Setting Targets for PrEP

PrEP Learning Network Webinar Series

Thank you to our speakers from Avenir Health, the National AIDS Program/Ministry of Health in Eswatini, and UNAIDS, as well as attendees who participated in the sixth PrEP Learning Network webinar. In this webinar, technical experts and policymakers discussed considerations for setting PrEP targets, shared examples of various tools and approaches that can be used for setting targets, and discussed lessons learned from on-the-ground experience with target setting. If you missed it, you can access the webinar recording here.

Top 6 Questions

Six primary questions and themes were discussed during the webinar's Q&A; summaries are provided below. Learn more by listening to the webinar recording, accessing complementary resources, signing up for future webinars, or visiting the PrEP Virtual Learning Network Page.

1. **What are different approaches to target setting? In what circumstances should each approach be used?**

   Because PrEP is not for everyone, there is no simple formula for target setting for PrEP. PrEP-it provides a framework for an evidence-based consultation among stakeholders. Those setting targets can take a "top down" approach based on coverage of each priority population. In this approach they start with the size of each priority population (e.g. men who have sex with men, female sex workers, adolescent girls and young women), narrow it down to a subset of the HIV-negative population at elevated risk for HIV, and then determine the proportion ("coverage") of the eligible population they plan to reach by the end of the target setting period, which can be based on anticipated uptake, available resources, and other considerations. Alternatively, one can take a "bottom up" approach that is based on the capacity to deliver PrEP. Both approaches are valid and may be used together as part of an iterative approach to target setting.

Top 6 Questions (continued)

2. What tools exist to support target setting? What are the functionalities of both tools? How has each tool been used in practice?

Both PrEP-it and the UNAIDS tool can be used to support target setting. The UNAIDS tool uses behavioral survey data and a robust methodology to estimate targets based on those with over a 3% incidence risk of HIV. PrEP-it allows for two approaches to target setting: (1) based on the desired coverage levels for populations to be taking PrEP at the end of the target setting period, and (2) based on service delivery capacity. Users can also enter previously established targets into PrEP-it to link to other modules that allow one to estimate coverage, costs, impact, and ARV needs associated with targets. PrEP-it has been used for target setting in Eswatini and Malawi. The UNAIDS tool is currently in the pilot phase.

3. How do PrEP-it and the UNAIDS tool relate to each other?

The two tools are complimentary. One can use the UNAIDS tool to determine the proportion of each priority population (e.g. men who have sex with men, adolescent girls and young women) at high risk for HIV. This proportion can be used as an input in PrEP-it, where users are asked to enter the percent indicated for PrEP.

4. Do you need population size estimates to set targets?

If one sets targets using the "bottom up" capacity approach only, then population size estimates are not strictly required. For the "top down" coverage approach, population size estimates are needed; however, these estimates do not necessarily need to be precise. One should provide the best estimate possible given data limitations. PrEP-it contains several national default population size estimates for 32 countries/regions that can be used in the tool. Population size estimates are helpful for getting a sense of what proportion of the need will be met by the PrEP targets.

5. In countries with a generalized epidemic, how do you estimate the size of populations other than key populations, serodiscordant couples, and adolescent girls and young women?

When using the UNAIDS target setting tool, the same principles and processes could be applied to sex work clients or heterosexual people with multiple partners. However, data are often sparser than for other key populations. Also, the background risk comes into play, so the country context may play more of a role. In PrEP-it, there are some default population estimates provided for pregnant and breastfeeding women. Estimates for other populations not included in the tool, such as long-haul truckers, will need to be provided by the user. A variety of approaches can be used to estimate population size; however, the best strategy will depend on the specific population, geographic setting, and available data sources.

6. What are global PrEP targets?

The new 2025 UNAIDS global PrEP targets use an approach that varies based on the HIV incidence in each geographic area, such as district or country, as shown in the table below.

Population	High Risk Geographies (>3.0% incidence)	Medium Risk Geographies (0.3 – 3.0% incidence)	Low Risk Geographies (<0.3% incidence)
Female sex workers	80%	30%	5%
Men who have sex with men	80%	30%	5%
Transgender people	80%	30%	5%
People who inject drugs	30%	5%	0%
Prisoners	80%	5%	0%
Adolescent girls and young women	High Risk: 50% Low Risk: 5%	High Risk: 50% Low Risk: 5%	0%
Adult <25 years with multiple partners	High Risk: 50% Low Risk: 5%	High Risk: 50% Low Risk: 5%	0%

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Additional resources helpful for target setting are provided below.

- PrEP-it (including the downloadable tool, user guide, FAQ and video tutorials)
- UNAIDS Target Setting Tool (forthcoming)
- WHO Strategic Planning Module

We hope you join us again in 2020! Visit the PrEP Virtual Learning Network later in December to see what will be in store for the coming year and view webinars you may have missed.

- PrEP Learning Network Launch Session | Resource Sheet
- Identifying PrEP Continuation Challenges and Approaches to Support Success | Resource Sheet
- Demand Creation: Developing an Insights-Driven Strategy | Resource Sheet
- From IPC to Mass Media: Developing a Media Mix for Your PrEP Communications | Resource Sheet
- Addressing Challenges and Achieving Success Integrating PrEP into Other Health Services | Resource Sheet