

Sexually transmitted infection testing integrated with HIV prevention and contraceptive services in hair salons in urban South Africa



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BACKGROUND

- Curable sexually transmitted infections (STIs) increase HIV transmission and acquisition risks and cause morbidity for women
- Access to STI testing is limited for women at risk for STIs and HIV in sub-Saharan Africa
- Offering STI care in novel community-based venues may address barriers to access

OBJECTIVES

- To evaluate the implementation of STI testing integrated with HIV prevention and contraceptive services in hair salons in urban KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- To determine the prevalence of curable STIs among women accessing HIV prevention and contraceptive services in hair salons

METHODS

- Women accessing oral HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis or hormonal contraception in hair salons in an ongoing study were offered testing for curable STIs
- Self-collected vaginal swabs are tested by polymerase chain reaction for gonorrhea, chlamydia, and trichomoniasis
- Fingerstick blood is tested by non-treponemal and treponemal assays for syphilis
- Participants with positive results were contacted and offered treatment at the hair salon or local clinic
- Participant demographics, STI history, symptoms, risk factors, and risk perception were collected using structured questionnaires



STI testing in hair salons in urban South Africa, integrated with HIV prevention and contraceptive services, is acceptable, reaches women with risk factors for STIs and HIV, and reveals a high STI prevalence

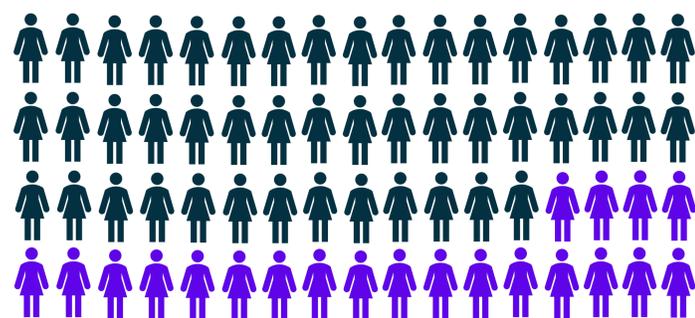
RESULTS

Table 1. Characteristics of women eligible for STI testing, n=73

	n (%) or Median [IQR]
Age	26 [22-29]
Highest education	
Some high school	12 (16)
Completed high school	36 (49)
Tertiary	25 (34)
Employed	39 (53)
Treated for STI in past year, n=68	10 (14)
Ever treated for STI	23 (32)
Any current STI symptoms	16 (22)
Currently using hormonal contraception	24 (33)
Currently using PrEP, n=60	3 (5)
Perceived chance of getting STI in next year	
No chance	12 (16)
Small chance	31 (42)
Moderate chance	6 (8)
Great chance	14 (19)
Unknown	10 (14)
In age-disparate relationship (primary sex partner ≥5 years older), n=65	32 (49)
Thinks primary partner has had other partners in past 3 months, n=65	
Don't know or maybe	20 (31)
No	23 (35)
Yes	22 (34)
Condom use in last month, n=50	
Never	33 (66)
Sometimes or often	8 (16)
Always	9 (18)
Any transactional sex	5 (7)
Has experienced gender-based violence	7 (10)

Of 73 women enrolled and eligible for STI testing:

- 71 (97%) accepted STI testing
- 68 (93%) provided vaginal swabs and fingerstick blood
- 3 (4%) provided blood specimen only



21/68 (30.9%) tested positive for at least one STI
 4/68 Gonorrhea (5.9%)
 16/68 Chlamydia (23.5%)
 1/68 Trichomoniasis (1.5%)
 4/71 Syphilis (5.6%)

