

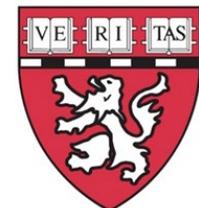
# Ending the HIV Epidemic among Diverse Populations of Women

---

Bisola Ojikutu MD MPH

Division of Global Health Equity, Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Infectious Disease Divisions, Brigham and Women's and  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Harvard Medical School

2.11.2020



# Overview

---

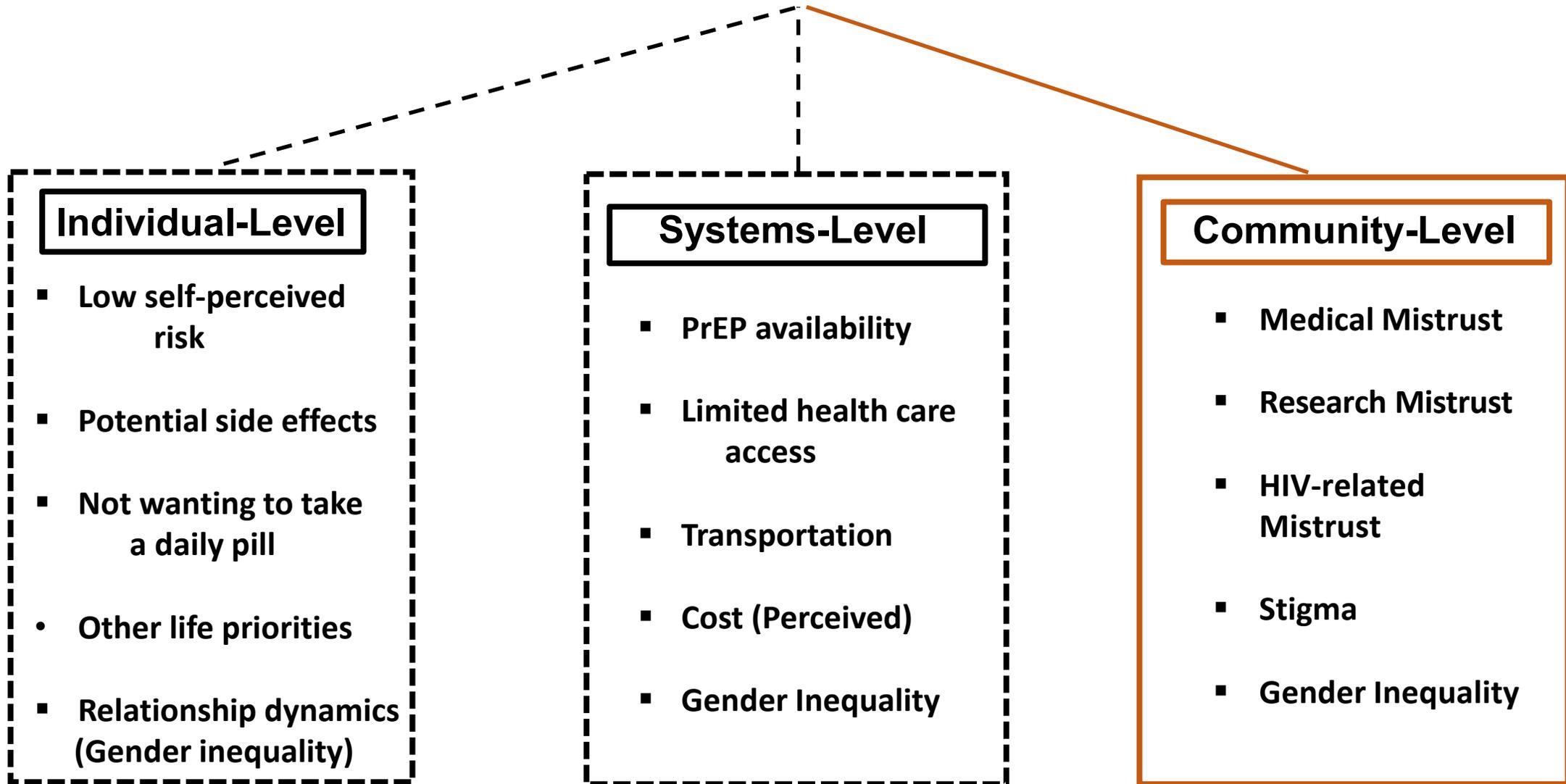
- **Challenges regarding PrEP uptake**

- ➔ *Community-level*

- ➔ *Psychosocial*

- **Who are we missing?**
- **Future research needs**

# PrEP Uptake Among Women of Color



# PrEP Awareness *versus* Willingness

Authors (Year)	Population	PrEP Awareness (%)	PrEP Willingness (%)
Rutledge R et al (2018)	125 women in CJS* 59% White/22% Black Connecticut	25%	90%
Patel AS et al (2019)	225 women - - 72 PrEP eligible 83% Black/16.9% non-Black Southern US	11%	77%
Carley T et al (2019)	144 women 62% Black/31%White GYN clinic in Louisiana	44%	38%

\*Criminal Justice System

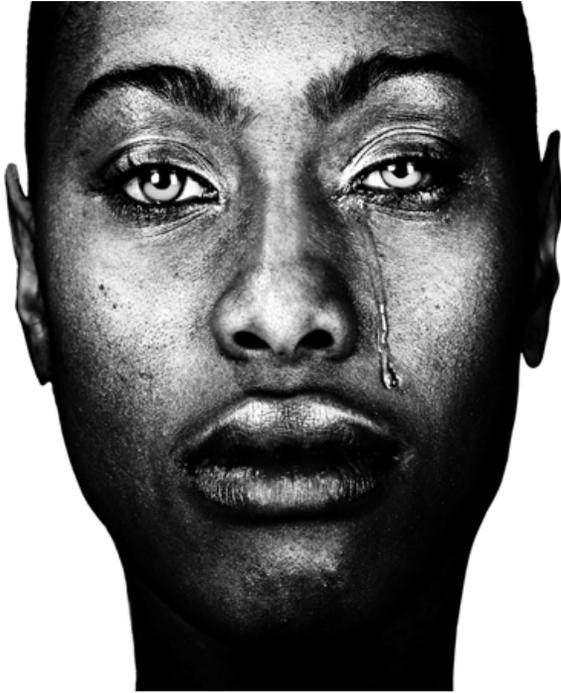
# Medical Mistrust

*“Social inequality drives mistrust; Mistrust drives disparities”*

## *Types of Medical Mistrust:*

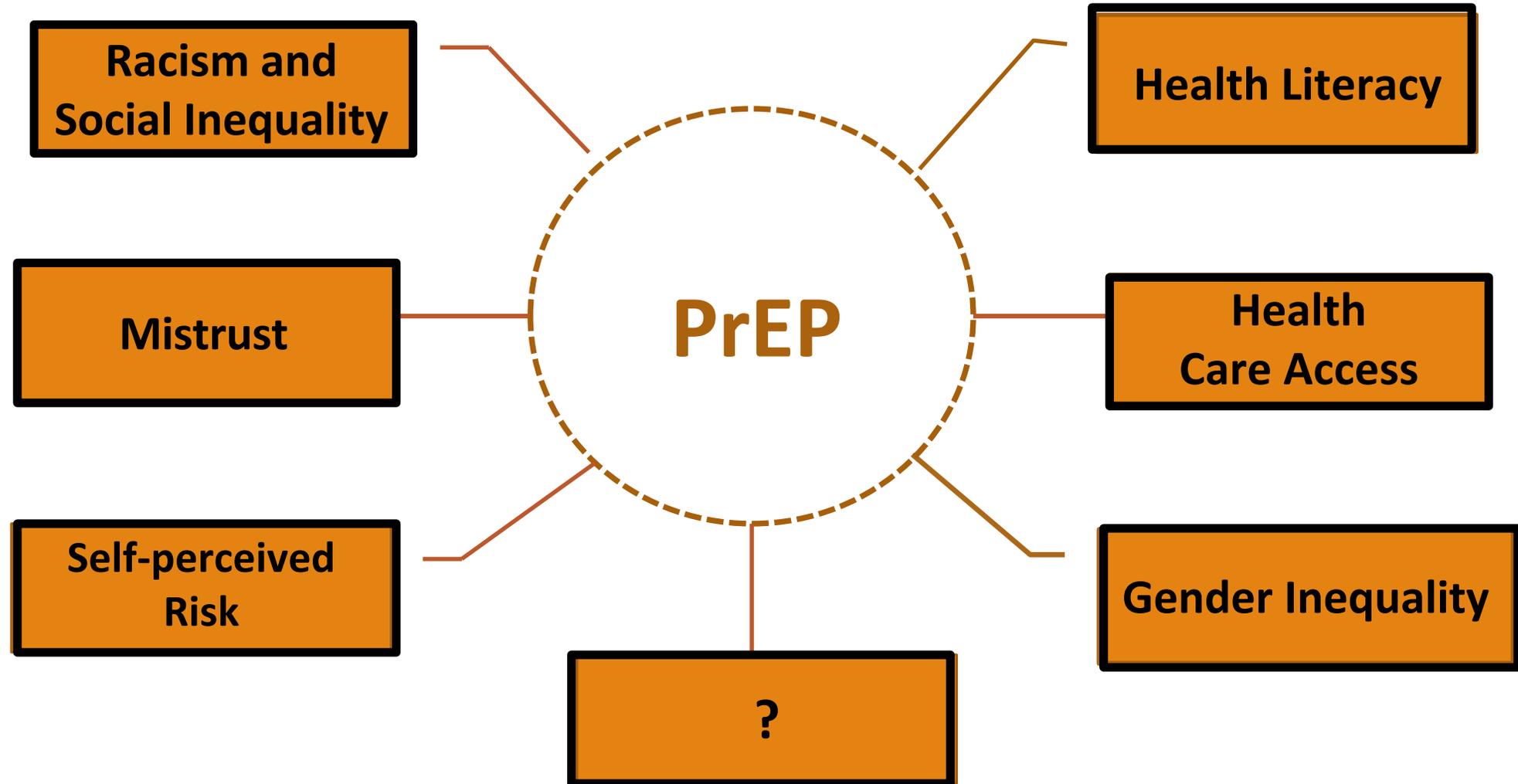
- Health care provider-level
  - Clinic-level
  - System-level: mistrust in the health care system or the government
  - Research-related
  - **HIV-Related Mistrust:** holding certain beliefs regarding HIV (“conspiracy beliefs”)
- 
- Highest among Black and Latinx individuals
  
  - Associated with lower ART adherence, decreased PrEP willingness, higher HIV testing

# Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Gender Inequality & HIV



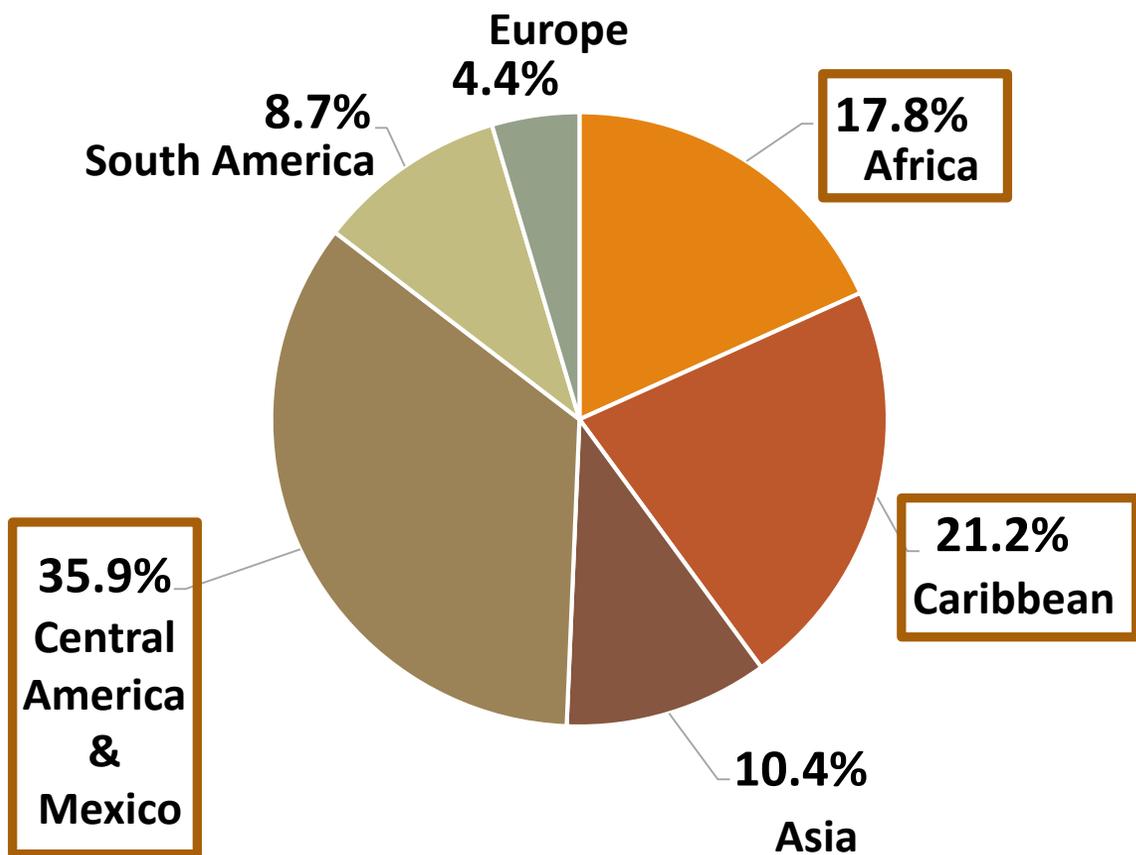
- Gender inequality is associated with IPV
- Women of color are more likely to experience IPV
- IPV increases risk of HIV acquisition
- Women who have experienced IPV may be ***more willing, but IPV is a barrier*** to PrEP use
- PrEP guidelines?

# Complex Drivers of PrEP Utilization among Women of Color



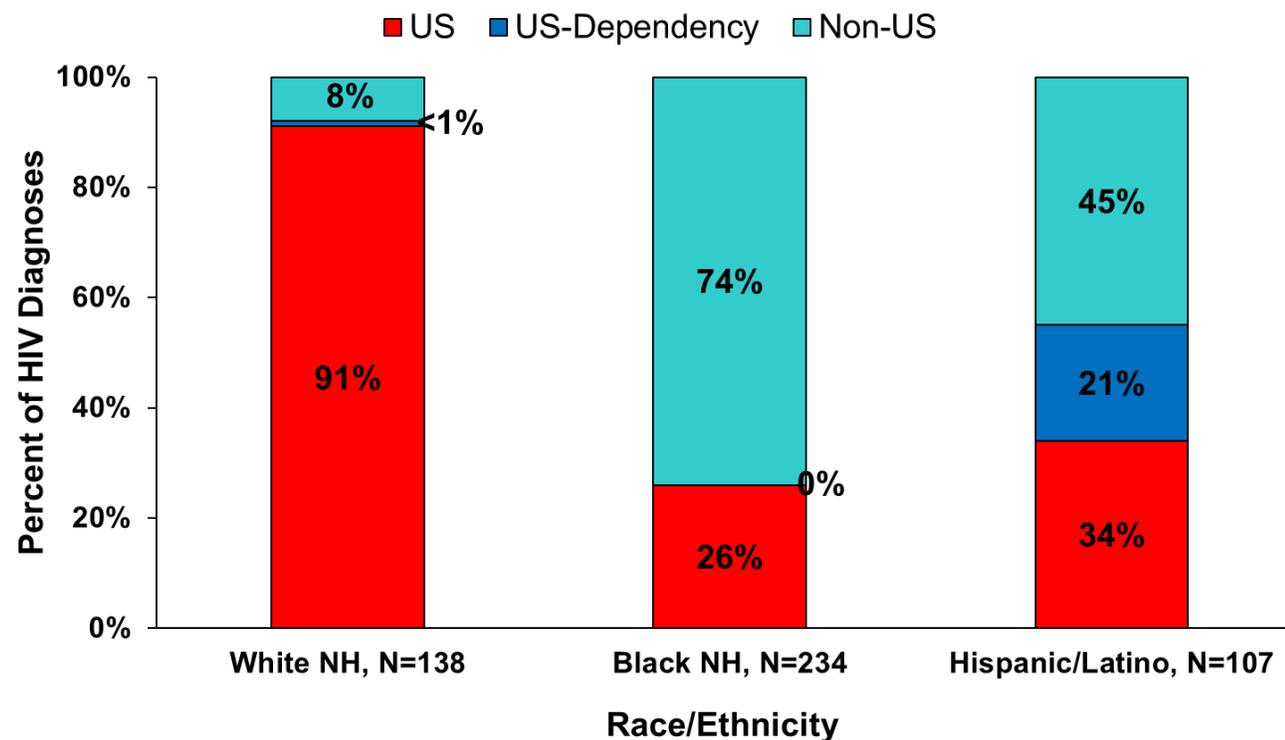
## Nationally: Immigrants Diagnosed with HIV by Region, 2010-2014

17.2% of Total (36,324): 26.7% Female



## Massachusetts: Women Diagnosed with HIV Infection Within the Years 2015-2017, by Race/Ethnicity and Place of Birth

36% of the Total



# Metropolitan Statistical Areas with the Largest Number of non-US Born Individuals Living with HIV 2010-2014



# National Data:

## HIV Among Black Individuals in the US

### US versus Non-US Born

	US Born	Non-US Born
Gender (new diagnoses)	>Male	>Female
Risk Category (Men)	Majority MSM	Majority Heterosexual
Highest Annual Rate (2008-2014)	MSM	African Women
Diagnoses Trend	Largest decline among women	Smallest decline among women
Late Diagnoses*	26%	37%

\*AIDS classification  $\leq$  3 months after HIV diagnosis

---

**Annual HIV Diagnosis Rates, 2014  
per 100,000 Population**

African-born women	100.5	} 5x
US-born Black men	72.8	
African-born men	51.3	
Caribbean-born men	40.6	
Caribbean-born women	31.8	
US-born Black women	19.1	

---

# Non-US Born Individuals and HIV

- ***Immigration is a social determinant of health***
  - Language discordance, lack of familiarity with the health care system, poverty, and fear
  - The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program covers any HIV-infected individual in need, regardless of immigration status
  
- ***Women***
  - High rates of HIV-stigma, low rates of HIV knowledge
  - Gender inequality, IPV
  - Once in care: mental health (depression/PTSD), status non-disclosure, isolation, quality of life concerns

# PrEP Use among non-US born Women

- **Are non-US born individuals at risk here in the US?**
  - Constructed a national HIV transmission network for all individuals diagnosed in the US from 2001-2013 (genetically similar viruses)
  - **38%** of transmission partners of female non-US born individuals were born in the US
  - **Conclusion**: A significant proportion of newly reported HIV infections among non-US born women occurred after immigrating to the United States.

*Little data about PrEP barriers and uptake among at risk non-US born women*

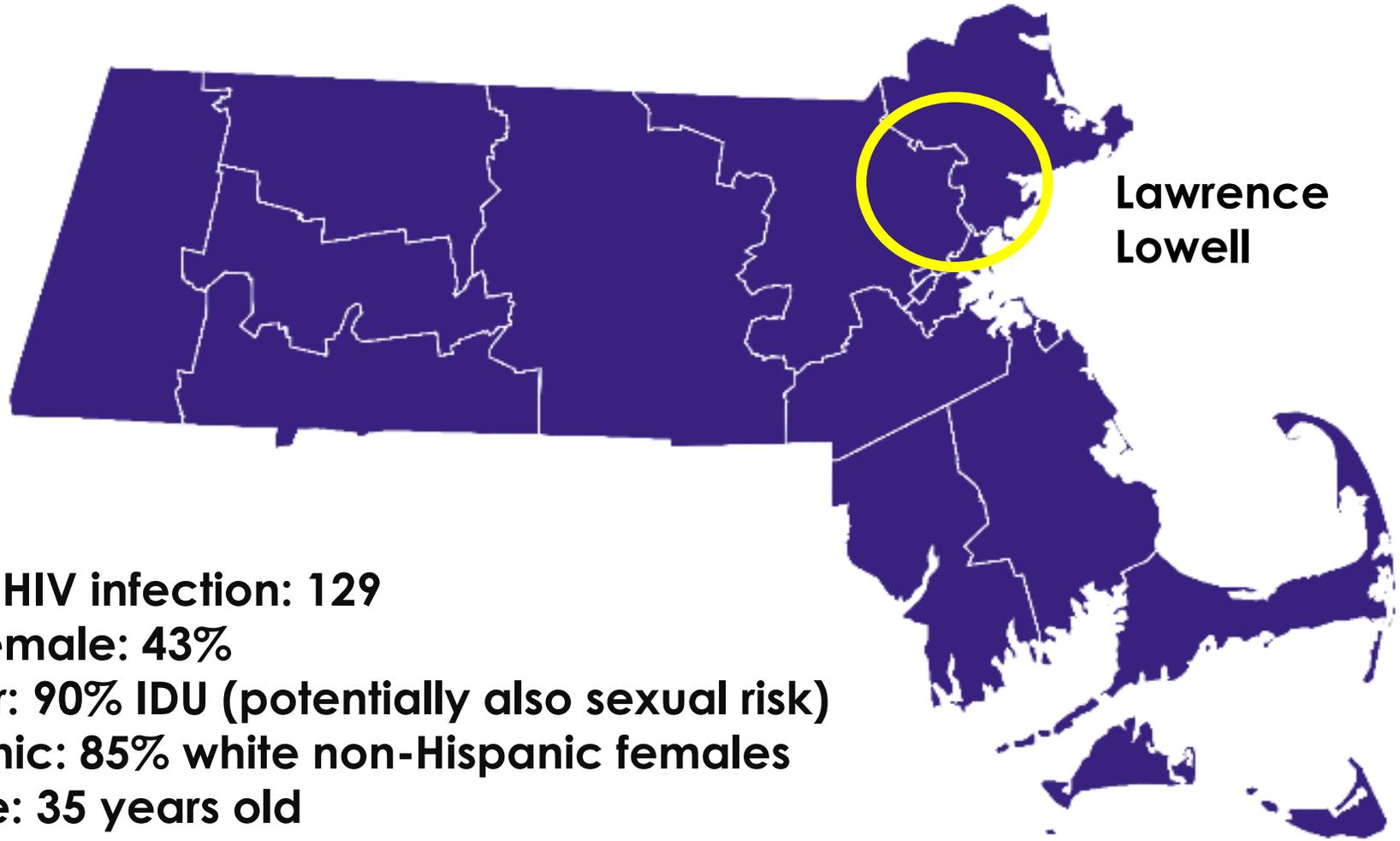
# *Tulumbe!* or “Let’s Engage”: Academic-Community-Department of Public Health Partnership



**MISSION:** To build a sustainable partnership that considers the contributions of patients, community members, and researchers to reduce the impact of HIV among African immigrants

Listed as the primary strategy to address HIV among non-US born individuals in the MA State Comprehensive Plan 2017-2021

# HIV Cluster Investigation among Injection Drug Users



**Total new HIV infection: 129**  
**Percent female: 43%**  
**Risk factor: 90% IDU (potentially also sexual risk)**  
**Race/ethnic: 85% white non-Hispanic females**  
**Mean age: 35 years old**  
**HCV infection: 90% current or past**

# Women Who Use Drugs (WWUD)

---

- More than 12 million women reported illicit drug use in the past month and have increased HIV risk
  - *PrEP works for women who inject drugs: Bangkok Tenofovir Study*
    - 482 women
    - 50% reduction in HIV incidence; 79% reduction among women (high adherence)
  
- But are they willing to use it?
  - 755 WWUD
  - 21% aware of PrEP
  - 60% willing to use PrEP

# Women Living with HIV

---

- *Perspective of my patients*
- Community-level and psychosocial issues
- Aging with HIV
  - Non-AIDS morbidity
  - Intersectional stigma and discrimination
  - Resilience



# Ongoing and Future Research Needs

---

- Women must be more equitably included in the HIV prevention research agenda
  - Demonstration projects to determine promising and innovative models of PrEP uptake (and adherence) among women
  - Qualitative research to understand women's HIV prevention preferences
  - Explore PrEP use and perception of risk among non-US born women, particularly those from sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean
  - Development of trauma-informed HIV prevention interventions
- **PrEP guidelines that incorporate female-specific indications**

# Thank You!

- **Presidential Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) for organizing this session**
- **Community of women who have contributed to the data presented**
- **Community-based collaborators**
  - Chioma Nnaji MPH MEd (Africans for Improved Access/Multicultural AIDS Coalition)
  - *Tulumbe!* team
- **Mentors**
  - Kenneth Mayer MD
  - Laura Bogart PhD
  - Valerie Stone MD MPH