INVESTIGATING ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AGED 18 TO 24 YEARS THAT INFLUENCE THEIR DECISION TO TAKE PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS MEDICATION

Abstract

Background: Contemporary research findings affirm that young adults aged 18 to 24 years are reckoning high estimates of new HIV infections. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) medication is the latest strategy in the HIV prevention. PrEP uptake has been negligible among university students aged 18 to 24 years, especially among racial and ethnic minority students. Objective: To investigate the attitudes and beliefs that influence the uptake of PrEP medications and the HIV risk behaviors associated with the willingness to take PrEP medications among university students aged 18 to 24 years attending University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Methods: Using the Sexual Health Model as the theoretical foundation, this exploratory study will use a cross-sectional design. A survey tool that will pull from the existing universe of questions will be set up in Qualtrics survey research suite. Using the survey, data collection will be done through pen and pencil paper surveys in classrooms and as an online survey. The quantitative data will be analyzed using SPSS Statistics version 25 via descriptive statistics, logistic regression, and multiple linear regression analyses (ANOVA test). The purpose of the analysis is to identify factors, particularly from the Sexual Health Model, that can explain the willingness to take PrEP. Study Significance: The study will contribute to the literature on PrEP medication as a prevention approach for university students and young adults’ health. Particularly, the study is essential in exploring ways to strengthen the PrEP care-continuum through social, behavioral, and implementation science investigation (NIH, 2018).

Date: Tuesday, April 23rd, 2019
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: BHS 131

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Committee In Charge:
Dr. Melva Thompson-Robinson, Advisory Committee Chair
Dr. Jennifer Pharr, Advisory Committee Member
Dr. Marya L. Shegog, Advisory Committee Member
Dr. Sandra Owens, Graduate College Representative