PrEP Acceptability and Preferences among MSM Communities in Chennai and Mumbai: A Discrete Choice Experiment

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HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

PrEP - Use of antiretroviral(s) to prevent acquisition of **HIV** (WHO, 2015).

PrEP is highly effective if taken as prescribed

Clinical trials: >90% risk reduction; Demo projects - no new infections (WHO implementation tool for PrEP, 2017)

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Indication (WHO, 2015): "...for people at <u>substantial risk of HIV</u>...<u>as</u> part of combination HIV prevention approaches"

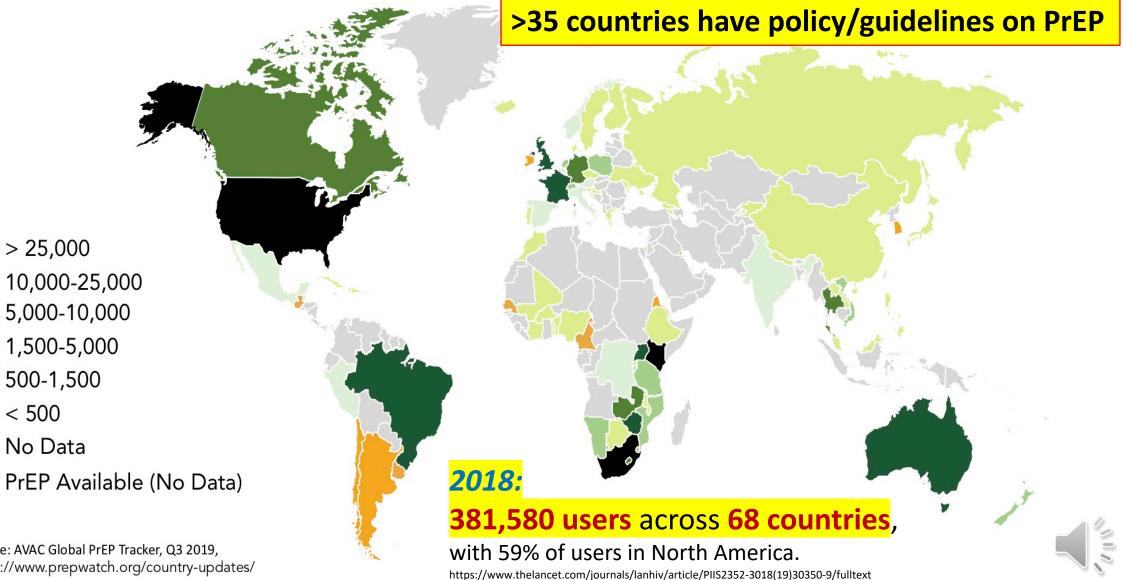


PrEP demonstration projects

- FSWs completed [n~1235] Univ. of Manitoba & DMSC/Ashodaya Samithi
- MSM in preparatory phase: ICMR/NARI & IHAI



PrEP Initiations by Country, October 2019



Source: AVAC Global PrEP Tracker, Q3 2019, https://www.prepwatch.org/country-updates/

> 25,000

< 500

No Data

Methods

- In 2017 Tablet-Assisted Survey Interviews (TASI) with 200 MSM
- MSM from "cruising" sites recruited through CBOs in Mumbai (Humsafar) & Chennai (Sahodaran)
- Discrete choice experiment (DCE) administered with pictorial cards on the tablet screen to assess preferences for different PrEP attributes

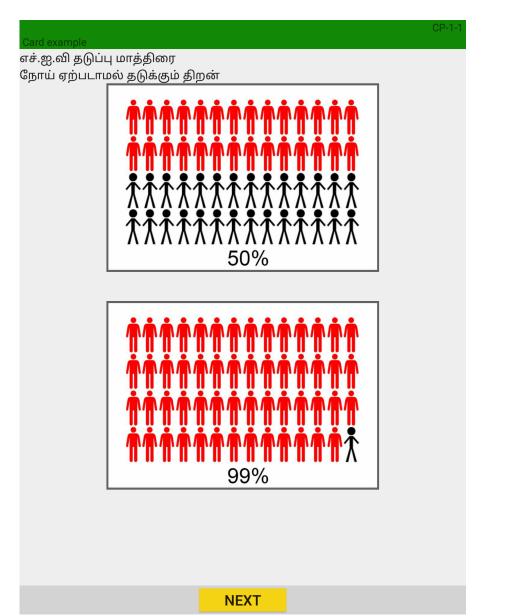


Discrete Choice Analysis

- Technique traditionally used in market research (e.g., selling cars), increasingly applied in health to understand end user preferences
- Rather than a series of yes/no questions, the participant can evaluate the 'whole' product



PrEP Attribute Cards on Screen

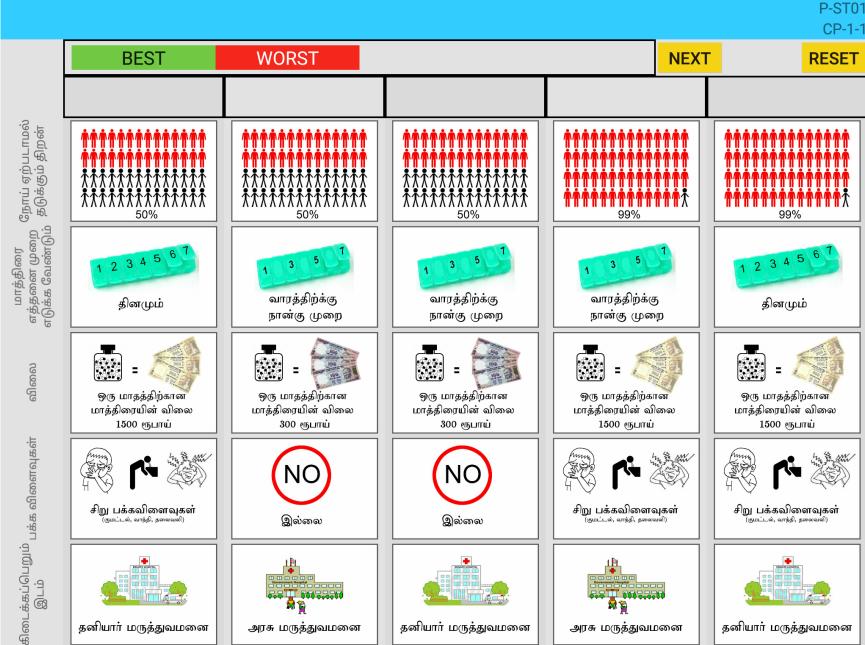




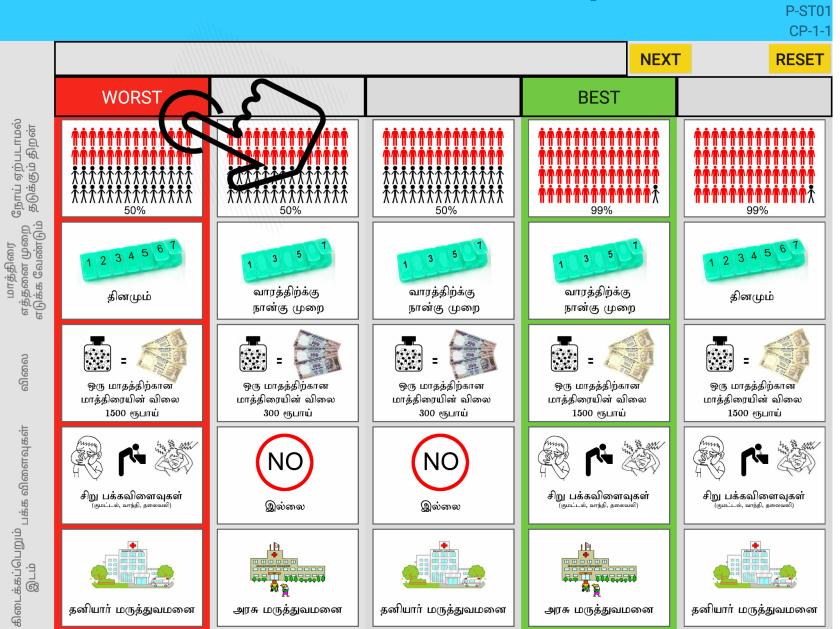




DCE Task



DCE Task Example



Results

Sociodemographics

Age	x = 26.6 yrs. (SD=6.6)			
Education	 33% completed college degree 74% completed 5th – 12th grades 			
Marital status	81% single			
Identities	 28% kothi 24% double-decker 17% bisexual 16% gay 15% panthi 			
Prior knowledge about PrEP	37%			

Willingness to Use PrEP

77% reported they would 'definitely use' PrEP



Product/Attribute (Levels)	Model	
PrEP	mWTP logit	
Efficacy	5.712*	
(1 = 99% vs. 50%)	[4.488,7.269]	
Dosing	1.567*	
(1 = 4 times/week vs. daily)	[1.465,1.678]	
Cost	0.709*	
(Rs 000s)	[0.671,0.749]	
Side effects	0.489*	
(1 = minor vs. none)	[0.423,0.564]	
Venue	0.973	
(1 = private hospital vs. govt. hospital)	[0.922,1.026]	

DCE Results

- Efficacy has the greatest marginal effect on choice: on average, participants have more than 5 times higher odds of choosing PrEP with 99% efficacy than with 50% efficacy
- 2. Four days a week dosing regimen increases the odds of choice by more than 50% compared with a daily regimen
- Participants prefer no side-effects: minor side-effects decreased the odds of choice by nearly half (49%) compared with no side-effects
- 4. Free PrEP is preferred: PrEP costing INR 1500 [US \$20]) per month decreased the odds of choice by nearly 30% compared with free PrEP



DCE Results by Sex Work

Group - Product/Attribute (Levels)	Model	Group - Product/Attribute (Levels)	Model
'Sex Work' - PrEP	mWTP logit	'Not in Sex Work' - PrEP	mWTP logit
<mark>Efficacy</mark>	<mark>6.572*</mark>	<mark>Efficacy</mark>	<mark>4.778*</mark>
(1 = 99% vs. 50%)	[4.745, 9.102]	(1 = 99% vs. 50%)	[3.337, 6.841]
Dosing	1.547*	Dosing	1.603*
(1 = 4 times/week vs. daily)	[1.405, 1.704]	(1 = 4 times/week vs. daily)	[1.458, 1.761]
Cost	0.701*	<mark>Venue</mark>	0.888*
(Rs 000s)	[0.652, 0.754]	(1 = private hospital vs. govt. hospital)	[0.816, 0.966]
Side effects	0.471*	Cost	0.725*
(1 = minor, vs. none)	[0.391, 0.567]	(Rs 000s)	[0.664, 0.791]
Venue	1.041	Side effects	0.514*
(1 = private hospital vs. govt. hospital)	[0.974, 1.114]	(1 = minor, vs. none)	[0.410, 0.644]



DCE Results by Sex Work

Subgroup results:

- Both sex workers and non-sex workers indicated the highest marginal willingness to pay (or odds of choice) based on EFFICACY: but sex workers had higher odds of choosing PrEP based on its high (99%) efficacy than non-sex workers
- 2. Both sex workers and non-sex workers indicated the same direction of preferences for dosing regimen, cost, and side effects—with patterns of preferences similar to main results
- Sex workers and non-sex workers differed in choice of venue to receive PrEP: Sex workers did not have a venue preference; Non-sex workers prefer government hospitals, with private hospitals decreasing odds of choice by ~15%



Conclusions

- *High level of willingness to use PrEP* among MSM indicates substantial opportunities to provide PrEP to support combination prevention
- Intermittent and daily dosing options may increase willingness to use PrEP
- Free or subsidized PrEP through government hospitals and provision of PrEP through private hospitals may increase uptake



Next Steps

- Advocacy for PrEP demonstration projects for MSM in India
- **PrEP research with trans women** in India (qualitative research completed & published)
- Cultural competency for PrEP providers at government and private hospitals/clinics
- Interventions to mitigate PrEP and sexual stigma



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