



# Global Perspectives on HIV Prevention and Adherence

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# Antiretroviral therapy adherence in the era of universal test and treat: a hybrid systematic-narrative literature review of global evidence.

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# Interventions Promoting Adherence

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## Background

- With uninterrupted access to effective oral ART & use at recommended intervals over sustained periods → Life saving and public health benefits

## Evidence Base

- 3 decades of work
- Dramatic changes in oral regimens and improvements in access
- U=U and immediate ART start have influenced the context and lived experiences with adherence over the past decade

# **HYBRID SYSTEMATIC-NARRATIVE REVIEW**

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**Goal: Describe the published literature on ART interventions since 2015**

- **What kinds of intervention approaches and strategies are being evaluated? With whom and where on what?**
- **Which are ‘promising’? Which appear to have an impact on VL?**
- **What insights can be drawn from the recent literature?**

# Hybrid Systematic Narrative Review

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## Method

- PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science using PRISMA guidelines for peer-reviewed intervention studies published **Jan 2015-2024**:
- in English
- included people  $\geq 12$  years taking ART
- had a comparison condition and measured adherence
- focused in some way on supporting oral ART adherence

## Method

- Search results exported to Covidence
- Systematic process to identifying studies for inclusion (double coded team of 9)
  - Title and abstract review
  - Full text review
  - Data extraction
  - Summary of code applications (SPSS)
- Narrative review
  - Qualitative summary of interventions
  - Insights around scope and breadth of evidence base

# Hybrid Systematic Narrative Review

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## DATA EXTRACTION

- Study features
- Location
- Population(s)
- Primary and secondary outcomes
- Impact on adherence

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## DATA EXTRACTION

- Study features
- Location
- Population(s)
- Primary and secondary outcomes
- Impact on adherence

**Promising** on adherence-related outcome

**Significant** effect on adherence related outcome

**Promising** on VL outcome

**Significant** on VL outcome

# Hybrid Systematic Narrative Review

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## DATA EXTRACTION

### Intervention Features (14 + Other from phase 1 of review)

Economic

eHealth

Alcohol/Drug use

Adherence club

Adherence education

Adherence counseling

Counseling

Peers

EDM

DOT

Schedule/Dispensation

Simplification

Food security

Task Shifting

Other



2972

Identification

**Records identified through database searching (k=2972)**

PubMed (k=1875), Scopus (k=567), Web of Science (k=530)

Records removed: (k=880)

- Duplicated removed manually: k=37
- Duplicated identified by Covidence: k=843

2092

**Records screened (after duplicates removed) (k=2092)**

Records excluded through screening titles/abstract: (k=1790)

302

Screening

**Full-text articles assessed for eligibility (k=302)**

Full-text articles excluded (k=72)

- Intervention not targeted at adherence: k=39
- Study has no control/comparison arm: k=10
- Study is a secondary exploration of an intervention (e.g. implementation outcomes): k=13
- Adherence outcomes not reported: k=3
- Study retrospective: k=2
- Participants  $\geq 12$  years old not included: k=1
- Not a peer-reviewed manuscript: k=2
- Not in English: k=2

230

Inclusion

**Studies included in synthesis (n=230)**

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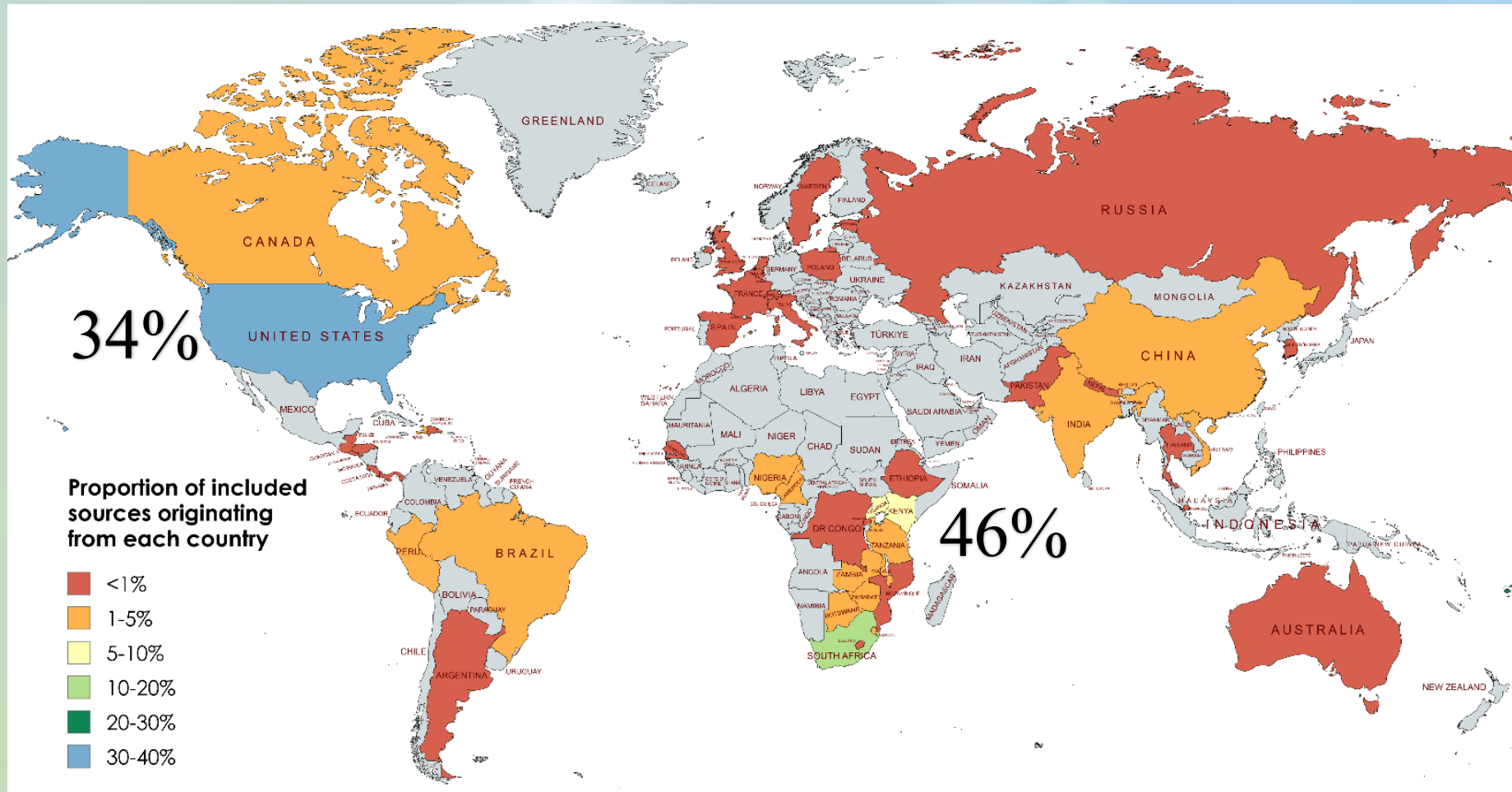
# Type of study

- 94% used random assignment to condition (k=215)
- Single arm (pre/post) uncommon (3%, k=7)
- 29% (k=66) were self-described as pilot studies
- Increase in cluster randomized in last 3 years (k=30)



# Sample Size

- Total number of participants across all=97,037
- Sample sizes ranged from 6 to 16,208
- Non-cluster trials→ mdn 144 (IQR 63, 341)
- Cluster trials→ mdn 699 (IQR 358, 1302)
- Pilot trials→ mdn 53 (IQR 33, 90)
- Estimate that over half were powered (56%, k=128)



# Populations (inclusion)

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## Well represented

- Nearly half (44%, k=102/230) evaluated interventions with **general clinic populations**
- **Youth** (22%)
- About 10% included
  - **Pregnant and postpartum** people (10%)
  - People with **mental health challenges** (10%)
  - People who use **substances** (13%)

## Less represented

- About 5% or less sought to intervene with...
  - **GBMSM** (6%)
  - People with **food** and/or **economic insecurity** (4%)
  - People involved in **justice system** (4%)
  - People engaged in **sex work** (1%)
  - **Hospitalized** individuals (1%)
  - **Transgender** people (1%)



# Experience with ART

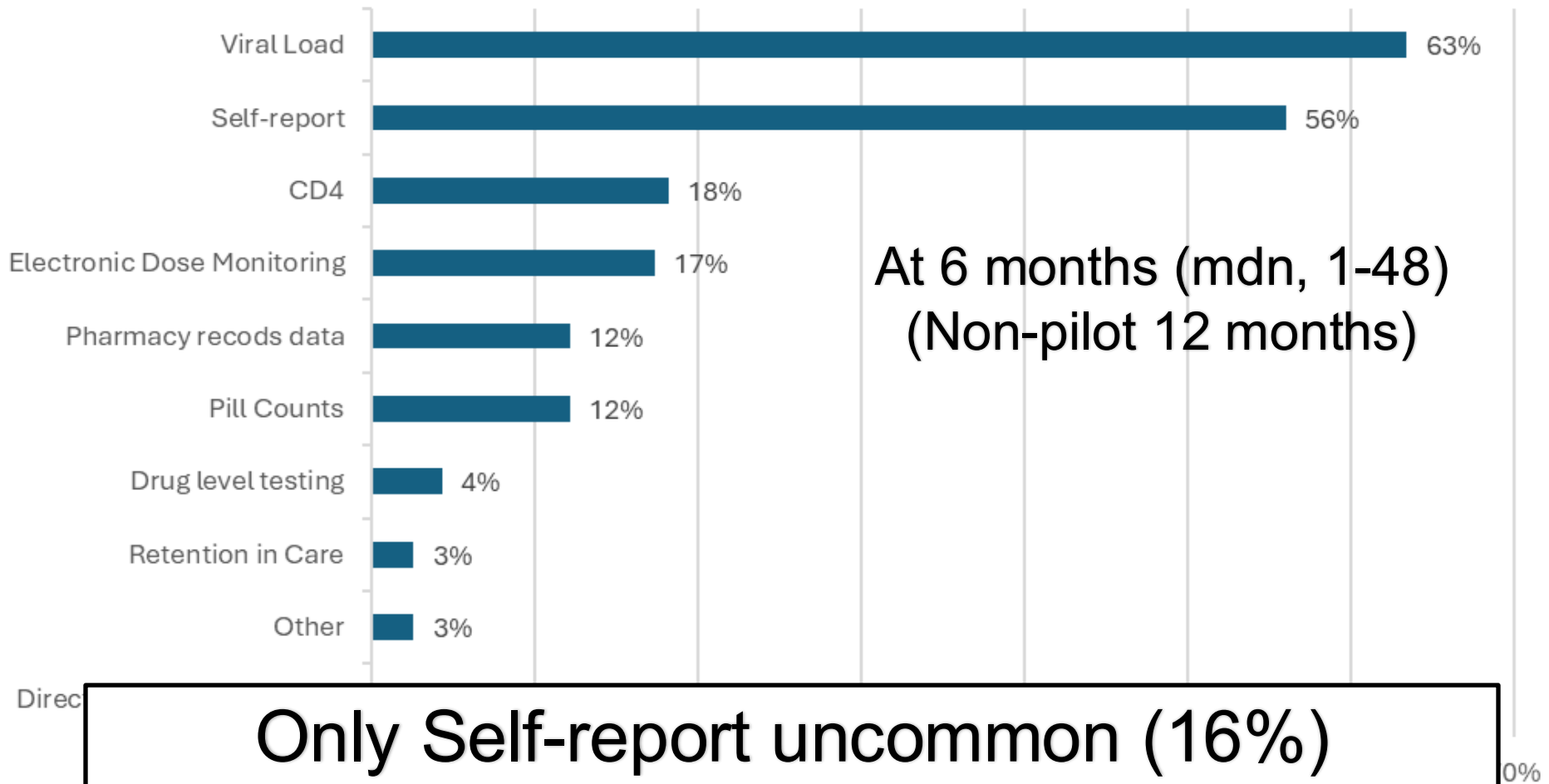
Treatment experienced (k=118/230, 51%)

Treatment naïve (k=32/230, 14%)

# Adherence Challenged

Known adherence challenges (k=44/230, 19%)

Lack of VLS (k=39/230, 17%)





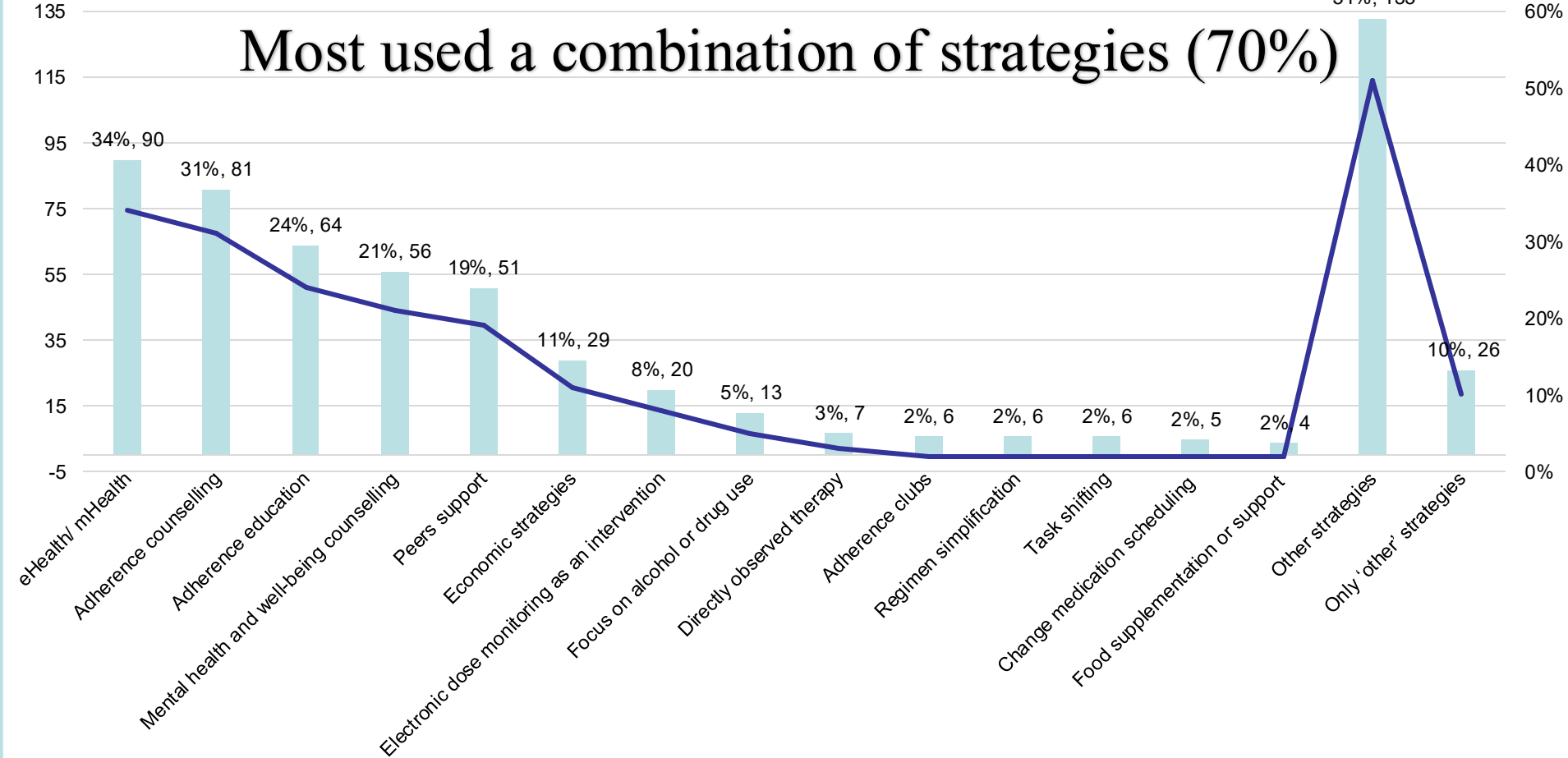
# Intervention strategies

- 262 interventions
- Each coded for presence/absence of a-priori strategies



Of 262 Interventions

# Most used a combination of strategies (70%)



# Impact on Adherence

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- 61% had/reported supportive outcomes on adherence-related variables
  - 37% significant

# Impact on VL

- 72% included a VL based outcome
  - 52% had/reported supportive outcomes on viral load measure
  - 28% significant

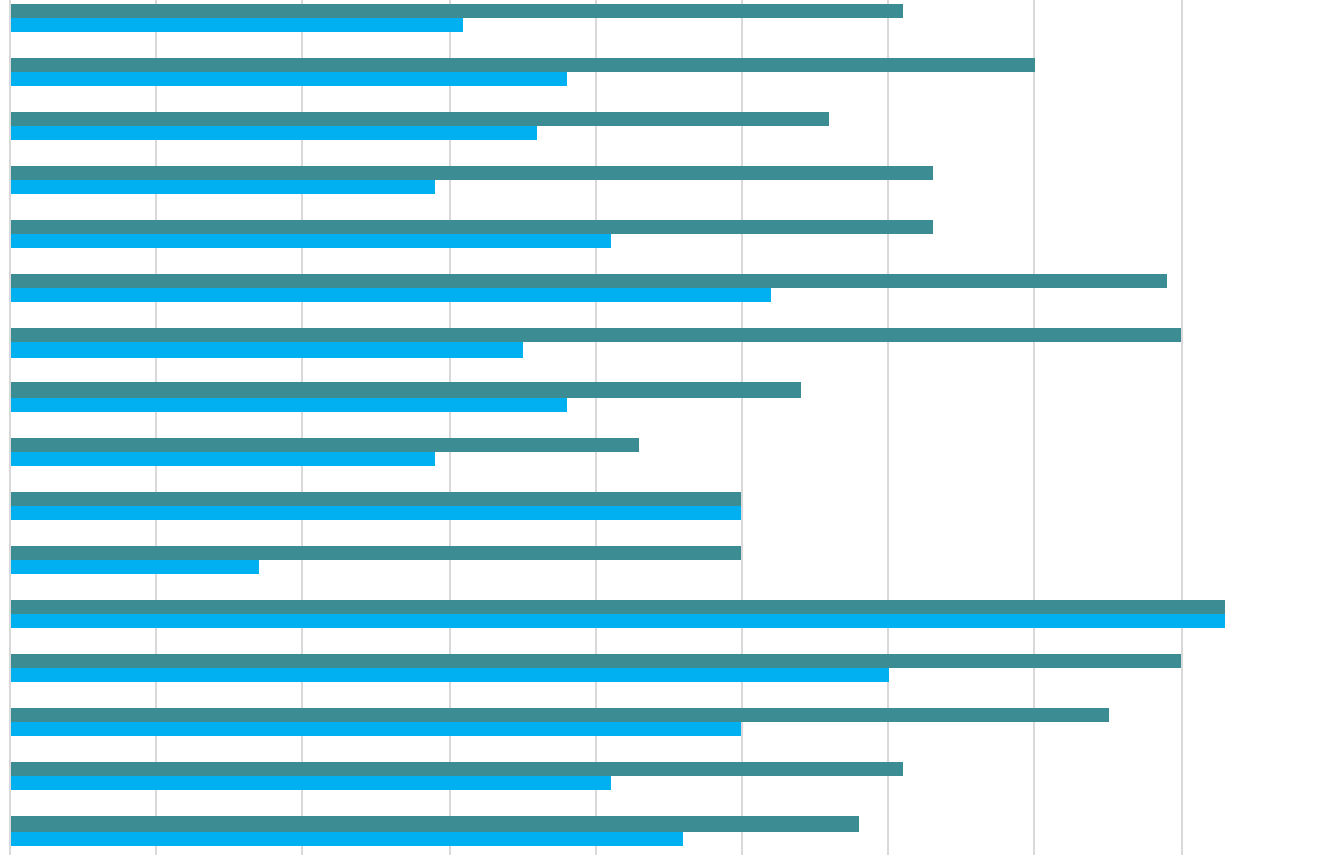
## Promising and Effective Any Outcome

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90%

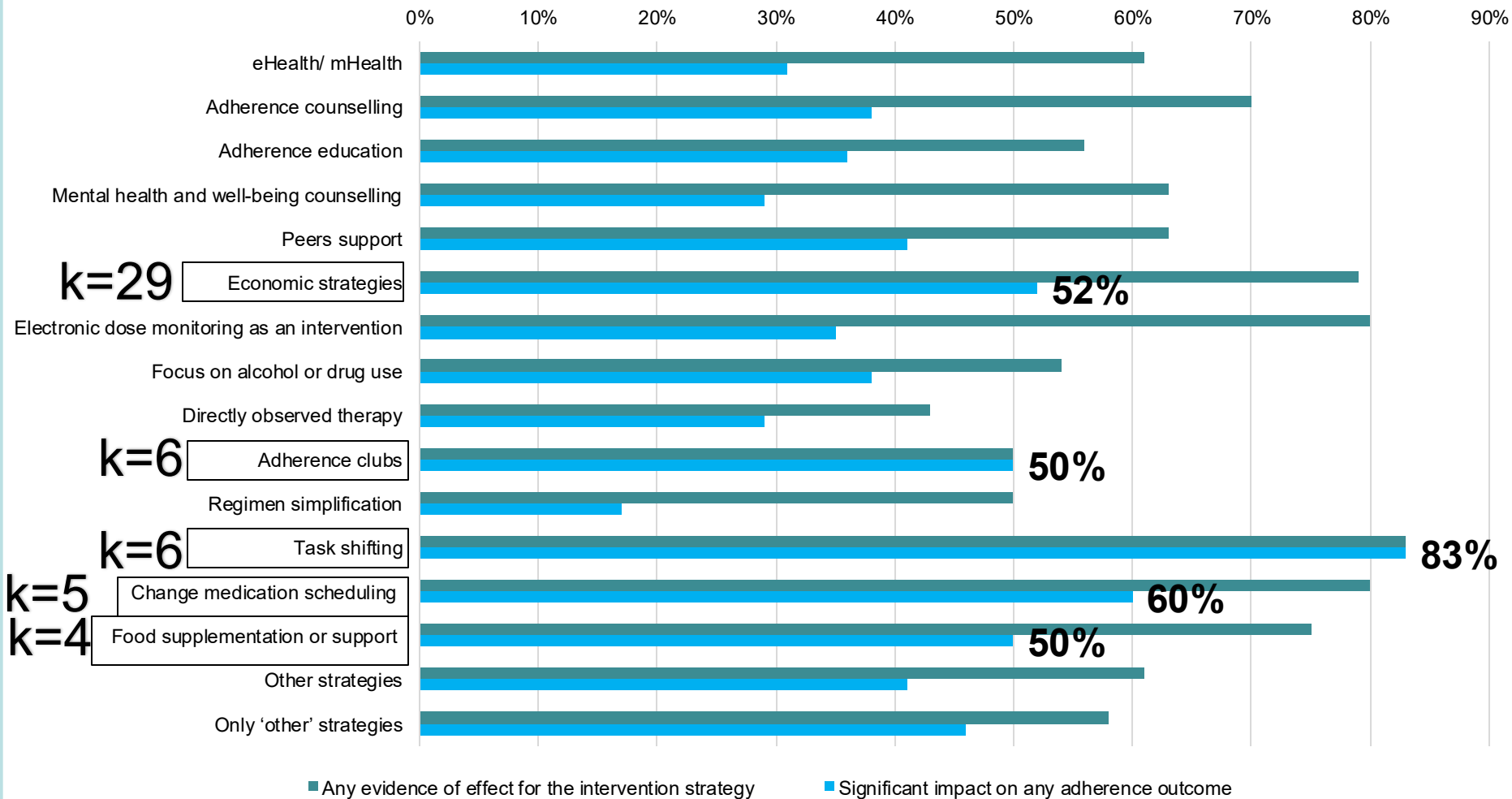
eHealth/ mHealth  
Adherence counselling  
Adherence education  
Mental health and well-being counselling  
Peers support  
Economic strategies  
Electronic dose monitoring as an intervention  
Focus on alcohol or drug use  
Directly observed therapy  
Adherence clubs  
Regimen simplification  
Task shifting  
Change medication scheduling  
Food supplementation or support  
Other strategies  
Only 'other' strategies

■ Any evidence of effect for the intervention strategy

■ Significant impact on any adherence outcome

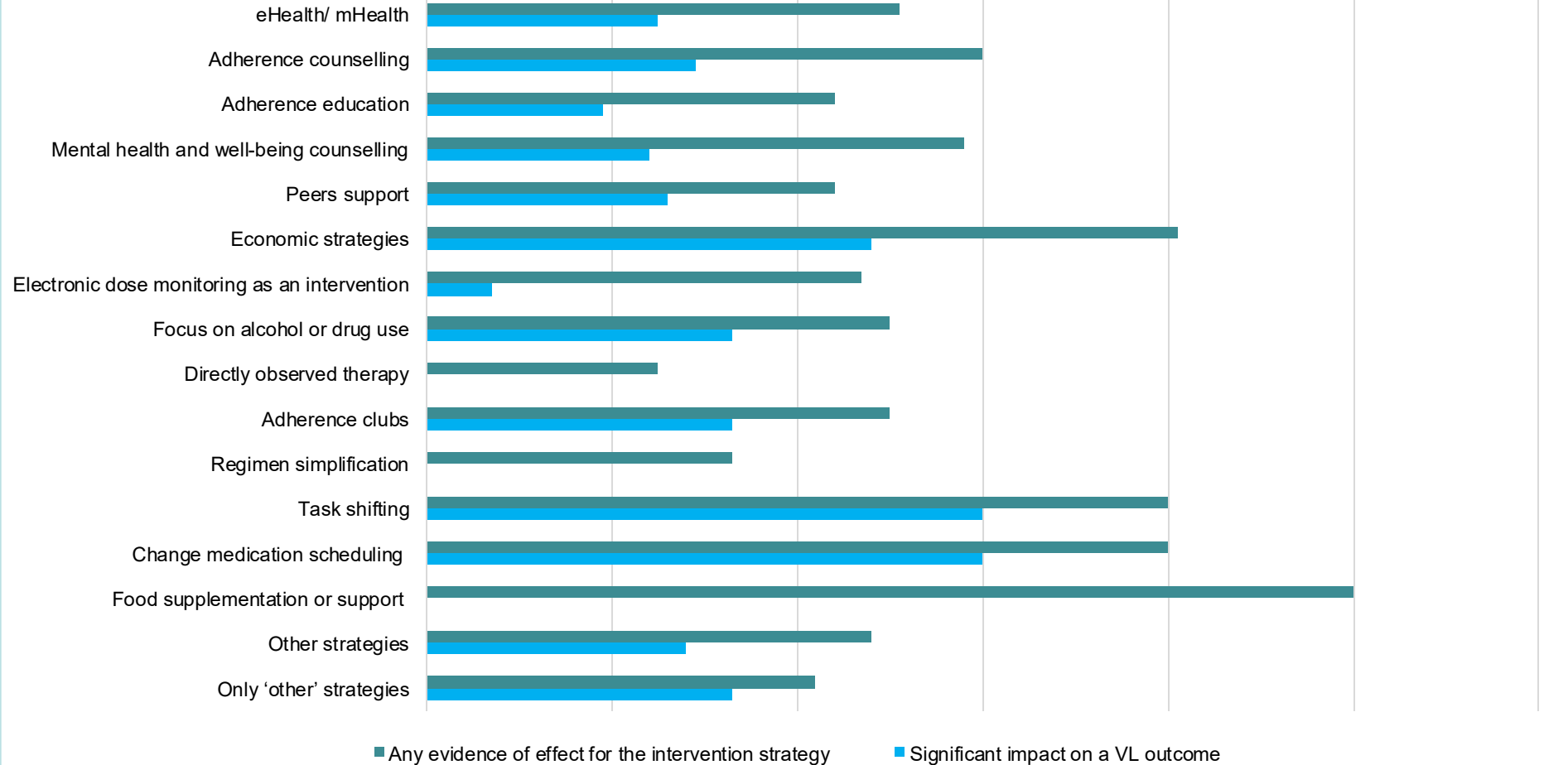


## Promising and Effective Any Outcome



## Promising and Effective On VL Outcome

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100% 120%



# Promising and Effective On VL Outcome

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100% 120%

eHealth/ mHealth

Adherence counselling

Adherence education

Mental health and well-being counselling

Peers support

k=21

Economic strategies

48%

Electronic dose monitoring as an intervention

Focus on alcohol or drug use

Directly observed therapy

Adherence clubs

Regimen simplification

k=5

Task shifting

60%

k=5

Change medication scheduling

60%

Food supplementation or support

Other strategies

Only 'other' strategies

Any evidence of effect for the intervention strategy

Significant impact on a VL outcome

# HYBRID SYSTEMATIC-NARRATIVE REVIEW

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**Goal: Describe the published literature on ART interventions since 2015**

- **What kinds of intervention approaches and strategies are being evaluated? With whom and where on what?**

*eHealth, well-being, structural/service related*

*With general clinic populations*

*Largely from Africa and US*

*On VL and self-report*



*159 had some support on adherence and 87 some support on VL*

*98 had significant outcomes on an adherence variable  
47 had significant outcomes on VL (economic, task shifting, increasing dispensation)*

- Which are ‘promising’? Which appear to have an impact on VL?
- What insights can be drawn from the recent literature?



# Decrease burden of care

Ease of access and point of contact- task-shifting

Increase amount of medication dispensed [eHealth]

Focus on **WHOLE person/WHOLE communities** (SDOH)

Economic supports [Food security, well-being]

## ***Explore alternatives to 1 size fits most***

What to intervene with depends on current systems of care-  
gaps, needs, and resources can vary at many levels

- **What insights can be drawn from the recent literature?**



# Limitations

- Systematic-Narrative review not a meta analysis
- Intervention features are not equally represented in the literature
- Coding has a degree of error
- Qualitative data not included
- Ongoing analyses

# THANK YOU

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**To the 97,037 PWH around the world that contributed their time, effort and insights to creating this evidence base on adherence interventions**

**To the 230 authors and study teams that developed, created, implemented, and evaluated novel ways to support people with oral ART adherence**