

Using Contingency Management to Increase Uptake of Long-Acting Injectable PrEP in People Who Use Drugs: Harm Reduction & Street Medicine in Detroit

Lauren L. Judd

¹Detroit Recovery Project, Detroit, Michigan, United States

BACKGROUND

- Can a contingency management approach help to increase rates of PrEP uptake amongst people who use drugs?

Detroit has the highest concentration of HIV infections in Michigan, with a prevalence rate of 765 per 100,000 residents. The CDC reports 10% of new HIV infections nationwide are attributed to injection drug use, highlighting the urgent need for targeted prevention efforts. At Detroit Recovery Project, a Nurse Practitioner (NP) collaborates with the mobile harm reduction program to deliver essential healthcare services, including HIV prevention and treatment.

METHODS

- A comprehensive sexual health initiative was launched to expand access to long-acting injectable (LAI) PrEP
- The NP designed a structured program timeline that introduces financial incentives starting at the first PrEP visit
- Collected demographic, social, and behavioral data from a people who use drugs and access harm reduction services in Detroit
- Excel spreadsheet and calendar reminders used to track injection dates (when to order & administer)

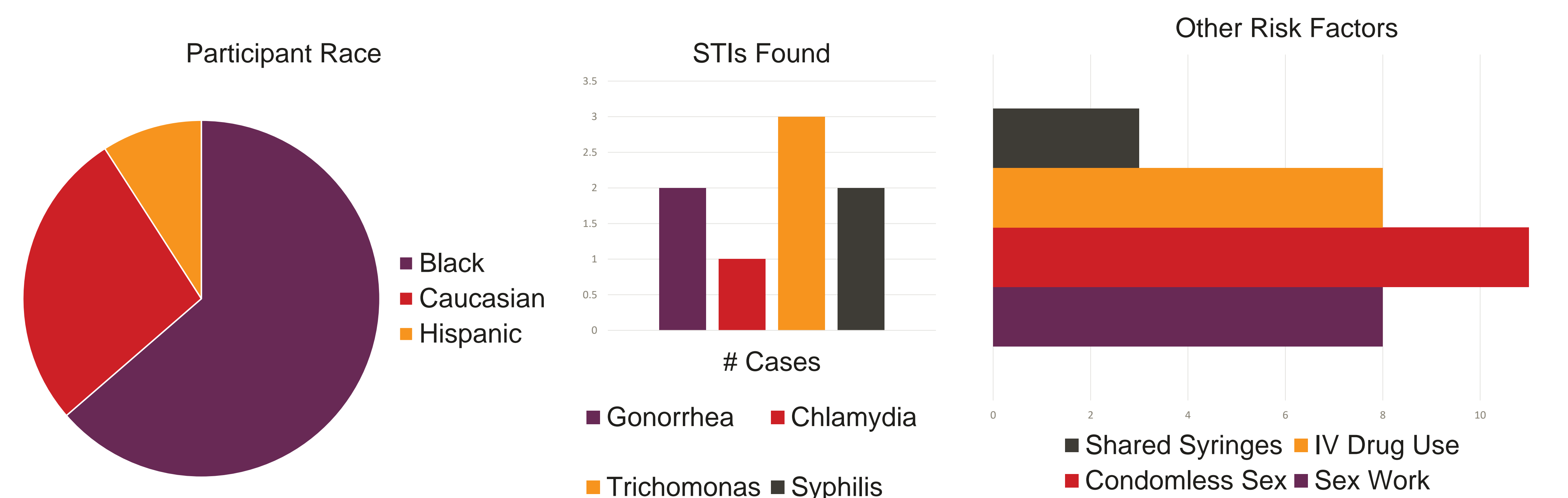
With each subsequent appointment and injection received, the incentive amount progressively increases, encouraging continued engagement and adherence.

Month 0	Month 1	Month 2	Month 4	Month 6	Month 8	Month 10
Back-pack with useful items	\$20	\$30	\$40	\$50	\$60	\$100

Contingency management can be an effective approach to increase uptake of PrEP amongst people who use drugs and are at risk for contracting HIV in Detroit.

RESULTS

- Program launched in February 2025. 15 people enrolled. 2 lost to follow-up (never started injection). 2 had insurance barriers. 7/11 retained people have received their first LAI PrEP dose. 1 has received a second dose so far.
- Of the people retained: 7 female, 4 male. All 11 are actively using drugs and homeless; all reported multiple partners in the past 12 months; all 7 females and 1 male reported exchanging sex for money/drugs in the past 12 months



CONCLUSIONS

- This far, using contingency management (CM) has been successful in increasing the uptake of HIV PrEP as an HIV prevention tool amongst people who use drugs.
- These findings are important because it shows that CM can be an effective tool for this highly complex population that has multiple reasons for needed HIV prevention.
- Since this project was designed to be a sexual health program, it has also been effective in detecting and treating other common sexually transmitted infections.
- This is an innovative public health approach and has the potential to be scaled up, potentially reducing HIV transmission to a greater degree.

Challenges such as homelessness, substance use, and loss of contact with providers remain significant barriers to sustained engagement.

With continued support, strategic outreach, and persistence, the NP aims to further enhance engagement and retention in HIV prevention efforts, ensuring that this vulnerable population receives the care and protection they need.

ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

This is an ongoing pilot project.

Contact:

Lauren Judd, DNP, FNP-C
ljudd@recovery4detroit.com

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