HIV-related vulnerabilities and awareness & uptake of DREAMS prevention interventions in young females in rural KwaZulu-Natal

Nondumiso Mthiyane, Natsayi Chimbindi, Kathy Baisley, Janet Seeley, Jaco Dreyer, Thembelihle Zuma, Nonhlanhla Okesola, Annabelle Gourlay, Nuala McGrath, Frank Tanser, Maryam Shahmanesh, Lorraine Sherr, Isolde Birdthistle, Sian Floyd, Guy Harling
HIV risk remains high for young people

AHRI surveillance area, 2017

Sources: Baisley et al. PLoS ONE 2018
Chimbindi et al. PLoS ONE 2018
Transitions generate vulnerabilities

Source: Dobra et al. AIDS 2017
DREAMS intervention programme

- Mobilize Communities for change
- Reduce Risk of Sex Partners
- Empower Girls & Young Women and reduce risk
- Strengthen Families
Setting: AHRI population research platform site
## DREAMS interventions in uMkhanyakude

### Community

- School-based HIV/life skills education
- Female safe spaces
- Mentorship programme
- Violence prevention/gender norms interventions

### Household/family

- Family care intervention
- Microfinance, financial literacy training, savings groups
- School costs support, conditional cash transfers
- Vocational skills/entrepreneurial training
- Social assets building

### Individual

- HIV testing (facility, mobile, home, family, partner, self)
- ART linkage & adherence support
- Condom provision
- Contraception/family planning
- Adolescent-friendly services
- Emergency contraception
- STI screening and treatment
- Post-violence care
Cohort study

• Random sample of AGYW aged 13-22 years, stratified by age and area

• Interviewed in 2017 & 2018
  • General health; Sexual behaviour; Awareness & uptake of DREAMS interventions

• AGYW were considered vulnerable if they were:
  • Ever pregnant
  • Out-of-school & aged <20
  • Moved home since age 13

3013 sampled from census
2555 eligible
2184 (85%) enrolled
1853 (85%) re-interviewed
Our AGYW cohort

- Age:
  - 13-17
  - 18-19
  - 20-22

- Schooling:
  - In school
  - Not in school

- Urbanicity:
  - Rural
  - Peri-urban/urban

- Migrated since age 13:
  - Never
  - Local
  - Ext.

- Sexual activity:
  - None
  - Had sex
  - Ever pregnant
Awareness of DREAMS

2018
Uptake of DREAMS

2018

Interception Size

0 250 500 750

None Communities Families Individuals

Set Size

1000 500 0
Vulnerability and DREAMS uptake

- Never had sex
- Ever had sex, never pregnant
- Ever had sex, ever pregnant

- 13-17 & in school
- 13-17 & out of school
- 18-19 & in school
- 18-19 & out of school
- 20-22

- Never migrated
- Migrated within PIPSA
- External migration

- Rural
- Peri-urban/urban

Mean # of family/community interventions used past 12m (max 9)
Vulnerability and DREAMS awareness

- Never had sex
- Ever had sex, never pregnant
- Ever had sex, ever pregnant
- 13-17 & in school
- 13-17 & out of school
- 18-19 & in school
- 18-19 & out of school
- 20-22
- Never migrated
- Migrated within PIPS/A
- External migration
- Rural
- Peri-urban/urban
- 2017
- 2018

Mean # of family/community interventions aware of (max 9)
Vulnerability and DREAMS uptake

- Never had sex
- Ever had sex, never pregnant
- Ever had sex, ever pregnant

- 13-17 & in school
- 13-17 & out of school
- 18-19 & in school
- 18-19 & out of school
- 20-22

- Never migrated
- Migrated within PIPSA
- External migration

- Rural
- Peri-urban/urban

Mean # of individual interventions used in past 12m (max 8)
Conclusions

1. DREAMS awareness was high after one year of roll-out, rose further in year two

2. DREAMS uptake rose, particularly for family/community level interventions
   - But still big gap between awareness and uptake

3. Vulnerable AGYW had:
   - Lower awareness and uptake of community and family interventions
   - Similar levels of healthcare use, despite potentially greater need

4. Still need to identify & reach vulnerable AGYW in high HIV incidence settings
This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health under award number 5R01MH114560-03, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Grant Number OPP1136774. Africa Health Research Institute is supported by a grant from the Wellcome Trust (082384/Z/07/Z). The research leading to these results has received funding from the People Programme (Marie Curie Actions) of the European Union's seventh Framework Programme FP7/2007-2013 under REA grant agreement no. 612216.