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Efficiencies for Clinical HIV Outcomes (ECHO)

Community dispensing of antiretrovirals by health providers in four provinces of Mozambique: Impacts on retention in care for patients on antiretroviral treatment.

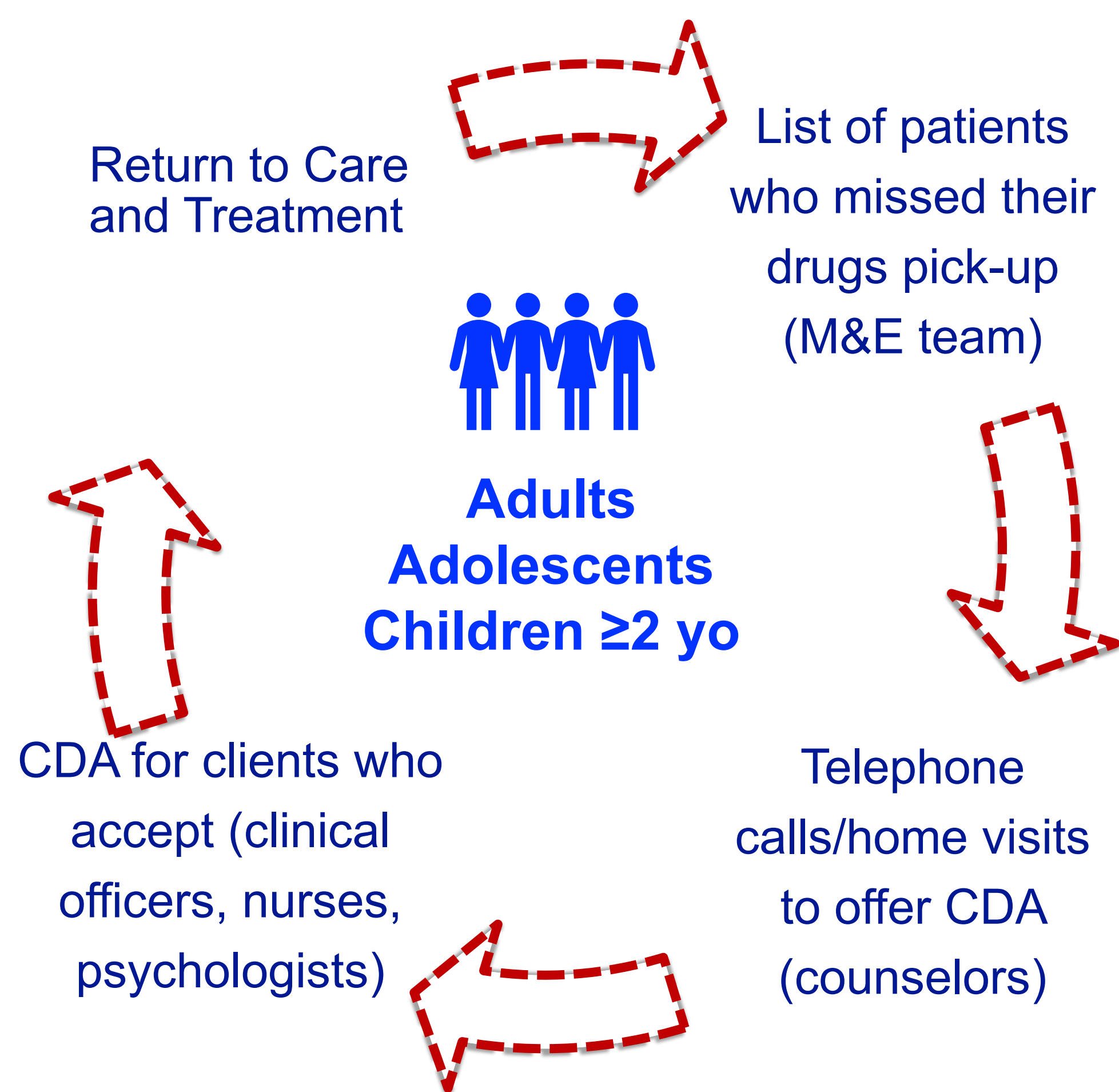
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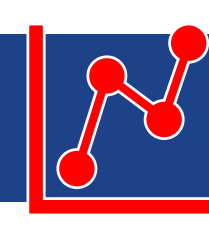
BACKGROUND

With the expansion of the COVID-19 pandemic, USAID's ECHO (Efficiencies for Clinical HIV Outcomes) project implemented an alternative model of community distribution of antiretrovirals (CDA) by health providers for patients who missed their drugs pick-up due to lacking resources. This study analyzed the health outcomes of a cohort of patients who received CDA among 4 provinces of Mozambique (Manica, Niassa, Sofala and Tete).

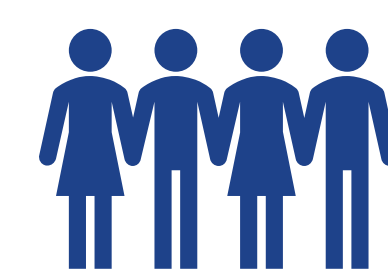


METHODS

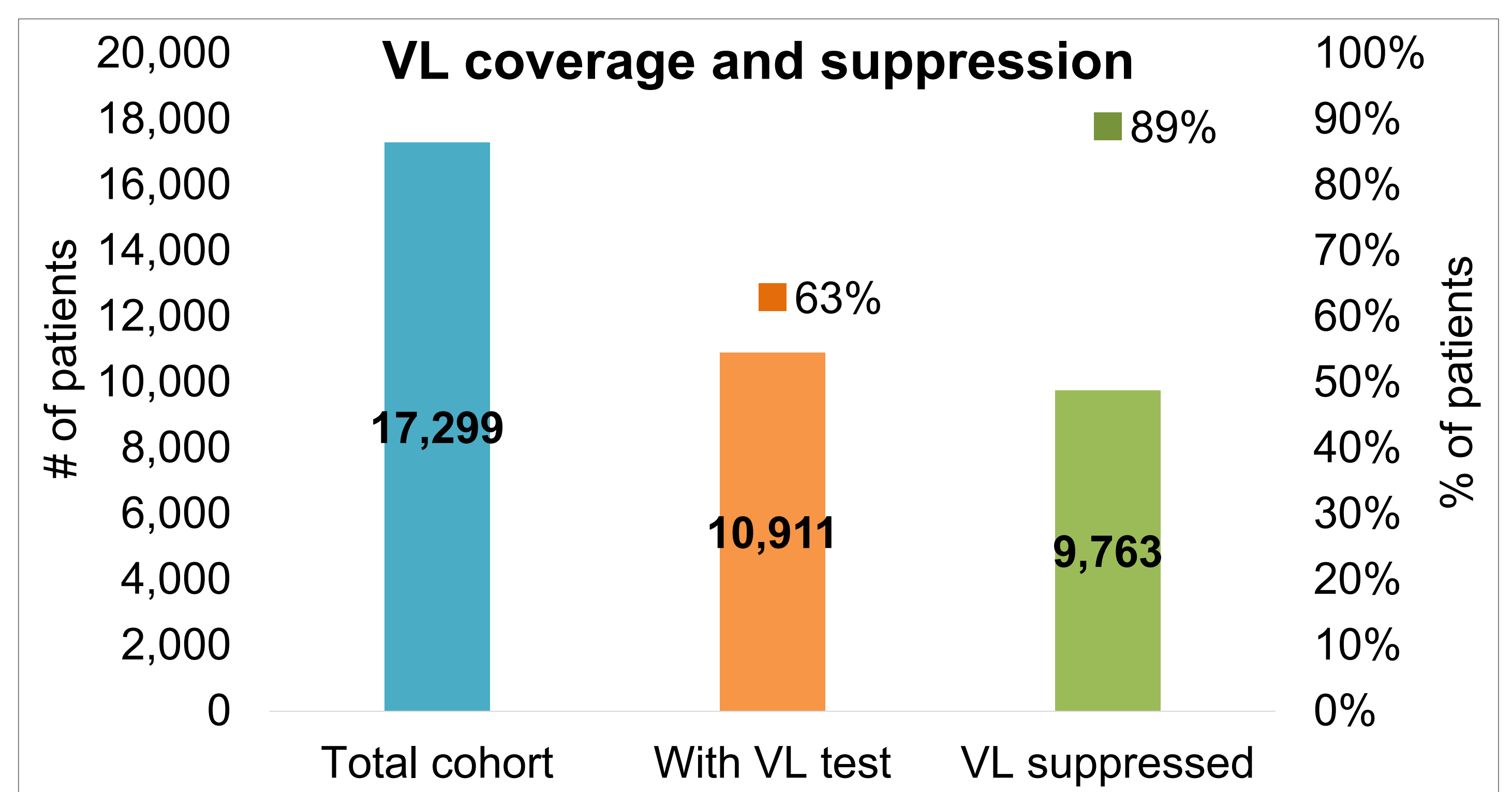
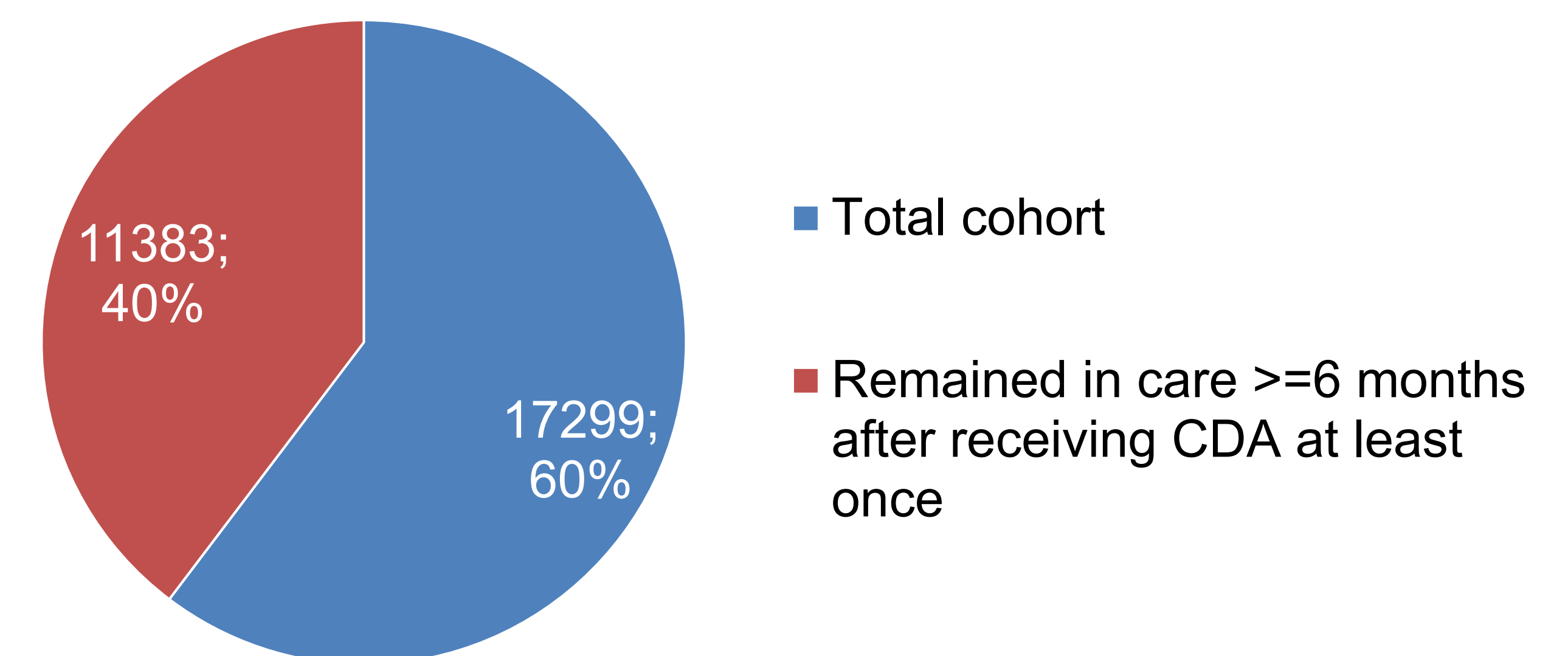
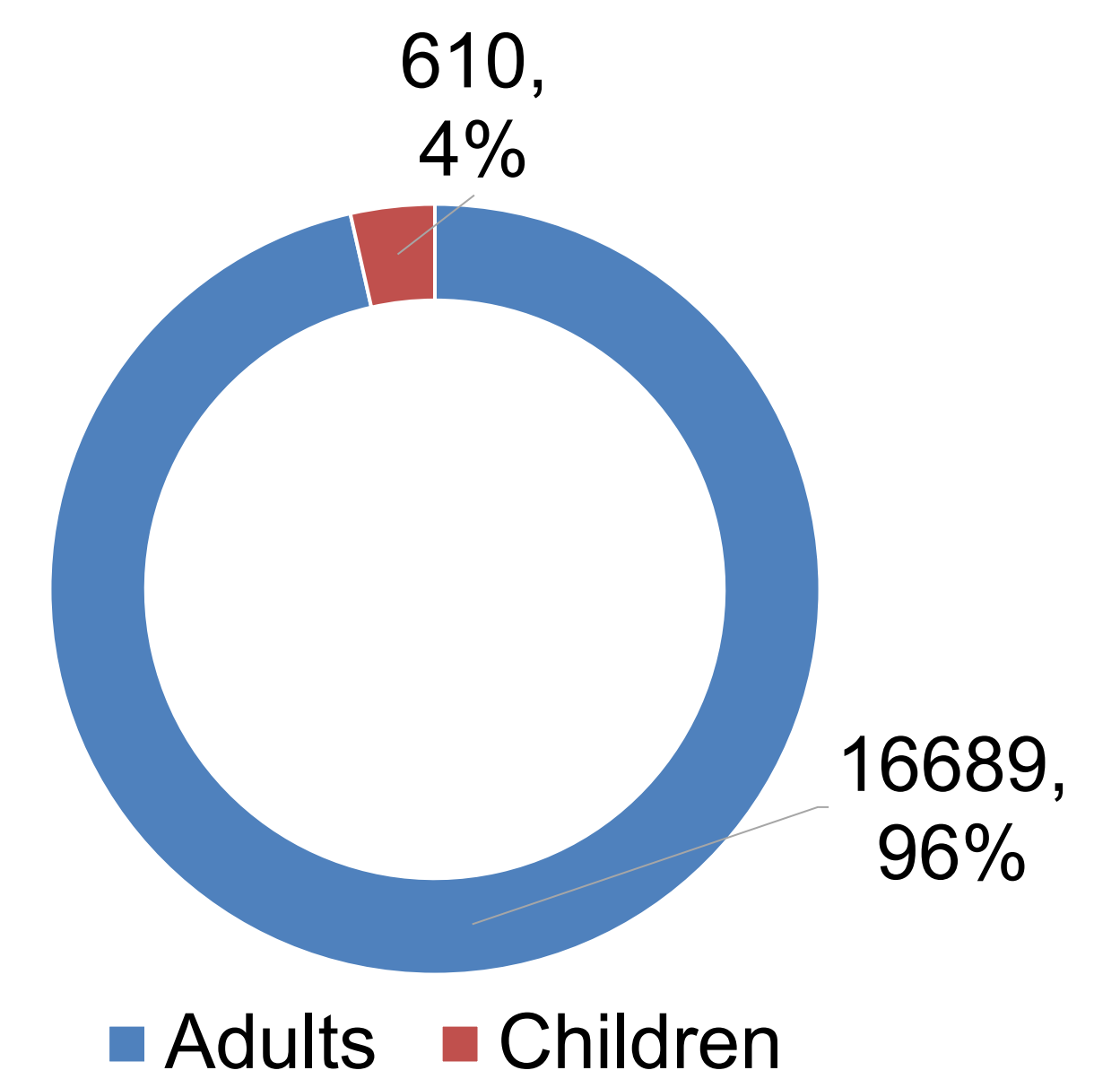
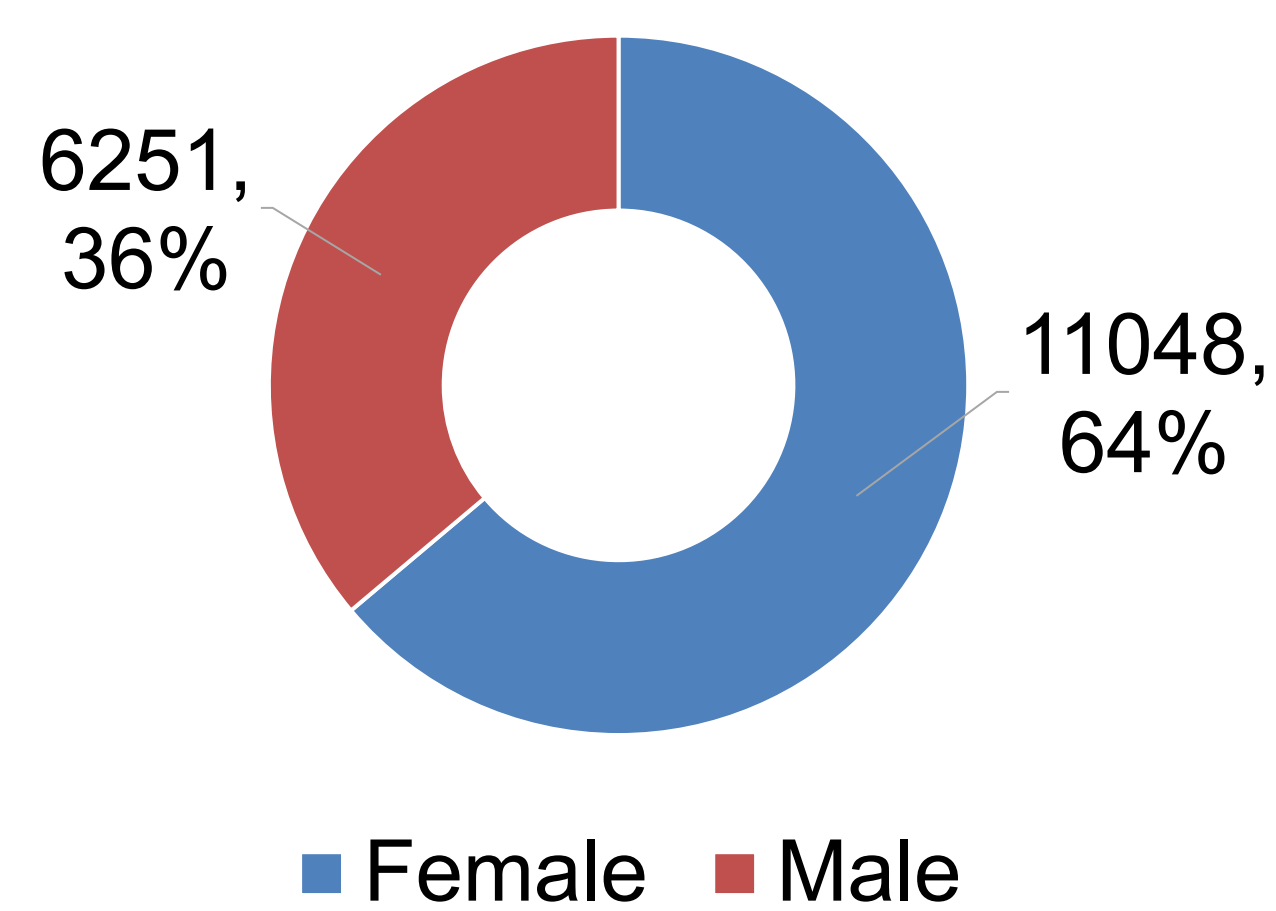
This is a retrospective cohort study of routine data collected from electronic medical records of patients who received CDA from 06/21/2020 to 03/20/2022 from 81 health facilities among the four provinces. All patients were followed until 09/20/22 to assess long term retention in care (>=6 months) and viral load suppression (viral load <1,000 copies/ml).



RESULTS



17,299 patients received CDA.



DISCUSSION

CDA has been a valuable strategy, allowing early intervention to offer community ARVs pick-up to those who have failed to receive their scheduled treatments directly from health facilities. The strategy can be used in other communities, particularly in remote areas where patients face similar challenges.