

Differentiated models of care: Community Youth Clubs in Khayelitsha, South Africa

Introduction

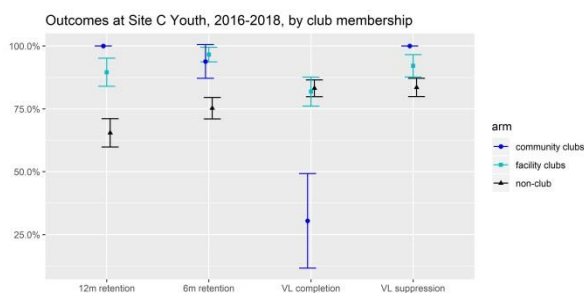
- Community Youth Club aim to decongest the facility and also give a quick service option for stable clients in clubs.
- Community-based models are also thought to be more appealing to youth, who may not want to wait in facilities, which are not always youth-friendly. Community-based youth clubs are thus seemingly well-suited for stable HIV-positive youth, with the added benefit of decanting facilities.



Eligibility Criteria

- Aged 20-25
- On the same ART regimen for at least 6 months (regimen 1 or 2)
- Most recent viral load undetectable (taken within 6 months)
- No other comorbidities (current TB or chronic disease)
- Part of an existing facility youth club for at least 2 years

Results



Retention in care at 6 months and 12 months for youth in CC was good. VL suppression was very good. More info is needed to understand the poor VL completion.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- Community engagement before starting the clubs took longer than expected. This process needs people who know the community and/or working with stakeholders in the area as this will help with communicating with the relevant people.
- Similar to transitioning youth from youth to adult clubs, transitioning youth from the facility to the community clubs takes time and requires logistical and psychological preparations of the patients, as well as good communication between the facility and community club teams.
- Availability of a nurse at each club visit is essential for provision of family planning and can be a challenge. It is preferable to have a back up nurse.
- Referrals to be seen by a CNP/ doctor are difficult from the community as transport can be an issue. Therefore, it is important to educate the patients that if they are sick, they should present directly to the facility.
- For security reasons, transport availability is key to the success of the community clubs. Unavailability of transport can lead to delayed transport of nurses, folders and medications and very delayed clubs.
- Therefore, it is essential to make preparations in advance for the well running of community clubs, such as timely booking of venue and transport, printing of bloods results, making sure all client folders are in the club box and checking that medication is available for all club members