

PrEPared

Raising awareness of
PrEP in African
communities



Lack of awareness of PrEP identified:

81% of respondents had never heard of PrEP

60% of those surveyed said that they would be interested in taking PrEP if it was provided by the NHS

In the preceding 12 months, respondents identified:

- 19% had had sex with a partner from a country considered high risk;
- 4% of men had had sex with another man;
- 3% had had sex with a HIV positive partner
- 3% had paid for sex
- 5% had used post exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- 41% of the respondents did not know what PEP was

The PrEPared project utilised an asset-based community development model which assessed the skills and capacity within communities and utilised these strengths in raising awareness, challenging stigma and ensuring sustainability of the project.

Community champions were provided with training and support to disseminate positive messages and information about HIV and specifically about PrEP to their wider communities and networks.

PrEPared trained 13 champions from Zimbabwe, Cameroon, South Sudan, Kenya and Nigeria.

Over a 3-month period, the champions reached 326 Africans across Leeds in face to face sessions. A far larger number were reached through online/social media

85% having no previous knowledge of PrEP

96% stating that they would recommend PrEP to someone who was at risk of contracting HIV

44% stated that they would take PrEP without any qualifications, rising to 61% if a) their sexual risk changed and b) PrEP was freely available

- Personal Empowerment
- Community networks and new relational capital
- New forms of Community Knowledge
- Community Responses to PrEP
- Inherited Stigma
- Generational knowledge gaps
- Inherited Stereotypes about HIV
- Trauma of HIV as Motivation for champions
- Socio-cultural gender patterns
- Transnational Associations underpinning thinking about HIV in the UK

PrEPared provided people the opportunity to talk about PrEP and HIV on their own terms, in their own languages and in ways that are flexible, culturally adaptable and appropriate. Interventions where communities are recognised and communicated with, are vital to understanding the distinctiveness of communities and their attitudes towards PrEP and HIV.

This is *as* important to the future reduction of new cases of HIV as is the dissemination of knowledge about HIV and PrEP.