

The Association between Neighborhood Socioeconomic Status and PrEP Awareness in NYC, 2016-2017

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Introduction

- Despite significant gains in the treatment of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), over 38,000 people are still newly diagnosed with the illness annually in the US.
- In New York State, while new HIV infections and new HIV diagnoses have steadily declined, these decreases have not been uniformly realized across all groups.
- One strategy to reduced HIV infections is Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV infection which involves daily oral emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate to reduce infections in those with exposure(s) to HIV or high-risk groups. Studies have suggested reduction in HIV transmission with PrEP treatment^{2,3}
- It is predicted that increased PrEP uptake among people in NYS will be the single largest contributor to further reductions in new HIV infections and key to ending the HIV epidemic in NYS .

Objective

- To investigate the awareness of PrEP treatment in NYC from 2016-2017 with special interest in how socioeconomic status (SES) influences this awareness.

Hypothesis

The main hypothesis of the proposed study is that awareness of PrEP is independently associated with area-based socioeconomic status.

Methods

STUDY DESIGN: Ecological analysis

DATASOURCE: The Community Health Survey - A random, cross-sectional phone-based behavioral risk survey administered by New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

ELIGIBLE POPULATION: New York City residents with landlines and mobile phones for 2016 and 2017.

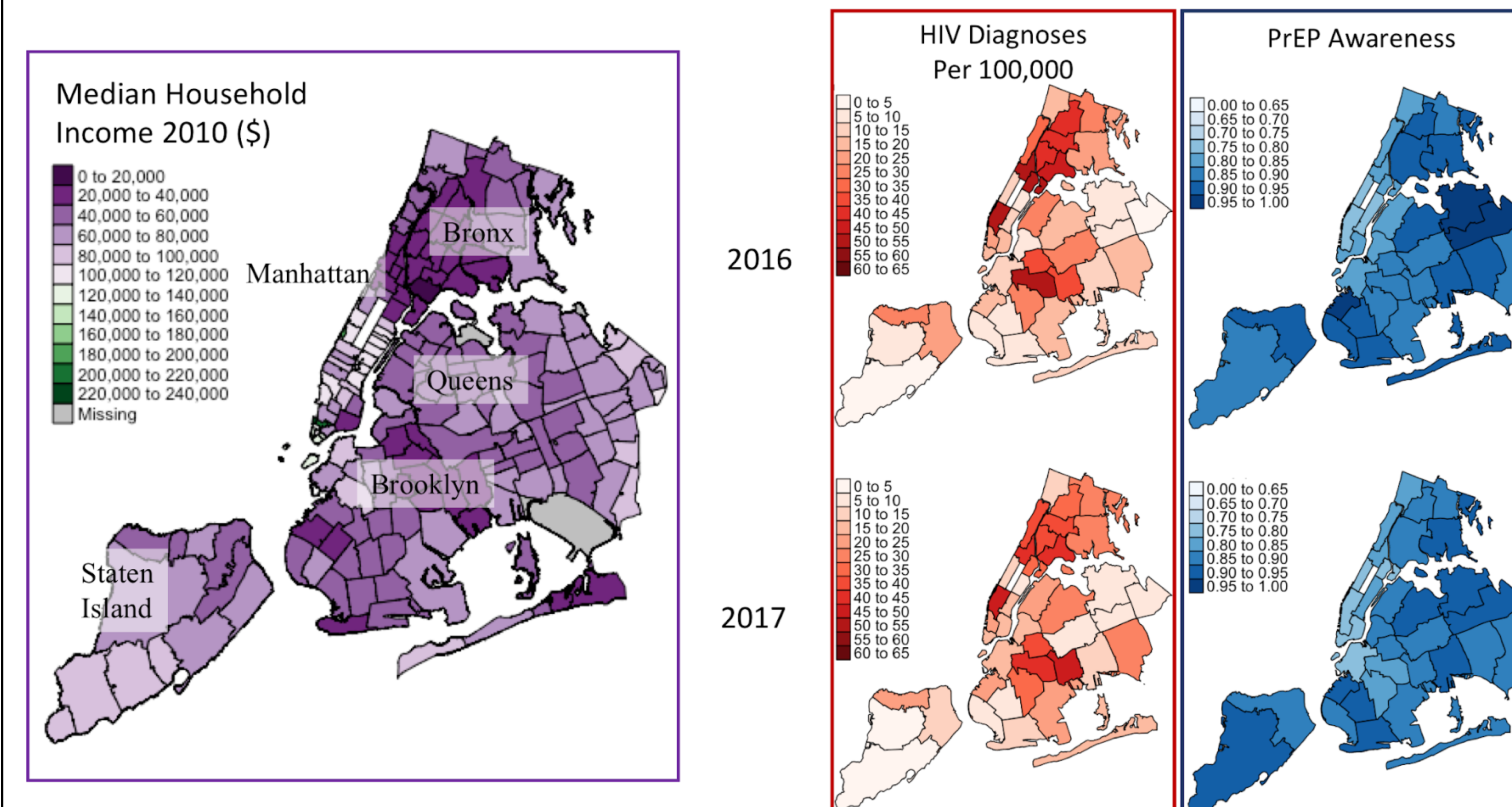
SAMPLE SIZE: 2016 – N = 10,000; 2017 – N = 10,006

VARIABLES: Neighborhood (zip code) median household income, demographic data, PrEP awareness data.

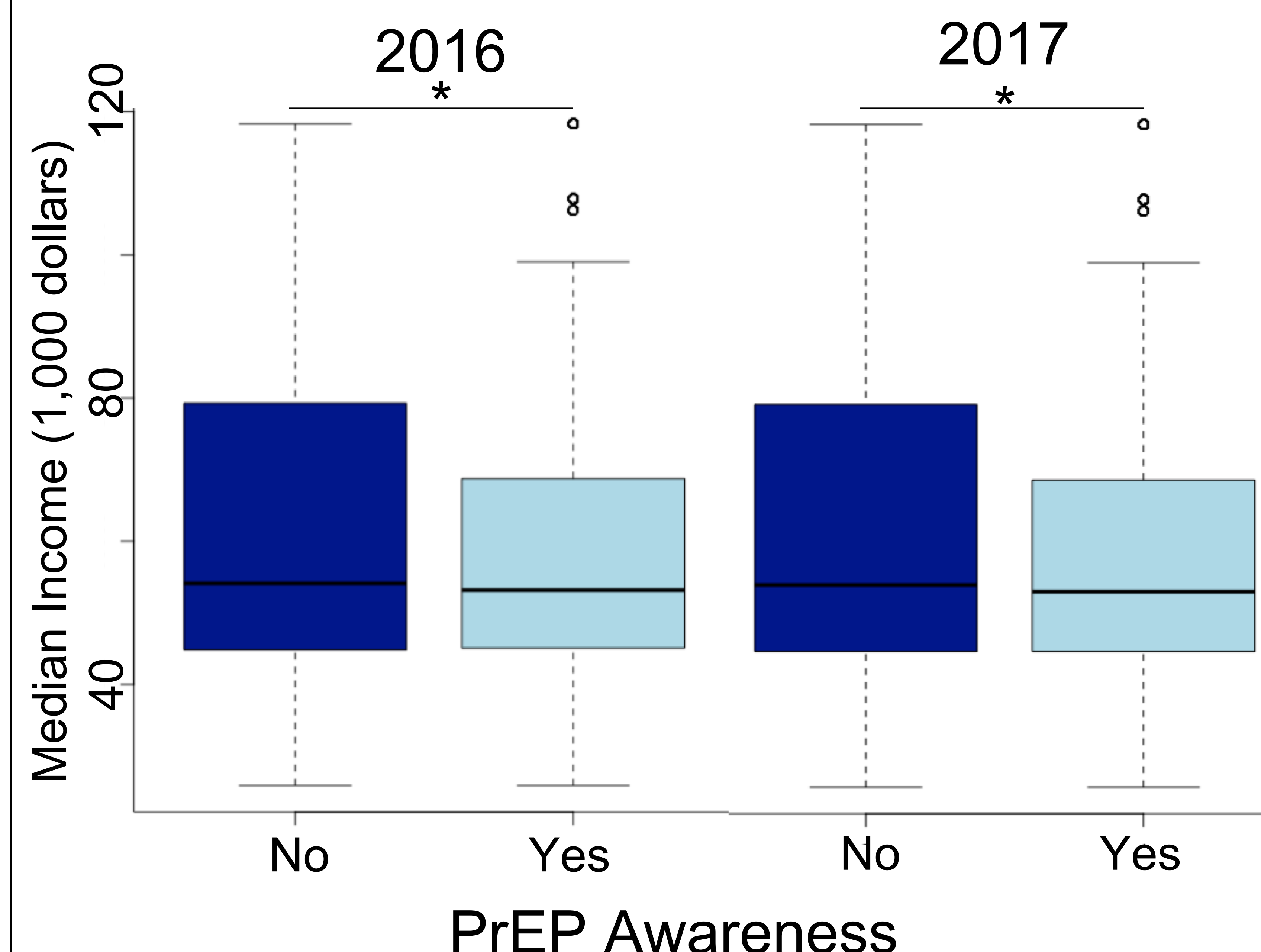
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS: Bivariable analysis, using Pearson’s chi-squared test to determine statistical significance between PrEP awareness and SES.

Results

SES, HIV diagnoses, and PrEP Awareness are disparate across NYC



PrEP Awareness was slightly inversely Correlated with SES for both 2017 & 2017



Conclusion/Discussion

- Statistically significant differences exist in PrEP awareness by socioeconomic status
- Additional research should explore the relationship between PrEP awareness, PrEP adoption, and HIV diagnoses
- These would be a tool to aid public health organizations guide interventions and policymakers draft legislation toward the goal of lowered infection rates

Significance

- Recent scientific and political developments present an opportunity to dramatically reduce HIV infection rates
- Awareness of pre-exposure prophylaxis among the general public is a key aspect of adoption
- Additional policy is needed to increase PrEP awareness effectively and equitably

References

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