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HIV TESTING PATTERNS AND PREP INDICATIONS AMONG MSM AND TGW OF COLOR, 2016-2019

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BACKGROUND

- Men who have sex with men of color (MSM) and transgender women (TGW) of color are disproportionately affected by HIV.
- National testing guidelines state that sexually active MSM should have HIV testing annually, and persons at higher risk of acquisition may consider testing every 3-6 months.
- The THRIVE demonstration project promotes HIV care and prevention services through health department-led collaboratives. THRIVE recipients are: Alabama, Baltimore, District of Columbia, Louisiana, New York City, Philadelphia, and Virginia Health Departments.
- We used THRIVE client data to compare HIV testing patterns for MSM and TGW of color based on PrEP screening results.

METHODS

- Source: THRIVE data 2016-2019
- Inclusion criteria:
  - HIV-negative MSM or TGW of color
  - Received ≥2 HIV tests
  - At least 180 days follow-up time
- Calculated:
  - Median and interquartile ranges (IQR):
    - Days from first to last test
    - Number of tests
    - Days between tests
  - Proportion of persons with testing intervals of 90, 120, 180, and 365 days among persons screened for PrEP and had either PrEP indications or no PrEP indications
- Chi squared tests for statistical comparisons

- Similar proportions of MSM and TGW of color with and without PrEP indications were tested every 90 days
- Additional investigations are needed to understand the factors influencing HIV testing frequency among MSM and TGW of color

RESULTS

Table. HIV testing patterns among MSM and TGW of color, by PrEP indications

	Total	Median days to last test (IQR)	Median number of tests (IQR)	Median days between tests (IQR)	N(%)* tested every 90 days	N(%)* tested every 120 days	N(%)* tested every 180 days	N(%)* tested every 365 days
Overall	2490	335 (167-503)	3 (2-5)	110 (73-183)	993 (36)	1520 (55)	2052 (74)	2580 (93)
PrEP Indications	2303	346 (179-510)	3 (2-6)	107 (73-170)	856 (37)	1327 (58)	1779 (77)	2179 (95)
No PrEP Indications	187	241 (78-526)	2 (2-4)	133 (59-243)	68 (36)	88 (47)	118 (63)	162 (87)

* Testing interval columns are cumulative so that each subsequent column contains persons included in the column before

RESULTS

- 92% of 2490 MSM and TGW of color had PrEP indications
- Median (IQR)
  - Days to last test: 335 (167-503)
  - Number of tests: 3 (2-5)
  - Days between tests: 110 (73-183)
- Cumulative percentages of persons tested for intervals of at least 90, 120, 180, and 365 days:
  - Overall: 36%, 55%, 74%, and 93%
  - Persons with PrEP indications: 37%, 58%, 77%, and 95%
  - Persons without PrEP indications: 36%, 47%, 63%, and 87%
- Proportion tested every 90 days did not differ significantly between groups; for all other testing intervals significantly more persons with PrEP indications were tested ($p<0.05$)

Conclusions

- Most MSM and TGW of color with evidence of serial HIV testing are tested at least annually.
- Persons without indications for PrEP are less likely to test annually.
- In this analysis similar proportions of MSM and TGW of color with and without PrEP indications were tested every 90 days.
- Additional investigations are needed to understand the factors influencing HIV testing frequency among MSM and TGW of color.

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