

Increasing Acceptability for Prep Enrollment and HIV Testing Among Key and Priority Populations in the Slummy Settlements of Kampala and Wakiso Districts

Seruma N¹, Namugerwa S², Namagulu B³.

¹Gethsemane Reach Out Mission, Uganda, Health Care Department, ²Kamwokya Christian Caring Community (KCCC), Uganda, ³Kamwokya Christian Caring Community, Uganda, Antiretroviral Therapy Department.

Background/Purpose

Despite KCCC rolling out PrEP to prevent new HIV infections among Key and Priority Population, there was low enrollment for KPs on PrEP and low turn-up for HIV testing after PrEP initiation due to prejudice and stigma. KCCC medical team and Counselors launched a campaign to increase enrollment for new clients and ensure routine testing for all enrolled clients.

Approach

We mapped dwelling places for Sex Workers (SW) and LGBT and trained leaders of SWs and LGBT as PrEP Advocacy Focal Persons (PAFP) to woo peers and access PrEP and HIV testing. PAFP picked already packed ARVs and distributed them to peers as PrEP in their clusters, and while using self-testing Kits, they assisted clients to retest for HIV. Data was collected and entered in the KP tracker for analysis, Weekly performance review meetings were held to track progress on the individual targets.

Outcomes/Impact

In 2018, 1 KP was enrolled for HIV services, and in 2019, the number of KPs enrolled increased from 1, to 361, while in 2020, it increased to 604 KPs, 67.3% increase compared to 2019; similarly, in 2021 we enrolled 545 KPs. Overall, 1006 SWs had been enrolled from 2018-2021, 271 MSM, 184 People who Inject Drugs, and Transgender.

In 2008, 17 MSM were tested for PrEP initiation, the number of MSM tested increased by 158.8% in 2020, and in 2021 we registered a significant increase of 372.7% compared to 2020. Similarly, the number of SW tested for PrEP initiation increased from 1 in 2018 to 250 in 2019, while in 2020 it increased from 250 to 448 SWs, 79.2% increase. Overall 370 KPs have been enrolled on PrEP since 2018-2022.

Innovation and Significance.

The involvement of Key Population in providing HIV/AIDS services was a turning point in increasing the number of KPs, it breaks barriers which inhibit successful access to essential HIV/AIDS services.

Disclosure of interest statement: Gethsemane Reach Out Mission did not provide financial support for the development of this intervention and learning practice.