

Financing and Delivering Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to End the HIV Epidemic in the United States

1 Page Summary, December 2021

What's PrEP?

Pre-exposure prophylaxis, known as PrEP, is medication therapy that reduces the risk of HIV infection. But according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only 1 in 4 Americans recommended for PrEP actually receives it. Low use of PrEP is an important reason why the US is *not* on track to end the HIV epidemic.

Are there disparities in access to PrEP?

Yes. The most recent data indicate that white Americans who need PrEP are more than 4 times as likely to receive it than Latinx Americans and more than 8 times as likely than Black Americans. People in Southern states and rural areas are also much less likely to receive PrEP.

What limits PrEP access?

There are many reasons that people do not receive PrEP. One important reason is that the US approach to making PrEP available is haphazard at best. People without a regular source of healthcare are unlikely to receive a prescription. Those who receive prescriptions for PrEP still may have to navigate administrative and financial hurdles to get medications and needed laboratory tests.

What's the proposed National PrEP program?

Faculty at Johns Hopkins worked with experts in HIV policy to propose a new approach to PrEP, building on the availability of low-cost, generic PrEP medications. The new approach is simple, accessible, and equitable. It has three parts:

Part A: Streamline access to PrEP medications.	The federal government will purchase PrEP medications to secure fair public health prices and guarantee availability for people on Medicaid and the uninsured. Access will be simple for health care providers and patients alike.
Part B: Enhance clinical care for PrEP.	Clinicians will have new options to provide on-site, same-day PrEP and to refer patients to needed laboratory testing.
Part C: Create a new network of PrEP access points in the community	People without regular sources of health care will be able to get PrEP through telehealth at trusted neighborhood locations, such as domestic violence centers and street outreach programs.

The full proposal is online at <http://publichealth.jhu.edu/PrEP>. Send questions to preproposal@jhu.edu.