PrEP INDICATION AND CARE CONTINUUM AMONG TRANSGENDER WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES

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BACKGROUND

U.S. transgender women (TGW) have a disproportionate burden of HIV, with an estimated prevalence of 28%. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is effective in preventing HIV acquisition among adherent users. However, the PrEP care continuum among TGW and factors associated with PrEP indication (e.g. condomless anal sex, high sex partner number, having an STI, etc.) are not well understood.

METHODS

- The Leading Innovation for Transgender Women's Health and Empowerment (LITE) study is a multi-site cohort of TGW across six cities in the southern and eastern U.S.
- Participants underwent HIV/STI testing and completed a socio-behavioral survey at baseline.
- We identified factors associated with PrEP indication using prevalence ratios from a multivariate Poisson regression with robust variance.
- We calculated descriptive statistics to depict the PrEP care continuum.

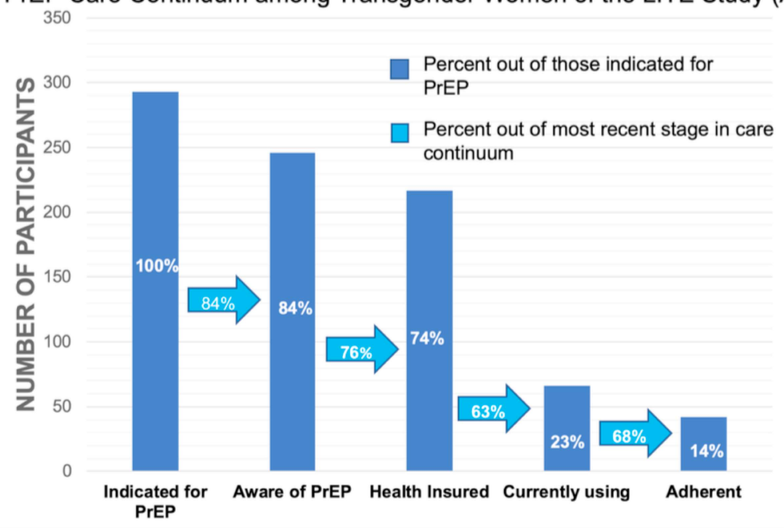
RESULTS

Table 1. Socio-demographics of participants by PrEP indication

Demographics	Total=751 N (%)	PrEP Indication= 293 N (%)	No PrEP Indication=458 N(%)	p-value
Age				
<30 years of age	412 (55%)	132 (45%)	206 (45%)	0.995
>=30 years of age	338 (45%)	161 (55%)	251 (55%)	
Race				
Non-Hispanic White	324 (44%)	79 (27%)	245 (55%)	
Non-Hispanic Black	126 (17%)	78 (27%)	48 (11%)	
Hispanic	73 (10%)	41 (14%)	32 (7%)	
Other	216 (29%)	92 (32%)	124 (28%)	<0.001
Education				
High school or less	233 (31%)	131 (45%)	102 (23%)	
Some college or more	513 (69%)	161 (55%)	352 (78%)	<0.0001
Self perceived HIV risk				
No risk	128 (22%)	30 (12%)	98 (29%)	
Low risk	287 (48%)	98 (38%)	189 (55%)	
Medium risk	121 (20%)	77 (30%)	44 (13%)	
High risk	60 (10%)	50 (20%)	10 (3%)	<0.0001
Health Insurance				
Yes	601 (81%)	217 (75%)	384 (85%)	
No	142 (19%)	72 (25%)	70 (15%)	0.001
Low Income				
Below Poverty level	264 (43%)	126 (52%)	138 (37%)	
Above Poverty level	357 (57%)	118 (48%)	239 (63%)	<0.0001

Adherent PrEP use (i.e.100% use in the past 7 days) is low (14%) among PrEP indicated U.S. transgender women.

Figure 1. PrEP Care Continuum among Transgender Women of the LITE Study (April 2019)



- 39% of participants were indicated for PrEP.
- Non-Hispanic Black participants had a higher prevalence of being PrEP indicated.
- Having any kind of self-perceived HIV risk was associated with higher PrEP indication.
- Having some college or more for education was associated with lower PrEP indication.

Table 2. Factors associated with PrEP indication*

	PR [95% CI]	p value
Race		
Non-Hispanic White	(ref)	
Hispanic	1.41 [0.94, 2.11]	0.09
Other	1.32 [0.98, 1.80]	0.071
Non-Hispanic Black	**1.98 [1.49, 2.64]**	**<0.0001**
Self perceived HIV risk		
No risk	(ref)	
Low risk	**2.09 [1.1, 3.70]**	**0.012**
Medium risk	**3.33 [1.89, 5.86]**	**<0.0001**
High risk	**3.81 [2.11, 6.87]**	**<0.0001**
Education		
High school or less	(ref)	
College or more	**0.79 [0.63, 0. 99]**	**0.04**

*final model included race, self perceived HIV risk, education, drug abuse screening score, income level, and health insurance status

CONCLUSIONS

- Over a third of TGW not living with HIV at baseline were indicated for PrEP.
- Although most PrEP users were adherent, overall uptake and adherence among those PrEP indicated were low.
- Improving uptake and adherence among TGW is needed, particularly among Black TGW for whom PrEP indication is higher.

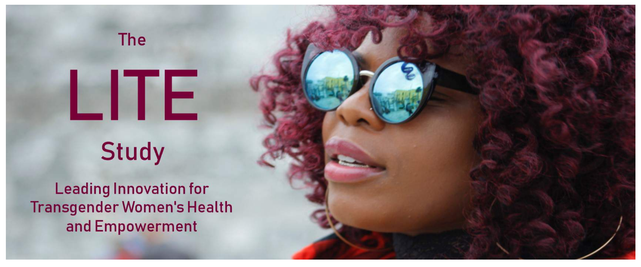
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