



**KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

PROJECT NAME: Increasing Knowledge of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Among Healthcare Providers in Kent County

SEMESTER: Spring/Summer 2019

PRECEPTOR: Nirali Bora/April Hight

DESCRIPTION: Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a medication that dramatically decreases the likelihood of HIV infection. PrEP is appropriate for individuals who do not have HIV but are at a substantial risk of acquiring the virus. The purpose of this internship will be to better understand barriers to PrEP among the local primary care providers in Kent County. This information will be used to develop interventions to increase PrEP uptake in the community by increasing local primary care providers knowledge of and comfort prescribing the medication.

IMPORTANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH: PrEP provides a 92%-99% reduction in HIV risk for HIV-negative individuals who take the pills every day as directed. There is a substantial opportunity to provide protection to high-risk members of the community; however, many providers are unfamiliar with PrEP. By investigating attitudes in the community, it will be possible to get a clearer idea of actual and perceived barriers to increased PrEP prescription by local primary care providers. This information can be used to develop an intervention meant to increase PrEP utilization throughout the county.

APPLICABLE ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES:

- Inform, educate, and empower
- Mobilize community partnerships
- Assure a competent workforce
- Research new insights

PROJECT DELIVERABLES:

- A summary of conversations with key community members and healthcare providers
- An intervention to promote use of PrEP in the community
- The student will present the activities of their internship at the Student Research Day scheduled at the end of the project period.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Students applying for this internship must be enrolled in a bachelor's or master's degree program. Computer proficiency required.

SKILLS: The student selected for this internship opportunity should expect to develop public health skills and competencies in the following categories:

- Speak effectively to individuals/groups
- Identify problems and needs
- Set priorities
- Summarize/write clearly and concisely
- Handle many tasks at once
- Accept differing opinions
- Identify appropriate information sources