

First Year of PrEP Implementation in Zambia: Service Delivery Rollout and Scale-Up

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Introduction

Zambia adopted HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) as an additional HIV prevention strategy in the *2016 Zambia Consolidated Guidelines for Treatment and Prevention of HIV* and expanded indications for PrEP in 2018. Since January 2018, the Ministry of Health, National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council, and implementing partners, with support from PEPFAR, have significantly scaled up PrEP services. The *2018 National PrEP Framework* (Figure 1) provided a roadmap for national implementation and facility scale-up. We report data on the first year of national PrEP implementation.

Methods

We analyzed PrEP service delivery data, including age and sex, key population type, and geographic reach as reported by implementing partners in the PEPFAR DATIM database. We conducted geo-mapping to overlay the provision of PrEP services with population density and HIV prevalence.

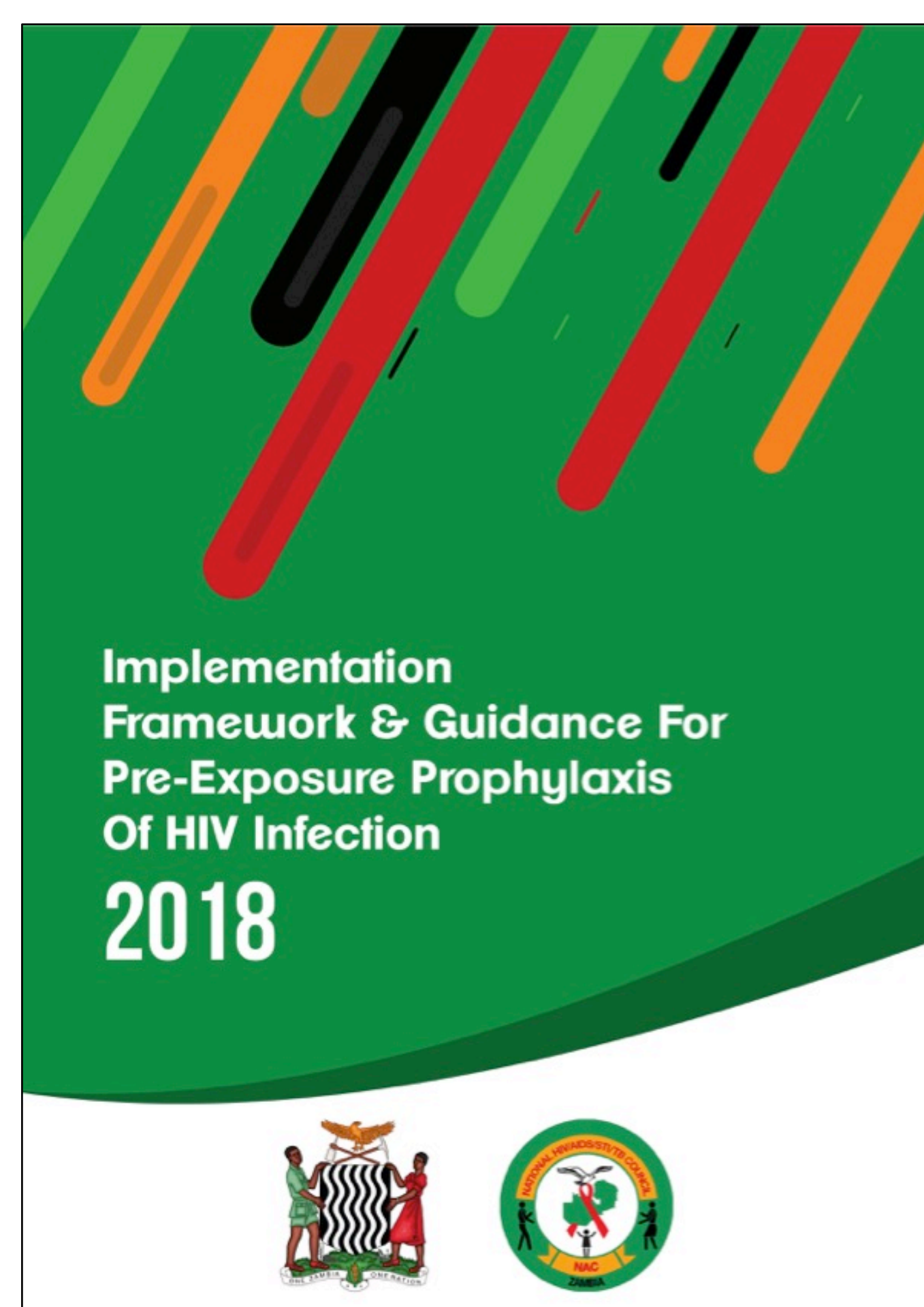


Figure 1. Zambia National PrEP Framework

Results

In 2017, PrEP was only available at two sites in two of Zambia’s ten provinces. In 2018, PrEP was offered in 162 sites across nine of ten provinces; 3,601 clients at risk of HIV infection were initiated on PrEP, including 1,271 (35%) adolescent girls and young women ages 15-24, 312 (9%) female sex workers, and 92 (3%) men who have sex with men (Figure 2). IPs reported high levels of interest and rapid uptake by clients, but poor retention in prevention services (27% are retained at 3 months).

Service delivery mapping (Figure 3) demonstrated provision of PrEP in areas of highest population density which correlated to areas of greatest HIV prevalence, with the exception of Western Province, where HIV prevalence is high but population density and PrEP service delivery is low.

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PrEP Implementation

Figure 2. New PrEP Initiates by Age/Sex and Population Type, FY 2018

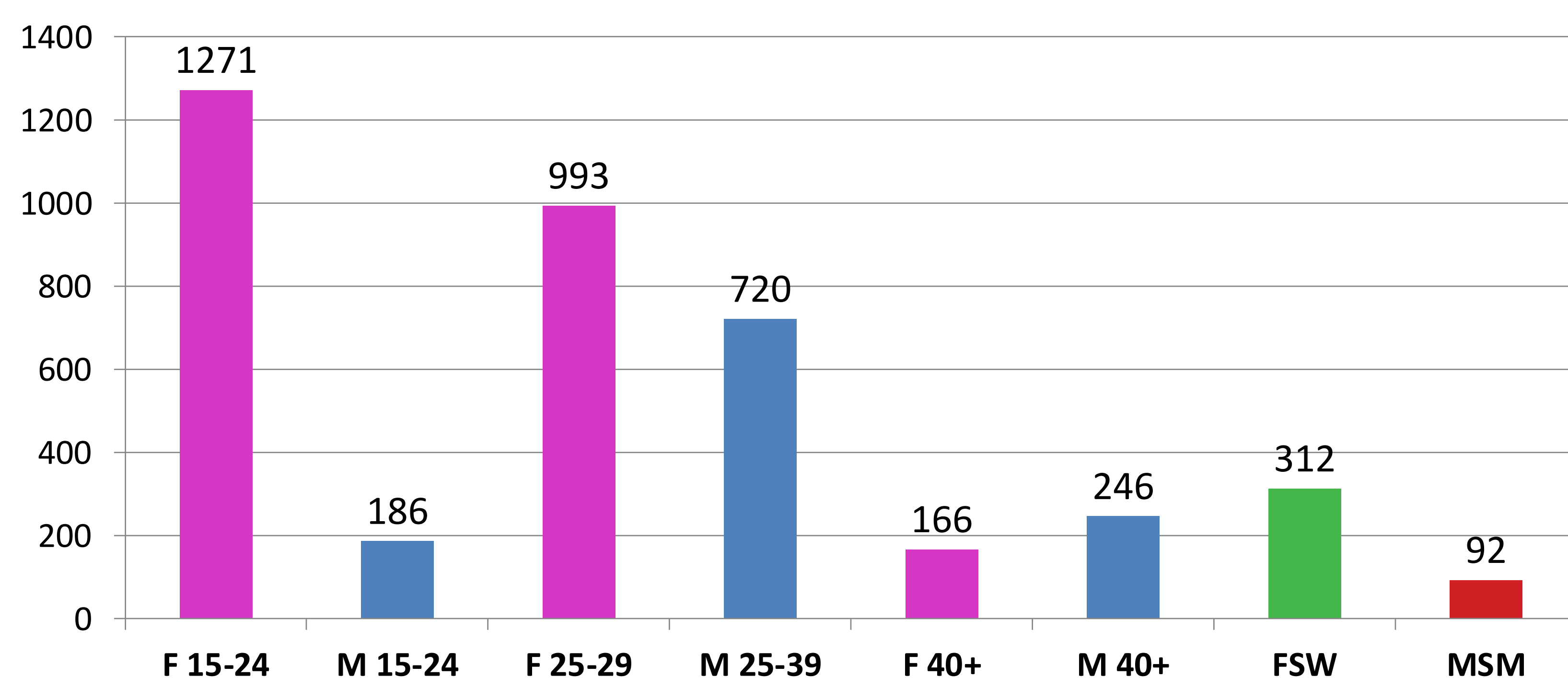
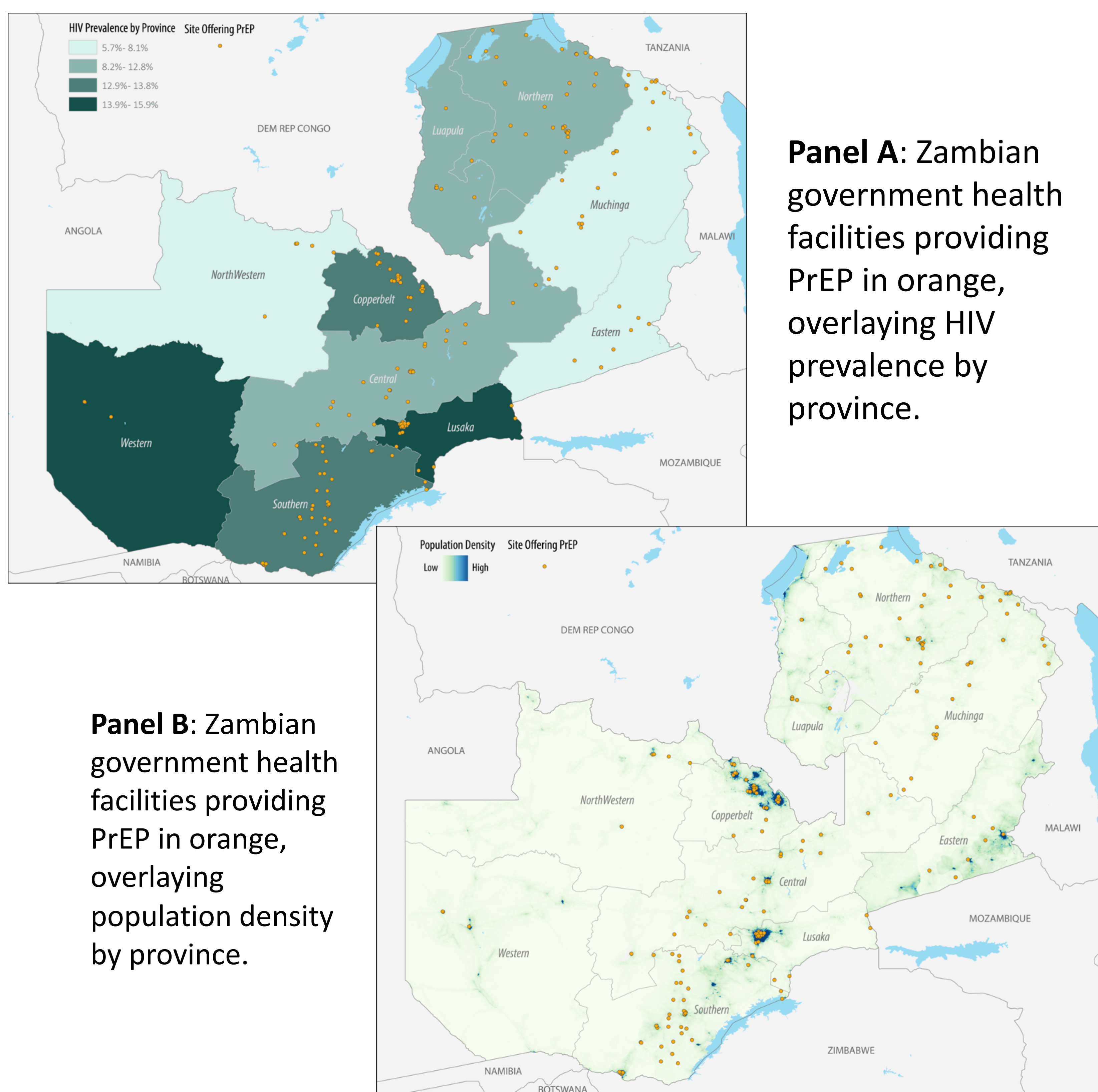


Figure 3. Geographic Distribution of HIV PrEP Sites in Zambia in 2018



Conclusions

- PrEP is being rapidly rolled out across Zambia to populations most at risk of HIV infection, in line with national policy.
- Most PrEP services are offered in urban and population-dense areas with high HIV prevalence, but rural areas with high rates of HIV are currently underserved. Further work is needed to ensure that PrEP is available to all populations at significant risk of HIV.
- Demand creation and awareness should complement PrEP service delivery rollout to increase uptake.
- Further research and innovative service delivery models are needed to address barriers to retention.