

Evaluation of a Pilot Chain Peer Referral Approach for HIV Testing among Adolescents in Kisumu County, Kenya



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BACKGROUND

- ~18,000 adolescents become infected with HIV annually in Kenya
- Adolescents are among the least likely to access HIV testing

OBJECTIVE

Evaluate the feasibility of a chain peer referral approach to mobilize adolescents for HIV counseling and testing.

METHODS

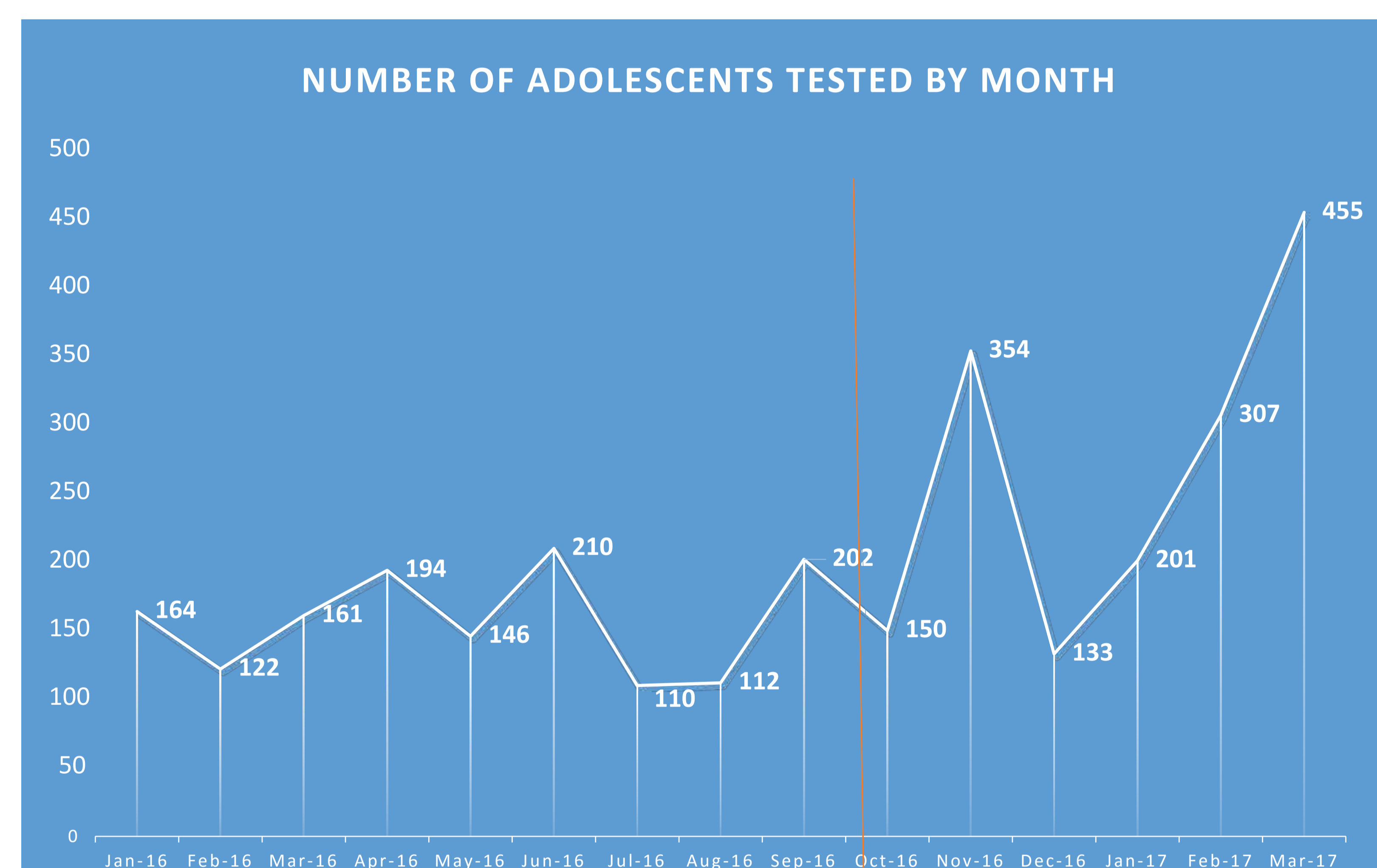
- Index participants (IPs): Adolescents 15-19 seeking any health service
- IPs offered testing and given 3-5 referral coupons, with a cash incentive of Ksh.100 (~US \$1) for each referral tested.
- Data analyzed using Chi-square, Fisher's exact and Wilcoxon Rank-Sum tests
- Compared number of adolescents tested and HIV-positivity (yield) between the intervention (Sept. 2016-Mar. 2017) and baseline (Jan. 2016-Aug. 2016) periods

RESULTS

- Of the 1400 coupons issued to 368 IPs, 290 (20.9%) referrals were tested
- Number of adolescents tested was significantly higher during the intervention [median 202/month; IQR 150-354] compared to the baseline [median 154/month; IQR 117-179; p=0.049]
- Yield of HIV+ was lower during the intervention (0.5%) vs. the baseline (1.5%, p=0.009)
- None of referrals tested HIV positive

Characteristics of 368 index adolescents recruited to refer peers for HIV testing from Sep 2016 to Mar 2017

Measures	Total N, Mean(SD) N (%)	Participants with and without referrals		p*1 ttest
		≥1 referrals N, Mean(SD) N (%)	No referrals N, Mean(SD) N (%)	
Gender				<.001
Male	173 (47.0%)	91 (63.6%)	82 (36.4%)	
Female	195 (53.0%)	52 (36.4%)	143 (63.6%)	
Marital status				<.001
single	344 (93.7%)	142 (99.3%)	202 (90.2%)	
married	23 (6.3%)	1 (0.7%)	22 (9.8%)	
In school				<.001
No	101 (27.5%)	23 (16.1%)	78 (34.8%)	
Yes	266 (72.5%)	120 (83.9%)	146 (65.2%)	
Number of children				<.001
0	301 (82.0%)	137 (95.8%)	164 (73.2%)	
1	62 (16.9%)	6 (4.2%)	56 (25.0%)	
2	4 (1.1%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (1.8%)	
Referred by another adolescent				<.001
No	105 (28.5%)	16 (11.2%)	89 (39.6%)	
Yes	263 (71.5%)	127 (88.8%)	136 (60.4%)	



The orange line represents the beginning of the intervention

CONCLUSION

- The chain peer referral approach led to more adolescents being tested
- Males, adolescents in school, and those seeking testing were more likely to refer others for HIV testing, suggesting that prior exposure to comprehensive HIV education is important for peer referral
- This approach requires further evaluation, with efforts to specifically target girls who are at a higher risk for HIV acquisition and those with undiagnosed HIV infection

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