HIV PrEP product preferences among clients using oral PrEP and PEP at private pharmacies in Kenya

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BACKGROUND

- New long-acting injectable (LAI) HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) products require less frequent dosing and are more discreet than oral PrEP.
- Their implementation in diverse settings, including private pharmacies, may help enhance PrEP reach and coverage.

Objective: To assess PrEP product preferences among clients receiving HIV prevention services at private pharmacies in Kenya.

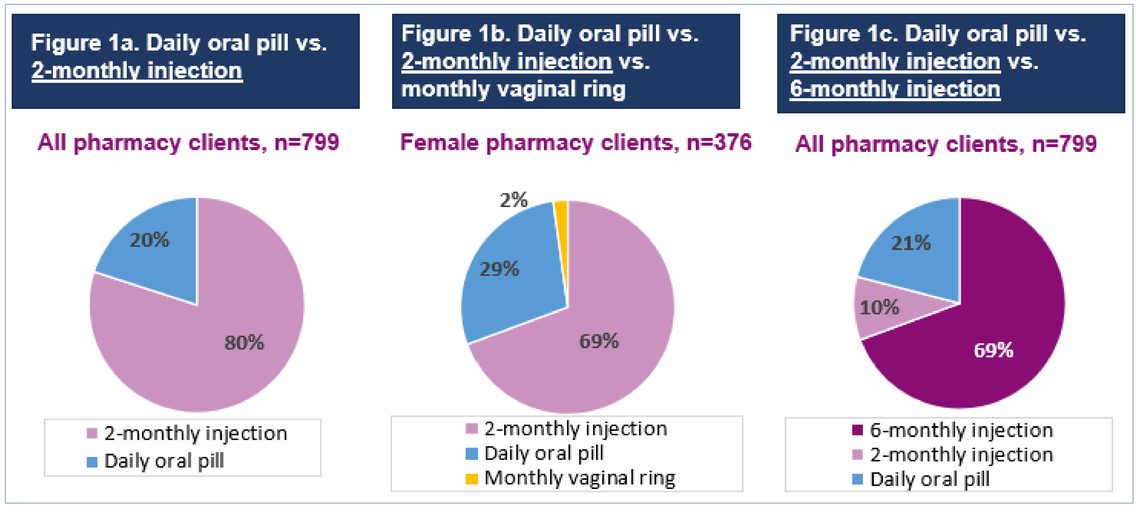
METHODS

- **Design:** Cross-sectional survey among pharmacy clients participating in the Pharm PrEP cRCT (NCT05842122), a trial comparing three different pharmacy PrEP/PEP delivery models with pharmacy referral to clinic-based PrEP/PEP services.
- **Setting:** 60 Pharmacies in Western and Central Kenya
- **Eligibility:** Clients aged ≥16 years receiving daily oral PrEP or PEP in pharmacies.
- **Data collection:** Client surveys administered at enrollment, day 60, and day 270 of study participation.
  - Surveys collected sociodemographic characteristics and PrEP product preferences, including preference for long-acting injectable (LAI) PrEP formulations (2- or 6-monthly)
  - **Analysis:** Descriptive statistics and multivariable regression models.

RESULTS

- From July 2023 to April 2025, 14% (799/5808) enrolled participants completed surveys; 44% (352/799) were PEP (vs. PrEP) clients, 47% (376/799) female, and 38% (306/799) married.
- The median age was 28 years (IQR 24–35); 3% (20/799) were members of a key population.
- Most clients (80%, 639/799) preferred a 2-monthly PrEP injection over a daily pill; **Fig 1a.**
- When female clients were given a monthly PrEP vaginal ring option, most still preferred the 2-monthly injection (69%, 256/376), followed by a daily pill (28%, 105/376), then monthly ring (2%, 8/376); **Fig 1b.**
- When a 6-monthly PrEP injection was presented as an option, most clients (69%, 553/799) preferred that over a 2-monthly injection (10%, 77/799) or daily pill (21%, 167/799). **Fig. 1c**
- Clients who identified as belonging to a key population were significantly less likely to prefer a LAI PrEP product over a daily oral PrEP pill (aOR 0.34, p=0.021).

Figures 1a,1b,1c. PrEP product preferences among pharmacy clients



Pharmacy oral PrEP and PEP clients participating in the Pharm PrEP cRCT reported a preference for LAI PrEP products over other options.

CONCLUSIONS

- These findings indicate a potential demand for pharmacy-delivered LAI PrEP products among pharmacy clients.
- Clients identifying as key populations were less likely to prefer LAI PrEP, highlighting the need for tailored PrEP choice discussions.
- During initial introduction of LAI PrEP, policymakers should consider private pharmacies to expand reach and coverage of biomedical HIV prevention services.

Acknowledgements: Thank you to all participants
Funding: Gates Foundation (INV 033052)
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