

Young women's use of existing contraceptive and HIV prevention products and preferences for future multi-purpose prevention technologies (MPTs) in Kampala and Nairobi: finding from a respondent driven sampling (RDS) survey

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BACKGROUND:

- Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Sub-Saharan Africa are faced with multiple sexual and reproductive health (SRH) challenges, including the need for family planning (FP), and protection from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- Current SRH products typically offer protection against a single indication, not meeting women's multiple SRH needs.
- Recognizing this gap, we aimed to assess preferences for future multipurpose prevention technologies (MPTs) among AGYW in Kampala and Nairobi.

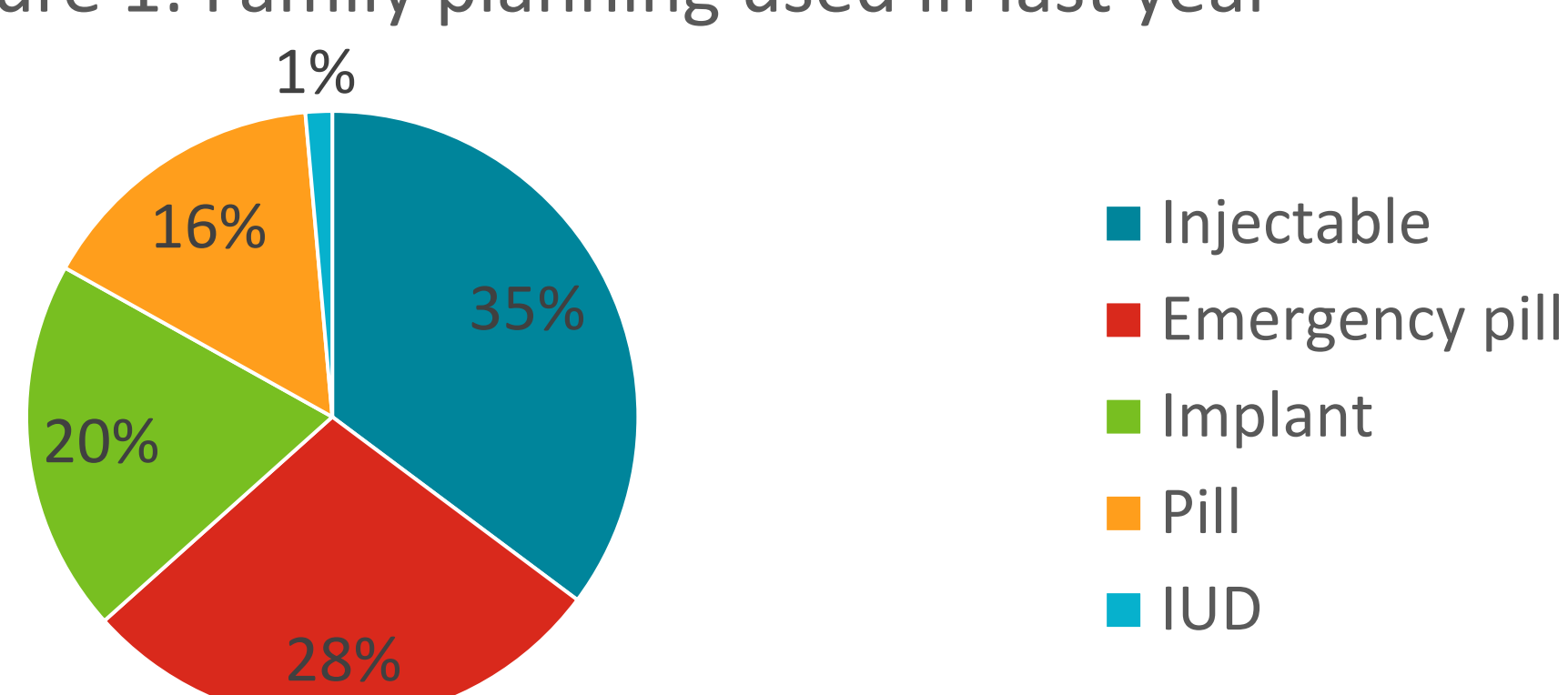
METHODS:

- We surveyed women aged 15-24-years who had sex in the last 12-months using respondent driven sampling (RDS) in November 2022.
- We recruited 24 initial seeds to recruit other AGYW.
- We assessed their use of FP and HIV prevention products and their preferences for future MPT product characteristics (protection, administration, duration, delivery).
- Data were adjusted for RDS and summarized as means, standard deviation (SD), and frequency distributions.

RESULTS:

- We surveyed 322 AGYW over 11 waves, with a mean age of 21years (SD 2.43).
- 71% reported using reliable family planning in the last year (Figure 1) and 18% relied on male condoms.
- For HIV prevention, 6.5% reported using oral-PrEP in last year, 2.5% used PEP, and 53.5% relied on condoms.

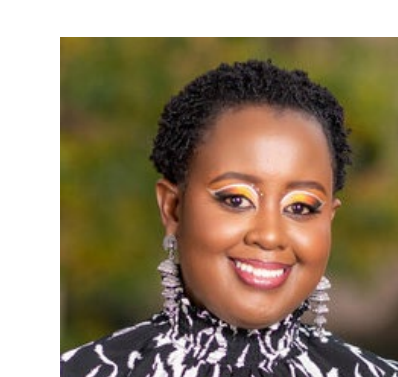
Figure 1: Family planning used in last year



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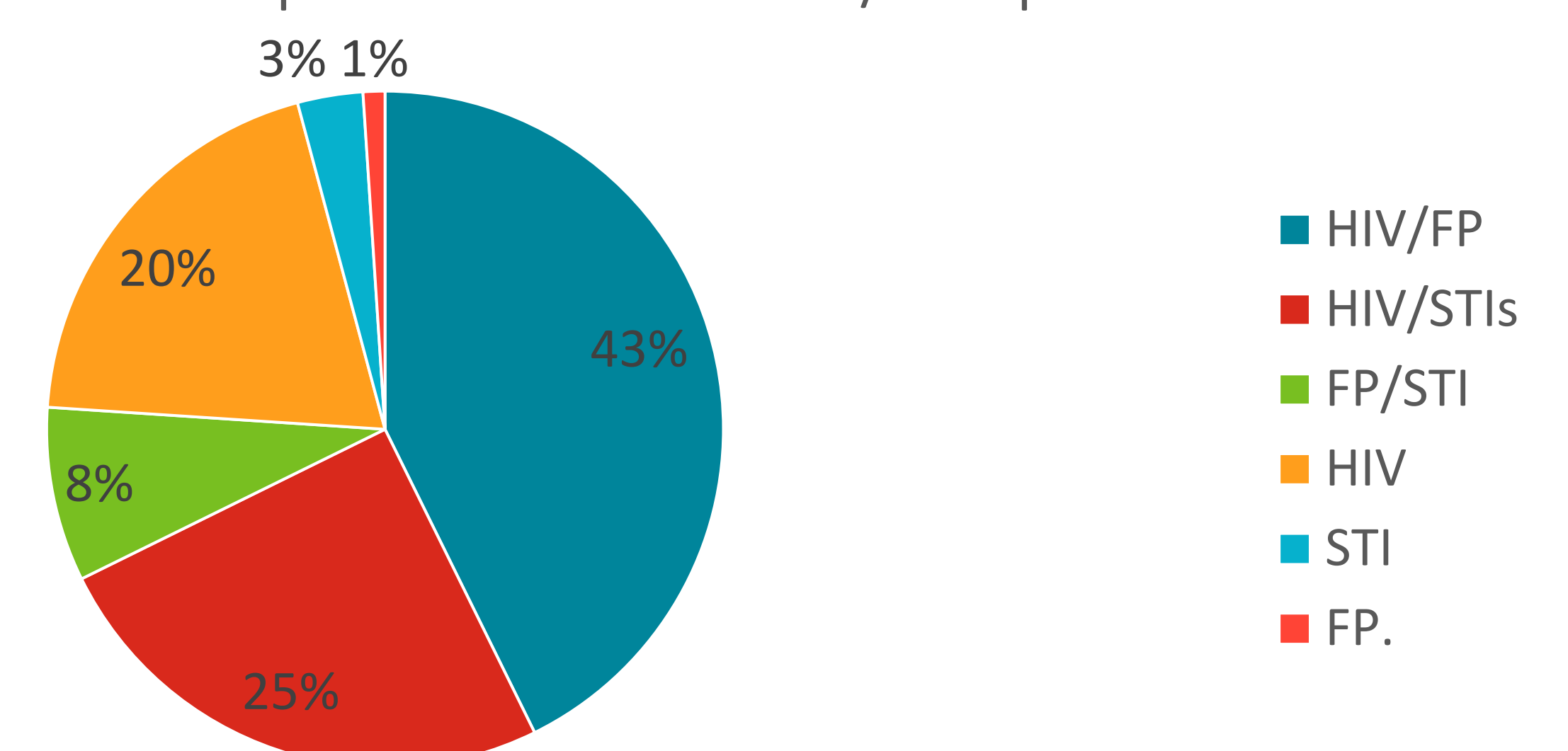


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RESULTS (continued):

- When asked about preferred protection in future single or multiple indication products, 73% preferred MPTs with most desiring a product offering dual protection against pregnancy and HIV (Figure 2)
- 24% preferred the idea of a long-acting HIV prevention product.

Figure 2: Preferred protection in future LA/MPT products



- Participant's preferred MPTs that were administered orally (50%) and injected (40%), with limited interest in implants, vaginal inserts, or skin patches (10%).
- 85% of participants preferred longer-lasting products with 36% choosing annual, 10% 6-monthly, 19% 3-monthly and 20% 1-monthly protection.
- Most AGYW would prefer to access MPTs at fixed clinics, located inside (49%) or outside (32%) their communities, with 14% opting for access at pharmacies and 5% at mobile clinics.

CONCLUSION:

The study revealed a strong preference among AGYW for MPTs that provide protection against HIV and pregnancy, are delivered orally or by injection, that offer medium to longer term coverage and are available at fixed clinic settings. While recognizing the limitations of hypothetical research, understanding AGYW's preferences is important for designing products that are not only effective but also acceptable to the women who need them most.

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