Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

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About Me

- HIV Prevention
  - Substance Use
  - Sexual Minorities (LGBTQ)
- HIV Research
  - Harm Reduction
  - Syringe Exchange Programs
  - High-risk Sexual Encounters
- HIV Policy
  - Population Prioritizations
- Program Implementation & Evaluation
  - CDC-DASH
The Evidence

- Among gay and bisexual men with detectable levels of medicine in their blood (meaning they had taken the pill consistently), PrEP reduced the risk of infection by as much as 92%. (iPrEx Study)

- Among heterosexually active men and women, PrEP reduced the risk of getting HIV by 62%. Participants who became infected had far less drug in their blood, compared with participants who remained uninfected. (TDF2 Study)

- Among men and women in HIV discordant couples, PrEP reduced the risk of HIV infection by up to 90% among those with detectable levels of medicine in their blood. (Partners PrEP Study)

- Among injection drug users, a once-daily tablet containing tenofovir (one of the two drugs in Truvada) reduced the risk of getting HIV by 74% for those who had detectable tenofovir in their blood. (Bangkok Tenofovir Study)

http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/prevention/research/prep/
NEW Evidence
*Released 2-24-15*

- Among HIV discordant heterosexual couples in Kenya and Uganda, a program that delivered both PrEP for HIV-negative partners and/or antiretroviral treatment (ART) for HIV-positive partners reduced the risk of HIV infection by 96%. (The Partners Demonstration Project)

- High risk men who have sex with men (MSM) who took PrEP in the UK reduced the risk of HIV infection by 86%. (The PROUD Study)

http://www.croiconference.org/
My Life on PrEP...

- Why I decided to start PrEP
- Peace of mind
- Empowering
- Better healthcare
- Minor side effects
My Life on PrEP... Challenges

- Physicians were unaware or uncomfortable prescribing PrEP
  - “Why do you want PrEP? It’s reckless to take that and stop using condoms…”
  - “I don’t treat HIV. I can give you a referral…”
- Stigma
  - Slut Shaming
  - “Truvada Whore”
- Not all pharmacies stock PrEP
- Insurance coverage
- Appointment inconvenience
Building the ship...

- Objective 1: Educate providers about PrEP
  - “Providers” extends beyond medical doctors

- Objective 2: Recruit persons to start PrEP
  - Substance users
  - Men who have sex with men (MSM)
  - Sex workers
  - High risk heterosexuals
Program Updates - Community

- **MSM**
  - Messaged 2,769 MSM about PrEP at Andromeda via Growlr ap
  - PrEP information banner ad displays (n=64,472) from 3-9-15 to 3-12-15 on Scruff ap
  - Provided PrEP information basics and information about Andromeda to ≥ 98* MSM who specifically seek out unprotected sex online
  - Crew Club - beginning later this month

- **Substance Users**
  - Educated persons engaged at Círculo de Andromeda (provides alcohol & drug evaluation and treatment by mental health professionals)
Program Updates - Providers

- All Andromeda staff are updated about PrEP efficacy and the PrEP program.
- Medical assistant class.
- Círculo de Andromeda providers.
Challenges

- Website
- Building community trust
- Changing the public perception of Andromeda
- Overcoming “Truvada Whore” stigma
- Navigating insurance coverage
THANK YOU!!!

QUESTIONS?