

# PREVENTING HIV TRANSMISSION WITH PrEP

Public Health Brief

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## WHAT IS PrEP?

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, or PrEP, is a daily medication that can reduce a person's chance of getting HIV. When taken daily, PrEP reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by more than 90%. PrEP can be combined with condom use and other prevention methods in order to provide the best protection against HIV.\*

PrEP may be right for you if you are HIV negative and **ANY** of the following apply:

- **You are a gay/bisexual man and** have a partner who is HIV-positive, multiple partners, a partner with multiple partners, or a partner whose status is unknown
- **You are a heterosexual man or woman and** have a partner who is HIV-positive, multiple partners, a partner with multiple partners, or a partner whose status is unknown
- **You inject drugs and** you share needles or works to inject drugs, recently were in drug treatment, are at-risk for getting HIV from sex

## PrEP IN THE COMMUNITY

HCHD is committed to ensuring that HIV prevention services and PrEP resources are provided to the community. The HCHD PrEP team diligently provides the following services in Harford County.

**Provider Outreach:** Medical providers are educated about PrEP and encouraged to speak with patients about their risk behavior.

**Agency Outreach:** Community agencies that engage with populations at-risk for HIV are educated about PrEP and how to refer community members to prevention & testing services.

**Clinical Services:** Testing services for STIs/HIV are provided at low and no cost at HCHD clinics, risk screening is conducted, and patient education is completed. Case management is also offered to PrEP patients.

\*Sources:  
Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2018. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/prep/index.html>  
Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2018. PrEP 101.  
Center for HIV Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Evaluation Maryland Department of Health. Harford County HIV Fact Sheet. 2017.  
Center for HIV/STI Integration and Capacity, Maryland Department of Health. PrEP Programs FY19. 2018

## HARFORD COUNTY 2017 DATA\*

# of new HIV cases	24
# individuals living with HIV	488
# of HCHD HIV tests provided	223
# of new HCHD PrEP clients	11
# of jurisdictions with PrEP programs in MD	13

### SPOTLIGHT: PAYING FOR PrEP

The majority of private and state Medicaid plans cover PrEP. Those that have health insurance may receive co-pay assistance from manufacturers or patient advocacy foundations. If someone is uninsured, they can contact MCHP of Harford County for assistance with obtaining medical assistance. PrEP prescriptions could cost as little as \$1.

Harford County PrEP: 410-612-1779  
MCHP: 410-942-7999

The map below represents the jurisdictions that have, or are in the process of acquiring, PrEP programs throughout the state of Maryland. Efforts are currently being made across the state to increase access to PrEP, as well as additional HIV prevention services. Currently, 13 of the state's 24 jurisdictions feature funded PrEP programs, and 4 jurisdictions are considering applying or are in the processing of applying for PrEP funding in order to provide these essential services to at-risk populations.

### Maryland Jurisdictions with funded PrEP programs\*

**PrEP Programs FY19**  
Current as of November 18, 2018

