



Self-tests for at-home partner testing are acceptable & utilized among pregnant women

Results from an implementation science study in Kenya

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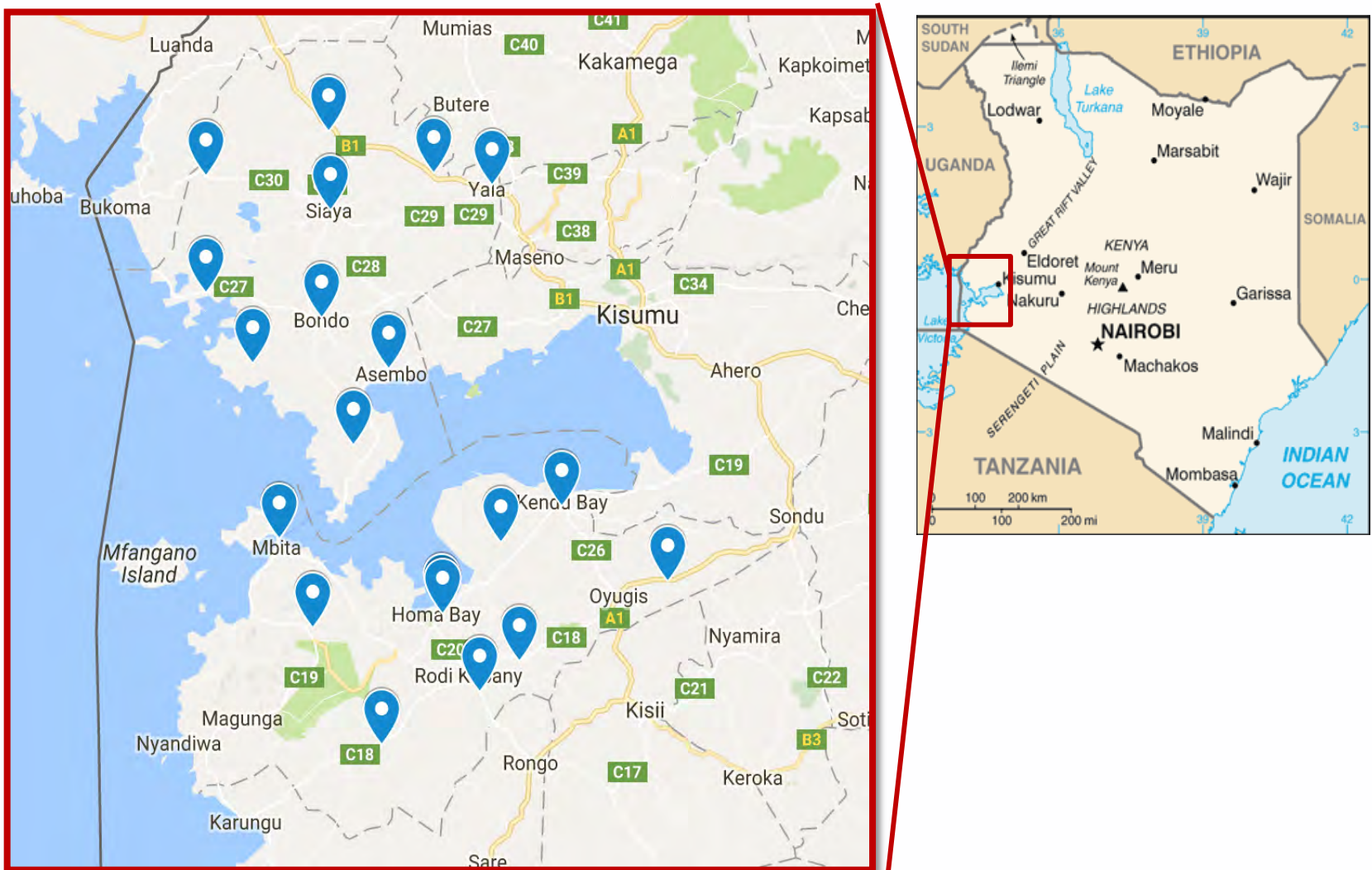
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Background

The PrEP Implementation for Mothers in Antenatal Care (PrIMA) Study is an ongoing cluster RCT (NCT03070600) evaluating approaches for delivering PrEP to pregnant women within routine antenatal care (ANC) clinics in, Kenya.



Figure 1. Distribution of sites in Siaya and Homa Bay Counties, Kenya

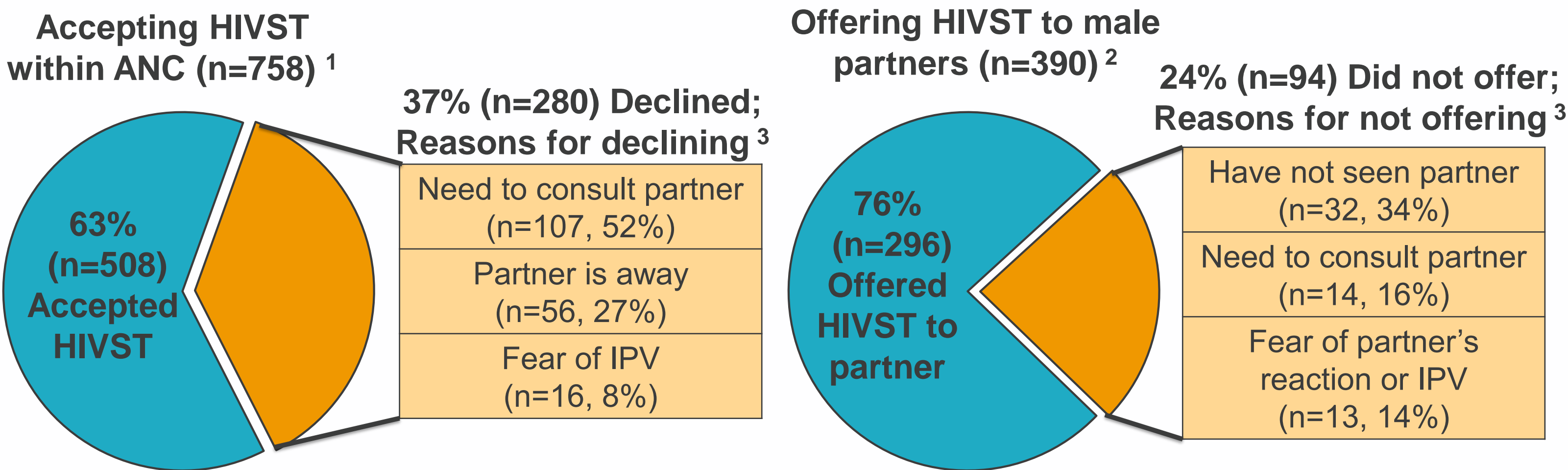


- Male partner and couples HIV testing among pregnant women in HIV high-burden settings remains a challenge.
- Secondary distribution of HIV self-tests within routine antenatal care (ANC) could provide an opportunity to close the gap on partner and couples testing.

Methods and Results

- We offered self-tests for at-home partner HIV self-testing to HIV-uninfected women seeking routine ANC at 10 facilities in Siaya and Homa Bay, Kenya as part of the PrIMA Study.
- Women were provided with instructions on how to use self-tests and received ≥ 2 oral-fluid-based HIV rapid tests (OraQuick Rapid HIV-1/2 Antibody Test, OraSure Technologies).
- Data on HIVST outcomes were ascertained in-person at one-month follow-up visits.

Figure 2. Acceptance and outcomes of HIV self-tests (HIVST) for at-home male partner testing among HIV-uninfected women who had male partners of unknown HIV status (n=758)

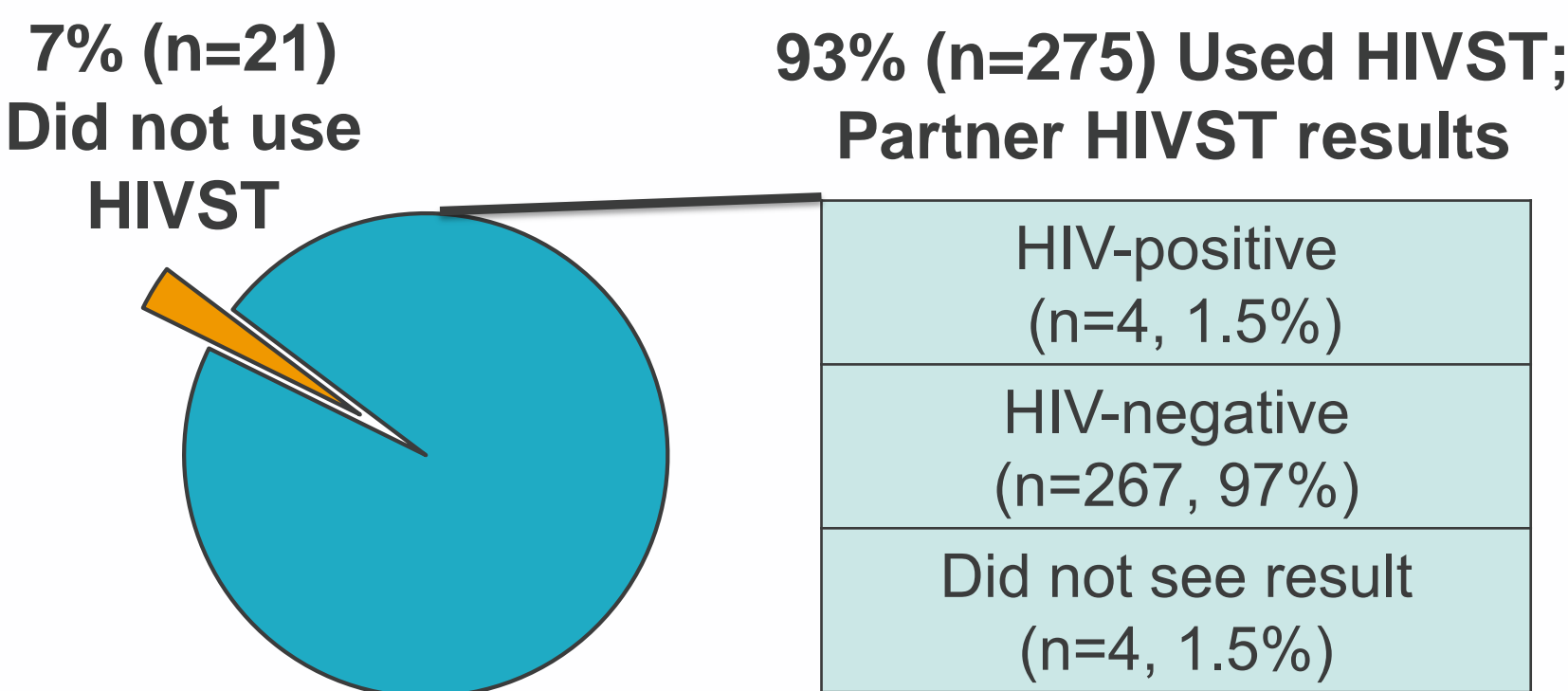


¹ Among women offered HIVST for at-home male partner HIV testing who had male partners of unknown HIV status
² Among women who accepted HIVST, had male partners of unknown HIV status, and had HIVST outcome data available. Outcomes include information from first follow-up visits. Some women (n=368) had not yet attended a follow-up visit at the time of the analysis.
³ Top 3 reasons presented.

Table 1. Characteristics of pregnant HIV-uninfected women offered HIVST (N=1871)

	n (%) or Median (IQR)	
Male partner HIV status		
	HIV-negative	1019 (54%)
	Unknown	758 (41%)
	HIV-positive	82 (4%)
	No partner	12 (1%)
Age, years		24 (20-29)
Gestational age, weeks		24 (20-28)
Education, years		10 (8-12)
Married		1611 (87%)

Partner HIVST use (n=296)



- Overall, 268/275 (97%) women used HIVST together with partners for at-home couples testing
- 4 (1%) reported experiencing harm as a result of the HIVST and specified that their partners were upset; no physical or verbal harm was reported



Nurse counselling participant on HIVST use. Consent provided for all photographs.

Conclusions

- Within ANC, at-home male partner HIVST was acceptable and frequently led to couples' HIV testing, enhancing knowledge of HIV status.
- IPV was a barrier to acceptance and offering of self-tests to male partners.
- Secondary HIVST distribution is an attractive strategy to improve male partner HIV testing.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the PrIMA Study Staff and the Homa Bay and Siaya County Directors of Health for their support on this project. We thank the Kizazi Working Group and University of Washington Global Center for the Integrated Health of Women, Adolescents, and Children, (Global WACH) for comments and insights provided during study design and abstract development. Most of all, we thank the women and infants who have and will participate in the study

