

Where are the Men? Finding High-risk Men through Their AGYW Sexual Partners, Who are on PrEP, using HIV Prevention Indexing in Zambia

Authors: Brenda Simpasa¹, Lackeby Kawanga¹, Adamson Ndhlovu¹, Mutinta Nyumbu¹
¹USAID DISCOVER-Health/JSI

HIV prevention indexing (HPI) is finding men who feel “*shut out*” of the health system and helping Zambia move towards HIV epidemic control.



Young men on the move promoting HIV services to their peers in Ndola. Credit: JSI

INTRODUCTION

In Zambia, men are less likely to use HIV prevention and treatment services than women even though men have a lower HIV prevalence at 8% compared to 14% in women (ZAMPHIA 2021). The lack of services has not only affected men but also contributed to a higher HIV incidence of 5.6% among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) who have sexual relationships with these men. **To reach epidemic control, men must be reached to interrupt the HIV transmission cycle.**

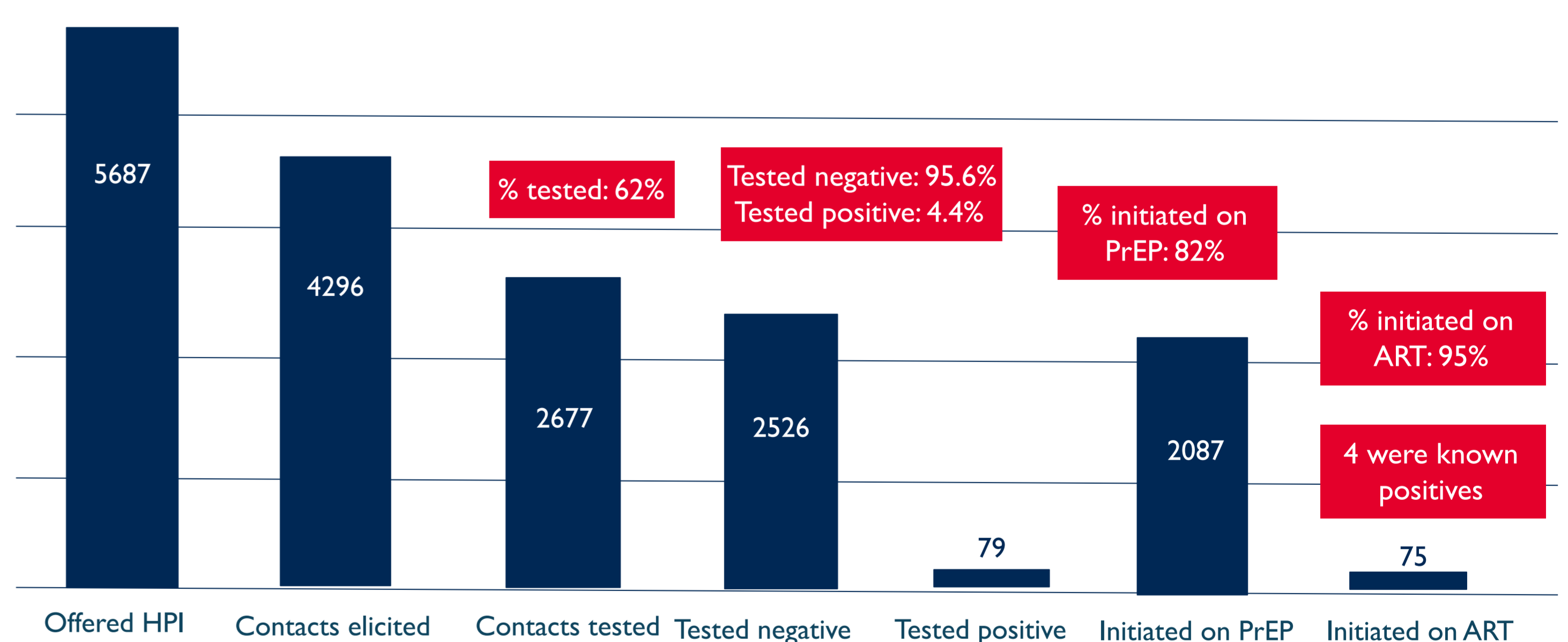
METHODS

In 2021, the USAID-DISCOVER Health project, implemented by JSI, introduced HIV prevention indexing (HPI), to reach men through high-risk AGYW on PrEP. In FY21, 5,687 AGYW were offered HPI, of which 4,296 accepted. Through these women, 2,677 men were reached and tested for HIV.

RESULTS

- A total of 5,687 AGYW were offered HPI, from which 4,296 were elicited, with 2,677 men tested for HIV.
- 19% of men were newly initiated on PrEP.
- The acceptance was high among contacts who tested negative that were at substantial HIV risk (85%).

Results: Cascade for Male Contacts (20 - 40 years)



CONCLUSION

HPI is successful in places like Zambia, where men feel “shut out” of the health system and do not access services. By expanding this approach further, men are reached and provided with HIV services, ultimately helping Zambia move closer to epidemic control.