

BREAKING PREVENTION BARRIERS: SCALING WITH CHOICE

Plenary Session 1



11–13 October 2026 | Berlin,
Germany

Thiago S. Torres, PhD

Fiocruz, Instituto Nacional de Infectologia Evandro Chagas
Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

Disclosures



Consultant:

MSD

TOPICS

Part I: The State of the Art in the HIV Response

Part II: Barriers to HIV Prevention

Part III: Scaling-up with Choice

Part I:

The State of the Art in the HIV Response



Major achievements

30 Years of Highly Effective Antiretroviral Therapy

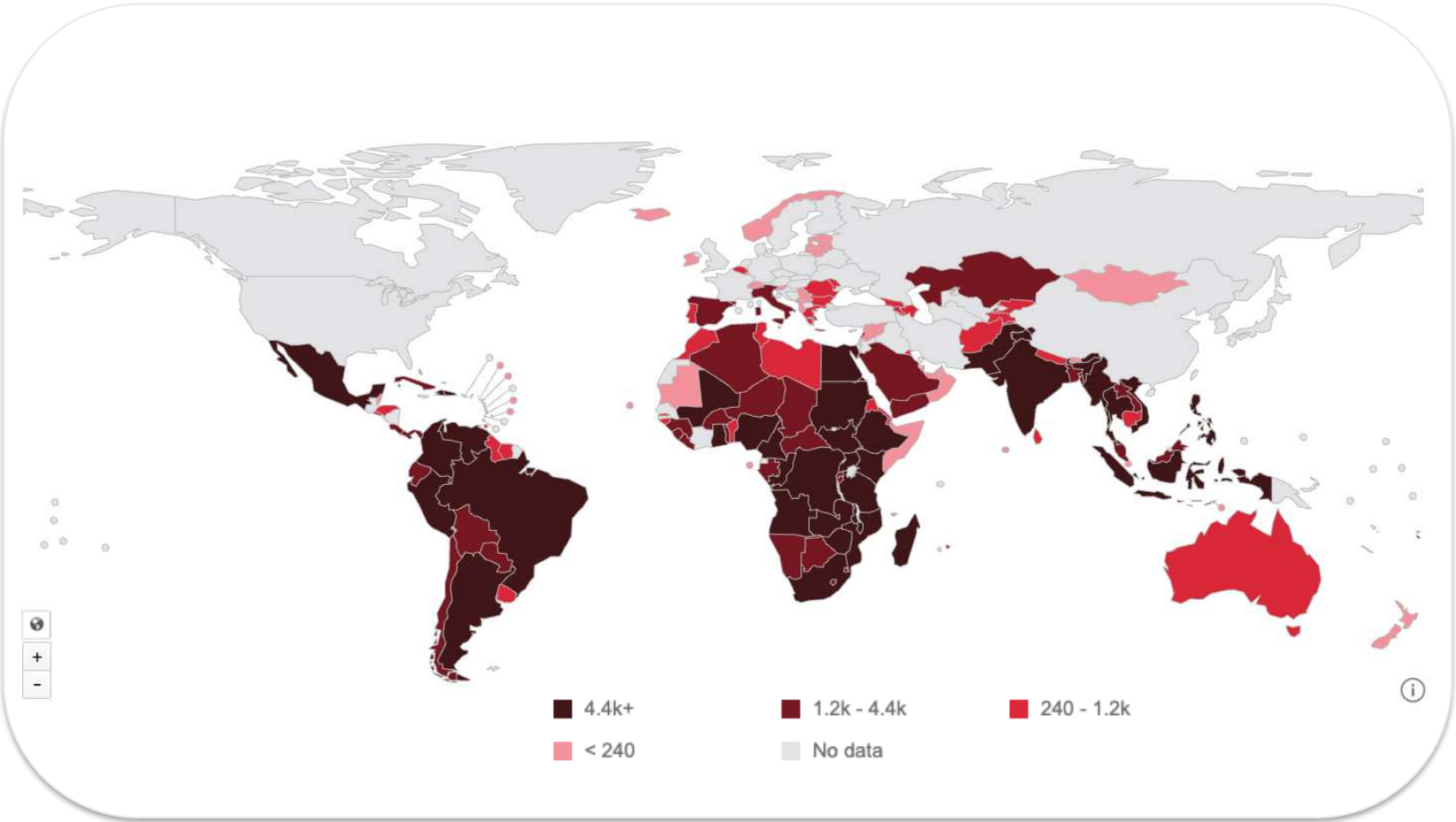
U=U=ZERORISK, #sayzero

Long-acting injectable (prevention and treatment)

HIV self-testing (oral fluid and blood-based)

Person-centered differentiated service delivery

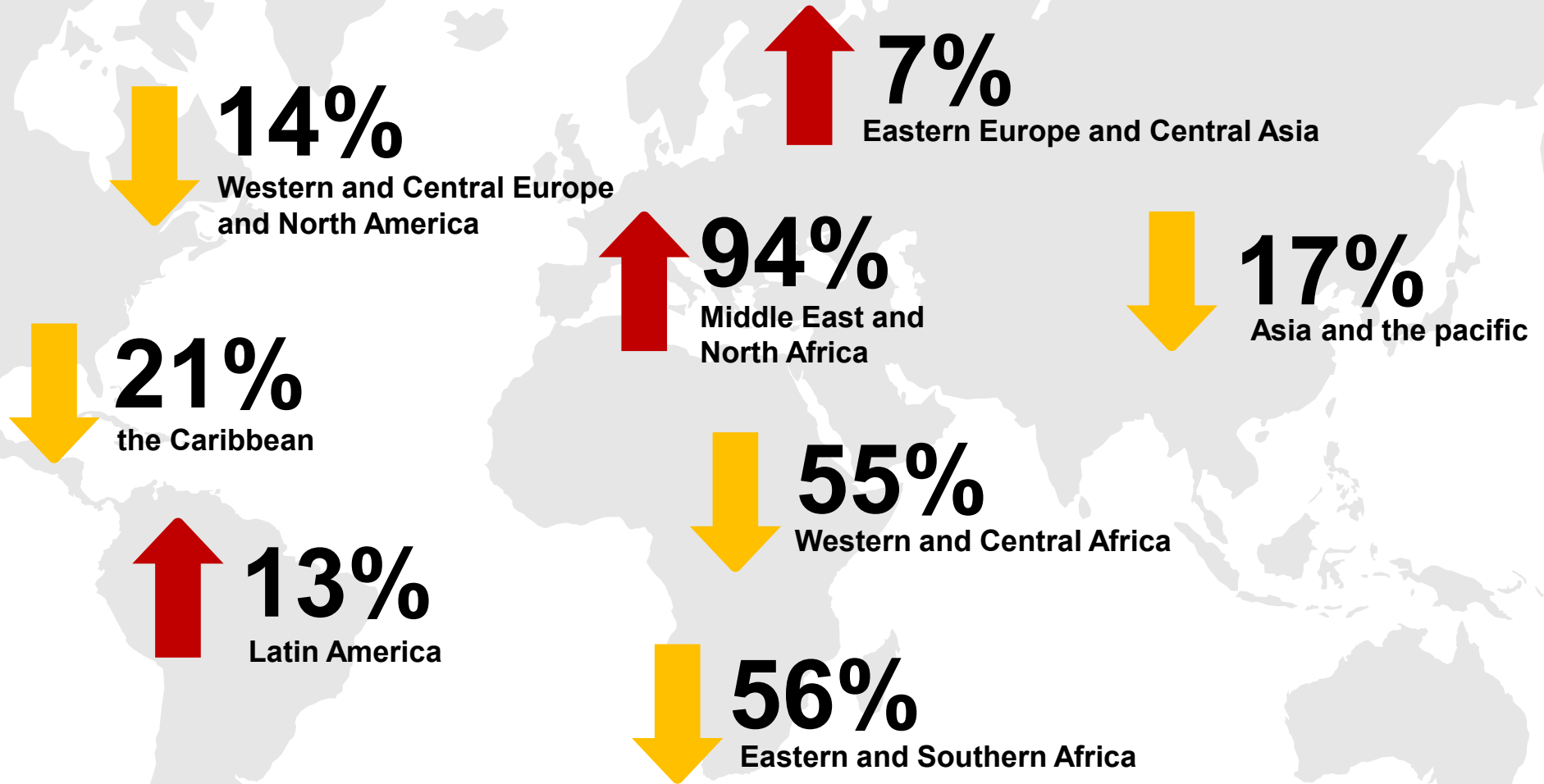
HIV Epidemic



41.0 million
[35.3–47.5 million]
people globally were
living with HIV in 2025

1.2 million
[0.95–1.7 million]
people newly acquired HIV
in 2025

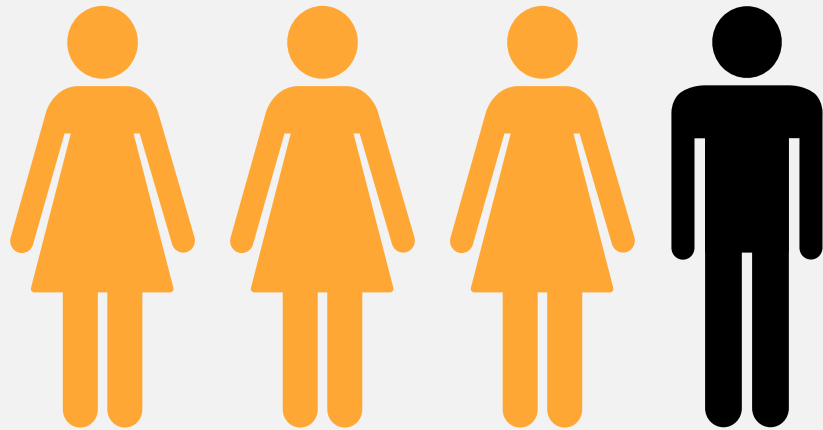
Between 2010 and 2025: new HIV acquisitions per year



Sub-Saharan Africa: Adolescent girls and young women

Between 2010 and 2024, HIV acquisitions:

- **59%** decrease among adult men and;
- **49%** decrease among adult women.



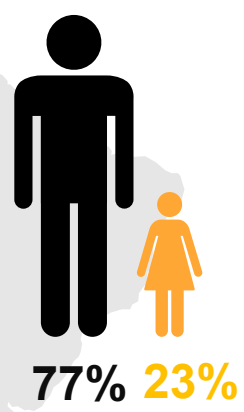
Adolescent girls and young women aged 15–24 years were **three times** more likely to acquire HIV than their male counterparts.

Latin America and Middle East and North Africa: MSM & TGW

New HIV acquisitions increased from 2010 to 2024

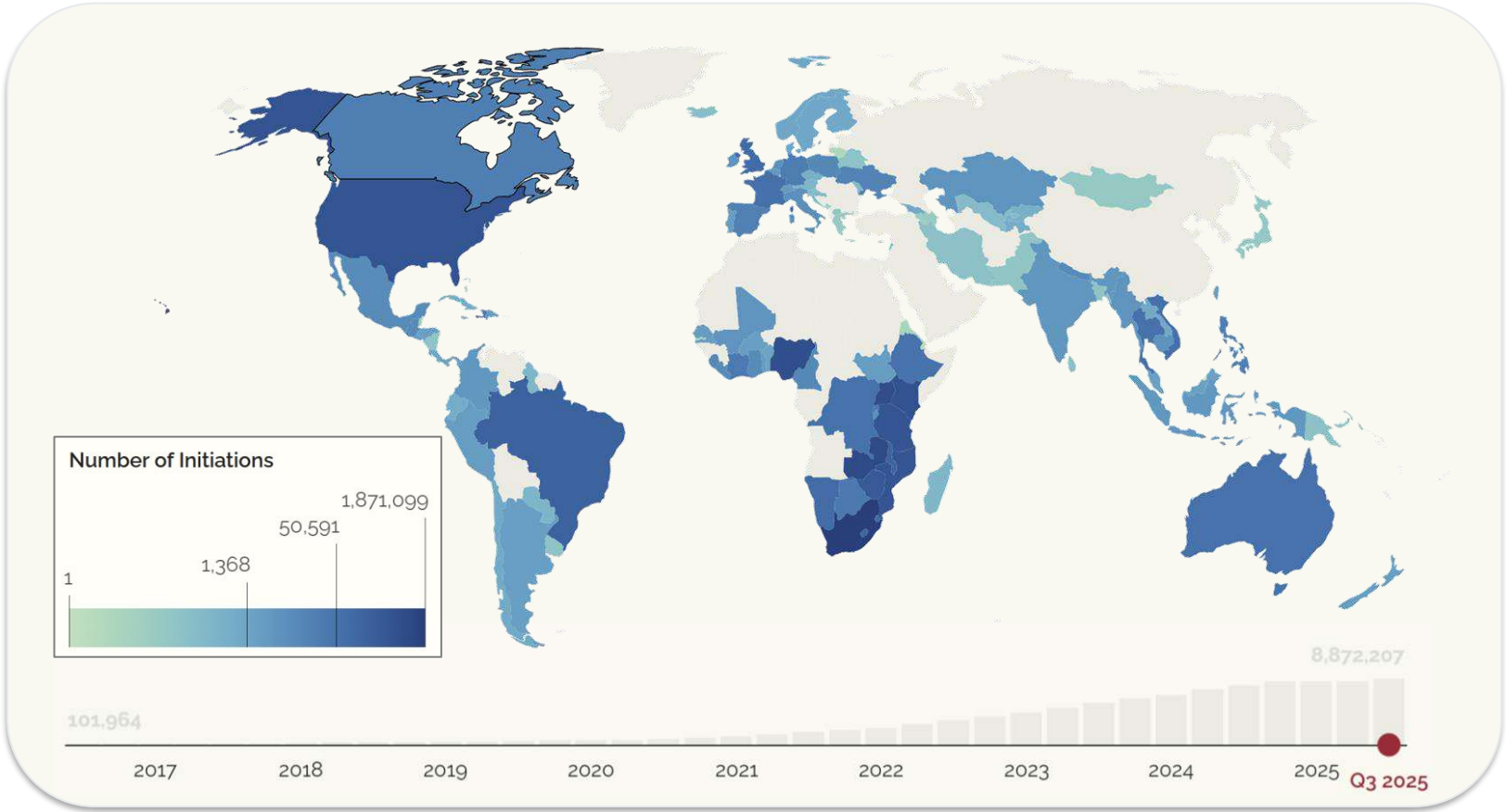
27% gay and other MSM
32% transgender women

26%
new HIV acquisitions
occur among young
people (15–24y)



23%
new HIV acquisitions occur
among young people (15–24y)

PrEP Access in 2025



79 Countries approved PrEP products

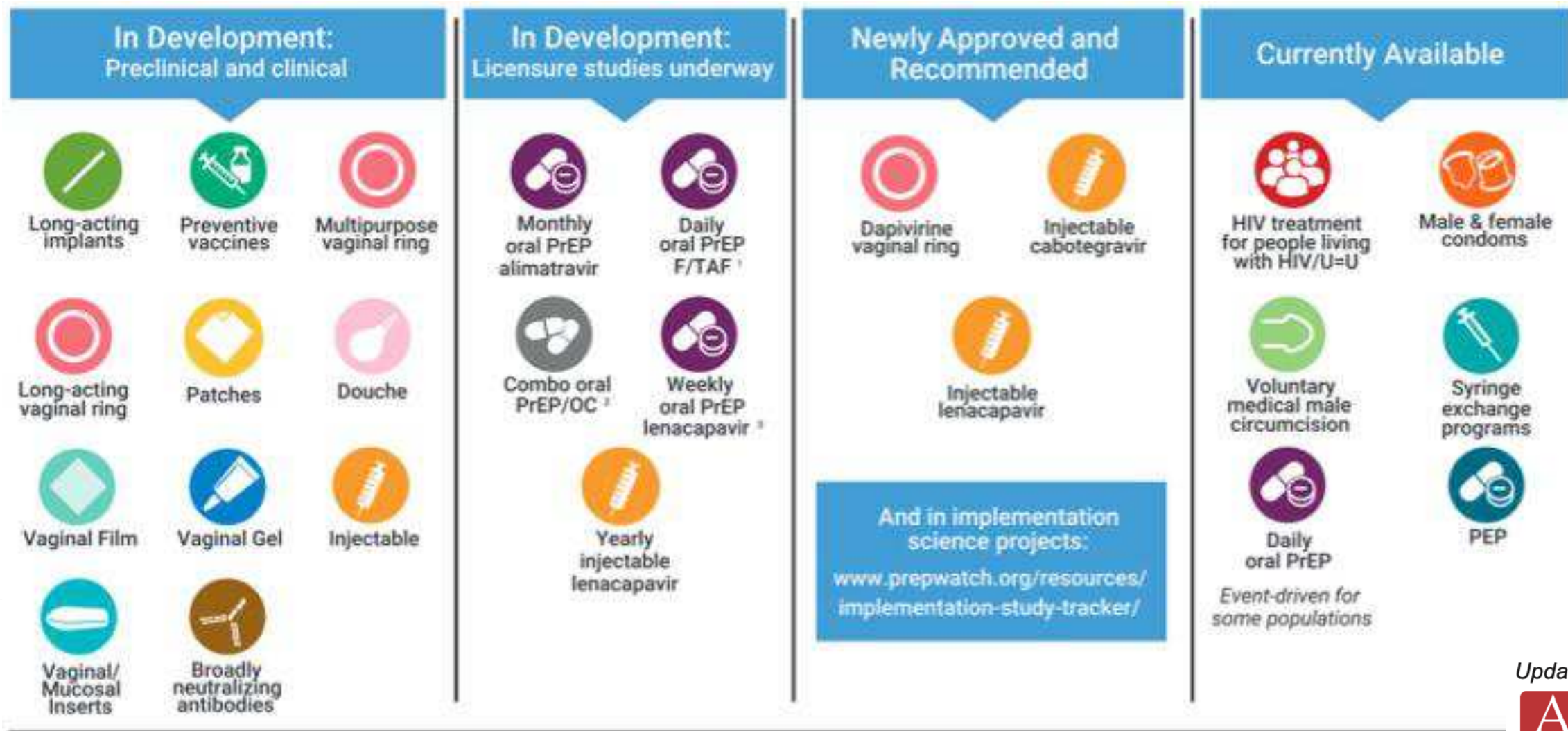
8.9 million People initiated PrEP

42% UNAIDS target of 21.2 million



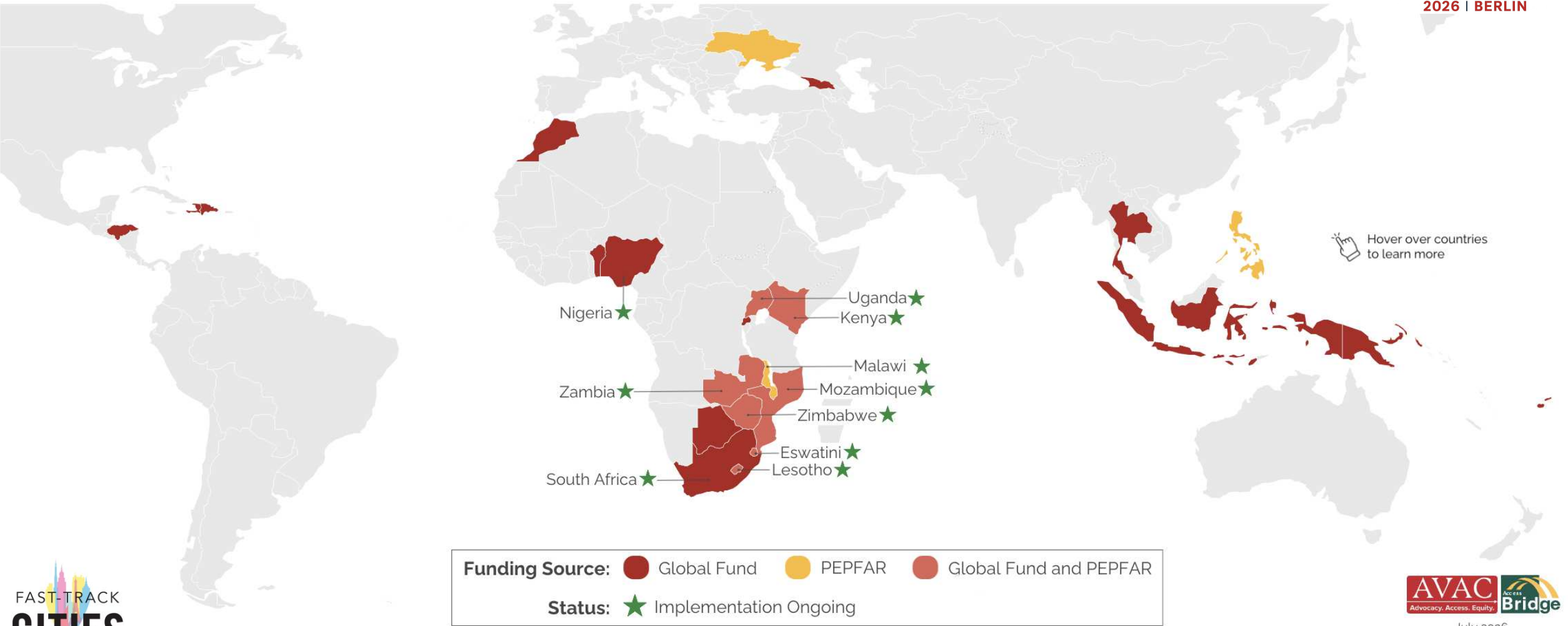
SOURCE: Global PrEP Tracker, AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention, <https://data.prepwatch.org>, 2026

The HIV prevention pipeline

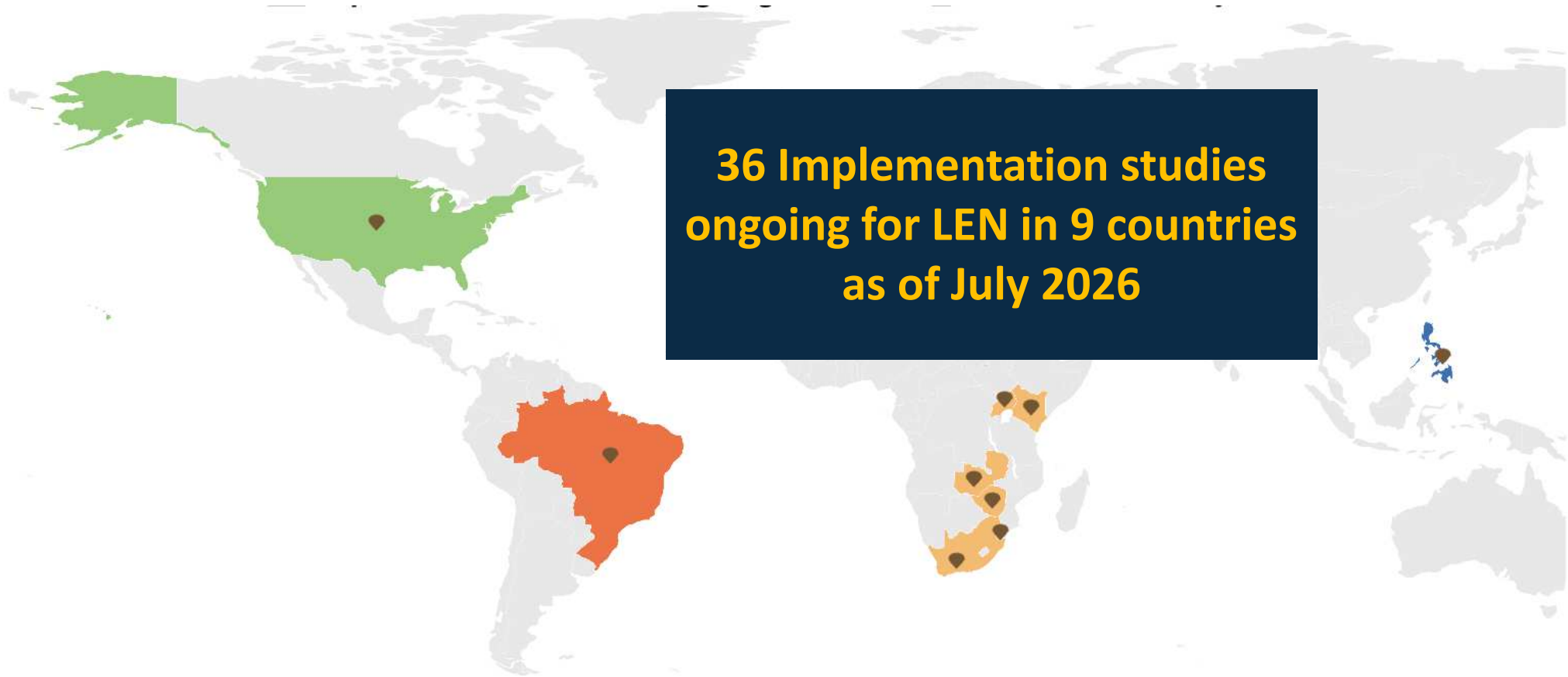


Updated Aug 2026

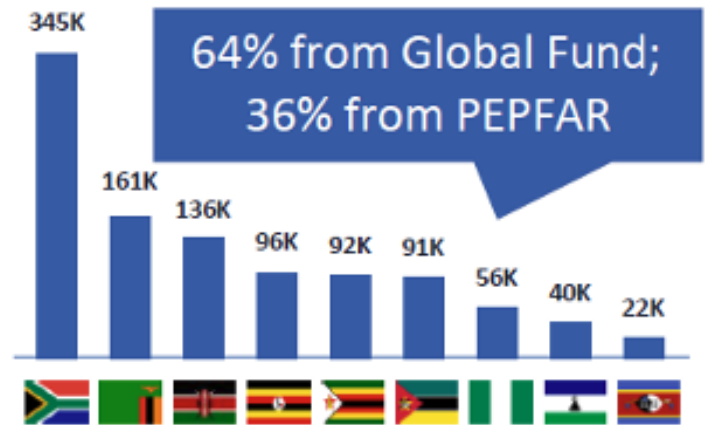
LEN Roll out Status: 24 countries



LEN Implementation Studies



LEN Roll out in 9 countries in Africa



1,039,262
Forecasted LEN doses in 2026
from Global Fund and GHSD
across 9 early adopter countries

332,860 LEN doses delivered
by Aug 2026

118,230 LEN initiations across
961 sites

943 6-month LEN continuation in
3 countries

Part II:

Barriers to HIV Prevention



Scaling up oral PrEP in Latin America: key lessons from ImPrEP



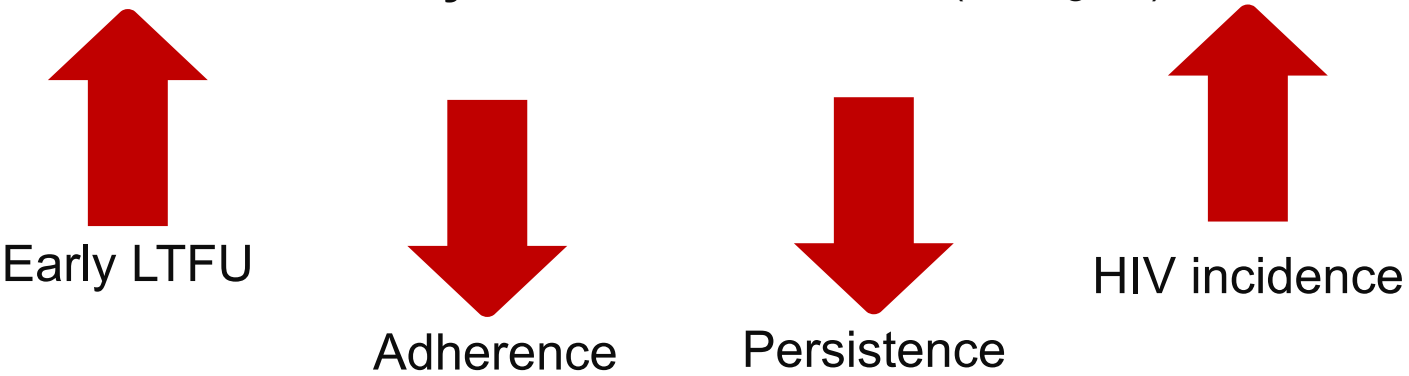
Same-day implementation study of oral PrEP

Population: **9,509** gay, bisexual, and other cisgender men who have sex with men and transgender women

Location: **3 countries, 30 sites**



Youth (18-29 vs. 30+)
Black, *Pardo*/Mestizo, Indigenous (vs. White)
Transgender women (vs. MSM)
Secondary education or lower (vs. higher)



Veloso et al. Lancet HIV, 2023. Torres, et al. Lancet Reg Health Am, 2023. Caceres, et al. Lancet Reg Health Am, 2025. Freitas, et al. Braz J Inf Dis, 2026.

Brazil as a case study

People using PrEP, 2024

8% have <25y

45% Black/*Pardo* (*Mix*)

29% <secondary education

HIV Acquisitions, 2024

26% have <25y

64% Black/*Pardo* (*Mix*)

40% <secondary education

**The people accessing PrEP are not
the people acquiring HIV.**

HIV-related Stigma

THE LANCET HIV

The impact of HIV stigma and discrimination on HIV testing, antiretroviral treatment, and viral suppression in Africa: a pooled analysis of population-based surveys

Carla M Doyle, Salome Kuchukhidze*, James Stannah*, Jorge Luis Flores Anato, Yiqing Xia, Carmen H Logie, Arlette Simo Fotso, Mabel Carabali, Gideon Kye-Duodu, Sharmistha Mishra, Anatole Mian, Fern Terris-Prestholt, Oksana Kovtun, Aditya Singh, Jack Stone, Serge Niangoran, Adelina Artenie, Peter Vickerman, Marie-Claude Boily, Mathieu Maheu-Giroux*

124 population-based surveys, 2000-2023
Eastern, southern, central and western Africa
2 million participants for HIV testing outcomes

Higher prevalence of
**community-level
discriminatory attitudes**



HIV testing

Discrimination and internalized homonegativity

RESEARCH

Open Access

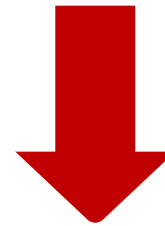


Pre-exposure prophylaxis use and discontinuation among Brazilian gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men: examining the role of internalized homonegativity and discrimination

Karine M. Barreto¹, Thiago S. Torres², Lucilene Freitas², Brenda Hoagland², Emília M. Jalil², Valdilea G. Veloso², Beatriz Grinsztejn² and Paula M. Luz^{2*}

2840

MSM

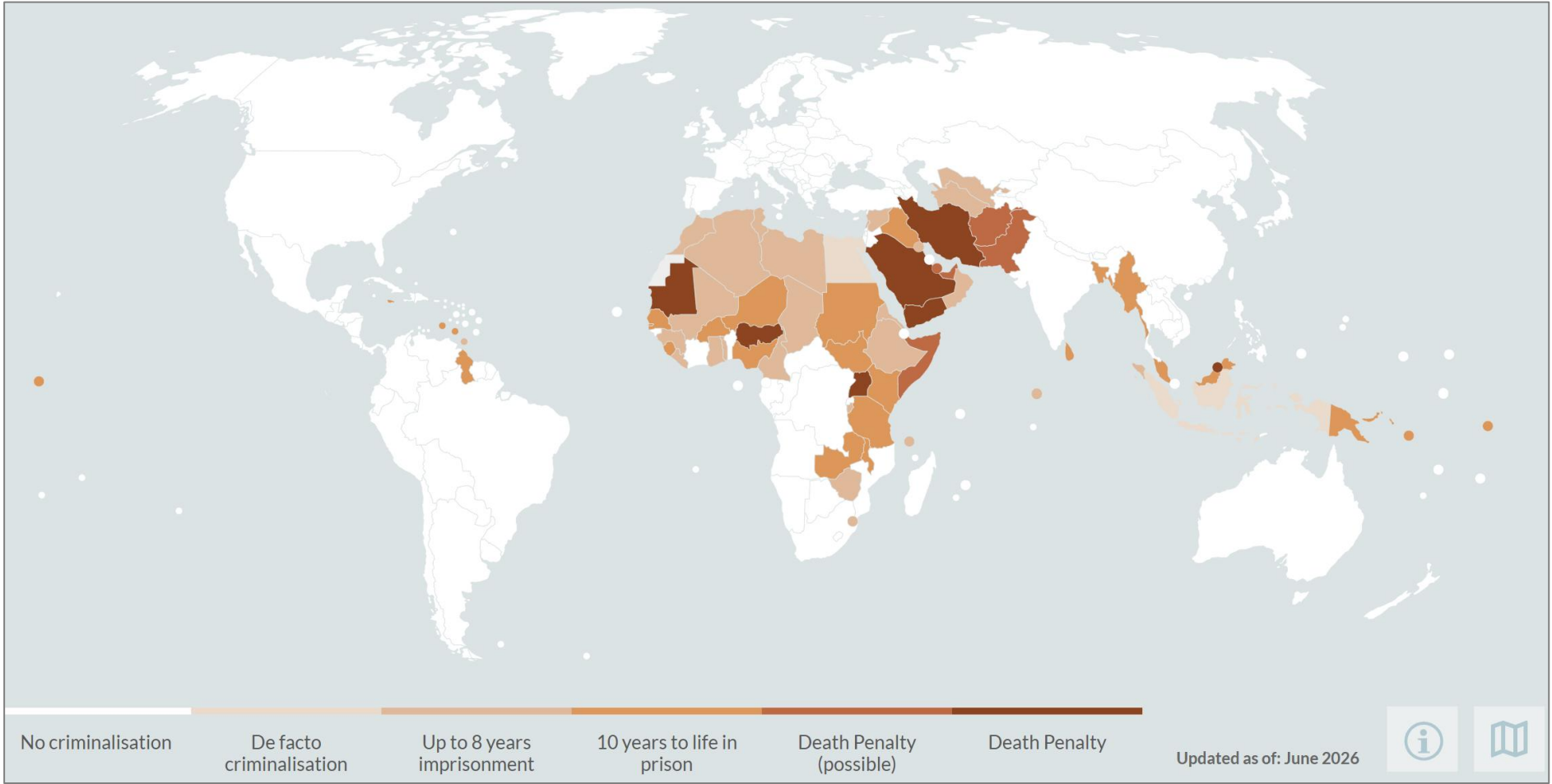


PrEP
use



PrEP
discontinuation

Criminalization, Prosecution, Legal Barriers



65

UN member state
criminalize consensual
same-sex practices
among adults

Funding Crisis

The 2026 UN High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS

“New Political Declaration committing to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030”

- 149 countries voted in favor
- 14 abstentions
- **8 countries voted against**

(In 2021: 165 in favor, 4 against, 0 abstentions)

Major international donors have announced
cuts of 8–70% in recent years

Major findings from PEPFAR 2025 fiscal year data release:

PrEP initiations **declined by 41%**
Key populations not mentioned

Gilead's announcement:

Generic manufacturers to produce low-cost versions of Lenacapavir in 120 high-incidence countries.
EXCLUDES middle-income countries

PAHO opens a new pathway to access lenacapavir for HIV prevention in Latin America and the Caribbean



15 Sep 2026



Significant Reductions in PrEP Services for AGYW

	New PrEP Initiations Q4 2024	New PrEP Initiations Q4 2025	% Decrease in PrEP Initiations
All Women	405,158	271,826	-33%
AGYW (15-24)	204,029	124,326	-39%
Other Women (25-49)	194,312	143,392	-26%

Part III:

Scaling-up with Choice



SEARCH: providing individual choice increases engagement

Dynamic choice HIV prevention with cabotegravir long-acting injectable in rural Uganda and Kenya: a randomised trial extension

Moses R Kamya, Laura B Balzer, James Ayieko, Jane Kabami, Elijah Kakande, Gabriel Chamie, Nicole Sutter, Helen Sunday, Janice Litunya, Joshua Schwab, John Schrom, Melanie Bacon, Catherine A Koss, Alex R Rinehart, Maya Petersen*, Diane V Havlir*, on behalf of the SEARCH Consortium

Prevention package offering choice between daily pills (PrEP, PEP) and long-acting injectable cabotegravir (CAB-LA)

1,532 adults (15y+)

5-fold increase in proportion of follow-up time covered by any PrEP product

Zero acquisitions in intervention group (vs. 7)

A Dynamic Choice HIV Prevention

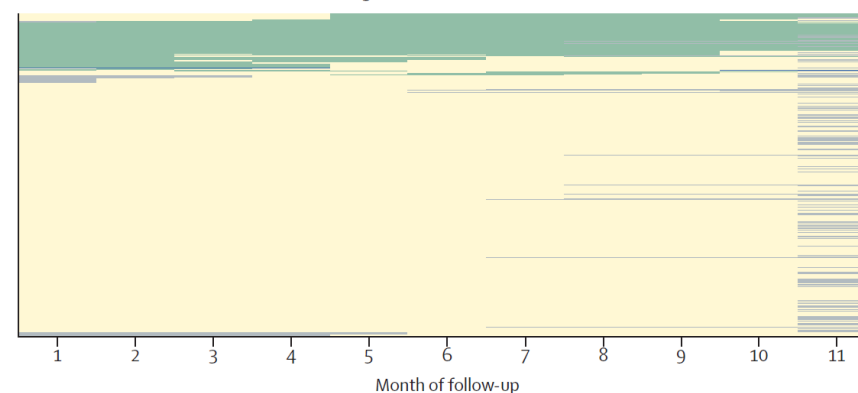
CAB-LA Oral PrEP PEP None Missing data



70%

B Standard of care

Oral PrEP PEP None Missing data



13%

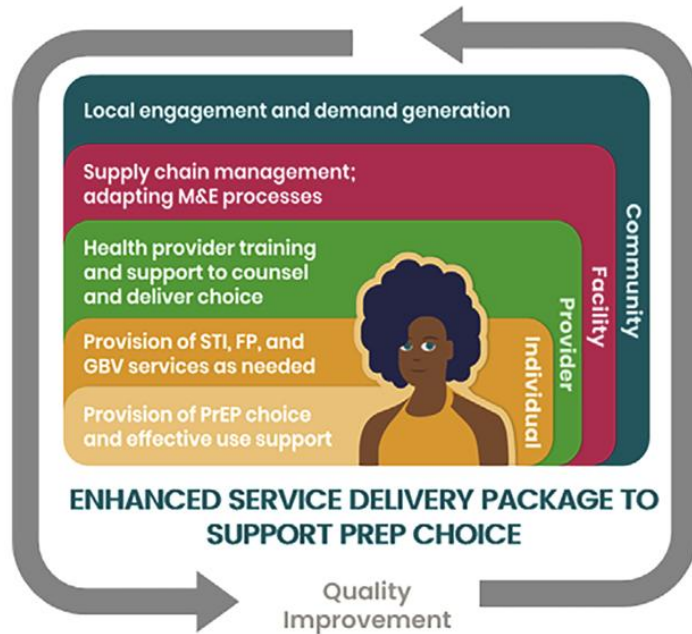
CATALYST: enhanced service delivery to support choice

STAGE I

3967

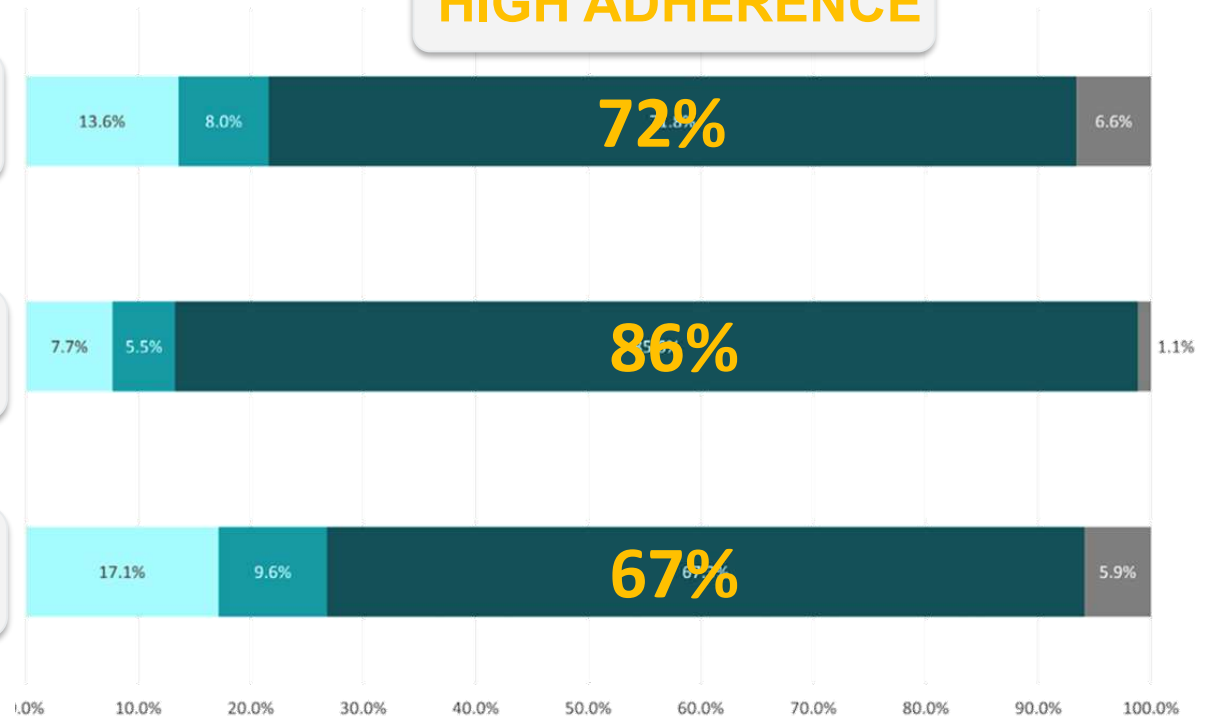
Women from Kenya,
Lesotho, South Africa,
Uganda, Zimbabwe

66% Oral PrEP
30% Dapivirine ring



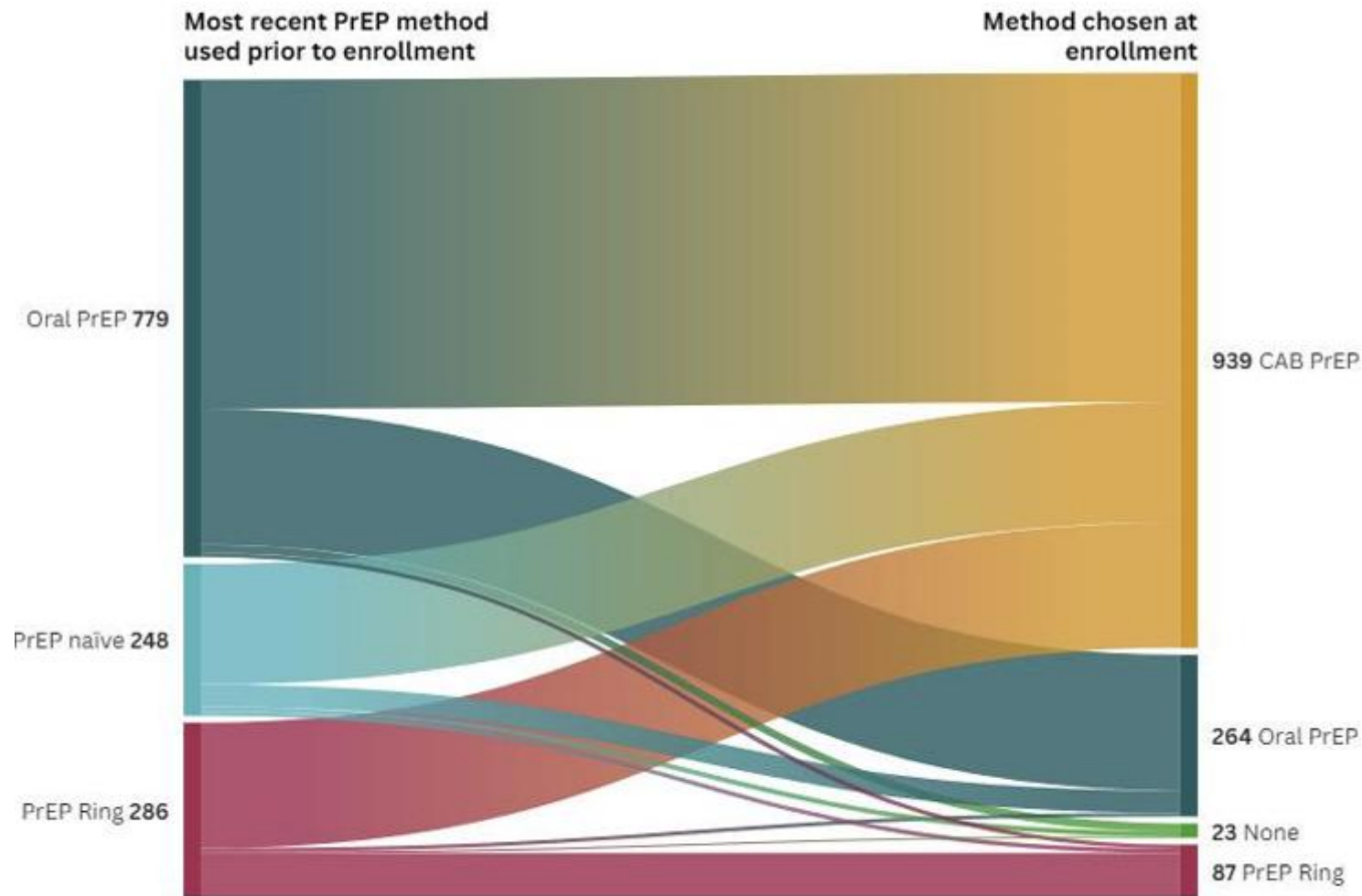
HIGH ADHERENCE

TOTAL



CATALYST: adding CAB-LA to the choice package

STAGE II



1326

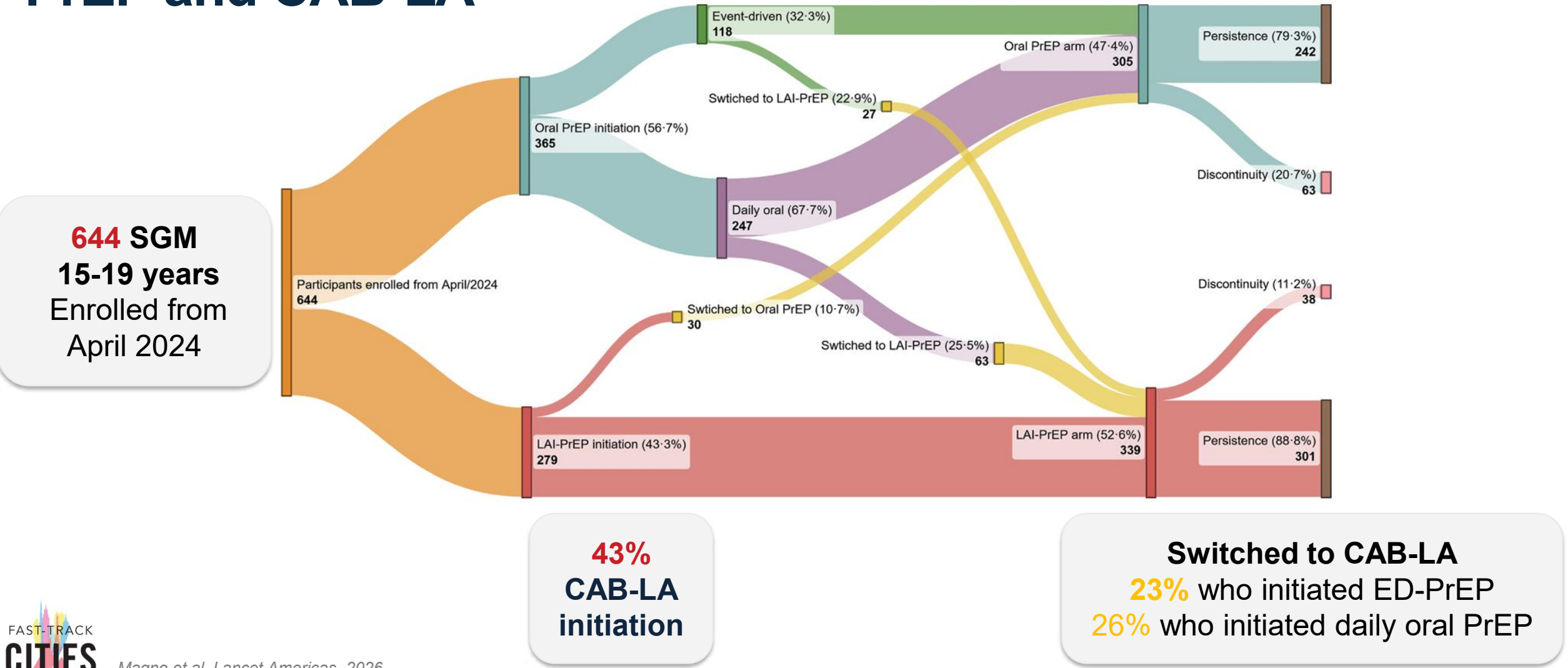
Women from Kenya,
Lesotho, South
Africa, Uganda,
Zimbabwe

71% CAB-LA

20% Oral PrEP

7% Dapivirine ring

PrEP 15-19 Choices: choice dynamics between oral PrEP and CAB-LA



Project PrEP in South Africa: product choice is dynamic

2328 Women

76% Oral PrEP

15% Dapivirine ring

Factors for choosing vaginal ring

- Older age (>25 vs. 15-24 years)
- Previous use of oral PrEP

Vaginal Ring x Oral PrEP

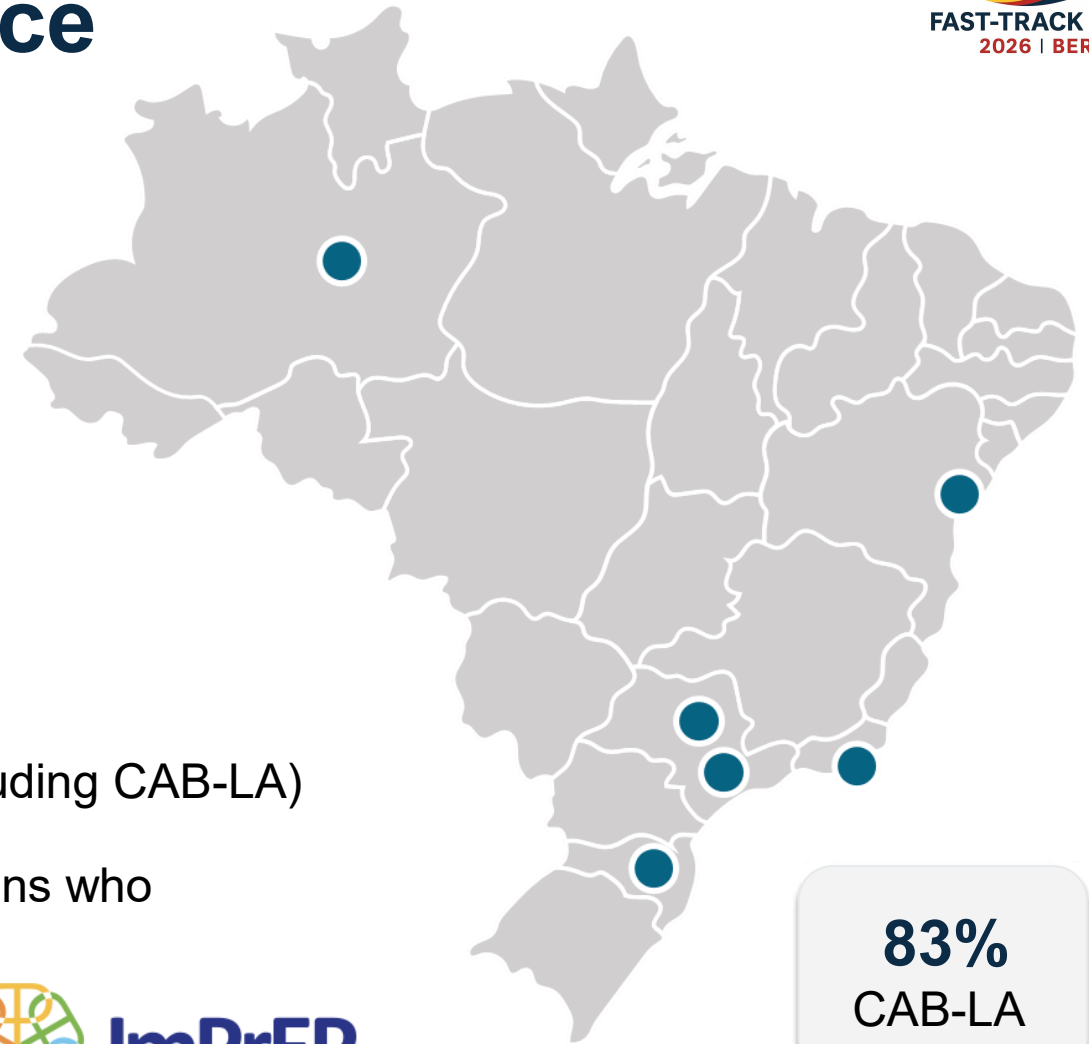
- Higher early retention (1-month)
- Lower PrEP interruptions

ImPrEP CAB Brasil: mHealth tool to support person centered-choice

Person-centered choice and mHealth support for same-day delivery of long-acting injectable cabotegravir (ImPrEP CAB Brasil): a prospective, open-label, multicenter, quasi-experimental implementation study

Thiago Silva Torres,^{a,*} Brenda Hoagland,^{a,m} Carolina Coutinho,^a Mayara Secco Torres Silva,^a Ronaldo Ismério Moreira,^a Iuri Costa Leite,^b Marcelo Cunha,^b Emilia M. Jalil,^a Sandra Wagner Cardoso,^a Roberta Trefiglio,^a Alessandro Farias,^c Maria Paula G. Mourão,^d José Valdez Madruga,^e Josué N. de Lima,^f Ronaldo Zonta,^g Gabrielle O'Malley,^h Julio Moreira,ⁱ Keila Simpson,^j Heather A. Pines,^k Alex R. Rinehart,^l Nanlesta Pilgrim,^l Paula M. Luz,^a Marcos Benedetti,^a Maria Cristina Pimenta,^a Valdilea Gonçalves Veloso,^{a,n} and Beatriz Grinsztejn,^{a,n} on behalf of ImPrEP CAB Brasil Study Group

- PrEP public health services in six Brazilian cities
- 1:1 mHealth tool (5 short videos on HIV prevention including CAB-LA)
- 1,446 cisgender men, transgender and nonbinary persons who have sex with men (18–30 years)



83%
CAB-LA

ImPrEP CAB Brasil: providing choice increases coverage

Integrating long-acting injectable cabotegravir for HIV prevention into the Brazilian public health system (ImPrEP CAB Brasil): a hybrid type-2 implementation-effectiveness cohort study

Beatriz Grinsztejn*, Thiago Silva Torres*, Brenda Hoagland†, Carolina Coutinho†, Mayara Secco Torres Silva, Iuri Costa Leite, Marcelo Cunha, Monica Derrico, Emilia Mjalil, Sandra Wagner Cardoso, Roberta Trefiglio, Alessandro Farias, Maria Paula G Mourão, José Valdez Madruga, Josué N de Lima, Ronaldo Zonta, Gabrielle O'Malley, Julio Moreira, Keila Simpson, Alex R Rinehart, Nanlesta Pilgrim, Anna Hellstrom, Anne-Isabelle Cameron, Paula Mendes Luz, Raphael J Landovitz, Marcos Benedetti, Cristina Pimenta, Ronaldo Ismério Moreira‡, Valdílea Gonçalves Veloso‡, on behalf of the ImPrEP CAB Brasil Study Group§

Switches

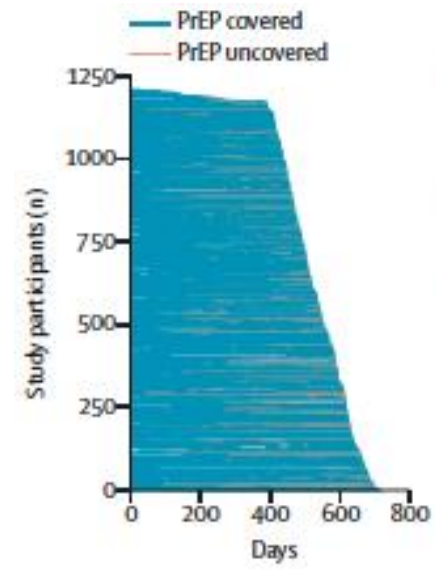
8% Oral to CAB-LA
3% CAB-LA to Oral

92%
on-time
CAB-LA
injection

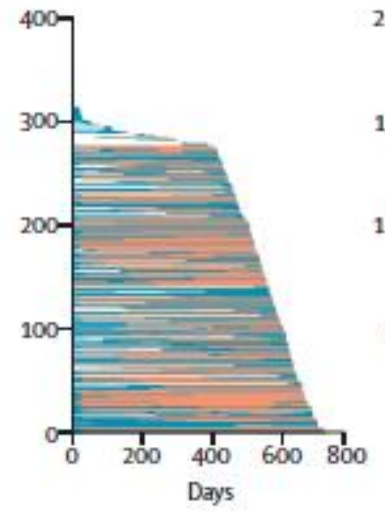
1201
CAB-LA
choice

246
Oral PrEP
choice

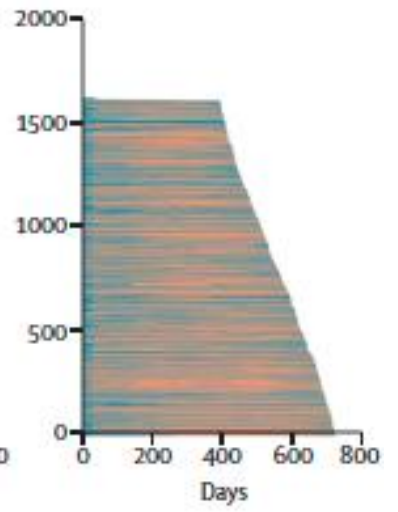
1649
Oral PrEP
(SUS)



91%



47%



36%

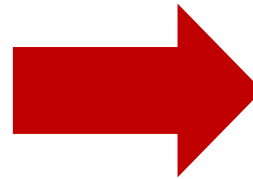
ImPrEP CAB Brasil: social determinants of health associated with CAB-LA loss to follow-up

Integrating long-acting injectable cabotegravir for HIV prevention into the Brazilian public health system (ImPrEP CAB Brasil): a hybrid type-2 implementation-effectiveness cohort study

Beatriz Grinsztejn, Thiago Silva Torres*, Brenda Hoagland†, Carolina Coutinho†, Mayara Secco Torres Silva, Iuri Costa Leite, Marcelo Cunha, Monica Derrico, Emilia M Jalil, Sandra Wagner Cardoso, Roberta Trefiglio, Alessandro Farias, Maria Paula G Mourão, José Valdez Madruga, Josué N de Lima, Ronaldo Zonta, Gabrielle O'Malley, Julio Moreira, Keila Simpson, Alex R Rinehart, Nanlesta Pilgrim, Anna Hellstrom, Anne-Isabelle Cameron, Paula Mendes Luz, Raphael J Landovitz, Marcos Benedetti, Cristina Pimenta, Ronaldo Ismério Moreira‡, Valdeia Gonçalves Veloso‡, on behalf of the ImPrEP CAB Brasil Study Group§*



8.8%
**CAB-LA loss to
follow-up**



- Black, Pardo (mix-race) or Indigenous
- Low education
- Symptoms of depression

CAB-LA persistence in the US (2022-2024)



Database that covered most of all pharmacy and medical claims in the USA

24194

CAB-LA (3% of all PrEP users)

50%

CAB-LA Persistence in 1 year

23%

CAB-LA Persistence in 2 years

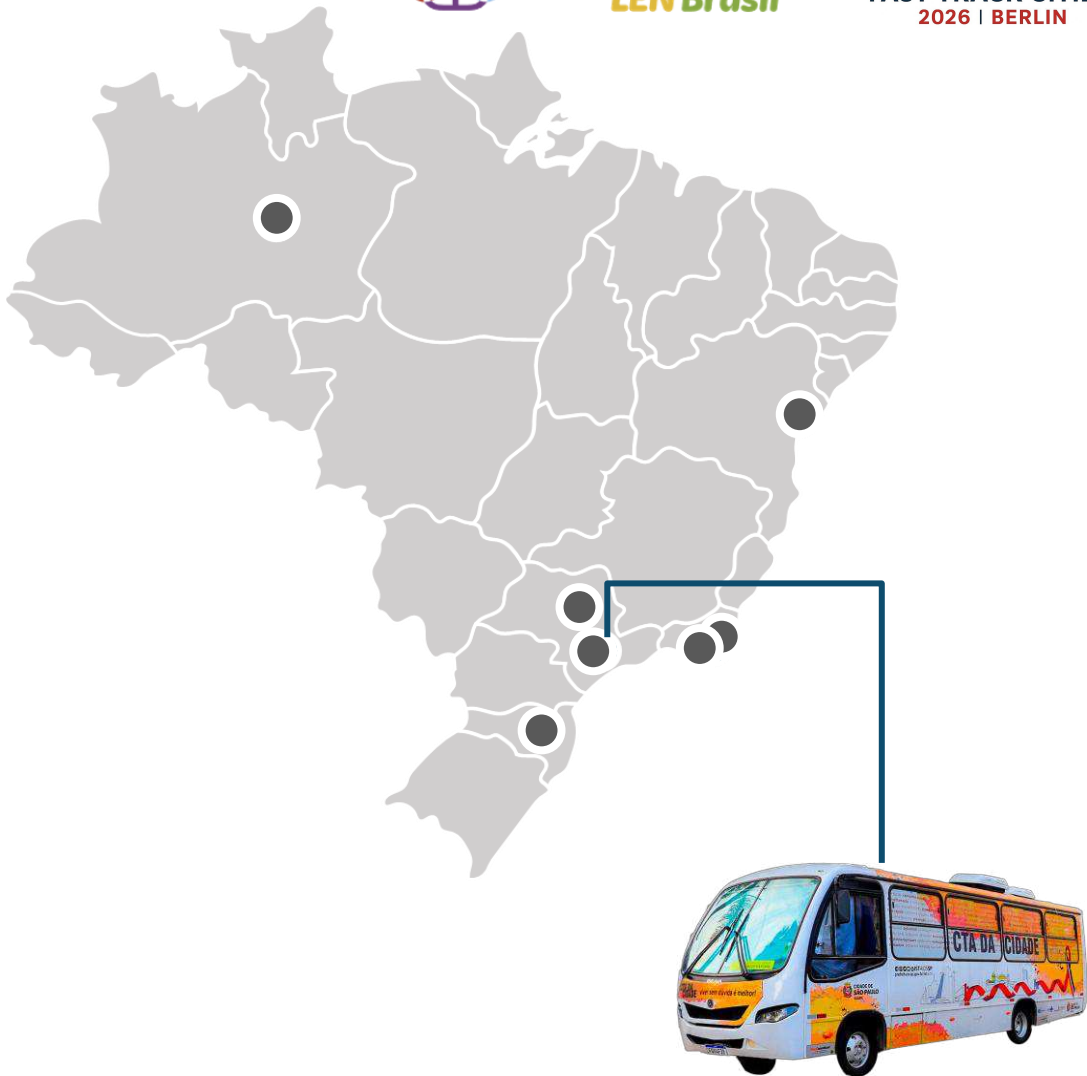
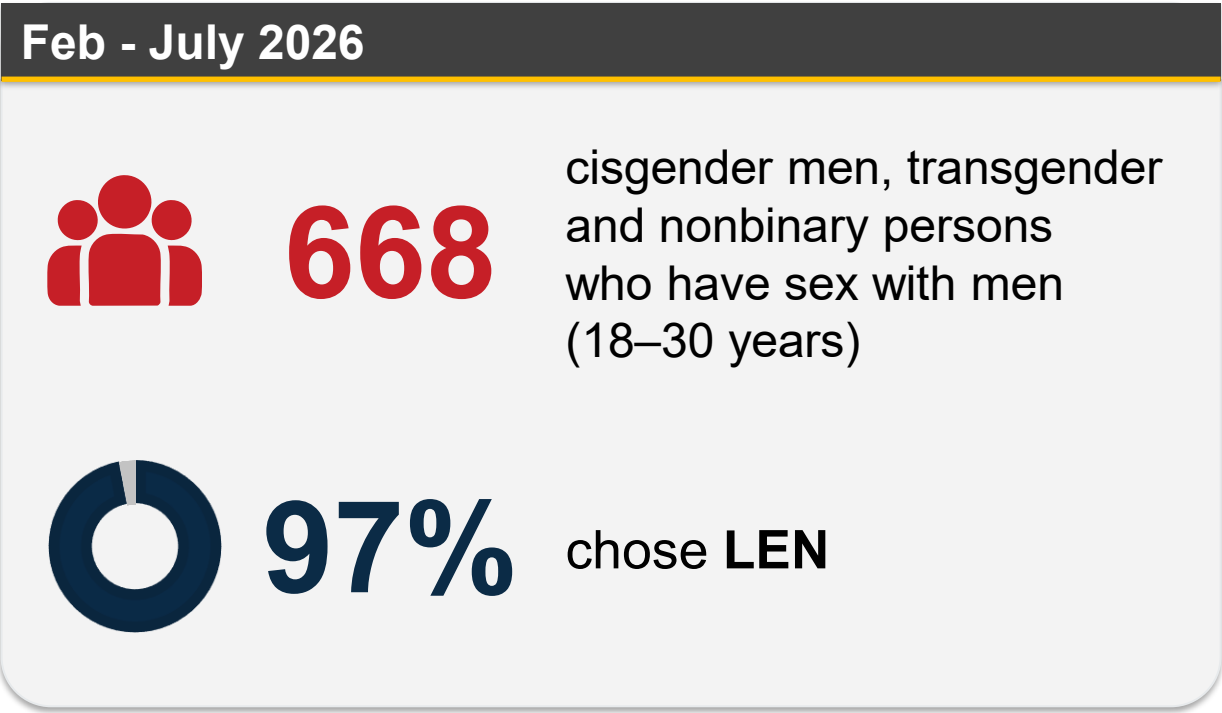
57%

PrEP Persistence in 1 year

30%

PrEP Persistence in 2 years

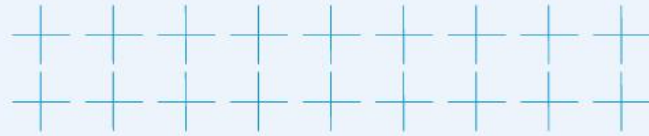
ImPrEP LEN Brasil



Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD) for PrEP

Differentiated and simplified pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention

Update to WHO implementation guidance
TECHNICAL BRIEF



Where (service location)
Who (service provider)
When (service frequency)
What (service package)

DSD to improve prevention uptake

Caring for the whole person: transgender-competent HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis as part of integrated primary healthcare services in Vietnam

Anh H. Doan^{1, #}, Chau M. H. Vu², Thu T. Nguyen³, Kimberly E. Green^{1, §, #} , Huong T. T. Phan⁴, Rena Janamnuysook⁵, Bao N. Vu¹ , Thanh M. Le⁶, Khang Q. Do⁷, Tham T. Tran¹, Trang M. Ngo⁸, Lopa Basu⁸, Long K. Tran¹ and Zoe Humeau¹

Participatory continuous quality improvement
+
Plan-Do-Study-Act methodology

17-fold increase in PrEP uptake and
99% month-3 persistence

Major barriers to No. PrEP/PHC	Quality improvement actions to enable greater PrEP/PHC access
1 Limited knowledge of transgender-sensitive and transgender-competent healthcare among healthcare providers.	Training. Improved PrEP clinic healthcare provider competencies in gender-affirming care through training and mentoring by Tangerine Academy and reinforced through local learning.
2 Limited roles of transgender women in care delivery within private and KP clinics.	Staffing. Transgender women lay healthcare workers were employed by clinics and trained to provide dedicated counselling and support to clients.
3 Lack of gender-affirming or adequately integrated primary healthcare services in clinics offering PrEP.	Service. Offered gender-affirming hormone-level testing, counselling and referrals for feminizing procedures, and additional integrative primary healthcare services through private clinics.
4 Limited information on transgender women's community norming around drug-drug interaction between PrEP and gender-affirming hormones.	Outreach. Implemented a transgender women-led communications campaign on PrEP use and hormones to address concerns expressed by the community.
5 No national guidelines on gender-affirming care as part of HIV services.	Guidelines. Assisted the Vietnam Ministry of Health in developing first-ever transgender HIV and healthcare guidelines as a result of actions 1-4.

Abbreviations: KP, key population; PHC, primary healthcare; PrEP, pre-exposure prophylaxis.

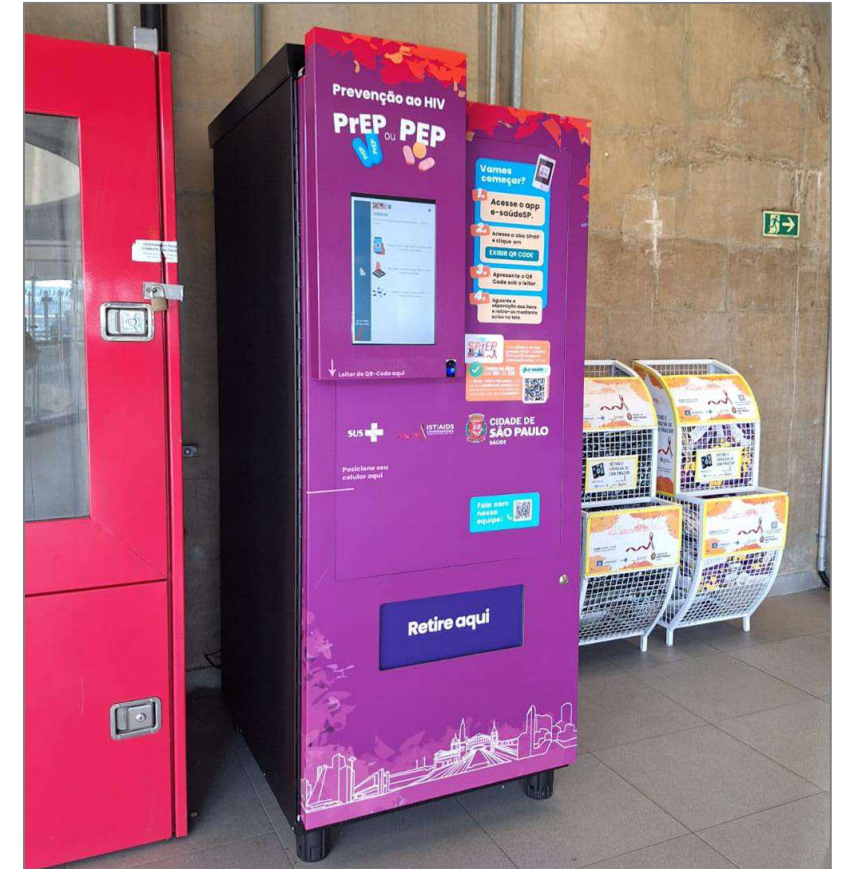
DSD to improve prevention uptake

MULTI-FACET STRATEGY

1. Teleconsultations for PrEP and PEP, daily
2. Automatic dispensing machines in metro stations
3. Decentralized services with mobile units
4. HIV-self-tests lockers in parks and cultural events

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Historic decline in HIV incidence: 2025 was the 9th consecutive year with decreased HIV incidence**
- Increased testing: >545,000 HIV rapid tests were performed
- Increased service utilization: >9,000 medication pickups since June 2024 through 2025



Project PrEP and DREAMS: Mobile Delivery Extends Reach of Integrated PrEP and SRH Services



- **Extended reach of PrEP choice (PrEP Ring, CAB-LA and LEN) through:**
 - Mobile clinics with consulting rooms for nurse clinicians
 - Pop up gazebos for clinicians incl. a foldable beds and benches for Ring insertion
- **Implementation Settings:**
 - Higher learning institutions (Colleges, Universities, Second Chance Matric Centres)
 - Community sites (youth and skills development centres, CBOs and safe spaces)

Cash transfers as an intervention for poverty & HIV outcomes



nature communications

Income determines the impact of cash transfers on HIV/AIDS: cohort study of 22.7 million Brazilians

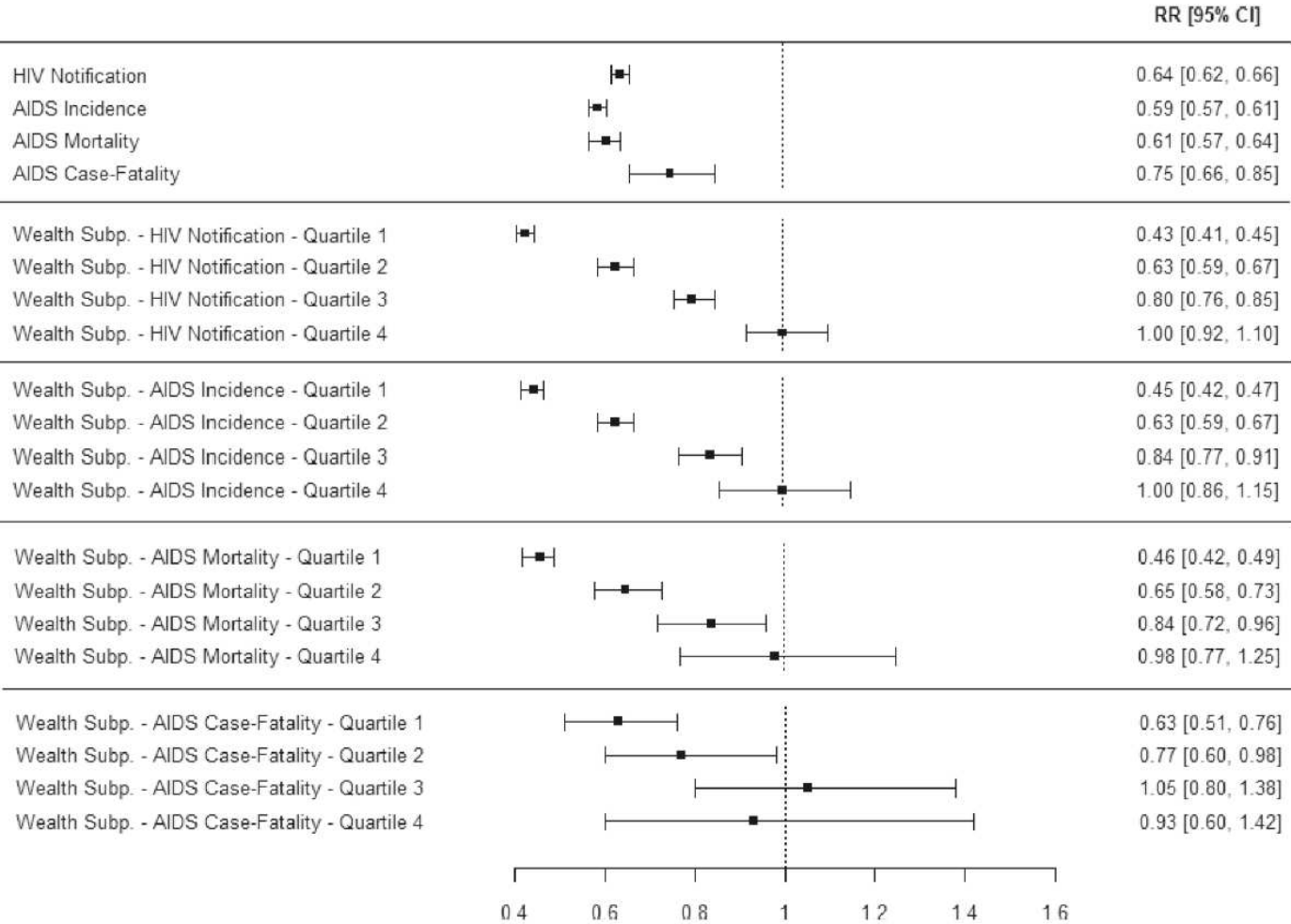
Andréa F. Silva^{1,2}, Inês Dourado¹, Iracema Lua^{1,2}, Gabriela S. Jesus^{1,3}, Nathalia S. Guimarães¹, Gabriel A. S. Morais¹, Rodrigo V. R. Anderle¹, Julia M. Pescarini², Daiane B. Machado^{2,4}, Carlos A. S. T. Santos², Maria Y. Ichihara², Mauricio L. Barreto^{1,2}, Laio Magno^{1,5}, Luis E. Souza¹, James Macinko⁶ & Davide Rasella^{1,2,7}✉

Nation-wide poverty-alleviation program for poor households w/ children or pregnant women

Conditionalities: school attendance, immunization, antenatal care

Poverty ↓15%

Extreme poverty ↓25%



36%

41%

39%

25%

The Importance of Community



Closing Remarks

- PrEP access and rollout depend on availability of products with fair prices
- Person-centered PrEP choice and differentiated service delivery are essential to increase PrEP access, engagement and persistence
- Structural barriers remain a major barrier to equitable PrEP scale-up

Acknowledgements

Beatriz Grinsztejn, Valdiléa G. Veloso, Paula M. Luz, Emilia M. Jalil,
Nicolette Naidoo, Saiqa Mullick





THANK YOU
Dankeschön!

Thiago S. Torres • thiago.torres@ini.fiocruz.br • #FTC2026