



Uptake of adolescent in-facility HIV Testing Services conducted by peers at public primary healthcare clinics in Thabo Mofutsanyana, Free State

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HEAIDS 2017

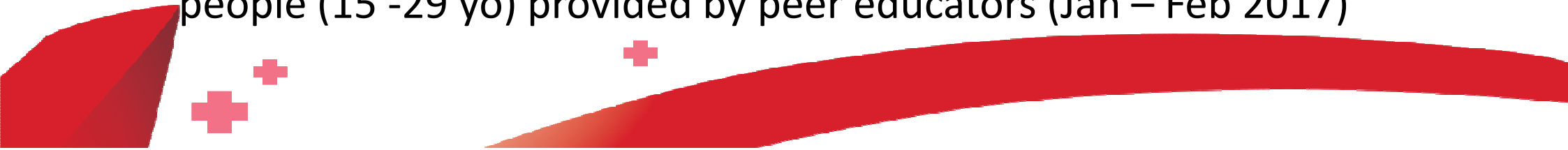
Adolescents and youth

- This growth stage is a time of significant biological, physical, emotional, and behavioural change
- Require access to quality prevention information and services to meet their developing needs
- Face barriers and as a result, they are often unable to exercise their right to making informed decisions
- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV infection, can have a profound impact on prevention services available to this target group



Background

- Approximately 2000 women aged 15-24 in South Africa are newly infected every week
- In Thabo Mofutsanyana:
 - HIV prevention services are freely available at all public primary health care (PHC) clinics
 - Uptake of services among the adolescents and the youth remain low
- **AIM:** To review uptake of prevention services by adolescents and young people (15 -29 yo) provided by peer educators (Jan – Feb 2017)



Map of Thabo Mofutsanyana



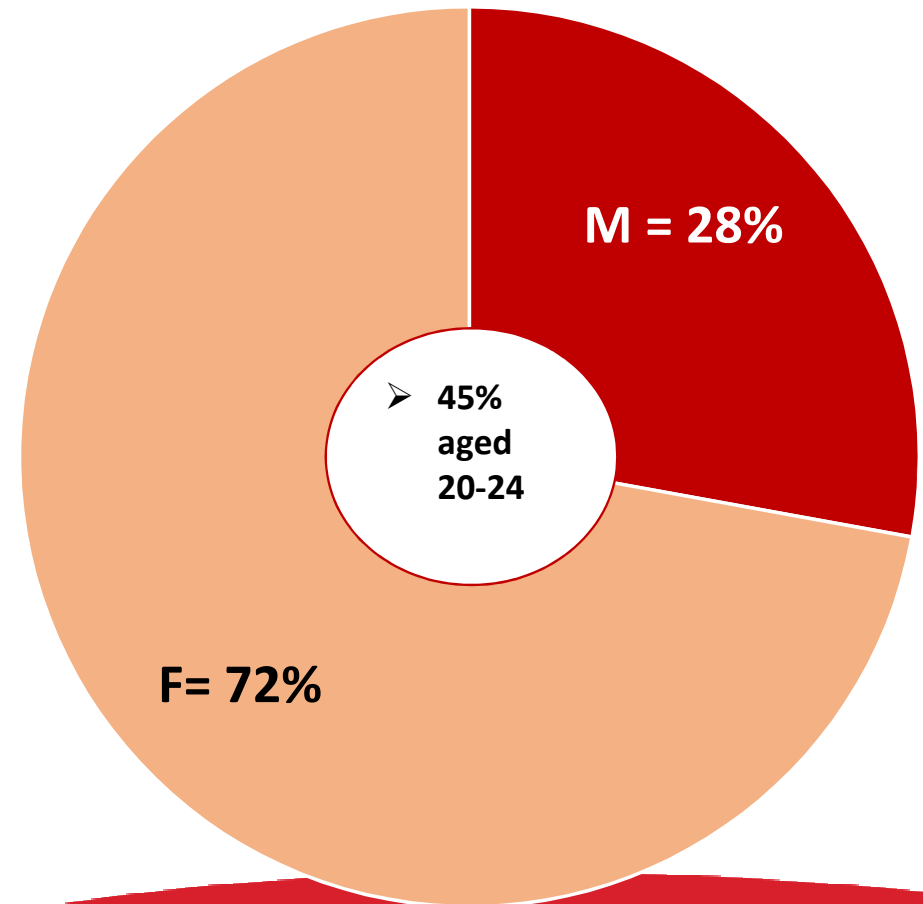
Methods

- 5 adolescent peer educators were placed in 3 PHC clinics to provide HTS, health talks and other prevention services
- HTS registers at the clinic were used daily to collect and collate data
- Data was stratified by 5 year age bands and percentage change in uptake of HTS reported:
 - Adolescents: 15-19 yo
 - Youths: 20-24 yo
 - Adults: 25-29 yo

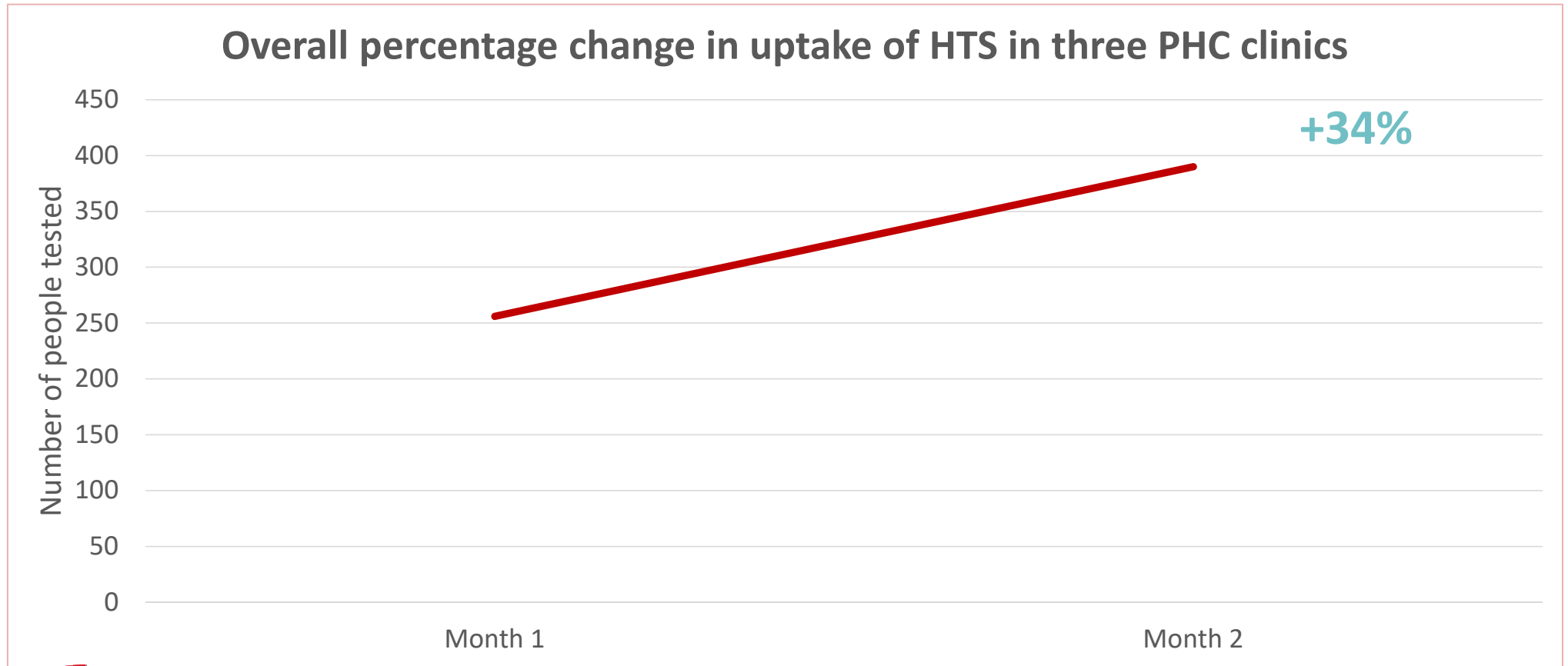


Results (1)

- N=646
- Study population adolescents and young adults(15 – 29 yo)
- 72% (n=466) were females
- > 45% were aged 20-24 years

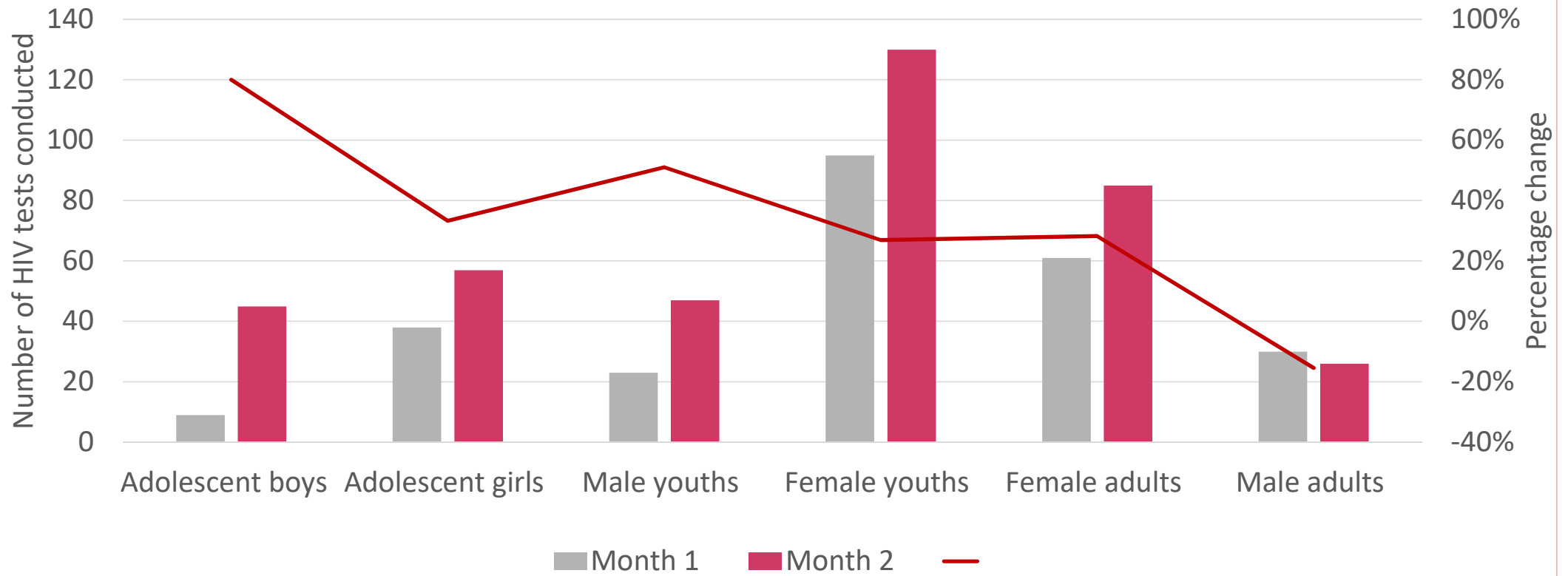


Results (2)



Results (3)

HIV Testing Services at Three Clinics in QwaQwa



Conclusion

- Using peer educators' in-facility may increase uptake and accessibility of prevention services by adolescents and young people
- Robust referral of young people from other service points at PHC clinics may further increase uptake of prevention services
- Extended working hours, a dedicated room with a nurse trained on adolescent youth friendly services
- Fast tracking may increase uptake of prevention services by adolescents and young people



References

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