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PrEP Use Among US Veterans Using Veterans Health Administration Services, 2017-2022

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BACKGROUND

- The number of persons prescribed HIV preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in the United States has been estimated at the national-, state-, and county-levels using a large commercial pharmacy database.
- This pharmacy database includes prescriptions from >90% of the U.S. retail pharmacies, but PrEP prescriptions from the Veteran Health Administration (VHA) system were not included.
- To address this gap, we analyzed VHA data to examine the trends in PrEP use among Veterans receiving health services in the VHA system.

METHODS

- The VHA PrEP data were extracted from VHA's Corporate Data Warehouse using a previously validated algorithm, defined as individuals in VHA care who received TDF/FTC or TAF/FTC prescriptions for >30 days in the absence of a prior HIV diagnosis or other antiretroviral prescriptions for HIV or hepatitis B treatment.
- The VHA PrEP data were shared with CDC through a data use agreement for operational purposes.
- We reported the total annual number of Veterans in care aged ≥18 years prescribed PrEP each year and calculated estimated annual percent change (EAPC) over the study period.

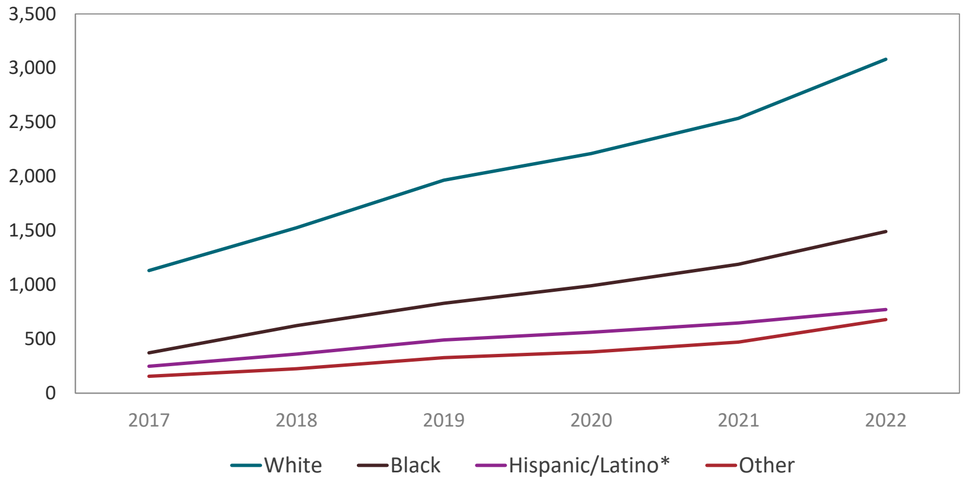
RESULTS

- The number of VHA patients prescribed PrEP increased from 1,910 in 2017 to 6,023 in 2022 with an EAPC of 23.0% (95% CI, 19.5-26.6).
- The number of Black veterans prescribed PrEP increased from 373 in 2017 to 1,491 in 2022 with an EAPC of 27.2%. The proportion of Black persons who comprised PrEP users increased from 19.5% to 24.8%.

VHA data fill a gap in monitoring PrEP use in the United States

We observed an increasing trend in the number of Veterans prescribed PrEP during 2017-2022, similar to the trends among persons with commercial or public health insurance

Figure. Number of VHA Patients Prescribed PrEP by Race/Ethnicity, 2017-2022



CONCLUSIONS

- The VHA PrEP data enhance our understanding of PrEP use among U.S. Veterans receiving care in VHA system and fill an important gap in the monitoring of PrEP use that cannot be observed with other data sources.
- These data will be incorporated in the measure used to monitor PrEP coverage in the United States and made publicly available at the HHS America's HIV Epidemic Analysis Dashboard (http://ahead.hiv.gov).

DISCLAIMER

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the VA nor the CDC

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