

Prevention with Positives (PwP): How do we reach them in the community?

Intervention session: CHW with study participant



Ombidi W ^{*1}, Sarna A², J Okal ², Kingola N¹, Rinyiru A¹, Masila S¹, Temmerman M³

¹International Centre for Reproductive health (ICRH-K); ²Population Council; ³ICRH/Ghent University



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METHOD

Study Design

- Two arm (*intervention and control*) prospective cohort study was implemented (2010-2011) with pre- intervention (Baseline) –and post-intervention (Endline) measures, to assess the effectiveness of a risk reduction prevention strategy, delivered by community health workers (CHWs), for HIV positive persons not receiving ART
- Study informed by the 2007 survey by Horizons (nearly 60% HIV+ not on ART are sexually active, with multiple partners; 58% not on any FP methods)
- CHWs recruited :treatment-naïve HIV-positive persons from the community OR those that had stopped taking ART for at least 6 months
- A total of 634 PLHIV were recruited into the study of which **606 (315 intervention, 291 control site)** were interviewed at both baseline and endline
- Participants followed up for 6 months (CHWs offered one-on-one counseling and education in the intervention group) – at least 4 sessions on PwP messages
- **Quantitative data** collected by trained research assistants using audio computer-assisted self interviews (ACASI)



FINDINGS

	Intervention site (n=315)			Control site (n=291)		
	Baseline	Endline	Sig	Baseline	Endline	Sig
Sexual partners in the past 3 months (<i>MEAN</i>)	2.78	1.5 <i>decreased</i>	<0.001	1.9	1.6	0.01
Multiple partners %						
One partner (<i>increased</i>)	55.2	78.9	<0.001	73.5	75.0	NS
Two or more partners (<i>decreased</i>)	44.7	20.7		26.5	25.0	NS
consistently CUSE with most recent partner % <i>(increased)</i>	30	86.4	<0.001	32.2	38.7	NS
ARV uptake % <i>(increased)</i>	0.8	35.2	<0.001	0.9	12.3	0.01
Disclosure of HIV status to main sexual partner	52.0	83.0*** <i>increased</i>	<0.001	70.0	76.0*	0.05



conclusions

- CHW delivered intervention increased HIV-related knowledge, disclosure, CUSE and uptake of ART; and reduced risk behaviours.
- HIV prevention programs can use CHWs to expand the reach of HIV prevention services in the community
- The role of CHWs can be strengthened through providing appropriate training, support and incentives to enable them to play a bigger role in HIV prevention activities.



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People who participated in the study

Community Health Workers

