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PrEP continuum of care among MSM and TGW of color in the THRIVE demonstration project

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Objective

- Estimate the PrEP care continuum among MSM and TGW of color in the THRIVE demonstration project.

BACKGROUND

- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) reduces the risk of HIV acquisition when taken daily as prescribed.
- Access to and uptake of PrEP have been suboptimal among populations with the highest rates of HIV diagnoses, including men of color who have sex with men (MSM of color) and transgender women (TGW) of color.
- The THRIVE demonstration project funded seven U.S. health departments to lead community collaboratives that consisted of community-based organizations and clinical providers to implement comprehensive HIV prevention and care services for MSM and TGW of color.

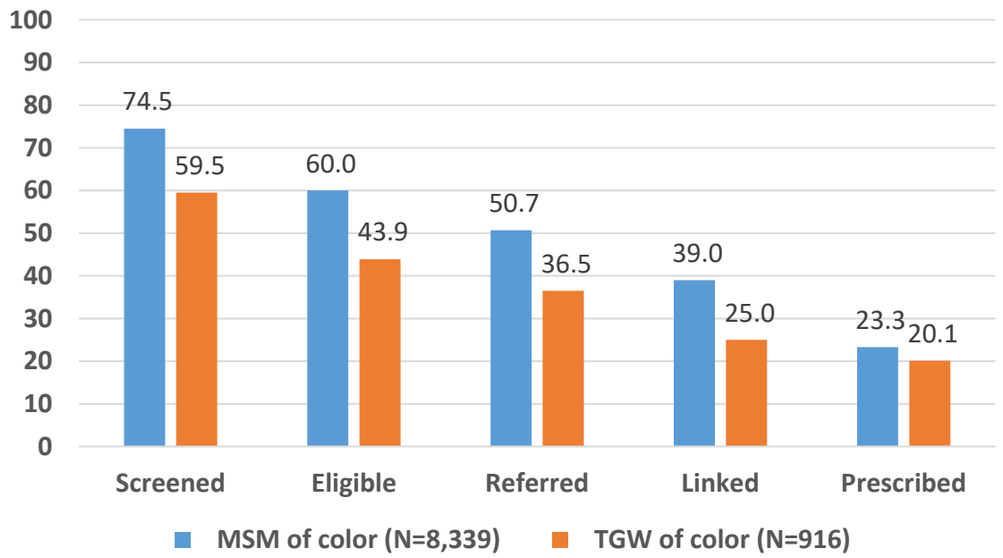
METHODS

- Analyzed a cohort of 10,422 HIV-negative MSM and 1,009 TGW enrolled in THRIVE from September 2015 through March 2019.
- Estimated the proportions who were included at each step in the PrEP care continuum: screened, eligible, referred, linked, and prescribed PrEP, stratified by age and race and ethnicity.
- Used multivariable logistic regression models to estimate the associations of being linked, referred, and prescribed PrEP among persons who were eligible for PrEP, by race/ethnicity and age group (aged <30 and ≥30 years).

HIV-negative MSM of color had similar proportions as white MSM for referral and linkage to PrEP however fewer MSM of color were prescribed PrEP. The proportion of TGW of color was less than MSM of color for all steps of the continuum.

RESULTS

PrEP care continuum among MSM and TGW of color enrolled in THRIVE



RESULTS

- Among HIV-negative MSM and TGW in THRIVE, 8,339 (80.0%) were MSM of color and 916 (90.8%) TGW of color.
- At each step of the continuum, there were significantly larger proportion of MSM of color compared to TGW of color.
- In the multivariate model, among MSM eligible for PrEP, there were similar proportions of white MSM and MSM of color who were referred (77.8% and 84.6%, p=0.50) and linked (44.1% and 65.0%, p=0.62), but fewer MSM of color were prescribed PrEP than white MSM (38.9% and 40%) (p<0.05).
- Among MSM of color, a smaller proportion of men aged <30 years were prescribed PrEP compared to men aged ≥30 years (35.2% and 43.1%) (p<0.05).

Conclusions

- The THRIVE demonstration project expanded access to PrEP services for MSM and TGW of color.
- Challenges exist in prescribing PrEP to younger MSM of color.
- Increased use of interventions that support PrEP uptake among MSM and TGW of color are needed to improve the PrEP care continuum for these populations.
- Further investigation is needed to understand reasons that MSM of color were prescribed PrEP after referral and linkage to PrEP less frequently than white MSM.

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