

First, Do No Harm: Considerations for mitigating social harm risk in rolling out HIV index testing among AGYW

Research and service delivery recommendations to limit IPV and stigma

YouthPower Learning

February 25, 2019

Advancing solutions to transform the lives of young people



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Advancing solutions to improve young lives

- **YouthPower Learning** advances solutions through integrated research and development programs to improve the capacity of youth-led and youth-serving institutions.
- *By engaging youth, their families, communities, and governments in innovative programs, we build young people's skills, assets, and competencies; foster healthy relationships; strengthen the enabling environment; and transform systems.*

What is Positive Youth Development (PYD)?

PYD programs recognize youth's inherent rights and result in youth who have **assets**, the ability to leverage those assets (**agency**), and the ability to **contribute** to positive change for themselves and their communities, surrounded by an **enabling environment** that supports them

<http://www.youthpower.org/positive-youth-development>



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Today's Speakers



Amelia Peltz,
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Anne Stangl,
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Chelsea Ricker,
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**Jacquelyne
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HIV/SRHR Youth
Advisor



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Overview

- Share technical and programmatic considerations for conducting index testing and PN for AGYW
 - Understand potential social harms
 - Recommend strategies to mitigate harm
- Highlight AGYW-specific tools for healthcare providers



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What does the evidence tell us about HIV Index testing and partner notification among AGYW?

- Very little
 - Feasibility and acceptability of HIV index testing and PN with AGYW not yet studied
- Adolescents face specific challenges:
 - Judgmental attitudes of providers
 - Lack of access to age-appropriate services
 - Taboos against open discussion of sex
 - Risk of violence and stigma heightened



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What do studies with adult women suggest?

- Anticipating social harms did not deter women from notifying partner/s
- Very few cases of notification-related violence reported (but...)
- Several barriers identified:
 - Partnership dissolution
 - Being abandoned
 - Difficulty notifying a partner when sex work was her main livelihood
 - Power differentials in relationships



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Research recommendations for index testing and PN with AGYW

- Prior to implementation:
 - Feasibility and acceptability studies
 - Situational analyses
- During implementation:
 - Operations research
 - Assess availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality



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Program recommendations for index testing and PN with AGYW



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Considerations around PN for AGYW

- Develop or clarify consent policies and practices
- Implement community mobilization strategies to:
 - Increase awareness of 95-95-95
 - Generate enthusiasm for participating in HTS
 - Minimize stigma towards AGYW
- Expand HIV index testing and PN for adolescent boys and young men



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Monitoring to improve PN services

- Routine program monitoring of HIV PN services for AGYW
- Client exit interviews
- Provider surveys



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Training needs

- Training and support for providers on provision of:
 - Adolescent-friendly HIV, SRH, and GBV services
 - Protocols for conducting routine enquiry for IPV in alignment with WHO guidelines
 - Stigma-free and gender-sensitive services in a non-judgmental and supportive manner



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Resources for adolescents living with HIV and IPV survivors



- Ensure support resources are in place, including:
 - GBV resource centers
 - Support groups for adolescents living with HIV

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Key takeaways

- Ensure voluntarism
- Prioritize confidentiality and avoidance of adverse outcomes
- Train providers
- Create integrated support services



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Why specialized tools for AGYW?



- Heightened risk for intimate partner and other violence
- Higher risk for HIV infection and less likely to access HIV testing or treatment
- Frequently disempowered or have less decision-making power
- Face stigma, discrimination, punishment, or violence from their families
- Higher risk of intimate partner or other violence if their HIV status is known



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Considerations for AGYW clients

Socio-cultural:

- Same rights, but less access to services
- Recognition of individual needs, strengths, and vulnerabilities

Programmatic:

- Consent and choice
- Risk and vulnerability
- Integration with other youth-friendly services



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Provider-focused tools and job aid

- Programmatic and service delivery considerations
- Provider job aid for index testing and partner notification with AGYW
- Toolbox with training and guidance resources

FORM: AGYW INDEX CLIENT INFORMATION FORM

Instructions: Complete this form for AGYW clients who have tested positive for HIV, are legally of age to consent to services, and have verbally consented to receive index testing services.

Name of person completing form Date form completed (dd/mm/yyyy) Health facility or HIV testing site name/number

CLIENT INFORMATION

Surname Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy) Age (years)

Given name ☐ Above legal age to consent to sex

Decision-Making Point:
If the client is below the legal age of consent for sex, index testing/PN services not recommended.

Marital Status
☐ Single ☐ Engaged to be married ☐ Married or cohabiting ☐ Divorced or separated ☐ Widowed

Does client have any biological children?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Client's current home environment (mark all that apply)
☐ with parents or guardians ☐ with extended family ☐ with partner ☐ alone or independent
☐ school or group home ☐ street or unknown ☐ other

Client's preferred contact (phone or other) Date of HIV diagnosis (dd/mm/yyyy)

Currently enrolled in an HIV treatment program?
☐ Yes ☐ No

IF YES: Name of facility ART enrollment number

IF NO: Referral provided/support offered?
☐ Yes ☐ No
 Name of referral clinic/description of support offered Reason why no referral provided/support offered



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Panel Discussion



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How can we partner together?

- Connecting with other YouthPower activities
- Sharing Resources, Events, Information, and What Works: Learning Hub YouthPower.org
- Identifying What Works
- Measuring PYD: Indicators
- Contributing to the [PYD Learning Agenda](#)
- Engaging with the Communities of Practice:
 - Youth in Peace and Security
 - Gender and PYD
 - Youth Engagement
 - Cross-Sectoral Skills for Youth



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Thank you!

Thank you for participating in this YouthPower Learning event.
The recording of today's event will be shared with all registrants.

Please visit www.YouthPower.org for more.

Resources discussed today will be posted soon at:
<https://www.youthpower.org/agyw-index-testing-partner-notification>



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