

Assessing & Improving the Knowledge of Women From Diverse Communities (WfDC) About the Use & Accessibility of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

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BACKGROUND

PrEP is a medication taken by people living without HIV to reduce their risk of acquiring HIV. WfDC, might be at an increased risk of HIV acquisition due to being from, or having partners who originate from, areas with a high prevalence of HIV. The aims of this project were to evaluate the baseline knowledge of the indication and accessibility of PrEP, and the impact of clinician-led PrEP education outreach sessions.



METHODS

Paper-based surveys were collected from women attending clinician-led PrEP education outreach events from October 2024 - November 2024. The meetings included a Black women's health awareness event, a Black women's health fitness group and a charity group for women from Ghana who were living with sickle cell disease.

Twenty participants were included. Two surveys were collected from each participant. The first survey was administered prior to the education session. This assessed the following: Demographic data, marital status of participant, partner resident in the UK, participant's knowledge of PrEP indication and accessibility.

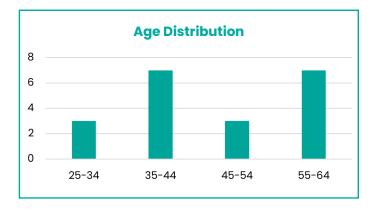
A second survey was administered after the education session. This assessed the following: Participant feedback on the education sessions and thoughts about PrEP. An Excel Spreadsheet was used for data collection and analysis.

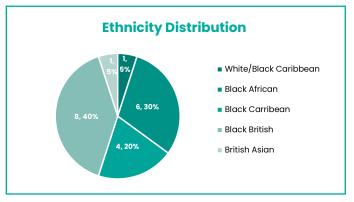


RESULTS

SURVEY 1

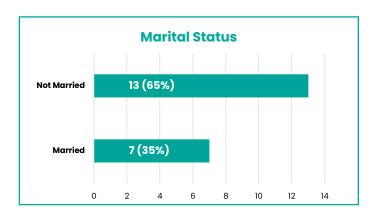
Participant data including demographic data, marital status, partner residency and PrEP knowledge

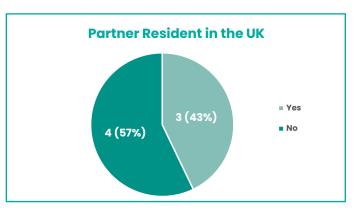






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Knowledge of PrEP (Indication & Accessitbility)	Yes (n, %)	No (n, %)	Comments	
Do you know what PrEP is? (n=20)	6, 30	14, 70	2 participants commented it was used to treat HIV.	
Do you know where to access PrEP? (n=20)	7, 35	13, 65	3 participants felt PrEP could be accessed from GP; 1 participant felt it could be accessed from pharmacy	

SURVEY 2

Participant feedback and thoughts on PrEP

Feedback suggested that it would be useful to include more information about PrEP side effects, and if there were other sources of PrEP.

Thoughts of PrEP	Yes (n, %)	No (n, %)	Maybe (n, %)
Would you consider PrEP for yourself ? (n=20)	5, 25	5, 25	10, 50
Would you recommend PrEP to family and friends? (n=20)	9, 45	9, 45	2, 10



The survey indicates a poor knowledge of the use and access of PrEP amongst WfDC. This highlights the importance of PrEP education amongst WfDC to promote PrEP uptake. The provision of these sessions encouraged participants to consider recommending PrEP to their family and friends, which would have the beneficial effect of greater PrEP information dissemination within diverse communities.

Interaction with women in safe places (e.g. women's groups, community groups) might increase knowledge and allow for informed choice about the medication. It was noted that the participants were more likely to recommend PrEP to others, but not take it themselves. It would be beneficial to explore the underlying reasons for this in future surveys.