

Global PrEP Learning Network

PrEP Delivery Strategies & Universal Access to PrEP: Findings from the POWER & SEARCH studies

February 25, 2021



CHOICE Collaboration for HIV Prevention Options to Control the Epidemic



Welcome & Introductions

SEARCH

Q & A with the SEARCH team

POWER

Q & A with the POWER team

PrEP advocacy message

Final Q & A

Today's Speakers



James Ayieko, Kenya Medical Research Institute

James Ayieko is a medical doctor who holds an MPH and a PhD in Epidemiology. James' career over the last decade has centered around HIV care and ways of improving treatment outcomes in low resource settings as well as prevention of new infections. His area of interest has been improving treatment outcomes by optimizing the HIV care cascade right from linkage of HIV infected individuals to care, retention, viral suppression and HIV prevention for the uninfected. Currently he works with the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) as a research scientist and is an investigator in the SEARCH test-and-treat trial as well as the SEARCH Youth trial.



Catherine Koss, University of California, San Francisco

Catherine Koss, MD is an infectious disease physician and Assistant Professor in the Division of HIV, Infectious Diseases, and Global Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco in the United States. Dr. Koss conducts clinical and implementation research on HIV prevention, with a major focus on developing strategies to optimize uptake of and adherence to PrEP among women in East Africa and the United States. She also has a major interest in adherence measurement for both HIV treatment and prevention. Dr. Koss is an attending physician on the HIV and Infectious Diseases consult service at San Francisco General Hospital and a primary care provider at the Ward 86 HIV clinic.

Today's Speakers



Connie Celum, University of Washington

Connie Celum, MD, MPH, is Professor of Global Health, Medicine, and Epidemiology and Director of the International Clinical Research Center at the University of Washington. She is an infectious disease physician, epidemiologist, and clinical researcher. Her research interests focus on HIV prevention strategies and include oral pre-exposure prophylaxis, longer-acting antiretroviral and broadly neutralizing antibodies for prevention, and prevention and treatment of sexually-transmitted infections.

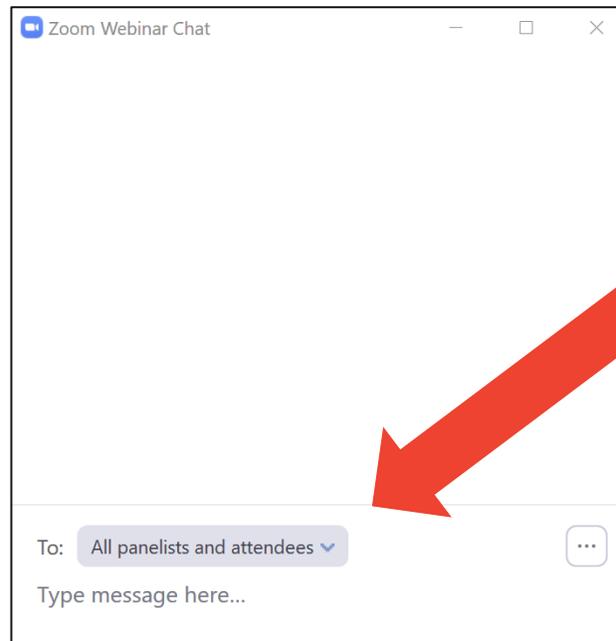


Jason Reed, Jhpiego

Jason Reed, Biomedical HIV Prevention Technical Advisor, offers more than 15 years of experience in public health surveillance and medical epidemiology, specifically in HIV surveillance systems, biomedical prevention programming, and implementation research at state, national and international levels. At Jhpiego, he provides technical oversight of biomedical HIV prevention programs, including PrEP for HIV, supports research development and analysis, and contributes to overall strategic planning for the HIV and Infectious Diseases Unit.

Reminder: Use “Chat” Function

Please feel free to ask questions and add comments to the chat box at any point during today’s presentations. At the end of the session, we will dedicate time to Q&A.



Choose “*all panelists and attendees*” from the drop-down menu when adding a question or comment to the chat box.

Opening & Introductions

SEARCH

Q & A with the SEARCH team

POWER

Q & A with the POWER team

PrEP advocacy message

Final Q & A

PrEP Uptake, Engagement, and Impact after Population-level HIV testing in Rural Kenya and Uganda: Findings from the SEARCH study

James Ayieko, MBChB, MPH, PhD¹ and Catherine Koss, MD²

On behalf of the SEARCH Collaboration

¹Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kisumu, Kenya

²University of California, San Francisco, United States

**PrEP Learning Network Webinar
February 25, 2021**



Outline

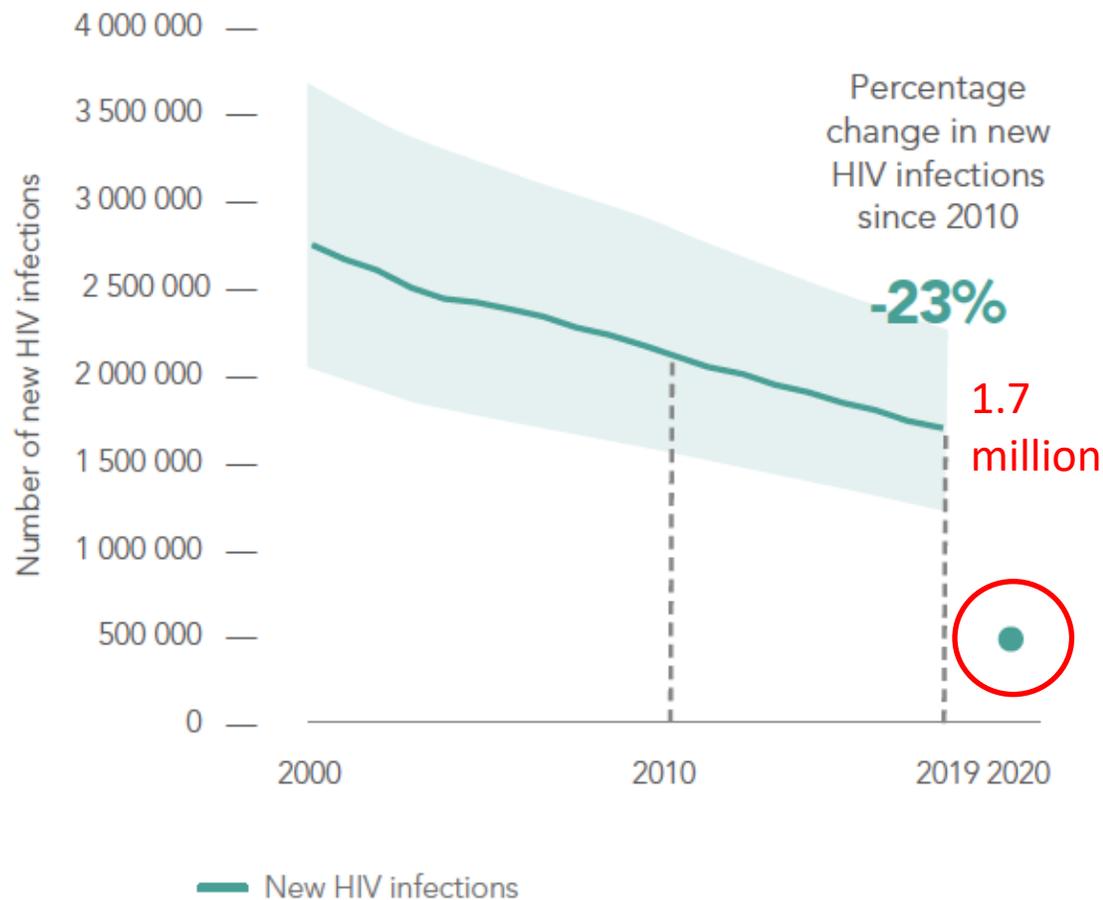
- (1) SEARCH study and PrEP intervention**
- (2) Findings on PrEP uptake, engagement, and HIV incidence**
- (3) Lessons learned and considerations for future service delivery**

New HIV infections continue to exceed global targets



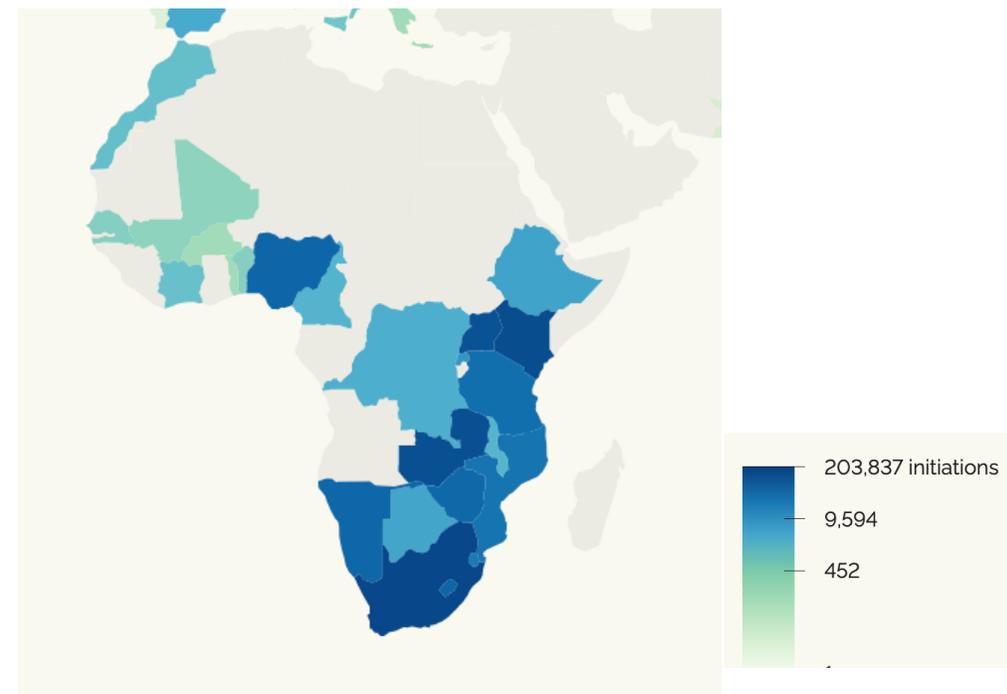
1.7 million new HIV infections globally in 2019¹

- UNAIDS 2020 target of 500,000 new infections



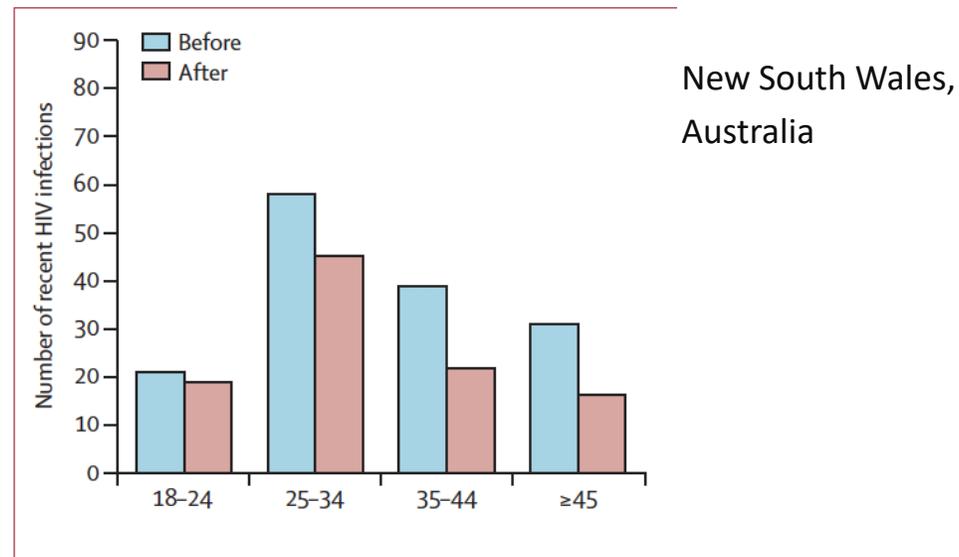
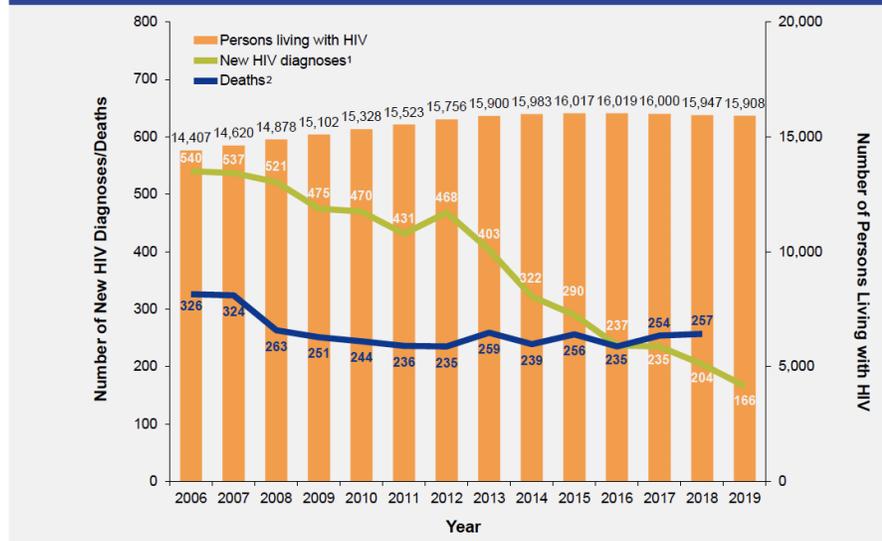
Oral PrEP is highly effective^{2,3}

Could substantially reduce HIV incidence



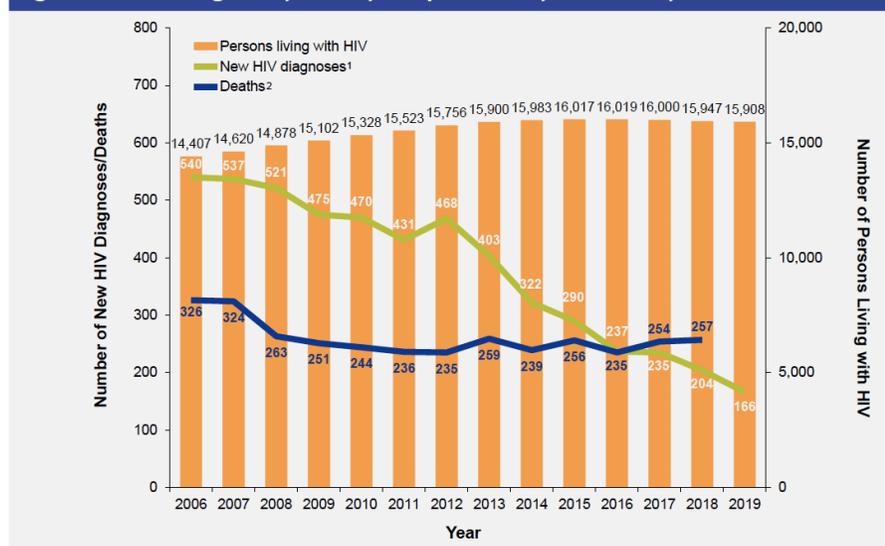
Declines in HIV diagnoses where HIV testing + ART + PrEP scaled up

Figure 1.2 HIV diagnoses, deaths, and prevalence, 2006-2019, San Francisco

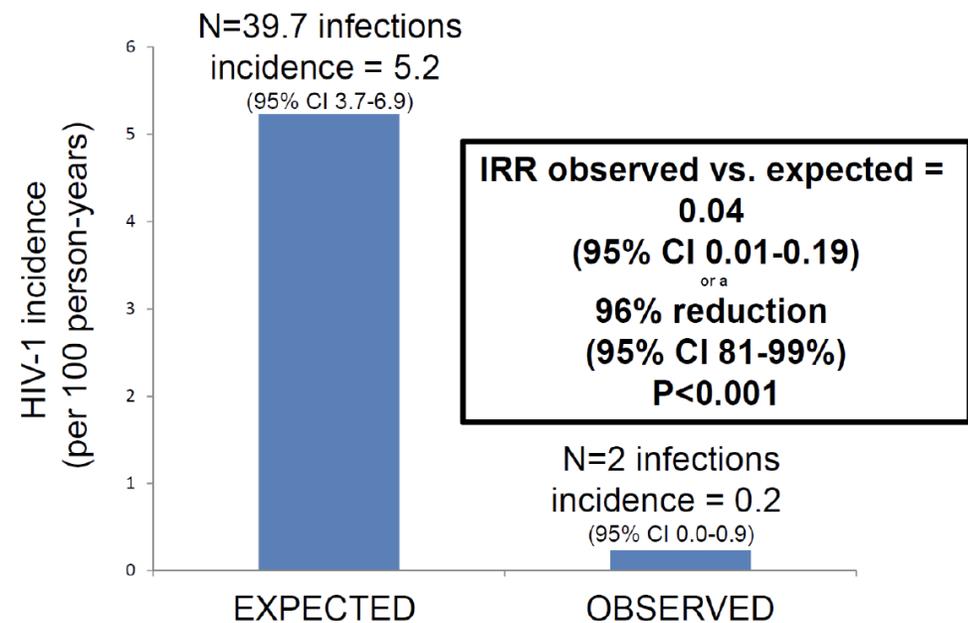
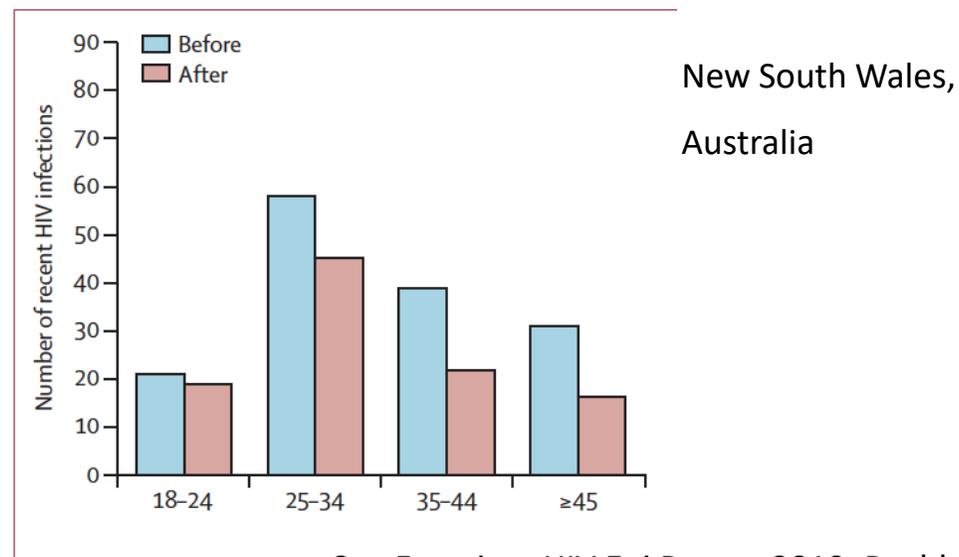


Declines in HIV diagnoses where HIV testing + ART + PrEP scaled up

Figure 1.2 HIV diagnoses, deaths, and prevalence, 2006-2019, San Francisco



Accumulating evidence of lower HIV incidence in PrEP studies in eastern and southern Africa compared to controls or modelled data



How to reduce HIV incidence and improve community health?

Universal test-and-treat trial (2013-2017 – *before PrEP*)¹
32 communities in rural Kenya and Uganda

Can HIV “test and treat” with universal ART using a
multi-disease, patient-centered care model
reduce new HIV infections and improve community health
compared to a country guideline approach?



1. Pls: Diane Havlir, Moses Kamya, Maya Petersen.

How to reduce HIV incidence and improve community health?

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Community-wide testing for

HIV

Hypertension

Diabetes

Malaria

Health fairs +

Home-based testing for non-attendees²

How to reduce HIV incidence and improve community health?

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**Community-wide testing for
HIV**

Hypertension
Diabetes
Malaria

Health fairs +

Home-based testing for non-attendees²

Intervention:

Among all persons with HIV

Universal ART eligibility

+

Patient-centered care delivery³

Facilitated linkage⁴

Rapid ART start

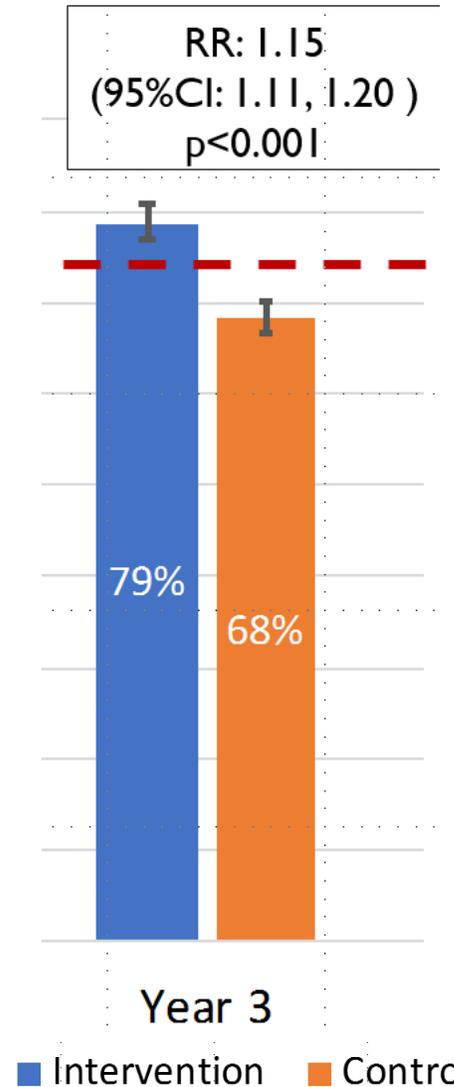
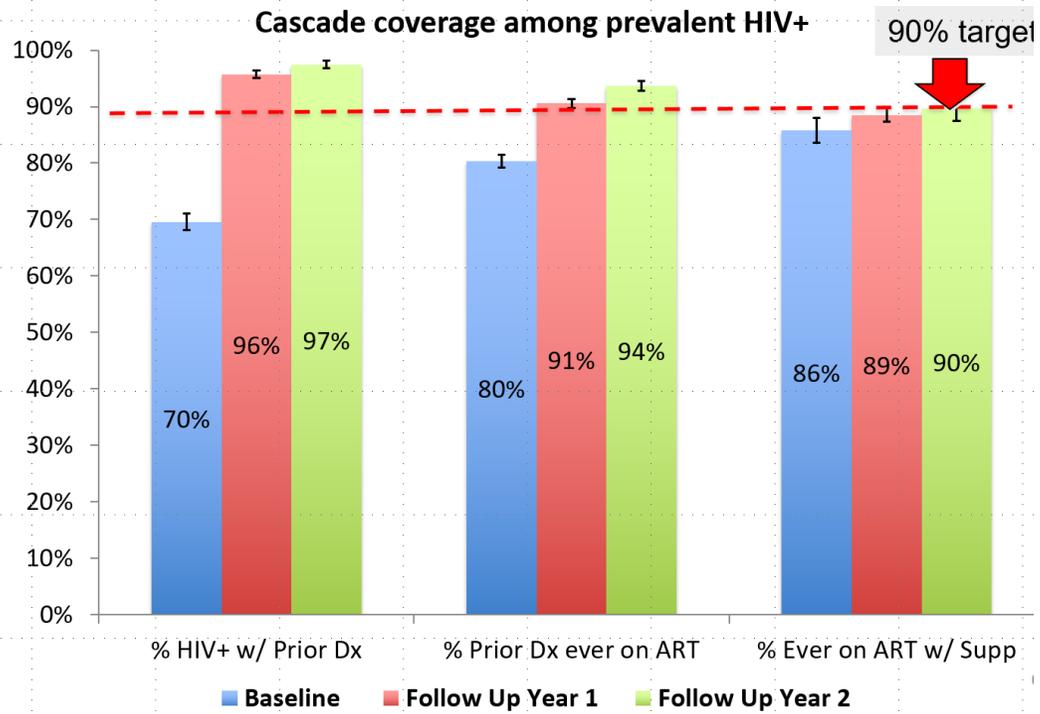
Flexible hours

Phone hotline to contact provider

Key findings: universal test + treat

In 2 years, population testing + universal ART exceeded 90-90-90 targets

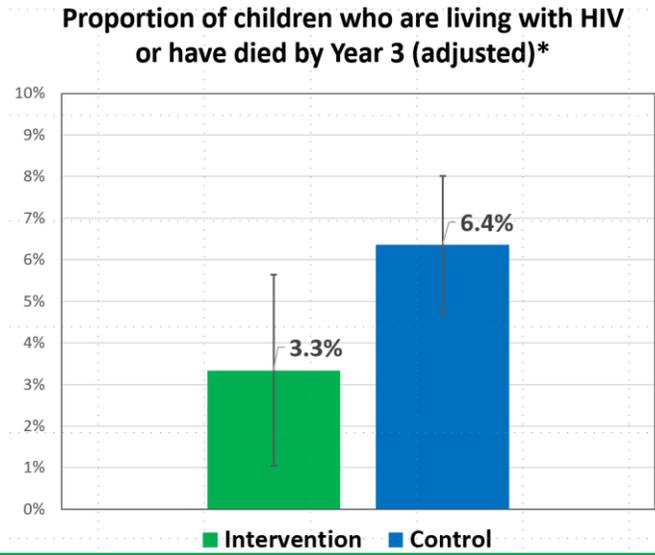
- Targets achieved in both men and women
- Viral suppression lower in youth



At 3 years, viral suppression higher in intervention vs control

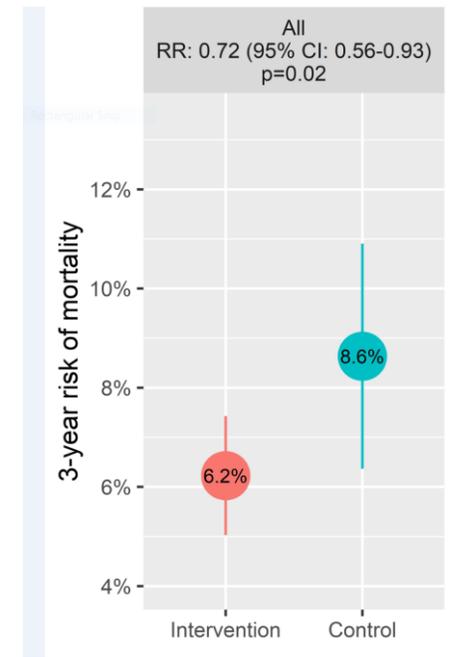
HIV incidence did not differ between arms (possibly due to guideline change in control arm)

1. Reduction in perinatal transmission



Ruel, CROI 2020

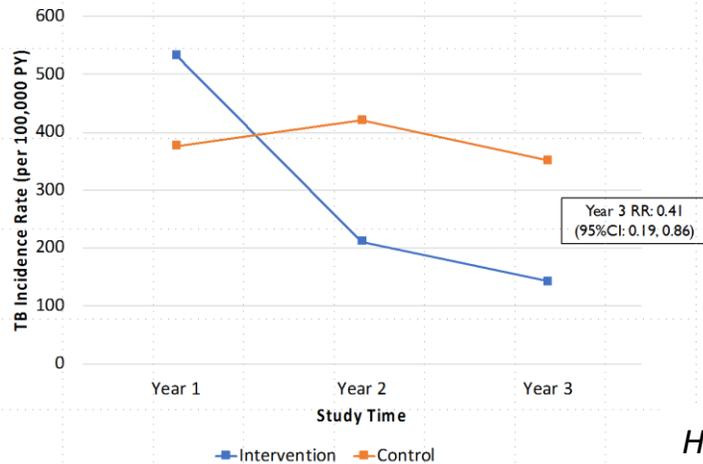
2. Reduction in HIV mortality



Kanya, Clin Infect Dis, in press

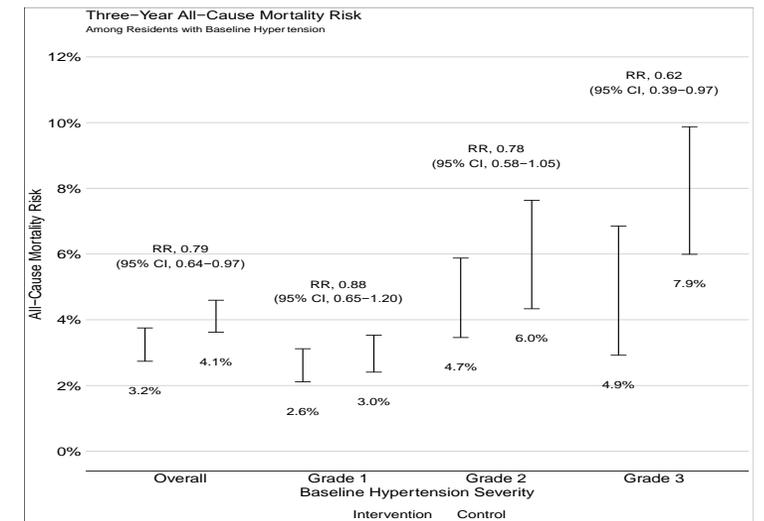
3. Reduction in HIV-associated TB

Incidence of Tuberculosis Over Time Among HIV-Infected Residents



Havli, NEJM, 2019

4. Reduction in hypertension and hypertension mortality (including when restricted to HIV-negative only)



Hickey, unpublished

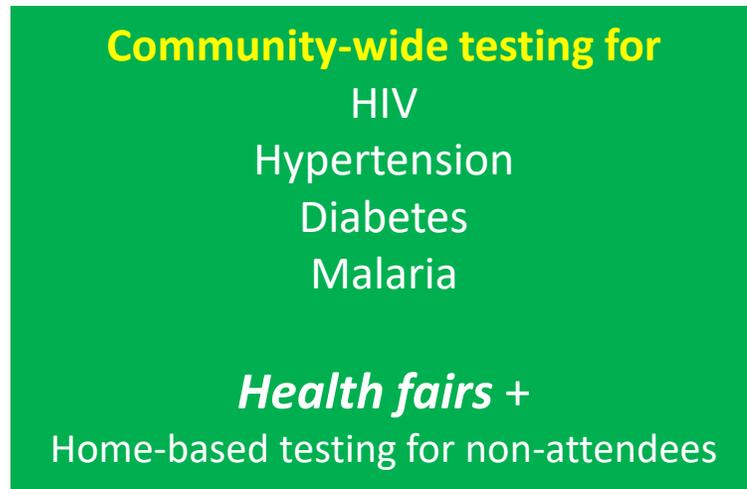
Adding universal access to PrEP

We took what we learned about *community-wide testing* and *patient-centered care* and asked --

Could adding PrEP further reduce HIV incidence among persons at elevated HIV risk?

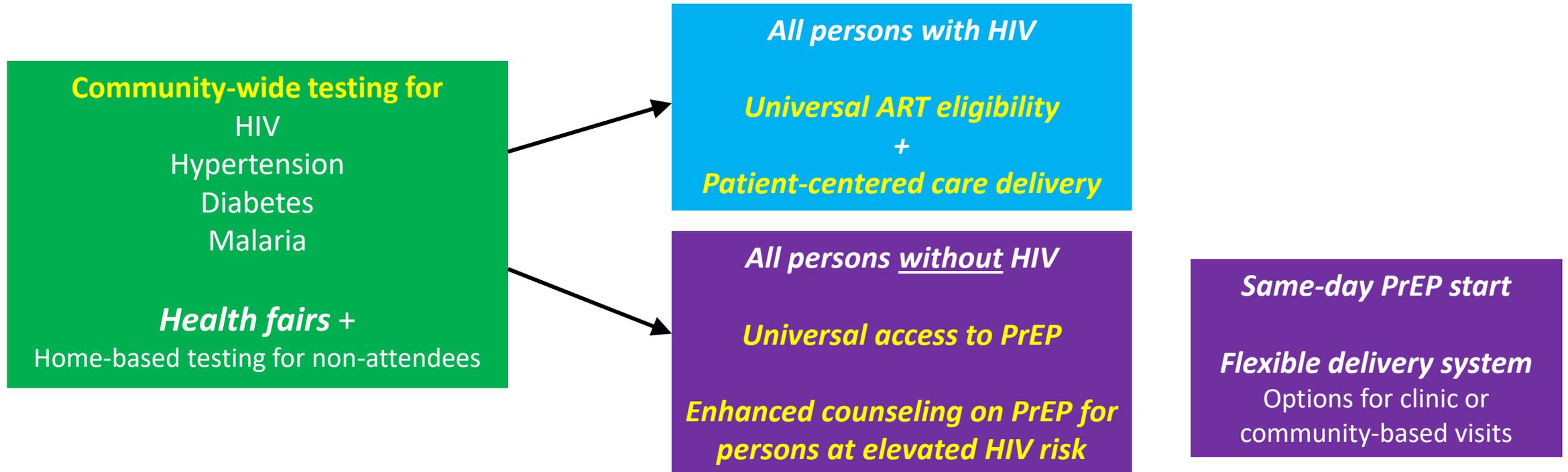
SEARCH: Population-level PrEP intervention

- Starting in 2016-2017, prior to scale-up of PrEP in Kenya and Uganda
- **PrEP intervention** in 16 communities



SEARCH: Population-level PrEP intervention

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How was PrEP offered?



Community sensitization and provided information on PrEP

- Group-based education on PrEP upon arrival at health fairs

Universal access to PrEP + enhanced counseling on PrEP for persons at elevated risk (inclusive approach to eligibility):

- Serodifferent partnership
- Empiric risk score^{6,7} – sociodemographic data
- Otherwise self-identified HIV risk⁸

PrEP offered during HIV testing events at health fairs or nearby clinics:

- During *population-level* HIV and multi-disease testing (2016-2017)
- During *key population* HIV testing for groups, e.g. SDC; youth; fishing, transportation workers (2017-2018)
- On an *ongoing basis* in each community (2016-2019)

SEARCH PrEP delivery model

**Same-day or rapid PrEP
start on-site at health
fairs or clinics**

- Drew creatinine but started PrEP same-day prior to receiving results

**Flexible delivery system
for follow-up visits**

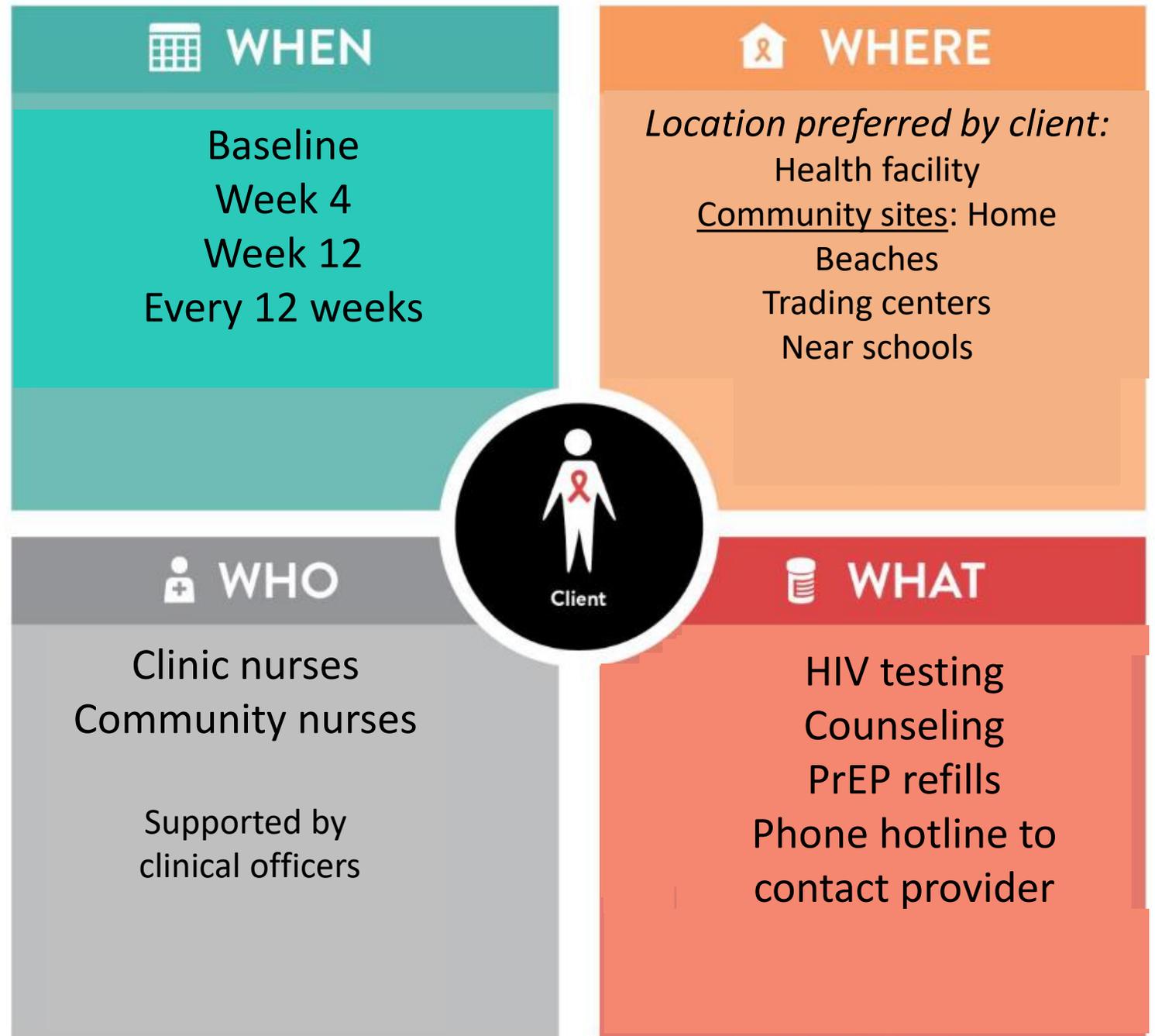
SEARCH PrEP delivery model

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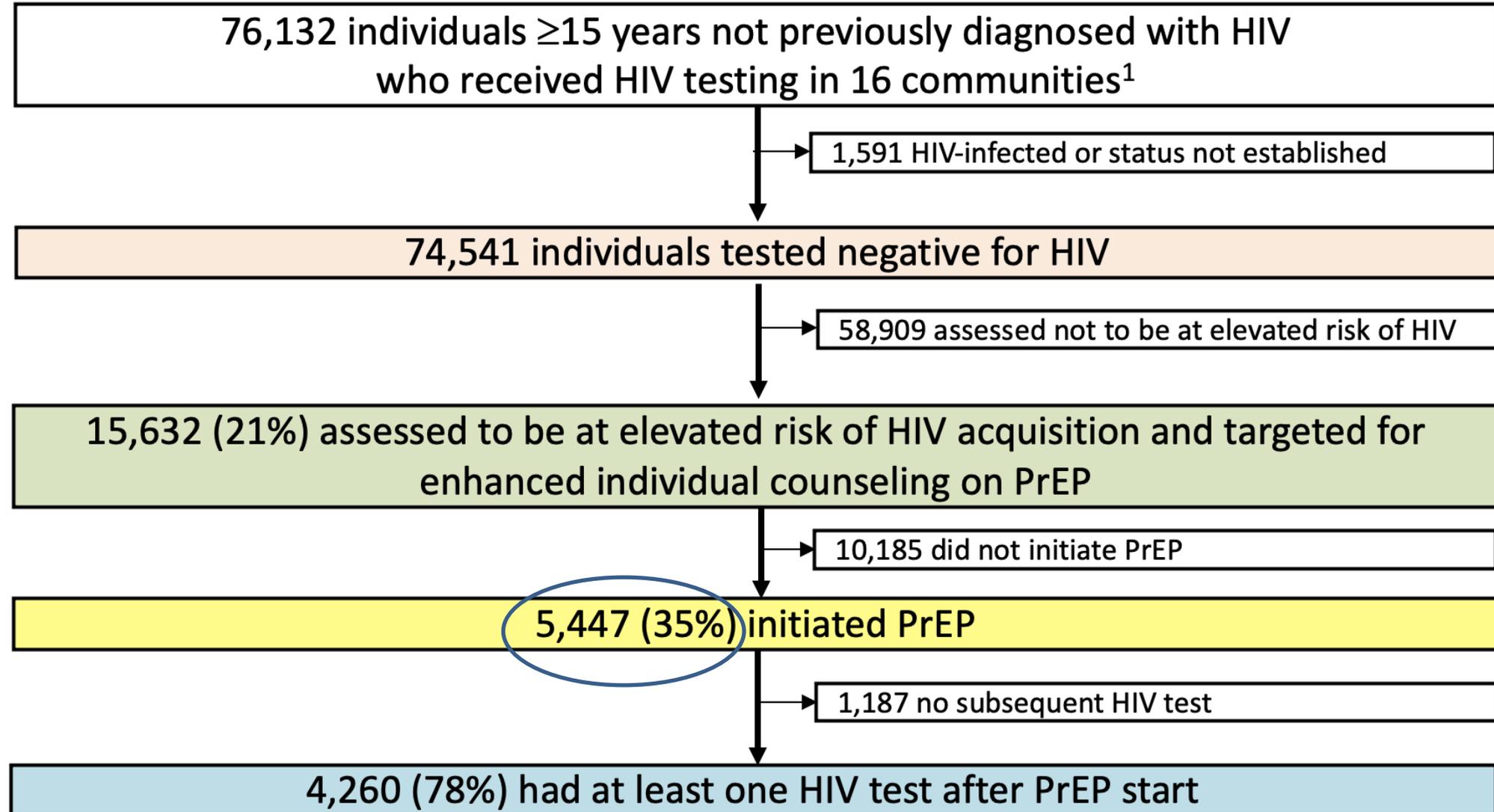
- Drew creatinine but started PrEP same-day prior to receiving results

Flexible delivery system for follow-up visits

Adapted from
differentiatedservicedelivery.org



Results: One-third of persons at elevated HIV risk started PrEP



¹83% of residents not previously diagnosed with HIV attended community-wide testing

Who started PrEP?

Characteristic	PrEP initiators N = 5447 %
Female sex	49%
Age 15-19 years	6%
20-24 years	23%
25-34 years	35%
35-44 years	21%
≥45 years	16%
Serodifferent partner	19%
Fishing, bar, or transportation occupation	22%
Unmarried	21%
Married – monogamous	51%
Married – polygamous	19%
Circumcision (men)	49%
Mobile	6%

Uptake higher:

- serodifferent partners
- older adults
- polygamous

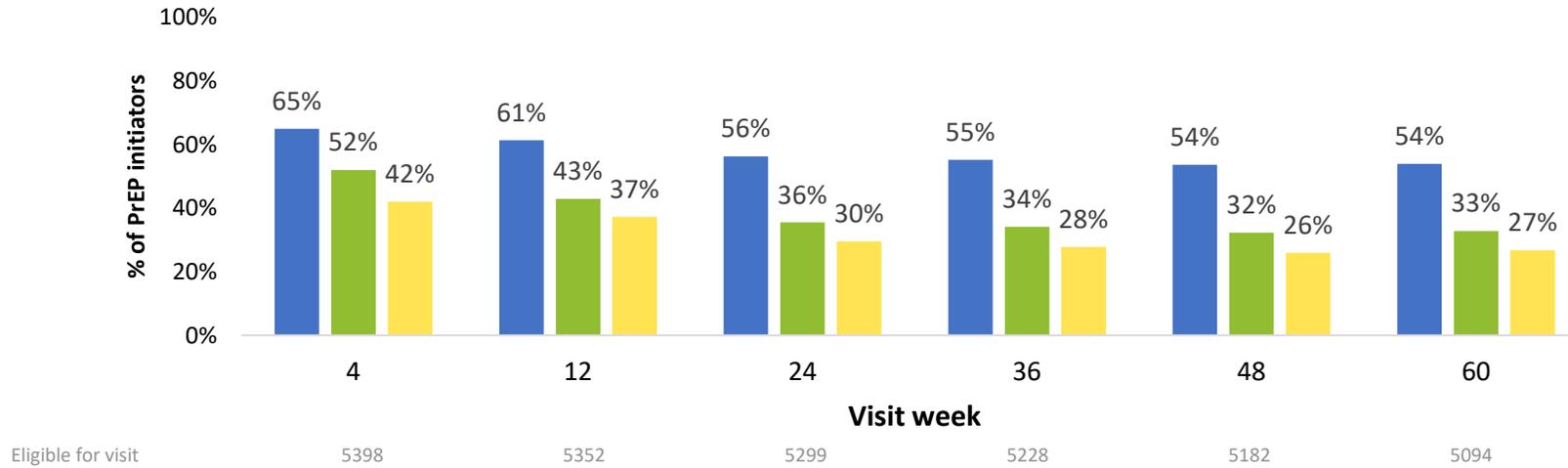
Uptake lower:

- mobile individuals
- youth
 - 37% of population at elevated risk
 - 29% of PrEP initiators

Mobility: migration out of community for at least one month or moved residence within past 12 months

Program engagement, refills, adherence among PrEP initiators

A. Overall

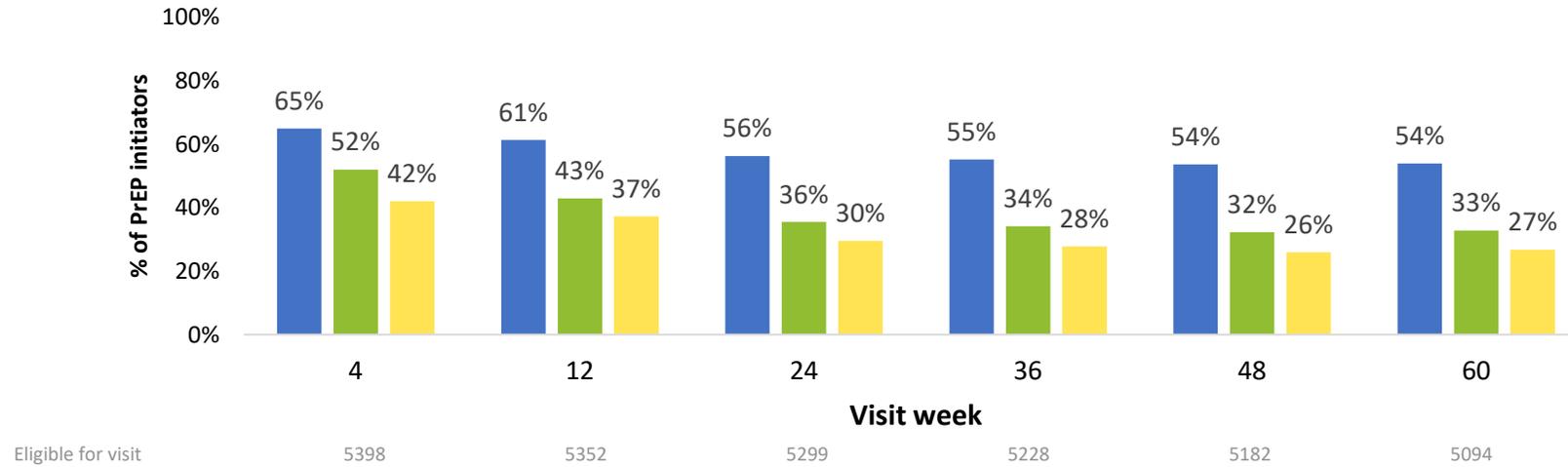


- 2/3 of PrEP initiators were seen at week 4 visit
- By week 24, 30% were still taking PrEP

Program engagement, refills, adherence among PrEP initiators

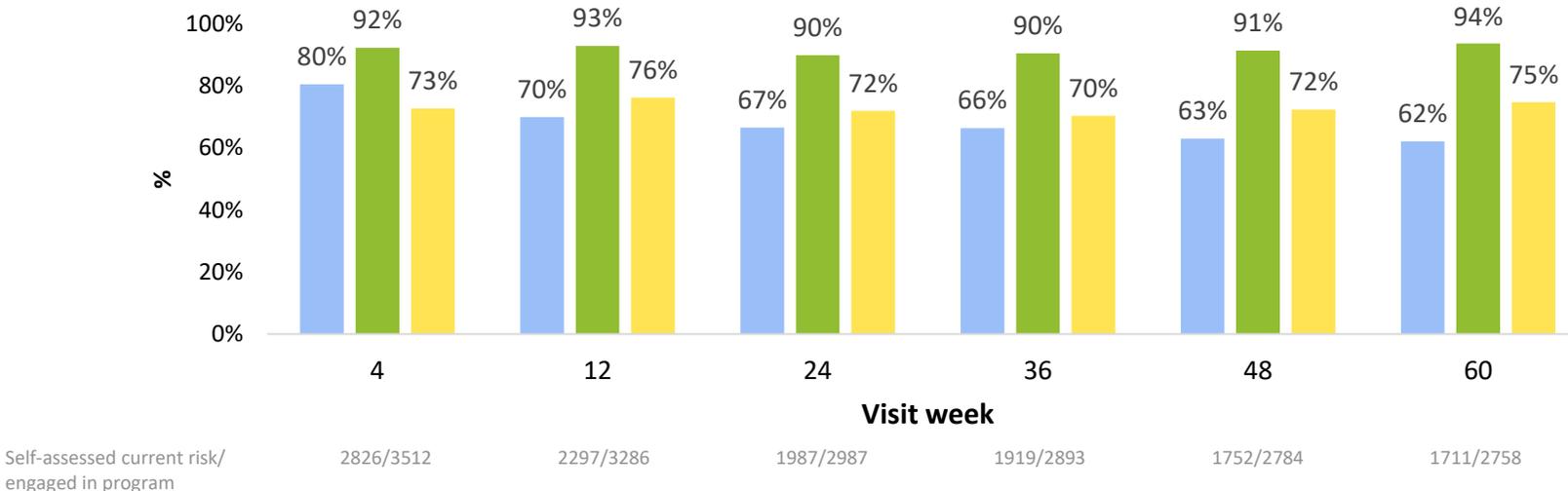
- Program engagement
- Self-assessed risk
- Medication refill
- Self-reported adherence

A. Overall



- 2/3 of PrEP initiators were seen at week 4 visit
- By week 24, 30% were still taking PrEP

B. Participants reporting current HIV risk at follow-up visits



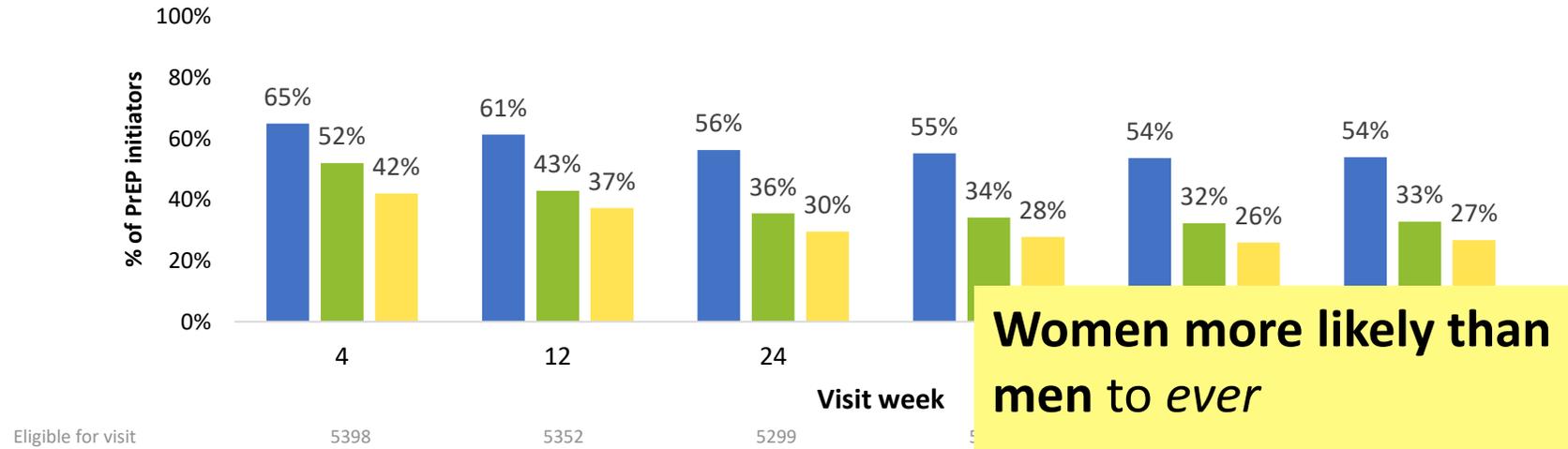
Many individuals who reported *current HIV risk* at follow-up visits stayed on PrEP

- At least 90% received PrEP refills
- At least 70% self-reported adherence

Program engagement, refills, adherence among PrEP initiators

- Program engagement
- Self-assessed risk
- Medication refill
- Self-reported adherence

A. Overall

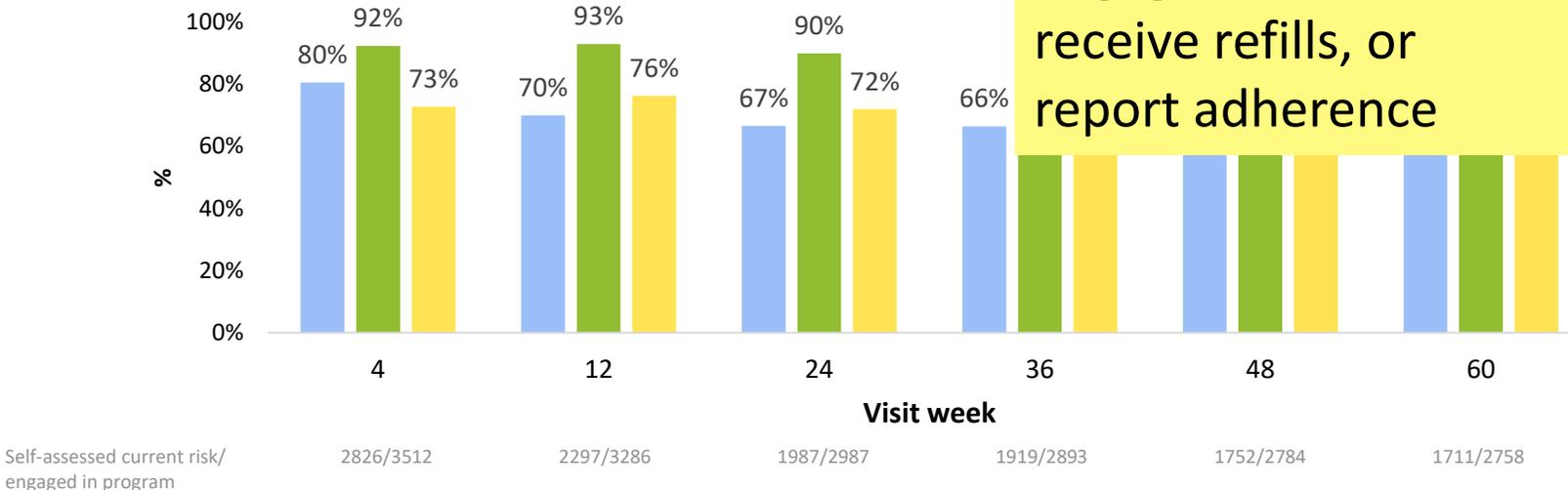


Women more likely than men to ever

engage in visits, receive refills, or report adherence

- 2/3 of PrEP initiators were seen at week 4 visit
- By week 24, 30% were still taking PrEP

B. Participants reporting current HIV risk at follow-up visits



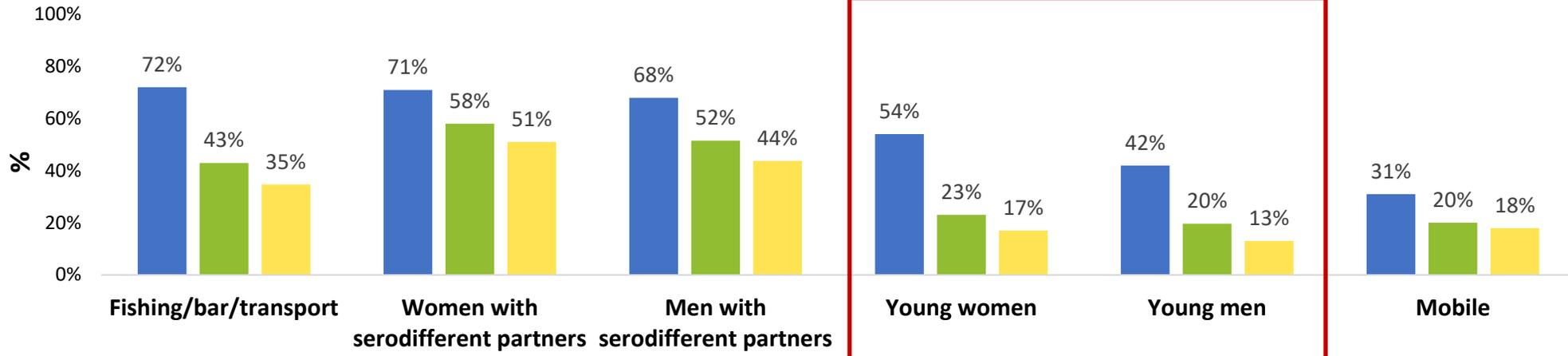
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PrEP cascade among subgroups (week 24)

- Program engagement
- Self-assessed risk
- Medication refill
- Self-reported adherence

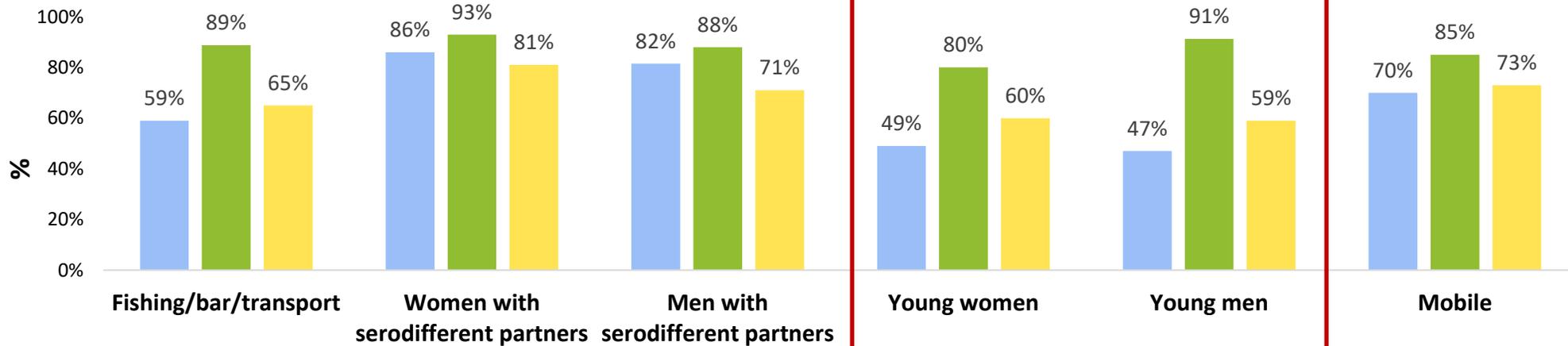
A. Participants by risk group^a



PrEP initiators eligible for visit

Fishing/bar/transport	Women with serodifferent partners	Men with serodifferent partners	Young women	Young men	Mobile
542	363	231	439	519	185

B. Participants reporting current HIV risk at follow-up visits



Self-assessed current risk/engaged in program

Fishing/bar/transport	Women with serodifferent partners	Men with serodifferent partners	Young women	Young men	Mobile
231/389	219/256	128/157	116/236	103/220	40/57

Engagement higher:

- Serodifferent partners
- Fishing/bar/transport workers

Engagement lower:

- Youth
- Mobile individuals

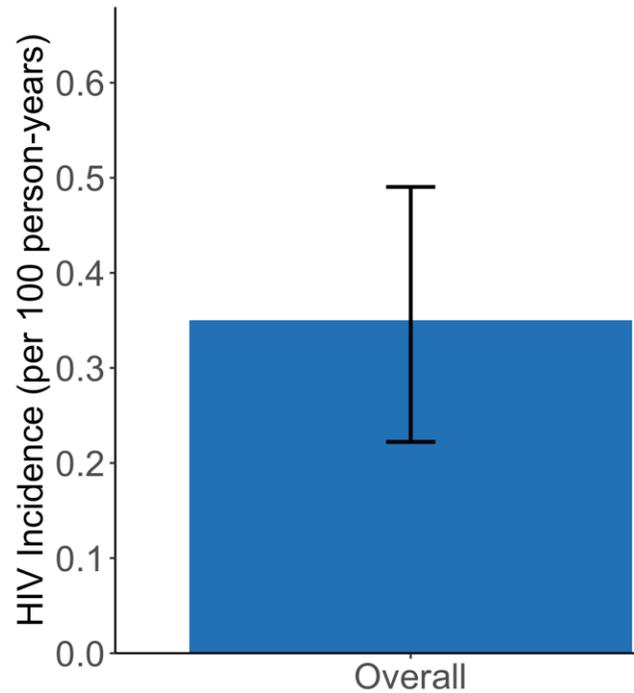
a. Mobile individuals could be in any age group.

Many participants who stopped PrEP remained engaged in follow-up visits for HIV prevention

- **83% of participants stopped PrEP at least once¹**
 - half of those who stopped later restarted
- Ongoing engagement in follow-up visits presented an opportunity for
 - repeat HIV testing, condom provision
 - discussions about HIV prevention
 - restarting PrEP

1. PrEP stop: no refill in a visit period or refill ≥ 30 days late

Observed HIV incidence among PrEP initiators



Seroconversions

25

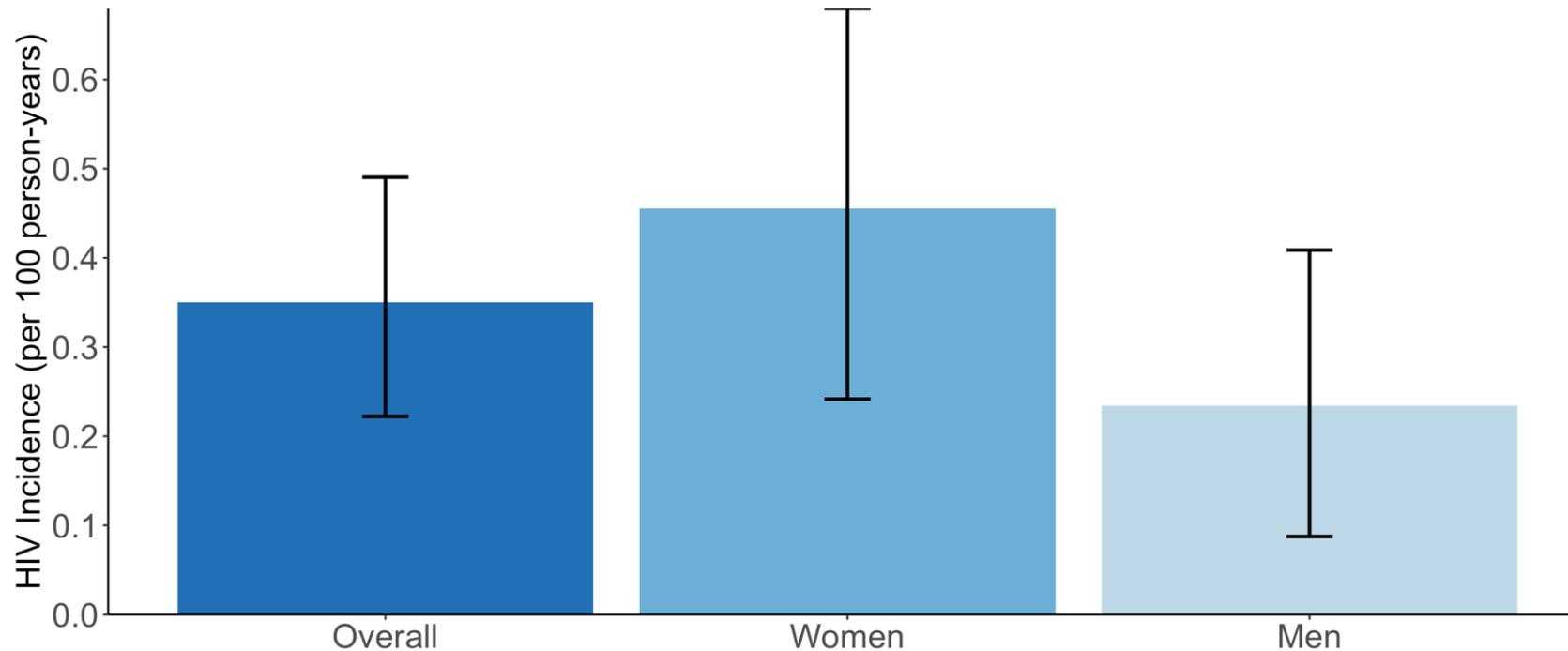
Person-years

7150

**Incidence Rate
per 100 PY (95% CI)**

0.35 (0.22-0.49)

Observed HIV incidence among PrEP initiators, stratified by sex



Seroconversions

25

17

8

Person-years

7150

3735

3415

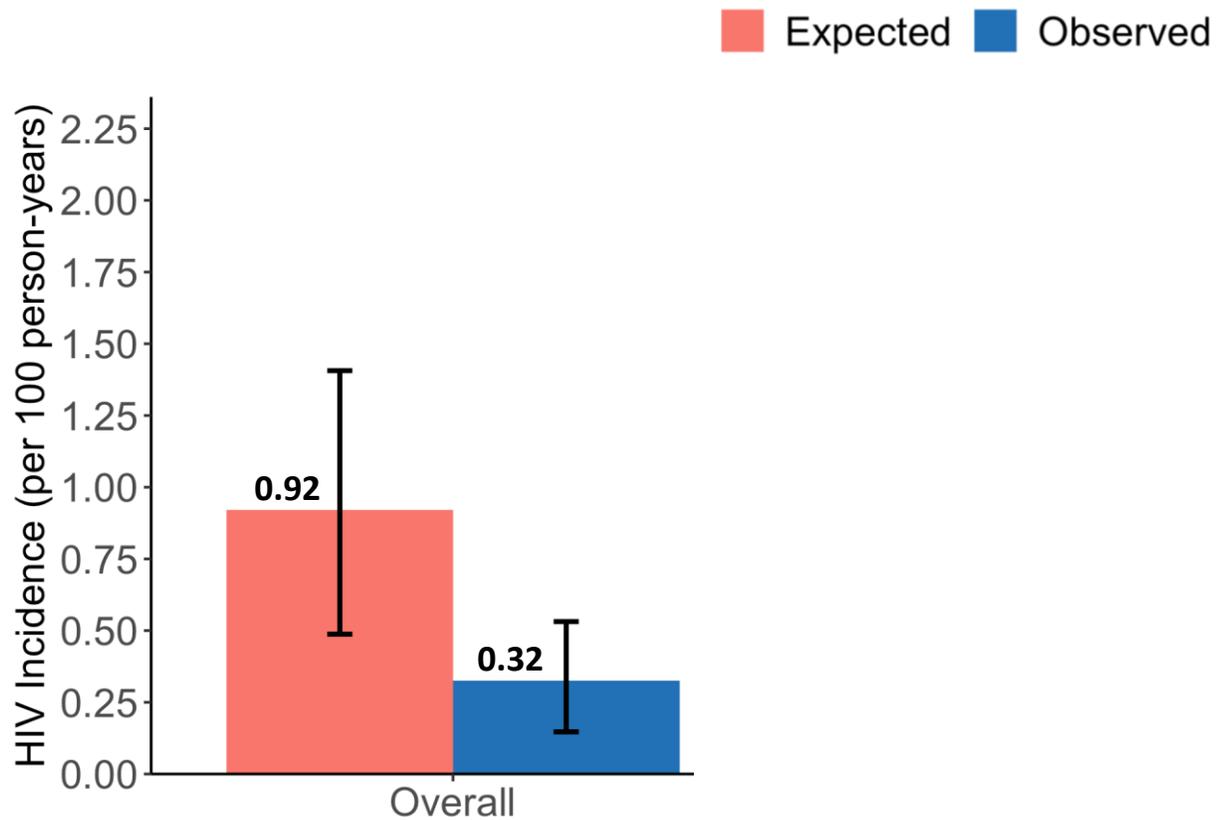
**Incidence Rate
per 100 PY (95% CI)**

0.35 (0.22-0.49)

0.46 (0.24-0.68)

0.23 (0.09-0.41)

Comparison to expected HIV incidence without PrEP

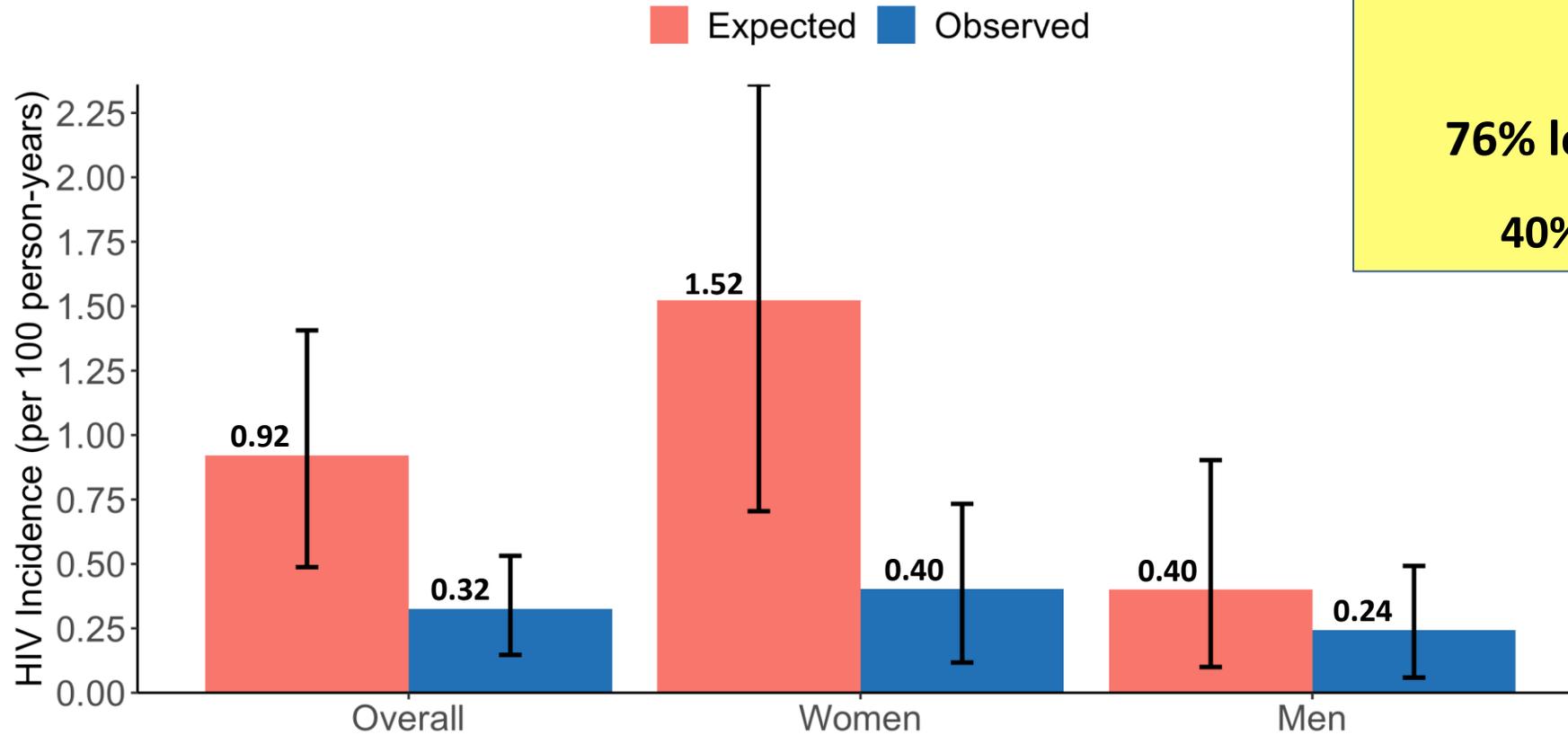


74% lower HIV incidence among PrEP initiators compared to matched controls from the year prior to PrEP availability

Incidence Rate Ratio (95% CI)

**0.26 (0.09-0.75)
p=0.013**

Comparison to expected HIV incidence without PrEP



HIV incidence
76% lower among women
40% lower among men

**Incidence
Rate Ratio
(95% CI)**

**0.26 (0.09-0.75)
p=0.013**

**0.24 (0.07-0.79)
p=0.019**

**0.60 (0.12-3.05)
p=0.54**

Many challenges and lessons learned

Barriers:

- Rumors – PrEP new in communities when study started
- Low perceived severity of HIV infection (with success of ART)
- Other health/life priorities took precedence over HIV prevention
- Stigma – wanted separate clinic entrances for PrEP and ART clients
- Fears of being seen as promiscuous
- Unsupportive partners
- Daily pill-taking, pill size
- Distance to health facility

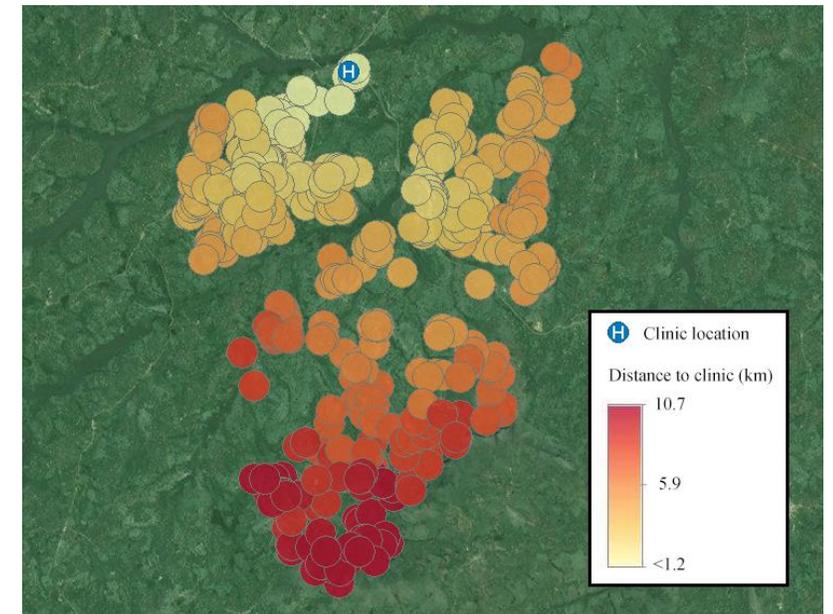
Facilitators:

- Positive interactions with providers, e.g. support around management of side effects
- Out-of-facility visits
- PrEP to support achieving life goals

Continual efforts to overcome challenges and support PrEP use!

“I would love to use it to protect me from HIV, but my worry is that I have never seen anybody who has benefited from PrEP.”

-Young woman, western Kenya



Summary

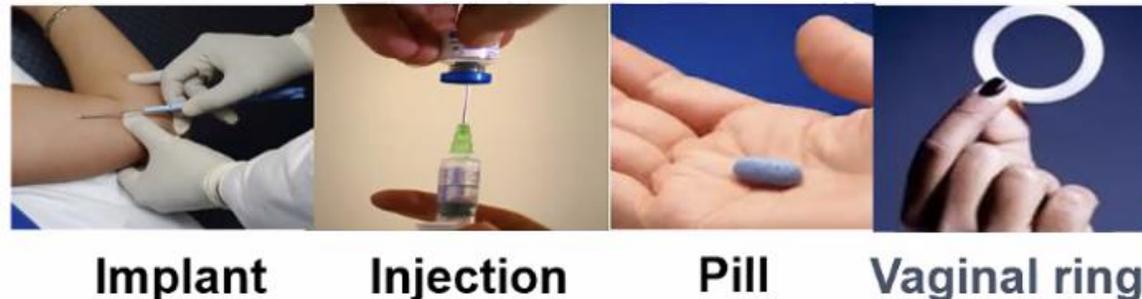
- After population-level HIV testing
 - one-third of individuals assessed to be at elevated HIV risk started PrEP
 - of these, 78% engaged in the PrEP program for follow-up visits
- **Community-wide HIV testing and universal access to PrEP – *with rapid start and flexible, community-based service delivery*** associated with
 - lower HIV incidence among PrEP initiators (including women) vs. recent controls
- Evidence of the **added impact of PrEP** in communities that had exceeded UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets after universal test-and-treat (UTT)
- Lower PrEP uptake and engagement among **young adults and mobile populations**
 - Strategies to support communication about PrEP for young people and providers
 - Framing PrEP around other health/life goals may be more salient than HIV prevention

Considerations for future service delivery

- **Low-barrier testing** for HIV and other health services
 - entry point for linkage to HIV treatment or prevention services
- Inclusive or **universal offer of PrEP** may promote uptake
- **Same-day PrEP start** safe and feasible
- **Community-based delivery** may reduce barriers, stigma, and foster PrEP use

Considerations for future service delivery

- **PrEP cascade not expected to look like ART cascade**
 - Continuation may be higher among persons with ongoing risk
 - Need strategies to support adherence during periods of potential HIV exposure^{1,2}
- **As new PrEP modalities** are introduced
 - Need systems to support delivery of diverse prevention options
- Lower-barrier access to HIV testing – with linkage to treatment and prevention services
 - is a promising approach to accelerate reductions in HIV incidence in generalized epidemic settings



Acknowledgements

SEARCH study participants, community members, and community leaders



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POWER

Prevention Options for Women Evaluation Research:

Connie Celum, MD, MPH
Departments of Global Health, Medicine & Epidemiology

PrEP Learning Network
February 25, 2020

POWER PrEP Delivery Locations



Objective

Develop cost-effective and scalable models for implementation of ARV-based HIV prevention products for young women in Cape Town and Johannesburg (South Africa) and Kisumu (Kenya).

Consortium Partners



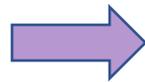
Prevention Options for Women Evaluation Research (POWER)

Collaborating organizations: University of Washington, Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, Harvard Medical School, RTI International, University of California – San Francisco, University of Pittsburgh

Formative Work

In-depth interviews and follow up surveys:
Surveys with young women and men

Key informant interviews:
Healthcare provider and other key informant interviews



PrEP Delivery

Understanding who takes PrEP:

- Characterize those who initiate vs those who do not
- **Determine persistence, adherence, and patterns of use**
- Assess HIV incidence and drug resistance
(qualitative and quantitative methods)

Evaluation of PrEP Delivery:

- Test PrEP delivery in a variety of models in various locations
- Assess cost and cost effectiveness
(M&E, time and motion studies)

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Cape Town

Model:
Mobile delivery services



Johannesburg

Model:
Youth-friendly clinics



Kisumu

Model:
Family planning clinics –
private & public



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Characteristics of POWER participants

	Total N=2550	Kisumu N=1000	Cape Town N=787	Johannesburg N=763
Age. Median (IQR)	21 (19 - 23)	21 (19 - 23)	20 (18 - 22)	21 (20 - 23)
Marital status				
Single, with partner	2154 (85%)	667 (67%)	762 (97%)	725 (95%)
Sexual behavior past 3 mos				
Current # SP	1 (1,1)	1 (1,1)	1 (1,1)	1 (1,1)
Has HIV+ SP	106 (4%)	49 (5%)	29 (4%)	28 (4%)
SP of unknown HIV status	1672 (66%)	607 (61%)	645 (83%)	420 (55%)
Never uses condoms	689 (27%)	385 (39%)	165 (21%)	139 (18%)
Contraceptive use				
Oral	92 (8%)	12 (3%)	13 (3%)	67 (17%)
Injectable	604 (51%)	100 (23%)	293 (77%)	211 (54%)
Implant	317 (27%)	226 (53%)	52 (14%)	39 (10%)
Other*	38 (3%)	20 (5%)	9 (2%)	9 (2%)
Ever pregnant	1213 (48%)	529 (53%)	250 (32%)	434 (57%)



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Prevention Options for
Women Evaluation Research

POWER: STIs at enrollment

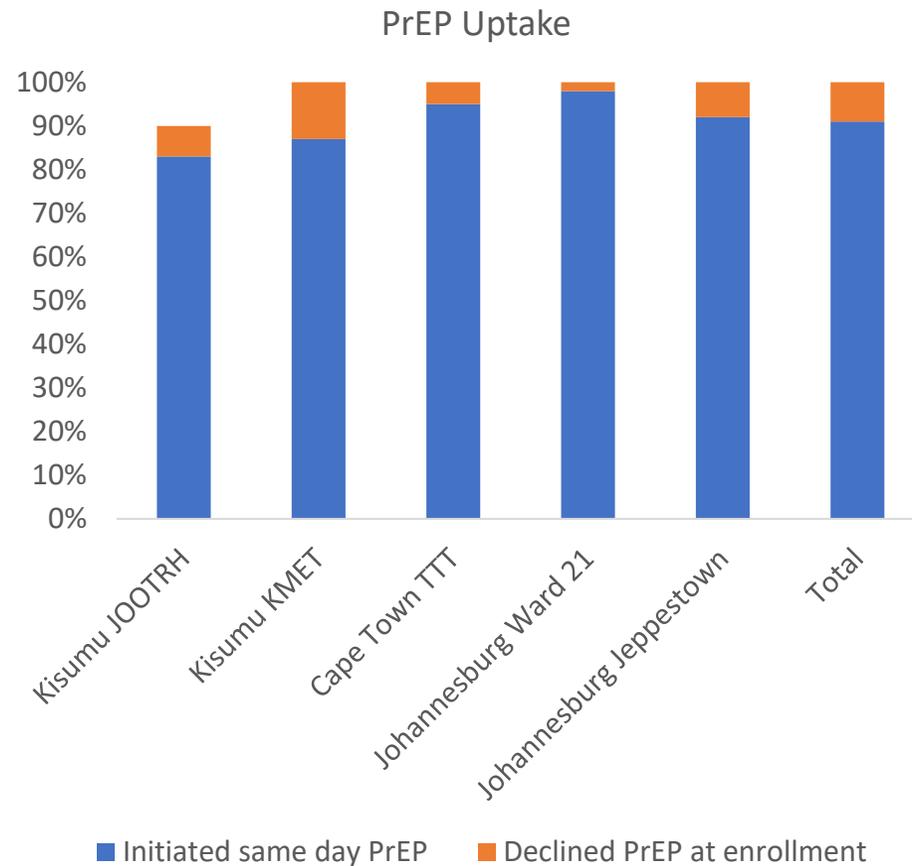
	Total N=2550	Kisumu N=1000	Cape Town N=787	Johannesburg N=763
STIs				
Symptoms	179 (7%)	119 (12%)	33 (4%)	27 (4%)
<i>Chlamydia</i>	667 (29%)	172 (17%)	314 (42%)	181 (31%)
<i>Gonorrhea</i>	221 (10%)	61 (6%)	121 (16%)	39 (7%)
Accepted PrEP at enrollment**	2359 (93%)	871 (88%)	754 (96%)	734 (96%)



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PrEP Uptake



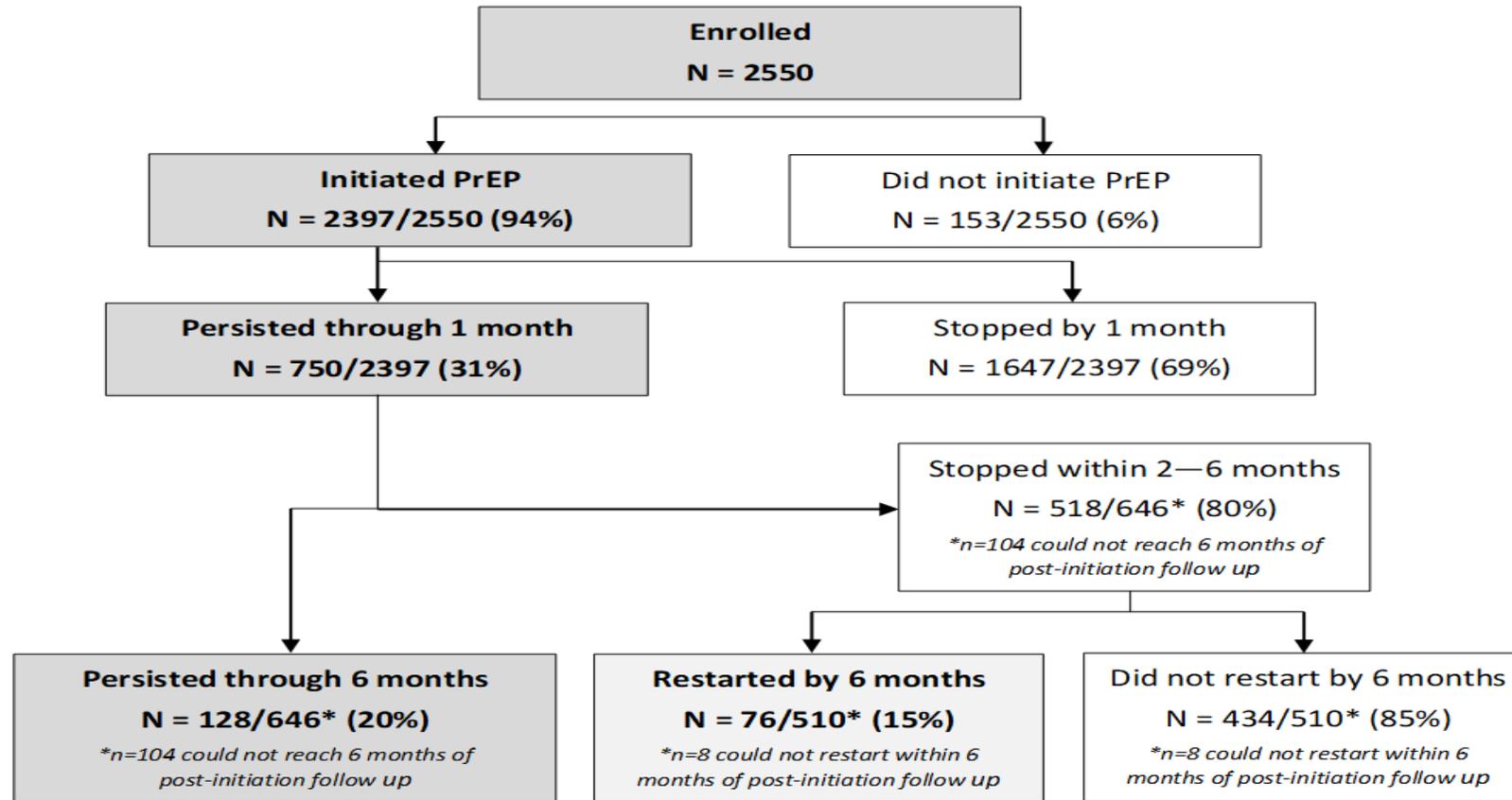
- 99% 'medical eligible' for PrEP
- High uptake (94%) across sites of those enrolled
- 92% initiated PrEP on the same day



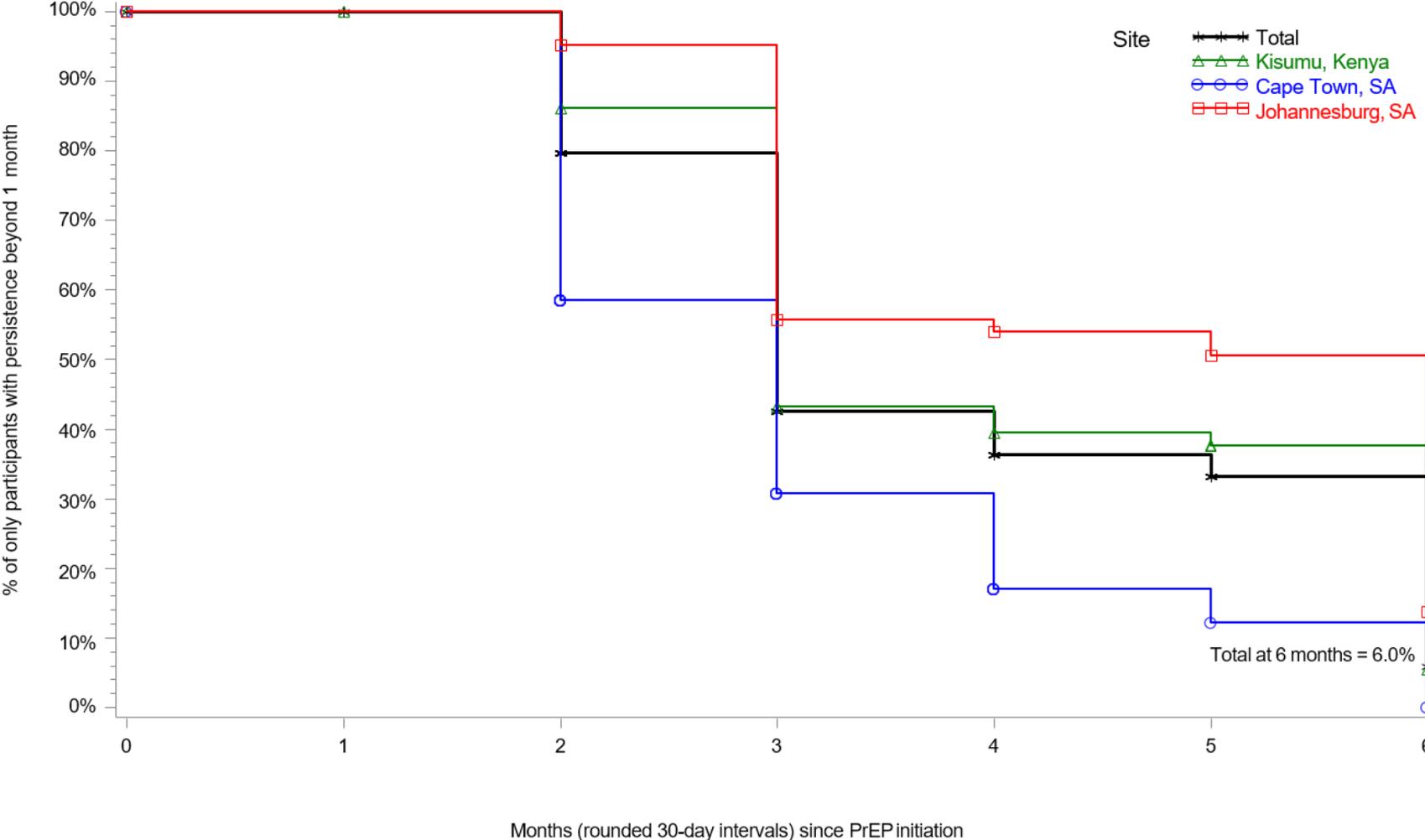
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Patterns of PrEP use



PrEP Persistence in first 6 months



Understanding PrEP persistence

- Routine measures of persistence, such as those for ART are challenging to apply to PrEP – continued development of better measures needed to fully comprehend persistence
- Whether PrEP persistence aligns with AGYW's need or desire for PrEP needs further research
 - Enhanced counseling on prevention-effective adherence may be needed, and how to stop/restart
- Further research into reasons for oral PrEP discontinuation and resumption is needed for AGYW populations



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Barriers to adherence and persistence

- Scheduling
- Holidays and exam periods
- Travel
- Real/Perceived side effects
- Community PrEP knowledge
- Disclosure & support
- Convenient refills



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Strategies being used to support adherence



Contact & follow-up



POWER Clubs



Youth-Friendly Services



Flexibility



Self identified initiation



Combination of services



Access to psychosocial care



Couples counseling



Disclosure



Differentiated care



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HIV seroconversions, incidence & resistance

	HIV seroconversions	HIV incidence (per 100 p-yrs)	Antiretroviral resistance (n=13 with results)
Within 3 months after enrollment	8	3.6 (1.6 - 7.1)	2 M184V (assoc with FTC)
>3 months after enrollment	9	1.6 (0.7 - 3.0)	No FTC or TFV mutations
Total	17	2.1 (1.3 - 3.4)	2 M184V (assoc with FTC)



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Summary

- **PrEP initiation was 93% among Kenyan and South African AGYW.**

Substantial risk: 2/3 having a partner of unknown HIV status, 1/4 reporting never using condoms, and 1/3 with chlamydia or gonorrhea.

- **PrEP persistence was moderate; 31% returned for a refill at 1 month and 15% restarted PrEP.**
 - 15% restarted PrEP, suggests that women can recognize when they need PrEP.
- **HIV incidence was 2.1/100 p-years. Most women who seroconverted had poor adherence or had stopped PrEP.**
 - 2 women who seroconverted in the first 3 months had M184V resistance, associated with FTC.
 - Other resistance mutations were minor variants, not associated with TFV or FTC.
- **Additional strategies to simplify PrEP delivery, support adherence and provide different PrEP options for young African women are needed to improve persistence and protection.**



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POWER sub-studies

- Evaluation of PrEP decision support tool in Johannesburg primary care clinic on PrEP uptake and adherence
(Seidman D, R4P)
- Qualitative study to understand the ‘PrEP user journey’
(Rousseau E, R4P)

My PrEP: a PrEP decision support tool

- Developed tool with Drs. Nika Seidman and Christine Dehlendorf, UCSF and Larry Swiader and Mike Roost at Bedsider.org
 - Based on format of My Birth Control decision support tool
- Cognitive testing of prototype of My PrEP decision support tool in Kisumu, Kenya with young women, FP providers and CAB
 - Made changes in the images and text
- Wits RHI youth CAB provided useful feedback
 - Final version of digital tool was developed
- Iterative process informed content, tone and graphics



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Structure of My PrEP decision support tool

BEFORE WE GET STARTED...

Choices about family planning and HIV prevention are big decisions about taking care of yourself. You have choices, and the right choice is different for different women. Your choices may change over time because things in your life change, or because what matters to you change. In just a few minutes, we want to make sure you know all your options, so you can find methods that are right for you.

WHAT PUTS WOMEN AT RISK OF HIV?

Using HIV prevention and family planning helps us stay healthy and have loving, healthy relationships and families. We use these methods for one or many reasons. Here are some reasons why:

- "I am sexually active and don't always use condoms, so I use HIV prevention."*
- "I recently had a sexually transmitted infection, so I use HIV prevention."*
- "I use alcohol or drugs before sex, so I use HIV prevention"*
- "I want to be in charge of my health and feel more confident, so I use HIV prevention."*
- "I think my partner has other partners, so I use HIV prevention"*
- "I don't know my partner's HIV status, so I use HIV prevention."*
- "My partner is violent or controlling, so I use HIV prevention."*
- "Many young women get HIV from partners who are much older than them. My partner is older than me, so I use HIV prevention."*
- "My partner has HIV but isn't taking HIV medications, or has been taking medications for less than six months, so I use HIV prevention."*

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS TO PREVENT HIV?

People who are HIV-negative can use HIV prevention methods to lower their chance of getting HIV. These may be best used in combination!



PrEP: an HIV prevention pill that I can take daily



Condoms (male and female)



Decreasing my sex partners



Knowing if my partner has HIV



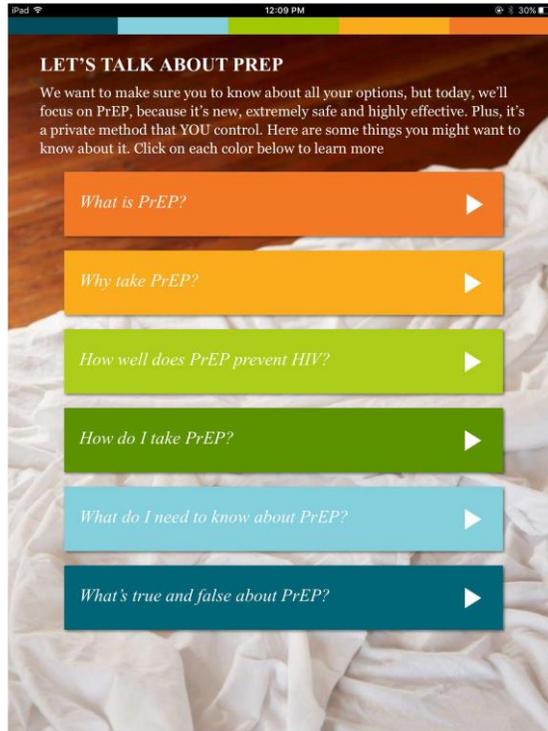
If my partner has HIV, he takes HIV medicines



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Introduction of PrEP: What is it and why take it?



WHAT IS PrEP?

Pre = before

Exposure = contracting HIV

Prophylaxis = prevent infection

- > PrEP is a pill that HIV-negative people take to prevent getting HIV.
- > PrEP works best if taken every day.
- > PrEP is a private (you don't have to tell anyone about it if you don't want) method that you control.
- > Both men and women can take PrEP.

WHY TAKE PrEP?

Many women use HIV prevention for many different reasons. Here's one young woman's story about why she decided PrEP was right for her:

"I am 19 and decided to use PrEP because I live in a country where there are many people who have HIV. My boyfriend is much older than me and I don't know his HIV status. I don't know if he has other partners and don't want what he does to determine whether or not I get HIV. By taking PrEP, I am in charge of my health and I feel more confident, safe and protected against HIV."



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Introduction of PrEP: How to take it?

PrEP can give you peace of mind and feel more in control. PrEP isn't for everyone but it helps many women who aren't sure about their partner's HIV status or behaviors, or can't use condoms all the time. Let's talk about whether you think PrEP would be good for you.

HOW DO I TAKE PrEP?



PrEP is **one pill** that you take **once a day** to prevent HIV.



PrEP works best if you take it **every day**.



You have to take PrEP for **at least a week** before you have enough medicine in your body to prevent HIV.



PrEP **doesn't prevent STIs or pregnancy**. Don't forget to **use a condom** to stay healthy and use family planning if you don't want to get pregnant!



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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PrEP

THE GOOD STUFF:

- Very safe.
- Keeps you healthy by preventing HIV.
- Private method that you control.
- Increases confidence and decreases fear of getting HIV.
- Safe with all types of family planning.
- Safe to use while pregnant and breastfeeding.

THE ANNOYING STUFF:

- A few people have mild side effects like headache or nausea that go away quickly (in a few weeks).
- PrEP does not protect against other sexually transmitted infections. Only condoms prevent against HIV and other infections.
- PrEP does not prevent pregnancy. PrEP is safe to take with all forms of family planning, though!

STUFF TO NOT WORRY ABOUT:

- You don't have to take PrEP for your whole life! You can use PrEP for as long as you need it. We suggest talking to your provider before stopping PrEP.

WHAT'S TRUE AND FALSE ABOUT PrEP?

- ✓ TRUE: Only a few PrEP users have side effects. These symptoms usually happen in the first month, are mild, last a few days and then go away.
- ✗ FALSE: PrEP will make you sick.

- ✓ TRUE: It takes about a week to build up enough levels of PrEP in your body to be protected against HIV.
- ✗ FALSE: PrEP is like the morning after pill.

- ✓ TRUE: If it is possible to talk to your partner about PrEP, it can build intimacy and love. If you can't talk to your partner about PrEP, you can feel more confident.
- ✗ FALSE: Using PrEP means you don't trust your partner(s).

- ✓ TRUE: PrEP can be taken when you feel you need HIV protection, and stopped when you don't need it.
- ✗ FALSE: PrEP needs to be taken forever.

- ✓ TRUE: PrEP doesn't protect against other STIs. Only condoms prevent against other STIs.
- ✗ FALSE: Using PrEP means you don't need condoms.

- ✓ TRUE: PrEP has no effect on your ability to get pregnant.
- ✗ FALSE: PrEP will make you not be able to have children.

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Evaluation of My PrEP decision tool

Purpose:	To test the effect of a patient-facing decision support tool on PrEP uptake and use among young South African women
Design:	Randomize (by day) women who are coming for reproductive health services to receive standard of care counseling with or without the digital My PrEP decision support tool, which will be used prior to the provider encounter
Study Population:	350 HIV-uninfected women ages 18-25 in Johannesburg, South Africa.
Primary Objective:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To determine the effect of a digital, patient-facing PrEP decision support tool on PrEP uptake
Secondary Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To determine the effect of a digital, patient-facing PrEP decision support tool on PrEP uptake and continuation after 1 month• To qualitatively evaluate whether a digital PrEP decision support tool alters young women's decision-making about PrEP and provider attitudes about the patient-facing decision support tool
Study Sites:	Jeppestown Clinic, Johannesburg, South Africa

Baseline characteristics

Characteristics	N (%) or median (IQR)			
	N	Overall, N = 353	Other website, N = 181	DST, N = 172
Age, years	353	21 (20, 23)	21 (19, 24)	21 (20,23)
18-20		134 (38%)	75 (41%)	59 (34%)
21-25		219 (62%)	106 (59%)	113 (66%)
Marital Status	352			
Single, no partner		4 (1.1%)	3 (1.7%)	1 (0.6%)
Single, with partner		339 (96%)	173 (96%)	166 (97%)
Married		8 (2.3%)	3 (1.7%)	5 (2.9%)
Divorced/separated		1 (0.3%)	1 (0.6%)	0 (0%)
Lives with partner	349	59 (17%)	25 (14%)	34 (20%)
Any previous pregnancy	351	242 (69%)	126 (70%)	116 (67%)
Trying to get pregnant	352	5 (1.4%)	3 (1.7%)	2 (1.2%)
On family planning	353	142 (40%)	76 (42%)	66 (38%)
Oral		32 (23%)	19 (25%)	13 (20%)
Injectable		86 (61%)	47 (62%)	39 (59%)
Implant		20 (14%)	8 (11%)	12 (18%)
IUD		1 (0.7%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.5%)
Emergency Contraception		2 (1.4%)	2 (2.6%)	0 (0%)
Tubal ligation		1 (0.7%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.5%)



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Prevention Options for
Women Evaluation Research

Risk characteristics

Characteristics	N	N (%) or median (IQR)		
		Overall, N = 353	Other website, N = 181	DST, N = 172
Sexual behaviors (in past 3 months)				
Had sex in past 3 months		353 (100%)	181 (100%)	172 (100%)
More than one sex partner	350	49 (14%)	21 (12%)	28 (16%)
Used Condoms	352			
Always		53 (15%)	22 (12%)	31 (18%)
Sometimes		214 (61%)	107 (59%)	107 (62%)
Never		85 (24%)	51 (28%)	34 (20%)
VOICE risk Score (0-8)	351	6 (5,7)	6 (5,7)	6 (5,7)
Uses Alcohol	352	164 (47%)	85 (47%)	79 (46%)
Sexually transmitted infections				
Has STI symptoms	353	7 (2.0%)	3 (1.7%)	4 (2.3%)
Gonorrhea	290	23 (7.9%)	12 (8.2%)	11 (7.6%)
Chlamydia	290	99 (34%)	46 (32%)	53 (37%)



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PrEP uptake at enrollment

	N	PrEP uptake	OR	95% CI	P value
Decision Support Tool	172	166 (97)	1.79	0.67-5.30	0.262
Health website	181	170 (94)	Ref.		



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PrEP Continuation at 1 month

	N	Attended 1 month visit	PrEP Continuation	OR	95% CI	P value
Decision Support Tool	172	40 (23%)	33 (20%)	1.97	1.08-3.69	0.029
Health website	181	31 (17%)	19 (11%)	Ref.		



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Discussion

- No difference in PrEP uptake with PrEP decision tool
 - Although very high (95%) uptake in both arms
- Continuation of PrEP at 1 month is low; mostly characterized by not returning for the visit.
 - In context of primary health clinic that had contraceptive interruptions & Johannesburg civil unrest in fall 2019
- Those randomized to My PrEP decision support tool had 20% continuation, compared to 11% in the other website,
 - Two-fold higher odds of PrEP continuation at month 1 than those viewing general health website ($p = 0.029$)



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ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN'S (AGYW) PREP-USER JOURNEY DURING AN IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE STUDY IN SOUTH AFRICA AND KENYA

E. Rousseau, A.W.K. Katz, S. O'Rourke, L.-G. Bekker, S. Delany-Moretlwe, E. Bukusi, D. Travill, V. Omollo, J. Morton, G. O'Malley, R. Johnson, C. Celum, J.M. Baeten, A. van der Straten

Background

Oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) efficacy in preventing HIV is well established. However, adhering to a daily regimen can be challenging, especially for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Africa. With PrEP scale-up ongoing, it is important to understand AGYW's motivations and lived experiences in the uptake and use of PrEP.

Methods

In-depth interviews were conducted with a purposive sample of **91 AGYW (ages 16-25)** in the POWER implementation project offering PrEP from adolescent-friendly, mobile, and family planning clinics, in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa and Kisumu, Kenya. Rapid analysis explored AGYW's PrEP-user journey.

PrEP USE JOURNEY



Enablers

- Perception of HIV vulnerability
- Agency: PrEP use is personal choice
- PrEP integrated in SRH services
- Comprehensive info and counselling on PrEP
- Advocacy by other AGYW PrEP users

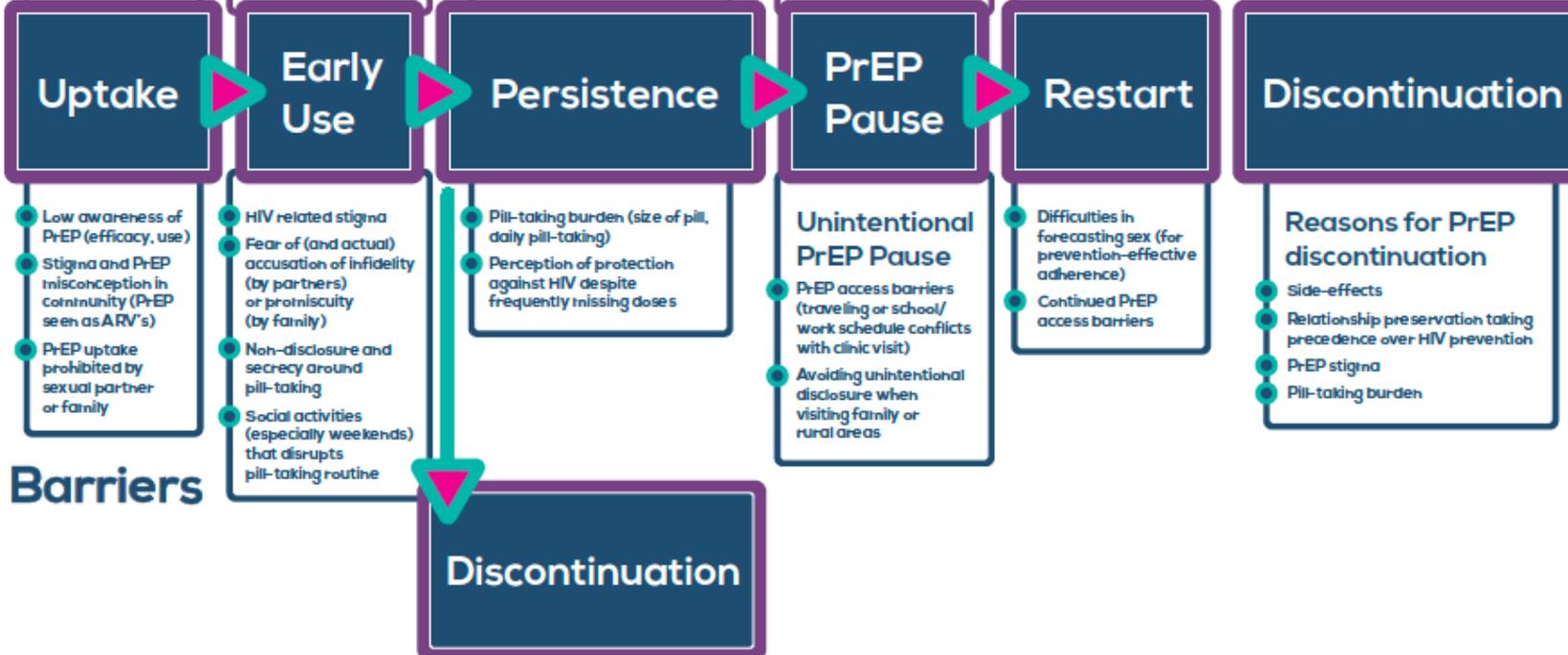
- Early disclosure
- Social Support for PrEP use
- Establishing adherence strategies incl. storage and reminders
- Counselling and clinical intervention for potential side-effects

- Continuous assessment of HIV vulnerability
- Experience of safety, empowerment and freedom in sexual relationships
- Peer support and advocacy
- Motivational counselling wrt misse PrEP doses
- Reduced pill-taking fatigue through prevention-effective adherence

Intentional PrEP Pause

- Perceived lower HIV risk
- Relationship status change
- Relationship dynamic change (trust in long-term partner or using condoms consistently)
- Practicing prevention-effective adherence

- New sexual relationship
- Experiencing a heightened sense of HIV vulnerability linked to: (1) suspected partner infidelity or (2) witnessing family or friend testing HIV+



PrEP User Journey Findings

- AGYW who initiated PrEP early in study displayed high awareness of HIV vulnerability.
- Community stigma and PrEP misconceptions influenced uptake and early use.
- Disclosure to family and/or partners occurred early for AGYW who persisted with PrEP.
- Unplanned PrEP pauses occurred due to PrEP access problems. Planned PrEP pauses occurred during periods of no sexual activity.
- Many AGYW who had PrEP interruptions restarted PrEP.
- PrEP discontinuation was often due to perceived side effects and low social support.



HIV RESEARCH FOR PREVENTION
27 & 28 JAN | 3 & 4 FEB 2021

Conclusion

AGYW in South Africa and Kenya recognize their HIV vulnerabilities and the benefits of PrEP, however implementing use is impacted by their social relationships and circumstances. Tailored flexible interventions are needed to address young women's diverse PrEP motivations, social contexts and understandings of prevention-effective adherence.



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POWER Study Team

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- Project Manager: Rachel Johnson
- Research Manager: Jenn Morton
- Data Analyst: Lara Kidoguchi
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- Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kisumu: Elizabeth Bukusi, Victor Omollo, Felix Mogoko
- Wits RHI, Johannesburg, South Africa: Sinead Delany-Moretlwe, Danielle Travill

Collaborators

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- UCSF: Nika Seidman, Christine Dehlendorf
- Massachusetts General Hospital: Jessica Haberer



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Click here to watch the video: https://youtu.be/wnSM_R43T1w

Opening & Introductions

SEARCH

Q & A with the SEARCH team

POWER

Q & A with the POWER team

PrEP advocacy message

Final Q & A

Q&A



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Global PrEP Learning Network
It's Been 5 Years Already:
How are we doing with HIV PrEP

Jason Reed

February 25, 2021



	VMMC Questions in 2012 (5 years after WHO recommendations)	VMMC Solutions in 2012	PrEP Questions in 2021 (5 years after WHO recommendations)
Pace:	Why were we off-target/moving “too” slowly?	White House commitment to “stretch” target of 4.7 million VMMCs to accelerate agenda	Will there be a higher level commitment to a number?
Budget:	Would there ever be sufficient funding given legacy programs and treatment mortgages?	White House commitment accompanied by traceable, dedicated funding to meet target	Who is paying to start 3 million on PrEP, where is the funding, how can we know it is dedicated without a budget code?
Service Model:	How should we implement, given integrated services less productive; vertical models unsustainable?	Mobile services that are client-centered vs. convenient for the health system	Will we decentralize and de-medicalize PrEP as a self-care service?
Innovation:	Should surgical services be held back given device-based solutions in trials promised easier implementation?	Technology never distracted from full-steam-ahead approach to what was available	Will we give 100% effort to the oral PrEP available today while we await options with less frequent dosing?
Client Behavior:	Were men risk compensating after VMMC, ameliorating risk?	Don’t withhold services over suspicions and biases and counsel like you care	Why is continuous indefinite use assumed necessary for all, and discontinuation viewed as failure?

Why Now is the Time to Move Ahead

- Momentum is key
 - Stopping or reducing scale threatens confidence among stakeholders and clients not just in sustained availability of oral PrEP but in prevention
 - Constant program recalibration diverts funding away from services to management
- Perfect oral PrEP use **not** required to reduce incidence
 - Funding to date has been good investment
 - Continued scale-up will reduce incidence even in context of 95-95-95
 - Goal should be to get as many at-risk people to try PrEP as possible
 - First use is the first step in a longer prevention journey
 - Evidence that repeated use increases use regularity
- New & improved formulations coming, but oral PrEP prevents infections now
 - Delaying oral PrEP expansion today (waiting for the next best thing) results in more individuals needing treatment tomorrow, not cost savings

If Past were Prologue

- Prevention excels with high-level commitment to targets and funding
 - VMMC succeeded with White House target of 4.7 million clients and dedicated funding at approx. \$100 per target, the consensus avg unit cost
 - UNAIDS PrEP target of 3 million by 2020 presents an unfulfilled opportunity for donors' commitments
 - PrEP is first PEPFAR technical area to go without a budget code; monitoring past and future investments in PrEP challenging
 - As PrEP expands to multiple products, knowing how much funding is going to various products will be important for reasons of equity

Advocacy During COP 2021

- How much of the COP 2021 funding is allocated to prevention? How do we know this, given some prevention costs are supposed to be covered by other budget codes? How does this compare to the funding level in COP 2020, overall and by country?
- How much of the COP 2021 funding is allocated to the forms of “PrEP” stated in COP 2021 Guidance?
 - Specifically to oral PrEP?
 - Specifically to DVR?
 - Specifically to CAB-LA?

Opening & Introductions

POWER

Q & A with the POWER team

SEARCH

Q & A with the SEARCH team

PrEP advocacy message

Final Q & A

Q&A



Upcoming Sessions

**MAR
25**

**Developing Guidelines and
Plans for the Delivery of
Event-Driven PrEP**

**APR
22**

PrEP Continuation

**MAY
27**

TBD

Visit www.prepwatch.org/virtual-learning-network for up-to-date information.

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- All **webinars are recorded** and will be accessible on PrEPWatch within a week post-presentation date.
- Complementary **resources** will also be shared on PrEPWatch—including relevant research articles and tools.
- Registration for **upcoming webinars** is also located on PrEPWatch.



Virtual Learning Network

The PrEP Learning Network, hosted by CHOICE, provides national and sub-national ministries, implementing partners, community-based organizations (CBOs), and others working with PrEP around the world with the tools and resources, best practices, and opportunities to learn from others to help to advance PrEP scale-up. Prior to July 2020, the PrEP Learning Network was hosted by OPTIONS, EpiC and RISE.

Its monthly webinar series features presentations from experts in specific content areas, lessons learned and insights shared from implementing partners and government ministries, and new tools or research on specific topics related to PrEP scale-up, ranging from demand creation to continuation.

The following pages include links to register for upcoming PrEP Learning Network webinars, watch previously recorded webinars and access complementary resources, research and tools on webinar topics.

Upcoming Webinars

- Expanding Access to PrEP through Community-based Delivery
Thursday, August 27, 2020, 9:00am EDT | 15:00 CAT | 16:00 EAT
[Register here.](#)

Previous Webinars

- Addressing the Elephant in the Room: Stigma and PrEP Rollout
Thursday, July 23, 2020
Research shows that stigma is an important barrier to the uptake of most services along the HIV prevention cascade, including PrEP. In this webinar, we heard about evidence-based approaches to address provider-level stigma, so clients feel comfortable and supported when accessing PrEP services. We'll also heard how Kenya has tried to de-stigmatize PrEP use by positioning it as an HIV prevention option "for all."
[Recording / Slides](#)

Visit www.prepwatch.org/virtual-learning-network for up-to-date information.

**Thank
You!**

