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aids2022.org

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.





RAIDS 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 PLHI





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

503PLHIV on Tx for 0–18 months identified

(196 males and 307 females)

572 sexual partners elicited

(223 males and 349 females)

523
(91.4%)
accepted
speaking to a
counsellor

313 (59.8%) undertook the HIV test

210 (40.2%) known positives but had not disclosed 55 (17%) tested positive*

(22 (40%) were male, while 33 (60%) were female)

*The largest proportions of the positives, 31 (70.9%), were elicited from partners that were on treatment for 13–18 months. While the least, 6 (10.9%), came from those on treatment for 0–6 months, and those on treatment for 7–12 months accounted for 18 (32.7%).





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

