RETENTION IN CARE – PrEP – TUBERCULOSIS
SCIENCE AND COMMUNITY IN THE HIV RESPONSE
IN THE CARIBBEAN

AIDS 2018 POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Haiti, 28-29 November 2018
HIV IN ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

ADHERENCE TO HIV TREATMENT AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FROM A PEER BUDDY PROGRAM - PrEP IMPLEMENTATION - TUBERCULOSIS

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HIV IN ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

• Because “NO ONE UNDERSTANDS THE REALITY OF LIVING WITH HIV THAN SOMEONE WHO LIVES WITH IT EVERYDAY”

• ABHAN’s (Eleanor Frederick & Amy Frederick) created and implemented the Peer Buddy HIV Treatment Adherence Program (PBTAP), a Bio-psychosocial health counseling treatment adherence model in 2008.
CURRENT HIV STATISTICS IN ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

- Antigua and Barbuda population: ~103,461
- TOTAL HIV CASES: 1,203 (as of Sept, 2017 reports by Govt. Labs. since 1985)

ADULTS:
- FEMALES 551
- MALES 625

CHILDREN:
- FEMALES 17
- MALES 11

- DEATHS: 283 (Since 1985)

- Persons Currently Living With HIV: ~920
- New Cases reported in 2017 (Sept.): 38
- Persons In Treatment & Care 2017: 283
- Persons Not in Treatment & Care: 637
HIV IN ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

- PLHIV: 920
- PLHIV in treatment & care: 283
- PLHIV not on treatment: 637
- % of PLHIV not in treatment: 69.2% (i.e. not linked to treatment or care.)

% of PLHIV Adherent to medications: ?
% of PLHIV virally suppressed: ?
ABHAN  HIV/AIDS Treatment Cascade
Antigua and Barbuda
June 2014

Stages of Engagement in HIV Care

- HIV Infected: 1000
- HIV Diagnosed: 1000
- Living w/ HIV: 750
- Deaths: 248
- Treatment & Care - NO: 504
- Treatment & Care - YES: 254
- Retained - Care: ??
- Adherent to Medication: ??
- Virally Suppressed: ??
HIV IN ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

2017

ABHAN HIV/AIDS Treatment Cascade
September 2017

Stages of Engagement in HIV Care

- Number of Individuals

- HIV Infected: 1203
- HIV Diagnosed: 920
- Living with HIV: 283
- Deaths: 283
- PLHIV in treatment: 283
- PLHIV not on treatment: 637
- Retained - Treatment & Care: 283
- Adherent to Medication: ?
- Virally Suppressed: ?

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HIV IN ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

- Current number of PLHIV - **920**, however, (the actual number may be **2-3 times greater due to under-reporting**).

- Current # of PLHIV in Antigua and Barbuda **not linked to treatment or care** - ~**637 69.2%**

- It is believed that in 2008 when ABHAN implemented PBTAP the number of PLHIV not linked to treatment and care was greater than **69.2%**

- It became obvious to us that the government alone could not tackle the situation
• In 2009, ABHAN fully implemented PBTAP by partnering with the American University of Antigua Medical School (AUA).

• ABHAN trains ~45 students as Buddies each year.

• ABHAN has ~51 members in addition to spouses/partners and children.

• Age of members & children 2-59 years;

• 60% female, 35% male, 5% LGBT.
• ABHAN conducted a structured intervention to:
  • Increase medication adherence
  • Medical /clinic attendance
  • Counselling and psychosocial support.
  • Monitoring of CD4 counts
  • Viral Loads when available
The Peer Buddy Treatment Adherence Program Focuses on Treatment & Health Literacy, Care, Psychosocial support & Empowerment to include:

- Recruitment of PLHIV into treatment & care
- Retention of PLHIV into care and treatment
- Re-engagement of those Lost-To-Follow-up
A Bio-psycho-social Approach to Prevent HIV

Increase Confidential HIV Testing

A&B National AIDS Program & Clinical Care Coordinator

Enroll in Care

ART

Communication with others

ART Adherence

Positive Prevention

CD4↑

Viral Load Suppression

Decreases HIV Transmission

Prevention Education re: Transmission, safe sex behaviors, etc.

ABHAN & PBTAP

HIV- HIV+

HIV+

HIV-
Services include:

- Prevention education interventions/positive prevention
- Prevention services for negatives
- Self-care information and Domestic violence prevention information
- Acting as a liaison between the members and their healthcare providers
- Referrals to medical care, social, housing, drug treatment/rehabilitation, food-pantry, cooked meals twice per week, cooking gas, employment clothing.
PBTAP Bio-psychosocial Prevention Approach

- Navigating the healthcare system and Transportation
- Communication - members receive cell phones with closed-user network free of cost
- Connection with needed services and appointment reminders, text messages
- Legal consultation
- Pharmacy services
PBTAP Bio-psychosocial Prevention Approach

ABHAN/PBTAP HIV/AIDS Treatment Cascade for Members
June 2014

Stages of Engagement in HIV Care
PBTAP improved access to:

- ART
- Medical care
- Psychosocial support
- HIV and Health literacy.

PBTAP has important clinical implications for general health and immune system functioning resulting in viral suppression leading to decreased transmission of HIV. It also decreased morbidity and mortality among our members; therefore, reducing treatment cost.
PrEP IMPLEMENTATION

- PrEP, used along with other prevention strategies, has the potential to help at-risk individuals protect themselves and reduce new HIV infections.

- Although HIV is a preventable disease - globally approximately 1.8 million persons became newly infected in 2016.

- Antigua and Barbuda reported 65 new cases of HIV infections in 2016.
• However, PrEP is not yet available in most of the developing world to include the Caribbean.

• PrEP is desperately needed in the Caribbean /Antigua & Barbuda.
TUBERCULOSIS

- According to UNAIDS country data for Tuberculosis in 2017, the incidence and mortality rates were zero for females.

- Tuberculosis incidence and mortality rates for males in 2017 was < 0.01/thousands.

- Currently Tuberculosis seems to be stable based on information provided.
CHALLENGES

• 69.2% of PLHIV not in treatment and care
• Must increase HIV testing
• Unaware of how many PLHIV are virally suppressed
• Need for PrEP Implementation
• Improve data collection and reporting
• Need for financial assistance from the government and/or international partners to increase implementation of PBTAP.
CHALLENGES

• Vehicle to assist in Transportation and delivery
• Improve Case management & Navigation of the health care system
• Increase Psychosocial counseling and support for patients and family members
LESSONS LEARNED/SUCCESSES

Based on the intervention ABHAN/PBTAP recorded:

- 100% of ABHAN members adherent to ART
- Increased CD4 counts
- Decreased Viral Load (Viral Suppression)
- Trained 75 Peers and 300 Buddies
- Weekly support group meetings
- Monthly counseling/or as needed
- 25 workshops
- Annual 5K AIDS Walk
- Lectures: Schools, Churches, Businesses, Media
- Participation in Regional and International Conferences
- No deaths from 2008 – March 2018
ABHAN/PBTAP Supplied:

- 400 Home-based care-kits
- 2,820 food packages
- 24,642, cooked meals
- 940 - 20lb cylinders of cooking gas
- 125 Cell phones + Service
- Clothing
- 21,000 brochures
- 92,000 male/female condom
- Other items
Antigua & Barbuda
Among Seven Caribbean Islands to have Eliminated Mother to Child Transmission Of HIV and Syphilis
THANK YOU