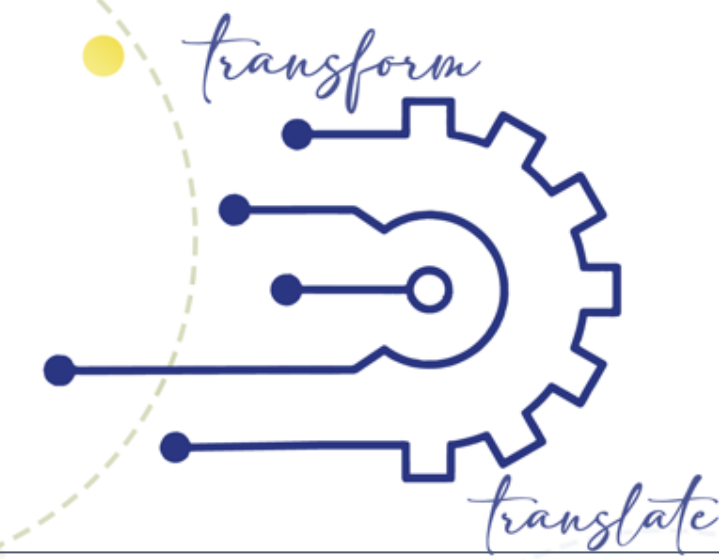


HIV testing and associated factors among adolescent girls and young women in South Africa

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BACKGROUND

According to the UNAIDS Fact Sheet 2023, in 2022

Global

- 39 million people globally were living with HIV
- 1,3 million were newly infected
- 630,000 died from AIDS related illnesses

Women and girls

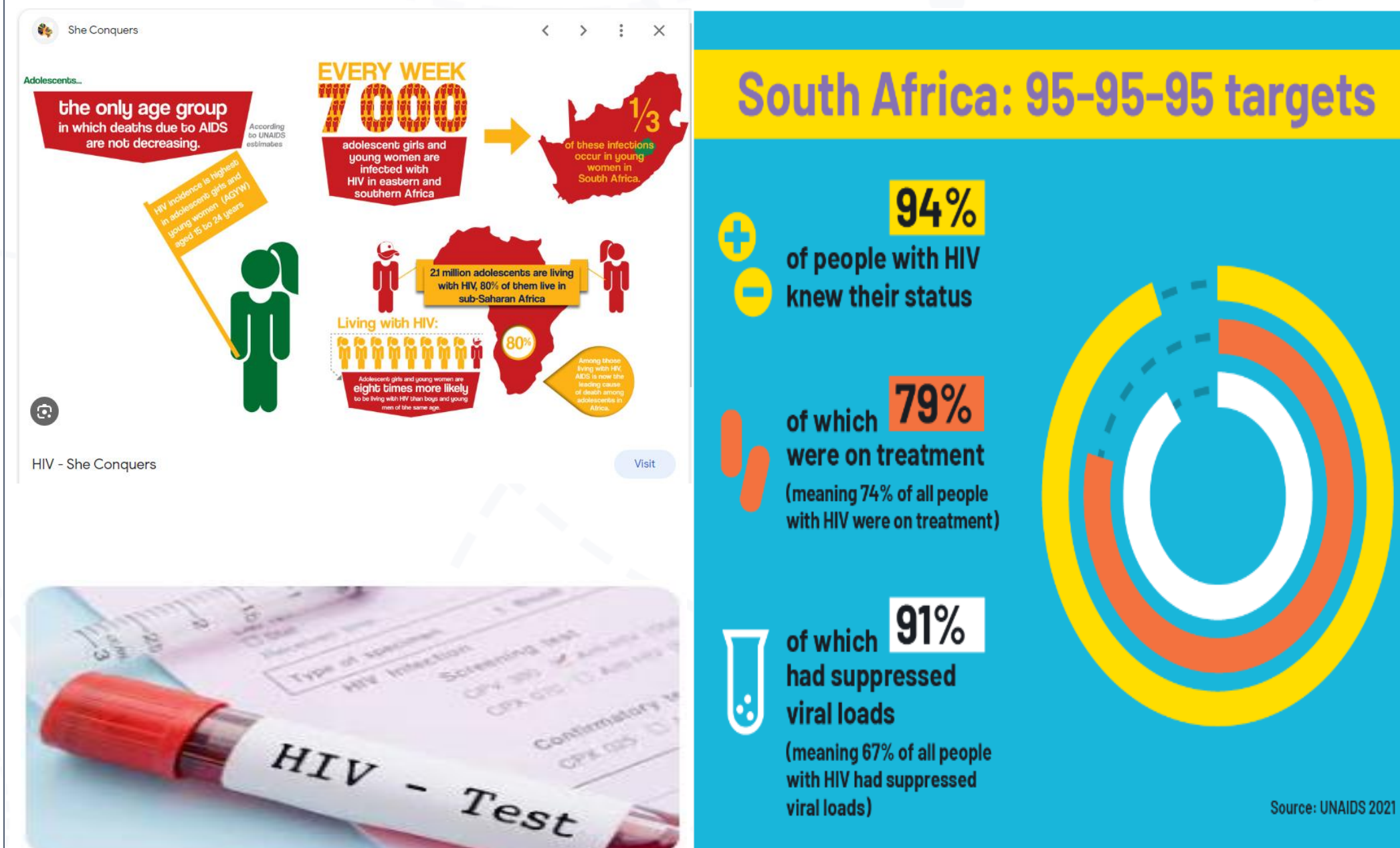
- 53% of people living with HIV were women and girls
- 46% of all new HIV infections were women and girls
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, 63% of all new HIV infections are women and girls
- Every week, >75% (3100/4000) of new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women aged 15–24 years are from SSA

Testing and treatment targets (95-95-95) among women

- 90% of women living with HIV knew their status
- 91% of women who knew their status were accessing treatment
- 93% of women accessing treatment were virally suppressed

Why this study?

- South Africa has the highest number of people living with HIV (> 8 million)
- AGYW disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS compared to their male counterparts
- 15-24 years crucial phase for young women –transition from childhood to adulthood
- HIV testing is the gateway to HIV prevention, treatment and care



OBJECTIVES

Among sexually active adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), aged 15–24 years, in South Africa

- Estimate the prevalence of self-reported HIV testing, and
- Determine factors associated with HIV testing

METHODOLOGY

Study design and sampling

- Secondary data analysis of a nationally representative population-based cross-sectional multi-stage cluster survey of households in South Africa conducted in 2017.
- Conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
- 5th Wave of South African HIV Prevalence, Incidence, Behavior and Communication Survey, 2017 (SABSSM v)
- Multi-stage random sampling, stratification by province and locality type

Setting and study participants

- Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in South Africa
- Age 15 to 24 years enrolled in the survey
- Sexually active

Data collection, variables and measurement

- Questionnaire administered to AGYW
- Self-reported HIV testing outcome (Yes/No)
- Socio-demographic characteristics: Age, Race, Marriage Status, Employment, Income
- History of pregnancy, HIV Knowledge, HIV risky sexual behaviors

Statistical methods

- Descriptive statistics were used to describe AGYW characteristics
- Multivariable logistic regression model was used to determine factors associated with HIV testing.
- All analyses were adjusted for unequal sampling probabilities using survey weights.

RESULTS

Demographic characteristics (1,360 AGYW)

- 70.3% aged 20–24 years
- 89.0% Black African,
- 95.5% unmarried,
- 88.7% unemployed,

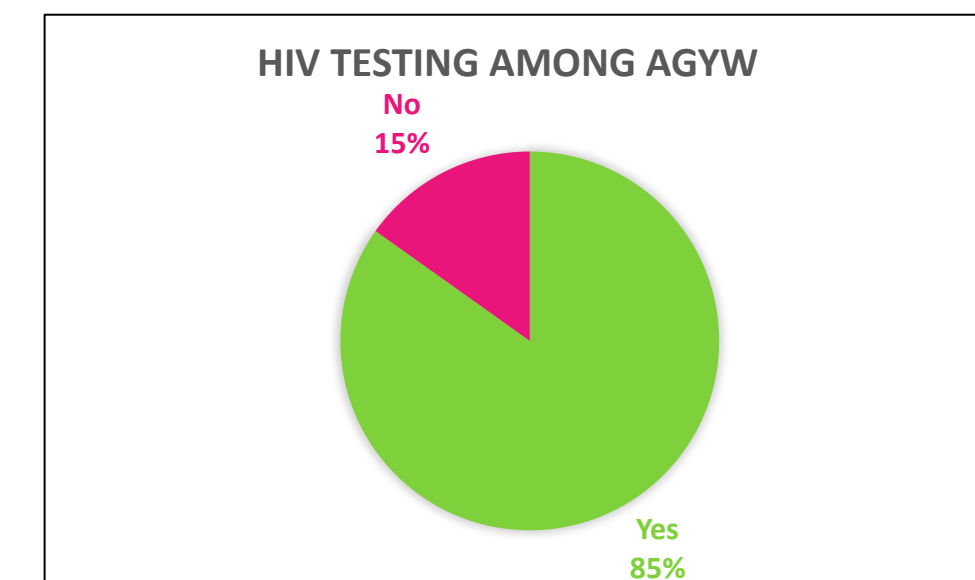


Table 1
Socio-demographic characteristics of adolescent girls and young women aged 15–24 years, South Africa, 2017.

Characteristic	n	% ^a	95%CI
Age category (N=1360)	15–19 years	416	29.7 26.5 to 33.0
	20–24 years	944	70.3 67.0 to 73.5
Racial group (N=1360)	Black African	1065	89.0 86.5 to 91.1
	Coloured	244	8.4 6.6 to 10.6
	White	23	1.9 1.1 to 3.4
	Indian/Asian	28	0.7 0.5 to 1.1
Marital Status (N=1356)	Married	66	4.5 3.1 to 6.5
	Never Married	1290	95.5 93.5 to 96.9
	Married	1290	95.5 93.5 to 96.9
Employment status (N=1358)	Employed	183	11.3 9.2 to 13.9
	Not employed	1175	88.7 86.1 to 90.8
Receiving any income (N=1359)	Yes	432	31.1 27.4 to 35.0
	No	927	68.9 65.0 to 72.6

^a Weighted percent, n = Frequency, CI: Confidence Interval.

RESULTS continued

Factors associated with HIV testing among sexually active AGYW – Unadjusted analysis

- Age - Older group (20-24 years) vs 1(15-19) years old (91,5% vs 72,3%, Odds Ratio [OR] 4.11, 95%CI: 2.70 to 6.25)
- History of pregnancy (95.5% vs 83.6%, OR 4.21, 95%CI: 1.84 to 9.62)
- Knowledge regarding prevention of HIV (condom use), (OR 3.43, 95%CI: 1.69 to 6.98)
- Inconsistent condom use: Compared to those who used condoms every time, almost every time (OR 3.65, 95%CI: 1.31 to 10.17) and sometimes (OR 3.03 95%CI: 1.59 to 5,79) had higher odds of HIV testing

Factors associated with HIV testing among sexually active AGYW - Adjusted analysis

- Age - Older group (20-24 years) vs 1(15-19) years old (adjusted Odds Ratio [aOR] 3,13, 95%CI: 1.86 to 5.28
- History of pregnancy (95.5% vs 83.6%, aOR 3.67, 95%CI: 1.84 to 9.62)
- Inconsistent condom use: Compared to those who used condoms every time, almost every time (aOR 3.31, 95%CI: 1.07 to 10.22) and sometimes (aOR 2.54, 95%CI: 1.29 to 4.98) had higher odds of HIV testing

CONCLUSIONS

- This research identified an unmet need for HIV testing among AGYW
- Increasing awareness of HIV counselling and testing among AGYW in South Africa is recommended
- HIV testing to be targeted on young adolescents (15-19 years), especially those with no history of pregnancy

ADVOCACY MESSAGE

- To achieve the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets, the South African government, stakeholders and NGO's must increase HIV testing uptake among the AGYW, who bear the disproportionate burden of HIV compared to their male counterparts.
- Comprehensive sexual education (CSE) can enhance awareness of the importance of HIV testing among young women

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