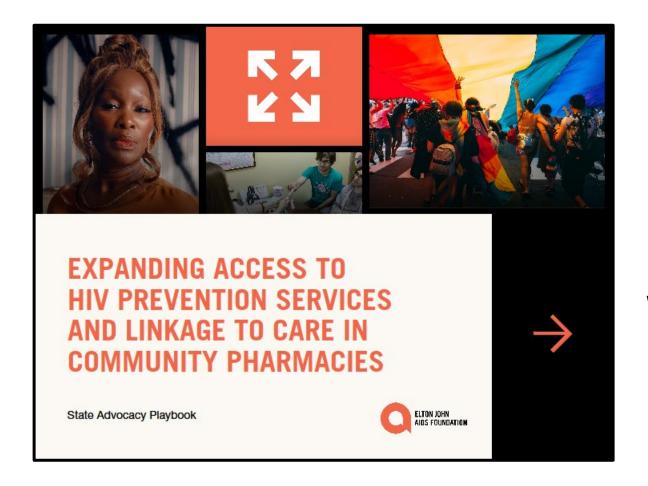


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Who is the playbook's audience?

Access the Playbook



States in Action: What's working and not working?



Impact in Action — Virginia

- Scope of practice:
 - Statewide protocol
- Coverage of pharmacists' services:
 - Medicaid Fee For Service and Managed Care
 - Commercial health plans
- Relationship with Board of Pharmacy

IMPACT IN ACTION:

VIRGINIA

Virginia's policies illustrate the impact of an effective state BOP protocol policy framework. The Virginia State Board of Pharmacy, in collaboration with the Board of Medicine and Department of Health, developed a statewide Prep protocol and Pep protocol that provide a clear standard of care and guidelines for pharmacists engaged in HIV prevention services. These protocols not only improve the quality of care, but also ensure that pharmacists can contribute meaningfully to HIV prevention efforts. By addressing the unique needs of HIV prevention and linkage to care services within the broader context of prevention, Virginia's protocols showcase how a well-defined framework can empower pharmacists to make a tangible impact on public health. Virginia also enacted a Image: law authorizing payment for pharmacy services across public and commercial insurance plans.



Impact in Action — Maine

- Scope of practice:
 - Standing order, collaborative practice agreement, or protocol
 - Limited to 60-day supply every 2 years
- Coverage of pharmacists' services:
 - No current pathways



₹ §13786-D	-D Title 32: PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS		
	Chapter 117: MAINE PHARMACY ACT		
	Subchapter 9: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS		

§13786-E. Prescribing, dispensing and administering HIV prevention drugs

- 1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings
- A "CDC guidelines" means guidelines related to nonoccupational exposure to potential HIV infection, or any subsequent guidelines, published by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [FL 2021, c. 265, §6 (NEM).]
- B. "HIV prevention drug" means a preexposure prophylaxis drug, post-exposure prophylaxis drug or other drug approved for the prevention of HIV infection by the federal Food and Drug Administration. [FL 2021, c. 265, §6 (NEW).]
- C. "Post-exposure prophylaxis drug" means a drug or drug combination that meets the clinical eligibility recommendations provided in CDC guidelines following potential exposure to HIV infection. [FL 2021. c. 265. §6 (NEW).]
- D. "Preexposure prophylaxis drug" means a drug or drug combination that meets the clinical eligibility recommendations provided in CDC guidelines to prevent HIV infection. [FL 2021, c. 265, §6 (NEW).]
- [PL 2021, c. 265, §6 (NEW).]
- 2. Authorization. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary and as authorized by the board in accordance with rules adopted under subsection 3, a pharmacist may prescribe, dispense and administer HIV prevention drugs pursuant to a standing order or collaborative practice agreement or to protocols developed by the board for when there is no prescription drug order, standing order or collaborative practice agreement in accordance with the requirements in this subsection and may also order laboratory testing for HIV infection as necessary.
- A. Before furnishing an HIV prevention drug to a patient, a pharmacist shall complete a training program approved by the board on the use of protocols developed by the board for prescribing, dispensing and administering an HIV prevention drug, on the requirements for any laboratory testing for HIV infection and on guidelines for prescription adherence and best practices to counsel patients prescribed an HIV prevention drug. [FL 2021, c. 265, §6 (NEW).]
- P. A physical state of the stat



Impact in Action — Tennessee

- Scope of practice:
 - Collaborative practice agreement
 - Prevention services focused
- Coverage of pharmacists' services (Payment parity):
 - Medicaid Managed Care
 - Commercial health plans
- Providing pharmacists community health worker training
- HIV PEP approved; Seeking PrEP authority in the future



TENNESSEE

In 2017, Tennessee enacted provider status for pharmacists.

Additionally, Tennessee Board Rule 1140-03-.17(5)(b) serves as a model of general prevention policy, exemplifying how collaborative pharmacy practice agreements can enable pharmacists to provide preventive care without the need for patient-specific diagnoses. The policy covers a comprehensive range of preventive services, including but not limited to screening prevention, treatment of the flu, mental health and depression, and HIV PrEP and PEP. However, Tennessee's legislation does not address payment for pharmacists' prevention services in Medicaid, although commercial payors can cover payment for pharmacist services.

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Have you seen pharmacy-based implementation of HIV services in your U.S. state or local community in the U.S. or around the world? If so, what has been your experience or observations?

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Pharmacist Commitment to Ending the HIV Epidemic



Community Pharmacist

The most accessible healthcare professional

90% of all
Americans live
within 5 miles of a
pharmacy

Available

Comprehensive medication knowledge

No Appointment Needed

Extended Hours



Pharmacist = Medication Expert

Pre-Pharmacy Training

- At least 2 years focused on chemistry, biology, and physiology
- Many have undergraduate degrees or a Masters

Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) Program

 Advanced coursework in pharmacology, medicinal chemistry, therapeutics, and clinical practice, combined with hands-on training in various pharmacy settings

Pharmacy Practice Experiences

Licensing and Certification



Training in HIV Treatment and Prevention

Infectious
Disease Training
In School

Specialized Certification

American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM) Continuing Education Program

Many states have a requirement for HIV specific CE **Various Topics**



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What do pharmacy leaders need to do ensure that people will seek HIV prevention services from pharmacies? How can demand be increased for pharmacy-based services?

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Ways to Engage in RxEACH

Visit www.RxEACH.org





The Issue

RxEACH in Action

Community

ty Connect



Stay up to date on the activities RxEACH initiative is leading across the nation to enhance policies that sustain pharmacy-based HIV prevention services by exploring a curated selection of resources and event highlights from RxEACH and our partners.