

Uptake of HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in a National Cohort of Gay and Bisexual Men in the United States

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Objectives: The HIV care cascade provides milestones to track the progress of HIV-positive people from seroconversion through viral suppression. We propose a Motivational pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) Cascade involving 5 stages based on the Transtheoretical Model of Change.

Methods: We analyzed data from 995 men in *One Thousand Strong*, a longitudinal study of a national panel of HIV-negative gay and bisexual men in the United States.

Results: Nearly all (89%) participants were sexually active in the past 3 months and 65% met Centers for Disease Control criteria for PrEP candidacy. Of those identified as appropriate candidates, 53% were Precontemplative (stage 1; unwilling to take or believing they were inappropriate candidates for PrEP) and 23% were in Contemplation (stage 2; willing and self-identified as appropriate candidates). Only 11% were in PrEPparation (stage 3; seeing PrEP as accessible and planning to initiate PrEP) and 4% were in PrEP Action (stage 4; prescribed PrEP). Although few of those who were identified as appropriate candidates were on PrEP, nearly all PrEP users (98%) reported adhering to 4 or more doses per week and most (72%) were returning for recommended quarterly medical visits,

resulting in 9% of PrEP candidates reaching Maintenance and Adherence (stage 5).

Conclusions: The large majority of participants were appropriate candidates for PrEP, yet fewer than 1 in 10 were using and adherent to PrEP. These findings highlight the need for interventions tailored to address the unique barriers men face at each stage of the cascade, particularly at the earliest stages where the most dramatic losses were identified.

Key Words: gay and bisexual men, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), HIV prevention, continuum of care, PrEP cascade

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INTRODUCTION

In 2012, Truvada (emtricitabine/tenofovir) was approved for use as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV.¹ The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) subsequently recommended PrEP for anyone at high risk for HIV infection.² When taken as prescribed, PrEP is highly effective.³ A recent demonstration study of gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) found no new HIV infections during 388 person-years of follow-up.⁴ Despite effectiveness, uptake has been slow, and focus has shifted toward implementation issues and barriers for accessing and maintaining a PrEP regimen.⁵ Studies have examined facilitators and barriers of PrEP uptake.^{6,7} Common facilitators include perceptions of risk for HIV infection, having a means of paying for PrEP (eg, health insurance), and accurate knowledge of PrEP. Barriers include concerns about side effects, stigma, lack of access to a provider, and poor patient-provider communication.^{7–11} The actual process of initiating and actively maintaining a PrEP regimen, however, is less well understood.

The HIV care cascade provides concrete, measurable milestones used to track the progress of people living with HIV from seroconversion to viral suppression.¹² Intervention efforts have been directed towards closing “gaps” in the HIV care cascade. Meaningful progress has been made, but more than 14% of HIV-positive people still do not know their status.¹³ It was recently suggested that PrEP use may be examined through an analogous cascade.¹⁴ Kelley et al¹⁵ proposed such a PrEP cascade involving 5 milestones: being at risk for HIV infection (eg, sexually active GBMSM),

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awareness of PrEP and willingness to use it, access to healthcare, obtaining PrEP, and adherence.¹⁵ Using a sample of non-Latino White and Black GBMSM in Atlanta, they estimated that only 15.2% of PrEP candidates would reach the last stage. However, the motivations for healthcare prediagnosis and postdiagnosis are often different,^{16,17} so motivations for PrEP uptake to prevent HIV infection are likely to be different from motivations for taking care of one's health once diagnosed HIV-positive. The ultimate goal of the care cascade is to prevent HIV transmission. As such, a PrEP cascade attuned to issues associated with HIV infection (ie, acquisition) and primary prevention may complement the care cascade. In fact, one desirable feature of a PrEP cascade is that its final step should overlap with the first step of the care cascade. That is, regular HIV testing as part of ongoing PrEP engagement should facilitate early diagnosis among PrEP users who seroconvert, thus placing individuals within the first step of the care cascade.

The current study proposes a Motivational PrEP cascade based on the Transtheoretical Model of Change, which conceptualizes behavior change in the context of decision making across time,^{18,19} and has been used to explain HIV medication adherence and movement along the HIV care cascade.^{20,21} The PrEP cascade examined herein is pictured in Figure 1 and contains many components similar to those proposed by Liu and colleagues,²² which we have grouped into stages consistent with the stages of the Transtheoretical model. The cascade should only be applied to those objectively identified as appropriate candidates for PrEP, based on risk for HIV infection using established CDC criteria,² making it ideal for targeting only those for whom prevention is needed at a given time. Those who do not view themselves as candidates for PrEP or are unwilling to

pursue PrEP would be considered precontemplative (ie, stage 1). Those who see themselves as a PrEP candidate and are willing to take it, but have no means or plans to do so are in contemplation (stage 2). Individuals with a means of obtaining PrEP, making plans to initiate PrEP, but not yet prescribed PrEP are in preparation (stage 3). Once individuals have spoken to their medical provider about PrEP and obtained a prescription, they are in action (stage 4), as they have made a quantifiable effort to decrease their HIV risk. Finally, individuals are in maintenance (stage 5) when they are consistently adhering to PrEP based on data suggesting a minimum of 4 doses per week²³ and following guidelines regarding quarterly HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing.² Discontinuation of PrEP at any time should lead to regular reassessment of risk and appropriateness of PrEP and an HIV-positive diagnosis at any time leads directly into the HIV Treatment Cascade—individuals consistently at low risk will never enter the HIV PrEP Cascade, whereas those who transition in and out of risk will enter the cascade during times when PrEP is objectively indicated for them.

The cascade we propose is distinct in several ways from the previously published PrEP cascade.¹⁵ First, a precursor to entry into our cascade is objective identification as an appropriate PrEP candidate. Although it is possible that other men can be prescribed PrEP, particularly if requested, the inclusion of all sexually active GBMSM in the cascade can be detrimental because it overestimates the pool of individuals for whom PrEP is medically indicated, thus underestimating any success at reaching those most in need. Objective indicators of risk were considered within the previous cascade, though it was done within the third step when examining who was most likely to receive a PrEP prescription. Second, although our last 2 stages are

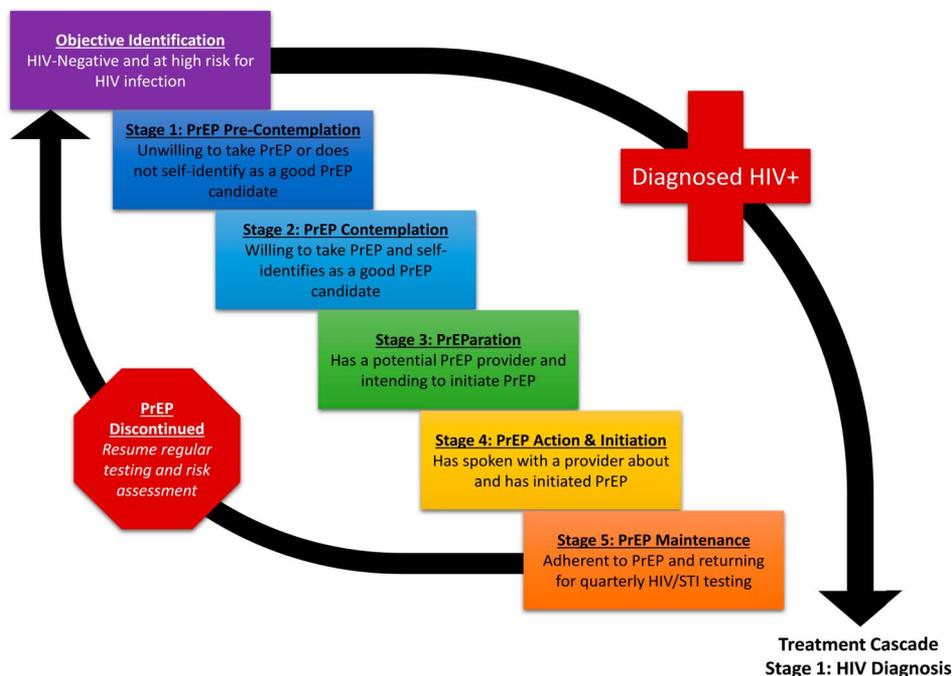


FIGURE 1. This figure displays a flowchart of the stepped nature of the motivational PrEP cascade. The cascade begins with objective identification, which includes HIV testing and an assessment of HIV risk behavior—individuals for whom PrEP is indicated continue into the PrEP cascade, whereas individuals for whom it is not indicated should be regularly reassessed and individuals who test HIV-positive should proceed to the HIV treatment cascade. Within the PrEP cascade, individuals can move forwards and backwards from different stages and remain within the stages of the cascade as long as PrEP remains indicated.

similar to those of the previously published cascade, we consider 3 distinct stages of movement toward receiving a prescription that we believe better highlight unique processes acting as barriers to uptake. Finally, our use of a validated model of health behavior widely used in HIV prevention allows the proposed cascade to be translated easily into interventions targeted to specific issues associated with each motivational stage.

In addition to distinctions between the 2 cascades themselves, this study differs in significant ways from the previous—and important—work that has already been done.¹⁵ The current study provides data from a national sample of gay and bisexual men (GBM) of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. As a result, the data provide useful insights into the cascade as it appears within the national rather than a local epidemic. Kelley et al¹⁵ used data from previous research to estimate the number of men expected to reach several steps along the continuum. For example, they estimate the proportion of men who would be adherent based on iPrEx data.²⁴ However, estimates based on those randomly assigned to receive PrEP or placebo may differ dramatically from those among men who seek out PrEP already aware of its high efficacy.

Using data collected in the second half of 2015 from *One Thousand Strong*, a longitudinal cohort study of HIV-negative GBM across the United States, we examined the number of men who would be appropriate PrEP candidates, how many of them reach each stage of the Motivational PrEP Cascade, and end with a comparison of racial/ethnic and geographic differences.

METHODS

One Thousand Strong is a longitudinal study prospectively following a national cohort of HIV-negative GBM for 3 years; specifics regarding recruitment and enrollment procedures are detailed elsewhere.²⁵ The sample was recruited to reflect census data on same-sex households in terms of racial and ethnic composition, age, and geographic distribution—the geographic distribution of the entire cohort at baseline can be found in Figure 2. After consent, as part of the baseline assessment, participants completed an online survey, at-home self-administered rapid HIV testing, and sent in self-collected samples for urethral and rectal chlamydia/gonorrhea testing; all those enrolled had a confirmed HIV-negative test result.²⁶ These procedures are repeated every 12

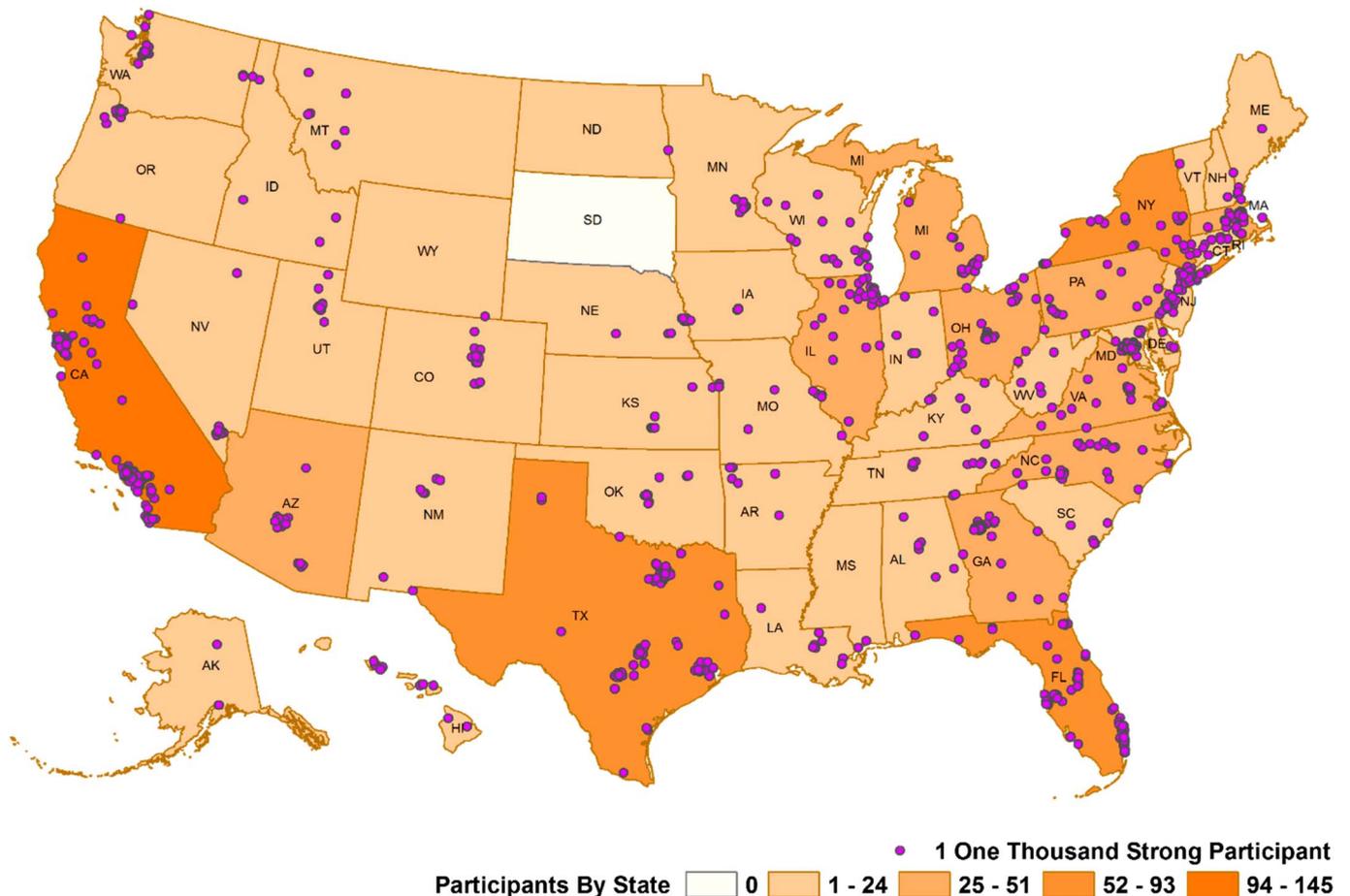


FIGURE 2. This figure displays the geographic distribution of the full *One Thousand Strong* cohort at the time of baseline enrollment. Participants were targeted to represent the geographic distribution of same-sex households in the census.

months; data for this manuscript were taken from the 12-month follow-up. All procedures were approved by the Institutional Review Board of CUNY.

Of the 1071 men who enrolled, 5 men (0.5%) reported an HIV diagnosis in the year since baseline and were excluded. Of the remaining 1066, 1013 (95.0%) completed the 12-month survey. Men who had formerly been but were no longer prescribed PrEP ($n = 18$) were asked different questions and were not included within the present analyses, resulting in a final analytic sample of 995 HIV-negative GBM.

Measures

All PrEP questions were preceded by a standard description of PrEP.²⁷ Men reported on 10 processes involved in the Motivational PrEP Cascade. Processes were divided into 5 stages with 2 processes in each stage (Table 1). “Reaching” a stage involved meeting criteria for both processes. Stages were ordered so that a participant must have reached earlier stages to reach subsequent stages.

Demographic Characteristics

Participants were asked whether or not they were Hispanic/Latino and separately asked to report their race using definitions consistent with reporting of the National Institutes of Health. Men who reported multiple racial identities were coded as multiracial, men who reported one racial identity and being Hispanic or Latino were coded as Latino, and men who reported one racial identity and not being Hispanic or Latino were coded as that racial identity. Zip codes were used to classify men into the geographic regions in which they lived.

TABLE 1. Overall Progression Through Each Stage of the Motivational PrEP Cascade

	Full Sample (N = 995), n (%)
Objective identification	636 (63.9)
HIV-negative and sexually active with men	887 (89.1)
PrEP candidate using modified CDC criteria	642 (64.5)
Stage 2: PrEP contemplation	301 (47.3)
Stage 2a: willing to take PrEP	419 (65.9)
Stage 2b: self-identified as PrEP candidate	346 (54.4)
Stage 3: PrEPparation	152 (50.5)
Stage 3a: has potential PrEP provider	244 (81.1)
Stage 3b: intending to take PrEP	173 (57.5)
Stage 4: PrEP action and initiation	82 (53.9)
Stage 4a: spoken to a medical provider about PrEP	107 (70.4)
Stage 4b: currently prescribed PrEP	82 (53.9)
Stage 5: PrEP maintenance and adherence	58 (70.7)
Stage 5a: maintaining 4+ doses per week	80 (97.6)
Stage 5b: returning for quarterly testing	59 (72.0)

Each stage contains only those men who met the criteria for the prior stage. Stage 1 is not shown as it contains all those individuals who are objectively identified and *do not* reach stage 2. Participants must meet criteria for both sub-stages in order to reach the full stage, hence the lower numbers who achieve the higher-order stage than each sub-stage.

Objective Identification

Participants were considered to have met objective criteria for being an appropriate PrEP candidate if they were HIV-negative, sexually active with men, and met CDC criteria.² All men in the sample were HIV-negative and sexually active with men in the 12 months before baseline, though we used sexual activity with another man in the past 3 months (compared with the CDC’s 6-month criteria) as the criterion for objective identification. Men were considered candidates if they: (1) were in a relationship with a partner not known to be HIV-negative; (2) were in a nonmonogamous relationship; (3) had any sex with a casual male partner not known to be HIV-negative in the prior 3 months; (4) had any condomless anal sex with a casual male partner regardless of status in the prior 3 months; or (5) had a positive STI diagnosis within the prior 6 months. We included both self-reported diagnoses as well as the testing for urethral and rectal gonorrhea and chlamydia conducted as part of the 12-month assessment; 49 men (4.9%) did not complete the 12-month STI testing and we used self-report data alone.

Stage 1: PrEP Precontemplation

Men were considered to have met criteria for this stage if they were objectively identified but did not meet the criteria for stage 2, meaning they were unwilling to take PrEP, did not self-identify as a good candidate for PrEP, or both.

Stage 2: PrEP Contemplation

To assess willingness to take PrEP (stage 2a), men were asked, “Suppose that PrEP is at least 90% effective in preventing HIV when taken daily, how likely would you be to take PrEP if it were available for free?” with responses ranging from “I would definitely take it” to “I would definitely not take it”; those indicating they would probably or definitely take PrEP were coded as willing to take it. To assess self-identification as a PrEP candidate (stage 2b), men were asked “Do you believe that you are currently an appropriate candidate for PrEP?” with responses ranging from “Yes, I am definitely an appropriate candidate” to “No, I am definitely not an appropriate candidate”; those indicating themselves as probably or definitely appropriate candidates were coded as self-identifying as PrEP candidates.

Stage 3: PrEPparation

Men were asked, “Suppose that you were interested in getting a new prescription for PrEP—do you have or know of a medical provider who you think would be willing to prescribe it for you?” (stage 3a). To assess intentions for PrEP uptake, men were asked, “PrEP is currently available with a prescription from your doctor and research has shown that a majority of insurance companies cover most or all of the costs of PrEP. Do you plan to begin PrEP?” Response options ranged from “Yes, I will definitely begin taking PrEP” to “No, I definitely will not begin taking PrEP”; those indicating they would probably or definitely begin taking PrEP were coded as intending to begin PrEP.

Stage 4: PrEP Action and Initiation

Men were asked, “Have you ever spoken to a medical provider about starting PrEP?” (stage 4a) and, “Have you ever been prescribed HIV medications (eg, Truvada) for use as PrEP?” (stage 4b).

Stage 5: PrEP Maintenance and Adherence

To assess optimal adherence of an average of 4 or more doses a week (stage 5a), men on PrEP were asked, “In the last month (30 days), for how many days did you miss a dose of PrEP?” with responses fewer than 13 coded as having maintained sufficient adherence. Men were also asked, “How regularly do you return to the medical provider who prescribes you PrEP to receive HIV/STI testing?” with responses other than “At least 4 times per year (every 3 months)” coded as not returning for quarterly visits (stage 5b).

RESULTS

Overall, the sample was 7.6% Black, 12.1% Latino, 72.2% White, and 8.1% identified as another race or multiracial. The majority was gay-identified (95%) and had a 4-year college degree (58.7%). Nearly half (47.1%) made \$50,000 per year or more. The average age was 41.9 years (median = 40.0, SD = 13.9). More than one-third (n = 349, 35.1%) resided in the South, 19.3% (n = 192) in the Northeast, 18.2% (n = 182) in the Midwest, and 27.3% (n = 272) in the West. Figure 2 contains a detailed map of the locations of our sample.

Table 1 shows the progression through each of the 5 stages of the PrEP cascade. As can be seen, 89.1% were sexually active (stage 1a) and 64.5% met CDC criteria for PrEP candidacy (stage 1b). Thus, nearly two-thirds (63.9%) met our criteria for “objective identification” as PrEP candidate. However, more than half (52.7%) did not move on to stage 2, and were Precontemplative for PrEP uptake. The remaining 47.3% reached PrEP Contemplation (stage 2); 54.4% self-identified as a PrEP candidate (stage 2a) and 65.9% indicated willingness to take PrEP (stage 2b). Among Contemplators, 81.1% had a provider willing to prescribe

PrEP (stage 3a) and 57.5% had a plan to begin taking PrEP (stage 3b). Of those in PrEPparation, 70.4% had spoken to a provider (stage 4a) and 53.9% were currently prescribed PrEP (stage 4b). Nearly all of those in the Action stage (97.6%) reported taking an average of 4 or more doses per week (stage 5a) and most (72.0%) were attending recommended quarterly medical visits (stage 5b).

After objective identification within stage 1, Table 1 shows that approximately half of men who reached the prior stage were lost at stages 2 through 4, though more of the men stay actively engaged in PrEP within stage 5 if they reached stage 4. Figure 3 depicts the number and percentage of men objectively identified who reached each stage (as opposed to Table 1 which displays these as percentages of those who reached the former step). As can be seen, fewer than half reached stage 2, fewer than one-quarter reached stage 3, 12.9% reached stage 4 and were on PrEP, and fewer than 1 in 10 of these men were benefiting from the efficacious HIV preventive effects of a PrEP regimen.

Table 2 displays results of a series of χ^2 comparing racial/ethnic groups and geographic regions in the extent to which they achieved each stage of the PrEP cascade. We found no significant racial/ethnic or geographic differences in any of the first 4 stages of the cascade and were unable to test the last stage due to such low numbers within each cell.

DISCUSSION

These findings illustrate the utility of a Motivational PrEP Cascade for GBM informed by the Transtheoretical Model of Change. The frequency of participants reaching each of the stages decreased across the cascade in a manner suggesting that they capture motivation to engage in PrEP consistent with this model. Arguably the most striking finding is the dramatic loss of participants across the early stages of the Motivational PrEP Cascade. Interpreting Figure 3 in terms of the *final* stage that men reached, 53% remained at stage 1 (Precontemplation), 23% in stage 2 (Contemplation), 11% in

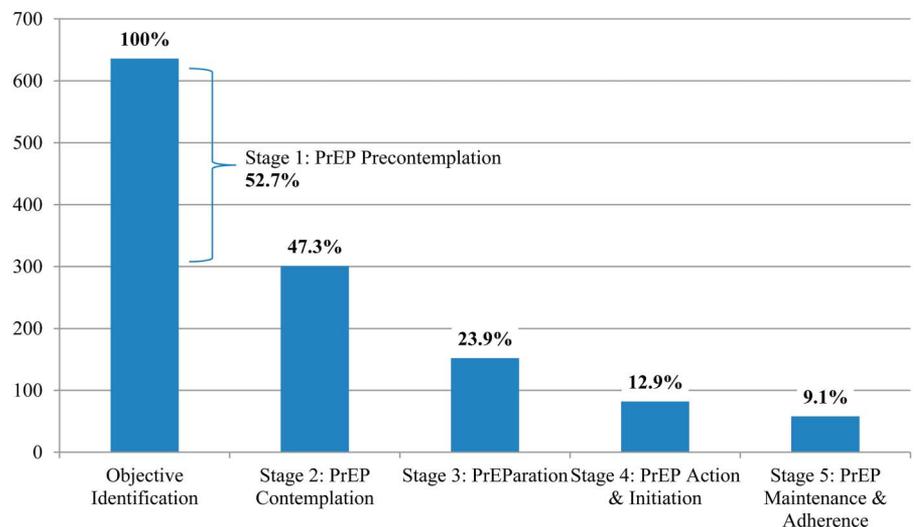


FIGURE 3. The figure displays the proportion of gay and bisexual men who reached each stage of the cascade. Unlike Table 1 which displays the proportion who reached each stage of those who reached the former stage, this figure indicates the proportion of those objectively identified as PrEP candidates (n = 636). Who reached each subsequent stage (numbers are not mutually exclusive and all those who reach a later stage are included in the percentages for prior stages).

TABLE 2. Comparisons of Progression Through the PrEP Cascade by Race/Ethnicity and Region of Residence

	Racial/Ethnic Comparisons				χ^2 (3)
	Black (n = 76), n (%)	Latino (n = 120), n (%)	White (n = 718), n (%)	Other (n = 81), n (%)	
Stage 1: objective identification (precontemplation)	47 (61.8)	74 (61.7)	460 (64.1)	55 (67.9)	0.97
Stage 2: PrEP contemplation (vs. precontemplation)	28 (59.6)	39 (52.7)	207 (45.0)	27 (49.1)	4.75
Stage 3: PrEPparation (vs. contemplation)	11 (39.3)	18 (46.2)	108 (52.2)	15 (55.6)	2.21
Stage 4: PrEP action and initiation (vs. PrEPparation)	5 (45.5)	9 (50.0)	62 (57.4)	6 (40.0)	2.13
Stage 5: PrEP maintenance and adherence* (vs. action and initiation)	4 (80.0)	5 (55.6)	44 (71.0)	5 (83.3)	—

	Regional Comparisons				χ^2 (3)
	Northeast (n = 192), n (%)	Midwest (n = 182), n (%)	South (n = 349), n (%)	West (n = 272), n (%)	
Stage 1: Objectively identified (vs. not identified)	132 (68.8)	110 (60.4)	222 (63.6)	172 (63.2)	2.97
Stage 2: PrEP contemplation (vs. precontemplation)	60 (45.5)	51 (46.4)	112 (50.5)	78 (45.3)	1.37
Stage 3: PrEPparation (vs. contemplation)	32 (53.3)	23 (45.1)	58 (51.8)	39 (50.0)	0.87
Stage 4: PrEP action and initiation (vs. PrEPparation)	20 (62.5)	13 (56.5)	27 (46.6)	22 (56.4)	2.38
Stage 5: PrEP maintenance and adherence* (vs. action and initiation)	15 (75.0)	8 (61.5)	23 (85.2)	12 (54.5)	—

*Fisher's exact test was used for these calculations due to small sample size and both had nonsignificant *P* values.

stage 3 (PrEPparation), 4% in stage 4 (Action), and 9% reached stage 5 (Maintenance).

These results underscore the importance of barriers to PrEP encountered in early and intermediate stages. In conceptualizing the transition from Precontemplation through Contemplation and PrEPparation, the distinction between willingness versus intentions or opportunity emerged as a critical aspect of the Motivational PrEP Cascade based on earlier work.²⁷ Not all GBM who were open (ie, willing; a Contemplation stage process) to the idea of PrEP *intended* to use it (a PrEPparation stage process). Similarly, not all men with access to a PrEP provider (a PrEPparation stage process) had actually spoken to their provider about PrEP (an Action stage process).

Compared with the previously published PrEP cascade which estimated large losses in the final stages,¹⁵ our results suggest that these losses largely occur in earlier stages. As mentioned, these cascades differ both theoretically and methodologically, which may account for the differences. First, drawing from the Transtheoretical Model, the Motivational PrEP Cascade identified a wider range of processes involved in the progression to PrEP adherence. Kelley et al began their cascade with Awareness/Willingness, which is most consistent with our second stage (Contemplation). We propose a precursor stage (Precontemplation) in which individuals are appropriate candidates for PrEP but unwilling to consider PrEP. We found 64% of GBM were appropriate PrEP candidates, though only 47% of those were willing to consider PrEP.

Our results also illustrate that intentions to access PrEP served as a greater barrier to achieving the PrEPparation stage. Among the 301 GBM who completed both processes in the Contemplation stage (meaning they were willing to take PrEP and believed they were an appropriate candidate), the majority (81%) reported having access to a PrEP provider,

though fewer (57.5%) reported intentions to begin PrEP. The incorporation of the motivational concept of “intentions” in this stage identifies a potentially critical point of intervention to enhance PrEP uptake.²⁷ Providers could consider a decisional balance exercise of the pros and cons of PrEP uptake.^{28,29} This technique, often used in motivational interviewing-based interventions, helps to consider short- and long-term benefits and drawbacks of behavior change (in this case, PrEP uptake), and has been shown to increase behavioral intentions^{30,31} and behavior change in a variety of relevant behaviors, including HIV medication adherence.³²

By distinguishing between those who have spoken to a provider about PrEP and those who are currently prescribed PrEP (2 components of step 4, Action), the Motivational PrEP Cascade highlights specific communication barriers to PrEP which should not be overlooked in understanding movement along the stages of PrEP uptake. Nearly a third of GBM intending to use PrEP had talked to their provider. Furthermore, nearly a quarter of participants who spoke to their provider did not obtain a PrEP prescription despite data indicating that they are appropriate candidates for PrEP.

In contrast to the previous study of Black and White GBMSM in Atlanta¹⁵ that estimated progression through many of their stages, the present study reported data observed from a national sample of GBM. This distinction is most critical when examining findings in these 2 studies. We found that the majority (80%) of our participants on PrEP reported an average of 4 or more doses per week and most (72%) returned for quarterly testing (compared with the previously published cascade study that estimated 51% of those likely to be prescribed PrEP would be adherent based on iPrEx results). It is likely that rates of PrEP adherence will be higher than that of HIV medications for HIV-positive persons. Truvada is a once-daily standalone pill, whereas

HIV treatment often requires multiple medications. In addition, taking HIV medication as an HIV-positive person is often associated with stigma, reminders of being “infected,” and concerns about transmitting HIV to sexual partners^{33,34}—all of which has been associated with adherence challenges.³⁵ Adherence to PrEP, however, is about self-protection, and may be interpreted by some GBM as enabling them to engage in sexual activity without fear of infection.³⁶

We found no significant racial and ethnic differences, nor significant geographic differences in Motivational PrEP Cascade milestones. Kelley et al¹⁵ found that Black GBMSM faced greater barriers to navigating the PrEP cascade compared with White men in Atlanta, and a recent Los Angeles study found that Black GBMSM had higher awareness of PrEP than Hispanic GBMSM.³⁷ It is entirely plausible that real disparities exist within local areas and geographic regions even if such differences are not observed (or are more modest) at the national level. Over-sampling of racial and ethnic minority individuals may increase sensitivity to detect potential differences.

Limitations

These results should be considered in light of their limitations. Although the sampling was designed to reflect the distribution of census data on same-sex households, this led to a large majority being White GBM. We used CDC criteria to determine whether men were appropriate candidates for PrEP, though our sexual behavior data were based on 3 rather than 6 months, thus potentially underestimating the number of appropriate candidates. Some participants were missing STI testing data and we relied solely on self-report, and we were also unable to include those who had been formerly prescribed PrEP due to incomplete data on the questions of interest.

Conclusions

These results suggest that a comprehensive intervention strategy which uses policy, public health, and individual-level components will be necessary to achieve adequate PrEP uptake among GBMSM. The most dramatic losses within the cascade occurred at the first 3 stages, and both structural and individual intervention strategies at each level may help to address these losses. At the Contemplation stage, strategies that enhance awareness of criteria for PrEP candidacy may enhance self-identification and increase receptivity to the idea of PrEP. At the PrEPparation stage, interventions that improve access to providers who can prescribe PrEP and facilitate planning to initiate PrEP may be most applicable. At the Action and Maintenance stages, interventions may need to target both providers and GBMSM. Programs that enhance provider knowledge and confidence in prescribing PrEP and patient comfort in discussing issues of sexuality and risk may help to ensure PrEP access among those for whom it is indicated.

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