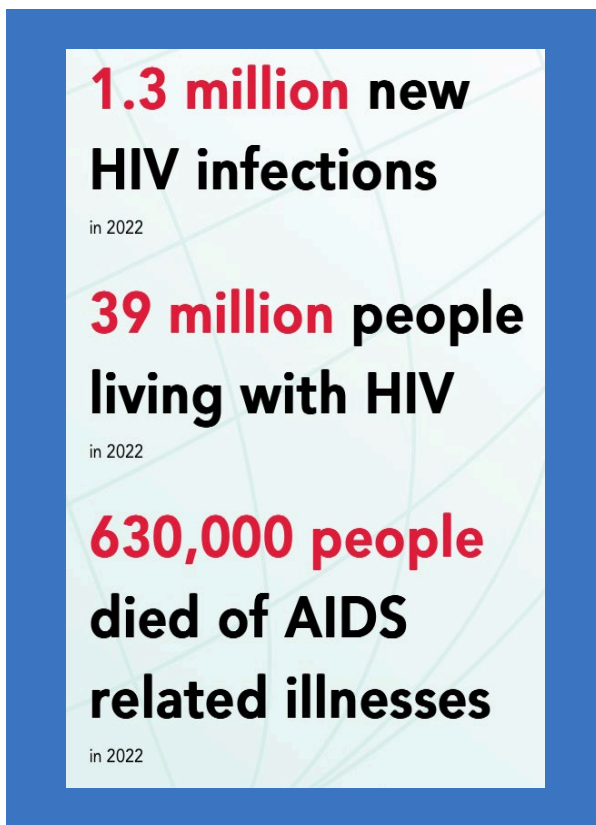


Why PrEP is Important for Your Clients and the HIV Response



We are not on track



Despite progress in several countries, we are still not on track to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. In 2022, about 4000 adults and children acquired HIV each day — a total of 1.3 million new HIV infections. Lifesaving antiretroviral therapy can also prevent HIV by suppressing the virus in a person's blood to an untransmissible level, but 9.2 million people living with AIDS did not receive ART in 2022. Intensive effort is needed to reach the **global target of fewer than 370,000 new HIV infections annually by 2025.**

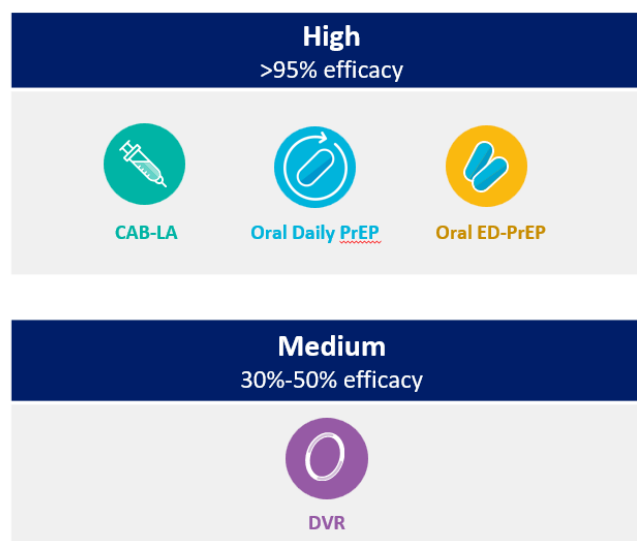
Source: [In Danger: UNAIDS Global AIDS Update 2022](#)

What is PrEP and how effective is it?

PrEP stands for pre-exposure prophylaxis and refers to the use of antiretroviral drugs for prevention of HIV. When taken correctly, PrEP works as a chemical shield, preventing HIV acquisition. There are a limited but growing number of PrEP products approved for use today, including pills, injections and vaginal rings, and more are moving through research and development. Some PrEP products have shown very high efficacy in clinical trials. Others have shown moderate efficacy or some efficacy in preventing HIV, while offering other beneficial features that some users prefer.

PrEP doesn't protect against other STIs or pregnancy. Oral PrEP, the PrEP ring, and injectable PrEP currently offer protection against HIV. None of these products reduce the risk of other STIs, including chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis or herpes, or prevent pregnancy. Male and female condoms do all this. Comprehensive access to all forms of PrEP, condoms, voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC), communication and counseling must be integrated to empower people around their sexual and reproductive health. There are various forms of dual-purpose and multi-purpose prevention methods in development, but, other than condoms, none are yet available.

Comparison of PrEP Efficacy

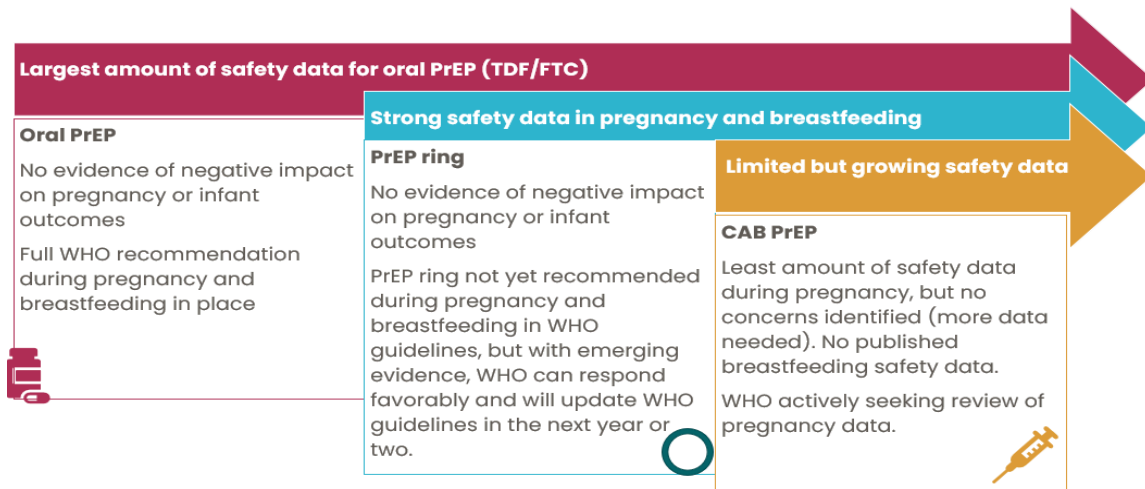


Efficacy rates for preventing HIV infection when PrEP is taken as prescribed with optimal adherence.

Source: https://icap.columbia.edu/tools_resources/icaps-pre-exposure-prophylaxis-prep-package-for-providers-preparing-for-choice/

What do we know about the safety of PrEP?

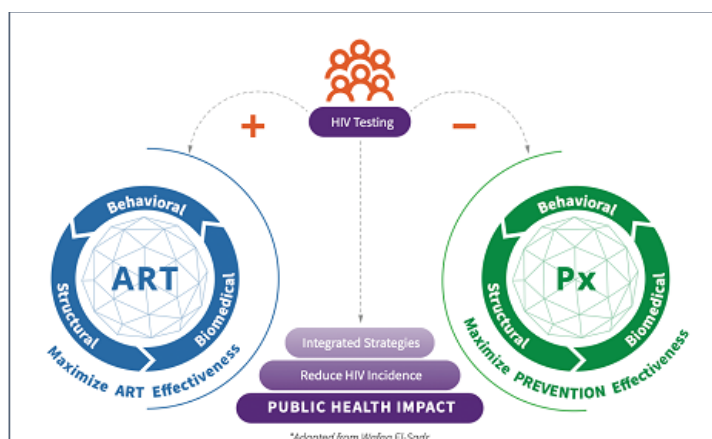
Oral PrEP is currently recommended for all people at risk of HIV acquisition; oral PrEP and the dapivirine vaginal ring have both been shown to be safe and effective in the [REACH Study](#) among young women between 16-21; and injectable cabotegravir eligibility and product labeling is based on weight rather than age. (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27149090/>)



Source: <https://www.prepwatch.org/resources/prep-ring-safety-data-in-pregnant-and-breastfeeding-women/>

The Importance of Universal Test & Connect

Universal test and connect (UTC) is an intensive community-wide strategy to accelerate HIV epidemic transition in order to rapidly reduce new HIV infections and deaths from AIDS-related illnesses within a specific community or subnational area. UTC relies on a variety of community-based, people-centred approaches to reach people outside of healthcare facilities, connect them to quality, respectful and non-stigmatizing HIV services and transform community acceptance and engagement for HIV and health ([Universal Test and Connect: Brief Considerations](#))



PrEP and Key Populations – Serving those at highest risk

Audience Profiles

These PDF downloads offer aggregated research about target audiences for HIV prevention, with insights into appropriate media channels, resonant messages, and other factors that can help shape your PrEP communications.



Adolescent Girls & Young Women

Caught between finding their own way and fitting in with their peers, this group faces a steep risk of HIV—in some countries, as much as four times that of young men.



Female Sex Workers

Members of this diverse group are facing varying degrees of agency loss. Violence, stigma, and criminalization often make HIV prevention and health services unattainable.



Men Who Have Sex With Men

Whether their same-sex sexual behavior defines their identity or not, these men live life “under the radar” out of fear, shame, and mistrust, as they face extreme stigma.



People Who Inject Drugs

Struggling to stay afloat while bearing the heavy weight of drug addiction, overwhelming and interconnected challenges often make health care a low priority for this group.



Serodiscordant Couples

The discovery that one partner in a committed relationship is HIV-positive often sparks mistrust, loss of intimacy, and despair, especially regarding the desire for children.

Source: PrEP Communications Accelerator - <https://accelerator.prepwatch.org/about/>

See WHO’s [Consolidated guidelines on HIV, viral hepatitis and STI prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations](#) for more details.

The SEARCH Study shows the value of PrEP

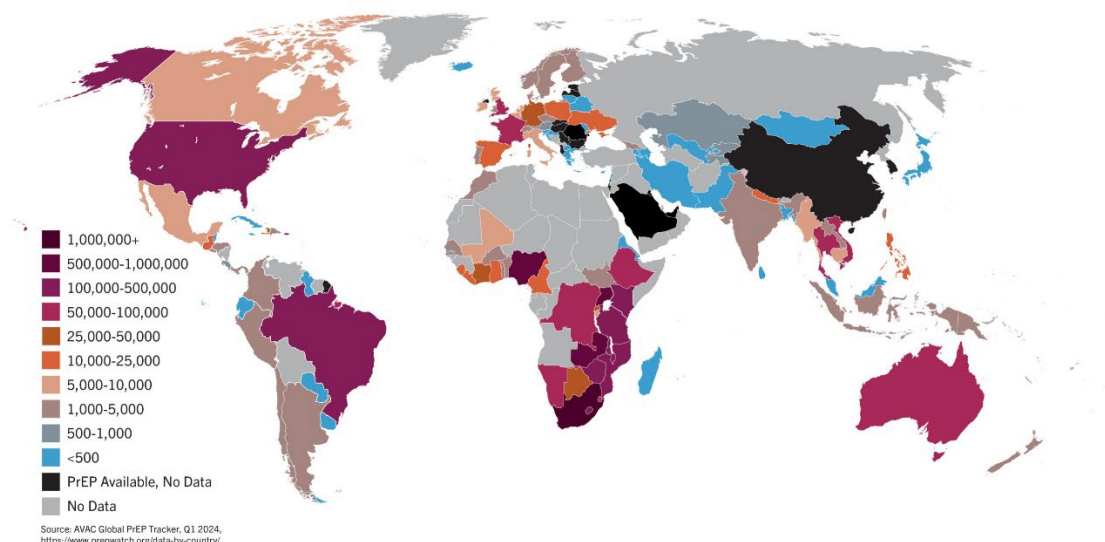
Results of the SEARCH Dynamic Choice study were some of the most exciting to come out of CROI in 2024. Conducted in Kenya and Uganda, the study offered oral PrEP, PEP or injectable cabotegravir to both men and women, and an option to switch products. Prevention services were person-centered, including access to a clinician by phone at any time, clinic and community access to services, and counseling to develop personalized adherence plans. Coverage among study participants increased to 70% (compared to 13% in the standard of care), 28% of participants used two different products during the study, and the study arm ended with zero incidence of HIV compared to 1.8% in the control group. These numbers show why adding to the method mix expands the number of people who continue with prevention—even as their needs change. [Study presented here.](#)

[Earlier SEARCH data](#) did show the added value of oral PrEP on top of HIV treatment, and the additional Dynamic Choice Study layered on top reduced incidence to zero.

How are we doing on scale-up of oral PrEP?

In 2020, the world missed the UNAIDS’ goal of reaching 3 million PrEP users. The updated target for 2025 is 10 million PrEP users. As of March 2024, there have been 6.7 PrEP initiations worldwide. Based on current trends, as recorded in AVAC’s [Global PrEP Tracker](#), the world will surpass 10 million global cumulative PrEP initiations by Q1 2025 – but these are initiations and not necessarily adherent PrEP users.

PrEP Initiations by Country, March 2024



The Building Blocks of Differentiated PrEP Service Delivery

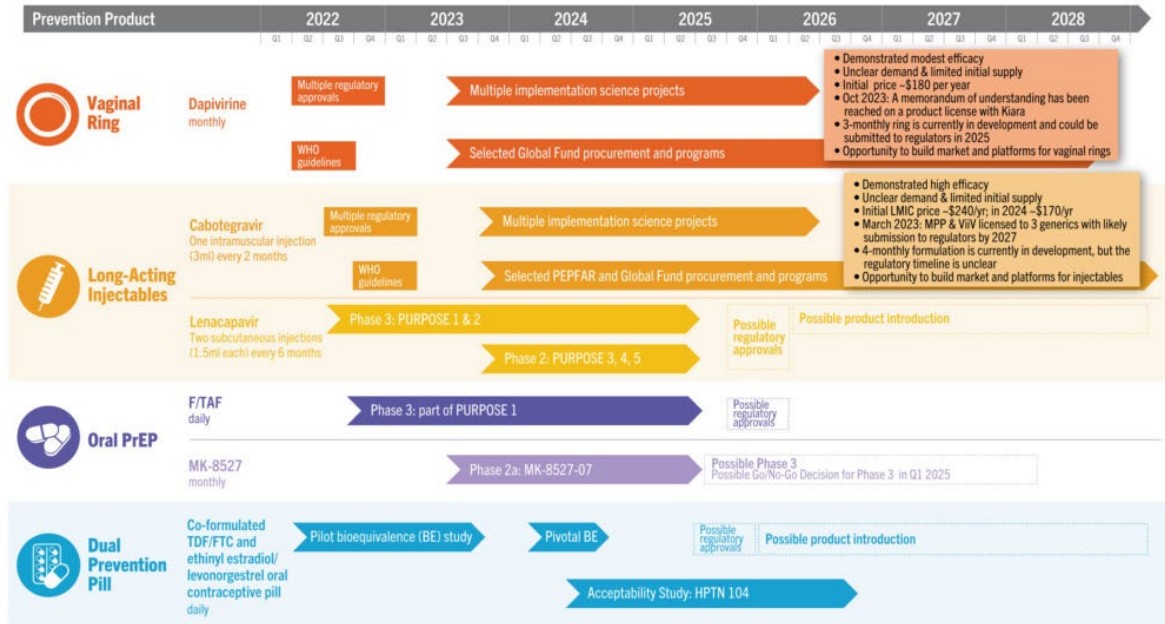
Building block	PrEP initiation, initial follow-up (0–3 months), and re-initiation			PrEP continuation (3+ months)	
	Initiation	Initial follow-up (0–3 months) (if required)	Re-initiation after discontinuation	PrEP refill	Follow-up
Where? Service location (e.g., primary health care facility, community setting, virtual setting)	Locations for PrEP assessment and initiation	Locations for initial follow-up	Locations for PrEP re-initiation	Locations where PrEP refills can be collected	Locations where follow-up services will be provided
Who? Service provider (e.g., physician, nurse, pharmacist, peer)	Service provider/s authorized to assess for and initiate PrEP	Service providers who can carry out initial follow-up visit/s	Service provider/s authorized to re-initiate PrEP	Service provider/s who can dispense PrEP refills	Service provider/s who conduct follow-up
When? Service frequency (e.g., monthly, every 3 months)	Timing of PrEP assessment and initiation	Timing of initial follow-up	Timing of PrEP re-initiation	Frequency of PrEP refill visits (length of supply)	Frequency of follow-up services
What? Service package (including HIV testing, clinical monitoring, PrEP prescription and dispensing, and comprehensive services)	Service package for PrEP assessment and initiation	Service package at initial follow-up	Service package for PrEP re-initiation	Service package with PrEP refill	Service package with follow-up

Source: [Differentiated and Simplified Pre-exposure Prophylaxis for HIV Prevention](#)

Prevention Product Pipeline

Years Ahead in HIV Prevention Research

Time to Market



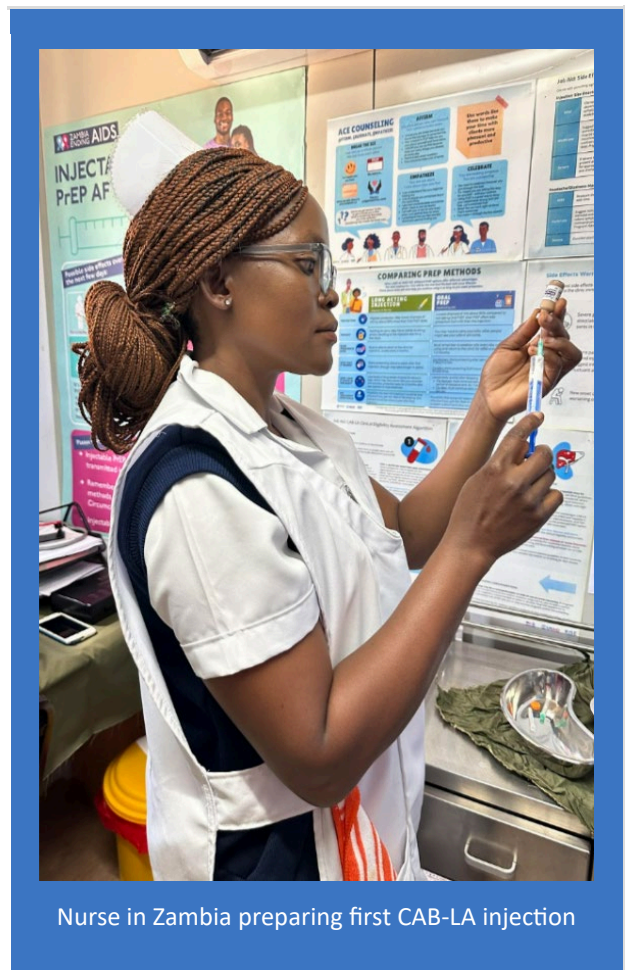
See PrEPWatch's [products overview page](#) for more details.

What is nurses' role in delivering PrEP?

Depending on local country guidelines, nurses are able to counsel, prescribe, and/or dispense PrEP. Successful examples have been seen in [Kenya](#) and [South Africa](#). [Training materials are available here.](#)

Additional examples of provider driven resources can be found here: <https://www.prepwatch.org/resources/zambia-ending-aids-campaign-materials/>

Dynamic, blended learning training for CAB LA delivery: <https://www.prepwatch.org/resources/rise-cab-la-training-toolkit/>



Nurse in Zambia preparing first CAB-LA injection

What clients are saying about PrEP, including long-acting options?

[Baseline preferences for oral pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\) or dapivirine intravaginal ring for HIV prevention among adolescent girls and young women in South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe \(MTN-034/IPM-045 study\)](#)

[What motivated men to start PrEP? A cross-section of men starting PrEP in Buffalo city municipality, South Africa](#)

Breaking the Cycle Toolkit- [rethinking HIV prevention for AGYW brief](#)

From AfroCAB's FAQ: <https://www.prepwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CAB-LA-FAQs-Online-Version.pdf>

Community perspectives of long-acting injections for HIV prevention and treatment

“I would choose injections because I like knowing I’m protected, and protection is more important than anything. With CAB-LA, I would know I’m protected for 2-months. Some days you just do not feel like taking a daily pill.” – *Community Advocate*

“With oral PrEP every time you move, you hear the pill bottle rattle. I would prefer a long-acting injection because no one can see it” – *Community Advocate*

“I don’t have to be connected to a pill bottle, and I no longer have any anxiety within myself about taking my pill. When I think about what it means for adherence to go from 365 pills to 6 shots, it’s revolutionary. We need to do everything we can to make sure everyone has access to that.” – *Long-Acting Injectable HIV Treatment User*

“An injection is easier for women – you don’t have to worry about it every day.” – *Young woman from South Africa*

