



# IAS 2019



**10TH IAS CONFERENCE ON HIV SCIENCE**

Mexico City, Mexico  21-24 July 2019



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## A joint universal access point for couples in South Africa

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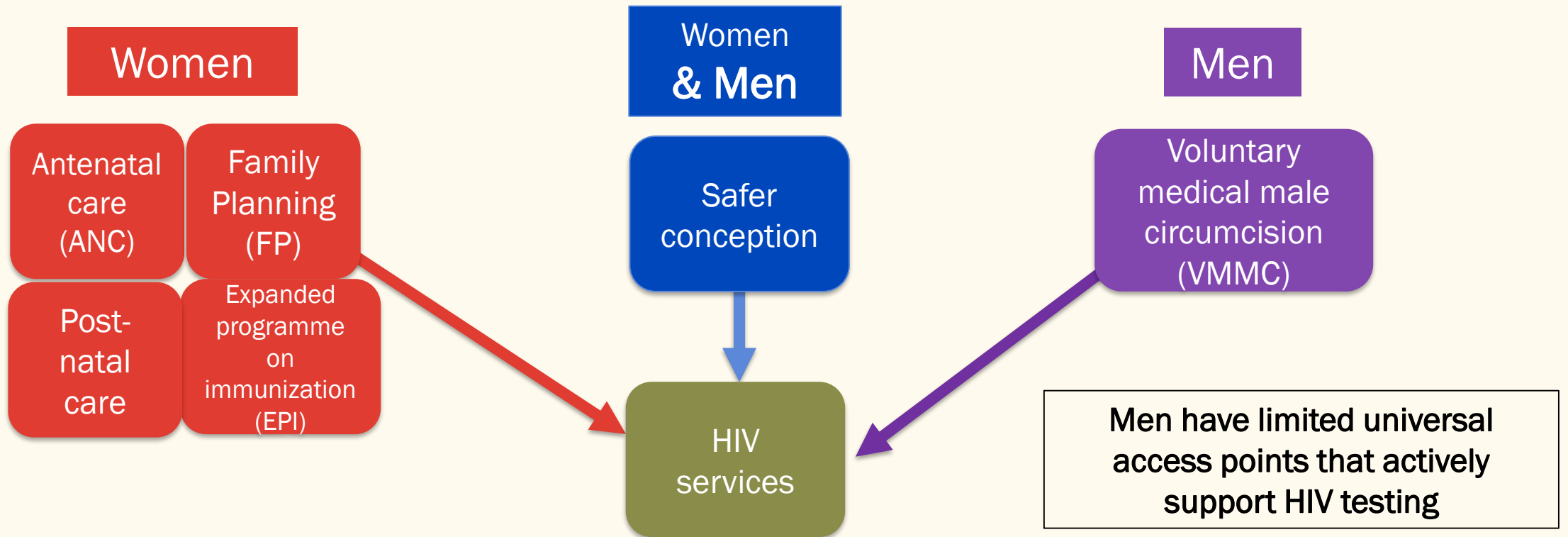
“Sticky Linkage”: Latest evidence and strategies satellite

Sunday, 21 July



#IAS2019 | @IAS\_CONFERENCE | WWW.IAS2019.ORG

# Universal access points for women and men



**Safer conception services:** support HIV-affected individuals/couples to minimise horizontal and vertical peri-conception HIV transmission risks



# Safer conception service project

- **Duration:** June 2015 – April 2017
- **Site:** Public sector, primary healthcare clinic, inner-city Johannesburg, South Africa
- **Model:** Nurse-driven, sexual and reproductive health (SRH)/HIV integrated service
- **Clients:** All HIV-affected individuals or couples desiring a safe pregnancy with minimal horizontal and vertical HIV risks



# Project goals

Differentiated  
service  
delivery model

Demonstration  
project

Provide male  
friendly space

SRH/HIV  
integration  
focus

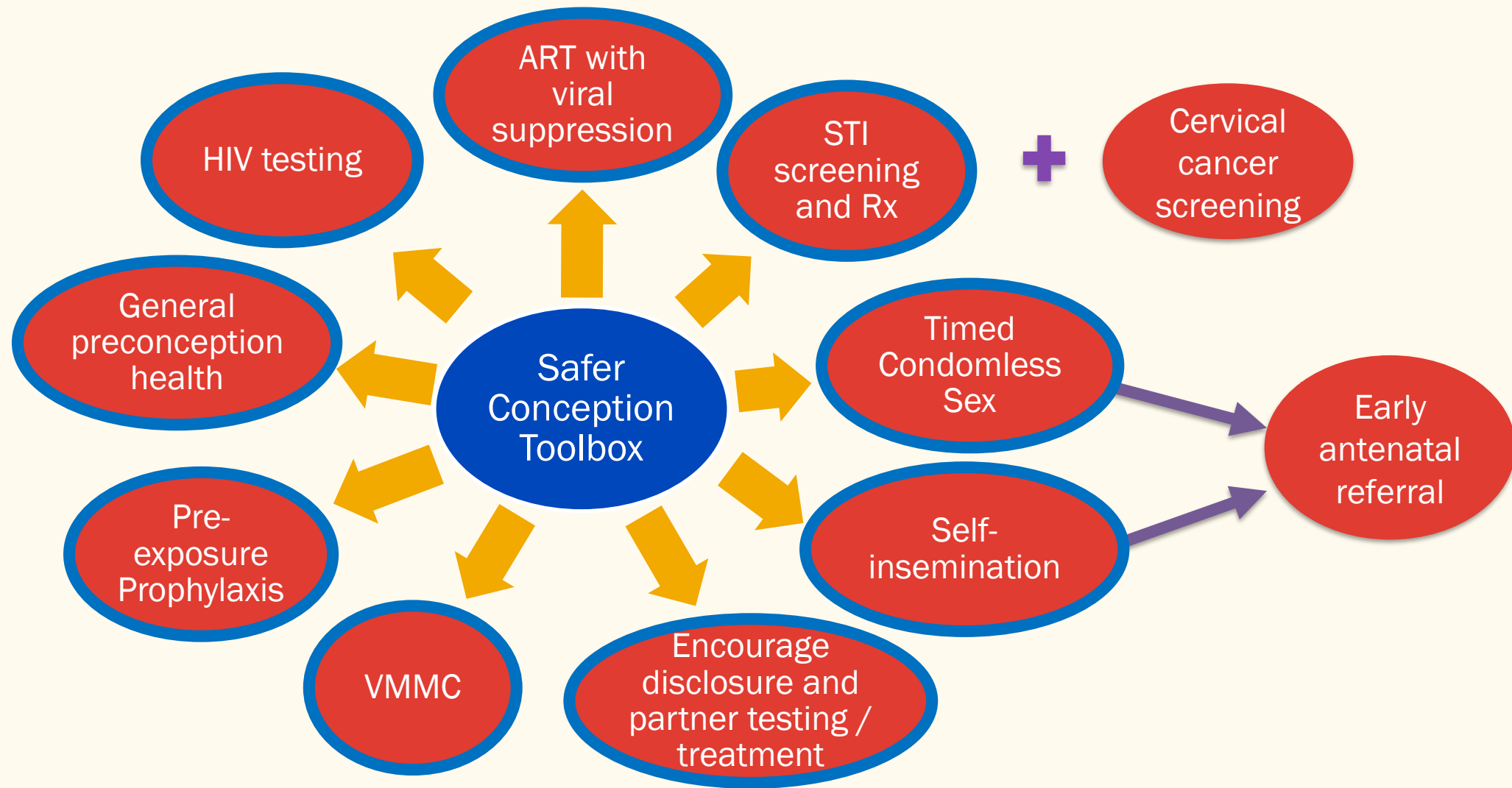
Minimize  
vertical  
transmissions

Explore male  
partner  
uptake

Minimize  
horizontal  
transmissions



# Safer conception service components



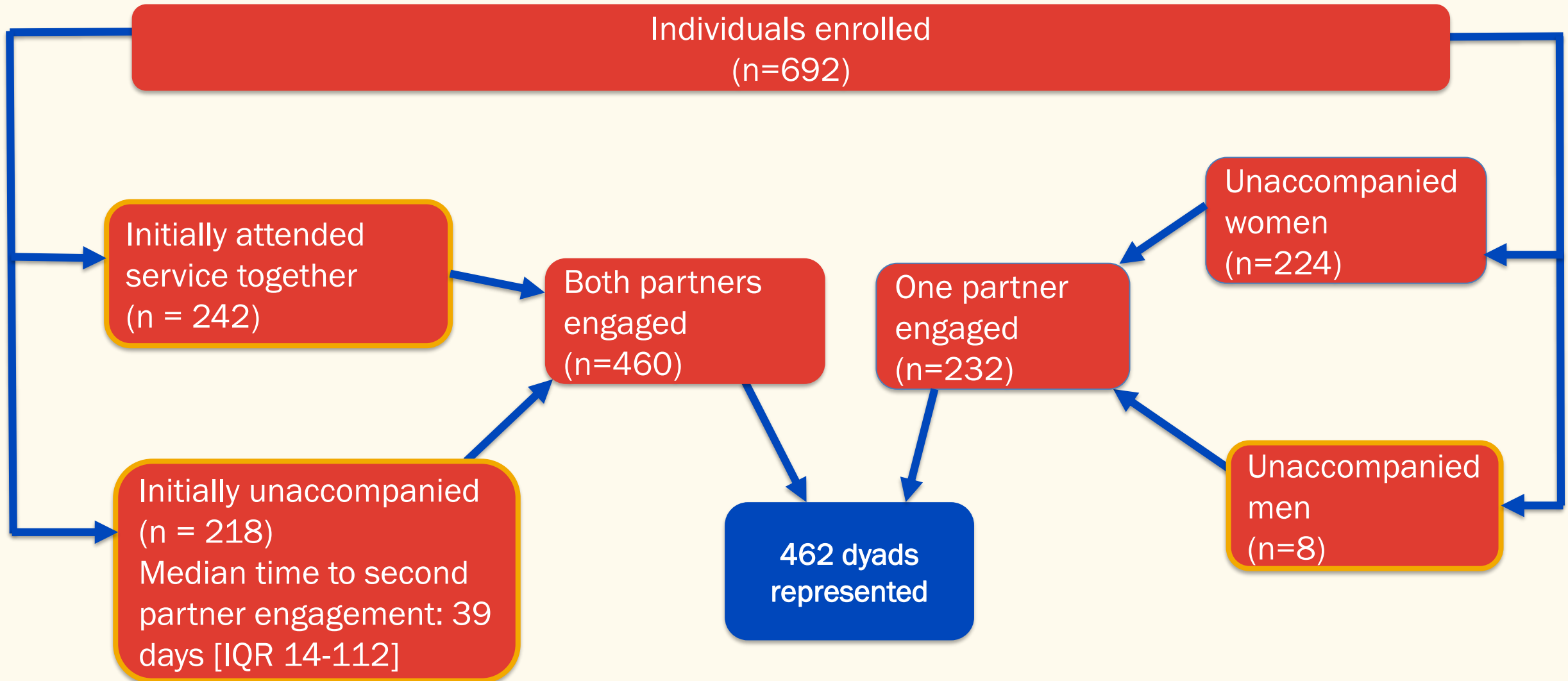
# Enrolment among men

692 clients enrolled, 238 were men (34%)

Age (years)	N	%
18-24	4	1,7
25-34	90	37,8
35+	144	60,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>100</b>



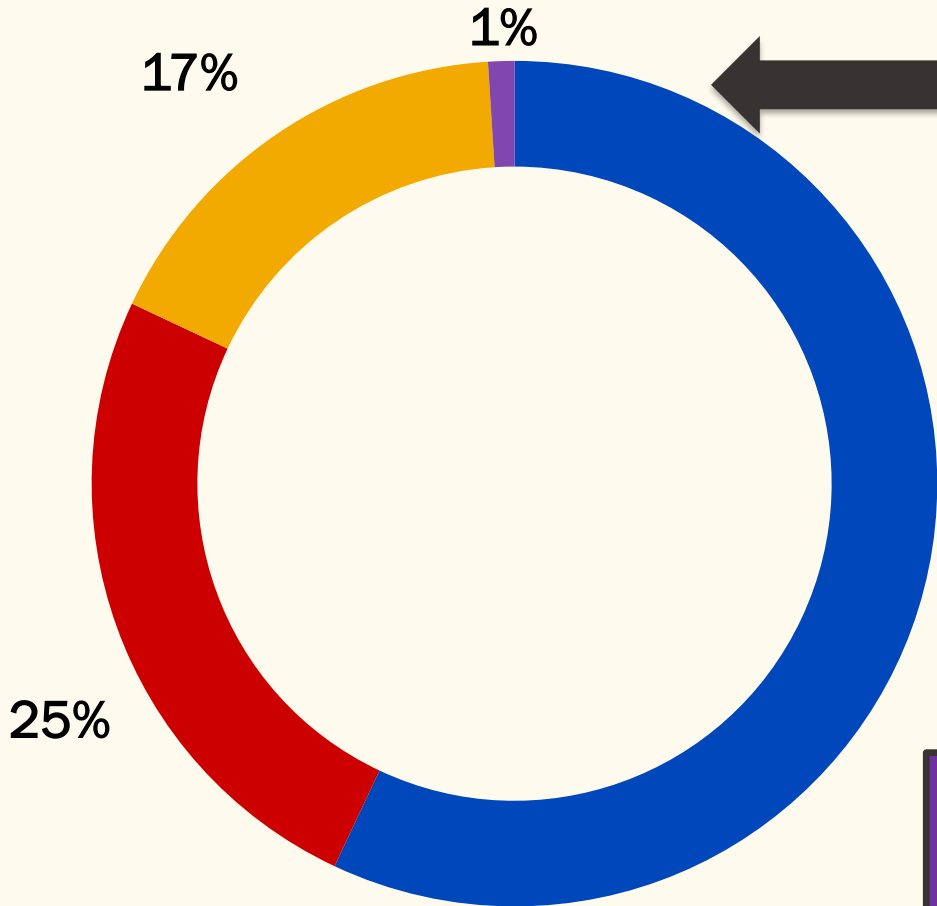
# Couple vs individual participation



# HIV dynamics of dyads by end of intervention

Couples (n=230)

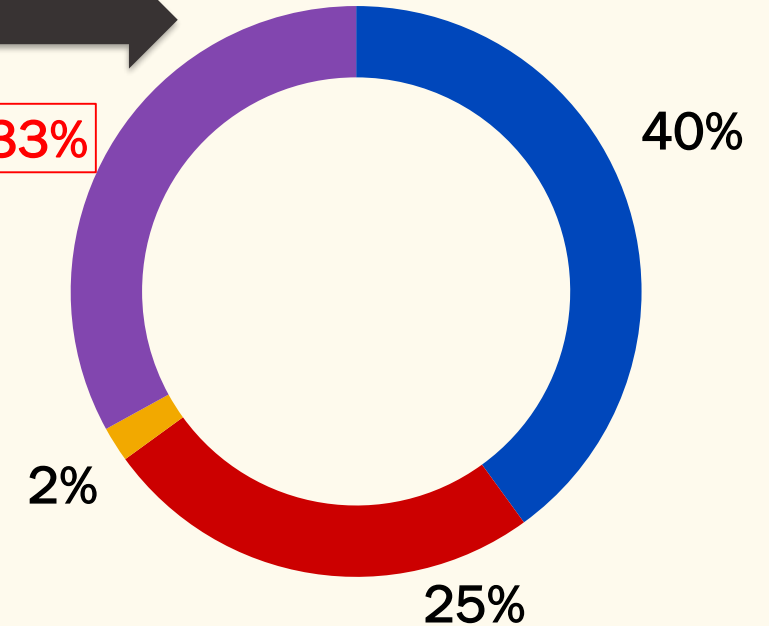
Unaccompanied individuals (n=232)



66 men remained with unknown HIV status:

- 29 undisclosed to
- 37 disclosed to but chose not to test

33%



57%

Male partners of unaccompanied women were less likely to test or share their HIV status

- Seroconcordant
- Serodifferent (M-)
- Serodifferent (F-)
- Serounknown



# Male testing and linkage outcomes

- **53%** of men who were eligible accessed HIV testing (75/141)
- **20%** yield (15/75)
- **93%** initiated ART (14/15)
  
- **77%** of known positives not yet on ART initiated at the clinic (24/31)
  - 3 declined ART
  - 3 were ineligible (high CD4 before treat all policy)
  - 1 died in hospital at time of diagnosis



# SRH needs for enrolled men

- **54%** reported  $\geq 1$  condomless sex act within past 30 days at baseline
- **40%** reported  $\geq 1$  previous STI
- **18%** needed syndromic STI management during follow-up
- **7%** had evidence of syphilis
  - RPR and/or TPHA positive
- **7%** evidence of active hepatitis B infection
- **20%** reported erectile dysfunction at baseline

**Need for improved  
male-friendly SRH  
services for men**



# Service acceptability survey

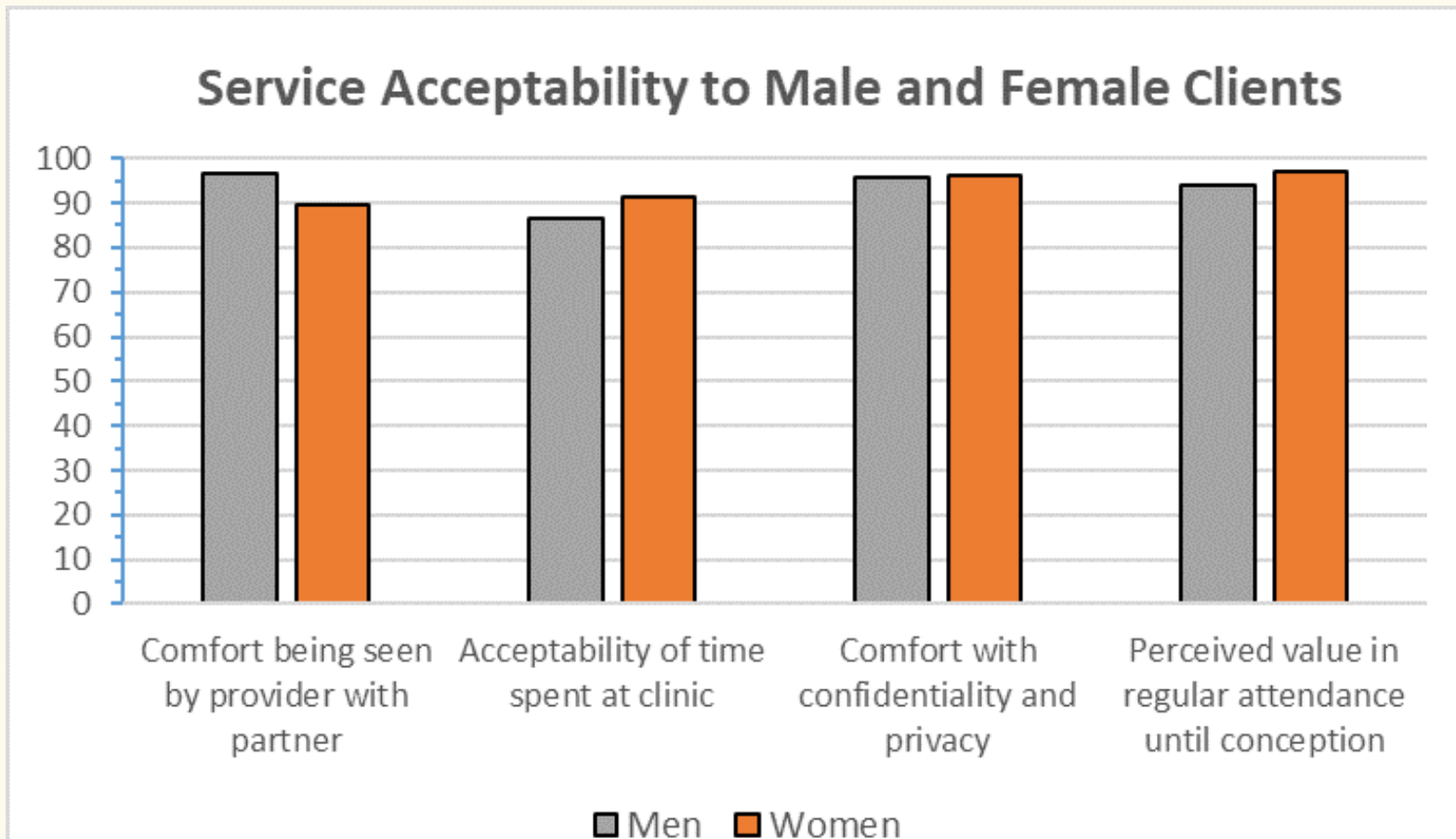


Fig.1 Service acceptability among men and women attending safer conception care in Johannesburg, South Africa (2016-2017)

High male acceptability, comfort and perceived value

Ref: S Schwartz, N Davies et al, 2019 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12978-019-0718-5>



# Conclusion

- Men are interested in their own, and their partners', sexual and reproductive health and rights,
- Opportunity for HIV/SRH integration to support male engagement in services
- Safer conception services are a model
  - that attracts men, including those otherwise not engaged in traditional HIV testing, care and treatment services
  - that provide a unique opportunity to work with men and women in partnership to optimise both HIV and SRH outcomes



# Available: Free Online Resources

- Safer conception implementation guide, clinical and monitoring and evaluation tools (Wits RHI)
  - <http://bit.ly/2Int9cM>
- Safer conception clinical guidelines
  - Southern African HIV Clinicians' Society
    - “Guidelines to support HIV-affected individuals and couples to achieve pregnancy safely: Update 2018”
  - <https://sahivsoc.org/Files/guidelines%2018%20oct.pdf>



# ART coverage and viral suppression outcomes

“Must do better: Addressing the failures of SRH HIV integration”

Poster discussion: TUPDC01  
Tuesday 23 July, 13:00 - 14:00

Casa del Diezmo 3 y 4

