



ID: 1253, Men Interrupted: High rates of treatment interruptions among men who have sex with men (MSM) necessitate tailored approaches.

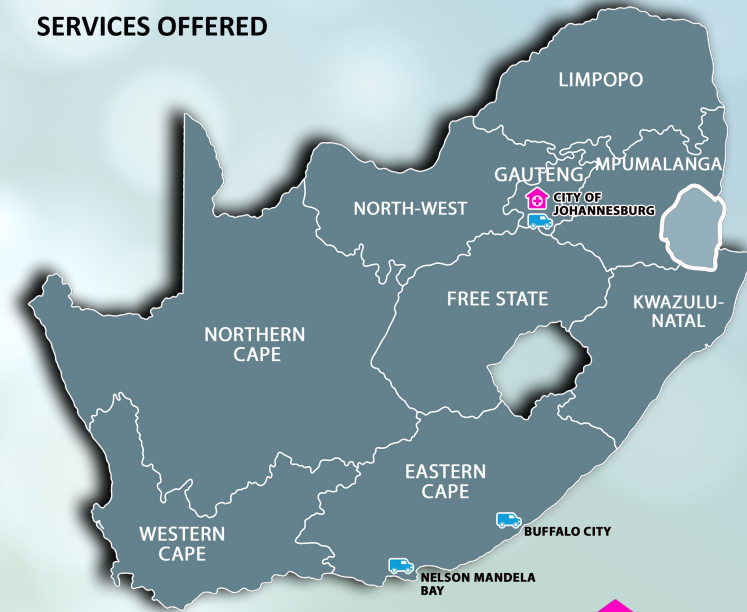
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Adherence 2023 • June 11-13 • Puerto Rico



- OUT started in 1994 - 2nd oldest LGBT NGO in South Africa.
- Engage Men's Health (EMH) program funded by USAID/PEPFAR under FHI EpiC project.
- EMH provides comprehensive HIV prevention and treatment services for MSM in 3 metros. 1 clinic and mobile services (10 teams).
- Has provided HIV testing to 48,832 MSM, initiated 12,350 on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and 2,889 on antiretroviral therapy (ART). Largest African HIV program for MSM.

CURRENT USAID MSM SERVICES OFFERED



FULL CLINIC



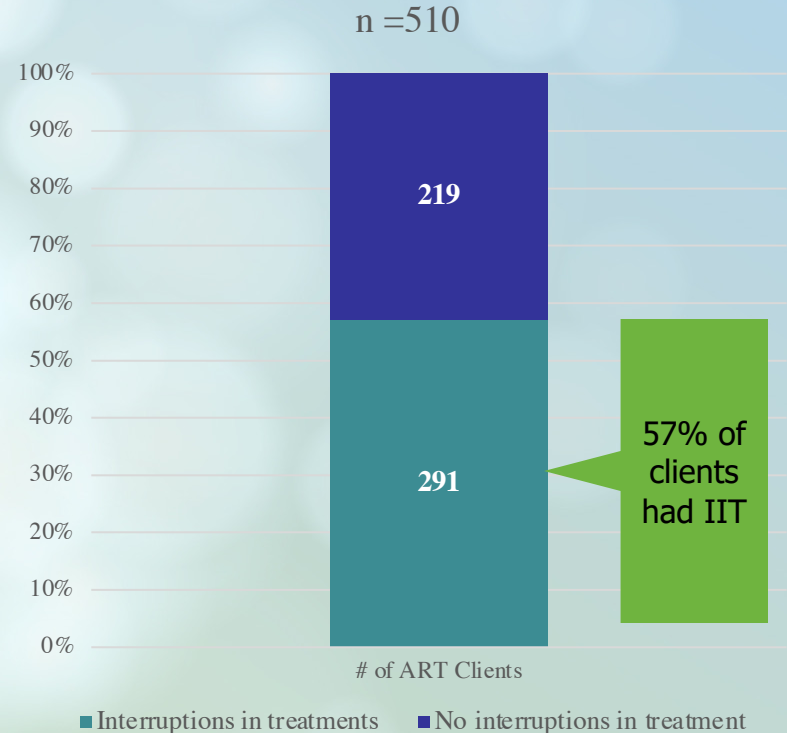
OUTREACH SERVICES





Abstract Description

- As of 1 October 2021, 830 MSM retained in care in Johannesburg metro, of whom 91,35% virally suppressed.
- Interruptions in treatment (IIT) common among those retained in care. In subset of 510 MSM clients on ART on 1 October 2021 and retained as of 30 September 2022, 57% experienced at least one IIT (being without medication for more than 28 days).
- ITT ranged from 28 to 339 days (median: 77 days).





What have we learned?

- Neither client age, disclosed sexual practices/identity nor housing insecurity were predictors of treatment interruptions.
- Viral load results were 4% higher amongst those who did not have treatment interruptions.



Pill fatigue

Socio-economic barriers

Migration

Incarceration

Rehabilitation

Accessing treatment elsewhere



Recommendations



Open and non-judgmental
adherence counselling.



Tailored 'welcome back'
messaging .



Awareness of external factors
affecting adherence.

Prevention of treatment interruption = preventing treatment failure.

Moving forward the program will be collecting reasons for all clients' restarting onto treatment to ensure tailored messaging aligns with the barriers identified.



Thank you.

