

ASSESSING POPULATION-LEVEL OUTCOMES FOR HIV PROGRAMMES

AMONG FEMALE SEX WORKERS AND MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN IN NAIROBI, KENYA



BACKGROUND

Estimated female sex workers and men who have sex with men in Nairobi county

 **37,630**
FSW

 **9,728**
MSM

The county has 20% of all estimated key populations and the largest HIV prevention programme for key populations in Kenya



OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To estimate the incidence and prevalence of HIV among female sex workers and men who have sex with men in Nairobi
- To assess biomedical, behavioural and structural outcomes among FSW and MSM in Nairobi
- To assess access and use of comprehensive package of HIV prevention and treatment services among key populations in Nairobi, Kenya
- To understand the barriers contributing to gaps in access and utilization of services among key populations
- To test the feasibility of using expanded Polling Booth Survey (ePBS) method to measure HIV outcomes



METHODS

- This study used a novel method called the expanded Polling Booth Study (ePBS)
- ePBS is a mixed-methods cross-sectional approach to data collection, which includes three components:
 - Polling Booth Survey
 - Mini individual biobehavioural survey
 - Focus group discussions
- Separate sampling frames were developed for FSW and MSM
- Mapped locations where FSW and MSM meet sexual partners were validated and randomly selected for the study
- The study team went to a selected location on a randomly assigned day during the location's peak hours
- Potential respondents were selected using a probability-based sampling procedure
- Data was collected over an intensive 30-day data collection period between April and May 2023



Polling Booth Survey

- Group interview method in which individuals provided responses through a ballot box (Green = Yes, Red = No, White = Not applicable)
- Individual responses were anonymous and unlinked

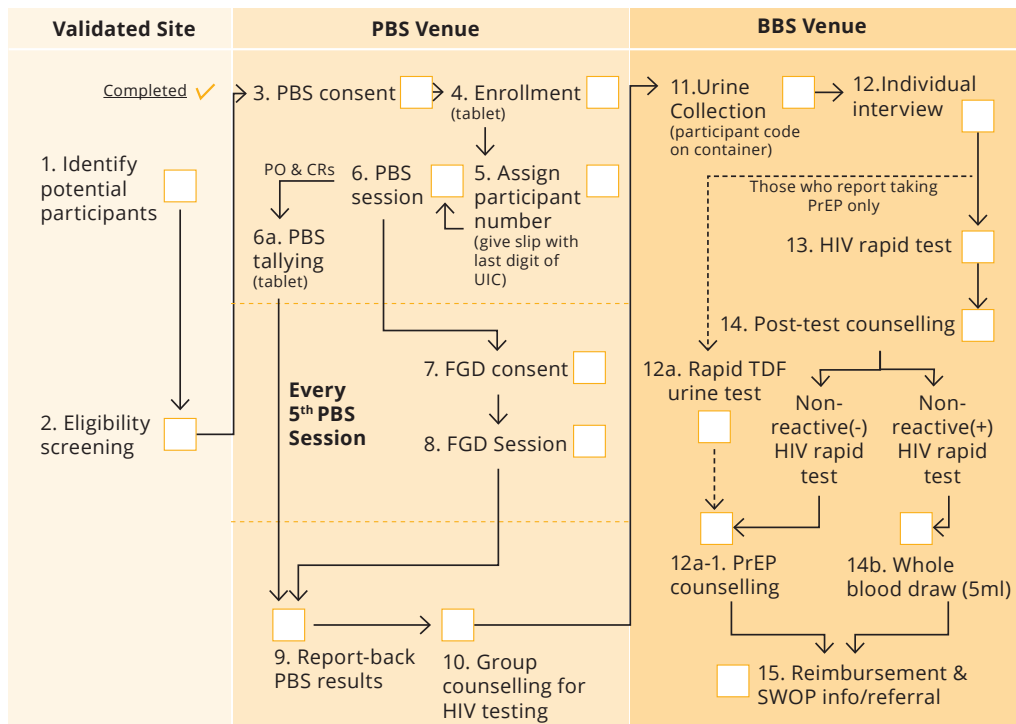
Mini biobehavioural survey

- All respondents underwent pre-HIV test counseling
- A short face to face survey was conducted with all consenting respondents
- Rapid HIV test, rapid tenofovir test for all who reported using PrEP, viral load, recency test for those who tested HIV positive were conducted



Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

- Participants from every 5th PBS session were invited for a FGD
- Using a FGD guide, the discussions were facilitated by a qualitative researcher to understand barriers to access and utilisation of services



RESULTS

- 759 FSW participants were enrolled from 64 different locations and 398 MSM participants were enrolled from 35 different locations
- 758 FSW and 398 MSM participated in the bio behavioural survey
- In total, 20 FGD were conducted (13 with FSW and 7 with MSM participants)

Recent HIV Infection and HIV Incidence*



* Measured as the percent of new infections among the population excluding the long term infections

Condom Use

Used condom at last sex with client/non regular partner



Used condoms consistently in the last 3 months



Unavailability of condoms in the last month



"I feel that condoms are the best because they protect against getting unwanted pregnancies...STIs like syphilis, gonorrhea... They also protect us against contracting HIV. When I don't get the condoms, I use...or I protect myself using PrEP. However, I also know that PrEP will not assist in preventing other diseases like STIs or even unwanted pregnancies"
(FSW, PBS 15)

"I've faced situations where condoms are not available in all settings. For example, in some public places like clubs or parties, they don't provide condoms. So, if you don't have your own, you are left with no option but to engage in risky behavior."
(MSM, PBS 68)

Police Violence, Stigma and Discrimination

Experienced police violence in the last 12 months



Experienced stigma and discrimination at healthcare facilities in the last 12 months



Received support after experiencing violence in the last 3 months



Mental Health

Experienced loneliness and sadness continuously for 2 weeks in the last 3 months



Yeah, they (peer educators) are very okay, and I like their services. They just need to be trained a little bit more because you know I may be depressed, or I may be having some psychosocial issues, but you find that the peer educator cannot assist you at that point. They don't have the knowledge to handle such matters...
(MSM, PBS 68)

Contact with Services

Met by a peer educator in the last 3 months



I like the peer educators because they are really confidential, and they will keep your information private. So, when they give you the supplies like the condoms you will not hear it from anyone else.
(FSW, PBS 6)

Visited a clinic in the last 3 months



Again, for the facilities, they should increase the working hours because sometimes you might go there, you have risked with a client and you reach a facility and find they have already closed.
(FSW, PBS 50)

Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Use

Used PrEP in the last 12 months

28%



21%



Using PrEP currently

16%



13%



"A person like me, I use condoms more because things like PrEP and PEP look like ARVs, so when someone sees you using them, they might think you have HIV, and you will experience some discrimination."

(MSM, PBS 80)

"For me it is on the PrEP drug, a lot of awareness needs to be created when it comes to PrEP. Most people are not aware of the PrEP and they have a lot of theories when it comes to PrEP"

(FSW, PBS 40)

HIV Prevalence, ART and Viral Suppression

Tested HIV positive through rapid test

14%



19%



PLHIV currently taking ART

87%

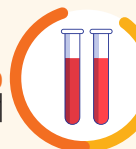


94%



PLHIV virally suppressed

86%



80%



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Expanded PBS (ePBS) is a rapid and lower-cost method to assess HIV prevention programme coverage and outcomes, including HIV prevalence and incidence, at the population-level
- ePBS is a useful method to enhance existing routine programme monitoring systems
- The study highlights a gap in the availability and utilization of HIV prevention services for FSW and MSM
- Good linkage to treatment and viral suppression of people living with HIV, though treatment targets (95-95-95) are still not reached
- Study also highlights almost double the HIV incidence among MSM compared to FSW
- Considerable mental health concerns were raised by FSW and MSM and high rates of police violence were reported
- Access to peer education and clinical services need to be improved
- Study indicates critical areas that the government and implementing partners need to focus on to improve coverage and quality of services

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Study participants | Study team | Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and PEPFAR | Nairobi county | Ministry of Health

Co investigators: Parinita Bhattacharjee, Joshua Kimani, Leigh McClarty, Shajy Isac, Rhoda Kabuti, Antony Kinyua, Helgar Musyoki, Anthony Kiplagat, Peter Arimi, Souradet Y. Shaw, Faran Emmanuel, Marissa L. Becker and James F. Blanchard

Data collection team: Ephantus Wachira, Jackline Achieng, Rachel Lishindu and Hadija Abdalla, Jaffred Okoyana, Virginia Njeri, Reuben Nyutu, Dan Khaemba, Martin Mbuthia, David Ngata, Tali Lumbasi, Kennedy Ojwang, Chrispo Nyamweya, Mary Kung'u, Anderson Mafusa, Kenneth Munene, Caroline Muriuki, Bernard Juma, Irene Wanjiru, Rachael Lishindu, Celia Mwangi, Monica Okumu, Pollet Ong'ayo, Erastis Irungu and Peggy Obam

Supervision and support team: Santosh Singh, Collins Owek, Apollo Kamau, Tony Kariri, Betty Rugendo, Wycliff Kioko, Festus Muriuki, Laisa Lumumba, Jesca Omai, Vanessa Chelimo, Shillah Mwavua, Douglas Kibanda, Ann Wahome, Edwin Mwangi, Nicasio Njagi and Lilian Tuara