

# Family Planning Services as a service entry point for HIV testing and prevention services for adolescent girls and young women: Reflections from 2 studies in South Africa

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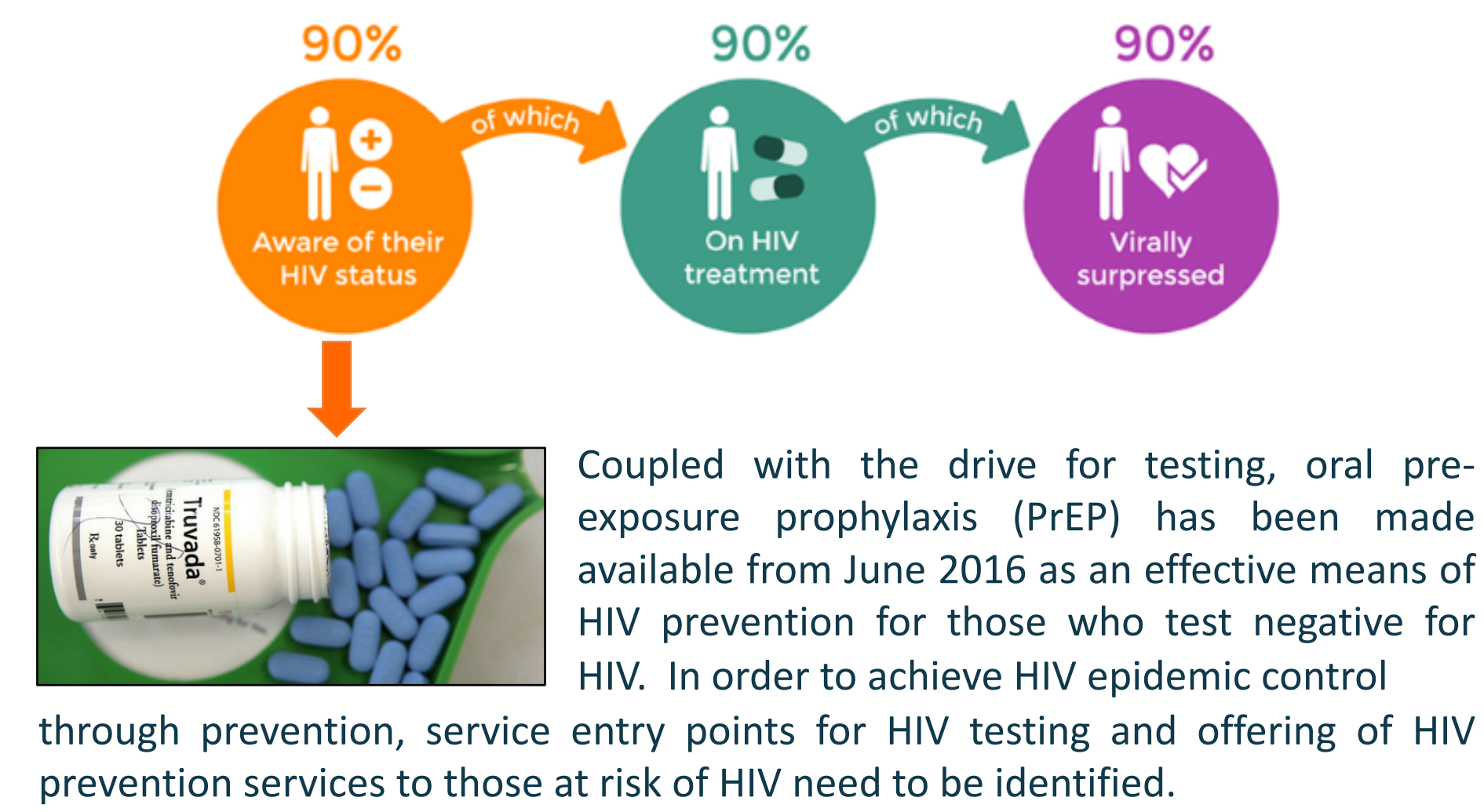
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\*OPTIONS refers to PrEP as the product category (inclusive of all formulations of ARV-based HIV prevention), and refers to specific products by formulation designation and/or name (e.g. oral PrEP/TDF-FTC, topical PrEP/dapivirine ring, injectable PrEP/cabotegravir, etc).

## BACKGROUND

In an attempt to curb the spread of HIV in South Africa, the UNAIDS 90-90-90 goal system was implemented which aims to test 90% of the population for HIV.

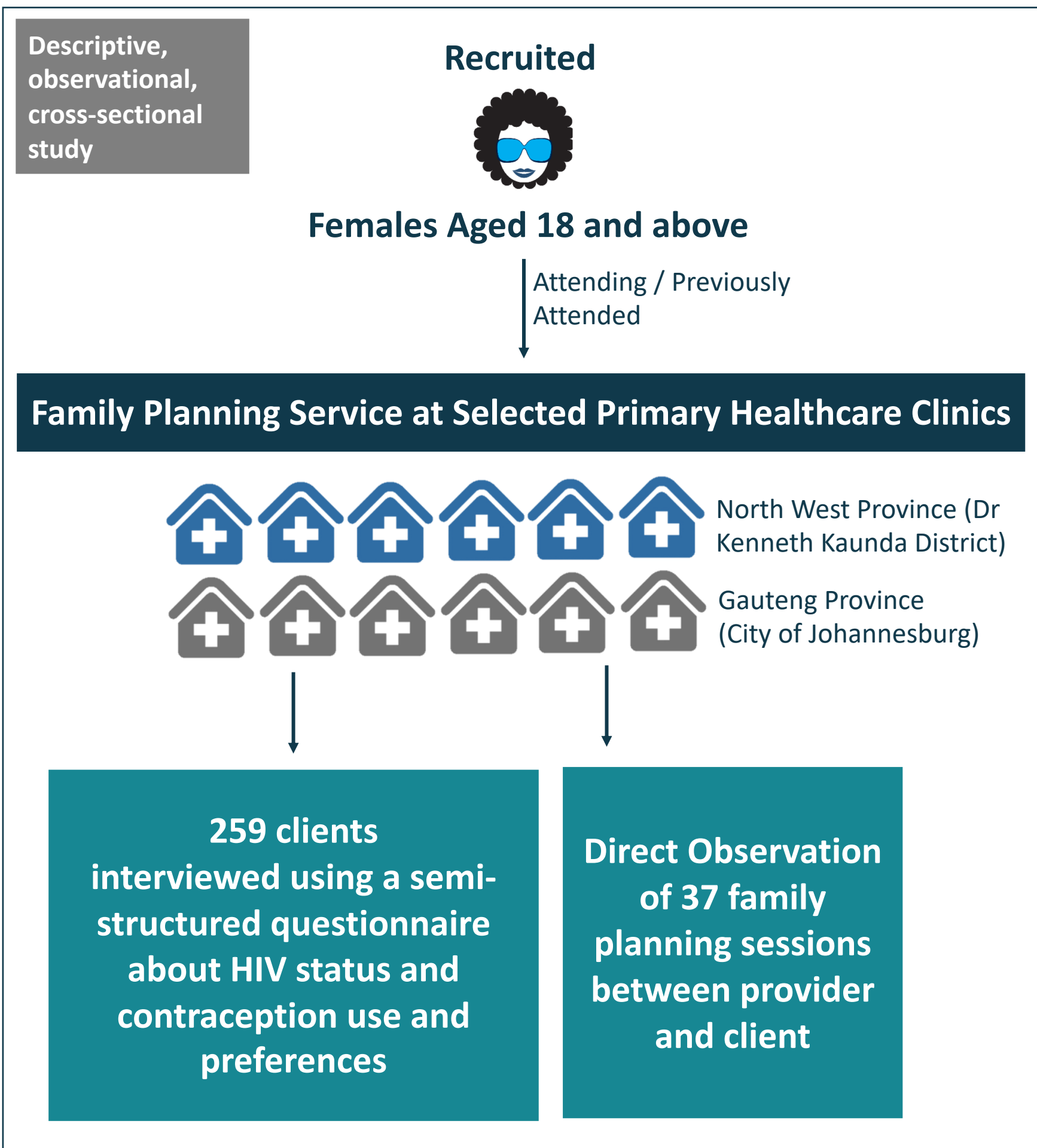


Amongst those at risk for HIV, adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) (15-24) are disproportionately affected. Family planning services are often the first entry point for AGYW within the health system, and serve as a potential entry point for integrated health services.

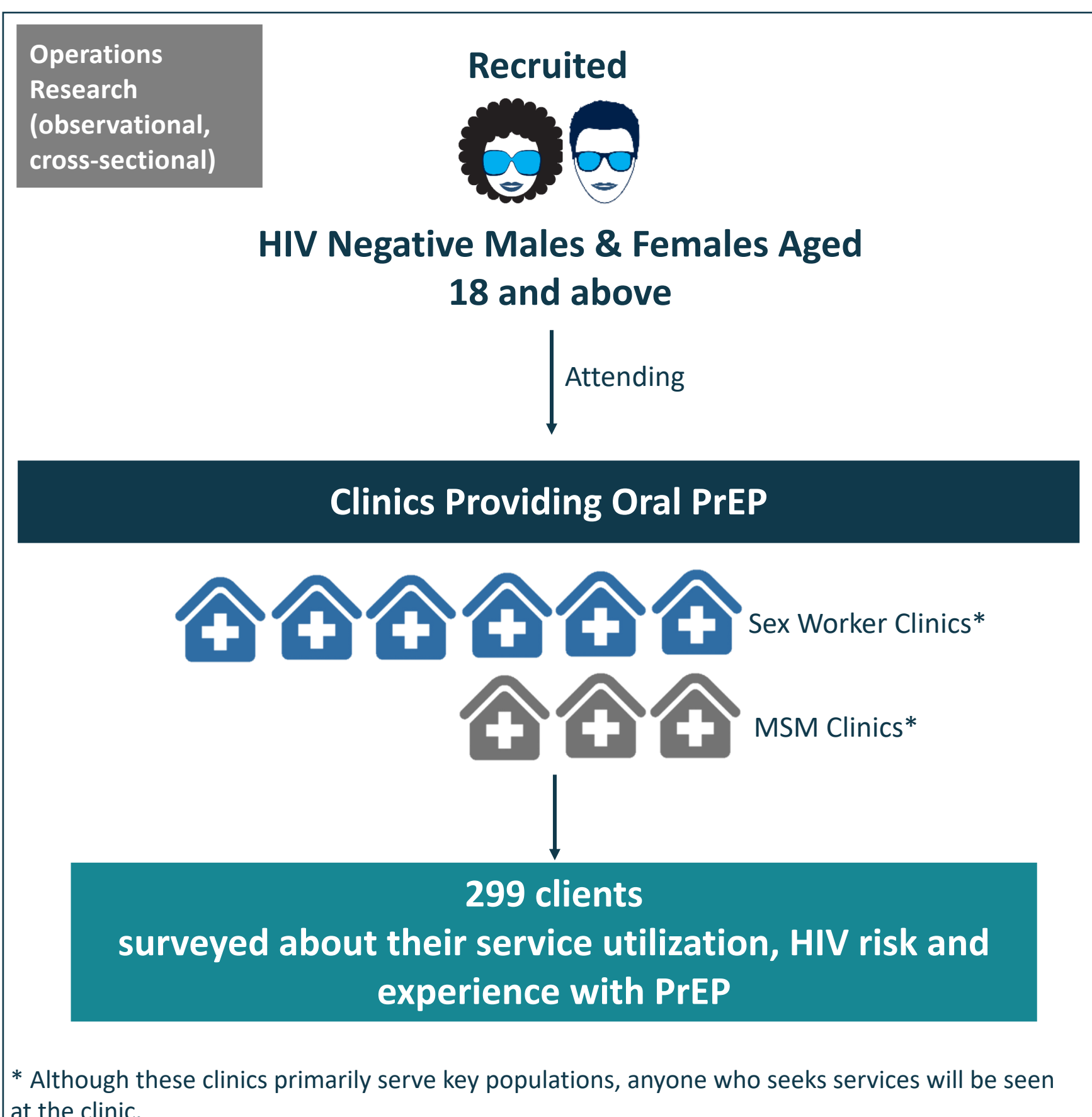
## METHODS

Reflections are drawn from two studies conducted in South Africa, one of which focused on family planning and the other on HIV prevention. Descriptive analysis of data was performed.

### User perspectives on Implanon NXT in SA (2016)<sup>1</sup>



### Factors influencing initiation, continuation & discontinuation of oral PrEP at selected facilities in South Africa (ACCESS Study) (2017)<sup>2</sup>



\* Although these clinics primarily serve key populations, anyone who seeks services will be seen at the clinic.

## RESULTS

### User perspectives on Implanon NXT in SA

#### Age at Contraception Initiation

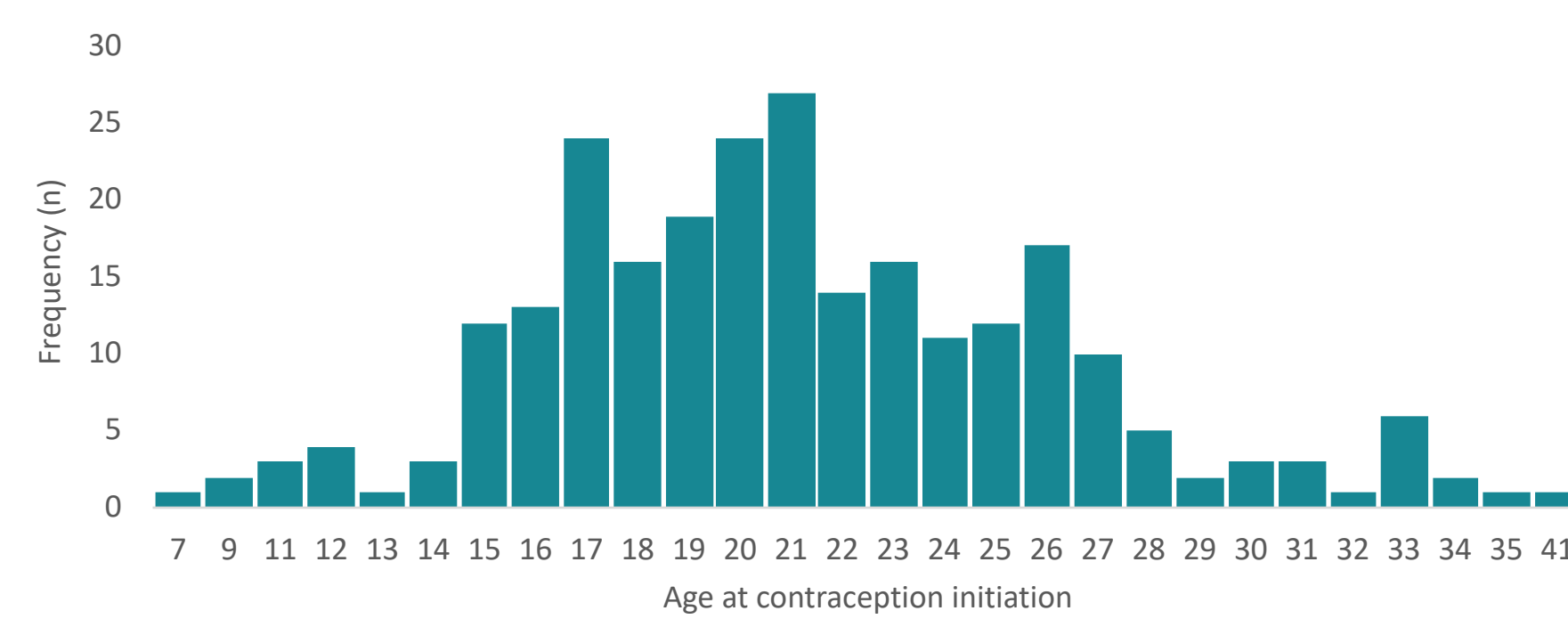


Figure 1: Age at initiation of contraception (n=253)

Age at contraception initiation was retrospectively determined for 257 clients interviewed, of whom 253 provided data. Of 253 clients, 23% (n=57) initiated contraception between the ages of 12-17 and 50% (n=127) between the ages of 18-24. This highlights that AGYW are entering the health system through family planning services.

### Proportion of AGYW in the sample

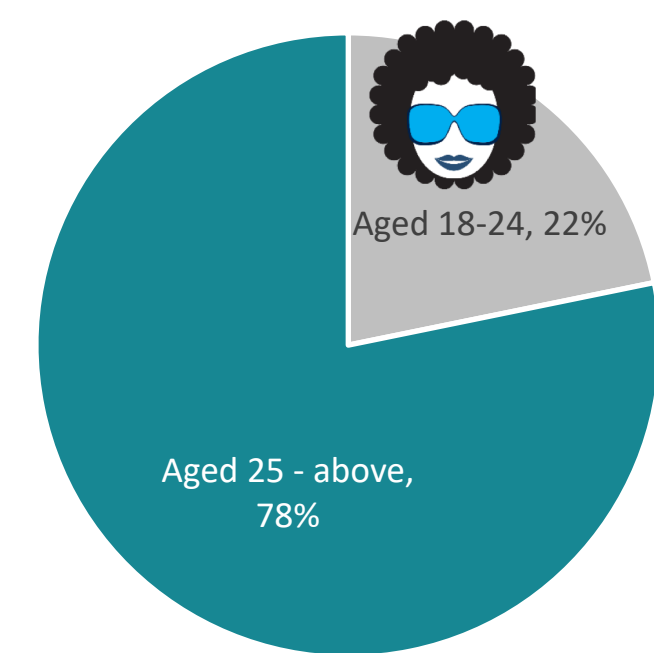
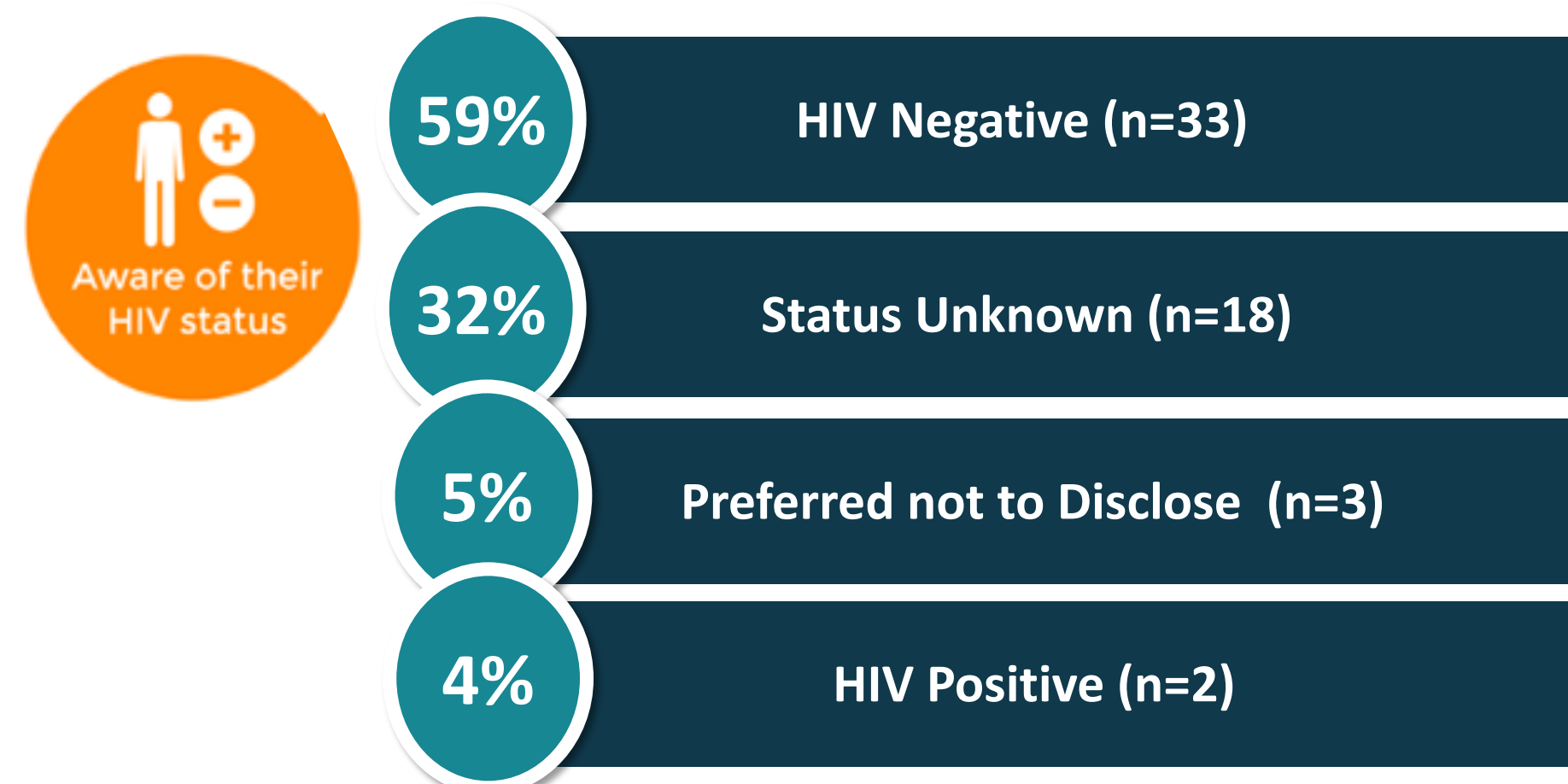


Figure 2: Proportion of AGYW in the sample

### HIV Status of AGYW



This highlights opportunities for introducing HIV testing and offer of PrEP.

### HIV Counselling & Testing (HCT) and HIV Risk Assessment

From the 37 directly observed family planning sessions between provider and client, the following was noted with regards to the offer of HCT and HIV risk assessment:

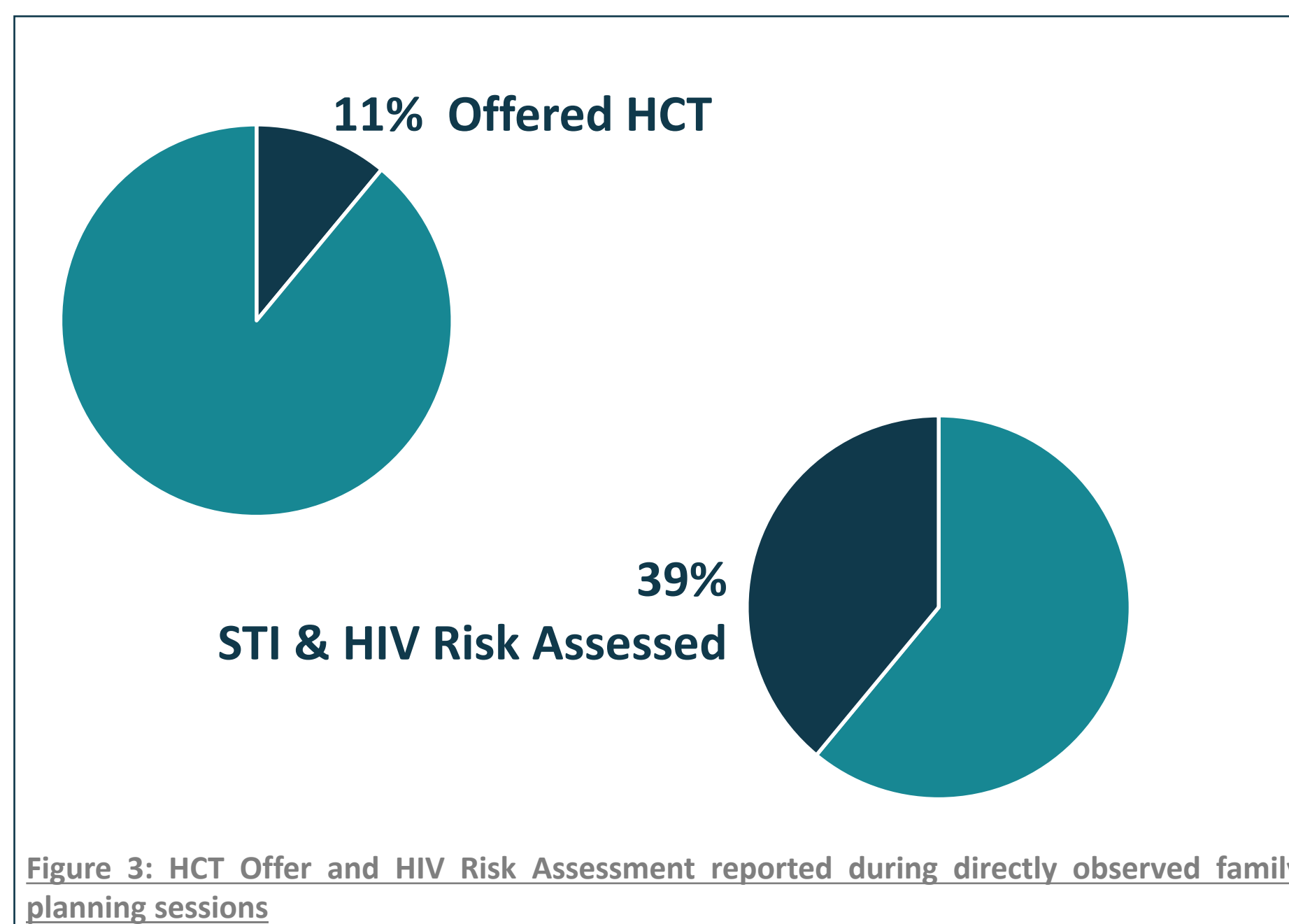


Figure 3: HCT Offer and HIV Risk Assessment reported during directly observed family planning sessions

This highlights missed opportunities for offering HCT and assessing HIV risk.



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## RESULTS (continued)

### ACCESS Study

#### Proportion of AGYW in the sample

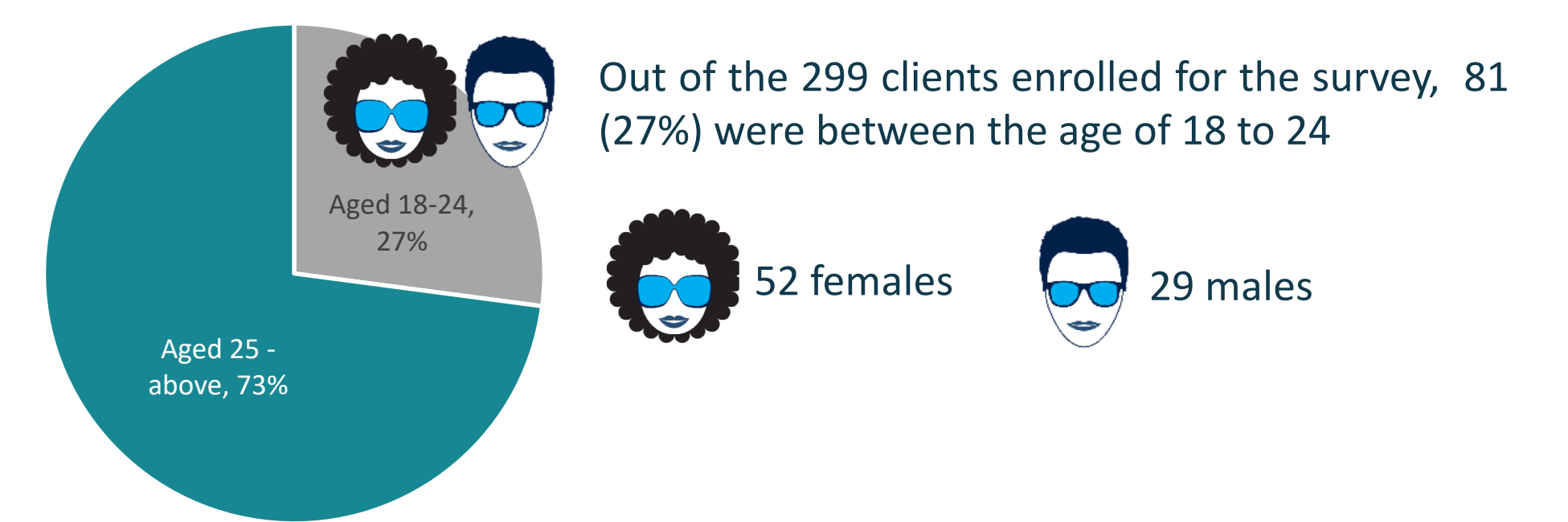


Figure 3: Proportion of AGYW in the sample

### AGYW Accessing Family Planning Services

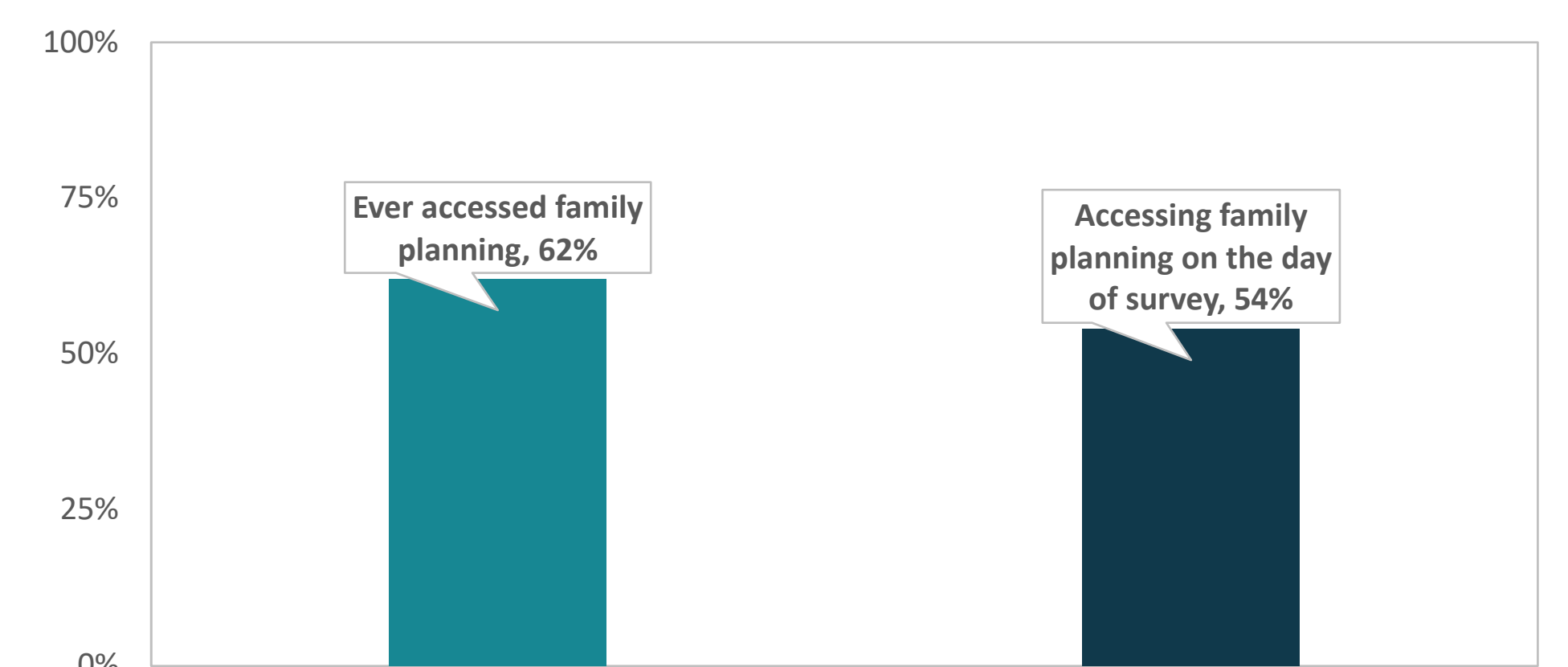


Figure 4: Utilization of family planning service amongst AGYW at PrEP implementing sites (n = 52)

These results indicate that over half of AGYW attending PrEP implementing sites are seeking family planning services.

### HIV Risk Perception and Testing by AGYW



### Offering and Uptake of PrEP to AGYW

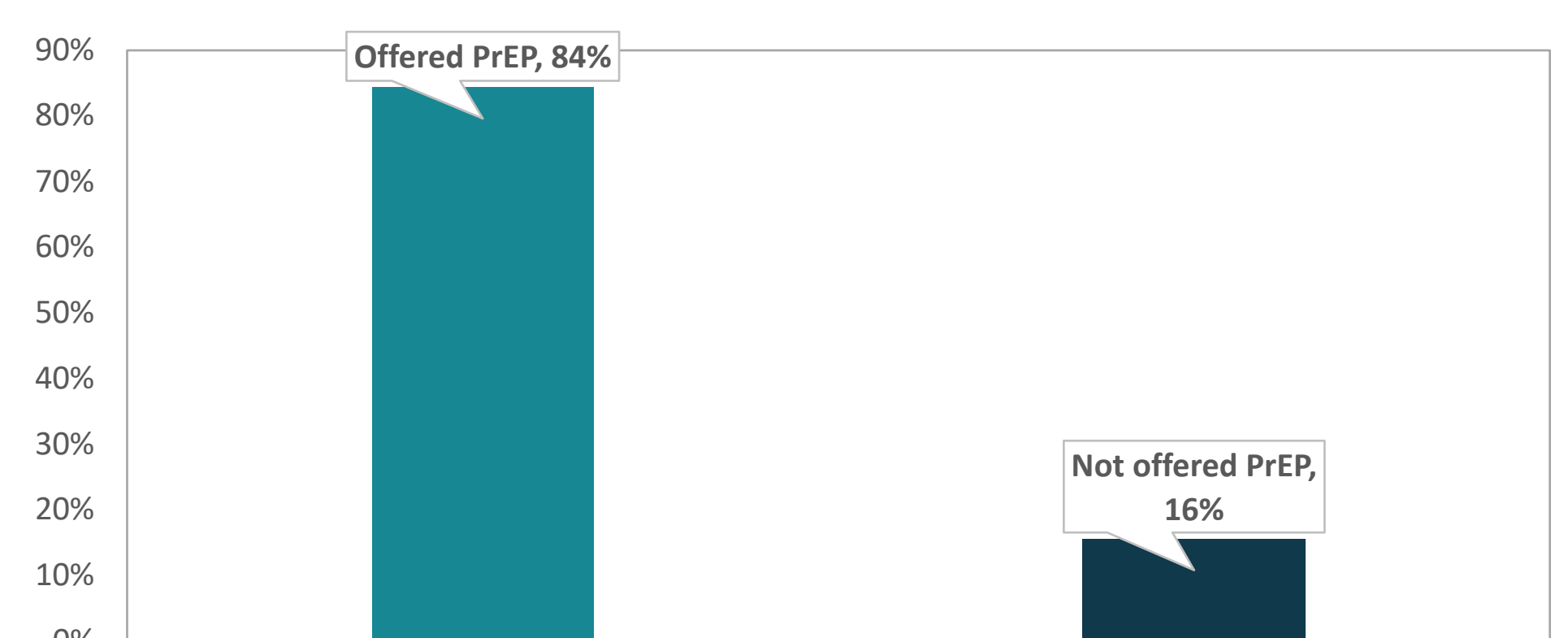


Figure 5: Clients ever accessed family planning services and have been offered PrEP (n = 32)

Out of the 32 AGYW who had ever accessed family planning services at the facility, 84% (n=27) were offered PrEP.

Out of the 27 AGYW accessing family service that were offered PrEP, 81% (n=22) had initiated

## CONCLUSION

The results highlight that AGYW between the ages of 12-24 are entering the health system through family planning services. Results indicate that many AGYW seeking family planning services at PrEP implementing facilities had been offered PrEP and had initiated. Hence, family planning services could be a possible early entry point for HIV testing and offering of prevention services to AGYW. Providing integrated family planning and HIV testing and prevention services offers an opportunity to engage AGYW who perceive risk of HIV in care.

## REFERENCES

- Pillay, D., Chersich, M. F., Morrioni, C., Pleaner, M., Adeagbo, A., Naidoo, N., ... & Rees, H. (2017). User perspectives on Implanon NXT in South Africa: A survey of 12 public-sector facilities. *South African Medical Journal*, 107(10).
- <http://programme.aids2018.org/Abstract/Abstract/9993>