



*Mitigating the Effects of Stigma on PrEP  
Uptake, Adherence, and Persistence*  
Nicasio Njagi

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# INTRODUCTION

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- PrEP is the use of ARVs to prevent HIV acquisition by someone who is HIV **negative but at substantial risk of acquiring HIV**
- In May 2017, Kenya launched a national Prep scale up program
- Uptake has been progressive, but slow among some sub populations, and overall continuation rates consistently low
- Stigma has been sighted as a substantial barrier during Prep in many clinical trials and demonstration projects
- Prep is socially discrediting because of both what it is and what it does

*Prevention science: the official journal of the Society for Prevention Research. 2017;18*

# 2021 HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY IN KENYA

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## 2021 HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY IN KENYA



HIV Prevalence
17.2%
15.6%
14.7%
10.9%
5.7%
5.4%
5.1%
5.1%
4.6%
4.1%
4.1%

### Adolescent and young people

**42%** adult new HIV infections occur among Adolescents and Young People (15-24 years)



**Adolescent (10-19yrs)**

PLHIV

**99,159**

New Infections  
**5,294**



**Young adults (15-24yrs)**

PLHIV

**173,228**

New Infections  
**11,229**



**78,465**

Children living with HIV (0-14)



**1,350**

Adults living with HIV

### New HIV Infections

All ages

Adults (15+)

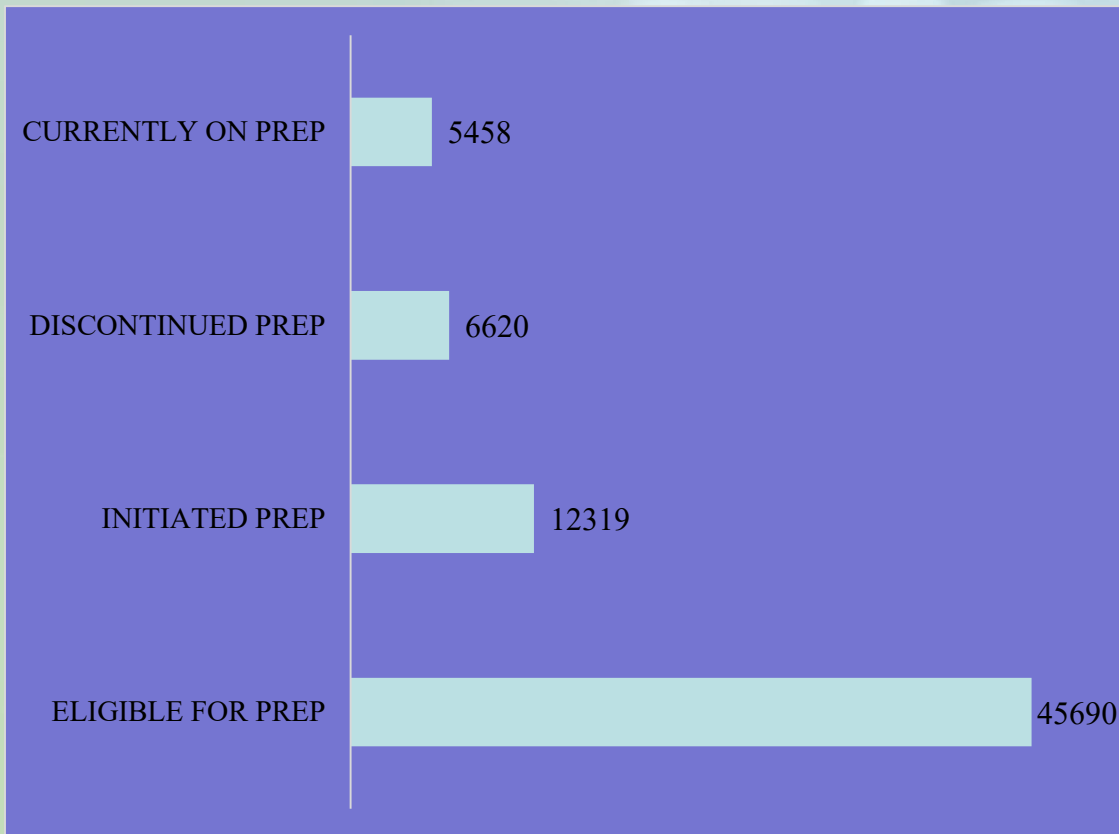
Children (0-14)

5,201

Kenya Hiv guidelines 2022

# PREP SCALE IN NAIROBI COUNTY

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- Despite many people being eligible for prep at the screening desk, only a few initiate Prep.
- Majority of this has to do with the stigma associated with Prep

# SOURCES OF PREP STIGMA

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<http://www.avac.org/resource/ongoing-and-planned-prep-demonstration-and-implementation-studies>

# FORMS OF PREP STIGMA

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- **Product stigma**

*I have kept it a secret because the bottle is similar to that of ARVs. Someone who doesn't know could think you have HIV.” – 20-year-old young woman*



- **Behavioral stigma**

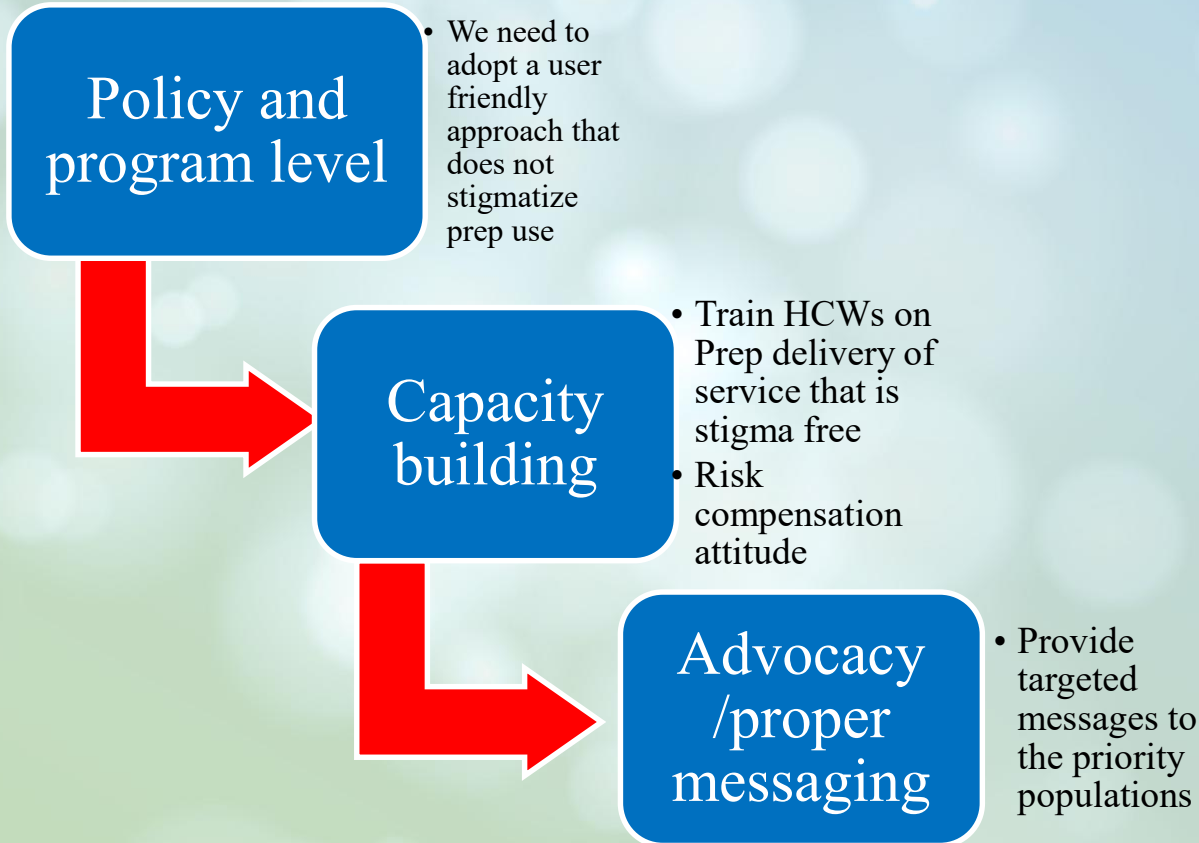
*My mother told me I have taken those drugs because I want to be a prostitute...” 22-year-old young woman*

- **Identity stigma**

In a recent meta-analysis of PrEP acceptability among men who have sex with men (MSM) indicated that PrEP related stigma was a significant barrier to acceptance worldwide

# HOW TO MITIGATE PREP STIGMA

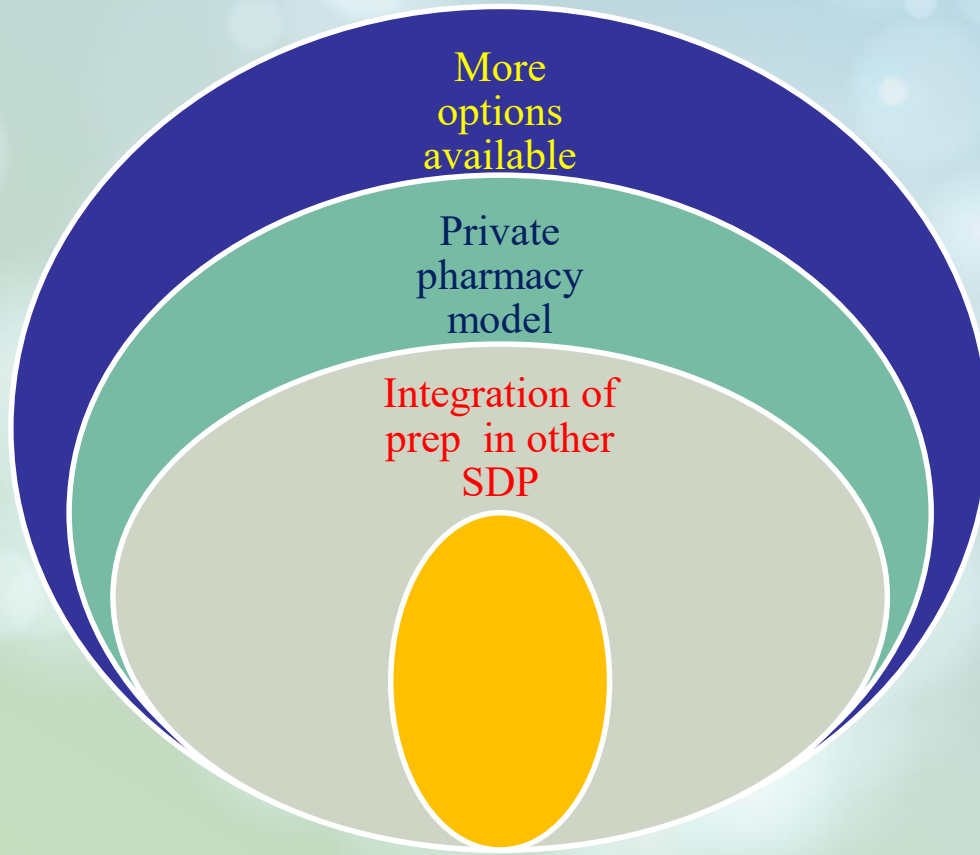
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# HOW TO MITIGATE PREP STIGMA

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Jhpeigo private pharmacy delivery model



# LESSONS LEARNT

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- Prep education ,training and attitude change is important to mitigate stigma
- Integration of prep to other service delivery points increases prep uptake
- Community involvement ,advocacy and liberalization of Prep delivery will help mitigate stigma

# conclusion

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- There is compelling evidence that PrEP stigma directly impacts its scalability as a prevention strategy, including the pace of uptake, rates of adherence and persistence, and disparities in dissemination among highest priority populations.
- Reducing PrEP stigma and its negative impact on the epidemic requires a significant shift in perspective, language, and programs

# References

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Big  
Thank  
You!