Strategies for identifying HIV-infected children and adolescents to care and treatment: *Lessons from the Paediatric and Adolescent Scale-up Project (PASP), Johannesburg, South Africa*

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23rd October, 2017
Background

• South Africa has made remarkable progress to scale-up PMTCT services.
• Despite this, older children and adolescents still lack access to diagnosis and treatment.
• Identifying and diagnosing children as HIV-infected is the first step in the continuum of paediatric care and treatment.
1. Improve earlier diagnosis of children and adolescents with HIV by increasing testing, screening, case-finding and linkages to treatment/support.

2. Increase access to quality HIV treatment for children and adolescents.
Children aged 18 months-19 years, were offered facility or community-based PICT
- PASP supported sites in the City of Johannesburg between June 2016 and July 2017.

Facility testing strategies
- Child health sites
- Family planning
- Adolescent and youth friendly services
- Testing children of adult HIV index cases

Community strategies
- CBOs
- OVCY sites
- Community testing events
## HIV testing across the age groups (0-19 years) at PASP priority sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy/Entry point</th>
<th>Number tested</th>
<th>Tested positive</th>
<th>Yield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Health testing</td>
<td>2,344</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Planning</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Index case-finding</td>
<td>1,109</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-19 Years</td>
<td>13,669</td>
<td>917</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community testing</td>
<td>17,381</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Barriers to HIV testing for infants and children

- Few testing opportunities outside of PMTCT
- Patient level barriers
  - Health care workers barriers
  - Health care system barriers

90% diagnosed
90% on treatment
90% virally suppressed
Scalability

- HIV case finding particularly at health facilities is a feasible and effective way of identifying HIV-infected older children and adolescents in high HIV prevalence setting.
- However, scale-up requires dedicated staff to drive testing strategies.
Lessons learnt

• Intensified case finding improves testing opportunities beyond PMTCT
• Testing in facility has a higher yield compared to community based testing
• Targeted testing at improves number of HIV-infected children and adolescents found
• Dedicated staff are needed in identifying HIV-infected children and adolescents
• PASP highlights successful shared learning and joint activities between Johannesburg health district and DSP
Questions?