

Factors Influencing Utilization of Oral Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) among Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in Chingola, Zambia.

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Knowledge of HIV Prevention using PrEP, having Multiple sex partners, discussing HIV prevention with parents and positive attitude from healthcare workers promotes utilization of oral PrEP by AGYW.

BACKGROUND

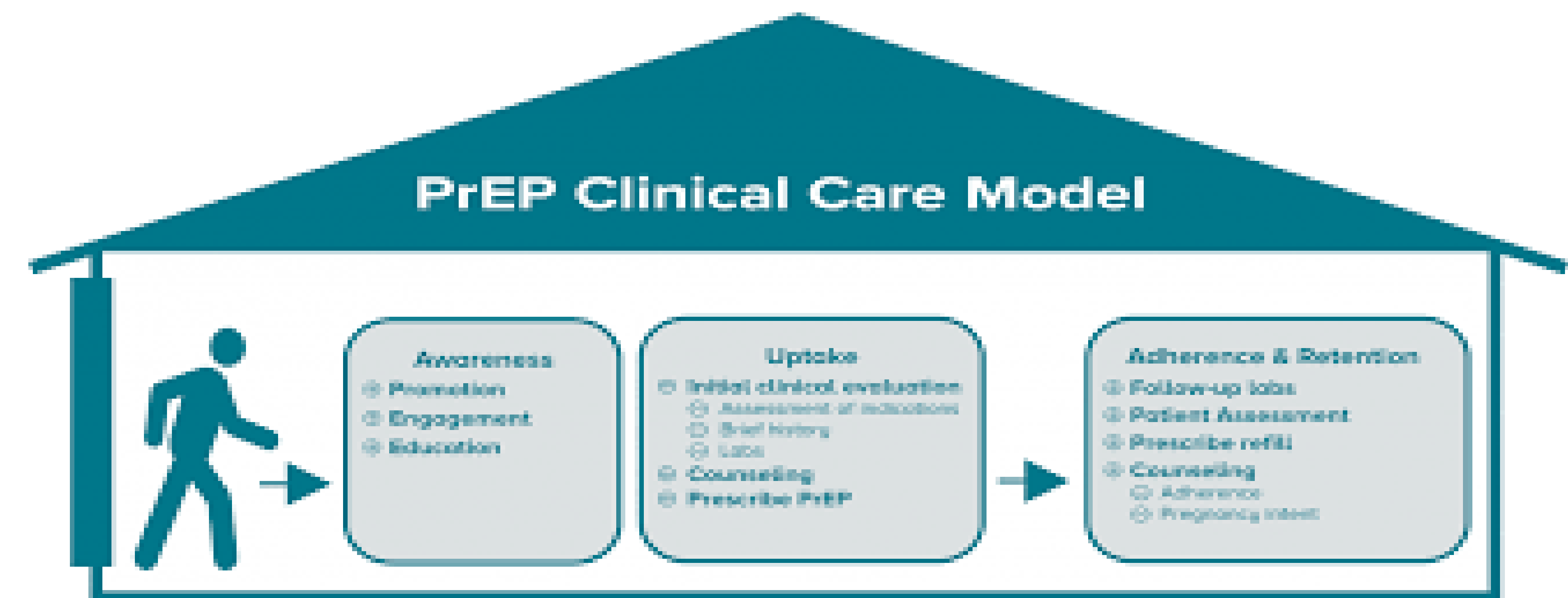
PrEP offers another layer of HIV prevention to AGYW!

Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) are disproportionately affected by HIV and face many personal, social, and systemic barriers to access, uptake, and use of traditional HIV prevention methods such as condoms (PEPFAR, 2020). Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) offers another layer of prevention. In Zambia, HIV prevalence was 5.9% among women compared to 1.8% of men in the 20-24 year age group (ZAMPHIA, 2021). The USAID DISCOVER-Health project, implemented by JSI, conducted a study in Chingola district to determine factors influencing PrEP utilization among AGYW in DREAMS programs.

METHODS

Quantitative Descriptive Study!

The project used a quantitative descriptive study of AGYW who were randomly selected from the four catchment areas of Chingola DREAMS sites in 2022. A total of 178 AGYW were enrolled in the study and a structured questionnaire was used to collect data, which was then analysed using Stata version 15.1. Chi-square and Fisher's exact test were used to test the relationship between variables influencing PrEP utilization with 5% level of significance.



From CDC

RESULTS

Uptake and Continuation was Influenced!

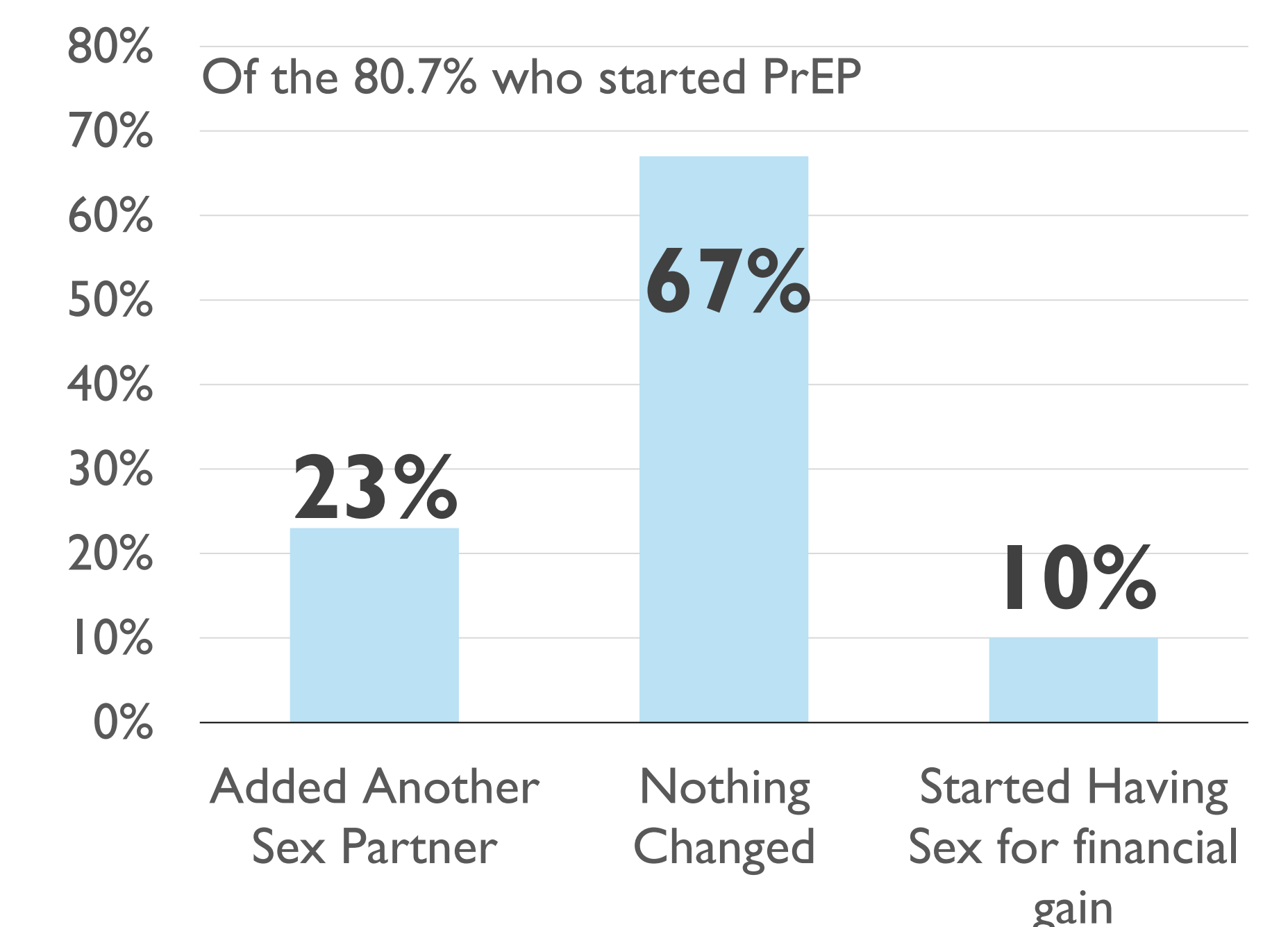
Out of the 178 participants, 63.5% of the respondents were aged 21-24 years and of these 98.1% ($p < 0.001$) were knowledgeable of HIV prevention and utilized PrEP.

Of the 70.9% of AGYW who initiated PrEP, 72.5% reported having multiple sexual partners ($p < 0.017$).

67% no change in sexual behavior was observed among 80.8% AGYW who initiated PrEP ($p < 0.000$).

Acceptance of PrEP utilization was significantly higher among AGYW who discussed HIV prevention with their parents (81.3%) than those who did not (44.8%) ($p < 0.000$).

Respectful and supportive healthcare worker's attitude promoted continuation of PrEP utilization in 97.4% AGYW (Chi-square and Fisher's exact test $P < 0.000$).



CONCLUSIONS

Awareness of HIV acquisition risk promotes Utilization of PrEP!

Factors influencing AGYW PrEP utilization include **knowledge of HIV prevention and perceived risk of HIV acquisition**. Health care workers, parents/caregivers, and families should provide a supportive and respectful attitude when discussing HIV prevention methods with AGYW and discuss the benefits of PrEP continuation with clients.