

HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Policies Worldwide

Authors: Matthew M. Kavanagh, PhD^{1,2}, Ingrid Katz, MD^{3,4,5}, Alana Sharp, MPH¹, Vuyiseka Dubula, PhD⁶, Varsha Srivatsan, ScM¹, Mitchell Warren⁷

O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law
Georgetown University School of Health

¹O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown Law Center, Washington, United States; ²Georgetown School of Public Health, Washington, United States; ³Harvard Medical School, Boston, United States; ⁴Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, United States; ⁵Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy, PEPFAR, Washington, United States; ⁶The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Geneva, Switzerland; ⁷AVAC, New York, United States

Abstract code: WEPEF650



BACKGROUND

- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) now available in various formulations - as an oral pill for daily or on-demand use, as a long-acting vaginal ring, and more recently as a long-acting injectable - is a safe and effective HIV prevention strategy for individuals who are HIV-negative and at high risk of infection.
- Despite its success in countries with widespread PrEP usage and coverage, most countries still fall short of PrEP uptake targets.

METHODS

- The HIV Policy Lab is a research and accountability platform to track, measure and improve the HIV-related law and policy environment across across 194 countries.
- A composite index measuring countries' alignment to international guidance was constructed to evaluate alignment with WHO normative guidance on i) population-specific eligibility and ii) regulatory approvals for PrEP technologies.
- On population-specific eligibility, the HIVPL evaluates whether national guidelines make PrEP available as policy nation-wide for groups identified as having "substantial" risk or WHO recommended key and vulnerable groups
- On prevention technology, HIVPL evaluates the status of regulatory approval of at least one current PrEP technologies - be they oral medications, vaginal rings, or injectables.

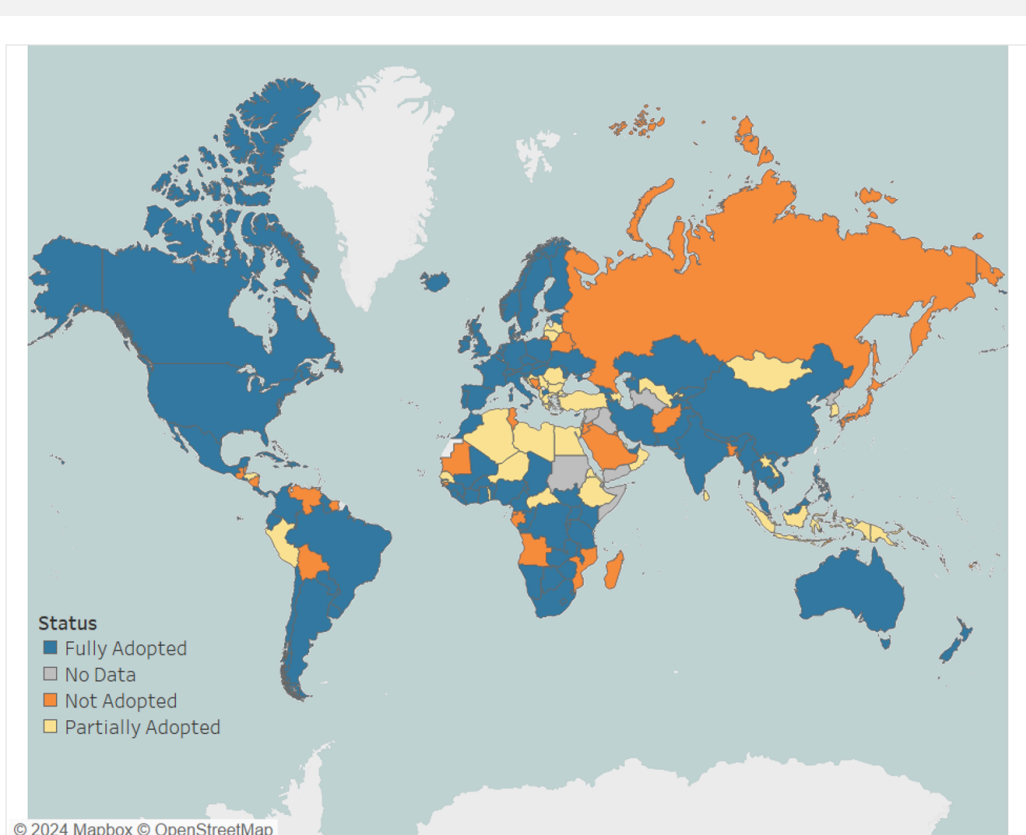


Figure 1: This map shows the adoption of WHO guidance on population-specific PrEP eligibility and regulatory approval of PrEP technologies.

Legend:
■ Adopted
■ Partially Adopted
■ Not Adopted
■ Data Not Available

RESULTS

- In 2024, 52% of 194 have adopted national policies that fully conform with WHO guidelines, as defined by eligibility for all people or populations at substantive risk and the regulatory approval of at least one PrEP technology
- From 2017-2024, a 170% increase was observed in the number of countries with WHO aligned PrEP guidelines for populations and technologies.
- Only 48% of the countries have WHO aligned guidelines for PrEP populations
- Only 69% of the countries have approved at least one PrEP technology

RESULTS CONTINUED

Population-specific PrEP guidelines, 2017-2024

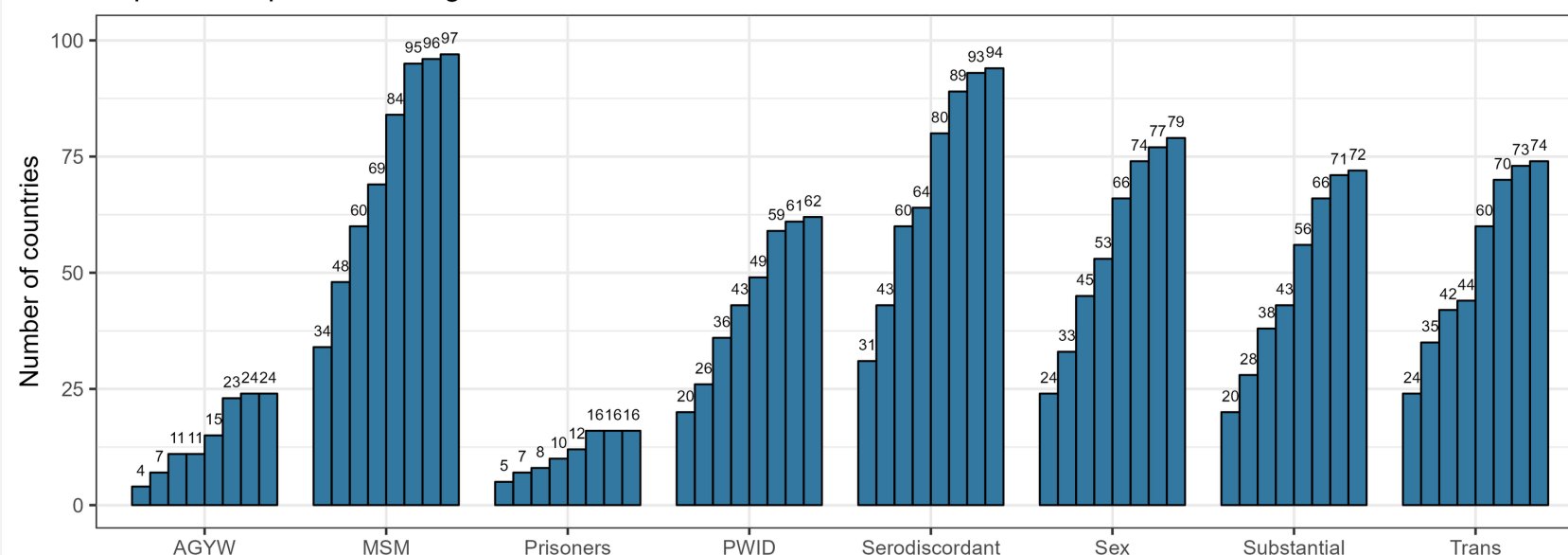


Figure 2: This figure shows the number of countries that have made provisions for specific-populations in their national PrEP policy 2017-2024

Trends in the adoption of PrEP policies for population

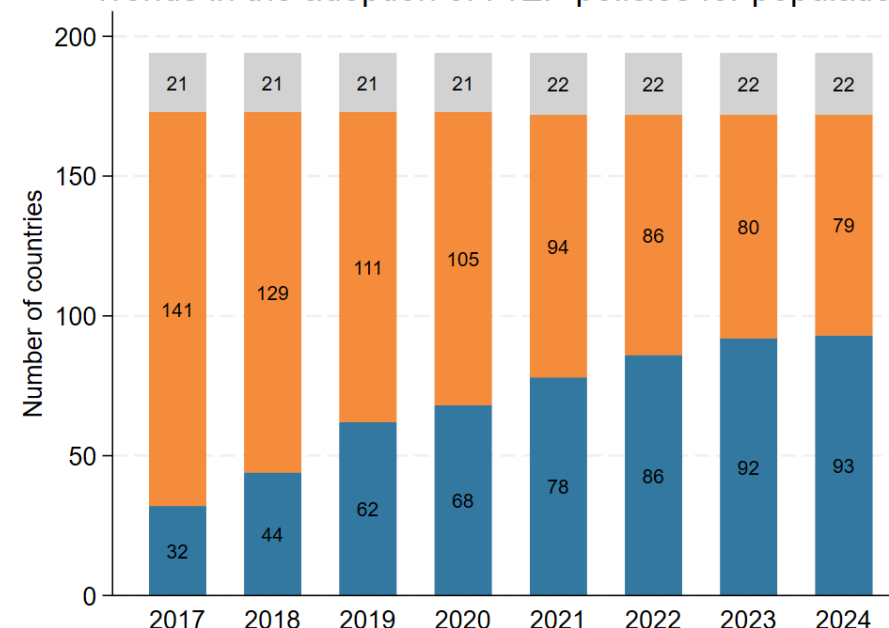


Figure 3: This figure shows the number of countries that have made provisions for populations at substantial risk of HIV or for specific-populations groups namely: Men who have sex with men (MSM), Sex workers (SW) and Sero discordant couples (SD) as per WHO-recommendations since 2017

Trends in regulatory approval of PrEP technologies

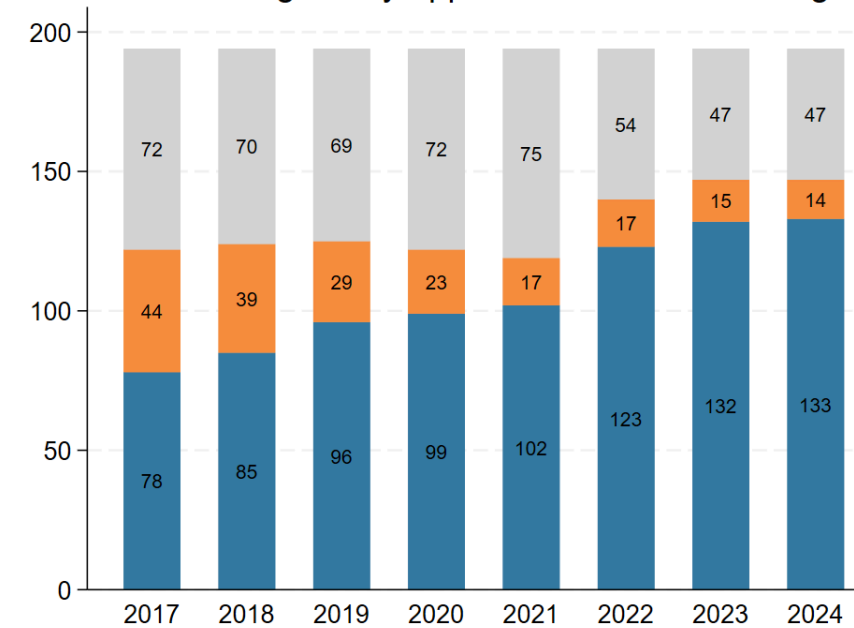


Figure 4: Figure 4 shows the number of countries that have granted regulatory approval for at least one PrEP technology since 2017

Trends in overall policy adoption

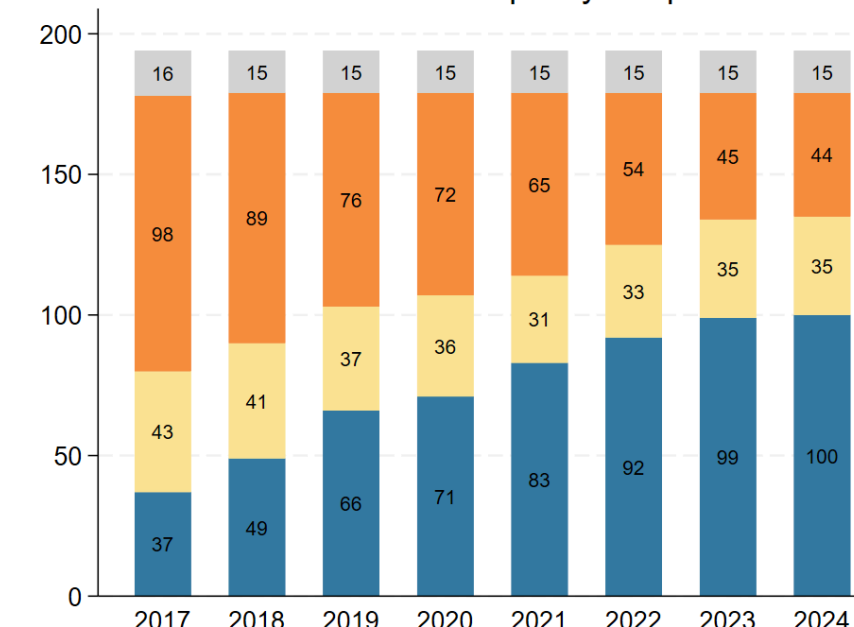


Figure 5: Figure 5 shows the trends in the adoption of WHO guidance on population-specific PrEP eligibility and regulatory approval of PrEP technologies since 2017.

CONCLUSION

- The role of national PrEP policies as a facilitator of PrEP use and retention is only beginning to be understood.
- While over 56% have a PrEP policy, under 50% of the countries have WHO conformant policies enabling access to populations at substantial risk.
- Availability of regulatory approval data for PrEP are sparse, and are complicated by the approval of Truvada for ART. Among the countries where data was available, 90% of the countries had approved at least one PrEP technology