

# Bridging the gap: the impact of an empowerment based intervention on the knowledge of biomedical HIV prevention tools among sub-Saharan African precarious immigrants in France. Results from the Makasi project

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About the project: <https://www.projet-makasi.fr/>

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## Background & Methods

### Background

- Immigrant from sub-Saharan Africa living in France are particularly affected by HIV: 32% of new HIV-positive cases in 2021
- Evidence suggested the **lack of biomedical HIV prevention tools knowledge** among this population
- Using longitudinal data collected among precarious immigrant in the **Makasi interventional research**, we aimed to analyse the impact of this intervention on the level of **knowledge of biomedical HIV prevention tools (TasP, PEP and PrEP)**

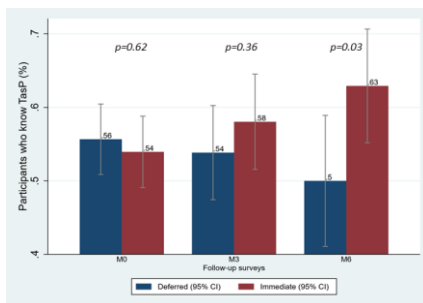
### The MAKASI intervention

- Makasi was a **social and health empowerment project** developed in the greater Paris area, France
- Following an **outreach approach**, participants were recruited in public places based on their precarious situations and followed for 6 months between 2018 and 2021
- Based on a **stepped-wedge design**, participants were randomised into two arms: **immediate and deferred**
- We used **random-effects logistic regression** models to analyse the intervention effect

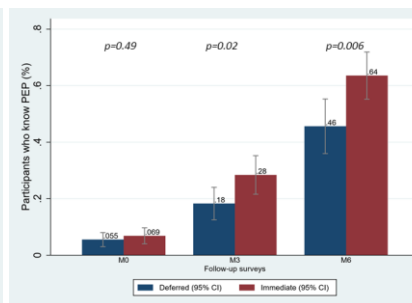
## Results

- Knowledge of PEP and PrEP was very low at the time of inclusion: 6% for PEP and 4% for PrEP
- Receiving the **intervention increased the odds of knowing PEP** (aOR=2.02 [1.09-3.75]; p<0.026).
- Biomedical HIV prevention tools knowledge increased with time spent in the intervention, particularly for **PEP and PrEP**

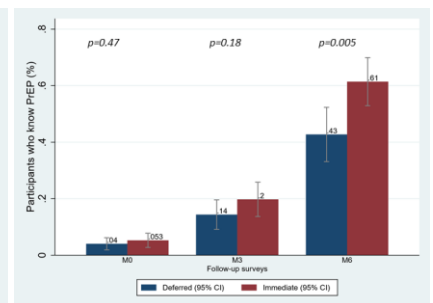
Trends in TasP knowledge by intervention arms



Trends in PEP knowledge by intervention arms



Trends in PrEP knowledge by intervention arms



## Conclusions

- The **Makasi intervention**, grounded in the **empowerment theory**, has improved the knowledge of biomedical HIV prevention tools among precarious immigrants
- It is important to develop **community-based participatory research** using an **outreach approach** to improve HIV prevention among key populations
- Providing **access to information** on HIV prevention tools offers people **the choice of accessing prevention tools** adapted to their living conditions