

COMMUNITY POST MODEL IMPLEMENTATION IN KERICHO COUNTY-HJFMRI KENYA

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INTRODUCTION

Kenya is among four countries with the highest HIV disease burden in Africa. As of 2023, approximately 1.4 million people were living with HIV in Kenya, where HIV prevalence was at 3.7%. Yearly Kenya reports 22000 new HIV infections across all ages (NSDCC) Kenya is committed to achieving the UNAIDS 95-95-95 testing and treatment targets among people living with HIV within all sub population and age groups.

HJFMRI is in line with achieving the cascade of 95-95-95 and continues to implement HTS for treatment and prevention in Kericho county. However, the county is not close to achieving the first 95 UNAIDS targets. Finding men also remains a challenge and increasing HTS coverage among men using strategy mix remains key towards achieving overall HTS coverage in Kericho county.

HJFMRI is implementing community post model(CPM) that aims at providing HIV testing services within a community setting and operates beyond working hours to reach individuals who may not visit health facilities for HIV testing.

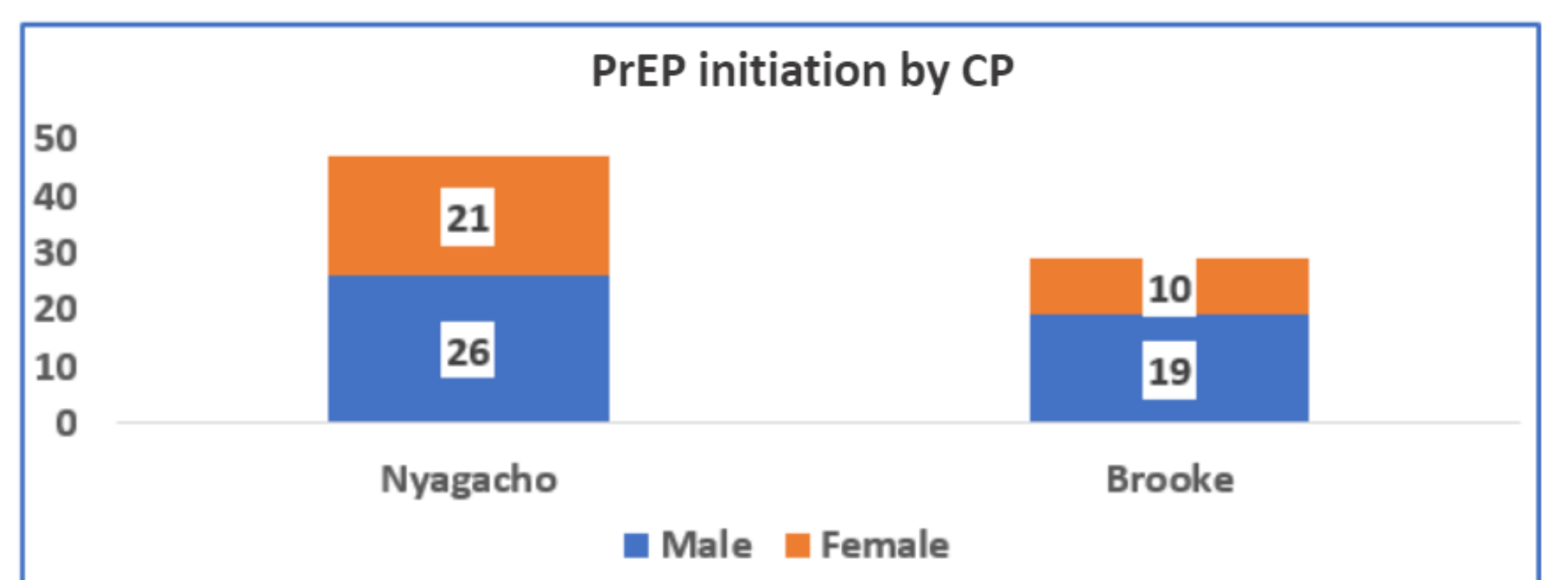
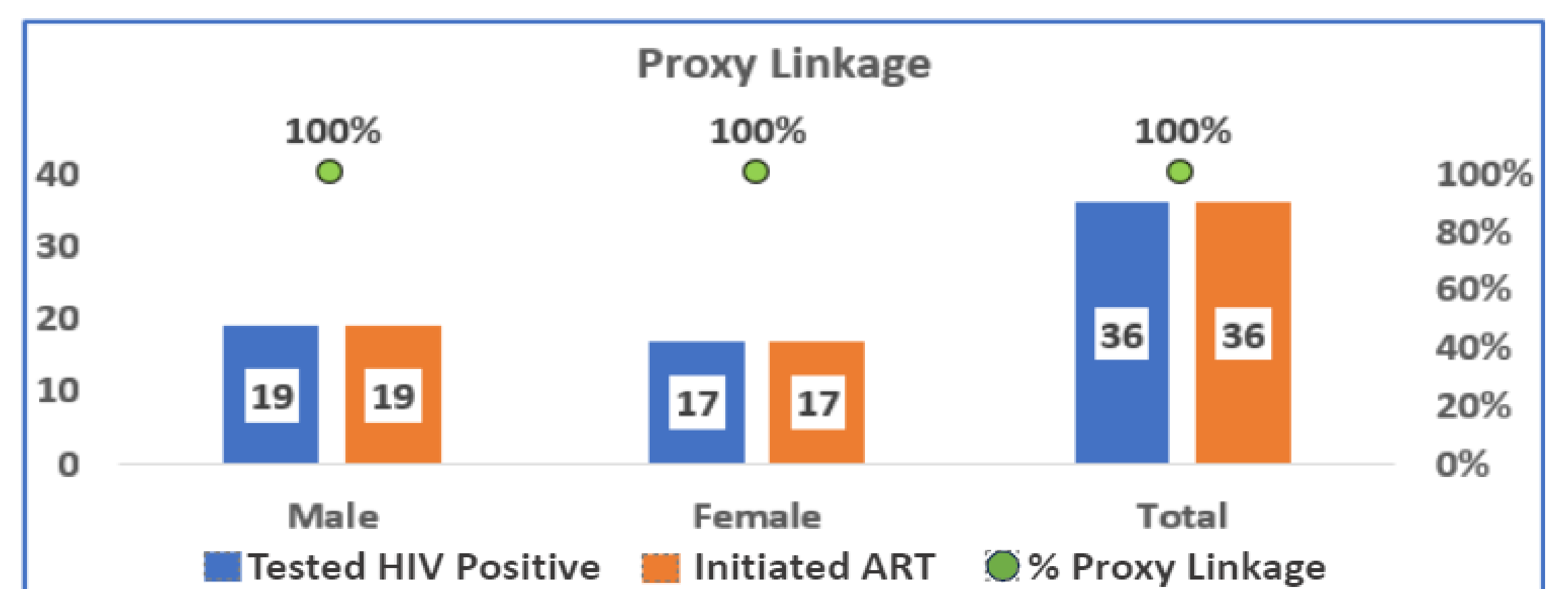
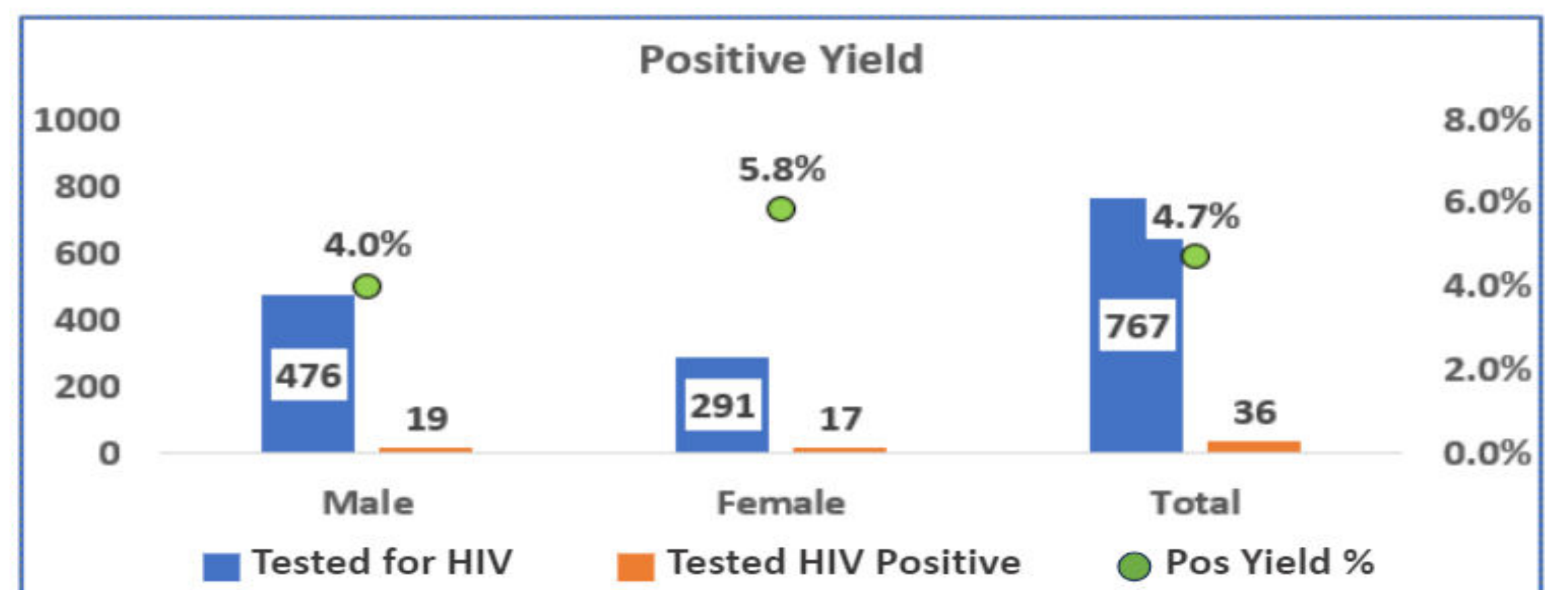
In this presentation, we will describe process and lessons learnt in implementing community post models in Kericho county and how men have been reached with HTS and referred appropriately.

Description of community post model

- Community post (CP) is an easily accessible site in the community for decentralized HIV service delivery such as, HTS, HIV care and treatment, HIV prevention services and referrals for specialized care to mother facilities.
- The model decentralizes HIV service delivery, including HIV testing; comprehensive HIV care and treatment and HIV prevention services from ART facilities to static one roomed sites within the community.
- The CP model aims to harnesses community platforms such as churches, markets, bus stops, resources to deliver more accessible HIV continuum of care service.
- Community posts are operated by trusted staff trained in customer care and in the core value of the model or RECIPE (responsibility, empathy, compassion, integrity, passion, and ethics).
- Community post models are manned by 3-5 staff and operate from 10 AM- 7:30 PM.

RESULTS

PERFORMANCE SINCE INCEPTION



LESSONS LEARNT

- Strategic positioning of the CPs within the community (socialize, live and worship) gives men a chance to walk in and get tested.
- Reengagement into care is made accessible as the post is within the community.
- Operational hours are a key determinant in reaching men.
- Leveraging on community health promoters (CHPs) for referrals plays a vital role
 - supports the reengagement to care
 - They escort clients to the CP and follow-up for retention
 - Linkage to prevention - escorted by CHPs
- Faith communities, local leaders and other stakeholders involvement contributes to the success of the model especially on demand creation.

CONCLUSION

Community post model coupled with Responsibility, Empathy, Compassion, Integrity, Passion and Ethics (RECIPE) the core values for CPM has shown positive outcomes in reaching individuals who may have not known their status. CPM has shown the ability to reach more men with testing for treatment and HIV prevention due to extended operational hours.