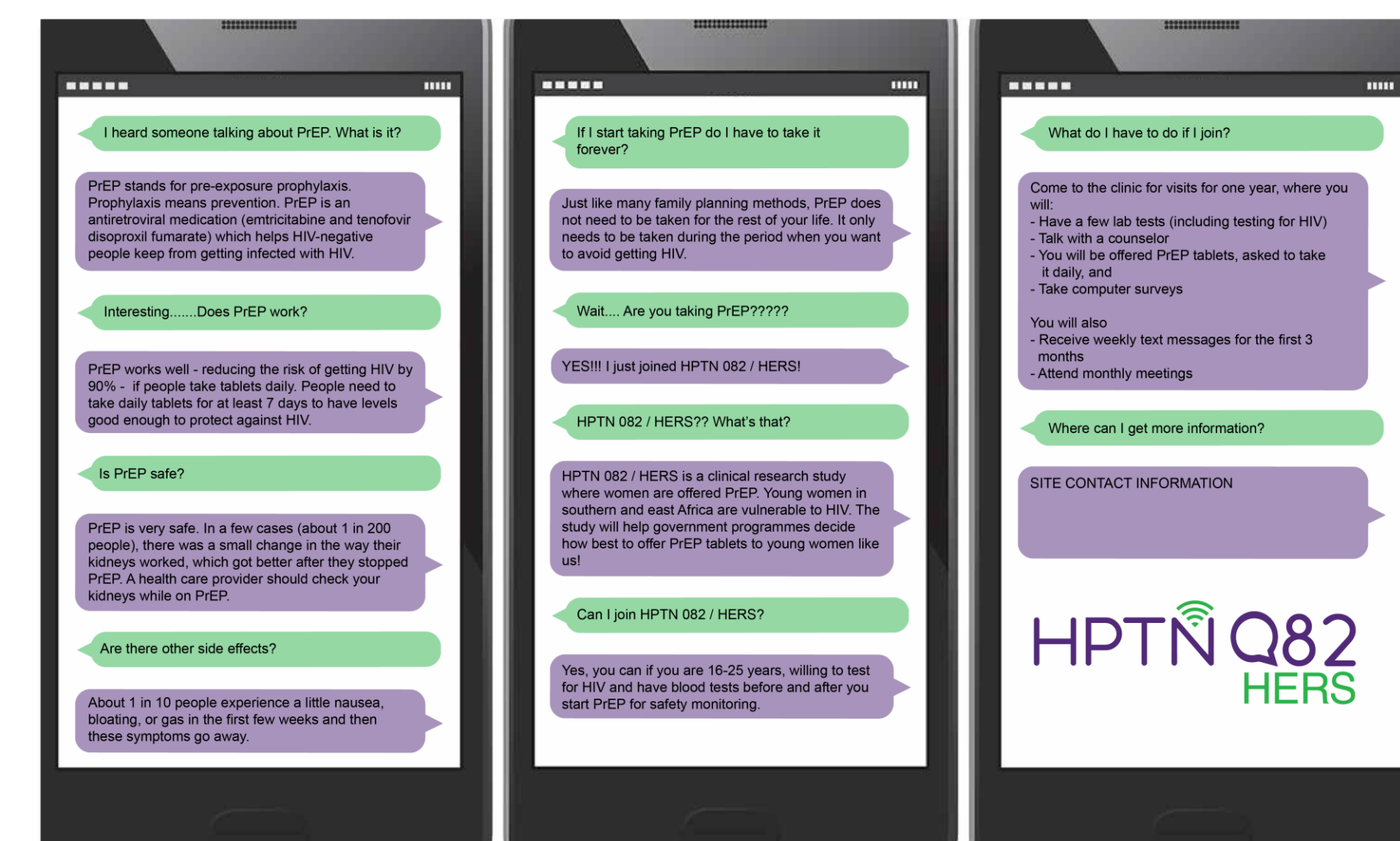


BACKGROUND

- Truvada as oral PrEP is highly effective (94%) at preventing acquisition of HIV when used as prescribed.
- There is limited data on creating demand for oral PrEP among *African Adolescent Girls, Young Women (AGYW)*, who have limited access to HIV prevention services and for whom specific and innovative HIV prevention strategies may be needed.
- As part of recruitment for HPTN 082, community engagement teams developed strategies to create demand for oral PrEP among African AGYW.
- PrEP in both countries was not yet rolled out nationally.
- Introduction of PrEP for HPTN 082 happened before national campaigns.
- This is based on retrospective data based on experiences and recollection of events by community teams.



Adaptive strategies and innovative community education with sub-Saharan African adolescent girls, young women and their support network aided in improved uptake of oral Truvada as PrEP.



HPTN 082 PrEP YouTube Video

METHODS

- HPTN 082 is an open label study of oral PrEP uptake and adherence among 16 to 25-year-old HIV-uninfected women in Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa and Harare, Zimbabwe, conducted from October 2016-2018.
- Field notes, project records, and staff experiences were evaluated. Approaches to PrEP demand creation and community engagement were reviewed with respect to innovative approaches to community preparation, PrEP demand creation, and recruitment and retention of AGYW.
- HPTN 082 PrEP video was created using real community members.
- PrEP brochures and palm cards, along with other branded paraphernalia, were used based on feedback from community advisory board members and site community teams.

RESULTS

- HPTN 082 Community engagement teams developed oral PrEP education strategies based on cultural appropriateness, age sensitivity, and feedback from community and stakeholder consultations.
- Innovative and youth-friendly print media, videos and community consultations/dialogues were used to inform communities about oral PrEP as a new and highly effective user-controlled HIV prevention method for AGYW.
- Efforts to engage male partners and parents proved to be extremely difficult across sites.
- Adaptive strategies, such as SMS text messaging, proved to be efficacious when involving retention efforts.
- The utility of the 082 PrEP video and qualitative interviews indicated participants valued interactive and innovative ways of learning.
- Using branding and marketing through a study logo created by site community teams and T-shirts was another a way to create increased community awareness about HPTN 082.

In the first year of recruitment for HPTN 082, AGYW reported they needed support for PrEP adherence from parents and other adults, and efforts were intensified to engage additional community stakeholders. Overall, early preparedness and consultation with youth promoted PrEP uptake (95%) and retention (87% at 6 months) in HPTN 082.

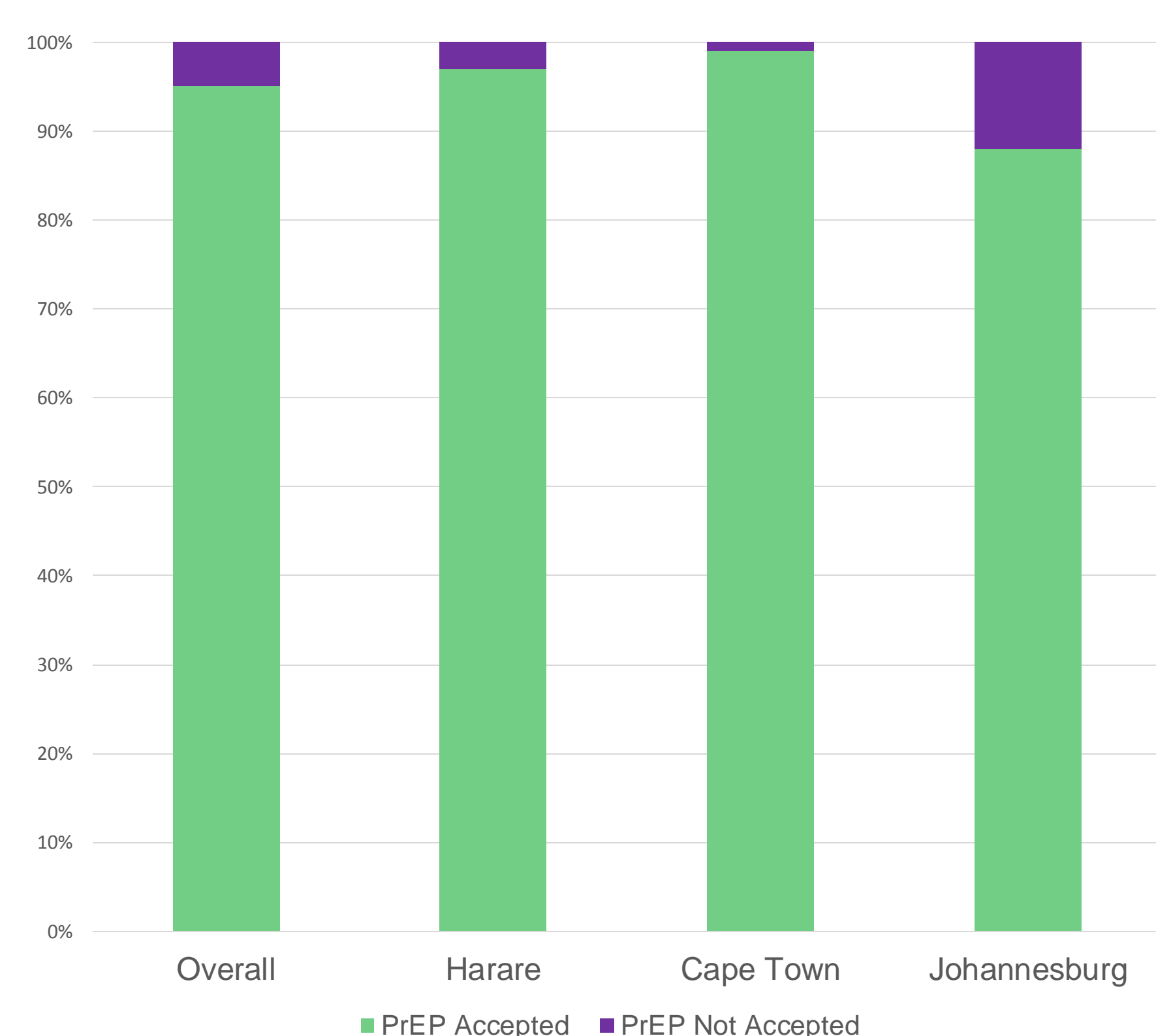
ADHERENCE CLUB PARTICIPATION

Among the 381 with a 3 month visit, 70% reported they had attended at least 1 adherence club (n=266, median club attendance of 2 in the first 3 months).



HPTN 082 adherence club in Cape Town with approximately 90 women in attendance

Figure 1: PrEP Uptake Overall and by Site



CONCLUSION

- HPTN 082 required innovative community education about oral Truvada as PrEP, a new HIV prevention tool, and the need to adapt strategies to reach and engage African AGYW and their support networks. Informing, consulting, collaborating, and empowering AGYW, primary care givers, and communities contributed to high recruitment and retention of AGYW, who had increased awareness and motivation to use oral Truvada as PrEP.
- This study benefitted from insights and participation of the Youth Community Advisory Boards at each site, and indicate the important role they can play in clinical trials designed for AGYW.
- To support recruitment and retention of AGYW in HPTN 082, research sites had to make their sites youth friendly, which involved structural aspects (internet café, chill spaces, colorful interiors) and staff training.
- Involving AGYW is more complex as some of the factors influencing their recruitment and retention are external factors beyond their control.
- The lessons learned may inform community engagement practitioners, research groups, program implementers, policymakers, and study sponsors on how to effectively engage and work with AGYW in HIV prevention.