



CALIFORNIA  
HIV / AIDS POLICY  
RESEARCH CENTERS

**For Immediate Release**

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## **New Report Examines Annual PrEP Costs Through Covered California**

(Los Angeles; November 1, 2016) – The Southern California HIV Policy Research Center today released a new policy brief that will help consumers better understand the cost of accessing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) through Covered California health plans. Open enrollment for Covered California, the State’s health insurance marketplace, begins today.

PrEP is an HIV prevention strategy in which HIV-negative individuals take a daily medication to reduce their risk of becoming infected. When taken every day PrEP is up to 99% effective. Truvada®, the only medication currently approved for PrEP, is expensive and so it is important for individuals who are considering PrEP to carefully examine their options before enrolling in a new health plan.

The report, “PrEP Cost Analysis for Covered California Health Plans,” found that, with a copay card from the drug manufacturer, PrEP could cost individuals less than \$400/year on all Covered California health plans except Bronze plans. These costs do not include monthly premiums and assume that medical and pharmacy deductibles have not been met. Covered California recently announced average premium increases of 13.2% for 2017, so it is very important for consumers to find a plan that best meets their health needs and budget.

Before enrolling in a new health plan, individuals who are considering taking PrEP should consider a number of factors: monthly health plan premiums, copays for the medication, and copays for regular doctor visits and laboratory tests. These costs vary significantly, however, depending on age, income, area of residence, and other factors.

The report includes examples of the total costs (both out-of-pocket costs *and* monthly premiums) associated with accessing PrEP via Covered California for individuals of different ages and incomes from different regions of California.

Earlier this year, the California Legislature approved the development of a PrEP financial assistance program. The program, set to launch in spring 2017, will cover all PrEP-related out-of-pocket costs for qualified individuals with annual incomes below 500% of the federal poverty level.

The Southern California HIV/AIDS Policy Research Center is a partnership between the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, APLA Health, and the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

**To download a copy of the full report and the accompanying infographic, please visit our website: [chprc.org](http://chprc.org).**

### **About the California HIV/AIDS Policy Research Centers**

The California HIV/AIDS Research Program supports two Collaborative HIV/AIDS Policy Research Centers for research and policy analysis that addresses critical issues related to HIV/AIDS care and prevention in California. These centers include the University of California, Los Angeles; APLA Health; Los Angeles LGBT Center; University of California, San Francisco; San Francisco AIDS Foundation; and Project Inform.