

Results of People living with HIV (PLHIV) - Led Advocacy and Communication to promote Prevention with Positives in Kenya

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ISSUES

- HIV-prevention approaches in Kenya traditionally have concentrated on reducing HIV-acquisition.
- HIV-prevention and safe sex needs of PLHIV, including those of discordant couples remain unaddressed.
- This hinders the reach and effectiveness of HIV-prevention interventions in high-HIV prevalence areas.
- PLHIV need to prevent other sexual health risk, including STIs as HSV-2
- PwP refer to approaches aimed at empowering PLHIV to reduce the risk of HIV transmission to others and prevent re-infection to themselves.

DESCRIPTION

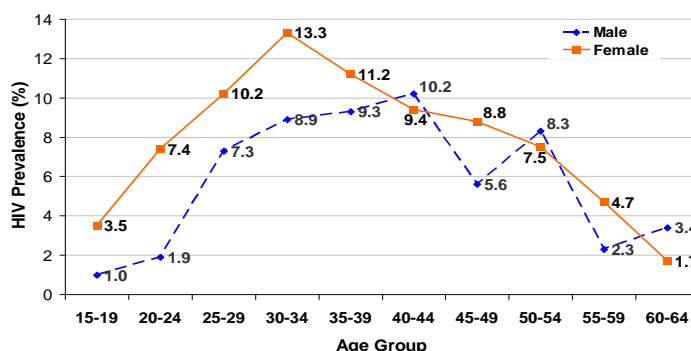
- NEPHAK review of national HIV-prevention approaches revealed that current HIV-prevention messages portray sex as a risky venture. PLHIV are expected to abstain from sex altogether.
- Sole focus on HIV prevention ignore that there is need to prevent other OIs, including TB
- HIV-positive people have a right to a satisfying, safe and healthy sexuality and reproductive health.
- NEPHAK undertook a 2-year social mobilization and education of PLHIV on the importance of prevention of sexual health risks such as unplanned pregnancy and STIs.
- PLHIV leaders then engaged in dialogue and advocacy at regional and national levels for an expanded HIV-prevention platform.
- Inclusion of PLHIV in development of national policies and guidelines, saw National AIDS Control Council unveil a new strategic plan with an expanded HIV-prevention platform and; National AIDS and STIs Control Programme introduce policy and guiding principles for prevention with positives, with priorities identified by PLHIV
- PLHIV have also joined working groups established to implement priorities identified within the policies and guidelines.

Lessons learned

- Participation of PLHIV is crucial in designing interventions aimed at reducing risk of HIV-transmission.
- Positive prevention approaches work best when they protect PLHIV from discrimination and empower them with necessary information, increase their access to treatment, services and commodities which enable them reduce their risk of transmitting HIV
- Policies and guidelines that take into consideration concerns of PLHIV enhance effectiveness of HIV prevention interventions.



Kenya AIDS Indicator Survey (KAIS, 2009)



Participants during NEPHAK PwP training

Next steps

- NEPHAK is embarking on;
 - Dissemination of the policies and guidelines
 - Capacity building to enable PLHIV to reclaim their role in national HIV-prevention efforts.
 - Strengthen PLHIV support groups and networks to lead PwP at all levels
 - Mobilize resources for PwP implementation
 - Advocating for PwP integration in other health intervention programs/activities

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