

The Acceptability and Feasibility of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV Prevention in Higher-Risk Sub-Saharan African Migrants: A Systematic Review

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Background:

The burden of HIV acquisition risk continues to vary significantly across countries and regions. At the end of 2018, global estimates of HIV prevalence by the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that approximately 37.9 million individuals are currently living with HIV worldwide. This study aimed to identify barriers and facilitators for African (SSA) populations towards usage of PrEP, who regardless of where they reside in the world, continue to carry a significantly high burden of disease.

Methods:

A systematic review of the literature was conducted from April 2017 through to October 2019. Due to PrEP literature of higher-risk SSA migrants living in OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries only recently gaining momentum, the current review was expanded to include grey literature in order to capture emerging research that has not yet been reflected in literary journals due to the long and rigorous process of traditional literary publication.

Results:

A total of 52 studies met selection criteria for analysis, with 7 being identified as stemming from OECD countries. The Common-Sense Model of Self-Regulation (CSM) and Ecological Systems Theory (EST) provided parameters within which the identified barriers and facilitators to PrEP uptake and adherence were organised to highlight thematic parallels between the two groups. The Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) drug Truvada has been found to be efficacious in reducing the biological risk of HIV acquisition in HIV negative 'higher-risk' status Sub-Saharan identifying (SSA) population groups worldwide.

Conclusion:

This deductive approach to thematic analysis highlighted the pervasiveness of barriers to PrEP amongst SSA populations post-migration. This may inform the development of adapted PrEP interventions seeking to increase PrEP uptake and adherence in OECD country based SSA migrant groups.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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