

Mapping Research on PrEP Delivery Among Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Sub-Saharan Africa

A Scoping Review

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Background

- Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) account for six in seven new HIV acquisitions in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). PrEP is recommended by the WHO and UNAIDS for AGYW in high HIV burden areas. A scoping review was conducted to map currently available research on real-world PrEP roll-out among AGYW in SSA.

Methods

- PubMed and Ovid (including Embase, MEDLINE) was searched from June 2022 to January 2023 with terms related to PrEP and pre-exposure prophylaxis, AGYW, girls and young women, and delivery.
- Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods studies that reported PrEP outcomes (e.g., uptake, continuation or adherence), and barriers/facilitators for both the providers (e.g., healthcare workers) and users (AGYW) were included.
- One reviewer searched and screened studies for inclusion and a second reviewer independently reviewed a selection of studies to ensure reliability and consistency of inclusion.
- Narrative synthesis of data from included studies was conducted to present findings.

Conclusions

- This review highlights challenges with real-world PrEP delivery, especially poor PrEP continuation due to individual-, household- and community-level barriers.
- Findings highlight lessons learnt from PrEP providers and that AGYW require additional support for effective PrEP use.
- Studies should stratify by age and gender to inform the PrEP delivery evidence base for AGYW.
- Available research was limited in geographical scope; more data is needed for PrEP delivery among AGYW across the region, including all other PrEP modalities as they roll-out.

Findings

- 41** (6.3%) studies were eligible for inclusion out of 649 studies identified.
- 11** studies were excluded for not disaggregating findings by age and sex despite including AGYW in their sample.

- 56%** of studies were qualitative.
 - 95%** were conducted in South Africa and Kenya.
- Only studies on oral PrEP met the inclusion criteria.



- Stigma and services that are not AGYW-friendly
- Side-effects
- Structural and logistical challenges to collecting PrEP

BARRIERS

for PrEP uptake and continuation among AGYW, including

FACILITATORS

- AGYW empowerment
- Social support
- Disclosure and familial support

Quantitative studies showed how AGYW had issues with PrEP initiation and continuation, with main reasons for discontinuation including:



The daily pill burden

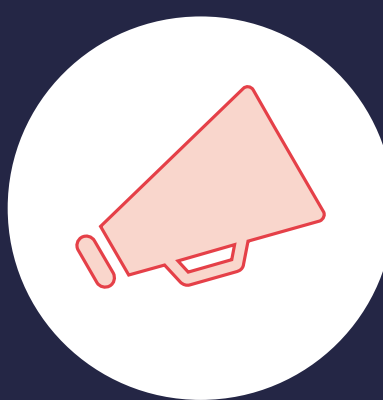


Low perceived HIV risk

Key recommendations from PrEP providers include the need for:



AGYW-friendly services, and differentiated service delivery – delivering PrEP in a way that suits AGYW



Raising PrEP awareness among AGYW and in their communities to address stigma as a barrier



Counselling and peer mentors to support AGYW to continue taking PrEP