

Assisted Partner Services Among People Who Inject Drugs in Nairobi, Kenya

W DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
School of Public Health

Aliza Monroe-Wise, Brandon L. Guthrie, Loice Mbogo, John Scott, Bill Sinkele, David Bukusi, Matt Dunbar, Paul Macharia, Esther Gitau, Betsy Sambai, Helgar Musyoki, Sarah Masyuko, Joshua Herbeck, Carey Farquhar

BACKGROUND

- Testing **key populations (KPs)** for HIV is essential to achieving the first of the **UNAIDS 90-90-90 goals**.
- **Assisted partner services (aPS)** involves identifying and testing partners of HIV-infected individuals. It has been shown to be an efficient tool for HIV case-finding.
- aPS has not been widely used **among people who inject drugs (PWID), one of the highest risk KPs**.
- **HCV is common among PWID**, and alone or with HIV co-infection, poses a high health burden. **Treatment** options are emerging.
- We will determine whether **aPS can find, test, and link to care the injecting and sexual partners** of HIV-infected PWID in Nairobi, Kenya.

CONCLUSIONS & QUICK FACTS

- aPS using community-embedded peer educators is an effective tool for finding and testing high-risk partners of PWID.
- 19% of unique partners were HIV-infected.
- 26% of HIV-infected partners did not know their HIV status or were not on ART.
- Number of indexes needed to interview was 21 per new HIV case identified and 10 per HIV-infected partner not on ART
- aPS is a novel testing strategy that may reduce HIV transmission and promote engagement in care among PWID.

PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

	Indexes (N=196)	Unique Partners (N=434)
	% or median (IQR)	
Female gender	43%	32%
IPV Status		
High	0%	0%
Moderate	11%	9%
Low	89%	91%
Age (Years)	35.5 (30, 41)	32 (25, 38)
HIV-infected	100%	19%
On ART (among HIV-infected)	74%	74%
HCV Ab Positive	27%	17%
On Methadone	17%	17%

METHODS

Recruitment of **index participants** (indexes) occurs at **3 needle and syringe exchanges in Nairobi and at methadone clinics**. Indexes provide contact information for **injection and sexual partners in the past 3 years**. Blinded to the index's identity, **community-embedded peer educators (CEPEs)** attempt to contact all named partners, first by phone, then **community tracing**. Traced partners are notified of their possible HIV exposure and offered HIV counseling and testing.

All Participants also complete **questionnaires** and are offered **rapid hepatitis C (HCV) testing**. To examine aPS effectiveness, we determined the **number of indexes needed to be interviewed (NNTI)** to find a **1) first-time tester; 2) new HIV case; 3) known HIV-positive person not on treatment**.



Recruitment of index participants from needle and syringe program (NSP) sites and methadone clinics. Community-embedded peer educators (CEPEs) are used to trace partners.



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RESULTS

Index participants

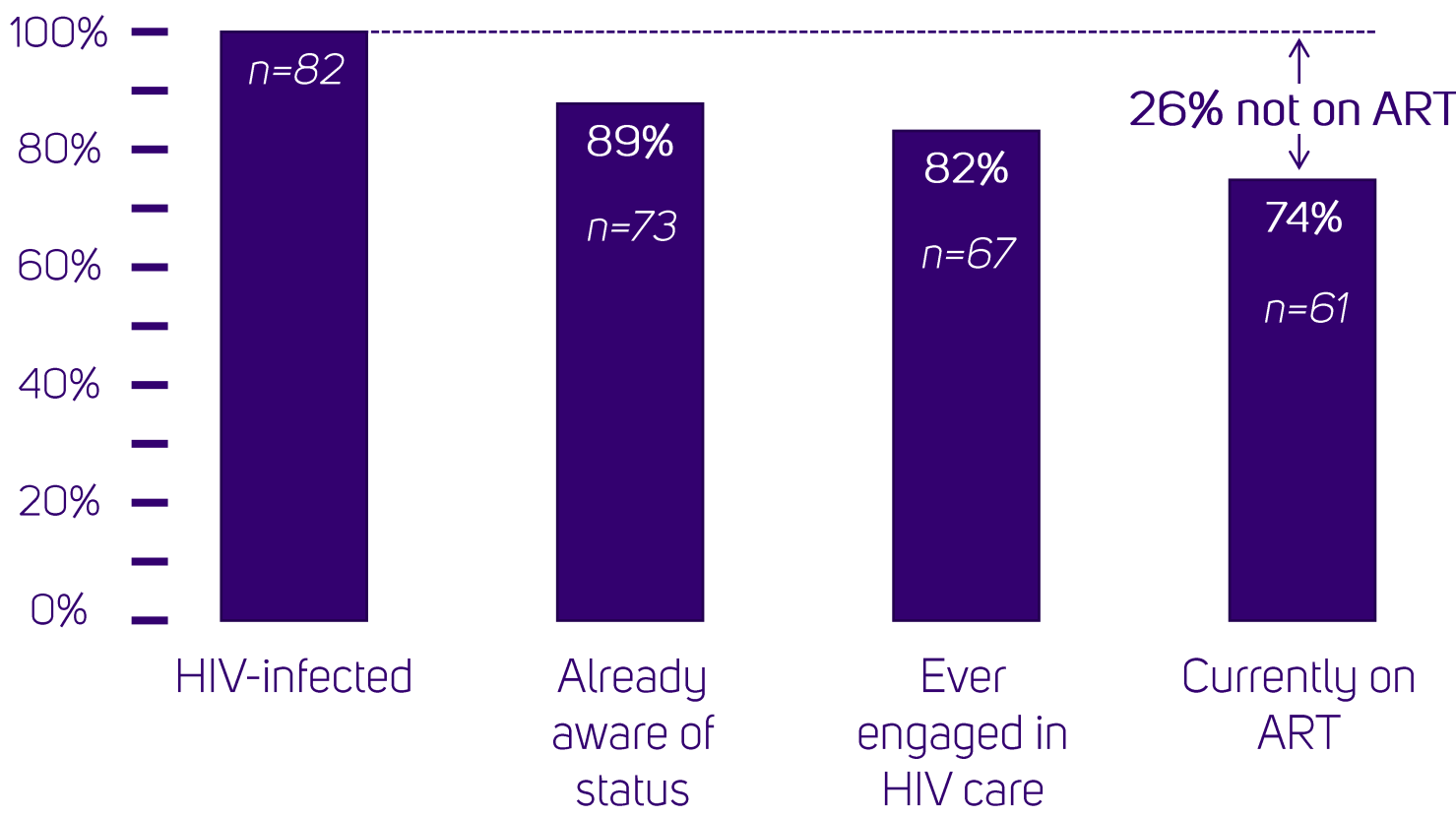
- **196 indexes** enrolled named **634 partners**.
- Overall, 27% were HCV Ab+. Of the **men, 35% were HCV Ab+** compared to **18% of the women**.
- Overall, 74% were currently on ART. Among the men, 80% were currently on ART, compared to 67% of the women.

Traced partners

- Of 634 named partners 557 (**88%**) have been **traced and enrolled**, of whom **434 are unique partners**.
- Of enrolled partners, **69% were injection partners (IPs)** only, **13% sexual partners (SPs)** only, and **15% were injection and sexual partners (ISPs)**.
- Overall, **HIV prevalence was highest among ISPs (27%)** and lower among IPs (19%) and SPs (13%).
- However, among **female partners, HIV prevalence was highest among SPs (35%)** and somewhat lower among ISPs (29%) and IPs (25%).
- Almost all partners **required in-person tracing**, as they could not be reached by phone.
- **No adverse events** reported related to aPS

- **Number indexes needed to Interview:**
19 per first-time tester,
21 per new HIV case, and
10 per HIV-infected partner not on ART

HIV CARE CASCADE AMONG PARTNERS

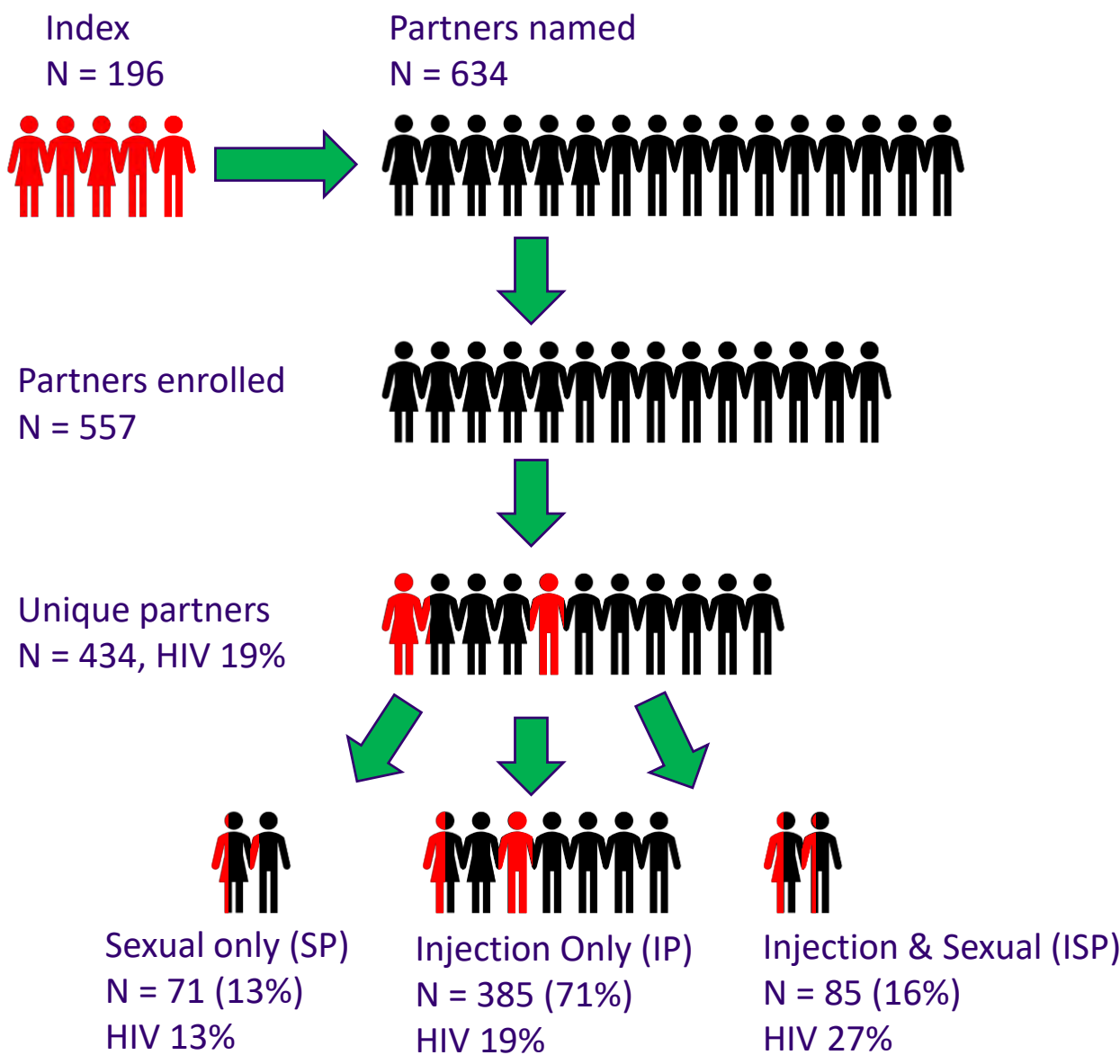


National AIDS/STD Control Programme (NASCOP)
Ministry of Health Government of Kenya

HIV AND HCV PREVALENCE AMONG PARTNERS

	Overall	Injection Partner	Sexual Partner	Injection & Sexual Partner
HIV-infected				
Males	15%	17%	4%	25%
Females	26%	25%	35%	29%
HCV-seropositive				
Males	18%	22%	4%	17%
Females	14%	10%	20%	24%

YIELD OF ASSISTED PARTNER SERVICES



HIV and HCV testing resources and linkage to HIV care and treatment



Risk reduction counseling, clean injection supplies, and condoms provided

