Treatment-adjusted prevalence to assess HIV testing programmes

Beth A Tippett Barr,a David Lowrance,b Cheryl Case Johnson,b Rachel Clare Baggaley,b John H Rogers,c Shirish K Balachandra,j Joseph Barker,t Thokozani Kalua,d Sudhir Bunga,e Daniel Low-Beer,b Danielle Payne,f Marc G Bulterysa & Andreas Jahng

Abstract Scale-up of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing and antiretroviral therapy (ART) for people living with HIV has been increasing in sub-Saharan Africa. As a result, areas with high HIV prevalence are finding a declining proportion of people testing positive in their national testing programmes. In eastern and southern Africa, where there are settings with adult HIV prevalence of 12% and above, the positivity from national HIV testing services has dropped to below 5%. Identifying those in need of ART is therefore becoming more costly for national HIV programmes. Annual target-setting assumes that national testing positivity rates approximate that of population prevalence. This assumption has generated an increased focus on testing approaches which achieve higher rates of HIV positivity. This trend is a departure from the provider-initiated testing and counselling strategy used early in the global HIV response. We discuss a new indicator, treatment-adjusted prevalence, that countries can use as a practical benchmark for estimating the expected adult positivity in a testing programme when accounting for both national HIV prevalence and ART coverage. The indicator is calculated by removing those people receiving ART from the numerator and denominator of HIV prevalence. Treatment-adjusted prevalence can be readily estimated from existing programme data and population estimates, and in 2019, was added to the World Health Organization guidelines for HIV testing and strategic information. Using country examples from Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan and Zimbabwe we illustrate how to apply this indicator and we discuss the potential public health implications of its use from the national to facility level.

Introduction

Globally, there has been substantial scale-up of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing services and antiretroviral therapy (ART), and it is now estimated that 78% (16 million) of the 20.6 million people living with HIV in eastern and southern Africa are receiving treatment.1 As a result, countries or districts with high HIV prevalence in sub-Saharan Africa are now finding a decline in positivity (that is, the proportion of people tested who are positive) in their national HIV testing programmes.2–4 For example, an analysis of over 13 million tests conducted primarily in health facilities in Kenya between July 2017 and June 2018 found that only 1.4% were positive.6 This figure compares with a national HIV prevalence in adults of 4.5% (1 390 000 people in the population of 30 888 880) in 2019.7 In seven out of 10 African nations with adult HIV prevalence of 10% and above, the positivity from the national HIV testing programme has been reported as 5% or below.2 In Malawi, for example, the proportion of people found to be HIV positive in national testing services has declined from 13.0% (170 040) of 1 304 707 people tested in 2008 to 3.1% (139 702) of 4 474 393 people in 2018, while the annual number of tests conducted has tripled (Fig. 1; A Jahn, Ministry of Health, Malawi, unpublished data, 2020). Over the same period, the estimated proportion of people living with HIV who were receiving ART increased from 14.3% (143 350 of 1 000 000 people) to 76.9% (769 179 of 1 000 000 people).8

This trend is encouraging, as it signals rapid progression towards the global 95–95–95 goals for reducing HIV-associated mortality and achieving and sustaining low HIV incidence.8 Nevertheless, as more people living with HIV are diagnosed and access treatment, finding people with undiagnosed HIV becomes progressively more difficult and expensive.3 Provider-initiated testing and counselling approaches were recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2007.9 At that time, positivity in national HIV testing programmes either reflected the prevalence in the general population, such as healthy women attending antenatal clinics, or the much higher prevalence in those attending tuberculosis or sexually transmitted disease services.

In this article we discuss the use of a new indicator, which we named treatment-adjusted prevalence. The indicator serves as a practical benchmark for the expected yield of HIV positivity in an adult testing programme when accounting for both national HIV prevalence and ART coverage. We chose the label treatment-adjusted over status awareness-adjusted as it is the aim of HIV programming to achieve virtual elimination of disease, and it is only once ART is initiated that viral load declines and onward transmission decreases.8 By explaining the application of this indicator with examples from sub-Saharan Africa, we hope to promote its use by national programmes and implementing organizations at subnational level.

* US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for Global Health, PO Box 606, Village Market, 00621 Nairobi, Kenya.
† Global HIV, Hepatitis and STI programmes, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.
‡ US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Global HIV & Tuberculosis, Zimbabwe.
§ Ministry of Health, Department of HIV/AIDS, Lilongwe, Malawi.
¶ US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Global HIV & Tuberculosis, Juba, South Sudan.
‖ US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Global HIV & Tuberculosis, Lilongwe, Malawi.
® International Training and Education Center for Health (i-TECH), University of Washington, Seattle, United States of America.
Correspondence to Beth A Tippett Barr (email: hkc5@cdc.gov).

Submitted: 12 May 2021 – Revised version received: 3 September 2021 – Accepted: 3 September 2021 – Published online: 30 September 2021

Bull World Health Organ 2021;99:874–882 doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.21.286388
Challenges

The expectation that the prevalence of HIV in adults can be used to approximate HIV positivity has resulted in an increased focus on ways to increase the yield of HIV testing services.\textsuperscript{11–17} Such focused, high-risk, high-yield approaches are important in HIV programmes, but may not provide the volume of cost-efficient testing needed in sub-Saharan Africa to reach the majority of people with unidentified HIV infection.\textsuperscript{5}

Declining HIV positivity, now a widespread finding in many national testing programmes, has led several countries in sub-Saharan Africa to start implementing risk-screening tools. The aim is to shift away from provider-initiated testing, to strategies which prioritize testing only for those most likely to test HIV positive.\textsuperscript{18–22} To date, such strategies have had variable results, with some programmes reporting that screening tools are missing too many people living with HIV who would otherwise have been tested under provider-initiated testing.

In the context of enhanced quality assurance and quality control efforts,\textsuperscript{4,23–25} many national HIV programmes in sub-Saharan Africa have begun reviewing the performance of their testing strategies.\textsuperscript{26–28} These countries have also adopted the WHO recommended three-test strategy, which requires three consecutive reactive tests to provide a positive diagnosis and enables programmes in all settings to achieve at least a 99\% positive predictive value despite declining HIV positivity.\textsuperscript{2}

With this progress in coverage of testing services, HIV programmes in sub-Saharan Africa should interpret national and subnational data and use it to guide decision-making. Countries need to consider how the rising proportions of people living with HIV who are aware of their HIV status and receiving ART will result in declining positivity and fewer undiagnosed people in need of testing services.

The challenge faced by decision-makers is how to determine appropriate benchmarks for the yield of HIV testing that can be applied to programme management and target-setting. Any indicator would need to be readily understood and applied across the national programme, including facility- and community-based services and the higher administrative levels, and including donor partner-supported programmes. As illustrated in Fig. 1, a declining yield of testing may not necessarily be an indicator of declining programme performance but may be a reflection that treatment coverage is reaching saturation. The concept of treatment-adjusted prevalence thus characterizes the remaining number of undiagnosed people living with HIV in a population. This approach could help programmes to measure their testing yield, while also considering awareness of HIV status and ART coverage among people living with HIV.

Treatment-adjusted prevalence

Treatment-adjusted prevalence (\textit{TAP}) is a way of removing those receiving ART from the numerator and denominator of HIV prevalence and can be readily estimated from existing programme data and population estimates, using the equation:

\[
\text{TAP} = \frac{(H - A)}{(P - A) \times 100}
\]

where \(H\) is number of adults living with HIV, \(A\) is number of adults living with HIV and receiving ART and \(P\) is total adult population. The indicator has been adopted by WHO in its strategic information and guidance on HIV testing services\textsuperscript{2,3} and is included in its HIV testing services dashboard for 45 priority countries.\textsuperscript{29} Anecdotal reports, however, indicate that treatment-adjusted prevalence has not yet been widely applied at national or subnational level to guide decision-making. This lack of adaption may be due in part to the disruption of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic but also to the time it takes
Box 1. Profile of HIV infection in four sub-Saharan African countries

In Kenya (adult population: 30,888,800), 1,390,000 adults (4.5%) were positive for HIV infection in 2019 according to UNAIDS estimates.1 The proportion of adults living with HIV who were receiving ART was 75.0% (1,042,164 people). HIV prevalence in the counties around Lake Victoria (formerly known as Nyanza province) was 12.7% (490,000 of 3,858,268 adults), making this the highest burden area in the country.1

Malawi (adult population: 11,235,955) also has a generalized HIV epidemic, with the health ministry reporting an estimated 1,000,000 people infected with HIV, a national prevalence of 8.9% in 2019. Prevalence was higher in the Southern region and urban areas (17.7% in Blantyre city, for example). Nationwide ART coverage was 78.5% (784,948 people).1

In comparison, South Sudan (adult population: 7,320,000) had an estimated national HIV prevalence of only 2.5% (183,000 people) in 2019 and ART coverage of 18.2% (33,253 people), according to data from UNAIDS.1

Zimbabwe (adult population: 9,921,875) has high HIV prevalence, with health ministry reports in 2019 estimating 12.8% of adults were HIV infected (1,270,000 people). Nationwide coverage of ART in adults was 79.8% (1,014,039).1

ART: antiretroviral therapy; HIV: human immunodeficiency virus; UNAIDS: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

For diffusion of innovation. We compare the application of this indicator in different settings, using population data from western Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan and Zimbabwe, and we discuss the potential public health implications. We selected these four countries for this analysis to illustrate the utility of treatment-adjusted prevalence across countries with differing HIV epidemics (Box 1).

For example, in Zimbabwe in 2018, implementing partners reported an average testing yield of 5.1% (61,619 of 1,197,113 people) in provider-initiated testing they supported (B. Makunike-Chikwinya, International Training and Education Center for Health, unpublished data, 2018). This compares with an estimated adult national prevalence of 12.8% (1,270,000 of 9,921,875 adults) in 2019.1 Yet, in a context where ART coverage approached 80% of all people living with HIV, determining programme performance and effectiveness in light of 6.0% testing positivity was difficult.11 An appropriate benchmark to compare against was needed. Using treatment-adjusted prevalence, we can determine that the yield from provider-initiated testing was double that of the remaining HIV prevalence in the adult population not receiving ART. Similarly, in the first quarter of 2019, implementing partners in Nyanza province, Kenya, reported an overall yield of 0.8% in provider-initiated testing (K. De Cock, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, unpublished data, 2019). The province is the highest burden area of the country, with an estimated population HIV prevalence of 12.7% (compared with Kenya’s overall 4.5% prevalence), and with an estimated 367,000 (74.9%) of all 490,000 adults living with HIV receiving ART.7 In these examples of high levels of both HIV testing and ART coverage, adult HIV prevalence and testing yield do not provide enough information to evaluate the overall efficiency and impact of HIV testing services.

To understand the low testing yield found in western Kenya, we applied the same logic used in Zimbabwe in 2018 to identify the treatment-adjusted prevalence for Nyanza province (Table 1). This approach uses the following data: (i) census estimate of the adult population; (ii) modelled estimate of the number of adult people living with HIV; and (iii) estimated number of adult people living with HIV receiving ART. Both the numerator and denominator could be taken from multiple sources, including programme data and population-based HIV impact assessment survey data. However, for the purpose of this demonstration, we used the Spectrum modelling software of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to estimate HIV prevalence and ART coverage.3 Children should be excluded from both the numerator and denominator as prevalence tends to be proportionally much lower in children than adults, and only a very low proportion of HIV testing in children younger than 15 years happens outside of prevention of mother-to-child transmission programmes.

In the case of western Kenya, when the adult population who are receiving ART is removed from the numerator and denominator, the treatment-adjusted prevalence is 3.5% (3.0% in women and 4.1% in men), less than a third of the 12.7% adult prevalence estimate (Table 1).9 Fig. 2 illustrates how the overall prevalence of adults living with HIV is divided into those receiving ART and not receiving ART. Those not receiving ART include those who do not yet know their HIV status, those who know their status but have not started treatment, and those who were previously receiving ART but have defaulted from

Table 1. Calculation of treatment-adjusted prevalence of HIV infection in the adult population aged 15–49 years in Nyanza province, western Kenya, 2019

| Variable                       | Women       | Men         | All adults |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Total population, extrapolated  | 2,013,423   | 1,862,745   | 3,858,268  |
| No. of people living with HIV  | 300,000     | 190,000     | 490,000    |
| Population HIV prevalence, %   | 14.9        | 10.2        | 12.7       |
| No. of people receiving ART    | 247,000     | 119,000     | 367,000    |
| Treatment coverage, %          | 82.3        | 62.6        | 74.9       |
| Total population not receiving ART | 1,766,423   | 1,743,745   | 3,491,268  |
| No. of people living with HIV not receiving ART | 53,000 | 71,000 | 123,000 |
| Treatment-adjusted prevalence, % | 3.0        | 4.1         | 3.5        |

ART: antiretroviral therapy; HIV: human immunodeficiency virus; UNAIDS: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

a Extrapolation may result in inconsistencies.

b Derived by extrapolation from UNAIDS estimates of number of adults living with HIV and prevalence of HIV.7,8

c UNAIDS 2019 estimates.7,8

d Calculated from number of adults receiving ART as a proportion of number of adults living with HIV.

e Calculated by subtracting number of adults receiving ART from total adult population.

f Calculated by subtracting number of adults receiving ART from number of adults living with HIV.1

Notes: For analysis we only used data from the Spectrum modelling software of UNAIDS. Kenyan authors have moved its administration to subnational county units rather than provinces; Spectrum data still reflect provincial estimates within which specific counties can be aligned.

Table 1. Calculation of treatment-adjusted prevalence of HIV infection in the adult population aged 15–49 years in Nyanza province, western Kenya, 2019

976 Bull World Health Organ 2021;99:874–882 doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.21.286388

ART: antiretroviral therapy; HIV: human immunodeficiency virus; UNAIDS: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

a Extrapolation may result in inconsistencies.

b Derived by extrapolation from UNAIDS estimates of number of adults living with HIV and prevalence of HIV.7,8

c UNAIDS 2019 estimates.7,8

d Calculated from number of adults receiving ART as a proportion of number of adults living with HIV.

e Calculated by subtracting number of adults receiving ART from total adult population.

f Calculated by subtracting number of adults receiving ART from number of adults living with HIV.1

Notes: For analysis we only used data from the Spectrum modelling software of UNAIDS. Kenyan authors have moved its administration to subnational county units rather than provinces; Spectrum data still reflect provincial estimates within which specific counties can be aligned.
care. The 2.5% of the total population who are classified as people living with HIV not receiving ART becomes the 3.5% treatment-adjusted prevalence once adults receiving ART are removed from the equation.

In Table 2, we applied the same approach to the South Sudan and Zimbabwe estimates. HIV prevalence in South Sudan was 2.5%, much lower than the 12.8% documented in Zimbabwe. However, treatment coverage was higher in Zimbabwe (79.8%) than South Sudan (18.2%) and therefore, despite substantial differences in national HIV prevalence, both countries have below 3% treatment-adjusted prevalence of HIV in adults. South Sudan’s low ART coverage was similar to the coverage in Kenya, Malawi and Zimbabwe in the early 2000s, when ART coverage was just beginning to scale up. This result demonstrates that treatment-adjusted prevalence is comparable to HIV prevalence in countries with low ART coverage, but provides a marked contrast in countries with high ART coverage.

**Practical application**

**Selecting algorithms**

The positive predictive value of any screening test is “the probability that people with a positive result indeed do have the condition of interest.” WHO standards require all HIV tests to have at least 99% sensitivity and 98% specificity and are used in an HIV testing algorithm that achieves at least 99% positive predictive value. In practical terms, this means that there should be no more than one false positive per 100 positive diagnoses, an error which has serious consequences for both individuals and the population.

To maintain such a high-quality testing service, mathematical modelling showed that countries with adult HIV prevalence of 5% or higher could achieve a 99% positive predictive value by using two consecutive reactive tests (two-test...
strategy) to provide a positive diagnosis. However, for countries with adult HIV prevalence less than 5%, to achieve a 99% positive predictive value, three consecutive reactive tests (three-test strategy) were needed to provide a positive diagnosis. These WHO-recommended HIV testing strategies were first developed in 1997, when national prevalence was an acceptable indicator for determining which testing strategy a country should use. Since then, due to successful scale-up of HIV testing and ART coverage in sub-Saharan Africa, HIV epidemiology has changed, becoming more heterogeneous. Positivity in HIV testing services is well below 5% and declining in nearly all sub-Saharan Africa programmes. As a result, in 2019 WHO recommended all countries adopt a standard three-test strategy to ensure high-quality testing even in populations and settings within countries with HIV positivity 5% or less. Countries can use treatment-adjusted prevalence as a method to determine when to transition to the three-test strategy based on the treatment-adjusted HIV prevalence derived by removing those receiving ART from the numerator and denominator.

Setting targets

Using treatment-adjusted prevalence as a benchmark will allow HIV programmes to assess their effectiveness in targeted testing. The information can be readily used to analyse the quality and precision of targeted HIV testing services in each country and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of testing approaches. For example, in Zimbabwe, the positivity observed in routine clinical testing was more than twice that of the treatment-adjusted prevalence, despite being less than half the overall adult HIV prevalence. This finding indicated that provider-initiated testing and counselling was still a high-yield, cost-efficient testing strategy. Treatment-adjusted prevalence facilitated feasible target-setting for testing programmes both in terms of the volume of tests to be conducted and a more accurate estimate of the minimum number of HIV-positive people who would be identified and subsequently linked to care. This outcome meant that the country was also able to estimate treatment costs for the following year more accurately.

Additionally, the indicator can assist in prioritizing resources to those subnational levels (districts, counties or states) which have variations in both HIV prevalence and in treatment coverage. Treatment-adjusted prevalence essentially controls for those variations at the subnational level in the same way as shown at the national level (Table 2).

Identifying shortfalls

In subnational areas and even health facility catchment areas where the observed testing yield is below the estimated treatment-adjusted prevalence, testing programmes could be reviewed to see if more effective approaches can be implemented. As described above, in the western Kenya counties that formerly made up Nyanza province, positivity in routine HIV testing in clinical settings (0.8%) was less than a third of the treatment-adjusted HIV prevalence (3.5%). These data indicate a need for further investigation into how well routine testing practices are aligned with national and global guidance. Our rapid assessment (B Tippett Barr, Center for Global Health, Kenya, unpublished data, 2019) revealed that provider-initiated testing was not routinely offered at all service delivery points as per global guidance. Although available at patient registration points, patient testing required as much initiative on the part of the patient as the provider. However, in antenatal settings in the same facilities where provider-initiated testing was routinely implemented according to global guidance, HIV test positivity exceeded the treatment-adjusted prevalence in antenatal care. These findings further reinforce the concept of treatment-adjusted prevalence as a lower bound for effective testing strategies. If the women attending antenatal care are mostly healthy and represent a cross-section of society, logically their HIV prevalence should be lower than those who are attending a health facility with an illness. The conclusion we drew was that inconsistent offers of HIV testing in non-antenatal care settings in health facilities in western Kenya was not a cost-effective or productive strategy. One should note that low test positivity in non-antenatal care settings does not negate the need for provider-initiated testing; it may instead indicate that such testing is not being correctly implemented. As in Zimbabwe, when we conducted a careful review of site-level implementation and closed gaps in consistency and service delivery points, test positivity increased markedly. These experiences from Kenya and Zimbabwe illustrate how treatment-adjusted prevalence can be a practical benchmark for the lower bound of expected HIV positivity in any testing setting, particularly during an era of increasingly targeted testing to improve case identification.

Limitations

As described above, a limitation of the new indicator is that it does not account for the proportion of individuals who already knew their HIV status and chose not to disclose that information during HIV testing, therefore artificially inflating the treatment-adjusted prevalence. Studies have reported that 13–68% of patients known to be positive seek re-testing before starting ART. Anecdotal reports also reveal that individuals already receiving ART occasionally re-test for personal reasons. However, based on field experience across multiple countries, we do not believe the proportions of people re-testing after starting ART exceeds the proportion re-testing before ART. The limitation of including people known to be HIV positive but seeking repeat testing does then not detract from the usefulness of treatment-adjusted prevalence as a lower bound for the expected yield of testing. An additional limitation to this indicator is that it excludes individuals younger than 15 years. Other approaches are needed to improve the targeting and performance of HIV testing programmes for children. National or subnational treatment-adjusted prevalence estimates are also not applicable to key populations (such as men who have sex with men or female sex workers), as these population subgroups have consistently higher HIV prevalence and often lower ART coverage than the general adult population.

We developed treatment-adjusted prevalence primarily to address questions emerging in sub-Saharan Africa; its utility has not yet been demonstrated for priority subpopulations or for other settings. The logic applied in this indicator is transferable to other settings and populations but, as with all estimates, the validity of the point estimate would depend on the accuracy of the estimates used. In all settings and populations, when treatment-adjusted prevalence is applied at subnational levels, and by default applied to smaller numbers, there will be increasing uncertainty around the point estimate produced.
Conclusion

Treatment-adjusted HIV prevalence is a practical and simple indicator constructed from readily available data, which could guide the selection of national HIV testing algorithms and hence improve programme management and monitoring. This indicator, adopted by WHO, provides a lower bound for expected HIV testing yield in settings where coverage of ART is high. The adjustment may result in more appropriate HIV testing services and treatment targets and may help evaluate performance in heterogeneous populations. The indicator helps focus HIV testing programmes on people with undiagnosed HIV and on individuals known to be positive but who are not receiving ART. Nevertheless, treatment-adjusted prevalence should not detract from the additional focus on testing approaches for subpopulations with higher HIV risk.

Depending on the quality of data available in a country, treatment-adjusted prevalence could also be disaggregated at subnational levels, by sex or by age group. Furthermore, the indicator may be useful for monitoring the global HIV response and for prioritizing geographical regions, as it can be routinely derived when countries conduct their annual HIV modelling estimates. The development and practical application of indicators such as treatment-adjusted prevalence will become increasingly important as HIV treatment coverage approaches 100%.

Funding: This publication has been supported in part by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief through the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Competing interests: None declared.
RÉSUMÉ

Évaluation des programmes de dépistage du VIH à l'aide de la prévalence ajustée sur le traitement

Le dépistage du virus de l'immunodéficience humaine (VIH) et le traitement antirétroviral (TAR) pour les personnes vivant avec le VIH ont connu un véritable essor en Afrique subsaharienne. Par conséquent, les régions touchées par une forte prévalence du VIH déetectent un pourcentage moins élevé de personnes testées positives dans leurs programmes de dépistage nationaux. En Afrique orientale et australe, là où certains endroits affichent une prévalence du VIH chez l’adulte égale ou supérieure à 12%, le taux de positivité des services de dépistage nationaux est passé sous la barre des 5%. Identifier les personnes nécessitant un TAR devient donc plus coûteux pour les programmes nationaux consacrés au VIH. Pour définir les objectifs annuels, on part du principe que les taux de positivité nationaux se rapprochent du taux de prévalence au sein de la population. Cette supposition a orienté les démarches vers des méthodes de dépistage permettant d’obtenir des taux de positivité plus élevés ; une tendance qui s’écrit de la stratégie des services de dépistage et de conseil à l’initiative des prestataires, utilisée à l’aube de la lutte mondiale contre le VIH. Dans le présent document, nous nous intéressons à un nouvel indicateur, la prévalence ajustée sur le traitement. Cet indicateur peut servir de référence concrète pour les pays qui souhaitent évaluer le taux de positivité attendu chez l’adulte dans un programme de dépistage, en tenant compte de la prévalence du VIH au niveau national ainsi que de la portée du TAR. Le calcul consiste à enlever les personnes recevant un TAR du numérateur et du dénominateur de la prévalence du VIH. La prévalence ajustée sur le traitement peut aisément être déterminée en fonction des données de programme et estimations de population existantes. En 2019, elle a également été ajoutée aux lignes directrices de l’Organisation mondiale de la Santé pour l’information stratégique et le dépistage du VIH. En nous inspirant d’exemples issus du Kenya, du Malawi, du Soudan du Sud et du Zimbabwe, nous expliquons comment employer cet indicateur et abordons les potentielles implications liées à son utilisation en matière de santé publique, en partant du niveau national jusqu’aux établissements.

REZÖMÉ

Доля ВИЧ-инфицированного населения с поправкой на лечение при оценке программ тестирования на ВИЧ

Расширение масштабов тестирования на вирус иммунодефицита человека (ВИЧ) и антиретровирусной терапии (АРТ) для людей, живущих с ВИЧ, увеличивается в странах Африки к югу от Сахары. В результате в регионах с высокими показателями распространения ВИЧ наблюдается снижение доли населения с положительным результатом теста в рамках национальных программ тестирования. В восточной и южной частях Африки, где распространенность ВИЧ среди взрослого населения составляет 12% и выше, положительные результаты теста на ВИЧ в рамках национальных программ тестирования опустились ниже 5%. Таким образом, выявление лиц, нуждающихся в АРТ, становится более дорогостой для национальных программ по борьбе с ВИЧ. Ежегодная постановка целей предполагает, что процент лиц с положительным результатом теста в рамках национальных программ тестирования приблизительно соответствует проценту распространенности среди населения в целом. Это предположение вызвало повышенное внимание к методам тестирования, которые достигают более высоких показателей распространенности ВИЧ-инфекции. Эта тенденция является отступлением от стратегии тестирования и консультирования по инициативе поставщиков услуг, которая использовалась на раннем этапе глобальных мер борьбы с ВИЧ. Авторы обсуждают новый показатель распространенности с поправкой на лечение, который страны могут использовать в качестве практического ориентира для оценки ожидаемого процента взрослого населения с положительным результатом теста в рамках программ тестирования с учетом распространенности ВИЧ на национальном уровне, так и охвата АРТ. Показатель рассчитывается путем исключения лиц, получающих АРТ, из числа и знаменателя доли ВИЧ-инфицированного населения. Доля ВИЧ-инфицированного населения с поправкой на лечение можно легко оценить на основе существующих данных по программе и демографических оценок, которые в 2019 году были добавлены в рекомендации Всемирной организации здравоохранения по тестированию на ВИЧ и стратегической информации. Используя примеры из Замбии, Кении, Малави и Южного Судана, авторы проиллюстрируют применение этого показателя, а также обсудят возможные последствия его использования для общественного здравоохранения на национальном уровне и уровне учреждения.

Resumen

Prevalencia ajustada según el tratamiento para evaluar los programas de las pruebas de detección del VIH

La ampliación de las pruebas de detección del virus de la inmunodeficiencia humana (VIH) y del tratamiento antirretrovírico (TAR) para las personas infectadas por el VIH ha aumentado en el África subsahariana. En consecuencia, el porcentaje de personas que dan positivo en las pruebas de detección del VIH en los programas nacionales está disminuyendo en las zonas con alta prevalencia del virus. En África meridional y oriental, donde hay entornos con una prevalencia del VIH en adultos del 12 % o superior, la tasa de positividad de los servicios nacionales de pruebas de detección del VIH ha descendido a menos del 5 %. Por lo tanto, la identificación de las personas que necesitan TAR es cada vez más costosa para los programas nacionales de VIH. El establecimiento de objetivos anuales supone que las tasas de positividad de las pruebas nacionales se aproximan a las de la prevalencia de la población. Esta suposición ha generado una mayor atención a los enfoques de las pruebas que logran tasas más altas de positividad del VIH. Esta tendencia se aleja de la estrategia del asesoramiento y las
1. Fact sheet. Latest global and regional statistics on the status of the AIDS epidemic [internet]. Geneva: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); 2021. Available from: https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/UNAIDS_FactSheet_en.pdf [cited 2021 Aug 22].

2. Consolidated HIV strategic information guidelines. Driving impact through programme monitoring and management. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020. Available from: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240000735 [cited 2021 Aug 22].

3. Consolidated guidelines on HIV testing services, 2019. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2019. Available from: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/978-92-4-155058-1 [cited 2021 Aug 22].

4. Dubé S, Juru T, Magure T, Shambira G, Gombe NT, Thimanga M. Trend analysis of HIV testing services in Zimbabwe, 2007–2016: a secondary dataset analysis. Open J Epidemiol. 2017;7(03):285–97. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.4236/ojepi.2017.73023

5. Malawi: district health system strengthening and quality improvement for HIV: opportunities to identify and treat HIV-positive patients: results from a baseline assessment of provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling (PITC) in Malawi. Trop Med Int Health. 2016 Apr;21(4):479–85. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/tmi.12671 PMID: 26806378

6.汽体の特性に関する研究

7. UNAIDS data. 2020. Geneva: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; 2020. Available from: https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/2020-aids-data-book_en.pdf [cited 2021 Aug 22].

8. Global factsheets 2020. National HIV estimates file [internet]. Geneva: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; 2020. Available from: https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/ [cited 2021 Aug 22].

9. Understanding fast-track: accelerating action to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. Geneva: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); 2014. Available from: https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/201506_JC7243_Understanding_FastTrack_en.pdf [cited 2021 Aug 22]

10. Guidance on provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling in health facilities. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2007. Available from: https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/43688 [cited 2021 Aug 22].

11. Joseph Davey DL, Wall KM. Need to include couples’ HIV counselling and testing in health services. Bull World Health Organ. 2021;99:874–882

12. Dalal S, Johnson C, Fonner V, Kennedy CE, Siegfried N, Figueroa C, et al. Lost opportunities to identify and treat HIV-positive patients: results from a baseline assessment of provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling (PITC) in Malawi. Trop Med Int Health. 2016 Apr;21(4):479–85. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/tmi.12671 PMID: 26806378

13. Joseph RH, Musingsila P, Mikuku F, Wanjohi S, Dande C, Musee P, et al. Expanded eligibility for HIV testing increases HIV diagnoses – a cross-sectional study in seven health facilities in western Kenya. PLoS One. 2019 Dec 27;14(12):e0225877. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0225877 PMID: 31881035

14. Ahmed S, Schwarz M, Rick RJ, Rees CA, Harawa M, Simon K, et al. Lost opportunities to identify and treat HIV-positive patients: results from a baseline assessment of provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling (PITC) in Malawi. Trop Med Int Health. 2016 Apr;21(4):479–85. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/tmi.12671 PMID: 26806378

15. Ahmed S, Schwarz M, Rick RJ, Rees CA, Harawa M, Simon K, et al. Lost opportunities to identify and treat HIV-positive patients: results from a baseline assessment of provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling (PITC) in Malawi. Trop Med Int Health. 2016 Apr;21(4):479–85. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/tmi.12671 PMID: 26806378

16. Shamu S, Muchedzi A, Tafuma TA, Mawosa P, Karukuri L, Senno BW, et al. Sustained high HIV case-finding through index testing and partner notification services: experiences from three provinces in Zimbabwe. J Int AIDS Soc. 2019 Jul;22(3 Suppl 3):e25321. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jia2.25321 PMID: 31321918

17. Shamu S, Muchedzi A, Tafuma TA, Mawosa P, Karukuri L, Senno BW, et al. Sustained high HIV case-finding through index testing and partner notification services: experiences from three provinces in Zimbabwe. J Int AIDS Soc. 2019 Jul;22(3 Suppl 3):e25321. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jia2.25321 PMID: 31321918

18. Bandason T, Dayua E, Dakshina S, McHugh G, Chonzi P, Munyati S, et al. Screening tool to identify adolescents living with HIV in a community setting in Zimbabwe: a validation study. PLoS One. 2018 Oct 2;13(10):e0204891. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0204891 PMID: 30278064

19. UNAIDS statement on HIV testing services: new opportunities and ongoing challenges. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2017. Available from: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2017_WHO-UNAIDS_statement-HIV-testing-services_en.pdf [cited 2021 Aug 22].

20. Burnmen B, Mutal K. Development of a screening tool to improve the yield of HIV testing in provider initiated HIV testing and counseling for family-members of HIV infected persons and patients at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga teaching and referral hospital. Int J Soc Res Pub. 2016 Sep;60(8–9). Available from: http://www.ijrps.org/research-paper-0916/ijrps-p5712.pdf [cited 2021 Aug 22].

21. Bandason T, Dayua E, Dakshina S, McHugh G, Chonzi P, Munyati S, et al. Screening tool to identify adolescents living with HIV in a community setting in Zimbabwe: a validation study. PLoS One. 2018 Oct 2;13(10):e0204891. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0204891 PMID: 30278064

22. PEPFAR 2020 country operational plan: guidance for all PEPFAR countries. Washington, DC: United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief; 2019. Available from: https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/CPDP20-Guidance.pdf [cited 2019 Aug 22].

23. Kravitz Del Solar AS, Parekh B, Douglas MX, Edgil D, Kuntsly J, Nikengasong J. A commitment to HIV diagnostic accuracy — a comment on “Towards more accurate HIV testing in sub-Saharan Africa: a multi-site evaluation of HIV RDTs and risk factors for false positives’and HIV misdiagnosis in sub-Saharan Africa: a performance of diagnostic algorithms at six testing sites’ J Int AIDS Soc. 2018 Aug;21(8):e25177. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jia2.25177 PMID: 30168275

24. Shodell D, Nelson R, MacKellar D, Thompson R, Casavant I, Mugabe D, et al. Expanded eligibility for HIV testing increases HIV diagnoses – a cross-sectional study in seven health facilities in western Kenya. PLoS One. 2019 Jun 13;14(12):e0225877. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0225877 PMID: 30618275

25. Shodell D, Nelson R, MacKellar D, Thompson R, Casavant I, Mugabe D, et al. Expanded eligibility for HIV testing increases HIV diagnoses – a cross-sectional study in seven health facilities in western Kenya. PLoS One. 2019 Jun 13;14(12):e0225877. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0225877 PMID: 30618275

26. Kosack CS, Shanks L, Beelaert G, Benson T, Savane A, Ng’ang’a A, et al. Designing HIV testing algorithms based on 2015 WHO guidelines using data from six sites in sub-Saharan Africa. J Clin Microbiol. 2017 Oct;55(10):3006–15. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1128/JCM.00627-17 PMID: 28747371

pruebas que iniciaron los proveedores y que se utilizó al principio de la respuesta mundial al VIH. Se analiza un nuevo indicador, la prevalencia ajustada según el tratamiento, que los países pueden emplear como punto de referencia práctico para estimar la tasa de positividad esperada en adultos en un programa de pruebas de detección cuando se tiene en cuenta tanto la prevalencia nacional del VIH como la cobertura del TAR. El indicador se calcula eliminando del numerador y el denominador de la prevalencia del VIH a las personas que reciben TAR. La prevalencia ajustada según el tratamiento se puede estimar con facilidad a partir de los datos de los programas existentes y de las estimaciones de población, además, en 2019, se incluyó en las directrices de la Organización Mundial de la Salud para las pruebas de detección del VIH y en la información estratégica. A través de ejemplos de países como Kenia, Malawi, Sudán meridional y Zimbabue, se demuestra cómo aplicar este indicador y se discuten las posibles implicaciones para la salud pública de su uso desde el nivel nacional hasta el de los centros.
27. Kroidl I, Clowes P, Mwalongo W, Maganga L, Maboko L, Kroidl AL, et al. Low specificity of determine HIV1/2 RDT using whole blood in south west Tanzania. PLoS One. 2012;7(6):e39529. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0039529 PMID: 22768086

28. Kaleebu P, Kirandwe PK, Lutalo T, Kigozi A, Watera C, Nanteza MB, et al. Evaluation of HIV-1 rapid tests and identification of alternative testing algorithms for use in Uganda. BMC Infect Dis. 2018 Feb 27;18(1):93. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12879-018-3001-4 PMID: 29482500

29. HIV country intelligence. HIV testing services dashboard [internet]. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020. Available from: https://whohts.web.app/ [cited 2021 Aug 22].

30. Bandason T, McHugh G, Dauya E, Mungofa S, Munyati SM, Weiss HA, et al. Validation of a screening tool to identify older children living with HIV in primary care facilities in high HIV prevalence settings. AIDS. 2016 Mar 13;30(5):779–85. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/QAD.0000000000000959 PMID: 26588175

31. Bochner AF, Tippett Barr BA, Makunike B, Gonese G, Wazara B, Mashapa R, et al. Strengthening provider-initiated testing and counselling in Zimbabwe by deploying supplemental providers: a time series analysis. BMC Health Serv Res. 2019 06 3;19(1):351. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12913-019-4169-z PMID: 31159809

32. Eaton JW, Sands A, Barr-DeChiara M, Jamil M, Kaika T, Jahn A, et al. Web Annex E. HIV testing strategyperformance: considerations for global guideline development (abstract). Consolidated guidelines on HIV testing services, 2019. Geneva. World Health Organization, 2020.

33. Jacob N, Rice B, Kalk E, Heekes A, Morgan J, Hargreaves J, et al. Utility of digitising point of care HIV test results to accurately measure, and improve performance towards, the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets. PLoS One. 2020 Jun 30;15(6):e0235471. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0235471 PMID: 32603374

34. Kulkarni S, Tymejeczyk O, Gadisa T, Lahuerta M, Remien RH, Melaku Z, et al. "Testing, testing": multiple HIV-positive tests among patients initiating antiretroviral therapy in Ethiopia. J Int Assoc Provid AIDS Care. 2017 Nov/Dec;16(6):546–54. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/2325974417737840 PMID: 29117777

35. Maheu-Giroux M, Marsh K, Doyle CM, Godin A, Lanièce Delaunay C, Johnson LF, et al. National HIV testing and diagnosis coverage in sub-Saharan Africa. AIDS. 2019 Dec 15;33 Suppl 3:S255–S269. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/QAD.0000000000002386 PMID: 31764066

36. Giguère K, Eaton JW, Marsh K, Johnson LF, Johnson CC, Ehi E, et al. Trends in knowledge of HIV status and efficiency of HIV testing services in sub-Saharan Africa, 2000–20: a modelling study using survey and HIV testing programme data. Lancet HIV. 2021 May;8(5):e284–93. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2352-3018(20)30315-5 PMID: 33667411