



HIV TESTING DRIVE AMONG OUT OF SCHOOL YOUTH IN BLUE COLLAR COMMUNITIES

By

Babamole Ramon Olanrewaju

National Coordinator

Youth Network on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria

Adherence 2022 • November 7-9 • Washington, DC

Introduction

#ADHERENCE2022



Stigma free access to HIV services for out-of-school youths is one of the major challenges encountered in Nigeria's HIV/AIDS response.

Insufficient focus on this demographic of youths in HIV prevention and treatment interventions poses a serious challenge on HIV programs targeting Adolescents and young people groups.

Methodology

#ADHERENCE2022



The Youth Network on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria implemented the HIV testing drive project targeting out-of-school youths in Blue-collar communities (mechanic villages and motor parks) using the MTV-Shuga drama series to drive uptake of HIV services.



The intervention included interpersonal communication, community outreaches, film shows, condom distribution, referral services across 3 Local Government in Lagos (Ajeromi, Ikorodu, and Lagos Mainland).



Methodology cont'd

#ADHERENCE2022



Scenes from MTV-Shuga were used to open discussions and elicit strategic discussions to understand their awareness on HIV and risky behaviours.



1126 persons (787 Males, 339 Female) were reached and tested for HIV.



Lesson Learned

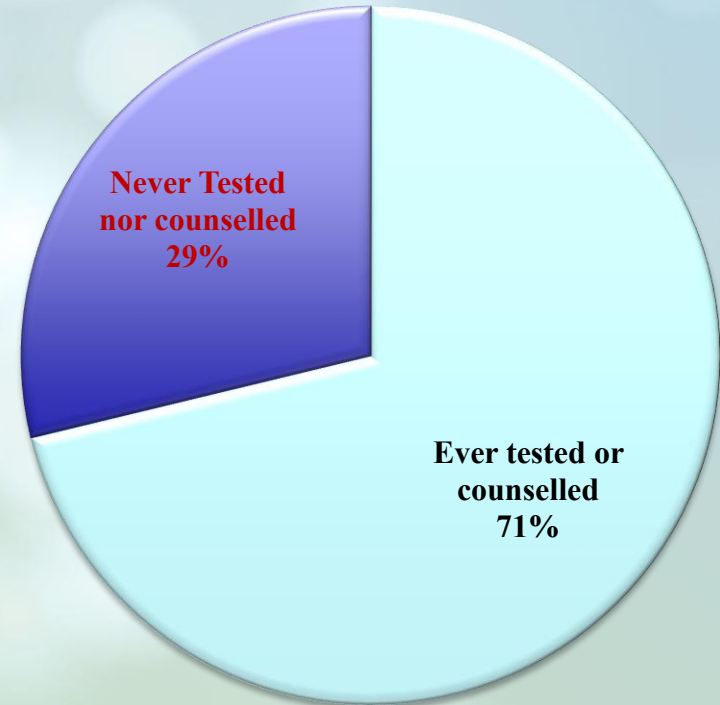
#ADHERENCE2022



Findings from the intervention revealed that most youth in Blue-collar settings engage in risky behaviour such as unprotected sex, multiple sexual partners, alcoholism, and drug use.

Community HIV Testing data also showed that 71% (802 people) had never tested or been counselled for HIV/AIDS and hence had little knowledge about HIV.

Tested or counselled on HIV/AIDS proportions



Lesson Learned cont'd

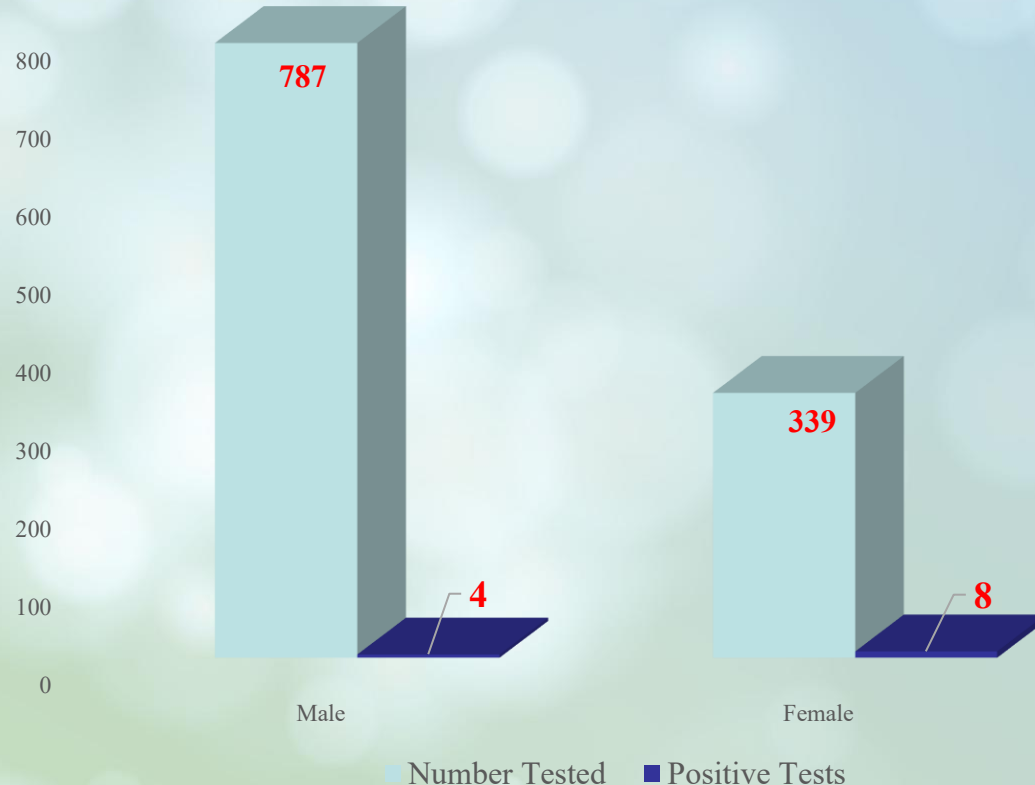
#ADHERENCE2022



12 people tested Positive (4 Males, 8 Females) and were immediately linked to care within the community .

The approach provided an opportunity for Out-of-school Youths to know more about HIV.

Total number of tested Vs positive diagnosis buy gender



Challenges:

#ADHERENCE2022



- ❖ Weather and global warming related issues (Rains leading to flooding)
- ❖ Safer sex commodities supply not matching up to demand
- ❖ Some of the service delivery points provided not conducive for services. (Noise, smoking etc)

Recommendations

#ADHERENCE2022



HIV programming must be inclusive of various youth demographics for meaningful change to occur in communities.

It is evident that among out-of-school youths, there is a need for increased HIV prevention and treatment programs targeting informally employed and trained youth, domiciled in blue-collar communities like Mechanic Villages and Motor Parks.

A focus on these, alongside ongoing efforts targeting their in-school counterparts will ensure meaningful progress towards epidemic control.

There is a need for multiple options of services delivery at facilities and community level for Youth and Adolescents

Acknowledgements

#ADHERENCE2022



- Youth Network on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (NYNETHA Lagos)
- Federal Ministry Youth Development
- National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA)
- Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA)
- Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development
- UNFPA, Lagos Liaison Office
- Helen Omowumi Olowofeso (International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC), Washington, DC, USA; Fast-Track Cities Institute (FTCI), Washington, DC, USA)

#ADHERENCE2022



THANK YOU