

## Effectiveness of safe harm reduction spaces for Young Persons Who Use Drugs living with HIV and Viral Hepatitis Co-infection in Lagos, Nigeria ( aged 15 yrs - 29 yrs)

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### **Background:**

To reduce impact of inadequate access to Viral hepatitis treatment services amongst YPWIDs living with HIV through strengthening local capacity of YPWIDs community-led services to promote safe healthy spaces. From current information from the WHO viral hepatitis B&C is a deadly contagious virus which has more virulence and devastating complications than HIV .However, there is no national prevalence study on Hep B&C in Nigeria conducted till date due to criminalization of YPWIDs safe spaces and hindering advocacy for access to treatment support.

### **Model of Care:**

Using success gained from our harm reduction community awareness program in previous sites in Lagos state- Nigeria , EHRAAI trained and engaged the services of 10 YPWIDs\_LHIV /Hepatitis role models from the 10 allotted districts. They were trained in community based harm reduction and encouraged to form 10 support groups of 20 YPWIDs\_LHIV/Hepatitis each. They were serviced with lists (phone numbers, locations) of defaulters. Their activities on a weekly basis included:

- Linkages of YPWID\_LHIV to peer support groups for effective messaging on viral hepatitis;
- Escort services to HIV/Viral Hepatitis treatment department in the health facilities to reduce stigma;
- Scaling up of Condom/Lubricants/Needle/Syringes Distribution;
- Home based support services.

### **Effectiveness:**

At the end of the 9months:

90% of 200YPWID\_LHIV/Hepatitis clients reached willingly allowed their sexual partners to access HIV/Viral Hepatitis testing & treatment if identified HIV positive.

90% of 200YPWID\_LHIV/Hepatitis clients reached willingly re-enrolled into HIV/Viral Hepatitis Treatment .

90% of 200YPWID\_LHIV/Hepatitis clients on HIV /Hepatitis Treatment reached achieved Viral suppression.

90% of 200YPWID\_LHIV/Hepatitis clients reached are knowledgeable in HIV/Viral Hepatitis Treatment Adherence Literacy.

### **Conclusion and Next Steps:**

We created a learning platform promote advocacy for safe spaces for community support groups of YPWIDs\_LHIV/Hepatitis which enhanced behavior change.

We will be advocating for effective treatment access by promoting community-led organizing of affected community.

Disclosure on interest: None