

Maximizing HIV testing yield through index partner testing using Assisted Partner Notification (APN) approach: Implementation progress in Uganda.

TUPEC 470

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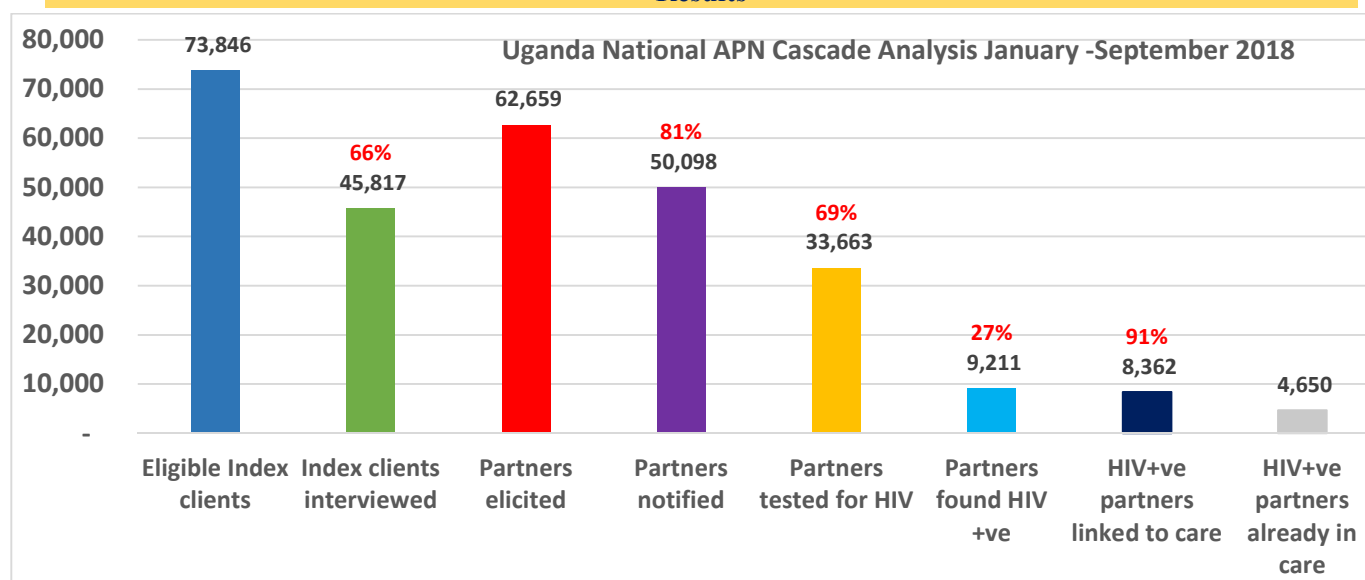
Background

- Uganda rolled out Assisted Partner Notification (APN), a form of index client testing in January 2018 as a strategy to optimize identification of 12% undiagnosed Ugandans living with HIV by 2020.
- By September 2018, 734 health facilities were implementing APN. We present early APN implementation successes, challenges and next steps.

Methods

- The country adopted WHO APN guidelines in 2017.
- Data capture and reporting tools (HMIS) were developed together with the APN training curriculum. Capacity building through national and regional trainings was conducted in Mid-July 2017.
- Conducted 3 days' facility based trainings of health workers in APN
- Implementation at trained facilities started same week of training, in January 2018.
- APN data was collected by HMIS focal persons at implementing facilities monthly and sent to MOH. Analysed at MOH was performed monthly and quarterly.

Results



- A total of 73,846 index clients (59% females, 41% males) were eligible for APN,
- Of these, 66% (n=45,817, 60% females, 40% males) were interviewed, enlisting 62,659 (40% females, 60% males) sexual contacts in the last 12 months.
- Of the enlisted sexual contacts, 81% (n=50,098, 40% females, 60% males) were notified about their potential exposure to HIV
- Of the notified, 69% (n=33,663, 48% females, 52% males) were tested for HIV and from the tested, 9,211 (53% females, 47% males) clients testing HIV positive resulting in an average yield of 27% (29% in females, 24% in males).
- Of the newly identified HIV positive, 91% (n=8,362, 92% females and 90% males) were linked to care.

Conclusions

Index client testing (APN) is a novel strategy in identifying the undiagnosed people living with HIV. As nations strive to end the epidemic by 2030, targeted HIV testing (APN inclusive) should be embraced. Client loss along the cascade was observed. Next steps shall focus on curbing losses along the cascade.

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