

Improving the Care Cascade of HIV Preventative Services: A Quality Improvement Project

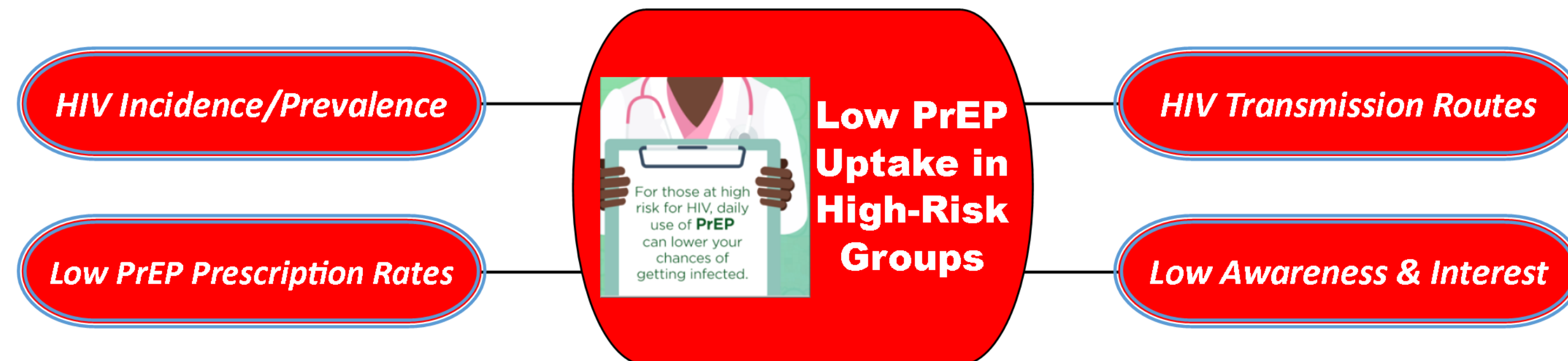
David A. Perez, BSN, RN ♦ Jason E. Farley, PhD, MPH, ANP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, AACRN



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Situational Brief

- HIV a global health epidemic
- High-risk populations: MSM, PWID
- **Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP):** preventative to reduce risk the chances of acquiring HIV.
- PrEP can reduce risks of HIV acquisition from sexual transmission by 99%; 74% among PWID.
- **Screening for and initiation of PrEP severely lacks nationwide**
- 2015: estimated 1.1 million Americans "at-risk;" 90,000 (8.2%) prescriptions were filled. (Allen et al., 2019)



- PrEP intervention deterred by health literacy, cost, insurance coverage, adherence, provider competency/bias, geographic location, and stigma.
- PrEP use not prevalent enough to affect HIV incidence.

Purpose

- Current Model
- Solutions to low PrEP uptake through redesign of PrEP care cascade.
- Pilot an improved PrEP care cascade within a community-based pharmacy in Baltimore, Maryland.



Aims

- **Aim #1:** increase PrEP uptake to 50% among individuals at high-risk for HIV infection.
- **Aim #2:** Quantitative screening tool (Denver HIV Risk Score Tool) to improve self-identification risk for HIV
- Entire care cascade within a single encounter.

Methods

- Enhanced PrEP care cascade delivery model within a community-based pharmacy
- Promotional signage, social media, screening tool
- Self-Risk vs Denver Risk Tool
- High-risk screening → Telehealth
 - Mail-in Testing Kit
 - Interim PrEP prescription
 - Refill authorizations
 - Sign-up for PrEPme app
- End goal: effective initiation of PrEP

The Denver HIV Risk Score, can help you identify if you are at an increased likelihood of acquiring the HIV infection.		SCORE
AGE	22-25 or 55-60 +4 26-32 or 47-54 +10 33-46 +12	
GENDER	Male	+21
RACE / ETHNICITY	Risk Latino / Hispanic	+9 +3
Sex with MEN, WOMEN, or BOTH?	Men or Both	+22
Injection drug use?	YES	+9
Ever been tested for HIV?	YES	-4
Total Score		

Very High Risk 3-50 points
High Risk 40-49 points
Moderate Risk 30-39 points

Low Risk 20-29 points
Very Low Risk < 20 points

A score of 30 points or more is considered at increased risk for HIV.

If you are at increased risk for HIV, it is recommended that you have **routine HIV testing** and start **PrEP as prevention**, if HIV negative, in addition to safer sex practices.

PrEP stands for **Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis**. The word "prophylaxis" means to prevent or control the spread of an infection or disease.

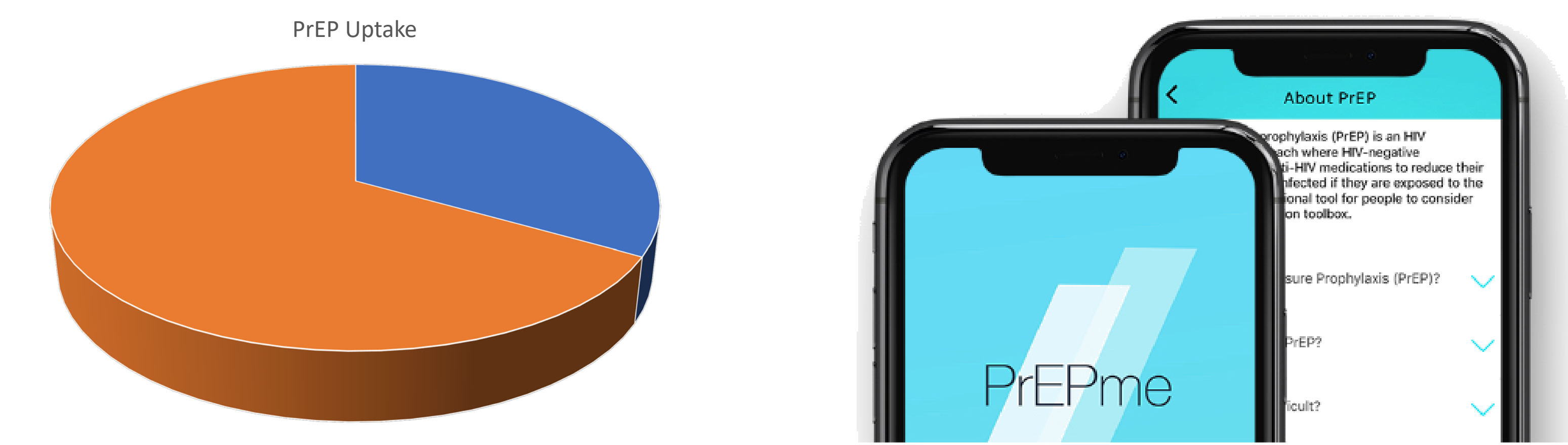
PrEP is an HIV prevention option that works by taking **one pill every day**.

PrEP can help prevent you from getting HIV if you are exposed to the virus.

Talk to your Pharmacist about starting PrEP today!
Pharmacy SAFEWAY (410) 675-3802

Results and Conclusions

- GOAL: 50% increase in PrEP uptake
- 75% seeking HIV testing; 25% actively seeking PrEP
- **Aim #1 Results:** 33.3% achieved successful PrEP uptake
 - Defer reasons: time, availability of providers, and indecisiveness
 - All engaged with PrEPme app



- **Aim # 2 Results:** 45% perceived as high risk; 100% scored as high-risk
- Moderate improvement in PrEP uptake by minimizing the duration of PrEP initiation and abating barriers and obstacles
- Need for an all-encompassing PrEP care cascade evident
- **Need:** Policies increasing Pharmacists' scope of practice to initiate and monitor PrEP
- **Need:** feasibility of PrEP uptake targeting low health literacy populations

References

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