Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for key populations in Uganda: early scale-up lessons

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Background

2015: WHO recommends PrEP for persons at substantial HIV risk

2016: UNAIDS sets target of 3 million enrolled on PrEP by 2020

2017-2018: Uganda implements PrEP in context of:

- 6.2% HIV prevalence in general population
- Higher burden in Key and Priority Populations (KP and PP)
  - Sex workers (SW) 33% prevalence
  - Men who have sex with men (MSM) 13.7% prevalence
- Complex legal environment undermining access to HIV services for KP
- PrEP implementation supported by US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in partnership with Uganda Ministry of Health (MoH)

Methods

PEPFAR Data for Transparency Impact Monitoring (DATIM)

National PrEP program data review July 2017 – June 2018

Six PrEP implementation sites for Key and Priority Populations including:

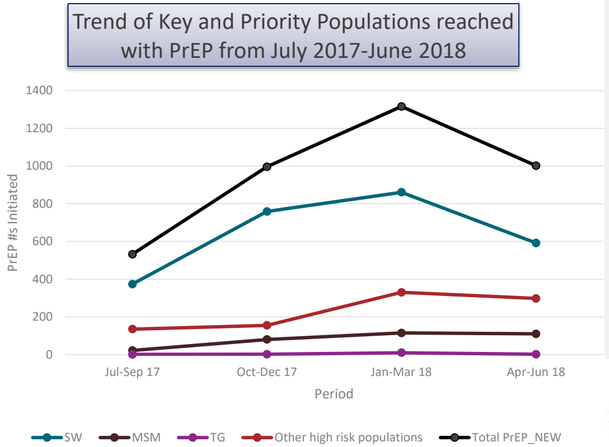
- Sex workers (SW)
- Men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Transgender persons (TG)
- Fisher folk (FF)
- Discordant couples (DC)
- Truckers
- Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW)
- People who Inject Drugs (PWID)

Site-specific PrEP program data review

Rural fishing community in Southwest Uganda

- Retention at 3 and 6 months (w/ 1.5 month time windows)

Results



Individuals initiating PrEP

3,846 individuals

- 2,568 (67.2%) SW
- 327 (8.5%) MSM
- 15 (0.4%) TG
- 918 (23.8%) other Key and Priority populations

Implementation example: urban KP provider

Initial uptake low at fixed sites

Changed service delivery model to community-based MSM-friendly drop-in centers

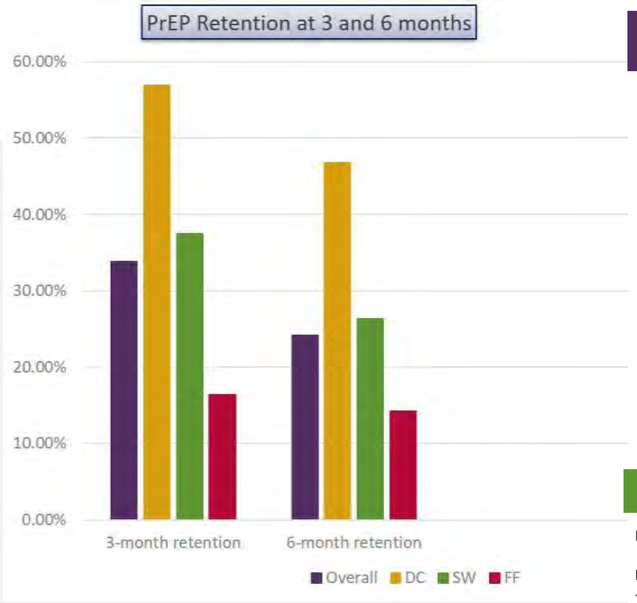
- 36% increase in MSM uptake

Implementation example: rural fishing community

1538 individuals

- 894 (58.1%) SW
- 391 (25.4%) FF
- 114 (7.4%) DC
- 7 (0.5%) MSM
- Rare other client types included AGYW, migrant workers, truckers, uniformed services

Outreach models reached 1064 (69.2%) vs. 474 (30.8%) reached at fixed public health facilities



Conclusions

- More Sex Workers than other Key and Priority Population clients were reached with PrEP
- Outreach approaches should be scaled up to reach more KP and PP clients with PrEP
- Different settings attract members of different populations
- Retention at 3 and 6 months was low for sex workers and fisherfolk, somewhat higher for discordant couples
- Retention strategies should be strengthened, especially for sex workers and fisher folk, who may be highly mobile
- Relationship between service delivery model (outreach vs. fixed facility) and retention should be explored.

Affiliates / Partners & Acknowledgments

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- KP and PP community and advocacy groups
- Initial PrEP implementing partners
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