More Than Just The Facts: HIV Providers In 7 U.S. Cities Identify Training Needs For HIV Preconception Care

Finocchiaro-Kessler S., 1 Yond R., 2 Champassak S., 3 Phillips J., 4 Mirabal Beltran R., 5 Leke E., 6 Fahey H., 7 Rouda E., 8 Martinelli R., 9 Goggin K., 3 Dariotis J., 5 Hoyt M. 4 HIV PCC Team*

University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS, 2 University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, TX, 3 Children’s Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO, 4 Rutgers University School of Nursing, Newark, NJ, 5 Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, 6 MD, Baylor School of Medicine, Houston, TX 7 Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA, 8 University of California, San Francisco, CA, 9 Emory School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA

Introduction

Preconception care (PCC) is not currently a routine aspect of HIV care. With approximately 50% of people with HIV in serodifferent partnerships, and childbearing desires similar to those of uninfected peers, HIV PCC services can optimize maternal and infant health while reducing HIV transmission to partners. Providers need additional training to confidently provide HIV PCC services.

Methods

Trained interviewers conducted semi-structured phone interviews with n=92 HIV providers in seven cities (Atlanta[10], Baltimore[14], Houston[12], Kansas City[14], Newark[8], Philadelphia[20], San Francisco[13]).

Interviews covered topics related to childbearing options for HIV+ patients and their partners.

Audio files were transcribed and coded using Dedoose, a web-based program for mixed methods analyses.

We employed content analysis methods to identify themes and categorize responses related to HIV PCC training experience and needs.

HIV Provider Demographics:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Provider Type</th>
<th>MD</th>
<th>NP/PA</th>
<th>RN/SW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Setting</td>
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<td>13.8</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>13.1</td>
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</tbody>
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Exposure to HIV Preconception Care Training

1. Very few providers described any formal training in this area.
2. Providers treating HIV+ women were more likely to have knowledge and training in this area.
3. Sources of training ranged greatly:
   - Self-directed review of literature and research
   - Attended a conference session or grand round seminar
   - Webinars or other online training
   - Discussions with providers experienced in HIV PCC

Awareness of National HIV Perinatal Guidelines

1. A majority of providers reported being aware (but not necessarily familiar) with the National Perinatal HIV Guidelines.
2. Providers with a larger proportion of female patients were more familiar with these guidelines.

Desire for Additional Training

1. A significant majority (86.7%) wanted additional training in HIV PCC and identified the following priorities:
   - Consensus on safer conception methods and their associated risk of HIV transmission, including PrEP for conception
   - HIV PCC best practices to determine and standardize own approach
   - Provider tools to facilitate routine counseling and specialty referrals
   - Direct mentorship and observation by experts
   - Practical information for patients to determine feasibility/access of services

2. Among those not wanting additional training, 7% felt sufficiently trained or could refer patients to trained provider, and 16.3% felt it was not relevant for their patients.

Conclusions

Few providers have received any formal training on providing preconception care or counseling to patients and partners living with HIV.

A majority of HIV providers expressed a desire for training in HIV preconception care to ensure adherence with best practices and guidelines.

Practical information for patients and partners to access services for safer conception was particularly valued.

References


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*HIV Preconception Care (PCC) Study Team: Anderson J., Short W., Chakraborty R., Levison J., Weber S., Storm D., Cohan D.