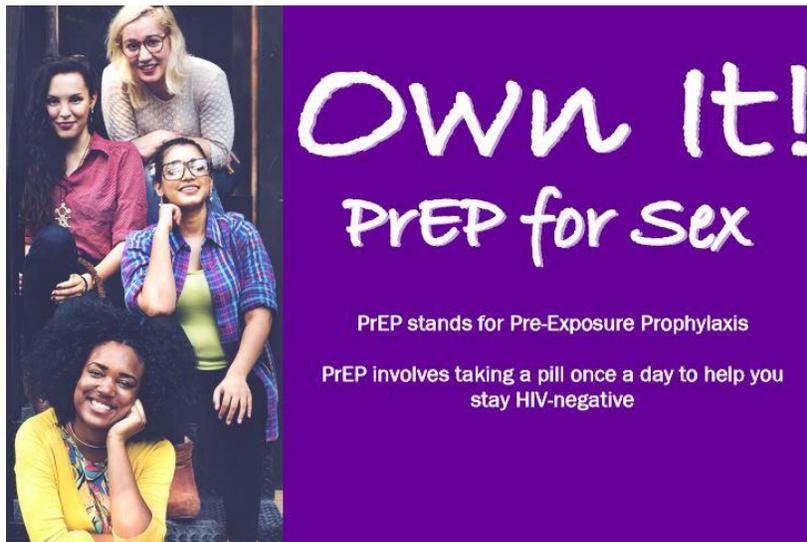




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APLA Health's Gleicher/Chen Health Center Selected as Recruitment Site for Groundbreaking Study on Women and PrEP

(Los Angeles, CA; July 6, 2016)—APLA Health is proud to announce that our Gleicher/Chen Health Center has been chosen as one of five recruitment sites for a first-of-its-kind study funded by the California HIV/AIDS Research Program (CHRP), which is examining the use of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) by cisgender women.

The groundbreaking study looks at PrEP medication adherence and retention in an HIV prevention project among HIV-negative, at-risk women in Southern California. When used in conjunction with condoms, PrEP has already been shown to be up to 99% effective in preventing HIV transmission in cisgender men and transgender women.

The grant is funding a two-year study that implements a combination intervention strategy that uses text messages and counseling to encourage medication adherence. The study will last one year, with a follow-up check-in three months after the final visit. The women participating in the study receive PrEP free of charge as part of a comprehensive prevention package that includes medical visits, regular HIV testing, pregnancy and family planning assessments, and sexually transmitted infection screenings.

“We’re excited to be part of this study, which will provide critically needed information about women and the use of PrEP to prevent HIV,” APLA Health Director of Operations for Los Angeles Vallerie D. Wagner says. “There is limited data about women in the U.S. and PrEP use, and this will help not only open the discussion to more women who may not know it’s available to them, but also help them take care of their sexual health.”

Participants in the study must be cisgender women who are not pregnant at the time of enrollment and who are at a risk for HIV. Women will be monitored over the course of one year, with enrollment now underway. In Los Angeles, the study is looking to recruit 85 women, 50 of whom will be seen at the Gleicher/Chen Health Center in Baldwin Hills and 35 of whom will be seen at the T.H.E. Clinic at Ruth Temple. Other sites will be recruiting a total of 50 women from the USC Schrader Clinic, the Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA, and the University of California, San Diego, Antiviral Research Center.

For more information or to discuss enrollment opportunities, please contact Susan Alvarado, APLA Health's Women's PrEP Research Coordinator, at 323.329.9024 or salvarado@apla.org.

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APLA Health’s mission is to achieve health care equity and promote well-being for the LGBT and other underserved communities and people living with and affected by HIV. We are a nonprofit, federally qualified health center serving more than 14,000 people annually. We provide 20 different services from 15 locations throughout Los Angeles County, including: medical, dental, and behavioral health care; PrEP counseling and management; health education and HIV prevention; and STD screening and treatment. For people living with HIV, we offer housing support; benefits counseling; home health care; and the Vance North Necessities of Life Program food pantries; among several other critically needed services. Additionally, we are leaders in advocating for policy and legislation that positively impacts the LGBT and HIV communities, provide capacity-building assistance to health departments across the country, and conduct community-based research on issues affecting the communities we serve. For more information, please visit us at aplahealth.org.