Uptake of HIV prevention by notified seronegative partners in HIV-discordant couples in Uganda

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BACKGROUND

- Assisted Partner Notification (APN) is an effective HIV epidemic control strategy.
- The focus for APN is undiagnosed contacts of index clients living with HIV.
- However, failure of notified contacts to disclose their negative results to positive partners might expose them to ongoing HIV risk.
- Our objectives were to assess uptake and factors associated with HIV prevention among notified HIV-negative partners.

METHODS

We analyzed cross-sectional data from partners of index clients tested.

We determined :

- Uptake of HIV re-testing;
- Disclosure of seronegative status to current sexual partner;
- Reporting of abstinence, being faithful, condom use, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP); and safe male circumcision (SMC).

We used multiple logistic regression to generate adjusted ORs and 95% CIs)

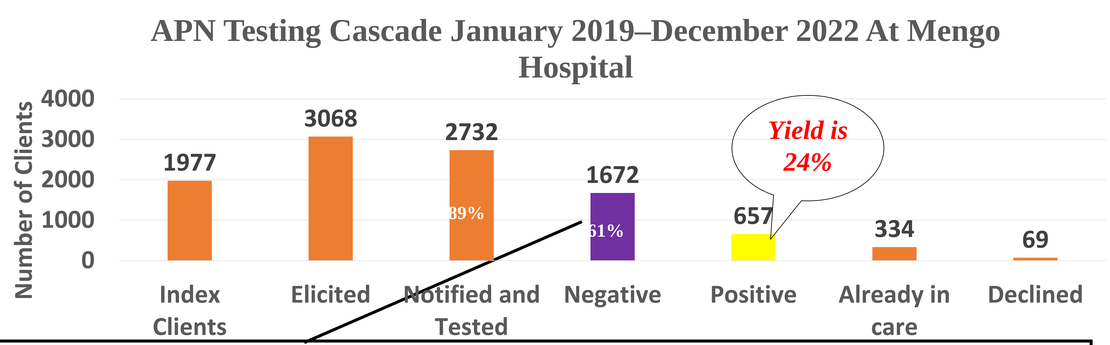
HIV status disclosure to seropositive partner is very low 24% (376)

Uptake of PrEP after APN is low (5.8%)

Partners reporting being faithful after APN were 46% less likely to RE-TEST (AOR=0.54; 95% CI 0.41-0.70

Ten (1.5%) partners seroconverted

RESULTS



Of those testing negative, 93% (1,547) were reached for follow-up after 3-6 months; mean age was 32.1 years

Characteristic	Gender		Repeat testing	Prevention Use	Prevention Method used				
Category	Female	Male	Yes	Yes	SMC	Prep	Abstinence	Be Faithful	Condom Use
No. (%)	618 (39.9%)	929 (60%)	675 (44%)	1334 (86%)	326 (35%)	90 (5.8%)	257 (17%)	507 (33%)	753 (49%)

Re-testers are young people age <20 (AOR=3.46; 95%CI 1.56-4.52), they are X9 more likely to disclose (AOR=8.83; 95%CI 6.54-11.9), and x3 times more likely to use a prevention method (AOR=3.31; 95%CI 2.22-4.93). **PrEP users** are X3 more likely to disclose (AOR= 3.31; 95%CI 1.93-5.08).

CONCLUSIONS

- Low uptake of HIV prevention suggests ongoing HIV risk.
- Low retesting rates, such as among those who reported being faithful as a prevention method, suggest seronegative partners would not receive timely treatment.

RECOMMENDATION

HIV-seronegative partners should be actively followed up for disclosure, behavior change, and uptake of HIV prevention methods.

ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION :

Additional Resources

Assisted Partner Notification Training for Providers in Clinical Settings, Ministry of Health Uganda, (2018).

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Disclaimer; The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

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