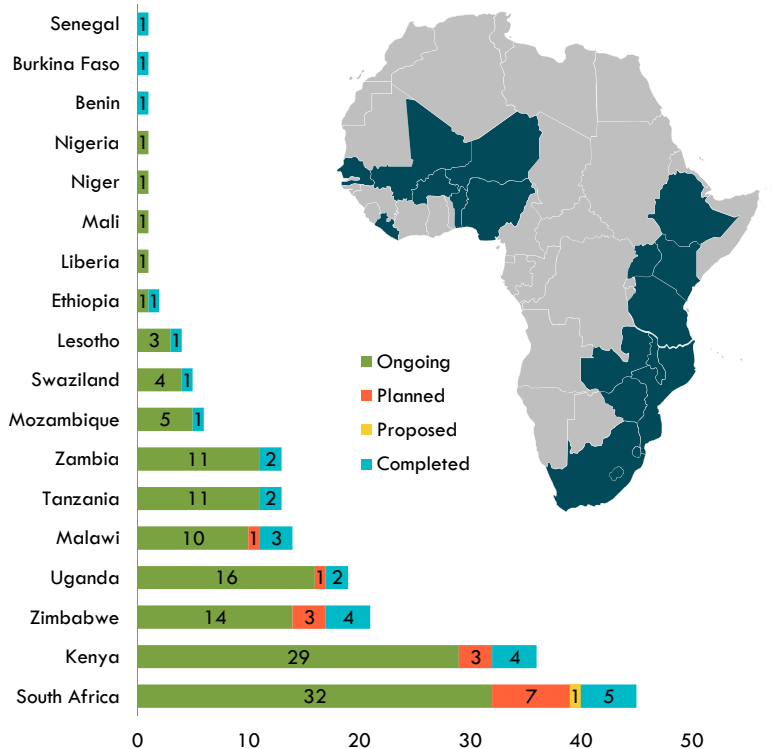


What have we learned about adolescent girls and young women and HIV prevention?

Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) remain disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa, accounting for nearly 25% of new HIV infections in the region in 2017.¹ Many projects have studied how AGYW behave as end users of HIV prevention and to improve uptake of prevention among this group. Using survey data collected from ongoing, planned, and completed projects studying HIV prevention for AGYW (including end-user research projects, PrEP implementation studies, ring studies, and DREAMS projects focused on education and financial empowerment), it is possible to identify trends and gaps in the data, and provide a clear snapshot of what we know now.

Where is HIV prevention research on AGYW conducted?

South Africa, Kenya and Zimbabwe are the primary locations for research.



What projects are included?

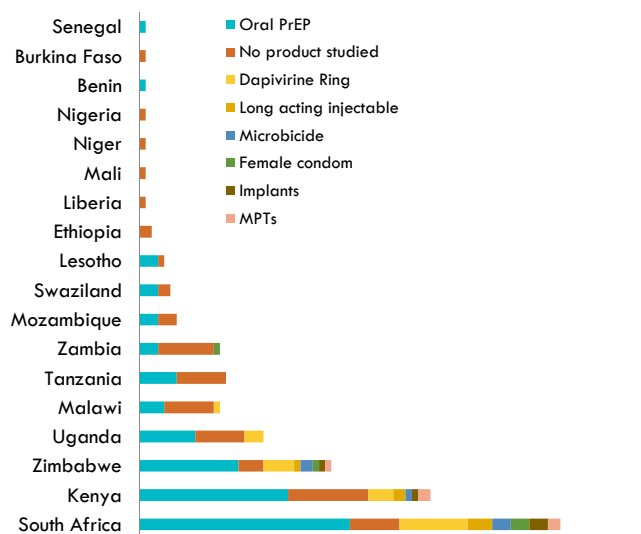
Population | Adolescent girls & young women 13-29 years of age¹

Geography | sub-Saharan Africa

Timeframe | Data was collected for this analysis in July 2019, the studies included span 2011-2019

Focus | Projects, studies and initiatives that study HIV prevention for AGYW in sub-Saharan Africa

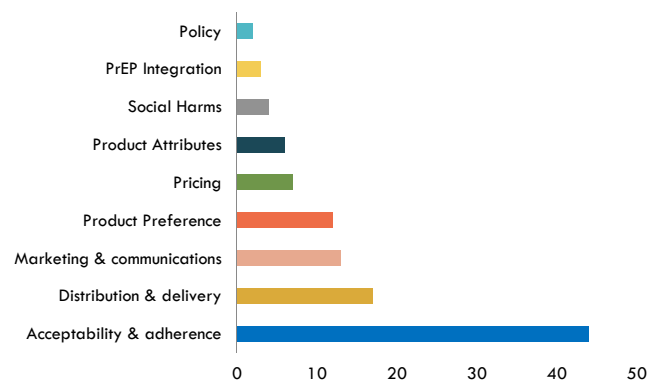
What products are being studied?



Findings across projects

Many projects found that AGYW tend to have an inaccurate perception of their own risk for HIV, and as a result, it is important that countries promote awareness of personal risk among AGYW and invest in demand generation.^{2,3} Ensuring that products accommodate AGYW's lifestyle is also key, AGYW are highly mobile and prefer products that are long-acting.² Additionally, AGYW will prioritize their relationships over HIV prevention, and require social support for product use – indicating that it is important to ensure that influencers are well-educated and informed about the utility of biomedical prevention options.^{2,4} Similarly, negative experiences with providers and negative provider attitudes towards HIV prevention methods can be highly discouraging for young women, and can influence adherence and uptake,⁵ therefore it is important to prioritize training that emphasizes values clarification and addresses biases.

What is being studied?



KEY TAKEAWAYS

Mapping projects and studies across sub-Saharan Africa reveals several gaps in the research on AGYW, including the lack of research focused on policy, integration of sexual and reproductive health services and HIV prevention, and social harms. Overall the majority of research on HIV prevention for adolescent girls and young women is concentrated in South Africa, Kenya, and Zimbabwe, and focuses primarily on answering questions related to product acceptability and adherence and distribution and delivery. In the future, a better understanding of the policy barriers which hinder access to HIV prevention for AGYW should be prioritized, as well as the study of interventions which can help mitigate gender-based violence and best practices for integration of HIV prevention with family planning services.

1. UNAIDS. Global AIDS Update 2018.
 2. Anabel Gomez et al. Breaking the Cycle of Transmission. South Africa AGYW Project. 2019.
 3. Shannon O'Rourke, Laura Myers, Corina L. Calum et al., SPs for Prevention Study (PrEP, Power, PrEP), 2018.
 4. Sarah Roberts. Targeted interventions to address the multi-level effects of gender-based violence on PrEP uptake and adherence among adolescent girls and young women in Kenya (U/Washindi na PrEP), 2018.
 5. C. Calum, et al. Prevention Options for Women: Evaluation Research (Power) Formative Work Report, 2017.



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