

Background

HIV remains a prominent health concern within Hampton Roads area:

- 183 diagnosed HIV cases in 2022 alone, roughly ¼ of all cases in Virginia.
- Majority of the cases within the black community, accounting for roughly 57% of all new 2022 cases in Virginia.

Notable at-risk populations include men who have sex with other man (MSM), individuals with multiple sexual partners, those with unsafe sex practices, and needle drug users.

Community Partners:

Old Dominion University Webb Center, Norfolk, VA

TMM Medical Group located Portsmouth, VA
 LGBTQ Life center located Norfolk, VA

Our aggregate encompasses college-aged individuals. Preventative education regarding HIV would be the most effective for this population.

Objectives

Deficient Knowledge: HIV Prevention Deficient Knowledge: PrEP Access

- Objective 1: Participants will increase knowledge related to access to PrEP after seminar.
- Objective 2: Participants will increase knowledge related to HIV prevention after seminar.

Project Description

Planning process

- Assessed needs and gaps in HIV education among college students.
- Collaborated with Life Center to leverage their community reach and resources.
- Developed engaging content with a focus on clarity and inclusivity.
- Coordinated logistics for two seminars, including scheduling, venue, and promotional efforts.
- Pre and Post test created by ensuring that the questions covered a range of difficulty levels and align closely with the learning objectives.

Interventions

- Conducted two interactive seminars at ODU Norfolk campus.
- Our primary focus is on increasing health literacy and education about HIV prevention, with a special emphasis on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medications, such as Truvada and Descovy.
- Engaged participants in discussion using evidence-based research.

Plan for evaluation

- Pre and Post test were administered to measure if there was an increase in knowledge post intervention.
- Participants provided feedback through surveys related to demographics, knowledge level pre and post intervention and satisfaction with the seminar experience

References



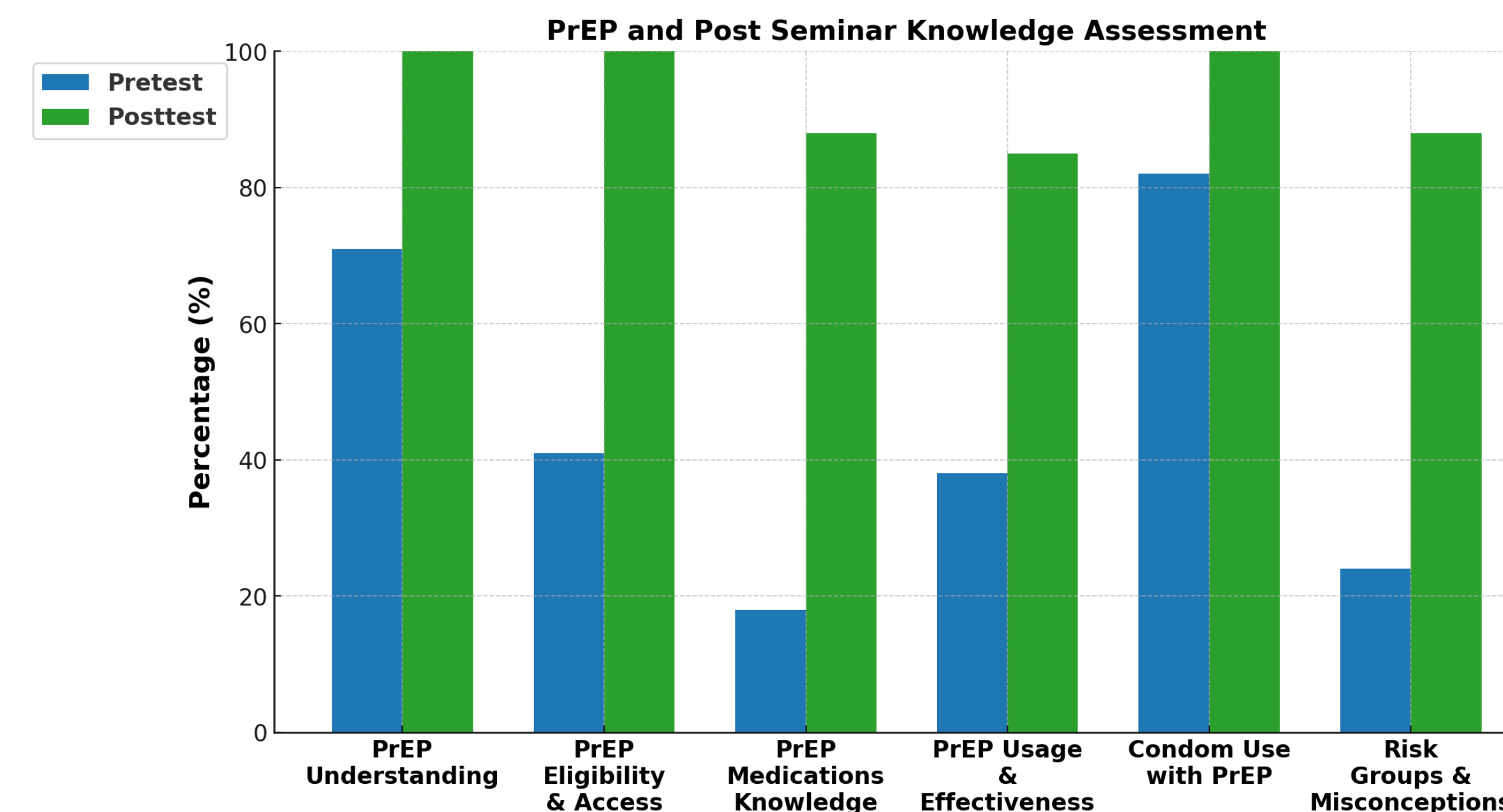
Findings

Demographics (17 Participants):

- **Age:**
 - 18-24 years: 7
 - 25-34 years: 8
 - 35-44 years: 2
- **Gender:**
 - Male: 14
 - Female: 3
- **Sexual Orientation:**
 - Heterosexual: 12
 - LGBTQ+: 5

Survey Data:

- Seminar discovery was primarily through word of mouth (14 of 17)
- Majority rated their understanding of PrEP as "very good" after the seminar (13 of 17)
- 17 of 17 found the information unbiased



Conclusions & Implications

The findings of this study have several implications for HIV prevention and education. First, they suggest that interactive presentations can be an effective way to increase knowledge of HIV prevention strategies among a wide range of age groups. Second, the findings suggest that HIV education can be effective in reducing risk factors for HIV infection. Third, the findings suggest that there is interest in learning about HIV prevention among adults of all ages. These findings can be used to inform the development of future HIV prevention and education programs.

This study demonstrates that interactive presentations can be an effective way to increase knowledge about HIV prevention and access to PrEP among college students. Participants who received the interactive presentation had significantly higher scores on post-tests compared to pre-test scores, indicating an increase in knowledge. Knowing that interventions like the one implemented in this study are effective, we can come up with new and innovate ways to combat the HIV crisis.

Recommendations

When looking over the process used to implement the planned interventions there are several different changes that could be made to improve target aggregate interest and turnout. Placing a larger emphasis in terms of efforts and funding on advertising the seminar, as well as garnering more support from local non-profits and student-led organizations on campus. In addition, changes to locations used to hold the seminars need to be made. The sites used for this study were relatively small and hard to find in comparison to other areas available inside the Webb University Center. Choosing available spaces that are easier to find and have more foot traffic would boost passerby interest and overall attendance.

Special Thanks To:

Thank you to Dr. Jimmy Cooper and the wonderful staff of TMM Medical Group
 Dr. Beth Tremblay
 Dr. Jonathan Romero

Contact Information

William Burns
 Wburn002@odu.edu

