

27 FEBRUARY 2020 | WEBINAR 8

PrEP for Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women

PrEP Learning Network Webinar Series

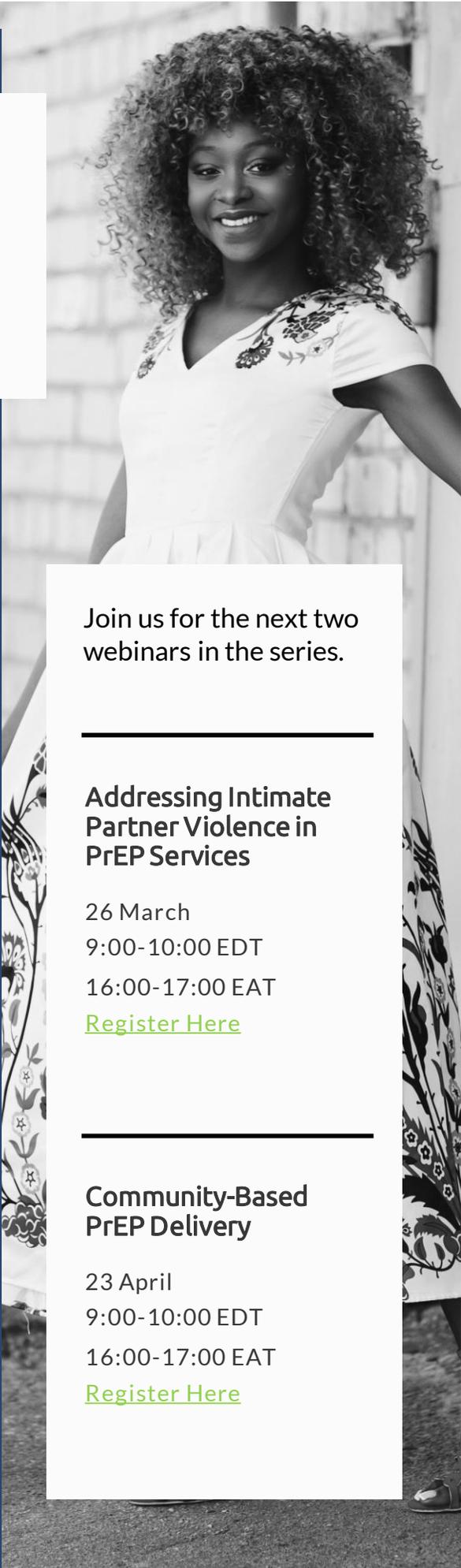
Thank you to our speakers from the University of Washington and Jhpiego, as well as attendees who participated in the eighth PrEP Learning Network webinar. In this webinar, experts shared new findings from PrIYA on PrEP initiation and continuation among pregnant and breastfeeding women in Kenya, as well as the details of a project in Lesotho that is developing new tools and resources to support PrEP service delivery for these populations. If you missed it, you can access the [webinar recording here](#).

Top 5 Questions

Five primary questions related to PrIYA were raised during the webinar's Q&A; summaries are provided below. Learn more by listening to the webinar recording, accessing complementary resources, signing up for future webinars, or visiting the [PrEP Virtual Learning Network](#) page.

1. Were national risk screening tools adapted for PrIYA?

The national risk screening tools were not adapted; the program team wanted to make as few changes as possible to national risk screening tools to ensure the program mirrored national rollout procedures.



Join us for the next two webinars in the series.

Addressing Intimate Partner Violence in PrEP Services

26 March
9:00-10:00 EDT
16:00-17:00 EAT
[Register Here](#)

Community-Based PrEP Delivery

23 April
9:00-10:00 EDT
16:00-17:00 EAT
[Register Here](#)

Top 5 Questions (continued)

2. Will the PrIYA work be sustainable in the context of national PrEP rollout in Kenya?

In Kenya, Ministry of Health guidelines include pregnant and breastfeeding women if they are at substantial risk, but no structures have been put in place to ensure guidelines are followed. The program team wanted to see how PrEP implementation in this setting could work in terms of clinic flow, feasibility, and challenges encountered. Maternal and child health (MCH) staff were trained so that the PrIYA work could be handed over to them. Dr. Kinuthia is aware of continued PrEP delivery within MCH following the end of PrIYA, but this has not been formally evaluated. The program received ongoing support from national and Kisumu County governments and a stakeholders meeting was held toward the end of the program to plan out how to maximize sustainability of continued work.

3. Were increasing rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) observed in the program population? How were partner notifications handled?

The only STI routinely tested for was syphilis; all other STIs were tested syndromically. County-level syphilis rates are around 2%, while PrIYA syphilis rates were around 1%. Partner notifications were not part of the program, but HIV self-testing for partners was available. Dr. Kinuthia is now engaged in another program that will rollout in the next two months, which will include full STI testing for this population in order to get a better idea of comparative rates.

4. Did discontinuation rates differ between pregnant and breastfeeding women? What about by age? Did any pregnant or breastfeeding women who discontinued PrEP use restart over the course of the program?

Discontinuation rates between pregnant and breastfeeding women were not statistically significant. At three and six months, there was a trend of higher continuation among women over 24 years of age compared to women under 24 years of age. The program did not capture PrEP restarts over the course of implementation.

Top 5 Questions (continued)

5. What side effects were experienced by those who discontinued for this reason?

The most commonly reported side effects were gastrointestinal, including nausea (8%), vomiting (6%), and diarrhea (1%), followed by dizziness (4%) and headaches (3%).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Technical brief: [Preventing HIV during pregnancy and breastfeeding the context of PrEP](#). WHO; 2017.
- [WHO recommendations on antenatal care for a positive pregnancy experience](#). (Recommendation C7: PrEP during antenatal care)
- [Emerging evidence from a systematic review of safety of PrEP for pregnant and postpartum women: Where are we now and where are we heading?](#) JIAS; 2020.
- [PrEP uptake and early continuation among pregnant and post-partum women within MCH clinics in Kenya: Results from an implementation programme](#). Lancet HIV; 2020.
- [Perinatal outcomes following maternal PrEP use during pregnancy: Results from a large PrEP implementation program in Kenya](#). JIAS; 2019.
- [HIV-uninfected Kenyan adolescent and young women share perspectives on using PrEP during pregnancy](#). PubMed; 2018.

We hope you join us again on [March 26th](#)! Our ninth webinar will focus on addressing intimate partner violence in PrEP services. Visit the [PrEP Virtual Learning Network](#) to see what else is in store for 2020.

