Burden of HIV Among Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Malawi

A first look at results from the Malawi Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (MPHIA) 2015-16

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Disclosure Statement

No conflicts of interest to disclose
Background

• Recent global focus on AGYW

• In 2015, females 15-24 y/o in Sub-Saharan Africa= 25% of new HIV infections
  • Acquire HIV 5 to 7 years earlier than male peers*
  • In Sub-Saharan Africa, HIV prevalence in AGYW is up to 6x their male peers**
  • Factors: biological, behavioral and environmental***

*(Dellar, et al. 2015)
Survey Sample and Analysis

• MPHIA eligibility
  • Lived or slept in household night before
  • At least 15 y/o for interview
  • Able to consent and permission from parent/guardian (15-17 y/o)

• Analysis
  • Used preliminary data with limited variables
  • Restricted data to women 15-24 y/o
    • 4,093 women interviewed
    • 3,571 provided blood for an HIV Test
  • Weighted frequencies
  • Jackknife method to calculate confidence intervals (CI)
## Overall Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19 years</td>
<td>1856</td>
<td>54.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24 years</td>
<td>2237</td>
<td>45.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>1624</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>2469</td>
<td>79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Region</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>1720</td>
<td>42.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>1855</td>
<td>44.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No education</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>2330</td>
<td>64.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>1447</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than secondary</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marital status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never married</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>50.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married or living together</td>
<td>1833</td>
<td>41.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced or separated</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4093</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HIV Prevalence by Age and Sex, MPHIA 2015-16

HIV Prevalence (%) vs Age (years)

- 2% HIV prevalence in females
- 5% HIV prevalence in males

Female: Teal bars
Male: Dark bars

Age categories: 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64
HIV Prevalence among AGYW by Location, MPHIA 2015-16

AGYW HIV Prevalence was 3.4% (95% CI: 2.5, 4.4)

Approximately **58,000** adolescent girls and young women were living with HIV in Malawi
HIV Prevalence among AGYW by Behavioral Characteristics, MPHIA 2015-16

**HIV Prevalence by Age at First Sex**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age at First Sex</th>
<th>HIV Prevalence (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Had first sex before age 15</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not have first sex before age 15</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AGYW HIV Prevalence by Number of Sexual Partners in last 12 months**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Sexual Partners</th>
<th>HIV Prevalence (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No sexual partners in the past 12 months</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One sexual partner in the past 12 months</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more sexual partners in the past 12 months</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Testing and Self Reported Status Among AGYW, MPHIA 2015-16

68% of AGYW had ever had an HIV test and received results.
Progress toward Achieving the 90-90-90 Goals among AGYW in Malawi, MPHIA 2015-16

50% of HIV+ AGYW were virally suppressed

*On ART was self-reported
About 30% of male partners of AGYW aged 15-24*

About 62% of male partners of AGYW aged 25-40*

* De Oliveira et al, 2017
Discussion

- Significant **regional differences** in HIV prevalence among AGYW
- Some are engaged in risky sexual behavior
- Gap in First 90 - Only **55%** of HIV+ AGYW knew their status
- Low VLS - Only **50%** of AGYW are virally suppressed

- Limitations
  - Self-reported data (ART uptake, sexual behaviors)
  - Cross-sectional
Evidence to Action

• More focus on the **First 90**

• Focus on case finding through **Index Testing**

• Targeting **Men 15-40** with HIV Testing and Treatment Services to Reduce HIV Incidence Among AGYW

• Increased focus on **Blantyre** and the **Southern Region**
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