



Sylvie Ratelle
STD/HIV
Prevention Training
Center

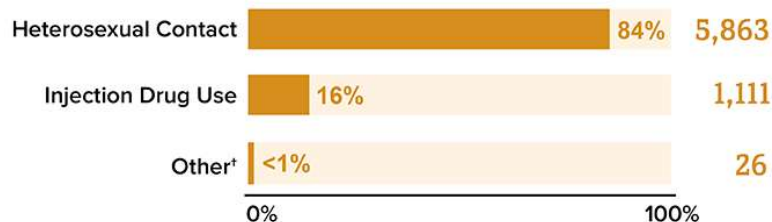
A Project of the Division of STD Prevention
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Funded by the CDC

HIV Prevention in Women

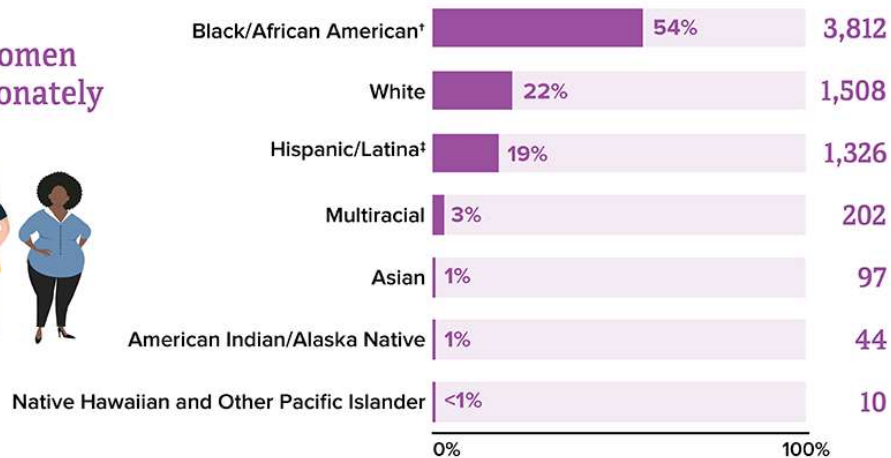
JACQUELINE SHERBUK MD
CHARURUT SOMBOONWIT MD

19% of new HIV diagnoses are in women

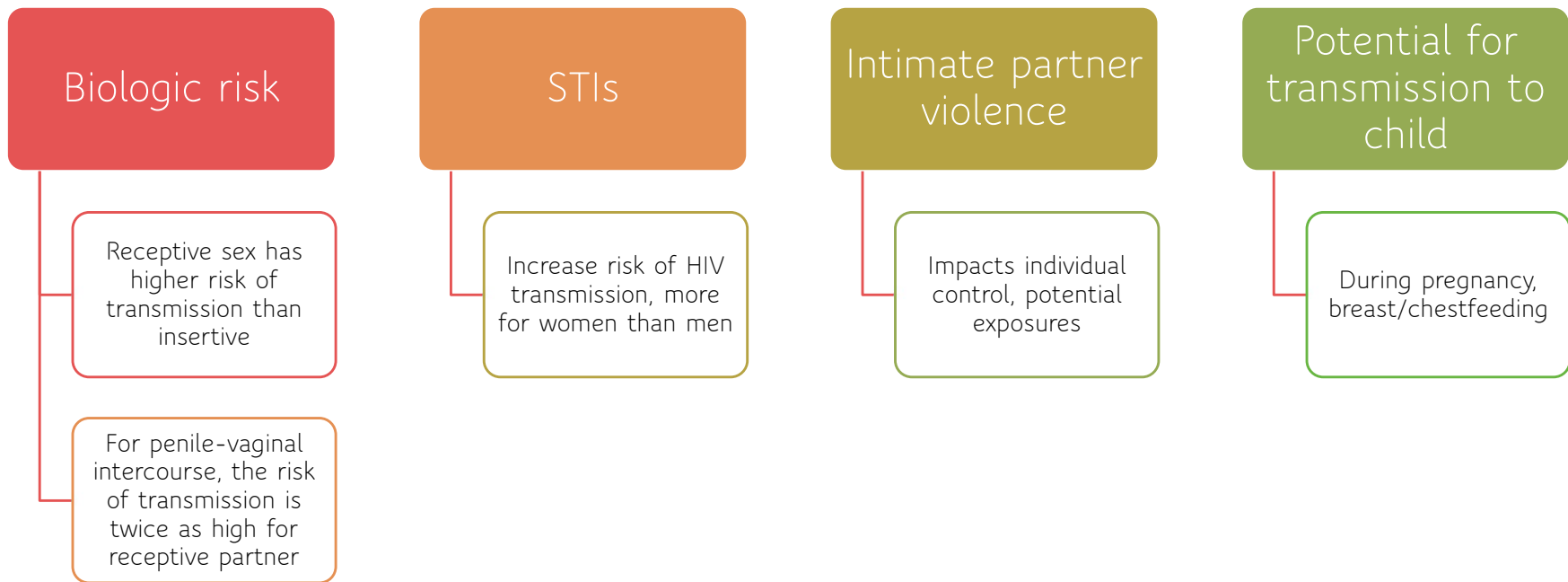
Most new HIV diagnoses among women were attributed to heterosexual contact.



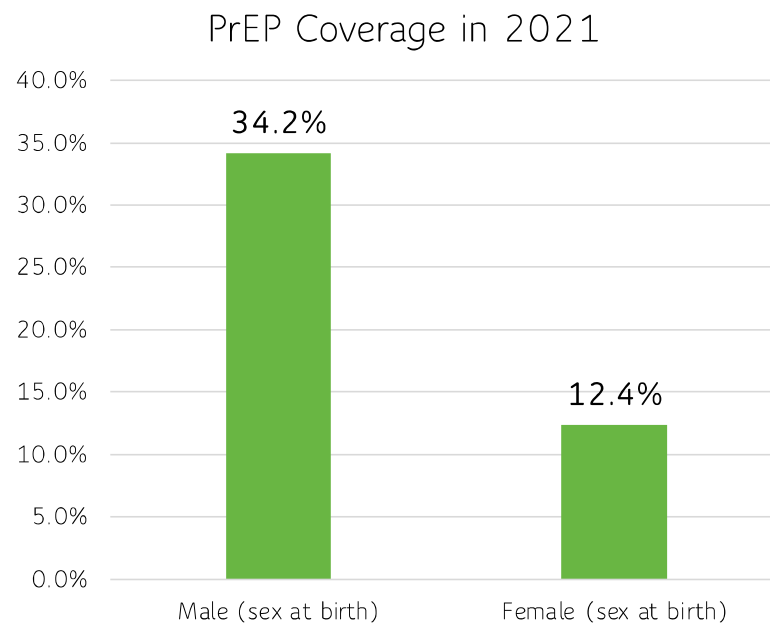
Black/African American women continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV.



What makes HIV transmission different for women?



HIV PrEP coverage by gender



Males are **2.8x** more likely to be prescribed PrEP than females

Reasons for low PrEP uptake in women

Medical
provider
awareness

Gaps in
public health
outreach

Self-
perceived risk

PrEP
Awareness

Stigma

Cost and
access

Missed opportunities in PrEP Prescribing

National database of women, 15-64 years old, diagnosed with an STI in 2017

Insurance Type	STI Diagnosis	N	Tested for HIV	Prescribed PrEP
Commercial	Gonorrhea	3,709	7.6%	0
Commercial	Syphilis	1,696	6.0%	0
Medicaid	Gonorrhea	6,172	11.6%	0
Medicaid	Syphilis	1,497	9.8%	0

Public Health Outreach

THE REAL WORLD OF STD PREVENTION

Gaps in HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis Continuum of Care Following State Partner Services for Massachusetts Primary and Secondary Syphilis Cases, 2017 to 2018

Michael S. Argenyi, MD, MPH, MSW,† Lauren E. Molotnikov, MPH,‡ Dylan H. Leach, MPH,‡ Kathleen A. Roosevelt, MPH,‡ R. Monina Klevens, DDS, MPH,‡ and Katherine K. Hsu, MD, MPH,‡§*

Developed PrEP continuum for cases of **syphilis** in MA, where field epidemiologists provide PrEP referral as part of partner services for syphilis.

Among **women** with male or female sexual partners:

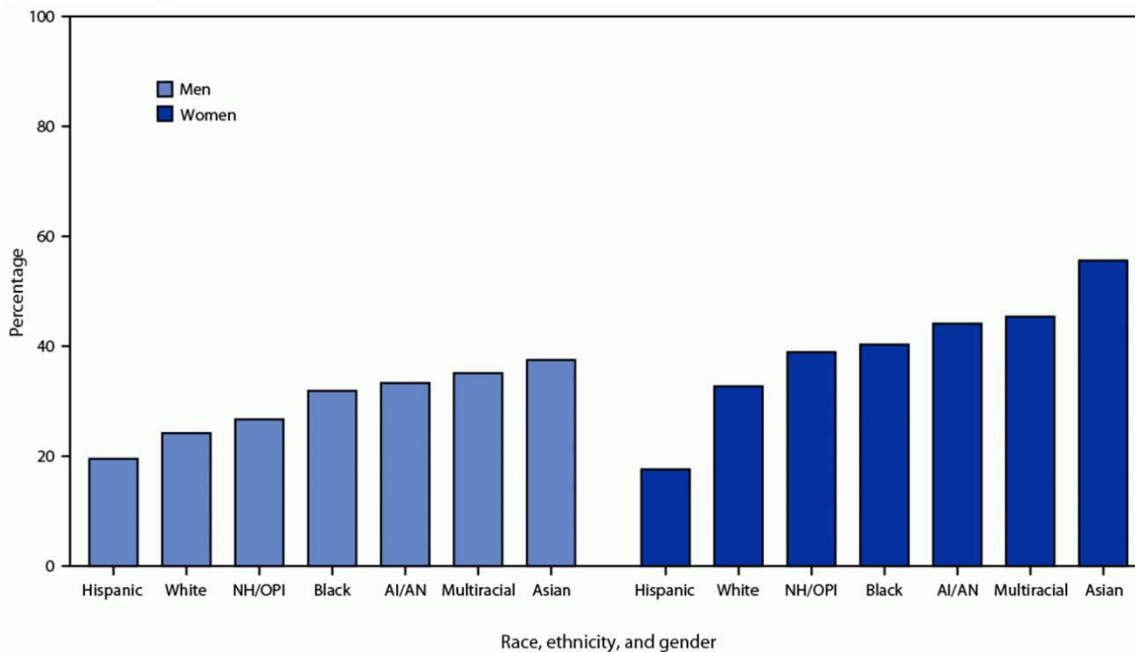
- 23% received PrEP education
- 12% accepted PrEP referral

PrEP Perceived Risk

Study	Population	Self-reported history	Self-perceived Risk
Johnson et al 2020 N=109	Family planning clinic in high HIV prevalence area of Chicago	condomless vaginal sex (67%) recent abortion (28%) recent STI test (68%)	Most (68%) reported a 0% risk of contracting HIV
Scott et al 2022 N=387	Family planning clinic in Washington DC, included those with 3+ risk factors for HIV	multiple sexual partners (96%) inconsistent condom use (94%) casual sex partner (80%) recent STI (39%) exchange of sex for drugs/money (10%) shared injection drug equipment (10%)	Only 8% perceived themselves to be at risk of HIV

PrEP Awareness nationally in 2019

FIGURE. Percentage of HIV-negative heterosexually active men and women who had heard of preexposure prophylaxis (N = 9,359), by race, ethnicity,* and gender — National HIV Behavioral Surveillance, 23 urban areas, United States, 2019



Overall PrEP awareness was 32%.

Awareness was slightly higher in women.

PrEP use among heterosexual adults was <1% in this study.

Factors that increase interest and intent to initiate PrEP in women

Positive beliefs about PrEP

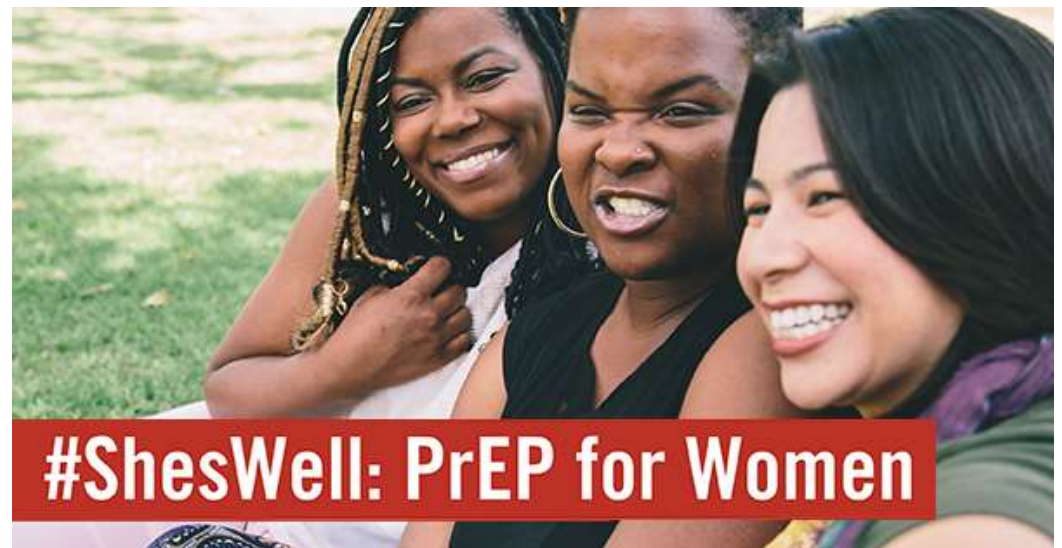
- PrEP gives you control of your body
- PrEP keeps you safe

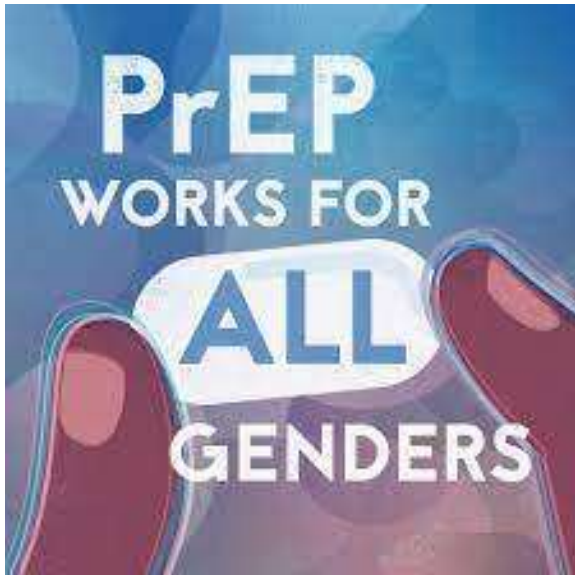
Self-efficacy

Social network support

Healthcare provider support

Prior discussions with healthcare providers





#ShesWell Campaign

Discussion
