

SMS Surveys for Assessing PrEP Adherence and Sexual Behavior:

A highly acceptable survey method among HIVuninfected members of sero-discordant couples in East Africa

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Disclosures

No real or apparent conflicts of interest to report

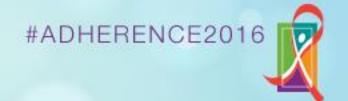
Background

- #ADHERENCE2016
- PrEP efficacy is highly dependent on adherence^{1,2}
- Data from the Partners PrEP Study showed adherence was high 82% by drug detection within HIV serodiscordant couples in East Africa³



- 1. Haberer J ,et al. IAPAC 2014
- 2. Celum C, et al. Current Opinion 2012
- 3. Baeten JM, et al. NEJM 2012

Rationale



- Given the wide availability of cellular phones globally, SMS surveys are a promising method for data collection in research studies^{4,5,6}
- Acceptability of questions on PrEP adherence and sexual behavior, however, is unclear

- 4. Whitford HM et al. JAMIA 2012
- 5. Haberer J et al. AIDS 2013
- 6. Curran K et al. AIDS & Behavior 2012



METHODS



Partners Demonstration Project

Open label study of integrated PrEP and ART among high risk HIV serodiscordant couples in East Africa

Partners Mobile Adherence to PrEP (PMAP)

A sub-study of the Partners Demonstration Project

- SMS surveys on PrEP adherence and sexual behavior were sent daily to HIV negative partner on PrEP for two weeks around each scheduled quarterly study visit
- ❖ A small incentive (~\$0.50 airtime) was provided for survey completion
- SMS surveys were free



Questions in the PMAP SMS Survey

Enrollment	Months						
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	etc
PrEP given	PrEP given			PrEP given			
(1 mo)	(3 mo)			(3 mo)			
Survey SN training sur	MS rvey		SM: surv			SM	1S vey
period	i vey		Sul V			541	

SMS #1: What is your password?

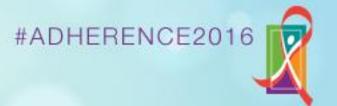
SMS #2: Since this time yesterday, did you have sex? Enter 1 for

'yes' or 0 for 'no'.

...

SMS #7: Did you take your study pill since this time yesterday? Enter 1 for 'yes' or 0 for 'no'.

- Data Collection #ADHERENCE2016
- Questionnaires on SMS survey acceptability after study exit
- ❖ A convenience sample of PMAP participants.
- Quantitative and qualitative semi-structured, in-depth interviews
 - Experiences
 - Likes/dislikes
 - Challenges
 - Confidentiality
 - Preferences for future SMS
 - Recommendation for others

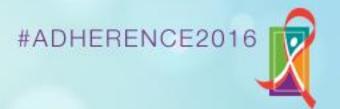


Analysis

- Participant characteristics and responses assessed descriptively
- Chi Square and Fisher exact to assess SMS challenges by age, gender, education

Thematic analysis identified concepts related to experiences and perceptions of the text message surveys (Ngure et al. Poster #110)

RESULTS



N=393 enrolled in PMAP (39% of 1,013 in the Partners Demonstration Project)

Characteristics N=104 (26% of PMAP participants)	N (%) or median (IQR)		
Age (years)	29 (25, 36)		
Female	40 (38)		
Education (years)	10 (7, 12)		
Electricity in home	69 (66)		
Number of rooms in home	1 (1, 2)		
Number of persons in household	3 (2, 4)		

Likes and Dislikes

- 6
- Participants that felt completing the SMS surveys was "easy" or "very easy" 94%
- Reported at least 1 dislike (N=13)
 - "questions were repetitive" 4%
 associated with high education (p=0.03)
 - "questions were offensive" 3%

Challenges

- Reported challenges (N=27)
 - Mobile network interruptions 37%
 - Handset challenges 26%
 - Wanted additional airtime incentive 15%
 - Time consuming activity- 4%
 - Other challenges
- Participants>35 years were more likely to report challenges with surveys (p<0.001)</p>
- Women had more challenges with their handsets (p=0.01)



Confidentiality

- ❖SMS surveys seen by other person 81%
 - Of those 2% were bothered by it
- Received assistance with SMS surveys 8%

Preferences

- Preferences for the number of questions
 - Would answer more 35%
 - Just right 57%
 - Too many 8%
- Preferred SMS surveys to in-person interviews 67%
- Preferred SMS surveys compared to clinic visits 79%
- Preference for future SMS surveys
 - Daily 54%
 - Periodic 38%
 - Either/no preference 8%



Future SMS Surveys

- Duration
 - Up to 1 month 25%
 - Up to 3 months 29%
 - Up to 6 months -15%
 - More than 6 months 31%
- Willingness to participate again 95%
- Recommendation to a friend 93%

Conclusions

- Acceptability for SMS surveys assessing PrEP adherence and sexual behavior was generally high among HIV-uninfected members of serodiscordant couples in East Africa
- Most participants reported positive experiences with SMS surveys to answer questions related PrEP adherence and sexual behavior
- Similar surveys should be considered for further studies (and possibly clinical care) to understand the context of PrEP use

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2. Partners Demonstration Project Team

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3. Research participants













THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?
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