Barriers to Viral Suppression Among Key Populations in India: The Final 90
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BACKGROUND
• HIV viral suppression is critical to achieving benefits of antiretroviral therapy (ART) not only for individual health, but also for prevention of onward HIV transmission
• Limited data on viral suppression derive from key populations in low-and-middle-income countries where these groups continue to experience disproportionately high rates of HIV transmission
• In a large scale observational study of PMTCT and PMTCT from India (n=24,447), we previously demonstrated low levels of awareness of HIV positive status and linkage to care, but have not characterized factors associated with downstream HIV care continuum outcomes

METHODS
STUDY POPULATION
• Adults who have sex with men (MSM) and people who inject drugs (PWID)
• 18 years of age or older
• Provide verbal consent
• Self-identify as male
• Present a valid RDS coupon

RECRUITMENT
• 36,677 persons were recruited using respondent-driven sampling (ARCS goal of 1500 per site)
• Ethnographic research was initially conducted to identify “seeds” for RDS

STUDY PROCEDURES
• Participants underwent a survey and provided a blood specimen
• HIV testing was performed (three test rapid tests) and results were delivered to participants pre- and post- counseling
• Use of ART and adherence were based on self-report. Adherence was based on visual analogue scale.

ETHICAL CLEARANCES
• This study was approved by the JHMI, JHBS and the YRG Centre for AIDS Research and Education Board

RESULTS
Age-adjusted OR (95% CI)

Table 2. Characteristics of HIV-infected MSM and PWID reporting ART use (n=940) across 27 sites in India

Table 1. Ethnographic characteristics in the prior 6 months

CONCLUSIONS
• Levels of viral suppression among these ART in this population were high, but were still short of new UNAIDS targets (90-90-90). The primary barriers to viral suppression in both MSM and PWID appeared to be ongoing drug and alcohol use.
• Moreover, while viral suppression among those on ART was high, overall viral suppression (1% for MSM and 1% for PWID) was substantially

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