

# **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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# 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.

# PASP Project objectives

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.

# 1<sup>st</sup> 90: Testing

- 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

Strategy/Entry point	Number tested	Tested positive	Yield
<b>Child Health testing</b>	2,344	105	4.5%
<b>Family Planning</b>	896	95	10.6%
<b>Index case-finding</b>	1,109	103	9.3%
<b>15-19 Years</b>	13,669	917	6.7%
<b>Community testing</b>	17,381	262	1.5%

# 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

# 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 joints activities between Johannesburg health district and DSP



# Questions?

