

Women-centric services and HIV testing uptake for women who use or inject drugs in a Myanmar harm reduction program

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Background

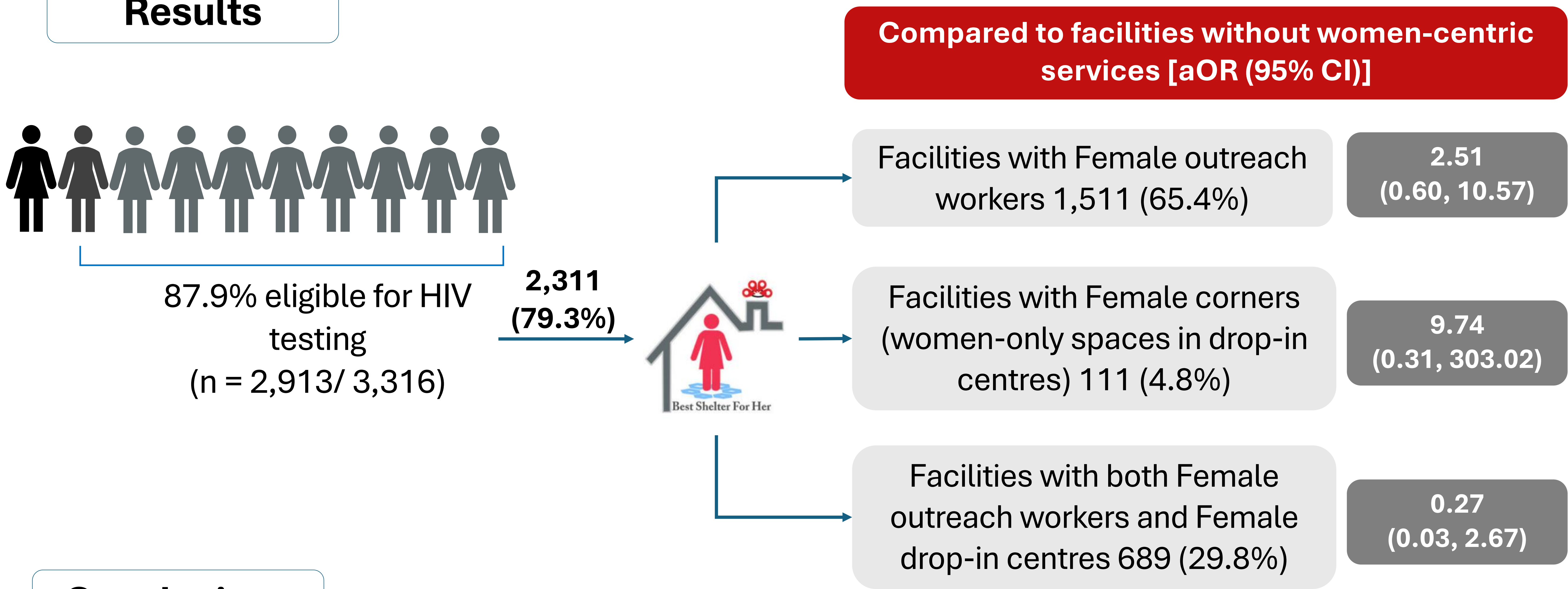
Women who use or inject drugs (WUD) face more challenges in accessing HIV testing, drug treatment and essential harm-reduction services. To tackle these limitations, **women-centric services** were specifically designed and implemented by the **Asian Harm Reduction Network** in Myanmar.

Aim: To assess how women-centric services affect HIV testing uptake among WUD in a large harm reduction program in Myanmar.

Methods

- Retrospective cohort study, routine project data collected Jan 2020–Mar 2023
- Types of women-centric services were measured at the facility level
- Women eligible for HIV testing (never tested/tested negative >6 months ago)
- Multi-level mixed-effect logistic regression model
- Adjusting confounders: socio-demographic characteristics, drug use patterns and facility characteristics (mining, border, presence of other organisations providing HIV testing services)

Results



Conclusions

Women-centred harm reduction services may positively impact HIV testing uptake among women. With wide confidence intervals, high uncertainties, and a lack of statistical power, the study findings should be interpreted cautiously. Further study to understand service uptake barriers among WUD, including through qualitative research, is warranted.

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