A Generic and Unifying HIV Prevention Cascade Framework

What gets measured matters if and only if that measurement is linked to impact. The most common approaches to evaluating primary prevention don’t measure up. They measure commodities but not use. A count of the condoms or PrEP bottles handed to people does not tell you whether the condoms were used, the pills were taken—or even, often, whether the people receiving the commodities were at high risk of HIV. A simple, universal prevention cascade could help change that. The one below, which presumes that HIV testing has happened and is focused on people at risk of HIV, suggests four stages (see A) and then shows how solutions could be tailored to fix the cascade (see B).