PrEP: Are MSM in SE Asia ready?

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PrEPARING ASIA: A new direction for HIV prevention among MSM in Asia
Bangkok, Thailand
23-25 September, 2015
PrEP: Does Willingness lead to Demand?

- Several studies have reported high willingness of 36-41% to use PrEP in MSM in Thailand*
- PrEP clinical trials in Thailand report high acceptance of PrEP during open-label extensions**:
  - 89% MSM in iPrEx
  - 59% PWID in BTS
- However, there have not been any large-scale PrEP demonstration projects in Asia, and availability of PrEP is still very limited

**Grant, Lancet ID, 2014; Martin, CROI, 2015
Knowledge about PrEP

Data from 3 surveys completed in 2015:

– **Non-Thai MSM in Bangkok for Songkran Party 2015**
  • N=266 MSM (75% from Asian countries)
  • Median age 33

– **MSM Thailand**: online survey April 2015
  • N=475 Thai HIV- MSM not on PrEP
  • Median age 31

– **TGW Vietnam**: community survey March-April 2015
  • N=205 TGW
  • Median age 25

– **MSM Vietnam**: online survey January-March 2015
  • N=935 MSM answered questions about PrEP
  • Median age 21
High Interest in taking PrEP...

- Have heard about PrEP
- Believe that PrEP is effective
- Interested in taking PrEP

Viet MSM (16-19)
Viet MSM
Viet TGW
Thai MSM
Asian MSM
...but knowledge about PrEP is poor

- Interested in taking PrEP
- Believe that PrEP is effective
- Have heard about PrEP

Viet MSM (16-19)
Viet MSM
Viet TGW
Thai MSM
Asian MSM
Interest in taking PrEP is correlated with belief in efficacy

n = 106 sexually active Vietnamese MSM ages 16-19

P < 0.001

How effective do you think PrEP is at preventing HIV?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>% Interested in taking PrEP</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not effective</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slightly</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very effective</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

n = 65
PrEP READINESS INDEX

Readiness includes:

– Awareness that PrEP exists
– Belief that PrEP is effective
– Willingness to take PrEP when available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Asian MSM</th>
<th>MSM Thailand</th>
<th>TGW Vietnam</th>
<th>MSM Vietnam</th>
<th>MSM 16-19 Vietnam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PrEP Readiness</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions

• Very low demand for PrEP so far in SE Asia
  – Low knowledge that PrEP exists
  – Low belief in efficacy
  – Very limited availability

• Demand Creation will require
  – MUCH MUCH MUCH more education about PrEP and it’s efficacy
  – Wider availability
Acknowledgements

Thai Red Cross AIDS Res Center
- Nittaya Phanuphak
- Praphan Phanuphak
- Nipat Teeratakulpisarn
- Mathurada Kongkabpan
- Somsong Teeratakulpisarn
- Chanjirapornd Ponset
- Charnwit Pakam
- Prapaipan Plodkratok,
- Tarandeep Anand
- Chattiya Nitpolprasert
- Frits van Griensven
- Jintanat Ananworanich

CARMAH, Vietnam
- Bao Le
- Hoang Thi Huyen
- Geoff Manasse
- Dinh Duc Thien

Mahidol University
- Thomas Guadamuz

University of Amsterdam
- Kai Jonas

APCOM
- Matthew Vaughn
- Midnight Poonkasetwattana

Fenway Institute
- Catherine Oldenburg
- Matthew Mimiaga
- Ken Mayer

University of Pittsburgh
- Mackey Friedman
- Ron Stall

Industry
- Allere
- Mylan

Funders
- NIH
- amfAR