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# Increasing Men's and Boys' Access to HIV Prevention and Treatment in Zambia: Test and Treat through Community Insakas

YouthPower Learning  
Gender and PYD Community of Practice

August 15, 2017



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*Advancing solutions to transform the lives of young people*



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# YouthPower Learning

## 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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## How can we partner together?

- Identifying [What Works](#)
- Measuring PYD: [PYD Measurement Toolkit/Indicators](#)
- Sharing Resources, Events, Information, and What Works: Learning Hub [YouthPower.org](#)
- [Communities of Practice](#):
  - Youth in Peace and Security
  - Gender and PYD
  - Youth Engagement
  - Cross-Sectoral Skills
- Ongoing YouthPower Activities: [YouthPower Projects](#)
- Apply for an Upcoming [Grant](#)



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## **YouthPower Learning Gender and PYD Community of Practice (CoP)**

- Co-champions
  - Chisina Kapungu, International Center for Research on Women
  - Chelsea Ricker, independent consultant for Making Cents International
- Facilitator:
  - Lindsey Woolf, Making Cents International
- Started December 2015
- Over 480 members



# Increasing Men and Boys Access to HIV Prevention and Treatment through Test and Treat Community “Insakas”

Raymond Hawwala  
Male Involvement Officer







WHAT WE BELIEVE

OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

CODE OF CONDUCT



MENENGAGE & ACCOUNTABILITY

**MenEngage Alliance is an international network of civil society organizations working with men and boys for gender justice, promoting health and reducing violence by challenging structural barriers to women's rights and gender justice**

**We work collectively and individually toward advancing women's right, gender equality, human rights and social justice**

# MenEngage Global Alliance Vision

A world where all people are equal and free from discrimination, and in which gender justice and human rights are protected and promoted

## MenEngage Alliance's Mission

MenEngage Global Alliance works to transform unequal power relations and patriarchal systems by:

- addressing masculinities,
- building inclusive alliances from local to regional to global,
- working with men and boys through an intersectional feminist approach, and
- fostering joint actions in partnership with women's rights, gender & other social justice movements



# Project Overview: Test & Start

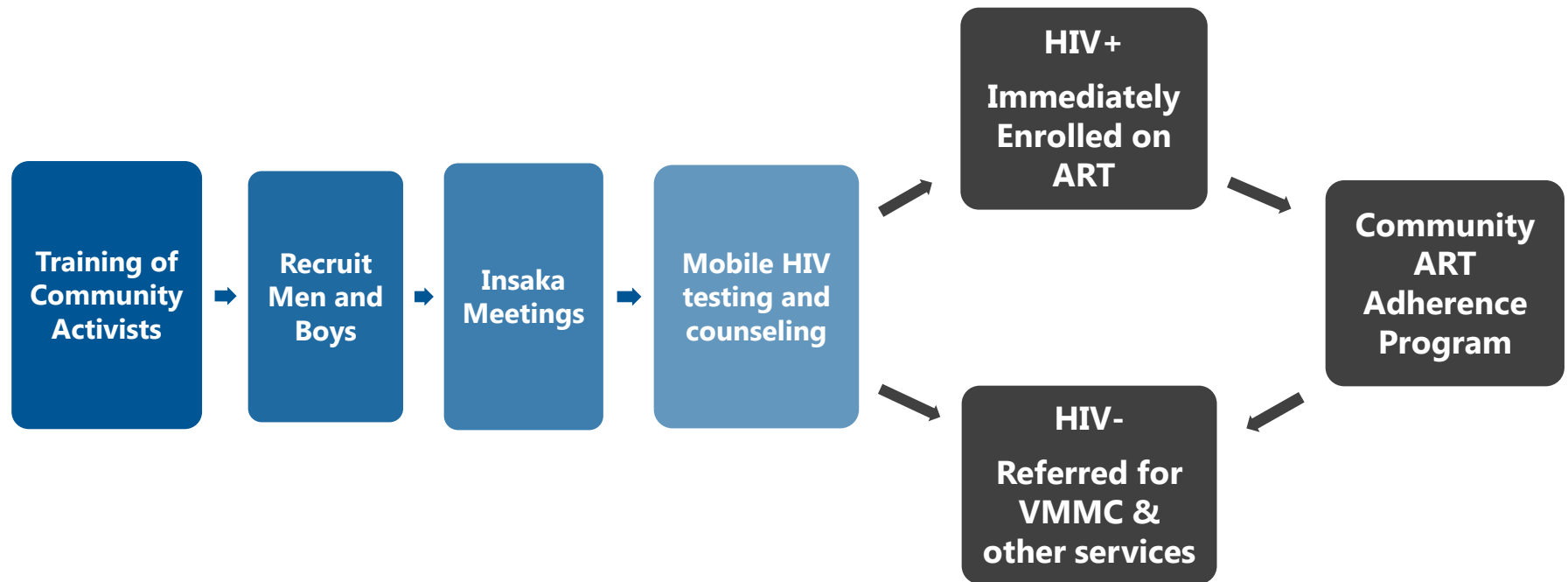
- CDC-funded with PEPFAR funds
- Implemented by IntraHealth Zambia
- Target group: men/boys identified as possible partners of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW)
- Project activities are synergistic with HIV Testing and Counseling (HTC) and DREAMS project activities also implemented by IntraHealth and funded by CDC/PEPFAR



# Test & Start Project Objectives

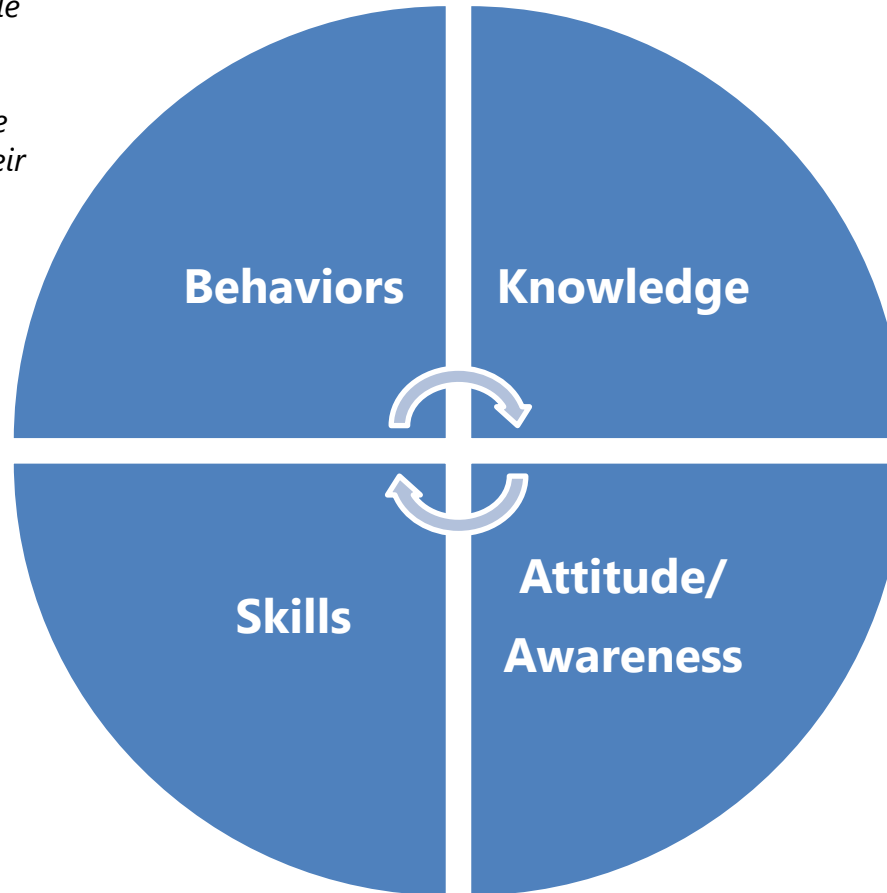
- Provide HIV testing and counseling (HTC), with a focus on men who are partners of adolescent girls and young women and refer for services.
- Implement strategies to ensure men who test either HIV+ or HIV- are linked to appropriate follow-up HIV prevention, care, and treatment services
- Implement strategies to ensure community adherence for HIV+ men who are on ART
- Implement strategies to ensure effective follow up and tracking of clients reluctant to test or enroll in ART, including home visits and phone contact

# Strategy towards achieving 90-90-90



# Healthy Images of Manhood (HIM)

- Engage men/boys in addressing responsible sexual behavior, HIV prevention, care and treatment; emphasize the importance of their involvement



- Increase men/boys knowledge in the community, especially on reproductive health (TTSP, family planning, sexually transmitted infections and HIV)

- Improve men/boys practical skills in interpersonal communication to access health information and health services

- Increase men/boys awareness on effects of negative cultural norms and gender stereotypes on health and behaviors

# Process

1

- Community activists identified through health facility lead, trained, then identify partners and potential or possible partners of adolescent girls and young women

2

- Using the “Healthy Images of Manhood” approach, mobilize and engage boys and men towards positive behaviors including HIV testing and accessing care

3

- Engage community mobilizers to recruit men and boys who are most likely partners of AGYW and/or considered at risk of HIV
- Form “Insaka” discussion groups, and use Discussion Cards to guide sessions

4

- Refer men/boys for HIV testing
- Immediately initiate HIV+ men/boys on ART
- Refer HIV- men/boys for voluntary medical male circumcision
- Continue Insaka discussion meetings for HIV prevention and treatment messages

# Discussion Cards


## Important Information Card

### Benefits of Test and START Treatment Immediately

The results of HPTN 052, Executive Director of UNAIDS Michel Sidibé, commented:

*"This breakthrough is a serious game changer and will drive the prevention revolution forward. It makes HIV treatment a new priority prevention option."*

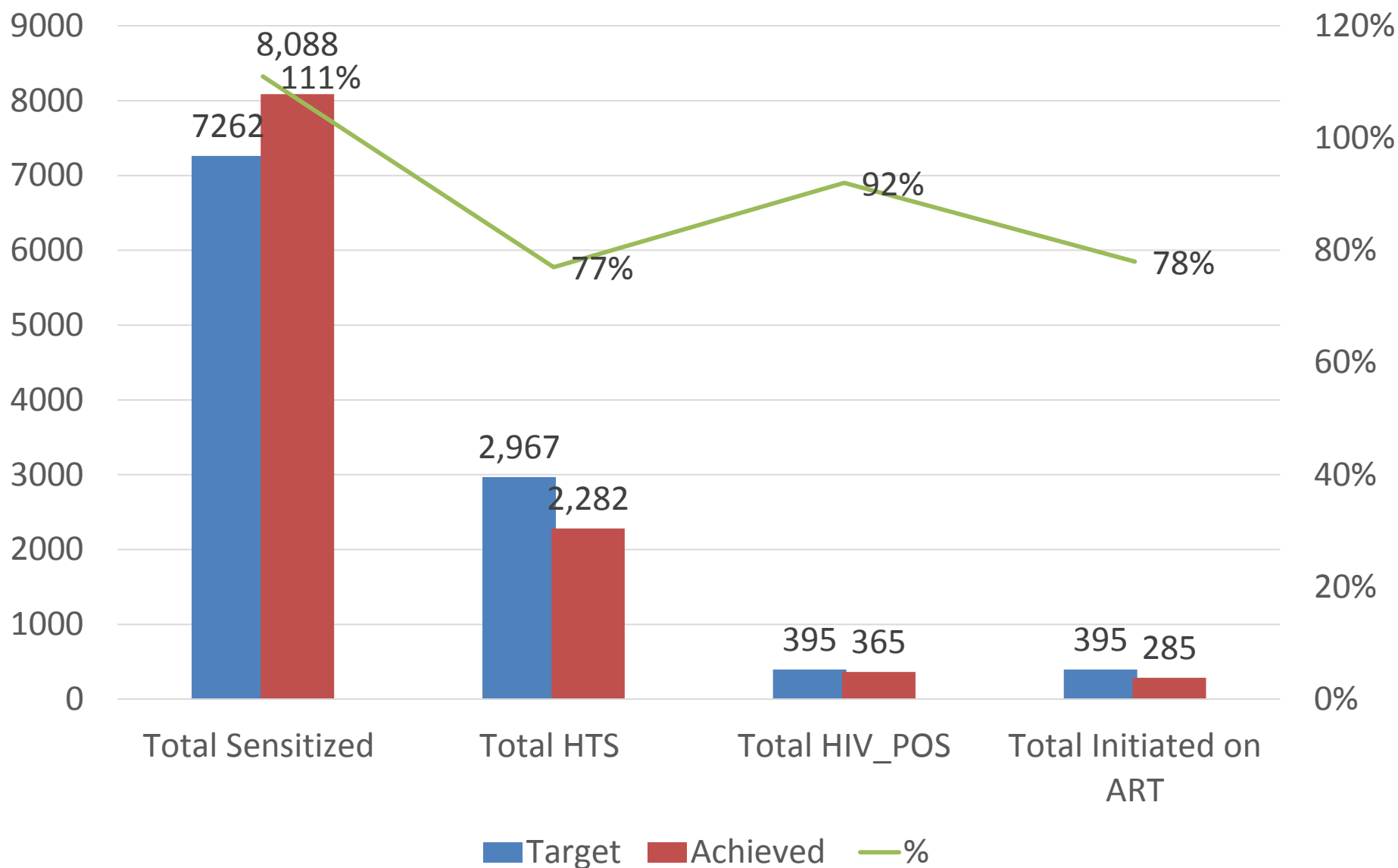
- Treatment as prevention (TasP) refers to HIV prevention methods that use antiretroviral treatment (ART) to decrease the risk of HIV transmission. Antiretroviral treatment reduces the HIV viral load in the blood, semen, vaginal fluid and rectal fluid to very low levels ('undetectable'), reducing the risk of onwards HIV transmission.
- There has been evidence of the benefits of HIV treatment as a prevention method. In 2011 a landmark study, HPTN 052, showed early initiation of antiretroviral treatment in people living with HIV with a CD4 count between 350 and 550, reduced HIV transmission to HIV-negative partners by 96%.
- A number of follow-up studies since have also reported significant reductions in HIV transmission, with new infections averted as a result.
- This has led to the idea that treatment as prevention could be used as part of a 'test and treat' strategy - increasing testing and treatment coverage to decrease community viral load and reduce the rate of new HIV infections.



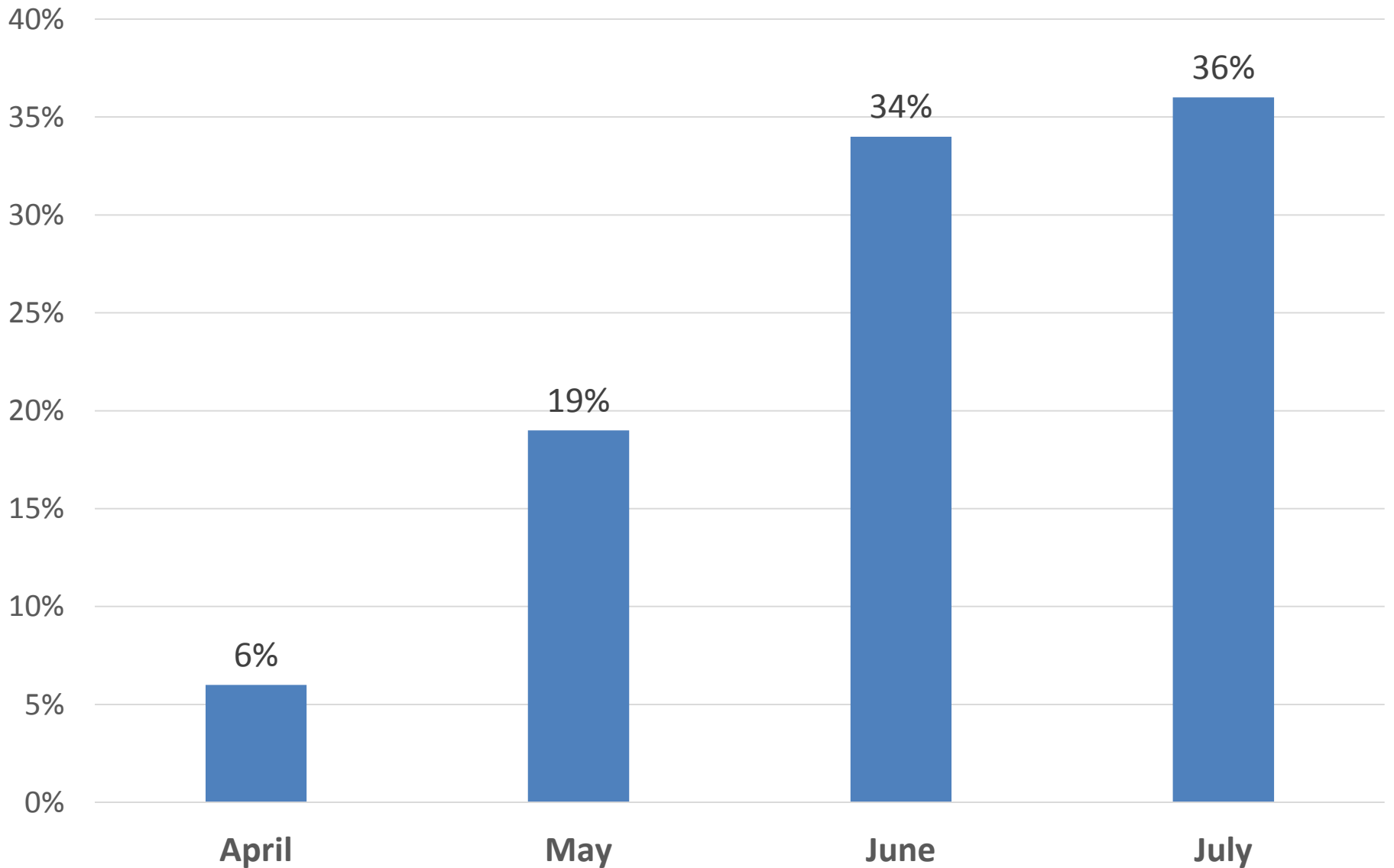
Healthy Images of Manhood:  
Insaka Discussion Card



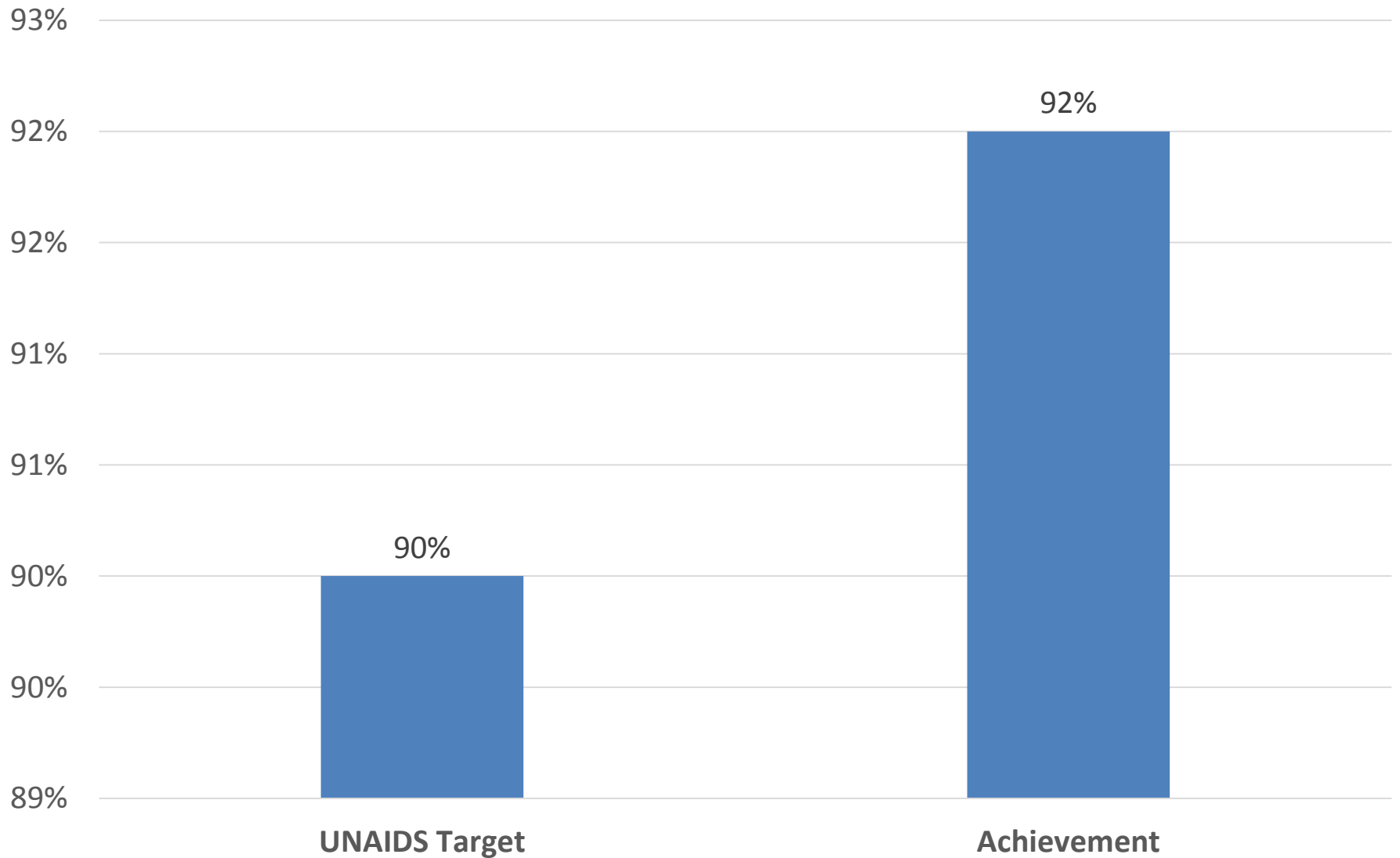
# Achievements Against Targets Feb–July 2017



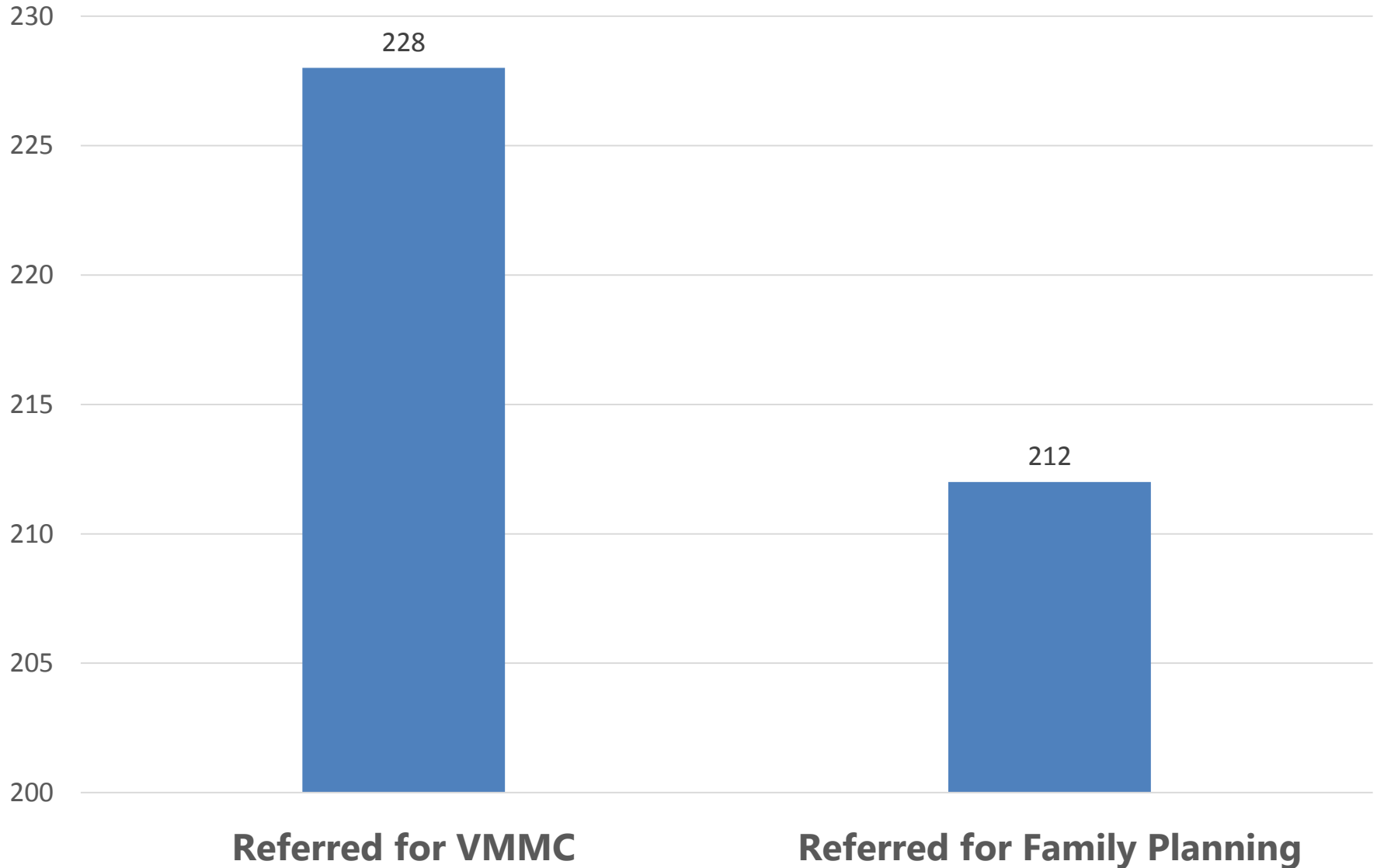
# HIV Positivity Yield



# Linkage/Initiated on ART-April-June 2017



# Achievements: April-July 2017



# Project Successes

## Approaches:

- Male Insaka structures established with strong links to health facilities
- Simplified Insaka conversation cards developed and employed
- Partnerships established with community organizations for complementary activities/support
- Male partners of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) mobilized through collaboration with DREAMS project activities
- Index case testing

## Key results:

- Strong targeting of men/boys at risk of HIV as demonstrated by increased HIV positivity yield from 6% in April to 19% in May to 34% in June 2017
- Strong linkage rate for HIV+ men/boys to ART (92% in most recent quarter, exceeding UNAIDS 90% target)
- Improved retention among men which has been low compared to their female counterparts



# Challenges

- Stock outs of HIV testing kits at facilities and for mobile HTS
- Absence of residential addresses and incorrect phone numbers in ART follow up
- Insaka meeting venues and lack of privacy for mobile HTS

# Lessons Learnt

- Integrating mobile HTS and ART worked very well
- The innovation of the Insaka discussion cards helped to simplify the delivery of messages on gender equality, HIV testing, treatment and prevention
- Messaging on the benefits of HIV testing and treatment gives hope and resonates well with males

# Take Away Message

- To achieve equality for women, men need to be part of the solution. Engaging men and boys is important in HIV prevention and has other benefits for women as well.
- Many causes and consequences of STIs are related to gender norms and beliefs
- Through a participatory approach it is possible to increase the linkage for men from HTS to treatment

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# Q&A





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## What can you do next?

- Use social media to spread the message of PYD.
- Join a YouthPower Community of Practice.
- Visit the YouthPower Learning Hub at [www.YouthPower.org](http://www.YouthPower.org) and use the resources, best practices, and knowledge shared.
- Apply for a Grant under Contract in the next round.
- Register on the Learning Hub and share your own reports, studies and other resources on the Learning Hub, submit a blog, announce a PYD event.





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## Thank you!

Thank you for participating in this YouthPower Learning event hosted by the Gender and PYD CoP.

The recording, presentation, and any resources shared during this event will be sent to all registrants.



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