

Does Collaborative work-place HIV self-testing kits distribution improve case identification among men aged 18-34 years? Case study of Kisumu County, Kenya

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The logo for the Fast-Track Cities Institute. It features a stylized graphic on the left with colorful vertical bars and a red ribbon-like shape. To the right, the words "FAST-TRACK CITIES" are written in bold black capital letters, with "INSTITUTE" written in white capital letters inside a red rectangular box below it.

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Background:

- Despite the strategies implemented to improve HIV testing, uptake remains low among men in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). In Kenya, 27.5% of men aged 15 to 64 living with HIV don't know their status compared to 17.3% among women. Kisumu County department of Health (CDH) in collaboration with Population Services Kenya (PS Kenya) launched HIV self-testing Kits (HIVST) distribution for men at workplaces. We assessed its impact on HIV testing and Case identification in Kisumu County, Kenya.

Description:

- In April 2020, PS Kenya in collaboration with Kisumu CDH trained 30 peer educators to distribute HIVST. Informal workplace hotspots were mapped and eligibility screening was done for all persons identified. Clients were offered option to test onsite or offsite with trained counsellors following up offsite clients via phone for their experiences and reported results. Clients who reported positive results offsite were offered confirmatory test in a facility of their choice while onsite testers were offered confirmatory testing and linkage to ART upon testing positive. Data was aggregated onto monthly forms and remitted to program's District Health Information Software (DHIS 2) system. Uptake of HIVST kits, testing, positive and linkage was described using frequencies and proportions.

Lessons Learnt:

- As at July 2021, a total of 43,880 HIVST kits were distributed, with 32,472(74%) received by men 18-24years of which 31,549 (72%) kits were issued to offsite testers. A total of 531 positive cases were identified with 231(43%) offsite and 300 (56%) onsite testers, however offsite positivity (4.8%) was higher than on-site positivity (2.9%). Of the total positives, 347(65.3%) clients had confirmatory tests, with 338 (97%) confirmed positive. Of the total positive cases confirmed, 300(88.8%) clients were successfully linked to ART.

Recommendations:

- HIVST enhances case identification among men, hence the need to scale up the initiative among men to complement other approaches in improving identification among this group.

THANK YOU