

Testing a Women & PrEP Education Tool

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Background

- This study focuses on increasing knowledge and improving attitudes of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in women localized near Tarrant County using an education module.
- Women and girls made up 16% of HIV cases in Texas in 2019 (Texas Health and Human Services, 2025).
- Despite being at significant risk for HIV, many women lack adequate knowledge about HIV prevention (Auerbach et al., 2020).
- The Southeast US has a high number of HIV cases, particularly among women. Tarrant County exhibits a need for intervention (Texas Department of State Health Services, 2025).
- PrEP is a highly effective HIV prevention medication, yet its awareness and uptake among women remains low (Hull et al., 2023).
- Increasing knowledge and positive attitudes toward PrEP can empower women to take control of their sexual health and reduce HIV transmission rates (UNAIDS, 2024).

Aims

- Test the effectiveness of the novel education tool (Gonzalez et al., 2024).
- Address educational gaps for PrEP and women in Tarrant county, and the United States as a whole.
- Illustrate the ability of sex education to increase awareness about HIV prevention.
- We hypothesized that after viewing the education module, knowledge would increase and attitudes would become more positive.

Data Analytic Plan

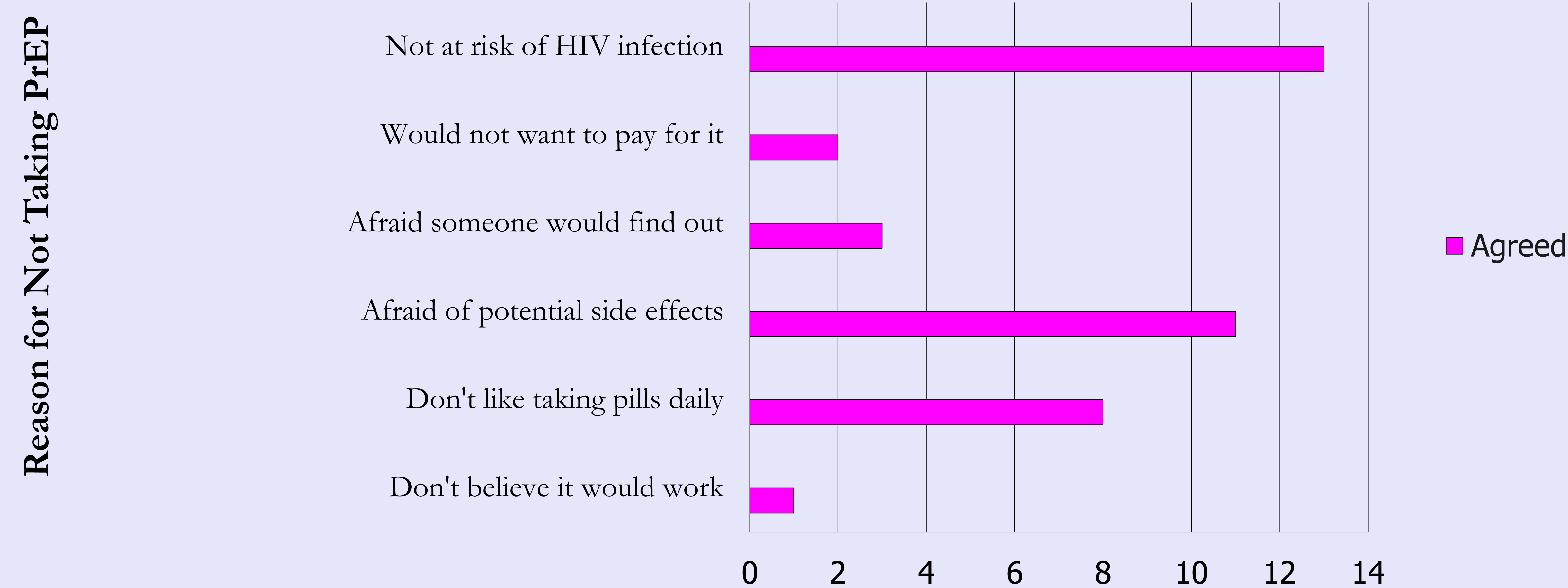
- We measured PrEP knowledge, attitudes, and willingness (Gonzalez et al., 2024).
- To evaluate PrEP knowledge and attitudes, we used a paired samples *t*-test to evaluate change in participants' responses before and after viewing the education module.
- To evaluate PrEP willingness, we ran a frequency analysis.
 - We examined participants' willingness to take PrEP if available.

Funding

- This research was funded a TCU College of Science and Engineering SERC grant

Figure 1.

Perceived Barriers to PrEP Uptake Among TCU Participants



Note. Of the participants who reported that they would not take PrEP if available, these were the barriers that participants identified with .

Method

- Intervention Test
 - Gonzalez et al, 2024 designed the intervention on Articulate 360 because of its interactive platform and ability to be accessed online across phones, computers, and tablets.
- Education Module
 - This curriculum covers various women's health topics, including PrEP, HIV, STIs, and cervical cancer screenings. Designed specifically for women, the HIV education component provides information on risk factors, PrEP as a preventative measure, and available resources for PrEP.
- Recruitment
 - Participants were eligible if they were assigned female at birth and/or identified as a woman, were 18+, and fluent in English. Recruitment was conducted via MTurk, SONA, and in-person data collection, each with a dedicated Linktree for easy survey access. Participants completed a pre-survey on PrEP knowledge and attitudes, engaged with the curriculum, and then took a post-survey to assess changes. We aimed to recruit 50-150 participants.
- Measures
 - PrEP Knowledge (Walsh, 2020): 13 statements answered with True/False/I don't know.
 - PrEP Attitudes (Walsh, 2020): 5 statements answered on a 5-point Likert Scale.
 - PrEP Willingness (Ojikutu et al., 2020): Willingness to take PrEP if available.

Demographics

At TCU:

- 16% of participants reported being Asian or Asian American.
- 28% of participants reported being Hispanic or Latino.
- 80% of participants reported being White.
- 4% of participants reported being Mixed.
- No participants reported being Black or African American, Native American, or Middle Eastern or Arab American.

On MTurk:

- 9.8% of participants reported being Asian or Asian American.
- 11.5% of participants reported being Black or African American.
- 8.2% of participants reported being Hispanic or Latino.
- 72.1% of participants reported being White.
- 1.6% of participants reported being Middle Eastern or Arab American.
- No participants reported being Native American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

Results

SONA – TCU Sample (N = 25)

- Participants showed a significant increase in PrEP knowledge from the pre- ($M = 2.48$, $SD = 3.04$) to post-test ($M = 7.70$, $SD = 3.02$), $p < .001$.
- Participants showed a significant decrease in negative PrEP attitudes from the pre- ($M = 2.72$, $SD = .42$), to post-test ($M = 2.06$, $SD = .60$), $p < .001$.
- 58.3% of participants self-reported that they would take PrEP if available (see Figure 1).

MTurk – Broader US Sample (N = 61)

- Data collection is ongoing on MTurk. These results are preliminary.
- There was a significant increase in knowledge from the pre- ($M = 5.42$, $SD = 3.88$) to post-test ($M = 9.30$, $SD = 2.53$), $p < .001$.
- There was also a significant decrease in negative attitudes about PrEP from the pre- ($M = 2.19$, $SD = .81$) to post-test ($M = 1.74$, $SD = .59$), $p < .001$.
- 65% of MTurk participants indicated that they would take PrEP if it were available.

In person data collection only yielded one response and has not been analyzed at this time.

Discussion

- ❖ PrEP Knowledge (Measured in the pre- & post-test)
- Increased knowledge shows promise for the potential of this education module to improve PrEP awareness.
- ❖ PrEP Willingness (Only measured in the post-test)
- More than half of the participants showed willingness to take PrEP which may indicate desire for HIV prevention methods.
- ❖ PrEP Attitudes (Measured in the pre- & post-test)
- Reducing stigma is important in increasing access.
- Our data demonstrates that increased exposure and awareness of PrEP can improve attitudes.

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