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Periodic HIV Index Case Testing: A Worthwhile Approach to Reach the Unreached in HIV Epidemic Control

Poster number: A-AIDS-2022-06267



Conflict of interest disclosure

I have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.





AIDS 2022

Background

- Over 90% of people living with HIV (PLHIV) already diagnosed in Zambia (MoH-ZAMPHIA, 2018)
- It became increasingly difficult to reach the people that remained untested and undiagnosed
- The USAID DISCOVER-Health project, implemented by JSI embarked on a robust initiative to identify potentially untested PLHIV.

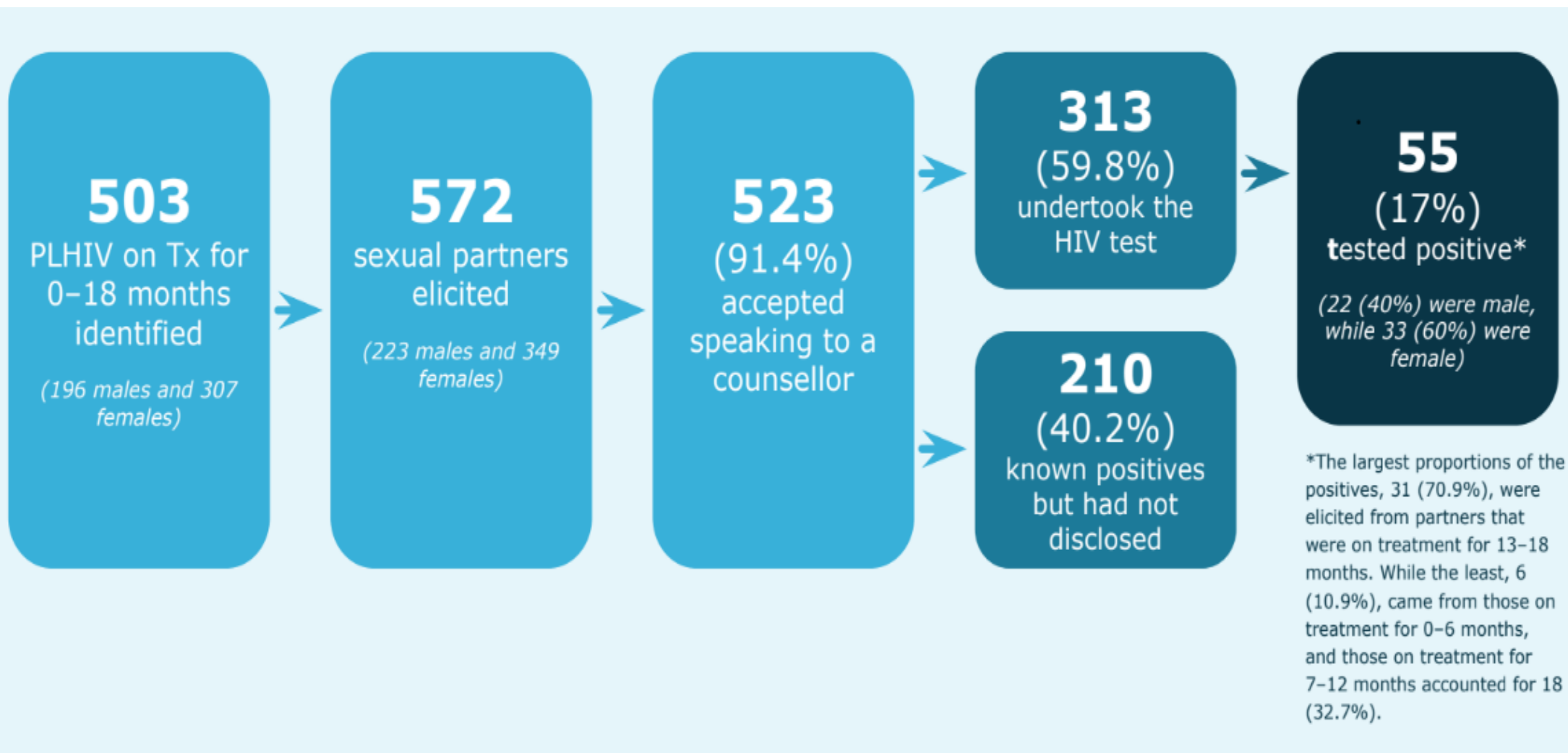




Project Response

- Between July and August 2021 offered index case testing to clients that were already on treatment
- These clients had initially undergone index case testing, but had since found new sexual partners
- Trained psychosocial counselors provided a brief counselling session that aimed at eliciting the new sexual partners
- Partners were approached and offered HIV counselling and testing in a professional manner

Lessons



Conclusion

PLHIV, remain an important link to the unreached people living with HIV that are not yet diagnosed.

This applies especially to those that are on treatment for a longer period, deeming periodic HIV index case testing a worthwhile strategy