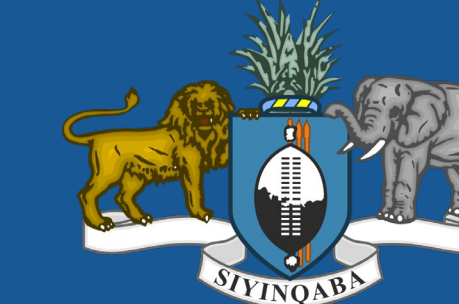




Increasing PrEP Uptake through HTS Counselor Sensitization, Integrated Screening, and Client Education




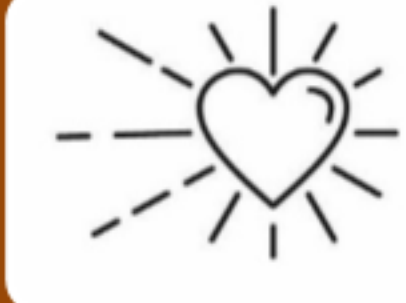
Authors: VanderWal, Echo; Benzerga, Wendy; Lukhele, Njabuliso


Background


 The Luke Commission (TLC) is a faith-based organization that provides free medical services through mobile outreaches and at the Miracle Campus

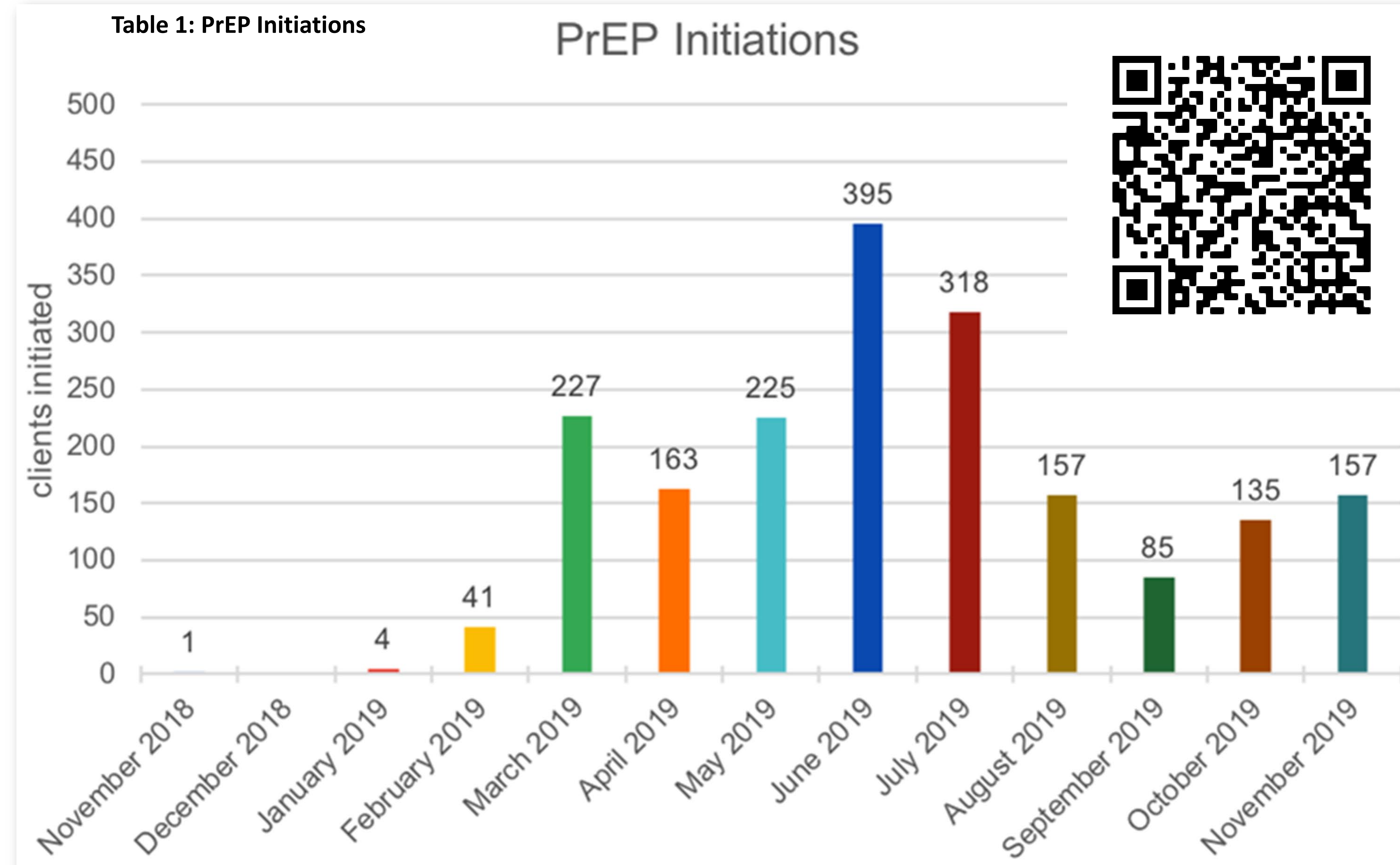
 Motivated by faith, TLC seeks to treat every patient compassionately and comprehensively

 TLC's patient-centered, comprehensive health care platform seeks to destigmatize all services

 TLC seeks to empower each patient with options for getting healthy and staying healthy

 While PrEP was widely available in early 2019, few patient education resources existed. PrEP was often seen as a resource for key populations but not for the general population

 TLC designed an uptake plan that integrated PrEP into its comprehensive health care platform




Conclusions


- Initial uptake of PrEP was high in the early months of the initiative; however, one-month retention was low as many clients did not return for a first refill. In response, TLC adjusted strategy to focus on more extensive education and counseling about consistent use of PrEP
- By including a private code in SMS invitations, indexed HIV-negative clients were identified to counselors without stigma as potential candidates for PrEP.


Sample SMS for Index Clients


Sawubona Sam, you are invited to a free comprehensive wellness visit at The Luke Commission Miracle Campus in Sidvokodvo. Please show this code (XPRESS3) at the gate to be registered for free transport reimbursement from Nhlambeni and receive your complimentary Wifi voucher. See you soon! Questions? Send a 'please call me' to [7613 8814](tel:76138814)

Description

 Sensitized HTS counselors to the availability of PrEP for at-risk clients who tested nonreactive (NR)

 Integrated PrEP screening questions into a comprehensive patient assessment tool

 Designed wellness check SMS invitations for index partners

 Encouraged HIV+ clients returning to TLC for follow-up visits to bring their partners

Lessons Learned

INCREASE	INTEGRATION	TRAINING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 4 clients in February 2019, 1,862 clients were initiated on PrEP between March-November 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating PrEP into TLC's comprehensive platform positioned it as a tool for all populations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing training and quality assurance checks for counselors ensures that PrEP is consistently offered for at-risk patients

Contact: Echo VanderWal, The Luke Commission, Eswatini, vanderwal@lukecommission.org