

A growth curve model to assess the effectiveness of a community-based intervention for the empowerment of Malian females in the decision to disclose (or not) their HIV status (ANRS-12373 Gundo-So)

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Background and objective

In Mali, women living with HIV (WLHIV) who disclose their positive status are often confronted with stigma, violence, economic pressure, and social exclusion, including from family.

➔ To evaluate the effectiveness of an intervention for the empowerment of WLHIV on the decision to disclose or not their HIV-positive status, and associated factors.

The ANRS 12373 Gundo-So study

Randomized trial implemented in 6 community-based clinics in Mali in 2019-2020

Intervention:

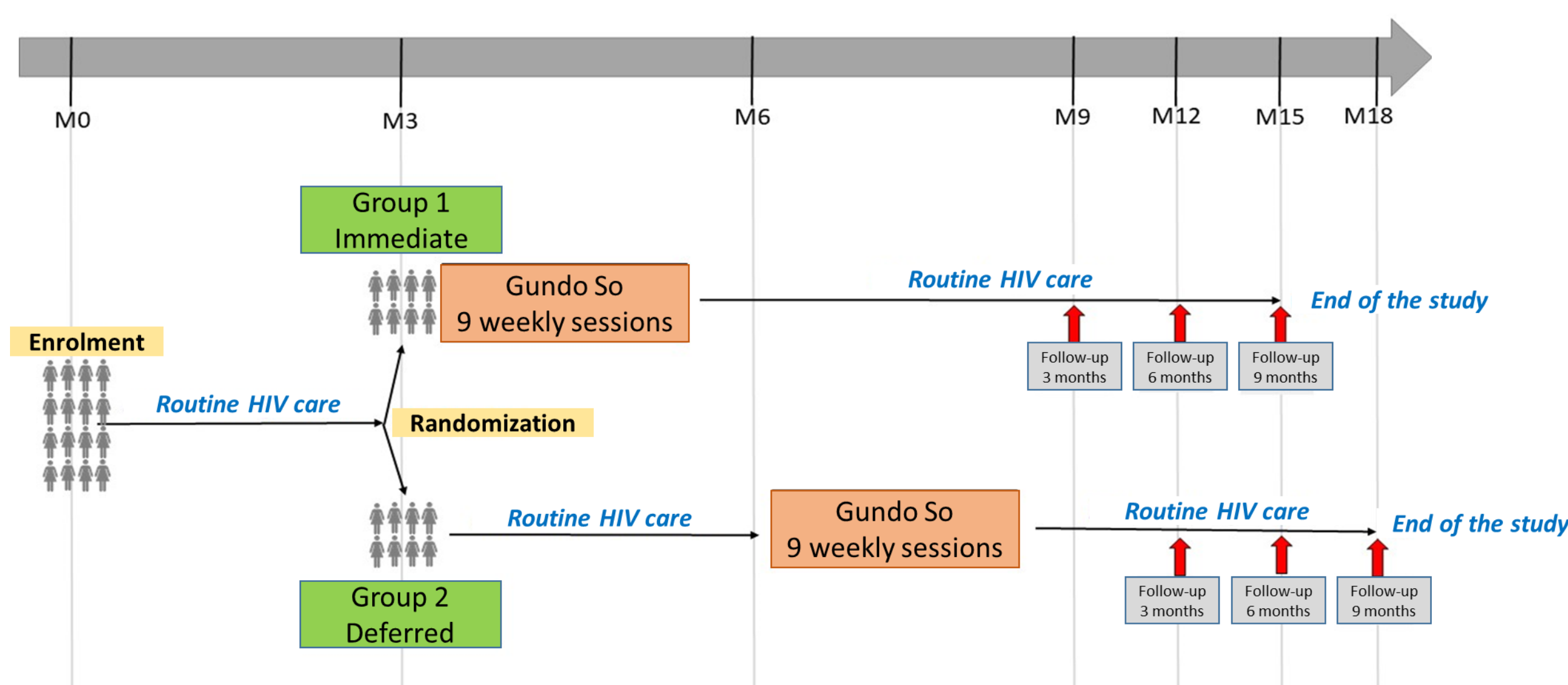
9 weekly sessions of peer-support for strengthening the capacity of WLHIV to manage the consequences concerning (non)disclosure of their HIV positive status.

The intervention does not promote disclosure nor not disclosure!



Data and Methods

Individual and psychosocial characteristics were collected at enrolment, pre- /post-intervention, then quarterly over 9 months.



Effectiveness ➔

Evaluated at each time point using a scale measuring the psychological burden related to the sero-status secret from 0 (none) to 5 (very high).

Statistical analysis

A growth curve model using Poisson distribution was estimated to investigate changes before (=0) and after the intervention (=1) (Figure 1).

Advantages: Random-effects allowed controlling for unobserved and/or unobservable characteristics. This technique accounts for missing data and unequally spaced time points.

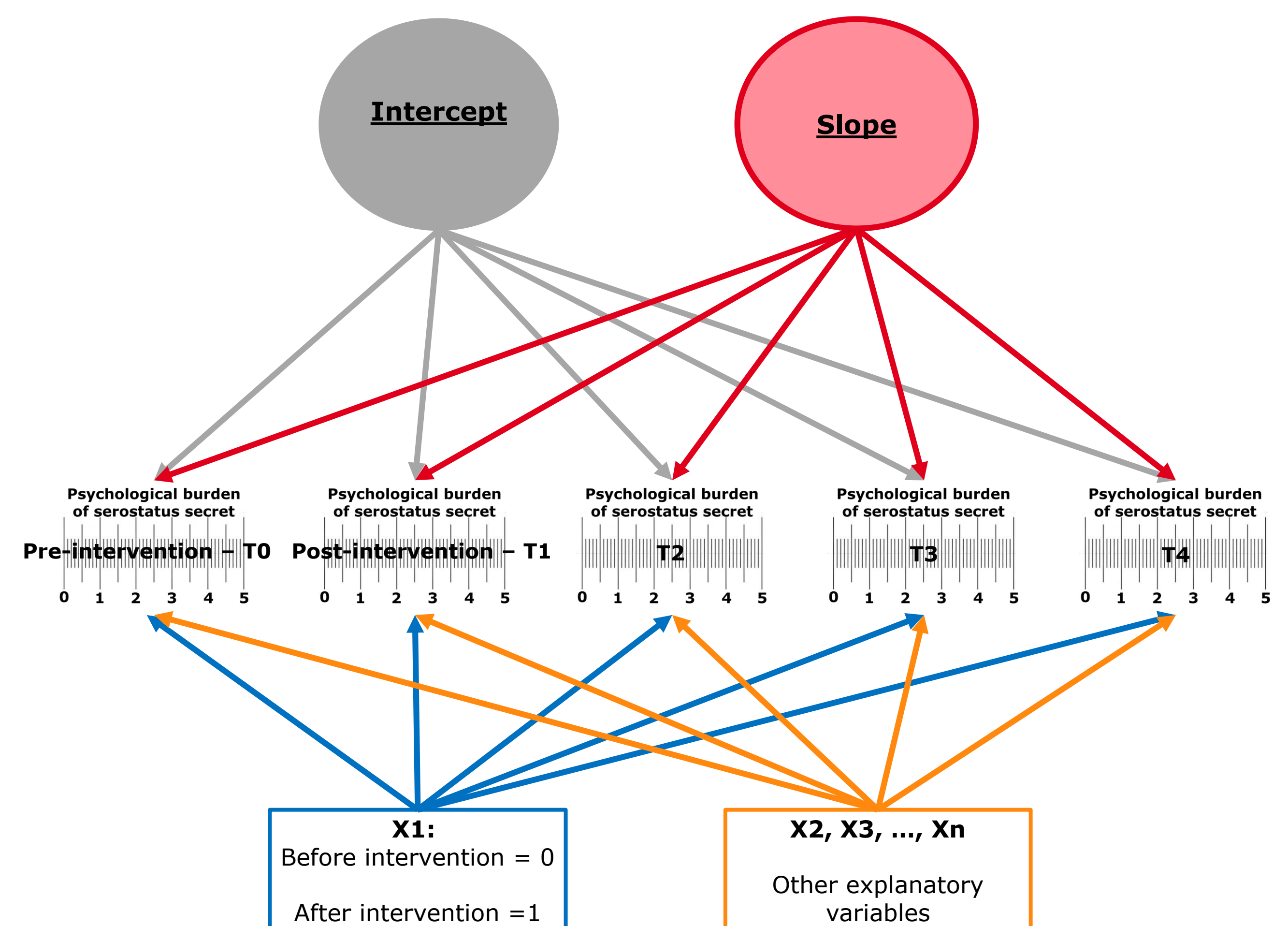
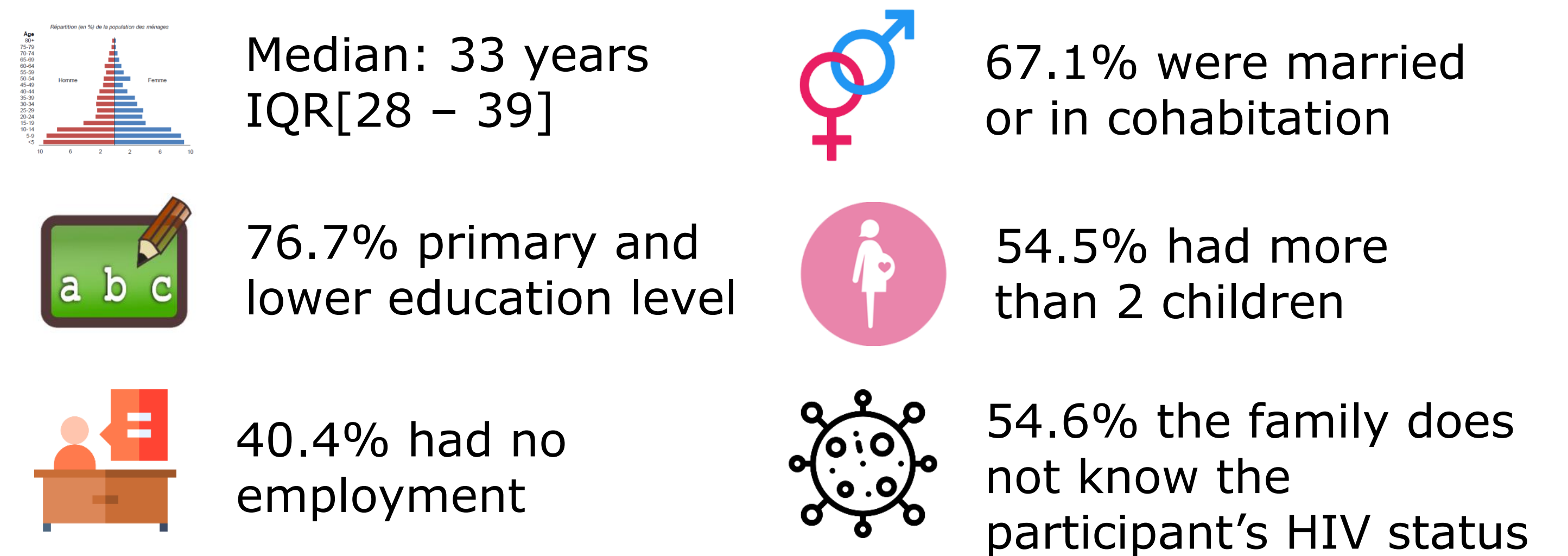


Figure 1. Growth curve model for the psychological burden of serostatus secret with Poisson distribution

Results

Characteristics of the 240 WLHIV enrolled in the study

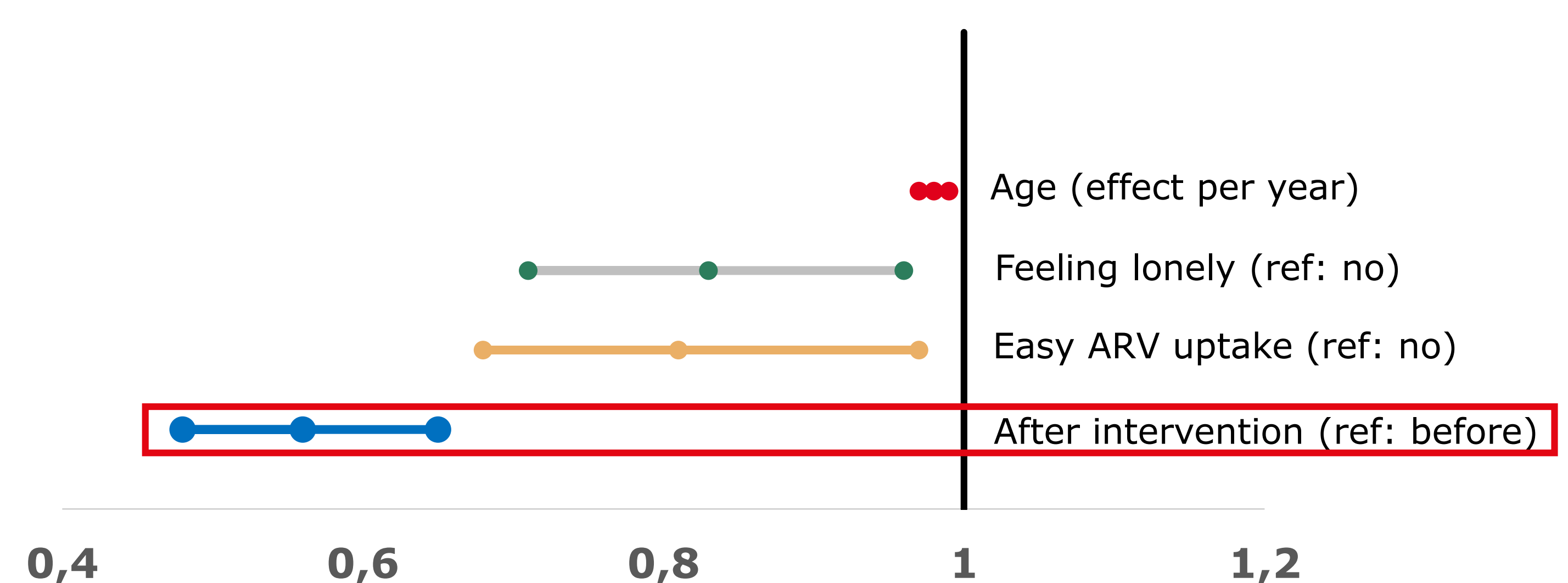


Among 240 WLHIV enrolled
- 222 (92.5%) at pre-intervention
- 146 (60.8%) at post-intervention.
- 139 (58.0%) followed-up at M3, and
- 136 (56.6%) at both M6 and M9.

Multivariate model (1019 observations)

Self-evaluated burden : ≤ 1 (50%) and ≥ 4 (23%)

Incidence Rate Ratio (IRR) 95%CI



Conclusions

Our results have demonstrated that the Gundo-So intervention as effective for the empowerment of Malian WLHIV to reduce the psychological burden of HIV disclosure-related issues. Social and behavioral interventions adopting a community-based approach can effectively promote health outcomes among people confronted to sociocultural hostile environments such as Mali.