Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) by the Numbers

Efficacy, regulatory approval and more

The figures below show the relationship between PrEP efficacy and adherence, and the status of regulatory action on PrEP worldwide. Different countries are moving at different speeds. Many are looking to demonstration projects—small-scale pilots that provide information on how to deliver PrEP in real-world settings. Unfortunately, the vast majority of the projects that are currently delivering PrEP are outside of sub-Saharan Africa. This despite the fact that sub-Saharan Africa is where many new HIV acquisitions, particularly via sexual transmission, are taking place today. Now is the time to take regulatory action and to move ahead with demonstration projects linked to plans for scale-up. Other formulations of ARV-based prevention are also being evaluated and could provide additional options in the future.

PrEP Works if You Take It — Effectiveness and Adherence in Trials of Oral and Topical Tenofovir-Based Prevention

Trials of oral and topical tenofovir-based PrEP show that these strategies reduce risk of HIV infection if they are used correctly and consistently. Higher adherence is directly linked to greater levels of protection.

Calculations based on analyses involving a subset of total trial participants.

Regulatory Approval in Trial Host Countries for Daily TDF/FTC

The TDF/FTC combination pill (brand-name Truvada) that has shown efficacy for PrEP is already used for treatment in HIV-positive people, and so is approved and licensed in many countries. One key step for this PrEP strategy is to ensure that the drug is licensed (and therefore available) and that it is approved for use for both prevention and treatment in each country. So far, the US is the only place where this has taken place. National guidelines for PrEP use are another key step.

ARV-Based Prevention Pipeline

The pipeline of ARV-based prevention products includes oral pills, vaginal rings, vaginal and rectal gels, vaginal films, long-acting injectable ARVs. Not pictured are a range of multipurpose technologies in development that aim to reduce women’s risk of HIV and STIs, and provide effective contraception.