

Title: Addressing the needs of pregnant HIV-positive adolescent girls and young women: A growing need

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Background: Lesotho's adult HIV prevalence is 25.7%. Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) is a clinical implementing partner that provides technical assistance to Lesotho's Ministry of Health (MOH) and direct, comprehensive HIV/TB service delivery in 120 health facilities in five districts. In January 2017, EGPAF established adolescent and youth-friendly clinics in the Lesotho districts of Maseru, Berea, and Leribe. This abstract describes data collected at these clinics to increase a greater understanding of health needs among a population in sub-Saharan Africa with growing HIV infection and HIV-related mortality rates.

Description: The established youth-friendly clinics are focused on scaling-up provision of quality, comprehensive TB/HIV services, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services (including antenatal care [ANC] and PMTCT), and primary health care for adolescents and young people (AYP) aged 10 to 24 years. Services are provided by specially trained staff (adolescent health-focused pediatricians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, and youth ambassadors) during non-traditional hours and weekends. Data from these clinics are collected routinely through MOH registers and entered into EGPAF electronic data collection tools. Summary statistics are calculated monthly and quarterly. Data for pregnant adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) at these clinics between June and October 2017 were collected and analyzed.

Lessons learned: Between June and October 2017, 99 (12.5%) of the 789 pregnant AGYW attending ANC at these centers came in with known HIV-positive status. Of these, 96% (95/99) were already on ART. Uptake of HIV testing for those with unknown status was 98.7% (681/690). Of those tested for the first time in ANC, 7.6% (52/681) were HIV-positive. Overall positivity (including known positives) was high, at 19.4%. (151/789). Overall ART uptake was high at 96.4% (54/56).

Table 1: Summary for youth aged 10-24 accessing PMTCT and SRH services at five EGPAF-supported adolescent-friendly clinics in Lesotho (June-October 2017)

Indicator	Berea Hospital	Maluti Hospital	Motebang Hospital	Queen II	LPPA	Totals (%)
New in ANC	221	83	211	233	41	789
Known to be HIV-positive at presentation to ANC	33	11	26	26	3	99 (12.5%)
Already on ART at presentation to ANC	33	11	26	22	3	95 (96%)
Tested for HIV in ANC	188	72	176	207	38	681 (98.7%)
Tested HIV-positive in ANC	13	10	5	20	4	52 (7.6%)
New on ART in ANC (known positive not on ART plus new positives initiated)	13	8	5	24	4	54 (96.4%)
Total HIV-positive in ANC	46	21	31	46	7	151 (19.4%)

Conclusions: The high HIV prevalence among pregnant AGYW at these clinics poses new challenges for addressing the needs of this population and their newborn infants. Offering testing, diagnosis and treatment services in non-school hour settings to AYP by specialized staff is a clear need and such services should be more widely implemented. EGPAF is currently expanding training of clinicians at all 120 supported health facilities to provide AYP health services, including PrEP to enable better epidemic control.