

# Knowledge and Utilization of HIV Testing Services Among Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) Aged Between 15-24 Years in Kibra Sub County, Nairobi County, Kenya

P3-K13

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**Majority of the participants 74.93%** (n=284) answered "True" to the knowledge questions/statements. Those aged between 20-24 were 71.3% (n=164), with secondary education level were 63.5% (n=146) and married were 28.7% (66) tested for HIV. The **overall prevalence of HIV testing among the AGYW was 60.7%**. AGYW who had knowledge about HIV infection were more likely to go for HIV testing (cOR: 2.2, 95% CI:1.37,3.54, P=0.001). **AGYW aged 20-24 years had higher odds of testing for HIV** (aOR: 2.4, 95% CI: 1.42, 3.96, p=0.001). Similarly, married AGYW had higher odds of seeking HIV testing services (aOR: 11.0, 95% CI: 3.84, 46.75, p=0.001).

## BACKGROUND

HIV continues to be a major public health challenge globally affecting millions of people. Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) are disproportionately affected and have the poorest reproductive health outcomes especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. HIV testing is a crucial step in efforts towards control of HIV infection and an important component in reducing prevalence of HIV/AIDS and related treatment outcomes. Despite global efforts to end HIV/AIDS epidemic, testing gaps still exist. The study explores the association between knowledge on HIV and utilization of HIV testing services among AGYW (aged 15-24 years) in Kibra Sub-county, Nairobi County, Kenya.

## METHODS

A population based cross-sectional study design using quantitative techniques was employed. Using multistage sampling technique, 379 AGYW were sampled from three wards in Kibra Sub County in Nairobi County. Participants were eligible if they had been resident for at least one year before the time of the study and were aged between 15-24 years. A standardized structured interviewer-administered questionnaire was employed. Data was collected between June and July 2023. Results were analyzed using Chi-square test and manual stepwise logistic regression model.

## RESULTS

Majority of the participants 74.93% (n=284) answered "True" to the knowledge questions/statements. The overall prevalence of HIV testing among the AGYW was 60.7%. AGYW who had knowledge about HIV infection were more likely to go for HIV testing (cOR: 2.2, 95% CI:1.37,3.54,P=0.001). AGYW aged 20-24 years had higher odds of testing for HIV (aOR: 2.4, 95% CI: 1.42, 3.96, p=0.001). Similarly, married AGYW had higher odds of seeking HIV testing services (aOR: 11.0, 95% CI: 3.84, 46.75, p=0.001).

**Table 1.** Overall (Composite) Knowledge Score on HIV Infection and Transmission

	Ever tested for HIV?		
	Yes (N=230)	No (N=149)	Overall (N=379)
<b>Knowledge score</b>			
Correct answers (have knowledge)	186 (80.9%)	98 (65.8%)	284 (74.9%)
Wrong answers (Don't have knowledge)	44 (19.1%)	51 (34.2%)	95 (25.1%)

**Table 2.** Association between Overall Knowledge Score and HIV Testing.

Variable	Crude OR	95% CI	P-value
Knowledge score	2.2	1.37, 3.54	0.001*

\*Significant at <5% level of significance

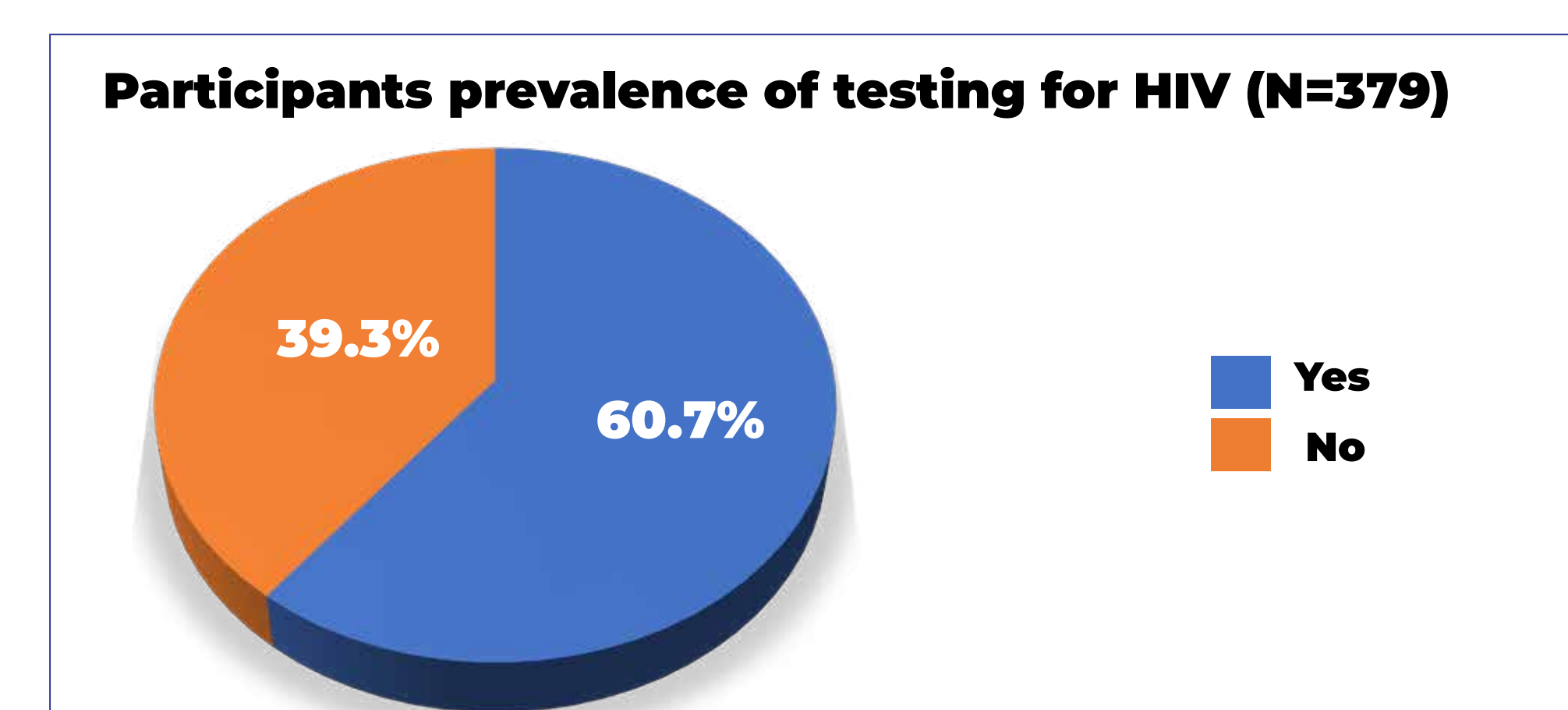
## RESULTS CONTINUED

**Table 3.** Logistic Regression Analysis (Multivariate) on the Association between Sociodemographic Characteristics and Testing for HIV.

Variable	Adjusted OR	95% CI	P-value
<b>Age (grouped)</b>			
15-19 years			
20-24 years	2.4	1.42, 3.96	0.001*
<b>Marital status</b>			
Single	Ref		
Married	11.05	3.84, 46.75	0.001*
Separated	-	-	0.984

\*Significant at <=5% level of significance

**Figure 1.** Participants prevalence of testing for HIV



## CONCLUSION

This study established a link between knowledge and utilization of HIV testing services among the AGYW, with a testing prevalence of 60.7%; however, gaps still exist and efforts to optimize testing rates are crucial. A combination of strategies like integration of HIV services in different service delivery points, upscale the use of HIV self test and others tailored to specific needs of AGYW can significantly increase uptake of HIV testing services and ensure effective HIV prevention and care.

### Key Words:

HIV Testing Adolescent Girls: Young women: Knowledge and Utilization.

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### Conflicts of Interest:

The authors declare no competing interest

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