CONTROLLING THE HIV EPIDEMIC WITH

ANTIRETROVIRALS



Avoiding the Cost of Inaction

Stigma as Possible Barrier to PrEP Acceptance in Nigeria: Lessons Learned from the Formative Study on PrEP Acceptability

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Background

A Formative Study was conducted to explore the acceptability of antiretroviral use as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention in Nigeria.

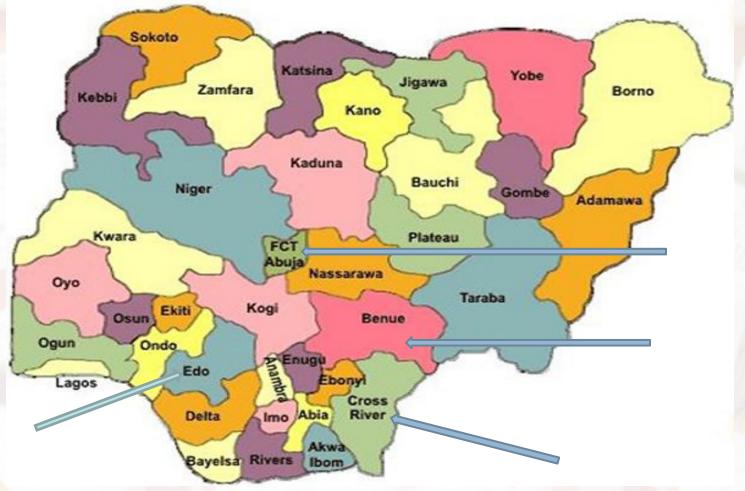
The objectives were to identify:

- A target group for PrEP study
- Effective public health messaging strategies
- Community concerns/possible logistic challenges
- How to address those challenges.

Study Design and Methods

- Design: Qualitative explorative study
- Methods:
 - -Open-ended Interviews
 - Telephone Interviews
 - -Focus Group Discussions
 - -Consultative Stakeholder Meetings
 - Online Survey

Map Showing Study Locations



Study Participants

Representatives of government

Partners in HIV Program and Research

 People who may receive PrEP (Sero-discordant Couples, MSMs, IDUs, SWs)

Community Representatives

Data Table

Data Collection	Sample Sizes
Individual Interviews	101
Telephone Interviews	113
Focus Groups	12
Consultative	3
Stakeholder Meetings	
Online Survey	65
Responses	

Data Analysis

 Individual responses corresponding to each study objective were summarized and assigned to descriptive categories.

 Data were inductively content analyzed to identify themes and broader concepts.

Results

• Findings indicate wide acceptance of PrEP as an addition to the HIV prevention package in Nigeria. However, stigma was a concern

• Stigma through breach of confidentiality from: the physical layout of PrEP clinics, organization of PrEP services, professionalism of staff; & low public education

Breaches of Confidentiality

- Location & Organization of PrEP Clinics:
- -Type of clinics: hospital-based Vs Mobile clinics
- -Location of clinics: Integrated Vs Stand-alone
- -Organization of clinic: Every days Vs "Special days" arrangement
- -PrEP delivery: Integrated Services Vs segregated

 Low public PrEP education: confusing the use of ARV for PrEP, as ARV for treatment

Breaches of Confidentiality Cont.

Professionalism of Staff:

- -Health workers shouting out the names of clients during clinic visits (risking disclosure)
- -Health workers' arbitrarily revealing clients status to others (breaching confidentiality)
- -Fear of harsh attitude of healthcare workers to clients (a form of stigma)

Recommendations

- Integrate PrEP into daily general health services (doctor consultations & drug dispensing)
- Train & re-train health care providers on confidentiality
- Identify sources of stigma in the communities & create awareness
- Develop a robust public education strategy using community advocacies and both print & electronic media

Conclusion

• If these recommendations are implemented, the PrEP Demonstration Project in Nigeria could be effectively utilized.

Appreciation

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All Study Participants

NACA & PrEP Formative Study Team

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING