

# NEW ENGLAND HIV IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE NETWORK *Spotlight*

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium – June 2, 2016



cira

Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS  
at Yale University



## *Project STOP: The Syphilis to PrEP Cascade*

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Project STOP seeks to capitalize on the existing health service infrastructure by linking individuals reported to the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) for syphilis and partners of newly diagnosed HIV cases to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). Between September 2015 and March 2016, all reported syphilis cases and partners of newly diagnosed HIV cases in Connecticut were identified as PrEP candidates. Disease intervention specialist (DIS) workers referred cases to a central PrEP navigator and notified PrEP candidates of future contact during routine calls. The navigator contacted candidates to provide PrEP education and linkage to PrEP services.

### **KEY INSIGHTS/PROGRESS:**

71 individuals were identified as potential PrEP candidates. Of these, 21 (30%) were referred by DIS to PrEP navigator, 12 (17%) were reached by PrEP navigator, 8 (11%) accepted a referral to PrEP services and 4 (6%) ultimately accessed PrEP services. Barriers to linking

PrEP candidates to PrEP services included 1) communication with DIS about protocol, 2) DIS buy-in (willingness to make PrEP referrals), 3) difficulty reaching PrEP candidates, and 4) availability of PrEP services in some regions. Improvement strategies at each step in the PrEP cascade are currently underway.

### **PROJECT TEAM AND PARTNERS:**

Krystn Wagner (PI - Fair Haven Community Health Center), Daniel Davidson (CT DPH), Sarah Calabrese (Yale), A.C. Demidont (Circle Care Center), Marianne Buchelli (CTDPH), and members of the CT DPH PrEP Workgroup (Peg Weeks and JiangHong Li (Institute for Community Research), Jim Pettinelli and Dini Harsono (Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS at Yale University), Heidi Jenkins (CT DPH)).

### **PRIMARY PROJECT CONTACT:**

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